

## **SHIKSHAN-MITTRA: BAIF'S INTERVENTION IN TRIBAL EDUCATION**

The Shikshan-Mitra Programme is being implemented by BAIF in the tribal region of Maharashtra and in Telangana. This programme aims at bridging the sharp disconnect between practical life and school education especially in the case of rural-tribal students and equip them with essential skills to deal with various challenges in life. This concept provides spaces for learning by doing and also integrates the local knowledge into the formal learning process through the following objectives.

### **Objectives:**

1. To expose children in the age group of 11 to 14 years to various opportunities of sustainable livelihood based on available natural resources, relevant technologies and allied livelihood options;
2. To impart knowledge on eco systems and equip them with the skills to enhance the surrounding eco systems and conserve ecological balance;
3. To equip children and youth with information on healthy living practices and help them to imbibe suitable health habits;
4. To instil civic sense and awareness among children and help them to imbibe skills required to live a proactive and responsible life;
5. To facilitate personality development skills among community resource persons comprising of village committee members and youth for leading a more satisfying life.

The programme is being implemented with the active involvement of teachers of upper Primary and Secondary schools.

### **Major Activities:**

1. A cadre of youth has been developed who are functioning as Community Resource Persons.
2. Improved school infrastructural facilities include construction of soak pits and toilet blocks, water connection in toilets, access to clean drinking water, establishment of solar water pumps, installation of modern learning facilities such as overhead projectors, computers and LCD screens, interactive wall paintings in primary schools, painted blackboard

and provision of desk and benches. These facilities have converted the surroundings of the schools from barren lands to establishment of green cover while enhancing the quality of education in the lives of rural and tribal school children.

