



The 19th Annual Report 2004-2005

Shishu Mandir

17/11, Cambridge Road, Ulsoor,
Bangalore-560008

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A. Shishu Mandir Society

We are happy to look back to another year of activity and development in our 19-year old Shishu Mandir Society which extended its charitable projects still further through our continuous efforts and toil. In spite of considerable restraints because of two EC members being abroad for long periods of the year we had 12 Executive Committee meetings, numerous working committee meetings, 1 Annual General Body meeting and 1 Extraordinary General Body meeting. It is a laudable effort on the side of all persons concerned.

We could welcome 8 new members during this year, i.e. Mr. Peter Correa, Mrs. Shalom Taylor, Mr. Ataullah, Mr. Ramachandra Seshagiri, Mr. Prathap Yadav, Mr. Georgin Joseph, Mr. Vivek and Mrs. Indira Swaminathan. On the other hand 8 members also left our Society, i.e. Dr. Ashton Harris, Mrs. Joan Harris, Mr. Ataullah, Mrs. Gopika, Mr. Bhasi, Mr. Sanjeev Prakash, Mr. Vishnu and Mrs. Meena Kant, most of them for personal reasons in their present life situation. We thank them for the services rendered and the time they spent with us. The total number of 20 members we have been maintaining.

The Executive Committee Members of 2004 to 2005

Mr. Graham S. Taylor	President
Mr. Vishnu Kant	Vice President till January 2005
Mr. Ramachandra Seshagiri	Vice President from January 2005
Mr. Akilan	Honorary Secretary
Dr. Ashton Harris	Joint Secretary till January 2005
Mr. Ataullah	Joint Secretary from January till February 2005
Mr. Baskar J.	Treasurer
Mrs. Vibha Singh	EC Member
Mrs. Hella Mundhra	EC Member

Highlights of 2004-2005

1. Amendment of the Constitution
As for the life of our Society which started in 1986 with a group of well-meaning, but totally inexperienced people in terms of Society management, the year 2004 to 2005 saw the framing of a new constitution. It was not only rejuvenated in its outer appearance, but also carried some important changes. We introduced a well defined policy of membership conditions, a strict demand for monthly meetings on the level of the Executive as well as of the Working Committees which was altogether a new concept. But last not least the Board of Trustees was introduced as a better safeguard against any misuse of Society funds.
2. The first batch of 3 students finished their degree level and two of them entered into post graduation studies (MCA; MTA)
3. The construction of the compound wall around the newly purchased property in front of the school building and laying of the foundation stone for the school extension building and Vocational Training Centre
4. Construction of public toilets at Kithiganur
5. Construction of 6 houses for School children's families
6. Renaming of the school area (7 lanes) as Hella Nagar by the Kithiganur Panchayat

7. Extension of our educational sponsorship programme to 47 further children (siblings of our school children)
8. Extraordinary raise in salaries based on the length of service
9. Visit of 6 members of the German funding Society

B. Home

Introduction

“Home is where we start from, but home is also where we are bound for, the place we always see.” These words we find very suitable for our Shishu Mandir Home. True to its name, aim and objectives, it has taken up the responsibility of supporting and guiding children by giving them a ray of hope to look forward to a promising future.

Regular Activities/Programmes

Participating in the daily events like washing, cleaning, preparing breakfast and going home on weekends and going out to play are regular features. The children helped in beautifying the home and the surroundings by planting creepers on the balcony and around the house. Beena and Rebecca were and still are attending dance classes twice a week at the Arya Samaj Centre in Indiranagar.

This year our Christmas Bazaar sales were comparatively meagre as we did not have enough material for sale and also the most important person, Mrs. Kanta Mundhra, was not available. The income out of the sales was Rs. 25,395/-. Last year we had gained Rs. 31, 355/-.

New Children

Preethika, Valarmathi and Savitha, all students of our school, have also been taken into our Home. Preethika, who has no parents, was living with her aged grandmother, who was not in a position to take care of her. Valarmathi was regularly exposed to immoral conduct. As for Savitha, her father had abandoned the family and was living with another person, her mother had found work far away and could come home on rare occasions only. So Savitha was left with her aged grandmother who had great problems in bringing her up.

Special needs Children

Navya, a child of 5 years by now and living with us for the last 2 ½ years, has shown significant improvement in her speech development. She is diagnosed as a mentally challenged child, partially due to Hypothyroidism, which was treated too late. She had been transferred to us from another home with the idea of inter-country adoption, which did not succeed. For the time being she is admitted to a Montessori School called Sai Foundation, which takes care of children with mental abnormalities.

