



shishu mandir
Where liberation is awakening!



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



*The President of the Federal Republic of Germany
bestows on*

Mrs. Hella Mundhra

The Cross of Merit with Ribbon of the Order of Merit

*of the Federal Republic of Germany
in recognition of her outstanding services*

on behalf of the People and State. Berlin, November 18, 2022

NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Another year has gone by, and I am especially glad to be able to resume my trips to India and spend time at Shishu Mandir. It continues to be busy on each visit, but it remains something I dearly look forward to. Our work continues at a steady pace, and I can see the hard work and equally the commitment to the Shishu Mandir spirit – to provide our children with an atmosphere of loving support so that they can come out of their shells and become strong and confident individuals.

As with every year, this year also brought us opportunities to impact the lives of children and their families so that they can aspire to a life of dignity. All our projects have been thought about to help break the cycle of poverty so that every new generation has the education and the skills to be employed gainfully. However, our education is not merely about creating educated adults who will be economically in a better situation than their parents. We want our children to grow into responsible adults, who are an asset to society and who can contribute positively to their communities.

Many of the problems we see in the families of our children have their roots in alcoholism affecting one or both parents. Nearly 90% of the parents of our schoolchildren are alcoholics. So, I am pleased that this year we have begun to work towards deaddiction in collaboration with Alcoholics Anonymous. This was very much needed.

I am also happy to see the success of the e-auto programme, in how it has empowered women, who could be motivated to become drivers and who are now a source of inspiration for more women to learn to drive. In a short time, these women are able to build confidence and become self-reliant, which is simply fantastic.

Another development I am especially happy about is the introduction of the NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) department, which is a real blessing for those students, who find the SSLC board challenging. The NIOS system allows them to earn a school leaving certificate at a pace that is better suited for them, ensuring that students complete their education. This, along with our skills training at the Community College, will better prepare them for employment.

All this would not be possible without the support of our committed team, and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the staff of Shishu Mandir for their work in the year so far, and in the years to come.

**July 2023
Bangalore**

Hella Mundhra





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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

As we prepare our annual report for 2022-23, we'd like to pause and remember the events that made the year memorable. The highlight was the news of our Founder Hella Mundhra, called "Mama" being recognised and bestowed the Cross of Merit with Ribbon of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. It's an incredibly proud moment for us and an acknowledgment of nearly five decades of work she has done in Bangalore city and continues to do via Shishu Mandir.

I would like to highlight our community service this year. In recent times, we have striven to uplift the families of our children and the community, to include them via one or more of our projects, so that no one feels excluded. I am happy to report that Shishu Mandir today is an important part of the community, and a reliable support system to the entire neighbourhood.

We have also begun to take our teachings to others. One area has been in elevating the quality of education in the schools in the vicinity, attended by siblings and neighbours of our school children. We have taken up teacher training as well as supporting children with evening homework, summer camps, competitions so that they too experience the kind of schooling we'd like for all the children.

I am also proud of how Shishu Mandir students and alumni discharge their social and civic responsibilities. Whether in tree planting or blood donation camps or giving tuition for children, they are actively paying it forward.



As we conclude yet another year, I place on record my thanks to the members of the Shishu Mandir Society for their support throughout the year. I am also grateful to our donors, for the local administration, volunteers, adoptive parents and families who have walked the year with us. And most of all, I thank our staff who remain committed to our vision for an empowered and uplifted community.

**July 2023
Bangalore**

Vandana Kumar
President

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



We close one more year, thankfully uneventful after the stressful times of the pandemic. Things have returned to some amount of normalcy. All our programmes have continued to run smoothly.

Where once earlier our focus was on the Children's Home and School, along with Adoption, we have in recent years extended our work to uplift the larger community and include them via one of our support programmes.

I am immensely happy to see that several of our alumni understand social service and are taking it up. They return to join us as teachers. Many of our college students give time to tutor children going to nearby government schools. Our Community College youth actively volunteer for our community projects. This is very important to keep the spirit of Shishu Mandir alive.

One of the most successful interventions of the year is our e-Auto programme. Seventeen electric autos have been donated to women and a transgender who have earned their driving license from our Driving School. It has been a very successful project with the impact visible almost immediately.

We expect this project to continue in the coming year and hope to see more women and transgenders in this programme.

Another development was that we took over the running of the Mangala Children's Home which was earlier supported by us but managed by the Lion Ladies' Club which remains a donor.

We have also begun to run interventions to raise the quality of teaching and learning in the schools in our neighbourhood. We ran training programmes and workshops for teachers and continue to run an evening study programme for students.

I'd also like to take a moment to express my gratitude and thanks to the German Shishu Mandir Society for completing 25 years of working tirelessly to raise funds for our programmes and guide us in all our activities. It was a memorable occasion for Vimala and me to be a part of these celebrations. The trip was made even more special, as we were able to witness the ceremony, where Hella was bestowed the Cross of Merit with Ribbon of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is a recognition for a lifetime of work, which continues to this day, for which I am always thankful.

