

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022



BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST



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. With an impeccable track record of a highly ethical and professional approach, Bala Mandir is well known for working towards holistic and all-round development of the children under its care. 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, special needs children, socially and economically deprived children and youth, irrespective of caste, creed, gender and religion through Institutional and Non-Institutional programmes for care, all around 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

Bala Mandir's activities are now organised into 4 verticals:

1. Children's Programme—Home for orphan and destitute children in Chennai and Nagercoil.
2. Education Unit—Day Care Centre, Primary and High Schools in Chennai.
3. Madhuras Narayanan Centre (MNC) Unit for children with intellectual disabilities.
4. Bala Mandir Research Foundation (BMRF)—Outreach programmes in early childhood practices

Bala Mandir Values

The following code of conduct guidelines capture the Bala Mandir values:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Child-centric Behaviour | 6. Caring for the Environment |
| 2. Integrity | 7. Secular Outlook |
| 3. Equality and Teamwork | 8. Continual Improvement and Striving for Excellence |
| 4. Professional Approach | 9. Inclusion |
| 5. Respect for Law and Rules | |

Bala Mandir website: www.balamandir.org

MNC website: www.mncindia.org

BMRF website: www.bmrf.in

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Organisation





REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

The year 2021-22 was a year of transition wherein the world learnt to deal with the Covid 19 pandemic and get back to physical working. The year was marked by the development of the vaccine which proved to be a decisive game changer in helping cope with the virus. Fortunately, India is in the forefront of the vaccine development and manufacture and by the year end, all our staff and older children have been double vaccinated, and our activities were near normal with all necessary precautions taken. Bala Mandir has been lucky not to have any Covid cases in the Children's Home for the second year despite having 120 to 140 children during the lock down, in both Homes.

The year has had several significant developments in all the units and our proactive approach in serving the needy children has led to the development of a new activity—the Kinship Care project—which is quickly developing into a unit by itself.

- 1. Children's Home:** The Chennai Home headcount went up by 14%. Most of the increase is in the Infant and Toddler Block where the admissions of babies and toddlers went up significantly. On the other hand, the Nagercoil headcount remains constant. While the adoption process remains unchanged, there has been a shift in the approach to rehabilitation of the older children through foster care and also linkage with other institutions. During the year various changes were made to the processes in the Homes mainly aimed at improving the academic standards. The children's pledges were formalised and made part of the theme for the year.
- 2. Education Units:** The School re-engineering project is progressing as per plans and there has been a visible improvement in the working of Vidyalaya Primary School. This has led to a good increase in admissions and the headcount. The High school headcount continued to shift from Tamil medium to English medium and the Higher Secondary classes are set to start from the academic year 2022-23. The strategy of the schools to partner with various other organisations to benefit from their expertise is proving to be successful as it confidently moves into the new academic year with the goal to bridge the learning gap caused by the disruption due to the pandemic and get back to a more holistic learning in the schools.
- 3. MNC Unit:** The resumption of the physical activities of the Madhuram Narayanan Centre was delayed as the Government decided to open the KG section only in February 2022. During most of the year the



Inauguration of Bala Mandir Creche



Inauguration of Boys Section Study & Dining Area



MNC team continued to innovate around the 24-hour programme for every child and enable parents to administer the same from their homes with online guidance and support from the MNC staff. The Jivikam programme for the older children is in a development stage and continues to evolve.

4. **BMRF:** Bala Mandir Research Foundation continues to expand and transform. The pandemic gave a boost to its operations when many of the training and support moved to the online mode. During the year the ECCD rural community project in 5 villages in Gummidipoondi further evolved and became more impactful. The Bala Mandir Creche which was earlier under the Education unit is going to move under BMRF to be more aligned with the expertise that this unit has in Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), for below 3 years. The activities of the Cultural and Learning Centre which reaches out to teachers and schools in Chennai also moved under BMRF.
5. **Kinship Care Project:** This activity was started in July 2021 in response to the need which was felt to support the children who had lost one or both parents to Covid. While this was started as an extension of the Children's Home, it has over time grown into an independent activity with a significant social impact. While we are still learning and responding to the needs, we see this as a potential new outreach activity of Bala Mandir for children in difficult circumstances.



Kinship Care team working on 3D mapping exercise to develop the concept

but the same can be effective only if the water in the areas around Bala Mandir moves out quickly. The capacity of the storm water drain around Bala Mandir remains inadequate and it takes lot of time for the water levels to recede after heavy rains, continuing to cause distress.

The income for the year fell short of the expenditure mainly due to the delay in the receipt of Government grant especially from the Central Government for the MNC unit. Despite this we could manage mainly on account of the continued support from our donors, well-wishers, and friends including the members of the various collaborating organisations who continue to support us whole heartedly in our mission to provide qualitative care to the orphan and destitute in the Home and special needs children and those in difficult circumstances from the nearby slums.

Our sincere thanks are also due to the staff and volunteers who went that extra mile to help us during the tough times of Covid, and continue to work tirelessly, as partners in our endeavours to maintain high standards of work.

Maya Gaitonde

Maya Gaitonde

Honorary General Secretary

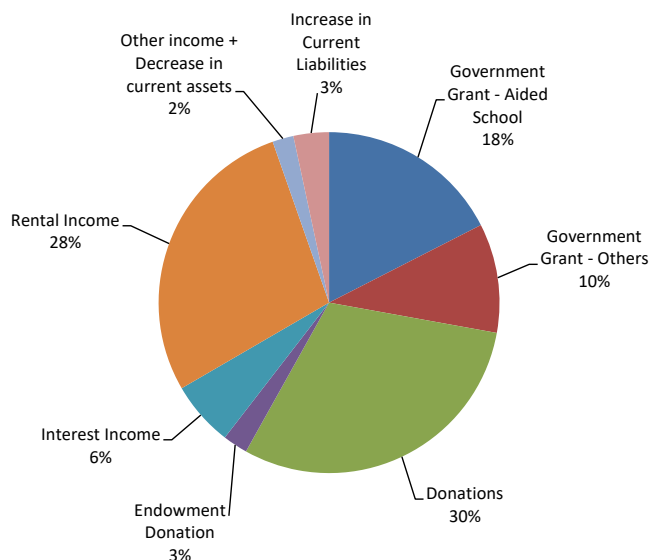
During the year we completed the infrastructure improvements which were planned in our Boys Section to enable a separate dining room and study area for them. Infrastructure improvements were also made in the High School entrance area. During the months of November and December we once again had flooding inside Bala Mandir. The pumps installed to evacuate the water were working well



SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

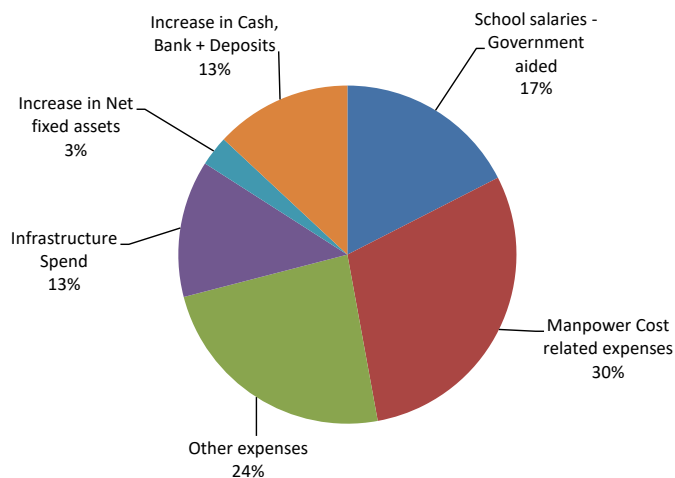
	Year 2021-22	Year 2020-21
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Government Grant - Aided School	1,91,45,549	1,80,79,981
Government Grant - Others	1,13,47,759	1,25,81,157
Normal Donations	2,81,35,858	3,63,29,353
Interest Income	67,38,116	51,18,294
Rental Income	3,06,69,816	2,65,08,704
Other Income	37,36,599	15,41,149
Total Income	9,97,73,697	10,01,58,639
EXPENDITURE		
School salaries - Government aided	1,91,45,549	1,80,79,981
Manpower Cost related expenses	3,24,55,461	3,17,09,169
Food expenses	91,22,777	63,46,669
Repairs / Infrastructure improvement	1,43,42,770	1,76,46,592
Depreciation	1,23,12,136	1,25,00,308
Other expenses	1,69,86,900	1,16,78,912
Total Expenditure	10,43,65,593	9,79,61,631
Income transferred to General Fund	-45,91,896	21,97,008

Sources of Funds



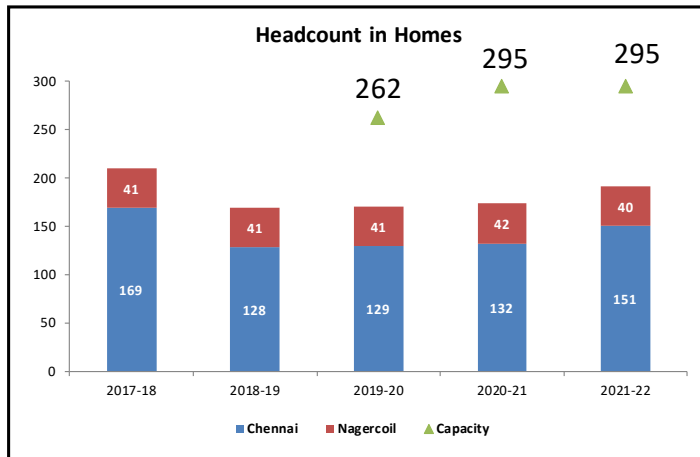
	Year 2021-22	Year 2020-21
	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Capital fund	20,59,40,344	20,09,40,344
Endowment Fund	4,94,80,090	4,68,90,178
Corpus Fund - Others	66,87,705	66,87,705
General Fund	34,79,537	80,71,432
Total	26,55,87,676	26,25,89,660
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Net Fixed Assets	20,11,87,326	21,03,50,340
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Cash and bank incl. deposits	8,95,55,202	7,52,52,575
Other Current Assets	50,97,056	35,54,870
Less - Current liability & Provisions	3,02,51,908	2,65,68,125
Net current assets	6,44,00,350	5,22,39,320
Total	26,55,87,676	26,25,89,660

Use of Funds



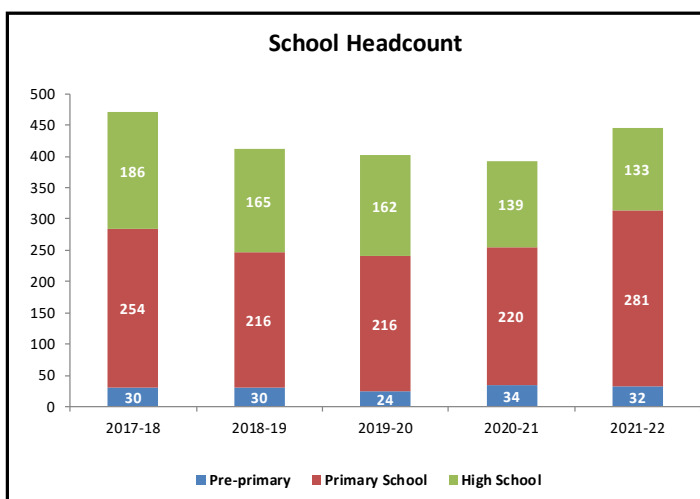


STATISTICAL SUMMARY ACROSS UNITS



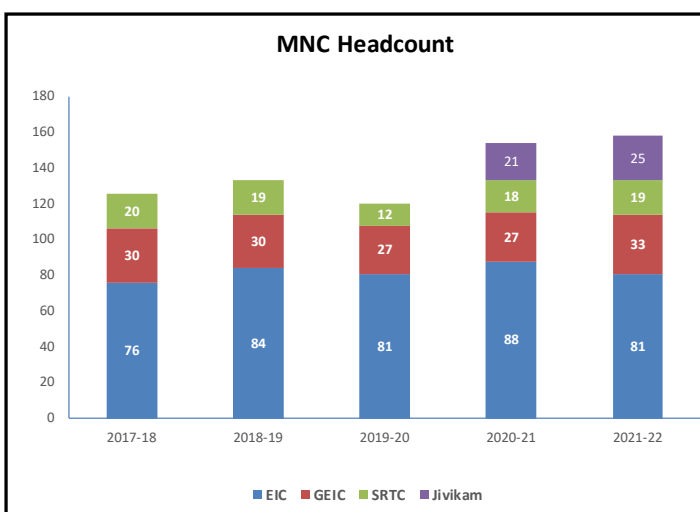
Chennai Home headcount has had a good increase in 2021-22, mainly in the Infant and Toddler section.

The capacities of both Chennai (220) and Nagercoil (75) are much higher than the actual headcount.



The overall school headcount has had a good increase in 2021-22, mainly in the Primary section.

