

VINIMAG

April 2017 to September 2017

(For Private Circulation Only)



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www.vinimaytrust.org

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to bring you yet another issue of Vinimag – our bi-annual newsletter.

Our Feature – “Volunteer Speak” brings to you the inspirational story of Mangesh Khamkar, who stayed at a CWI during his childhood and despite many difficulties is well settled in life today and is an active volunteer in Vinimay’s camps for children from the CWIs.

Come summer and it is time for Vinimay’s camps where we endeavor to “Make Learning Fun”. An update of the camps held for boys and girls from various CWIs is provided as part of this newsletter.

A roundup of our regular activities during the period April to September 2017 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,

VOLUNTEER SPEAK



Our feature “Volunteer Speak” brings to you the inspirational story of Mangesh, who spent his early years in a Child Welfare Institution (CWI) and who currently works with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and is also an active volunteer at Vinimay’s annual camps for children from CWIs.

Mangesh resides in the BARC colony at Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai, with his wife, Vaijanthi and two charming daughters Shruti, aged 14 yrs, and Akshara, aged 8 yrs. Although, Mangesh leads a fairly comfortable life today, the journey of his life has not been a bed of roses.

Having lost his father when he was just 2 ½ years old, he has seen his mother striving to meet the

needs of his family which included him and his four sisters. Two of his sisters did odd jobs to help their mother while he and the other two sisters were sent for schooling. His mother started working at a factory in Kanjurmarg, post which, the other 2 sisters too could begin their schooling.

As the family income could not support the needs of the growing children, his mother admitted Mangesh to a CWI called Bal Kalyan Nagari (BKN) at the age of 8. From this tender age, he studied at the local municipal school and completed his Standard X and thereafter a fitter course from ITI whilst he was in BKN. He then proceeded to do his apprenticeship at Hind Rectifiers for a year. At the same time, he attended night college in order to complete his Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C) studies.

To nurture his creative talent, he also attempted to gain admission in the JJ School of Arts and succeeded after 4 attempts. He completed his first year of graduation at JJ School but had to quit since he received a job opening at BARC and hence had to sacrifice his learning to earn a livelihood. However, this did not stop him from pursuing his dream of continuing in the Architecture field. He did a part- time Diploma from the Raheja School of Architecture and passed out as a Gold medalist in the year 2000. Leveraging this ability and qualifications, he did a few freelancing interior designing contracts. But over a period of time, he realized the challenge to get over an ‘Employee Mindset’ once he was

in the 'Job mode'. Hence, he gave up the idea of freelancing and concentrated on his job at BARC. He currently works as a Technician in the Mechanical Maintenance department of Dhruva reactor of BARC.

Since Mangesh had already shifted to the BARC colony, he found that he could spare time which he wanted to use effectively to add value to children with a background similar to his. He found that the activities he could associate with in BKN were limited. Meanwhile two of his office colleagues, Kiran and Deepak (both from a similar background as Mangesh and currently Vinimay volunteers), introduced him to the initiatives of Vinimay Trust and in the year 2011 he became first associated with Vinimay as a volunteer in the annual camps held by Vinimay for underprivileged children from CWIs. Vinimay camps provided him the avenue where he could contribute more effectively. Starting off as a Camp volunteer, he is now actively involved in not only the annual camps but also the New Year programmes conducted by Vinimay at the CWIs.

Mangesh is a qualified mountaineering professional and has been part of numerous trekking and mountaineering expeditions. He is actively involved in a lot of BARC extra-curricular activities including nature trails, walkathons, cyclathons, himalayan expeditions etc.

Mangesh sees a role model in his multi-faceted and talented drawing teacher at his school- the late Shri Ramchandra Page. His expertise in various diverse fields of Drawing, Sports, Drama, Kabaddi, Oration etc all inspire Mangesh to be like Shri Page. Having achieved so much till date, Mangesh still has many more aspirations.

He would love to play the flute well, be an acknowledged lecturer in a college apart from leading many more expeditions.

The culture of Vinimay has inspired his life values a lot and he has learnt a lot of things from camps and his association with Vinimay volunteers. Importance of treating all children equally, understanding of child psychology, dedication to the tasks in hand are some of the key learnings which he has imbibed from the other Vinimay volunteers.

