

Gyan-Setu

An initiative by
**Educational Activity Research Centre,
Jnana Prabodhini, Pune**



(Gyan-Setu Program)

Jnana Prabodhini, 510 Sadashiv Peth, Pune-30

Contact: 020-24207196, gyansetu.erc@gmail.com

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Executive Summary

1. Name of the project

Gyan-Setu: connecting people through knowledge exchange

2. Theme

Education

3. Brief program description

Gyan-Setu is a year-long program which consists of short residential visits of volunteers to remote areas of developmentally challenged states of India, to conduct science based workshops for middle school students. This program aims at building communication bridges through knowledge exchange to inculcate the sense of national integration and also at capacity building of local students as well as volunteers.

4. Organizer

Educational Activity Research Centre, Jnana Prabodhini, Pune

JP-EARC is a unit of Jnana Prabodhini, a multifaceted voluntary organization working in the fields of Education, Research, Health and Rural Development. The broad objective of JP-EARC is to provide educational resources and training to teachers and students, to improve quality of teaching-learning process in primary and secondary schools across India.

Website: <http://www.erc-pune.org/>

5. Collaborating partner organizations

5.1 Disha-IISER: A voluntary organization of IISER Pune students, working for social cause

Website: <http://iiserpunedisha.wordpress.com/>

5.2 Janeev Yuva Sanghatana: An active youth organization in various colleges across Maharashtra providing platform for youth towards working for social issues

Website: <http://janeevyuva.blogspot.in/>

6. Proposed program locations/states

The program is planned to be implemented in the following 8 states.

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu-Kashmir, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Orissa & Sikkim

7. Regional partner organizations

7.1 Arunachal Pradesh: Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, RIWATCH, Sewa Bharati

7.2 Assam: Vivekanand Kendra Vidyalaya, RIWATCH-Nalwari, Women's college Tinsukia

7.3 Chhattisgarh: Bachpan Banao

7.4 Jammu & Kashmir: Nature Conservation Foundation

Regional partner organizations for the states of Nagaland, Jharkhand, Orissa and Sikkim are yet to be decided.

8. Duration of the project: One year (August 2014 – July 2015)



Section I: Rationale

I.A Problem Statement

India is a country of tremendous diversity; geophysical, societal and cultural. This has created huge barriers for communication across different communities resulting into isolation of some of them; particularly those in remote, rural and tribal areas. A healthy dialogue facilitating knowledge exchange needs to be established with these communities to form a cohesive society and thus realise “national integration”.

Gyan-Setu aims to address this problem by building communication bridges to these areas by organizing visits of volunteers - mostly from urban, educated and privileged background - using “science-based education” as a medium. Although school-level mass education has reached a huge scale (through *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan*), science education needs quality improvement involving “hands-on activities”.

I.B Vision

1. Spreading the “**joy**” of education
2. Providing “**exposure**” to the fascinating world of science and technology
3. Providing “**inspiration**” to develop proactive attitude towards challenges faced by the communities thus realising and inculcating a sense of **national integration**

I.C Mission

1. Conducting science-based workshops involving hands-on activities for school students in remote areas of developmentally challenged states
2. Organizing residential visits by teams of volunteers to conduct these workshops
3. Building a network of individuals and organizations to support this program



Section II: Project Description

“Gyan-Setu” is a year-long program which consists of short residential visits of volunteers in remote areas of developmentally challenged states of India, to conduct science based workshops for middle school students.

II.A Planned actions and activities

1. Gyan-Setu visits

Gyan-Setu visits by volunteer groups (consisting of 3-6 volunteers each) will be planned for the duration of 12-15 days, at available locations in the respective states. During these visits, each group will conduct 1-day workshops (of 3-4 hours) at 6-8 different schools. Each such workshop will be attended by around 50 students (class 5th – 8th). The logistics of these visits will be managed by Regional partner organizations at the respective states.

2. Repetitive inputs

2.1 Long term involvement of school students and teachers is planned to be established through the following activities involving repetitive inputs.

1. **Science clubs:** Science clubs of students will be established in selected schools, located in clusters (with each cluster having 5 nearby schools). Continuous communication will be maintained with these clubs also providing them educational material, guidance and support to conduct year-long activities, in the following ways.

