

Improved Infrastructure for Quality Learning

Construction of Additional Classrooms in Government Junior
College, Choutuppal, Telangana

Impact Assessment Report of CSR Initiative of Divi's

Prepared by Deeksha – Centre for Learning and Action



Divi's Laboratories Ltd.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF DIVI'S EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

*INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT JUNIOR COLLEGE,
CHOUTUPPAL, TELANGANA*

A CSR INITIATIVE OF DIVI'S

2024

Report Prepared by

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IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR QUALITY LEARNING

PREFACE

Among the components of human capital, education is the most important indicator. Education contributes to the individual's wellbeing as well as the overall development of the country. Education is not only an instrument of enhancing efficiency, but is also an effective tool of widening and augmenting democratic participation and upgrading the overall quality of individual and societal life. Studies show that infrastructure facilities have an influence on student teaching and learning activities. The building with good conditioned classroom supports the continuity of learning where the students feel comfortable, excited and facilitated in the learning process. One of the studies concludes that educational facilities including the infrastructure contribute to achieve learning objective with optimal learning process, and lack of adequate infrastructure results in less enthusiasm and interest among the students in following the learning process.

CONTEXT

Availability of physical facilities in the educational institutions and its optimum use have been a matter of concern across the globe. In India, many studies revealed that lack of infrastructure facilities in educational institutions has been one of the major problems across the country. They emphasized that provision of adequate infrastructure facilities contributes to refine the learning environment and it goes a long way in engaging both the teachers and students in the teaching learning mode.

In Telangana, providing hassle free access to education from KG to PG is an important goal of the State. It includes encouraging partnerships with private / corporate sector towards creating positive school environment and imparting quality education using innovative student centric teaching learning material and methods. Interventions by Divi's is the result of one of such partnerships in pursuance of the sustainable development goal (SDG) of 'ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all'.

DIVI'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Divi's Laboratories is a leading manufacturer of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) with its headquarters located in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Divi's believes and cares deeply in the Business-Society Ecosystem which forms the basis for its CSR component. Started within a few years of launching its business, Divi's has been striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the communities around the company and create a positive impact on the society.

Towards this, the Company takes up activities for sustainable growth in the neighbourhood or partner with agencies and provides support for various development activities. Some of the CSR thrust areas are *Promoting Education, Empowering women, Rural development, Preventive health care, Safe drinking water, Animal welfare, Improving the standard of living of the community.*

IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

As part of its good governance system and in compliance with the CSR rules and regulations under the Companies Act, Divi's intends to do impact assessment of its CSR projects. Deeksha – Centre for Learning and Action (a non-profit organization working in the areas of Child Rights, Adolescence issues, Health, Livelihoods and Gender equality) has been identified for taking up the impact assessment of the project implemented through CSR funds.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

The Government Junior College, Choutuppal in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district caters to hundreds of students coming from many surrounding villages. The old buildings were in dilapidated condition hence new building was constructed few years back. However, the classrooms were not sufficient to accommodate all classes of all the available faculties. Moreover, vocational courses that require practical learning and experiments need bigger and spacious rooms to ensure good learning environment. Hence, responding to the request by the concerned authorities to construct more classrooms in the college, and believing that good infrastructure makes education qualitative and effective, Divi's has taken up the project under its CSR division.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Construction of an additional floor accommodating five classrooms, a large conference hall, toilets for girls and boys separately on either side of the ‘U’ shaped building, and painting the entire building were taken up by Divi’s. Thus, the study aims to understand the utility and impact of the new construction.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The key objective is to assess the impact of the CSR funds expended on construction of extra floor and painting the entire building on academic performance of the students, their attendance and teaching learning processes.

METHODOLOGY

The study is designed in a participatory and interactive mode to gather perceptions of different stakeholders – the teachers and the students; and to analyze the overall impact. The following tools are used to assess the impact:

Tool 1 – Small Group Discussion with students

Tool 2 – Semi Structured Interview with teachers and the College Principal


Tool 3 – Passive Observation

FINANCIAL OUTLAY

An amount of ₹1,19,32,745.00 was spent by Divi’s towards its CSR initiative in the Government Junior College, Choutuppall.

KEY FINDINGS

The following is the summary of the observations made by the Assessment Team:

 The college is a co-education institution under education department of Government of Telangana. It was established about two decades ago with 6 classrooms housed in two separate buildings with four class rooms in 1 big building; and 2 class rooms, 1 staff room and a small office room in another building.