From his modest beginnings, Mangesh has done very well for himself through sheer hard work. He now has a flat in Bhandup as well as at Panvel which clearly mirror his financial acumen and planning as well. Mangesh himself is now an inspiration and a role model for a lot of underprivileged children who aspire to do much more in life ahead. We thank Mangesh for sharing these valuable details of his life and we wish him all the very best and success in his future endeavors.

ACTIVITY ROUND UP

I. CHILD WELFARE

A. Education

The Education program for the academic year 2017-18 commenced in the second week of June 2017 with a lot of enthusiasm. Around 12 volunteers reached out to almost 60 children of Standards VI to X in order to provide them coaching in English and Mathematics. The students of Standard X were also provided coaching in Science.

MathLab, the activity based Mathematics Learning project for Standards II and III, which commenced during the last academic year was continued this year as well.



MathLab Session in progress

Classes for ITI students were also started from this academic year to help them with the difficult subjects and also to prepare them better for the workplace.

In order to inculcate reading habits amongst

children from a young age, reading sessions in Marathi were started for children of Standards II to IV.

The authorities at Chembur Childrens Home (CCH) have provided us with 3 classrooms exclusively for our tutorial classes. Classes are already underway in two of these classrooms after Vinimay fixed the rooms up with lights, fans and whiteboards.

Results of Standard X exams which were declared in June 2017 were encouraging with 15 out of the 19 CCH students who had appeared, passing the exams.

Vinimay sponsored the expenses on stationery and uniforms for 15 boys (11 from CCH, 2 from BKN and 2 ex-CCH boys) pursuing their ITI studies. In addition, the tuition fees for the 2 ex-CCH boys were also sponsored by Vinimay.

Vinimay sponsored the SSC board exam fees of 15 boys from CCH.

B. 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.

C. “Making Learning Fun” with Vinimay Camps

The Yearly Vinimay camps are a key activity of Vinimay Trust which attempts to “Make Learning Fun” for the participating children from many of Mumbai’s CWIs. This year too, two camps, one each for boys and girls were held at Khandala in the month of May.

Around 49 girls participated in the camp for girls and the boys’ camp saw a participation of around the 47 boys.

In order to provide the children with knowledge about everyday life skills, discussion sessions on various topics were held. Some of the sessions held at this year’s camps were on Savings and Banking processes, Life in CWIs and thereafter, how to use Smart Phones etc.

The camps also saw the participation in various creative activities by the children. Some of the creative activities conducted were Khana Khazana, Calligraphy, Fancy Dress using Newspapers etc.



Calligraphy session in progress



Fancy Dress using Newspapers

A mock election was also conducted to make the children aware of democratic elections and the process thereof.

A Sky gazing session was conducted by Mr. Ajit Wadekar (ex-BARC). The children enjoyed this session immensely.

The regular picnic to the nearby Kumar Water Park and other picnic spots and the visit to the Wax Museum was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

II. YOUTH WELFARE/TARUN SADAN (CTS)

A Dental check-up camp by Yerla Medical Trust's Dental College & Hospital Kharghar, Navi Mumbai was held at Tarun Sadan on 23rd April 2017. A total of 83 Tarun Sadan students and ex-students participated in the dental screening. The students were greatly benefitted by the talk on Oral Health Awareness & Prevention of Oral Diseases by the team of Doctors.

Three Dance Therapy sessions by Ms. Saloni and Ms. Kirti from Dance Movement Therapy group were conducted for the boys at Tarun Sadan in the month of April.

The first batch of Life Skills training camp for the boys at Tarun Sadan which commenced in February 2017 (Refer Vinimag 27) completed the training course on 30th April 2017. All the boys who attended the training program were given participation certificates and T-shirts whilst boys with good attendance and participation were felicitated with trophies. Laxman Pardeshi, Omkar Deshmukh and Ashish Meshram - all three Tarun Sadan students thanked the trainer - Aditya Charegaonkar and Vinimay volunteers for conducting this program which seeks to impart Basic Life Skills to the participants. Many Vinimay volunteers were present at the closing ceremony.

A cricket match was arranged on 28th May as part of the pre-Annual Day celebrations at Tarun Sadan. Both current and ex-Tarun Sadan students participated to make it a fun event enjoyed by all those present.



Dance program on CTS Annual Day

Mr. P.S. Gade took charge as Superintendent of Tarun Sadan from 1st June 2017. He had been in service with Children's Aid society for thirty-five years and retired as a Child welfare officer from David Sassoon Industrial School. He has known Vinimay for the last thirty-three years.

