

Report from Shirpur - March 2017.

Mahila Din (March 20, 2017)

Mahila Din was celebrated on March 20, 2017. A total of 462 women and 114 men were present for the celebration. A large number of children also came with their mothers. Most of the women were mothers of the PALAS students. Vaishali Patil, a social activist from Raigad addressed the gathering. She spoke widely on women empowerment and the education of women and children. In addition, she highlighted the various beneficiary schemes for Adivasis offered by the government and encouraged those eligible to avail the benefits.



PALAS Study Camp (March 21-25)

A study camp was organised at Shirpur Vishwa Mandal Sevashram, from March 21 to 25 for PALAS (People's Animation for Learning And Self Help) students. Fifty-five students took part. It was an initiative to help weak students of PALAS to improve in their academic



performance. This venture was an outcome of a test conducted in the month of September 2016. Fr. Joseph SJ and five expert teachers from PALAS conducted the entire camp.



Initially the students showed some reservation, but gradually almost all came forward and brought out their hidden talents, through various activities. Tests conducted on the first day and the last day revealed a marked progress in their learning. Besides, we noticed much external change as well. For instances, their joyful face and bubbly nature which was not seen in the initial days. They expressed great desire to come again for such camps.



English Language Camp (March 23-27):

An English language camp was conducted at Shirpur Vishwa Mandal Sevashram, from March 23 to 27. Eleven youth participated. Of these, six were PALAS students residing at Vishwa Mandal Sevashram boarding. Two scholastics viz., Frankline Colaco and David Mao assisted Fr. Joseph SJ during the camp.



Being a small group, it was possible to give personal attention to each student. Various methods were used to encourage utmost participation. The campers kept up their enthusiasm to learn English till the end. As a result, there was significant growth in their effort and confidence to converse in English. They were very grateful and ready to come for an advanced English speaking camp in the future.

Fr. Joseph Poshapir SJ.