Sharmila, Karthikeyan and Karthiyaini, who have been identified as slow learners, continue in our school. **Indirani**, a 16 year old child with a low IQ, who has gone through 7 classes at our school without success, was taken out of school and directed towards a course in arts and craft in which she has interest and talent. She is being taught in oil and fabric painting for one year.

Free and relaxing Moments

The children are always encouraged to attend birthday parties and gatherings with their friends and neighbours to enable them to move in society and interact with people outside. In the Home **Diwali** was celebrated in the usual traditional way with lighting of lamps and offering pooja. **Christmas**, the second high festival of the year, was again a time of happy and joyful being together. It is the only festival where all the staff, previous

and present children, the volunteers and some Society members gather together in a true spirit of sharing and caring.

During the summer vacations the children were taken on a **6-day excursion** to Madras and Pondicherry for a holiday and to see a paper manufacturing unit. They were made aware of the correlation between paper and deforestation and the devastating effects on our planet. In another trip of **5-days** to Coorg the children saw the working of coffee estates. Mr. P.N. Krishnan, Mr. Mark and Mrs. V.R. Kumar, all friends of Ms. Uma, our Administrative Coordinator, sponsored the trips.

Our children also visited the Home for the Blind in Indiranagar and spent a day with them by helping them in their chores. It gave them an opportunity to realise their own favourable situation to be hale and healthy and cared for in our Home. Those children sang songs for our children. On the World Heart Day our children participated in the formation of the Human Chain which was organised by the Manipal Hospital.

Unforeseen events

Preethi, a 16-year-old child of our Home, decided to leave us in order to stay with her boy friend in spite of intense and heart-to-heart counselling. She had expected a blissful life at the side of her boy friend, but landed in the house of a demanding, low-minded and authoritative “mother-in-law”. As her education was also not cared for, she requested the authorities of Shishu Mandir to allow her to come back, which was granted. As a disciplinary measure she was, however, not inducted into our school again, since we have to safeguard our standards of discipline. Preethi was admitted to St. Meera’s School for the 8th standard. On June 27th 2005 Preethi again left our Home leaving behind a letter of departure in which she states that she cannot help doing this mistake again. With this second departure she has forfeited any future acceptance in our circle.

Academic achievements beyond standard 10

Malathi, Vijayalakshmi and Lakshmi finished their degree as Bachelors of Arts viz. Science (Computers) and set a milestone for our Home to reach this level of education. Two of them even secured a first class. They went in for post graduation, one in MCA and one in MTA and the third for B.Ed.

Pratik joined St. Joseph’s Commerce College for B.Com. after securing a first class in his PUC. He also chose to do a C.A. foundation course simultaneously.

Karthik, our ex-Home child, who is living with his mother again, secured admission in Mahaveer Jain College for B.Sc.Biotechnology. He withdrew from the college after he secured admission for an engineering course in Bangalore. Karthik, Pratik, Viji and Malathi cleared their first semesters by securing first classes.

Reshma cleared her II year PUC by re-appearing in Mathematics. She intends to do Nursing.

Piyush and Divya successfully completed their SSLC exam and got admitted to PUC courses. Piyush is opting for Commerce and Divya for Science.

Adoptions

Name of the Child	Date of Birth	Date of Departure	Adoptive Parents
Megha	06.06.03	30.03.05	Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Rivola, Italy
Priyanka	18.07.03	17.12.04	Mr. and Mrs. Mahadev, USA

Anjali	02.08.04	10.04.05	Mr. and Mrs. Rathnesh Gupta, Bangalore
Nadeem	15.01.01	08.03.05	Mr. and Mrs. Ventaramana Murthy, Vizag
Vinay	15.01.01	07.04.05	Mr. and Mrs. Praveen, Bangalore
Gangadhar	01.01.01	25.05.05	Mr. and Mrs. Srinvas, Chikkaballapur
Neha	03.11.04	25.03.05	Mr. and Mrs. Vinodh Lakshman, Chennai

Out of these 7 children 2 went out of India, 1 of them to an NRI couple in the USA. Only 1 child went to foreign parents, as this child was suffering from Hepatitis B. All other children, though some of them had reached the age of 4 to 5 years already, could be placed in India, which shows a remarkable improvement in the acceptance of the adoption concept in India. Thanks to the better linking of adoption centres (like us) with Coordinating Agencies, parents from different parts of South India could get into contact with us and find their child in our Home. The only negative development in this extremely beneficial programme is the growing external interference, which leads to a lengthening of the procedure time and to more restrictions on the abandoning party.

For the first time we organised an adoptive parents' get-together in which 19 parents with their adopted children participated. The parents and children briefly introduced themselves to the group and shared their feelings on their new status as adoptive parents. Nina Nayak, the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), was invited to be the guest of honour and to give the welcome speech.

