STTI

SCHOOL CLUBS

*At Student Think Tank for India, we are creating a model in schools and colleges to promote **critical thinking** and **civic engagement**. We are interested in the inquiry and understanding of different perspectives around social, economic, cultural and political issues. Student choice is at the centre of our organic learning process, and we believe that the skill of critical thinking will catalyse **empathy** and **entrepreneurialism** in students.*

www.studentthinktankforindia.com
www.facebook.com/studentthinktankforindia

2015 Annual Update

FIRST SCHOOL CLUB: DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, HYDERABAD

With the efforts of Mohnish Yerra (Vice President, STTI) we were able to set up our first school club in Delhi Public School, Hyderabad.
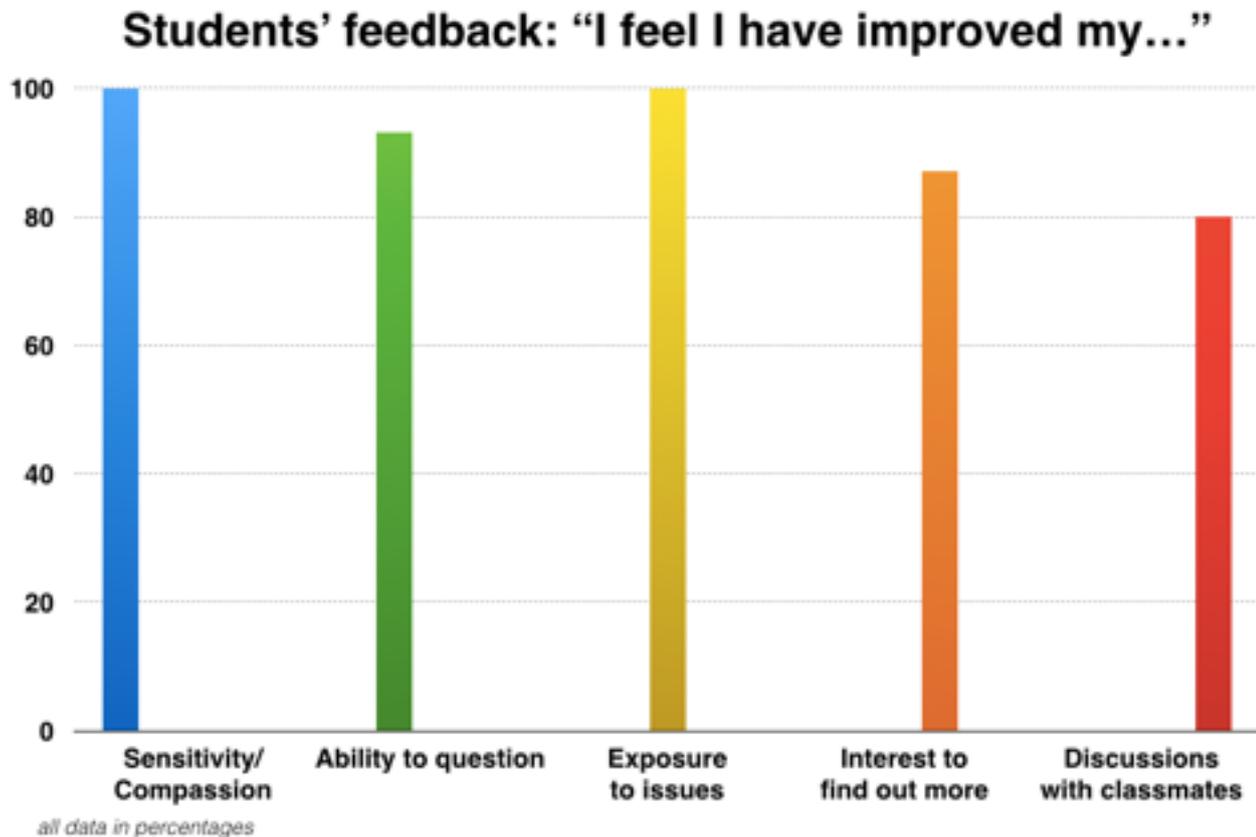

The STTI Club of DPS, Hyderabad is 90 members strong, with students from Class 9 to 12 who periodically took part in discussions with moderators, interactions with guest personalities, and various projects to showcase their learning. A core team of student leaders, have consistently gone beyond the call of responsibility to make our operations smooth. Summaries of the 10 sessions from the past year are posted on our website and the Facebook page.

