



Annual Report 2018-19



1949 | **BALA MANDIR** | 2019
ENCOURAGE • ENGAGE • ENRICH



ABOUT BALA MANDIR

Established in 1949 by Sri Kamaraj and Smt Manjubhashini as a children’s home, Bala Mandir has sheltered thousands of children in difficult circumstances from their infancy— orphan, destitute and socio-economically deprived and now the activities are expanded to include children with special needs. It has grown over the past seven decades into a premier social welfare organisation, branching out from childcare to education, skills training, rehabilitation of children, and research in early childhood development. Bala Mandir is a registered society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Bala Mandir Vision

Bala Mandir endorses the rights of all children and envisions for them loving care, good upbringing and opportunities for development especially for children in difficult circumstances.

The Vision statement is based on the following values that drive Bala Mandir’s actions

- All children need loving care, good upbringing and opportunities for development
- A child without a family needs these all the more

Bala Mandir Mission

- To serve foundlings, orphans, abandoned, destitute, socially and economically deprived children and youth, irrespective of caste, creed, gender and religion through Institutional and Non-Institutional programmes for care, all-round education, medical support, rehabilitation and related research
- To collaborate, coordinate and affiliate with Indian and International agencies in similar fields of work
- To work with the Government for the formulation of suitable policies in the area of childcare and provide support for its effective implementation

With an impeccable track record of a highly ethical and professional approach, Bala Mandir is well-known for working towards a holistic and all-round development of the children under its care. Bala Mandir Homes for children and day care centre/educational institutions are located in the heart of urban Chennai and Nagercoil. Bala Mandir also works with other organisations and Government institutions and shares its best practices in early childhood care and development for all children.

Bala Mandir Values

- The following code of conduct guidelines capture the Bala Mandir values:
1. Child-centric Behaviour
 2. Integrity
 3. Equality and Teamwork
 4. Professional Approach
 5. Respect for Law and Rules
 6. Caring for the Environment
 7. Secular Outlook
 8. Continual Improvement and Striving for Excellence
 9. Inclusion

More details on Bala Mandir can be found on its main website www.balamandir.org
Information about activities related to children with special needs and Bala Mandir Research Organisation can be found at www.mncindia.org as well as www.parentingredefined.com



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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

We take great pleasure in presenting this Annual Report of our 70th year of service to children. The year has been an important milestone year and we celebrated it with a series of functions with lot of nostalgia by reaching out to Alumni, retired staff and longstanding donors and well-wishers who have helped the institution in its journey.

It was an important occasion to reflect on the goals and the directions for the future, which were captured in the 70 year logo as follows:

- **Encourage** every child to achieve his/her potential,
- **Engage** with the wider community and share best practices
- **Enrich** the lives of all the children in difficult circumstances.



Madhuram Narayanan Centre

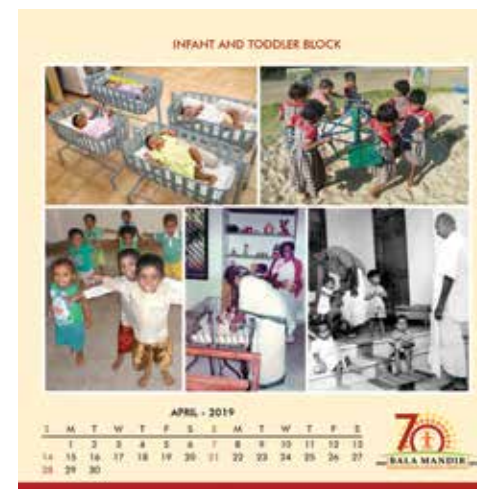
Bala Mandir's activities have undergone a significant expansion and enhancement after the integration of the activities of Bala Mandir Research Foundation (BMRF) and Maduram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC). The various management processes that we put in place in the last few years are helping us cope with the expanded activities and we continue to work on improving the same with increased focus on statutory compliance, quality of service and promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, continuous learning and improvement.

The following are some of the significant developments in the various activities of Bala Mandir-

- **Children's Home:** After the expansion and upgradation of the infrastructure and other resources at both our homes in Chennai and Nagercoil, the approved capacity of our homes has increased and now we are ready to admit more children. Both the homes are functioning well and we are adapting ourselves to the statutory changes and the changing care and development needs of orphan and destitute children. The rehabilitation process is now streamlined and we continue to support the children through home sponsorship and scholarships and have a well-defined counselling / mentoring process. This has enabled our Alumni to be well settled and gainfully employed.
- **Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD):** Day Care Centre continues as a model ECCD centre using the knowledge base available with BMRF. We continue to use the pre-primary Montessori environment along with various other developmental inputs. During the year, the occupational therapy facility was enhanced to improve its effectiveness. We are also trying to integrate children with special needs with neuro typical children.
- **Education:** The steps taken to improve the quality of our schools has borne fruit. The Vidyalaya is now a full-fledged English Medium Primary School and is breaking new grounds in its teaching methodology and developmental focus. The Satyamurthi High School continues to make progress in terms of quality of all-round development of the children through both academic and extra-curricular activities.

- **Skill Training:** During the year we finally decided to wind up the Vocational Training Centre (VCT) and convert the VTC building for the expansion of our educational activities and we will continue to work on skill training for our children.
- **Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC):** During the year the activities of the MNC unit became part of Bala Mandir. The unit has a well-defined routine of early intervention in the development of children with special needs which has evolved over the last 3 decades. The scope of work covers not only the support for the children who come to the centre, but also supporting the Government through early intervention centres in all districts of Tamil Nadu and Training of Special Educators, therapists and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan teachers.

In February 2019, due to health reasons, Dr. Anandalakshmy stepped down and Mr. N. Kumar took over as President of Bala Mandir. Dr. Anandalakshmy has been a Bala Mandir Trustee from 2009 and was President of BMRF from the year 2000. For two decades she was the 'guiding light', mentor and advisor for all our work with children in difficult circumstances and for BMRF's ECCD Parenting programmes.



Calendar released for the 70th year celebration



Financial results: The 2018-19 results once again show that expenses exceeded the income. This is mainly on account of delay in the receipts of Government grant for the last two years. There has been a good increase in donations. During the year we also made an appeal to our well-wishers for a general corpus fund to take care of cash flow mismatch and received encouraging support for the same. The financials for the year are not comparable to the last year due to the addition of the MNC unit, its income and expenses and the integration of BMRF accounts as well. The tables and graphs on page 4 of the report provide the summary of the financials and cash flow. The statistical summary (headcount) of the different units is shown in page 5 while the detailed reports that follow explain the status in each of the units.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to all our donors, well-wishers, and friends who continue to whole heartedly support us in our mission to provide qualitative care to the orphan and destitute children of Bala Mandir and those in difficult circumstances from the nearby slums. Our thanks are also due to the staff and volunteers who tirelessly work towards the implementation of all our endeavours as also the members of the various collaborating organisations who are supporting our various projects..

Maya Gaitonde

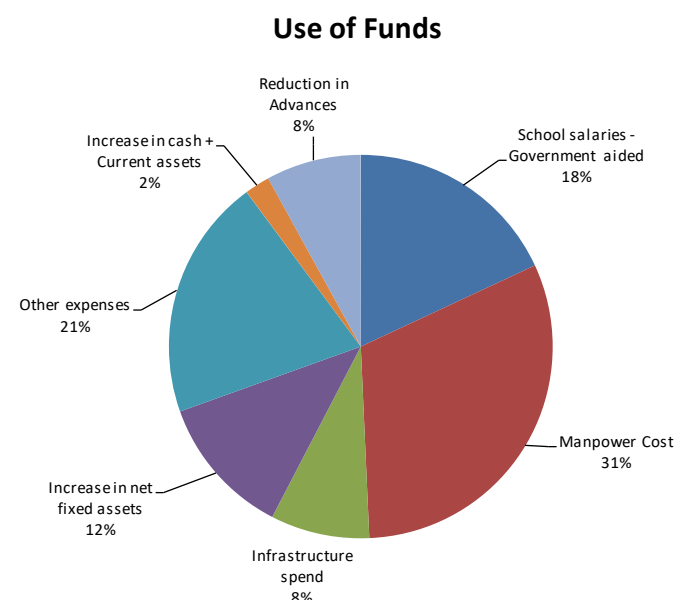
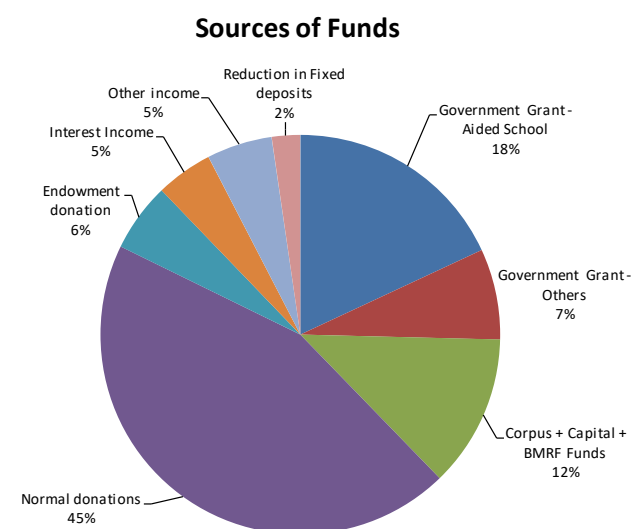
Maya Gaitonde
Honorary General Secretary