Volunteers

This year too we had volunteers from Germany who involved themselves in the activities of Shishu Mandir and remarkably contributed to the happiness and enrichment of the children at Home and at the School. They play a very significant role in the overall development of our children. They not only help the children in their studies, but also guide them in their personal development and awareness. As usual they render their help in the kitchen whenever needed, and also involve themselves with the little ones by giving them baths and taking them to the park and for walks. The volunteers of this year were **Verena, Jan, Felix, Nadine, Lisa, Lisa Laura and Karola**.

In another way the presence of the volunteers Nadine and Lisa proved to be a great blessing. They generated a lot of money for the Tsunami relief and donated 6 wet grinders and 6 sewing machines for the rehabilitation of the affected people at Kariakal, Pondicherry. Along with one of the staff and one student they visited the affected areas and distributed some relief material personally.

Home staff

Our Social Worker, **Mr. Yoganna**, found a more suitable employment elsewhere and left us. In his place we found **Mrs. Jijy Abraham**, a dynamic young lady with professional capacity and an attitude of devoted working. **Jyothi**, a member of the cleaning staff, resigned and was re-appointed at her request on certain conditions. On a trial basis the post of a nightmother was created, and **Mrs. Gonsalves**, a 57-year-old lady, was appointed. She did not suit our requirements because of her impaired health. The post remained vacant, as we are yet to find a suitable person, or also an educator, which is an urgent necessity.

Orientation and meetings

As usual Dr. Hella Mundhra's two visits were times of monitoring and orienting the staff and children towards the ideals of Shishu Mandir. Meetings with different groups and individuals were held with regard to the development of Shishu Mandir. Also the Home children's parents were invited to create an awareness about the new developments in the thinking of the children in respect of their life partner choice, the different role models of husband and wife and their own responsibilities towards their children.

Uma and Jijy attended the **National Adoption Meet** organised by CARA at Delhi. The meeting discussed matters of in-country and inter-country adoption like the application of the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 against the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA) 1956 as well as the implication of the Hague Convention 1993 and several other procedural conditions. The meeting provided a platform for discussions of international relevance.

Miscellaneous

In July 2004 we decided to do the administrative work of PF and Professional Tax by ourselves, for which reason Mr. Chander Singh, our previous PF consultant, was taken out of these services. Presently the returns of Home and School are filed from the Home.

Under the guidance of Felix, a professional painter, the children repainted the kitchen, the dining hall and some of their cupboards. The drainage system of Shishu Home was totally redone as we had frequent blockages and broken underground pipes.

Funding

As in previous years the major portion of funds has been raised by private sponsors in Germany, who come to know about our project by word of mouth. In this respect our volunteers play an important role, since they report their impressions to all their friends and relatives back home. Besides this we are aided in Switzerland, Austria and The Netherlands by a small group of adoptive parents and their friends. Among these supporters a Swiss family with five children, who adopted a girl from us in 1985, is most remarkable. They have been able to educate all their children to support one child of our Shishu Mandir Family, as soon as they started managing themselves, some already during their study viz. training period.

Also from India we received funds, though here it was more in the form of food and clothes, of course only from private persons. As far as food is concerned there is a constant upward trend, as anybody who came once, comes again.

Report compiled by

Ms. Uma,

Administrative Coordinator of Shishu Mandir Home

C. School

I Staff

1. Survey of Appointments and Resignations

Category	Beginning of the Year	New Staff	Left SMEC	Total Strength	Required Staff
Teachers	15	2	3	14	--
Vocat. Trainers	2	-	--	2	--
Social Worker	1	1	1	1	1
Accountant	1	-	-	1	--
Office Staff	-	1	-	1	--
Driver	1	2	2	1	--
Kitchen Staff	2	-	-	2	--
Cleaning Staff	3	-	-	3	--
Dance Teacher	-	1	1	-	1
Sports Teacher	-	-	-	-	1
Volunteers	2	6	6	2	-

For details see Annexure 1

2. Inservice training for the teachers

a) “Wipro applying Thought in School”

Mr. Biju Mathew, Mrs. Anitha and Ms. Sundari underwent the training program organised by The Teacher Foundation for 10 months. They had 16 days of workshop spread over the entire training period. The facilitators from TTF came to the school to do their observation classes. Each teacher was observed three times by the trainers which improved their teaching skills considerably. Mrs. Stella, Mrs. Molly, Mrs. Seema and Mr. David, who had taken up this training in the previous year, were further helped by TTF through their observation and feed back.

b) Orientation Programs

Our internal teacher orientation program was held for 5 days as a preparation for the new academic year. An evaluation of the past year’s activities and the year plan for the new academic year were taken up. The new teachers were introduced to our system of education and helped to prepare their subject plans.

c) Demonstration Classes by the Founder

Mrs. Hella spent 8 weeks in the school during which time

- she observed the classes of all the teachers and gave them her feedback.
- she took demonstration classes in English, Mathematics and Social Science through which she enriched the teachers with child oriented teaching techniques.
- she participated in the staff meetings through which she animated the teachers to understand her teaching approach.

d) Workshops and Meetings

Mrs. Stella and Mrs. Meena Nirmala attended a 1-day workshop on Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder at Montfort College Bangalore.

