



The road goes ever on...

By Team Ankur Pratishthan

In the summer of 2007, half a dozen friends, decided to dedicate the vacation to something fruitful that would make a difference. Elaborating on this idea further at our regular college meets, we decided to organise a summer camp for our little friends at two orphanages, namely Family Home (Dadar East) and Balikashram (Dadar). This was the time when the seeds of 'Ankur Pratishthan' were sowed.

The innovative and out of the box activities were the highlight of these summer camps. It was our very first attempt to come across the kids residing in orphanages. This made it special and even more emotional. The imprint of these activities left on our little friends made our day and only strengthened our resolve to do more. We haven't looked back ever since.



Matrubhoomi Parichay Shibir at Ratnagiri for the girls of Maze Maher

This year, we organized a Matrubhoomi Parichay Shibir (A study tour dedicated to an Introduction to Our Mother Land) for our Little Friends from another NGO 'Maze Maher'. This was organised at Gogate College, Ratnagiri from June 2nd to 5th, 2017. Apart from knowledge sessions, the study tour comprised of visits to scenic locations nearby and interaction with the locals who happened to be extremely loving and friendly.

We visited various places of historical and cultural importance: **The Ratnadurg Fort, A Lighthouse, Lokmanya Tilak Smarak, Patit - Pavan Temple** to name a few. An evening visit to the **Devdhar Dairy Project** gave us interesting information on varied topics right from types of milk products to vermiculture. The gardens decked with fruits, embellished by flowers and a concluding boat ride at the popular 'Karle Creek' topped off our first day of the trip.



Our second day turned out to be more explorative with visits to Velneshwar Temple, Hedavi, Ganpatipule. We also visited the ancient konkan library and an adorable ganesh temple built by Jindal Group. It was a day well spent visiting places of religious and cultural importance. Witnessing the RoRo services wherein our entire bus was transported across the river was a great feeling for the girls from our shelter home.

The third day came in as a pleasant surprise for most of us. Geography, which, for most of us is usually looked at as just a scoring subject, was presented to us in a completely different and innovative perspective. Dr. Surendra Thakurdesai practically proved the importance of this subject with the help of 'Nature Trail'. While showcasing the variety of the flora and fauna, he also specified how history and science are tied together with it.



Students Exchange Program

This transformed our 'Study Tour' into quite a 'Fun Tour'. Nobody can complete a historical and cultural trip to Ratnagiri without learning about Lokmanya Tilak. Hence in the afternoon, it was spontaneously decided to watch the movie 'Lokmanya' and understand his personality beyond his slogans and sayings.

Produced by Om Raut, Subodh Bhavde stupendously plays the Lokmanya in this Marathi film that presents his personality through some impeccable storytelling and yet maintaining the factual accuracy and integrity of history. The evening was spent playing games undertaken under the expert guidance of Prof. Vivek Bhide of the Astronomy Club at Gogate College. These games helped the girl students to understand the basic concepts of Astronomy, which concluded the day on a note of fun with learning.

The home cooked dinner prepared by the volunteers of Rashtra Sevika Samiti gave a motherly touch to our children who have been missing the family atmosphere. It was a wholesome experience. The final stop of this 4 day study tour was a visit to a school at Kelye Village located at around 15 kms. from Ratnagiri. The Head Mistress of the school Reshma Surve and her colleague Shri. Ramchandra Kelkar promptly made arrangements for our 15 girl students despite this being a last minute visit. Our little friends who were initially completely new to the school kids had become best of friends by the end of the visit. Experiencing the love and affection with the delicacies further only made our day or rather our entire tour! This showed us the culture of the India which still exists in small villages.

Summer Activities of 2017

■ 38 girls and boys from 3 Orphanages participated and excelled in a Summer Camp conducted by Shri. Samarth Vyayam Mandir, located at Shivaji Park, from 17th to 26th April.

■ An international quality, Light and Sound show on Swatantryaveer Savarkar Centre was organised for 50 kids from 3 Orphanages on 26 April.



- Nominated and sent 1 student of 10th grade from the orphanage Anand Kendra to Bhonsla Military school for the entire month of May for their Summer Camp.
- A 2 day workshop was organized by our volunteers for 20 kids from 5 years to 12 years from Family Home, a Dadar based orphanage, from 5th to 7th May where Yoga, sports, origami and other activities were conducted.
- 40 girls participated in 'Kala Mela', a 10 day seminar conducted at BalikaAshram, a Dadar based orphanage. They were taken through a few sessions on Painting, Handicraft, Pottery etc
- 35 kids enjoyed watching the Marathi Film 'Lokmanya' at Anandkendra, located at Worli, post which they also interacted with the producer of this film Shri.Om Raut who further took them through basics of Film Making.
- 20 girls participated and thoroughly enjoyed a 2 day Dance Workshop on the Indian and Western styles conducted at Maaze Maher at Kalachowki.
- 40 students from Class 5 to Class 8 participated in a 2 day workshop on Psycho Linguistic Development. The theme of this workshop was to stimulate the Emotional, Mental and Physical development of these kids through games and activities.
- Those girls who had participated in the Ratnagiri Study Tour, participated in a special Handicraft Workshop to reciprocate the love and warmth they were given when these girls had visited the school in Kelye village. Hand-made Thank you letters and Earrings were made by these girls and sent to the school as a token of appreciation. This workshop was conducted on 7th and 8th June, 2017.

