

News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XIX, October 2018 to March 2019

Welcome to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you the developments and programmes in the time from October 2018 to March 2019.

International School Award 2018-21

It was a proud moment for all the teachers when they came to know that their hard-earned project reports were recognised again by the British Council as deserving the International School Award. Apart from their struggles for a cooperation with international schools they had to tackle projects of high standards.

connected service institutions at Malur and Ramamurthynagar. Shishu Mandir bore all expenses for their stay and medical expenses including their delivery which often ended in a Caesarian Section. Some were helped to find a job to settle down in life. Affected college girls were counselled and helped to pursue their studies. For minor mothers and mothers with special needs we found a rehabilitation centre. Among the people in distress there were also four married couples who surrendered their babies because of special problems with their wider families.

Facts and Figures



One special case came to us from abroad, from Qatar to be precise. A 30-year-old Muslim woman, pregnant with her third baby, had conceived out of wedlock, since she was no more married to her husband. Fearing severe punishment and public humiliation, she opted for going abroad and somehow reached us. Her ordeal ultimately ended with relinquishing her new-born baby at the CWC for adoption. Shishu Mandir was happy to have helped a woman from being lashed in public as is the rule in her country. It was indeed a Great Escape for this lady and a great breath of relief for all of us imagining the fate of women in these countries.

Over a period of six months 6 babies have gone for adoption from Shishu Home. 18 children from other homes in India found adoptive parents on the basis of Home Study Reports written by our Social Workers. One baby was transferred to another institution because of the diagnosis 'Down Syndrome'. 5 babies were restored to their biological parents within the legally stipulated time of two months. And finally 121 Home Study Reports and 126 Follow-up Reports were completed by our Social Workers, a huge work, which involves individual meetings with all these families. Shishu Mandir stands first in the country.

Salangai Pooja



Salangai Pooja means spiritual celebration of dance anklets. It is an important occasion in a Bharatnatyam dancer's journey. Usually it takes a few years for the dancer who has to be able to handle Talam (24 beat cycles) well. 12 of our Bharatnatyam students went through this test successfully, and their guru, Ms. Rama Prasad, was felicitated with gifts. She had given the training free of charges and even donated the costumes for the students.

Succour to Women in Distress

In the period of six months we could help 16 women in distress through our Home as well as through some

World Sight Day



On *World Sight Day* a strong message was given out. In respect of the alarming number of 5 million blind people in India our boys and girls went to the streets shouting, "Don't bury your eyes, donate them!" They were accompanied by six Dollu artists from Shishu Mandir who attracted the audience by their impressive performance and surely guaranteed a bigger crowd.

Safety Ambassadors

Safety on the road is a precious gift and very difficult to obtain. The traffic which has increased to a menacing level, jeopardises everybody's life on the road. All the more it is necessary to imbibe a strict traffic sense into the children's minds. Dr. Shubhangi from *Arundathi Foundation* and Ms. Anusha from *Positive Strokes* organised a visit to the Traffic Management Centre at Vasanthnagar for 20 of our students. The visitors witnessed live traffic junctions. On the day of their visit there was an accident at one of the junctions so that our students could observe the quick response of the traffic personnel at the accident site.



Ramnagara

Nearly 100 volunteers from KPMG joined Shishu Mandir Community College trainees and the staff for an adventurous trip to Ramnagara. Two private luxury buses with 202 people on board left Shishu Mandir, speeding through the chillness of a December morning. As the music blared through the bus, the students spontaneously let their hair loose and danced to their hearts content. Reaching the place the picnickers got themselves divided into two equal mixed groups. While one group left for trekking, the other got engaged in activities like zip lining, rappelling and net-climbing.



The students mingled well with the volunteers and thoroughly enjoyed the trekking and the adventure sport. After the lunch break, the groups interchanged their activities. It was indeed an out-of-the world experience for our students who were just thrilled. For the first time, they were exposed to such activities of valour and fun. They got rid of their fears, began to explore their own potential discarding their inhibitions. Finally as a sign of gratitude the students handed over a THANK YOU note in the form of a colourful handmade greeting card for the generosity of the sponsor, KPMG.

Lost and Found

A 28-year-old tribal woman was found wandering around at the City Railway Station. She was pregnant. Since she had nowhere to go, the police took her to the government reception centre, always trying to find out details about her family and whereabouts. But nothing came to light

except for the name of a nearby place. Finally the department wrote a letter to the postman of the area indicating all details about the lady. This did the trick. Her family could be identified, and her two brothers rushed to Bangalore hoping to find their lost sister, and indeed there was an emotional reunion of the siblings after 2 ½ years. From the brothers it was known that their sister Bharathi had the habit of running away from the home right from her childhood days. The brothers, overwhelmed with joy, were ready to take their sister home, but not her baby, who was nine months by that time. So it was decided that the child would be given for adoption and that is how Shishu Mandir came into the picture. To everybody's surprise Bharathi and her brothers were back in Bangalore within a month with the request to hand over the baby. The reason for their change of mind was that the eldest brother of the three had no child even after five years of marriage. So with his support the child would be brought up by her own mother and among her own relatives. What is prevailing in our minds at this ending? "All's well that ends well."

