



Reach Out

Looking Ahead Special

“Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility is the central theme of Shriram Group's Corporate philosophy and striving to support the cause of Education is its credo. The core strategizing efforts of all our projects and initiatives exemplify the innovative attempts we are making to realize the broad ambition of our socially responsible and sustainable efforts in the education field. Continuing the trend, this year also our team is wholeheartedly engaging in good corporate citizenship and delivering value aiming for education interventions which are responsive and responsible to the different contexts in which our projects operate.”

It's always a pleasure to pen the introduction when the environment is euphoric and we seem to reach new heights of productivity!

Last financial year has been rewarding, with a flurry of well thought-out strategies and decisions that are aimed to launch schemes and programs way into the future of the Foundation. Our strategy mapping has helped us to develop niche areas of expertise in education and community development while identifying potential growth paths. Interestingly, we have not dramatically increased the number of our beneficiaries, in an attempt to consolidate our work and plough deeper for the findings that we have impacted with our presence and concerted action.

For this year, we are inviting Education Entrepreneurs to join hands with us and set up schools in rural areas of the country. Applications are coming in from different parts of the nation and dialogue is moving forward with action oriented and committed people to set up ten schools by the end of this year. We hope to grow this number with the demand and resource matching, after assessment of expressed intent from people and organizations in various rural districts.

Along with the new programs and initiatives, our team is growing steadily with professionals and field staff, in size and efficiency, with each member spearheading one unit of the Foundation's activity.

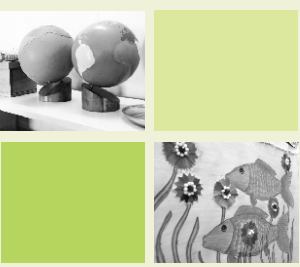
Learning and saving time to cause the desired change is the guiding force for every step we are taking. We hope to receive your continued patronage, visits and good wishes for our journey.

Board of Trustees
Shriram Foundation

In our Schools

With the beginning of the new academic year, schools, managed by the Foundation, are ready to incorporate various interventions to improve and enhance the process of learning.

Shriram Matriculation School (SMS),
Thirunermalai, TN



A resource center to learn Geography

With the aim to make students and teachers understand how Geography is related to various aspects of life and other subjects, SMS will set up GeoVidya- a Geography resource center in its campus. This new initiative also aims to motivate students (of different grades) and teachers to develop deep interest in the subject.

To set up this center, SMS has partnered with The Indian Institute of Geographical Studies (TIIGS), Bangalore. TIIGS is inviting students of colleges and other schools to intern and help organize this center. SMS is also trying to explore the possibilities of forming tie-ups with universities and colleges so that graduate, post graduate and doctoral students can also intern with us.

Achieve Through Arts

In association with NalandaWay Foundation, Chennai, SMS is going to implement 'Achieve Through Arts' program for primary and class 6 students. This program is designed to assist teachers to introduce arts in the subjects they teach. The expediency of this program lies in its sound and easily-implementable curriculum. Teachers will be given training to apply the program in their classrooms. Each teacher will have a mentor who will observe the classes and give feedback. Based on the feedback, further training will be provided to the teachers.

Venkata Subba Reddy Montessori School (VSR),
Reddivaripalle, AP



Setting up of Pottery Studio

VSR believes that children's varying interests, skills and feelings be considered paramount. To that end, it focuses on providing as many hands-on opportunities as possible; classrooms are equipped with learning materials that seek to build mathematical and language skills, children routinely spend time with art and craft and use recyclable materials to create some artefact. Whereas the above varies with age, clay seems to be that one material that seems to engage children across ages at VSR.

In the last academic year, all the children at VSR, including those as young as two-and-a-half years old, have been 'playing' with clay. Using clay, they have been making alphabets and numbers; elephants and tortoises; plates and bowls; trees and flowers; and a number of other things. In this academic year, VSR is setting up a Pottery Studio for students to understand the finer, technical aspects of clay work in a more professional setting. The school foresees that such a setting will further help students to develop an aesthetic sense and have a greater appreciation of beauty in the world around them.

Sri Sri Vidya Mandir (SSVM),
Nagapattinam, TN

Subject specific classrooms

SSVM is making an attempt to create subject specific classrooms instead of grade-wise classes. A subject specific classroom is a term that stands for both physical space and activities that happen in it. There will be a large space allocated for each discipline and the space will consist of materials relevant to the discipline and activities that children and teachers can engage in. Instead of the teachers visiting the classrooms for each period, the students will come into these classrooms and learn.

Shriram Vocational Training Center (SVTC)



For this year, expansion is the key agenda of SVTC and the self-help group run by SVTC. It is aiming to increase the output by 100%. Along with cloth bags, orders for phenyle, candles, sanitary pads and incense sticks will also be undertaken. SVTC is also planning to open a shop at the center where nylon bags, soft toys, pickle and jam will be sold along with other products. The center will also try to develop a 'Work from Home' scheme for community women, to help them to earn more.

Shriram Foundation seeks change-agents.

We are looking for post-graduates and professionals who are interested to make a head-start in an education based career and willing to serve rural communities. Interested candidates with good language skills can write to shriramfoundation@shriram.com

Shriram Foundation was established in 1993 as the charitable arm of the Shriram Group, a pioneer in financial and investment services. The Foundation is committed to the cause of Education and Community Development focusing on the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society.

For more information visit www.shriramfoundation.org.in