

NEW INITIATIVES BY ALUMNI AND THE TRUST

Dear alumni friends,

During the thirteen years after its formation, the DTEA Alumni Trust -- a registered body representing all DTEA alumni which maintains this website www.dtea-alumni.org and facilitates contributions from alumni towards the improvement of our alma mater – had been largely assisting the DTEA schools in improving their infrastructure. Details of expenditure towards these infrastructure projects are available at URL: www.dtea-alumni.org/YEARWISE%20SCHOOL%20EXPENSES_2015-16.pdf

Last year, thanks to the initiatives of some alumni groups, the Trust took tentative steps in the educational front as well by implementing a couple of projects for primary classes at the Lodi Estate School. These were conceptualised by some visionary alumni and were implemented by the Trust in the pilot mode initially to see if such external interventions can make any difference.

The way these were conceived was to ensure a strong foundational basis for a well-rounded development of the child. From this perspective, a two-pronged approach was adopted in this project. One component was focussed on improving the soft skills in children of primary classes (I-V) by setting up a Children's Learning Centre (CLC), along with an appropriately skilled instructor, where children spend quality time learning with educational aids such as games, quizzes, puzzles, flash cards, story books, story-telling and poem recitation.

The second component of the project was aimed at improving the teacher-student ratio in the primary classes by deploying additional teachers in classes who would be employed through alumni funding. The idea being that these external teachers would devote extra attention to students who lagged behind. In the pilot phase, the second part was restricted to Class I only, which meant one extra teacher for each of the two sections of Class I.

Children Learning Centre and Project VARSHA

The CLC at the LE school was set up through the initiative and contributions of Mr. Ramnath Cowsik from Bengaluru, a 1965 alumnus from the LE school. The

second part was initiated and supported by some 1959 batch alumni of the LE school, and this component was called [VARSHA](#). The project was started in July 2016 with an initial total funding of about Rs. 7 lakhs. The project has proved to be enormously successful as the [year-end report](#) of VARSHA for the academic year 2016-17 suggests. (Please click on the link to know more about Project [VARSHA](#) and its [results](#) at the end of the pilot phase.)

Encouraged by the success of this pilot phase, the alumni group promoting VARSHA has now decided to extend the programme for five years, and also include the two sections of Class II for deploying additional teachers. This extended programme will also be implemented by the Trust. The total cost for the five-year period is estimated to be Rs. 30 lakhs. The nodal contact person for Project VARSHA is Ms. Vatsala Sivasubramaniam (1959 batch, LE school; vatsala.vkunj@gmail.com).

Project MEERA

Thanks to its success, the VARSHA concept has also proved to be infectious. Enthused by its results at the LE school, the 1966 batch alumni of MM School have come forward to implement a similar programme at the MM school called MEERA. Project MEERA will also have a two-pronged approach, but the relative emphases of the two components will be tweaked to suit the particular needs and the conditions of the school. MEERA is set to begin from the current academic year (July 2017) and is proposed to run for five years. The Project's estimated cost is Rs. 25 lakhs. MEERA will also be implemented by the Trust and the nodal contact person for the Project is Ms. K. R. Radhika Raja (1966 batch, MM School; krradhikaraja@yahoo.com).

Project CONVERSE

A similar programme has been initiated at the Moti Bagh School by the Trust itself, which seeks to build on the existing 'Activity Room' and English language skill development programme being conducted by the MB school teacher, Ms. Indira, and expand it to include other aspects drawn from VARSHA's experience. The MB School project will be called CONVERSE. This project is expected to cost about Rs. 2-3 lakhs. The nodal contact persons for Project CONVERSE are Mr. P. Sivaram (1969 batch, LE School; shiva1953@gmail.com) and Ms. Malini Sivaram (malamath@gmail.com)

Senior Teachers' Training Programme

An initiative proposed by former principal and teacher of the DTEA Schools, and a well known educationist, Ms. Indubala, is to conduct teachers' training workshops in all the seven DTEA Schools by rotation over 21 sessions between July and November every year. This will be a kind of 'continuing education' programme for the teachers. Initially, the project will be in the pilot mode and will be restricted to primary classes (I-V) and that too in the subject of Social Science only as students of DTEA schools have been found to be very weak in this subject. The workshops will be conducted by a panel of three mentoring experts. The Trust has decided to support this initiative from this current academic year (2017-18) and the estimated cost of the programme is about Rs. 1 lakh for the pilot phase. The panellists for the pilot phase, who will be paid through alumni funding, have already been identified. The nodal contact person for this project is Ms. Indubala (balasita43@gmail.com & minraj@gmail.com).

