

CII FOUNDATION
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Dialogue
A CII Foundation quarterly e-newsletter

Education Special

Dear Friends,
Greetings from CII Foundation (CIIFF)

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

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

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

In Conversation

Trend Watch

Some innovative CSR initiatives
ziammaan
Choose among 931 on-ground projects, being implemented by 942 NGOs across 399 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.

Find an authenticated Implementing Agency for your CSR Interventions

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
• Public-Private Partnership models needs to be explored to make RTE successful

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.

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.

And some views...

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