Special programs

The environment is close to our heart. We have been celebrating Raksha Bandhan at 3 of our centers with a different concept. Putting our love for the environment into action, we celebrated VrukshaBandhan jointly, with the Worli based orphanages, Anand Kendra. We tied Rakhis to trees, vowing to save and protect (Raksha) the trees in the auspicious presence of Prof. Vidyadhar Walavalkar, an eminent environmental activist. In continuation with this, the Kalachowki based orphanage, Maaze Maher, conducted a seminar on Aarogyabandhan (Taking

well known gynaecologist interacted with girls during this Aarogyabandhan session. They tied Rakhis to Dr. Purandare and the nursing staff for their undiluted efforts towards humanity. Boys of the Dadar based orphanage Family Home gave this event another positive twist by making sure that their 'Uncle', who drops them to their Gym in his school van was invited as Chief Guest of this event. Hasat Khelat Ganeet (Fun while Learning Math) was organized by Maaze Maher and Anand Kendra in order to remove the fear that kids have towards Mathematics. This was organized for



STD IX and X, and conducted under the expert guidance of Dr Vijay Patkar, Prof. Manik Tembe (HOD - Mathematics at Acharya Marathe college) and senior speaker Prof. Ashwini Ranade. 4 students above 16 years who are inclined towards the Arts were selected by Anand Kendra to increase their employability. They were exposed to the field of Applied Arts. Training on latest softwares of Graphic Design, Interior Decoration, Draftsmanship was commenced for these students last year. This was to give them a gist of Arts as a career option post matriculation.

For the last few years, we have been giving professional training to few kids from various orphanages. From there we made 6 of them to participate at school level competitions which has resulted in 2 students reaching the state level. Our students excelled in competitions in 2016 conducted by 'Caissa Chess Academy'. Another couple of students reached the state level in athletics and have been trained for a complete year. These are the same 2 who were part of the group of 25 students who participated and excelled in the Summer Workshop conducted by Shri. Samarth Vyayam Mandir at Shivaji Park. A few sessions were conducted last year to increase the General Knowledge and Business Sense of students of Class VIII to X of the Anand Kendra, including sessions on Business Literacy. These sessions were conducted by the center's Treasurer, Saurabh Khare who also guided the students on Banking, Finance, Basic Rules of Income and Expenditure etc. Volunteers are the real pillars of Ankur Pratishthan. We always keep training sessions for such volunteers who make it possible to take time from their busy schedules. One such training workshop was organized in October 2016 wherein these volunteers were professionally guided by Shri. Atul Karkhanis of the Bhatke - Vimukt Parishad, Shri. Vijay Jadhav of the Samatol Foundation and Shri. Sanjay Kulkarni of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. Discussions around topics such as 'Who is a Volunteer?' and 'Social Work and its Meaning and Importance?' gave so much direction and perspective to our young volunteers.

We have also been organising seminars and conducting workshops to increase employability and skill sets. We have been making sure that more and more NGOs participate in such important and life changing workshops. We are also confident that this will further continue and growl with the continuous support from our sponsors and stake holders. Their support and motivation is the fuel that drives us.

Special Thanks

1. We would like to deliver a special thanks to the office bearers and members of Anand Kendra, Maaze Maher, Family Home, BalikaAshram and B.J.Home for their yearlong support. We wouldn't have made it possible without their prompt support
2. Shri Shivaji Shinde and Shri. Shaam Mestry of the Baal Kalyan Samiti promptly organized a seminar on Matrubhoomi Parichay Shibir
3. The people behind the success of Study Tour conducted at Ratnagiri are as follows - All office bearers of Ratnagiri Education Society, Teaching and Non Teaching Staff, Prof Shri. Mahesh Naik, Shri. Pravin Bapat, Prof Shri. Surendra Thakurdesai, Rashtra Seva Samiti (Dist Ratnagiri), Godbole college,



Head Master of Kelye village school Smt..Reshma Surve, staff Shri. Ramchandra Kelkar, local villager Arun Gokhale, owner of Devdhar Dairy Shri. Yogesh Devdhar, Shri. Sanjeev Limaye, Principal of Astronomy Club Prof Vivek Bhide and student Nomad Chinderkar, Prof Gauri Aapte, Prof Shri. Varun Pandit, Prof Shri. Shirin Limaye, Smt..Madhavi Oak, Shri. Rajesh Aayre, Shri. Pramod Konkan and Smt..Jyoti Mulye. Matrubhoomi Parichay Shibir was successful due to complete and extended support from all of them

4. Personalities involved in the Raksha Bandhan event were as follows – Environmentalist Prof. Shri. Vidyadhar Walavalkar, Gynecologist Dr. Mandakini Purandare, Social Activist Shreenivas Karmarkar

5. Shri. Uday Deshpande and Shri. Samarth Vyayam Mandir, who guided our nominated students through summer camp and regular training sessions throughout the year

