

Government school students coached by Akshara Foundation to represent India in International Robotics competitions

Six government school students, part of Akshara Foundation's Robotics Programme sponsored by the Lego Foundation qualified in two national level competitions - Robocup Junior and the First Lego League 2015 robotics competition. They will now go on to represent India at the international level finals.

The team "Master Minds" constituting 4 students from Seva Bharat Trust Government School, Vivek Nagar, Bengaluru and 2 students from Sacred Heart Boys School in Bengaluru were placed First in the "Dance" category of the Robocup Junior National level Robotics competition held in Bangalore on February 6, 2016. The team was also placed fourth among 39 teams in the First Lego League 2015 national competition held in New Delhi on 9 and 10 February 2016. They will go on to represent India at the international level of these competitions which will be held in Germany and Philippines respectively.

The team includes Ramesh (14), whose father is a construction worker; Lawrence (15) whose mother is a house maid; Ameen (12), whose father is an electrician; Ramakrishna (14), who was brought up by his grandmother as he lost his mother, Arvind (14), who is not so good at studies but very talented in building mechanisms and Balachandra (12). The team coached by Akshara Foundation in the Robotics Lab established in the premises of Seva Bharat Trust Govt Schools, Vivek Nagar, Bengaluru, have come up through sheer hard work, putting together robots, measuring and calculating speeds, distances, timings, connecting wires and tinkering with computers.

The Lab experience is a self-esteem boosting experience for Ramesh. "I can also do it. I can tell people that I know all this," he says. "I can show it to them." He did just that at the national level finals of the First LEGO League competition and the Robocup Juniors competitions where he and his Robotics Lab team mates were second to none in their project work of building a robot to given specifications.

P.Sridhar, who manages this programme at Akshara Foundation said "The success of these children vindicates our belief that if you provide children with opportunities and access they will shine no matter where they are from".

Akshara Foundation is now raising funds via a crowd-funding platform ----- to ensure that these bright children are given an opportunity to go for the international finals.

About the Robotics programme: Robotics is a subject of interest among students of all age groups, across the world. But this privilege is mostly reserved for children from economically well to do families. The children from the economically challenged section of the society are deprived of this opportunity. To fill in this gap, Akshara Foundation with support from the Lego Foundation created a space for underprivileged children to experience the world of Robots. This initiative also provides the students an opportunity to learn and apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in an integrated way.

Visit :

Initial Days of Robotics Programme : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcPz0idMncs>

Making of the First Humanoid : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDJFN1BMY9c>

Making of the latest Humanoid, the presentation at the competition, announcement of the winners and close look at the Robot : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWFvQVTJje4>

Announcements at FLL 2015 Nationals : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sztig4EoDIA>

About Akshara Foundation: Akshara Foundation was set up with a mission to ensure *Every Child in School and Learning Well*. We believe that quality education is the undeniable right of every child and children should not be deprived of it just because they do not have access to it or the resources to realise their dreams.

Photographs :

