

Annual Report of the Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust



2013 - 2014

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 team work
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 web site www.balamandir.org

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

We take great pleasure in presenting to you the 65th year Annual Report of Bala Mandir. This year marks a significant event in the history of our organisation, with the completion of 65 years of service activities. The theme for the 65th year celebration was *Reaffirm* (the values that we hold), *Rededicate* (to the ideals of our Founders) and *Renew* (to be in tune with the changing world around us). Details of the 65th year celebration event are provided on page 6 of this report.

We took the step to Reaffirm the values we hold sacred by articulating a Vision-Mission statement and a Code of Conduct – hitherto expressed only through our work – and set into process discussions at all levels to ensure internalization and compliance.

Through a process of review of all our service activities, we have made an effort to Rededicate the institution to the ideals of our founders, who espoused the eternal values of integrity, inclusion, empathy, and equality, and combined loving care and change without compromise to these ideals.

The renewal process saw many major changes this year in almost all areas of our work – more visibility through the launching of a website, more efficiency in administration with the introduction of IT systems in accounting, donation management and the Children's Programme, and quality improvement in programme delivery by the induction of professionals at all levels of childcare.

The last few years have been financially strained, fluctuating between losses of income from change in donor policy and closure of income generation units for statutory compliance and rising inflation on the one hand, to the receipt of substantial support from the Government through grants under the new ICPS scheme on the other hand. This new trend has made us rethink our fund-raising and donation policies and initiatives, and re-emphasized the need to move towards self-sufficiency, a more broad-based approach to funding and areas of support such as corporates / foundations / new donors hitherto untapped, and new and innovative ways of income generation.

Administrative decentralization introduced in the past 5 years, along with smoother and efficient functioning of the sub-committees now responsible for various areas, has resulted in regular meetings, streamlining of reporting and closer monitoring of the effectiveness of services. The Trust board, as an advisory body, has been proactive in its role, with many suggestions for improvement, which included an analysis of the management and functioning of Bala Mandir, and providing suggestions on the way forward.

The process of admission, adoption and rehabilitation, and transfer to other institutions, done with care and in the best interests of the child, continues. In Education, the introduction of English Medium in the Primary school, as a link between kindergarten and high school, has been planned for the next academic year, and a successful community reach out programme took place. A highlight in the results of the X Standard was the appearance and success of students holding Disability Certificates as well. The introduction of Montessori at the pre-Primary level and extensive training of staff at the Day Care Centre has created yet another effective learning environment for children below 6 years, and is accessed by a growing number of parents from the nearby urban slum. The Vocational Training Centre, with 100% results and job placement for the popular Electrical and Fitter courses, saw attempts at revival of the Carpentry NCVT course.



The 65 years of dedication to children has seen the devoted service of many wonderful people, 3 of whom left us last year, leaving their indelible mark on the life of children and work of Bala Mandir:

Our **Trustee/Treasurer Mr. V. Y. Gaitonde**, who had been in the service of Bala Mandir for 60 years, had become an integral part of it. His love for children specially the little ones, knew no bounds. His care and concern for them is difficult to replace. The children and staff of Bala Mandir were extremely saddened by this great loss, and mourned his passing away with bhajan and chanting sessions, and a unique blend of songs and stories taught by 'Balu Sir', as they had all fondly called him.

"The theme for the 65th year celebration was *Reaffirm* (the values that we hold), *Rededicate* (to the ideals of our Founders) and *Renew* (to be in tune with the changing world around us)."

The memorial meeting that was conducted for Mr. Gaitonde at the German Hall on 14th July saw members and staff speak about the simple man that he was, caring, loving towards everyone who came into his orbit. It was heartwarming to see ex-students from way back in the 60s, who have made good lives for themselves, come all the way to join this meeting to express their sorrow and share happy memories of his association with them.

Our **Trustee Dr. A. Ramakrishna**, who was a remarkable and caring person, who always had a smile for everyone, left us all quite suddenly. He had been helping Bala Mandir in various ways for many projects for several years. Those that shared memories at his memorial meeting recalled his

contribution to Bala Mandir in the designing of the German Hall and support and advice in the starting of the BM-PHM ITC. In January 2014, the Government of India announced his selection for the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award for distinguished services, posthumously.

Our **Member Ms. Leela Sekar's** long association with Bala Mandir is recalled with deep appreciation. She had held the post of Honorary Joint Treasurer, until her age and infirmity reduced her involvement. The interesting reminiscences by members and staff recalled her involvement and commitment to Bala Mandir.

In closing, 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 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 myriad activities that Bala Mandir encompasses, the challenges we face, the steps forward we have taken and our new initiatives, and the values and goals that drive our service.

Maya Gaitonde

Honorary General Secretary

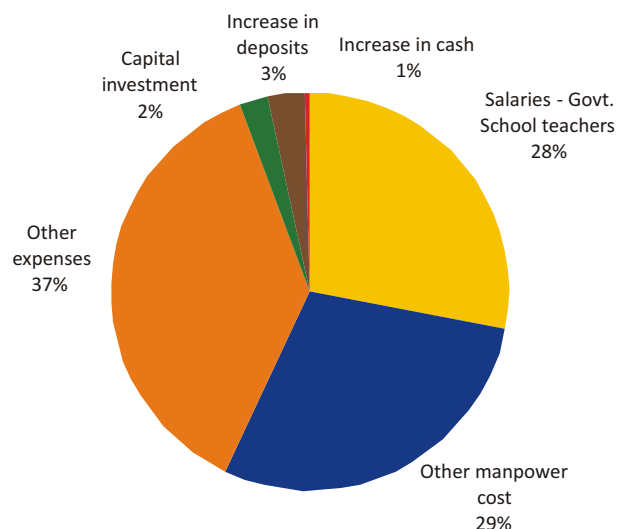


SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

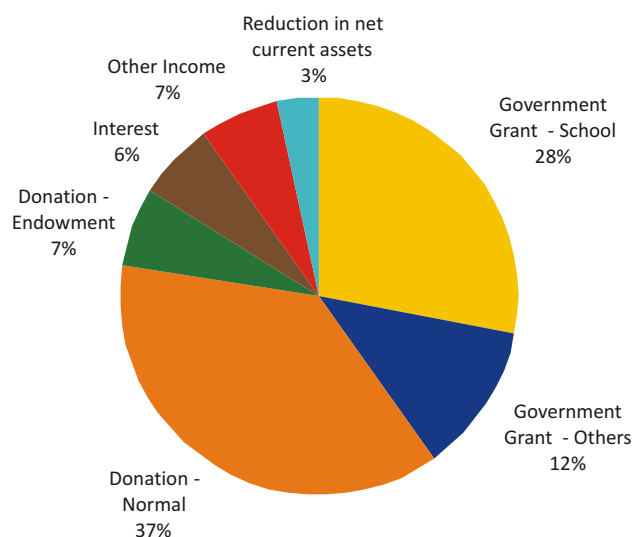
	FOR THE YEAR ENDED	
	MARCH 31, 2014	MARCH 31, 2013
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Government Grant - School	10,691,779	11,272,573
Government Grant - Others	4,602,410	5,941,163
Donations	14,239,425	15,371,030
Other Income	4,845,558	5,708,117
Total Income	34,379,172	38,292,883
EXPENDITURE		
Employee Benefits expense	21,712,950	20,320,557
Depreciation	1,766,856	1,623,418
Other expenses	14,251,969	13,762,219
Total Expenditure	37,731,775	35,706,194
Income/loss (-) transferred for appropriation to General Fund	-3,352,603	2,586,689

	AS AT MARCH 31, 2014	AS AT MARCH 31, 2013
	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Capital Fund	14,632,926	14,632,926
Endowment Fund	22,272,605	20,949,000
General Fund	16,225,298	18,445,901
Total	53,130,829	54,027,827
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed Assets	21,472,082	22,363,359
Current Assets, Loans And Advances		
Inventories	213,385	328,722
Sundry Debtors-Considered good	12,038	7,250
Cash and bank balances	32,996,424	31,708,196
Loans and Advances	683,107	423,648
	33,904,954	32,467,816
Less:		
Current Liabilities And Provisions	2,246,207	803,348
Net Current Assets	31,658,747	31,664,468
Total	53,130,829	54,027,827

