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## About Us

Balodyan is a residential hostel project governed by Vidarthi Vikas Prabodhini for nomadic and orphaned children. This initiative was started in Jun 2009. As on today total 10 children been enrolled and 10 to 15 more children will be added for the academic year 2010-11. Now we are taking big step and planned to expand the Balodyan for 100 children, separate hostel for Orphan Girls, rehabilitation Center for Orphan Women, Old age Home, Learning and Training center for Educational & Social Activities.

Vidarthi Vikas Prabodhini is a registered organization working for improvement in rural education system in Kolhapur (MS) district since last 5 years. We are providing basic needs like benches, library, laboratory and sports equipments, audio-visual devices and computers to implement the structured syllabus in rural schools. We are also running the Educational Adoption Program for economically challenged students.

## From Editor's Desk

Dear Sponsors and well wishers,

Greetings from Balodyan

The landmark passing of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 marks a historic moment for the children of India. For the first time in India's history, children will be guaranteed their right to quality elementary education.

As a part of fund raising drive for Balodyan, The Infosys Retail Reach team organized a event Colors with the active collaboration of photography club, Shutterbugs. The team conducted an auction of selected photographs submitted by members of Shutterbugs, which saw good involvement and bidding from all participants. All the photographs put up for auction were sold in no time, and the collections surpassed expectations. Thanks to Infosys Retail team. Also thanks to Seva-Sahayog for their 25 school kit gifts to Balodyan children.

We also request your valuable feedback on our recently launched website [www.balodyan.org](http://www.balodyan.org)

Thank you for your kind support and best wishes.

With warm regards,

Balodyan Team

[Email - editor@balodyan.org](mailto:editor@balodyan.org)

## Latest Updates

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- ✦ Siemens Information Systems Ltd, Pune organized photography event "Darpan" to raise funds for Balodyan.
- ✦ Seva-Sahayog has gifted 25 School Kit for Balodyan children. Seva-Sahayog is India Partner of Seva International which aims at engaging socially conscious corporate, groups and individuals, with NGOs of matching interests.
- ✦ Retail Reach, the CSR wing of Retail unit, at Infosys Pune DC recently organized a fund collection drive for Balodyan. Retail reach and Shutterbugs, the photography club, conducted an auction as well as an exhibition-cum-sale of photographs by Shutterbugs members.
- ✦ Started a library at Balodyan contributed by Mrs. Pradnya Pande & Mrs. Swati Raje. More than 150 books been gifted.
- ✦ We have launched a website [www.balodyan.org](http://www.balodyan.org). Our next plan is to put all the Balodyan financials & Student Profiles, progress on web.
- ✦ Planning a photography exhibition in some corporate around Pune with the help of Shutterbugs, Infosys photography club members.
- ✦ All Balodyan students passed in their academic year 2009-10.
- ✦ Student Admission & Enrollment process for the academic year 2010-11 has been initiated and expected to complete by Jun-15th



## Readers Comment's

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- "Appreciate your hard work and dedication towards this noble cause and wish you all the very best" - **Amit Nagpal**
- "Thanks and hope God inspires me to keep contributing more and more" - **Jigar Shah**
- "Thanks a lot for finding me suitable to share Balodyan initiative and will positively try to help your valuable activity" - **Omkar Deshpande.**
- "It's nice to see you all are working for such a noble cause. Hope we could do some better things for the society at large" - **Bhauso Naik**
- "My best are always with the team. I really appreciate the team of Balodyan" - **Mrs.Yogita Gulavani**



**Mr. Mahesh Bhagwat**  
**DIG, West Godavari District,**  
**Andhra Pradesh**

A Civil Engineering graduate from Government College of Engg. Pune, Maharashtra. Currently he is DIG, West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh, India. Winner of President Police Medal for Gallantry, International Community policing Finalist award 2004 & special Honor in Homeland Security category from International Association of Chief of Police. Earlier worked as ASP in Manipur from 1998-99, Addl. SP & SP in Adilabad Dist DCP Law & Order & DCP South Zone in Cyberabad & Hyderabad police commissionerates & SP of Nalgonda District & Kadapa District. Initiated antitrafficking Project Aasara in Nalgonda District which is winner of IACP/Motorola Webber Seavey award and Civil Rights award in USA.

**Dear friends,**

Children are the angels of Gods but every child may not get an opportunity of getting a quality education, shelter & basic needs for the development. Taking advantage of vulnerability antisocial elements take advantage and sometimes these children get trafficked for begging or child pornography or child prostitution, camel jockeying or forced labor. In the age of their all round development they are being exploited. Can the Civil Societies, Government Departments & Citizens together can do something to help these underprivileged or vulnerable children? Definitely all the stake holders with synergy and common objective of Child protection and development can bring out a change. For the world you may be a single individual but for under privileged child you can become their world by giving a helping hand.

Though Compulsory education is a fundamental right as per Supreme Court decision on article 21 of constitution for right to life, it can be achieved only if initiatives like Balodyan are undertaken to help under privileged children.

I would like to share a best practice I have practiced for child protection in Andhra Pradesh

**Project Aasara** - This is an anti trafficking project initiated by me in 2005 in Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh state with 2 pronged strategies of rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked children & women and stern action against the traffickers in partnership with other stake holders.

Children from Dommara community of Yadagirigutta in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh were never going to school where as their family members were in prostitution business. All these children were identified and under Sarva

Siksha Abhiyan a residential bridge school was opened. After 1 year of running this school according to their aptitude these children are now admitted into different classes of regular Government schools to prevent 2<sup>nd</sup> generation trafficking. But for this intervention these children could have been dragged into prostitution. Project Aasara received 2 international Policing awards from International association of Chief of Police, USA in 2006 at Boston ([www.aasara.blogspot.com](http://www.aasara.blogspot.com))

It's my conviction that 'value based education' to children is a need of day. Every child will have some hidden potential but it should be identified and explored at right time. Character, Courage, Conviction, Courtesy & commitment this 5 C's are always important for development of any child. Mentors should not go from appearance or background of child but try to identify his/her strength and try to shape their future. For the parents I would like to tell that nothing will be free in life and we have to pay the price of everything. If you invest on child development and education definitely you will get good returns. Hard work and positive attitude are the 2 mantras which can help any child to excel in life. Core values to be imbibed amongst children in such a way that they should never deviate from it or compromise with it while facing challenges in life.

My best wishes to all the activities of Balodyan.

Regards

**Mahesh Bhagwat**

<http://in.linkedin.com/in/maheshbhagwat>



## Photo Gallery

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## Contact Us

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