6. Smt. Manjiri Marathe and Svantraveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak for organising Free of Cost Light and Sound show based on Indian Freedom Struggle for students

7. Shri. Om Raut for engaging his valuable to interact with the students after watching 'Lokmanya' a Marathi film produced by him and focused on the life of Lokmanya Tilak

8. Shri. Atul Karkhanis of the Bhatke Vimukt Parishad, Shri. Vijay Jadhav of the Samatol Foundation and Shri. Sanjay Kulkarni of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram for conducting training session for our volunteers

9. Known Mathematician Dr. Vijay Patkar, HOD of Mathematics of Acharya Marathe college Prof. Manik Tembe and well known speaker Prof. Ashwini Ranade for conducting a fun and learn mathematics session (Hasath Khelat Ganeet) for students

10. Shri. Prathamesh Chivate of Caissa Chess Academy for permitting out students in their competition and guiding them further

11. Central Hindu Military School for permitting out student for their Summer Camp

12. Smt.Pravina Joshi for donating a high end Computer for the advance training of Applied Arts for students

13. Shri. Raj Koli and Shri. Paresh Fondke for providing economical travelling options for the year round events and last but not the least to

All our donors who have been supporting us from past few years. :)



It's time for a Summer Camp!



Outlay

Administration : Office Expenses, Meeting Expenses, Transportation Cost, Web Maintainance

Training and Development : 6 Meetings, 2 Volunteers Workshop

Regular Activities : Maths, Science, English, Craft, Recreational Activities, Chess, Gymnastic, Malkhamb, Drawing, Flute, Yoga and Meditation, Psycho Linguistics, Zoli Vachanalay, Elementary and Intermediate Exam Preparation

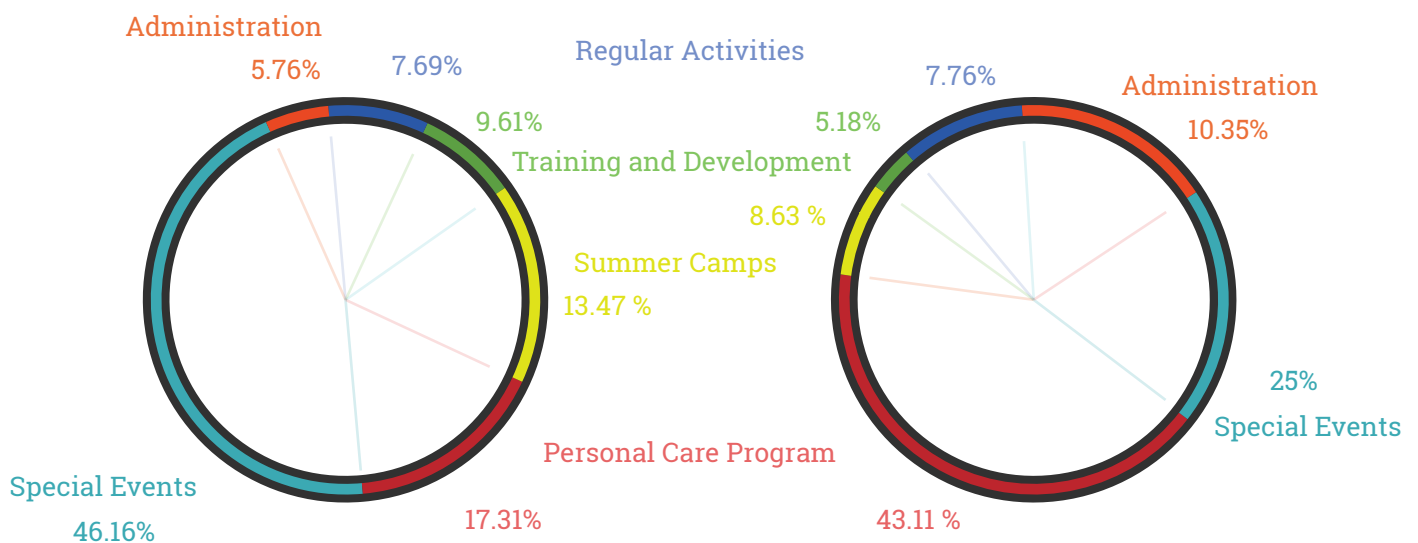
Special Events : Rakshabandhan, Diwali, Workshop on Mathematics, Lecture on basic Economics and Banking, Matrubhoomi Parichay Shibir at Ratnagiri

Summer Camps : Total 6 camps in 4 different orphanages







Personal Care Program : Athletics, Boxing, Chess, Spoken English, Applied Arts, Army Training

Annual Expenses // 2016-17

Estimated Budget // 2017-18





Annual Expenses / Estimation	2016-17	2017-18
 Administration	Rs.15,000	Rs.60,000
 Training and Development	Rs.25,000	Rs.30,000
 Regular Activities	Rs.20,000	Rs.45,000
 Special Events	Rs.1,20,000	Rs.1,45,000
 Summer Camps	Rs.35,000	Rs.50,000
 Personal Care Program	Rs.45,000	Rs.2,50,000
Total Amount	Rs.2,60,000	Rs.5,80,000

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