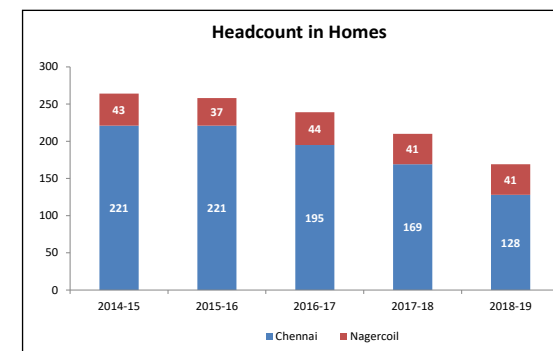
SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

	Year 2018-19	Year 2017-18
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Government Grant - Aided School	1,84,11,424	1,72,39,133
Government Grant - Others	74,84,321	1,19,65,335
Normal donations	4,53,83,474	2,85,50,733
Interest Income	46,86,892	44,04,943
Other Income	53,95,960	42,04,604
Total Income	8,13,62,070	6,63,64,748
EXPENDITURE		
School salaries - Government aided	1,84,11,424	1,72,39,133
Manpower Cost related expenses	3,18,51,618	2,42,26,512
Food expenses	69,35,890	77,32,056
Repairs / Infrastructure improvement	85,06,048	84,47,536
Depreciation	25,84,589	23,99,461
Other expenses	1,38,27,356	1,04,07,251
Total Expenditure	8,21,16,925	7,04,51,949
Income transferred to General Fund	(7,54,855)	(40,87,201)

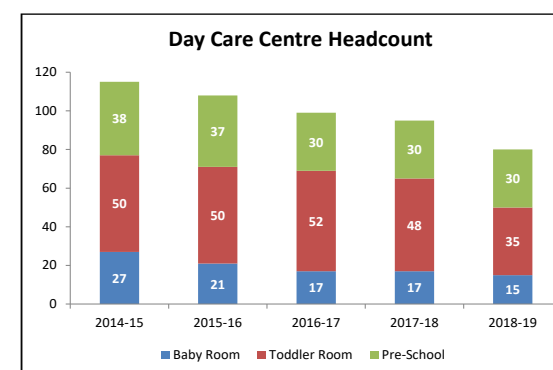
	Year 2018-19	Year 2017-18
	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Capital fund	2,26,77,749	1,46,32,926
Endowment Fund	4,54,33,568	3,97,66,123
Corpus Fund - Others	38,47,705	
General Fund	1,26,26,824	1,26,75,057
Total	8,45,85,846	6,70,74,106
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Net Fixed Assets	4,42,90,616	3,47,54,805
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Inventories	8,26,600	43,716
Cash and bank balances	94,88,246	86,71,972
Fixed Deposits	4,32,11,000	4,55,58,000
Loans and advances	14,56,517	9,02,470
Less - Current liability & Provisions	1,46,87,133	2,28,56,857
Net current assets	4,02,95,230	3,23,19,301
Total	8,45,85,846	6,70,74,106



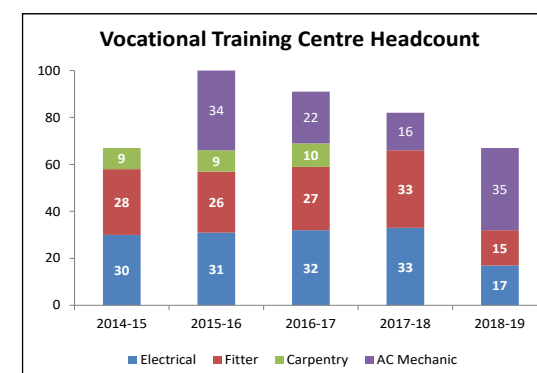
STATISTICAL SUMMARY ACROSS UNITS



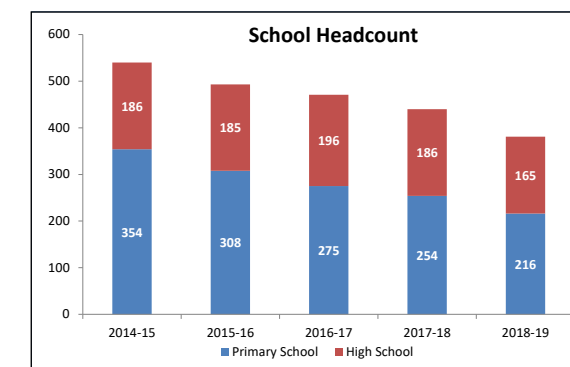
Note: The decrease of headcount in children's home reflects increased focus on rehabilitation / adoption, the statutory rules relating to transfer of children as per the jurisdiction as well as reduction in approved headcount due to application of norms as per JJ Act. The numbers are expected to go up in the future with the improvements made on the infrastructure front.



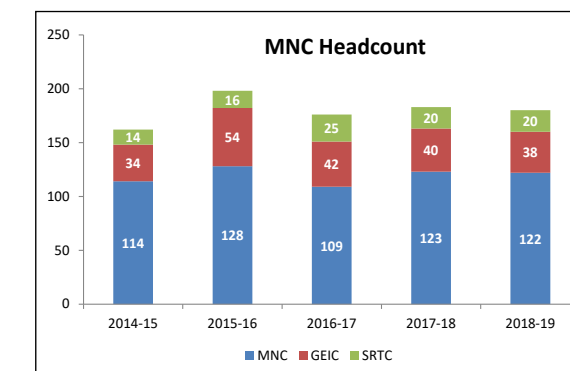
Note: The decreasing trend of children in day care centre is due to shifting of slums from the vicinity of Bala Mandir and the trend in reduction in size of the families. The numbers would go up once it is reorganised and the crèche services are extended by reaching out to a larger group.



Note: VTC operations are planned to be discontinued



Note: The decreasing trend of headcount in the schools is due to shifting of slums and preference of the community for English medium schools. The trend should reverse when the Bala Mandir Vidyalaya English medium school expands its operation after the addition of the new infrastructure and the word spreads about the new initiatives and the improved quality of education.



Note: The MNC activities have become a new unit of Bala Mandir in 2018-19. The prior numbers shown above are for the period when it was an independent entity. The MNC scope of work remains unchanged in 2018-19 compared to the prior period.



- ### 70th Year Celebration of Bala Mandir
- 8th March morning: Inauguration of the new Bala Mandir Cultural Centre by Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen, Chairman of Braade-Stiftung
 - 8th March evening: Sarvadharm prayer at Bala Mandir Cultural Centre
 - 9th March morning: Bala Mandir Alumni meet
 - 9th March evening: Volunteers Meet, involving individuals and organisations
 - 10th March morning: A Villupattu on 'Empowering through Education' by Thirumathi Bharathi Thirumagan, Thiru. T. Kalaimagan, and Thiru. Thirumagan
 - 10th March evening: The 70th Anniversary function at the Mahaswami Hall, Vani Mahal. The Chief Guest for the function was Shri. Gopalkrishna Gandhi. A cultural programme by the children was held
 - Ms. Kalpakam Narayanan, Ms. Jaya Krishnaswami, Ms. Premilla Shanmugham, Dr. P.J.N. Reddy and Dr. Anandalakshmy were honoured as GUIDING LIGHTS of Bala Mandir
 - The Chief Guest released a special calendar created for the occasion, beginning from April 2019 and ending March 2020, showcasing the activities of Bala Mandir





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The core activity of Bala Mandir is its Children's Programme, catering to all aspects related to the all-round holistic development of the children admitted to full-time care in its Homes in Chennai and Nagercoil. The care of infants and toddlers, who are often admitted in a poor state of health, psycho-socially deprived, remains a critical activity in Bala Mandir – monitoring of health, visits to hospitals as needed, special nutrition to aid growth and development, with love and care. Many of the little ones are admitted to the Reception Home – where their stay is kept to a minimum time – before either being rehabilitated with family, released for adoption or shifted to BM Children's Home for long term institutional care.

The children go through an excellent education programme with all the facilities. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities aid in the all-round development of the children. Social workers monitor the physical and psycho-social well-being of different age groups of children. All admissions to the children's programme are as per the prescribed statutory process. The Home in Chennai admits children below six years while the Nagercoil home is exclusively for girls and admits them above the age of five.

