



Dharavi Teachers get tech-savvy!

LIFE Trust launches its pilot project in Bandra and Dharavi slums to impart English Learning Skills to Anganwadi Teachers

Mumbai, April 6th 2009: In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, Landmark International Institute for Empowerment (LIFE Trust) has introduced a path-breaking technique of teaching English to the Anganwadi school teachers of Dharavi. LIFE Trust is conducting a pilot project for a period of two months in the slums of Dharavi for 25 Anganwadi teachers. Based on the success of the project, LIFE Trust plans to extend the same to 950 teachers during the year.

Anganwadis are pre-school centers established by the Central Government to engage children from 0-6 years in an integrated manner, to ensure proper growth and development of children in rural, tribal and slum areas across India. In order to be a teacher at an Anganwadi all that is required is to pass the 10th standard.

LIFE Trust together with its team of 2D Animators has created a unique 'English DVD' especially for this purpose and the teachers will be trained on ultra-modern portable DVD players! LIFE Trust has created these DVDs with visuals and a voice over so as to make English learning interesting. The class would be interactive with discussions, role-plays and quizzes to sustain the interest of the teachers and deliver quality learning.

Mrs. Poonam Lalvani, Managing Trustee, LIFE Trust said, “There are an estimated 650,000 Anganwadi centers across India – please confirm employing 1.8 million, mostly female workers and helpers from the local community itself. We at LIFE Trust monitor 475 Anganwadis in Bandra and Dharavi slums which cater to 9500 students and 950 teachers. Our initiative is to equip the Anganwadi teachers in these areas with the necessary skills to develop interesting teaching aids for their students. The current initiative is a pilot project involving 25 teachers but based on the success of the same, we will extend it to all the 950 Anganwadi teachers within this year.”

LIFE Trust is a registered charitable Trust working towards the betterment of public school education in India. LIFE works closely with the Education Department of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Council (BMC) in Mumbai in providing non-formal and creative teaching aids. LIFE undertakes multiple projects for the 49 BMC secondary schools such as Career Counseling, Effective Study Habits, Math Made Easy, English Made Easy, Value Education, Education on Wheels, Chill-Zone, Industrial Trips and Intervention with schools for the Mentally Challenged. LIFE’s mission is to empower schools and children with improvements in educational resources to address the issue of dropouts and poor results.

LIFE Trust will also conduct oral and written tests by the end of the course so as to acquire the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the learning’s of the teachers. Additionally LIFE Trust will also record all the teaching sessions over the 30 day period which will help enhance the module when they introduce it to the 950 Anganwadi teachers this year.

About LIFE Trust:

Established in the year 2000 in Chennai, Landmark International Foundation for Empowerment (LIFE) is a registered Public Charitable Trust. With a vision to make ‘*school chalo*’ the mantra of each child in India, LIFE undertakes several activities for the betterment of the public school education system in India. LIFE has also introduced path breaking initiatives for students with learning disabilities and mentally challenged students. LIFE currently has its presence in Mumbai, Chennai, and Bangalore and plans to have a pan India presence in the coming years.

LIFE’s mission is collaborating and supporting the Public School System along with other agencies and like-minded individuals in improving the quality of education through creative and effective

programmes, involving all its stakeholders and the society.

For Further Information log on to www.lifetrustindia.org or contact:

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