

Annual Report for the year - June2011- May2012

The school reopened on Wednesday, June, 1. But the actual functioning of the school started only from the 13th June.

This year we began with 20 children. One decision we had to make was, instead of just taking all the children who are interested to come to school, and if the programme has to benefit the children and bring about the changes we envisage in them, it was necessary for us to take children who are from Pampanagar area and are willingly to come regularly to school. These 20 children are from the area. The stdI. and Preparatory. Children decided to stay in P.Nagar when their parents go to work to other villages. The younger children's parents promised to send their children to the centre regularly.

Then 10 new children were admitted in the younger group. 3 in B.K, 3 in Ns A , 4 in Ns B, so the total number of children came to 30. The next step in our decision was, we determined that these 30 children attend school regularly without becoming drop outs for one year.

In the first week of June we got an unexpected, a very surprising gift from a donor through Samuha. A set of outdoor play equipment for young children. We were hoping that someone will donate outdoor play equipment to our children. The teacher had to spend time for purchasing these equipment from Bangalore and get them fixed and the compound cleaned and cleared for to fix them the delay in starting the school in June.

For the year June 2011 – May2012 there were 30 children in the centre and they were divided into the following groups or classes. 7 children in std 1, 5 children in Preparatory, 8 in Nursery B, 6 in Nursery A , and 4 in Bala Kendra. Out of 30 children, 16 are girls and 14 are boys.

Now that we are a bit confident of the future of the centre, we are collecting the correct date of birth of all the children in the centre. We have got a few. The Anganwadi worker of the village promised to give this information for all the children. She is on leave. Once we get this list filled, grouping of children could be done properly

This year formal teaching was introduced to std.1 children. They were interested to learn, made an effort to learn .They are very intelligent children. Lack of opportunity, ignorance, uncared for, with a mark on their person put by the society that they are

backward, bad, poor, illiterate drop outs; they roam about the streets of Pampanagar and periodically attend the government school. Given an opportunity, one is surprised at their performance; their will to face and overcome hurdles and learn with determination, without giving up. All that they needed was to show them the light, so that they could come out of the darkness that is their ignorance. And a warm, caring hand to help them take the risk and put their first step into the unknown which has become somewhat known.

Yet there are hurdles, fears and day to day problems in their little life which they are helped to face by a constantly observing, aware, warm adult who cares for them. Young as they are, they are aware of the exploitation by the society and want to be out of it and they realize that they get their strength in this centre. So they willingly give up everything and come happily to the centre even though the path is tough.

Std.1 children were taught the letters of the alphabet of both Kannada and English, sounds of letters, word combinations etc. and by the end of the year they could read and comprehend simple reading passages, read simple story books in Kannada, read simple sentences in English and speak and understand a little English. In arithmetic they have learnt the concept of numbers -few/many, its symbolic representation up to 10, and the second concept that 'fews' put together makes 'many' and from 'many' 'fews' can be taken. In symbolic language addition and subtraction of numbers. They have got the concept clearly but need more practice in the coming year.

Seeing the enjoyment of learning of std.1 children, the preparatory group also wanted to learn. They too have learnt the letters of the alphabet of both Kannada and English, and learnt to read with understanding words and simple phrases.

Then the Ns.B began to question the teacher "when are you going to teach us reading and writing which the older children do?" The teacher said, "Next year when you are old enough to learn." The children's response was "we know the letters of the alphabet, ask us and we will tell you." This they learnt by listening to the older children learning. Nevertheless they have to go through the initial steps in learning with patience which they were given practice.

Though children did craft work and participated in cultural activities much time and attention was given to their new skills in reading and writing which seemed to be devouring them. The outdoor play material which we got were thoroughly enjoyed by all the 30 children.

The younger children were becoming more steady, serious, regular to school and enjoy their activities. This year they could work on their own for a longer period without depending on an adult.

We had 2 parents meetings this year. The attendance for both meetings were good. Almost all the parents came for the last meeting. There seemed to be an atmosphere satisfaction in the group. When enquired, they said “We have nothing to say. We have no words to express what we feel. We are full and satisfied. We didn’t expect our children perform so well.”

There was a formal examination for std.1 and preparatory children and they have done well. Their report cards were given to the parents and it is in the file. The younger ones didn’t get a report card but sharing of observations about changes in their growth and development by both the teacher and the parents was done.

The only disturbance we had this year in the Bhavan is the construction of another storey and the whole place is in a mess. We hope all these will be cleaned before the school reopens.

The ground which we cleaned and prepared for outdoor play, the sand pit and place for clay and painting which the children were using happily are all filled with sand and bricks. Children couldn’t play outside for the past 3 months.

This year our financial burden was eased by Samuha coming forward to support us every month from July 2011, with a sum of Rs.15,000-00 per month, added to this 4 sponsors contributed a sum of Rs.26,000-00

Another good friend of the programme is organizing to get some funds for the next financial year June 2012- May 2013. Our heartfelt good wishes and a little thoughtful prayer to each and every one of them every day.

This year we received from our sponsors and Samuha a sum of Rs.1,85,294-00 and from that Rs. 1,61,942-00 spent and left with Rs. 25,352-00.

The school closed for summer vacation on April 4th and reopen on June 1st. 2012.

During the holidays we are planning for June 2012 – May 2013 .A lot to be planned. The older group will be in std.2 and they need more learning activities, craft work, cultural activities, educational outings etc.

Besides this we plan to take 10 younger children of the age 2+ and 3. So the number will be increased to 40 and one of the main aim for the next year will be to see that all these 40 children attend school regularly for one year without becoming drop outs.

We are also seriously searching for a few interested willing young persons to be trained and commit themselves to this work. The training will be for 2 years which will include practical work in the centre. Also we plan a good meal for the 40 children .So far we were giving only snacks everyday egg, milk, bananas, bread, and biscuits .This means we need a cook, a helper and atleast one more assistant teacher and financial support for all these as well.

K T Margaret