

## **Proposal for the academic year 2012-13**

### **Priya Mocherla**

Vikas Bharati school which runs under the auspices of Kamalakar Memorial Trust had a successful academic year 2012-13. Last year they had a total strength of 206 students 107 Boys and 99 girls. The number has decreased compared to the previous year which was 225. This is something that happens every year because many childrens parents are migrant labourers they change cities and towns every few years or sometimes months in search of jobs which mainly effects the student continuity in the school.

The school tries to work with the teachers and the students to inculcate a habit of learning by understanding the concepts instead of learning by rote. Mrs. Bharati Devi (the project coordinator) in particular encourages the teachers to discuss among themselves to come up with new ideas to develop the lesson plan and the curriculum to enhance students learning. The school is trying to improve the students english knowledge which she thinks is important for students in the current scenario of the job market. To this end, a retired professor comes to the school as a volunteer to teach children the basics in english communication and grammar. Ms. Bharathi devi also tries to invite many guest speakers and retired teachers to address and talk to the students about discipline, behaviour and the job markets outside.

This past year students were taken for a field trip to a spiritual and historic place called Dharma Kshetram. This site has some very good sculpture and artifacts and the students had an opportunity to learn about the history and importance of the place during the visit as in every year, this academic year too the school encouraged children to participate in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities in the school and also outside the school such as essay writing, poetry recitals, dance ballets and painting competitions etc. The school feels that these activities encourage students to work in teams, involves parents in their education, improve communication skills, language and reading ability in students. The students feel very happy that the schools provides them with a platform to show their talent.

The school requests doctors from established organizations who have a service motive towards the school to perform medical checkups like general health, dental and eye checkups every year for all the students within the school campus itself and also organises some health awareness programs where the parents are requested to join as well. (Recently there was a mother and child health awareness program).

Apart from encouraging the students to participate in various competitions and activities the school also conducts parent teacher meetings every month. Though not every parent turns up for these meetings the school tries its best to educate them to come to the school and participate in these meetings. In the meetings the teachers and the staff talks one on one with parents about various issues relating to the children and their education. They talk about the student's routine at home, behaviour outside the school, food habits etc.

The school gives importance to keeping in contact with its student alumni. Some of the graduated students come back frequently to pay a visit to the school and Ms. Bharathi devi. The school also tries to

keep track of how the students are progressing in their careers after they graduate out of the school. It is noteworthy that some of the girls went on to pursue degree and engineering courses though not in very highly established colleges. (\* The list is at the end of the document)

**New additions to improve the quality of education in the school this year:**

1. The school introduced a new method this year to evaluate and encourage students to engage in their subject. They ask every student to read a topic, write what they have understood, correct it themselves before the teacher corrects it. By this way the students take up the responsibility to engage and re rethink what they have written before the teacher gives her feedback.

2. They started using technology like Television and a DVD player to show some educational programs/ shows.

Since my visit last year I am trying to be in constant contact with the project to motivate them towards building good quality standards that lead students towards understanding of topic in various subjects. The school currently has a total of 12 teacher and 3 support staff. You can see list as below.

**Teacher and support staff Expense details in Indian Rupees:**

S.NO	NAME OF THE TEACHER	QUALIFICATION	SALARY / MONTH
1	Smt. S. Lavanya	M.Sc B.Ed Maths	5,000.00
2	Smt. K. Savitri	Sr. Telugu	3,000.00
3	Smt. K. Radha	Hindi Pandith	4,000.00
4	Smt. E. Rohini	Social Teacher	3,000.00
5	Smt. E. Padma	B. Com Computers	3,000.00
6	Smt. P. Janaki	Hindi Pandith	4,000.00

7	Kum. Rajeshwari	B.com computers	3,000.00
8	Smt. T. Madhavi	B.A. T.P.T.	3,000.00
9	Smt. P. Sailaja	Inter	3,000.00
10	Smt . Seetalu	B.A	2,500.00
11	Mr. K. Raju	Physics	3,000.00
12	Smt. Hemakumari	B.A. English	4,000.00
	Support staff		
13	Smt. Dhanalaxmi		2,500.00
14	Smt. Yadamma		2,500.00
15	Watchmen		1,500.00
TOTAL			47,000.00

### **Priya's talk with teachers:**

To work towards improving the educational quality in the school I spoke to some of the teachers and have started to work on the basic lesson plans which they could use everyday and provide hands on inquiry-based learning techniques into the curriculum that is suitable to the circumstances the students are in.

