



Annual Report 2014-15



**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 – orphan, destitute and socio-economically deprived. It has grown over the past 6 decades and more into a premier social welfare organisation, branching out from childcare to education, vocational training, healthcare, rehabilitation of children, and research and networking on their behalf. Providing childcare services starting from infancy, 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, 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 child care and provide support for its effectiveness 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. With this in focus, Bala Mandir has gone beyond child care and rehabilitation and today runs schools (Primary and Higher Secondary), a Vocational Institution and medical centres in its campus located in the heart of urban Chennai.

Bala Mandir Values

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

1. Child-centric Behavior
2. Integrity
3. Equality and Teamwork
4. Professional Approach
5. Respect for Law and Rules
6. Caring for Environment
7. Secular Outlook
8. Continual Improvement and striving for Excellence

More details on Bala Mandir can be found on its website www.balamandir.org

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

We take great pleasure in presenting to you the 66th year Annual Report of Bala Mandir. The year was an eventful one in Bala Mandir's journey for renewal and transformation. As part of the 65th year celebration we decided to involve the neighbouring schools and institutions like our own in Chennai through seminars to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The initiatives started last year were progressed during the year. The IT project is nearing completion and we have now computerised systems for tracking child data, donations, meeting management, invitation for events and such other activities. We have also made significant progress in creating standardised HR processes for all our employees. This includes not only salary administration but also training and appraisal processes.

The following new initiatives were started during the year and have positively impacted Bala Mandir:

- **Coordinators have been appointed to** improve the effectiveness and enhance professionalism and quality of services, in each of the major activities. This has made a big difference to the efficient functioning of the organisation and helped management to focus on larger issues.
- **Study Circle Meetings** held every Thursday at 11 am for an hour, with different groups of staff members, have focused on thought-provoking messages and prayers shared by one of the attendees. Usually after this different aspects of working in Bala Mandir were taken up for discussion. Most importantly the values that constitute Bala Mandir's Code of Conduct, ideals in Sri Kamaraj's life, topics chosen by staff with all participants sharing their views and thoughts in a lively and interactive manner.
- **The Bala Mandir Quarterly Newsletter:**
BM Connect, launched in November 2014 was an initiative to share news and ideas with all our members, donors, friends and well-wishers and keep them abreast of events and progressive measures in Bala Mandir. So far three issues have been released.



- **The "Balu Sir" Summer Camp**, held in May, filled with cultural activities for Bala Mandir children was initiated as a fitting tribute to Late V.Y. Gaitonde, who had a "special connect" with the Bala Mandir children for over 6 decades.

This initiative will now be a regular feature during the summer and also during the year through the Saturday Club activities.

The year also threw up the following significant challenges:

- **Flooding in Bala Mandir:** The heavy rains in Chennai as usual took a huge toll on Bala Mandir in October 2014 and the whole institution was flooded for 3 days. The staff and children coped extremely well in the crisis situation and we deeply appreciate their efforts and positive attitude. In the coming year we plan to take up projects to waterproof and strengthen some of the buildings and raise the ground level in some parts of Bala Mandir. However the root cause for the issue is the problem with the storm water pipeline connection and outflow of flooding water into the Mambalam Canal. We are trying to work with the Chennai Corporation to solve this long standing problem, but as on date the risk continues.



- **Relocation of the slum to Kannagi Nagar:** One of the major Government moves finally happened in 2014. The relocation of the slum dwellers along the Mambalam Canal to Kannagi Nagar. This had the potential to completely upset the headcount in the Bala Mandir schools and day care centre, since the travel from Kannagi Nagar to Bala Mandir is almost one and a half hours each way. To ease the problem Bala Mandir interacted with the community to solve their immediate problem of financial burden by helping them access free bus passes and provided the much needed breakfast the children were missing out on. The interaction with the community on an understanding of the psycho-social issues of resettlement were a great learning for Bala Mandir and created much good will with the parents who had suffered the trauma.

Financial results:

The 2014-15 year results show that expenses were more than income by Rs. 51.3 lakhs. This was mainly on account of a delay in getting the Government grant for our children's programme. The Grant which normally comes in March was delayed to April 2015. To tide over the situation Bala Mandir took a loan on its deposits. This unplanned financial situation highlighted our dependence on Government Grant and the urgent need to create a corpus fund to be able to fall back upon.

The tables and graphs on page 4 of the report provide the summary of the financials and cash flow. There has been a significant increase in manpower related expenses due to much needed overall salary increases and the appointment of professionals as coordinators. The donations did go up during the year and Bala Mandir benefitted for the first time from the positive impact of the Government's policy on compulsory CSR spend by Corporates. Bala Mandir's assured income (interest on deposits and rental income) cover only a smaller part of our expenses and that makes Bala Mandir vulnerable in the longer term.

The statistical summary of the different units is shown in page 5. While the headcount charts do not fully reflect the qualitative improvement that is being made in all the units of the Bala Mandir, the qualitative situation in each unit has been explained in the respective unit write up.

Finally, we would like to express our immense gratitude to all the donors and well-wishers who have been whole-heartedly supporting 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.

Our annual report gives you a glimpse into the multi-farious activities that Bala Mandir encompasses, for the holistic development of children, the challenges we face, the steps forward with new initiatives, and most importantly the values and goals that drive our service.