Mrs. Mallika and Mrs. Surya took part in a 1-day workshop on teaching computer in schools, which was organised by Intel at the Leela Palace Hotel.

Mrs. Neeraja and Mr. Biju attended a 3-day workshop, which was organised by “Asha Foundation” on value education.

Mr. Anand and Mrs. Rani Tondon took part in the ‘WATIS’ Training Program for heads of institutions at the Wipro Head Office.

Ms. Susanne organised a 2-day workshop for all the teachers on report writing. Weekly meetings were a regular feature on Fridays to share and plan the various school activities.

Mrs. Neeraja’s two sessions on value education, Mrs. Meena Nirmala’s inputs on phonetics, Mrs. Rani Tandon’s class on Mathematics were some of the interesting and enriching sessions.

The teachers worked in small groups to learn more about a particular topic. All the teachers took special interest to learn computers, which enabled them to write the progress reports and also to prepare teaching aids.

One new computer was bought exclusively for the use of the teachers.

Thanks to the management for this special support.

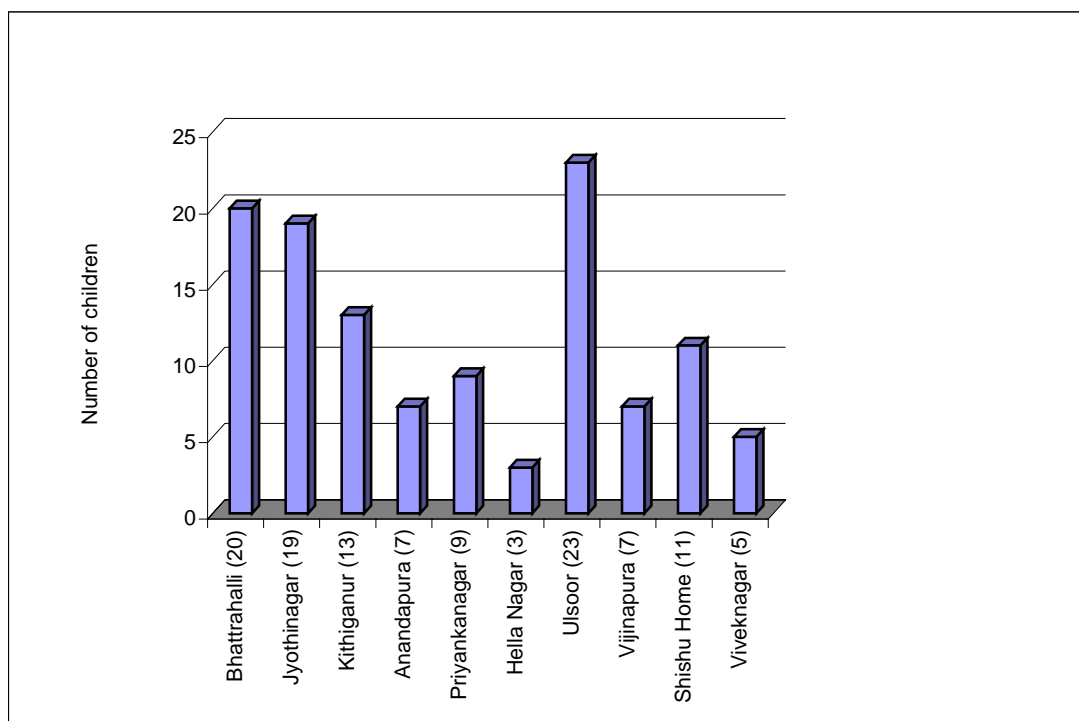
II Children

1. Class Details

Class	Boys	Girls	Total	Av. Age March 05	Promoted	Detained	Left school
Prep A	3	8	11	6.5	11	-	-
Prep B	4	7	11	7.5	11	-	-
I	1	9	10	8.6	10	-	-
II	3	5	8	9.8	8	-	-
III	3	9	12	10.3	11	1	-
IV	2	9	11	10.9	9	2	-
V	1	8	9	12.7	8	1	-
V B	3	3	6	12.6	2	2	2
VI	4	9	13	13.7	9	4	-
VII	4	6	10	15.8	4	2	4
VIII	3	5	8	16.2	6	1	1
IX	2	2	4	17.0	2	1	1
X	2	2	4	16.7	4	-	-
Total	34	82	117		95	14	8