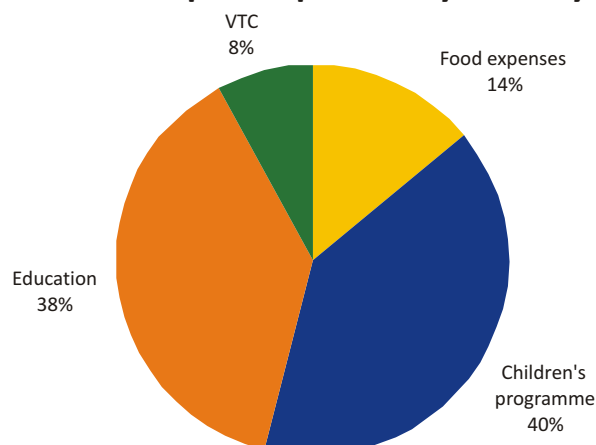
Uses of Funds



Sources of Funds

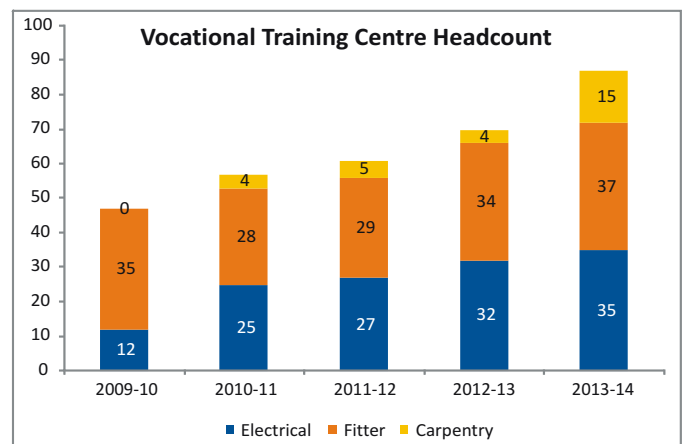
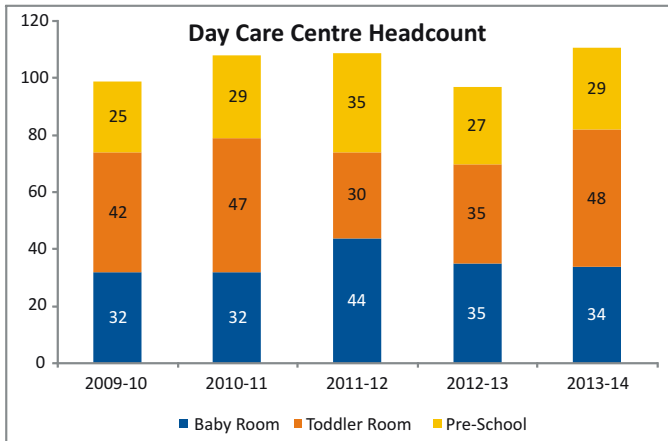
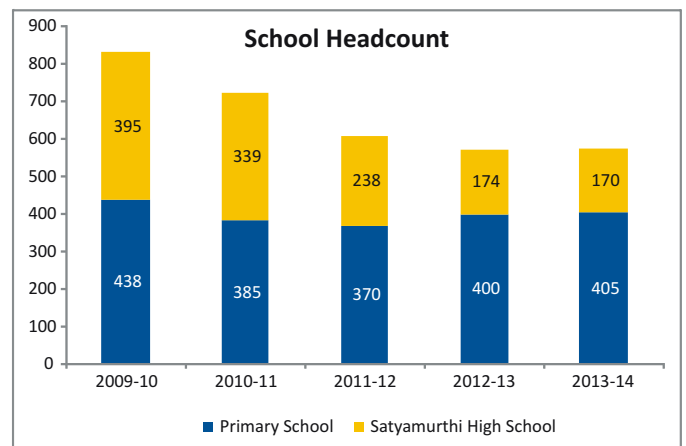
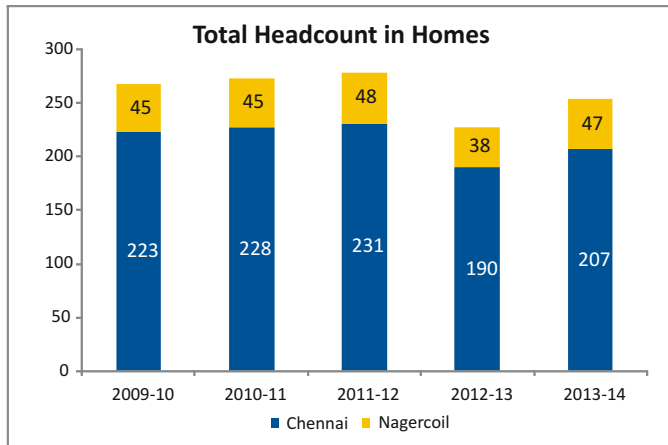


Break up of Expenses by Activity





STATISTICAL SUMMARY ACROSS UNITS





65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 65th year celebration was a festive occasion, spread over 3 days – 8th, 9th and 10th March 2014. The audience included the members, staff, well-wishers, children, friends of Bala Mandir and also the press.

8th March was the day of “Blessing for Bala Mandir”. Since in Bala Mandir, the year 2013 had been dedicated to the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda (to commemorate his 150th Anniversary), the evening function had bhajans sung by the Bala Mandir children, a dance and a musical drama highlighting inspiring anecdotes from the life of Swami Vivekananda. This drama was an in-house production, scripted in Bala Mandir. All students from Standard II to IX took part in the drama. The play focused on the values demonstrated by Swamiji in his life – devotion, honesty, fearlessness, determination and women’s empowerment. This was followed by a benedictory address by Swami Gauthamanandhaji, Senior Trustee Ramakrishna Math and Mission and also Adhyaksha of Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore Chennai. While blessing Bala Mandir and its children, he expressed his appreciation of the play and also took up some of the events shown in the play to stress upon the moral values which have to be imbibed by us.

The **9th March** function had a theme of ‘Bala Mandir – Past – Present – Future’.

The function began with children of Bala Mandir belonging to the Junior Madras Youth Choir rendering three songs, in three different languages - Hindi, Kannada and Tamil – on National Unity and the importance of good behaviour.

- **Dr. Anandalakshmy, President, BMRF and Trustee BMKT**, presented the ‘Vision for the future’ of Bala Mandir – where she envisioned that in the future a child who grew up in Bala Mandir, could well take over as Honorary General Secretary of Bala Mandir. The audience was inspired by her vision.
- **Mr. P. Natarajan, Trustee, BMKT**, made a presentation on “Bala Mandir–65 Years–A Profile”. He provided an insight into the rich, child-centric history and ethical approach of Bala Mandir and all its units and also highlighted the present day challenges.
- **Ms. Andal Damodaran, Vice President, Indian Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu**, spoke on ‘Child-Centric Service’. She touched upon ICCW’s long association with Bala Mandir, and also gave an insight into the challenges that are being faced by child care institutions.
- **Naatyacharya V. P. Dhananjayan, dance exponent**, made his speech interactive with the children. He focused on ‘Every Child Has a Potential’. He conveyed to the children the importance of the realization of their potential and the value systems they have to adopt to become model citizens of society.
- **Ms. Jaya Krishnaswamy, Director, Madhura Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children**, speaking on ‘Including All Children’, and explained the close collaboration between MNC and Bala Mandir, and how Bala Mandir has integrated inclusion as an important value into all its activities.
- **Mr. K. V. Rangaswami, Advisor to Chairman, Larsen & Toubro**, spoke on ‘Supporting Child Care’. His speech highlighted L&T ECC’s long standing CSR relationship with Bala Mandir in its service activities for more than five decades and its importance in the infrastructural and qualitative progress of the institution.

Following these speeches, a movie, “Happy Children of Bala Mandir”, was screened. This movie was specially filmed to commemorate the 65th Anniversary. It provided a glimpse of all the service activities and was very well received by the audience.



On **March 10th** the function was for the Bala Mandir family – “Moving Forward in Togetherness”.

There was a quiz competition held on Bala Mandir, focusing on its history – its facets and personalities. The quiz was extremely interesting and highlighted the need for observation and knowledge at Bala Mandir from a historical perspective. The Office Team was the winner, followed by the Primary School and then ITC.





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The core activity of Bala Mandir is its children's programme which consists of all aspects related to the all-round holistic development of the children admitted to full-time care in its Home. Bala Mandir runs two homes – one in Chennai and another at Nagercoil. Every effort is made to bring in care, colour and cheer into the daily life and routines of the Bala Mandir child. The health care of the children is of utmost importance – particularly of the infants and toddlers who enter 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 and para-medical staff and doctors who visit are kept busy on a daily basis. As the children grow in Bala Mandir, they also begin early education and learning. Festivals and events provide an excellent opportunity for learning and development and hence these are given special focus in Bala Mandir. There are also classes for value education, skill and personality development as well as music and sports. Social workers monitor and guide the children of different age groups and deal with specific problems faced by children. Bala Mandir has a well-defined proven process for its children's programme which responds to the changing needs of children and the world around us.

In the year 2013-14, Bala Mandir continued its focus on enhancing the effectiveness of its children's programme through various on-going initiatives while continuing to deal with the challenge of recruiting caregivers in the required numbers. All the admissions to the children's programme are being done following the prescribed statutory process.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S HOME IN CHENNAI

Health Scenario of Bala Mandir children:

All minor complaints like skin and respiratory infections, viral fever, aches and pains, minor injuries etc. were treated at the Hospital Block clinic by Dr. Janaki – Bala Mandir's paediatrician who visits 4 or 5 days a week in the morning to take care of the medical problems of Bala Mandir children. A total of 136 immunisations including 1st/2nd/3rd doses of Measles, MMR, BCG, Chicken Pox, DPT, OPV were given to all the children below five years. Tetanus shots for injury and vaccinations for older children were also given. 35 children were admitted to various hospitals for ailments such as hydro nephrosis, septicaemia, seizure, and abscess. 53 children referred to various hospitals for long term treatment and follow up of seizure disorder, behavioural disorder, hepatitis, AG +ve, MX +ve, Goitre, refraction. Annual health check-up was also conducted for all the children in the home.

FESTIVALS

For many years now Bala Mandir has been using festivals as a way to inculcate and imbibe spiritual, cultural, social and patriotic values in the children. Meaningful activities and well explained festivities are carried out.

For the following religious festivals, which come in order every year, the preparation and presentation are done class-wise. This is done so that by the time the children leave Bala Mandir, every child has had an opportunity to participate in chanting of Ashtothrams, understanding that it highlights the life, teachings and attributes of the deity; pooja to understand the need for method and meticulousness; singing meaningful bhajans which creates a sense of devotion; enactment of dramas explaining the inner significance of the festival, which have been specially scripted and have become part of the lives of the children in Bala Mandir.

Each festival highlights a different value

Varalakshmi Vratam – Empowerment and Excellence of womanhood through the stories of the PanchaKanyas – Sita, Sati, Savitri, Anusuya and Draupadi

Krishna Janmashtami – Significance of Sri Krishna's birth-bringing joy to mankind, the cradling and



childhood of Krishna in Brindavanam – much like the life of a child in an institution

Vinayaka Chaturthi – Devotion to the Mother and Parents and the symbolism of the unique form

Navarathri – Shakti and her victory over the evil forces within and without, Divine Mother's worship in her 3 forms of giver of good qualities, wealth and learning

Karthigai Deepam – Significance of the light of knowledge, the symbolism behind this form of the Lord, and how it emphasizes the importance of knowledge as a means to brighten the world

Maha Sivarathri – Importance of meditation and chanting of the Lord's name going beyond barriers of caste, as well as the efficacy of devotion through the lives of the Nayanmar saints

Rama Navami – Enactment of the story of Lord Rama highlighting values of obedience to parents,





respect for women, befriending all, care and respect among siblings, exemplifying the devotion of Hanuman, and showing the wastefulness of lust, greed and anger etc.

Christmas – Enactment of the Nativity play and singing carols in Tamil – thus helping the majority of the children relate to the inspiring ideals and teachings of Jesus Christ

Satya Sai Baba's Birthday – Celebration of Sarva Dharma Day, where children highlighting the 5 values of life – Satya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema and Ahimsa – sing and perform dances about the teachings and oneness of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism

Social Festivals of Tamil Nadu: Deepavali and Pongal were celebrated in a traditional manner. Apart from visiting the temples, children enjoyed the traditional food and customs typical of Tamil Nadu. The highlights of Deepavali were new clothes and bursting of crackers, while the highlights of Pongal were the harvest dance and cooking in the open.

National Festivals: These were celebrated by hoisting the national flag, singing national and patriotic songs and enacting episodes from the freedom movement. Gandhi Jayanthi and Sri Kamaraj's Memorial Day both fall on October 2nd, which marks Shramdaan across Bala Mandir and is a day to pay homage to Bala Mandir's Founder.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Outings: These were organised appropriate to age, and included a magic show, a light music concert, a cultural programme, visits to the beach and science exhibition, a puppet show and a classical music concert. Children who pass in all subjects enjoy a meal in a hotel after the quarterly and half-yearly examinations.

