



1

Please complete this form for every school

Part I: Information about your group/organization

Please feel free to attach any additional sheets and/or information such as brochures, press reports etc.

1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.

MATHRU EDUCATIONAL TRUST FOR THE BLIND

2. When was the group established?

In the year 2001, January 15th Trust Registered

3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group (or school).

Ms. G.R. Muktha, Managing Trustee lost her left foot in an accident and became disabled when she was 22 years old while doing her post graduation. Her problems and disabilities motivated her to do something for the disabled. Since the blind are almost totally disabled, the Trust started its activities for the Rehabilitation of the Blind.

Seeing metamorphic change in children who are afflicted with disability, that too multisensory disability, is an “awe inspiring wonder”. Even the slightest improvement in itself is a great motivating factor. It is really very gratifying to know that, some of visually challenged students are now self-sustaining and are leading a dignified life. These are motivating factors which can not be expressed in words but can only be felt by those who serve such disabled children.

4. Briefly describe the aims of your group (or school).

The overall goal of Mathru is to help the blind by educating them and equipping them to join, survive and contribute in the mainstream of society. The School is just the beginning of a long term plan to set up 1) a Vocational & Training Centre (starts function from July,2011) and expanding training centre/school for the multisensory disabled children (started in 2010); and 2) a Professional College and Learning Centre for the adult blind. The immediate goal for the existing school is:

1. Providing quality based Education to the visually impaired.
2. Providing vocational training, skill development.
3. Job opportunities.
4. Building confidence. Socio-economic rehabilitation

5. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.

No

6. Other than education, is your group involved in any other community development activities? If so, please explain.

1. Vocational Training, Skill Development for Adult blind
2. Education and training in Art, Music & Drama.
3. Conducting Eye Camps, Free Medical Camp etc., to the community at large.
4. Organising Local and State level activities for the blind and other disabled as requested by the Government etc.
5. Setting up a lending library of books and texts in Braille and videos/cassettes for own use and for the blind in the Bangalore area. A Braille Printer and a Recording Studio have been commissioned on the premises and has begun work towards this goal.
6. Conducting program's on tailoring, knitting, computer education, etc, for under privileged women at large for their empowerment

It is not academic field alone where our service is rendered, but we also reach out to pathetically bad cases of multisensory disabled children. In such cases training and treatment is given at their home. In fact, parents of such children are trained to handle their children at home.

7. Does your project have FCRA? If so, what is the FCRA number?
YES (094421105)

Part II: Details about your educational project/s

8. What standards are taught in your school? Does the school include instruction at the kindergarten (KG) level also?

So far two batches of students have passed out after excelling in final 10th standard State Board Examination. They have passed in first class with distinction. Though there is no KG level classes but yet very small children of 5 years age group are also being cared for. In this context it may be stated that multisensory disabled children require very early training/treatment. In fact, earlier the the training, better the chances of their showing some improvement.

9. List the school's run by your group, and their addresses. If you are requesting funds for only a few of several schools, please specify which one/s.

1. Mathru Residential school for the Blind - for the students aged from 4 years to 18 years at Yelahanka New Town (construction of which was supported by Asha in 2004-2005) , Bangalore-560 064.
2. School for the Multi Sensory Disabled children (started in 2010,)
3. School for the hearing impaired (Start functioning from June,2011)
4. Require Asha's funds for the high school section of Mathru residential school for the

blind)

3

10. Please list the location of each school/s
Urban X Rural Other SEMI URBAN

We are now having three schools. One, for visually challenged children and other two for Multi sensory disabled children and Hearing impaired children). Residential School of Mathru is existing since 2001 and school/centre for Multisensory disabled children under Nandhiini Project has come up recently catering for Multi sensory disabled children and school for Hearing impaired children starts this academic year).

Even though our schools are located in urban/semi urban areas, it has no relevance. Because our students are from remote rural areas of various districts of Karnataka State. Our school caters for children of rural and very impoverished areas of Karnataka State.

