

## Mobile Lab and Science Center Activities

Mobile science labs are vehicles manned by a driver and two instructors that carry experiments and travel long distances to remote rural schools to exhibit concepts and involve children and teachers in hands-on science. The instructors teach scientific concepts through simple and innovative experiments. The sessions emphasise interaction and questioning. While most experiments are simple in nature and use material that is commonly available, the lab also has complete working models of the entire solar system. Children are able to relate better to concepts explained through interactive demonstrations rather than through rote learning. They learn about astral bodies, rotation and revolution, effect of gravitation, eclipses etc.,.

Science center acts as a 'HUB' of all Science initiatives in a district. Disadvantaged children of immediate surrounding (10 km) visit the center along with their teachers to undergo various training-learning activities and to clear their doubts. A typical center will also act as a resource mobilization unit of Agastya which identifies local teaching resources, model making units, and other resources such as funds, student talents etc. While assessing the 'educational need' of the area, the center is actively involved in the dissemination of various Teaching Methods, and 'Knowledge' acquired by Agastya and its members through its Demo Sessions, Science Fairs and Teacher Training Sessions. The Center parallelly focuses on the development of 'leadership' among its beneficiaries; under-privileged children and teachers of the region. It attracts many luminaries who contribute to the cause, support and spread the message of Agastya hands-on education methodologies. The center also monitors Agastya curriculum and Teaching-Learning Methods [TLM's] and it holds following day to day activities:

- Science demo sessions
- Activity based learning
- Science Fairs / Mega Science Fairs
- Project based learning
- Summer /winter camps
- Teacher training
- Meet the Scientist Programs
- Impact study
- Monitoring and evaluation of the program of the district
- Government liaison
- Science Club coordination
- Young Instructor Leader program (Children-Teaching-Children)
- Community (Visits) teaching program

In addition, the Mobile Lab team (Mobile Lab (s) with 2 instructors + driver) deployed in the area report to the center and all their activities are monitored by the Center Head.

25 districts are allotted to Agastya International Foundation, 1 district to KGBV and 1 district to KRVP to implement Science Mobile Labs and Science Centre.

