



**DSF – Total Education Solution for
Socio-Economically Vulnerable Students**

**DREAM SCHOOL
FOUNDATION**

2014-15

PROGRAMME PROPONENT

2

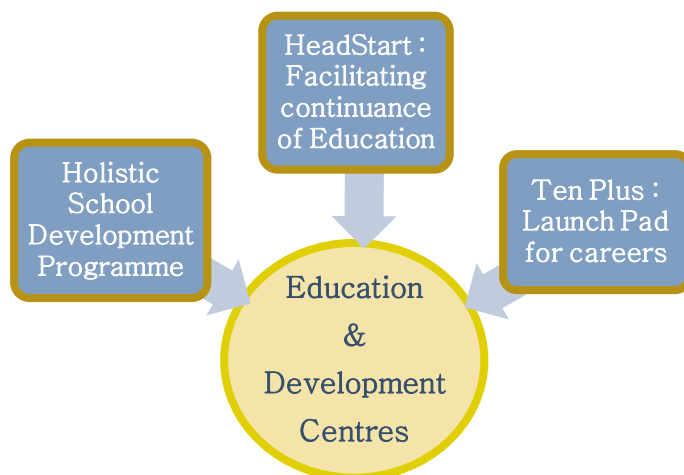
Dream School Foundation (DSF) is an Indian non-profit that works towards addressing the equity and quality issues currently faced by the Indian children. The underlying belief of our organisation is faith in people's ability to contribute towards the education & development of our children.

MISSION

To make the right to quality education with overall development and a happy childhood, a reality for the child

We believe that education is the most vital instrument that can create a democratic, socialistic and egalitarian world. We advocate for qualitative and equitable education for our children in a sustained manner. We strive to achieve our mission through an

Integrated Education and Development Programme (IEDP)



- The **Holistic School Development Programme** addresses the quality and equity issues plaguing the Government schools.
- **HeadStart** programme focuses on issue of children dropping out at the high school stage and strives to ensure continuity till the 10th grade.
- Our **Ten Plus** programme is an extension of HeadStart programme that strives to reach the most vulnerable groups like children rehabilitated from Child Labour, orphans, with single parent, from troubled family situations, disabled etc. It enables students to enroll to higher education streams of their interest and aptitude and grow further through structured high impact academic coaching and mentoring at DSF.
- The nucleus of the IEDP is the **Education & Development Centre** that binds all the other programmes together.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME: TOTAL EDUCATION SOLUTION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN

3

As education is a booming business in present day context, the affluent and privileged are marching ahead of underprivileged children in terms of knowledge acquisition and greater soft skills. Minimizing this big gap is possible only through motivating and building high quality centres of excellence that provide access to the much-needed amenities & services to the students to be able to compete with the fast developing modern world of today.

TOTAL EDUCATION SOLUTION MODEL



| ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------------------|---|
| Lead Pad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≈ Financial support & Educational resource provision ≈ Ensure continuity in High School Education of quality in school of their choice ≈ College education till completion of bachelor's degree / diploma in field of their interest |
| Education Resource Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≈ Regular academic and non-academic coaching ≈ Ongoing Functional English sessions ≈ One-to-one Mentoring by accomplished Individuals ≈ Learning, training and development facilities for students – Computer Labs, Libraries etc. |
| Finishing School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≈ Pre-employment training programme for socio economically vulnerable graduating students ≈ Training/Coaching to bridge the industry-academia gap and help them perform better ≈ Improving the overall capabilities - Personality development, conversational ability, leadership skills and training as per industry specific requirements |

PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

4

India has over 350 universities, 18,000 colleges and 6,000 ITIs, which every year comes out with about 500,000 technical graduates, of which, according to *NASSCOM** estimates, 75 per cent are not easily employable. Our institutions annually produce around 2.3 million graduates, of which 90 per cent are considered unfit for employment.