For details see Annexure 2

2. Distribution of Children areawise



For details see Annexure 3

3. 7th Standard Results

Name	Eng.	Kan.	Hin.	Math.	Sci.	S.Sc.	Total	%
Anand Babu I.	62	88	62	86	82	82	462	77
Benson B.	74	88	52	80	74	72	440	73
Indrani K.	16	24	14	34	38	16	142	23
Kalpana M.	60	92	60	72	70	68	422	70
Kumar J.	54	84	46	50	62	64	360	60
Mahadevan N.	62	84	66	48	72	62	394	65
Manjula N.	86	96	92	90	88	92	544	90
Preethi D.	92	96	82	76	82	78	506	84
Sudharani M.	62	92	66	80	74	70	444	74
Vidhya A.	58	78	56	66	72	68	398	66

4. 10th Standard Results

Name	Eng.	Kan.	Hin.	Maths	Sci.	S.Sc.	Total	%
Divya	90	70	81	74	64	79	458	73
Sheeba	90	82	84	64	56	73	449	71
Piyush	84	92	66	50	46	64	402	64
Pramod	82	86	62	48	50	59	387	61

5. P.U.C. Results 2005

Name	Hist.	Eco.	Soc.	Pol. Sc.	Eng.	Kan.	Total	%
Celin	77	78	90	68	81	74	467	77.83
Deepa	40	76	79	77	47	72	391	65.16
Manoshalini	54	54	71	52	68	53	352	58.67

6. Capacity Building for Students

a) Computer Training

Computer training was provided to the students from the 2nd to the 10th std. 2 new computers were bought for the computer lab, which already had 7. All the students received 2 periods per week to learn computer skills.

b) Tailoring and Carpentry

The students from the 5th to the 9th std. were given training in Tailoring and Carpentry after the school hours. Benny, a 9th std. student, is already earning some money by stitching clothes in the evening. Some of the things produced by the students through the carpentry and tailoring classes were placed for sale at the Christmas Bazaar.

c) Dance

12 students who were selected for learning Bharathnatyam had classes on Fridays and Saturdays for a duration of 2 hours each period.

d) Swimming

The students of the 5th to the 10th std. went for swimming on Saturdays and holidays under the chairmanship of the volunteers. During the summer holidays swimming was regularly taught every day in the afternoon.

e) Penfriends

The students of the 2nd to the 10th std. regularly wrote letters to their penfriends in Germany. Ms. Melanie and Mrs. Hella facilitated to get these penfriends from two different schools.

f) Entertainment and Outings

All the students of the school went for a flower show, which was organised at Lal Bagh at the time of Independence Day. The students of the 2nd and 3rd std. also visited the National Park at Bannerghatta. As a very special event the teachers and the students of the 3rd to the 10th std. had an opportunity to see the English play 'Noah's Arc' at St. John's Auditorium.

Thanks to Mrs. Meena who arranged for this free show.

g) Night Camps

Our children of the highschool were allowed to hold five night camps in the school campus. This was the time for fun and enjoyment. These camps enabled them to understand each other better.

h) Language special

In order to help the students to improve their language skills Kannada and Hindi Days were organised at school. The children took active part in presenting programs and projects.

i) Sports Meet

The sports talents of our children were brought out through the annual sports meet, which was organised on the Founder's birthday as usual. The day started with a mass drill by all the children. After the hoisting of the national and school flags, each student took part in three sports events. The specialty of this year's sports meet was that the winners were given medals besides getting a certificate.

Thanks to the School and Social Welfare Working Committee members for their active participation.

7. Celebrations

a) Founder's Day – 11th January

A special entertainment program was organised to celebrate the Founder's birthday. More than 900 people witnessed the cultural program performed by our children. The children and some teachers enacted an English play "A Lonely Cry" which was written by our teacher Mr. Biju Mathew. The special message by the Founder helped the audience to understand her aims.

*

b) Teachers' Day – 5th September

The senior most students of the school organised a special function to thank the teachers for their invaluable services. Some of the high school students took the teachers' place and taught the small children so that the teachers had a day of real relaxation. The day ended with a short cultural program.

c) Children's Day – 14th November

This is the day for the teachers to exhibit their singing, acting and dancing talents. Few of them danced, while most of them took part in a drama. The class teachers congratulated every child with a flower and presented greeting cards to their class children.

d) Farewell Day

This is the day, which the 10th std. students wish to never come in their life. With tears in their eyes they wished a sad farewell to everyone. The 9th std. students organised a befitting farewell party to Divya, Sheeba, Pramod and Piyush and thanked them for all their services to the school.

