



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024



ABOUT BALA MANDIR

Established in 1949 by Sri Kamaraj and Smt Manjubhashini as a children's Home, Bala Mandir has sheltered and educated thousands of children - orphan, destitute and socio-economically deprived – in its homes and schools. Over the years its activities have expanded to include children with special needs as well children who remain with their families but face difficult challenges to reach their full potential. With an impeccable track record of a highly ethical and professional approach, Bala Mandir is well known for working towards holistic and all-round development of the children under its care. Bala Mandir is a registered society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Bala Mandir Vision

Bala Mandir endorses the rights of all children and envisions for them loving care, good upbringing and opportunities for development, especially for children in difficult circumstances. The Vision statement is based on the following values that drive Bala Mandir's actions

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

Bala Mandir Mission

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

Bala Mandir's activities are now organised into 5 verticals:

1. Bala Mandir Children's Home – Home for destitute children in Chennai and Nagercoil.
2. Bala Mandir Schools – Creche, Primary and Higher Secondary classes in Chennai.
3. Bala Mandir MNC - for children with intellectual disabilities.
4. Bala Mandir Research and Resource Centre – Outreach and Research in early childhood practices.
5. Bala Mandir Kinship Care – Supports needy children who have lost one or both parents

Bala Mandir Values

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

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

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Organisation





REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

We take great pleasure in presenting this Annual Report of our 75th year of service to children. This year is an important milestone in our journey, and during the Diamond Jubilee celebration—we brought out a new Film on the activities of Bala Mandir and a Coffee Table Book on the history of Bala Mandir from the perspective of the 5 operating units. We celebrated the special Anniversary with a series of functions by reaching out to Alumni, Volunteers, longstanding donors and well-wishers who have helped the institution in its journey. The inaugural function was a Sarva Dharma Prayer and the finale a grand function on 10th March with Shri. Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Former Supreme Court Judge as Chief Guest.

The theme for the celebration—“Every Child Matters” captured the essence of the current reality as reflected by the change in demographics. This enabled us to reflect on the future direction of Bala Mandir and all the units collectively decided to pursue the goal of increasing Social impact in a Sustainable way through increased Scale of operation in their respective areas, so that many more children can benefit from Bala Mandir’s support. This focus is a significant shift in the approach of the institution and calls for a more outward looking approach which in turn means, building a stronger brand. As a first step, all the unit names are now prefaced with the Bala Mandir name (BM). During the year, blog pages added to the Bala Mandir web site are proving to be popular with the employees.

The BM-Children’s Home in Chennai and Nagercoil continue to function smoothly and in compliance with the regulations. We realise that the scope for increasing social impact is limited, with the present Government parameter of admission and we are exploring new approaches to the admissions of children who will be supported directly by Bala Mandir as we did in the past. This will help us operate closer to capacity.

The Bala Mandir Schools are on the verge of a significant shift in direction to become a fully self-financed English Medium School, with continuing focus on serving the very needy section.

The Special Needs ‘BM-MNC’ unit is also undergoing a major change as it adjusts not only to leadership change but also needs to explore new avenues for improving its social impact.

The BM-Research and Resource Centre has stepped up its Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activity to many more villages with the goal to cover all villages in the Ellapuram block in Tiruvallur district. The Unit is also undertaking training for other NGOs institutions & ICDS on ECCD practices.



New tuition centre for Bala Mandir Home



Bala Mandir Management meeting



The BM-Kinship Care unit doubled its impact during the last year and now covers 15 districts of Tamil Nadu and has introduced many new features to its programme for supporting the children who lost one or both parents. This programme continues to make a positive impact on the lives of these 'vulnerable' children.

In terms of infrastructure improvements, during the year the Day Care Centre building was converted into a Tuition Centre for the BM-Children's Home with support from donors and well-wishers. This building helped us temporarily to house the High School operations. The foundation of the Satyamurthi School building has been now strengthened to accommodate the construction of third floor.

The 2023-24 financial results show that the efforts made over the last several years to enhance the income has started yielding desirable results and we can now more confidently plan for future growth. During the year, a group of friends of Bala Mandir based in USA helped start "Bala Mandir USA", a 501(c)(3) registered organisation which will help Bala Mandir raise funds to support activities in India. Among other initiatives—the first ever crowd funding initiative was successfully undertaken by the Kinship Care team.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to all our donors, well-wishers, and friends who continue to whole heartedly support us in our mission. Our thanks are also due to our staff, members and volunteers who tirelessly work towards the implementation of all our endeavours and those from the various collaborating organisations who are supporting our different projects. It is heartening to note that Bala Mandir's networking with NGO organisations is strengthening its synergy for the service of children.

Maya Gaitonde

Maya Gaitonde

Honorary General Secretary



Smt. Saroj Goenka, our Patron, passed away on 24th May 2024. She had been Treasurer of Bala Mandir from the early days, until 1981. She continued her work in social welfare and was invited to be the first Patron of Bala Mandir. She extended her association and benevolence towards the organisation till the end. We at Bala Mandir mourn her loss.



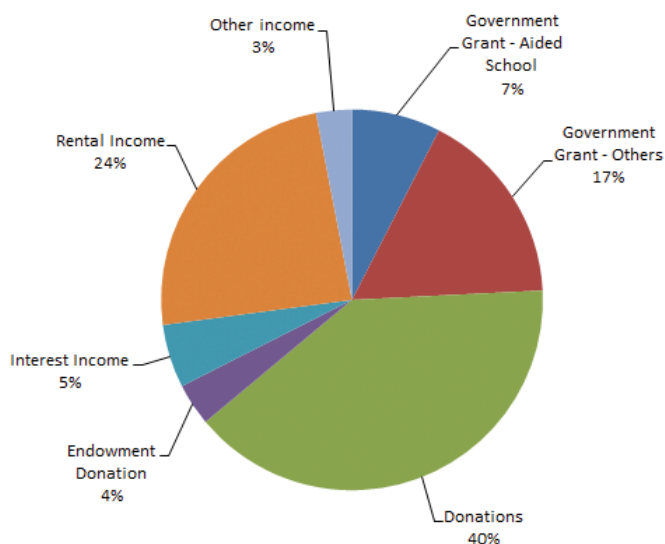
Our Patron, Smt. Jaya Krishnaswamy, who founded Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC) in 1989, passed away on 2nd June 2024. She had played a significant role in the integration of MNC into Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, thus putting BMKT on the Disability Services map. She developed the innovative Upanayan tool, and was nationally and internationally recognised. We will deeply miss her presence and guidance.



SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS

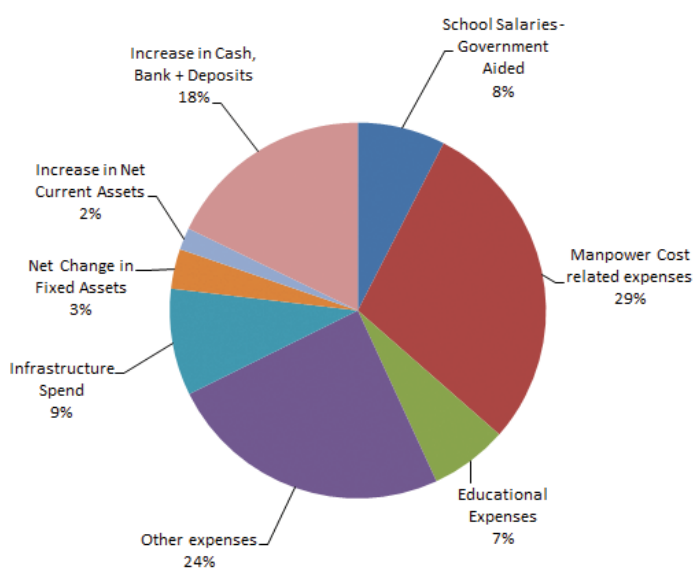
	Year 2023-24	Year 2022-23
	Rs.	Rs.
INCOME		
Government Grant - Aided School	1,17,89,296	2,08,00,563
Government Grant - Others	2,60,89,536	1,58,40,221
Normal Donations	5,71,15,342	3,49,75,224
Interest Income	84,09,161	72,07,190
Rental Income	3,76,73,122	3,46,10,082
Other Income	47,33,912	43,45,013
Total Income	14,58,10,368	11,77,78,293
EXPENDITURE		
School salaries - Government aided	1,17,89,296	2,08,00,563
Manpower Cost related expenses	4,52,48,963	3,86,14,334
Food expenses	1,32,73,704	1,20,65,300
Educational Expenses	1,04,37,953	84,67,131
Repairs / Infrastructure improvement	1,43,86,867	1,10,75,613
Depreciation	1,10,57,671	1,16,63,950
Other expenses	2,59,79,458	1,85,40,892
Total Expenditure	13,21,73,912.00	12,12,27,784
Income transferred to General Fund	1,36,36,456	-34,49,491