During the year 2018-19, following the upgradation of infrastructure as mandated by JJ Act, the approved capacity for Bala Mandir homes stands increased to 200 in the Children's Home in Chennai and 42 in Nagercoil. Current headcount is lower and we can expect an increase in children in the years to come. Bala Mandir continues its well-established routine for the children's home while also adapting to the emerging environment, and making improvements as needed.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S HOME IN CHENNAI

The doctors' visit schedule in Bala Mandir ensures that there is a doctor every day of the week – Dr. Janaki, Dr. P. J. N. Reddy, Dr. Suchitra and Dr. Lavanya. Immunization is strictly followed for the children. The children of the Infants and Toddlers Block have a well-planned routine which is followed in order to provide them with holistic developmental inputs in these critical years. The children enjoyed having an exciting summer camp with various activities.

'Happy Hours' group sessions were provided for caregivers who give 24-hour care and it included fun activities and laughter yoga.

As always, all festivals and functions were celebrated in Bala Mandir, giving an opportunity for the children to showcase their talents in dance, drama and singing.

Special highlights were: Damodar Pooja in Hare Krishna style, storytelling on Balu Sir's birthday, flag hoisting for Independence Day by Gowri Mami, Helper in the kitchen, and attending mass Gita chanting.

There were a wide range of activities that the children participated in through the year, with special outings for shopping experience, ride in the Metro Rail, attending a workshop on time management, singing by the choir girls for special occasions like Madras Week and Mahakavi Bharathi Day, participation in a Christmas carnival and visits to Sharada Math and Vishranthi Home, and being provided arts, craft and music sessions during holidays.

The children participated in various competitions held by different organisations and won prizes—dance, drawing, sports, Gita chanting, Thiruppavai chanting. They wholeheartedly participated in the Bala Mandir intra-group yearly competitions,



Toddlers at play



Flag-hoisting by Gowri Mami



Puppet Show by volunteers



Children of the Infants & Toddlers Block



Playtime in the evening



Deepavali greetings from the officers of E3 police station



Outing for the junior children



Kartigai Deepam celebrations



Installing the idols

held in different categories for Junior and Senior children during the Bala Mandir Anniversary.

Regular routines continue—common prayer on Thursdays, Visitors Day, vegetable cutting in the kitchen, weekly tailoring classes, second Saturday club activity, weekly bhajan classes, Value Education and yoga.

For the all-round development of the children, special coaching classes were conducted by staff and volunteers. PT classes have been introduced for Standard III to X girls and is conducted by the team of Dr. Paul Devasagayam, Area Director, Special Olympics Bharat, Tamil Nadu.

Several Government officials added quality during their inspection through their suggestion and observation.

Social workers continue with their work of documentation and report the children's health, behaviour and development



Newly constructed gazebo on the campus



Adolescence counselling by DCPU social worker at Nagercoil



Pongal celebrations at Nagercoil

to Government agencies. They escorted the children during transfer, and attended all the necessary Government meetings and monthly child-management meetings.

On January 23, a Shanthi pooja was conducted for the idols which were then relocated on January 30, under a newly-constructed canopy, with full religious rites. A new gazebo was constructed in the play area for the children.

CHILDREN'S HOME NAGERCOIL

The strength of the Home is 40. The girls have been in good health and have performed well academically. Standard VII, VIII and IX girls underwent tailoring and gardening classes. Outings were organised regularly.

All festivals were celebrated in a traditional way and functions in a meaningful manner.

Children's Committee meetings were held regularly and reported to the Home Management committee, which consisted of participation of DCPO, children's representative, office staff and teacher and met every month.

Volunteer activities included teaching Spoken English, Bhajans and Meditation classes.

The creche which has been functioning to help the daily wage-earning mothers around the area, is continuing with this service.

Five girls were rehabilitated with their families. They are all doing well in their studies.

Parents' Day held on the last Sundays of each month was well attended. The parents, children and staff discussed together rules that were explained, as well as instructions and suggestions given. Apart from this, parents were allowed to visit the children whenever necessary.



Annual Day and Creche Day being celebrated at Nagercoil



REHABILITATION PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The Rehabilitation Programme of Bala Mandir is a very essential part of its service activities. Bala Mandir works towards rehabilitating the children under its care back into their own homes and then on to society. Adoption of children takes place, whenever possible, through the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). When children are not in a position to be given for adoption and the parent/guardian comes from difficult circumstances, their institutionalization becomes necessary. When the position of the parent/guardian improves, the child is rehabilitated after a home study and counselling, through a Home Sponsorship programme – which entails a support for maintenance and education for the child. The social workers of Bala Mandir monitor the integration of the children with the parent/guardian and the society. When there is an adjustment difficulty, it is handled with care and sensitivity – in a child-centric way.

In 2018-19 the adoption process was further streamlined and Bala Mandir license was renewed for a period of five years till December 2023. The adoption unit approved strength now stands increased from 8 to 24 children based on the enhancement of Staff and Infrastructure. The rehabilitation activities were also streamlined with increase in the sponsorship for higher education as well as qualitative support for the Alumni.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Adoption

All adoption pending legalisations have been completed. Four inter-country cases were completed and children placed with their respective families after obtaining their passports. In two cases the procedure for name change had to be effected and passport reapplied with modifications after clarifications from the APO in Mount Road, Chennai. Birth certificates for 24 children were also applied for and received. Children in the Home were tested for their development with the help of Madhuram Narayan Centre and where necessary, the staff were taught stimulation exercises for the children.

CARA has made the adoption meeting format and attendance norms more stringent and the same is being followed.



Counselling of prospective adoptive parents by DCPU counsellor



Meeting of the Adoption Committee

Key statistics for the year 2018-19	
Adoption Legalised	23
Inter Country placement	4
Placed in Foster Care	10
Home Studies conducted	121
Bala Mandir Follow Ups 1-4	191
Other SARA follow ups	12

Pre-adoption counselling: This is held every month for parents who have registered for adoption.

Children are prepared for adoption placement by sending them to play school, learning basic words, teaching them to walk with slippers, how to eat the right way, etc. For inter-country adoption, the family album is shown to familiarize them with their adoptive family.

All tests mandated by CARA were done for the children placed in the Adoption Unit. Physiotherapy and speech therapy were given for children who required it.

Parents: Home studies were conducted for the parents who are registered. Follow-ups for children were done to ensure that they are well integrated into their respective families and to address issues, if any, immediately. These follow-ups are done twice a year for a period of two years, post adoption. Counselling is provided wherever necessary.

Government SARA Review meeting: Every quarter, meetings are called to discuss issues faced and review the work of each agency. This gives agencies an opportunity to meet with others across Tamil Nadu and to sort out problems with regards to adoption procedures. It is also a forum to share ideas and best practices.



CWC members and Probation Officer



Parents sharing their experiences

**Sponsorships:**

Educational Sponsorship: 21 children of Bala Mandir Staff were supported for their school education through the Kamaraj Fund. 9 children of Bala Mandir Alumni got support for school fees through the Manjubhashini Fund. 34 children were supported for higher education through the Higher Education Endowment.

As a new initiative, Bala Mandir has begun supporting the further education of students, who have passed out of Standard X of Satyamurthi High School. This is to ensure that in spite of the very difficult circumstances in the urban slum they come from, they continue to pursue their studies and become gainfully employed.

Rehabilitation: Bala Mandir continues to support the children who grew up in the Home and rehabilitated on completion of Standard X through Home Sponsorships. This year, 18 children continued to get support for higher education along with counselling.

As a special initiative for the 70th year, Bala Mandir reconnected with the Alumni, who had grown up in the Home and are now integrated with society. Given the long history of Bala Mandir, some of the Alumni were even grandparents. It was heartwarming to see the Alumni come over enthusiastically to their Alma Mater and reminiscence about their lives and enjoy seeing the changes that have taken place over the years.

Documentation of BM History and activities: All Minutes, reports and important documents, photographs, pamphlets and souvenirs of Bala Mandir since 1949 have been sorted, archived and scanned and available in their digitalized version.

The data on children who had been in Bala Mandir has been prepared alphabetically with Admission number / Transfer number, Reception Home/Foundling Home, etc, and this has been useful when Ex-BM children come to get information/certificate of their past. All old records, Alumni visit books, rehabilitation funding and fact information are being gathered and a team of Social Workers is working on it under the guidance of HGS.

*Alumni meet on Founder's Day**Understanding the Alumni**Alumni meeting Kalpakamma**Geethakka with her boys!***EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD)****Overview / Key Highlights**

Bala Mandir is one of the few institutions, which has been admitting children below the age of six, to its home. Over the years, Bala Mandir has developed its own best practices in early childhood development. These are reinforced by the extensive training on ECCD and parenting best practices of Bala Mandir Research Foundation (BMRF) that emphasizes the criticality of first 1000 days in a child's development. The ECCD activities cater to children from birth to six years in the Bala Mandir Home and toddler to UKG at the Day Care Centre.

