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Balodyan is a residential hostel project governed by Vidarthi Vikas Prabodhini for nomadic and orphaned children. This initiative was started in Jun 2009 and as on today total 16 children been enrolled. We have plans to expand the Balodyan for 100 children and separate hostel for Orphan Girls, rehabilitation Center for Orphan Women, Old age Home, and Technology based Knowledge and Learning Center for Educational and Social Activities.

Vidarthi Vikas Prabodhini is a registered non-profit organization working for improvement in rural education system in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, India since last 5 years. We are providing basic needs like computers, benches, library, laboratory and sports equipments, and audio-visual devices 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,

We are happy to share with you the Balodyan updates through this quarterly newsletter. Please join us to congratulate Kulbhushan Birnale, Founder Balodyan for Jagar Foundation award on 6th Mar 11 for implementing computer education and library in 14 schools

We also appeal for your valuable contributions for academic year 2011 and give a children hope and a future. If you sponsor a child, you will receive child profile and progress for every 6 months. Your continuous support and contributions to Balodyan is inspiring.

With warm regards,
Balodyan Team

Latest Updates

- Kulbhushan Birnale, Founder Balodyan was honored with Jagar Foundation award on 6th Mar 11 for implementing computer education and library in 14 schools.
- Audited financial reports are made public on www.balodyan.org.
- 2 Acres of Land for Balodyan proposed campus handover by District Administration Authority. Civil design is in progress taking into account the vision and future plans of Balodyan
- Summer camp was successfully organized between 2nd May to 7th May 2011 by Gitanjali Degaonkar and Team
- Dr. Anand Patil, Vaishali Patil (Study Circle), Vinitaa Apte (UNEP), Suresh Dada Patil (Chairman, MHTP), Vaishali Naikawade (Writer) had chat with Kids through Video Conferencing System
- Deputy Collector Mr. Ravindra Khebudkar, Ichalkarani Divisional Officer Mr. Tushar Thombre and WCD officers visited Balodyan, met the kids and provided valuable guidance
- For Academic Year Jun 2011, the student intake increased and required preparations are in progress.

Photo Gallery





Jitendra Chudappa

Jitendra is looking after the communication, development, fund raising & future expansion plans for Balodyan.

Rural Reach Program (RRP) is a CSR initiative of Infosys that aims at raising the aspiration level of students of rural schools across India. This nationwide program introduces students to the world of computers, aiming to inculcate a thirst for knowledge into them, especially for rural children where they have no opportunities to use computers or know more about this IT world. Few years back I had an opportunity to be part of RRP team along with few other participants and we conducted this workshop in the primary schools in rural Satara district of Maharashtra.

We all were very excited and prepared to deliver our best to more than 500 enthusiastic children. Having no regular classes, children were very happy, full of energy and enthusiastic to learn something new and interesting. After prayers and national anthem we all went to classrooms. Soon after we started with topics like introduction and history of computers, children started to ask some questions. Unfortunately we came to know that those questions were given by their teachers to children. This is biggest mistake being done at many schools and children are framed in certain thinking blocks, they are not allowed to go and think out of way. They are not given opportunity to come out of their academic books and always forced to follow only certain dimensions. We requested their class teacher not to be in class to make easier environment for children. For rest of the day, children had full of fun and excitement with computers. Children came up with lot of truly laymen questions and we just enjoyed answering all of them. They all rock!

At the end of day, the head master of school invited us for tea in his cabin. We all satisfied participants went to head master's cabin. A typical headmaster, almost at the edge (age) of retirement. We had tea and then headmaster said a line which made us very disappointed – we teachers

are teaching these children through years but still they are not doing good, then what will happen with this one day workshop". We all were looking each other's faces for some time.

We tried to make head master understand that our day-long aim was not to make children computer experts but to inculcate a thirst for knowledge into them, to twinkle few stars of dream into their eyes and we were successful. Although, he was not quite satisfied. We started our return journey where hundreds of children waiting on road sides to thank us. A truly wonderful day and had lot moments to cherish for a long time.

This is a very small experience but on broad level this can generate lot of brainstorming on why primary government schools are dying in our country? Why everyone is opting for private schools? It's not only because of lack of government's interest, infrastructure, funds and investment but also lack of excellence, vision and interest of teachers and schools.

Initiatives like "School Chale Hum" and "Right to Education" are doing well on paper with no real actions expected soon. Recent survey shows 30 % of children are missing schools after 7th Std. Still you can find child labors in any part of India. Still you can find thousands of children from nomadic tribes spending their life on roadsides without education.

Almost 80% of primary education is either provided or run by government to make affordable education for all. Network of primary schools in India is the real backbone of our education system and to ensure "Right to Education" efficiently we have to make this backbone stronger, efficient and corruption less.

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Journey of Balodyan



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