



#### Programs at **CHERURASHMI CENTRE:**

The Cherurashmi Centre based in the coastal village of Valiyathura in Thiruvananthapuram district has been interacting with children in the area providing them with additional education support. Balavihar has been conducting programs in the area on every second Saturday since May, 2006 focusing on the coast, its special issues and problems. The children belong to the age group 14-16 and have started collecting information on the coast from key informants in the study area.

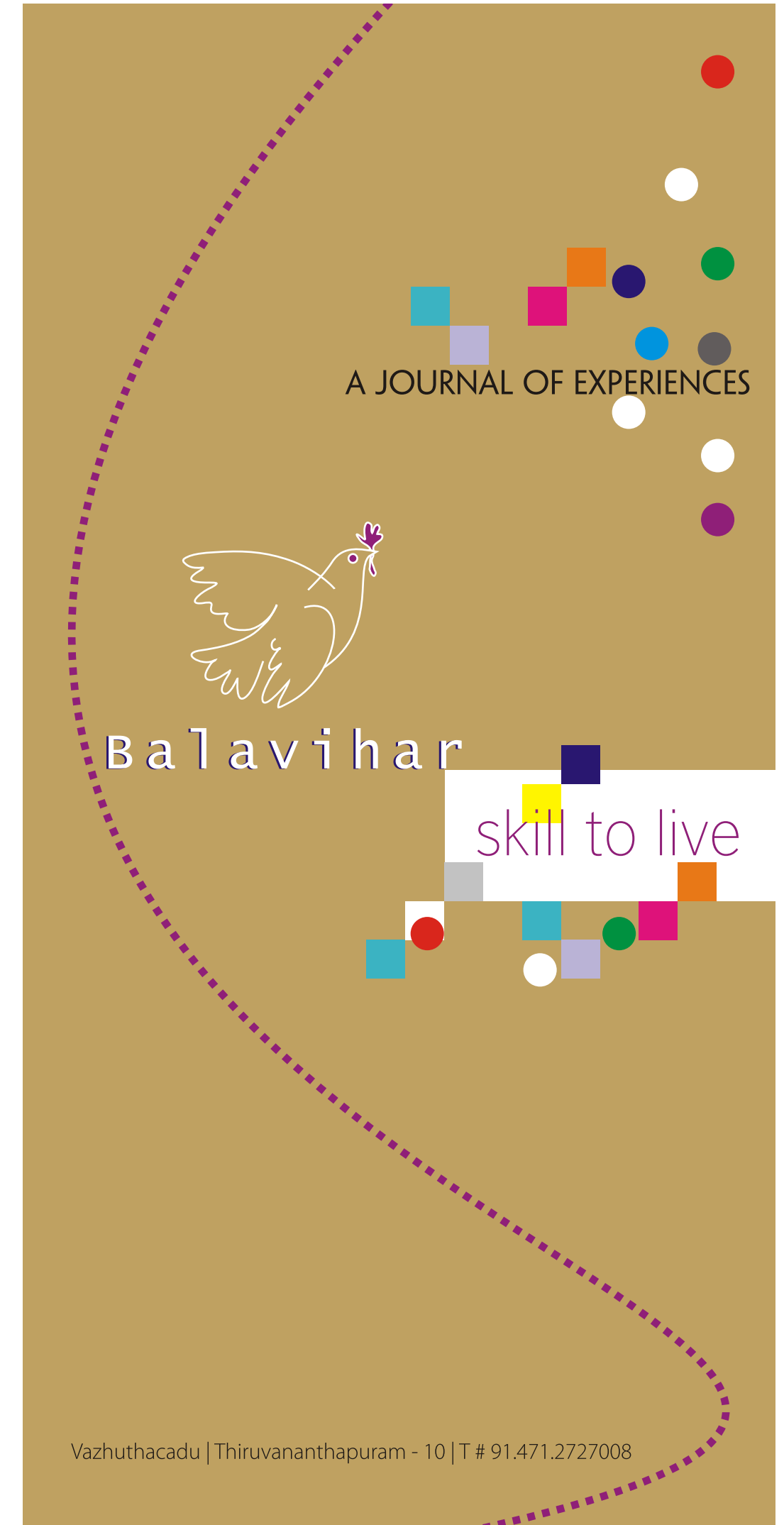
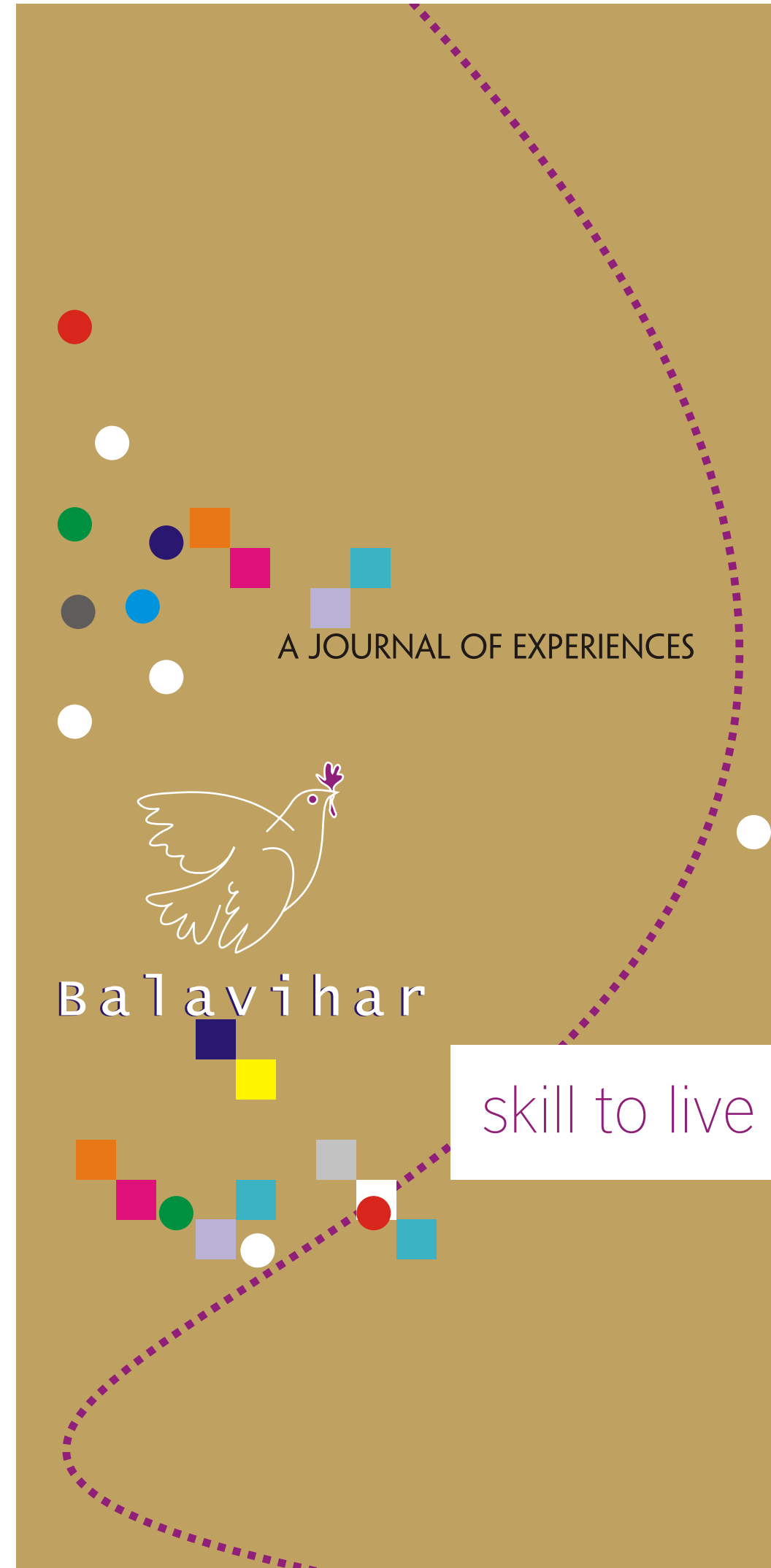
#### Programs with **SEWA:**

