

## Microsoft Project Shiksha – Technology in Education Update on Karnataka

Microsoft's Project Shiksha- 'Empowering the future' is a focused program designed to deliver comprehensive training and curriculum leadership for students and teachers in government schools. In India, Microsoft Project Shiksha has trained over 1,50,000 teachers and reached over 7.5 million students.

In Karnataka, Project Shiksha training has touched 18 districts, 992 schools, 5658 teachers and reached 3,13,748 students in Karnataka since commencement of operations.

Government of Karnataka entered into an MOU with Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd. in November 2004 for implementation of the Microsoft Partners-in-Learning (PiL) program which is aimed at accelerating IT literacy amongst government school teachers and students in the state. The MoU entailed the setting-up of 3 IT Academy centers in the state. Apart from the ITA in Bangalore (inaugurated in 2006), the other two are located in Gulbarga (inaugurated in June 2005) and Dharwad (opened in July 2005).

The Microsoft IT Academy is a world class facility equipped with a state-of-the-art IT lab complete with latest hardware and software, a comprehensive IT curriculum and well-trained staff for effective delivery of IT training for school teachers. 20 desktop PCs are used for the routine training process. A laptop has been provided to the IT Academy Manager who is required to visit various schools across the state to ensure consistency in delivery process. The overall infrastructure includes 2 classrooms, a meeting room, library, cafeteria and DG power backup supply.



Microsoft has deployed initiatives that are meant to motivate the teachers to deploy the skills acquired in the training program when they return to their schools, thus contributing to the overall success and impact of the project.

- **Certification**

Microsoft awards "Partners in Learning Certificate" to deserving teachers. Certificates are awarded approximately three months after culmination of training contingent to certification criteria being met. The aim of certification is to motivate teachers to use computers at their workplace (school) and drive usage for benefit of both school and students.

- **School Visits**

Microsoft organizes visits to the schools of the teachers trained under Project Shiksha to study the transfer of teacher's IT skills into practice.

- **Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards**

Microsoft organizes annual event "Innovative Teachers Leadership Award" for all teachers who have measurable impact of their innovative handling of academic endeavors. The teachers first compete at the national level and the winners get an opportunity to participate in Microsoft's Regional Meet internationally. The winner of the Regional Meet gets an opportunity to showcase his/her work in the final Meet in the US.

### **Key Highlight**

Dr. Kiran Ghanti, Science Teacher from Govt. High School, Mangalgi, Gulbarga was selected for Innovative Teacher Leadership Award (ITLA) 2005, who used to take his own Computer to School for teaching Science subject to students which is situated in rural Gulbarga District of Karnataka. There were around 400 entries for ITLA 2005 from different Government and Private Schools of Karnataka (Through out India there were around 5000 entries).



Jameel Imran Ahamed, Science Teacher, GPUUC, Gogi, Gulbarga Dist. and Vijayakala Kunale, Science Teacher, GGHS, Chitguppa, Bidar Dist. was selected for ITLA 2006. They have represented India in the Asia-



Pacific meet of Innovative Teachers held at Cambodia from the 27th Feb to 3rd March 2007. The seminar provided the teacher with an opportunity to showcase best practices and international sharing of exceptional innovative practices across the region.

### **Feedback from the Teachers Trained**

Compare to any other wealth Education is the highest wealth you can gain. So it is a challenging task for government to give effective & powerful education to students. Computer Aided Learning the most effective way of teaching. This training has really helped us to not only learn IT skills and how best we can use this as an effective mean of teaching tool in the class room.

- **Mr. Mahaveer Basappa, Teacher, GHS, Hukkeri, Belgaum, Karnataka**

Project Shiksha training is the wonderful experience to all the teacher community. Infrastructure, facility, Competent trainers, environment makes the training memorable in the life of teacher. It has rediscovered the ability of teacher in presenting the topic using Computers. Thanks to Microsoft and Education Department for providing this opportunity for learning IT.

**- Mr. Narashima Raje, Teacher, Govt PU College, Gabbur, Raichur, Karnataka**

Before coming to this training I was illiterate in Computers. But I am going out with lot of knowledge in terms of IT and IT tools which is very much use full in my teaching profession. In school I never use to go to Computer Lab because of inferiority complex. But now I can go confidently to Computer Lab and prepare my presentation and lesson plan. Thanks to Microsoft & DIET Bangalore for giving this opportunity.

**- Ms. Sharada, Teacher, GHS, Thanisandra, Bangalore, Karnataka.**



Microsoft IT Academy Centre located in DIET Urban Campus in Bangalore



Batch of teachers at Microsoft IT Academy Centre located in Gulbarga



Batch of teachers at Microsoft IT Academy Centre in Dharwad



Typical Classroom at the IT Academy Centre