July 2023
Bangalore

Anand C.
Director



2022-23

AT A GLANCE

OUR REACH THIS YEAR: 2,518 individuals and 4,000 families

Care and Protection	60
Adoption	34
Women in Crisis	8
Home study reports for pre-adoptive parents	321
Adoptions facilitated (for parents adopting from other agencies)	83
Shishu Mandir Education Centre	300
Community support (medical and financial, life skills for mothers, funding other children's education)	500

Educational Sponsorship	220
Child Care Centre (Kindergarten)	90
Pregnant Women and Mothers	50
Evening coaching for children in neighbouring Government Schools	100
Higher Education (Pre-university and above)	101
Shishu Mandir Community College	419
Shishu Mandir Driving School	232
Families benefiting from 4 Water ATMs	4000

SHISHU MANDIR CHILDREN'S HOME

The Shishu Mandir Children's Home offers care and protection to children who don't have a secure home to live in. This may be due to the loss of one or both parents or because the family situation is not conducive to raising a child. Our Children's Home is for girls between the ages of 6-18 years. Admission to the Home is approved by the government Child Welfare Committee. We have 3 units, each with 8 children and 1 housemother.

This year, we also took over the running and management of the Mangala Children's Home which was started by the Lion's Club (Ladies Wing) 10 years ago, for girl children. The Lion's Club will continue to partially support the running of this Home.

Our Home provides

- Education, food, clothing, shelter
- Transport to school and back
- Medical interventions
- Lessons in dance, music, and theatre
- Access to a library, television, outdoor and indoor games
- Monthly outings
- Access to a counsellor
- Pocket money (Rs 25 for children below 10 and Rs 50 for children between 10-15)



This year we had

Full-time staff	20
Part-time / Visiting Staff (Paediatrician, Nurse, Counsellor, Teachers for dance and music)	7
Children for care and protection (including babies for adoption)	36
Children living in the Shishu Home	24
New children admitted to the Home	2
Children placed in other hostels but supported by Shishu	10
Children who have left the Shishu Home, as they have completed 18 years	5



New admissions

Swapna S is a Class 7 student at SMEC. She is the fourth child of Mr. Manjunath and Mrs. Manjamma. Her oldest brother completed 10th standard, but discontinued his studies. Two other siblings go to a government school in the neighbourhood. Manjamma is the sole breadwinner and works in housekeeping. Unable to make ends meet, she sought our help with Swapna. The child was admitted to our school. The Home Admission Committee approved her case to join the Shishu Home. She arrived at the Home on 24th July 2022.

Salina Tamang is from Sikkim and lived with her mother and sister in Sahakar Nagar. Her mother worked as a housemaid and her sister is a nurse assistant at HOSMAT Hospital. Last year in July, the girls lost their mother after she succumbed to a massive heart attack. Salina's sister decided to move to a hostel. Salina's local guardian, Mrs Suja Sukumaran of Enfold, approached us with her story. We admitted Salina to our Home and consequently also to our school.

Volunteers at the Home

We'd like to thank



Manuele Papen, 23 years old, from Germany, spent six weeks with us. He stayed at the Home and trained our school students in table tennis.



Freya Magdalena Martens, 19 years old, from Germany, who spent two months at the Home and helped look after the babies and children.

Visitors to the Home



Mr. Jaganath Patil, Director of CARA, visited Shishu Home. This is the first time a CARA Director has visited us.



Ms. Cindy Barker, long standing supporter, visited us from the USA and spent some time in the babies' unit, met the Home children and a few alumni.

2022-23 Highlight: Solar Power Plant

We are proud to announce that the entire Shishu Home is now powered with solar energy, funded by Northern Trust. The solar power plant has the capacity to produce 15 KW thanks to 27 Momo Perk solar panels installed on the terrace. This serves the entire campus consisting of two buildings sitting on 36,000 sq ft of land. With the exception of the borewell motors, all electrical and electronic equipment is powered via solar panels.



From L to R: Ms. Vandana Kumar, Wg. Cdr. Sabharwal, Mr. Dharmendra Chohan - Department Head (NOS), Dr. Hella Mundhra, Ms. Veda Persad - Country Executive for India (CEO) with other guests at the inauguration of the solar panels.

Outings this year



Putting a performance at APSA, a Home for children rescued as labourers or have run away



Rangoli Garden, a village-themed park



Enjoying the thrills at Wonderla



At Nakshatra Arts 2022-23



Butterfly Park, Bannerghatta National Park



Off to enjoy the sand and sea in Mangalore!



Past Home Students' Meeting

Celebrating Children's Day

We hosted the Child Care Institutions' get-together for Children's Day (November 14). It was attended by 209 children and staff of 17 Children's Homes, including Shishu Children's Home and the Mangala Home that we support. Each Home put up one performance. The programme was also attended by members of the District Child Protection Unit and the Child Welfare Committee. The Chief Guest was Mr. Chandrakanth IPS, Director of Integrated Child Protection Scheme.



Special Mention: Shishu Alumnus!

The Children's First Journal on Children's Lives and Issues was published by the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR). This edition's theme was 'Disrupted Childhood & Disrupted Education' during Covid 19. There were four categories - Research, Criticism and Commentary, Voices from the Field, and Best Practices. Pavithra M submitted a paper on her experience in tutoring children as well as her own learning during the pandemic. Her paper was selected for publication and Pavithra was invited to the release of the publication in New Delhi.



A 3-day trip to Mangalore, where children enjoyed water sports and visited places of interest such as the famous St. Mary's church in Malpe.

