

Dream-come-true for 116 slum children

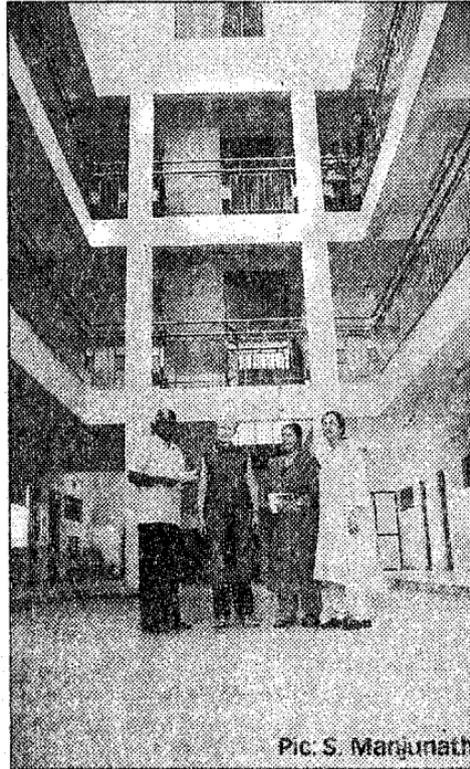
By Seethala Marar

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AT Shishu Mandir and at Shishu Mandir Education Centre, around 200 underprivileged children are embraced in love, warmth, caring and are now confident of a better tomorrow. By excelling in academics, music, art, swimming, carpentry and embroidery, 116 children of the school await a new day. It took Dr. Hella Mundhra only a few years to make these children's dreams come true.

The story of Shishu Mandir started in October 1973, when the doctor couple Dwarka Das and Hella Mundhra emigrated to Bangalore to set up a small hospital. "Majority of children who underwent treatment did not want to go back home, moving us to start a Mandir where they can be housed," Mundhra said. Shishu Mandir with two children began functioning in Ulsoor in 1984.

The school that follows the state syllabus



Pic. S. Manjunath

provides children with clothes, breakfast, lunch and books. Students are entitled to medical benefits and they carry home packets of powdered nutritious ragi and wheat during holidays. "It is mandatory that children must take a hot water bath before leaving for house," says Anand, school principal.

Aimed at liberating women and giving more emphasis to their education, the school takes seventy percent of girls. Only 10 children are admitted to one class.

Students have access to computer rooms, well-stacked library, art centre and a huge hall for cultural activities. "Students from other schools are not admitted, since they do not get the flow and pattern of teaching. Shishu Mandir Education Centre is exclusively for KR Puram slum children," Mundhra said. Selected are based on parents economic status.

The two residential buildings of Shishu Mandir have been conceived to accommodate about 30 children. "These children come from the most unfortunate strata of

society. They have experienced severe psychological and physical trauma," Mundhra said.

The Shishu Mandir Society has widened its activity now by supporting 58 siblings of their students studying in other schools. The Society plans to extend the school building, start additional divisions and training centre in carpentry, embroidery and various crafts.

You too can join with Shishu Mandir to transform the lives of underprivileged children. Donations in the form of money or material can be sent to: The Co-ordinator, Shishu Mandir, 17/11, Cambridge Road, Bangalore -560 008. Contact 25613928 or mail shishumandirec@vsnl.net