

Dialogue

A CII Foundation quarterly e-newsletter

Education Special

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CII Foundation (CIIF)

As one of the key instruments for social change and empowerment of marginalised communities, Education has the power to change it all. With education comes the understanding and opportunities to view the world in a different light, and transform the social & economic development of the country.



Indian Businesses have been actively engaged in strengthening and supporting quality education, working with the academia and the Government, through For-Profit enterprises as well as Social Foundations. In fact, over the years, education has been the most preferred area of spend for companies, for their CSR budgets. According to the CII CSR Tracker 2015, Education and healthcare saw the biggest influx of corporate funds among the 1181 listed companies on the BSE in FY 15. Activities under the areas of education and skill development accounted for the maximum of 31% of the CSR spend as compared to other development areas. Rs 1950 crores was spent in the field of education through construction and improvement of academic facilities.

The CII Foundation, on its part has been implementing on-ground CSR projects, ranging from rebuilding of damaged schools post the Uttarakhand floods to providing digital literacy to underprivileged students through an e-connect program, to improving early childhood education at Anganwadis. All this is supported by various corporates.

We are cognizant of the reality that this is a mere drop in the ocean and a lot more needs to be done. Partnership among stakeholders and a collaborative large scale approach, leveraging technology is the key to achieve the desired impact.

In this issue of Dialogue, we bring views and opinions of stakeholders from industry and Government on Education.

Do take out a few minutes to give your valuable feedback on this issue of the newsletter.

Shefali Chaturvedi
CEO, CII Foundation

Expert Opinion

In Conversation



Quality Education for all

Thomas Chandy, CEO, Save the Children India shares his thoughts on the challenges or complexities in implementing Right to Education Act and suggests ways to resolve them

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Transforming the education ecosystem

Bhaskar Pramanik, Chairman, Microsoft India talks of technology innovation & Microsoft India's CSR intervention to offer solution to the educational challenges

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Trend Watch



Some innovative CSR initiatives

Innovative ideas, concepts and practices can positively impact and create a multiplier effect in society. Some of the companies have implemented unique CSR initiatives in the field of education to reach out to the remote areas or target a range of beneficiaries.

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Find an authenticated Implementing Agency for your CSR Interventions

Choose among 931 on-ground projects, being implemented by 942 NGOs across 390 towns/ cities on first of its kind online platform in the world. Sammaan enables companies to undertake effective CSR activities by connecting them to verified NGOs.

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Assessing the Impact of Right to Education Act

A report, published by CII and KPMG in March 2016

- Need to introduce a national school standard of education which is a practice globally
- It is essential for governments to focus on quality of education and introduce evaluation methods which test children's conceptual understanding of subjects in the lower classes
- Improving the physical infrastructure and human resources - a must for effective implementation of the Act
- Public-Private Partnership models needs to be explored to make RTE successful

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From Ground Zero



Towards a Bright Future

Education has been a focus areas for CII Foundation with the vision of bringing back children to schools and creating a healthy learning environment for their growth and sustaining their interest in pursuing further education.

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Building from the Ground Up

The students, all dressed in their blue-checked uniforms, sit in rows before their plates, waiting patiently for everyone to get food before beginning their midday meals. As the last few students run up the ramp of their new schoolhouse, two students stand up while the rest fold their hands in prayer, squeezing their eyes shut.

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And some views...

“ The CII Primary Education Council has identified 3 focus areas – Quality, Quantity and Advocacy for channeling industry initiatives through developing specific interventions in Enhancing teaching quality, achieving minimum learning levels and benchmarking in the primary education sector. Promoting inclusive and enabling education through public private school partnership is also mandated with methods like mentoring. Primary Education Council will work inclusively to involve all CII committees across different regions to keep the focus on primary education, as much needed effort by government machinery is towards the secondary and higher secondary education.”

N Kumar
Chairman, CII Primary Education Council and Vice Chairman
The Sanmar Group

“ Bharti Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, focusing on implementing quality education initiatives across rural India. Our flagship initiative, the Satya Bharti School Program has completed 10 years of successful operations, providing quality education to over thousands of underprivileged children, with a focus on the girl child. Through our Government school interventions we have

partnered with State Governments to enhance the schooling experience by supporting the realisation of the vision of the respective school leaders as well mainstreaming thousands of children who drop out of school due to socio-economic challenges. At the Foundation, holistic development of children remains our key prerogative coupled with the passion to enable bright minds reach their true potential. Today, Bharti Foundation is proud to run three successful educational programs impacting over 1,00,000 children in 11 states of rural India.”

Vijay Chadda
CEO
Bharti Foundation

“ Education is a great enabler for any nation's growth. While a significant progress has been made in universalization of elementary education, gap in quality continues to be a challenge. We at SRF Foundation are dedicated to education transformation enabling the next generation to have equal opportunity in life. Complementing the Government's efforts, our collaborative approach have brought a positive change.”

Y. Suresh Reddy
Director
SRF Foundation

“ Corporates are a key stakeholder of the education system in the country and hence have a deep interest in improving both its quantum and quality. Many corporates are contributing to the field of education process and supporting institutions of learning, at different levels.

Such engagements form a significant part of Social Responsibility initiatives and continue to make meaningful contribution to society.”

Rajesh Gupta
President Strategy
DCM Shriram Limited

“ There is an old saying, 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime' - and our CSR philosophy revolves around this age old dictum. We believe strongly in providing sustainable livelihood solutions to communities through empowerment. The education is one of the most effective tools of empowering the people. We are implementing various Education based CSR initiatives like running world class primary, secondary & tertiary educational institutes, adult literacy program for rural women and prison inmates, ITI adoption under PPP model, etc to enable quality education accessible to all.”

Vijay N Deshpande
VP- HR
JK Tyre & Industries Ltd.

For more details, visit www.ciifoundation.in
Send your suggestions and queries to ceo-ciifoundation@cii.in or call us at +91- 124-4309448

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