



ANNUAL REPORT

Avakaasha Foundation

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Year 2020-2021

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 five more schools and teachers to the program by 2019. On an average we directly reach out and impact 1000 students, around 1000 homes in about 10 villages every year.

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 :

- **Equal Opportunity for all:**

We try to reach children in remote places and provide them with an opportunity for quality education. We currently focus on UN Sustainable Development Goals #sdg4 – **Quality Education**. By providing skilled teachers for subjects like Mathematics, English and Science, we not only help increase the admission to the schools, but also help the rest of the staff to focus on what they are trained to teach. This improves the results drastically thereby attracting 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, our focus is on active learning. We also focus on improving the communication skills of students in Kannada and English. We understand that sports also play a major role in the overall development of children. Hence the Foundation also sponsors awards for sports events and sponsors student participation in various sports.

- **Basic Infrastructure :**

In addition to ensuring the schools have sufficient teaching staff, Foundation also provides funds to build basic infrastructure required in schools, such as toilets, library, classrooms, computer labs, internet connectivity etc.

- **Rural Development:**

While rural communities will benefit from better quality of free education, we also want to transform and empower communities in villages through participatory rural development. We aim to achieve this transformation by partnering with communities, industry and enterprise on various high impact projects like sustainability, climate change, health & hygiene, agriculture etc.





Our Schools:

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



The **Government Higher Primary School of Heskuttur** was started in 1957 and the current strength of the school is 227. 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 of Amasebailu** in Kundapura Taluk was started in 1954. The strength of the school is around 201 this year with a staff strength of 8. They have been with us since 2018. In 2019 the school has won the SDMC [School Development Monitoring Committee] award for working towards development of school, increase of student strength and providing better facilities for students.



Bidkalkatte Government Higher Primary School in Udupi district has been associated with us since 2019. It is one among the 1000 schools selected to become a Karnataka Public School. The current school strength is around 414 and it has a staff strength of 18.

The **Government Higher Primary School of Molahalli** was started in 1933. The current strength of the school is 135 and it has a staff strength of 8 . The school has been associated with us since 2019. What started out as a primary school transformed into Higher Primary school and later the pre-primary section was added too. The school has produced many stalwarts, some of them going on to become writers, Yakshagana artists and doctors.

Overview of the year 2020-2021

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. Avakaasha partnered with 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 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. The following year saw Karnataka Public School, Bidkalkatte getting associated with us.

In 2019 the Government School of Molahalli also got associated with Avakaasha and a teacher was provided for English to the school by the Foundation. Similarly, Government High school of Vaddarse also got associated with us. We provided an English/science teacher for the school.

In the year 2020 the Foundation withdrew its support for Hebri and Vaddarse schools. In 2021 February, support for Heskuttur was also withdrawn.

2020-2021 Activities

Due to the corona pandemic schools started in the year 2020 without the kids. However new admissions were in full swing and so was the cleaning and sanitizing in all the schools. Classes were conducted in the online mode. Co Curricular activities like crafts, art, clay modelling, singing were also given due importance.

Yoga International Day, Independence Day, Children's Day, Republic Day and Vivekananda Jayanti were also celebrated. Children also observed Constitution Day and also participated in elections forming a ministry.



With schools closed and limited access to the internet, our school teachers also reached out to kids in remote places, conducting classes in open areas - temples, outdoors.

In the beginning of 2021, Vidyagama began with a small group of students.

In the month of March during lockdown, Amasebailu School in collaboration with the Gramapanchayat of Amasebylu and Udupi district administration provided shelter, food to the families of 33 migrant workers from Haveri for 45 days. These migrant workers could not return to their homes due to the unavoidable circumstances.



- Learning never stopped in spite of schools going online. Yoga,sports,craft,and art continued to progress.





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 - 2020	Percentage Increment
Amasebailu	197	201	2%
Heskuttur	190	227	19%
Bidkalkatte	301	414	38%
Molahalli	119	135	13%
Total	807	977	21%

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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