Sources of Funds



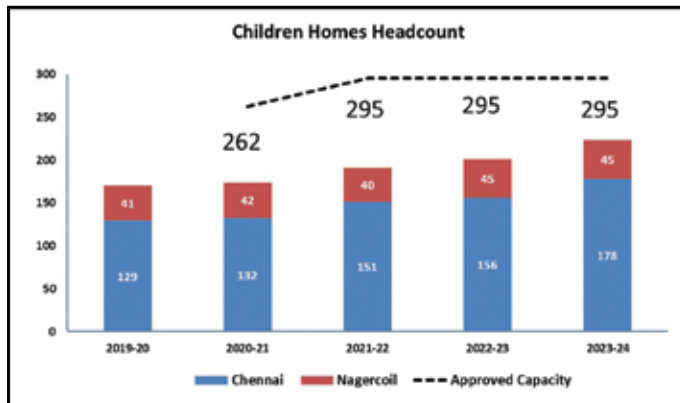
	Year 2023-24	Year 2022-23
	Rs.	Rs.
SOURCE OF FUNDS		
Capital fund	21,09,36,353	20,59,40,344
Endowment Fund	5,60,19,600	5,04,00,090
Corpus Fund - Others	66,87,705	66,87,705
General Fund	1,36,66,502	30,046
Total	28,73,10,160	26,30,58,185
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Net Fixed Assets	18,40,21,219	19,06,01,167
Current Assets, Loans and Advances		
Cash and bank incl. deposits	12,77,19,418	9,98,51,161
Other Current Assets	46,57,593	17,30,280
Less - Current liability & Provisions	2,90,88,070	2,91,24,422
Net current assets	10,32,88,941	7,24,57,018
Total	28,73,10,160	26,30,58,185

Use of Funds

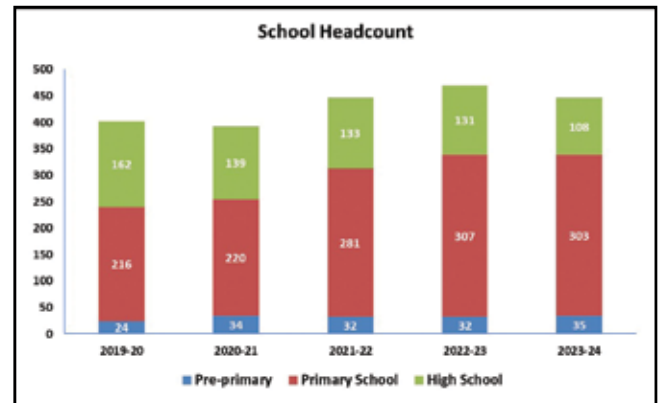




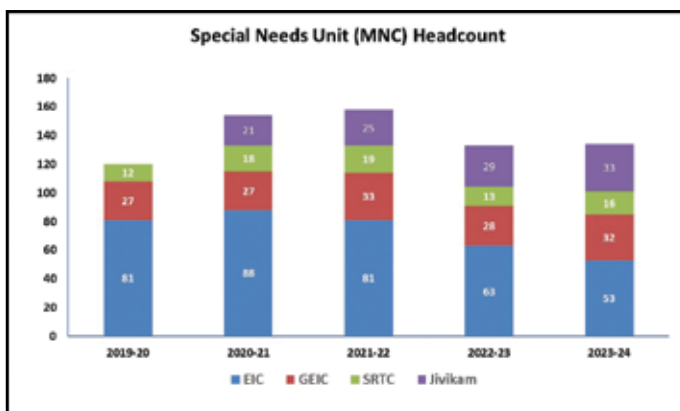
STATISTICAL SUMMARY ACROSS UNITS



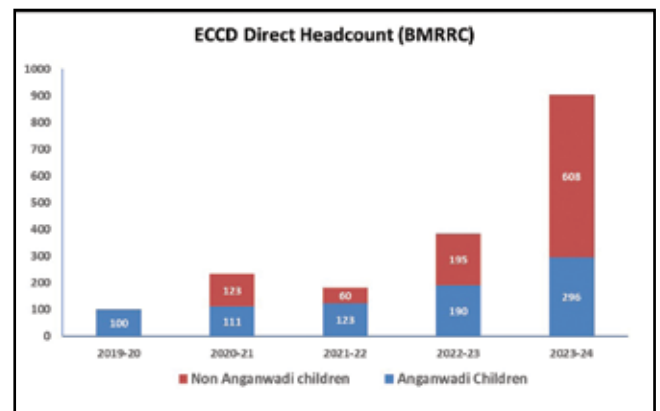
Total headcount still remains well under the Government approved capacity of both the Homes



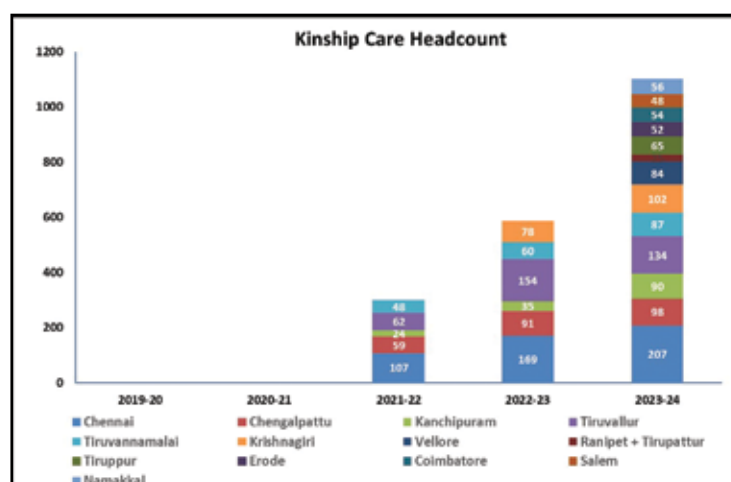
High School headcount drop is on account of drop in the Tamil medium section – now closed



The dropping trend of EIC continues and is made up by the increase in Jivikam



Big increase in number of children benefiting due to increased villages covered



Big increase in number of children benefiting due to increased number of districts covered





7th March

Invoking the Blessings of God – Sarva Dharma Prayer

9th March

Gratitude to our Volunteers and Partners

10th March – morning

“Every Child Matters”

10th March - evening

Homecoming for the Alumni

17th March

Education Programme of Bala Mandir –
An Awareness Villupattu for the Community





BALA MANDIR CHILDREN'S HOMES



Overview / Key Highlights

The Chennai Children's Home is celebrating its 75th year in the year 2024. Children in the Chennai and Nagercoil Homes are admitted through due statutory process and grow up in the institution under full time care. The admission policy of the Chennai Home is below 8 years for boys and girls and for the exclusive girls Home in Nagercoil, it is above 5 years. The focus for the children growing up in Bala Mandir is holistic development—including academics and extra-curricular activities.

Bala Mandir, as an approved Adoption Agency, comes under Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). Home studies and follow ups are done by the Adoption team. Foster Care is now being encouraged by the authorities as part of rehabilitating the children with families. In a recent change in focus, the authorities are also encouraging the next of kin to take back the children and avail of monetary support provided by the Government through direct money transfer.

