

Skills Training Advancement of Rural Societies (STARS) Forum

Monthly Status Report-July 26

Issue: 1

- **RICVE updates:**
 - Onboarded 40 Schools in Dantewada and Nandurbar for RICVE project
 - IBT Lab establishment is in progress for 35 schools in Maharashtra
- **STEM Education updates**
 - Delegates from UICEF visited KGBV school at Kunti, Jharkhand
 - 3 days STEM training program was conducted at Berhampore in West Bengal

A] Research and Innovation Center for Vocational Education: Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh state

STARS Forum is working on implementation of School-based-Vocational-Education (RICVE) in 40 schools. The program aims to introduce skills & hand-on learning based vocational education programs as per New Education Policy (NEP-2020) and National Curriculum Framework (NCF-2023) guidelines. STARS Forum has collaborated with Vigyan Ashram, to implement Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT) and Kaushal-Bodh curriculum in 94 schools across Maharashtra.



Following are the key highlighted activities conducted by STARS forum in July month:

i. Onboarding of new schools in RICVE program:

The Research & Innovation Centre for Advancement of School based Vocational Education (RICVE) program started with on-boarding and training of new teams. Following are some of the key updates on program activities as –

- Induction training for the new staff team (District Program Manager and Field Officers) was conducted at the Pabal campus.
- From 22nd to 27th July, Ranajeet and Kshitija visited the District Collectorate, the Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) office, and the Education Department. They presented the programme objectives to key stakeholders, including school headmasters, teachers, and administrative officials.

- The necessary approvals for programme implementation were obtained from the district administration and the Education Department.
- Forty schools (20 each from Nandurbar and Dantewada) were onboarded, and baseline data on student enrolment, teaching staff, and infrastructure availability were collected.
- Vendor selection process started for establishment of vocational education labs in schools, students base-line assessment and educational content development.

ii. Establishing vocational education labs in the schools:

We are implementing 'Introduction to Basic Technology' (IBT) program from Grade 6 in 45 schools of Pune, Nasik, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Ahilyanagar, Dharashive and Solapur district of Maharashtra state. Following are some of key highlighted activities of program during July-

- Work on establishment of vocational-education laboratories has been started in 35 newly on-boarded schools under Schaeffler India CSR (HOPE) support. During July month work for 9 schools was completed with installation of basic engineering, electrical, food-processing and farming tools.
- Suyog conducted a baseline survey for onboarding of 3 new schools in Dharashiv and Solapur district. New schools will be started with the funding support from TATA Technologies CSR support.
- Tana, Archana & team conducted a trial for a base-line assessment tool. The tool (a questionnaire with OMR) was designed & trial tested at 3 IBT schools in Rajgurunagar block of Pune district on 14th July.



iii. Teachers training program

In the month of July, teachers training was conducted at Pabal campus for 50 teachers. The training was focused on project -based learning, NEP 2020, subject integration, annual planning, assessment, documentation and reporting. Teachers and instructors also participated in hands-on activities and projects such as habitat garden, trellis garden, embroidery, cooking without fire, and advertisement. These activities helped participants understand how practical and project-based learning can be implemented with students.



Highlights of students learning activities:

- Students of Gramin Prashala Madaj fabricated a 'top-cutter or plant-topping' tool for soyabean crop. The tool cuts the main growing tip of soyabean allowing lateral branches to grow faster for better yield. Students made a prototype last year; this year they got orders from 4 local farmers. They earned a community service of Rs. 3,200/- for the same.
- Students of 9th grade from Ma. Shri. Sharadchandra Pawar Madhyamik Vidyalay, Dimbhe, worked on electrification of a classroom with 32 electrical points including plugs, tube-lights etc. They calculated load for room and fixed points while learning basic electrical wiring skills. They earned a community service of Rs. 4,160/- through this activity.
- The 8th class students at VPU Ashram School (Waghere, Nasik) started a 'medicinal-plant garden' project. They learnt soil-preparation while demarking & measuring required land, hand-ploughing selected plot and preparation of bed. Team of 10 students is working on a project with help of a local instructor.
- Students from Nigade (Pune) School conducted a blood-group testing camp for 60 students in the school-premises. These students are working on 'preparation of a health register project'. Apart from basics of health practices students also learnt soft-skills in team-work, communication and record-keeping through this activity. They also earned a community service of Rs.1,200/- during health camp.
- As part of the 'Kaushal-Bodh' project-based learning activity, students of class 6-8th class from 22 schools conducted field visits. These visits enabled them to interact with practitioners, observe real working environments. Students visited nearby hospitals, plant nurseries, banks, scrap vendors, tea vendors, and similar community settings. The insights gained will be incorporated into their project activities.
- Students from 9 IBT schools (Amboli, Tulapur, Gulani, Waghera, Pimpri, Tung, Salumbre, Shirgaon and Narayangaon) participated in 29th & 30th July Open-House Science Exhibition



