



ANNUAL REPORT

Avakaasha Foundation

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Year 2017-2018

We Are :

Avakaasha Foundation was officially registered on 1st Jan 2015, however we started working with schools sometime back in August 2014. What started as an experiment in one school with one teacher saw addition of three more schools and teachers to the program by 2018.

Avakaasha Foundation is an NGO working towards improving quality of education in rural areas of Karnataka. We identify and partner with *rural and remote* Government schools providing free education and in need of teachers or/ and infrastructure. Our goal is to work with such schools enhancing the overall knowledge of children through experiential learning and to develop their communication skills. We support sports and cultural activities in schools associated with us and believe in the all-round growth of children. We hire only qualified women teachers either from the same or neighbouring villages, thereby providing them with the right job opportunities. We also fund basic infrastructure needs of the schools in rural areas, such as classrooms, libraries, toilets, sports equipment, laboratories, science projects etc.

Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of free education in rural areas, to empower our students from low income homes to excel in their education.

Our Goals :

- **Opportunity for all:**

We try to reach children in remote places and provide them a quality education. Currently Avakaasha has tied up with four schools in Udipi and Kundapur taluks of Udipi District in Karnataka state. We are associated with Government schools at Hebri, Heskuttur, Hunsemakki, and Amasebailu. These schools are located in remote areas, with not enough teaching staff. This discourages parents from sending their kids to school. With a reduced number of teachers, enrollment reduces too. This becomes a vicious cycle. By providing skilled teachers to the subjects considered to be difficult by our students, we not only help increase the admission to the schools, but also help the rest of the staff focus on what they are trained to teach. This improves the results drastically thereby attracting more and more students to the school.

- **Employ & empower qualified rural women:**

Avakaasha hires local, qualified women teachers to these government schools. Thus Avakaasha provides employment and right opportunity to talented rural women.

- **Focus on experiential learning:**

Avakaasha encourages experiential learning in children. Children coming out of our education system are having difficulty in application of the knowledge. Therefore our focus is more on hands-on learning. We also focus on improving the communication skills of students in Kannada and English. Sports also play a major role in our involvement in these schools. We get involved in sponsoring awards, events and also help students who qualify for district, state level events etc.

- **Basic Infrastructure :**

Foundation in addition to ensuring the schools have sufficient teaching staff, also focuses on providing funds to build basic infrastructure projects needed in schools, such as library, classrooms, projectors, toilets etc.



Our Schools:

We currently work with schools of Udupi, Karkala and Kundapur taluks in Udupi district, Karnataka State.



Government Model Government Model Higher Primary School Hebri is an old school in Karkala Taluk of Udupi district, started in 1882. It has got a current strength of 313 students. The school has bagged couple of awards like the 'Best School award' in district, state levels.

The Amasebailu school in Kundapura Taluk was started in 1954. The school forms part of a cluster resource centre- the concept of cluster was first introduced in early nineties by the Department of Education in Karnataka to facilitate education and lend academic support. The strength of the school is around 164 this year.



The **Government Higher Primary School of Heskuttur** was started in 1957 and the current strength of the school is 195. School has featured in BBC News for its Smart Class activities and has also bagged the E- Champion Award in State level.



The **Government Higher Primary school at Hunsemakki** was started in 1943. Today it has around 119 students in its campus.

Overview of the year 2017-2018

Avakaasha Foundation was officially started on 2015. We started out with Thekkatte school and government school in Hebri and then added more schools and teachers in the following years. In 2015 along with providing teachers we sponsored Talents day, Children's day and inter-school competitions with our beneficiary schools to encourage overall development of children with equal importance to education, sports and culture.

The following year we expanded and reached out to more schools. Here are a couple of our contributions.

2017-2018 Activities

1. Added two new schools:

The Government School of Amasebailu got associated with Avakaasha and a new teacher was provided for English to the school by the Foundation. Similarly, Government Higher Primary school of Hunsemakki in Kundapur also got associated with us. We have provided an English/science teacher for the school.

2. Adding schools and recruiting teaches



Avakaasha sponsored three teachers for the following three schools- Government Model Higher Primary School Hebri, Government Higher Primary School Heskuttur, K.S.M. School Thekkatte (till Dec 2016). The teachers hired by the Foundation coached children in core subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and Computer Science. The teachers were appreciated by the School management for their contribution in teaching and also for their skills in being a team player. Avakaasha's teachers also got involved in multiple activities like spoken English class, Science club etc.

3. Funding school activities:



We collaborated & funded Government school of Heskuttur for Children's day celebration.

Considering that the school of Thekkatte became self-sufficient in terms of staff & funding, the Foundation withdrew the support post mid-term for Thekkatte

4. Funding for construction of toilets:

Amasebailu did not have a restroom facility for girls. Avakaasha sponsored Rs. 75,000/- for the construction of toilets.

5. Funds for training:

The Foundation sponsored Rs.16,000/- towards Headmasters training. The program was organized in collaboration with Kundapur Taluk Head Masters Association and was held in Byndoor. The event touched on various aspects like corruption free educational institutions, improving results of SSLC Board and the role of Head Masters in improving the quality of education.

Impact of our activities:

There has been an increase in student strength at all of our partner schools. This is a direct impact of additional teachers, better infrastructure, better exposure for our students.

School Name	Previous Year Strength	Year - 2018	Percentage Increment {increase/decrease}
Amasebailu	141	164	16%
Heskuttur	166	195	17%
Hebri	293	313	7%
Hunsemakki	128	119	-7%
Total	728	791	9%

Our Partners and Donors

- Karnataka Department of Primary Education
- Udupi District of Primary Education
- SSI People
- AB Solutions Pvt. Ltd
- “Jaladeepa”, Kuthyar

Team:

The core team members of Avakaasha Foundation have rich experience in conducting training programs, workshops, impact assessment studies etc on various issues concerning schools of rural community. We offer –

- Capacity building and training programs for teachers and children of rural areas.
- Planning and operating development programs in schools
- Providing qualified teachers for schools in remote rural areas.

Donation Related :

The donations made to the trust are deductible under section 80G(2)(a)(iv) r.w.s 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act 1961 in the hands of the donors subject to the limits prescribed therein.

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