# **Akshara Foundation: Reading Program in Dharwad District**

**Objective**

To improve on the reading skills for children studying standards 4 to 7 in government schools of Hubli and Dharwad blocks of Dharwad district in Karnataka, India for the academic year 2010-11.

**Need Assessment**

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), a report by Pratham, has been highlighting the poor state of reading skills in primary schools for past 5 years. In its 2008 report, it estimated that only about 60.7% children in standards 3-5 can read standard 1 text. This ratio was even lower (48.2%) for the Dharwad district which is one of the districts that lags in key developmental indicators.

Akshara Foundation (www.aksharafoundation.org) has been in the forefront of promoting reading skills among children. It has worked with over one lakh children in Banglore city and North Karnataka ([www.karnatakalearningpartnership.org](http://www.karnatakalearningpartnership.org)). It has successfully used Kannada story cards to teach reading skill to children in a short time. The program uses 45 story cards (one per day). Assuming holidays, teacher training/meeting days, this program could be completed in 90 days. 2 Evaluations – one at the beginning to understand the baseline, one in the middle (after 25 cards) and one at the end (after 45 cards).

Akshara had conducted a reading intervention programs for 215 rural schools in Dharwad and Hubli with funding from Pragati and Asha Dallas in the academic year 2009-10. The results of the same have been encouraging as seen below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **Grand Total** |
| **ASSESSMENT [PRE TEST]** | | | | | | | |
| **O** | 37% | 30% | 25% | 22% | 22% | 19% | 27% |
| **L** | 37% | 41% | 38% | 40% | 33% | 33% | 38% |
| **W** | 26% | 30% | 36% | 38% | 46% | 48% | 35% |
| **Grand Total** | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| **ASSESSMENT [MID TERM]** | | | | | | | |
| **O** | 11% | 8% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 2% | 7% |
| **L** | 34% | 30% | 24% | 23% | 20% | 15% | 26% |
| **W** | 38% | 42% | 44% | 45% | 45% | 49% | 43% |
| **S** | 17% | 20% | 26% | 27% | 31% | 34% | 24% |
| **Grand Total** | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| **ASSESSMENT [FINAL]** | | | | | | | |
| **O** | 3% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| **L** | 13% | 11% | 6% | 7% | 7% | 3% | 9% |
| **W** | 29% | 26% | 23% | 22% | 18% | 16% | 23% |
| **S** | 34% | 35% | 38% | 38% | 37% | 40% | 37% |
| **P** | 20% | 25% | 32% | 33% | 38% | 40% | 30% |
| **Grand Total** | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Legend: O – 0 Level, L – Letter Level, W – Word Level, S – Sentence Level,

P – Paragraph Level

**Scope**

It is proposed to continue targeting the students that are still in 0, S & W levels in the schools (that have more than 10 students in these groups) covered last year for the current academic year as well. This would mean that the current proposal will cover 195 schools from the 215 schools covered last year. In addition, this proposal also covers an additional 100 schools in the urban areas of these blocks. We would also like to extend the duration of the program to 5 months. We had run the program for 3 months last year but we were not able to cover the full program due to insufficient time. The details for these schools are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Schools** | **Teachers** | **Children** |
| Rural schools covered in 2009-10 and to be continued in 2010-11 | 195 | 450 | 4750 |
| New urban schools to be covered in 2010-11 | 100 | 200 | 4000 |
| **Total** | **295** | **650** | **8750** |

* First week of November-2010-Seeking permission from DDPI and MOU with the BEOs. Passing the Messages to all the schools.(2-11-10 to 10-11-10)
* Training for Urban Teachers in four batches. (11-11-10 and 12-11-10 two batches per day)
* Refresh training for Rural Teachers four batches ( 15-11-10 and 16-11-10 in two batches per day)
* Baseline Evaluation-18-11-10 and 19-11-10.
* Reading program begins from 22-11-10 onwards.
* 15th card gets over by 10th December.
* 30th card gets over by 31st of December-10
* 45th card gets over 24th of January-2011.
* Final Evaluation will be carried out by the teachers up to end of January-11.
* Collection of data by the staff of Akshara –First week of February-2011
* External evaluation assisted by Akashara Field staff-Second week of February-2011.
* Data entry – 3rd week of February-2011.
* Report generation- End of February-2011.

