

MOBILE SCIENCE LABORATORY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FEB 2013

Partner:	M.V Foundation Project 511
Location:	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India
Target Group:	Government school students in Classes 6 -10
Number of Beneficiaries:	25,754 students across 70 schools
Grant Period:	1 May 2008 - 30 Apr 2012
Grant Amount:	£142,726 (4 years)



Objective

The Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL) project aims to improve the knowledge and academic performance of students in science from Classes 6-10 in middle and secondary schools.

Description

The MSL project focuses on government schools that lack science facilities and infrastructure, by training science teachers and organising practical science experiments in classrooms. In collaboration with the Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM), a government education programme to improve enrolment and teaching, the project has developed a practical training manual and conducted effective training workshops for teachers. MSL teachers visit schools using mobile science vans, that carry equipment for interactive experiments as well as teaching aids in the forms of charts, laptops and projectors. The teaching methodology encourages students to participate fully in lessons, making the learning experience practical and enjoyable.

Progress

The first phase was from 2008-2010 and reached 3,000 students across 10 schools.

The second phase from 2010-2011 involved 16,000 students across 40 schools.

The third phase, from 2011-2012, involved 60 schools (including the previous 40 plus an additional 20) and reached 6,754 new students.

The project has increased students' interest and enthusiasm in science subjects and improves their performance by enhancing their conceptual and practical

understanding of the topics taught. They are also encouraged to participate in science exhibitions, which provide opportunities to showcase their scientific talents and learn from one another.

Results

In 2012, the average pass mark in science subjects was 72% compared to 64% in 2011 across 10 government secondary schools in Hyderabad.

New Development

The project ended on 30 April 2012 and a review of the project was published in June. It involved in-depth interviews with students, Science teachers and Headmasters in 20 schools and compared the progress of students in MSL schools with those in non-MSL schools. The review found that over three years the difference in examination grades between the two groups of schools was negligible, but that MSL students could understand and conceptualise ideas more readily than their non-MSL peers.

While the project is popular with the teachers and students who participated, there is a need to advocate for and establish laboratories in Government schools and train teachers to conduct experiments in schools.

In 2013, M.V Foundation and Project 511 are now currently working with the State Government in Andhra Pradesh to explore ways in which the project can be more sustainable and implemented in schools, delivered directly by classroom teachers.

Contact Details

www.mvfindia.in
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