PRESS RELEASE

Sampark Foundation Ignites a Spark of Change
for all Govt Primary School Children in Himachal Pradesh

Dharamshala, 8th November, 2019: With an investment of INR 25 Crores, Sampark Foundation has kicked off its Sampark Smart Shala (SSS) Math and English Program in over 10,661 primary government schools in Himachal Pradesh. This program will improve the learning outcomes of 3.2 Lakh children studying in state run primary schools. The SSS Program was launched successfully earlier this year, in collaboration with the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Speaking at Rising Himachal, the Global Investors Meet 2019 being held in Dharamshala, Mr. Vineet Nayar, Founder Chairman, Sampark Foundation shares, “Learning is not a transaction or a process, it is actually a journey. When we started working towards enhancing learning outcomes for millions of children in India, our only focus was - how to make this ‘journey’ a fun filled and an exciting experience for children as well as teachers. I am grateful to all little Sparks (Sampark Volunteers) who are igniting this fire of learning every single day and helping us in changing the lives of these children.”

With the help of frugal innovations in teaching methodology, the SSS program is aimed at improving the learning outcome for children. Post a year of implementation, students will be able to solve basic Math operations and learn 500 new words resulting in the child’s ability to speak and write in English.

Sampark Smart Shala is a cutting-edge, frugal solution, based on user-centric design thinking, to improve learning outcomes. The SSS program uses five innovations—Audio Box with a rechargeable audio device – a voice mascot called ‘Sampark Didi’ – which delivers 112 carefully researched lessons with songs, music and games; Teaching-Learning Material (TLM), specially designed to work in rural classrooms these colourful TLMs help explain concepts in linear steps: from simple to complex and from concrete to abstract; Multimedia workbooks, which provide real-time access to online and offline video lessons to users by allowing them to scan the QR codes embedded at the end of each topic; Board Games, enable learning even when a teacher is not around; And the Sampark Smart Shala App, a free BOT-enabled interactive mobile app, which works both online and offline. It is loaded with animated videos, games, puzzles and worksheets, and gives the users a personalised experience.

Over 2 Lac teachers today teach while singing and dancing with Sampark Didi, using the SSS app, audio box and SSS kits. Sampark Foundation has so far delivered 1.5 Lac kits in 76,000 schools in 6 states in India. With a commitment of Rs 650 Crore to drive transformation in 2,00,000 schools across the country, Sampark Foundation aims to bring smiles to 20 million children by 2020.

In 2019-20, in Himachal Pradesh, Sampark Foundation is going to 1) Train over 55,000 teachers on Sampark Smart Shala Program 2) Distribute over 21,322 Sampark Smart Shala English kits 3) Monitor progress of 3.2 lakh children on a monthly basis through “Sampark Smart Shala App” 4) Create an Education Quality resource group for Mathematics and English at the Block, District and State level to focus on improving learning outcomes in primary government schools through Sampark Foundation Master Trainers located in each district alongside the state government leadership team.
About Sampark Foundation:

Sampark Foundation was founded by Anupama Nayar and Vineet Nayar (Former Vice Chairman and CEO of HCL Technologies and author of Harvard Business Press bestseller "Employees First, Customer Second") with a belief that “frugal innovation” and its effective implementation in partnership with the government can drive large-scale improvement in learning outcomes. This thought prompted our founders to dedicate their lives to this cause.

We are currently working with 76,000 rural schools, 70 lakh children in 6 states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) along with 2,00,000 teachers.

A third party assessment in 2018-19 by Feedback Consulting showed a remarkable increase in the percentage of children who answered grade level questions in Math & English: 68% in Chhattisgarh compared to 29% in 2017-18, 54% in Jharkhand compared to 18% in control group with no intervention, 70% in Haryana compared to 23% in control group with no intervention.

About Vineet Nayar:

Vineet Nayar is Founder, Chairman of Sampark Foundation and former CEO of HCL Technologies, a leading IT firm whose transformation was architected from $0.7 billion in 2005 to $4.7 Billion in 2013 by Vineet, which led HCL’s management practices being taught as a case study in Harvard Business School. He is also author of the highly acclaimed management book, “Employee First, Customers Second – Turning Conventional Management Upside Down which has sold 100,000 copies till date. Vineet has been cited in “Forbes 48 Heroes of Philanthropy 2016 for the pedagogical innovations the Foundation has brought into classrooms. He is also an acknowledged management visionary and a radical thinker and has been included in the elite “Thinkers 50 List” in 2011-2012 which is a listing of the world’s top 50 business leaders.

For more information, please write to: gunjansharma@samparkfoundation.org

Or Visit: www.samparkfoundation.org or www.facebook.com/SamparkFoundation