11. Please describe below the type of education provided, such as basic literacy, training in skills or trades, secondary education, or religious. If the school provides more than one type of education, please describe them all.

What is being taught?

The students are taught in line with the CBSE syllabus in the primary level (grade 1 to grade 5) and State syllabus from grade 6th onwards.. The daily schedule (5 am to 9pm) is structured and followed. It includes specific timing for personal care, yoga, walking, meals, cleaning the premises, listening to the news in English and Kannada, play, prayer and study periods. The school day is split into eight 45-minute periods. Besides the usual subjects mandated by the syllabus, the students are taught Daily Living Skills, Braille, Mobility, General Knowledge, Computers, Music, Arts & Crafts and Sports/games. 5th grade and above spend a few periods each week in the library. Two Braille machines, along with educational CD's, cassettes, 15 computers, and 2 printers, two scanners— all donated — are available and actively used. Students and staff are being trained to operate the recently acquired Braille Printer and Recording Studio.

What is being learned?

Students are graded by standard and special exams and the results are recorded, certified and maintained. Their performance compares very favorably with statewide grades for normal children. Every year the students participate in a variety of competitions and quizzes and have won many awards competing even with sighted children. The children are exposed to the sighted.

Focus of Mathru is not only on academics but also other development of our students. First and foremost, they are taught various aspects such as self-discipline, good communicating skill, other skill development, and they also learn Braille language and other useful vocational skills for their future employability. Multisensory disabled children are trained and treated for learning basic life and living skills. including how to attend to calls of nature, personal hygiene, eating manners; and their difficult behavioral problems (problems of associated with autism) are also tackled to the extent possible.

Atmosphere for learning

Most importantly, the environment, general curriculum and the treatment given have fostered self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning and knowledge. During site visits, the visitor is given every opportunity to interact with the children - asking and answering questions. There is a sense of community — with older children helping and guiding the younger. Local doctors who regularly donate their services volunteer medical services. A full time cook and assistant serve nourishing food. The complex itself is spacious, well lit and ventilated spotlessly clean and with garden space around where the children play and do gardening. Provision has been made for security. The school has a library, musical instruments and sports equipment. The students are responsible and take pride in their school.

The biggest reason our school is a unique institution is because students here are given emotional support. They are looked after with total dedication, love and affection. In fact, in so far as students are concerned it is their home away from home.

Teachers.

There are 6 blind teachers (resource teachers), one partially blind, working in the computer lab and recording room, 5 sighted teachers, one blind music teacher, one music instrumental teacher for teaching instruments like tabla and harmonium, one craft teacher, one sport instructor, a librarian and seven volunteer teachers are also available. The teachers are qualified degree holders and specially trained to teach the blind. Mathru supports the training and further education of its teachers. Non-teaching staff is available and is supplemented by an active cadre of volunteers.

Since we are expanding our educational activities for multisensory disabled children and hearing impaired children, we have additionally employed 3 special educators, and 2 therapists.

Beyond Classroom
(Covered earlier)

The students and staff give an annual dance/drama/music performance in Bangalore. Funds are raised and publicity is generated.

12. Describe the socio-economic background of the children and their parents. Please enter in the appropriate information in the tables below.

Children are from poor families and are socially backward born to illiterate parents who

are working in agriculture or are daily wage earners.

5

- a. Education level of the parents:
- | | | |
|------------------|-----|---------|
| Illiterate | 90% | Primary |
| 5% Secondary | 5% | |
| Higher Secondary | -- | |
| College | -- | |
| Other Vocational | -- | |

- b. Primary occupation of the head of the family:
- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Agriculture | 30% |
| Trade | -- |
| Pottery | -- |
| Carpentry | -- |
| Govt. Job | -- |
| Other skilled labor | -- |
| Daily wage earners | 70% |

Note: Above given data is only for the residential students, who have come from poor families and remote areas, but not for day scholars. Five day scholar parents are educated.

