

SUMEDHA

Identifying and Enhancing Multiple Intelligences among Rural School Girls

**With Financial Support by
Desai Brothers Ltd., Pune**

(November 2016 - October 2017)

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February 2018

SUMMARY

Pune falls in Western zone of Maharashtra and is known for Educational activities. Bhor and Velhe are blocks in Pune district which are recognized for their magnificent rice crop all over the Maharashtra. Farming is a main occupation of most of the families, residing there for years together. At the same time there is a wide range of economic conditions of the families. In the areas nearby highway the urban facilities are attracting the people. The locations are categorized into types A, B, C and D as per the distance from highway. From these four locations, schools were appealed to take part in special program for enhancing potentials of girls from Standard V to VII. One hundred and twenty two girls participated in the program with cooperation of Principals, teachers and parents of the girl-students. The program was based on the foundation of two models, Gardener's eight intelligences and Renzulli's three-ring-model of enhancing the giftedness. As per these programs proper exposure to all the areas of intelligence and talents was the initial part for identifying highly able girls. Program was designed for enhancement of eight intelligences by giving equal opportunity to all the participants to get appropriate exposure and training in respective activities. Appropriate tests of intelligence and creative thinking were used for studying the changes at pre-intervention and post-intervention stages. Two types of sources were used for implementing the program; one of local coordinators, by giving them appropriate training and second by arranging sessions of experts in the respective skills. There was very favorable response from the schools and the participants for the activities planned as part of the program. Local coordinators, chosen from the same location, having some experiences of similar work were given training for assisting and observing the girls. Pre and post test scores, as well as observations done by local coordinators were used as behavioral indicators. Significant rise was observed in the performance on the tools, Mental Ability and Creative thinking. Through questionnaire based on eight intelligences, a talent profile was prepared for each of the girls. Observations on field and in camps seem to help in identifying hidden gifts of the girls. Their observations by local coordinators helped to understand the highly able girls among the group. Though support to all of the girls will prove beneficial for their growth, it will be practically impossible to support every girl. If the local coordinators, who worked on these girls with involvement and selected school- girls get adequate financial support for the next few years, their assets could be strengthened through special programs. This will help in capacity building. Programs will help them in transforming their special gifts into talents and become successful achievers.