Fun Activities: Well-wishers have been generous in supporting these activities for the children:

- The Committee of Jeeva Park organised fun and entertainment for the children within the

premises of Bala Mandir – Jumping Castle, balloon shooting, cotton candy and popcorn

- Employees of Bally Technologies came and played with the junior children and distributed gifts to celebrate Children's Day
- Wonder Year Play School kids and teachers distributed gifts for LKG and UKG children
- 28 children accompanied by 3 staff, attended RamjhiIsai Mazhalai's Music programme
- Diwali Mela was held by the Rotary Club of Greenways, who organised a cracker show
- Christmas festival celebrations were held at the Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School, where senior children were invited to attend

The **December holiday programme** was a learning experience for children that included class-wise excursions as listed below:

- a visit to Putalur temple to understand its significance (Standard VI)
- a visit to 5 different religious places to imbibe the value of Unity of faith (Standard VII)
- visit to Dakshin Chitra to appreciate culture, traditional skills and architecture (Standard VIII)
- a sight-seeing tour of historical Chennai (Standard IX)

Navarathri Holiday Programme:

During Navarathri nine girls of Standard IX, accompanied by their caregiver, went to the homes of the members and well-wishers of Bala Mandir. They enjoyed the golu, sang bhajans and received gifts. During the mornings they enjoyed craft and indoor games sessions.

Summer Holiday Programme:

Children are encouraged to keep in contact with their families and build relationships, and the Summer Holiday Programme is targeted at this.

- During the summer holidays, the senior children with families went home in the month of May and the junior age group for two weeks during the second half of May.



- The older children got to spend more time with their family, to get oriented to their family life post their rehabilitation and to adjust to the new environment. Most of the destitute mothers are working women, who would find it difficult to take care of the younger ones, and so the children go home only for 15 days.
- For the children staying back in Bala Mandir during the holidays, the month of May was full of planned outings to various places. Some of the places visited were the beach, Valluvarkottam, Semmozhi Poonga, Ashtalakshmi Temple, Kapaleeswarar Temple and Jeeva Park.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Bala Mandir's Anniversary is celebrated in March every year and the 65th anniversary was a joyous and meaningful occasion.

Club Activity – To inculcate a sense of competition and fun, Bala Mandir children are divided into three groups: Mottum Malarum, Inaindha Kaigal and Aalmaram and the various activities throughout the year was assessed on participation and excellence of the group members. The activities included Quiz, Craft, Moral Story telling by the children, discussions on good behaviour, studies, cleanliness etc. To coincide with the Bala Mandir Anniversary, intra-house competitions were also held in sports (Cricket, Carrom, Throwball, Kho-Kho and Relay) and competitions for other activities like Essay writing, Drawing and Rangoli. The common underlying theme was the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. The three groups



were given prizes according to their performance in Academics, Sports and Club Activities, which included points for participation in addition to winning. While assessing Academics, higher points are given for effort put in to show steady improvement throughout the year rather than merely good performance.

First Prize: Group Mottum Malarum – Visit to Queensland Park

Second Prize: Group Enaindha Kaigal – Prathyankara Devi Temple at Sholinganallur, lunch at hotel

Third Prize: Group Aalamaram – Dinner at Hotel

Awards and certificates were given to the children for Excellence in Conduct. The certificate highlighted the child's abilities and potential + academic excellence and exemplary behaviour

OTHER REGULAR PROGRAMMES

Parents Day: Second and third Saturdays were Parents Day for children with families to encourage bonding between the parents and children, and to prepare them for rehabilitation in the future. It also gave an opportunity for the social workers to interact with the parents and review each case on a continuous basis.

Prayer: Common prayer which includes Bhajans, a Sarvadharm song and a national song were held on Thursday evenings, to inculcate the discipline of praying together.

Library: As part of the Hippocampus Reading Programme, library sessions were conducted class-wise for Standard III to Standard VIII on a daily basis in the evenings. This is to encourage the development of reading skills in English and Tamil. Children are encouraged to read at their own identified level, and move on after a self-evaluation process through activity sheets.

Tailoring: Classes were conducted class wise once a week in the evenings. The children were trained to stitch their own clothes, alter or mend them. The tailoring syllabus is completed from Standard VI to



X. Girls of Standard X, and those of the boys who showed an inclination, went through a tailoring examination.

Kitchen Duty: Children helped on a rotational basis in the evenings in the kitchen. With no gender bias, both senior girls and boys helped out and learnt cooking, cleaning and vegetable cutting under the charge of their matron. This teaches the children self-sufficiency in its most basic form. The boys and girls of Standard X, who have learnt cooking, go through an examination to test their skills before they leave Bala Mandir.

Sports: Sports activities were held thrice a week in the evenings for boys and girls separately, and were conducted by PT instructors.

VALUE EDUCATION

Three spiritual organisations continued to help Bala Mandir in its endeavour to increasingly emphasise on value education through bhajan, chanting, storytelling and value games.

- **Satya Sai organisation** members conducted Bala Vikas classes for children of Standard II–V on Sunday mornings. They also held a summer course for three days on Indian culture and spirituality for Bala Mandir children from Standard VI to Standard X.
- **Chinmaya Mission** members ran Bala Vihar classes for Standard VI–VIII on Sunday mornings. They taught the children Gita chanting and songs and stories from the scriptures.
- **Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Mutt** conducted Value Education classes every Sunday for senior girls.

VOLUNTEER RUN PROGRAMMES

Skill and Personality Development –Bhumi Organisation

Speak Out – English: This was the fourth year of this programme which was created to improve the Spoken English skills of the Bala Mandir children of Standard III to VII. The programme was conducted on Friday and Saturday between 5 and 6.30 pm,

with interesting, interactive games and activities in the modules for easy understanding.

Lakshya – Mentorship: Special classes on personality development and mentorship were held for Standard X students on Sunday mornings by the Bhumi volunteers. The focus this year, the second year of the programme, was on communication, listening and study skills, exercises to improve concentration, presentation skills for examination and also team building exercises. Tuitions were held for some of the subject lessons. Along with this, ex-BM students were followed up in their homes, mentored and encouraged throughout their higher education.

Indian Choral Music – Madras Youth Choir (MYC): The Junior and Sub-Junior children of Bala Mandir continued to be trained, along with other school children, to sing Choral Music on Saturdays at 2 pm by the members of Madras Youth Choir.

The songs they sing are based on patriotism, nature, environment, conservation of resources and famous personalities. The songs are simple and easy to understand and also multi-lingual.

The children had opportunities over the last year to participate in various programmes through the Choir group:

- Madras Day celebration at Nageswara Rao Park – songs on Heritage and Nature





- Earth Day function at Akshar Arbhol International School
- World Music Day at Arkay Convention Centre
- Workshop at Hippocampus premises for a week
- CII Young Indians Programme – Paths Less Travelled – at ITC Grand Chola
- Programme at Russian Cultural Centre commemorating MYC Founder Sri. M. B. Srinivasan

COMPETITIONS

The children of Bala Mandir were encouraged to participate in various competitions held by different organisations. This gives the children an opportunity to showcase their talent and their confidence grows as they mingle with other children. While it gives Bala Mandir a lot of happiness when the children do well in these competitions, the exposure that they receive is very vital for their personality development.

Bala Mandir carefully chooses the kind of competitions for the children to participate in. Last year the competitions were: Geeta Chanting competition conducted by Chinmaya Mission, Nakshatra– an inter-home competition conducted by Bhumi, Thiruppavai Chanting conducted by Sri Gokula Bhaktha Jana Sabha, Inter School Choral Music competition conducted by Madras Youth Choir, Drawing competition conducted by Rajan Eye Care and Indian Oil Corporation.

SOCIAL WORKERS

Since 2009, a Social Worker has been assigned for every age group of children in Bala Mandir, and they have become an integral part of its functioning. Their special responsibilities involve monitoring the quality standards of service of each Unit and administratively help the members-in-charge. A social worker was assigned to each area as follows:

- Adoption, Infants and Toddlers
- KG and Day Care Centre

- Junior children and Primary School
- Senior girls and Satyamurthi High School
- Senior boys and ITC trainees
- Counselling, coordination of Special Education

Apart from handling children, each social worker handles specific responsibilities such as, after-school programmes and recreational activities, medical and health follow up, interactions with parents and family of the children including meeting them during second and third Saturdays, adoption and liaison with CWC, and monitoring children with special needs.

CHILDREN'S HOME NAGERCOIL



The Nagercoil Unit has been a part of Bala Mandir since 1990. The Home runs specifically to offer care and protection to the girl child. In the past decade, a crèche for children below 6 years, of working mothers from the deprived strata of society, has been functioning and has a well-defined ECCD programme. The Home is supported by donors and well-wishers, and has 48 girls in the age group of 6-16 years, and 30 children in the Day Care.

12 new admissions happened during the year, and included girls from ages 5 to 13. The girls came from very difficult circumstances, and their stay in the Home provides them with a good and safe upbringing and quality education, which might otherwise have been denied to them.



Report on Activities

FESTIVALS

Religious Festivals:

- Onam was celebrated, with the Home being situated close to Kerala. The children made multi-coloured kolam decorated with flowers, and enjoyed a special lunch.
- Navarathri was celebrated with a golu, and the girls, like their counterparts in the Home in Chennai, visited members' houses for pooja.
- Karthigai Deepam was celebrated with lamps being lit all around, giving the Home a festive atmosphere.
- Christmas was celebrated with a nativity play and singing carols in Tamil.

SOCIAL FESTIVALS

- Tamil New Year's Day was celebrated in a traditional manner. Children went to the temple.
- Deepavali was celebrated, with children receiving new clothes and bursting crackers.
- New Year was celebrated on January 1st, with the children singing patriotic songs and cake being distributed. The committee members joined them in the celebrations.
- Pongal was celebrated in a traditional manner. New dresses were given by a donor.

National Festivals:

- Independence Day was celebrated on August 15th in coordination with Rotary Club of Nagercoil Town. A quiz competition was conducted by them and prizes distributed.
- Republic Day was celebrated on January 26th with the chief guest giving an inspiring speech on patriotism. The children put up a drama as well, and the entertainment included a music performance and speeches.

FUNCTIONS

- Friends of Bala Mandir Day, Sports Day, Annual

Day and Sponsors Day were combined and celebrated on May 2nd. The children gave speeches on their future aspirations, and the 'Friends of Bala Mandir' who attended, through their talk, advised them about the need to study well, and inspired them to do well in life. The children put up a cultural programme as well. They enacted a small drama on morals and values, sang songs by Bharatiyar and performed a dance and a yoga demonstration. A prize distribution ceremony was held for the children who had won in the sports competitions held a week before. The parents / guardians of the children in the Home were also in the audience, and enjoyed the performances very much.