13. Student's obligation to work

- a. How many of the students are employed, and in which occupations?
Students are not obligated to work.
- b. On average, how many hours a week does the typical student work?
Not applicable
- c. Which times of the year when the obligation to work would be particularly high (such as the harvest season)?
Not applicable
- d. What are positive and negative influences of students' obligation to work?
Not applicable

14. What is the literacy rate in the local community?

85%- This is an estimate.

The most appropriate answer for this question would be that students of Mathru belong to communities where literacy is almost zero. They come from most backward rural and impoverished regions of our country. In this context, local community in our neighborhood has no relevance.

15. Please describe below the curriculum for each standard in your school. Please provide such details as the subjects taught, hours of instruction per week, hours

of homework (outside of school) per week, methods of testing, and methods of promotion.

6

Also please refer to 11

16. Services provided by the school: — In addition to education, which other services does your group provide to the children in your schools, such as food for the students, health care, clothing, vaccination (against which diseases), and so on?

Yes, free food, accommodation, clothing, health care etc.,

In which sorts of physical activity are students required to participate, and how much time in a day is devoted to this?

Games, gardening, yoga, and keeping the school clean, indoor games, out door games. About 1 hour per day.

In which sorts of artistic or cultural activities are students required to participate, and how much time in a day is devoted to this?

Music- vocal and instrumental, art/craft, drama, including public performances, participating in competitions eg. Quiz, elocution, music etc.

17. Structural facilities

a) Does your school have its own building(s): Yes No Number

b) How many classrooms are there in the school? 10 + 2

c) What types of classrooms are they (such as Pukka)? Pukka

d) Please provide us information on the following facilities:

	How many are there in our school in the school?	No— doesn't provide Toilets:
	Yes — 10 toilets and three bath rooms in boys dorms, 3 bath room and 5 toilets in girls dorms and 1 for the visitors, 1 for the guest and 2 for the workers	
Playground:	Yes. Indoor & outdoor	
Library:	Yes	
Toys:	Well equipped	
Blackboard:	NA for blind school	
Teaching aids (e.g. books, slates)	Yes	
Electricity:	Yes	
Laboratory:	NA for blind school	

Drinking water:	Yes	
Chairs and Tables:	In every classroom	
Computers:	18	

18. How many children are currently enrolled in your school(s)?(2010-2011)

Male -40, Female42 (Age Range 4-18) (In this 2 boy and 3 girls are day scholars)
8 multisensory disabled children

19. How many children attend school every day, on average?

Male Female Age Range _____
All students living in the school attend classes

20. How many total children live in your community?

Male Female Age Range _____
Not applicable. This is a residential school.

21. Please comment on any differences that may exist between the number of children in your community and the number that attend school every day. If there are children who live in your community but are not enrolled in your school, please explain why (such as availability of other schools, obligation to work, other factors, so on).

This is a special school for blind children, multisensory disabled and a school for hearing impaired

22. How many of your students wear uniforms? Please provide details.

All the students wear uniforms provided by the school.

23. a) How many children repeat a class, on average per class?

None

b) How many children in each class?

Varies. Not more than 10 in each class.

24. How many staff are employed at your schools?

There are 16 teaching and 11 non teaching staff, 3 special educators, 2 therapists and 7 volunteers are available.

25. a) Average distance the children travel to attend your school_____

N/A It's a residential school. But however five day scholars attend the school at the distance of 5-10 km

b) How does the typical student travel to school? Does the student walk, ride a bicycle,

or take another means of transportation?
It's a residential school.

8

26. Are there any other schools in the area? If so, please list the schools and the range of classes each of them offers.

Yes, but no school for the blind.