Tarun Sadan Annual Day was celebrated on 4th June 2017. The function comprised of entertainment programs put up by the students and ex-students of Tarun Sadan followed by a special lunch. Atul Sir took to the stage to thank Mr. Andure- the outgoing superintendent of the hostel for his contribution while Vaidya Sir introduced Mr. Gade as the new superintendent of Tarun Sadan and welcomed him into the Vinimay family.

Independence Day was celebrated at Tarun Sadan with all the students participating in the celebrations. Mr. Vinod Shinde (ex-Tarun Sadan student and now part time staff) hoisted the National Flag.

The Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH) focuses on the health of mothers and children for preventing malnutrition and treating

severely malnourished and at-risk babies by providing one to one counselling, supplemental food and an outpatient clinic at various sites in Mumbai. Vinimay Trust requested FMCH for a training program to understand and improve the nutritional status of the boys staying at Tarun Sadan. Before the training sessions, FMCH perused the daily menu at the hostel, the monthly groceries/cereals consumption and also studied the health parameters of the boys at CTS.

FMCH conducted a program to educate and empower the participants – the CTS boys, the cooks at CTS and Vinimay volunteers.. They imparted information on Nutrition and its importance for adults, family nutrition, personal hygiene, food safety & hygiene and also carried out a cooking demonstration. CTS has made changes in the food menu for the boys based on the recommendations of FMCH.

Vinimay Trust is currently undertaking an exercise is to collect information on all the boys who have passed out of Tarun Sadan since its inception. The objective is to understand their stability status in the areas of - job, savings, social interactions, health and marriage etc. The intent is also to understand the role that Tarun Sadan has played in their lives and throw up suggestions for improvements in our functioning. Another aim is to bring the ex-students of Tarun Sadan into an alumni network and explore the option of creating a self-help group for themselves. This will also help Vinimay to reach out to any boy needing immediate help/ intervention either on an emotional, medical or financial level.

The exercise is being conducted through tracing the ex-students of Tarun Sadan, getting in touch with them and asking them to come to the hostel and fill up a simple questionnaire followed by an informal interview by the Vinimay volunteers so as to reestablish touch with them and also understand more about their current life. The whole exercise is expected to last for around 3 to 4 months and it is our aim to get in contact with as many ex-students as possible.

III. NEW BEGINNINGS

Raju Bansode, an ex-student of Tarun Sadan, wedded Nirmala on 21st April 2017. Umesh Sir and Mukta didi – both senior Vinimay volunteers played the role of Raju's parents during the wedding ceremony. Many Vinimay members, staff & ex-students of CCH and ex-students of Tarun Sadan attended the marriage.

Mangesh Mhatre, another ex-student of Tarun Sadan, wedded Aparna at Mangaon on the same day – 21st April, 2017. Many ex-students of Tarun Sadan attended their marriage as well.

The wedding of Vinod Shinde, an ex-student & also an employee of Tarun Sadan, with Prachi was celebrated at our Tarun Sadan hostel on 10th June 2017. It was attended by a large number of Vinimay members, and ex-students of Tarun Sadan. Vinod participates in many Vinimay programs. He takes personal care of students and ex-students of Tarun Sadan when they fall ill.

Prasad Shankar Sagarolikar married Harshada on 28th July 2017. The marriage was attended by many Vinimay and Tarun Vinimay members. Prasad is the son of Shankar Sagarolikar, a member of Tarun Vinimay and a Vinimay volunteer in camps and other activities. Prasad holds a degree in catering and works off-shore in a ship. He has been a volunteer in Vinimay Camps and programs looking after the catering department.

Rupesh Gupte, a Tarun Vinimay member, married Priyanka on 23rd August 2017. The marriage

was attended by Vinimay volunteers and Tarun Vinimay members

Santosh Vakchaure passed his Std 12 (Commerce) examinations with 54% while Somnath Thombre secured 44% in his Std 12 (Science) exams. Both are currently residents of Tarun Sadan. We wish them both the very best for a bright future.

Rajesh Thapa, student at Tarun Sadan passed his S.S.C exam with 38%. We wish him all the very best for a bright future.

FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

“Making Learning Fun” – Vinimay Camps Creative Activity - Fancy Dress using Newspapers



FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

"Making Learning Fun" – Vinimay Camps ***Vinimay Camps - Khana Khazana | Creative Activity - Calligraphy***



HOW YOU CAN HELP ME

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: +919920358804)

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to others

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or

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