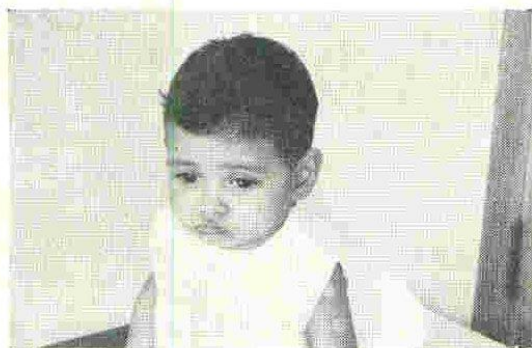


BALA MANDIR



Inauguration—
Nursery School and Hospital Buildings—Smt. Indira Gandhi

1959

AIMS & OBJECTS

1. To provide a home for any child who is homeless or parentless, to satisfy the child's physical, mental and emotional needs and to help every child to grow up as a useful citizen.
2. To assist destitute women to settle down in life and earn an honourable living.
3. To quicken the social conscience of the community and bring greater awareness of the responsibility towards destitute children.

HISTORY

- 1949** Bala Mandir was started in a small cottage in Teynampet with two foundlings. Sjt. J. D. Dalmia's generous donation of Rs. 10,000 formed the nucleus fund.
- 1951** Recognised by the Madras Government as a Fit Person Institution for destitute and deprived children sent by juvenile courts.
- 1952** Land was assigned by the Government for the building.
Construction was started with a donation of Rs. 6,000 by Sri S. S. Vasan.
The Nursery School was opened.
- 1956** The Elementary School was started.
A Carpentry Unit was started as a Hobby Centre.
The Hospital section was opened.
- 1959** The Carpentry Unit became a work-cum-training section for boys. (Machinery donated by CARE).
- 1961** Sri Satyamurthi High School was started.
- 1962** The Carpentry Unit was recognised by the Central Social Welfare Board as a Socio-Economic Unit to train women for carpentry.
- 1964** A Poultry was started.
- 1965** A Laundry section was inaugurated.
- 1969** Bala Mandir completes twenty years.
More than 1,500 children have so far received affectionate care and protection.

ASSISTANCE

1. Government grants for maintenance of children by the juvenile courts.
2. Private donations:
 - (a) Individuals, business concerns and service organisations in India and abroad make annual donations.
 - (b) Donations for feeding on special days and feasts.
 - (c) Donations in kind—Clothing, Medicine and Food Articles. Books, School Equipment and Toys.
 - (d) Children are sponsored by foster parents from other countries, who send money for their maintenance.

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES

1. TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY LIVING :

Children are trained to live as useful members of the community. A good family spirit of solidarity and spirit is encouraged. There is a training for leadership; the older children help the younger ones and learn the tasks of home management.

2. REHABILITATION PROGRAMME :

- (a) *Adoption*.—It is a happy rehabilitation for the child when he becomes part of the family group. Many children have been given in adoption to suitable parents.
- (b) *Vocational Training*.—Some girls have received training as nurses, auxiliary nurses, midwives and teachers. Some boys have found skilled jobs in many factories, being trained in carpentry, welding, photography and clerical work. Others have been trained for jobs in the laundry, poultry and carpentry sections of Bala Mandir.
- (c) *Marriage*.—This is a universally recognised form of rehabilitation for girls. Since 1966 several of the older girls have been given away in marriage. The marriages are performed in a traditional manner.



Our boys in the Carpentry Section

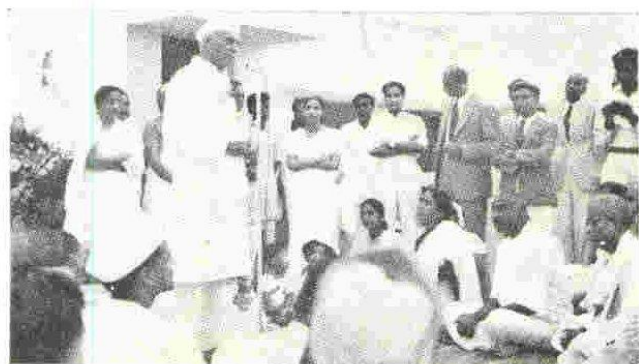
1962

SOME QUOTES FROM OUR VISITORS' BOOK

1. A wonderful and soul-satisfying Institution. I was delighted to go round the same and see the bright little kids so affectionately looked after. I wish it an unbroken and expanding career of service. Bala Mandir—the temple of children.

11th March 1951.

(Sd.) K. C. REDDY,
Chief Minister, Mysore



Sri Jawaharlal Nehru in Bala Mandir

1952

2. One can judge an institution like this not so much by the buildings, but by the happy faces of little children. The bright and cheerful faces of the children showed how well they were kept and how much you (management and staff) bring that human touch in dealing with them.

October 1952.

(Sd.) JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

3. To glimpse a little of the work that is done here is a privilege. Those who lovingly contribute to the happiness of those children deserve the praise and blessing and help of all. It is a joy to know that these boys and girls obviously are getting affection along with medical care.

(Sd.) J. R. WIGGINS,

"Washington Post",

24th January 1960.

Vice-President and Executive Editor.

4. We were very happy to inaugurate the new Dining Hall and Kitchen given by Oxfam. We congratulate all the Committee and staff on the wonderful work they are doing for children and wish them all success in future.

(Sd.) AUSMA ACWORTH,

8th December 1967.

Field Secretary for South India.

5. I couldn't have spent a better morning. It was sheer joy to see the smiling faces of young children who are looked after so well by the team of humanitarian workers. If only each one of us could take one child and look after its maintenance, it would lighten the task of finding the necessary funds to run this great institution.

(Sd.) G. N. DAMODARAN,

13th January 1967.

District Governor, Lions' Club, Madras.

6. The cheerfulness of the four hundred youngsters in this institution is a magnificent tribute to those who are in charge of the management of its affairs.

(Sd.) T. A. S. BALAKRISHNAN,

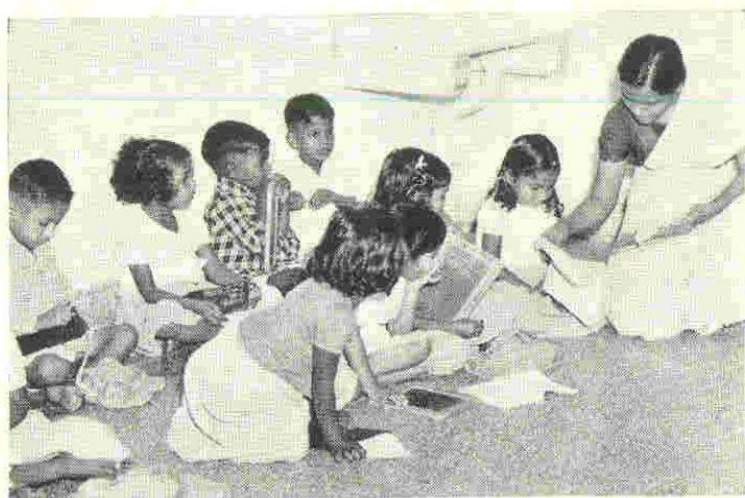
26th January 1969.

Secretary to Government, Madras.



Our President, Kamaraj with our
First Baby

1949



Children at School

1959



Bala Mandir Bride

1969