The Tamil medium headcount in High school is dropping while the English medium is going up. Higher Secondary is planned to be added in 2022-23.



MNC headcount has been stable and in line with the plans.

The increase in headcount in the last 2 years is because of the Jivikam project for children over 6 years of age. Since the Jivikam process is yet to stabilise there is no immediate plans to grow this headcount.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

All children admitted through prescribed statutory process into the Bala Mandir Homes in Chennai and Nagercoil, come under the Children's Programme. This covers all activities to provide holistic development for the children who are under the full-time care of the organisation. Only destitute children or orphans who cannot be given in adoption, grow up in the Home. Admissions to Bala Mandir Chennai Home is below 8 years and for the Nagercoil Home, which is an exclusive Girls' Home, above 5 years.

Bala Mandir Chennai Home, is an approved Adoption Agency, coming under the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). Home studies and follow ups are conducted by the Adoption team as per defined process.

Those children who grow up in the Home, go through Academics, along with co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to ensure all-round development. They are monitored for their physical and psycho-social well-being. The important step taken this year was orienting the children to the pledges of Bala Mandir to the children, to become a part of their daily routine.

Bala Mandir works towards the rehabilitation of the children into their family. The destitute children are rehabilitated back with family, after Home Study and counselling. They are supported through a Home Sponsorship programme to help in their maintenance and education. The children are supported until they become responsible members of society and their integration with the family or society is keenly monitored for adjustment issues and if any, handled with great sensitivity. The orphan children are transferred to After Care Homes.

While the headcount in the Chennai Home has increased, the Nagercoil Home numbers remain the same. Both the Chennai and Nagercoil Homes presently function at a lesser capacity than sanctioned by the Government.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CHENNAI HOME



Traditional welcome to an infant coming into Bala Mandir



Villupattu on Founders' Day



Honouring the Chief Guest



Holiday activities of children

Health: Covid protocols continued right through the year with varying degree as per the evolution of the situation outside. Admissions of the children and appointment of staff continued after quarantine and Covid tests. Once the vaccines became available eligible staff and students were immediately administered the same. Immunization and Annual Health Checks were held for all the children as per schedule. The doctors visited regularly to check up on the children and staff, to provide healthcare and counselling inputs, and provide advice where hospitalization was necessary. Bala Mandir Homes were fortunate not to have Covid cases for the second year running.

Festivals and Functions: With Covid protocols continuing, all festivals and functions of the calendar year were celebrated in-house, with a great festive spirit. On Independence Day, the Bala Mandir children learnt 4 pledges to adhere to – (1) To be truthful in thought, word and deed (2) Respect everyone and never speak harsh words (3) Give out their best and work towards Self-improvement (4) Do good to society and protect the environment.

The cultural programme of the 73rd Anniversary of Bala Mandir had the pledges as the theme. The children brought forth the meaning and importance of the pledges through music, dance, drama and mime. Ms. Kalpakam Narayanan, “Kathai Teacher” as she is known to the Bala Mandir children over five decades, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, and enthralled the audience with her inimitable storytelling. Mr. N. Kumar, President, Bala Mandir, joined her in giving away the Long Service Awards and Employee of the Year Awards. As it was last year, this year too, the programme was a hybrid one and can be watched on <https://youtu.be/ooqrPi0mF1I>

Children's Academics: The beginning of the academic year saw the continuation of online classes for the older children of High School and lessons at the Cultural Centre premises by the teachers of Vidyalaya Primary School. The Vidyalaya children were given tablets for learning basic English, Tamil and Mathematics. One of the boys was admitted to a CBSE school, and all encouragement and support is being provided for him to get adjusted to the new syllabus. Two girls were admitted to Higher Secondary Schools for girls – Sarada Vidyalaya and Vidyodaya.

Other Activities: Various activities were organised and some children even attended the Python Coding Programme. General Knowledge sessions were held as fun activities on Sunday



Python coding classes



Annual Day at Nagercoil



Onam celebrations at Nagercoil



Pre-adoption counselling

evenings, and Adolescent Wellness Programme conducted by SCARF on Fridays. The children also participated in the drawing competition held by the DCPO during the Child Safety Awareness Week. The girls belonging to the Junior Wing of the Madras Youth Choir participated in the online programmes to commemorate the Independence Day and Republic Day.

Flood Report: Due to the unprecedented heavy rains in the months of November and December, ground floor of Bala Mandir was fully flooded. The children and staff moved things to safety with minimal loss of material. The floods brought in sickness and many of the young children in the Infants & Toddlers Block needed to be hospitalized. To handle the crisis, staff from other units of Bala Mandir extended their help.

NAGERCOIL HOME

Regular medical checks were conducted and medicines were prescribed as needed. Healthy foods were provided to boost immunity during Covid. All staff and girls (15-18 years) were vaccinated. All festivals and events were celebrated in keeping with tradition. These included celebrations of birthdays of the girls in the Home.

The children started going to school from September onwards. In January 2022, the children from Standard I -VIII, attended 'Veedu Thedi Kalvi', bridge classes initiated by the Tamil Nadu Government. Tuition classes were organised for children who needed them. The extra-curricular activities included Our Talent Time, Gardening, Sports & Games, Arts & Crafts, Tailoring, Dance, Library classes, Yoga & Meditation and Spiritual classes.

Ten girls were supported financially for their Higher Education in various streams like Law, Diploma in Nursing, Physical Education, etc.

REHABILITATION

Adoption: From July 2021, the physical activities related to Adoption restarted after a prolonged gap due to the Covid restrictions. The pre-counselling sessions for the parents were held and a YouTube video was created for the prospective parents—one in English and the other in Tamil to explain the registration procedure. Home studies and follow-ups were conducted over video calls at the beginning of the year and physical visits resumed in August.

Child Welfare Committee members and Probation Officers regularly visit to discuss the future of the children in the Reception Unit and Children's Home, to explore the possibility



Activities for toddlers in the I & T Block



Receiving a baby from CWC



Visit of Government officials



Wedding of a Bala Mandir girl

of moving the children for adoption. The move to place older children in adoption and more recently in foster care gained momentum during the year.

All necessary reports are being submitted to statutory bodies like CARA, SARA, and DCPU. Inspections were held by the Probation Officer, CWC and SCPCR members.

Rehabilitation: This year, 3 girls who completed Standard XII and 3 girls who completed Standard X were rehabilitated to After Care Homes to pursue higher studies. 24 children from the Reception Unit (15 girls and 9 boys) were reunited with their families and 8 children from the Children's Home were handed back on request (4 girls and 4 boys).

