

MOBILE SCIENCE LABORATORY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FEBRUARY 2012

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, 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

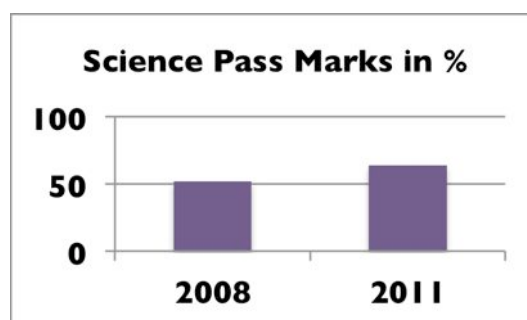
The first phase was from 2008-2010 and reached 3,000 students across 10 schools. The second phase from 2010-2011 involved 16,000 students across 40 schools. The third phase, from 2011-2012, is currently underway in 60 schools (including the previous 40 plus an additional 20) and will reach 6,754 new 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 2011, the average pass mark in science subjects was 64% compared to 52% in 2009 across 10 government secondary schools in Hyderabad.



Challenges

- Co-operation of the schools to determine the dates and times of the MSL visits.
- Sustaining the effort in the absence of laboratory facilities and equipment in government schools.

New Development

The project's success has influenced the State's education policy, prompting the government to expand the programme to include all schools across Andhra Pradesh.

The MSL project is being promoted at the State Government of Andhra Pradesh's 72nd All India Industrial Exhibition in Hyderabad until 15 February. This is the first time that the project has been included in such an established and prestigious event.



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