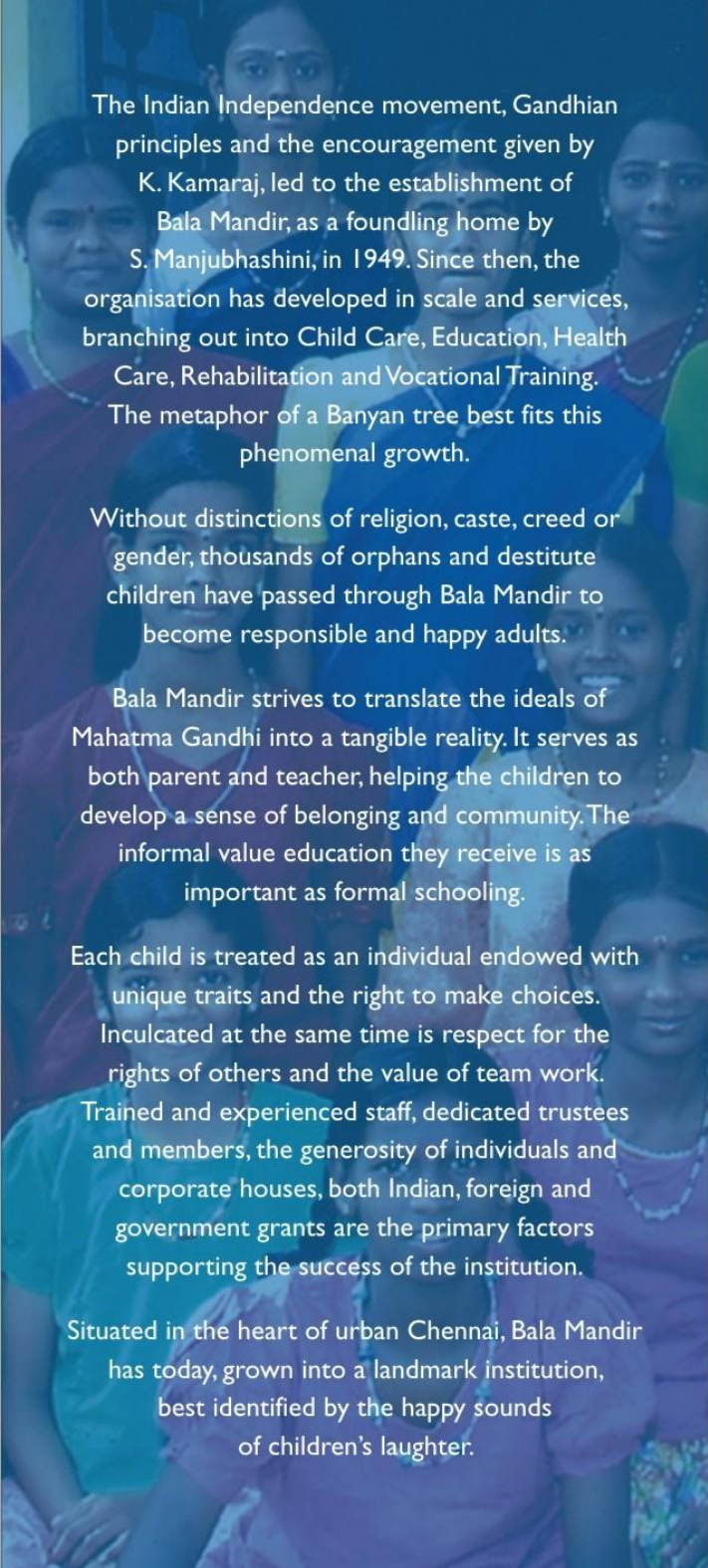


*All children need loving care.*

*A child without a family  
needs it all the more.*



**Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust**

A group of smiling children, mostly girls, are shown in a blue-tinted photograph. They are wearing traditional Indian clothing like sarees and bangles. The text is overlaid on this image.

The Indian Independence movement, Gandhian principles and the encouragement given by K. Kamaraj, led to the establishment of Bala Mandir, as a foundling home by S. Manjubhashini, in 1949. Since then, the organisation has developed in scale and services, branching out into Child Care, Education, Health Care, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training. The metaphor of a Banyan tree best fits this phenomenal growth.

Without distinctions of religion, caste, creed or gender, thousands of orphans and destitute children have passed through Bala Mandir to become responsible and happy adults.

Bala Mandir strives to translate the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi into a tangible reality. It serves as both parent and teacher, helping the children to develop a sense of belonging and community. The informal value education they receive is as important as formal schooling.

Each child is treated as an individual endowed with unique traits and the right to make choices. Inculcated at the same time is respect for the rights of others and the value of team work. Trained and experienced staff, dedicated trustees and members, the generosity of individuals and corporate houses, both Indian, foreign and government grants are the primary factors supporting the success of the institution.

Situated in the heart of urban Chennai, Bala Mandir has today, grown into a landmark institution, best identified by the happy sounds of children's laughter.

## CHILD CARE

### Foundling Home

This is the heart of the institution's work. Infants get tender care and special attention for a gradual restoration to health and well-being. At any time, about 100 children (from birth to six) are nourished and nurtured by experienced child care workers.



### Children's Home

Approximately 250 children between the ages of 6 and 18 live in well-ventilated and comfortable dormitories. Each age group is headed by a caregiver, who provides the warmth of a family. The children have plenty of opportunities to learn, imbibe good value systems and live in harmony with others. Activities to enhance self-reliance and independent thinking find a place in



the schedule.

Tailoring and cooking are among the many skills that Bala Mandir senior children are given. The tailoring section makes the children's clothes and serves the entire Bala Mandir family.