During the year 2018-19 the focus continued on integration of Montessori Method of teaching and learning with mainstream. A new Occupational Therapy (OT) centre was started with all necessary facilities. Through its home visiting programme and parent interactions, Bala Mandir has been striving to improve the quality of home-based care and making the parents partners in the endeavour to provide the best parameters for the growth, development and education in Early Childhood.



Footprints Maze



Traditional games



Pre-primary Montessori



Annual Day celebrations of Day Care Centre

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Baby Section: Emphasis is on outdoor play activities in the mornings, singing rhymes, action songs and building blocks.

Toddlers Section and Pre-KG: Activities like simple puzzles and colouring, Spoken English, corner for children to choose their books and communication with teachers are focused on. Children get early exposure to plants and numbers through pictures and materials.

KG Children: The focus is on fun-filled Learning Through Play activities in Montessori and Kindergarten environments. Before returning home, children are served with milk and snacks. The changes in the routine planned will move out from the classroom atmosphere and will move into a more holistic learning environment.

Pre Primary Montessori

Children work with Montessori materials in turns in the environment—2 hours for each batch. Group activities consist of storytelling, picture conversation, rhymes, art and craft, outdoor and indoor play. They learn exercises of practical life through activities like making lamp wicks with cotton, making patterns, weaving, chapathi rolling, etc.

Traditional games like Hopscotch and Pallankuzhi were also introduced and the children enjoyed them. These games have helped in inculcating counting and physical coordination and language development. The Footprints maze drawn is being utilised to develop children's balance and sense of direction.



DCC Sports Day



Parent orientation



Aksharabhyas at the Day Care Centre

Areas of learning:

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Communication, Language and Literacy
3. Mathematic Development
4. Knowledge and understanding of the world
5. Physical development
6. Creative development

Evaluation: The Child Observation record show gaps in specific development parameters of some children in Baby / Toddler and Pre-Kg sections in fine and gross motor skills, communication skills and need for social and cognitive enhancement which are addressed as part of activities conducted.

Home Visit and contact with parents twice a year helps to evaluate parent knowledge of ECCD and pass on useful information to them on care and development of their children based on the Learning Through Play Calendar.

Occupational Therapy: This was introduced with appropriate materials such as note cards, board games, visual for perceptual, multi-tasking, and bilateral coordination activity.

Teachers Learning at Unit Level: This included special classes in Spoken English and observation of handling special needs children in MNC.



EDUCATION PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The Educational unit of Bala Mandir has a well-defined English medium and Tamil medium set of classes from Standard I upwards to Standard X. While the English medium classes are becoming increasingly popular, the Tamil medium sections in KG and Primary school have unfortunately shown a steady decline in numbers. Bala Mandir continues to improve its infrastructure in the schools with additional facilities for the students.

In 2018-19, Bala Mandir Vidyalaya became a full-fledged English Medium Nursery and Primary School and has a growing demand for admission. Bala Mandir schools continues to work closely with various collaborating organisations who specialise in specific areas that add up to the various facets of holistic education including art, sports, academics, cultural, value education and Montessori methodology. The emphasis on providing learning support continues and the management focus is on admissions and enrollment of children in difficult circumstances—poverty, deprivation, destitution, dropouts, etc. with the zero-rejection policy of Bala Mandir.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Vidyalaya

- Concept of busy sheets (with puzzles and brain teaser worksheets) was introduced. Individual paper bags were made for children to store their sheets, introducing the concept of recycle and reuse.
- Spoken English is taught by volunteers thematically using audio-visuals. Children have begun using maps, workbooks and dictionaries.
- Special assembly brings to the fore the talents of the children – singing, short play, reading news, etc. Morning assembly also has exercises for children to enrich physical fitness. PT has been introduced for better physical coordination and develop team unity.
- For the special needs children, appropriate games have been introduced.
- Yoga is being conducted for Standard III to V.
- The children are also given responsibilities and duties to encourage leadership qualities.
- Children's Day competition were based on the theme 'Inclusion'.
- Outings were organised from time to time to understand our culture and heritage.
- To improve team work, teachers are encouraged to meet and discuss the teaching methodologies and seek collective inputs for improvement. The teachers also attended workshops on Montessori philosophy, handling child behaviour, behavioural issues of special needs children—for enhancement of their knowledge.

Montessori Elementary Environment: Reading folder cards were prepared for various themes. Mixed age group learning for Standard I and II, helped the children through peer learning and the free choice of materials, making it more



Special Assembly



Usage of maps and globes



Gardening



Vidyalaya sports



Vidyalaya Project Day



First batch of Std V children graduating from Vidyalaya

exciting for them. Standard III to V children did activities that identified their thinking skills. Picture reading was introduced to increase vocabulary.

For Arithmetic, children were presented the Stamp Game, Checker Board, Multiplication and Addition Board.

Introduction of a classified reading folder has increased the children's capability to form small sentences and sight words for different phonetic sounds. Botany has been introduced through charts. Grace and courtesy is taught by helping children accept mistakes and discussing steps to rectify them and this happens during Circle Time.

Bala Mandir Primary School and Satyamurthi High School:

Focus of meetings and training from the Education Department was on cleanliness, less usage of plastics, workshops on how to use QR codes and link to audio-visual component and emphasis on learning by doing and active learning methodology.

Learning Support section functioned under the guidance of Dr. Karthiyayini and combines Learning Support with Occupational Therapy + Art / Speech Therapy + Basic Skills + Behaviour Modification.

A five-year analysis of children who have benefitted from Learning Support helped Bala Mandir understand the impact of this intervention. The results have been very positive. Home Visiting and Evaluation for every child with low academic performance helped create individual learning plans and follow up. Linking activities with traditional games for stimulation and help from shadow teachers plus bridge courses and effective Occupational Therapy helped to enhance learning and improve overall behaviour of the children.



House meeting in progress



Occupational Therapy in progress



Football camp at SMHS



Field trip



A Learning Support class



Annual Day celebrations



Traditional games workshop

Academics:

- Learning Disability Certificate for four Standard X students which has exemption for Language and permission to use calculators for Mathematics was obtained.
- X Std. Public Examination: English medium sections had cent percent results, however a drop in performance in the Tamil medium section was a disappointment.
- The new books introduced in the Standard VI and IX have QR codes which link each lesson to an audio-visual component. With the infrastructure already present in the school, the teachers are able to use this facility well.
- Comprehensive revision classes and three revision exams were conducted for the Std. X. The students were able to tackle the public exam with confidence.
- Special attention was provided to the Std. VI A students who were coping with doing all subjects in English despite their Tamil medium primary school background.
- Statistics have revealed that the Khan Academy Mathematics run by Karka Maths Lab has significantly improved the performance of the students.
- Ms. Uma Raman is working towards improving communication in English for the English medium teachers. This has had a beneficial effect and has increased the confidence level of teachers.
- As a new initiative, for maintaining order and discipline in school—4 student committees were formed for Environment, Discipline, Current Affairs and Cleanliness.
- Co-curricular activities were emphasized—Gardening, JRC, Scouts and Guides Classes, Fire Rescue process with demonstration. Responsibilities of Scouts and Guides, Road Safety Patrol classes and Yoga classes were conducted on a regular basis.



Football tournament at Bangalore

Sports Achievements:

- Under-14 football team won the trophy in the match conducted by St. Britto's academy.
- Under-16 football team won Runners-up in the Reliance Tournament held in IIT, Madras.
- Under-14 football team won the trophy at the tournament conducted at Doveton Corrie Sports Academy.

After-school football has a regular attendance of about 75 boys of Standard V to X where they get special coaching, team building opportunities and participate in inter-club tournaments at the district and state level. The coaches offer them special academic coaching as well and opportunities to attend outstation camps and provide them with the necessary kits and footwear. The boys are provided with snacks and tea on the days of coaching.

Project Day: The theme was 'Inclusion.' There was a very informative display of models, charts, skit etc, and a display of Inclusion Park - land and water animals and how they co-exist.

Saturday Club Activities: These are becoming increasingly popular with children, especially those who do not have access to such activities in their home environment. They enjoy learning music, crafts, dance, art and theatre, based on their choice.



High School Project Day



Saturday Club activity



BALA MANDIR RESEARCH FOUNDATION (BMRF)



Overview / Key Highlights

BMRF has, over the years, built up a comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme based on the fundamentals of child development needs and parenting responses. The programme is partially based on the 'Learning Through Play Calendars' developed by Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Canada, who are now part of Sick Kids International, and are BMKT's international partners. The ECCD and Parenting training programmes have reached out to various parents and those in a parenting role in various groups and settings, including schools, creches, NGOs, community workers and government bodies, spanning socio-economically deprived communities across rural and urban India. BMRF has been associated with the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) programme of the Government for more than two decades.

