

VINIMAG

April 2016 to September 2016

ISSUE 26

(For Private Circulation Only)



Call us: 022- 27540070 or Email: info@vinimaytrust.org

www.vinimaytrust.org

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Friends,

At the outset, we would like to apologize for the delay in the publication of this issue of Vinimag. We shall sincerely endeavor to bring out future issues of this newsletter in time.

Charles Dickens once said, "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of others". As we read the story of Narayan Velande (Gorappa) in our feature "Spreading our Wings", these words do strike a chord within us.

We are pleased to report the launch of our "MathLab Project" wherein we aim to teach Mathematics in a fun manner through various tools specifically designed for that purpose.

Smt. Coomiben Babubhai Shah Tarun Sadan – our transition hostel for youth emerging out of the CWIs was abuzz with a lot of celebration for various festivals, a film screening program, the celebration of the Annual day and many more activities.

A roundup of our regular activities during the period April to September 2016 also forms part of this newsletter.

To keep us motivated, we request all our readers to send us your contributions and/ or feedback to info@vinimaytrust.org or to the postal address given at the end of this newsletter

Warm regards,
Editorial Team

OUR VOLUNTEERS, OUR STRENGTH



Narayan Velande

If William Shakespeare said, “It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves”, Ronald Reagan said “We can’t help everyone but everyone can help someone”. These above two quotes seem to sum up the story of Narayan Velande (Gorappa sir to the Vinimay family) as we realize that while we create our destiny ourselves, the same is also shaped by the help we get from many others whom we encounter in our lives.

The earliest memories that Gorappa has are those of the police picking him up from Sandhurst Road railway station and placing him in the Dongri Observation home. He was just a 5 year old child then and had no memories of his family or how he came to be on that railway station. He was soon

transferred to Chembur Childrens Home (CCH) sometime in May 1988. At CCH, he was admitted into the Madhyamik Vidyalay School.

His years at CCH were uneventful with him continuing his schooling. He however, remembers the housemasters who were resident there and who would help the children whenever they needed books, clothes etc. While the housemasters were reasonably strict with the boys, they would always counsel them about the need for education and how it was important for them to go to school.

While at CCH, he remembers Das Sir, Venkat Sir, Mukta didi and Atul Sir from Vinimay who would come to spend time with the boys twice a week. All the children would look forward to this play time wherein the volunteers also counseled the children about the need to attend school and the importance of education in one’s life. As he moved on to high school, he would regularly attend Vinimay’s tutorial sessions where the volunteers used to teach English and Math. English was a particularly difficult subject for the children, but Gorappa is all praise for Vinimay’s Krishnan Sir whose favourite quote “English is easy” motivated the children to shed their apprehensions about this subject. Looking back today, Gorappa recognises the key role that the Vinimay volunteers played in his early childhood days.

Life was not easy and when he failed his Std IX exams, he was very dejected. Venkat Sir and Das Sir from Vinimay encouraged him to give his Std X exams privately and Gorappa successfully completed his Std X. He then enrolled for the wireman course at ITI. However, there was one more issue that troubled him those days – the fact that he would soon turn 18 years of age and he would have to leave CCH. When he voiced these fears to Mukta didi, she told him about Tarun Sadan – Vinimay’s transition hostel for destitute youth. Gorappa was very relieved to know that he would have a shelter over his head and thus moved to Tarun Sadan while doing his second year of ITI.

Life at Tarun Sadan was very different from the cocooned life he had led at CCH. Here was a world completely unknown to him where even simple tasks like how to go out and buy milk were a big hurdle for him. He gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Andure Sir, the then superintendent of Tarun Sadan (who incidentally, a few months ago, has come back in his second avatar as superintendent once again) in teaching him to navigate simple tasks like buying milk, vegetables etc. He feels that in those days, boys at the Child Welfare Institutions sorely lacked social skills and had a general fear about the outside world. Slowly and steadily, Andure Sir and the Vinimay volunteers helped boys like Gorappa to face these fears and overcome them. Whilst citing many such instances wherein his self confidence got a boost only due to the efforts of Andure Sir and the Vinimay volunteers, Gorappa is quick to point out the

critical role that the hostel superintendent plays in the life of destitute boys like him. He feels that proximity and daily interaction with the boys enables superintendents to know the strengths and weaknesses of each boy and this is a great help while counselling each boy. We can only agree with his views as we at Vinimay have always felt that the job of a superintendent goes far beyond just a job – he is a parent, a counselor, a mentor, an agony aunt and so much more.