- Sri Kamaraj's birthday was celebrated on July 15th in a grand manner. Essay and Elocution competitions were conducted for the children. Dr. Nageswari, Professor of Hindu College, presided over the function and spoke about Sri Kamaraj and distributed prizes to the winners. Uniforms for the crèche were also distributed on this day.
- Children's Day was celebrated with the members of Child Helpline conducting drawing and sports competitions.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE HOME

- Yoga classes were held as workshops by two different organisations during different time periods. Dr. Prabhajan and Mr. Ganesh held a workshop for three days, while Ms. Bhuvaneswari from Vivekananda Kendra conducted another workshop for three days. Both children and the staff participated in these workshops, and benefited greatly from them.
- All regular programmes of Value Education, Common Prayer, Meditation, Bhagavad Geetha Chanting, Tailoring, Music class and Spoken English classes were conducted on a weekly basis, contributing to the overall development of the children



REHABILITATION AND HOME SPONSORSHIP

- 4 girls were rehabilitated during this year: S. Kohila (upon completion of 9th standard), A. Akila (upon completion of 8th standard), R. Sujithra (upon completion of 8th standard), and L. Jenil (upon completion of 12th standard). They are being sponsored under the Home Sponsorship programme.
- Three ex-girls of the Home got married over this year. C. Madhavi, who had completed her B.E. got married to S. Saravanan. A.S. Thara married S. Monikandan Nair. S. Muthambika, who had

completed her B.Com. got married to S. Eswaran. All three girls had been rehabilitated earlier, but had remained in touch with the Home.

FUNCTIONING OF THE CRÈCHE

The crèche follows the inputs given by Bala Mandir Research Foundation on the Learning through Play programme. The staff had visited Chennai for training and more inputs to make the ECCD programme more effective. The pre-school curriculum of the crèche has interesting components of school readiness, and children are absorbed into nearby schools very easily.



REHABILITATION PROGRAMME



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Rehabilitation is an important activity in Bala Mandir which ensures that the children in the home successfully transition from the institution to their own homes, after following the necessary process for the same. 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 sent back after a home study and counselling, into a Home Sponsorship programme. Most of the children are rehabilitated with their family after they finish school, and they are given monetary support for food and education as part of the continued Sponsorship programme. Their progress and the integration with the parent and the community are monitored by the Social Workers. In few cases where the rehabilitation situation is difficult, it is addressed on a case to case basis.

In 2013-14, the adoption of one child was legalised and 10 new children were placed in foster care pre-legalisation. Bala Mandir, further to getting its license, will have to process 19 cases for legalisation. In the last 2 years, Bala Mandir, on the request from the government, completed the legalisation process of two other institutions.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Adoption:

With the number of prospective adoptive parents increasing, there was a need to increase awareness of adoption procedures. Keeping this in mind, meetings were held for them as a group, and in some cases, individual counselling sessions were also held.

During the year 2013-14, a total of 11 children were placed in foster care for the year after following all legal procedures. The Child Welfare Committee conducted their regular inspection in Bala Mandir. The Adoption Licence is due for renewal and the process was initiated in October 2013.

Rehabilitation and Home Sponsorship:

Standard X: 17 girls and 1 boy appeared for the examination. From the total of 18, a total of 16 cleared the exam out of which 15 have been rehabilitated with their respective families. They have all opted to study Standard XI in a school of their choice close to their home. One girl who has passed in Standard X stayed back at Bala Mandir and joined Sarada Vidyalaya for Standard XI – History/Economics/Commerce. Two girls who failed to clear the examinations are both focusing on Tailoring, in which they are exceptionally talented. Of these two girls, one girl stayed back at Bala Mandir to help with care giving, while the other joined Service Home.

Standard XII: One orphan girl appeared for the examination and has since then enrolled in B.A. Economics in JBAS College for Girls.

Once the children to be rehabilitated with the family were identified, the Social Worker made a home visit to the family to ascertain the family circumstances. Once they were rehabilitated, monitoring of the children was done on a regular basis. Life Skill classes were held for these rehabilitated boys and girls of Bala Mandir on the second Saturday of every month. This year the focus, during the sessions, was on self-awareness,

self-confidence, interpersonal relationships, empathy, critical thinking and creative thinking.

Importance is given to attendance of these classes, since they not only helps in personality development of the children, but also provide the Social Workers an opportunity to interact with them to find out about their home life, academics and other activities, and sort out adjustment problems, if any.

Educational Sponsorships:

Started in 1999, various endowments were created through the generosity of donors, for educational support through the following sponsorship schemes. Many children have benefitted from these funds over the years.

Higher Educational Sponsorships:

More and more Bala Mandir children, and those from its educational institutions, who come from a background of destitution and deprivation are opting to go for college education – degree/technical courses etc. to equip them for future life. The Higher Education Fund had been created in 1999 to help these children with support for college fees to educate themselves and secure good jobs. Help was provided for 29 children in 2013-14. Some of the children also take up part time jobs to help themselves and their families while continuing with their education.

Kamaraj Fund: This was created to help with the education of the children of Bala Mandir staff. 77 children received help from this scheme in the course of this year.

S. Manjubhashini Fund: This was created to help educate the children of ex-Bala Mandir inmates studying from LKG to Standard XII and the Industrial Training Centre. 19 children benefited from this scheme during this year.

Marriage:

Orphan girls who have grown up in Bala Mandir are given in marriage and helped to adjust into



family life. At the time of marriage, they are provided with the basic necessities to run a household and a basic trousseau. Careful screening of the prospective grooms is done by the members, who make home visits to ascertain the socioeconomic condition and the suitability of the family to accept an orphan girl as a member.

The marriage is conducted in Bala Mandir, mostly through the Arya Samaj, and the couple and guests get an excellent understanding of the rituals and the significance of marriage vows through the explanations provided by the priest.

Over the years, many girls have been the recipients of the generosity of donors who help out both in cash and in kind.

Three girls were married this year:



Shoba married Karthik on August 25th 2013. Karthik runs his own electrical repair shop at Triplicane. This alliance was recommended

by one of the ex-Bala Mandir girls. Shoba was living in Bala Mandir and helping as a care giver.

Anita married Jai Ganesh on February 9th 2014. He is a Gujarati and runs his own business. They live in a joint family. Prior to marriage, Anita was living on her own, and working at a beauty parlour and is now working at her mother-in-law's parlour after marriage.

Vedavalli married Dinesh Kumar on February 26th 2014 at Selaiyur. Dinesh is working for an IT company. The marriage expenses were borne by his

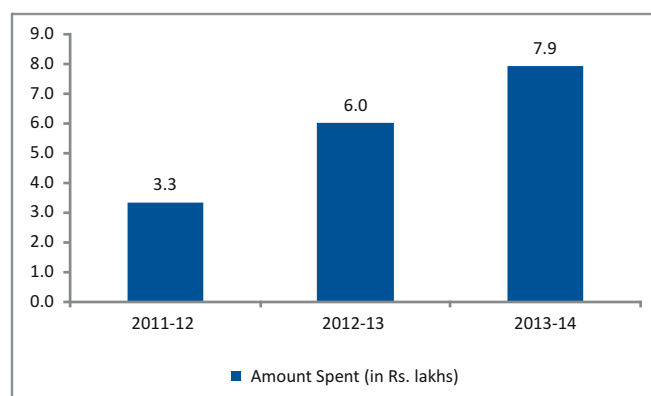
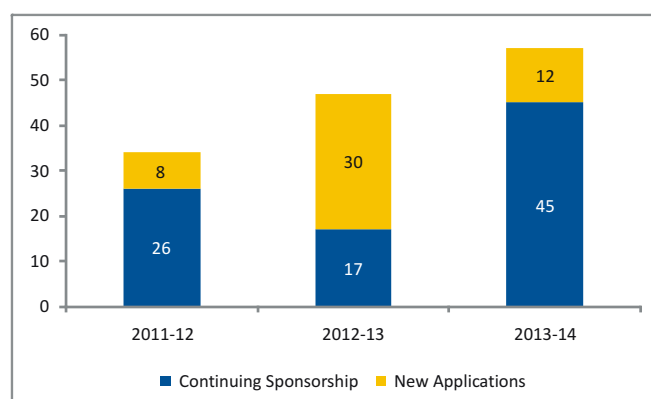
family and the marriage conducted in a marriage hall of their choice. Vedavalli, who is Bala Sevika trained, was working as a care giver at Bala Mandir.

Status of rehabilitated children:

In the last two years, home sponsorship and higher education support have been provided to children across different categories:

	2012-13	2013-14
Below Xth Standard	4	4
Higher Secondary	20	23
College	17	21
Professional Course (including Engineering)	4	7
Vocational	2	2

The following is the number of children who are provided home sponsorship / higher education support and the amount spent on this account –



The money for this is largely sourced from individual donors. The progress report of the children's progress is reported to the donors on a periodic basis.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Being a child care organisation, Bala Mandir has extended its services to run full-fledged educational institutions. The education activity evolved around the growth and developmental needs of the Bala Mandir child and the aspirations of the nearby urban-slum community it serves. Apart from meeting the needs of its own children, the Bala Mandir educational institutions meet the needs of the socio-economically deprived community as well and endeavour to provide quality education at highly subsidised cost. Bala Mandir currently runs two government-aided schools – Bala Mandir Primary School and Satyamurthi High School, and a Day Care Centre / Crèche for children of working mothers in the urban slum areas. A primary school, Vidyalaya, is run specifically for Bala Mandir children.

The initiatives which were taken up last year to improve the quality of education in the schools are slowly bringing about the quality in education Bala Mandir is looking to achieve. The integration of Bala Mandir Primary School (BMPS) into the Satyamurthi High School (SMHS) premises was completed successfully. Bala Mandir's donor L&T ECC has helped to improve the infrastructure and environment significantly, as needed, much to the satisfaction to the parents from the urban slum, who expressed their appreciation of the same during the PTA.



Spoken English sessions are showing positive results with more and more children endeavouring to speak in English, and the parents are recognising the efficacy of this programme. **Special Education** has become an integral part of the curriculum, and an increasing number of children who are identified with learning problems are being given the opportunity to benefit from this integrated and inclusive approach to education. **English Medium primary classes** will commence from the next academic year.

