ANNUAL REPORT
AID-INDIA Hyderabad Chapter
December 2006

Introduction:
AID-Hyderabad was re-started formally on October 30, 2005. We meet each Saturday at the AID office in Ameerpet (rented room in a residential colony). Our chapter size remains small, with 2-6 fairly regular volunteers. There are no formal office holders as our group is small. All decisions are made after discussions at the weekly CSH meetings, which include the paid staff.

Aims and Achievements:
At the outset, we had three goals in mind: (1) replicate AID-Chennai’s Science Education Program, (2) provide support for other AID activities in AP (such as projects initiated by Jeevansaathis), and (3) be a coordination point for all AID-US projects in AP.

During this year we have focused on the first goal and have diversified in various directions from there. Regarding the second point, we had a meeting with Ravi and discussed his work in the Srikakulam area, but have yet to get involved. We have met Dhanunjay (Nellore) several times and have shared our Telugu Reading material (see Project 4) with his group. As for the third point, we welcome inputs from the US-based AID chapters. Volunteers from some US Chapters - Monal (RTP), Kiran (Austin), and Kartik (Tempe) - have visited us, but we don’t have any joint projects / project reviews yet.

In our first year, we have worked on four projects, described in brief as follows.

Project 1:
Our first project was to replicate the AID-Chennai model of Science Teaching in Government Schools. Ravishankar of AID-Chennai visited Hyderabad during September 2005 to initiate a partnership with Satyam Foundation for this purpose. At that point, Satyam Foundation was working on Pratham’s L2R (Learn to Read) Program in several local schools. It was decided that staff from AID would provide a “Learn Science” extension to this program in the schools. Four candidates (high school graduates) were recruited by AID-Hyderabad for the paid posts of Baal Sakhis. Initial training was provided by volunteers from AID-Chennai. Since then, training is provided by AID-Hyderabad volunteers.

In mid-November 2005, we met the Inspectors of Schools in the Ameerpet and Secunderabad School Districts. With their permission, our Baal Sakhis taught weekly classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades for 10 schools, starting the first week of December, 2005. This program continued till April, 2005. The average strength in each class was 35 students; thus this program reached ~ 750 students. The lessons were based on the Manual which accompanies the Eureka Science Kit and did not necessarily follow the school syllabus.

For the academic year 2006-2007, our Program has expanded to cover 6th and 7th grades in 25 schools. Each of these schools received one Eureka Science Kit (co-funded by Satyam Foundation and the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)) at a function attended by Balaji, Ravishankar and Srinivas from AID-Chennai. This event was covered by several local newspapers and The Hindu. The entire English Manual was translated into Telugu and included with the Kits. A Training Workshop was held for the science teachers of these schools in August 2006, with Ravishankar and Srihari conducting the demonstration and
discussions. A report of this was published in two Telugu dailies. During our follow-up survey, teachers at most schools said that they are using the Kits, and are eager to attend the Second Training Workshop slated for the second week of January, 2007.

**Project 2:**

During the summer of 2006, our *Baal Sakhis* studied the science text books for the 6th – 8th grades with a view to tailor our lessons to match the concepts and experiments illustrated in the text books. In October 2006, the *Baal Sakhis* commenced weekly lesson-wise demonstration of experiments in 21 schools that received the Eureka Kits. To date, they have covered ~50% of the chapters in each of the text books.

Most of these experiments are not a part of the Eureka Kit. This experience has been invaluable to us in terms of planning for additional experiments that can be added to expand the Kit. At present, the Kit Manual describes 100 experiments, though the materials in the Kit can be used for several more experiments. We hope to add descriptions of more experiments using the materials already present in the Kit, as well as to add more items to the Kit and bring it closer to its intended final goal of 300 experiments.

**Project 3:**

Another activity undertaken during the summer of 2006 was to prepare material to teach Telugu Reading along the lines of the material available for the Tamil Course. We now have a really good collection of word games and stories that can be used to make slow learners in Primary schools (Grades 2-5) fluent in reading. Some of this material has been adapted by Dhanunjay of Nellore and will be tested in their ‘Learning to Read’ programs. We ourselves are waiting for an appropriate opportunity to launch this program, and are hoping to start off in January 2007 with a small private school offering non-formal education to children of domestic helpers in the Sainikpuri area of Secunderabad.

**Project 4:**

In partnership with the Byrraju Foundation, we have undertaken to record and broadcast on the AP State Educational TV Channel – Mana TV - 25 lessons each in Physics and Chemistry, targeted to the 7th and 8th standard students in Telugu Medium Schools. Around 600 schools statewide have the infrastructure to receive these broadcasts, and the network is expected to cover over 3,000 schools within the next couple of years. The project commenced in October, 2006. To date we have recorded 9 lessons in Physics and Chemistry.

**Finances:**

Our annual expenditure, which comprises monthly salaries for the *Baal Sakhis* and rent for the office has been ~ 150,000/- rupees. Some funds have come from AID-Chennai, the rest from a private donor. We have not taken up any direct fund-raising activities yet, though volunteers contribute in kind by purchasing miscellaneous items required for the experiments and other incidentals. Fund-raisers will become possible as the Chapter grows; presently, most of our time is devoted to the smooth running of the educational programs.

**Future Plans:**

We aim to continue the science teaching in schools and on TV, and venture into Telugu reading programs. We are also keen to made DVDs of our experiment demonstrations, and welcome all forms of input for these projects.