

Capgemini School Adoption Project

In Association with Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir

The School Adoption Program is a CSR initiative of Capgemini, the global leader in consulting, technology and outsourcing services, in association with Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir Trust of The Art of Living. The project commenced in 2014 and 30 Municipal/Zilla Parishad schools have been adopted in Thane, Navi Mumbai and Pimpri/Chinchwad in the state of Maharashtra.

Right from the infrastructural challenges to the quality of education being imparted, a number of challenges are being faced by the government schools across India. The School Adoption Project aims at enhancing the learning environment of these schools at the physical as well as psychological level.

The physical environment and availability of basic amenities like sanitation, safe drinking water and a safe setting (internal as well as external) is one of the most vital factors that impacts the ability to teach and hence learn in a school. Devoid of the above school education may seem a lot more challenging especially for those children who are doing their best to receive it in trying conditions.

The following activities are being undertaken under this project, as per the needs of each school:

- Provision of proper sanitation facilities
- Minor civil works
- Provision of:
 - Water Filters
 - Benches
 - E-Learning Facilities
 - Computer Lab and Training
 - Library Books
 - Fire Extinguishers
 - First Aid Kits
 - Science Lab etc
 - Sports Equipments
- Any other basic infrastructural repair/aid required by the school



Provision of clean drinking water



However, working on just gross aspects like infrastructural development may not be enough to ensure a better learning environment. Along with that there is a need to bring about an inner transformation in the behaviour and attitude of the key stakeholders i.e children, teachers, school management and parents, in the way learning and education is perceived.

Apart from The Art of Living's ART EXCEL program, a wide gamut of activities and workshops like menstrual health and hygiene, child safety, rights and abuse, gender awareness, first aid training and development of IEC for violence free schools are being implemented.



Menstrual Health and Hygiene Session at Kharegaon School, Thane

The project is expected to benefit over 20,000 school children.

Success Story: An Octroi Office Transformed Into A School

Life is looking up for children of the Gaimukh school in Thane. They are now going to study in a brand new school that has modern infrastructure and good amenities. Other than four new classrooms with benches, the school now has a computer lab, a library-cum-e-learning room, a water filter and a kitchen for providing fresh and nutritious food. Also, there are separate toilets for staff, girls and boys.

This building was actually a non-operational octroi office which has now been converted into a full-fledged school. Earlier the school was situated in a structure devoid of basic amenities like sanitation and safe drinking water. Children had no access to proper toilets and faced discomfort and inconvenience. Celebrating their new-found joy, a young school girl remarked, “The best thing about our school is the new toilet that has been built for us.”



Old Octroi Office Building



Octroi Office Converted Into A School

Capgemini has also supported the library of the school by providing a variety of books ranging from encyclopedias, story books and reference books on history to books on language learning, biographies, science and mathematics. If on one hand, children are excited about studying in the new school, parents and teachers, on the other are extremely overwhelmed with the amenities being provided to them. “Our children now have a reason to smile,” said a delighted parent.

The school was inaugurated by Ms Amruta Fadnavis, wife of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 7th July, 2016. Speaking on the occasion she complimented The Art of Living and Capgemini for the “one of its kind initiative”. Perhaps for the first time in India a Government office has been converted into a school.



Ms. Amruta Fadnavis addressing the crowd at the inauguration of the Gaimukh School.



Ms. Amruta Fadnavis felicitating Capgemini CSR Head, Mr. Anurag Pratap

For Capgemini and the Art of Living, it is another milestone of bringing hope, happiness and harmony to children through right education. The project was ably supported officials Thane Municipal Corporation and our special thanks to Mr Manish Joshi Dy. Municipal Commissioner for his support and guidance.