**Budget Summary**

(Details Follow)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Unit Cost** | **Quantity** | **Amount** |
| Teacher Training | 140/ New Teachers | 200 | 28,000 |
| Implementation Expenses | 316.2/ School / Month | 315schools  \*4months | 3,66,600 |
| Other Expenses | Lump Sum |  | 94,000 |
| **Total**  Recognition of best schools - Library books. | 5000/school | 25 schools | **4,88,600**  1,25,000 |

(All numbers in INR)

Note: Recognition of best schools category is not a part of the main program. This is only as an incentive to the schools to perform at the very best level.

**Expected Outcomes**

Based on our experience in similar schools, we expect the current levels of the children in all standards to be evenly distributed across 0, L & W levels with very few students in S & P levels. Upon completion of the program between 50 to 80% (varies with the standard the child is in, higher for senior standards) of the students are likely to move to S & P levels. This is likely to be the case with the 100 new urban schools. For the existing rural schools, since we are only focusing on students who are still in 0, L & W levels, similar results would are expected for them as well.

**Detailed Budget**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl.No** | **Cost Factors** | **Unit Cost ( Rs)** | **No.of units** | **Total Cost** | | **Grand Total** |
| **(A)** | **Training** |  |  |  | |  |
| (a) | Resource Persons Fees | 600/RP | 2 RPs per batch of 40 teachers | 2Nos\*600X 5 days= | 6,000 |  |
| (b) | Training Materials | 40/Teacher | 200 Teachers | 200Nos\*40 = | 8,000 |  |
| (c) | Travel Cost | No provision is made | | | | |
| (d) | Food & Tea | 70/ Teacher | 200 Teachers | 200Nos\*70= | 14,000 |  |
| **Total of Training cost ( A)** | | | | | | **28,000** |
| **(B)** | **Cost of Programme Implementation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| (a) | **Block Co-ordinators** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | (1) Mrs. Suvarna Guttal | 11,300/ month | 4 months | 4M\* 11,300= | 45,200 |  |
|  | (2)Miss. Rajani S | 4,350 / month | 4 months | 4M\*4,350= | 17,400 |  |
|  | Communication Expenses | 5,000/month | 4 months | 4M\*5,000= | 20,000 |  |
| (b) | **Cluster Co-ordinators** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | (1) Dharwad -Hubli Urban 4 persons | 4,000/month | 4 months | 4M\*4\*4,000= | 64,000 |  |
|  | (2) Dharwad -Hubli Rural 10 persons | 4,000/month | 4 months | 4M\*10\*4,000= | 1,60,000 |  |
| ( c) | **Programme Co-ordinator** | 15,000/ month | 4 months | 4M\*15,000= | 60,000 |  |
| **Total of Programme Implementation Cost (B)** | | | | | | **3,66,600** |
| **(C)** | **Other Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |
| (a) | Travel &Transportation Costs |  |  |  | 32,000 |  |
| (b) | Printing & Stationery |  |  |  | 12,000 |  |
| (c) | Photocopy & Postage etc. |  |  |  | 5,000 |  |
| (d) | Evaluation Charges (Printing of formats , Honorarium, Travel , Documentation etc.) |  |  |  | 10,000 |  |
| (e) | Data Entry Charges |  |  |  | 20,000 |  |
| (f) | Admin Expenses |  |  |  | 15,000 |  |
| **Total of Other Expenses Cost (C)** | | | | | | **94,000** |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | | | | |  | **4,88,600** |

( All numbers in INR)