There are 2 Government schools and colleges. Besides, there are 3 private schools and colleges providing education from primary to graduation level. But such schools and colleges cater to normally abled students and who can afford to pay for school / college fees and other expenses. Our school is the only one in this area which is meant for blind and everything including food, lodging & clothes is being provided free. Ours is the only residential school in this area.

27. How is your program different from that provided at these schools?

Our programme is totally different other neighborhood schools. Ours is the only free residential school for blind in North Bangalore area. The basic difference is that Mathru reaches out to these children who are helpless and who are living in pathetically poor condition and their parents leave these disabled children for themselves and are virtually abandoned as unwanted children. Eventually these children are forced to do begging. They are brought to Mathru, and are given free shelter, clothing, food, medical attention, education, vocational training. They are taught Braille language and their inherent skills are developed. NO OTHER SCHOOL in our neighborhood can do what we are doing. Please also refer to 11 for other salient points.

28. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools?

NA Answer given above (27) self explanatory.

29. a) How many children have completed education in your school in the past five years?

Seven of our school children completed their tenth standard in this academic year and passed out with distinction and first class in the examination conducted by the Karnataka State Secondary Board.

b) What is the drop-out ratio (number of students enrolled at the beginning to those who go on to complete education at your school)? What are the causes of drop-out? (moving to another school, dropping out from studies to do work etc)

Percentage of drop out is around 2 % to 3 %.

Since its inception Mathru is facing the problem of drop out of students. In spite of best

efforts it has not been possible to completely eliminate the drop out number. These dropout cases are mainly due to parent's nonco-operation, puberty of girl child, migration of parents (many of our students parents are daily wage earners), lack of knowledge about benefit of giving education to a child. No dropout due to moving to other schools but few drop outs from studies to do work (work means begging - parents force)

9

c) What percent progressed with their education (such as moving to secondary or university education)?

It is difficult to specify any percentage. A few students go for higher education and a few go for self employment.

d) What percent sought employment immediately following completion of education at your school?

It is difficult to specify any percentage. Because employability of visually challenged is rather limited. They are being absorbed by a few NGO organization such as ours. Hence our emphasis now on Vocational training.

e) What did other students do after completing their education?

Few of them are go for further studies and many of them go for vocational training courses and professional courses.

30. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your school?

Yes. The Trust is supporting students who have passed out of our school to pursue their college education .

In 2010-2011, 22 students (13 Boys- 9 Girls) — are being supported for their Pre-university & graduation studies.

a) How do you try to involve the parents of the children in the school, such as choosing curriculum, assisting with administration, or other activity?

Most, if not all are illiterate and ignorant of the benefits of Education. We invite them to the school, particularly for annual celebrations and pay their expenses. We send the children home, at our expense, for the annual vacation. However parents of multisensory disabled children actively involve themselves and get trained to handle their own children.

b) What are positive and negative influences of parents' participation in the school?

Most parents are happy about the progress of their children and keep enquiring

about their academic performance and attend the parents meeting. Some parents are too ignorant and superstitious and force their wards to discontinue studies. This is especially true in case of a girl child.

10

31. Does the school use any innovative techniques in its instruction or administration? If so, please provide details.

Mathru was selected for a collaborative effort by Carnegie Mellon University of USA. The goal, now accomplished, is the development of a Braille Tutor. This device, along with a computer and appropriate software, teaches the blind — children and adults — to learn the use of Braille. The trials and studies held in Mathru by Carnegie students

showed a remarkable decrease in learning time. The Tutor was presented at the IACD International Conference.

The third version is now under trial at Mathru. Microsoft, India has joined Carnegie in an effort to improve the Braille Tutor and to explore ways in which technology can assist and improve the operations, efficiency and techniques in institutions such as Mathru.

Thanks to donors, Mathru has purchased and is using a Braille Printer and a Recording Studio. These are being used to benefit both Mathru students and the blind in general by setting up a lending library. With training here, Mathru students have another avenue of employment after they finish their education.