Twelve children who had been rehabilitated were supported through the Home Sponsorship Scheme for higher studies, and five of them completed their education.

Two senior girls of Bala Mandir got married, 1 of them found her partner through the efforts of the Bala Mandir Marriage Committee, while the other made her own choice.

Education Sponsorship: A total of 38 children of staff and Alumni of Bala Mandir Home and schools were provided financial support for school education / higher education under the various schemes of Bala Mandir.



KINSHIP CARE PROGRAMME



Distribution of provisions to the families



Learning to use a tablet



Read A Story session

Kinship Care Programme is a new initiative to support the children who have lost one or both parents due to Covid. These children mostly continue to stay with their relatives but do need various types of external support. This kind of support system is common in some countries but has not yet evolved in India.

After the initial pilot study, Bala Mandir realised that these children need a holistic support like the children in Bala Mandir Homes. Bala Mandir only supports children below 12 years in the districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram and Tiruvannamalai. The Kinship Care programme aims at ensuring that despite the unexpected set back caused by the loss of parent, the children improve their chances of reaching full potential. The children will continue to get support over the years as they grow up.

The number of children short listed for the programme has gone up from 100 to 300 and the current target is 500 children in the 5 districts. As members of “Bala Mandir Virtual Home”, the children get help related to health, education, emotional support, mentoring and more as needed. With the increasing project scope, the team has expanded and it consists of 6 social workers with a team leader and a back-office person for support.

The Bala Mandir team not only supports the children by paying a part of the school and tuition fees but also helps in getting the various benefits that the families are eligible for. The social workers help mentor the children and families and anchor the programmes which have been started for the benefit the children:

- **Kai Mel Kalvi:** Under this project 50 Tabs were purchased and after installing the Aid India software distributed to the children on returnable basis. Once the children reach a certain level of proficiency, the tabs will be taken back and given to other children for maximum impact.
- **Read A Story:** Under this programme Bala Mandir works with an NGO by name N+One based in Pune to link the children with a network of volunteers who spend time with the children and help them improve their English reading skills.

The Kinship Care programme is a new initiative of Bala Mandir which fills an important social need. Over time this programme is expected to be self-sustaining with the support of CSR and individual donors.



EDUCATION



Overview / Key Highlights

Having started in the 1950s as an extension to the Home activities, the schools under the Education Unit meet the educational needs of the Bala Mandir Home children as well as the nearby socio-economically weaker community. Over the years the schools have been adapting to the social changes and now has responded to the needs of shifting from Tamil to English medium; The Bala Mandir Schools offer a high quality and a holistic English medium education to the beneficiaries. Most of them continue to be first-generation learners with very little parental support for academics.

Though the 2 years of pandemic were challenging for all schools, we have had the satisfaction of being able to engage with a majority of our children through the online mode. This period also coincided with the school re-engineering project wherein significant changes in the methodology followed by the schools has been made, with support from partner organisations like AhaGuru, KaRe, Bhumi and others like Read A Story. The Satyamurthi High School has applied for permission to start a Higher Secondary English medium section from the Academic year 2022-23.

Our focus has been on the improvement of not only the students but also the development of the teachers, through various training programmes. The focus is on holistic education which includes academics, arts, sports, cultural and value education for which volunteers have played a critical role. The unprecedented rains in November/December, saw the usual flooding of the Schools and with a view to mitigate the impact on the children, Bala Mandir distributed provisions to the affected families and the students were given free uniforms and shoes.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Day Care Centre:



Newly inaugurated Bala Mandir Creche

The Day Care Centre remained closed for most part of 2021-22 due to Government regulations related to the pandemic. However, classes for the Home Toddlers were held at the Bala Mandir Home and online lessons were held for the Day Scholar children. Compared to 2020-21, there was a significant increase in the number of children who attended the online sessions. Teachers also sent self-made videos of lessons and worksheets to the parents. Parents who did not have smart phones came to school to pick up the worksheets for their children.

On March 10th, a Creche for children below three years was inaugurated in a new location within Bala Mandir, and going forward this will become an independent activity under BMRF to create an ECCD Hub to be spread to other centres.

Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School:



Vidyalay class in progress

2021-22 has been a year of major change with the Primary School operating from its new building with improved infrastructure such as smart boards and digital tools like tabs. During the lockdown early in the year, teachers held in-person classes for Bala Mandir children and online classes for day scholars. When the physical classes resumed in November, based on the assessment done, sections were assigned to the children and lessons planned accordingly. The children who had missed the academic inputs during the pandemic were given special remedial support and the same would continue into the next year.



Eco Champs programme for Vidyalaya



Learning Support classes by KaRe



Showcase event at Vidyalaya

The school headcount has been increasing impressively and the total strength of Vidyalaya stood at 281, with expected further increases in the next academic year.

While the partnership with AhaGuru continues, as new initiatives, partnerships were established with (i) Bhumi who assigned one of their Fellows as a teacher for two years to create an impact in the learning environment, and engaging with the teachers through Socio Emotional Learning training (ii) KaRe, a pioneer organisation for inclusive education, for providing learning support for children with special needs. Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy sessions were also held for children who require it. (iii) Nalanda Way Foundation restarted their Art In Education programme.

The teachers went through several orientation sessions and training programmes including Spoken English classes conducted by volunteers of CHAI. Read A Story, a programme by volunteers, was introduced as part of the efforts to improve reading and fluency of the children in English language. The students participated in several celebrations and competitions – both online and offline. An important one was a showcase event to display children's talents, with the parents as the audience. This was an exciting experience for the parents/guardians who had come to see their wards in action.

Satyamurthi High School:

The year 2021-22 was an important but difficult year in the on-going transformation of the High School. The schools reopened physically in September 2021 for Standard IX and X and on



Teachers' Day celebration



STEM classes



Vikalpa Lab



Covid vaccination at SMHS



Eye Camp at SMHS



Yoga sessions by SKY Yoga

November 1st for other classes. School timings were changed to begin at 8.45 am and free breakfast was provided to the students. The big challenge was the regression noted in the adolescent children in both academics and behaviour due to the long absence from the school. The Management tried to address these issues in various ways. This process will continue in the next academic year with plans being drawn up for a major shift in quality of education.

