



We are delighted to share with our readers that the Foundation has been rechristened as Mahindra Satyam Foundation with a new Board of Trustees. Keeping in tune with the new and restructured organization, we have developed a new website, which is more vibrant and fresh with newer and more exciting features. Do visit and check our site. <http://www.mahindrasatyamfoundation.org>

All Program heads are busy implementing their regular activities, continuing to delight our beneficiaries. Key activities in the last quarter are the inauguration of the fifth KidSmart center, Blood Donation Drives, Republic Day celebrations and regular volunteering by our associates. A unique collaboration between Mahindra Satyam Foundation and Tech Mahindra Foundation is the implementation of the Yuva English Course, a Tech Mahindra Foundation initiative in our IT schools. This program is helping hundreds of youth improve their English which in turn boosts their self confidence. The Foundation has also identified a flood affected village to take up long term, holistic rehabilitation programs.

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## Fifth KidSmart Center inaugurated



On January 28, 2009, a fifth KidSmart Center was inaugurated at Govt. Primary School, Lalapet, Secunderabad.

The Chief Guest for the inauguration was Shri. Navin Mittal, IAS, Dist. Collector and Chairman of the Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM), Hyderabad. Apart from the Collector, a number of dignitaries and officials from the education department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh attended the inauguration. Mr. V N. Masthaniah, Joint Director, Project Officer, RVM, Hyderabad, Mr. Balakasaiah, Deputy Educational Officer, Marredpally Mandal and Ms. Zaheeda, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Marredpally Mandal were present on this occasion. Mr. V C. Kumar,

Head & COO, Mahindra Satyam Foundation, Mr. Nanda Kishore and Mr. P. Gangadhar Rao from Mahindra Satyam Foundation also attended the ceremony.

While Shri Navin Mittal inaugurated the IBM KidSmart Early Learning Center, Mr. V C Kumar inaugurated the technology corner. Other dignitaries inaugurated individual Young Explorer Units in the technology corner.

Shri Navin Mittal lauded the efforts of Mahindra Satyam Foundation for introducing the innovative KidSmart centers in Govt. Schools. He was of the opinion that these centers using technology will provide the children with a strong knowledge base which will benefit them in future. 600 children from 5 schools will benefit from this KidSmart center.



Following the inauguration, a two day training program was conducted for the teachers on 28 and 29 January, 2010. 12 teachers from the host school and four from the neighboring schools attended the training.

On the first day of the training, the trainees were given a complete overview on the concept of the center. This was followed by a briefing about the KidSmart program, the three corner concept, the five activities of the centre, the roles and

responsibilities of partners and the objective of the project.

The teachers and Vidya Volunteers explored the KidSmart computers and acquainted themselves with the software. This exercise gave them a deeper understanding about the benefits and usefulness of the software in their regular teaching.



On the second day, teachers had hands-on practice on operating the Young Explorer Unit. Later, the various activities such as crafts, experimentation, dramatization etc. used to engage the children were explained to the teachers. They were also instructed on maintaining the systems, records, technical guidelines, preparing a time-table for host and neighboring schools etc. At the end of the second day the teachers were engaged in a session of play for peace.



## Teachers Feedback:

*The design of the class room is colorful, attractive and child friendly. The KidSmart center is first of its kind in Government Schools of Hyderabad city. The training given to us is very useful. The KidSmart concepts and the software help the children to pick up not only language but also technical skills at primary level*

- Mrs. C. Umarani, Teacher, GPS, Lalapet

*This project enhances the learning process both for teachers and for students. The subjects covered in the centers and syllabus of our schools is similar. We thank Mahindra Satyam Foundation management for setting up the centre in our school*

- Mrs. K. Satyavathi, Teacher, GPS, Lalapet

*The software used is interactive which engages the child's interest and helps him navigate his way till he gets the correct answer. The trainers explained everything in a simple manner on the proper use of the computers in the KidSmart centre. The technology corner will enable children to use computers and learn new things. Children love to come to the KidSmart centre every day. This has a positive impact on the dropout rate as well as improvement in the enrollment rate.*

- Mrs. G. Savitri, Head Mistress, GPS, Lalapet

*The KidSmart way of learning makes our teaching easy because the concepts are linked with the syllabus. Other activities like reading, crafts, dramatization and experimentation are also interesting. We can use the class twice a week for our students. Thanks for introducing this KidSmart project in our Govt. Schools.*

- S.M. Pushyalatha, Teacher, GPS, Aryavatika (Neighboring school)

## Bringing about winds of change



Flying kites is an immensely popular sport in India; both children and adults eagerly await the spring festival celebrations in January. During this period, the winds are perfect for this sport and people of all ages try their hand at this sport, demonstrating their skills and art. On January 14, 2009, three Mahindra Satyam Volunteers and Mahindra Satyam Foundation associates visited Sadhana Institute for Mentally challenged, Hyderabad, to give the 20 children a chance to experience the joy of kite flying. Armed with colorful kites and charkas, the volunteers patiently taught two mildly affected inmates to fly kites, while the rest of the children enjoyed the show. Goodies were distributed to the inmates on the previous day.



