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| Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement |
| Vijnana Vahini |
| Proposal for the period June 2013 to May 2014 |

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| Praveen Kumar S |

**Vijnana Vahini**

Proposal (June 2013 – May 2104)

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# Executive Summary

Vijnana Vahini project is being implemented from 2009 in H D Kote taluk of Mysore district. The project has seen positive results in the improvement in the quality of the science learning and also the SSLC results. The Vijnana Vahini project has catered to the needs of over 10000 High School students through the mobile science lab visits. The mobile science lab is now seen as a part of the educational setup in the taluk. This document is the proposal for the continuation of the project academic year 2013-2014. In addition to the science lab visits, training programs and science calendar, question boxes and newsletters will be added to the year’s activities. ₹848,910 is the estimated budget for the year. This includes preparing 6 additional kits of equipment to help provide hands-on experience in classes with high student strengths.

# About Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement

**Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)** is a registered, Non-Government Development Organization started in 1984 **by a group of medicos from Mysore Medical College inspired by the teachings and national ideals of Swami Vivekananda.** It is working in the sectors of Health, Education, Community development services, Training, Research, Advocacy & Consultancy Services. It is engaged in building a new civil society in India through its grassroots to policy-level action in Health, Education and Community Development sectors. Acting as a key promoter-facilitator in the community's efforts towards self-reliance and empowerment, SVYM is developing local, innovative and cost-effective solutions to sustain community-driven progress. SVYM is also rooted to its values of Truth, Non-Violence, Renunciation and Service, which is reflected in its program design and delivery, transactions with its stakeholders, resource utilization, disclosures and openness to public scrutiny. Buying in support from the community, working in healthy partnership with the government and corporate sectors and sharing its experiences with like-minded organizations have been the hallmark of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement.

The organization runs 8 institutions and has more than 50 projects in the sectors of health, education, community development and training located in all the districts of Karnataka State. **Today, the programs directly impact more than 1 million people.**

# Background

Heggadadevanna Kote taluk is considered one of the most backward taluks of the state of Karnataka. The taluk has 33 Government High Schools (29 run by the Department of Public Instruction, 3 run by the Department of Social Welfare and 1 Adarsha school started under the RMSA). Every year around 3200 students take the SSLC examination of which around 85% students pass the examination. The number of students taking up Science after passing SSLC examinations from Government High Schools remains at around 11% (improved from 7% in 2009 – 2010). The aim of the students and the teachers in High Schools is to get enough marks to pass the examinations and not to understand and apply science to their daily life. It has been the aim of Vijnana Vahini, running from 2009, to improve the scientific temperament of the students in Government High Schools in the taluk.

Through its activity-based and demonstration sessions based on curriculum, Vijnana Vahini has been able to improve the students’ interest in science and the quality of learning in Government schools. Narrative feedback of teachers indicates that the students are excited to see the vehicle coming into their campus and this by itself improves their interest in the subject. 15 Government High Schools are now equipped with “Lab in a Box” kit supplied by Karnataka Science and Technology Academy and subsequently the science lab visits to these schools were stopped. Only yearly follow-up visits were taken up and to observe the usage of the kits in those schools.

From last year, the focus has been on schools without the “Lab in a Box”. All these schools weren’t proactive participants in the project during the first 2 years of the project and their participation has now improved with the schools themselves demanding the visit of the mobile science lab.

# Aim & Objectives

The aim of Vijnana Vahini project is to improve the scientific temperament of the students in H D Kote taluk.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

* To improve the knowledge in science and create effective participation of students of High Schools through demonstration and experiment modules (designed based on the curriculum).
* To empower the government and private schools to utilize the existing resources to provide quality Science education to their students.
* To create a platform to enhance the students' creativity and their interest in the relevance of Science in daily life.

# Strategy

The project will collaborate with the Government mechanism to improve the quality of science learning in the schools. It will also focus on the optimization of the utilization of the resources available and support the schools in acquiring additional resources necessary for the curriculum transaction.

# Proposed Activities

The following are the activities proposed for the academic year 2013 – 2014

## School Visits

During 2009-2012, the mobile science lab catered to the needs of 19 or 20 Government High Schools on a first come first basis. 15 of the most active schools were provided with the “Lab in a Box” during the last year. The mobile science lab will now visit the remaining 14 Government High Schools of the taluk during the year. 6 of these schools have more than 1 section for each class. It is planned that the mobile science lab will be visiting such schools twice a month on consecutive working days.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School Type** | **Government High Schools** | **Morarji/Kittur Rani Schools** | **Adarsha School** | **Aided Schools** | **Total** |
| **Run by** | **Dept. of Public Instruction** | **Dept. of Social Welfare** | **RMSA – Dept. of Public Instruction** | **Private – Govt. Aid** |
| Total No. of Schools in H D Kote taluk | 29 | 3 | 1 | 5 | **38** |
| No. of Schools supported during 2009-2012 – ***at least for one year*** | 20 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **22** |
| No. of Schools which received “***Lab in a Box***” | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **15** |
| No. of Schools supported with school visits during 2012–2013 - ***throughout the year*** | 12 | 3 | 0 | 1 | **16** |
| No. of Schools with “Lab in a Box” supported – ***at least one visit during 2012-2013*** | 12\* | 0 | 0 | 0 | **12** |
| No. of School visits ***outside the taluk*** during 2012 - 2013 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| No. of Schools receiving the ***Premavidya Project 1947 tools – CDs & Workbooks*** | 29 | 3 | 0 | 3 | **35** |
| No. of Schools to be supported during 2013 - 2014 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | **17** |