Online sessions began for Standard VI -VIII in September, and assignments were shared through WhatsApp. Tuitions were held for select children in the afternoons for the students who were unable to attend online classes. Students identified with learning gaps in Standard VI - VIII, were provided with one-on-one remedial classes to bring about improvement. Tabs were additionally introduced to help these students. They also underwent summer classes with AhaGuru, to bridge these gaps. Summer classes were organised for Standard X to help them overcome gaps noted in Std IX. The newly added Smart Boards helped bring online support from volunteers especially for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) classes.

Regular Mentoring sessions for 40 students of Standard IX and X recommenced. Several Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities were held on Saturdays. An Innovation Lab (Vikalpa) was inaugurated for fostering creativity and innovation through 'learning while doing'. Regular Sports, especially Football Coaching, and Yoga were restarted.

Eye camp and Dental camp were held by Rotary Club of Madras Northwest in collaboration with Sankara Netralaya and Government Dental Hospital respectively. Police officials from Teynampet Circle came to address the children on separate occasions. Topics covered were – good habits and causes and effects of substance abuse, and child sexual awareness, especially for girls. An MOU has been signed for the Police Boys and Girls Club, which is being revived by the Government.



MADHURAM NARAYANAN CENTRE FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN



Overview / Key Highlights

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC), now a part of Bala Mandir, has been providing Early Intervention Services for the past 30+ years, for children with Development Delays, Intellectual Disability, and associated conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Micro & Macrocephaly, Pervasive Development Disorder and metabolic disorders.

Early Intervention is provided through Upanayan, a systematic and structured programme, designed by developmental psychologists, special educators, specialists in audiology, neonatology and nutrition, physio and occupational therapists. Based on an initial assessment of the child made by a team of special educator, therapist and parent/caregiver, child-specific Education plan (IEP) is drawn up for specific integrated training with special education and therapeutic intervention. The parent or designated member of the family plays an important role and is trained as a 'carry over agent' in assisting the child to apply the skills learnt in the classroom to daily living at home and the software Upaneeta tracks all the information including the training given, progress made, challenges faced, and the year-end evaluation.

Jivikam is a new programme of MNC for the children above 6 years which was started in 2020-21. The process for this programme is evolving. Besides the various tools used in the Early Intervention process there are labs for exploring various skills which can help the child to pursue a vocation.

MNC manages one of Chennai District Early Intervention Centre and an Autism Centre. The MNC unit also runs a diploma course in Special Education, which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI).



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



IEP in a group



AVMVK Academy classes

In 2020-21, MNC introduced a home-based 24-hour programme to help the children and parents cope with the lockdown. With some changes, this continued in the year 2021-22. The 40 minutes WhatsApp video sessions were extended to 60 minutes. IEP, Group activities and even Therapy sessions were held with some changes. MNC improved its computer infrastructure to enable Google Meets instead of WhatsApp communication. Various enhancements were made to strengthen the quality of the programmes.

Staff members came thrice a week to the Centre and worked from home on other days. Online admissions of children were made based on a new guideline framed for 'provisional assessment online'. Online intervention continued until February 2022, when schools physically reopened. 154 Children benefitted from the Intervention provided for the academic year (online and in person) in 2021-22. Assessments, quarterly evaluations were done online and the parents were guided to continue the intervention at home.

The skill development programme Jivikam for older children which began in the previous academic year also offered online programme throughout the pandemic closure period. Their physical classes began in November 2021. There were three labs set up: Urban gardening, arts and crafts and a mock kitchen.



Action song by the children



Sensory integration room



Children dance for Samyam



Nutrifest



Deepavali celebrations at the Centre

In addition, one-on-one session and group classes were held to develop skills and concepts in developmental domains like functional academics, communication, acts of daily living, self-care and regulation, health and safety and fitness.

A Sensory integration room with a projector and other accessories, fibre lights, bubble tube and surfaces of different textures, as well as a Physiotherapy lab for Jivikam section were set up.

Events and Celebrations:

- All important events like Samyam, Teacher's Day, Independence Day, Sports Meet were celebrated online. At the Centre, Deepavali and Pongal was celebrated by the teachers in the traditional way.
- 'Vanga Pesalaam' was a new initiative where the special mothers shared their experiences with others periodically.
- 32nd Annual Day of MNC was celebrated on 12th Dec 2021. Mr. N Kumar, President, Bala Mandir was the Chief Guest. The theme of the year was Animals. A virtual programme was performed by children from their homes on the theme, which was telecast.
- Christmas was celebrated with carol singing and depicting the story of Jesus Christ by the children.
- Nutrifest, a festival for nutritional awareness among parents was conducted on the theme "Age-appropriate balanced diet with traditional recipes". Online consultations were given to parents to recognize the calorific value of the traditional ingredients and how they should be used – raw, semi cooked or fully cooked.
- The children participated in the World Disability Day competition, organized by the Department of Differently Abled, and won prizes.



BALA MANDIR RESEARCH FOUNDATION (BMRF)



Overview / Key Highlights

Bala Mandir Research Foundation (BMRF), has continued to build up an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme over the past three decades, based on fundamentals of child development needs and parenting response. This is a comprehensive programme, which is partially based on the 'Learning Through Play Calendars' developed by the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Toronto, Canada, and the partnership with Sick Kids International continues. The ECCD and Parenting training programmes have reached out to parents and those in parenting role – in schools, creches, NGOs, community workers, ECCD professionals and government bodies – covering the socio-economically deprived communities across rural, urban and tribal areas across India. BMRF has been associated with ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) programme of the Government for more than two decades.

The year 2021-22 saw a major transformation in the work of BMRF. Many of its training and monitoring activities switched to online mode due to the pandemic, and became well entrenched during the year. There was an increased demand for training programmes from multiple organisations, which were carried out in a combination of online and in-person.

Research activities were activated with an expert team who shortlisted various projects for study. Networking across the country with other organisations working in the area of ECCD was also reactivated.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

TRAINING



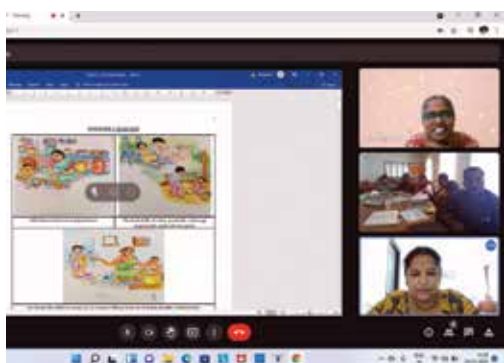
Training in progress



Interaction during field visit



ICDS training session in progress



Gummidipoondi project

Suraksha ECCD Parenting Project: The project had been completed in February 2021, and a comprehensive report was prepared on the initial and the post-training understanding of topics on ECCD. The weekly monitoring of home-based activity trackers for improvement was on-going until July 2021. A wrap-up session with the coordinator and crèche teachers was done.