Although there are enormous job opportunities there is a dearth of employable graduates/non graduates. Even though the students are strong in academic knowledge they lack application and presentation skills. It is clear that tremendous talent and potential lies hidden within India, especially in the youth and children. Lack of quality education and appropriate exposure, have rendered them into mediocre careers and lifestyle. The students from our country especially the ones from socio economically weaker sections are in urgent need of knowledge empowerment to raise them to levels where they can attain their true potential. The challenge before us is to create leaders from the underprivileged section be it in the field of business, education, management, trade, commerce or allied services. This can be possible by supporting the students economically and raise their aspirations and capacities through intensive mentoring, coaching and facilitation process.

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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The objective of the proposed programme is

- To support and mentor socio economically vulnerable students and make them eligible for admissions in the topnotch colleges and institutions.
- To provide an opportunity to young graduates/undergraduates from socio economically vulnerable communities to increase their employability by developing their soft skills, communication, basic skills in computers, academic coaching and functional English.
- To guide and counsel underprivileged youth to take up career choices as per their interest, aptitude and attitude.
- To create initiative, confidence and leadership at the initial stages itself that eventually enables them in winning and retaining jobs in this job market.
- Parent community outreach and interface

* *National Association of Software and Services Companies*

PROGRAMME RECIPIENTS

The primary recipients of the programme will be the identified students from socio-economic vulnerable who are getting in to high school and support them through high school, Pre University, Graduate/ Diploma . The programme will also cater to other youth who hail from socio-economically backward families and are in need of supplementary education and training to enable them to acquire rewarding job opportunities. The Centre for Excellence will cater to a minimum of 200 and maximum of 350 students at any given time.

FOCUS AREA 1: LEAD PAD: LEADING FROM SCHOOL TO CAREER

Lead Pad is an integrated intervention for the socio economically vulnerable children to facilitate continuance of mainstream education for the students and equip them to pursue a career of their choice. The programme entails enrollment to a High School of their choice and mentor them academically as well as personally to set them up for Pre-University education and further support them till bachelor's degree or diploma. This 8-9 year programme will primarily enable them to choose an academic line of their interest and aptitude and grow further through structured high impact academic coaching and mentoring at the DSF Education and Development Centres. This programme reaches the most vulnerable groups like children rehabilitated from Child Labour, orphans, with single parent, from troubled family situations etc. - from dire socio economic conditions who have finished their primary school education in govt. run schools.

The innate intent of the programme is to facilitate the children to continue towards reasonably good livelihood opportunities through courses and institutions of their choice and mentor them to excel in the field. The programme is strengthened by volunteer-involvement to mentor and track the performance of the participants and motivate them through committed financial support for a minimum of 6 years and maximum of 9 years starting from their High School journey.

LEAD PAD – PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- **Structured Selection Process**
- **Interest and Aptitude Profiling**
- **Parent Community Interface**
- **Career Counseling**
- **Support to select School/Colleges/Institutions of quality**
- **Financial Support for fees & educational resources required**
- **Bridge Courses / High Impact Academic Coaching**
- **Mentoring**
- **Life Skill Sessions and Outbound Programmes**
- **Other support – medical aid, transport allowance, cycles etc.**

FOCUS AREA 2: EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Education & Development centre focuses on learning and overall development of the students to supplement the education provided at the mainstream academic institutions with enhanced participation from the community in general and parents in particular.

The proposed center will offer high quality, age appropriate learning level interventions with specific focus on English language along with self-esteem building activities. The centre also acts as a catalyst to promote and facilitate the development of students through the collective action of civil society.

The centre houses state of the art facilities required for the development of the students with relevant ongoing academic & non-academic coaching and other essential training courses for all students enrolled for DSF HeadStart & Ten Plus programmes.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – FACILITY & COMPONENTS

- **Library with over 2000 academic & non-academic books**
- **Computer centre with state of art machines with Internet access & reference material**
- **Computer training – Basic and need based software**
- **Regular ongoing Functional English classes**
- **Well-equipped classrooms with multimedia / AV facilities**
- **Science Labs with course specific material & equipment**
- **Ongoing mentoring**
- **Career & Social Counseling**
- **Fulltime coordinator to cater to student needs**
- **Regular interaction with parents to discuss issues faced by their wards**
- **Parental involvement in design of career path for their children**
- **Parenting workshops**
- **Enroll & Encourage Volunteer & other civil society member involvement as teachers, mentors and in other functions at the centre.**

FOCUS AREA 3: FINSHING SCHOOL

7

India will need 83 million skilled workers across different industry verticals by 2015. With the current training capacity, India will produce only 3 million skilled workers. Various studies, including one by NASSCOM*, over the last five years, have consistently reported that only 10% of graduates are directly employable.