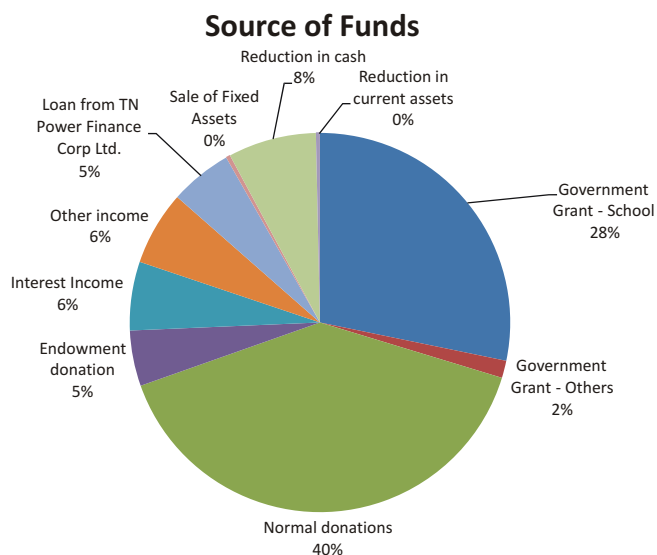
Maya Gaitonde

Honorary General Secretary

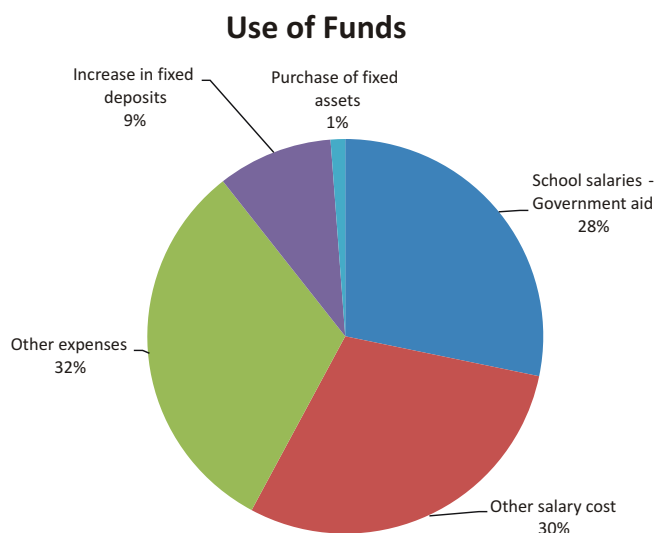


SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED	
	MARCH 31, 2015	MARCH 31, 2014
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Government Grant - School	13,315,980	10,691,779
Government Grant - Others	692,138	4,602,410
Donations	18,821,296	14,239,425
Interest Income	2,754,636	2,383,122
Other Income	3,104,847	2,462,436
Total Income	38,688,897	34,379,172
EXPENDITURE		
School salaries -Government aid	13,315,980	10,691,779
Other salary cost	13,977,732	11,021,171
Depreciation	1,669,813	1,766,856
Other expenses	14,858,327	14,251,969
Total Expenditure	43,821,852	37,731,775
Income / Loss (-) transferred to General Fund	-5,132,955	-3,352,603

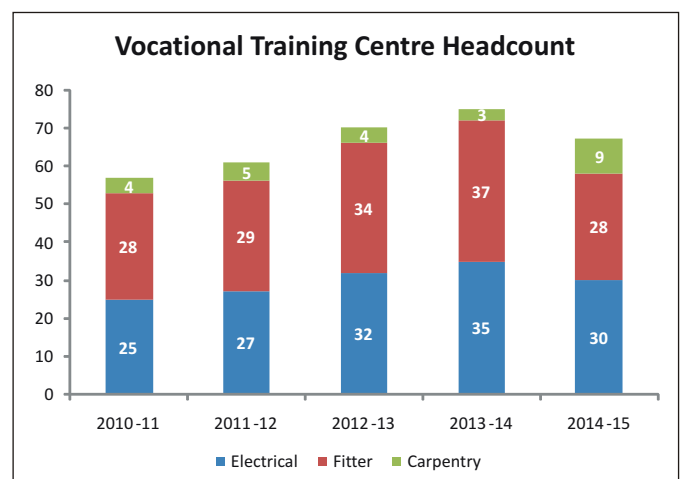
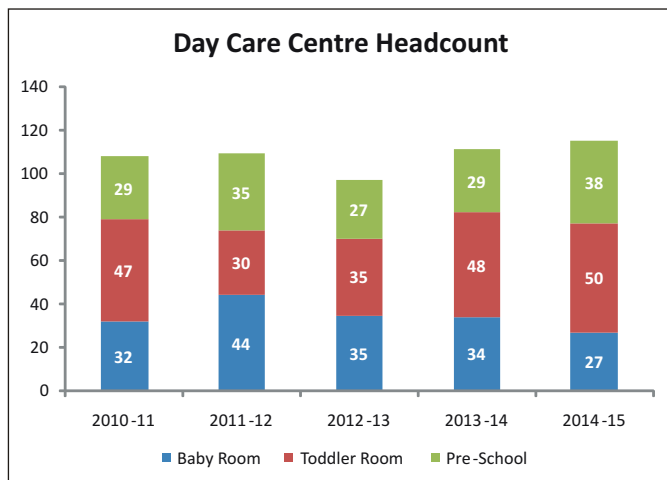
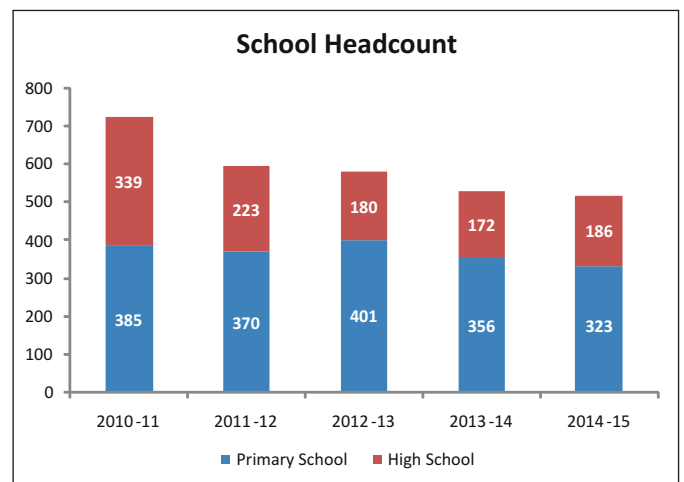
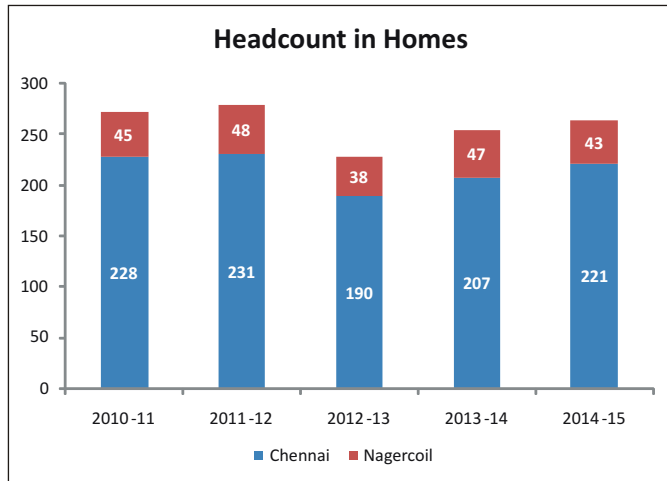