On completing his ITI, Gorappa did a couple of jobs. The lack of social skills and fear of facing outsiders meant that boys would quit their jobs at the slightest instance. It was here that the Vinimay volunteers helped by constantly encouraging such boys. The Sunday meetings between the volunteers and the boys at Tarun Sadan also helped him a lot in understanding the need for a steady job and the value of savings. Gorappa fondly remembers how Atul Sir would ensure that his earnings were kept in fixed deposits and how he would feel so happy on seeing his savings kitty grow.

Life throws up opportunities regularly for all of us and it is upto us to grab them. One such opportunity came Gorappa’s way when there was a job vacancy in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Das Sir and Anu didi from Vinimay helped him to prepare for the interviews and Gorappa was selected for the post of a gardener. He proudly states that he was the first boy from Tarun Sadan to get a job in BARC.

Once he was settled on the job front, Gorappa felt it was time for him to give back to society. He joined Vinimay as a play centre volunteer in 2003 where he continues even today as an active volunteer encouraging children at CCH to learn through play. Life took a beautiful turn in 2006 when he got married to Vidya and shifted to BARC quarters. His children Sanika and Bhushan added meaning to his life and he is today proud of his little family. He is well settled in his job and has purchased a flat in Vashind. In addition to his play centre volunteering, Gorappa has also started volunteering at Vinimay camps since the last couple of years.



Gorappa with his family

As we came to the end of the interview, I was curious to know from Gorappa, the one person who has influenced him the most in life. His answer was simple – “Andure Sir is the greatest influence in my life. He taught me how to live life and face the daily challenges, how to interact with people and how to adjust with the outside world”. To me, this answer is a shining example of how each one of us can be an “Andure Sir” to someone.

ACTIVITY ROUND UP

I. CHILD WELFARE

A. Education

- In our previous issue (Vinimag Issue 25), we had reported that Vinimay was planning to start a MathLab program in order to introduce Mathematics to the children in an enjoyable manner through the use of tools such as the Base Ten, Spiked Abacus, Fraction Circle, Pallankuzhi etc.
- We are pleased to report that the Inauguration of the MathLab Program was held on 27th August 2016 at Chembur Childrens Home (CCH). Many Vinimay volunteers including the two coordinators of the Program viz., Mukta Didi and Rajan Didi, the Superintendent of CCH, Shri Kantikar and the boys of CCH (studying in Class 3 and 4) were present during the inaugural program. Our volunteer Nadkarni Sir who had been very active in getting this program set up and Mukta Didi gave a brief introduction about the program. Note books, pencils and chocolates were distributed to the boys.
- The MathLab classes are now being held at the CCH Library on every Wednesday and Thursday for 2 hours. Twenty two (Class 3 and 4) boys from CCH are attending the Program.

- Our Tutorial classes at CCH and BKN are being conducted as usual.

B. Supplementary Nutrition

- The Supplementary Nutrition program continued on Saturdays at BKN and once a month at DSIS.
- To take care of a large group of small children who had taken fresh admission at BKN, sambhar was made less spicy, but interestingly there was an immediate demand to revert to the original spicy version. Apparently the new group also has grown up fast to enjoy the tangy spicy hot taste of sambhar!
- Our support in the form of milk for the boys at CCH and supplying one pav per boy everyday for supplementing breakfast for the boys at DSIS continued as usual.
- In spite of the appeal from many of the DSIS children for more |"sambhar" days, we regret our inability to increase our cooking days at DSIS due to shortage of volunteers. Interested individuals are requested to get in touch with us through the contact details provided on the last page of this newsletter.

C. Recreation – Play Centre

- Play Centre activities at CCH, BKN and DSIS continued as usual.
- At both, DSIS and BKN, Vinimay needs volunteers to help out with the play centre activities. Interested individuals are requested to get in touch with us through the contact details provided on the last page of this newsletter.