Nutritive Food Supplement to Children

While interacting with primary class children, especially those in Classes I and II, of Moti Bagh School, it was observed that many of them, coming as they are from very poor families, often came to the school without having any food in the morning. As a result, they are not able to focus on lessons in the classroom, many of them, in fact, even dozing off. While this problem could be there in the other branches of the DTEA Schools, it appears to be more so at Moti Bagh, perhaps due to the area where the school is located. So the Trust has proposed to start a food supplementation programme at the Moti Bagh School by providing primary class children with nutritive food packets as they arrive at the school in the morning every day. There are about 200-250 primary class children in the school. At an estimated cost per pkt of Rs. 10-15, the total cost is estimated to be about Rs. 10 lakhs per year. The nodal contact persons for this project are Mr. P. Sivaram, Ms. Malini Sivaram and Trustees R. Ramachandran (Secretary; 1967 batch, LE School; bajji01@gmail.com) and Mr. Srikanth Chakravarthy (1973 batch, LE School; sc@rcadelhi.com)

Support for School Infrastructure

Though the Trust has made its first forays into the academic aspects of the schools, infrastructure problems faced by the schools cannot be simply wished away. Recurring infrastructure problems will be there and, from the DTEA management's perspective, this is the most tangible of the problems faced by

the DTEA schools. So, support from the Trust to this aspect will continue to remain an important component of its activities. The Laxmi Bai Nagar School, for example, has given the Trust a wish list of about eight items, most important of them being provision of about 100 double desks. This is expected to cost about Rs. 5 lakhs. The nodal contact for this is the Trust itself (Secretary, R. Ramachandran, at bajji01@gmail.com and Trustee Srikanth Chakravarthy at sc@rcadelhi.com and dteaalumni@yahoo.com)

How to Donate

Contributions towards the Trust's activities can be made in Indian or foreign currency. They can be either towards the Trust's general fund pool or towards a particular project. The former is meant for use at the Trust's discretion for any of its activities in support of the schools, including supplementing funding by alumni groups towards specific projects when there is a shortfall.

The Trust is a registered body under the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act (FCRA). So the Trust now can accept donations from foreign citizens and foreign entities as well. All contributions by *resident* Indians will be eligible for tax exemption under Section 80 G of the IT Act.

The contributions may be sent either by (a) a crossed cheque/DD by post; or, by (b) e-transfer. The procedure is simple, but steps must be strictly followed:

- (a) Crossed cheque/DD should be made in favour of **DTEA Alumni Trust** and posted to the address given below:

DTEA Alumni Trust, 804, Sahyog Building, 58, Nehru Place, New Delhi -- 110 019, INDIA.

If your contribution is towards any specific project then kindly mention 'For Project CONVERSE' or 'Project Nutrition', or whatever, on the back of the cheque/DD. Kindly also provide your name, citizenship, school branch and batch (if you are an alumnus), mailing address and PAN on the back of the cheque/DD. Once the cheque/DD is honoured, the Trust will send the tax exemption certificate along with the receipt for the contribution.

- (b) For electronic transfer of contributions (NEFT, RTGS etc.) to the Trust account, the account details can be obtained from the Trustee Mr.

Srikanth Chakravarthy, who manages the Trust finances, by sending a mail to him with all the details about the donor, including name, branch and batch (if an alumnus), address, PAN and citizenship, at either the Trust email ID dteaalumni@yahoo.com or his personal ID sc@rcadelhi.com. This is to ensure that, as required under the FCRA, separate accounts are maintained for donations from Indian and foreign citizens. **One's citizenship is defined by the country whose passport the person holds, and nothing else.**

It is also earnestly requested that donors, having once received the account details, do not share that information with others for the following reasons: (i) as mandated under the FCRA, donations from Indian and foreign citizens should not be mixed and (ii) it becomes difficult to trace anonymous donations by e-transfer.

The Trust and the promoters of the above projects earnestly solicit generous contributions from the alumni towards the Trust's general fund pool and/or specifically towards any particular project, including infrastructure projects, which have been the mainstay of the Trust's activities so far and towards which alumni have been generously contributing for the past many years.

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO THE CAUSE!!!

**DTEA Alumni Trust, 804, Sahyog Building, 58, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110 019, INDIA;
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