- Total of 8 modules will be conducted in each such science club, in the entire academic year (1 module per month).
- Out of these, 4 modules will be conducted by Gyan-Setu volunteer teams during their visit to the respective state. These visits to conduct repetitive modules will be planned every alternate month in every school/cluster.
- The remaining 4 modules will be conducted by coordinator teachers at the respective schools. These teachers will be provided with material and guidance through postal or online communication. Regional partner organizations will monitor and support this.

The above mentioned number of repetitive modules will be planned at science clubs established in the states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jammu-Kashmir – where Phase I of Gyan-Setu was implemented in 2013-14.

In the states Nagaland, Orissa, Jharkhand and Sikkim – where Gyan-Setu will start its activities only in Phase II (i.e. from 2014-15) – these repetitive modules will be planned only in the 2nd semester of the academic year. Hence the number modules will be half i.e. total of 4 modules in each science club, 2 modules to be conducted by Gyan-Setu volunteer teams.

2. **District/Cluster level science camps:** Residential District/Cluster level science camps of 3-5 days duration are planned to be conducted for selected students from science clubs. These will involve special inputs and follow up activities for these students (as well as teachers if possible).

- In the states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu-Kashmir, 2 such District/Cluster level science camps will be conducted in each state, during the entire academic year.
- In the new states i.e. Nagaland, Orissa, Jharkhand, Sikkim, 1 such science camp will be conducted in each state, during the entire academic year.



3. Annual science camp – cum - exposure visit:

Outstanding students from across all the 8 states, identified through Science clubs and District/Cluster level science camps, will be invited to participate in a 10-day annual science camp – cum exposure visit to Pune (or other place).

2.2 Long term participation of Gyan-Setu volunteers is planned to be developed through similar program involving shorter duration visits to various places across Maharashtra.

2.3 15th Aug, 26th Jan gatherings (*Melava*) of everyone involved in Gyan-Setu will be organized at various locations, through video conferencing (if possible).

3. Appeal to volunteers

Open appeal will be made to all interested and motivated volunteers across India to participate in this program, through online registrations. This appeal will be made through presentations at colleges/ other places and publicity through print media, website and social networking sites.

4. Content Development & Training

4.1 Companion book:

Content of Gyan-Setu workshops is designed and documented in a companion book. This contains elaborate description of activities including science experiments/toys, field activities as well as some ice-breaker activities and songs. It will be revised periodically based on requirements.

4.2 Orientation-cum-training sessions:

All registered and finalized volunteers will participate in a two-day Orientation-cum-training session. This will involve training of volunteers about the content of the workshops as well as orientation towards social perspectives and problems prevalent in the respective states.

4.3 Practice sessions:

Every volunteer group will be required to conduct at least one Practice session before going on for Gyan-Setu visit. These sessions will be conducted at schools, mostly in municipal or rural schools, located nearby Pune or the place of residence of the volunteer group.

5. Feedback

After the completion of Gyan-Setu visit, feedback will be received from volunteers through two forms; **Daily workshop report** and **Volunteer report**. Basic information and response from each workshop as well as comments and suggestions about the entire visit will be collected through these forms, respectively. This feedback will be used in evaluation of the program and in deciding future directions.



6. Gyan-Setu Fellowship

Core organizing team of Gyan-Setu will be identified and selected through Gyan-Setu Fellowship program. Applications will be invited from young and motivated people. Selection of up to 5 Fellows is planned to be made through rigorous selection process. Details of this can be found below under “Project management” and in Annexure B.

II.B Time Table

Appeal for Gyan-Setu Fellowship	March 2014
Selection of Fellows	April 2014
Joining of Fellows	1 st May 2014
Launch of appeal for volunteering	1 st June 2014
Active implementation through Gyan-Setu visits	August 2014 – June 2015
Documentation and Evaluation	June – August 2015

II.C Project Management

1. Central collaborating organizations

The Central collaborating organizations will collaborate and contribute towards the work divided into the following sub-teams of Gyan-Setu.