In the year 2018-19, BMRF has continued with these programmes, widening its reach and impact.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Training on ECCD

- Ms. Maya Gaitonde, Ms. Lakshmi Gopal and Ms. Nirmala participated in a two-day workshop organised by the Social Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and made presentations on traditional practices of parenting and the importance of involving parents in ECCD programmes.
- BMRF is working on an ECCD course to include Mainstream, Montessori and Special Education and a long-term course for teachers and short-term course for helpers.
- BMRF conducted a training for Arunodaya staff members in September. Arunodaya is a non-government, non-profit voluntary organisation working in multi-various communities like the fishing community, the Irulas and in slum areas.
- Ms. Maya Gaitonde conducted a one-day workshop in October at the Nagercoil ICDS centre for 50 anganwadi workers selected from blocks across the district.
- In May 2018, training programmes were held for the employees of Michelin Tyres addressing the problems of parents of children under the age of five.
- An orientation was held for eight Bala Mandir staff identified from among Social Workers, Special Educators and Psychologists, to undergo a Local Expert Trainer Training Programme based on the new format provided by Learning Institute, Sick Kids International, Canada for LTTC.



ECCD training at Arunodaya



Local Expert Trainer training in progress



Michelin Tyres training programme



IWDI workshop in progress

Projects

The Parenting project in Gummidipoondi is completing five years. The main aim of the project had been to implement the principles of ECCD and parenting for holistic development of the child during early childhood in ten villages, through interaction with parents and elders, activities for children in the ICDS centres, home visits, etc. Over the years, a process has been established for capacity building, training, community outreach,



Training on home visit



IMOW (In My Own Way)

data collection and analysis, review and monitoring and home visits. The learnings and challenges have been assessed and suitable action taken regarding infrastructure of the anganwadis and other facilities. The baseline information booklet used for home visits has been changed and made more comprehensive and convenient to use. A home visit schedule was also prepared and further training on home visiting was also conducted for the field workers.

Sports day was conducted for ten villages in April. In May, a three-day workshop on Inclusion was conducted along with Vidya Sagar, a Michelin CSR partner for the field staff and co-ordinator on Early Identification of Disabilities.

Resource Materials

The IMOW (In My Own Way) based on the Learning through Play Calendar was printed in March 2019 after due permissions were sought from Sick Kids International. This tool is an expanded and enhanced version of the BMRF adapted LTTC tool (2002) and helps to create individual developmental profiles for all children particularly for those with "special needs".

Presentations

National Conference, Delhi

As part of National Conference on 'Every Child's Right to Early Childhood Development : Evolving Inclusive Practices' organized by the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development, Ambedkar University, Delhi in collaboration with Association for Early Childhood Education and Development and Tata Institute of Social Sciences was held on Nov 22nd / 23rd / 24th 2018 at New Delhi. Ms. Maya Gaitonde was invited to conduct a workshop on 'The Art and Science of Parenting to Nurture the Special in Each Child, Every Child'.

ICDS-UNICEF Workshop

A two-day workshop for Module Preparation on Early Childhood Development (Birth to 3 yrs) in Tamil Nadu was held in December 2018 by ICDS in co-ordination with UNICEF. BMRF was a contributory participant for this follow-up of the 2 day workshop in May 2018. The modules prepared will enable Voluntary Health Nurses, ICDS supervisors, Anganwadi workers to reach out to parents and the community on holistic development of children from pregnancy to 3 years through home-visiting and interaction with the community.

Others

The code of ethics for members and staff of BMKT, ethics for research studies on children and a code of ethics for projects and

*Observation visit to kindergarten*

partnerships in the community was formulated by the Ethics Committee and was accepted by the Bala Mandir Executive Committee in January 2019 for implementation.

The MOU between BMKT and Sick Kids Centre for Community Mental Health was signed in February 2019 to take forward the LTP parenting programmes in India in collaboration with BMRF. The Master Trainer (MT) and Local Expert Trainer (LET) training programmes will be handled by BMRF and Sick Kids will provide the certification.

As part of its activities, BMRF supports the Internship of students of social work and psychology and the students work on various interesting aspects of Bala Mandir's work.



We remember Dr Anandalakshmy who passed away on March 13th, 2019. She had accepted her role as President of BMKT in 2017. She had served on the Trust from 2009 and was President of BMRF from 2000. For two decades she was the 'guiding light', mentor and advisor for all our work with children in difficult circumstances and for BMRF's ECCD Parenting programmes. She generously shared her warmth, knowledge and expertise and contributed immensely to the growth and advancement of both organisations. We will miss her.



MADHURAM NARAYANAN CENTRE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (MNC)



Overview / Key Highlights

MNC formally became a unit of Bala Mandir in April 2018 after BMKT obtained registration under the Persons With Disability Act, from the State Commissioner for the Differently Aabled, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Thereafter 45 staff members moved into the rolls of Bala Mandir and formally a new vertical was added to the Bala Mandir activities. A sub-committee was formed to monitor and guide the activities of the unit under Bala Mandir Executive Committee.

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC) was established in Chennai in December 1989 as a Research cum Demonstration Centre to provide Early Intervention Services to children with Intellectual Disability and associated conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, Autism spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Micro & Macrocephaly, Pervasive Development Disorder and any other disorders with development delay.

Early intervention programme at MNC is offered through Upanayan, a systematic and a structured programme. It was designed by an interdisciplinary team of developmental psychologists, special educators, experts in audiology, neonatology, and nutrition, physio and occupational therapists after an intense field research, field tested and refined. A Special Educator, Therapist and parent/ care giver come together and after an initial assessment and plan specific activities for each child under 6 years of age and offer an integrated training through an Individualised education plan. Since the program is a totally parent involved one, the parent or a designated member of the family acts as the carry over agent at home as well. A supportive software Upaneeta helps in recording the details of the child and also evaluates the progress of the training given on a quarterly basis. The software has been placed in the cloud platform facilitating replicability of the programme in the future at different locations.

MNC is a day care centre and over 6000 children have benefited in the last 29 years from various states of India and from abroad. MNC being a pioneer in the field of Early Intervention has been selected by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu to mentor all the District Early Intervention Centres where MNC's Upanayan program is being implemented. In addition MNC also manages Tamil Nadu Government's Chennai District Early Intervention Centre and also Autism Centre. In 2018-19 while MNC became a unit Bala Mandir, and it continues to receive financial support from MNC Company and other donors.



Father's Day



Moving ahead

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

- MNC infrastructure was significantly enhanced and upgraded when one additional floor was added to both the Bala Mandir P-H Mortensen and Gerda Mortensen blocks on Prakasam Street, which houses MNC and AVMK Academy.
- Montessori Section of MNC moved to Vidyalaya with eight children and offered an opportunity for integration with neuro typical children.
- 120 children benefitted from early intervention services in MNC: of these 36 were from Tamil Nadu Government's Chennai District Early Intervention. Six children have dropped out during this academic year and one child passed away.
- Twenty children received early intervention service using Upanayan at the State Resource Centre for Autism in KK Nagar. MNC has been guiding and monitoring the personnel there with monthly visits.
- Nine children moved ahead to mainstream schools at the end of the year. Of these, seven children joined BM Vidyalaya for LKG, UKG and Standard I. Seven other children moved ahead to Special School.



Winners of Nutrifest



Children enacting a skit on Malaigal at the Annual Day

- Eighteen children are in SUPA – Socially Productive Activity Group with the ultimate aim to prepare the children for functional and meaningful occupation in their adult lives.
- Festivals and functions were celebrated as per the well established calendar that is followed in MNC.

Evaluations/ Check ups

- 104 children were evaluated for speech and communication by students from SRM College of Speech and Language Pathology. Two faculty members guided them in doing this.
- Dental check-up and follow-up of children was done by Bhaskar Dental Clinic. Overall 83 children benefitted this year.
- Annual external evaluation was done for 82 children in Montessori, Birth-2, 2-4 and 4-6 age groups by Ms. Kalusha of Vijay Human Services and Mrs. Revathy Kannan of Trichy from March 25 to 29. Children who have not completed three terms were evaluated by the group heads. Mrs. Vimala Kannan did the annual evaluation for all the 17 students in SUPA Group.



A ride on the Metro



Children giving a presentation on Say NO To Plastic

Trainings/ outings

- Sambhavam, an experiential learning project for children was conducted every quarter. The children went to the Tree Park in Kotturpuram, Bombaystan Restaurant, T. Nagar and Pothys Hyper Market, T. Nagar.
- A two-day conference was conducted on November 15-16, 2018 at the Pastoral Centre on 'Early Intervention for Children with Intellectual Disability and Associated conditions across

*Physiotherapy for children**Parents dance performance**Staff excursion to Coorg*

Multiple Aspects of Development'. 120 delegates from all across Tamil Nadu attended. The recommendations of the conference were submitted to the State Commissioner for the Welfare of the Differently Abled.