The proposed Meenakshi – DSF Centre for Excellence will serve as a Finishing School for the underprivileged youth pursuing their Diploma/Graduation and other vocational programmes. Finishing school is a programme that bridges the industry-academia gap by training students in skills that enable them to perform their job better.

Finishing School will:

- Enhance the standard of the graduates to become acceptable to the industry
- Bridge the gap between the industry and educational institutions
- Reinforce student skills and acquire industry specific knowledge from trained faculty and experts from industries and produce ‘ready-to-deploy’ graduates
- Conduct workshops on Soft skills, analytical skills, team work, attitude of continuous learning, first hand feel of industrial environment etc are desirable qualities that companies look for in addition to educational qualification

The idea is to develop and fine-tune the competencies of the youth who aspire to excel in their life. The Centres will provide a unique platform that brings knowledge to life by attracting and developing the youth from the underprivileged communities. The proposed finishing school will aim to become a leading centre for transformational leadership and create value by optimizing the knowledge and skills that exist in a cosmopolitan city like Bangalore.

FINISHING SCHOOL – PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- **Assessment Centre (Battery of assessment tools to assess the attitude, aptitude and emotional intelligence)**
- **Career Counseling & guidance as per assessment findings**
- **Computer training – Basic & Advanced**
- **Basic accounting and financial management**
- **Communication skills and self-expression**
- **Interviewing Techniques - Group Discussion, Confidence Building**
- **Public Speaking, Debates, Presentation skills, Team Building etc.**
- **Personal grooming, Etiquette**
- **Internships with partner companies**

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

8

DSF will be responsible for all planning, coordination and implementation of the programme at the proposed Centre for Excellence. DSF will organize, document and evaluate the programme on a quarterly basis. Periodic reports would be made available to the sponsor. DSF encourages the sponsor of the programme to be part of the Project Management Team (PMT). This team would meet on a quarterly basis and analyze the projects progress with the education facilitators, consultants and volunteering team. The operations model of the programme advocates a low administration costs and all the employees of the programme are trained to take on key learning level enhancement programmes. The Directors who oversee and manage the programme work on a pro-bono basis.

KEY INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT

DSF adopts multifaceted assessment and evaluation methodologies.

- Custom based Infrastructure and facilities at the centres
- Attendance and behavioral report of students
- Performance tracking of the children
- Social case study and group study report of the children
- Feedback from parents/teachers/mentors
- Programme delivery as per the yearly plan
- Centre Management and Parent support
- Teaching Learning Time
- Stakeholder participation (Quantitative & Qualitative)
- Employability ratio of the students

BUDGET OVERVIEW

9

| Programme / Purpose | Description of Expenses | Unit | Unit cost | No of units | Total cost INR |
|---|--|----------|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| LEAD PAD - School to Career | | | | | |
| HeadStart - Facilitate Continuance of education in High Schools of choice | Financial support for school fees, books, bus pass, bag, uniform, shoes & other educational supplies | Students | 6000 | 100 | 600000 |
| Ten Plus - Launch Pad for careers | Financial support for college fees, books, transport etc. | Students | 12000 | 100 | 1200000 |
| EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT FACILITY | | | | | |
| Centre Rent | 15000 per month | Month | 15000 | 12 | 180000 |
| Child Welfare - snacks/nutrition etc | Snacks, food, basic medical aid, misc. costs etc | Month | 6000 | 12 | 72000 |
| Extra and Co curricular activities | Summer Camps, Outbound excursions, etc. | Events | 25000 | 4 | 100000 |
| TOTAL COST in INR | | | | | 21,52,000 |
| COST in USD | | | | | \$ 35,279 |