# Report for the quarter July 2011 to September 2011.

Greetings from Balavihar team.

We would like to share the following activities we carried out in the places of our work during the quarter.

## Pine woods High School:

All the activities in this school started from the month of July. During June students enrolled in our activity classes. Most of activity classes take place between 2.45 to 4. Pm that is after the school hours from Monday to Friday.

# Library:

We have increased the membership of the lending library in this school from 100 students to 200. The students are from class V to IX. The children borrow three books once a week. We have added nearly 300 books to the stock.

## Theater:

Around 30 students from class V to IX were registered for these classes. The number had to be reduced as our resource person for this activity could come only once during the week. They had one hour session every week. At the end of the term during September they produced two plays one in Kannada and another in English.

It was Kumbakarnana nidre (Kumbakarna ‘s sleep) an episode from Ramayana. It was mostly a maime type with the students taking turns to sing the whole drama set to a tune. The play was very humerous. The second one was based on Dr.Suess’s famous story Lorax.

The dramas were performed three times on two days to enable all the students from class V to IX to come and see.

## Yoga:

Yoga is being taught three days a week. Twice in the mornings for the students of class VII and once after the school hours for the students of class V and VI who had registered. For the students of class VII it was request from the school. Around 40 students learn in each session. The children learn simple breathing exercises, simple asanas and Suryanamaskara. They will be given training in Pranayama too. The students find the sessions very relaxing. Awareness in performance is insisted and children are learning to find out what it means. The difference between Yoga and physical exercises like drill, aerobics was explained to them.

## Craft:

Classes in needle work were conducted. They were some newcomers and some students who had attended our sessions during last year. Different projects were designed for them. They learnt to make small pouches to keep pencils, small sling bags and have started on aplique work. Around 15 to 20 students attend these sessions.

## Indoor games and Puzzles:

This year we have two volunteers to cater to this interest. Around 100 students registered for this activity. We have added a lot of mind challenging puzzles and games to our stock. Children from class III to VII spend an hour after the school hours solving puzzles and playing different games with their friends and class mates with a facilitator organizing the class. We have only 10 students for each session.

## Vedeo shows:

This is a new addition this year. A friend and a well wisher of ours donated a new projector and another friend donated a screen. We have a good dvd collection. Every Saturday from 10 AM to 12 AM we have two video shows. Around 60 to 70 students are present in each show. We are playing some episodes from the series Planet Earth of National Geographic Society. We also played stories from mythology and other stories.

Six of our team members work in this school everyday.

## Luminary English School:

The school has its own premises. Earlier they were in rented premises. The entire basement of the building has been provided for our use. Since we have lots of space now we are able to provide a variety of activities for the children in this school this year .

:Library:

78 students from class V to IX ( all the children in the class) are members of the library. They borrow three books once a week. There is a good collection of children’s books in Kannada too. The children borrow these books to read with their parents.

 :Art and Craft: Weaving and needle work has been chosen for this term for classes V to VII. Students of class VIII and IX have taken up drawing and painting getting ready for wall painting.

Puzzles and games:

Owing to the availability of space, we have provided a variety of building blocks, jigsaw puzzles, board games. Students from class III to IX get to chose what ever they wanted to do once a week in this class. For most of the students this is a first experience. Even students from class IX enjoy building trucks or cars or buildings with the blocks or fix the jigsaw. They go back to the classes with great reluctance.

Yoga:

All the students from class V to X have classes is Yoga once a week. The classes are conduced by a senior Yoga teacher. They learn about the effect of each asana and pranayama. The students learn with great interest.

## Government Schools:

Amarjyothi Nagar Govt. school:

Classes in English language are conducted thrice a week for 32 (the strength of the school) children from class I to V. They learn to read and write English script, learn to recite rhymes in English. We have some work books in English for them.

We have provided puzzles and games and one of our volunteers facilitates this activity once a week . All the students of the school get to play for an hour with these building blocks, puzzles and games.

Craft classes are conducted for 12 students from class III to V once a week. They did a little bit of weaving with wool and are learning to stitch.

Nachiketa Center evening class:

Students from Marenhalli Govt. school have been provided an opportunity to attend our English classes and various other activities planned for them at a venue Nachiketa Center in the evening from 4.30 to 6pm.

30 students from class IV to X make use of this opportunity. For the students of class X we take maths classes too.

Individualised learning is provided allowing the child to learn from their level and move to the next level. We find that many students from high school are not able to read even simple words and some of them also do not know the alphabets. We have provided books for different levels so that child focuses in learning the language rather than the English text books prescribed by the school.

Other than these classes the children had sessions in conducting simple experiments in science and had some sessions in theater too. The students performed the drama the Kannada one (Kumbakarnana Nidre) performed by the Pine woods school. They did it very well with great enthusiasm. They invited their friends and parents to see their performance.

The children are provided biscuits and bananas every day.

Nivedita School:

Classes in needle work, weaving were conducted once a week for forty students. The students sell the products made by them and earn some pocket money. They learn to use the sewing machines too.

Activities in Kanyakumari:

A two day introductory workshop was conducted for around 30 students living in a suburb in Kanyakumari. The children had an opportunity to play with the building blocks and puzzles and indoor games and engage in art and craft activities for them. These are conducted by women volunteers of K4 self help group of CCD.

This year we are glad to share that our women volunteers are getting trained in various crafts and learning to be more resource persons in various crafts. Over a period of time we want them to take up the complete responsibility of running the project.

We are grateful for all our well wishers and supporters for enabling us to have a good and productive time with the children.