8. Religious Functions

a) Ayudhya Pooja

This festival was celebrated by performing pooja for the vehicles and instruments in the traditional Indian way.

b) Deepavali

For the first time Mr. Shankar Das Mundhra and Mrs. Kantha Mundhra extended their ritual celebrations of Deepavali to the school. A Rangoli competition was also held on that day which saw a fierce competition between the children and the staff. To crown the day a special lunch was prepared by the school staff.

c) Christmas

Singing of carols, enacting Christ's birth and the distribution of gifts by Santa Claus were the main events of this celebration. The children received a small present also.

Thanks to the power team of 'Steve's Gym' which presented a Christmas message through their gymnastics.

9. Highlights of 2004 to 05

a) Working Committees

All activities which were carried out in the SMEC were prepared by the School Working Committee (SWC) and the Social Welfare Working Committee (SWWC).

School Working Committee

Mrs. Julia Blake	Chairperson
Mr. Anand	Convener
Mrs. Rani Tandon	Member
Mr. Nagaraj	Member
Mr. Peter Correa	Member

Social Welfare Committee

Mr. Venu	Chairperson
Mr. Yoganna/Mrs. Jijy	Convener
Mr. Nagaraj	Member
Mr. Peter Correa	Member
Mr. David	Member

The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer are ex-offio members. The committees met at least once a month at school. All important decisions relating to the school and the welfare of the families were taken in the committee meetings.

b) Hella Nagar

The wishes of the people living around the school, the teachers and the students were finally fulfilled, when Mr. Jayaram, the Panchayat leader of the Bhattarahalli Village, agreed to name the school surrounding area as Hella Nagar. Accordingly the school address has changed to

Shishu Mandir Education Centre
Hella Nagar
Virgonagar Post
Bangalore - 560049

c) Laying of the Foundation Stone for a Vocational Training Centre

On the occasion of the founder's birthday, which is being celebrated as Founder's Day, in the midst of 750 people of the surrounding villages, the committee members of the Society, the children and staff of SMEC and SMH and 7 guests from Germany, Mrs. Hella Mundhra unveiled the foundation stone for the school extension building and the Vocational Training Centre.

This has brought tremendous hope to the school dropouts of this locality who are longing for a chance in skilled training for a better future.

d) Photo Exhibition

Ms. Verena, Ms. Anja and Mr. Jan, all volunteers from Germany, brought out the photographic talents of our school children in a remarkable way. Ms. Verena, who brought 30 use-and-throw cameras from Germany, sponsored by the Kodak Company, spent more than a month in training our students in photography. This team organised three night camps, spent 2 hours a day with the budding photographers and organised training on all Saturdays for a duration of one month.

As part of the training the students interviewed studio personelle and shopkeepers. Each student from the 7th to the 10th std. was given a camera and a full film roll to shoot pictures of his/her choice, which were later developed and printed.

The ensuing photo exhibition was not only held at school, but also at the Garden City College, thanks to Mrs. Julia Blake, who obtained the permission from the Principal of Garden City College for this exhibition. Also students from five neighbouring schools visited the photo exhibition at our school.

A big thanks to Verena and her team for this wonderful training.

e) Evening Study Sessions

Drunken fathers, bad surroundings, tiny and congested houses and no proper light are the day-to-day problems of our students, which prevent them from studying their lessons at home. The children, staff and the School Working Committee found a solution to this problem by introducing evening study sessions at the school. Subsequently the students from the 2nd to the 10th std. were provided with this facility every day after school hours. This has also helped them to carry fewer books to their homes. A hot cup of tea at the end of the study time helps them to go back home refreshed.

f) Swimming

Swimming which was previously carried out as a weekend activity was brought within the school curriculum as one of the sports activities during the school working hours. The students of the 4th std. were given this training with the help of two volunteers. They went to the MSR Swimming Pool at Banaswadi and later to the CC Club at the Tin Factory.

g) Science Exhibition

A Science Exhibition was organised on the 'National Science Day', which is being celebrated nationwide to commemorate the Raman Effect of Sir C.V. Raman. Mr. Seshagiri, the Vice-President, Mr. Akilan, the Secretary, and Mr. Venu, the Chairperson of the Social Welfare Working Committee, took part in the inaugural program of the exhibition and also went around to listen to the students' explanations. Mr. Seshagiri met the teachers and shared his views on 'The role of a teacher in the lives of students.' He assured the teachers of his collaboration and support.

The exhibition themes were

Classes	Topics
Prep A and B	Flowers and Animals
1 st and 2 nd std.	Our Body and Food
3 rd and 4 th std.	Types of Materials and Light

5 th and 5 th B std.	Solar System and Water
6 th and 7 th std.	Ecosystems and Telecommunication
8 th and 9 th std.	Energy and Chemical Bonding (Periodic Table)

10. Assessment and Training of Special Needs Children

Ms. Doris, an occupational therapist from Germany, conducted special tests with children and found that many of them had learning difficulties. As suggested by her, the children from Prep A to 5th std. were assessed by specialists from The Spastic Society of India. All our teachers were trained by the Spastic Society Team for 10 days (3 hours a day) which helped them to identify the various special needs of the children with learning disabilities. Thanks to Shishu Mandir for investing a sizeable amount of money for this assessment and training.

