



# VIDYAVANI

Newsletter from Vidyanikethan  
2012

Dear Readers,

Greetings from Vidyanikethan!

Across India, we are reading regularly about crimes against women. Needless to say, such incidents can be traumatic for the individuals and their families. It is also a sad reflection about the deterioration in our social and moral values. There is a strong need to inculcate respect for women and the elderly in the young minds at an early age. It is indeed alarming that despite having a strong family system, families across India are unable to inculcate values of respect and honesty in their children. The depiction of violence in the media and falling into wrong company are also responsible. In such a situation, educational institutions can influence children to be responsible human beings and citizens to a significant extent. For this, there is a need to look beyond completing the curriculum, conducting exams and evaluating answer sheets.

Most of our projects relate to children in one way or the other. We will work to enhance our efforts to sensitize the children about the importance of respect for women, and the elderly. Although this is easier said than done, this has to be done, and done with consistency and commitment.

**Each one of us has to be the change we want to see in the society in every way.**

We are releasing the newsletter for 2012 with selected updates about our projects. You can look forward to our annual report to be released in May 2013, which has comprehensive updates from team members about all our projects. This is supported with case studies as well. You can also read the latest about us in the soon to be re-launched website as well.

Nagaraj M  
Director, Vidyanikethan

## SRI VIDYANIKETHAN SCHOOL

### **Introducing Educom Smart Class – A digital education system**

In its endeavor to enhance the learning experience, Sri Vidyanikethan has introduced the Educom Smart Class from LKG to 8<sup>TH</sup> Class. Educomp is among the largest Education Companies of India. From schools to skills; Educomp group empowers over 20.9 million learners and educators across ~32,000 schools to imagine, think and create a better future. The children are able to get a better perspective into their learning, as the teaching experience is supported with graphics, visuals and pictures.



**Support for UPS equipment:** There were considerable power outages in Vidyanikethan office. This had impacted the work of the office, which has to liaison regularly with donors, and update their records and documentation. Vidyanikethan is thankful to International School Bangalore who has donated a UPS worth Rs. 68000/-. This has benefitted the office in a significant manner as work can continue without interruption even during power cuts.



Vidyanikethan has been appointed as co-convenor for CACL-K (Campaign against Child Labour – Karnataka) and District level (Bangalore) convenor for Child Rights Forum.



### **Continuity in education for 35 children from low income families**

The education of 35 children from low income families was sponsored by AFP, Accenture, Bangalore International School and individuals. Vidyanikethan thanks them for their support. Although we keep sensitizing the families about the importance of continued education, the fact is that, in some situations, the financial burden forces them to pull their children out from the educational system when they are old enough to work. Thus, many older children find themselves working in order to supplement the family income or stay at home in order to save the considerable expenses of school fees, book and related accessories.



## Project Margasusi

- 9 girls have passed out of Project Margasusi after completing their 10<sup>th</sup> standard. Of these, two have failed and seven have passed.
- **Support by Luk India has considerably reduced the acute water stress felt by the children and the staff**

Luk India representatives interacted with the team and the children, and were concerned to learn about the acute water stress. They took immediate action by repairing the borewell. The very first day when water was pumped from the borewell brought great joy to the children. Luk India had been organizing general health check up camps on a regular basis and providing relevant medicines to the children.



## Residential Bridge Course, Kengeri, Bangalore



There are many children working as rag pickers, as well as there are those children rescued from various industries where they were employed. Vidyanikethan is managing a residential bridge course for these children in Kengeri, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The project, located in the premises of the Kengeri Government High School, is in the first year of implementation.



## Residential Bridge Course by Project Margasusi

Project Margasusi is implementing a Residential Bridge Course for 50 children aged 8 years to 15 years. This project is under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, of the Department of Education, Tamil Nadu.



## Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programme for Working Children

Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programme for Working Children, supported by TdH-NL, is being implemented by Vidyanikethan in 20 villages in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. The project which is in its first of the three year implementation period (2012 to 2015) aims to address the critical issues related to child labour and the emotional, sexual and girl child

neglect. The project is reaching out to more than 4500 families with an approximate population of more than 20000.

It has completed a year of implementation. During this time, the awareness about the importance of preventing child exploitation and abuse has increased. The awareness has led to positive action in the field as many working children and dropout children have been reinstated in bridge schools. The project has taken steps in terms of creating child rights forum in the target areas with members representing different walks of life (including child laborers, teachers, parents, NGOs, Panchayat members, legal expert etc). Till date about 1787 children, who were victims of different forms of exploitation, be it physical, commercial, sexual and emotional abuse, have been identified. Of these, 184 are now in the child care centre.



### **Eco-friendly practices in a rural Government School in Banawasi, Kanakapura:**

The water shortage in many areas of Bangalore affects children studying in schools, especially those in Government managed schools. Rain water harvesting is a self-sustainable solution to overcome this shortage. With the support of AFP and Accenture, Vidyanikethan implemented eco-based and eco-friendly technologies and techniques at the Government High School in Banawasi, Kanakapura, where about 400 children from rural areas study from 6th to the 10th standard. Additionally, it has also built eco-san toilets in the surrounding villages. Although the concept has taken time to be accepted and to be put into complete practice, the eco-san toilets are providing to be gender friendly. The school states that it is reusing the composted human waste as manure for the trees growing in the school premises.



## **PEARL PROJECT UPDATES**

It is with pride and satisfaction that Vidyanikethan ended the implementation of the four year PEARL project, supported by IGSSS, in Savadatti, Belgaum District. When Vidyanikethan first entered the working area, which included 10 villages, the following were the conditions of the women:

- Restricted activities of SHGs (Self Help Groups)
- Documentation and accounting practices were not proper
- Lack of awareness , information, knowledge and confidence among women
- Irregular PDS functioning
- Irregular ICDS functioning

- Villagers and women not involved in decisions related to village development
- Many Villagers had not realized their rights and social Entitlements

### Impact of the interventions

- Broadened the perspective of the women
- Changed their perception about their own role
- Started taking interest in the overall village administration
- Learnt about the various State and the Central Government schemes designed especially for BPL families and low income groups.
- Understood the importance of sanghas

### Case study related to PEARL project

Vidyanikethan organized a training on RTI (Right To Information) to Self Help Group members in (Chikkumbi). One of the participants of this training was Savankka. G. Melavankki, aged 35, and a day wage labor, A widow who lost her husband 8 years ago, Savankka is struggling to support her daughter aged 11 by working as a coolie. Without adequate food security and housing security, Savankka was leading her life. She regularly attended the training organized by Vidyanikethan on RTI, and expressed much interest.



After hearing about its benefits, Savankka enquired about the procedure to apply for it, as she wanted information regarding availability of housing schemes, and their related sanctioning. Prior to this, she had applied for a house under the housing scheme but did not get information about its status from the Panchayat.

Many a time she had approached the Panchayat about the sanctioning of a house, but they never responded to her. Therefore, in the training, she felt that if she applies for information through RTI, then she will get to know the status of sanctioning of a house to her. At that time, one of the Panchayath member, who was also in the training, heard Savankka's intention to apply through RTI for information. As soon as he heard her, he he stood up and enquired about her applying through RTI. He said that he himself will let her know the status and that she need not apply for RTI. The result was that after one week, when Savankka came to the office, she got the good news that a house had been sanctioned to her. The sanction of the house after such a long time, came as a big relief to her.