Prakruthi Badi
Newsletter
January — March 2017

Hello again!

Survey and Admission
No new children joined us in this period. One day scholar left since his family moved out of C.K Palli village, reducing the strength of the school to 56. Out of these, 33 are residential children and the remaining 23 are day scholars.

Craft
The children made origami in which they experimented with various geometrical shapes, such as fans, flowers, vehicles, stars and butterflies.

Studies
Special classes were held in these months for 6 children by Mahesh, Narayanamma and Nageshwar Rao (of Militha team that works with People with Disabilities). These classes focused on assessing abilities, using language fluently and conducting speaking and physical exercises.

In regular classes, new things were tried in this period. For instance, children of class 2 learnt about the knowledge of farmers through conducting a play. Those of class 3 drew the shapes of watches as part of a mathematics class, while those of class 4 & 5 conducted conceptual experiments on air, water, sound, inertia, and action & reaction. In addition, class 5 also read a drama called Gangireddulata, and participated in a play about the distinct parts of the human body.

Sayonika conducted assessments over 9 days in February and March on the academic goals that were set for the period of October to December.

Finally, Ashok Ganguly - a consultant with the Timbaktu Collective - gave three days of training to three children on the 6th standard model school entrance test.
**Gardening**

Formed into 3 groups, the children did 3 types of gardening work in this period. This included making vegetable beds, water-supply work, collecting leaf for preparing compost, spreading manure and making manual dibbling pits.

In spite of the dry conditions, harvest was bountiful. The children harvested mesta, mentha, lettuce, coriander, koyyakura, asparagus, chilli, bean, radish, sweet potato and flower plants. Radish especially gave a bumper harvest of 5 kgs!

On 6th January, RSRLP Cadre Chadrasekhar, gave a class on methods to increase soil mass. He also demonstrated the preparation of Panchapatra Kashayam (an organic concoction) to class 3, 4 and 5.

**Trainings**

This term, the teachers themselves were part of a few trainings! Hanumanthu participated in computer classes where he learnt how to use the internet in Telugu, using Microsoft Office to write and make presentations, and also how to shop online. In addition, Subbaraju and Sayonika gave trainings in which techniques of English teaching were taught. The teachers were also trained in how to assess the extent to which the children absorb a particular topic.

The children, for their part, continued with their customary trainings. This included shading with pencil while observing a subject, and classes on the dance forms of Chekkebhajana and Kollatam.
Festivals

**Rangoli:** On January 8, the children participated in **Rangoli** - a traditional art form of creating designs with colours.

**Republic Day:** Along with the Timbaktu family, the children of Prakruthi Badi celebrated Republic Day on 26th January. After the flag hoisting, they participated in various activities such as singing, dancing, and acting.

**Ugadi:** **Ugadi** which marks the new year was celebrated on March 26. The children made the trip to Wanka within the campus itself, where they played in the water, danced, sang etc.

Visitors

The Timbaktu Collective had a Visitors’ Day in January. On 20th January, these visitors visited Prakruthi Badi. They came from far and wide, from the Indian states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra. There were also four visitors from Australia.

The visitors witnessed the children performing dances, acting, and singing.

On February 15th, students of the University of Gastronomic Services, Italy also visited the school, and they were introduced by Ashok Ganguly and Smruthi Setty (who is an alumni of the University).

Finally, on 22nd February, Barbara’s group from Germany visited the school. Also, David and Julia from France visited and conducted a craft session with the children.
Exposure Visit

On January 4, Prakruthi Badi children and teachers went to the town of Anantapur for an exposure visit.

Children of class 1, 2 and 3 visited ISKON temple and were enthralled by the arts within. Children of class 4 and 5 visited the archeological museum which was a great learning experience.

Children of all classes also went to the amusement park in the city, where they enjoyed plenty of recreational activities, among them boating!

Health

A child of class 4 suffered from bleeding in her nose and was given treatment from Narayana Sharma, a former teacher of Prakruthi Badi. Also, a child of class 1 suffered from high fever, and was given treatment at C.K. Palli government hospital.

Parents’ Meeting

On 20th January, a parents’ meeting was held at Timbaktu. Discussions were held on changes of Aadhar cards, Navodaya exams, new children’s addresses, elected parents and teachers’ associations.

Also, R. Bhagyalakshmi was elected as president and P. Allimbee as vice-president of the Parents Teachers Association. M. Subbarathnamma, B. Venkataramana and H. Bhagyamma were elected as members.

A second meeting was held on 27th March, attended by 26 member parents. Discussions were held on studies, children’s thrift, Annual Day, clothing, model school entrance test, survey for new admissions etc.
In other news..

- 2 pairs of clothing each were purchased for 14 residential boys and 11 residential girls. In addition, 1 pair of clothing was purchased for 8 other residential girls. Total cost came to Rs.2410.

- A regular rotation was done of the assembly. 4 children were chosen from class 4 & 5 to become leaders, and they lead discussions on topics such as trees, forest ecology, water resources, exposure visits etc.

- A Chiguru meeting was conducted to discuss Prakruthi Badi Annual Day celebrations.

- On 8th March, 3 female teachers participated in the Women’s Day celebrations at Adisakthi office.

- 4 girls were enrolled at KGBV, C.K. Palli as new admissions.

- Finally, all black boards in the school were renovated.

See you again when the rains begin!