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## Updates on Project 'Eklavya' (August 2010):

### 1. Introduction

Global Alliance for Sustainable Development (GASD) has initiated project entitled 'Eklavya' for rural underprivileged students with an objective to supplement their formal education and offer coaching in competitive examinations for scholarships and Navodaya entrance.

Main activities completed /planned are as given below.

- Selection of villages and students to be covered under 'Eklavya' project.
- Selection of tutors.
- Commencement of classes.
- Distribution of books.
- Registering students for respective examinations.
- Periodic Tests and review.
- Training by expert.
- Funding and resource mobilization.


### 2. Selection Villages and Students

Following five villages have been identified to launch the project 'Eklavya' which are located in Brahmpuri taluka in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra, INDIA.

- Adyal (Non –tribal village)
- Vaigaon (Tribal Village)
- Bhagwanpur (Tribal Village)
- Saygata (Tribal Village)
- Lakhapur (Tribal Village)

These villages are primarily selected for following reasons.

- These are tribal villages with only one *Zilla Parishad* School in it.
- Present quality of education is substandard and the school infrastructure is not conducive that could inculcate interest in nurturing education.

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- Most of the students are from poor farm labour families with high dropout rate. Students are often involved in petty farm work at the expense of school.
- Most of the students cannot afford books for scholarship or Navodaya entrance examinations and lack understanding about importance of such examinations.
- Abysmal importance given to education and no aspiration for educational success by families and students.

In addition to above, these villages are known to Maharashtra Village Development Association (MVDA), a non for profit organization and an associate of GASD, through successful implementation of various village development projects handled in the past. MVDA has good rapport with villagers / Gram Panchayat due to its development intervention with habitants of these villages. With existing facilitation by MVDA's field staff, working in this area, it makes implementation of 'Eklavya' project easier and more effective to monitor, evaluate and learn further to grow with synergy.

The students from class 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> are considered for this project. Class 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> students will be coached for scholarship examinations and standard 5<sup>th</sup> students will undergo preparation for Navodaya Entrance examination. Standard 6<sup>th</sup> students are not considered for coaching for academic subjects considering GASD's constraints and to limit the total number of students in a class to manage project with efficacy.

These students are selected based on the marks scored in previous year school examinations and recommendation by the school teachers. It is intended that the total students in one class shall be limited between 20 to 30 so that the tutor can devote personal attention to each of them. It shall be noted that all students in these schools are economically disadvantaged hence no segregation done based on family income.

The number of students, with relevant details, from each village is given in the table below. The numbers in the table indicates total number of student which will be provided with books and other other resources and will be monitored for their improvement in educational performance and results of examinations / tests.

Village	Sayagata		Lakhapur		Bhagawanpur		Adyal		Waigaon		Total	
Class	Selected Students		Selected Students		Selected Students		Selected Students		Selected Students		Selected Students	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
4th	6	4	3	6	6	3	8	2	6	5	29	20
5th	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	3	4	2	13	9
7th	5	1	2	2	3	4	10	4	3	9	23	20
Total	13	6	7	10	12	8	20	9	13	16	65	49
	<b>19</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>114</b>	


### 3. Selection of Tutors

One tutor is appointed per each village. The tutor shall conduct classes for all students (from standard 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>) in their respective village. The criteria for selecting the tutors are as given below.

- Preferred qualification: The tutor should be academically qualified graduate / diploma holder in education with degree in B.Ed or D.Ed.
- Tutor should be resident of the project village or shall be from nearby adjacent village.
- Tutor should volunteer willingly to devote 4 hours every day for project 'Eklavya'.
- Tutor should possess teaching experience and clear understanding of 'Eklavya' Project aims.

Following tutors are appointed. They are given decent honorium per month as an an incentive.

- Mr. Moreshwar Randhaye
  - Is conducting classes at Adyal.
  - Qualification : D.Ed. and currently pursuing B.A.
  - Hails from nearby place Kirmiti.
- Miss. Suchita Ganveer
  - Tutor and resident of Waigaon.
  - Qualified M.A., B.Ed.
  - Been working as a part time teacher.
- Mr. Purushottam Kamadi

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- Tutor at Saygata.
- Qualification : D.Ed. and pursuing B.A.
- Resides in nearby place Kirmiti.
- Mr. Shantaram Chaudhari
  - Tutor and resident of Bhagwanpur.
  - Qualification : D.Ed.
- Mr. Naresh Bankar
  - Tutor and resident of Lakhapur.
  - Qualification : B.A.

Tutors will conduct classes and ensure that all students covered under the project appear for the scholarship and Navodaya examinations. They will also conduct classes for academic subjects after scholarship examinations are over.

#### 4. Commencement of classes

Classes in three villages namely in Saygata, Adyal and Lakhapur started on 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 and other two classes i.e. Waigaon and Bhagwanpur started on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010. These classes are conducted from 6 pm till 8 pm after school hours. Teachers are expected to use remaining 2 hours of their allocated time for preparation and setting / correcting test papers.

With the help of locals, MVDA managed to obtain permission to use existing school classroom for GASD classes. The school classrooms are equipped with black board, fans and lights which is added advantage. Occasionally classes are disrupted by electricity load shading. This is not yet considered as a serious problem by the tutors . All classes except in Waigaon are being conducted in village school. Waigaon school is a bit far from the locality hence tutor willingly using her residential premise to conduct classes.