	AS AT MARCH 31, 2015	AS AT MARCH 31, 2014
	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Capital Fund	14,632,926	14,632,926
Endowment Fund	26,003,531	22,644,605
General Fund	9,588,517	15,853,298
Loan from TN Power Finance Corp. Ltd.	2,500,000	-
Total	52,724,974	53,130,829
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Net Fixed Assets	20,323,148	21,472,082
Current Assets, Loans And Advances		
Inventories	65,076	213,385
Sundry Debtors-Considered good	72,033	12,038
Cash and bank balances	33,903,147	32,996,424
Loans and Advances	967,852	683,107
Less : Current Liabilities & Provisions	2,606,282	2,246,207
Net Current Assets	32,401,826	31,658,747
Total	52,724,974	53,130,829





STATISTICAL SUMMARY ACROSS UNITS





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The core activity of Bala Mandir still remains 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 at Chennai and Nagercoil. Every effort is made to bring care, colour and cheer into the daily life and routines of the Bala Mandir child. The healthcare of the children is of utmost importance – particularly of the infants and toddlers who are admitted into Bala Mandir – most of them in a very poor state of health and nutrition. Hospital visits, treating ailments and referrals are an integral part of Bala Mandir's daily routine and the caregivers, para-medical staff and doctors who visit are kept busy on a daily basis. From Day Care Centre pre-school, through Primary School, into High School, Bala Mandir children get an excellent educational and learning environment within the campus. Festivals and cultural events provide an excellent opportunity not only for learning but for expression of talents. Classes for value education, skill and personality development, music, dance and sports have a special focus in Bala Mandir. Social workers monitor and guide the children of different age groups and deal with specific problems and support them through a well-defined, proven, child rearing process, which responds to the changing needs of children and the world around us.

In the year 2014-15, Bala Mandir continued its focus on enhancing the effectiveness of its children's programme through various on-going and new initiatives while continuing to deal with the challenge of attracting caregivers in the required numbers and quality. All the admissions to the children's programme are being done following the prescribed statutory process. The home in Chennai admits children below 6 years while the Nagercoil home is exclusively for girls admitted above 5 years.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S HOME IN CHENNAI

Organisational process: Broadly divided into three distinct age groups – Infants and toddlers (Birth to 6 years), junior boys and girls (6 to 10 years) and senior boys and girls (10 to 16 years), Bala Mandir children are looked after by trained caregivers focusing on specific age group of children. Social workers perform their twin role as counselors for children and support for caregivers in enhancing the psycho-social needs of children. They involve themselves in various activities in connection with care giving in an institution such as helping to complete all the admission formalities of social investigation and personal interview, monitoring child development, needs of academics, behaviour and health, and work as a liaison between child and caregiver. Contact with family and the necessary rehabilitation related processes of home visits, pre-discharge, social and emotional counselling and support post rehabilitation are important aspects at their work. They keep closely in touch with the Child Welfare Committee and Probation officers on all administrative and issues

relating to the child, hygiene, nutrition, maintenance of individual files, special follow up of medical problems and contact with the school.

The team of social workers and care givers goes through continuous upgradation of knowledge and skills by attending seminars on social issues, in-house training on child development and psychology, time management, and communication. In 2014-15 to track the information on each child, a computer based system has been developed to improve the rigour in following all the processes and to enable easier review. In order not to get lost in mere data entry processes, the quality of services by the team is also constantly improved by focusing on Bala Mandir's vision of loving care and the stated value of child-centric behavior.

Festivals: Festivals provide the ideal setting for development and expression of children's many talents and learning interest. Bala Mandir has a tradition of celebrating all the important festivals of various religions, social festivals, national festivals, and birthdays of important saints and leaders with drama, dance, singing, stories and other relevant activities.





Children's Health Report: The healthcare of Bala Mandir children and staff is taken care of by doctors – Paediatricians Dr. Reddy, Dr. Janaki, Dr. Rajkumar and Gynaecologist Dr. Hyma Balachandra. All minor complaints like skin and respiratory infections and viral fever are treated at the Bala Mandir Hospital Block Clinic. All the necessary immunizations are also done for the children as appropriate to their age.

In the last year children were admitted to various hospitals on need basis for ailments such as bronchial problem, pneumonia, bronchitis, anaemia, gastroenteritis, etc. Some of the children were also referred to the hospital for long term treatment and follow up for seizure disorder, behavioural disorder, hepatitis, speech delay, goitre, anaemia, nutrition deficiency and injury.

Entertainment and Outings are part of the annual calendar to expose the children to the outside world. During 2014-15, the children visited the cinema, DakshinaChitra, places of worship and places of interest in Chennai. Entertainment programmes included music and dance programmes,

a magic show, storytelling sessions, puppetry and mime, and a Choir workshop.

On-going Regular Programmes include parents/visitors day on 2nd/3rd Saturday, Common Prayer on Thursdays, helping in the kitchen on a rotational basis, tailoring and computer classes, and weekly Value Education classes for children in different age groups.

