



ANNUAL REPORT

Avakaasha Foundation

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Year 2018-2019

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 four more schools and teachers to the program by 2019.

Avakaasha Foundation is a 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 schools in Udupi and Kundapur taluks of Udupi District in Karnataka state. We are associated with Government schools at Hebri, Heskuttur, Hunsemakki, Bidkalkatte 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, enrolment 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 qualified women teachers who are recruited locally 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, 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 197 this year.



The **Government Higher Primary school at Hunsemakki** was started in 1943. Today it has around 67 students in its campus.



The **Government Higher Primary School of Heskuttur** was started in 1957 and the current strength of the school is 190. School has featured in BBC News for its Smart Class activities and has also bagged the E- Champion Award in State level.



Bidkalkatte Government Higher Primary School in Udupi district also became a part of the Foundation. It is one among the 1000 schools selected to become a Karnataka Public School, current strength is around 301.

Overview of the year 2018-2019

Avakaasha Foundation was officially started in 2015. We started out with Thekkatte school and government school in Hebri and then added more schools and teachers in the following years. The following year we expanded and reached out to more schools.

Avakaasha partnered with following three schools- Government Model Higher Primary School Hebri, Government Higher Primary School Heskuttur, K.S.M.School Thekkatte (till Dec 2016). We collaborated & funded Government school of Heskuttur for Children's day celebration and Government school of Hebri for annual day celebration.

In the year 2018 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. Amasebailu did not have a restroom facility for girls. Avakaasha Foundation helped/sponsored the construction of toilets. We also sourced and sponsored for Headmasters training.

2018-2019 Activities

1. Added a new school:

Government Higher Primary school of Bidkalkatte also got associated with us. We have provided an English/science teacher for the school.

2. Distributed Eco-Friendly Bags to all Schools



One student, One bag, One family at a time!. Avakaasha Foundation handed over eco-friendly reusable kora bags to every student & staff of our schools. This was one small step towards reducing plastic around us. 1000 bags distributed with a hope & goal that 1000 families will stop/reduce using plastic bags every time they go to a grocery/daily needs purchase. Avakaasha Foundation worked with an NGO, Belaku Trust for this project. Belaku Trust founded in 1995, works with villages of Kanakapur Taluk, Bangalore rural district.

3. Inauguration of girls'/students' washrooms



Inauguration of one of our basic infrastructure projects girls'/students' washrooms at Amasebailu School.

Avakaasha Foundation also engaged in prize distribution at Amasebailu School on Children's Day.

1. Participation in environmental awareness

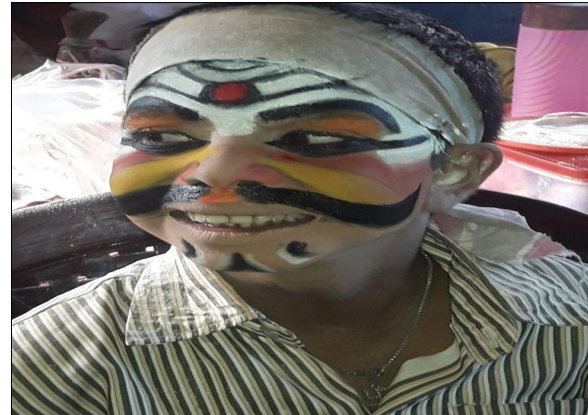
On World Environment Day, our teachers participated in tree planting activities.

2. Taking part in sports and cultural activities

Our schools won prizes in sports competitions but also bagged prizes at Prathiba Karanji - inter school talent competitions- in recitations, quiz, storytelling, Sanskrit recitations etc.

A special mention should be made of :

- **Bidkalkatte Government High School:** Ankita from this school won Gold medal in Long Jump and Shotput at District Level Special Needs Children's Sports Meet.
- **Heskuttur:** Students competed against other English medium schools and won in English recitation competitions. Two students were selected –one from junior and another from the senior category.



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 - 2019	Percentage Increment
Amasebailu	164	197	20%
Heskuttur	195	190	-3%
Bidkalkatte	175	301	72%
Hebri	313	313	0%
Hunsemakki	119	67	-44%
Total	966	1068	11%

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.

<u>Address</u> Avakaasha Foundation # 4-124 Jaladeepa, Kuthyar, Udupi Karnataka - 574504.India	<u>Connect with us:</u> Phone: 9845514081 Email: connect@avakaasha.org FB: https://www.facebook.com/avakaasha/ Website: https://www.avakaasha.org
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