At the behest of Mrs. Usha Reddy, eminent educationist and principal, Meridian School, Hyderabad, we started our second club in the Banjara Hills campus in November, and have since conducted two engaging discussions on gender and identity.

MERIDIAN SCHOOL BANJARA HILLS CHAPTER

The overall feedback from the students has been very encouraging, and they have been awarded a certificate for their participation.

Students' feedback: "I feel I have improved my…"

all data in percentages

Looking ahead in 2016, we are looking to start new clubs in Delhi, Coimbatore and Bangalore between April and June. Currently, we are working on outreach and market research for the same. By June 2016, we aim to have **eight** school clubs in operation.

MODERATORS

The role of moderators is central to STTI's school clubs, and our progress in Hyderabad has been hugely due to our fantastic moderators, Kabir David and Mukesh Manjunath.

What does a Moderator do?
• Conduct sessions, with discussions and activities around essential topics (e.g.: gender, food, education etc) or those revolving around current issues.
• Organise operations: work with the school admin or teacher to schedule and organise sessions.
• Outputs: design and help students pursue projects to further their understanding of issues discussed.
• Community building: communicate about sessions, create teams for projects, select club leaders, get feedback on what's working, and suggestions on what to change.

In 2016, we are looking to expand our team of Moderators in the above mentioned cities, and start the process of engaging with schools and student communities. We will also be streamlining our work into specific areas of content development, pedagogy training, and outreach, so that STTI becomes a platform for educators – experienced and aspiring – to contribute to.
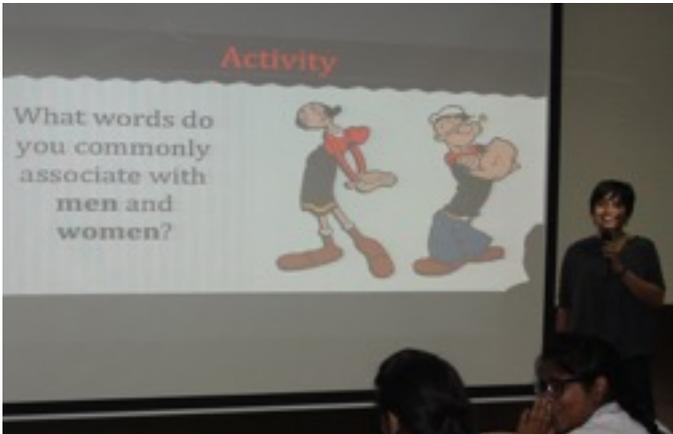*Include timeline of increasing Moderators team.*

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the sessions with Moderators, STTI clubs also organise the following activities with other organisations and individuals.

Guest interactions
Discussions with eminent personalities, and workshops with issue-specific organisations.

Workshop on gender-based discrimination
by No Country for Women

Design Thinking Workshop
with Viraat Aryabumi

Discussion on drip irrigation and food systems
with Salim David

Project-Based Learning
PBL is a "a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge." Read more about it here.

One of the projects the students took part in was the Design for Change challenge. They explored the issue of consumption, and designed a solution for it: a school-wide community to share and redistribute books, gadgets and other items.

In the coming year, we plan to partner with online expression platforms and creating other opportunities for projects so that students may have a hands-on approach to civic engagement.

Service Learning
This is an "educational approach that balances formal instruction and direction with the opportunity to serve in the community in order to provide a pragmatic, progressive learning experience." In the coming year, we are looking to partner with established NGOs (such as NRI Seva) and other institutions, and to design sessions around the issues they are addressing. This will give students the chance to experience the issues that they only discuss or read about.

RECOGNITION

Ashoka Innovators for the Public, the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs recently launched its Youth Venture programme in India, with a view to find and nurture early-stage social ventures. Student Think Tank for India was chosen as one of the 15 finalists from India.

Dr. Akanksha Bapna, Founder and CEO of Evaldesign, has come on board as a mentor for STTI. Evaldesign is a New-Delhi based research consulting firm focused on improving the impact of education programs through data-driven insights.

––––––––––––––––

As we look ahead, we want to thank the many people who pitched in with their ideas, questions, voices and resources. We look forward to new school clubs, moderators, and a new level of caring about and understanding the world around us!

STTI Core Team
31st January, 2016