at Vigyan Ashram, Pabal campus. They presented innovative projects, articles and food-products made during IBT program training.

We are thankful to Schaeffler India CSR program – HOPE, TATA Technologies, TATA TRUSTS, The Prabhu Trust for their financial support and encouragement for implementation of school-based vocational education programs in Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh state.

B] STEM Education program:

Jharkhand State

Ms. Julianna Lindsey, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF Asia-Pacific Regional Office, and Mr. Jesper Moller, Deputy Representative, Programmes, UNICEF India, visited KBV Khunti school on 22nd July. They visited the STEM Lab and observed activity conducted by the students. They interacted with the students about their overall learning experience. 22 students demonstrated STEM Activities such as Paper circuit, DC Torch, Balancing Toys, laser light, Hydroponic, Natural water filter, PVC Pipe Activity.



In the month of July, Jharkhand team successfully engaged 255 students across 4 schools by conducting hands-on activities on STEM education.

West-Bengal State

- A 3-Day Refresher Teachers Training on STEM Education was conducted by Dr. Yogesh Kulkarni and team in two batches (29 June-4 July 2026) at Golden Retreat, Berhampore. 192 teachers from 96 schools participated in practical STEM activities, explored digital tools, received STEM Teachers Manuals, and prepared school-level action plans for implementation. The training was attended by Sonali Jana (Consultant for Adolescent Empowerment and Skilling, UNICEF), Jayanta Halder (District Inspector of school), Ripon Mollick (Assistant Inspector of Education), and Kajal Kumar Bhowmik (Assistant Inspector of Education).



- During 7th to 10 July, seven STEM tutorial videos were produced across two schools, covering activities such as the RC Robot, Skiing Robot, Hydraulic Lift, and other STEM models.
- On 18th & 25th July, team conducted 2 online STEM training session for school students. Training was attended by 80 & 100 participants respectively for learning Tangram, Rainauge, Bio gas, Paper helicopter, bird in cage, Electric quiz board etc.



C] Other titbits:

- STARS Forum opened new office in Pune. Deccan Education Society has given us on subsidised rent. New Address: STARS Forum, @ Chiplunkar Bhavan, Shastri Road, (near Poona Hospital), Pune. The office will be helpful in co-ordination of RICVE activities.
- STARS Forum opened its on-field program office at Nandurbar for local coordination. Similarly, we have collaborated with Bachapan Banao (formaly Netrutvya Vikas Shanstha) in Dantewada for field office space, local administrative & liaison support. A program office has been set up at Nandurbar and Dantewada.
- Now STARS Forum is having independent bank accounts for Schaffler project and TATA Trusts project.
- Vice Chairman of STARS Forum Mr. B. R. Venkatesh has resigned from his post due to health reasons. We are thankful for his service with STARS Forum since 2021. Now we are in process of finding new trustees for the trust.

(Work at STARS Forum is supported by: La-Foundation, UNICEF, TATA Technologies Pvt. Ltd, TATA Trusts, Schaeffler India, The Prabhu Trust, Vigyan Ashram and many individuals and foundations).

Photo Gallery:



Nandurbar teachers training at Pabal



Students of PMS KGBV, Kunti, Jharkhand



Soyabean cutter made by Madaj school students



Content development Video shooting at Murshidabad



Teachers training at Pabal



Students enjoying Exhibition at Pabal