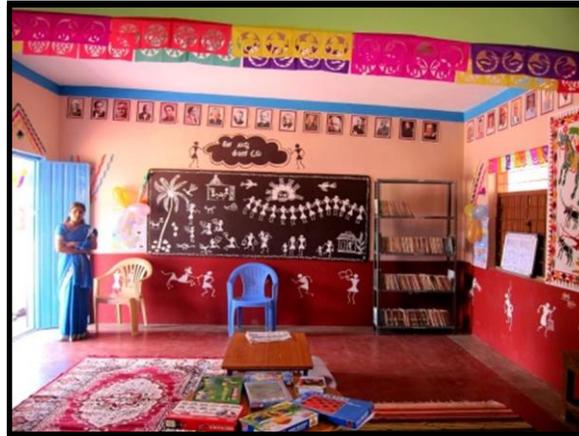




BACKGROUND

- *ASHRAYA* is a 23 year old US-based NGO providing assistance to rural and physically challenged students in India in education, vocational training and income generation.
- *ASHRAYA* has 501(c)3 status from IRS (US) and is a registered trust in India with 12A and 80G Certificates
- We have disbursed funds worth \$260K to date to 30+ organizations all over India
- Organizations supported to date include NAB (Bombay), NAB (Chennai), BPA (Ahmedabad), Mobility India (Bangalore), and MP Blind Welfare Association (Indore)
- *ASHRAYA* is run with very little overheads (<2%) which are fully absorbed by its founders
- Our big differentiation to date has been hands-on involvement in project execution as opposed to being a funder



PROJECT TERRA FIRMA

- In 2008, *ASHRAYA* started **Project Terra Firma** as a prime executor in rural Government run Higher Primary Schools (HPS) in Hanur Taluk, Karnataka
- Focus is on complementary education through fun and experiential learning
- We run four initiatives under **Project Terra Firma**: setting up and running libraries; art programs, science clubs and fun projects
- We successfully piloted these initiatives at one HPS (Kannur School) from '08 to '11
- In 2012, we expanded to 5 more HPSs; and in 2014, we expanded to 3 more HPSs. We currently run libraries in 9 schools; art program and science clubs in 6 schools.
- 4000+ children are benefited from grade I to VIII, supported by 15 *ASHRAYA* FTEs



LIBRARY FEATURES

- Bright color environment with murals from ethnic Indian art (Warli & Pithora)
- 600+ Books covering all subjects including lending and reference books
- Full time librarian trained on story-telling, activities and programs
- Subscriptions to magazines and newspapers
- Educational game kits and art material
- GROWBY classification scheme for books as framework to improve learning levels
- Classify all students at beginning of year into GROWBY scheme and track progress
- Form library committee with librarian, key teachers, HM and top 3 students
- Synopsis cards filled by students while returning books
- Link books to curriculum, and use of library in curriculum planning
- Two library periods per week for each grade
- Suggestion book and wish list





ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

LIBRARIES

- Activity-based learning around stories
- Monthly tests to promote learning levels
- Arts, craft and board games
- "Book of the Month" Club
- Break time Quizzes
- Treasure hunt and dramas using books
- Class research projects using book material
- Speed reading & "change story" competitions



ART PROGRAMS

- For top 20 artistic students per school
- Art classes every week
- Art competitions and art day
- Field trips to "encounter with nature"
- Art competition and fair at year end

SCIENCE CLUBS

- For top 20 select students per school
- Club meets every week
- Experiments on air, matter, light & energy
- Activities & projects around environment
- Field trips to science museums & sanctuaries
- Science club competition and fair at year end



OUR MISSION & GOALS

- Children come first and foremost
- Every child has potential – it is our duty to bring it out
- Our motto is to open the child's 3 eyes: Inquisitiveness, Inquiry and Imagination
- We do not believe in assistance but rather in enabling others to assist themselves
- We will listen to the students' needs and let our work do the talking
- We will always make learning fun and exciting through activities
- We will integrate ourselves with the school agenda, curriculum and its teachers
- We will behave responsibly and always put the cause before us
- Passion is a contagious disease – we will spread it all around us
- We believe that "We are too small to change the world, but not too big to change ourselves"



ASHRAYA

www.ashraya-usa.org, Contact@ashraya-usa.org

Non-Profit Organization Serving Rural and Physical Challenged Students in India since 1991



Project Terra Firma

Complementary Education Program in Rural Higher Primary Schools (Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagar Dist., Karnataka)

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