### Nagercoil Home

Set up in 1990, this is the first branch of Bala Mandir, outside the city of Chennai. It is home to about 50 girl children. Run by competent staff and dedicated committee members, it is expected to soon start adoption, day-care services and Vocational courses for women.





## EDUCATION

### Day Care Centre

This is a service for working mothers in the neighbourhood. About 200 children of the Preschool years, starting as young as 6 months of age, come together for the day. Trained teachers and caregivers nurture and educate them. Children get nutritious snacks and meals and spend the day in a stimulating and supportive ambience.



### The Bala Mandir Vidyalaya

This was set up in 1990, mainly for the children of Bala Mandir Kindergarten to Standard V. Creative teaching methods are pursued and inclusive, educational innovations are introduced. English teaching has become an integral part of the bilingual curriculum.



### Bala Mandir Primary School

This was opened in 1952, and is recognised and aided by the State Government. The neighbourhood is well served by this facility. The school educates about 400 boys and girls of the Primary classes. The classes are equipped with learning materials and there are spacious grounds available for children to play.

### The Satyamurthi Higher Secondary School

This was started in 1961 as a High School. Recognised and aided by the State, it was later upgraded to a Higher Secondary School, with an English medium section. About 500 children from the neighbouring areas and Bala Mandir attend the School. There is a school library and laboratory, which provide support and enrichment for the curriculum. Children are given a holistic foundation, with a focus on Value Education, Life Skills, Spoken English and basic Vocational Training.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational education and training are provided for those who are interested and inclined. The units set up here also help to generate some income through their services and products.

### Carpentry Unit

This Unit, set up in 1962, is equipped with state-of-the-art tools and materials. It serves as a training centre for handicapped children and school dropouts. Its products include furniture for crèches and schools, educational aids, play items and low cost Montessori self-learning materials. Materials for children with disability and special needs are being developed.

### Laundry Unit

Started in 1965, it provides training to many young people and offers its services to several small establishments in the city.



### Screen Printing

This unit provides training in screen printing for a variety of items like cards, toys, etc.

### P-H Mortensen Industrial Training Centre

Set up in 1999, it meets the needs of the rapidly growing demand for skilled technical workers in the engineering, industrial and infrastructural sectors. Training in computer skills as well as for electricians, plumbers, fitters and carpenters is given here. This centre will also start courses under the modular self-employment scheme for school dropouts.

### Women's Empowerment

This unit, to come up shortly, is intended for destitute women to be trained in Tailoring, Healthcare, Childcare, Insurance, Micro-finance, etc.



## REHABILITATION

### Adoption

Over the years, hundreds of infants and young children have been welcomed and absorbed into families, through legal adoption procedures.



### Home Sponsorship

It focusses increasingly on rehabilitating back into their families, children who have grown up in Bala Mandir. It involves counselling, financial support and supervision of the process of adjustment back with the family and society.

### Marriage

Orphan girls who have grown up in Bala Mandir are helped to find suitable life partners. A simple marriage ceremony is performed at Bala Mandir and the couple is provided with basic household needs. The institution also serves as the natal home for young mothers, especially for their first pregnancy.



### Higher Education and Employment

Orphan, destitute and High School children are given career counselling and guidance to make the right choices in higher education. Scholarships and sponsorships are also available.

## HEALTH

### Bala Mandir Vinayaka Clinics

Comprehensive health care coverage is given to all children in Bala Mandir and its schools. In combination with regular medical care, Ayurveda and Homeopathy are also used. In partnerships with Pediatricians, Dentists, Ophthalmologists and Physiotherapists, expert attention is given to the children. The services are also available to the staff of Bala Mandir and the poor in the neighbourhood.



## School Health Programme

This key initiative covers children at all levels, enhancing Health Literacy, leading to a holistic and healthy life. The material has been developed appropriately for different age groups and the curriculum is communicated in a practical way.

## FACILITIES

### Bala Mandir German Hall

This well-equipped auditorium is rented out for cultural programmes, seminars, workshops and meetings and is also used for all special and celebratory functions of Bala Mandir.

### Resource Centre

In 2005, this centre was opened for parents, teachers, ECCD and health professionals, social workers and NGO personnel. It has a well-stocked library of materials on parenting issues. Counselling is offered for parenting problems. Discussion groups



meet here to discuss on various child care and development issues.

### Cultural Centre

In its 60th year, Bala Mandir introduced programmes for enrichment that seek to enhance the holistic quality and nature of education. These programmes will serve as a resource to savour the excellence and diversity of India's heritage and culture.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Meeting the children or hearing them laugh as they happily play and eat is a rewarding experience for any visitor. An affectionate smile or a handshake and a few loving words from you goes a long way in brightening a child's world.

## You can

- sponsor a child
- meet education costs
- sponsor a meal on a specified date
- donate for medical treatment, clothing and excursions
- make an endowment, the accrued interest from which will be used for the earmarked purpose

| Sponsorship         | Amount                                   | Endowment             |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Individual Child    | Rs. 7,500 (per yr.)                      | Rs. 1,00,000          |
| Meals + Spl. needs  | Rs. 2,000-Rs.5,000                       | Rs. 35,000-Rs. 50,000 |
| Vocational Training | Rs. 6,000 (per yr.)                      | Rs. 60,000            |
| Higher Education    | as per requirement of individual student |                       |



1949 - 2009

Cheques/Drafts may be issued to:  
**BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST**

Direct remittances from abroad may be sent to:  
Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, Foreign S.B.A/c. No. 201/7695  
Syndicate Bank, T. Nagar Branch, Chennai - 600 017

All donations are exempt from Income tax under Section 80-G of I.T.Act

**Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust**  
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