Local Expert Trainers (LET) Training: The second round of online training was undertaken and completed in March 2022. It was a 10-day programme divided into three phases covering various topics on child development. The assessment tools for the participants were developed and report generated after each session.

Bhumi Mentoring Project: The Head, Heart & Love (HELO) Programme was an initiative by Bhumi, an independent youth volunteers' organization – to make social and emotional learning (SEL) an integral part of education. BMRF collaborated with them to provide 6 mentoring sessions for teachers on parenting and child development.

ICDS Training:

1. BMRF conducted its on-going training programme for the Anganwadi Supervisors and Child Development Project Officers of the Integrated Child Development Services, Tamil Nadu (ICDS). The in-person training on early childhood care and development was conducted during September to November 2021 and February & March 2022 with 20 to 35 participants in each session.
2. In-person training for Anganwadi supervisors and teachers was conducted during January - March 2022, on Parenting and Motivating Children.
3. Training for Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDS) Anganwadi Supervisors and Helpers was held virtually in February and March 2022 for 65 participants each. It was conducted on the topic of Child Development and the LTPC Calendar.

PROJECTS

Gummidipoondi ECCD Rural Project: This project is in its 8th year of operation and the MOU for this was signed with Michelin Tyres in September 2021. Field visits, review meetings, reporting and training are happening on a regular basis. IEC (Information, Education, Communication) training was held in which 177 beneficiaries participated. Year-end review of the project implementation focused on strategies and ideas about



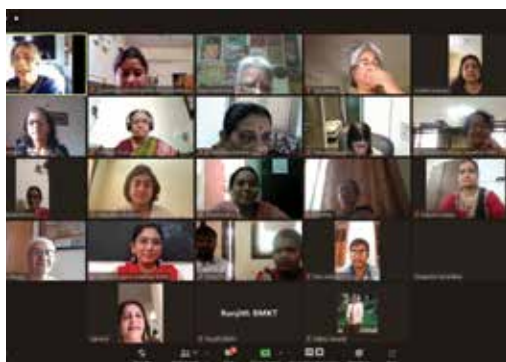
IRCDs session

improvement. A Steering Committee Project visit was organised for the Management of Michelin Tyres

CAPACITY BUILDING

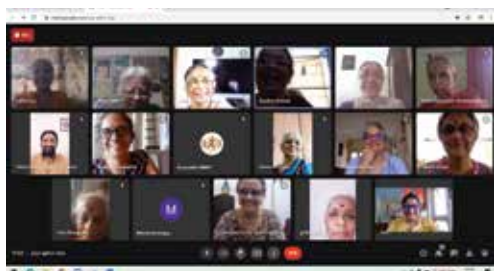
Resources: The development, revision and translations of BMRF resource materials are an on-going activity and there were many resource materials that were taken up for revision and updation during the course of the year.

Website: The BMRF website had been redeveloped and became live under the new domain name www.bmrf.in. Significant enhancements have been made, including the introduction of new pages/sections, design/layout improvements, and also content updates.



Webinar on IMOW

Networking For Information on Training (NIP): In continuation to the NIP Reconnect meeting in January 2021, a Webinar on IMOW was organised in September 2021. There were 36 participants from various organisations and it served to re-establish contact with several NIP members.

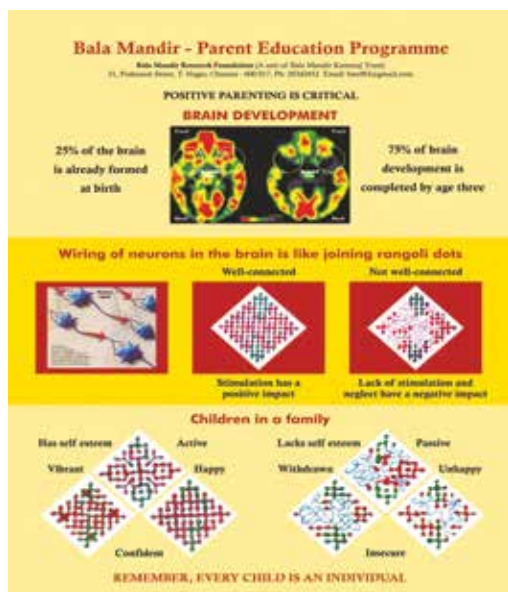


NIP Chennai meeting in progress on Zoom

Integrated Rural Community Development Society (IRCDs), in collaboration with Children Believe (a NIP partner of BMRF) developed a mobile application called Nutri Care app which is a one-stop platform for all information to be available for improving nutritional outcomes in children, focusing on the first 1000 days. This is being implemented in Tiruvallur through ICDS. BMRF provided inputs to develop this mobile app, along with Department of Clinical Nutrition, Sri Ramachandra University,



S. Manjubhashini Seminar



Brain Development poster



Activity for Gross Motor Development

ICDS and the Health Department. The app was launched in March 2022.

S. MANJUBHASHINI SEMINAR

The annual S Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar (SMM) was held virtually on 5th March 2022 with Ms. Mina Dilip, Psychologist, Trainer and Writer as the keynote speaker. The topic for discussion was 'Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Our Role as Caregivers'. Using IMPACT as an acronym, the speaker explained as to how adults and caregivers can support and create safe spaces for children to process their emotions and recover from the ill-effects of the last two years.

Research Initiatives: A meeting to discuss about further Research activities for BMRF was held. It was decided that the studies would be largely social developmental research, where the 'social impact' would be the priority and the research design and methodology would need to be framed around that. A short list of projects have been made for further work.