*\* - out of the 12 schools, special focus was on GHS Sagare (10 visits) because of shortage of Science teachers*

The science lab will visit the 3 schools run by the Department of Social Welfare, on Saturday, upon request from the schools. We have also received additional requests from the Government High Schools outside the taluk. Such visits, once a month, will be taken up only in case of cancellation of planned visits inside the taluk.

The schools will be contacted in advance and the equipment in the vehicle will be customized to be in sync with the syllabus going on in the schools. The teachers will be provided with the necessary equipment to handle the classes themselves. In schools with teacher shortage, the facilitators will be taking the classes themselves. The participation of the teachers will be one of the indicators to measure the success of the program. Daily visit reports will capture the information on the number of students participating in the session and concepts/syllabus highlighted during the session.

**An additional component for the assembling of 6 kits has been added to the budget. These kits will be used to provide a hands-on experience to students in schools with huge class strengths.**

## Science Calendar

The Science Calendar is a collection of special days of importance for the evolution of science. Competitions customized for the day would be conducted in schools during these days. These events, which will include talks, quizzes, video shows, debates etc., would help improve the awareness as well as the interest of students in science. The Science Calendar will include a taluk level Science Exhibition for the High Schools.

## Training Programs

Teacher training programs will play a big role in taking the activity-based classroom from an idea to the implementation. Teacher Training Programs on creative teaching, conceptual clarity and TLM preparation will be conducted for the benefit of all the science teachers. Additional teacher training programs will be conducted with the support of the Karnataka Science and Technology Academy.

Special Training Programs will be conducted for the students. These programs will include a one day exposure visit to the SVYM Saragur campus where they can visit the hospital and the school. Staff exposure visits to places where innovative ideas have been implemented will help understand and adapt such ideas into the systems to improve the quality and efficiency.

## Question Box & Newsletter

Students usually have many questions but they don’t have the places to get the answers for their questions. We propose to set-up ‘question boxes’ in all the Govt. High Schools to encourage the students to drop any questions related to Science and daily life or any questions related to curriculum. These questions will be collected on a fortnightly basis and the answers will be published in a monthly newsletter which will be circulated in all the schools.

All the questions will be documented and compiled based on the topic they deal with. This will also in preparing a question bank in the longer run.

# Budget

A detailed copy of the budget has been attached. The following is an abridged version:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S No** | **Activities** | **Amount** | **Remarks** |
| **A** | **Personnel Cost** | **₹278,100** |  |
| A.1 | Program Manager | ₹ 90,000 | Increase from ₹7500pm to ₹8000pm |
| A.2 | Project Coordinator | ₹96,000 | Decrease from ₹10000pm to ₹8500pm |
| A.3 | Facilitator | ₹ 84,000 | Decrease from ₹7500pm to ₹7000pm |
| A.4 | Staff Benefit | ₹ 8,100 | Staff benefit at 3% |
| **B** | **Recurring Cost** | **₹373,200** |  |
| B.1 | Operational Expenses | ₹ 50,200 | Includes office rent, stationery, phone, teachers’ meetings and mentoring & monitoring |
| B.2 | Travel & Conveyance | ₹120,000 | Includes the mobile science lab and staff travel |
| B.3 | Technical & resource support | ₹123,000 | Includes purchase of equipment for the new curriculum and setting up question boxes |
| B.4 | Capacity building | ₹ 20,000 | Training programs and Exposure visits |
| B.5 | Events | ₹ 60,000 | Science calendar and |
| **C** | **Capital cost** | **₹ 30,000** |  |
|  | **Budget** | **₹681,300** |  |
|  | **Overheads** | **₹ 27,252** | Organizational overheads at 4% |
|  | **Total Budget** | **₹708,552** | Last year ₹723,000 |
|  | **Science kits** | **₹ 93,600** | ₹15,000 per kit and 4% overheads |
|  | **Lab in a Box** | **₹ 176,800** | ₹10,000 per kit and 4% overheads |
|  | **Fund Balance with SVYM** | **₹190,991** | As on 31st May 2013 |
|  | **Additional Funds Request** | **₹787,961** |  |