

Bid to weave informal learning into curricula

Paawana Poonacha

BANGALORE: The Children's Love-Castles Trust (CLT), a city-based charity foundation, has initiated talks with the education department to integrate its concept of 'informal' education in the curricula of regular schools.

Impressed by the concept of unconventional education, a 12-year-old student from the US had donated US \$5,000 to CLT to make available quality education for rural students.

Utilising funds, the CLT recently inaugurated its learning centre in Jakkur to provide the economically handicapped rural children an opportunity for creativity in terms of art, computers, theatre workshops and a comprehensive library. The learning centre including the amphitheatre is built with eco-friendly materials to "provide an ambience children can relate to".

The soul of CLT is the large body of enthusiastic volunteers at each level, drawn from the best of talent to provide a range of teaching services to the school. "Discovering each of their hidden talent is amazing but to realise the amount of opportuni-

ties they lack is a matter of big worry," said Bhagya Rangachar, the person behind the trust.

A US-based software professional who chose to return to India and devote herself full time to this mission, Bhagya feels that children who cannot afford a good meal are the ones who are denied access to education. The trust's mid-day meal programme runs in four schools with a built-in kitchen that is co-ordinated by community participation in each village.

Summer camps called 'Oru Habbu', which translates as 'village festival', has been organised in the learning centre. "This project will continue even after summer vacation for the computers, the library, the theatre workshops and the science laboratory will always be accessible," said Bhagya. Presently, the CLT Trust caters to over 850 children, but Bhagya and her team's have bigger dreams. The CLT plans to set up many more learning centres in the state. Corporates and individuals can contribute to realise CLT dreams. Contact the Trust at 3349801, 98440-64070.

2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2001

NGO opens study centre at Jakkur

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Children's Lovecastles Trust, an NGO committed to making education accessible to every child, inaugurated their first learning centre on Monday at Jakkur village. Minister for Primary and Secondary Education H Vishwanath inaugurated the centre. The Learning Centre has been set up to provide educative incentives to 850 students who study at the Jakkur school and covers ten villages in and around Jakkur. The students can be trained in computers, exposed to science labs, art, theatre and reading workshops conducted by a team of professionals.

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