Solar Lights and CSR



In a modern town like Bangalore one does not expect living conditions like those existing in Hoodi where casual labourers are living in their huts without any basic amenities even after 10 years. It was shocking to know that they are living without electricity. Thanks to Schneider our electrical trainees installed 100 solar lights in the Hoodi slum, which makes

them utilize the hut and environment even after 6:30 pm. Again thanks to Schneider another 500 solar lights will be installed in slums elsewhere.

Combining learning Sessions with Social Work

Our electrical trainees were invited by Schneider for a session on *Safety at the Workplace*, which was conducted by Mr. Anil, the safety expert from Schneider. It was a most useful effort.



At the same time our trainees were requested to sell Schneider's products for the benefit of the victims of the Gaja Storm in Kerala. This was not the only effort of our youngsters who readily came to help the disaster-stricken people. In recognition of the good work of the youngsters Schneider decided to broadcast the CSR activities of SMCC by shooting a video of the day-to-day activities of the electrical department.

As SMCC is likely to get zoomed up all over the country through Schneider, it is our responsibility to live up to the projected image.

Celebrations

Diwali was celebrated in Shishu Home together with all neighbours living in our Street. They participated in the Pooja as well as in the festive dinner. With this gesture the relationship with the neighbours is expected to grow closer.

Christmas was always special in Shishu Home with the presence of Mama, who even joined in the choir for the carols and gave away the Christmas gifts.

On New Year's Eve the children started their party at 8:30 pm and went on with games, snacks and cool drinks till the bell stroke 12. That was the moment, when they yelled and



ran around wishing each other a "Happy New Year", and finally settled around a bonfire singing emotional songs. Like every year this was a memorable moment.

Artsy Crafty Creation

Mr. Anup and Mrs. Vinesh Sharma from Artsy Crafty Creation conducted a session for the senior children on Art as a career. The children were taught innovative painting methods using coffee powder. Painting an outline of Lord Ganesha on canvas was another practical session followed by introducing 2D and 3D drawing methods. Free hand drawing and 30 different pencil shadings were also shown.



Theatre in Education

To vitalise the drudgery of classroom learning, making it more interesting and understandable, many methods have been tried including theatre acting. But never did we have a professional troupe taking part in the teaching process. Therefore Bangalore Little Theatre under Mr. Vijay was a welcome group to train our teachers and trainers. Under the watchful eyes of the children and teachers the theatre troupe performed a skit which the children had to discuss and comment upon. Then the chance of discussion came to the teachers. It

was all about using dynamics of theatre in classroom teaching. Finally Mr. Vijay gave a power point presentation of the role of theatre in education. We are all looking forward to an actual training regarding this.

Donor from USA

Cindy Barker, one of the donors from USA, who was originally introduced to us by Mr. Phani Challa, visited Shishu Home after a long gap. She was very impressed by the progress of the



Home in respect of adding a kitchen to the babies' unit and expanding the number of guest rooms. As usual she mentioned her appreciation of the children's behaviour and their shining eyes. She is a private individual who supports us with amounts which we usually receive from international firms.

Awards and Appreciation

Our supporter Qualcomm called us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rajyotsava with them. So 50 students from class 3 to 9 gave a dance performance, which was highly appreciated.



Further Mr. Anand Babu, our past student, received a Star Performer Award by E-Mudra which also donated a cheque for Rs. 40 000 to Shishu Mandir in appreciation of their high standard of our children's performance on all levels.

Training of our Housemothers



Dr. Michael Klessascheck and his wife Ms. Lydia, psychiatrist viz. psychologist from Germany, conducted a training programme for the housemothers and other caretakers of the Home. It was their second visit and training of this type. The main topic was on appropriate handling of children. They advised a breathing exercise for eight seconds before reacting to a difficult situation. With regard to interacting with the children their suggestions were to spend more time with the kids, talking to them personally, also touching them physically, whenever necessary, and giving them positive strokes and positive confirmation. They strongly advised not to point out the matter of conflict first, but start on a level of appreciation, whatever little matter it might be and always end on a level of compromise and harmony.