ADOPTION

Shishu Mandir is a licensed and registered agency to facilitate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

This year we supported

Babies for adoption from last year	9
Babies who came for adoption this year (Surrendered for adoption - 22, Abandoned - 3)	25
Girl to boy ratio	22:12
Babies with special needs	5
Adoptions done (16 in-country and 3 inter-country)	19
Children restored to their parents	1
Children in the Home awaiting adoption	14
Assisting parents with online registration process	14 couples
Pre-adoptive counselling done (including 23 single parents)	331 registrations
Home Study Report	321
Home Study revalidation	104
Post Adoption Follow-up	386
Parents registered for second adoption	7
Adoptions facilitated by Shishu Mandir (for parents adopting from other agencies)	83
Women in crisis supported	8
Night shelter provided	22 minor girls / women

Supporting Adoption and Adoptive Parents

We organised an **Adoption Awareness programme** along with the DCPO for police departments, hospitals and childcare institutions. This was done to sensitise these departments to the steps involved when a child has been abandoned. Mrs Sindhu Nayak from the Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare explained the process of adoption, highlighting the responsibilities of each department. Participants were also made aware of the Juvenile Justice Act and Child Rights.



Mrs Sindhu Nayak, Chief Guest, with the KR Puram Inspector of Police and the DCPO, Mrs Geethalakshmi

We also hosted a gathering of **adoptive and pre-adoptive parents**, which was attended by 160 adults and 14 children. This was an all-day event. All the participants were welcomed by Mrs. Geethalakshmi, DCPO. From Shishu Mandir Wg. Cdr. D.P. Sabharwal spoke about the programme. Mrs Hella Mundhra, our Founder, shared several stories of adoption. Dr. Aloma Lobo and Mrs. Karuna Kochar also shared their adoption journeys. Many pre-adoptive parents had several questions, which were addressed. Shishu children put up a flute performance. The programme ended with lunch.



At the gathering for adoptive and pre-adoptive parents

Helping our Twins find a Home

Tanya & Tanisha, twin babies, were surrendered by a 53-year-old woman, who was HIV infected and had delivered them at the Vani Vilas Hospital. Both babies had a low birth weight (1,300g and 1,900g). They were adopted by an NRI couple from Kolkata who are settled in Abu Dhabi. The adoption process took three months and in March 2023, Tanya and Tanisha went to their new home with their parents. We are happy to report that on the day they left our Home, they weighed a healthy 6,625g and 8,950g.

Reuniting little Bhavani with her Mother

Shantha P, a 23-year-old woman lost her 3-year old daughter in 2022. She was married to Basayya, but as theirs was a love marriage, their families had broken all contact with them. The couple lived in Gulbarga, but decided to move to Bangalore hoping to find more opportunities here. On 1st November 2022, they arrived at Kasthuri Nagar in Bangalore. Basayya was an alcoholic and would fight frequently with Shantha. On the day they arrived in Bangalore, he fought with his wife, and in a fit of anger, left the house with the child. Shantha waited for him to return and when he did not, tried calling him. His mobile was switched off. She decided against a police complaint, as their child was with him. She returned to their village hoping he had returned there. After several months of searching for her husband and child, she came back to Bangalore, in a final attempt to trace them.



Meanwhile, on 1st November, 2022, the Ramamurthy Nagar Police had found a girl child on the road. She was around 3 years old and seemed to be looking for her parents. She was able to say that her name was Bhavani. The police informed the CWC and Shishu Mandir and we took her into the Home. She was inconsolable and for a few days, refused

to eat or drink anything. And although she slowly began to settle in, smiling a little, and playing with the other children, it was clear that she was missing her parents dearly. After a few weeks, we placed her in our pre-school.

Bhavani loved going to school and was always ready on time and enthusiastic. We made all efforts to find her parents, advertising in three newspapers. Since she only spoke Telugu, we contacted the Andhra Pradesh Police for missing children's cases. The DCPU also made lot of efforts to coordinate with nearby police stations to locate her parents, including the Aadhar Centre. Although the child was happy and well-adjusted with us, we felt this was a case of a missing child and were eager to reunite her with her parents.

On May 12th, we got a call from the Ramamurthy Nagar Police that a woman was reporting a missing child and it seemed to match Bhavani. It turned out to be Shantha, who had returned to Bangalore. Someone had informed her that a girl child had been rescued by the Ramamurthy Nagar police six months earlier. With a lot of hope, she approached the police who were able to identify and confirm that she was Bhavani's mother, when she produced her Aadhar Card, Bhavani's birth certificate, and their photos.

Shantha and Bhavani's reunion was a special moment, and there was not a single person who didn't shed tears at their meeting. We were able to release Bhavani within a day, with permission from the CWC. Her husband is still absconding.

SHISHU MANDIR EDUCATION CENTRE

Shishu Mandir offers free English-medium education, from kindergarten until 10th standard. Children are admitted based on the criteria that they come from the poorest families and that they do not face any severe developmental challenge. Admission is based on an assessment of the children and home visits by the Shishu Mandir team of two social workers and the President of the Shishu Mandir Society.

