



**While crumbling infrastructure is the bane of many government schools, the TERI R & D summit showed how a private enterprise is spearheading change by improving facilities. By M.A. Siraj**

India has 12 lakh government schools. 58 per cent children in India leave school before they complete 10 years of education. Reason: crumbling infrastructure, demotivating ambience and insipid teaching. Only a holistic turnaround can make these schools produce citizens capable of contributing to the nation's development and fast forward the nation's progress, says Faizal E. Kottikollon, Chairman, KEF Holdings. The company has supplied the precast panels for 349 Indira Canteens in Karnataka.

The Faizal and Shabana Foundation which Faizal set up in 2008 with the objective of 'Giving to Create' is working with the Kerala government to improve infrastructure and academic standards in 1,000 government schools in the State.

Speaking at the 2018 Sustainable Buildings R&D Summit organised by TERI on March 8 in Bengaluru, he said the improvement in infrastructure at the Govt. Vocational Girls High School in Nadakkavu in Kozhikode led to the transformation of the entire neighbourhood.

The Foundation invested Rs. 16 crore to reconstruct a new campus at the old site measuring 1.5 lakh sq. ft adding astro-turf playground, multimedia lab, dining hall, well-stocked library, modern kitchen and washrooms.

The work was taken up as part of the PRISM (Promoting Regional School to International Standards through Multiple Interventions).