- As part of Staff welfare activities 35 staff members went to Coorg from January 17 to 20, 2019 on the annual trip.
- 520 Special Educators and Therapists of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in 13 batches were trained on a five-day hands-on training on implementation of Upanayan
- Under the aegis of the State Commissioner's Office for the Welfare of the Differently Abled, MNC personnel organised a week-long training for 36 Special Educators and therapists from 14 NGOs in early identification and intervention for children with Autism. A customized version of Upaneeta was developed and field tested at SRTC, was integrated into this training.
- As 32 Government District EICs for Intellectual Disabilities (supported by SCDA) have been implementing the Upanayan programme, their personnel undergo a refresher course every year. Five batches of 25 participants per batch attended the refresher course beginning from February 25 to March 29, 2019. The refresher included a field trip to Metro Rail along with the children as part of field training.
- AVMVK Training academy conducts Rehabilitation council of India (RCI) approved Diploma In Early Childhood Special Education Course from 2013. So far more than 40 students, mostly parents of MNC children, have successfully completed the course with distinction and some securing first and second All India ranking.



HEALTH PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The Medical Programme is a key support function for all the units of Bala Mandir. This is a specialized area catering to both the children and the staff of Bala Mandir and an independent sub-committee monitors the work in the area and plans initiatives for improvement. The work consists of both routine checks through the year, and corrective actions based on the findings as well as dealing with any exigencies. The health care of the children in general and the infant and toddler block in particular need continuous monitoring and review, as most of the children are admitted in a poor state of health. The emotional and physical trauma during pregnancy of the mother is also not known, as also details of birth trauma, or, of any high risk ailment at early childhood before the child is admitted to Bala Mandir; hence health and nutrition, medical care are of utmost importance. Apart from taking care of physical health, behavioural counselling is a very important part of the work across Bala Mandir units.

In the year 2018-19, Bala Mandir continued to take new initiatives to improve its medical programme as described in the report of activities.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Doctors:

Dr. Suchitra takes care of the Bala Mandir staff and helpers. Dr. Lavanya joined Bala Mandir, and does the School health check-up. Dr. Reddy and Dr. Janaki take care of the Bala Mandir Home children. Dr. Geetha attends the Homeopathic Unit every day to treat children and staff according to their need.



Training in First Aid for the staff



Health awareness for VTC trainees

Counselling:

BM Children: Junior children with behavioural problems, withdrawn attitude, attention issue, low performance in academics are systematically addressed. In the case of senior children attention is focused on anger outbursts and low academic performance. There is active discussion with staff and social workers on handling children's behavior issues.

Career Counselling: 21 SMHS Standard X children, as well as five children from other schools, who are part of Bala Mandir's Rehabilitation programme, were counselled.

Pre-Adoption Counselling: This is for children to understand their thoughts and feelings on going to a new home, mostly for children above the age of eight.

Group activities: Activities were conducted for children with behaviour problems. A group was formed with different age groups of children, to improve their self-control. A few exercises to control impulsive behaviour were identified and taught to this group to be followed up by the matron and record changes noted.

School Health Check-Up: Regular routine of check-up was undertaken along with charting of growth for all the children in



Dental awareness session for the students



Monthly meeting of the Medical unit



Fun time for caregivers



Awareness of Homoeopathy



Yoga for staff

the School Health Programme. The children were also advised on basic hygiene practices and the teachers and parents were kept informed about follow up of treatment and referrals.

Dental Clinic: Screening for the year was done by Dr. Sultan of Baskar Dental Foundation.

Rajan Eye Care completed the eye check-up for school children in Vidyalaya and SMHS. 17 children were referred for 'distance vision'.

Speech Therapy:

Ms. Pavithra is the newly appointed speech therapist. The main problems were speech and language delay—Phonological processes, mixed receptive and expressive language disorder, children with autism and delay in language, hyperfunctional voice disorder and borderline stuttering.

Health Education

Social workers in the respective units handled health education classes in in Bala Mandir schools. The methods used were activities, storytelling, interaction, blackboard work, discussion and visual charts. Most of the topics were related to children's daily life, school and family practices. Special attention across classes was given on usage of toilets and hygienic practices, healthy food, the human body, impact of alcoholism, HIV/Aids, hygiene, awareness about safety and child helpline, etc.

Others activities included:

- A session for children using spectacles.
- Motivation for adolescent girls to take care of their health.
- Children were encouraged to use 'dish wash liquid' to wash the plates after eating.
- First Aid Training programme for teaching staff and social workers from different Units.
- Hygiene check on Dining Hall and Kitchen in the home and in schools.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC)



Overview / Key Highlights

The Vocational Training Centre of Bala Mandir was started in the early 60s as a carpentry unit and later transformed into an Industrial Training Centre in 1999. The unit was offering NCVT courses in Fitter and Electrician and the short term courses in AC Mechanic run with the support of Blue Star. Bala Mandir did not charge any tuition fees to the trainees and provided free mid-day meal, health check-ups and referrals for all the trainees as well as hostel facility for the boys who came from outside Chennai. Despite the good placement record and generous ongoing support from the donors the unit continued to have problems in attracting trainees and Bala Mandir faced many other management issues. After prolonged introspection, a decision has been made to close down the unit and focus on Bala Mandir's core agenda – care, education and development of children below 15..

The admissions for the NCVT course was stopped during the year and the last batch will pass out in August 2019. The machinery and tools will be donated to other like-minded NGOs who are in this field. The AC Mechanic course is planned to be transitioned to another NGO in co-ordination with the main sponsor Blue Star Limited.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



Trainees with the staff

Headcount: The final batch of 32 NCVT trainees – 17 Electrical and 15 Fitter – only remained in VTC at the end of the year. They would be completing their course in August 2019. In the AC Repair and Maintenance Course during the year a total of 35 trainees underwent training and will go on to complete their on the job training at various Blue Star outlets.

Semester Exams: All Fitter Trade trainees cleared the examination and some of the Electrical trainees who did not clear their exam in the first attempt passed their supplementary exams.

Parents meeting was held for the seniors and irregular attendance and low performance were discussed.



Ayudha Pooja at VTC

CHAI volunteers took Spoken English classes during three days a week for all trainees and Instructors. The trainees really enjoyed the sessions.

Guest Lectures were arranged on Solar Energy by Mr. Suresh, Other energy sources by Dr. G. Vaithyanathan for Electrical trainees, and Employability Skills syllabus classes on Quality Tools were conducted by Mr. Raghavan for both Fitter and Electrical students.



Drama on 'Inclusion'



Sports Meet for the trainees



Indoor sports



Annual Day dance performance



Visit to Birla Planetarium

PET was conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the evenings.

Industrial visits: Electrical trainees visited Thyagarajan Enterprises located in Thiruneermalai as well as Saint-Gobain in Sriperumbudur and received good exposure to various facets of the plant relevant to them. Andrew Yule and Company, Madras Atomic Power Station, Janani Electricals were the other industrial visits that the trainees made.

Placement Details: All the 30 trainees of the 2016-18 batch, of both Fitter and Electrical Trade, have been employed and are working in various companies.



BALA MANDIR CULTURAL / LEARNING CENTRE



Overview / Key Highlights

The children of Bala Mandir are inculcated into cultural activities very early – music, dance and drama with values – these form an integral part of their lives. The various events bring out different aspects of the theme of the year, and we believe that this helps them assimilate the values that are part of the theme. This year the theme of the year was INCLUSION.

All the events are spread through the year, so that children of every age group have an opportunity to display their talents and sometimes, overcome their diffidence, blossom out and come into their own.



MONTHWISE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

MAY



Dance and art at Summer Camp



Balu Sir Summer Camp was held from April 30 to May 12, 2018 at the Rajagopalan Hall at SMHS for senior children (III Std-VIII Std). 61 children participated. The response and impact were positive. Simultaneously, a summer camp was held for the Infants & Toddlers Block children, in which activities like drawing, crafts, dance, puppet show and group games were held, and about 80 children participated. The children showcased the values Reduce / Recycle / Reuse and Unity In Diversity.

JUNE



P-H Mortensen Birth Centenary celebration

ITE/ Singapore Students: On June 26, students from ITE/ Singapore visited Bala Mandir as part of their Overseas Community Service programme.

