

REC's CSR Initiative: Transforming the Education Ecosystem & Promoting Sports in India



India is comprehending and responding to achieve the 4th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of universal primary education where all children would complete their free primary and secondary education by 2030. However, with limited resources and humongous challenges in the education sector, the joint collaborative approach of government and corporates brings a positive impact and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) becomes an important tool in shaping the future of the nation. CSR initiatives turn out to be a strategic practice, a key to organizational success as it ensures long-term sustainability by integrating social, economic, environmental and human development issues. CSR is a very important tool in the hands of companies, which not only helps the communities develop but also helps in the overall development of humanity.

CSR IN EDUCATION SECTOR

To make a difference in India's education ecosystem, CSR occupies the centre stage for REC's role in fulfilling India's 2030 agenda as REC has spent over 14% in education sector out of its total CSR disbursements made so far. In the education sector, REC is focussed towards providing education facilities for girls, making education accessible to

underprivileged & vulnerable section of society, providing education to children of migrant workers through Mobile Buses, etc. To help these underprivileged children, REC helped 462 students to get education through mobile schools in Gurgaon (Haryana) and Hardoi (UP).

CSR funds have been utilised at Gajapati, a aspirational district in Odisha for the construction of 53 additional classrooms in 32 government schools, arrangements of RO water purifiers in 93 government schools and support to Super 30 students (appearing for higher education) with HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate).

SMART CLASSES AND HOSTEL TOWERS

REC has sanctioned funds to support the vast and complex education sector in various parts of the country. REC has provided funds to strengthen the school library, science laboratory; aids in organizing science & technology fairs, recruitment of mathematic teachers, providing smart classes, renovation of the hostels, training of teachers & exposure visit of teachers & students in West Sikkim.

For IIT Kanpur, REC has provided funds for the construction of 2 hostel towers (G+8) with furniture, external lighting and an approach road for postgraduate students, installation of grid- connected 100 kWp rooftop solar PV panel etc.

India is comprehending and responding to achieve the 4th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of universal primary education where all children would complete their free primary and secondary education by 2030. To gear up the whole education ecosystem, Corporate Social Responsibility occupies the center stage as we speak about REC's role in fulfilling India's 2030 agenda.

BRINGING EDUCATION IN TRIBAL AND HILLY AREAS

REC strives to support the girls especially in tribal areas, therefore, for the tribal girls, REC has provided financial assistance for the construction of residential building for 150 tribal girls in Sehore district, providing support for basic necessities to 11 Seva Kutirs comprising 1541 (approx.) children from the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.

To enhance the quality of education in hilly areas, in Chamba and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh, REC introduced smart classrooms, repaired boundary walls, electrical wiring, internet, school library, science mathematics laboratory, procured water cooler, provided sports equipment in 17 government schools.

ANGANWADIS TURN PRESCHOOLS

REC has been instrumental in providing



education to primary, secondary and graduation level students all across India. Out of the projects funded so far by REC in education sector as CSR initiatives. The impact of the projects has been very successful resulting into providing 200+ libraries & educating more than 500 migrant workers children through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), providing skill based learning to 30000+ beneficiaries to enhance employability. REC also provided 581 schools with safe drinking water facilities, equipped 250 schools with smart classrooms and science lab. More than 1600 teachers have been provided training and converted 500 Anganwadis into preschools.

As an innovative idea, REC took initiatives to convert the 150 Anganwadi centres into pre-schools in Udhm Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand so that learning of the children is enhanced and formalised. REC not only focuses on improving the learning capabilities but also strives to improve the physical attributes of the students. REC constructed an auditorium in Govt. Higher Secondary School in Munderi, Kerala and renovated 50 anganwadi centres and 1125 antenatal care corners in Bihar.

ENHANCING IT INFRASTRUCTURE

To improve the IT infrastructure in schools, REC provided lab, information & communication technology equipment in 7 Government schools, converted 60 classrooms into Digital classrooms. To promote the health of students, REC installed 50 LPH Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment systems in 43 Government schools in Secunderabad, Hyderabad.

To increase the female literacy in government schools of aspirational districts of North Eastern Region, REC provided teachers' training and provided English learning programs in 10 government schools in Mamit district of Mizoram.



REC'S CONTRIBUTION IN INDIA'S NEW EDUCATION POLICY

India has been on the right path in strengthening literacy at the school level and promoting the use of digital technology in furthering education, where the National Education Policy (NEP) aims at developing skills in 50% of the school-going children in the near future, the Diksha platform and implementation of other education-related projects are empowering the students with progress and innovation. Further, REC also has also sanctioned a project relating to transforming 250 Government's Primary Schools into Rupantar Role Model Schools in 2 States and 2 Union Territories over a span of 3 years so as to align CSR initiatives with the New Education Policy.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS

As new CSR initiatives to impart education and alongside enhance employability, REC during FY 2022-23 sanctioned "Learn and Earn- Programme" in respect of 300 youths for giving financial assistance to study Bachelor's degree in garment manufacturing & entrepreneurship. The students will be given practical training also so that their skill-set is developed and their employability is ensured.

REC IN PROMOTION OF SPORTS

REC has extended CSR financial assistance for "broad basing of Sports and promotion of excellence in sports in India", under implementation by National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), Gol for

promotion of Athletics, Boxing and Badminton. Following verticals are being covered for the above disciplines:

- Support to National/Regional/State/Khelo India sports academies
- Support to TOPS athletes. Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is a flagship program of MYAS to provide assistance to India's top athletes, thereby enabling them to win medals in the Olympics.
- Support for coaches and other support staff.
- Any other project / program / event for broad basing of sports and promotion of excellence in sports in India as mutually agreed between the parties.

In addition to above, REC has extended support for construction of two indoor badminton stadiums in Ukhul, Manipur & Raipur, Chhattisgarh and construction of motor racing track in Mamit, Mizoram.

REC'S STRONG FOUNDATION

In this way, REC's CSR initiatives in the education sector promote quality education, easy access to digital education, better infrastructure, teacher training to boost the entire education ecosystem of India and helping India to achieve the 4th SDG of universal primary education where all children would complete their free primary and secondary education by 2030. REC believes in laying the strong foundation of children and youth of the country by sanctioning CSR projects in the education sector from smart classes with solar power in Government Schools in Northern East and J&K to providing teaching aids for visually impaired children in Delhi's R.K. Puram.