

Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development

Birla Grameen Pustakalaya

BIMTECH

BIMTECH has always been one step ahead in realising its Corporate Social Responsibilities and giving back something to society in one way or the other. One such step is the formation of Ranganathan Society for Social Welfare and Library Development a Non-Government organization supported by BIMTECH with an aim of disseminating information and knowledge at the grass root level by setting up libraries in the rural areas. The NGO is working towards opening libraries in secondary schools in key villages across India, motivating under privileged students in villages of India to develop reading and learning skills so that they can avail competitive employment opportunities and lead a dignified social existence.

Our target is 20 libraries to be operational till March 2010 where each library to start with will have minimum 150-200 books in that local language covering various subjects. It is a unique concept – “A library of the students, for the students and by the students”. Our vision and mission include:

Vision - To improve the proficiency level of rural students by providing essential educational resources.

Mission – To facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and information at the grass root level by setting up libraries in the rural areas.

The first library was set up at village Jaan Sivana, Ghaziabad District, Uttar Pradesh and the second library was set up at Bambavar, Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. There was an interactive session between the BIMTECH students and the students of the village who were mostly below the age of 15 years and aspired to become doctors, engineers, join administrative services and even some of them wanted to become cricketers. It is rightly said that “Nothing happens unless first a Dream”, so in an attempt to make their Dream into a reality, providing essential educational resources is our goal. Ours was a small step though, but hundred such replications can go a long way in transforming the rural landscape.

The next step undertaken by the organization was donating clothes to the families of labourers in the city itself. For this, a group of students assembled all the clothes donated by the BIMTECH family (faculty and students), and went early in the morning to serve the purpose. People gathered immensely from all over the labour society, including women, kids and elderly people. There was overwhelming donation of clothes done by BIMTECH Faculties as well as the students and the donation went on nicely and smoothly.

The objectives of the society are to promote resource sharing among the rural libraries by collecting, storing and disseminating information, to extend the maximum cooperation in automating the libraries using open source technologies, to provide technical guidance to the library professionals on latest library technologies such as DSpace, CMS etc, to extend

maximum cooperation for suitable collection development for rural libraries and reduce the duplicate work. This process will not stop here and we will work forward to achieve our vision statement of improving the knowledge level of people in rural areas.

“United Friends of Earth” (UFE) is a club started under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. K R Chari, with the objective of making the BIMTECH campus greener and more environment friendly. The club was formed on October 2nd, 2009, with more than 50 students as its founding members. The BIMTECH fraternity has always been a strong advocate of the green way of life. Keeping in mind the importance and significance of sustaining the environment, the members of UFE have come forward to take a step towards its conservation. With the motto of Reuse, Reduce and Recycle, the club aims at contributing its bit to the protection of the environment by promoting a green culture within the campus.

The club’s agenda includes conservation of water, food and electricity, by encouraging students, faculty and administration to utilize these resources judiciously.

Since its inception, the club has undertaken myriad activities to realize its objectives. As a part of the inaugural event, UFE organized the screening of the

much talked about and widely appreciated piece of work **“An Inconvenient Truth”** by Al Gore to promote environmental awareness and concern amongst the BIMTECH community.

A two-day event was conducted to promote the use of jute bags instead of plastic. The event started off with mailers being sent to the students, emphasizing the importance of eradication of plastic and usage of perishable materials like jute. As a part of the event, a stall was put up in the campus where jute bags were made available at subsidized prices. Plastic bags available in the “Tuck Shop” and the “Cafeteria” have been replaced on a permanent basis with brown paper carry bags. UFE has associated itself with Majlis, the debating and theatre society of BIMTECH. Majlis has been provided with a stock of recycled stationery to be used for notices and certificates in all future events to be conducted by them. Hereafter, felicitation of guests and judges would be done using small plant saplings, instead of bouquets.

A small beginning though, sustained efforts by the UFE will go a long way in passing on the message for sustainable development amongst the students and help BIMTECH realize its goal of truly being a green campus.