The headcount of the Chennai Home increased during the year but the headcount of Nagercoil home has remained stagnant for the last 10 years. However, both Homes are operating well below the certified capacity of the Homes. Both Homes depend mainly on Government grant and hence do not have direct control of admissions and discharges. During the year, the department also curtailed the number of units receiving grant in Bala Mandir Chennai Home.

Based on the review of the status of the Children's Home and the 75-year theme of Bala Mandir, a decision was made to admit children into the Home with Government permission, funded by sponsors and also explore the possibility of becoming a Hostel for the needy children linked to our Education Unit.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CHENNAI HOME



Activity in the I & T Block



Corporation Commissioner Dr Radhakrishnan as Chief Guest for Founder's Day



Staff with the Bala Mandir golu



Valedictory function of Balu Sir Summer Camp

Health: Basic tests are conducted immediately after admission. Regular immunisation and annual health checks were done. The doctors visit regularly and provide advice about the health of the children and the treatment, where required. Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy are provided when needed. Counselling sessions are also held when essential.

Festivals and Functions: All festivals were celebrated as usual. The Balu Sir Summer Camp was held in May, with Ms. Sarada Jagan and Mr. M.S. Jagan being the Chief Guests for the Valedictory function. Founder's Day was celebrated in memory of Smt. Manjubhashini, with Dr. Radhakrishnan, Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, as Chief Guest. As a special activity, a day prior to Deepavali, Green Deepavali was celebrated at the Cultural Centre with children and staff participating. Team building games were conducted and videos on awareness of safety precautions for Deepavali were screened.

Academics: In the Infant & Toddler Block, to prepare the senior toddlers to attend LKG in School next year, they attended the BM-Creche to help them mingle with day scholars. They follow a month-on-month thematic programme. On Saturday, special sessions are held for KG children in the Home. Our older children attend Bala Mandir Primary and High School. Assessments were held for children who were in need of it and individual attention given for improvement. Several volunteers have helped the children through the year with their academics. 100% of the Home children passed their public exams – Standard X and XII. There were 8 children under the Inclusion Programme of KaRe, and 2 in NIOS. 2 girls joined college in groups of their choice – Sports and Teaching.

Other Activities: Many children took part in various competitions and won prizes and certificates. During the holidays, several sessions were held on drawing, painting, tailoring, cooking, art & craft, games on Active Listening, Observation, storytelling session, general knowledge, and short films about saving money/wastage of food/self-hygiene were shown. Children visited several places during the holidays, both fun and educational. A special 4-day holiday trip was arranged for 19 senior children going to Rayakottai with the Superintendent and caregivers. It was an interesting and educative trip, thoroughly enjoyed by them.



Tailoring classes for boys and girls



Celebrating Education Day at Nagercoil



Motivational talk on POCSO, Nagercoil



Visit of the Braade Stiftung Board Members to the Nagercoil Home

Government Related: Various inspections were carried out by different departments. Discussions were held with various officials for the future of the children. Home visits were made to ascertain the situation of the families.

Partner Organisations: U & I team, Happy Reading Online, Satya Sai Bala Vikas held sessions every week at assigned timings, for specific age groups of children.

Michaung Cyclone: The cyclone caused water to rise up to the floor level of the Main Office building and the entire ground floor of all other buildings in Bala Mandir. Most of the materials in the ground floor were affected due to the sudden flooding and non-stop rain. However, the recovery was swift after the rains stopped.

NAGERCOIL HOME

General health condition of the girls has been good, and regular medical checks were conducted. All the important festivals and functions were celebrated. On 10th March 2024, the 75th Anniversary of Bala Mandir was celebrated with the participation of parents of children, alumni, and committee members. It was the 34th year of the Nagercoil Unit.

To improve the quality of education, regular monitoring is being done, with counselling and motivation where needed. Those girls requiring academic improvement are being given special attention, and attend tuition classes. The extra-curricular activities were Our Talent Time, Gardening, Sports & Games, Arts & Crafts, Tailoring, Yoga and Spiritual Classes. Motivational sessions on the importance of education, and awareness sessions on POCSO were also held.



Adoption licence inspection



Volunteer classes



Summer vacation trip for senior children

REHABILITATION

Adoption: There were six boys and five girls as on March 31st 2024. The Adoption Licence was renewed in January 2024 upto 2029. All tests mandated by CARA were carried out for the children. Six Pre-Adoption Counselling sessions were held through the year. 32 home studies were conducted. Eight boys and ten girls are in pre-adoption Foster Care. Regular inspections were held by the officials to verify all the records.

Ms. Jenifer of Bala Mandir spoke in Puthiya Thalaimurai Channel on Adoption procedures for the benefit of the common man. Online and in-person training and reviews were held by Government agencies, in which Bala Mandir participated.

Children's Home: In line with the new Government policy of handing over children to next of kin with support, a total of 16 boys and 17 girls were handed back to parents. Additionally, one boy and one girl were sent to Foster Care and one boy was transferred to another institution. In Chennai two children who had been rehabilitated were supported through Home Sponsorship Scheme for higher studies, while eight girls from Nagercoil were given monetary assistance for higher education in various streams.



BALA MANDIR SCHOOLS



Overview / Key Highlights

The Bala Mandir Schools have been meeting the educational needs of the Bala Mandir Home and those from the nearby community for over seven decades. The schools were primarily Tamil medium Government-aided schools. However, in the last 6-7 years Bala Mandir Schools have been forced to respond to the shift in demand from Tamil to English medium education. The endeavour of Bala Mandir has always been to provide holistic education with focus on academics, along with arts and crafts, music, dance, sports, cultural and value education. Volunteers and partner organisations play an important role in this effort.

Bala Mandir Vidyalaya English Medium Primary School continues to operate at full capacity with 'inclusion' of special needs children, and integration of Montessori as its key differentiators. During the year the High School's name was changed to 'Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School' and there is now more focus in growing the self-financed English-medium section. There are plans for integrating the two schools. To enable this, the High School building is being expanded. The foundation of the building has been strengthened to enable addition of more floors to its building.

The children get the best of English medium education in both schools with no compromise on learning the Tamil language, with the added benefit of waiver of tuition fees, and some parents paying only a small percentage of direct school expenses. Both schools serve nutritious breakfast, lunch and in case of extra classes, evening snacks. For this we are grateful for the consistent support from institutional donors such as Saint-Gobain, Boeing and Guru Krupa Foundation.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



Rabbit race in the Creche



Kindergarten children in action



Computer classes at Vidyalaya



Impact Day of Deloitte



Independence Day celebrations

Bala Mandir Crèche

There are presently 55 children in the Bala Mandir Crèche including the toddlers from the Bala Mandir Home. The Crèche schedules and syllabi covering stimulations for all domains of development are introduced in the form of monthly themes. Health-related assessments like height, weight and temperature are being monitored regularly. The parents are updated regularly on the progress made by the children. These children have shown good learning and development during their exposure to the Crèche environment. The Crèche has been a good feeder to the Bala Mandir schools.

Vidyalaya Nursery and Primary School:

The Primary School continues to operate at full capacity. Aha Guru conducted baseline assessment for Classes I to V to arrive at year-end goals to bridge learning gaps of children. They also observed the teachers and presented their reports. Assessments were conducted for the KG children to assess their readiness for Class I. Home visits for all the KG students were conducted twice during the year.

Need based remedial classes were held for the children every day. From 51 children at the beginning of the year, the number of children in remedial classes reduced to 30 by the end of the year. Parent-Teacher meetings were set up at the end of each term to discuss the academic progress of each child and suggest strategies to improve the academics and behaviour of students.

A new computer lab has been set up and is being used by students of Class III to V. Value Education classes are part of the regular timetable. Art and Yoga, Music and Dance classes were also conducted to ensure holistic development.



Inclusion Programme with KaRe



Just For Kicks - football for boys and girls



Thirukkural at Satyamurthi School

There were 27 children under the “Inclusion”/Learning Support programme. Proper assessment for each child was done and Individual Education Plan was derived. Eight shadow teachers help the children in rotation. There is one therapist each for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language therapy.