Learning simple traffic rules



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
- **Mrs. Kalpakam Narayanan** has provided support for the second-floor building in Satyamurthi High School which will be taken up in the next year
- **Mr. V. Srikanth** provided support towards furniture bought for the children in Main Block and Boys Section
- **Sri Kausalya Construction Company Limited** continues to support in various ways
- **Mr. Babu Kuriakose** contributed towards Ranga Smart Class Project
- **Ms. Ornella & Ms. Gloria Gualtieri** continue to support for repair and refurbishing

SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATIONS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- **Saint-Gobain India Foundation** continues to support the salary of teachers in English Medium Classes Standard I to X
- **Guru Krupa Foundation** supported the nutritional meals and educational needs (books and supplies) for Bala Mandir Schools
- **Shri Sarita Jain Foundation** provides support for the educational initiatives
- **Orient Blackswan Limited** provides support for Admin salaries
- **United Industries Plastic Private Limited** provided support towards staff salaries of Day Care Centre

SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATIONS FOR ACTIVITIES OF MADHURAM NARAYANAN CENTRE

- **Bay Capital Investment Advisors Private Limited**

- **Rane Foundation**

SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATION FOR KINSHIP CARE PROGRAMME:

- **Fagun Company Private Limited** funded tabs for the Kinship Care Programme

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES:

Sponsorship of children: (i) Mr. V. Srikanth (ii) Ms. Ornella & Gloria Gualtieri (iii) Dr. Shantaram and Ms. C. R. Kalyani (iv) Mr. N. Suryanarayanan (v) Ms. Chandrika & Mr. Lokesh Parwani

Dresses/Materials: (i) Mr. N. Thiagarajan (ii) M/s. Mercuri Goldmann India Pvt. Ltd

Children's Needs: (i) Mr. T. C. Govindan (ii) Ms. Miranda Corti

Computers/CC TV Cameras/Printer: (i) Mr. R. Kannan (ii) Mr. Kavikumar (iii) Mr. P. Dharmarajan (iv) Ms. Shoba (v) Kalpakalakshmi Charitable Trust

Higher Education: (i) Prof. Rishikesha Krishnan (ii) Ms. Sandhya Koneru (for Nagercoil Unit)

Education: (i) Ms. Menaka Parthasarathy (ii) Ms. Ruchi Doshi (iii) Mr. A.K. Nehru (iv) Mr. M. A. Mubeen (v) Mr. Akhil Nehru (vi) Mr. Nikhil Nehru (vii) Col. K. G. Pandalai Charitable Trust (viii) Mr. Kallu Chandhra Kalla (ix) Mr. Mohammed Reyaz (x) Ms. Ambika Nehru (xi) Ms. Nithyakalyani Vaidyanathan

MNC: (i) Ms. Latha Madhavan (ii) Ms. Aparna Karthikeyan (iii) Mr. Rangaswamy Dharmarajan (iv) Mr. R. Gopal

General: (i) Mr. A. Dinakar (ii) Pasumarthi Cunniah Chetty's Trust (iii) Mr. K. Somasundaram (iv) Ms. Sabitha Rangarajan (v) Ms. Ranga Gopalswamy (vi) Mr. Edmund Boggis (vi) Ms. Ambuja Raghavan (vii) Mr. K. R. Rangarajan

Flood Relief: (i) Mr. V. Srinivasan (ii) Mr. Jairam Pillai

Medical: Rotary Club of Chennai Towers Charitable Trust

**ENDOWMENTS CREATED:**

- **Food Endowment:** (i) Ms. Premilla Rajan (ii) Mr. Kothandaraman Ganesh (iii) Mr. P. Ramaswamy (iv) Mr. Ram Viswanathan (v) Ms. N. Lalitha
- **Vidyalaya Endowment:** (i) Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan (ii) Mr. P. Natarajan (iii) Mr. R. Pattabhiraman
- **Education Endowment:** Mr. G. Krishna Murthy
- **DCC Endowment:** (i) Ms. Shivamala Miller & Ms. Premamala Ramalingam
- **Children's Programme Endowment:** (i) Ms. Premilla Rajan (ii) Ms. Krishnabai Basrur

DONATIONS IN KIND:**For Children's Programme**

- **Provisions:** (i) Mr. C. K. Muralidharan (ii) Mr. Jagan Mohan (iii) Mr. Sunil Hasija (iv) Mr. Priyesh Soundararajan (v) Lions Club of Silver Pearls (vi) Ms. Kanchan Bai Kochar (vii) B. S. Mootha Girls Senior Secondary School
- **Masks:** (i) Ms. Sharadha (ii) Sathya Ramakrishnan (iii) ITE College (iv) Ms. Lakshmi Ramana
- **Diwali dresses:** For all children and staff of Bala Mandir – (i) Ms. Bhargavi Sundarajan & Ms. Usha Ranganathan
- **Deepavali Crackers:** Ms. Anu Sasidhar
- **Clothes/Dress Materials:** (i) Ms. Saroj Vaidhyathan (ii) Ms. Saraswathi P. J. (iii) Ms. Janani Ranganathan (iv) Mr. V.S. Suresh & Ms. Jaya Sathya (v) Mr. Ajay Agarwal (vi) Meenakshi College for Women (vii) Socio-Economic Service Society
- **Stationery Items & Other Necessities:** (i) Mr. G. Shantilal Mehta (ii) Indian Bank (iii) Meenakshi College for Women (iv) Mr. Kaushik Srinivasan (v) Ms. Pallavi Ravishankar (vi) Ms. Reema Goyal (vii) Ms. Priyanka Rao
- **Washing Machine:** Mr. Madhav P. V. R
- **Wet grinders and Audio Equipment:** Indian Oil Retired Officers Welfare Association, Chennai
- **Infants & Toddlers Block:** (i) Ms. Radha Varma (ii) Ms. Akshaya Roshan (iii) Mr. N. Ramesh

For Nagercoil:

- **Fruits:** Ms. Viji Subramaniam (ii) Mr. Mathi Azagan

- **Coconuts:** (i) Rajalekshmi Nursing Home
- **Provisions:** (i) Om Aathi Bharasakthi Mantram (ii) Ms. Jasmine Jeni (iii) Mr. Vijaya Kumar
- **Snacks:** (i) Mr. Vijaya Kumar (ii) Ms. Revathi (iii) Ms. Chembaka Devi (iv) Mr. Ravinathan
- **Stationery:** Child Line, Kottar
- **Dresses:** (i) Ms. Lakshmi Nair (ii) Mr. Ram Manoj (iii) Mr. Senthil

For Madhuram Narayanan Centre:

- **Dry ration for parents:** (i) Ms. Padma Seshadri (ii) Rotary Club of Madras, Besant Nagar
- **Aids & Appliances, gaiters, splints, wheelchairs:** (i) Freedom Trust Chennai (ii) Rotary Club of Madras, Besant Nagar
- **Support for Sensory Integration Room:** Manava Seva Dharma Samvardhini Trust, Chennai
- **Support for Physiotherapy Lab:** Microfocus, Taramani

For High School:

- **Geometry Boxes:** Natpu Team

SERVICES PROVIDED BY

- **EPMS headed by Mr. M. Ravi**, anchor all the infrastructure projects of Bala Mandir
- **M/s. Sindoori Faber** provided housekeeping services for the entire Bala Mandir campus

