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Universal lesson: love and learn

Bangalore: A non-profit organization has a novel concept to develop scientific temper amongst students.

Parikrma Humanity Foundation has entered into a three-year agreement with Synopsys (India) Pvt Ltd, a software and IP firm for semiconductor design, verification and manufacturing, to sponsor a 'beyond-the-classroom' science education programme. It'll be taught at the Parikrma Centres for Learning in Bangalore.

Set up in 2003, Parikrma aims to provide quality English education to children from underprivileged backgrounds, making them on par with their urban counterparts. The 'Universe To You' programme will try to encourage learning and love of the sciences, as well as provide children with skills and cutting-edge knowledge to compete for high-value jobs in the rapidly growing technology industry. The company's technologists will participate in teaching students of Classes I to X on fields like astronomy, astrophysics and the impact of human intervention on the Earth.

Students of Classes II to V will be exposed to many areas of sciences and helped to decide on specific fields they are interested in; students of Classes II to VI will be asked to focus on areas of interest through specialized clubs.

Parikrma CEO Shukla Bose said: "Our children come from backgrounds rife with all kinds of superstitions. They have very little exposure to the world outside. 'Universe To You' will provide the basis for an enquiring mind. We will provide latest happenings in the world of science."

Collaborations with the IISc and other well known institutes are being planned to provide students with additional exposure on the subject. The impact of the programme will be measured by the overall ability of students to teach their peers.