



www.spandana.org

Vidyalaya

*Education is not preparation for life!
Education is life itself!!*

Project Background - working with government schools

Education is an **enterprise** that affects a large fraction of our population. Many people are students from their 4th to their 30th years. Education is imparting of knowledge, positive judgment and well-developed wisdom. Education has as one of its fundamental aspects the imparting of culture from generation to generation and hence one can always say that it is the *basic right*.

Government schools in India cater to the poorest sections of society and have suffered from years of indifference to the dismal plight of schools. They are plagued by several problems including poor infrastructure, poor teacher attendance, bad teaching quality and complete lack of sensitivity to the communities they cater to. **Spandana's "Vidyalaya"** project in Andhra Pradesh is into specific mission to reform the government schooling system since most of India's poorest send their children to government schools. A majority of schools in rural areas lack basic infrastructure conducive to learning. Classrooms lack proper ventilation and good furniture. Food and water served are substandard in terms of hygiene and taste. Clean toilets are a rarity. There is no playground for students and no rest rooms for staff in many schools. Library and laboratory facilities are lacking too. All these have to be provided to improve the facilities of schools and also improve the standard of teaching. Care should be taken on each student to make him/her not only score high marks in public examinations but also make him bold to face the competitive world after schooling. If the infrastructure improves in all Government schools, the poor and downtrodden will rise on their own.

Though highly qualified teachers available, some of Govt. Schools not witnessing many students in rolls due to lack of infrastructure. There are schools running in one room buildings though there are students till 5th or 7th class. Many of the classes are being run under the shade of trees. No need to explain the situation in the rainy season. Though it is a burden to them, most of the parents are sending their children to private schools as there is a lack of facilities in Govt. Schools. Along with the qualified teachers, if infrastructure is good, nothing can stop the Govt. schools to become temples of education in providing the primary/upper primary educations.

On matters of school education, Indian parents indeed have very little to choose from. If the upper and middle class parents, have to be content with a single option on when, what and how their children learn, the limitations on poor parents are far more basic. Despite their aspirations to give the best to their children, they do not have the option of rejecting a bad school and opting for the better one. Government schools are their only choice. Take it, or leave. If the infrastructure is good in the Govt. Schools underprivileged children who has no choice except Govt. Schools can get quality education.

About Spandana:

Spandana is a non-profit charity organization deeply involved in helping poor and needy people of Andhra Pradesh to make a positive difference in their lives.

All of us have the ability to make a difference in someone's lives back home. Spandana has been started with this sole purpose two years ago as charitable trust and is striving hard to make a difference in education, health care and better living of poor and needy. Spandana has made significant impact in these areas for the past two years. Spandana helped lot of poor students to pursue higher studies, supported expensive surgeries for people with poor economic background and organized health camps in rural areas. This year, the trust had developed ambitious action plans to adopt government schools (Vidyalaya), adopt poor students (Pratibha), help the homeless (Aashraya) and support poor people financially for health care (Cheyutha) there by making a difference in others lives.

Introduction:

Spandana had come up with a plan to fund the Govt. Schools/Colleges to get the basic infrastructure required as a part of **Vidyalaya** Project. The **Vidyalaya** project is exclusively designed to provide the basic infrastructure required in the Govt. Schools/Colleges. As this project requires considerably higher amount to execute, Spandana had come up with a rigorous selection criteria to select the Govt. Schools/Colleges and on the funding options. **Vidyalaya** project is aimed at helping the Govt. Schools/Colleges in providing the basic infrastructure/facilities, so that underprivileged children who have no choice except Govt. Schools/Colleges can get quality education.

Objectives:

Primary objectives of **Vidyalaya** are:

- ❖ Help the Govt. schools/Colleges that are providing formal education in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Provide a good learning atmosphere/standards in Govt. Schools/Colleges
- ❖ Make a positive difference in the learning life of poor students

Eligibility:

- ❖ Only Govt. run schools and colleges are eligible
- ❖ School/Colleges at least have minimum of 300 students
- ❖ No Govt. funds are being sanctioned for the school at that time
- ❖ There should not be any other source of funds from anyone to develop infrastructure

Selection process:

Spandana developed detailed selection criteria to choose the schools/Colleges for executing the Vidyalaya Project.