The Montessori system, introduced at pre-primary level for children below 6 years belonging to Vidyalaya was very successful and Bala Mandir plans to extend the same to the 6 to 11 age group. The Day Care Centre remains focused to consolidate and improve its care and learning environment.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

For the academic year 2013-14, the number of students in the schools was as follows:

Satyamurthi High School and Primary School – Meetings:

- The quality of interactions between parents and teachers has paid rich dividends and parents are responding positively to initiatives taken by the school, and have offered their suggestions too.
- Meetings were held among teachers to discuss the academics, discipline, and behaviour of the children, and on various issues from reading skills improvements to the mid-day meal scheme.
- Meetings were held to discuss the Four Skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing.
- Apart from regular meetings, specific departmental meetings were also held for improvement in schools, involvement of parents in the schools, understanding of various Government schemes, developing positive discipline and social equity.

CELEBRATIONS



Graduation Day was held for Standard V. Conduct certificates were given to all the children.

Independence Day was celebrated on 15th August 2014. Rtn. K. Ramachandran, President, Rotary Club of Madras Mylapore Uptown presided over the function and hoisted the National Flag. J. Swethasri of Standard X gave a speech. Sweets were distributed to all the children of the schools.

Teachers' Day was celebrated at Bala Mandir German Hall on September 5th. The teachers received gifts. The Smt S. Manjubashini Award for Excellence in Teaching was awarded for the year 2012-2013 to Mr. K. Subramani of SMHS, and Ms. Poonguzhali of BMPS. Students spoke about their teachers and gave greetings cards to them.

Children's Day was celebrated on November 14th at each school. The highlights of the celebrations were the teachers of SMHS performing a dance, and the teachers of BMPS enacting a drama on Tenali Raman for the children. The students also enjoyed a special lunch, provided by the teachers. Competitions had earlier been conducted in the respective schools in Music, Drawing, Craft, English Recitation, Tamil Recitation, Essay Writing, Oratory and Story-Telling. The S. Manjubhashini Award and Satyamurthi Award were given away to children who excelled in music competitions in both the schools.

Annual Day: The Annual Day of Bala Mandir Schools had its focus on EDUCATION. Each letter



contained a thematic meaning of the word 'education' as below, and this was explained further through a dance / drama relating to that:

- E:** Education – Welcome dance dedicated to Goddess Saraswathi – epitomizes knowledge (BMPS)
- D:** Developing Good Habits – Skit on good habits with examples of Honey Bee, Spider, Ant (BMPS)
- U:** Understanding others – Drama on changing the life of child through behaviour counselling (SMHS)
- C:** Communication Skill – Drama on effective communication (SMHS)
- A:** Academic Excellence – Drama on how to face Public Examination (SMHS)
- T:** Truth and Values
- I:** Interest in learning – Scenes from Swami Vivekananda's school days and his behaviour (BMPS)
- O:** Optimizing Abilities – Drama on 'You Can' followed by dance on the same theme (SMHS)
- N:** Nurturing Nature – Dance on this theme (BMPS)

Sports Day: The annual Sports day of Satyamurthi High School & Bala Mandir Primary School was celebrated. Mr. Baskar, PET, RKM Higher Secondary School (Main) presided over the function, and distributed the prizes. The children performed yoga, drill and pyramid. The Kamaraj House won the sports trophy for the year.



EXCURSIONS:

In commemoration of Swami Vivekananda's 150th year, all the students of both Satyamurthi High School and Bala Mandir Primary School went on excursions to Ramakrishna Mutt, Sarva Dharma Temple, and Vivekanandar Illam, which has an audio visual show on Swami Vivekananda and is a monument dedicated to him. They also visited Sai Baba Temple and Light House. In January all the children went to pay homage to Swamiji's Ratham that had moved across Tamil Nadu.

PROJECT:



A project based on EDUCATION was inaugurated by K.N. Subbaiyan, Administrative Officer, RKM Schools, and Bala Mandir Education Sub-Committee member. The project was based on the definition of the word "Education". Apart from creating charts, displays and models, the children also spoke on the various different topics in the thematic meaning of EDUCATION detailed above.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Satyamurthi High School:

- Tamil Club conducted a test on handwriting skills in both Tamil and English for Standard VI to X.
- N. Sneha participated in the Govind Swaminadhan Legal Education Programme and made a presentation on Environment Protection in Tamil.
- Students of Stella Maris College conducted a programme on Health and Hygiene for students of Standard VII to IX.



- Students from Standard VI to X attended the Science Fair at the Ramakrishna Boys Higher Secondary School.

Bala Mandir Primary School:

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan conducted an achievement test for Standard III to V in Tamil, English and Maths
- Trainees from Stella Matutina Teachers Training Institute and NKT Training Institution had their B.Ed. teaching practice for 20 days.
- 15 students participated in a district level chess competition.

MEDICAL:

General medical check-ups and eye check-ups were conducted for students from both schools.

EXAMINATIONS:

Regular examinations were held for all the students. In the Standard X Board examinations, out of the 47 who appeared, most of the students passed in all subjects. While the school had 100% pass in Science, there was just one failure in Mathematics.

SCHOOL RANKINGS:

Rank 1	S. Shalini Devi	419 / 500
Rank 2	Anitha	389 / 500
Rank 3	Jayapriya	387 / 500

Regular Activities in the Schools:



- **Computer Classes for SMHS students:** Classes were conducted for students from Class VI to X.
- **Spoken English Classes for Primary School students:** English speaking skills were developed

by making the children read aloud from books and newspapers, pamphlets etc. Importance was given to pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.

- **Value Education Classes for SMHS & BMPS students:** Value Education classes were conducted from Standard I to Standard X in both schools. For Primary School, the topics covered were: God's creation, discipline, self-confidence, culture, patriotism, unity in diversity, happy family, environment, gratitude, and positive behaviour. For High School, the topics covered were: self-awareness, self-confidence, the meaning of friendship, importance of honesty, self-esteem, love is life, win some lose some, fairness in judgement, and being true to yourself.

Special Activities in the School:

- **National Girl Child Day:** Bala Mandir social workers and MSW trainees involved themselves in conducting National Girl Child Day on 23rd and 24th January for Primary, Vidyalaya and High School Girls. They conducted a Rangoli competition based on the theme of "Women's Empowerment", a quiz on "Famous Women" and a puppet show about "Women's Education".
- **Building Awareness in the Community on Educational Facilities of Bala Mandir:** The same team (of social workers and trainees) and the teachers from both schools conducted street plays, home visits and interaction with parents in 6 areas in the slum community from which the children in the Schools come. The main theme of this two-week programme was to highlight Bala Mandir's educational facilities based on the new pamphlet, and the new initiatives to be undertaken on basic skills for the women in the community.

Special Education:

Periodic reviews were done on the progress of students with learning difficulties by the Counsellor, Special Educator and Social Worker. Students with common problems were addressed in group counselling, one group session was



conducted for to tackle lack of motivation in academics and another for children having behavioural problems. Various child friendly methods were used during the process like art, story-telling, story-making and verbal interaction, appropriate to the age of the children being addressed.

Inclusion of children with special needs with others in the class has been much smoother over the last year. Teachers have been supportive of the efforts of the Special Educator. The Special Educator also provided inputs to the teachers for the children with mild learning problems, so that they could be taught within the class rooms, and only children with difficulty and behavioural problems attended the special classes.

FUNCTIONING OF DAY CARE CENTRE AND VIDYALAYA



Montessori System for Pre-Primary:

The Montessori system was introduced in June 2013 for the pre-primary section of Vidyalaya, the school run exclusively for Bala Mandir children, after intensive theoretical training was held for the teachers. From June to December, the consultants held practical training and helped iron out any doubts or practical problems faced by the teachers.

The pre-primary Montessori environment was used in 2 ways:

- As a regular learning environment for the Bala Mandir Institutional child age 3 to 6 years

- As a lab/learning centre in the afternoons for the Bala Mandir Elementary level children (7 to 10 years) to help them overcome any learning gaps that they had

Bala Mandir had the benefit of help from experts, helping in the smooth introduction of this methodology, working towards the individual development of each child. The positive changes seen in the children are their spontaneity and their interest in self-learning, which has encouraged Bala Mandir to think of the next logical step to introduce Montessori at the Elementary level for children of 6 to 11 years.

Day Care Centre:

- 11 children joined Day Care Centre on Vijayadasami Day 2013 in Baby and Toddler sections.
- Akshara Abhyas was done for Bala Mandir KG children on the same day. 10 children aged 3 years also joined and all children chanted slokas.
- Medical check-ups were done for Baby section to KG on various days.
- All the religious and national festivals were celebrated.
- On 11th February 2014, Sports Day was celebrated. Dr. Jayalakshmi, ex-Headmistress, SMHS, presided over the function. All children participate in this function, and all of them are given prizes, and are appreciated and encouraged when they complete the task given to them.
- On 26th March 2014, Annual Day was celebrated. Ms. Sharadha, Rtd. Asst. Director, ICDS, presided over the function. The children put up an impressive display of song, dance and drama. The theme for the function was EDUCATION.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) activities consist of the Industrial Training Centre (ITC) and the Skills Training Centre (STC). The ITC has courses in Electrician, Fitter and Carpentry trades under the NCVT, while the STC is a skills training centre which is flexible to run its own courses. The STC covers the activities of the carpentry unit which is used as a place to train apprentices and also make children's toys and educational items, which were also sold. Trainees also receive training in repair work and woodwork for furniture. There is a high demand for the students passing out of the ITC, and Bala Mandir has endeavoured to keep the quota filled up.

A major initiative has been launched to address the resource gap in ITC and improve the all-around management which should result in some significant changes in this area in the coming year. During the year an Alumni Association has been formed and the first Alumni meet held. The objective was to reach out to the alumni for help to improve the effectiveness of ITC.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Academics:



- Special classes for Basic Computer Course were conducted and the trainees went through an examination. All the students passed the examination, except one.
- The Carpentry trainees appeared for an examination on Employability Skills for the first time. This is to be extended to other trades from the next year.
- From this year onwards, the NCVT has introduced the semester pattern.

Examination Results:

The trainees of the batch of 2011-2013- Fitter and Electrical Trade achieved cent percent results in the NCVT examinations conducted in July 2013. Srinivasan from Electrical trade secured the highest marks. He was eligible to participate in the State Skills Competition conducted in Coimbatore.

Industrial Visit:

ITC trainees visited the Integral Coach Factory on May 7th and received good exposure to various aspects of machinery and coach building.

Job Placements:

Various companies, such as Mahindra, Bajaj Auto, Royal Enfield, Igarshi Motors and SCG, offered jobs to the ITC trainees through a campus recruitment programme. Every year, the trainees are placed in good companies, and this has

proven again that training with quality will ensure good jobs.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Cricket and volleyball competitions were held, and the prizes were given away as part of the ITC Annual Day celebrations. Competitions were also held in Singing, Elocution, Art and Essay Writing.