CHILDREN'S HOME NAGERCOIL

The Home and Crèche are functioning well. The children's home is running at full capacity and there is a demand to admit more children. All regular and volunteer run programmes of Value Education, Common Prayer, Meditation, Bhagavad Gita Chanting, Tailoring, Music class and Spoken English classes are going on as usual. The important festivals in the year were celebrated by highlighting the story, dance, bhajans by the children and distribution of prasadam. Sri Kamaraj's birthday, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanthi and Children's Day were celebrated with distribution of prizes for winners in competitions and cultural programmes. A medical camp was conducted and all the children underwent check-ups with treatment being prescribed where needed.

Other Initiatives:

- A five-day Adolescent Programme was conducted by Kasthuri Bai Mathar Nala Sangam, Nagercoil.
- A Herbal Awareness Camp was conducted in Bala Mandir by Kasturi Bai Madhar Nala Aluvalaga Sangam. The children were taught about the importance of herbs and how they help us in development. A small herbal garden was created by the organisation in the Bala Mandir premises.
- A Surya Namaskar class was conducted by Art of Living. The participating children were given certificates.
- Natchatra Trust organised drawing and essay writing competitions classwise.
- All the children were taken on a trip to Magic World, a theme park in Trivandrum.



REHABILITATION PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

Rehabilitation is an important activity in Bala Mandir which ensures that children successfully transition from the institution to their own homes. Bala Mandir strongly believes in rehabilitation with family as soon as possible. While institutionalisation becomes essential when children come from a background of deprivation, if after a few years the condition of the parent (in most cases, the mother) improves and she is able to take care of her child (with only poverty as a challenge), the child is rehabilitated with the parent after a home study and counselling, into a Home Sponsorship programme. Otherwise the children are rehabilitated with their family only after they finish school. Every rehabilitated child is given monetary support for food and education as part of the continued Home sponsorship programme. Their progress and the integration with the parent and the community are monitored by the Social Workers and where the rehabilitation situation is difficult, it is addressed appropriately on a case to case basis.

In 2014-15, since the license renewal was still pending none of the adoption cases could be legalised and we hope to complete the processes in 2015-16 after the receipt of the renewal of license.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Adoption

- A meeting was held with Foster Care parents to explain about the delay in licence renewal.
- Home studies, for parents living in Tamil Nadu but adopting children from other states, were undertaken at the request of SARA (State Adoption Resource Agency).
- A meeting of all agencies including CARA (Central Adoption Resource Agency) and Social Welfare was held in Bala Mandir on December 24, 2014 where challenges faced by both agencies and parents were discussed.
- The National Meet on Adoption was held on February 20-21, 2015 at New Delhi, which was attended by the Bala Mandir Senior Social Worker and the new guidelines to be issued by CARA were discussed.
- Regular reports were sent to the various relevant agencies. The Child Welfare Committee members and the probation officer inspected the Home. They checked the various aspects of the Home Management and recorded their satisfaction.

Educational Sponsorship:

Scholarships for education were given to children under the following three categories:

Kamaraj Fund gives support to the children of Bala Mandir Staff - from LKG to Standard XII. Thirty six children received help during the year.

S. Manjubhashini Fund gives support to the children of ex-Bala Mandir children from LKG to Standard XII. A total of 21 children benefitted from this during the year.

Higher Education Endowment Fund supports the higher education of children from its schools, staff

children and those from a needy background. Help was provided to 36 children pursuing courses in Arts, Science, Technical and Professional streams.

Marriage:

The marriage of Madhavi, who grew up in Bala Mandir, was held on May 18, 2014. She had been working in Dell Computers and living in a working women's hostel. She married into a Gujarati family. Her husband Rajesh Dave works in a jeweller's shop in Sowcarpet. The engagement of another Bala Mandir girl Vandana was held in March 2015. Her marriage will take place on May 10, 2015.

Rehabilitation and Home Sponsorships 2014-15:

Children rehabilitated from the Bala Mandir home with their parents and guardians after completion of Std. X are provided support from the rehabilitation and home sponsorship scheme. This provides financial support for education along with a fixed monthly amount for maintenance and covers the period till the children complete their education.

This period is usually 4/5/7 years i.e. Standard XII + vocational training course / graduation / post graduation or technical course after +2. When pursuing higher education at college level, only the sponsorship of college fees is extended and the children are encouraged to take up part time jobs to supplement for their expenses and also are able to help provide some financial support to their parents. Contact and Life Skill classes are held for the rehabilitated boys and girls of Bala Mandir on second Saturday of every month. This helps them through the trauma of adjustment into society, conflict resolution with parents and problem solving arising out of peer relationships.

The following is the status of the children by year of rehabilitation:

Year of Rehabilitation	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. of supported children	5	2	7	7	14	11	6



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

Bala Mandir's educational activity has evolved around the growth and development needs of the Bala Mandir child and the aspirations of the nearby urban-slum community it serves. The endeavour is to provide quality education at highly subsidised costs through its 2 government aided schools – Bala Mandir Primary School and Satyamurthi High School. Early Childhood education is provided through a donation funded Creche/Day Care Centre for children of working mothers in the urban slum area around Bala Mandir. As a new initiative an English Medium Primary section was started during this year in response to the growing aspirations of the community. The Primary and High School have an aided Tamil Section each and the High School an English medium section managed by sponsorship and donations from individuals and corporates.

One of the significant occurrences in 2014-15 was the shifting of part of the neighbouring slum area to Kannagi Nagar which is 15 kms from Bala Mandir. To ease the hardship that the children faced due to this long distance travel, Bala Mandir took the initiative to arrange for bus passes and started serving kanji in the morning to supplement breakfast which they are unable to have since they have to leave very early to come to school. Due to these initiatives and also due to the value for the education offered by Bala Mandir, the expected exodus from the school did not happen.