32. What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)?

- Expansion of Hostel facilities for the visually disabled college students
- Expansion of centre for the multisensory disabled children
- Expansion of vocational training centre for graduates and under graduates
- A home for destitute women
- Programme for the empowerment of women
- A free residential school for hearing impaired
- Diploma courses in teaching the blind and multisensory disabled children.

We have started separate centre for multisensory disabled children during 2010. Now this year (in 2011) we are starting a separate school for hearing impaired children at another location in newly built building at 1/22, Srinivasapura, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64.

33. What would you do to improve the school in the next 5 years?

Continue and improve what is being done now. Seek more staff and resources. Network with other institutions; participate actively with local, State and Central Governments in their efforts to help the disabled. Explore with Carnegie, Microsoft and others, new and better ways to use technology.

34. If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community who can describe the impact of your program.

1. Name :Mr. P.V. Sankaran.

Address : B-\$ 306, KendriyaViharApartments, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64

Phone 080- 22930306

e-mail — pvsankaranahotmail.com

2. Name& Address Mrs. Mangala Raj achandra

Address : House No.2, 2 d Block, Heritage Apartments, Doddaballapur Road, Bangalore North.

Phone:080- 28562242

Mob: 09449157251

35.If approved for funding, Ashafor Education will require reports from your group every six months to continue its funding. Asha for Education will provide guidelines to complete this report. Please provide the name, address & contact numbers for the person who will be responsible for sending us these reports.

Name G.R. Muktha

Address CA Site 14, 6th A Cross, Vth Phase, New Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 064

Phone 28463992, 98860-32632

Email:mathru_india@yahoo.co.in

36. Are there any questions your organization or your students would like to ask Asha for Education?

Staff and students of Mathru wish to express their gratitude for the continued support given by Ashafor Education and they are happy at the involvement of Mr. Ranaji.. Staff and students of Mathru wants the volunteers of Asha to visit the blind schools / organizations in United States, when time permits and help them to implement the systems used there in the education (like technologies, method of teaching, educational aids)

37. Do you have any suggestions on how Asha can be a positive influence in changing the education scenario in India?

Asha can look at the educational system and advanced Technology used in the Schools for the blind in America and can help us to adopt the same to improve our Education. Asha could try and establish information channels between like institutions supported by Asha

12

Part III: Financial Details

38. a) What sources fund your group's activities at present? Please list the amount you receive currently, and plan to receive (in Rupees) annually?

Name	Purpose	2010-2011
Asha for Education	Vocational Training centre construction	4,64,775
Individual NRI Donors	general purpose	1,68,875
Centum Corporate Co.	Salaries (50%) for teaching and non-teaching staff	7,80,000
Concern India Foundation	Hostel expenses (food Provisions, milk)	3,32,000
Individual local Donation	General purpose (this year due to construction work most of this donations are utilized for the construction of the hostel)	34,00,288
Target India	Furniture Educational equipments (including computers) & salaries of 6 blind resource teachers, uniforms Braille printer (Mount Batoun)	11,29,500
ASTI,,USA	Construction	4,93,171

Advent net educational Trust, Chennai, India	Construction of Library and two class rooms	10,00,000
Zoho Corporation, Chennai, India	Hostel construction	5,00,000

13

Actual amount received from 01.04.10 to 31.03.11- Rs./- 82,68,609

b) How do you use the funds?

As requested by donors, if specific requests are made. If not, used in the general budget.

c) From which sources do you expect to receive funds in the next 3 years and how much (such as Government, International Organizations, local organizations, and so on)?

particulars	2011 -2012
Asha For Education	5,05,000
Individual (NRI) Donors	2,55,000
Centum Corporate Co.	3,90,000
Concern India Foundation	3,50,000
Individual local and Government grants	30,00,000
TOTAL	45,00,000

39. Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years

	RECURRING EXPENSES	2011-12	2012-13	2013 - 2014
A.	Educational expenses			
	Salary of Teaching staff	14,30,000	15,73,000	17,30,300
	Educational Materials, Aids, and excursion	95,000	1,04,500	1,14,950
B.	Hostel Expenses	8,93,000	9,82,300	10,80,530
C.	Administration Expenses	8,32,000	9,15,200	10,06,720
	TOTAL	32,50,000	35,75,000	39,32,500

Note: 10% Increase considered for the year 2013 and 2014

40. Salary expenditure details:

**BREAKUP OF EXISTING TEACHING STAFF SALARIES OF MATHRU FREE
RESIDENTIAL FOR THE BLIND
FOR THE YEAR 2011 - 2012**

SL NO	TEACHERS FOR GRADES	SALARIES Per Month	multiplied by months	TOTAL ANNUAL SALARY (Rs.)
1.	1 ST GRADE	6000	6000 *12	72,000
2.	2 nd GRADE	7000	7000 *12	84,000
3.	3 rd GRADE	6000	6000 *12	72,000
4.	4 th GRADE	5500	5500*12	66,000
5.	5 th GRADE	7000	7000 *12	84,000
6.	6 th GRADE	6000	6000 *12	72,000
7.	7 th GRADE	8000	8000 *10	80,000
8.	8 th GRADE	8000	8000*10	80,000
9	9 th Grade	10000	10000 *10	1,00,000
10	10 th GRADE	10000	10000 *10	1,00,000
11	Additional Teacher	4000	4000*10	40,000
12	Computer Instructor	6000	6000*10	60,000
13	Craft Instructor	3000	3000*10	30,000
14	Instrumentalist	6000	6000*10	60,000
15	Music Teacher	5000	5000*10	50,000
16	Librarian	4500	4500*10	45,000
17	PT Instructor	5500	5500*10	55,000
18	Physiotherapist	5000	5000*10*2	1,00,000
FRESH APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR - 2010 - 2011				
19	Special Educator	12,000	12000*10	1,20,000
20	Asst Special Educator	8,000	8,000*10	80,000
21	Asst Special Educator	8,000	8,000*10	80,000

	TOTAL	1,40,500	14,30,000
--	--------------	-----------------	------------------

40. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.

Year	Amount	Explanation
2011-12	1,50,000.00	Proposed to utilize the funds towards providing office
2012-13	2,50,000.00	Furniture, Fittings and building maintenance.
2013-14	3,00,000.00	

41. How many of your students pay school fees? Please provide details.

Ours being a free residential school everything is given free of cost.

15

42. What amount are you requesting from Asha, and for what specific purpose?

Item : Education Year 2011-2012 Amount - approximately **Rs 5,00,00,0 (five lakhs only)**

Purpose : We need the said funds for the salaries of our high school teachers and also for Hindi and musical instrumental teacher

Justification _ (1). 50% salaries of our teaching and non teaching staff is being paid by the Centum, a corporate company of Bangalore since 2008 agreeing to pay till September 2011. Since their term is going to be completed by September,2011, we need the support for High school teachers and also other two. (2). Due to our continues effort and follow-up, we have succeeded in getting the grants for 13 teaching and non teachingstaff from the Government of Karnataka.After scrutinizing the accounts Government will reimburse the amount spent on 13 staff next year ie, for 2012-2013 But Government grants are only for one Head Mistress, 3 primary and 3 middle school teaching staff, one for sports instructor, and rest for non teaching staff.)

Details for Educational Expenses and salaries for the year 2011-2012;

Details of Expenses	2011-2012
7 th Grade Teacher	80,000
8 th Grade Teacher	80,000
9 th Grade Teacher	1,00,000
10 th Grade Teacher	1,00,000
Hindi Teacher	50,000
Braille Papers/Educational aids	95,000
TOTAL	5,05,000

Note: 10% increase can be considered in view of inflation for the year 2013 and 2014

Part IV: Teacher Survey

This section of the questionnaire should be completed by the most experienced teacher in the organization, other than the principal or administrative staff.