Annual Day:



The Annual Day of the ITC was held on 28th June as Vocational Skills Day. Prizes for Academics, Sports, Extra-Curricular Activities, Character Excellence, etc. were given away to the boys.

Special Classes:

Classes were held on **Electronics Hardware** for the Electrician trainees by Mr. Nandagopal, Consultant. He assessed the students through tests to improve on their understanding.

Classes on **Employability Skills, English language and Spoken English** were conducted by Mr. Venkat, Corporate Trainer.

Classes on **Basic Mathematics** were conducted for the trainees every Saturday for two hours from September by Mr. Suryanarayanan, Ex-Principal of ITC.

Value Education:

Value Education Classes were conducted by the Social Worker Mr. Arulraj for the trainees on a regular basis, on every Saturday for the Junior students. The topics covered were: Introduction to Life Skills, importance of education, negative impact of alcoholism and HIV Aids, self-



awareness, inter personal relationships and effective communication.

New Initiatives:

- A visit to the Construction Skills Training Centre of L&T at Enathur, Kanchipuram District was carried out by Ms. Punitha Ramalingam (Member-in-Charge, VTC), Mr. P. Natarajan (Member, VTC Sub-Committee), and the Principal of ITC. It provided them with an understanding on the ideal way to run a skills training centre.
- Mailers were sent out to Heads of HR of 20 companies, looking at possible areas of collaboration with industrial organizations as a part of their CSR activities. Mr. Kumar, DGM-L&D, Tubes India Limited visited the VTC and discussed the possibilities of the company's linkage with the fitter course and placement of Trainees.
- The Employability Skills Programme was sponsored by "Jouve India"- an E-Publishing company, as part of their CSR activity. The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the organisation visited the ITC, and observed and evaluated the classes being conducted.

Alumni Meet:

The first ever Alumni meet of the ITC was held on 25th August, 2013 and the second was held on 26th January, 2014. 24 ex-trainees attended the meet. The young men enthusiastically participated by sharing their experiences as trainees, struggles to find jobs initially, the success they attained and how they had evolved further. They had many useful suggestions and advice for the present trainees. They were very positive about the environment of Bala Mandir, which they fondly recalled.

Ongoing Activities:

- Counselling was done for students with behavioural problems and poor academic performance.
- Profiles were created for all trainees to share with their sponsors and for a close follow-up of their performance.
- Medical check-ups were conducted for all the trainees, and those with health problems were taken to hospitals for referrals and appropriate follow-ups.
- Close rapport was established with the parents of all the trainees. Parents were kept informed about the progress of their wards, and also counselled on Parenting wherever necessary.



BALA MANDIR CULTURAL/ LEARNING CENTRE



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

For some time now, focus has been on the all-round development of the children, due to which 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 taken in 2009 is expanding its horizons, and all the functions and events in Bala Mandir are coming under its umbrella.

In 2009, the programmes conducted used Bala Mandir and its 60 year history as the theme, which was shown through dance, drama and music. For each of the following years since then, the main functions of Bala Mandir had a specific presentation method – audio-visual shows, choral music and interactive presentations. These have been held thematically with emphasis on the learning of values from the lives and teachings of great masters Satya Sai Baba, Mahatma Gandhi, and Mahakavi Bharathiyar. In 2013 the functions had as their underlying theme the enlightening and enriching messages of Swami Vivekananda synchronized with commemorating his 150th Birth Anniversary. All the programmes began with bhajans on Swami Vivekananda sung by Bala Mandir children specially trained for the occasions. Monks of the Ramakrishna Mission and Sarada Mutt who were invited as Chief Guests gave insights into the teachings of Swami Vivekananda through relevant anecdotes from his life to the children.

Audio visual presentation and a drama format highlighted the importance of education, sports as a way to keep healthy and living life without superstition and fear – were brought out with examples from Swamiji's life.



MONTH-WISE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

JUNE: Vocational Skills Day:

The Annual Day of the ITC was held on June 28th 2013 as Vocational Skills Day was presided over by Swami Satyajnanandaji (Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Students Home). Mr. Sarath Babu (CEO, Food King) also addressed the gathering. Both of them spoke about values to be imbibed – hard work, a good work ethic, and integrity, and exhorted the children to look beyond conventional courses and work towards improvement of their vocational skills and inculcate dignity of labour. The cultural programme of a skit, dance and yoga display highlighted Swami Vivekananda's teachings and values.

JULY: Education Day:



Sri Kamaraj's birthday on July 15th is celebrated in Tamil Nadu and in Bala Mandir as Education Day. Swami Padmasthanandaji, Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, T. Nagar was the Chief Guest. The Bala Mandir children presented a Villupaattu on Sri Kamaraj with interesting comparisons to the persona of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Padmasthananda spoke about children being responsible and responsive to education, and not being swayed by outside influences. Providing examples from the lives of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Kamaraj, he inspired the audience to face tough situations, and excel in life. As part of Bala Mandir's outreach to the community, he distributed uniform materials to the young children of the Day Care Centre.

AUGUST: Health Day:



For Health Day on August 24th 2013, Swami Paramasukhanandaji of the Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore was the Chief Guest and Dr. Kannan Pugazhendi, Sports Physician, and Founder and Director of SPARRC Institute was the Guest Speaker. Swamiji spoke on 'Strength Is Life, Weakness Is Death'. He engaged the attention of the children through his extremely humorous and thought provoking speech – giving examples from the life of Swami Vivekananda about how to be strong under any circumstances. The children thoroughly enjoyed the interactive session. Dr. Kannan Pugazhendi spoke on 'Good Health Among Youth' – through questions to the children and some demonstrations, and explained to the children about good health – the importance of exercising, posture while studying, and also eating right and related his talk to Swamiji's life. The children enjoyed this and were seen participating enthusiastically.

SEPTEMBER: Founder's Day

Founder's Day commemorating Smt. Manjubhashini - the Founder of Bala Mandir was celebrated on September 21st 2013. Rev. Pravaraajika Ramaprana Mataji, President of Sarada Mutt, Chennai presided over the function. She spoke to the children about the importance of being motivated by Swamiji and lead a simple yet meaningful life much like the one so well espoused by the Founders of Bala Mandir. The Bala Mandir children presented a group dance on a song by Swami Vivekananda.



OCTOBER:



On October 26th 2013, the **Govind Swaminadhan Legal Education Programme** was held. This was an inter school programme and had participation from 12 schools. The topic was 'Protection of the Environment'. The programme began with Bala Mandir children belonging to the Junior Choir group singing songs on the bounty of nature. Children from different schools came up with great ideas and processes for implementation to ensure environmental protection, and many of them were backed by PowerPoint presentations. The Chief Guest Justice Akbar Ali expressed his happiness at the knowledge that the children displayed. His insightful address to the children was very well received and ensured instant connect with the children. Environmental Advocate T. Mohan and Activist Nityanand Jayaram who were the guests of honour, exhorted the children to completely avoid plastics and adopt the process of recycling to help prevent harm to natural resources.

NOVEMBER:

A one-day **inter-school choral music** workshop was conducted by Madras Youth Choir on November 30th 2013. Close to 100 children from eight schools participated in this workshop and were taught two Tamil songs of Bharathiyar. The children enjoyed participating in this programme and performed both the songs at the end of the day. Their music teachers, who had accompanied them, were appreciative of the pieces taught, and learnt the songs as well.

DECEMBER:

On December 14th 2013, **Smt. Manjubhashini Seminar on Child Rights** organised by Bala Mandir Research Foundation was held with the participation of children from Standard VI to VIII. Professionals from NGOs and teachers from different schools were the audience for this programme. The rights of the child were explained through a skit, songs and dance. The children depicted the needs for water and sanitation facilities for children in schools, the necessity for family to show concern for their children, gender equality and camaraderie between teachers and students.

JANUARY:

On January 25th 2014, a **workshop on 'Gandhi Speaks to Children'** was conducted for all teachers handling classes III, IV and V by Ms. V. R. Devika, Director, Aseema Trust. 20 teachers from 8 schools participated in this programme. Ms. Devika shared with the teachers, aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life, his thoughts and teachings. She also taught them the working of the Charkha. The one-day workshop gave teachers an insight into how they can take Gandhiji's teachings to the children of the Junior age groups.

FEBRUARY:

Friendship Day was celebrated on February 7th 2014. Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen, Chairman of the Board of Braade-Stiftung Denmark, visited Bala Mandir and interacted with all the children. A play on 'Life of Swami Vivekananda' was presented, highlighting his birth, childhood, youth, meeting with Sri Ramakrishna, travels in India, the Parliament of Religions, and the establishment of the Ramakrishna Mutt. The play emphasized the values espoused by Swamiji.

MARCH:

On March 15th, a half-day workshop on '**Value Education Through Mythological Stories**' was conducted for all the teachers handling Value



Education classes by Ms. Maya Gaitonde. 30 Teachers from 10 schools and some Bala Mandir members participated in the programme, which provided an insight into how we have to look beyond what has been stated in the mythological stories and explain the core values imbedded in them to the children.

Bala Mandir Resource Centre hosted meetings by various NGOs, meetings of the Bala Mandir

Research Foundation, meetings for the Bala Mandir schools, ITC meetings, and Bala Mandir staff meetings with Honorary General Secretary throughout the year.

Bala Mandir German Hall Usage

The Bala Mandir German Hall was extensively used over the last year for various events and meetings. Plans are underway currently for a complete refurbishing of the hall.

Programmes	Apr-Jun '13	Jul-Sep'13	Oct-Dec'13	Jan-Mar'14
Meeting/Seminars/Annual Day/Cultural for Schools & Colleges	12	20	14	20
Dance/Drama & Light Music/Music	15	13	22	22
NGO's, Banks & Common AGMS	0	7	4	0
Family Get-togethers	2	0	0	0
Bala Mandir Functions	1	5	3	3
Total	30	45	43	45



HEALTH PROGRAMME



OVERVIEW / KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Medical programme is a key support function for all the activities of Bala Mandir. This is a specialized area catering to both the children and the staff of Bala Mandir, and an independent sub-committee monitors the work in the area and plans initiatives for improvement. The work consists of both routine 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 being done in this area.

In the year 2013-14, Bala Mandir continued to enhance the services of its medical programme as described in the report of activities.

The Medical Sub-Committee consists of consulting doctors who are part of Bala Mandir's visiting staff. The doctors on the committee assist with detailed reviews and follow-up on from Bala Mandir's Home, as well as on referral cases from the educational institutions. Assessment of children / staff taking long term medication is also carried out on a regular basis.

