

# Faizal and Shabana makes world-class education available in government school



The UAE-based Faizal & Shabana Foundation has upgraded a government girls school at Nadakkavu in Kozhikode by spending Rs -15crore. The foundation had used cost-efficient precast construction method to construct classrooms, toilets, science labs, indoor gymnasium, atrium, dining hall, astro turf stadium and landscaping.

More than 132,000 sft has been added in the Phase-I and was completed in 95 days. In the second phase, the foundation proposes to upgrade the skill of the teaching faculty with the support of IIM Kozhikode (IIMK).

The foundation was the driving force behind PRISM (Promoting Regional Schools to International Standards through Multiple Interventions) initiative that was conceptualised by local MLA, Pradeep Kumar, to upgrade schools across Kerala, making them a model to the entire country.

With the involvement of the foundation, PRISM aims at not only improving the physical infrastructure and environment of the school but also increasing the quality of education and enhancement of creativity and innovation, teaching and leadership skills.

The minister said under the PRISM project, by upgrading facilities at the school to world standards, it would attract more students to government schools.

Faizal Kottikollon, chairman of the foundation, said IIMK had done a gap analysis on the government schools in Kerala and had identified a number of challenges faced by these schools, including lack of infrastructure and low morale among teachers and students. Lack of basic facilities like toilets in girls schools also contributed to the decline in attendance and academic output.

The project proposal for PRISM was developed with the help of the Social Service Group (SSG) of IIM Kozhikode. PRISM was conceived to address the problems faced by government schools through multiple interventions.

## **A R Rahman offers assistance**

Academy and Grammy award winning composer, music producer and singer A R Rahman has expressed willingness to associate with the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School for Girls, Nadakkavu, to give talented students a first-hand opportunity to get trained at his K M Music Conservatory in Chennai.

Interacting with the students on Monday, Rahman said he would also see if the school can be associated with the Sunshine Orchestra, an initiative of the A R Rahman foundation that aims to nurture leadership and empower less privileged children through music.

"Today I have with me my sister Fathima Rafiq, who is the director of K M Music Conservatory and mentor of Sunshine Orchestra, and my chief conductor Srinivasa Murthy to explore ways in which I can play a role in the development of the school," he said. He addressed the students in the presence of Faizal Kottikollon, chairman of Faizal & Shabana Foundation, vice-chairperson Shabana Faizal and A Pradeep Kumar, MLA.

Rahman appreciated the efforts of the foundation in upgrading the school campus. He said the dedication shown by the duo in making the institution the first government school to be recognized as the top 10 schools in India in five years' time, was extremely commendable.