Spandana project coordinators meet Headmaster/Principal of each identified School/College in identifying facilities required in the School/College. The Headmaster/Principal or volunteer of the location will fill in form sent by Spandana with the facilities required in the School/College and will send the form back to Spandana. Then Spandana team will evaluate the form and will identify the requirements those needs to be provided.

Spandana is aiming to sponsor as many schools as possible. But, the guidelines given under selection criteria are taken as guidepost in evaluating and selecting Schools/Colleges for this project. Spandana might give more weightage to one of the points mentioned above based on the case or situation. It is not strictly the sequence in which the points are listed out. Objective is to select Schools/Colleges which are in need of facilities and if provided can groom the students towards their bright future.

Spandana will announce selected Schools/Colleges through their website and through coordinators. All respective Schools/Colleges will be notified their list of facilities that Spandana is going to sponsor.

Benefits:

Spandana will be sponsoring the following basic needs to the Schools/Colleges and it can vary from School to School as per the needs:

- ❖ Providing Library /Book Bank
- ❖ Providing tables and benches for students
- ❖ Constructing Rest rooms
- ❖ Constructing class rooms
- ❖ Providing necessary lab facility
- ❖ Facilitating temporary teaching faculty

Project key Statistics/Highlights

- 10 Schools/Colleges a year
- Max 50,000 INR budget for each School/College
- 5 lacs in total Vidyalaya Project budget

Timelines:

The deadline for identifying the Schools/Colleges is end of September and Spandana will start executing this project in the selected Schools/Colleges starting October 1st.

Sponsorship:

You can make a difference! We need support from individuals like you. There is no membership fee to join Spandana. But, we encourage voluntary donations from people who want to make a BIG difference in poor lives with their contributions towards the developments of Govt. Schools/Colleges, which are playing a vital role in educating the poor students. You may donate any amount for Spandana's Vidyalaya project. You should be active member to sponsor any school/college. 50% of the project budget needs to be funded by you or you should raise the funds equivalent to that amount. Spandana will try to support the project by raising the funds for the balance 50% or will be funded by Spandana from "Emergency Fund". You can sponsor one or many number of School(s)/College(s) from the short listed School(s)/College(s) to extend your helping hand. We will send you regular updates on the progress of your sponsored School/College till the project ends there in that School/College. We strongly believe that we can collectively make a difference to our society by improving the infrastructure in the Schools/Colleges which are the temples of education for poor and downtrodden.

Feedback & Review:

As school/college authorities and volunteers are part of selection, the progress of project is also monitored with the help of Teachers/Lecturers and Head Masters /Principals of the school along with volunteers. Spandana has plans to get the progress of the project regularly till end of the project. If the donors need any specific information, Spandana will try to facilitate the donors to talk to volunteers or School/College authorities. Spandana will send the detailed report of the project to the donor after completion of the project at specific School/College. And the donor is requested to provide his/her valuable feedback to Spandana which would help Spandana to develop future action plans.

Way forward:

Project coordinator at each project location monitors the progress of project, provide guidance and closely work with the Headmaster/Principal to ensure that project is going smoothly. A comprehensive review will be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of Pratibha project to discuss and understand the usefulness and impact of the project. Lessons learned will be documented and discussed with Spandana community to develop future actions plans based on this project experience and success. Feedback would be requested from each project coordinator including

Headmaster/Principal how this project can be improved and to ascertain the impact of the project. Feedback from coordinators, Headmasters/Principals and even from students and all stakeholders would be used as an input to develop future action plans.

Leadership:

Rajendra Samarulu is coordinating the Vidyalaya project both in India and USA. Spandana is looking for active volunteers both in India and USA to complete this project successfully.

Do you want to make a difference? Are you interested to join Vidyalaya team? Would you like to sponsor a School/College from your town/village through Vidyalaya? Please send a mail to-

Sreenivas Garapati

garapatis@spandana.org / garapatis@msn.com

309-533-3475 (H) / 309-664-1756 (C)

Rajendra Reddy

rajendrareddy@yahoo.com

402 403 0026 (H)

402 253 5665 (M)

or Spandana@spandana.org.

"Let us together make a positive difference"