SSF SARASWATI SEVA FOUNDATION

STEM-C Education and Skilling Programme Launched in Eastern Uttar Pradesh – Saraswati Seva Foundation

Aug 15, 2017, Faizabad

The grand VISION INDIA 2022 and the INDIA 2030 require the villages and smaller cities of India to develop the skills and knowledge systems in the students and the schools for next level of development. SSF views it as a huge opportunity to develop and deploy this critical resouce pool, that India is endowed with, to catapult it to next stage of development.

Session of Students   Capacity Building of Teachers

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Preparing students of schools of low income group on STEM-C and counselling them for skill oriented employment opportunities

This is part of the 'Project Youth-School (Y-S) Transformation (PYSTA)' which manifest into education and skills development of school youths in STEM-C (Science, Technology, English, Maths & Computer), infrastructure-systems optimisation of schools, and health awareness and recording of the complete school population.

Saraswati Seva Foundation's philosophy is to take the cutting-edge scalable learning solution & Skill kit to rural and smaller cities. It supports personal aspirations, local economies, and build a skill pool to support broader inflection at socio-economic level. We believe that computer-aided digital education brings in best quality learning outcomes at the least unit cost and is the easiest to scale up. SSF has developed the digital content using several credible sources, and is taking it to the government, government-aided and other schools which are mostly catering to the under-privileged sections and low income group strata.

Saraswati Seva Foundation is a non-profit entity, determined to brighten up the lives of the under-privileged young members of society. It has initiated STEM-C (Science, Technology, English, Math and Computer) program to provide schoolchildren, living in the areas with minimal opportunities, with the life skills that will carry them across a more futuristic, creative career path. We wish to empower the children and help them to achieve a better future. SSF believes that the key to this empowerment is education, and so, has implemented the STEM-C programs in a number of schools in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh to begin with.

Our launch pilot stage-1 has taken place with 5 schools on the 15 Aug 2017. At the pilot stage-1 launch, our coverage is as follows.

School Children Reached	School Children Impacted	School Teachers Exposed
>5000	>1200	>50

STEM-C program's pilot stage-2 launch is scheduled on 26 Jan 2018. We believe that at the end of pilot stage-2 phase in Sep 2018, SSF would be covering

School Children Reached	School Children Impacted	School Teachers Exposed
>1,00,000	>15,000	>500

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Total Schools Reached	Teacher Training Conducted	e-Resource shared
>50	**>25**	**With all Schools**

SSF, with the belief that deepening of STEM-C education is a must for the development of skill-base and the scalable mode of learning, has partnered with the Indian arm of the IET UK, (The Institution of Engineering and Technology), one of the oldest and largest engineering society in the world. SSF is using the best of the e-resources from IET's Faraday program and several other well-known educational agencies.

Mr Shekhar Sanyal, India Head-IET with the teachers

Mr Balram Pandey, Chair expert committee, STEM-C with students

In STEM-C, we plan to teach the children through technology. Our belief is that kids learn and retain more information when interacting with the pictures and digital platforms along with the ordinary textbooks. Videos and images intrigue children more than a book because of their optic appeal and the power of explaining. With the average digital exposure children have nowadays, good quality digital channels are going to be in the core of most educational package designs.

STEM-C has been launched in 5 schools so far, in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. Mr Vivek Singh, President of SSF, talks about one of his meetings with the pupils of one of the schools: "We spoke to 70 girls of the seventh standard this week (In Aug 2017) in one of the schools. I couldn't believe myself when they told me that roughly half of them haven't on-boarded a train yet!". This question came up as we were discussing the science topic 'Motion' using a short video on evolution of trains over the last 150 years and how the principles of motion would be at play.

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SSF's STEM-C pilot program is targeting the students of 6th, 7th, and 8th standards. Our classes consist of 4 specific modules including the Topics in the curriculum, Topics of general scientific inquiry; Environment, it's interaction with us and our role; and the healthcare. The classes are using several participatory techniques including inter-group 'Mental Math Competitions' (MeMaC), 'Reason It Out' (RIO) sessions etc. We frequently use videos on science topics e.g. 'Earth's origin' and 'Digestive System' and motivate the students to know & think, ask questions or respond others' questions.

Mr Vivek Singh, President SSF on Prorgam Launch in class   Mr Vivek Singh, students interaction in the class

While the digital education to the school students is the first action point, long term action agenda includes capacity building of the school systems and the teachers. Train the Teachers (T^2) Prorgam was included in the Launch and Inaugural Program, as started by Sri Balram Pandey, chair of SSF Expert Panel, and was attended by majority of the teachers of many schools. This sesison addressed the need to have renewed emphasis on STEM-C learning and adopt new-age teaching methods. The key note was followed up with the vision, approach of the foundation and action plan of SSF by Mr Vivek Singh, SSF president, who highlighted the need to train and challenge the young minds using the latest technology tools. Mr. Shekhar Sanyal, CEO IET India, participated through electronic media and presented IET's vision to help build technological solutions for social good and wished well to this initiative.

The format of teaching delivery was blended of digital Equipment and learning contents provided by SSF and time-to-time brief explanation by the school teacher as well as SSF Instructors. As part of its objectives, it is SSF's effort to make the experience of its stakeholders (School Management, Teachers, Students) participative and let the schools take the lead in alternative model of delivering education going forward.

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