## Republic Day Celebrations



As part of the ongoing M7 activities, Mahindra Satyam volunteers working in Govt. Schools observe/celebrate Days of National importance like Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's' Day, Teachers Day etc. Volunteers use these occasions to inculcate good values, instill feelings of national integration, patriotism, and teach the children about the great leaders. This year, 25 Mahindra Satyam volunteers celebrated Republic Day in 8 Government Schools, Hyderabad which are a part of Mahindra Satyam Foundation. The M7-teams conducted an elocution competition for the students of class VI to X on the topic of "National Integrity". Teachers were the judges and 5 best speakers were selected from each class. Volunteers distributed prizes to winners- geometry boxes, dictionaries, writing pads, Telugu story books etc. Volunteers also distributed two notebooks each to students of class X for their revision work. 750 books were distributed to 375 children.

At the Govt. Girls High school, Rashtrapathi Road, associate Mr. Mallikarjun Kasturi and his team invited Mr. V.C.Kumar, Head and COO, Mahindra Satyam Foundation, to preside over the function as Chief Guest. Mr. Kumar participated in the Republic Day celebrations and interacted with the children. He gave away the prizes to the winners and distributed note books to the children.



In Bangalore, Mahindra Satyam Foundation celebrated the 61st Republic Day at Govt. Higher Primary School- Bommana Halli. The school has more than 400 students who hail from poor backgrounds. Eight Mahindra Satyam associates volunteered for the event. The program commenced with flag hoisting and rendering of the national anthem. Cultural competitions were organized for the children under three categories: Drama, Elocution on Indian Freedom Fighters and Mono-Acting.

Children presented inspiring and talented performances in all the three categories. Judges had a tough time deciding on the winners. First, second and third prizes were distributed for each category. The event ended with distribution of chocolates to the children. Volunteers were very delighted to be a part of the celebrations.





## Blood Donation Camps



Donating blood is a part of every Mahindra Satyam associates psyche. Whenever and wherever a call is given by Mahindra Satyam Foundation to donate blood, associates respond enthusiastically.

This quarter four Blood donation camps were conducted in Chennai and Hyderabad.

Associates donated 55 units of blood at the Blood donation Drive conducted in association with the Jeevan Blood Bank, at CMS location - Chennai during January 2009,

In the Blood donation camp organized at the Mahindra Satyam BPO, Hyderabad, 121 associates donated blood to the Indo American Cancer Hospital. The camp was organized simultaneously in two locations, at Mind Space and Cyber Pearl. Interestingly, associates from other corporates like GE, SITEL also donated blood.

At the Blood donation camp conducted in Hyderabad, DLF location on 25th Feb'2010, 81 associates donated 81 units of blood to "Central Blood Bank" at the Institute of Preventive Medicine, Narayanaguda, Hyderabad. At Ohri Towers, Hyderabad, in the Blood Donation Camp conducted on 26 March, 2010, 60 units of blood were donated by Mahindra Satyam associates.





## Collaborative efforts - CLR – YUVA English Course



Tech Mahindra Foundation organized a workshop to train NGOs in Yuva English, a specialized course designed for less privileged youth by the Centre for Learning Resources, Pune.. The curriculum of Yuva English incorporates the basic knowledge of English communication, based on simple but important aspects like reading, speaking and listening, which is easy and understandable.

The three month Yuva English course was introduced in the IT Schools of Mahindra Satyam Foundation in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Pune. Before the course commenced, CLR also conducted Training for English Trainers, which was sponsored by Tech Mahindra

Foundation. Three trainers from Mahindra Satyam Foundation attended the training.

Ms. Shameem, English Faculty at the IT School, Hyderabad said she was glad she could attend the training. She found the teaching methodology and the learning material of Yuva English very effective. Post training, she now finds teaching English to students more enjoyable.

Ms. Neela Devi, English Faculty at IT School, Bangalore who also attended the CLR Training in Pune, finds the modules easy to teach. She is able to involve the students actively in the process of learning English.



The feedback about the course from the students was very positive. The students attended the classes regularly as found the Yuva English course interesting and enjoyable as they could now understand the audio script well. They were also able to improve their communication skills through Group activities, Role play and Game activities.

To date, a total of 68 students from 3 Mahindra Satyam Foundation IT Schools have undergone this course and all of them felt they have benefitted from the course. All the students are now confident of facing interviews and conversing in English.