A special focus on Academics through various qualitative inputs made a significant impact on academic results, raising the 62 per cent pass in the X class board examination in 2013-14 to 90% in the academic year 2014-15 which ended in April 2015.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Annual Calendar:

To create a more holistic all-round development of children the Bala Mandir educational programme has an organised calendar of events and activities, which is followed with rigour and regularity. The calendar of events and activities included celebration of various religious festivals with understanding their significance, patriotic fervour in the activities around national days and inspiration derived from commemorating Gandhiji, Kamaraj, Tiruvalluvar and Bharatiyar's Birth days. The school functions like honouring teachers on Teachers Day, competition and entertainment for Children's Day, dance, drama and singing on Annual Day, physical activities on Sports Day and creative activities around Science and Annual Projects Days help children showcase their talents. This year the theme for all school functions was 'Inclusion, Integrity, Loving Care, Empathy and Equality' which are all core values of Bala Mandir and understanding their importance through the various non academic activities has helped to enhance the holistic development of children.

The calendar of meetings for teachers included a better understanding of discipline and child development, feedback and training programmes, workshops on various topics of interest. PTAs have helped to keep the parents and teachers in close contact on behalf of the child and involve parents in supporting academic improvements, and solve behaviour problems and conflict between parent and child.

Annual inspection of the school went smoothly and the environment of the school was appreciated by the District Education Officer.

New Initiatives:

As part of Bala Mandir's journey for transforming the school and improving the overall quality various initiatives were taken during the year and this included the following:

- **Induction of a Co-ordinator:** For a more focused attention and to monitor and maintain quality standards in teaching and development of children.
- **An English Medium Primary Section** was started LKG to I class.





- An **Appraisal process** for Teacher's performance the feedback from which helped teachers focus better on improving their teaching methodologies.
- A **Library** was created in partnership with YRG Care Foundation and its volunteers, as part of their *Endrum Punnagai* project, for the 2 schools. Two periods were allocated for the purpose of encouraging the reading habit in English and Tamil.
- A **Computer Laboratory** was set up with 20 computers. Students now get an opportunity to improve their computer knowledge through regular classes from Std. III to VIII within the curriculum and Std. IX and X after school hours.
- A **project for waste management** and an organic garden with the involve-ment of the children of Standard IV and V was introduced in partnership with the "Magic Bean". The children learnt to prepare the compost pit made out of kitchen waste and dried leaves and sowed seeds and nurtured plants bearing vegetables and greens.
- **Career Counselling:** This initiative focused on helping children identify their academic aptitudes was given more focus and it led too many students opting for a career in vocational training as well.
- **Student Committees** set up in the schools focused on discipline issues, cleanliness and lunch duties and resulted in the students taking on and enjoying their responsibilities.
- **Montessori:** The Montessori system introduced in 2013 for pre-primary continued to flourish. It has become a lab/learning centre for the KG to Std. I child.
- **Early Childhood Care and Development:** The Learning through Play Calendars (Birth-3 yrs.) (3 to 6 yrs.) continued to be the main tool for child development parameters for the Creche and Day Care Centre children. Teachers undertook home visits to assess the status and provide individualised inputs to parents and caregivers.
- **Special Learning Support** continues to hold an important place in Bala Mandir's educational services for children who have difficulties coping with academics. This process was further strengthened through regular review of individual child's learning problems. Increased numbers of children were helped to join the mainstream classes after having benefitted from the learning support provided.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

Bala Mandir Vocational Training Centre's main activity still remains the core NCVT courses which were started in 1999. While the Electrician and Fitter courses are continuing, the Carpentry course was suspended and in its place a short term course, 'Carpentry for Interiors' has been started. More short term courses are expected to be added in the future. Around 40 trainees pass out of the NCVT courses and are immediately absorbed by industry.

Bala Mandir does not charge any tuition fees to the trainees who are all from impoverished backgrounds and also provides them a free mid-day meal, health check-ups and referrals. The trainees are also provided with Spoken English, Life Skills, Health Education and Value Education classes for character building and enhancing their interpersonal and employability skills. Through visits to various industrial sites and guest lectures, the trainees are exposed to the industrial environment.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Academics:

- In the examination conducted in July 2014 under the earlier non-semester pattern, the last batch of Electrical and Fitter students of the ITC appeared for the exams and all of them passed, maintaining Bala Mandir's 100 per cent pass record.
- To meet the demands of the new NCVT pattern, of the semester system during the year 2014-15 Bala Mandir made the necessary adjustments in the teaching and testing schedules as follows:
 - Stricter implementation of attendance norms.
 - Monthly test and special classes for weak students.
 - Setting up an Electronics Lab to cover the 4th semester syllabus for Electrical trainees.
 - Special classes on Saturdays by volunteers and instructors for teaching Mathematics.
 - Employability and soft skills classes with special focus on new areas.
 - PT / Sports classes introduced as part of the regular schedule

- Increasing numbers of trainees came from rural backgrounds needing hostel accommodation provided by the VTC.
- Special classes for Basic Computer Course continued to be conducted and the trainees went through the examination for the same with positive results.
- The social worker continued to attend to problems of individual trainees and support them with ongoing behaviour counseling, home visiting where needed and attending to the medical problems of trainees.

New Vocational Training Initiatives:

New Carpentry Course: Due to a steep fall in the popularity of the Carpentry NCVT course BM suspended the same and in its place a six month course – 'Carpentry for Interiors' was started. This is a Bala Mandir certified course and the course content has been created in close consultation with the industry players. The trainees are trained in various aspects of Carpentry for four months and undergo on-the-job apprenticeship for two months. A total of around 20 boys are expected to undergo this course every year. Of the first batch





of 10 students, 7 successfully completed the course in June 2015.

Other short term courses: During the year Bala Mandir signed an MoU with Blue Star Limited and the new course is scheduled to start in July 2015. Blue Star is providing the technical course content and also the equipment to support the training while Bala Mandir is responsible for all other aspects of management of the course.

Industrial Visits:

During the year, apart from the normal industrial visits to Andrew Yule & Co, ICF and Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam, the NCVT trainees also

had an opportunity to visit a Naval warship. These visits gave very good exposure to them on the practical application of knowledge imparted. The Carpentry unit trainees visited Harmony Musicals and JK Woods in Vellore to understand the final points of wood working.

