

Chikhale School Curriculum Enhancement Consultation Funding Proposal

Having demonstrated that tribal students can succeed in the standard government curriculum, the Chikhale school leaders are becoming acutely aware that additional skills are required for their graduates to become competitive in the increasingly sophisticated job market in greater metropolitan Mumbai and the surrounding rural and hillside areas. In August 2018, the Fulbright-Nehru Specialist Program approved funding to send Dr. Randal Hayes, a curriculum specialist with Agnosia Media in Greensboro, North Carolina, to Chikhale for 40 days beginning November 12, 2018. During his time in India he will:

- a) clarify the specific employment needs of local businesses and entrance qualifications for institutions of higher learning,
- b) design supplemental tools to augment the existing curriculum and train the school faculty to implement these needs and qualifications within their current schedules and
- c) develop ways that Chikhale graduates can take a mobile science laboratory into their home villages and help the tribal communities participate in the modern world.



Since 1987, when the initial group of 25 first grade students began attending the Adivasi Ashram Shalla in Chikhale Village, the Chikhale School has been providing high quality basic education using approved Maharashtra State government curriculum. In 2010, the school was authorized to expand its offerings to include classes in the Science track as well as the Business and Arts track through the 12th grade. This year, 700

tribal students are attending classes in grades 1 through 12. Most of the students live, eat and study at the facility which is managed and supported by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) India. Several of the 12th grade graduates have gone on to colleges and trade schools, many are seeking employment in surrounding areas.

Since the initial Skype call in 2011, Emerging Ecology has been working with the Chikhale School to conduct a Global Classroom as a supplement to its standard curriculum. This aspect of the school's Science track curriculum has connected the Chikhale students to high school students in North Carolina through periodic Skype conversations. Over the duration of this program

more than 200 Chikhale students have been exposed to the larger possibilities of a global society. This has motivated them to continue their studies and given them pride in their school. At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, a group of students at Greensboro's Grimsley High School formed the Grimsley Global Classroom Club to enhance their participation in this project. Dr. Hayes'



curriculum enhancements will strengthen the Chikhale student's capacity to participate in the Skype conversations. The topics covered in the conversations will allow greater depth and significance in the discussions among the students.

To orient Dr. Hayes to the Chikhale School and surrounding communities, ICA India has asked Nelson Stover to come to India during the first two weeks of Dr. Hayes' trip. Mr. Stover has decades of experience working with ICA India's Environmental Education Center (EEC) and the Chikhale School. He will introduce Dr. Hayes to the key persons supporting the school and to the faculty and staff. Furthermore, he will work with ICA India to coordinate their continuing participation in implementing the proposals developed by Dr. Hayes.

The Fulbright grant covers Dr. Hayes' travel expenses and consulting fees. His on-site expenses are, under the terms of the grant, the responsibility of the host organization. ICA India has asked Emerging Ecology to raise these funds from the US so that all the money raised by the ICA in India might go directly to the educational expenses at the school. Furthermore, Emerging Ecology will underwrite Mr. Stover's travel and per diem costs. The total costs for the two consultants for a total of 54 days in India amounts to \$5,000 (less than \$100/person/day) as shown below:

Accommodation in Panvel	1,930.
Food in Panvel	425.
Food and accommodation at EEC	300.
Ground transportation	420.
Demonstration program materials	500.
<u>Airfare and visa</u>	<u>1,425.</u>
Total funds to supplement the Fulbright Grant	\$5,000.



Tax-deductible contributions to this project can be made on-line using the Donate to Chikhale button on the Emerging Ecology website at www.EmergingEcology.org/Donate or by sending a check to Emerging Ecology at 5911 Western Trail, Greensboro, NC 27410.