Students, both girls and boys, of Class V attended football with Just For Kicks (JFK) regularly, and took part in the JFK Chennai Football League. JFK awarded Vidyalaya School with the Best Partner School of the Year.

All festivals like Navarathri, Christmas, Pongal etc, and functions like Education Day, Independence Day, Annual Day, Founder’s Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, Children’s Day, Republic Day and Sports Day were celebrated.

Express Your Talent event was the year-end programme organised for students of Class I to V which showcases their talent to the parents and other visitors. Teachers came up with very creative models based on academic content, and the children participated enthusiastically.

Teachers underwent several training programmes conducted by various resource persons to fine tune the classroom management and use of innovative methods for teaching.

Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School:

Daily morning assembly included Thirukkural, Thought for the Day, Important News, Projects Display and GK Quiz. Remedial sessions for Classes VI to XI were conducted every day. Special



Satyamurthi school students with children of other schools at the Boeing programme in Bangalore



International STEM Day



Children at the library



Annual Day celebrations



Throwball tournament in progress

attention was given for the Class X students. Annual examinations were completed on schedule.

A Digital Literacy course was conducted with the students being introduced to Microsoft Office tools, Artificial Intelligence, typing and other practical skills on using the computer. A Science Fair was organised showcasing the students' scientific projects and creativity. Physics experiments were conducted during science classes at the Vikalpa Lab. The STEM lab curriculum is rigorously followed and the children enjoy the experience.

Music, Dance, Arts, Spoken English, Scouts and Guides, Road Safety Patrol—are all held on Saturdays. Career counselling is held for Classes X, XI and XII students. Class VI and VII students participated in the 6 -week reading challenge of the British Council and obtained certificates. They also attended two workshops of British Council to enhance their literary knowledge.

As a new initiative a Girls' Empowerment Programme was started from the pre-adolescent age group to enable the girls to grow into empowered women. The programme focuses on keeping adolescent girls in school, arming them with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need, and encouraging leadership among them. Looking at the success of this programme, a Boys Empowerment Programme has also been started.

An MoU with Decathlon Company enables optimal utilisation of the PT/Games classes for students in Classes VI to IX, promoting physical fitness and team sports like Throwball, Volleyball and Kabbadi. Our students participated in a marathon to raise awareness on drug prevention and received certificates.

Ten girls from the High school had the opportunity to visit Bangalore for the Boeing Plant Inauguration. They travelled to Bangalore by flight, arranged by Boeing Company. During their visit, they also attended the STEM LAB Expo at Shishu Mandir. The students actively engaged with peers from other schools and had the honour of meeting Prime Minister Modi and other dignitaries from around the world. It was an inspiring and memorable experience for the girls.

The first batch of students completing their Higher Secondary education in English medium turned in 100% results with the topper getting 87% marks. Two girls who appeared for NIOS exams successfully cleared the same.



BALA MANDIR CENTRE FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN (MNC)



Overview / Key Highlights

Founded in 1989, by two pioneers, Late Mrs. Jaya Krishnaswamy and Late Prof. Jayachandran, Bala Mandir MNC has been providing Early Intervention Services to children with Developmental delays, Intellectual Disability and associated conditions. Upanayan, a unique programme for Early Intervention, was designed by developmental psychologists, special Educators, experts in audiology, neonatology and nutrition, physio and occupational therapists. This programme has helped over 6000 children and continues to be the reference programme for people involved in this field. It is recognised by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India.

The Individual Education Plan worked out in coordination with a group of special educators and therapists, along with the parent/caregiver, ensures integrated training with special education and therapeutic interventions. The parent or a designated member of family plays an important role as the "carryover agent" to assist the child in applying the skills learnt, to daily living at home. The software Upaneeta records all information of the child, training given and the progress made.

All District Early Intervention Centres of the Government of Tamil Nadu are using the Upanayan programme and are being trained and mentored by the Unit. The Chennai District Early Intervention Centre and an Autism Centre is being directly managed by BM-MNC. The special school of MNC, Jivikam, is an Empowering Special Needs Vocational training unit and guides children above six years. The programme explores the potential in every child for further training to pursue a vocation.

The AVMVK Academy with RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) accreditation provides a Diploma in Special Education (DECSE) and has so far trained over 70 students for the Diploma course.



Skit by Alumni for SAMYAM



Inauguration of Madhuvan



AVMVK Academy

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

EIC Programme: 101 children benefitted from Early Intervention Services last year. Out of these 53 were from the Bala Mandir - MNC Early Intervention Centre, 32 were from Chennai District Early Intervention Centre, 16 from State Resource Centre for Autism in KK Nagar—where MNC has been guiding and mentoring personnel on a monthly basis through visits by the senior special educators.

Jivikam Programme: 33 Children benefitted from training in the Jivikam Skill Development Unit. A herbal garden Madhuvan was inaugurated in September 2023, and is being maintained by the children. This helps training for a possible vocation in gardening in their adult years with the help and support of their family/community. Other activities in which the children are trained are block printing, weaving doormats by small hand looms, making artificial jewellery, weighing and sorting vegetables, plucking, drying and powdering herbal leaves grown in “Madhuvan”.

AVMVK Academy: The parents of MNC children are also encouraged to undergo this diploma course to empower and help them to manage their children better as they step into adult years, given them an opportunity for employment and financial security. In 2023-2024, three students were trained in the academy.

Refresher Course: During February and March 2024, Government sponsored Refresher course for the Special Educators and Therapists of all the Government Early Intervention Centres was



Jivikam children dance programme at the Moving Ahead function



Christmas tableau by the children



Chapati rolling competition on Sports Day

conducted at the Centre. A total of 98 participants from the 32 districts took part and received hands-on-training in teaching methodology and therapies.

Workshops: In November 2023, the National Workshop of Bala Mandir—MNC was conducted. The theme of the workshop was “Early Intervention with Parental Involvement—A Continuous Learning Experience”. A total of 96 delegates from all over the state and 30 delegates from the Centre participated and enriched their knowledge on the current affairs in disability.

Events and Celebrations: All festivals and functions like Vinayaka Chaturthi, Ayudha Pooja, Deepavali, Ramzan, Christmas, Fathers’ Day, Teachers’ Day, Independence Day, Annual Day, Sports Day, birthdays of the children in a particular month on the last Fridays were all celebrated with the participation of all the children and mothers.

The children were taken on a mega-outing to MGM Dizee World. To celebrate Children’s Day, a carnival was held with a dancing booth, games to play and refreshments. Sports Day had its theme ‘SEA’—where the children through drill and a formation brought to life the waves of the sea and its other aspects. BM-MNC children won prizes in Art and painting, music, solo dance and group dance in Javate, an annual Special Cultural event of Lady Andal House of Children and Sir Mutha School, Chennai



National Conference - Dr. S. Sunder and Prof. R. Rangasayee being felicitated for their contributions to BM-MNC



Children participating in the making of Pongal



A trip in the Metro



The winners of Nutrifest

Sambhavam: A unique feature of Pongal festival was its celebration as an extension of experiential training under Sambhavam. The children were involved in shopping to get provision, firewood, mud pots for a hearth and then cooking of Pongal in the front yard of the Centre. The experience provided immense satisfaction to the parents and the children, celebrated as it were in a traditional manner and the children learning about it.

The children of EIC went on the Metro train and those of Jivikam went to vegetable market as part of Sambhavam.

Annapurna – Nutrifest: This annual event was held in March in collaboration with the Nutrition Department of JBAS College. This year's theme—Incorporation of Millets Rich in Micronutrients in Daily Diet—was to create awareness on the importance of balanced diet for the children. The mothers took part in a cookery competition with enthusiasm.

Health Check: A blood test camp was conducted at the Centre in July while a Dental Screening was conducted in February.