Annual Calendar:

Bala Mandir VTC has a defined annual calendar of events that is followed every year and also improved upon. Apart from Annual Day related sports and cultural activities, the calendar includes schedule for Alumni meets, meetings with parents, annual health check-ups, etc.





HEALTH PROGRAMME



Overview / Key Highlights

The Medical Programme is a key support function for all the activities of Bala Mandir. This is a specialised area catering to both the children and the staff of Bala Mandir and its units, and an independent sub-committee monitors the work in the area and plans initiatives for improvement. The work consists of both routine check-ups through the year, and corrective actions based on the findings and also dealing with any exigencies. Apart from physical health, counselling has also been added to the scope of work along with the well defined health education programme for Stds. I to XII.

In the year 2014-15, Bala Mandir continued to improve its medical programme as described in the report of activities.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Homeopathic Unit:

Dr. Peter Martin and Dr. Geetha attended the clinic regularly. The Homeopathic unit gave preventive medicine dosage for Chicken Pox for adolescents, summer boils and summer diarrhoea for toddlers, and for molluscum among infants and toddlers. Other health problems treated included abdominal pain, wheezing and asthma for teenagers.

Eye Clinic:

The annual eye camp by Rajan Eye Care Hospital screened the children and also referred them to hospitals where required. 132 children from classes II to V, and 133 from classes VI to X and 58 adolescents in the ITC underwent check-up. Referral to Rajan Eye Care was done for 37 children for eyesight, headaches, infection, etc.

Dental Clinic:

Dental checkups in partnership with Baskar Dental Foundation commenced for the year in January 2015 and along with screening, scaling and filling was done in the Bala Mandir clinic. All the children of Bala Mandir schools were screened and 5 children were referred to Government Hospital for tooth extraction and complicated filling.

School Health Programme:

The annual health check-up plan included all students from all the Educational Units of Bala Mandir including VTC. Dr. Rajkumar, Paediatrician undertook the check up and followed up with



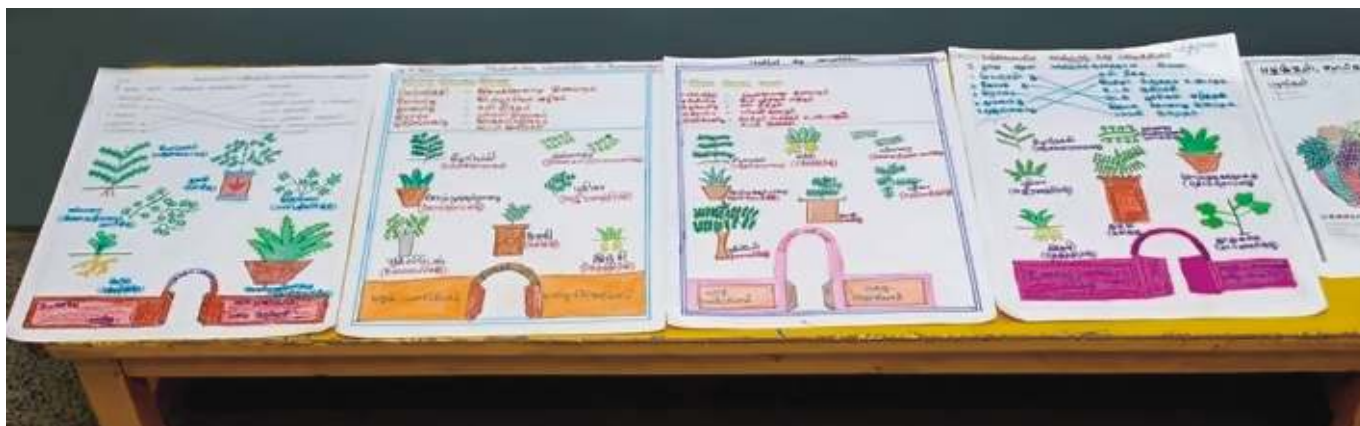
parents and in case of referrals. This included problems related to teeth, eyesight, nutrition, and skin and in one case, the heart.

Counselling Services:

Counselling was held for children of Bala Mandir and the Bala Mandir run schools to cope with problems in the family, behavioural problems, academic difficulties, lack of concentration and career guidance. Where essential, the parents were called for to discuss the pertinent issues.

Ms. Vijayalakshmi did the counselling for the Primary and High School children for behavioural problems, stress management, adjustment issues, and academic performance issues. Mr. Arul Raj did the counselling for the ITC trainees for lack of attendance, medical, behavioural and other issues.

Health Education: Health Education classes included understanding the whole human system, Substance Abuse, Cancer, Social Health, Human physical structure, social welfare and responsibilities, protection and welfare.





BALA MANDIR CULTURAL/ LEARNING CENTRE



Overview / Key Highlights

Cultural activities like music, dance and drama have become an integral part of Bala Mandir and contributed greatly to the personality development of the children and inculcated confidence in them. The Bala Mandir Cultural / Learning Centre initiative, started in 2009, is expanding its horizons, and all the functions and events in Bala Mandir are coming under its umbrella. The Bala Mandir annual calendar of cultural events and functions is spread over the year in such a way as to give opportunity to various age groups of children to express their talents and interact with others.

In 2014-15, as part of the 65th Year celebrations, apart from the Annual Day function of each of the Bala Mandir units, a seminar on a topic relevant to that area of service was held. Eminent people shared their experiences and also gave insight on the way forward. For some of the seminars children and teachers from other schools were also invited.



MONTH-WISE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

MAY: Balu Sir Summer Camp

This was a new initiative held for the first time, at the Satyamurthi High School premises from May 1-15, and catered to Bala Mandir children and a few from the Bala Mandir schools – classes III to VIII. The children were taught meditation, some Indian martial arts, story telling, fun games, art work, etc. At the end of the day each child received a packed lunch with a varying menu. During the Valedictory function, the children performed what they had learnt and each child received a book and a certificate.

