

# Giving wings to dreams through education

*This Foundation Aims To Improve English And Other Skills Among Government School Students*

Yamini Nair | TNN

The divide between the rich and the poor can be bridged through education. This is what Dream School Foundation (DSF) believes and aims to implement. With quality education as its motto, it works towards making the right to education and a happy childhood a reality.



**CITY OF ANGELS**

"In government schools, the need is more as status of progress is bad," says Maitreyee Kumar, executive director of

DSF, which was officially registered in 2005.

"Before registering, we worked as a voluntary group for two years and found the government school system was falling apart. Though authorities put in a sincere effort, they



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** DSF's initiatives focus on the overall development of children

stop at getting kids to school. Quality is eroding as a result. Strength is dwindling not because they are dropping out, but because they are opting for private schools," she adds.

## DREAM SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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The foundation's holistic school development programme focuses on functional and curricular English, library programmes, life skills, computer training and remedial classes. "We are working with 15 schools in Bangalore and partnering NGOs to help students in different areas. We also provide books and encourage them to read," says Maitreyee.

To mentor and monitor children, and ensure they are doing well, DSF has after-school

study centres for extra help. Headstart, another initiative of DSF, identifies kids who are susceptible to drop out at higher primary stage and helps them continue studies.

"DSF helped us get new classrooms, drinking water and other facilities. Earlier, students were not regular. Now they are more enthusiastic. I can see development in English skills and discipline," says Ishrat Sultana, principal of J C Nagar Government High School.

Shabana Begum, a Class IX student, speaks English confidently. "DSF teachers help us with English and other subjects. Our parents ask us not to miss any classes," she says. The teachers, too, are an enthusiastic lot. There are nine paid teachers and others who volunteer.

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