The Sub-Committee members receive reports from the doctors under the different units for review and follow-up. They also review the Total School Health Education Programme and provide inputs for improvement. Special cases of children being counselled are also discussed and their progress monitored.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

HOMEOPATHIC UNIT

This unit, established in 1991, in the memory of Dr. S.P. Koppikar, continues to function effectively.

Currently Dr. Peter Martin is available for consultation on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4pm.

Dr. Geetha attends to the children and staff at 9am on Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday.

- Preventive medicines for Chicken pox, Measles and summer boils were given to the children under 6 years of age.

EYE CLINIC



This has been running since 1996, and currently operates in partnership with Rajan Eye Care.

- The Optometrist of Rajan Eye Care visits regularly on Wednesday afternoon and the check-up was done for the following children and staff members:
- Children who needed spectacles were provided with it free of cost by Rajan Eye Care.
- Routine check-ups were done for 4 Bala Mandir who have problems.

DENTAL CLINIC

The Dental Clinic at Bala Mandir was started in 1988, and currently runs in partnership with Bhaskar Dental Clinic. Check-ups are done once in two years.

In this year, follow-ups were carried out for special dental cases, since the full biennial check-ups were done in 2012-13.

SCHOOL HEALTH CHECK-UP

Dr. Rajkumar did the screening for the Day Care Centre, Vidyalaya, Primary School and Satyamurthi High School children. He did the follow-up counselling of parents of the children with medical problems.

2 children were referred for speech therapy.

1 child was referred to eye hospital for continuous watering of eyes.

COUNSELLING SERVICES:

Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Counsellor, continued the counselling for Primary and High School children. She handled behavioural problems, anger management, attention deficit and other such issues for 8 children in the school and 5 in Bala Mandir. The children were referred by their teachers and care givers as per a prescribed procedure, and the social workers helped prioritise the issues taken up for counselling. The social workers did a first level counselling, after which special cases were high-lighted to Ms. Vijayalakshmi for her personal attention.

Group counseling was conducted for seven Bala Mandir children of standard X regarding the importance of academic performance. Five Bala Mandir orphan/destitute senior girls were given career counselling. In the absence of parental support, it is very important for Bala Mandir to counsel the children, so that they can choose the right path for their future.

SCREENING CAMP:

Tanker Foundation conducted an Awareness of Kidney Ailments & Prevention Programme. The programme was conducted on 4th December 2013, with the participation of pupils of Standard IX and Standard X, students of ITC, Staff of the Satyamurthi High School, Bala Mandir Primary School and ITC. Facts on kidneys, their function, risk factors, kidney ailments and their symptoms were explained. Following this, 105 staff underwent free screening, and advice was given to them by the doctors according to the findings.



HOMEOPATHIC UNIT CHECK-UPS

Period	Infants & Toddlers	KG (BM / BMPS)	Vidyalaya		Seniors		BM Staff	Others	Follow-up incl. Referrals
			B	G	B	G			
Apr - Jun'13	25	30	2	10	2	15	25	15	144
Jul - Sep'13	28	10	38		18		20	12	135
Oct - Dec'13	25	20	1	10	1	20	30	15	111
Jan - Mar'13	35	40	10	19	2	25	55	60	116

EYE CHECK-UPS IN 2013-14

Satyamurthi High School		Bala Mandir Primary School		VTC	
Standard X	26	Standard V	34	Fitter & Electrical	33
Standard IX	30	Standard IV	46	Carpentry	11
Standard VIII	22	Standard III	25	Number of further Referrals: 1	
Standard VII	15	Standard II	23	Staff	
Standard VI	35	Standard I	32	Staff	33
Number of further Referrals: 13		Number of further Referrals: 18		Number of further Referrals: 2	

SCHOOL CHECK-UPS

Day Care / Vidyalaya		BMPS		SMHS	
Infants	24	Standard I	26	Standard VI	38
Toddlers	45	Standard II	23	Standard VII	27
Pre - School	33	Standard III	34	Standard VIII	24
LKG	23	Standard IV	42	Standard IX	23
UKG	29	Standard V	33	Standard X	25
Vidyalaya	65				

Follow up on Screening Camp by Tanker Foundation:

Two meetings were held with staff on the findings of the screening camp conducted by Tanker Foundation. The findings were discussed with the staff and all doubts that they raised were cleared. Diet charts and further referrals were prescribed as per requirement. General health precautions were also given.

TOTAL SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME

Primary school teacher Ms. Logasundari, ANM,

held health education classes from standard I to VIII on regular basis. Social worker Ms. Deepika took charge of Standard IX and X. in both schools, the topics were taught using charts, role play, group discussions and question-answer sessions. The topics handled were:

- **For Primary children:** Human Body and its parts, Healthy food, Family and their unity, Cleanliness, Exercising, Air and water pollution, Growth and development of internal parts of the body, Road Safety, Environment & Protection, Food & Exercises, Discipline, Information about



diseases, Different types of food, Classification of food, Urban and Rural Health Care.

- **For High School children:** Human body, Healthy eating, Sports & exercises, Helping others during sickness, First aid, Community responsibility, Disease prevention, Natural

Disaster, HIV Aids, Importance of Parenting, Communicable disease, Environmental Health, Industry & Pollution, Water & wastes, Other pollution, Substance abuse, History of man and food, Causes of malnutrition



OUR APPRECIATIONS GO OUT TO

DONORS AND WELL WISHERS

Bala Mandir continues to offer 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 15 ITC hostelites and Trainees. However, the sponsorship for milk which had been given to Bala Mandir for over four decades has been discontinued due to the change in the focus of the organisation from charity to developmental activities.

Sarathy Foundation USA: provided its yearly support for salary for teachers of the English Medium Section in the High School and infrastructural improvements around the Bala Mandir complex. A special donation was also made by them for the website and for the film on Bala Mandir.

Mr. Subbiah Subramaniam: continued the ongoing support started in 2011-12 for the complete computerisation of Bala Mandir with training and maintenance support. The Hardware is in place and the Software development is taking place currently.

Mr. Ganpat Mani, USA: continued the complete support of Special Education at Satyamurthi High School and sponsorship of Higher Education.

Ms. Gualtieri, Italy: continued with her yearly contributions towards improvements in the infrastructure of Bala Mandir, and sponsorship of children.

INDIVIDUALS:

Dr. Marcacci and friends from Italy, Members of the Episcopal Church, students of the Shipboard Education, British Airways Cargo are some of the

individual donors who supported various projects benefitting Bala Mandir children.

Various Endowments were enhanced by the following donors:

- **Food Endowment:** Ms. Sreeja, Kazhiyur, Ms. S. InduBala, Mr. S. Thiagarajan
- **ITC Endowment:** Mr. Rajendra Kini, Mr. P. Natarajan, Mr. K.V. Rengaswami, Ms. Punitha
- **Ramalingam & family**
- **Vidyalaya Endowment:** Mr. P. Natarajan, Mr. P. N. Mehta, Mr. Sunil Thomas Thomas
- **Higher Education Endowment:** Mr. P. Natarajan, Ms. Mallika Ramesh
- **Govind Swaminadhan Endowment:** Mr. N. L. Rajah, Mr. G. Anbumani
- **Medical Endowment:** Mr. G. Rajagopal
- **"Balu Sir" Endowment (newly created):** Ms. A. Suryakumari, Mr. M. Ramji

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO

Children's Programme

- Dr. Mohan Rajan for free surgeries for Bala Mandir staff and spectacles for children.
- Dr. Rasappa and Dr. Veena for free special investigations for our children.
- Apex Laboratories for providing free medicines
- L&T ECC for sponsorship of Children's Programme and ITC.
- Mr. Nayagam/Ambal Trust for need based contribution in kind – for this year it was Flasks, Double Insulated Vessel for sambar and hot case.
- Mr. A. Ramesh for his yearly contribution.

Educational Support

- Mr. Rishikesha Krishnan and the Chelliah sisters for their support to Higher Education of Bala Mandir children in Engineering and Nursing.



- Anusuya Bai Trust for yearly support of Education Programme.
- Ms. Ruchi Doshi for yearly support of Education Programme.
- Rotary Club of Mylapore – Uptown for support of medical programme and Satyamurthi High School.
- Steria India Foundation for their yearly contribution towards Higher Education.
- Mr. Anil Nehru and Mr. Akhil Nehru for the contribution to Educational Programme.

Contributions in Cash – Rs. 50,000 and Above

1. Jouve India Private Limited
2. Mr. R. Pattabiraman
3. Mr. Sanjay Vancheeswaran
4. Mr. N. Sivasubramanian

DONATIONS IN KIND:

Provisions- Rice, Dal, Sugar, Oil, Wheat Flour:

1. Mr. C. K. Muralidharan, 2. Dr. R. K. Bagdi,
3. Mr. Suresh, 4. Mr. Rakesh, 5. Mr. Sushil,
6. Mr. Sunil Hasija, 7. Mr. Shiva Kumar,
8. Ms. Umrao Bai, 9. Mr. R. Rithin,
10. M/s Teyma Pvt Ltd.

Clothes/sarees/materials donated for Deepavali and General Use:

1. Ms. Tara, 2. Mr. R. Kumar, 3. Ms. Usha,
4. Mr. Sundaram, 5. Mr. Vanamali,
6. Mr. B. Ethiraj, 7. Socio Economic Service Society, 8. Mr. Bala Subramaniam,
9. Ms. Latha Bhathija, 10. M/s Sarath Handlooms

Stationery:

1. Ms. Sunitha, 2. Mr. R. Bantia

Deepavali Crackers: (from a selected child-friendly manufacturer)

1. Ms. Sridevi, 2. Mr. Prasad, 3. Ms. Dipti Madan,
4. Mr. Sasidharan

Medicines:

Apex Laboratories



Others:

1. Green Boards – Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan
2. Baby Diapers – Mr. Deepak Prakash

Marriage Items:

1. Ms. Devi Arumugam, 2. Ms. Prema Venkateswaran, 3. Ms. Sudha Lakshmi Rao,
4. Ms. Sarada Jagan

Yearly Infrastructural Improvements in Bala Mandir

- Maintenance and painting work was undertaken with the sponsorship of Braade-Stiftung at Boys' Section, ITC and Vidyalaya.
- Regular maintenance was carried out for the entire Bala Mandir, Schools and ITC.
- Improvements were made to the first floor of Transit Home to convert it into a Guest House for visiting NGO personnel.
- Ten computers were donated by Tata Consultancy Services for Satyamurthi High School.
- CCTV Camera has been installed and covers four locations – all the critical entry points of Bala Mandir children's complex. This has the facility of recording and storing all the activities for 30 days. This has been sponsored by Mr. P. Natarajan, our Trustee.
- Two independent water purification systems with centralised filtration have been installed – one in the Children's Block and the other for the Schools. These were sponsored by:
 - o Mr. Thiagarajan, ex-Bala Mandir Alumni who now works in Insurance Company in Dubai. He ran the Chennai Marathon supported by



many of his friends in Dubai and part sponsored the water purification system.