JUNE: Vocational Skills Day & Seminar



On June 27, the Annual Day of the Vocational Training Centre was held. Mr. M.V. Subbiah, Managing Trustee of AMM Foundation presided over the function. A drama was enacted on the history of the ITC, a folk dance and an impressive yoga display was put up by the trainees. Mr. Subbiah spoke about the importance of Vocational Training. During the seminar held on June 28, Ms. Vidya Shankar of Relief Foundation and Mr. Venkatesan of L&T Training Institute spoke on the future of skill development, aptitude for vocational skills and dignity of labour.

JULY: Education Day

July 15th the birthday of Sri Kamaraj is celebrated as Education Day. The function presided over by Dr. M. Rajendran, Former Vice Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur, had the children of the Primary School presenting a Villu Pattu on the life

of Sri Kamaraj followed by a dance and also his ideals through mime and speech.

The seminar held on July 19, focused on Montessori education and Special Education both initiatives Bala Mandir has benefitted from - presented by Ms. Uma Shanker, Director, Montessori training and Ms. Josephine, Course Co-ordinator, V-Excel Academy of Training and Excellence.

AUGUST: School Annual Day

The Annual Day of SMHS and BMPS was celebrated on August 22, 2014. The children performed dance and dramas based on the themes – Empathy, Inclusion, Loving Care, Integrity and Equality. Mrs. Bhavani Ragunanandan, former principal of Vidya Mandir, presided over the function and distributed prizes for academic excellence, along with appreciation prizes for various character and personality traits identified as achievable goals for children.

Medical Day and Seminar



On August 26, Medical Day was celebrated, dedicated to the theme “Children’s Health is Tomorrow’s Wealth”. Dr. Mohan Rajan, Chairman & Medical Director, Rajan Eye Care Hospitals Pvt. Ltd, presided over the function and advocated good principles to succeed in life - education, love and affection, and discipline. The medical seminar was held on the same day in the afternoon, with an interactive session on Nutrition and Preventing Diseases by Dr. Naresh Kumar, SOCHARA-CEU, Chennai. This was followed by an open forum.

**SEPTEMBER: Founder's Day**

Founder's Day was celebrated on September 21. Smt. Manjubhashini was remembered through a Villu Pattu by the children. A song by the Bala Mandir Choir followed by a dance, highlighted the greatness of "mother". The Chief Guest, Mrs. Uma Narayanan, Managing Trustee, SOS Children's Villages of India, Chatnath Homes, shared her memories of her association with Bala Mandir, and especially with Manjumma.

On September 27, a seminar was held on best practices in child care institution, with representatives from many Govt. and NGO-run Homes across the city sharing their innovative practices.

NOVEMBER: Legal Education Seminar

The S. Govind Swaminadhan Legal Education Programme was held on November 22. The topic for discussion was "Child in Conflict with Law", based on the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act with the theme of 'How does it Matter to Me?' The programme was conducted in association with TULIR - Centre for prevention and healing of child sexual abuse. Students and teachers of Standard XI from city schools attended the programme. Two schools made presentations on the topic which were followed by interactive wrap-up discussions.

Voices in Union

On November 29, a Choral Music Workshop 'Voices In Unison' was held in association with Madras Youth Choir. It was a full day programme in which children and teachers from the city schools participated.

DECEMBER: S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar

The S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar was organised by Bala Mandir Research Foundation on December 13. It was the third in the series "Children's Rights & Responsibilities - Engalukkum Urimai Undu". Teachers from Bala Mandir and city schools who are handling adolescent children attended the programme. A panel of adolescents from Bala Mandir presented the Children's Charter through songs, dialogues and role play. BMRF's latest publication – *Balar Padalgal* – a set of two books in Tamil for children (6-9 yrs.) (9-12 yrs.) was also released by Ms. Nirmala Lakshmanan, Director, *The Hindu*.

JANUARY: Gandhi – Connect – Character Building

On January 25th, a seminar on Mahatma Gandhi was conducted by Ms. V.R. Devika. The programme was targeted at the teachers from City Schools to help them teach adolescents about Gandhiji.

FEBRUARY: Friendship Day

On February 13th, Friendship Day was celebrated during the annual visit of Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen, Chairman of Board, Braade Stiftung along with his family. The children put up a play on the 'History of Bala Mandir'. The play detailed the birth and growth of Bala Mandir through dialogues, dance and music. All the Bala Mandir home children participated in the play.

MARCH: Bala Mandir Anniversary

On March 10, the 66th Anniversary of Bala Mandir was celebrated with 'History of Bala Mandir' being



put up for the students, teachers, staff and children of Bala Mandir units. Special lunch was provided for everyone. As a new initiative, an Employee of the Year from each department was chosen and awarded with a certificate of appreciation for their ability to give practical expression to the code of conduct of Bala Mandir.

MARCH: Seminar on Value Education

On March 28th, a seminar on Value Education was conducted which was facilitated by Ms. Maya Gaitonde. The title was "Value Education through Stories from the Ramayana". The participants were mostly teachers from about 10 schools, Social Workers and members.



OUR APPRECIATIONS GO OUT TO...

Donors and Well Wishers:

Bala Mandir offers its deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to its donors who give regularly and unstintingly.

- **Braade-Stiftung Denmark** continued to contribute towards the maintenance of the buildings and the Children's Programme in Bala Mandir Chennai and in Nagercoil.
- **Action Children Aid** continued to contribute towards the sponsorships of ITC boys staying in Bala Mandir Hostel.
- **Sarathy Foundation USA, Ms. Gualtieri, Italy, Mr. Subbiah Subramaniam and Mr. Ganpat Mani, USA** continued their yearly contributions and support for various improvement projects across Bala Mandir.
- **L&T ECC Limited** extended their support beyond the Infrastructure projects to Children's Programme and VTC including sponsorship of its trainees.
- **Saint-Gobain India Foundation** supported the salary of school teachers and special educators.
- **AMM Foundation** sponsored VTC trainees.
- **Blue Star Limited** contributed the seed money and provided equipment for setting up of the A/c Mechanic course.
- **Saddler Scandinavia AB** extended its support to the Day Care Centre.
- **Spadeworks Sourcing Private Limited** gave audio-visual aids and a refrigerator for Satyamurthi High School
- **Harinarayanan Educational Trust** extended their support for increasing the level of the playground in Bala Mandir and prevention of water logging in the parking area.
- **Rotary Club of Mylapore Uptown** for their support of Medical Programme and Satyamurthi High School.