- ✚ It used to have a big play ground but a new building had to be constructed using half of its space given the need for additional classrooms in lieu of the growing strength of the students and the requirement of space to provide for additional educational facilities.
- ✚ A few years ago, a new building has been constructed by the department to accommodate more students when new courses were introduced. Vocational courses like medical lab technician, multipurpose health worker and computer courses were started in the new building.
- ✚ There was lot of demand for the vocational courses and the new building was full with students. While the old building continued to hold classes for CEC, MEC, BiPC groups, the MPC and computer-based education classes had to be held in the new building.
- ✚ Old building where the office room and staff room were housed has reached a dilapidated stage and hence to protect the records they had to be shifted to the new building. With this there started a space problem for all the classes to get adjusted.
- ✚ The other old building where the science and social science groups have their classes lack maintenance and looks gloomy. All these started affecting the admissions negatively.
- ✚ That was the time when Divi's was approached for support to construct more classrooms. Believing that good infrastructure is the first step that leads to quality teaching learning processes, Divi's has agreed and started construction work in the later part of the year 2021 and is completed within a year's time.
- ✚ The new building with an additional floor and soberly painted has changed the face of the college. Spacious and well-ventilated classrooms, bright big building, protected campus with compound wall are now the attraction to students from neighbouring villages to join the college. Admissions have increased, as reported by the College Principal.
- ✚ The current strength has increased to 220 from around 180 two years back. However, the intake capacity of the college is 350 and the college staff are hopeful of getting more students in the next academic year with the improved facilities.
- ✚ The campus shared boundaries with Govt Hospital on the West and with a residential colony on the South. Hence, on these two sides, compound wall was constructed by the respective parties while there was no compound wall on North and East (front and right) sides of the premises. As part of the project Divi's has constructed compound wall on East and North sides

of the campus and that saved the college from stray animals, drunkards and using the college space for anti-social activities, the staff claimed.

- ✚ While designing the plan for the proposed construction, the college administration requested Divi's engineers to plan one side of the floor as one single large room without partition wall, and with an elevated stage on one side of the room, so that it can be used as seminar hall or a digital classroom or a meeting hall for large gatherings. Accordingly, one side of the floor was constructed as a big hall and it accommodates about 200 people.
- ✚ A large TV, provided by the District Collector, is installed in this big hall. It is often being used for science, maths and vocational classes. Common subjects are taught together here and the students participate in the seminars conducted by the department. A few students opined that this is serving as a common learning space for the students from different streams.
- ✚ Additional toilets for girls and boys are sufficing the need and it is a big relief to the students to have good functional toilets catering to the requirement. Earlier there used to be rush and waiting at the washrooms but now the students are happy. There are separate toilets for staff.
- ✚ Subsequent new furniture provided by the department left surplus of benches and desk tables. All the extra furniture is piled up in the space between the classrooms in the old building there by making it home for rats, bats and some birds. Some students expressed a fear that it might attract snakes also and prove dangerous for students. The principal shared that this furniture will be sent to another college where there is a need and they are waiting for the pick-up truck.
- ✚ The newly constructed classrooms are allotted to conduct classes to the senior intermediate students of MPC, BiPC, MPHW and MLT courses. First year courses are run in the ground floor. The work of staircase on one side, and flooring in the corridors of the first floor are still pending. They could not be completed due to the classes and pre-final board exams to the students. The College Principal envisages that the work would be completed as soon as the board exams are over.
- ✚ There was shortage of lecturers till last year but now the strength of the lecturers has increased, making the total to 12 (8 female and 4 male lecturers), in addition to the Principal. There are two Security personnel working in shifts and one attender to support the staff and the principal in administrative work. There are no sweepers or scavenger available in the college as there is

no provision to appoint. Hence toilets cleaning, maintenance of classrooms, corridors and the premises has become challenging. Students themselves clean their respective classrooms in turns. In this regard, the principal approached the concerned MLA for support and the decision is awaited.

