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Bookcases to line walls of Parikrma

THE UNDERPRIVILEGED children of Parikrama Centre for Learning in Jayanagar now have a new library.

Motorola India provided funds for the library, which will be a high quality resource centre, providing books and resource material to the slum and street children.

Motorola has also donated a three-wheeler vehicle that will be used to transport goods and material across the three Parikrama centres in the city. The driver of the vehicle is from the community the children belong to. This, according to the organisation, is at the heart of its philosophy of integrating the community into its programmes.

Mohan Kumar, vice-president and general manager, Motorola India, said, "As a company, we encourage employees to participate in social activities. With Parikrama, we have found the right partner to channel our resources towards community development."

The foundation's uniqueness lies in its 360-degree development program that integrates the community with its core operation of managing high quality education centres for slum and street children in the city. The education provided follow the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education curriculum and the language of instruction is English. A key feature of the program is called the Circle of Life.

There are four areas that complete this circle for any child - education, healthcare, nutrition and family care. Parikrma manages all these areas and works closely with each family. Thus far, Parikrma has provided vocational training, AIDS awareness programmes, de-addiction session, and women's empowerment activities. Many of the children's parents also work with Parikrma. The Parikrma model appears to be success.

According the organisation, attendance is 98 per cent, while the dropout rate is less than one percent.

The parent-teacher meetings have shown a 98 percent attendance, which shows how well the programmes have integrated the role of parents. Since its launch in 2003, Parikrma Humanity Foundation, a non-profit organisation, has grown to include three Centres for Learning, helping 480 of children in the city.

For more information visit www.parikrmafoundation.org