

RCEDP Profile

Dr Aashis (RCEDP project director) speaks to new students at the start of the year. Dr Aashis is a scientist in Nanotechnology but he started off having to fight for his education and climbing his way to his doctorate. He and his colleagues saw other children in their village unable to have the chances they had and so they decided to set up a free village school – and then, if they could do it well in one place, why not another? Dr Aashis contacted the international NGO 'Developing Real Learners' (DRL) after seeing their philosophy on www.Linkedin.com – a



popular professional networking site. 'We decided to collaborate with RCEDP because they were taking action regardless of the challenges that they knew they would have and regardless that they knew there would be unforeseen challenges ahead' said a spokesperson for DRL. DRL is collaborating with Dr Aashis to lead the establishment of the school, approaches to the curriculum and teacher training. They are also helping with raising the money to build the school. Local authorities look favourably on the project but can't support it as the school is not yet officially registered as a school. To be registered as a school, a building with minimum requirements must be built including separate toilets for girls and boys and classrooms. Dr Aashis and his team have worked hard to provide the lessons, fund-raise and gain support locally but to raise the sort of money for building a school needs help from outside.

21st Century Education for rural schools.

The vision of DRL is to help young people everywhere to develop into the best learners they can be and for schools to transform from bureaucratic institutions into learning organisations. The view is this – it is possible to refocus our efforts in schools to offer opportunity to young people to develop into the best learners they can be. DRL has the means to do this by training teachers, parents and the young people themselves to identify and use opportunities to develop their learner attributes. By giving young people the chance to develop into proactive, robust, independent/collaborative, lifelong learners we assure them of more than passing exams, we assure them of a future where they can be more in control of their lives. Unemployment is increasing in the world even amongst university graduates but if those educated people were as good at learning as they are at studying, they may be better at creating their own jobs and even employing others. Through our work together both organisations hope to make the Karnataka project a success by bringing twenty-first century approaches to education and then spread the easily adaptable model to other rural settings in India and globally.

If you can help us raise the money to build the school in Karnataka, you will pave the way for future projects and help us to build on the success that our first school will bring to those in rural and urban settings who have few chances for the type of education every child deserves.

Costs DRL RCEDP Karnataka Project as at 15 September 2013

Item	Particulars	Amount / US\$
1	Metal rods	5000
2	Rough building stone	2000
3	Sand	8000
4	Cement	5000
5	Bricks	9000
6	Labour	15000
7	Other: Electrification, painting, paints, doors, windows, writing boards, labour, transport, etc	28000
8	Monitoring and administration	4000
9	Curriculum framework development	8000
10	Teacher training	6000
	Total	90,000

The most urgent items are the first eight which will support the school beginning. Money raised will go towards these items initially. Further funding will go towards the last three (part of the eighth item and items nine and ten) which will ensure the quality of what happens in the school.

The first seven items directly benefit the creation of the school but also give us experience so we can build schools better in the future (or help others do the same). The last three items will not only benefit this one school but will help many young people, educators and communities globally if they choose to use the free curriculum framework, monitoring tools and training materials we produce.

So, not only are donations going towards helping one community, they are also helping many young people, educators and communities globally.