

News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. X, Apr to Jun 2015

Welcome to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to introduce you to our latest developments and programmes in the quarter from April to June 2015.

A Course in Innovative Teaching



Our two teachers, Mrs. Stella Delvi and Mrs. Aparna Latha underwent a Teachers' Training Programme organized by TTF for over eight months. They learnt how to support young teachers to become empowered and creative persons in their profession like what they had imbibed in many years of experience and training.

Mock Interview Session

Any job placement demands an interview and a presentation of one's resume. Target Company took

up this practical problem and offered our former school students, who are now in colleges, organized mock interview session. Each student had to meet one senior manager for about fifteen minutes. After that they received a feedback. It was a unique experience for those youngsters which they encountered for the first time and which is of utmost importance for their career

Decathlon – the world wide Sports Company

Big Decathlon Company found their way to small Shishu Mandir. They provided 42 sets of skates with helmets and gloves and a lot of sports shoes, T-shirts, sports pants apart from fans and chairs. So far our children were identified as Shishu children when they wore helmets while riding a bicycle. Now we can be sure that people will identify our children for moving on skates with a helmet and gloves on. Shishu Mandir stands for maximum road safety.

Highest SSLC Marks in Shishu History

This year all 12 students who appeared for the SSLC exam passed in the first class with three distinctions. Congratulations to Vishalakshi, Vivelia Mary and Rayappa! All the three children come from desolate family conditions, Vishalakshi being a total orphan, Vivelia Mary coming from a stone cutter family who had been bonded labourers for two decades, and Rayappa having five sisters and no father.



Brady Company, which used to honour the highest rank holder of Shishu Mandir every year, rewarded **Vishalakshi and Vivelia** with Rs. 10,000 each for scoring more

than 90%. While we congratulate these students, our special thanks go to all our teachers and especially to those who taught them in the 10th std.

Unusual Story Telling Session



In our fast-paced, media-driven world, Storytelling can be a nurturing way to remind children that spoken words are powerful, that listening is important, and that clear communication between people is an art. We are fortunate to get people to our school to organize such capturing story telling sessions. As a great story teller Mrs. **Shanthi Krishnan** kindled the children's imagination with fascinating stories which kept the children spell-bound.

Innovative Film City

A common outing with staff and children has a special charm. For the first time in 20 years our home children and all the staff had a one-day outing together. They went to **Innovative Film City** where they enjoyed themselves to the maximum and also had many educational programmes.

Session on Child Abuse

The more and more menacing insecurity in society, particularly for girls, compelled us to hold a session on **child abuse**. We engaged a resource person who spoke with great conviction that our girls opened out and overbore their natural shyness. It was indeed the

need of the hour and they presented many of their family problems. Ultimately it was decided to have such sessions also for their mothers.

Health Care

Vydehi Medical College Hospital started giving us medical services on a weekly basis. In case of hospitalization they offered credit facilities to avail an emergency treatment at any time. All bills will get 25% discount. The offer goes to our children, their parents and staff.



Apart from this new hospital affiliation we are getting medical services from MVJ Hospital and from a doctor from Sowkya, a Homeopathic holistic health centre, which also treats the villagers around us.

Shishu Dance Stars meet Chennai Super Kings

For some of our outstanding dancers a dream came true. They were asked a dance at ITC Gardenia Hotel for the top executives of UST Global Company and the senior level executives of 50 multinational companies and the hero of Indian



cricket, Mr. Dhoni, and his Chennai Super King team members. Our girls were thrilled, when **Mr. Dhoni** and his team members came to the stage to take a photo with them. Mr. Sanjay Pillai, founder of **UST Global Company**, spoke about the digital revolution that is taking place in the world, where in 2020 the number of mobiles in use will be double of the world's population. Mr. Dhoni, while appreciating the digital innovation, exhorted the audience to spread the message that every child should get out of his house to play under the sun and not just hang on to their mobiles. We are happy to say that Shishu Mandir is in full alliance with this spirit.

Mr. Maharjan - our Foundation in Basketball



To find a deeply dedicated person is a blessing. We were lucky to find **Mr. Maharjan**, who has made basketball the centre of his life with an exceptional commitment towards training students. Our boys **Ravi, Rayappa** and **Arun Kumar**, who have just completed their 10th std. exam, were trained by him over 10 years. . Every summer our junior and senior students went for basketball camps to his sports academy situated at a foot hill near Tumkur. It was mainly his training which enabled them to play in state level tournaments. They were even rewarded with free seats for PUC by

Sindhi College for their great excellence in this sport. **Murali** and **Ramesh** have just started their 10th std. They are already offered free seats by another PUC College.

Environmental Protection



IGATE volunteers surprised all of us by conducting special events for the school children for five days during the summer holidays. Those 15 volunteers spent three hours every day with the children in organizing meaningful events. One day they went to a slum along with our high school children to spread the message **Not to Use Plastics**. They highlighted the need to plant trees and to preserve them. Our students imbibed the message that we need to create a world with a well-protected environment.