Class	No. of students assessed	Students for functional literacy	Students for review
Prep A	1	-	-
Prep B	6	-	4
I	5	-	-
II	3	-	3
III	5	1	5
IV	5	1	2
V	10	6	3
Total	35	8	17

11. Child's Rights Training

5 student representatives from Shishu Mandir took part in a child's rights training camp, which was conducted by the Child Help Line for three days.

At another occasion the students of the 8th std. took part in a one-day training camp on the various rights and duties of children. They were made members of the Children's Forum, which is being organised by the Child Help Line Association.

12. Dental, Skin and Eye Camp

A dental camp was organised for the students of our school with the help of the Karnataka Lingayath Society, which runs a dental college. They came with their mobile van in which they did the checking and gave a basic treatment.

Mr.Venu, the Chairperson of the Social Welfare Working Committee, arranged for an eye camp for the students and the villagers around. The people came in big numbers, although we did not give much publicity. This made us even more aware of the need for such camps. Mr. Seshagiri took up the responsibility of providing spectacles for the villagers.

13. Sports and Games

Mr. Chai from Thailand spent six months in the school teaching the children football and table tennis and in turn learning English from the children. He organised football matches on league basis by inculcating the spirit of competition and emphasised to adhere to the rules and regulations of the games.

Table tennis, which was not interesting to most of them, especially to the girls, then became their favourite game due to his very systematic coaching. After giving 5 months of training, he organised singles and doubles and mixed double matches among the children and distributed prizes to them from his own money.

Thanks to Montfort College which sent him to us for such interaction.

14. The 7th Standard Certificate

Since the Government of Karnataka cancelled the 7th std. public exam, Shishu Mandir had to look for a recognised school which would accept our children to get a certificate from a recognised school so that they could appear for the 10th standard government exam later.

Thanks to Mr. Taylor, the President, whose influence made My Saviour School accept our children for the exams.

15. Hippocampus Reading Foundation

Hippocampus, an organisation which promotes reading habits among children, approached us to develop our library system and to help our students in this field. They gave valuable suggestions regarding the cataloguing and selection of books, which is being carried out by our library teacher Mrs. Stella.

16. Village Camp

Mr. Jagadish, who was appointed to take care of the evening study, organised a 3-day village camp at Hakki Pikki Tribal Colony, which is 40 km from Bangalore.

These three days which the children spent on top of a small hill among a tribal population of 350 people were an enriching experience.

Our students performed the street play on Anemia, cleaned the streets, taught songs and games to the tribal children, played football matches with them, planted saplings in the village and organised a camp fire, which brought the entire village together. The children in turn understood the hard life of the tribal people and the sufferings of the children.

Thanks to Mr. Jagadish, Lisa and Kannamma, who spent all the three days with the children.

III Welfare Activities

1. Children's Welfare

a) Food

All children take breakfast and lunch at school. Additionally the children who take part in our vocational training program get tea in the evening.

b) Clothes

Anyone who saw the unpacking of the 67 parcels of clothes and shoes from Germany might have shed tears because they would have become aware of the hard work put in by the German Society members in collecting, washing, mending, ironing and packing the clothes which our children wear to the school every day. All our children get 3 sets of dresses, a pair of shoes, and a sweater every year.

c) Health Care

All the new children had a medical examination and a Tetanus and Polio vaccination. Additionally all the children's medical expenses were taken care of by Shishu Mandir.

d) Educational Materials

Shishu Mandir provided all the educational materials like books, notebooks, pens, pencils, dictionaries etc. They also got a special school bag from Germany, which serves as an "identity card" throughout our area.

e) Christmas Gifts

Every child got a Christmas gift worth Rs.550/-, which was given to them on Jan 11th. With this money they received a T-shirt worth Rs.100, a gift for the family worth Rs. 400 and an accident insurance worth Rs. 50 per year, amounting to Rs. 25 000.

f) Birthday Gifts

Some children's sponsors sent money for a birthday present for their sponsor child. The children were happy to buy new dresses, sometimes gold ornaments, often a gas connection for the family and other useful things.

For details see Annexure 4

g) Savings

The postal savings scheme which was introduced in the school in 2001 to 02 to help the children for their higher education is proving to be a very successful venture due to the untiring efforts put in by the class teachers and Ms. Geetha, the accountant of the school. Each child's parent is supposed to save a minimum of Rs.50 per month which is kept in the name of the children and their parents/guardian. In this way an amount of Rs. 3,43,550 has been deposited as recurring deposit in the post office.