43. Please describe the teaching methods used in the classroom. Do teachers use storytelling, song and dance, or other methods in instruction?

16

It is just like any other normal school. We have introduced State syllabus in our school. Our students study the same subjects whatever the normal students study in regular schools. Here we teach subjects like English, Maths, Environmental studies, State language Kannada, Moral education, General knowledge, Braille education and daily living skills in 1st and 2nd grade. From 3rd standard onwards we introduce computer education also. While teaching subjects like Science, environmental studies, we use more and more teaching aids to give the exact concept of the things to the students because the normal students learn many things by observing things and seeing pictures but its not possible in case of visually challenged students.

To improve their talking skills we tell them stories, and we ask them to repeat the same. And we also ask them to come prepared with other stories as homework. We also teach them general topics like about our school, about our country, about Gandhiji ,Hellen Keller, Louis Braille etc., We train them to deliver speeches in our school functions and programs conducted outside. This helps them overcome stage fear.

We also take the children to educational excursions twice in a year and we also take them to nearby banks, post office, police station, bus stop, normal schools etc.

While learning dance, the students touch the body movements of the teacher. We also teach them daily living skills, in which practically, we teach them to brush their teeth, wearing clothes, folding clothes, eating manners, toilet manners etc.

a) What teaching aids would enhance the current course materials?

At present while teaching subjects, we are using models of animals, birds, vehicles, embossed maps, shapes etc., The students of Carnegie Mellon University have developed a special software to make Braille impressions on shapes, animals, fruits and internal organs of our body. It is one of the noble contributions of the University which is a land mark in Braille learning. We ask them to touch and feel things like fruits,

vegetables, flowers, food grains etc.. It helps the students to get exact concept of things. Exclusively we allot 5 marks to identify the things in tests and exams.

To teach Maths we are using tailor frame, types and a kit called Padmini counting board. It helps the students to get the concept of numbers and to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers. To teach Braille, we are using Marble board, Braille tutor and inter point slates.

We conduct monthly tests, terminal exams and annual exams to evaluate the students. After seeing their monthly test reports, we make a list of weak students and give special coaching for such students.

17

b) What would you require to obtain additional teaching aids, such as slates for each student, notebooks, and so on?

We place orders to institutions like N.I.V.H and Worth Trust, Katpady (Tamil Nadu) to obtain the required teaching aids.

44. How involved are the teachers with the parents of the students?

At the time of admission we interact with the parents and collect information from them regarding their child's daily living skills, eating manners, their abilities etc. We also conduct parents meeting twice in a year. It helps parents to know about their child's progress. We also give them opportunity to express their opinion and give suggestions.

45. What are the typical exercises a student is required to complete outside of the classroom? Do teachers assign homework on a regular basis?

After completing lessons we give homework for the students after class hours (6.00 to 10.00PM). We have allotted 2 hours for studies. At that time grown up students do their homework on their own, but small children need the assistance of teachers or grownup students.

46. Do the students require discipline, and if so, how do the teachers discipline them?

Yes. Like any other normal students even visually challenged students require discipline. We give more priority to learn discipline. We observe that they should finish their work in time, maintain cleanliness of their surroundings and we also educate them to maintain personal hygiene.

47. Please describe any training that teachers have been required to complete to be employed at this school.

Minimum qualification required is PUC and Diploma in special education.

48. If you could continue your training, in which areas would you continue it?

In the area of education and courses related to teach for the blind

49. Do teachers teach teamwork or community responsibility to the children? If so, please describe, with examples of activities.

Yes. We have allotted time tables for daily routine work. According to this time table the students have to clean their dormitories, dining section, school surrounding etc., It helps the students to learn home management skills with education. We also teach the students, how to talk and behave in public.

While teaching we never consider the students as blind. They should learn everything like any normal child. Only then, they can lead an independent life