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Letter from a School in India

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Following is a letter received from a school in India.

Z. P. High School
Upalapadu
(Via) Pedakakani
Guntur District
India
March 4, 1970

Dr. Robert E. Yager
Director
Science Education Center
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear respected Director Dr. Robert E. Yager:

You will be extremely busy and so I request you to excuse me for making inroads on your precious time.

There are 160 students in my school. We are teaching outmoded and obsolete sciences. Our students are not taught science from a historical point of view. Our text books are ancient. For the last 40 years there has been only one science text book. The state monopolised text book publication which is most obnoxious. Our library is ill-equipped. Our students are not exposed to practicals. We do not teach students on a historical basis. We have no reference books. I am sorry to say, that we Indian teachers are in darkness. If the teacher knows something he can impart his knowledge to students. The Indian teacher (I am sorry to generalise) never reads an extra book. To add to this we have no science journals except for two or three. The industries will not publish educational materials. Neither the teachers nor the students are taken to companies to see the process of manufacture, like your country. Here in India a top university student is not taken to see atomic reactors. He learns atomic physics from text books. We can not boast of acceleration. We are not able to introduce the latest syllabi in our schools. There are no get togethers among teachers. This is our sorry state of affairs. In the USA atomic model reactors are being shown to high school students. You have modern sophisticated apparatus.

Now I humbly request your help for my school. I want to improve the quality of science teaching in my school. I want to improve the knowledge of my teachers and myself. So I request you to donate free of cost—all the educational materials produced by your projects. I want teachers editions. I also request you to donate some modern text books on science and maths and journals. We are so poor that we cannot buy anything either in India or in USA. I am poor. My pay is \$46 per month in your currency. I trust you will sympathetically consider my request and give us a chance to learn from you, the most advanced country in the world.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully
M. Kattaiah
Head Master