

Deshpande Foundation 2010 Development Dialogue Site Visit Descriptions

Route One <u>DHARWAD</u> Bus Departs DCSE at 6:30am	Route Two <u>KALGHATGI</u> Bus Departs DCSE at 7:15am	Route Three <u>GADAG</u> Bus Departs DCSE at 7:15am	Route Four <u>HAVERI</u> Bus Departs DCSE at 7:15am
<p>Akshaya Patra runs and manages one of the largest school feeding programs in the world, reaching 1.2 million children across seven states in India every day. In the Sandbox, Akshaya Patra reaches 190,000 per day, with centralized food production at the largest kitchen in the world.</p> <p>Samarthanam works primarily with differently-abled children and youths, SAMARTHANAM works to impart technical skills to visually impaired youths/students through their TechVision program. TechVision is being developed as an enterprise run and managed wholly by differently-abled persons and people who are disadvantaged in other ways. In the Sandbox, TechVision is implemented with an additional focus on revenue opportunities to ensure programmatic sustainability.</p> <p>AME Foundation works to introduce and implement SRI principles and practices in the Sandbox. Additionally, AME works to stabilize and improve crop yields from dry farming contexts and also reduce usage of agro-chemicals.</p>	<p>BAIF started its Samrudhi project in June 2007, with an objective of enhancing the livelihood opportunities of participating families through promotion of integrated farming systems. Activities include promotion of horticulture, forestry, fodder development, kitchen gardens, and vermicomposting. Under this project, BAIF is working with 132 families in 6 villages in Dharwad and Haveri districts.</p> <p>Samraksha is piloting a new approach to HIV/AIDS, one which unifies and builds cohesion across stakeholders by letting the whole community take responsibility for halting and reversing the HIV epidemic. Through this approach, Samraksha, through mobilization of both local financial and human resources, works to combat stigma associated with HIV and in turn encourages a deep human response to people living with HIV.</p> <p>Agastya works towards developing an educational environment that promotes scientific aptitude and inspires creativity in children. Agastya also seeks to transform society's traditional mindset of memorization and rote-learning regarding education. They do this through 2 efforts: Mobile Science Labs that reach out to remote rural schools; demonstration units where children and others can access and experience fundamental science concepts in a hands-on way.</p>	<p>Agastya works towards developing an educational environment that promotes scientific aptitude and inspires creativity in children. Agastya also seeks to transform society's traditional mindset of memorization and rote-learning regarding education. They do this through 2 efforts: Mobile Science Labs that reach out to remote rural schools and Demonstration Units where children can access and experience fundamental science concepts in a hands-on way.</p> <p>Agricultural Science Foundation is an autonomous, voluntary organization established in 1981. ASF's primary focus areas are: natural resource management through watershed development; SHG and JLG organization and credit facilitation for technology adoption through microfinance; agricultural technology transfer through demonstrations, trainings and extension activities; and development and transfer of drought proofing models, including dry land horticulture, to ensure income security.</p> <p>MelJol works primarily with children, ranging from 6 to 15 years of age, attending government-run schools. Through the understanding of their rights and responsibilities as laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990), MelJol hopes to instill values of responsible citizenship in children. Aflatoun, a program, focuses on building saving in children.</p>	<p>Navachetana Foundation works in many areas of livelihoods, including forming self-help groups (SHGs / JLGs), conducting agricultural and food processing trainings, providing microfinance services, and providing marketing and technical assistance. With the Deshpande Foundation, Navachetana is conducting a dairy development project which builds on microfinance activities to form village-owned milk cooperatives. In addition, they are training community-based entrepreneurs who will provide integrated dairy services throughout the community.</p> <p>Samaj Parivartana Samudaya has been working since 1984 in the field of community organization and environmental protection, with a focus on empowerment of rural poor and tribal. Established with the principles of Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), SPS is now working to ensure effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and to conserve forests and restore livelihoods through village forest committees.</p> <p>TRDC works to address child labour throughout Karnataka. In collaboration with DF, TRDC runs bridge centres for out-of-school and drop-out children. They also run remedial centers for those children mainstreamed into government education by TRDC's bridge centres.</p>