The school provides

- Uniforms, shoes, track suits, and school bags
- Breakfast, lunch and evening snacks
- All educational materials
- Occupational therapy for slow learners and children with physical deficiencies
- Medical treatment
- Health, dental, eye and hearing check up with necessary follow up and interventions
- Access to a counsellor
- Birthday and Christmas presents
- Lessons in swimming, sports, unicycling, table tennis, guitar, flute and keyboard

This year, we had at school

- Staff: 64 (28 teaching staff and 36 non-teaching staff)
- Students: 300, most children within 3km of the school
- Applications for admission: 200
- Shortlisted students:
 - First round (Aptitude test): 70
 - Second round: 33
 - Admission: 25 students (17 girls and 8 boys)

STEM Lab

Our STEM Lab is equipped to conduct 200 different kinds of experiments. We have 5 kits for each of these experiments and children work in groups of five. We have the support of our corporate partners to assist with a host of STEM programmes. From Centrado Mr Maharaja comes from Chennai for four days every month and gives classes in the STEM lab for children in classes 5-9. Each session is for 40 minutes. This year, the students were given an Arduino board and step-by-step instructions on designing a project for traffic lights. All our EVS and Science teachers also received training in STEM lab sessions. Some of the sessions we have had this year are Basics of Robotics for classes 6 and 7, Motion Sensor Theory and Rain Theory for classes 8 and 9. Volunteers from Boeing worked with 30 children selected from classes 6-9.

English Lab

We stress heavily on equipping our students with English fluency. We have a dedicated English Lab where students of classes 3 to 9 spend two sessions per week – one for ILT (instructor-led training) and another for CBT (computer-based training). Our workbooks have been sponsored by KPMG. All our English teachers also receive guidance from Mrs Hella Mundhra on proper pronunciation and intonation. Every week, she also prepares the students to read out the highlights of the previous week's news.

Connecting across the World

Our Class 7 students have been corresponding with children in Marien School, Germany. This year, they had a virtual meeting where children on both sides shared how birthdays are celebrated. They sang songs and chatted individually with their friends.





Achievements

We had 4 Distinctions, 18 First Classes and 2 Second Classes this year in the **SSLC exam**. In sports, three of our students, Taslima, Gangothri and Darshini reached the **Taluk level in football** with Gangothri reaching the state level. In the inter-school Pratibha Karanji tournament, 29 students participated at the Taluk Level. Rupashree from Class 8 won in **stand-up comedy**, Amulya of Class 6 won in the **Pick-and-Speak** category and Kokila of Class 10 secured the 4th place in **long jump**. Kokila from Class 10 and Puneeth from 1st PUC represented India at the **20th Unicon** in Grenoble, France, joining 1,500 unicyclists from all over the world. Diksha was one of 12 students selected for an **astronomy project** at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

Corporate Support

This year too, we have had the support of our corporate partners.

KPMG runs the Aspire programme for girls in classes 9 and 10, selected based on their academic scores in classes 7 and 8. Each Aspire student is paired with a mentor with whom they meet at least twice a year in person, sometimes over coffee or lunch. Additionally, they receive career counselling, life skills counselling, grooming and self-care sessions. This year, our 8th batch of Aspire girls had a career orientation session about different professions and the educational path for each. They also attended a session on Time Management. Batch 9 girls attended sessions on grooming, personal hygiene, dining etiquette, pronunciation and accent neutralisation. They also had a 10-day theatre session. KPMG volunteers read with students of classes 6 and 7 every Thursday, focusing on language, vocabulary and pronunciation. On Saturdays, they run a Nature Club. Volunteers also spent special days like World Water Day, National Science Day, National Safety Day, World Ocean Day, Women's Day and festivals such as Diwali and Independence Day with us.

Boeing has become a close partner of Shishu Mandir, and we were honoured by the visit of Mr Turbjörn Siogren, Mr. Salil Gupte and Mr. Surendra Ahuja, Managing Director, Boeing Defense India. Mr. Turbjörn remembered his last visit and expressed an emotional attachment to Shishu Mandir. Other visitors from Boeing were Mr. Sydney Blocher, Vice President, Programme Management, Boeing Global Service, Mr. Mukesh Sharma, Senior Manager, Mr. Narendra Gupta, Ms. Praveena Yagnabhat, Chief of Staff, Boeing India, and her friend Arpitha. The STEM Lab is supported by Boeing. Our children presented various models to the visitors.

Boeing staff also serve as mentors to our children with the Hybrid Mentorship Programme for classes 9, 10 and students of 1st Pre-University. 46 volunteers mentor 54 students on academics, career guidance, and soft skills. Students stay in touch with their mentors on a weekly or as-needed basis.

On Saturdays and Sundays, class 10 students received tutoring in Maths and Science from Boeing volunteers. The volunteers brought videos on these topics, took classes and hosted a quiz after every lesson. Three volunteers trained our high school children on projects like Drone, Tinker CAD and Robotics.

Once a month we connect with Boeing volunteers to plan STEM sessions based on the Maths and Science topics chosen by our teachers. This offers a greater synchronisation in what is being taught to the students in the class and by the volunteers.

One of our favourite sessions is the Why Engineering? series organised every month for the students of classes 6 to 10. At each session, there are two panelists from Boeing's offices across the world, who share their life journey and their choice of engineering as a career path. Boeing also hosted Engineering Week at Shishu Mandir and brought various models to demonstrate to the students. They taught children about the forces that act on airplanes, helicopters and drones after which they made a paper aircraft that they flew from our first and second-floor corridors.