ITC Annual day: The 18th Annual Day celebrations of Bala Mandir combined with commemoration of the Birth Centenary of Late P-H Mortensen was held on June 29, 2018 at Vani Mahal. The programme was sponsored by L&T. Mr. Thiagarajan, Joint Managing Director of Blue Star Ltd. was the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering. A photo feature was shown on Mr. P-H Mortensen's relationship from the early 60s with Bala Mandir. Mr. K.V. Rangaswami, Former Director of L&T and Trustee of Bala Mandir, was the Special Guest, and shared his personal experiences of Mr. P-H. Mortensen.

The cultural programme of drama, dance and pyramid display by the trainees was based on 'Inclusion' and presented along with an interesting video clip on understanding slow learners and their innate potential in skill development.

JULY

Education Day: On July 16, 2018 Kamaraj Day was celebrated at 10.30 am Rajagopalan Hall. Ms. Andal Damodharan, President,



VTC Annual Day function



Kamaraj Day - uniforms for DCC children



Dancing with the students of RASA

ICCW, presided over the function and distributed prizes to Std X toppers (2017-18 batch). In her address she recalled her close association with starting her career as a Social Worker in Bala Mandir and moving into ICCW founded by Manjumma. The students of Standard V and VI sang a Villupattu on Sri. Kamaraj and all students and staff of Bala Mandir shared a special lunch.

AUGUST

Medical Day: The members of Medical Unit made a presentation highlighting the various activities of the unit in 2017-18. Ms. Ambika Kameshwar, Director RASA was the Chief Guest. There was a cultural performance from RASA's differently abled students. 'Inclusion through Theatre Art' was very effectively conveyed. This was followed by an interesting Question and answer session to understand the concept of 'Inclusion'. The school children got an opportunity to meet up and interact with differently abled teenagers.



Skit on Medical Day

SEPTEMBER

Founders Day: was celebrated on Saturday 22nd September 2018.

The Chief Guests, Mr. Thanasekarapandian, Joint Director of Social Defence and Mr. Senthil Kumar, Regional Probation Officer, inaugurated the renovated rooms and toilets of the Infants and Toddlers Block, and also presided over the Founder's Day celebration held in the Bala Mandi Dining Hall. It was

*Villupattu on Founder's Day**Judges for the PPT competition**Matching bangles contest for helpers*

attended by children of Bala Mandir and the Schools, the trainees of VTC, the teachers of the various units, staff and helpers of the Home, Members and well-wishers. The Vidyalaya children performed a Villupaattu on the life of Smt. Manjubhashini. Two staff members, Mr. Rawther, Principal of VTC and Ms. Veena, Superintendent, shared their thoughts on Manjumma. Mrs. Jaya Krishnaswamy and Ms. Vimala Kannan of MNC who were associated with Manjumma, also shared their thoughts. Service Awards were given away to the staff who have completed 20/25 years of service and as is the custom, a special lunch was organised on that day for all staff.

Staff and Helper programme: There was a powerpoint presentation competition wherein the staff were asked to share how they would like to showcase their units to the outside world. The judges for this competition were Ms. Archana Natarajan TNQ, Ms. Jitasree Jayan, Cognizant and Mr. Ganapathi Manthiram, Rotary Club of Madras North. The teams from Children's Programme, BMCLC and BMRF won the prizes.

A minute-to-win-it game of matching bangles was conducted for all the helpers and prizes were given to the winners. All were given a gift for participating in the games. This was greatly enjoyed by all, both participants and spectators. Everyone enjoyed the fun, bonhomie and a departure from regular routine.

NOVEMBER

Children's Day: The celebrations were held on November 14 at the Bala Mandir Dining Hall. Ms. Subhadevi, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, was the Chief Guest. She was appreciative of the

*S Manjubhashini Seminar**Gandhi Connect programme**Children's Day Art Mela*

craft work displayed by the children. Primary School, Vidyalaya and High School teachers performed dance, mime and song.

DECEMBER

Smt. Manjubhashini Seminar: The seminar was held at BMRF on December 15, 2018 on the topic, 'Inclusion Beyond Boundaries'. Ms. Maya Gaitonde gave a brief introduction of the theme and Dr. Anandalakshmy gave the welcome address. The invited speakers on the subject were Ms. Namita Jacob, Programme Director, Chetana Trust; Dr. Aruna Rathnam, Executive Director of Madhuram Narayanan Centre and Ms. Chitra Krishnan, Co-ordinator of Children's Programme of Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust. It was attended by more than 80 participants.

JANUARY

Gandhi Connect: Ms. V.R. Devika of Aseema Trust provided her insights on what inclusion meant to Gandhiji and the lessons to learn from his views. Before her session, Ms. Vijaya Ramkumar conducted a session on communication with students and the effects of pre-judgements and prejudices on students, and the way to look at students as equals. This session had role play and activities.

FEBRUARY

Friendship Day: The annual visit of the Chairman of the Braade Stiftung Trust, Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen and his family to the Homes in Chennai and Nagercoil preceded the Friendship Day which was celebrated on February 12, in the Dining Hall as an internal function. The children performed a dance on the theme of Inclusion.



OUR APPRECIATION GOES OUT TO...

Bala Mandir continues to offer its deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to its donors, partners, well-wishers and volunteers, who give regularly and unstintingly.

Donors, Partners and Well Wishers:

Infrastructure:

- **Braade-Stiftung Denmark:** continues to be the major contributor towards the maintenance of the buildings and the Children's Programme in Bala Mandir Chennai and Nagercoil Homes. In addition in 2018-19 they sponsored the construction of the new cultural centre
- **Sarathy Foundation USA & Ms. Ornella Gualtieri, Italy:** continued to their yearly contributions for various infrastructural improvement projects across all units
- **M/s. Jayashree Memorial Trust** provided support for the infrastructural enhancement of the schools
- **M/s. L. G. Balakrishnan & Brothers Limited** extended further support for the re-organisation of the play area and Bala Mandir temple
- **M/s. Bhoomika Trust** helped to renovate the store room
- **Ms. Uthra & Mr. Sundar Kodialam** provided support towards the toilet project for Infants & Toddlers Block

Vocational Training Programme:

- **Action Children Aid** sponsored trainees of the last batch of NCVT Course
- **L&T Construction** fully supported the salaries of instructors for the final year, and also the VTC Annual Day
- **Blue Star Limited** supported the salary of the instructor of the short-term A/c Mechanic Course.

Education Programme

- **Saint-Gobain India Foundation** continues to support the salary of teachers in English Medium Classes Standard I to X as well as the Special Educators
- **Financial Software and Systems Private Limited** extended their support for the education of

children in the Day Care Centre and Satyamurthi High School

- **Shri Sarita Jain Foundation**
- **Orient Blackswan Limited**
- **MOP Vaishnav College for Women**
- **M/s. Express Publications Madurai Pvt. Ltd**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

- **Madhuram Narayanan Centre For Exceptional Children** extended support towards Children's Programme
- **M/s. Umakant Gajanan Foundation** provided support for sponsorship of children
- **M/s. Spark Capital Advisors (India) Pvt. Ltd** extended support for the needs of the children

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES:

Children's Programme: (i) Mr. A. Dinakar (ii) Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan (iii) Prof. Rishikesh Krishnan (iv) Mr. V. Srikanth (v) Ms. Chandrika and Mr. Lokesh Parwani

Education: (i) Ms. Menaka Parthasarathy (ii) Ms. Ruchi Doshi (iii) Mr. A.K. Nehru (iv) Mr. A. Ramesh (v) Mr. M.A. Mubeen (vii) Dr. Santosh Chawla (vii) Mr. Akhil Nehru (viii) Mr. Nikhil Nehru (ix) Mr. S. Neervannan (x) Mr. Akshay Nehru (xi) Ms. Revathy Nehru (xii) Joint Commissioner of Police (xiii) Ms. Sumana Narasimhan

General: (i) Mr. Rajeev Krishnan (ii) Ms. Ranga Gopalswami (iii) Mr. S. Balasubramanian (iv) Ms. Premilla Rajan (v) Mr. B. Rajeshwar (vi) Ms. Nirmal Mirza (vii) Mr. B.M. Rajan (viii) Mr. Sriram Panchu (ix) Mr. V. Srinivasan (x) Ms. Sarada Jagan (xi) Ms. S. Venkatraman (xii) Ms. Swathanthra Sakthivel (xiii) Mr. A. Dinakar (xiv) Ms. Prajakta Ameya Thakur (xv) Dr. N. Ramamoorthy (xvi) Mr. N. Prabhakar (xvii) M/s. Amalgamation Engineers Pvt Ltd



(xviii) M/s. Trust International Insurance and Resinsurance Company

ENDOWMENTS & CORPUS FUNDS:

- **Food Endowment:** (i) ASKR Trust (ii) Mr. Ramesh Rajan & family (iii) D. Andal (iv) Madhu Sharma
- **Vidyalaya Endowment:** (i) Ms. G. Malathi
- **VTC Endowment:** (i) Mr. Rajendra Kini (ii) Ms. Shivamala Miller
- **Higher Education Endowment:** (i) Mr. V. Srikanth (ii) Mr. Krishnan Chandrasekhar
- **Education Endowment:** (i) Mr. G. Krishnamurthy
- **DCC Endowment:** (i) Mr. P. Natarajan (ii) Mr. Nikhil Nehru
- **Medical Endowment:** For Dr. P. J. N. Reddy Endowment (i) Mr. Mopatti Niranjana Reddy (ii) Ms. T. L. Yasodha (iii) Ms. Shruthi Pindukuri
- **Children's Programme Endowment:** (i) Ms. Kalpakam Narayanan (ii) Ms. G. Rajeswari
- **General Endowment:** (i) Mr. P. Subba Reddy
- **Corpus Funds:** (i) Mr. K.V. Rangaswami (ii) Mr. C. K. Jaidev (iii) Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan (iv) Mr. A. K. Nehru (v) K.S.N. Foundation (vi) Mr. N. Thiagarajan (vii) Mr. V. Srikanth (viii) Mr. Venkat Rangan (ix) Mr. Nikhil Nehru (x) Mr. P. Natarajan

DONATIONS IN KIND:

- **Provisions:** (i) Mr. C.K. Muralidharan (ii) Mr. B.M. Baskar (iii) Mr. Jaganmohan (iv) Ms. Jayanthi Krishnamurthi (v) Mr. A. Senthil Kumar (vi) Mr. Sunil Hasija (vii) Ms. Veena Devi Saraf & Mr. G. N. Saraf
- **Clothing:** (i) Ms. Saroja Vaidyanathan (ii) Ms. Jaishree Rao (iii) Mr. Kasiraman
- **Stationery Items:** (i) Ms. Sonia Gupta (ii) Mr. M. Prabhakaran (iii) Mr. Ramesh Ahuja
- **Necessities:** (i) M/s. Lebara Foundation (ii) Mr. Padmanabhan (iii) Mr. Anu Sasidhar

Service Support

- **EPMS headed by Mr. M. Ravi**, helped anchor all the infrastructure projects of Bala Mandir.

- **Sri Krishna Sweets** provided food for Bala Mandir children during Alumni meets
- **M/s. Sindoori Faber** provided cleaners for the entire Bala Mandir campus

Medical Support

- **Dr. Mohan Rajan** provided free eye care for our children and staff
- **Apex Laboratories** provided free monthly supply of medicines
- **Dr. Rasappa** provided free investigations and scans
- **Dr. Veena** provided free scans
- **Vaccine World** provided free vaccines

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WHO INTERACT ACROSS BM FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES:

- **Madras Youth Choir** train children in Choral Music.
- **Sky Yoga** conducts Yoga classes
- **YRG Care** provides Lifeskill lessons
- **Altius Foundation** conducts Khan Academy Mathematics classes in the school
- **Cognizant Technology Solutions** volunteers teach English to the Vidyalaya children through interactive, thematic, audio-visual aided sessions.
- **Nalanda Way** conducts Art In Education Programme at Primary level
- **Citizens for Harmony, Amity & Integrity**, a group of volunteers provide Spoken English classes for VTC trainees and its staff, DCC and Vidyalaya, for the staff.

VOLUNTEERS – Other than Members

1. **Sri. Venmani Kumar** of Gokula Bhaktha Jana Sabha, continues teaching Bhajans and Tiruppavai for the Home children.
2. **Ms. Amara Jyothi** from Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram conducted yoga training for the staff
3. **Ms. Miranda Corti and her son Benedict** from London, continued their yearly visit to Bala Mandir and taught art, craft, knitting and sketching. Children enjoyed baking crispy cakes along with them.



4. **Ms. Lalitha Srinivasan and Ms. Radha Krishnan** of Grandma Tales Time have interactive puppet show sessions based on mythology
5. **Ms. P. Sharada, Dr. Suchitra and Ms. Anjana** conducted tuition classes for children of various age groups.
6. **Dr. Karthikeyan and Dr. Vennela** from St. Isabel's Hospital, guided by Dr. S. Subramaniam conducted health check for all the children from the schools.
7. **Ms. Uma Raman** helped the English medium teachers in strengthening the teaching of English language, aiding in their self-improvement.
8. **Ms. Vidya Shanker** conducted Montessori workshops for teachers to enhance teaching methods.
9. **Dr. Karthiyayini** anchors the Learning Support Programme in Bala Mandir Schools.
10. **Dr. Padmavathy** helps with the Special Education Programme in Bala Mandir and its Schools
11. **Ms. Marla George** provides valuable inputs for Occupational Therapy.
12. **Ms. Smita Aiyar, Ms. Hima Bindu, Ms. Jayanthi Kini and Ms. Sripriya Rangamani** hold Spoken English classes for Vidyalaya children with the aid of audio-visuals
13. **Ms. Priya Ganapathi** held Spoken English classes for Primary School
14. **Mr. Kaustubh Chandramouli** helped in conduct of football classes in Satyamurthi High School
15. **Mr. D. Suresh, Dr. Ganesh Swaminathan, Mr. Samuel and Mr. Raghavan** continued to extend guest lectures to VTC boys to cover the NCVT syllabus.
16. **Ms. Archana Natarajan** continues to anchor the Newsletter

BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST**Organisational Set Up****PATRONS**

Ms. Saroj Goenka, Mr. V. Sethuram

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Dr. S. Anandalakshmy, <i>President</i> | 5. Mr. K.V. Rangaswami |
| 2. Ms. Maya Gaitonde, <i>Hon. Gen. Secy</i> | 6. Mr. Sriram Panchu |
| 3. Mr. P. Natarajan, <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> | 7. Mr. N. Kumar |
| 4. Mr. M.K. Sonthalia | |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Work Involvement	Name	Work Involvement
1. Dr. Anandalakshmy	President	12. Premilla Rajan	Medical
2. Maya Gaitonde	Hon. Gen. Secy	13. Niranjani Ramamurthy	Medical
3. P. Natarajan	Hon. Treasurer	14. Latha Kumaraswami	Medical
4. Swathantra Sakthivel	Hon. Jt. Secy	15. M. Venkataraman	VTC
5. Jaya Krishnaswamy	Hon. Jt. Secy	16. Lakshmi Gopal	BMRF
6. Punitha Ramalingam	Hon. Jt. Treasurer	17. Rukmini Amirapu	BMRF
7. Kalpakam Narayanan	Tailoring/Story telling	18. Uma Kannan	BMKT, Nagercoil
8. Dr. P.J.N. Reddy	Medical	19. N. Siva Subramaniam	Finance
9. Leela Natarajan	Children's Programme	20. Ashok Aiyar	Training & Events
10. G. Anbumani	Legal Matters	21. S. Krishnan	MNC
11. Padma Shankar	Schools		

SUB COMMITTEES**Vocational Training**

M. Venkataraman- MIC
P. Natarajan
P.K. Sridharan
R. Sethuraman
Punitha Ramalingam

Educational

Swathanthra Sakthivel - MIC
Padma Shankar - MIC
K. Srinivasamurthi
P. Natarajan
Bhavani Raghunanandan
Uma Raman
D. Chandrasekar

Medical

Premilla Rajan - MIC
Dr. P.J.N. Reddy
Latha Kumaraswami
Niranjani Ramamurthy
Chitra Krishnan
Dr. Suchitra
Dr. Aruna Balachandra

BMRF

Rukmini Amirapu - MIC
Dr. S. Anandalakshmy
Indu Balagopal
Jaya Krishnaswamy
Dhvani Anumolu
Dr. Aruna Balachandra
Lakshmi Gopal

**Rehabilitation /
Children's Programme**

Leela Natarajan - MIC
Dr. P.J.N. Reddy
Punitha Ramalingam
Kalpakam Narayanan
Hema Sridharan
Chitra Krishnan
+ Social Workers

ECCD

Punitha Ramalingam - MIC
Dr. S. Anandalakshmy
Swathanthra Sakthivel
Uma Shanker
Prema Daniel
Indu Balagopal
Jaya Krishnaswamy

MNC

N. Krishnan - MIC
Jaya Krishnaswamy
N. Kumar
Dr. Aruna Rathnam
Dr. Vijayraghavan
Dr. Jayachandran
Prabhakar Rao
Sateesh Parasaran
P. Natarajan

Nagercoil

Uma Kannan - Secy
Lakshmi Nair - Treasurer
Kulathooran Pillai
Sahadevan
Parveena
Dr. Gopal Surendran
Vijayakumari
Dinesh Krishnan

Honorary General Secretary, Ms. Maya Gaitonde, Ex-officio member of all sub committees.



Where The Mind Is Without Fear

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my
country awake.

An extract from the *Gitanjali*, by Rabindranath Tagore



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust

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