- ✚ The newly constructed classrooms are wide and well ventilated. The bright white paint to the walls added further to the improved ventilation and beauty of the rooms. Girls from Medical Lab Technician course informed that earlier they had to keep the lights switched on throughout the day but now they don't need to use lights in the classroom because of the wide windows and white paint of the room. It is helping them to save power while they feel comfortable to read books or learn subjects in the day light.
- ✚ Students from CEC group expressed a strong desire to move to one of those new classrooms, admirably looking at the new building. They say that they are not given importance as they neither belong to science group nor the vocational courses, therefore the old building is allotted to them which looks poor and ugly in front of the new building. Having said that they urged Divi's to extend their support to repair the old building and paint it, so that there is no visual difference in the college which would in turn reflect on the treatment of the students too.
- ✚ One of the girl students responded that it doesn't matter for them where they sit but they have a strong hope that their course will also get a value sooner or later, like in earlier decades, as commerce graduates are critical for the country's economic planning and growth. And she felt that the humanities courses also have to be given importance in terms of not only academics but also infrastructural facilities.
- ✚ A kind of pride was evident among the students when they walk inside the college. Students coming from rural poor families, especially the girls are joined in government colleges for continuing their education. Studying in private colleges with good infrastructure facilities is a dream come true for them given the patriarchal attitudes still influencing girls' education in our society. At this state, provision of good infrastructure facilities in the government college goes a long way for them in realising their dreams of studying in a good college with better ambience and facilities.
- ✚ The construction waste material is lying down there in the centre of the 'U' shaped building making the area underutilised. College Principal shared that they wanted the debris, sand and

gravel to be used to build a stage there that may cater to convene assembly, but the same could not be taken forward due to exhaustion of funds. He requested for Divi's support in completing the work as envisaged.

- ✚ Security guard mentioned that many times he used to feel tired with making multiple rounds during nights to drive off stray animals and also humans who were trying to use the college premises for anti-social activities. There was an attack on the security guard earlier when objected such activities, he shared. He expressed with so much relief and happiness that the compound wall constructed by Divi's has been a boon to the college and to them as well, which reduced the burden of being vigilant throughout the night.
- ✚ Students expressed that they are fortunate to have Divi's who constructed a whole first floor of the building and painted the entire building giving a new outlook to the college. They subtly shared that they are looked down for studying in the government college which they also used to feel earlier, but now it is a pride for them to attend classes here in the goodlooking college with spacious and well-ventilated classrooms which are not even possible to dream for a private college there.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The staff expressed gratitude for Divi's generous contribution. Sharing that there is a dire need for computers and new lab equipment for MLT course, without which the students cannot excel in their courses, the lecturers put forth a request to Divi's for the required teaching learning material and lab equipment.
- The teachers and the students also requested for Divi's intervention in levelling the ground, setting up courts for sports and play area in the front side of the college, and providing sports material for active participation of students in extra-curricular activities.
- Towards further requirement for quality education and sustainability, many students sought support from Divi's for coaching towards common entrance examinations and provision of books in the library.
- This college being a co-education college, Divi's may consider the idea of deploying a volunteer to build social and life-skills among the students and to create awareness on various societal issues, career guidance, child rights, women related Acts and various support systems.

CONCLUSION

The overall impact was positive towards promoting quality education of children through infrastructure facilities which is one of the major objectives of the CSR initiatives by Divi's. The construction itself is a proof of the positive reinforcement and reflection of the interest of the company to use its CSR funds in accordance with the company's goals and objectives, more importantly – Giving back to the community...

The satisfaction and pride among the students and the staff in coming to the college and moving around in the newly constructed area reflects the positive impact brought by Divi's through their CSR intervention of building infrastructure facilities in educational institutions. For this, all the students and faculty expressed their gratitude to Divi's.

Thus, the efforts and the funds spent by Divi's to develop the college needs to be acknowledged as practicing the true sense of Corporate Social Responsibility objectives. Appreciating this, the assessment team feels that the onus is also on the management of the college to pursue hard with the department for necessary provisions to make the college more efficient and effective. Since the quality of infrastructure directly affects the learning environment and the growth of students, investing in educational facilities ensures a brighter future for generations to come.

PHOTO GALLERY



Pic1 – The Front View of the Government Junior College, Choutuppall



Pic 2 – Newly Constructed Compound Wall of the College



Pic 3 – View of the College Building



Pic 4 – Newly Constructed Classroom



Pic 5 – Seminar / Meeting Hall



Pic 6 – Tiled Corridor in the First floor

Any place that anyone can learn something useful from someone with experience is an educational institution – Al Capp

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