Volunteers from **Accenture** took 10 sessions on Python for 15 students from Class 8. Class 5 students also had sessions in Science and Maths.

Intuit, a longstanding friend of Shishu Mandir, supported our past students with 40 refurbished laptops.

Northern Trust volunteers spent two weekends with us, interacting with children of all classes and organising fun activities with them.

Volunteers from **Herbalife** visited us and gifted children with bags, T-shirts and water bottles.

Volunteers from **Brainly**, a knowledge-sharing community, worked with our students in classes 6-8 on Science and Math activities.



We received donations for 3 buses – a 20-seater and a 40-seater bus from Indic EMS Electronic Pvt. Ltd. and a 42-seater bus from Boeing.

Staying Relevant

Our teachers go through several workshops throughout the year to build skills and stay relevant. Our teacher training programme is a blend of pedagogy, life skills and theatre. With pedagogy, we focus on learning styles, brain-based principles, integrating multiple intelligences in teaching, active teaching strategies, lesson planning, and effective assessment of learning. Life skills addresses communication, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. Circle time sessions help develop listening, speaking, looking, thinking & concentration. This year, we also conducted a workshop for 26 teachers from 9 schools in the vicinity as part of our outreach programme. Additionally, we had sessions on Counselling and Occupational Therapy with Ms Sindhu and Ms Kim Bornstein. Four of our teachers are undergoing training to handle learning disabilities in children. Katha Initiative trained three teachers in using storytelling techniques in the classroom.

HIGHER EDUCATION

We support students for continued education, through Pre-university, Bachelors and Masters degrees. Support is offered as fees, expenses towards education and hostel, if required.

This year we supported

1st Pre-University	22
2nd Pre-University	24
1st year Bachelor Degree	18
2nd year Bachelor Degree	20
3rd year Bachelor Degree	12
4th year Bachelor in Engineering	2
Master's Degree	3



Shiva, a student at St Joseph's Indian Composite PU College, is seen here with prizes won in athletics, basketball and volleyball.

Results of Pre-University Students

Distinction	8
First Class	11
Failed	1

Results of College Students

Graduated with a Bachelor in Science	3
Graduated with a Bachelor in Commerce	8
Graduated with a Bachelor in Arts	1
Did not complete	1
Graduated with a Masters's Degree	2
Graduated with a Bachelor in Physical Education	2

SHISHU MANDIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Shishu Mandir Community College offers youth several opportunities to learn trades in which they can be employed. Our programmes run between 4-6 months during which students are also equipped with life skills and spoken English training.

This year we had

- Staff: 32
- Number of students reached: 651
- Technical Skills: 419
- Driving School: 232
- Youth placed in jobs: 356
- Average salary earned by our students: Rs 13,744 per month
- E-Autos provided: 12

Our Programmes

Programme	Duration
Graphic Design	4 months
Finance and Accounting	6 months
Two-wheeler mechanism	6 months
Electrical & Renewable Solar Energy Technician	6 months
Fitter and Machine Shop with CNC	6 months
Driving School	25 hours
Summer courses in Automobile and Electrical for high school students	2 hours/day 25 days

Students trained

Two-wheeler Mechanism	66
Electrical and Renewable Solar Energy Technician	63
Fitter and Machine Shop	66
CNC Turning	30
Graphic Designing	104
Office Administration with Tally	90
Driving School	232
Total No. of Students trained	651

In addition to training in the chosen skill, we also support our students with

- English Communication
- Life Skills (Workplace Readiness)
- Theatre
- Basic Computers

The Community College provides the following facilities to all students:

- Mid-morning refreshment and lunch
- Travel allowance
- Uniform
- Indoor and outdoor games
- Library access
- School certificate completion via NIOS
- Industrial visits and placement
- Workshops on life skills, hygiene, investment banking, theatre, road safety awareness, and meditation/ yoga.



Infrastructure

This year, we upgraded some of our spaces and machines. The CNC Room got epoxy painting on the floor as part of the Schneider safety standard. Three working benches were replaced in the Electrical room with an automated mimic panel. (The Solar Room benches were replaced with an advanced system with 1.5Kw, 3Kw, 4Kw and water pump replaced with a new and advanced renewable solar system). A SMART TV was installed in the Digital Classroom. The Graphic Design Lab got 3 Macs and received a donation of 19 systems with i5 configurations. The Tally Lab got 15 new desktops with i3 configuration by Tech Mahindra Foundation. The Dr. Hella Mundhra Jubilee Hall has been upgraded with better soundproofing and new light and sound systems.



Teacher Training

This year, we had training sessions and workshops on financial literacy (organised for the Skill Development Centres across India and led by Ms Pujyasri Jetty, a certified investment advisor). Our partner Tech Mahindra Foundation held sessions on mental health, (following the release of their mental health curriculum), Project Management System, activity-based training and workplace pedagogy. Mr Pradeep, our teacher trainer, conducted a session on active teaching strategies.