Tutor at Waigaon has been conducting two classes of 1 hour each as there are 11 students (from 7<sup>th</sup> standard), in addition to identified 29 students, who are willingly attending the classes. GASD welcome this initiative and thanked tutor for her commitment, dedication and positive attitude.



**Photo 1 to 3 : Classes in Adyal, Saygata and Bhagwanpur.**

### 5. Distribution of books

As committed, GASD wanted to distribute scholarship and Navodaya examination books to all identified students. Currently only scholarship books (for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> standard) are available in the market. GASD bought latest (year 2011 edition) scholarship books from Pune and Nagpur and distributed 92 sets to the identified and enrolled students under project.

As the classes were already going on, GASD distributed scholarship books at all five villages. These books and resource material were distributed to each student in presence of respective School Principal, Teachers. Tutors and GASD trustees.




**Photo 4 to 5 : Book distribution at Waigaon**



Photo 6 to 9 : Book distribution at Bhagwanpur



Photo 10 to 11 : Book distribution at Adyal

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**Photo 12 to 15 : Book distribution at Saygata**

## 6. Registration for examinations

The registration process for scholarship examinations is on and will be completed by the end of August 2010. The examinations are tentatively scheduled to be held on 20<sup>th</sup>, Feb 2011. The registration has to be done by respective schools by filling up the forms and submitting to authorities. It is learned during our conversation with the school teachers that most of the school will register all standard 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> students. However MVDA coordinator and tutors will ensure that all students in GASD run classes are registered in time.

Navodaya examination registration will begin in September 2010 and GASD will follow up on this and submit the forms for all students covered in 'Eklavya' project. Navodaya examinations are tentatively scheduled to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011.

## 7. Training by experts

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Mr. and Mrs. Gedam are teachers by profession and they are working for *Zilla Parishad* School in the area around Adyal. They are running several scholarship classes after working hours with the help of volunteers at many places. They have accomplished outstanding results over the past years in small tribal villages. It is needless to say that they have rich knowledgebase and proficient in pedagogy that can shape lives of rural underprivileged students. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gedam accepted our request to volunteer and guide GASD tutors.

It is planned to have one day workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010 at Adyal for GASD tutors. Gedam Sir will share his experiences and guide tutors on the important aspects of preparation for Scholarship & Navodaya School entrance examinations. Gedam Sir will also invite two more experts from nearby cities who are equipped with excellent pedagogy and demystified complex mathematical problem solving techniques that can help students to score better in mathematics and analytical ability test subjects.

#### **8. Periodic test and review**


It is planned to have monthly test for all students which will be based on chapters covered during the period. These tests will be conducted during third week of every month. Based on the marks obtained in the tests the performance of each student will be analysed in review meeting which will be scheduled in fourth week of each month. Any gaps identified will be addressed by specific coaching and additional support to the student.

Gedam Sir has also agreed to share the test papers he uses for the classes run by him. GASD tutors can use these papers as basis to set up the papers for GASD classes. Same papers shall be used at all five classes. Hence it is imperative that all five classes cover the same syllabus which is planned for the month. If the test papers are not available from Gedam Sir for any reason then GASD tutors shall set one paper for each month covering all subjects.

It is also advised by Gedam Sir to ensure that all students practice with model test papers on whole syllabus during last one month before the examination. This will prepare all students to face the examination with confidence.

It is also recognized that the performance of each tutor shall be monitored in terms of discipline, teaching practices and overall result of the class conducted by them. The tutor with consistent excellent



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performance shall be recognized by presenting memento and certificate of appreciation by GASD at the end of the completion year of the academic excellence as enshrined in 'Eklavya' Project.

## 9. Funding

Currently GASD manages to implement project 'Eklavya' with support from generous individual donors and GASD members voluntary contribution of Rs. 500/- per month.

Based on the performance of the students in scholarship and Navodaya examination, GASD will plan future strategy to replicate / expand the project area and explore mobilizing resources interms of cash / kind from individual donors, charitable institutions, organizations, Government and Corporates.


## 10. Uniqueness of GASD

Leadership, Collaboration, Integrity, Accountability, Passion, Diversity, Quality, Transparency, social equity, mutual respect & inclusiveness are unique values cherished at GASD. It helps in working out the primary stakeholders needs and providing customized suitable services with community driven development approach.

- We help in mobilizing resource solutions that are adaptable, built to last and to cater to changing needs of the communities we work with.
- We work in partnership with our beneficiaries to design, implement and manage best development strategies towards social change and sustainability
- Our strategies are aimed at optimizing costs by utilizing direct and indirect resource channels while maximizing optimum output and outreach to the poorest of the poor.
- Our work code ensures highest standards that are maintained while servicing community needs
- We offer multiple choices from our base of volunteers, professionals, consultants and staff.
- We believe and practice in establishing dynamic, long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with donors, government, NGO partners and beneficiary communities we work with.

## 11. GASD Appeals

We would be glad to receive support in cash or kind to our organization. You may support us by sponsoring

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1. Rs.100/- towards Children Participation Program on asserting Child Rights
2. Rs.500/- towards Schools books and notebooks
3. Rs1000/- towards honorarium of Tutor
4. Rs.1500/- towards honorarium of Coordinator
5. Rs.5000/- and above towards GASD Corpus fund

For Further details explore our website: [www.gasd.in](http://www.gasd.in)

## 12. Contact us

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**Cheques can be drawn in favour of 'Global Alliance for Sustainable Development'.**