Aspire Programme of KPMG



Under the **ASPIRE Programme** of KPMG a Green Campus Training was started by which our children learnt about waste management. Every day they engaged themselves in physical activities under the guidance of a trainer braving the hot April sun. Another group had

introductory sessions on green campus, which will continue for six months. Through this programme we may ultimately succeed to produce vegetables for our own use.

Another very interesting training was introduced by the Paper Wallah team with KPMG's support. To start with the students made a paper bag and a jewellery box which are so attractive that we hope to sell them to various software company employees. The students are expected to learn 75 such craft works.

Women Empowerment



One of our main aims though often neglected got a big boost: women empowerment. Krishnamma, a member of our Self Help Groups, also mother of one of our school girls and staff of our Child Care Centre, stood for the election of the Kithiganur Panchayat and won, that too with a big margin. We are very happy to state that she defeated many who had tried to win with money power, but she won with her arguments and personality. Congratulations, Krishnamma!

Summer holidays

For the first time the summer holiday programmes were organized by our past students and what programmes! New ideas like waste management, greening the garden, also poing and 'walking on the slack line' were introduced besides our evergreens as unicycling and jugg-



ling, basketball and volley ball tournaments. The school was humming with activity throughout the day and even in the night. We are filled with joy that we can attract our children also during the holidays, not only because of regular food, but also with activities which will enrich their overall development.

Changing young lives

During this quarter 65 young boys and girls received a training in Computer, English, Fitter and Electricals in our Community College. With this batch we reached the figure of 370, which means that 370 young boys and girls got trained in different skills in the course of two



years. The highlight of this course was that a 'Job Fair' was conducted for electrical students immediately after the course. 23 of our trainees attended the interview and were selected on the spot.

Written and edited by

Hella

Ericks

Success Story of Seema Jeswal

Seema Jeswal is the eldest of five sisters besides one elder brother. The family is very poor and to educate five girls is an unmanageable task even for a reasonably well-to-do family. To make matters worse the father is a severe alcoholic. In this desperate struggle for survival the mother developed the idea to go to another place. Obviously she was of the opinion that her husband's 'bad' friends' influence was the root cause of their misery. They migrated to Bangalore.



At that time Seema was 12 years old and had reached the 6th std. in Hindi medium. Without the means to pay for an English medium school she had to change over to Kannada medium, a fully new language, which became very difficult for her at the level of the 7th std. She dropped out of school. Everything seemed to go against them, but after two years her mother garnered energy and made her enter school again, of course nothing better than a government school, but at least that much. In an enormous struggle Seema managed to pass the 10th std. in Kannada medium with a First Class. After this success she wanted to continue studying and attend a PU course. But there was no possibility, as the family was far too poor.

They were running a pushcart business with masala puris which were made on an open flame on the pushcart itself. Every day from 5 to 10 pm they stood at the road side making and selling masala puris hardly earning Rs. 400 per day. From this amount the father immediately took his share for drinks. Their son also tried to help. He left his schooling in the 8th standard and worked in a bakery. But he met with

an accident and from then onwards he complained of pain in his elbow which keeps him off from work most of the time. If ever he went to work for a week, he had to take rest for double and more time than that.

Among the five sisters one small sister was taken into Shishu Mandir School and Home, as the family situation was so grim. Once Shishu Mandir became aware about this family, they also supported one more sister for her schooling. Still in the face of eight family members and an alcohol addicted father the situation remained pathetic. This shook up Seema's inborn urge to struggle and achieve. She decided that she must find work of whatever nature. She kept thinking about her plan, but did not find a solution as to what work could fetch her a reasonable salary. She had only studied up to the 10th standard and that too in Kannada medium. All institutions for teaching secretarial skills, which was a course she dreamt about, demanded huge amounts of fees which she could not think of. But in connection with her small sister she had heard of Shishu Mandir and also about their Community College which was offering training courses without charges. She could hardly believe it, but she applied for a course of Desktop Publishing. (DTP) and was chosen. It was all beyond imagination, the students did not have to pay fees, they received all work material free of cost, those who came from further away got the bus charges reimbursed and everybody had a nutritious and delicious lunch every day. For three months Seema attended the course, all too eager to absorb whatever the teacher taught and what was offered even besides the regular classes. She welcomed every day of the training and sometimes could not believe her luck. Is there still any big disaster waiting in ambush? But all what was waiting for her 'in ambush' was a job placement, also managed by Shishu Mandir Community College, as a Cash Counter at Reliance Fresh with a starting salary of Rs. 7000. She felt like in a fairy tale.

It remains Seema's secret how she managed the different stages of her life – to combat the daily struggles with an alcoholic father, to combat utter poverty, to combat the frustration of not reaching a higher education and ultimately to own the fundamental knowledge for a respectable job. Seema is indeed a model of perseverance, an energetic and determined struggler and a person of high tenacity. Hats up to Seema!

Written by Ericks