

Agastya Foundation

Imagine learning science not from a textbook, but by building, experimenting, and discovering for yourself! That's the powerful idea behind the **Agastya International Foundation**, a non-profit founded in 1999 by Ramji Raghavan in Bangalore, India. Agastya's mission is to revolutionize education for economically disadvantaged children and teachers by promoting hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning. Their goal is to ignite curiosity, creativity, and confidence in communities with limited access to such opportunities.

Their Mission: Igniting Young Minds

Agastya's core objectives are simple yet profound:

- **Spark Curiosity & Creativity:** Moving beyond rote learning to foster genuine excitement for discovery.
- **Boost Confidence:** Empowering students and teachers with practical skills and knowledge.
- **Reach Underserved Communities:** Extending quality education to rural and semi-urban areas.
- **Train Teachers:** Equipping educators to create engaging, innovative learning environments.



As of 2020, Agastya had already impacted over 12 million children and 250,000 teachers across 19 Indian states, making it one of the largest hands-on science education programs globally.

Innovative Programs in Action

Agastya achieves its mission through a range of unique initiatives:

- **Mobile Labs & Lab-on-Bike:** These innovative labs bring hands-on science experiments directly to remote schools.
- **Young Instructor Leader (YIL) Program:** This fantastic initiative trains exceptional students to become peer educators, fostering leadership and deeper understanding.
- **Campus Creativity Lab & Innovation Hubs:** These dedicated spaces, including astronomy centers and design thinking labs, encourage practical experimentation and innovative problem-solving.

Recognition and Partnerships

Agastya's pioneering approach has earned significant accolades, including the **Google Global Impact Award (2013)** and recognition among the **Top 100 Global Innovators by The Rockefeller Foundation**. They also received the **Innovation for India Award (2016)** from the Marico Innovation Foundation and the **Andhra Pradesh State Green Award (2019)** for their environmental efforts.

Their impact is amplified through strong collaborations with government bodies, corporate partners like Infosys Foundation and Wells Fargo, and educational institutions to reaches even more students across India.