### The Valedictory Function

The 14th batch of 25 students who attended the Yuva English Course were awarded certificates at a valedictory function held at the Mahindra Satyam Foundation -Deepgriha IT School, on 8th March 2010. Dr. Mrs. Neela Onawale, Director, Deep Griha Society, Ms. Vidya Jayakrishnan, Tech. Mahindra Foundation, Pune, Mr. Vijay Wavare, Tech. Mahindra Foundation, Pune, Ms. Aparna Benarjee, Executive Trainer, CLR, Pune, Ms. Amitha, Trainer, CLR, Pune, Ms. Vandana Apte, former Chapter Head, Mahindra Satyam Foundation, Pune and Mr. Nandakishore Ananthoji- Head- Livelihoods, Mahindra Satyam Foundation graced the function. The students were beaming with happiness and pride. After the distribution of certificates, the guests of honor addressed the students with words of advice and encouragement.

*"We enjoyed being a part of the convocation ceremony today and were very happy to see the confident youngsters who passed out today. We do hope to see similar results in all our future batches too."*

– Vidya Jayakrishnan, Tech. Mahindra Foundation



**Mr Nilesh Jawalkar** -boy's topper said "I attended the course in IT School for three Months. During the training, I gained a lot of confidence to speak English, improved my knowledge of computers. Before joining this class I had completed my MS\_CIT, but this course is different from what I learnt before. Here I learnt English communication skills, Computer skills, Soft skills & Hospitality Training. After the course, I secured a job in VITAL LINK PRIVATE LTD. as a Data Entry operator with a salary of Rs. 4,500/- per month. I am very proud to be a part of this class. I am really thankful to Deepgriha Society, Mahindra Satyam Foundation and CLR trainers."



**Ms. Shamli Borde** girl's topper said "I had a very good experience in the IT school. Though I completed my schooling in English Medium, I was unable to speak English. Now I am not afraid of any interviews. Overall my experience with all the trainers was superb!!!. CLR Yuva English sessions were very interesting. I had more time for practicing MS Office on the computer. Now I am perfect in MS-WORD, EXCEL and Power Point. This course is really helpful for poor people. I now have a job in Call center with a salary of Rs. 5000/- per month. I am really thankful to Deepgriha, Mahindra Satyam Foundation & CLR who gave us a chance to develop our skills and confidence.



## A tale of transforming lives.....



'I am very keen on continuing my studies and my dream is to achieve big. I know education is the only chance to free myself and my family out of poverty. However, my family circumstances do not allow me to pursue my dreams.....'

'My father is a daily wage laborer and my mother works as a domestic help. They can neither afford to finance my studies nor encourage me to take up further studies .....I am destined to follow my father's footsteps and end up as a laborer'

These are voices that reflect the anguish of thousands of youngsters who yearn to study but cannot do so due to their abject poverty. The vicious cycle of poverty bogs them down with no way out.

While this is one side of the reality, on the other hand there are hundreds of unassuming people who quietly work to uplift the underprivileged in their individual capacity. One such person is Mr. Srinivas Rao and his wife –the Founder and Chairman of PSS Trust. The childless couple decided to devote their energy to help poor students from the surrounding slums and realize their dreams through education. The fact that they had to operate out of a water tank structure did not deter them. Many children studying in Govt. schools fare poorly in the board exams due to lack of proper teaching and drop out of further studies. Mr. Rao personally picks such bright children, meet their parents to motivate them to encourage their children to study. Mr. Rao, along with two retired school teachers who share the same passion, tutors 120 students. These young learners belong to families living under poverty line (children of daily wage construction workers or auto drivers), mostly from backward classes, who would otherwise be forced to work as child labor.

These students are prepared for their exams, with intense coaching in their respective subjects. All the children are provided with books, fees, tea, evening snacks and one meal. Girl students are provided with transportation while returning home after coaching. Presently, the first batch of students' is in the final year of the Diploma Program.

On 28 February 2010, a six member team from Mahindra Satyam Tesco OTM (Veenandhari Ponkam & Appalaraju Nimmana, Parikshit Wadhawan, Balasudheer, Sriharish, Kasturi, Jayabalan and four family volunteers visited the Pothukuchi Santi Sree Social Welfare & Charitable Trust, Miyapur, Hyderabad. Mr. Kasturi V. Rao, Senior Manager, Mahindra Satyam (Tesco-Primary Support team) accompanied the team.



While the Tesco team contributed 200 KGs of fine quality rice for the students, Mahindra Satyam Foundation contributed 200 long note books, 65 T-Shirts and 65 Caps. The Chief Guest, Mr. Kasturi Visweshwar Rao, Sr. Manager distributed the notebooks, T-Shirts, and caps for 120 children. The associates interacted with the students and motivated them to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They also resolved to visit the home on weekends to mentor/assist them in their studies.