For details see Annexure 5

2. Staff Welfare

a) Insurances

Out of the 9 teachers who have completed three years of teaching at Shishu Mandir 6 were insured against accidents up to a maximum sum of one lakh rupees. The non-teaching staff were insured for medical expenses up to Rs.50 000 each.

b) Transport

Teachers who come from the Ulsoor area and along the direct route to school travelled in the school van provided by the Society. The other staff travelled by public transport for which they received Rs. 200 as travel allowance every month.

c) Gifts and Increments

The staff were fortunate to get two increments this year. The first one given in January was based on the years of service put in by the staff.

7 years and above	Rs. 1000
5 to 6 years	Rs. 750
1 to 4 years	Rs. 500

All the staff members received a Christmas gift of Rs. 300.
Thanks to Mrs.Hella and the EC for this support.

d) Staff Credit Society

The Staff Credit Society helps the staff to save as well as to get a credit when they are in need of money. This has helped many staff members to overcome a financial crisis.

For details see Annexure 6

3. Family Welfare

a) Self Help Groups

7 Self Help Groups are being organised in three villages. They meet once a week to discuss their problems. They also collect savings and give loans among their members. Three meetings were held for the leaders of their groups at SMEC. The Self Help Group members also participated in the annual sports meet on January 11th. They received Christmas gifts worth Rs.100 each.

b) Self Employment

One of the main aims of organising the SHG's is to initiate self-employment schemes. Loans were provided to some of the members to start self-employment like canteens, tailoring shops etc.

Thanks to Sahayatha Trust, which came forward to provide such loans. One group has paid back the initial loan while the others are still regularly paying it back.

For details see Annexure 7

c) De-addiction Camp

An attempt was made to help the alcoholic parents of our school children to become aware of the evils of alcoholism and to get treated for this problem.

Mr. Victor from Chennai made five visits to the villages and interacted with them. He selected fourteen men and one lady for the medical treatment and provided medicines for one month. He organised a three day camp to help them overcome their problem.

4. Educational Sponsorships

SMEC does not stop the support for the children who leave the school either before or after completing the 10th std., but gives full support for the education and health also to the past students. Some of them even receive support for their food expenses.

SMEC also supports the education of siblings of 5 school children whose families live in utter misery due to losing one parent.

With great appreciation we wish to mention that educational support is also extended to one more child of the parents who have undergone a family planning operation.

a) Past Students of SMEC

No.	Name of Student	Course	Type of Support
1	Manoshalini	II PUC	Fees, dress, note books, text books, exam fees, bus pass, health care and monthly provision
2	Deepa	II PUC	
3	Celine	II PUC	
4	Madhan	II I.T.I.	Fees, uniform, books, bus pass, exam fees, health care
5	Johnson	VI std.	Fees, uniform, books, bus pass, exam fees, health care
6	Arvind	IV std.	Fees, uniform, books, bus pass, exam fees, health care
7	Komala	II std.	Fees, uniform, books, bus pass, exam fees, health care
8	Jennifer	NOS	Special tuition

b) Special Sponsorships

SMEC Student	Sponsored Sibling		Type of Support
Savitha	Vinitha	IV std.	Fees, uniform, books, exam fees
Naveen	Pradeep	VI std.	Fees, uniform, books, bus pass, exam fees
Tejasvini	Pravilika	III std.	Fees, uniform, books, exam fees
Cynthia Rani	Ashok John	IV std.	Fees, uniform, books, exam fees
Arvind	Vijay	IV std.	Fees, uniform, books, exam fees
Madhan	Kamlesh	X std.	Fees, uniform, books, exam fees

c) Educational Sponsorship for Siblings of our School Children whose parents underwent a Family Planning Operation

Class	No. of students	Area		School medium		Total amount paid
		Ulsoor	KRpuram	Eng	Kan	
I to IV	24	5	19	20	4	46,000
V to VII	14	4	10	8	6	26,510
VIII to X	9	5	4	7	2	17,505
Total	47	14	33	35	12	90,015

For details see Annexure 8

Conclusion

The children, staff and the parents thank Dr. Hella Mundhra and her dedicated friends in Germany, the sponsors and the Executive Committee of Shishu Mandir Society for their guidance and support for all the endeavors of the school and community welfare services.

Report compiled by

Mr. Anand, Principal of Shishu Mandir Education Centre
with grateful thanks to

Ms. Geetha, Accountant of Shishu Mandir Education Centre
and

Ms. Divya, Ex-Student of Shishu Mandir Education Centre
without whose help this work would not have been possible.

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