- o M/s Spadework Sourcing Pvt. Ltd., represented by Mr. Rajeev Krishnan, M.D
- o Mr. Srikanth Visvanathan, Global Space Director, Trucks and Motor Cycles, Castrol Ltd, residing in Singapore.
- Mr. Thiagarajan also fully sponsored the 65th Year Anniversary Celebrations.

Volunteers:

- Ms. Leela Ramji continued to train the children on bhajans, which are sung for Thursday prayers as well as during the year for Bala Mandir's different functions.
- Bhumi, a youth volunteer NGO, continued to conduct its programmes for the children in the Bala Mandir Home, through their mentorship programme 'Lakshya', and their English programme, 'Speak Out'.
- The Madras Youth Choir, a non-profit voluntary choral music organisation, conducted its music classes for the children from the Home, who form part of their Junior Choir and Sub-Junior Choir.
- Ms. Leela Rajagopalan visited Vidyalaya four times a week and helped the children with Spoken English and demonstrated the correct usage of language for daily life.
- Ms. Kavitha from Sarva Shiskha Abhiyan assisted the children in the Day Care Centre for improving their reading skills.



- Ms. Lalitha and Ms. Radha, volunteers from Grandma Tale Time, retold moral and value stories to the children in Vidyalaya.
- Ms. Niranjani visited the school and conducted sloka chanting classes.
- Ms. Miranda Corti, Director of Operations, International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation, and her son Benedict, who came from London, spent two weeks at Bala Mandir. They interacted and played with the toddlers in the DCC and Vidyalaya. Benedict spent time interacting and playing with older boys after school hours. They shared their rewarding experience in England with friends and colleagues, and funds raised by them were used to set up an adolescent recreation room in Bala Mandir.

Visitors:

- Mr. Rajendra Kini, who has been associated with Bala Mandir for many years, went around Bala Mandir's premises and recorded his appreciation for the work being done.
- Ms. Anja Nielsen, from Action Children Aid, visited Bala Mandir and its units particularly the DCC, ITC, Schools, Baby and Toddler Section.
- Mr. S. Vijayakumar, President of Rotary Club of Ashok Nagar, expressed his happiness at seeing the wonderful atmosphere and the affection shown by the children.
- Ms. Jeannie Gaden and Dr. Wolfram Gaden visited Bala Mandir during their trip to India and visited all the units.
- Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen, Chairman, Braade-Stiftung, made his annual visit to Bala Mandir in the first week of February. He visited all the units and interacted with the staff and children.
- Mr. D.M. Bulow, godson of Mr. P-H. Mortensen visited Bala Mandir on 14th February. He commented that his visit to Bala Mandir was a wonderful experience and that he could see the excellent work being done. He enjoyed the



interaction with students and staff of the school, ITC and Day Care Centre.

Education Department

- Two teachers from DIET, Utharakhand, visited Satyamurthi High School to learn about ALM methods.
- Ms. Kavitha, BRT SSA, checked the reading skills children from Standard I to V of Bala Mandir Primary School and awarded grades to them.
- AEEO & DEEO checked the Satyamurthi High School Annexure building in which Bala Mandir Primary School is housed.
- Ms. Sharmila, IED BRT from SSA along with 15 BRTS from other districts visited our school. They observed the LD class and Spoken English classes in Satyamurthi High School and Bala Mandir Primary School.

NGOs

- Ms. Princee from Bhumi organization visited Vidyalaya and DCC and appreciated the teaching methodology. She taught the children the method to read along with the concept of playing and discussed about English language teaching through Library.

- A team of resource persons from Swadhar, Pune visited DCC. They appreciated the neat and clean environment, activities and the dedication of the staff.
- Seven students from Madhuran Narayanan Centre observed the classes. They taught songs and rhymes to the KG Children.

Corporate Donors

- **Saint Gobain India Foundation:** Ms. Anupama Vaidya and Ms. Medha Shanbag observed the activities of the children and appreciated the excellent work being done.
- **Delhi Surgical:** Amit Khindria and his family observed activities of the children and appreciated the neat and clean environment.
- **Bridge India Foundation:** Mr. Muralidharan, CEO made a visit to the DCC to understand its functioning. He commented that the environment was very clean and serene. He appreciated the methodology followed and interacted with teachers.
- **Titan India Limited:** Mr. and Mrs. Sivakumar, accompanied by Mr. Srinivasamurthi, watched the activities of the children.



New Initiatives in Bala Mandir

- The **'5S' programme** (consisting of 5 "S" words – sort, straighten / streamline, shine, standardize, and sustain) was launched by a team of professionals to improve the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of the entire campus and its surroundings, and to enhance effective utility of space – Mr. Raghavan and Mr. Suresh, along with Mr. Ashok Aiyar. Training Programmes were held at the Schools, ITC and Office to explain the necessity for this programme and the benefits from following the programme diligently. The clean-up work began at the ITC and the Schools with the complete involvement of staff and students – including segregation, placement at proper locations. It is being monitored and taken forward by Mr. Ashok Aiyar with the assistance of Mr. Ramanathan, Estate Manager. In the initial stages each unit undertook the process of clearing and sorting out, systematic arrangement and keeping the environment clean. In the process a lot of unnecessary materials that had collected over the years were cleared out and each unit has done a clear inventory of stock and furniture and a review of their infrastructure needs.
- A **website** was decided upon, and Bala Mandir tied up with an independent web-designer and IT professional, Mr. C. Venkatachalam, on February 14th 2014, and started the project. The site was designed, developed and commissioned around the 65th year celebration. The URL of the Bala Mandir website is www.BalaMandir.org.
- **Official e-mail ids** are now available across Bala Mandir's units and for Members-in-charge. This initiative was facilitated by Mr. C. Venkatachalam, who has himself donated 25 email ids to Bala Mandir as his contribution to the institution. Bala Mandir now moves from gmail ids to Bala Mandir ids (.....@BalaMandir.org) for communication internally and externally.
- **Film on Bala Mandir:** Another major initiative was the movie on Bala Mandir – 'Happy Children of Bala Mandir', created by Mr. Ramkumar, Managing Director, Motion Graphics Pvt. Ltd – a professional with several years of experience in making short films, and his team – in a short span of 15 days. The movie was shot extensively covering all units for four full days. The movie was encapsulated to a span of 17 minutes and its screening was greatly appreciated by the audience during the 65th Anniversary celebrations.
- **Computerisation of Bala Mandir systems:** Further to the meeting with the donor Mr. Subbiah Subramaniam, it was decided to immediately undertake the donation and children's programme modules for implementation. The rest of the modules would be undertaken in a phased manner over a period of 1 year. The donor is willing to give full technical support for the implementation of this project
- **Communication Sessions:** - Mr. P. Natarajan, who had been working on verbalizing the Vision and Mission statements of Bala Mandir as well as its Code of Conduct held communication sessions with various groups – Instructors of ITC, Teachers of the Primary and Satyamurthi Schools, Day Care Centre staff and the Bala Mandir staff who are part of the Children's Programme. He explained to them that the Bala Mandir code of conduct should be a way of life, and honesty and integrity are part of it.





A N N U A L R E P O R T

BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST

Organizational setup BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. V. Sethuram, Chairman | 5. Dr. S. Anandalakshmy |
| 2. Ms. Maya Gaitonde | 6. Mr. P. Natarajan |
| 3. Mr. M. Ramji | 7. Mr. K.V. Rangaswami |
| 4. Mr. M.K. Sonthalia | |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Work Involvement	Name	Work Involvement
1. V. Sethuram	President	12. Leela Ramji	Music & Drama
2. Maya Gaitonde	Hon. Gen. Secy	13. Lakshmi Gopal	BMRF
3. R.S. Vijaya	Hon. Jt. Secy	14. Leela Natarajan	Sponsorship/Reports
4. Swathantra Sakthivel	Hon. Jt. Secy	15. Premilla Rajan	Medical
5. Punitha Ramalingam	Hon. Treasurer/STC	16. Secretary, Nagercoil	Nagercoil
6. Rukmini Amirapu	Hon. Jt. Tr/BMRF	17. Latha Kumaraswami	
7. Kalpagam Narayanan	Tailoring/Sr Girls	18. Pramilla Shanmugam	
8. Dr. P.J.N. Reddy	Medical	19. Leela Sekar	
9. Niranjani Ramamurthy	Health/Education	20. N. Siva Subramaniam	Finance
10. G. Anbumani	Legal Matters	21. Vacancy	
11. P. Bhoopal	Infrastructure		

SUB COMMITTEES*

No.	Education	Socio-Economic	Medical	Adoption & Rehabilitation
1.	M. Ramji	T.V. Kini	Dr. P.J.N. Reddy	Dr. P.J.N. Reddy
2.	Swathantra Sakthivel	Punitha Ramalingam	Premilla Rajan	Leela Natarajan
3.	Niranjani Ramamurthy	G.B. Vipradas	Latha Kumaraswami	Punitha Ramalingam
4.	Ramani HM, SMHS	S. Suryanarayanan	Niranjani Ramamurthy	Kalpagam Narayanan
5.	Rukmani, HM, BMPS	M. Bhoopal	Dr. Janaki	
6.	Ananthalakshmi, DCC	Vijayaraghavan	Dr. Hyma	
7.	Lakshmi Prabha, Vid.	Nandagopal	Dr. Aruna Balachandra	
8.	Srinivasamurthi	Ashok Aiyer	Dr. Peter Martin	
9.	Uma Shankar			
10.	Subbaiyan			

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

NAGERCOIL

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Indira Surendran, President | 7. Prema Raja Gopal |
| 2. Sarojini Devi, Secretary | 8. Devi Elayaperumal |
| 3. Lakshmi Nair, Treasurer | 9. Uma Kannan |
| 4. Santha Balakrishnan | 10. Suseela S. Pillai |
| 5. Viji Subramaniam | 11. Mohana Gopalakrishnan |
| 6. Swarnalatha Raju | 12. Elayaperumal |

We bank with: Bank of India (Main Account), Canara Bank (Unit Account), Syndicate Bank (Foreign Account), Indian Bank (Sponsorship Account), UCO Bank (Children's Programme)



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust

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