SEWA, the self-employed women's association has been associating with Balavihar to conduct its special vacation programs for children. Balavihar participated in 2 of SEWA's programs in May, 2006 in which more than 30 children from various rural areas of Thiruvananthapuram participated. This Centre has access to the Vilappilsala area where the City Corporation's Waste Treatment Plant is causing environmental problems.

#### The **M.B.S Children's CHOIR:**

The M.B.S Youth Choir which functions along with Balavihar has started the Children's Choir in 2004 wherein more than 50 children regularly practise and perform songs set to tune by the South Indian Music Composer M.B.Sreenivasan. Along with this, Balavihar participated in the coordination of the Peace Rhythms program in 6 selected schools of Thiruvananthapuram in 2005-2006. This program done with the permission of the Department of Education taught 6 songs in different Indian languages to over 200 children. The program was conducted with financial support from Department of Culture, Government of India.

Balavihar has also an active role to play in the innovative pre-primary education centre, Lenin Balavadi being run here since 20 years. The children are initiated into learning through the most informal means of play and activity here. The Balavadi is also the training ground for many pre-primary education institutes in the city. Balavihar also supports the Child-Minders and Creche Training Course being conducted here by the Jan Shikshan Sansthan for teachers.







# Balavihar

Balavihar, started in 1992 with the primary aim of providing a meeting place for children for innovative supplementary education and creative development of personality pioneered in developing the first personality development programs for children in the capital town of Thiruvananthapuram. Since its inception Balavihar has been offering unique value-based supplementary education packages for children in the city which included interface with eminent personalities, innovative studies on relevant topics, field visits to historic, cultural and ecological spots and so on. The basic idea has been to develop and bring out the creative and participatory talents of the younger generation and encourage the spirit of self-reliance, cooperation and compassion among them.



After an interlude, Balavihar organized a program called **LIFE SKILL EDUCATION** in 2005 for a month (April-May) by which the participants were able to interact with a host of experts in subjects like Health, Science, Environment, Personality development, Communication skills, Art, Music, Dance and Drama. The participants also developed skills like reporting, public speech, compering, choreography, editing and so on. Attempts have also been made to maintain contact with these children subsequently. In the meantime, Balavihar has been associating with the Mahila Samakhya Society under the Ministry of Human Resources Development apart from organizations like **SAKHI** - Women's Resource Centre, SEWA and Cherurashmi Centre in their special programs for children.



## Programs with SAKHI:

SAKHI, Women's Resource Centre supported Balavihar to conduct 3 camps for children living in Alapad, Kollam district one of the areas worst affected by Tsunami. The children were selected from the 15 wards by the local neighborhood group women with the participation of Panchayat. The sessions included Know your Environment, Know your Body, Know your Talents and the Media. The camps lasted 3 days and had an average of 35 participants belonging to the age group 10-13. The participants also expressed their talents and shared experiences.

## Programs with Mahila Samakhya Society:

The society has programs for adolescent girls in the rural areas of Thiruvananthapuram district. Balavihar provide its resource persons for 5 such programs which include a tribal panchayat too. The programs were meant to understand the perceptions and needs of children living in areas with little access and exposure to media and learning aids. The most significant program was that conducted at Eyakkode in Peringamala Panchayat in which the tribal children expressed the need to study their own culture and nature.