- 1.1 Content development:** This sub-team will be responsible for developing content of Gyan-Setu workshops.
- 1.2 Activity calendar:** This sub-team will coordinate Gyan-Setu visits (i.e. volunteer registration management, group formation and all logistics of the visit).
- 1.3 Publicity:** Publicity team will try to reach out to people through print and online media (website, blog, social networking sites).
- 1.4 Volunteer management:** Long term involvement of Gyan-Setu volunteers, after their visit, will be planned and looked after by this sub-team.

2. Regional partner organizations

One or more local organizations interested to support and be a part of Gyan-Setu network, will be identified as Regional partner organizations in each state where Gyan-Setu program will be implemented. The role of these organizations will be the following:

- 2.1** Identifying local schools and other places to conduct Gyan-Setu workshops
- 2.2** Facilitating year-long communication with concerned local persons regarding workshops and follow-up activities
- 2.3** Arrangement of accommodation and food as well as support regarding other logistical issues for the visiting Gyan-Setu volunteer teams



3. Individuals in organizing team: “Gyan-Setu Fellowship”

Core organizing team of Gyan-Setu will be identified and selected through Gyan-Setu Fellowship program. Applications will be invited from young, motivated and experienced people. Selection of 5 Fellows is planned to be made through three-step process involving online application, telephonic interview and in-person interview with on-field visit. The role of Fellows will be as mentioned below briefly. The details of Gyan-Setu Fellowship can be found in Annexure B.

3.1 Member of Gyan-Setu core team

3.2 Coordinator - sub team: Each Fellow will be coordinator of one of the sub-teams of Gyan-Setu (i.e. Content development, Activity calendar, Publicity, Volunteer management).

3.3 Coordinator - state: Each Fellow will coordinate all Gyan-Setu activities in one of the states.

3.4 Study-based project: Each Fellow will undertake a year-long, individual, independent study-based project in the respective state.

II.D Evaluation mechanism

1. **Internal evaluation:** Internal evaluation will be made through feedback forms from schools, volunteers as well as Regional partner organizations.
2. **External evaluation:** External agency is planned to be invited for annual evaluation of the entire program.



Section III: Expected Outputs-Outcomes-Impact

III.A Outputs

1. **Total number of volunteers: 300 [in 100 volunteer teams]**
 - 60 volunteer teams will visit the states Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jammu-Kashmir (15 per state). Out of these, 32 volunteer teams will visit to conduct repetitive modules at Science clubs (8 per state).
 - 40 volunteer teams will visit the states Nagaland, Orissa, Jharkhand, Sikkim (10 per state). Out of these, 16 volunteer teams will visit these states to conduct repetitive modules at Science clubs (4 per state).
 - Total 48 volunteer teams will be involved to conduct repetitive modules.
2. **Total number of workshops: 500**
 - These workshops will be conducted in a total of 340 schools.
 - Science clubs will be established in 80 schools (10 per state, in 2 clusters).
 - One -time visits will be planned in 260 schools; 35 per state for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu-Kashmir and 30 per state for Nagaland, Orissa, Jharkhand, Sikkim.
3. **Science Clubs: 80**
[10 clubs per state; 2 clusters per state, each cluster having 5 nearby schools]
4. **District/Cluster level Science Camps: 12**
Residential science camps of 3-5 days duration are planned to be conducted for selected students at district/cluster level in each of the 8 states.
5. **Annual science camp - cum - exposure visit:**
Outstanding students from each state, identified through Gyan-Setu visits, will be invited to participate in 10-day annual science camp - cum exposure visit to Pune (or other place).
6. **Total number of students addressed: 25000**
 - A total of 4000-5000 students will receive repetitive inputs, through Science clubs (50-60 per Science club).
 - A total of around 20000 students will receive one-time inputs (70-80 per workshop).