D. Children's Film Festival

- During the summer vacations, the children (at the CWIs) who have no family members or any relatives to go back to, stay back at the institutions itself whilst the others go to their respective homes.
- Vinimay's Children's Film Festival summer activity is held with the intention of showing films to these children who stay back at the institutions and thus create an opportunity for Vinimay to connect with them and also to make their vacation a little more enjoyable. The films are usually of the children film genre and are at times sourced from the Children's Film Society.
- The films are shown preferably in the open on a big screen and the children and volunteers sit together on the ground to watch the film. Snacks – like ice-creams, special buns/biscuits, noodles etc. are provided for all (noodles is an all-time favorite with all the

children).

- An endearing moment during the screening is usually when the children eagerly explain to the volunteers as to what would be the 'next scene' (the volunteer has to act as if he/ she is unaware or is not able to understand the flow of the film!!). These kinds of interactions help to cement the bond between the volunteers and the children.
- During the summer of 2016, six films were shown on six Saturday to about 320 children (boys and girls) from CCH, Additional Observation Home (AOH) and New Observation Home (NOH).

E. Making Learning Fun with Vinimay Camps

- Our "Making Learning Fun" summer camps were held in May for boys and girls from various CWIs separately. Both the 2016 camps had to be held at Khandala as the school premises at Tarapur where we usually hold the camp for girls was unavailable. The children enjoyed the various activities conducted at the camp immensely.

II. YOUTH WELFARE / TARUN SADAN (CTS)

- During the period April to September 2016, five boys were admitted to Tarun Sadan whilst seven boys were bid farewell.
- Gudi Padwa was celebrated at Tarun Sadan on 8th April, 2016. Special meals were prepared for the boys.'
- CTS Annual Day was celebrated with a lot of cheer on June 11. The Annual Day saw active participation from the boys, staff and the volunteers.



Venkat Sir addressing the gathering

- There was a brief presentation which gave all present an overview of the various activities of Vinimay Trust followed by a discussion about the challenges facing CTS. Prizes for the sporting tournaments in chess, carom and cricket (which had been held in the previous week) were distributed on the annual day.



Sanjay Sir and the ex-CTS boys

- The highlight of the program was a Q & A session where Mr. Sanjay Shetty (CTS supervisor) posed questions to ex-CTS boys – Sachin Warade, Mohammed Kamran, Anil Alkute, Ashish Khatri and Santosh Thakur about their experience at CTS, their lives post CTS and their advice to the boys who are currently resident at CTS. It was a very informative session.
- Rajendra Kasbe Sir resigned from his position as Superintendent of Tarun Sadan in June 2016 in order to pursue new opportunities. He was given a farewell and vote of thanks which was attended by many Vinimay volunteers, CTS staff and the students.
- Mr. D.N. Andure joined in his second avatar as Superintendent of CTS. Mr. Andure has been the superintendent of CTS from 1999 to 2009. He was given a hearty welcome by the volunteers and the boys on 1st August, 2016. We at Vinimay, are grateful to Mr. Andure for taking up this post at a short

notice despite not being in the best of health at that time.

- Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated on 6th of July and Sheer Khurma, a sweet dish made of vermicelli was prepared on that day. All the boys enjoyed the special treat immensely.
- Independence Day at Tarun Sadan was celebrated with great zeal. Mr. Sanju Shankar Acharya – an ex CTS student was the Chief Guest on the occasion.
- Raksha Bandhan was celebrated on 18th August 2016 and sweets were distributed to all. Mukta didi and Mrs. Reshma Kamran tied Rakhis to all the boys and the staff at Tarun Sadan.
- Janmashtami was celebrated on 28th August. Specially cooked food along with kheer was served on this occasion. On the same day, a Green Initiative was undertaken by the boys at Tarun Sadan in coordination with volunteers from Global Talent Organization (AIESEC), Navi Mumbai. Fruit and flowering plants were planted within the premises. The boys took an active part in the program and enjoyed working together with the students from abroad.
- A meeting of the CTS Health Committee was held on 15th September, 2016. A discussion on which medicines should be added to the first aid box was done. It was also decided to collect more information on and arrange for screening of video films/

documentaries on sex education, drug addiction, smoking, personal hygiene etc so that the boys could benefit from such information.