Awards



With awards from the **Tech Mahindra Foundation**

From L to R Ms Sagaya Mary M (Long Service Award, 5 years), Mr Narasanna S (Long Service Award, 5 years), Mr Ericks (TMF SMART Exemplar Award, Runner-up for Best Centre Manager and Long Service Award, 7 years), Mr. Sai Ram (Best Facilitator and Long Service Award, 5 years), Mr. Thomas (Best Placement Officer and Long Service Award, 5 years). Mr. Gautham (runner-up award for Best Mobiliser and Long Service Award - 5 years), Mr. Dhinakaran (Long Service Award, 7 years) and Mr. Jayaprakash (Long Service Award, 7 years)



Theatre sessions are an integral part of our youth education.



Mr. Pradeep at a workshop with our students

Special Mention: Community Support

The SMCC students are actively engaged in social welfare programmes, as part of our attempts to build greater community responsibility. They have always risen to the task. This year, staff and students of SMCC volunteered to assist with the Adoption Awareness Programme, Prathibha Karanji and the Basketball tournament. They helped organise a children's fest for the siblings of our school children. Mr Narasanna delivered a guest lecture to 150 students from classes 8 and 9 at the KR Puram Government School. He spoke about automobiles, different types of engines and their functions. As a follow-up to the lecture, 40 students (both boys and girls) were invited for a tour of our automobile department and also had a practical session. They were quite thrilled and excited at the end of the session. If they remain interested, this course is open for them after their school exams. Mr. Jaya Prakash organised a special Sunday lunch for 75 children of the Bhattarahalli Government School, which was sponsored by Hands 4 Society. He also arranged biryani packets for 150 children on the occasion of Mother Mary's feast.



Our students supported various fundraising efforts. Every day for a week two trainers along with two electrical trainees took turns to be present in Schneider Electrical Company with a standee that read: "This festive season, brighten a family's life. Donate Rs 2,599/- and gift a solar light". Our mobilisation team identified hutments to donate solar lights. Mr. Simon John from our Community College spent a week offering life skills sessions to 120 students of the Rahim Project. Mr. Gautham joined our social workers on a water ATM project to Raichur.

An online campaign by WBS Training Centre saw 100 non-profit organisations of their choice participate. The amount on offer was 10,000 Euros to be awarded to three organisations with the highest votes. SMCC staff and students canvassed the entire neighbourhood for votes. We reached the second place, becoming eligible for 10,000 Euros.

Visitors

Visitors to our Community College included Mr Aratrika Mallik and Ms Divya from Tech Mahindra Foundation, Chennai, Ms Mercy Thomas, Ms Chhavi Bhardwaj and Mr Nirmal Jyothi, Tech Mahindra Foundation, Mr Rahim Gröss from Germany, Ms Noera Oberlander from Hübner and Kennedy Foundation, Germany and Knodel Foundation, Germany, a team from Schneider Electric Company, France including its CEO, Mr. Peter Herweck. The Principal and Students of SEA - ITI College visited us following which 20 students from their College received additional training in Electrical and CNC for 3 months.



Paying it forward

The Shishu Mandir Tech Mahindra Foundation SMART Club, which is our alumni club, turned one and celebrations were held at Shishu Mandir. We have four zones, Hella Nagar, Hoskote, Medahalli and Ulsoor. The TMF personnel came from Anandpura for the event. During the year, the Club distributed school bags to 120 children who go to government schools, organised two blood donation camps at our premises, collected 306 units of blood, and distributed 250 solar lights to migrant workers and needy families.



A delegation from Tech Mahindra Foundation, our main supporter for the Community College, at the occasion of the TMF SMART Club anniversary. Seen in the photo are Chief Guest Mr. Chetan Kapoor - CEO of Tech Mahindra Foundation, Mr. Jagan - Location Manager, TMF Bangalore & Chennai, Ms. Naima Urooj and Mr. Sijju Joseph - Associate Managers, Tech Mahindra Foundation and Mr. Anand - Director, Shishu Mandir.

E-Auto Project

Our E-Auto project has been gaining steam! In April 2022, 5 E-Autos were received from Atos Global IT Solutions in collaboration with Rotary. A further 2 E-Autos came in January 2023 from Brainly, followed by another 5 autos from Atos Global IT Solutions in collaboration with Rotary. The autos have been given to eligible women and transgenders. The average monthly earning is Rs. 25,000, exclusive of expenses like charging and maintenance.



Five of our auto drivers accompanied by Mr. Amar (Driver) and Mr. Gautham (Shishu Mandir Driving School) participated in E 20 – Green Mobility Rally presided by Prime Minister Modi, who flagged off the rally. This was a pre-launch of E 20 vehicles powered by ethanol (80% petrol + 20% extract from sugarcane molasses), electricity and hydrogen. When interviewed by different TV channels, our lady auto drivers were quite vocal in expressing their gratitude to Shishu Mandir and Rotary Club for empowering them. They proudly mentioned that their daily income was little more than Rs 1,000 per day. The five ladies have also started an association - duly registered - to cater to any auto driver in need of assistance owing to some emergencies. Our drivers were guests of honour in a meeting organised by Karnataka Rakshna Vedike at K R Inn on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi. Mr. Ravi, a resident of T C Palya and a member of the Vedike, recommended our five lady drivers, Ms. Mahalakshmi, Ms. Preethi, Ms. Sakunthala, Ms. Helen and Ms. Selvi for recognition and appreciation. They were felicitated with a shawl at the event attended by Mr. Narayana, Founder and Ms. Lalitha, State President of Karnataka Raksha Vedike along with the MLA Basavaraj.