- **Mr. K.V. Rangaswami** funded the purchase of autorickshaws and **Mr. P. Natarajan** funded the CCTV.
- **Mr. Murali of Sri Krishna Sweets** promptly responded to our request to provide hot meals for the children during the flooding of Bala Mandir.

Endowments created:

- **Food Endowment:** Mr. K. Kannan, Mr. P.M. Rajasekar, Dr. Jayakumar Reddy, Mr. D. Ramesh Rajan, Mr. D.A. Inimai, Ms. Divya Priya Rajan, Ms. S. Sridevi, ASKR Trust, Mr. T. Palaniappan, Mr. R. Sathia Sundaram, Mr. B. Siva Sankaran, Ms. D. Girija (addnl.), Mr. Meenakshi Sundaram, Ms. Aarthi Shreeram (addnl.), Ms. Seetha Lakshmi, Ms. S. Bhooma (TAMBRAS) (addnl.), Mr. Thiagarajan (TAMBRAS), Lodge Harmony (addnl.).
- **Vidyalaya Endowment:** Ms. Bhuvaneshwari Srinivasamurthy, Mr. P. Natarajan, Mr. P.N. Mehta, Ms. Lalitha Krishnan.
- **Education Endowment:** Ms. Madhurittu Puri
- **VTC Endowment:** Mr. Rajendra Kini, Mr. Vengrai Parthasarathy
- **Vedam Endowment for ITC (Additional):** Dr. K. Kalaivani
- **Higher Education Endowment:** Mr. P. Natarajan
- **Medical Endowment:** Mr. G. Rajagopal (Additional for Dr. Reddy Endowment), Mr. V. Srikanth
- **VYG Endowment:** Dr. Ramamoorthy
- **General Purpose Endowment:** Desikachari Foundation
- **S. Govind Swaminadhan Endowment:** Mr. J. Sivanandaraj, Mr. Sriram Panchu, Mr. P. Subha Reddy, Vaidyanathan Associates, Ms. Aparna Mukherjee, Mr. N. Karthikeyan.

Donors who have contributed substantially to Bala Mandir in support of its service activities:



- **Children's Programme:** Sarita Jain Foundation, Mr. A Ramesh, Ms. Miranda Corti, Mr. Shanmugham, Mr. Anumolu Rajsekhar, Mr. Venkat Rangan, Ms. Premilla Rajan, Mr. P. Dharmarajan, Ms. K. P. Vedambal.

- **Education:** Ms. Ruchi Doshi, Mr. A.K. Nehru, Ms. Menaka Parthasarathy, Ms. Aditi Nehru, Ms. K.P. Vedambal, Mr. P. Dharmarajan, Mr. K. Jayaraman.

- **Sponsorship:** St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Donors providing yearly support for Education:

- Mr. Rishikesha Krishnan
- Steria India

Medical Support:

- Dr. Mohan Rajan for the eye care of Bala Mandir children and staff
- Dr. Rasappa for free special investigations for our children
- Apex Laboratories for free medicines
- Mr. Rajappa of Bactine World for supplying free vaccines
- YRG Care for their help in investigation and vaccination of children

Donations in Kind:

- **Provisions:** Mr. C. K. Muralidharan, Mr. Sunil Hasija, Rotary Club of Chennai, Port City, Mr. Hasif Hijhawan, Mr. Prabhakar
- **Books:** Madras Gymkhana Club
- **Electronics:** Mr. T. Karthik
- **Clothing:** Socio Economic Service Society, Mr. Abhay Singhi
- **Needs of Infants & Toddlers:** Dr. A.G. Manimegalai daughter of our long standing donor Late A. G. Nayagam, continued in the tradition of her father and contributed towards some of the essential needs of the infants and toddlers block.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers from Bhumi took classes for the Schools and VTC students.
- Madras Youth Choir supported Bala Mandir and trained the children in music.
- Ms. Leela Ramji trained the children in bhajans.
- Ms. Leela Rajagopal supported with Spoken English classes.
- Ms. Vidhya Anand helped VTC develop the new short-term carpentry course for interiors.
- Mr. Murugesan, Mr. Rajendran and Mr. Venkat took classes for the VTC carpentry trainees.
- Mr. Prasanth took Math classes for VTC boys.
- Mr. Shankar Swamy of Harmony Musicals and Mr. Sekar of J.K. Woods, Vellore agreed to train the carpentry trainees in their respective factories.
- Mr. M. Ravi helped review the various projects of Bala Mandir from an engineering perspective. He also made the arrangement for a survey of the Bala Mandir complex to plan for storm water clearance.
- Mr. Rama Nayak and Mr. Rajasekhar Anumolu helped progress the German Hall project.
- Mr. Rajesh Somasundaram helped support the IT related projects.
- Ms. Miranda Corti and her son Benedict from London, visited India from July 23 to August 1 and spent their time interacting with the children at Bala Mandir for the second year.
- From September 1 to 5, Mr. Alex Davenport, great-grandson of Manjumma visited the DCC, Vidyalaya and Montessori and helped the children with pronunciation and small rhymes.
- Ms. Archana Natarajan volunteered her full time to Bala Mandir for the whole of 2014-15. While she contributed in many areas, her specific areas of responsibility were to create the HR processes and implement the IT systems. She also continues to anchor the new Bala Mandir Newsletter.

BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST

Organizational setup BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
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| 3. Mr. P. Natarajan, Treasurer | 7. Mr. K.V. Rangaswami |
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- | | | |
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