- During this period, a special screening of feature films was arranged at Tarun Sadan by the Tarun Vinimay volunteer Mr, Sanjay Vaza. The films – Jungle Book, Dhishum and Sairat were shown which were enjoyed by the boys immensely.
- During this period, Mr. Vishwanath Zende, a Tarun Vinimay member was invited for an interactive session with the boys. He shared his experiences in the field of film production and distribution. The boys showed keen interest in the subject and asked him many queries on the same.
- Vinimay is pleased to report that the families of our ex-CTS boys Panchal and Kasim were successfully traced and both of them were reunited with their families. We hope to bring you their family tracing stories in the coming issues of Vinimag.

III. NEW BEGINNINGS

- Rajan Nargowar successfully cleared his SSC examination. We congratulate him on his success and wish him all the very best.
- Ajay Jadhav has successfully completed his Wireman training. We congratulate him on his successful completion and wish him all the very best.
- Kishor Bhagat, ex-student of Tarun Sadan wedded Arti on 5th May 2016. Many Vinimay volunteers and Tarun Vinimay members attended the wedding.
- Hiren and Prerana Sarvayya were blessed with a second child on 12th August, 2016. The child has been named Pahal. Hiren is an ex-student of CCH and Prerana is an ex-student of BKN. Both are Vinimay volunteers who actively participate in Vinimay's summer camp for girls held at Tarapur every year.
- Sachin and Sadhana Barshikar were blessed with a daughter, Hemanshi on 26th September, 2016. Sachin is an ex-student of CCH and is an active volunteer in Vinimay camps and picnics.

III. IN GRIEF

- We announce with a heavy heart the passing away of Mrs. Vasumati Shah, mother of Mr. Atul Shah, a founder member of Vinimay on 13th May 2016. Mrs. Vasumati Shah used to take a keen interest in Vinimay's activities and would worry about the health and welfare of all the youths supported by Vinimay. It was through her efforts that Vinimay could arrange for the marriage of Savitri, an ex-student of BKN. We are saddened by her passing away and pray for her soul to rest in peace.
- Rahul Gulve, ex-student of Tarun Sadan had developed some serious kidney ailment. Vinimay always stands by its ex-students and in this case also, took all efforts to get the best possible medical treatment for him. While volunteers like Thyagarajan Sir were actively following up his case, many ex-students of Tarun Sadan also gave him physical and emotional support. However, in spite of all our best efforts, Rahul passed away at the young age of 28 years. We pray that his soul may rest in peace. Vinimay continues to provide all possible support to his wife Namrata.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Fund a Program

- Your Donation of Rs. 5,00,000 (Rs. Five Lakhs only) can help us to cover the expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan on an ongoing basis
- For Rs. 30,000 you could sponsor the cost of groceries for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.15,000 you could sponsor the cost of vegetables for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs. 3500 you could sponsor monthly expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor the Annual get together dinner for 50 children
- For Rs.10000 you could sponsor a weeklong camp for 5 children
- For Rs.7000 you could sponsor the birthday of 25 children or birthday clothes for 10 children
- For Rs.1500 you could sponsor Supplementary Nutrition Program for 300 children

Donations to Vinimay Trust are exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Cheques may be drawn in favour of "Vinimay Trust" and sent to VINIMAY TRUST, C.B.S. Tarun Sadan, Plot 21, Sector 23, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai - 400 709. You can also send your donations directly by NEFT to our account as per details given below. Please inform us about your donation by providing your full name, postal and email addresses.

Name of the account	: Vinimay Trust
Bank and Branch	: Punjab National Bank, Kopar Khairane branch
IFS Code	: PUNB0662700
Account Number	: 1207000100256662 (Only donations in INR)

Work as a Volunteer

**Contact Smt. Manini Ganguly
(Cell: +919320037479)**

Spread the Word

**Help us spread our message
to others**

Call us: 022- 27540070

or

Email: info@vinimaytrust.org

www.vinimaytrust.org

FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