BALA MANDIR RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE (BMRRC)



Overview / Key Highlights

Bala Mandir Research and Resource Centre (BMRRC) has been serving the community for more than three decades, in Early Childhood Care and Development & Education (ECCDE) – based on the fundamentals of child development needs and ‘parental’ response. The ECCD Parenting Training programme has reached out to parents and those who play the role of parents – teachers in schools, creches, NGOs, community workers, ECCD professionals and Government bodies, with resource materials available in 8 languages. It essentially covers the socio-economically deprived communities in rural, urban and tribal areas across India. For over two decades, BMRRC has been associated with the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme of the Tamil Nadu Government.

In 2023-24, BMRF was renamed as “Research and Resource Centre” keeping in mind the future focus on being the provider of technical resources in all areas of child development not only to Bala Mandir but for the larger ECCD fraternity in India and outside. With this perspective and to create a more widespread social impact, BMRRC expanded its scope of work in its field projects, took up new projects and training programmes/ seminars and developed new training materials, as needed. Progress was also made on the research projects which were underway.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS

CSR supported ECCD Rural Project in Tiruvallur District

With the support of Michelin India Private Limited (MIPL), BMRRC continued its ECCD project for the 10th year, in select rural villages in Gummidipoondi and Ellapuram Blocks in Tiruvallur District, comprising of centre, home and community-based interventions. 15 villages were covered under this and the BMRRC field staff supported the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) in pre-school education to promote holistic development as well as conducted daily home visits to cover both children as well as pregnant women and post-natal mothers. In addition, quarterly Information, Education and Communication (IEC) sessions were held to increase awareness on parenting and ECCD. In 5 out of the 15 villages, a modified process is being tried out with the work at the AWCs being carried out by the animators appointed from the respective villages who take ownership and the responsibility to create a self-sustainable model.



IEC on Parenting Skills



Fun interactive learning activity to develop motor skills and cognitive abilities



IEC Programme on importance of ECCD and services given by Anganwadis



Mega Event at Gummidipoondi

Bala Mandir supported ECCD Project

Based on the positive outcome and the social impact from its village level ECCD programme, it was decided to explore the growth of the project at a bigger scale and this led to the pilot project with the internal financial support of Bala Mandir which was launched in January 2023. Started in 6 additional villages in Tiruvallur District, the initial project was to test two alternative models of working—the first based on working directly in the community through the creation of parent-child groups and the second comprising centre-based interventions to enhance the quality of ECCD inputs in the ICDS AWCs. After a year long study, it was concluded that the community-based model proved to be less effective in creating an impact due to the many challenges faced. However, the centre-based model worked well and it was decided to base the future expansion on the centre-based approach. The project was a good learning experience and helped to define the process for future intervention at a large scale.

TRAINING

Training was conducted for Bala Mandir Social Workers on 'Understanding Adolescence and Adolescent Needs', ECCD Training of Trainers on 'Learning Through Play Calendar', Training on ICDS 'Introduction and Developmental Areas in ECCE', and project field staff of Thiruvallur on various topics according to their needs. Most of these trainings were through spaced inputs over several weeks.



Enhancing development of gross motor skills through play



IEC Training – Importance of play



Training in craft works

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The following was the progress made on the research activities:

Bala Mandir Home Alumni Rehabilitation study 1999 to 2019

Master data of all the rehabilitated Bala Mandir Chennai Home children was collected and verified. A questionnaire was used to understand their demographic details and overall life satisfaction and Psychological Well Being using standardised scales. A pilot focused group discussion (FGD) was conducted and based on this, FGDs are planned.

New COR Validation: Compilation and consolidation of the new Child Observation Record (based on the IMOW—birth to 6 years) and validation of it was completed, and this tool is ready for use in future projects.

Tiruvallur Project Impact Analysis: Using the KAP and NDDS tool baseline and endline data, an impact analysis was conducted to measure the direct and indirect impact of the stimulation activities on the children that showed mild delays in achieving their milestones. The result showed a positive shift in the knowledge and attitude of the parents with respect to the importance of parenting, father's involvement and need for a disciplined approach. It was also noted that over 95% of the children with delayed milestones improved with stimulation.



Speakers at Conversations in Education



Dr. V.R. Devika addressing the gathering

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Global LTP Conference

BMRRRC made a presentation on the Social Impact of LTP in India, at the "Third Global Conference on Parenting Interventions on 15 and 16th May 2024".

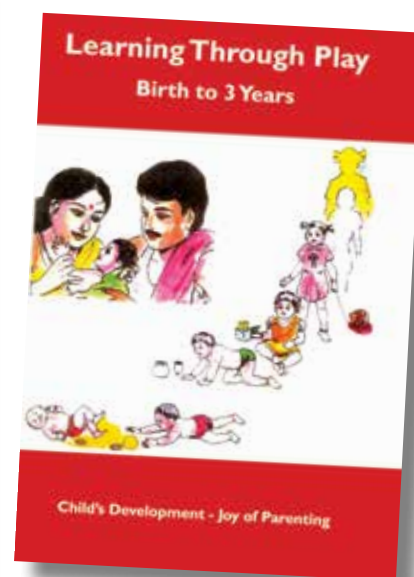
Celebrating Dr Anandalakshmy: Conversations on Education Series

The first of the series was organised on 24th February 2024 at Bala Mandir Cultural Centre. The topic of the series was "Empowering Teachers". The audience included all teachers of the BM Schools, teacher representatives from city schools, educationists and Members of Bala Mandir along with friends of Dr. Anandalakshmy. Mr G Gautama, Director-Secretary for Palar Center for Learning and Paathsala spoke on "Leadership For Creative Engagement"; Dr V.R. Devika, Founder, Aseema Trust spoke on the topic of "Gandhi, Nai Talim and Autonomy"; and Dr Aruna Rathnam, Consultant, Bala Mandir spoke on "Practical Wisdom: Way forward".

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Red Book "Birth to 3 years" was printed in Tamil and English. This is the reference material for all our field staff.

1000 copies of ECCD Parenting pamphlet based on the 'Red Book' were printed in Tamil and English and were distributed to Children Believe, an organisation working in the ECCD space, Bala Mandir Creche and Vidyalaya Parents, Nagercoil Home and in Tiruvallur project villages.





BALA MANDIR KINSHIP CARE



Overview / Key Highlights

The Kinship Care programme was started in July 2021 to support the children who had lost one or both parents in the Covid 19 pandemic and was later extended to those facing non-covid deaths of parents. In most of the cases, since the only breadwinner of the family had died, and the children are living with their extended families. Knowing that this setback would cause significant adverse impact on the development of the children, especially amongst the socio-economically weaker section of the society, Bala Mandir started this programme with a goal to create a 'Virtual Home' for the children, through dedicated field social workers in each district to support the children and their families in various ways.

The admission to the Kinship Care programme is restricted to children below 12 years of age. However, the commitment is to continue to support the children till they settle down in their lives. The programme has been continuously evolving as new needs emerge and children grow up. There is no Government support for this programme and to meet the growing commitment, Bala Mandir has been exploring various avenues for funding and in 2023-24, successfully worked on its first crowd funding initiative which is planned to be repeated every year. This is apart from CSR and other donor support.

The number of the children and the areas covered by the programme have been steadily rising and the positive impact of the programme is being realised by the families of the beneficiary children. During the year 2023-24, the total number of children under this programme grew by 88%. Many new initiatives have been taken since, to strengthen the processes for supporting the growth. The programme is benefiting from the very large number of volunteers who engage with the children on remote, on a one-on-one basis through various digital modes of communication in coordination with Gana Sharada Foundation.



REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



Vellore Medical Camp



Meeting with the children while returning from school



Counselling of mothers



Meeting with the children at their home

The year 2023-24 saw the further evolution and development of the Kinship Care programme as follows:

- 1. New Districts:** Vellore, Ranipet and Thirupatur districts were added to the scope of programme in April 2023 and all the earlier established processes were replicated in the new districts.
- 2. Organic Growth:** Additional children and families are getting steadily added in each of the existing districts and most of the new cases are mostly non-Covid death of parent(s). Now 20 per cent of all families are non-Covid cases.
- 3. Remote Social worker:** The concept of “remote social worker” to complement and partner the “field social worker” in each region was introduced to ensure quality of support and adherence to defined processes in the face of growing number of children and families.
- 4. Counselling:** The group counselling of mothers continued right through the year as new families joined the programme with increasing number of one-on-one counselling. Specific counselling for adolescent issues and preparing for public exams was also conducted.
- 5. Meetings with Families and Children:** Summer camps and medical camps were conducted in all the districts to enable the management team to meet the children and families across locations, understand their problems, reassure them of the long-term support and services and create communities for mutual help and support.
- 6. ECCD Programme:** To support families with young children below the school going age, an ECCD (Early Childhood Care and Development) programme was started in the second quarter which consisted of weekly audio messages on parenting tips to the mothers through WhatsApp.
- 7. New Programmes:** New courses were added under the volunteer driven Happy Reading portfolio of programmes as explained below and the Kai Mel Kalvi foundational maths programme was piloted to explore ways to support the children who needed help in Maths.
- 8. Mobile Data Top-up:** This scheme was introduced to encourage the families to ensure that the children attend the online classes as per an agreed schedule.



Activity for parents at Tiruvannamalai Summer Camp



The group involved in Crowd Funding



Team of Chennai and Coimbatore



Interacting with children and family



Evaluating English reading of the child

9. **Livelihood Scheme:** The beneficiaries under the livelihood scheme continued to grow and this was extended on a need basis to also include mobile phones.
10. **Dhruva Enhancement:** New features added to the Dhruva software for improved effectiveness of the programme.
11. **Auditing:** Financial processes were strengthened, and a volunteer driven Quality auditing process was initiated to double check on the effectiveness of the programme.
12. **Medical Support:** Social workers started helping the families during medical and other emergencies and this in turn brought to focus the importance of linkages to hospitals and doctors and enrolment of all families under the Government insurance scheme.
13. **Funding Initiative:** The crowd funding project was successfully executed in the month of October 2023 with active involvement of 49 volunteers who worked diligently to raise money during the 3 weeks window. This was a new experience for Bala Mandir.
14. **Additional Hub:** Based on the success of the crowd funding project, a decision was made to extend the programme to five districts around Coimbatore and this expansion was planned as a separate "Hub" with an independent coordinator and a locally based member in charge to ensure management control and service levels. This hub started operations from January 2024 and rapidly grew its operations.
15. **Summer Activity:** Beyond the camps, various online activities like 'Magic square puzzles', 'Story telling', 'Origami' work etc. were introduced to positively engage the children.
16. **Government Coordination:** Social workers who are based in the districts are in regular touch with the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) to extend any help as needed. On a periodic basis, report on the Kinship Care project is also submitted to the office of the Director of Social Defence.
17. **Board Exams:** During the academic year 2023-24, the first batch of 6 children from Kinship appeared for the 10th class board exams. All of them did well and have joined Higher Secondary classes.
18. **Special Coaching:** Plans have been worked out for special coaching classes to support the middle school children with high potential to prepare them for writing competitive exams in the future.



Tiruvannamalai Summer Camp with children and their parents

Partnership with Gana Sharada Foundation

Bala Mandir has been closely working with Gana Sarada Foundation from its inception. The Happy Reading programme was inspired by earlier the Read-A-Story programme. Over the last 12+ months, Ms. Sarada and Mr. Jagan, the founders of this Foundation have made big improvements in the programmes and also introduced some new programmes as per the needs of the Kinship Care children.

- Happy Reading Foundation course has been introduced for Class II and III children to teach phonetics, pronunciation, combining sounds to read words, sentence formation and acquiring language familiarity at an early age.
- Happy Reading course has been streamlined with changes made to the reading material and introduction of comprehension for more complete learning.
- Happy Speaking course has been introduced for children in middle school with 25 ice-breaker topics to encourage the children to start speaking in English.
- Tamil reading course was started since many children were found to be lagging in this.
- In all cases the volunteers are given orientation on the course, the course delivery closely monitored and the children awarded a course-completion certificate and a set of books to keep them motivated to read books.

The Foundation manages the volunteers, the course content and the delivery while the Bala Mandir team focuses on the regular attendance of the children. The impact of the programme has been very positive and mothers are consistently reporting breakthrough results in terms of the child's interest in studies and performance in school tests.

WAY FORWARD



Activities for children

The smooth start up and ramp up of the Coimbatore hub gives the confidence to extend the programme to more districts in Tamil Nadu especially because of the visible positive impact of the programme on the quality of education of the children and the confident outlook of the families who suffered a major loss and had lost all hope. This also aligns to the Bala Mandir vision for growth in scale, leading to increasing social impact. The decision on expansion would depend on the level of confidence in raising the necessary resources—both in financial as well as in volunteering terms—to sustain the programme.



OUR APPRECIATION GOES OUT TO...

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

DONORS, PARTNERS AND WELL WISHERS: INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Braade-Stiftung Denmark** continues to be the major contributor for maintenance of buildings of Chennai and Nagercoil Homes.
- **Virtusa Consulting Services Private Limited** for renovation of the Tuition Centre Building
- **Parker Hannifin India Private Limited** for fencing and levelling Vidyalaya playground
- **Avalon Technology and Service Private Limited** for movable partitions
- **T.T. Logistics and Cargo Private Limited** for renovation of T. T. Vasu Hall
- **SKCL** for the lift annual maintenance contract

SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATIONS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- **Saint-Gobain India Private Limited** support for salary of teachers of Standard I to X.
- **Guru Krupa Foundation** supported the nutritional meals and educational needs (books and services)
- **Boeing International Corporation – India Pvt Ltd** provided support for Vikalpa Lab activities as well as salaries of some teachers.
- **Shri Sarita Jain Foundation** provided support for the educational initiatives
- **United Industries Plastic Private Limited** provided support towards salaries of KG employees
- **Orient Blackswan Private Limited** provided support for Admin salaries
- **BNP Paribas India Foundation** provided support for teacher's salaries
- **T. Nagar Shoba Silks Private Limited** provided support for teacher's salaries

SUPPORT FROM ORGANISATIONS FOR BALA MANDIR MNC

- **ABI Showatech India Private Limited**
- **Super Auto Forge Private Limited**
- **Sri Kausalya Constructions Limited**

BALA MANDIR RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE

- **Michelin India Private Limited**

KINSHIP CARE:

- **ACSYS Investments Private Limited**
- **Ideal Fastener India Private Limited**
- **GRT Jewellers (India) Private Limited**
- **Archean Chemical Industries Limited**
- **SYNERGISTIX (India) Private Limited**
- **Fagun Company Private Limited**

CHILDREN'S HOME

- **Alliance Biomedica Private Limited**

Bala Mandir USA is an independent registered nonprofit organisation in the US which was set up in September 2023 by the friends of Bala Mandir. They started consolidating the donations received by them and sending the same to Bala Mandir in India for various purposes. Individual donors to Bala Mandir USA are not listed here and will be acknowledged by Bala Mandir USA. We would like to appreciate the wonderful work done by the Bala Mandir USA friends and their network for this initiative. More details of their activities can be obtained in their web site: www.balamandirusa.org

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ACROSS UNITS

- **Mr. R. Pattabiraman**
- **Mr. V. Srikanth**
- **Ms. Ornella Gualtieri**

For the 75th Year Celebration: (1) Mr. N. Thiagarajan
(2) Mr. S. B. Prabhakar Rao

Children's Home: (1) Ms. Gloria Gualtieri
(2) Dr. Shantaram and Ms. C. R. Kalyani
(3) Mr. N. Suryanarayanan (4) M/s. Mercuri Goldmann India Pvt. Ltd (5) Ms. Malini Rose Raina
(6) Ms. Sumana Narasimhan

