



Technology Assistance for Hands-on Science Education in Rural Schools



Partner: Agastya, Bangalore

About Agastya International Foundation (Agastya)

Founded in April 1999, Agastya International Foundation is a charitable education trust that runs the world's largest mobile hands-on science education program for economically disadvantaged children and teachers. Through all its programs, Agastya has reached over 10 million children and 2,50,000 teachers from 19 states in India.



Based out from Bangalore, India, a team of scientists, educators and entrepreneurs led by Ramji Raghavan founded Agastya. The mission of Agastya is to spark curiosity, nurture creativity and build confidence among economically disadvantaged children and teachers in India. Agastya is one of the largest science education programs that caters to economically disadvantaged children and teachers in the world.

Agastya's programs across India are also delivered by over 190 Mobile Lab and i-Mobile Lab Vans, 60 Lab-on-Bikes and TechLaBikes, 70 Science Centers, nearly 540-night village school centers and trained over 14,000 Young Instructor Leaders (peer-to-peer learning). As of March 2018, Agastya has directly reached face-to-face over 10 million children (50% girls) and 250,000 teachers, from vulnerable and economically disadvantaged communities.

By making practical, hands-on science education accessible to rural government schools, Agastya aims to transform and stimulate the thinking of underprivileged children and teachers.

About the Program

Sonata under its CSR theme has expressed interest to support Agastya with Two Mobile Science Labs that will help the Lab on Road program from Agastya. Alongside, Sonata has also agreed to offer Technology Assistance for building the knowledge repository to be accessible by an android app-based learning platform of Agastya – Lab on Tab. This app will help rural students to get access to science and mathematical experiments on the Tab at remote locations. The Overall program is for a period of 3 years and an extent of Rs 1.5 crores.



Expected Outcome

We believe that our partnership with Agastya's Mobile Science Lab's initiative will help spark curiosity and interest in science and mathematics for the students and help motivate, reduce drop-outs of students from schools. Mobile Science Labs access to rural schools help raise awareness among economically disadvantaged Government school childrens on the importance of hands-on science education. MSL is able to bring scale to the program by catalyzing local schools and educators to localize the content and improve the quality of education for rural childrens and teachers.

Agastya's science center's carry tablets along with Hands-On science kits to benefit the government school students. The multisensory learning methods used in LoT ensures that all types of learners benefit from the tool. Audio-visuals facilitate both auditory and visual learning, while hands-on activities and touch screen technology exercise the students' motor and tactile skills. The LoT (Lab on a Tab) is yet another major milestone wherein Agastya is committed to its goal of reaching 50 million children by the year 2020.