SHISHU MANDIR CHILD CARE CENTRE

The Child Care Centre supports children between 3 and 6 years, offering Pre-KG, Lower KG and Upper KG levels of learning.

This year we supported

New admissions: 11

Children who completed their pre-school with us: 21

Strength of Child Care Centre: 90

The Child Care Centre also supports one women's **Self Help Group**. They meet every Thursday and this year, the focus was to help them become self-reliant. One of our members opened a boutique, and two learned to drive and are waiting to be allotted an e-auto. In fact, our group of 6 women auto drivers are now keen to start a group exclusively for themselves so that they can save money and address concerns specific to them.

For the second year, we ran the **Pregnant Women and Young Mothers' Care** programme. Every month, 25-30 women attend the programme for workshops and sessions by a gynecologist related to parenting. As they are not working, we support them with provisions worth Rs 1,200.

The Child Care Centre also hosts an **Evening Coaching Class** for children from government and private schools in the neighbourhood. 75 children attend every evening with some of our alumni and staff supporting them with homework help.



COMMUNITY WELFARE

Shishu Mandir works to serve the entire community of which we are a part, so that we uplift families collectively. Our work extends to several social welfare projects. Some of our projects this year were:

Low Paid Private School Support

This year, we launched the Shishu Mandir Teachers' Training Programme. This is a 6-day training spread across six weeks, and is facilitated by Mr. Pradeep, Wg. Cdr. Sabharwal, Ms. Vandana Kumar and Mr. Anand Parakote. The programme was attended by 60 teachers from 9 schools in the neighbourhood. On completion of the training, which spans pedagogy, theatre, soft skills and new teaching methodology, the participants received certificates issued by Reva University.



Evening Study Assistance Programme

The Evening Study Assistance Programme served 75 children in classes 1-8 who attend the government schools in KR Puram, TC Palya and Bhattarahalli. The programme takes place every evening, six days a week at two venues - our school and TC Palya. Tutors are selected from our own college students. The focus is on Spoken English and homework help. The children also receive school bags, sweatshirts, footwear and notebooks, along with 3 sets of clothes for their daily wear. When they come for the tuition, they are also given a glass of milk and a snack.



Life Skills Training

We conducted Life Skills training for our neighbouring schools, along with Rotary, Whitefield. Thirty students from eight schools attended this 5-day programme, facilitated by Wg. Cdr. Sabharwal, Vice-President of Shishu Mandir Society and coordinated by Mr. Rajkumar K., social worker.

Summer Camp

We ran a summer camp for children from the Bhattarahalli Government School and TC Palya slum children. 55 students from classes 1-9 attended the 10-day camp where they had sessions on Spoken English, Computers, Theatre, Art and Craft. The camp ended with a grand performance by these students. A gift was given to all the children. We also conducted two summer camps through the Rahim programme for these children, for 3 days and 6 days respectively, where they had sessions on theatre, dance, sports and life skills.



Rahim Educational Sponsorship Project

Through the Rahim Educational Sponsorship Project, we selected 206 children from families below the poverty line through surveys and home visits. These children study at 52 English medium schools and range in age from kindergarten to Pre university. We support them with fees, school materials and a sweatshirt for winter.



Children's Fest

We held a children's fest for the siblings of our school children. It took place over 6 days, with 2 hours each day dedicated to several events. 48 children took part in this event. They were divided into 5 groups and mentored by two children from our school. There were many contests, performances and games which were enjoyed by all.



Women's Day

We invited the mothers of our school children for a half-day programme on International Mothers' Day. It was attended by 47 women.



House Construction

We constructed two houses this year, taking the total number of houses constructed to 64. Our student, Rupashree in class 8 lives there with her mother and maternal grandmother. The family had a plot that belonged to the grandmother. Shishu Mandir and Kithiganur panchayat financed the construction of this house. Another student, Sangeetha, who grew up in our Home and is now in college, comes from a large family and has 4 siblings. The family had received a gift of a small plot of land from Sangeetha's grandfather. We supported the construction of the house, which was inaugurated by Dr Hella Mundhra.



Drinking Water Plant

Our clean water project continued and we were able to support a drinking water plant in Kembhavi, one of the most backward places in the Yadgiri district. In January 2023, three of our staff visited Devadurga Taluk, Raichur where there is a scarcity of drinking water. We hope to set up a drinking water plant there once a borewell has been dug to be a water source. Our water plants at Kithiganur, Maragondanahalli and Cheemasandra, are functioning well and provide the community an average of 600 water cans per day.



Medical Camp

We partnered with Vydehi Hospital for a medical camp, dental camp and blood donation camp for our staff and students. We also conducted ECHO tests for adults. Four doctors from NIMHANS, organised by ADRAG (Alzheimer's Dementia Rotary Action Group), conducted a memory loss check for 45 adults above 50 years.



Alcoholics Anonymous

We organised an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting that was attended by 120 parents. From AA, Mr. Mahendra and Mr. Srikanth shared their de-addiction journeys. The attendees were made aware of the AA centre in our neighbourhood, and de-addiction treatment and support available to them. 25 parents are in this programme.