Education: (1) Mr. M. A. Mubeen (2) Mr. A.K. Nehru
(3) Mr. Akhil Nehru (4) Mr. Nikhil Nehru (5) Rajeswari Nathan Foundation (6) Mr. Pramod Mukund Athalye
(7) Mr. Giridhar Jothiprasad (8) Ms. Gayathri



BM MNC: (1) Ms. Annapoorna Seetharam
(2) Ms. Latha Madhavan (3) Mr. Ramaswamy
Ranganathan (4) Ms. Aruna Rathnam (5) Ms. Bhavani
Kumar (6) Ms. Padma Seshadri (7) Mr. Rangarao
Gururajan (8) Kit Thomas Educational Society

BMRRC: (1) Ms. Ruchi Ojhas Joshi

Kinship Care: (1) Ms. Ornella Gualtieri (2) Ms. Anusha
Narayan (3) Mr. A. Dinakar (4) Mr. Arjun Santhanam
(5) Arun Jain (HUF) (6) Mr. Balagopal Kumar
(7) Mr. Bhaskar Reddy (8) Mr. Boopesh Reddy (9)
Mr. C. N. Chandrasekaran (10) Cauvery Trust (11)
Cavinkare Private Limited (12) Ms. Charubala Ravi
(13) Estate of Ram Gopaldas Keswani (14) Inventure
Engineering India Private Limited
(15) Mr. Kalyanaraman Subramaniam (16) Lister
Technologies Foundation (17) Mr. M. Karthik Krishnan
(18) Mr. Meyyappan Palaniappan (19) Mr. Natarajan
Venkatakrishnan (20) Ms. Nayanthika Ramakrishnan
(21) Mr. P. Krishnakumar (22) Mr. P. Swaminathan
(23) Mr. Phani Kumar Anupindi (24) Ms. Priya
Rajasekar (25) Raghunath Mandava
(26) Mr. Raghupathy (27) Mr. Ramgopal Vallath
(28) Mr. Ravichandran Lakshminarayanan
(29) Mr. Ravishankar (30) Ms. Rekha Murthy
Rangarajan (31) Ruth Castelino Estate Account
(32) Mr. S. Ramesh (33) Mr. S. Sairam (34) Ms. Saritha
Munikrishna (35) SKCL Property Management
Services LLP (36) Ms. R. Suchitra (37) Ms. Suguna
Rangaswami (38) Ms. Sumana Narasimhan
(39) Ms. Sumitra Karanth (40) Mr. V. Srinivasan
(41) Mr. Visweswaran (42) Mr. Vivek Gaitonde
(43) Ms. Asha England

Medical: (1) Madras Red Fort Doctors Foundation

ENDOWMENTS CREATED

- **Food Endowment:** (1) Mr. B. Ganesan
(2) Ms. Sujatha Sethuraman (3) Ms. Charubala
Ravi
- **Vidyalaya Endowment:** (1) Dr. Kalpana
Balakrishnan (2) Mr. P. Natarajan
(3) Lodge Harmony No 217 (4) Mr. A. Dinakar
(5) Ms. Jayshree Vasudevan
- **High School:** (1) Ms. Thangam Krishnamurthy
- **SGS Endowment:** (1) Mr. J. Sivanandaraaj
(2) Mr. G. Anbumani (3) Mr. M. Vaidyanathan
(4) Mr. N. L. Rajah
- **Medical Endowment:** (1) Mr. Dhruva Prakash P
(2) Ms. Sunita Thampi
- **BMCLC:** Y. R. Gaitonde Medical Education
- **Kinship Care:** (1) Mr. Phani Kumar Anupindi

(2) Mr. V. Srinivasan (3) Ms. R. Suchitra
(4) Mr. C. N. Chandrasekaran (5) SKCL Property
Management Services LLP (6) Mr. Karthik
Krishnan (7) Mr. Vivek Gaitonde
(8) Mr. Ravichandran Lakshminarayanan
(9) Mr. Ravishankar (10) Mr. Visweswaran
(11) Mr. Kalyanaraman Subramaniam
(12) Ms. Nayanthika Ramakrishnan
(13) Mr. P. Krishnakumar (14) Mr. A. Dinakar

DONATIONS IN KIND

For Children's Home

- **Provisions:** (1) IOPEX Technologies (2) Ms. Mamta
Khanna (3) Mr. Vishal Sridharan (4) Mr. Priyesh
Soundararajan (5) Ms. Seema Goyal
- **Deepavali dresses:** For all children and staff of
Bala Mandir – (1) Ms. Bhargavi Sundararajan &
Ms. Usha Ranganathan
- **Clothes/Dress Materials/Shoes:** (1) Murray & Co
(2) Ms. S. Nagalakshmi (3) Mr. Koushik Srinivasan
(4) Mr. R. S. Vanamali
- **Stationery Items & Other Necessities:**
(1) Mr. Milan R. Parekh (2) Mr. Munesh Damodar
(3) Mr. R. Viswanathan (4) PSBB School
(5) Mr. R. Narayanan (6) Mr. R. Thevanathan
(7) U & I Trust (8) Saravana Selvarathnam
(9) Ms. Seema Goyal
- **Infants & Toddlers Block Dresses:** (1) Ms. Hema
Raghavan (2) Ms. Sujatha (3) Ms. Seetha
- **Children's Needs:** (1) S. Subrahmanyam
Construction Company Private Limited
(2) Ms. K.S. Rama Krishnan (3) Gree Marketing
India LLP
- **Navarathri:** (1) Ms. Swethambari Kesavan
- **Printer:** (1) Ms. Prajaktha Ameya Thakur
- **Washing Machine:** Mr. N. Prabhakar

For Nagercoil

- **Dresses:** (1) Mr. Chittaranjan Das (2) Ms. Vasanthy
- **Provisions, Sweets:** (1) Mr. Sujoy (2) Ms. Deepa
(3) Mr. Chellappan
- **Coconuts, Fruits:** (1) Ms. Joshini (2) Dr. Indra
- **Stationery Items:** (1) Mr. Ajith Rennisan
(2) Ms. Usha (3) Mr. Kalyana Kumar (4) Mr. Ajith
- **Children Needs:** (1) NSS Unit (2) Mr. Michael
Feroze

For Madhuram Narayanan Centre:

- **C P Chairs:** (1) Rotary Club of Madras – Besant
Nagar



- **T & L Materials:** (1) Ms. Gita Sankaran

For Vidyalaya Primary School

- **Televisions & Specialised Slates:** (1) Ms. Gayathri

For Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School

- **Refrigerator:** Mr. S. Murugabiran
- **TV for Library:** Police Boys Club
- **Computers, Library Chairs and Tables:** Rajasthan Youth Association
- **Provisions post Michaung flood:** Ms. Mathivathani Paramasivam

For Kinship Care Programme

- **Livelihood Support:** (1) Mr. Suraj Udayashankar

For BMRRRC

- **Cycles for field workers:** (1) Mr. Madhav P V R

For Main Office

- **Deepavali Sweets for all staff:** (1) Filter Coffee Chronicles Team (2) Mr. Hemchander
- **Purchase of fans:** (1) Sri Yannarkay Services Limited

SERVICES PROVIDED BY

- **Mr. M. Ravi** continues to provide Engineering support for all the infrastructure projects.
- **Mr. E.N. Senthilrajan and V. Arunprasath** support all the IT related issues of Bala Mandir.
- **Ms. Sarada Jagan and Mr. M.S. Jagan** are supporting to organize volunteers for English reading programme of Kinship Care as well manage the course content and its effective delivery.
- **M/s. Sindoori Faber** provided housekeeping services for the entire Bala Mandir campus
- **M/s SKCL** provided maintenance support after office hours and helped in getting the approval for the school building project.