III.B Outcomes

1. Designing activity-based **Gyan-Setu companion book supplementary to national curriculum framework**
2. Establishing a network of Regional partner organizations with other organizations working in science education
3. **Increased participation of volunteers in activities with social relevance**, with the following **pyramidal structure** based on their commitment level
 - Full-time dedicated volunteers offering long-term commitment (top of the pyramid)
 - Members of Gyan-Setu Organizing team
 - Occasional but frequent participants
 - One-time participants (bottom of the pyramid)

III.C Impact

1. Increased **scientific and logical thinking** among students from science clubs at schools in the respective states
2. Increased **sense of national integration** among volunteers



Annexure A: Program implementation in Phase I (2013-14)

A.1 Statistics

1. Total number of volunteers visited: 155
2. Total number of workshops conducted: 323
3. Total number of students addressed: 19780

No.	State	No. of volunteers	No. of workshops	No. of students
1	Arunachal Pradesh	75	175	11140
2	Assam	20	30	1800
3	Chhattisgarh	12	44	2400
4	Jammu – Kashmir	48	74	4440
	Total	155	323	19780

A.2 Regions of Gyan-Setu visits

No.	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Chhattisgarh	Jammu-Kashmir
1	West & East Kameng	Dibrugarh	District Dantewada	Ladakh: District Leh
2	Tawang	Tinsukia		
3	Papum Pare			
4	East, West & Upper Seang			
5	Lower Dibang Valley			
6	Anjaw			
7	Lohit			
8	Changlang			

The workshops were conducted mostly in government schools, in regions which come under rural and tribal areas of the respective states.

A.3 Miscellaneous points

1. Volunteers

- Registrations were received from volunteers from various areas across Maharashtra (Pune, Mumbai, Nanded etc.) and also from Karnataka
- Most of the volunteers were college students, professionals, UPSC aspirants with a few retired people as well
- 23 volunteers participated from Azim Premji University, Bangalore

2. Publicity

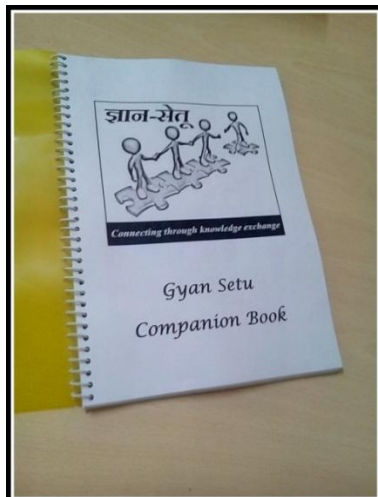
- **Presentations in colleges:** The Publicity team conducted introductory sessions of Gyan-Setu in various colleges in and around Pune. The introductory sessions started with brief PowerPoint presentation leading to appeal to the youth for participation in this program.
- **Online publicity:** Various youngsters have also been addressed through website <http://www.gyansetuerc.wordpress.com/> and Gyan-Setu Facebook page.
- **Print media:** Gyan-Setu has received a great response from press media. National media houses like Times of India and The Indian Express have covered the program. Regional media houses from Maharashtra like Sakal, Loksatta, Prabhat,

Kesari, Lokmat, Sakal Times, Maharashtra Times have also covered the program, resulting in increased number of volunteers.

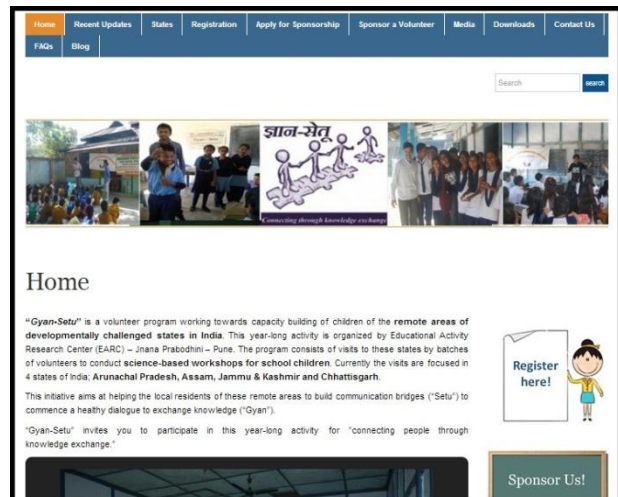
- **Gyan-Setu Melava:** Gyan-Setu has conducted 2 volunteers' gatherings (*Melava*) till now, on 15th August 2013 and 26th January 2014 at Jnana Prabodhini-Pune, for appeal, registration and experience sharing of volunteers.

A.4 Photographs

1. Gyan-Setu companion book and kit for workshop



2. Publicity (Poster, Website)



3. Glimpses of workshops



4. Gyan-Setu Melava (15th August 2013, 26th January 2014)