Divisional Level Basketball Tournament



Shishu Mandir hosted the divisional level basketball tournament for 37 teams from all over Karnataka. The matches were played in teams of under 14 and under 17 years. The Shishu Mandir girls' team under 17 won the finals and entered the state level. In the under 14 team two girls and three boys from Shishu Mandir got selected to play at the state level.

Aspire Girls' Visit to Delhi

KPMG, known for their all-round development programmes for young girls, organised a national get-together for all their Aspire Girls. The event took place at New Delhi, where they went by plane. What an experience for our girls! Apart from the sight-seeing highlights they also had some serious session by discussing 'Discover your Potential!' Altogether it was an extraordinary experience which they may not have a second time in their life.



From Share Advisor to Team Leader

Ms. Amani Kausar, a DTP trainee of our community college, got placed in Forex Finance Ltd after a 4-month course with us. As a share advisor trainee she received a nominal stipend, but after a 3-month training she became a Share Advisor with a fixed salary of Rs. 10,000/month plus incentives for good performance. Her job was to sell shares to existing as well as new shareholders. Initially her take home salary was just little more than her salary. Recently after her promotion as a Team Leader, she went home with Rs 70,000/- inclusive of her regular monthly salary of Rs 10,000/-, a proud moment indeed for her poverty-stricken family. On a regular basis she enjoys a take-home salary of Rs 30,000, which is much above the salary of a junior teacher of our school. But that is fate: A 10th standard-failed girl meets an institution which awakens her real potential and brings



out her extraordinary communication skills. She truly is an example to all our students as a person who applied herself with full dedication to reach her goal.

Inspire-Awards MANAK 2018-19

MANAK stands for *Million Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge*. 3 of our students, who got selected for the district level Science Exhibition, worked on three different projects, namely air-borne wind energy, conversion of carbon from exhaust pipes into ink and pencil lead, and solar powered irrigation. The students were given Rs 10,000/- each for the development of the projects. Mohith of class 9 went ahead with his project of making ink and pencil lead from exhaust carbon. He represented the State of Karnataka, but was not successful in the national competition. Still he showed a brilliant project and performance.



Founder's Day



This year the Founder's Day bore a special note, as it was Mama's 80th birthday. Early in the morning the celebration started with a birthday song in German along with special flute accompaniment. It continued with men from the neighbourhood having a competition of rangolis and folk-dance troupes performing their dances with outstanding fervour and perfection. Mr. Seshagiri wished Mama on behalf of everyone present amidst lively music from a Rajasthani band.



Mama was shown the new sports-ground which had once been a 60 ft. deep quarry and now filled up and levelled. Thanks to the foresight- edness of Mr. Anand this sports ground will be the meeting place for all youngsters of the villages around. Even the MLA of KR Puram gave his blessing to this asset of the area. As usual the sports meet enthralled everyone by its variety and efficiency and after a recreative break the breath-taking cultural programme of all school, home and community college children followed. Mrs. Vandana gave a high-spirited welcome speech and then it was just revelling in performance after performance. The Founder's Day again had proved its reputation of surpassing all other presentations and leaving everyone filled with bliss.

Tiger Dance

Tiger Dance is an old folk art dance of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka. In a highly exuberant and cultural festival, this dance form usually comprises a troupe of six performers aping the movements of the majestic, predatory tigers. Their bodies are painted by pains-taking efforts of local artists in vibrant yellow and black to resemble an exact replica of a tiger. The paintings include the ferocious looking fangs and convincing headgear replete



with ears, paws with claws and a long tail that conjures an accurate picture of the savage beast's graceful movements. The thunderous roars of drums beating wildly along with several local instruments reproduce the snarls of the regal predators and complete the picture. The tiger dance made Mama's birthday very vibrant. The artists from Sakthi Kalai Kuzhu, Dindigal, Tamil Nadu, were special invitees to perform their folk dances on the occasion of our Founder's Day. Sakthi Kalai Kuzhu is a dedicated team of artists under the able guidance of Sr. Chandra.



Tug of War

The parents of our students were at loggerheads in a sport that tested their strength by pulling a rope. The fathers on one side and the mothers on the other side pulled and pulled till



the rope gave way and - hard was their fall on either side. Still they were in no mood to give up. With the rope refurbished the tug of war began again, but only to fall again as the rope snapped once more. The third round was started with an additional rope attached to the repaired one. This time both the teams were cautious. When the men let their rope loose for a fraction of a second to pull themselves up for the final pull, the women acted quickly and pulled the men to their side. The women fell, but rose as the winners of the game. This is real women's power!

Inauguration of Winger



On her birthday Mama received a special gift: the keys of a TATA Winger from the donor CDSL which stands for 'Central Depository Services Limited' and is based in Mumbai. They were happy to donate a TATA Winger to Shishu Mandir. Besides this they funded for a Smart board, Class room tables and an Elevator.

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