FUNDRAISING

Part of Shishu Mandir's funds come from the **German Society**, that has been raising funds through individual sponsorships for the past 25 years. More recently, the Society has been fundraising via companies and schools. Also supporting us in fundraising are the **Shishu Mandir Society in Switzerland** and the **Friends of Shishu Mandir Trust in the USA**. In India we reach out to companies and foundations through their CSR teams, in addition to individual donors.



Shishu Mandir - Zukunft für Kinder e.V. Germany is our Society in Germany. This year, they celebrated 25 years of service. Mr Anand C. and Mrs Vimala Anand were invited to join the 3-day silver jubilee celebrations in Germany.

Shishu Mandir - Zukunft für Kinder e.V. Germany is our society in Germany. They raise funds via a sponsorship programme. The Babies Nest is a programme focussed on our adoptions and to raise funds specifically to look after the babies in our care. The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter for sponsor parents and donors.

Knodel Foundation and **Hübner and Kennedy Foundation** continued to support us this year. Knodel Foundation supports our school and vocational training programmes, while Hübner and Kennedy Foundation support the driving school. We were also fortunate to receive a special donation from WBS Training Centre, where the quantum of donation was based on voting. Because of the initiatives taken by several people in Germany and India, we made it to the 2nd position.

Rahim Foundation continued to fund this year also to support children's school education. This programme began during the pandemic and has continued, supporting 206 children studying in 51 schools for their education.

Shishu Mandir - Schweiz is the Shishu Mandir Society in Switzerland who assists us with sponsors for our adoption programme.

FUNDRAISING THROUGH FOUNDATIONS

As in the past years, we continued to make a conscious effort to reach out to foundations and nodal agencies that help in fundraising for charitable organisations. This year, we received funds from **Nasscomm Foundation, Yourcause, Online Giving Foundation India, CAFAmerica, Give2Asia, CAFIndia, UK Online Giving Foundation, Give Foundation** and **Guardians of Dream Foundation**. The funds are received from across the world, including the USA, Canada, the UK, and Australia.

FUNDRAISING: SHISHU MANDIR CHILDREN'S HOMES

Our Shishu Mandir Children's Home has two categories of children. i.e. the children who stay with us and are educated in our school and the babies who are with us until they are adopted. We also help women in crisis, including pregnant women who surrender their baby for adoption after delivery. For these women, we also offer counselling and rehabilitation. One of our longstanding supporters is **Ms. Cindy Barker** from the USA who continues to support our adoption and care and protection services wholeheartedly. Additional funds come from the **Government of India**, and for the third year running, the **Azim Premji Foundation** has supported the care and protection programme.

This year, we decided to take over the complete responsibility for the **Shishu Mandir Mangala Home** which was earlier under the guidance of the Lion's Ladies Club. It is now being supported by Shishu Mandir and the Lion's Ladies Club. We have initiated fundraising for the running expenses of this Home.

FUNDRAISING: SHISHU MANDIR EDUCATION CENTRE

Donors include **Boeing, KPMG, Blue Yonder (JDA), Equal Sky, Ion Exchange, TE Connectivity, Concern India Foundation, Target, Musecomm Pvt. Ltd., Accel India Mgmt. Company Pvt. Ltd., Youth for Seva, Expert Callers Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Amazon, Daiwa Corporate Advisory India Pvt. Ltd, Friends of Shishu Mandir - USA** in addition to individual donations. **Boeing** and **Cisco** matched employee volunteer work with 10 USD. New donors this year are **Northern Operating Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Indfrag Biosciences Pvt. Ltd., Informatica Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Indic EMS** and **Resource Pro Operational Solutions Pvt. Ltd.** A former donor who returned to support us this year is **PVH Arvind Fashion Pvt. Ltd.**

The funds we receive are utilised for teachers' salaries, children's meals, extra-curricular activities like dance, music, theatre, sports, yoga etc., and any infrastructural requirement. We are also grateful for the support in kind from **Intuit**, with donations of computers, photocopying machines, mattresses and bedsheets etc. which were based on our requirements. We also acknowledge Mr. Tarun Puri for his continued support of our school.

FUNDRAISING: CHILD CARE CENTRE

This year too, **Target Foundation** provided 100% funding for the running of our Child Care Centre. These funds are utilised for staff salaries, food, educational materials, uniform and sweatshirt for all the children.

FUNDRAISING: SHISHU MANDIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tech Mahindra Foundation is the biggest supporter of our community college, covering 45% of the running costs with their funds supporting staff salaries and partial maintenance costs. **Schneider Electric Foundation India** supported our solar and electrical equipment and this year revamped the entire electrical training centre with new equipment based on the latest technology. They also funded a Smart Board for the classroom.

Knodel Foundation's support was utilised for students' lunch and travel expenses, in addition to some staff salaries.

Hübner and Kennedy Foundation supported the driving school.

We received 2 electric autos from **Brainly India Pvt Ltd.** and 5 from **Atos Company.**

FUNDRAISING: COMMUNITY WELFARE

This year, **Herbalife** supported another water ATM which was installed at Raichur, taking the number of water ATMs we have installed to 5.



Mr Rahim Gröss at the Princeton School, where several children are supported by his Foundation.



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