To de-stress these students before their exams, Mahindra Satyam Foundation representatives Narsingrao Battula & Srivalli Peravali organized a play for peace session in which everyone participated with gusto.

*"Today I am able to pursue my Diploma course, due to the encouragement and financial help rendered by Mr. Srinivas. The teachers are very friendly and they not only teach us the subjects but also instill the confidence required to reach our goals. We also thank Mahindra Satyam volunteers who came forward to help us. .... "*

- K. Jyothi, Student, Polytechnic I year, Govt. Institute of Electronics, Maredpally, Secunderabad

*"The guidance and care we get at PSS trust is truly remarkable. Each day our teachers conduct slip tests in Math, Science and English subjects. Now we are very confident of scoring good marks with top ranks in the SSC Board exams....."*

- Nagaraju, 10th class student, Govt. High School, Miyapur, Hyderabad



## Lending a Helping Hand

Dignity Foundation, a Bengaluru based NGO works on issues for Senior Citizens. The Foundation organized an event on 31st December 2009 at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall for the Senior Citizens of Bengaluru to launch their new programs for the benefit of Old people.

Twelve Mahindra Satyam associates volunteered for the event and were actively involved in organizing the event. More than 1,500 senior citizens gathered at the event.

Volunteers were very happy that they could assist the elderly.



## Environment initiatives

**Turtle walk @ Chennai:** 10 volunteers from Mahindra Satyam and 15 volunteers from Tech Mahindra took part in the turtle walk organized by the Tree Foundation on 19 February 2010. This initiative was started to with the motive to conserve the endangered Olive Ridley- Sea-turtles along the Chennai coast. This activity has today grown into a multi-functional voluntary organization.

**Go Green initiative @ Bhubaneswar:** Mahindra Satyam Foundation together with the HR unit of Mahindra Satyam organized a cleanliness drive in Mahindra Satyam Bhubaneswar premises. 60 associates took part in the drive which was divided into Internal Cleanliness covering workstation/cubicle/floor and External Cleanliness covering the office premises. Enthusiastic associates designed posters, cleaned the premises thoroughly and came up with a list of do's and don'ts to be followed





## Empowering Persons with Disability

**Empowering Persons with Disability:** Mahindra Satyam Foundation, Chennai partnered with Inner wheel club/Spastn and organized a sports meet on 12 March 2010. 27 volunteers worked hard to ensure that the children had fun. Over 800 children and parents were present at the event. The enthusiasm and the spirit of belongingness amongst the kids sensitized the others and helped them understand the 'ability' in the children and the value of life.



10 associates in Chennai volunteered for two days at the 6th State Level Annual conference organized by Nethrodaya for the visually challenged on career counseling and guidance. Around 300 visually challenged boys and girls from different districts of Tamil Nadu gathered on 23rd and 24th of January, 2010, for a two day workshop. Mahindra Satyam volunteers helped in conducting the workshop and five volunteers gave inspirational talks and conducted group activities for the children.

**Job assessment for PWDs :** On March 20, 2010, Mahindra Satyam Foundation partnered with the LSN Foundation and organized a meet for qualified Persons with Disabilities at Sweekar Upkaar Hyderabad. 74 candidates with ortho disabilities, hearing and speech impairment came to the venue. HR's from Mahindra Satyam, TCS, and GE were present to assess the suitability of the candidates and segregate them into 'suitable for job' and 'trainable'. 26 volunteers from Mahindra Satyam and Kakatiya School were in attendance to support and assist the candidates in myriad ways; escorting them to the venue, help them fill the application forms, guide them to the relevant HR, act as interpreters, serve water to the candidates and their escorts etc. Candidates along with the application forms were sent for assessment by HR's from TCS, Mahindra Satyam and GE. The assessment was primarily focused to check the communication skills and skill set of Persons with Disability and counsel them about the opportunities available to them.

### Volunteer experiences:

*"I was pleased while volunteering at the event for empowering the differently abled people. Through this event, I personally felt that the event opened up better career opportunities for differently abled which in turn will help them to be equals in society."*

- Sita Sravanthi





## About Mahindra Satyam Foundation

Mahindra Satyam Foundation supports and strengthens the vulnerable and under-privileged sections in urban India with a vision to transform the quality of life in urban areas.

The Foundation has chapters in Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Bhubaneswar.

The Foundation works in the core areas of: Education, Livelihoods, Health, Persons with Disability and Environment.

*Like to volunteer?*

Drop a mail to [I volunteer@mahindrasatyam.com](mailto:volunteer@mahindrasatyam.com)