MEDICAL SUPPORT

- **Rajan Eye Care** provided free eye checkup and surgeries for the children
- **Apex Laboratories** provided free monthly supply of medicines
- **YRG Care** provided free Covid tests for all the children
- **VRR Diagnostics** provided free scans for children referred by the doctors
- **Vaccine World** provided vaccines at a discount
- **Facilitated by Rotary Club of Madras North West – (i) Sankara Netralaya of Saint Thomas Mount**, conducted eye check and provided free spectacles to students and staff of the Bala Mandir Schools. **(ii) Government Dental Hospital** conducted a dental camp, supported students and staff with cleaning and filling



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WHO INTERACT ACROSS BM FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES:

All the initiatives by volunteers were held both online and in-person this year.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Madras Youth Choir continue to train the children in Choral Music
- Citizens for Harmony, Amity & Integrity (CHAI), a group of volunteers provided Spoken English classes for children and caregivers in the Home and teachers in the Schools
- Read A Story volunteers held sessions for Vidyalaya children – both from the Home and School. This was part of the tie up with N+One, a Pune based NGO
- U & I Volunteer group held online Spoken English classes and mentoring sessions for older Home children and some students of Satyamurthi High School
- Cognizant Technology Solutions volunteers held Science lessons for the Home children Standard III to V, and Outreach programme of virtual classes in Digital Literacy for Standard V to VIII of the Bala Mandir Schools.
- Guvi – Mr. Arun Prakash, Founder – provided the Hacker Kid Platform and mentors for Python Coding Programme of the Home children Standard VI to X – twice weekly. This was facilitated by Ms. Deepa Senthilrajan
- Chinmaya Mission held Gita Chanting sessions for Home children
- Chennai Mentors with 40 volunteers continued support for Std IX and X students of the Satyamurthi High School under the NATPU Mentorship Programme – with individual mentoring sessions for each student.
- Chennai Mentors also organised 'Let's Talk English' for staff of the Home
- Bhumi Organization conducted Eco Champs for Standard III – V students of Vidyalaya
- Economics Dept of MOP Vaishnav College held sessions for students of Standard VIII & IX of Satyamurthi High School in Communication Skills, Basic Computer Skills and Art
- Victory Sports organised football coaching for boys of Satyamurthi High School

- Staff of Accord Hotel helped provide haircuts to the toddlers in I&T section
- Staff of Cut Above Salon helped provide haircuts to the toddlers in I&T section

INDIVIDUALS

- Mr. E.N. Senthilrajan continues to help manage the various IT and related issues
- Mr. L. Ravichandran has been helping in managing the Kinship Care Programme
- Ms. Archana Natarajan has been working at improving the HR processes for Bala Mandir, and continues to anchor the Newsletter
- Ms. Divya Varma supports the training programmes of BMRF
- Mr. Bharath Natarajan helps one of the Home boys who has moved to CBSE, in his studies
- Mr. Arun Prasath V, helps in the development of custom-built software data for children in the Home and School – Dhruva H and S
- Ms. Sujatha Sethuraman helps with counselling sessions of senior boys and girls – both in the Home and in the School
- Ms. Andal Raghavan helps in functioning of IEP and AVMVK Academy programmes of MNC
- Ms. Karpaga Niranjana helps in Upanayan and oversees Upaneeta software of MNC
- Ms. Sriranjini Sivasubramaniam held music classes for the girls of Standards III, IV and V
- Mr. Vignesh took Mathematics lessons for Standard V Home children
- Mr. Ameya Thakur held online chess sessions for Standard VII & VIII boys of the Home.
- Ms. Nityasree Sriram helps with English lessons for one Bala Mandir boy
- Ms. Malathy Sethuram holds Hindi classes for Standard IV to VIII Home children. She is also involved in the Gardening project
- Ms. Gayathri Mukund, Special Educator from Bangalore, took online sessions for girls needing learning support
- Mr. Aditya Menon takes weekly general knowledge and awareness sessions for senior boys in the Home

BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST

Organisational Set Up

PATRON

Ms. Saroj Goenka

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name		Name
1. N. Kumar	President	11. Kalpakam Narayanan
2. Maya Gaitonde	Hon. Gen. Secretary	12. Dr. P. J. N. Reddy
3. P. Natarajan	Hon. Treasurer	13. Swathanthra Shaktivel
4. S. Krishnan	Hon. Joint Secretary	14. Ashok Aiyar
5. Leela Natarajan	Hon. Joint Secretary	15. Latha Kumaraswami
6. M. Venkataraman	Hon. Joint Treasurer	16. Rukmini Amirapu
7. N. Sivasubramaniam	Finance	17. Lakshmi Nair
8. G. Anbumani	Legal Matters	18. N. Ramesh
9. Jaya Krishnaswamy		19. Dhvani Anumolu
10. Punitha Ramalingam		20. Hema Sridharan
		21. Preethi Krishnan

SUB COMMITTEES

Educational Units

M. Venkataraman – MIC, Vidyalaya	D. Chandrasekar
P. Natarajan – MIC, SMHS	Uma Raman
N. Ramesh – MIC, SMHS	Ranjani M – Director
Preethi Krishnan – MIC, Vidyalaya	
Swathanthra Shaktivel	
K. Srinivasamurthi	
Meena Suresh	

Children's Programme

Punitha Ramalingam – MIC, I & T Block
Leela Natarajan – MIC, Girls Section
P. Natarajan – MIC, Boys Section
Dr. P. J. N. Reddy - Medical
Kalpakam Narayanan
Hema Sridharan
Dr. R. Suchitra
Chitra Krishnan – Director

NAGERCOIL

Lakshmi Nair – Secretary
Uma Kannan
Kulathooran Pillai
Sahadevan
Dr. Krishna
Dr. Gopal Surendran
Vijayakumari
Dinesh Krishnan
Prema Rajagopal

BMRF

Rukmini Amirapu – MIC	Dr. Aruna Rathnam
Dhvani Anumolu – MIC	P. Natarajan
Indu Balagopal	Ashok Aiyar
Jaya Krishnaswamy	Preethi Krishnan
Dr. Aruna Balachandra	
Lakshmi Gopal	
Mallika Ganapathy	
Janaki Balakrishnan	

MNC

S. Krishnan – MIC
Jaya Krishnaswamy – MIC
N. Kumar
Dr. Jayachandran
Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan
Satish Parasaran
P. Natarajan
Janaki Balakrishnan
Dr. Aruna Rathnam – Director

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



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust

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