Medical Support

- **Rajan Eye Care** provided free eye checkup and surgeries for the children
- **Apex Laboratories** provided free monthly supply of medicines
- **VRR Diagnostics** provided free scans for children referred by the doctors
- **Rainbow Hospital, Guindy**, provided free treatment for our children
- **Chennai Corporation** provided pulse polio drops and provided deworming tablets twice a year

- **YRG Care** provided tests for all the children at a discount

- **Vaccine World** provided vaccines at a discount

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO INTERACT ACROSS BM

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

ORGANIZATIONS

- **Madras MBS Choir** continue to train the children of the Bala Mandir Schools in Choral Music
- **U & I Volunteer group** held for the Home children – English Programme for Standard II & III, and LIFT programme for High School students.
- **Bala Vikas Value Education Classes by Sri Satya Sai Organisation Gurus:** for children in the Home
- **Bhumi Organization** deputed a Fellowship teacher for Vidyalaya School
- **Safe Schools** trains students, staff and parents on Child Safety
- **Just for Kicks** conducts football lessons for Vidyalaya girls and boys
- **Boeing Team** is providing support for the STEM – Vikalpa Lab in Satyamurthi School
- **Learning Link Foundation** has provided support through a person stationed in the Vikalpa Lab
- **YRG Care** provided support for Eco Club and also scholarship for students of Satyamurthi School
- **Victory Sports** organized Football coaching for boys of Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School
- **Decathlon Private Limited** provided sports training for children and sponsored medals and certificates on Sports Day
- **Ms. Deepa Senthilrajan & her team from Deloitte**, conducted Impact Day for the students
- **Total Oro Care Foundation** did dental screening for the students of the Schools and MNC
- **New Life Assembly** did Christmas events in Satyamurthi School
- **Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram** teachers provide Yoga intervention for all the children in BM MNC.
- **NGO Nizhal** provides consultation for gardening activities of Jivikam children of BM MNC
- **Thirumalai Mission Hospital** are partners of Bala Mandir for free medical screening camps for Kinship Care children and their mothers in Ranipet, Vellore and Tiruppattur



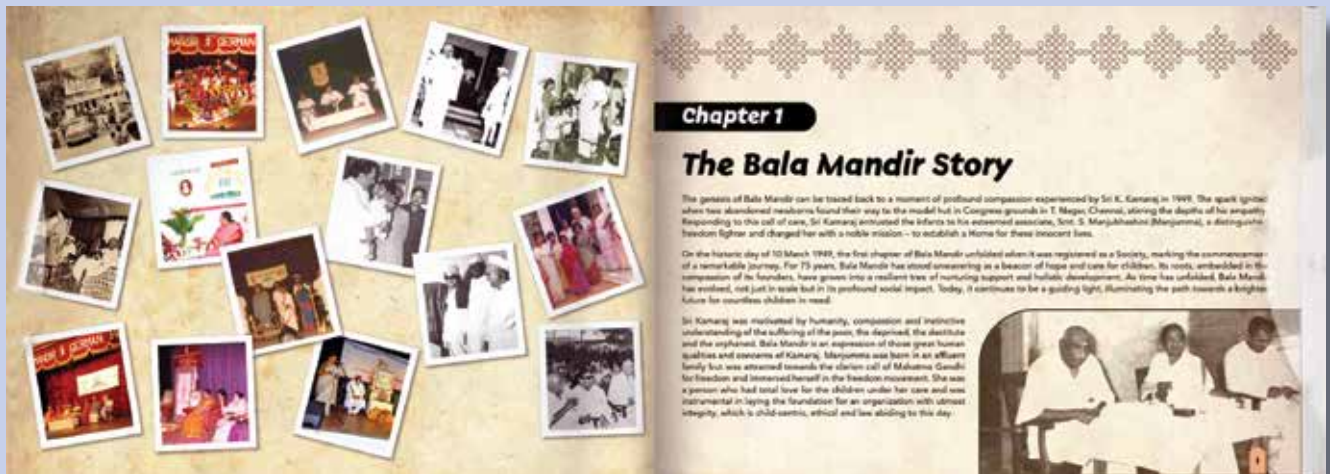
- **Rural Women's Social Education Centre** are partners of Bala Mandir for free medical screening camps for Kinship Care children in Chengalpet and Kancheepuram Districts
- **Jouve India Private Limited** helped print the Coffee Table Book brought out for the 75th year

INDIVIDUALS

- A large group of over 400 individual volunteers from across the world are part of the Happy Reading and other programs of Gana Sarada Foundation who are supporting the Kinship Care programme.
- A group of 49 volunteers helped in the Kinship Care crowd funding initiative which helped raise funds for the growth of the Kinship Care programme.
- A group of IT professionals from Saint-Gobain are helping in the development and maintenance of a custom-built software used in the Home, School and Kinship – Dhruva H, S & K.
- **Ms. Jayanthi Kini and Ms. Hima Bindu** volunteer their time at the Infants and Toddlers Block, playing with the infants and have specific activities for the Junior Toddlers.
- **Ms. Nityasree Sriram** helped with teaching a Bala Mandir boy
- **Ms. Manimekalai** took tuition classes for Home children
- **Ms. Prasanna Ramesh** took classes for the Standard X girls of the Home
- **Mr. Zain Aib** taught English for Standard II boys in the Home
- **Ms. Sriranjini Sivasubramaniam** taught Science and Maths for Standard VII children in the Home
- **Mr. Kesava Rao Kaza** helped a Bala Mandir boy in academics through online classes
- **Mr. Rishikesh** helped a Bala Mandir boy in academics through online classes
- **Ms. Jothi and Ms. Sethuparvathy** taught Mathematics for Standard IV children in the Home
- **Ms. Padma Shankar** taught Science for Standard X girls in the Bala Mandir Home
- **Mr. Ramesh of Vels-IHM** provides career guidance for children in Satyamurthi School
- **Mr. Amalraj of Child Trust Hospital** provides career guidance for children in Satyamurthi School
- **Ms. Jayashree C** volunteers her time as Quality Auditor for Kinship Care.
- **Ms. Archana Natarajan** continued to anchor the Newsletter.

Coffee Table Book

On 10th March 2024, a book on the history of Bala Mandir from the perspectives of its five units was released as part of the 75th Anniversary, and is available on the Bala Mandir website for viewing as well as downloading.



Bala Mandir 75 Film - Every Child Matters

A movie showcasing the 5 units of Bala Mandir was screened during the 75th Anniversary celebration. Different versions of the film – 3 minutes, 6 minutes and the 11 minutes are available in the Bala Mandir website to download and watch.



Themes for the milestone years of Bala Mandir...



BALA MANDIR KAMARAJ TRUST
Organisational Set Up - September 2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

S. Krishnan and Dr. Andal Raghavan resigned during the last 12 months

SUB COMMITTEES

Children's Home		Schools	
Chennai	Nagercoil	M. Venkataraman	D. Chandrasekar
Sujatha Sethuraman	Lakshmi Nair	Preethi Krishnan	Radha Vasudevan
Smita Aiyar	Uma Kannan	P. Natarajan	Sujatha Sethuraman
Leela Natarajan	Dr. Krishna	N. Ramesh	Mala Sankar
P. Natarajan	Dr. Gopal Surendran	Bharath Natarajan	Janani Priya
Hema Sridharan	Vijayakumari	Swathanthra Shaktivel	
Dr. R. Suchitra	Dinesh Krishnan	Meena Suresh	
Chitra Krishnan	Prema Rajagopal		
C.S. Veena	Lekshmi Priya		

BMRRC	Special Needs Unit (MNC)	Kinship Care Unit
Rukmini Amirapu	Bharath Natarajan	L. Ravichandran
Dhvani Anumolu	S. Krishnan	P. Natarajan
Preethi Krishnan	Dr. K. Vijayaraghavan	Viji Ramesh
Lakshmi Gopal	Janaki Balakrishnan	M. Venkataraman
Mallika Ganapathy	Vimala Kannan	G.V. Kumar
Janaki Balakrishnan	Dr. Aruna Rathnam	K.G. Murali
Dr. Aruna Rathnam	Rajalakshmi A.	Sujatha Sethuraman
M. Venkataraman	Thenmozhi C.	Chitra Krishnan
Dr. R. Bindu	Hemalatha A.	Akila Satheesh
	Sumathi M.	Viji Suresh

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



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