Taking a STEP Forward in Unlocking the Digital Code:

Sikshana's Technology in Education Program – STEP is a model which provides an opportunity for students of rural backgrounds acquire digital literacy. This model was introduced recently in 57 Govt. Model Schools of Karnataka known as KPS and impacting close to 4500 students. The vision of introducing digital literacy is achieved by providing laptops to schools for the students benefit. A number of students have since shown interest in learning the usage of laptop, typing in Kannada etc.,

A special mention has to be made regarding KPS – Nallihudikeri of Kodagu District where all the 67 students of Grade 6 & 7 have now gained proficiency in using the Kannada typing softwares – Nudi and Baraha. The transformation of students from learning the basic usage of computers to watching them comfortably compose paragraph in the laptop in such a short span of time is a definite pat on the back for the students and teachers.

KPS – Shettihalli of Shimoga District has witnessed improvement in students' usage skills of the laptop. Nearly 42 students are comfortably using "Sikshanapedia" for their projects. Students work in groups on projects based on their curriculum as part of STEP activity. They use Sikshanapedia along with other available reference books in school for researching the data for their projects. Sikshanapedia is an offline interface developed by Sikshana for helping teachers to include the usage of laptop and projector in classrooms. The interface is equipped with curriculum related information that is easy to use and easy to understand. Students also use this tool for gathering information for working on their projects. The idea for developing this tool is to encourage a scientific curiosity among the students and also to help them understand the easy usage of online search tools for gathering data. Many students of this school have also learnt to use MS-Office packages.

STEP has impacted yet another KPS in B Matagere of Mysuru District where the 68 students of Grade 6 & 7 are able to prepare PowerPoint presentations in Kannada language using the laptops. There are many more such examples where the students have taken this opportunity to learn, improve and excel.

Section: Testimonials

"CLAP – Customised Learning Application Program has given us a strong belief that it benefits the students who have gaps in their learning. It has proven to reduce the fear of Mathematics in students and has created a healthy environment in the school. It is very necessary to have such programs which instill confidence in students.

PBL – Project Based Learning program has helped the students by giving them additional challenges and activities which have led to a great improvement in their knowledge. It has greatly aided students to improve from grade to grade."

Mrs. Sunitha, Teacher, GHPS Yarrenahalli, Molakalmuru Taluk

"Prerana" program has been implemented in many schools of Maharashtra. Here are some of the examples of Prerana successfully helping students of Haveli Block of Maharashtra:

Zilha Parishad Primary School (Boys) in Loni Kalbhor cluster has about 202 students under Prerana Program. Mr. Ashok Sasane who is the Cluster Resource Person (CRP) responsible for government schools and HM of the school — Mrs. Sunanda Tanaji Harpale attended the meetings and trainings organized by Sikshana which convinced them about the benefits of the program. Mrs.Harpale in turn conducted a meeting with the teachers of her school to encourage them to accept the program to impart the benefits to students (in picture—top left). The school teachers who were initially apprehensive have now come forward to actively participate and take ownership of implementing the usage of Prerana inputs. There is a good increase in the participation level of students in this school in both curricular and extra curricular activities.

The Zilha Parishad Primary School of Shivane Cluster previously had challenges in student attendance. After program launch, school has witnessed an increase in students attendance in the present academic year. The students of Grade 7 have shown 100% attendance from past three months. HM of the school – Mrs. Guanda Pankaja Komale encouraged the students further by making announcements in the school assembly regarding awarding the students with Prerana Stars for showing improvement. The Grade 7 students have been awarded a Golden Star for showing academic improvement (in picture—top right). This in turn has boosted the self confidence of the class and they are now thriving to excel more while other classes are also trying their best to get recognized.

Peer learning which is one of the core components of the Prerana program has once again shown to help students to improve in their academics (in picture—bottom right). A Grade 4 student by name Avinash Godse of Zilha Parishad Primary School, Pisoli (in picture—bottom left) has shown a tremendous improvement in his studies because of the peer learning activities of Prerana. As a token of recognition for his efforts, he has now received the stickers for his Learning Journey Certificate which is a part of Prerana inputs for motivating the students to aim higher.

Section: Sikshana Saadhaka

Success Story from the Team—Transforming Dreams into Actions:

Sikshana Foundation would not be what it is today without the consistent and honest efforts of the dedicated members of the organization. We take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the selfless effort of one of our oldest members – Mr. Manjunath. Manjunath has been with Sikshana from past 8 years and his long journey is adorned with a number of roles that he has taken up – community mentor, senior mentor, shaala hitaisi to name a few. He has grown from handling just 4 schools to more than 1000 schools today in Uttarakannada District as the District Program Manager. An introvert by nature, Manjunath often preferred to work in solitude. He took on the challenge of the diverse scope offered by Sikshana to open up and overcome his shy nature by becoming the most sought after person for any queries regarding Uttarakannada schools. He expresses his thoughts by saying that the organization has helped him hone his communication and convincing skills to a great extent.

"Sikshana Foundation has given me a huge platform to enhance my personal growth ladder as well as to contribute to the common cause of the organization. It has been eight years since I joined Sikshana I and have improved my communication skills, networking, presentation skills and polished my hidden talents. My confidence levels have improved to a great extent. I have been able to communicate easily with Department staff and also able to orient SSA about Sikshana programs without any difficulties. I was initially a very slow learner and as days and years passed, I was able to groom myself and now I am able to manage time well and multi task whenever necessary. I thank my team for consistent support and encouragement shown all these days" says Manjunath.

We congratulate Manjunath for his efforts and association with the organization. We also wish him a great future!