

**Subject:** Mobile Lab science education program in Chittoor District, in collaboration with Agastya International Foundation

Dear Mr. Raghavan:

As you are aware, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is actively involved in spreading the scientific temper among schools in Chittoor District. In this context, I would like to record my appreciation for the work done by Agastya International Foundation in conducting rural Mobile Lab science education programs in the District since August 2002.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy, launched an expanded program on August 2004. Since then (and up to 12.8.05), five Agastya Mobile Labs have covered 1,938 primary, upper primary and secondary schools in Chittoor, Puttur, Piler and Madanapalle Divisions, benefiting 203,364 disadvantaged rural and poor urban children, including 97,100 boys and 98,953 girls and 7,311 teachers. Many children and teachers in Kuppam also have free access to the Agastya Science Center in Gudivanka.

Feedback from children and teachers on the Mobile Lab program has been overwhelmingly positive, as confirmed by the District Project Office, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which tracks and monitors program performance. Beneficiaries have mentioned that the Mobile Lab program:

- Offers rural schools access at the village doorstep to a comprehensive science lab
- Features well-trained instructors, who are effective in demonstrating experiments and involving children in the learning process
- Provides an opportunity for hands-on experience and direct interaction with the mobile lab instructor

The Agastya program is serving an important educational objective by 1) helping to disseminate science knowledge related to and beyond the school syllabus, 2) sparking curiosity and questioning and 3) fostering hands-on learning among disadvantaged children, and teachers.

Sincerely,

Shri Shamshe Singh Rawat  
Collector, Chittoor District.