### **Update on challenges and plans from last year:**

**1. Good quality teacher training programs :** Ms. Bharathi devi is in search for these training programs but most of them are very commercial programs which teach techniques that are designed to kids from high end private schools. She is looking for some program that will suite with the circumstances of these kids.

**2. library facilities:**The school is still trying to establish a good space for library with rich books. Currently the students have access to book only on Saturdays and some special days in weekdays only.

**3. Improving school quality:**

Aiming towards establishing some good quality standards in the school like

1. embedding hands on and inquiry based teaching.
2. Creating material relevant to the background and understanding level of the students.
3. Using the resources/materials from the internet to improve the understanding levels of the students.

**Challenges and potential future additions to improve the quality for this year:**

1. **Teacher attrition:** Some of the teachers in the school don't continue every year. The main reason they state is low salaries. They want the salaries that match the increasing inflation. But its been hard for a charity run school like Vikas Bharati school to increase the salaries on par with inflation.

Vikas Bharati school applied for a \$10k grant from Wells Fargo bank to fund some technology and library additions to the school. Depending on if the grant will be approved the following items will be added to the school infrastructure.

2. **Technology :** Four computers + peripherals like printers etc with an internet connection which the teachers and students can be used as a part of their curriculum.
3. **Library:** Currently the school has a very small library. If the grant is approved, the library can be expanded to meet the requirements of all ages of students in the school.

**School Annual budget :** The following is the school overall budget. The teachers salaries amount up to 440,400.00 annually.

**Expenses**

<b><u>Particulars</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Salaries	440,400.00

Rent	237,000.00
Auto charges	86,230.00
Uniforms Expenses	33,351.00
Books	94,427.00
Electricity charges	5,435.00
Fire safety	2,100.00
Functions and seminar expenses	15,490.00
Printing and stationery	5,139.00
Repairs and maintenance	9,015.00
Misc expenses	6,900.00
Bank charges	50.00
depreciation on fixed assets	37702.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>973,239.00</b>

**Asha support for Kamalakar trust for the year 2012-2013.**

Asha Boston historically has been supporting \$ 4000 annually. Though the overall budget has increased Asha's budget for this year remained unchanged.

**Details of a few student alumni**

Students name	Currently pursuing
1. T. PRIYANKA	B.Com (Computers) II year
2. S. MAMATHA	Graduate (Now she is an Employee)
3. J. RAJITHA	(B.Tech )Final Year
4. K. POOJA	10th Completed (Now Learning Software)
5.M. SWETHA	B.Tech Final Year.
6. Bhagyalaxmi	10th Completed (Now she is working)
7.D. Sampath	B.com (Computer) III Year
8.T. Suvarna	10th Completed (Housewife)
9. A. Gayathri	B. Tech (II year)
10.B. Yogendra	B. Tech (II Year)
11. K. Munna	Intermediate completed ( Now doing Job)
12.N. Sailaja	Inter Discontinued (Now doing Job)
13.Navneetha	Inter(1st Year)
14.Krishna Murthy	Inter(1st Year)
15.Navaneetha	Degree (Final Year)

Recently students were challenged with the following question in their classes. Students were asked to provide answers extempore.

**"How is education helping you in your life"**

**DIVYA JYOTHI 10TH CLASS**

If I study

1. I learnt about greatest poets and novelists.
2. I learnt about all concepts well supported with neat diagrams and tables for better understanding.
3. I learnt about adequate number of examples for better understanding.
4. How to talk and communicate others.

**POONAM 10TH CLASS:**

1. I knew about my future education and good manners.
2. I knew how to treat my parents and elders.
3. I learnt how to maintain punctuality & discipline.

**SRIKANTH 8TH CLASS**

1. I help my friends and others
2. If I did not study I do not get any ideas for facing problems.

**VARALAXMI 9TH CLASS**

1. I knew about greatest leaders & scientists.
2. And how to talk others in English.

A few pictures from the previous academic year in school.









Independence day rally





