

YOUTH FOR SEVA

HYDERABAD



ANNUAL REPORT - 2010

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FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR'S DESK

Namaste,

It will throw light on all that YFS volunteers have achieved in the very first year of it's coming into being. Time commitment and whole-hearted devotion from our volunteers coupled with financial support from our donors in doing their bit for the society has brought about considerable change in the lives of children and the underprivileged as a whole. Within just 10 months of its inception, the YFS team has grown to 200+ volunteers spanning across 32 companies and 2 colleges.

YFS focuses on volunteering as a means of self transformation. It is a process of creating individuals with strong personal and national character. It is a very informal and fun filled volunteering platform. New ideas and volunteers are the driving force.

Let us join hands and tread the path shown by Swami Vivekananda who said 'Let us all work hard, my brethren; this is no time for sleep. On our work depends the coming of the India of the future. Arise and awake and see her seated here on her eternal throne, rejuvenated, more glorious than she ever was — this motherland of ours.' Together we can, we will make a difference. Vande Mataram!

Thank You,

Shobhit Mathur

YFS Hyderabad Coordinator 2010

Namaste,

It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to work for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden sections of the society. I have seen each YFS project as a development initiative for this nation and this has helped me to give shape to all my thoughts. We have a well established platform now and would concentrate more on expanding our base in different areas and sections of the society.

Thank You,

Ashwin Bhusare

YFS Hyderabad Coordinator 2011

YOUTH FOR SEVA AND SPECTRUM OF WORK

India is a very young country, with 66% of her population under the age of 35 and the median age of about 22 years. While this presents itself as a boon at the forefront, it can manifest itself as the bane of national development if the youngsters are not educated, not healthy and most importantly not connected to the social problems and the country as a whole.

The solution lies in a non-governmental people's movement. There is a growing desire among the youth in India to be the change they wish to see, by devoting their time and talent for community development. But most of them are not currently involved in volunteering work because of three major reasons:

1. Not knowing where to start.
2. The fear that it may be too much of responsibility.
3. Concern that it cannot be done with their limited time availability.

Youth for Seva (YFS), Hyderabad was formed in February 2010 to fill this gap, so that youth with an intention to volunteer and with different time commitments can easily find meaningful opportunities to serve the community. The mission of YFS is to inspire youth to volunteer, connect them to the grass roots projects, and provide ongoing support and training to the volunteers and other NGOs.

YFS operates projects in the following areas:

YFS SHIKSHA

YFS volunteers conduct a variety of programs in government schools, destitute shelters, blind and *Vanavasi* hostels. These programs are aimed at supplementing the teacher and nurturing the student's intellectual as well as co-curricular abilities, in turn increasing the urge to study further. The volunteers aim to reach the most needy children. The schools are chosen keeping this need in mind.

Akshara Bharati is another important part of YFS Shiksha. It is an initiative to nurture the reading habit in children between age group of 5-15 years, from underprivileged and remote areas by facilitating access to good non-academic literature. YFS sets up libraries across various schools, slums and orphanages, so that books are available when they need them the most.

YFS AAROGYA

Even though good health is a primary need, it is denied to many people because of lack of awareness and access to medical facilities.

The Health team at YFS works towards bridging this gap by organizing basic health and eye check-up camps. Awareness camps about hygiene, nutrition, HIV, Tobacco, Alcohol and many other topics of importance are also conducted in schools and slums.

YFS PRAKRITI

The Green team at YFS works towards maintaining a clean-and-green environment and has been actively involved in spreading awareness about eco-friendly practices in schools, offices, residential complexes, shops and other commercial establishments.

YFS GRAM VIKAS

Dr. Abdul Kalam emphasized that 'If India has to become a developed nation by 2020, we cannot neglect the 8 crore Vanavasis'. Keeping with his words, YFS designed its Gram Vikas program. Vana Yatra and Seva Mela are the significant parts of this program.

Vana Yatra: This is a unique combination of Fun and Seva. The main aim of this event is to connect Urban youth to Rural and unreached people of India, and to increase understanding of problems plaguing the country. The Yatri later brainstorm on how to remedy the problems and take part in the Seva projects of the village they visited. Vana Yatra is one of the most awaited events of YFS.

Seva Mela: India is home to a variety of arts and crafts. Unfortunately, the artisans never get their worth owing to lack of access to proper market. YFS supports such artisans in rural and disaster-hit areas by purchasing products from them and promoting them in various companies and residential complexes.

YFS VIKLAANG SAHYOG

Supporting differently-abled people in whatever ways they require is another prime focus area of YFS. Spoken English and motivational story telling sessions, Computer training, including use of Skype and GoogleTalk and Yoga classes are some such initiatives. Volunteers also help them as scribes for writing their exams and provide audio magazines that help them for UPSC exam preparations. Career guidance and job help is a major part of this program. Profiles are collected and the data uploaded on the YFS website in order to assist them in finding suitable jobs.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

Here is a recap of all that we did during the year 2010-2011.

April '10

- Vana Yatra to Achampet
- Seva Darshan at Vaidehi Ashram

May '10

- School Kit Drive – Ground work and Collection Drive

June '10

- School Kit Packaging

July '10

- School Kit Distribution Drive - 60 days, 23 companies, 150 volunteers, 2500 school kits, 16 schools
- Superbrain Yoga sessions in schools

Aug '10

- Plantation drive, Models for Science Fair, Drawing and Elocution competitions in Govt. High School, Gajularamaram
- Vanayatra to Bhadrachalam
- Library inauguration at Vatsalya Sindhu
- Free Basic Health Camp at Karmika Nagar

Sep '10

- Parisara Ganapati
- Launch of 'Green Commandos' and 'Treasure from Trash' program in Govt. High School, Balamrai.

Oct '10

- Naipunya Varga - Volunteer Training
- Seva Mela at CA, Infosys, Persistent and Avaya Technologies
- Sports Day for slum girls with Oracle Corp
- Launch of YFS Blood Donors Registry

Nov'10

- VanaYatra to Kurnool – Corporate [Oracle]
- Visit to Blind Hostels -Dilsukhanagar
- Children's Day Celebrations at Patni Computers
- VanaYatra to Araku
- Launch of Seva Fellowships and First Seva Fellow to Orissa
- Awareness campaign - Hyderabad 8K Fun Run
Kashmir Terrorism issue
- Eye Camp at Vatsalya Sindhu

Dec '10

- Seva Mela @ Wipro
- Presence at Craft Bazaar, Sloka Waldorf School
- Visit to other NGOs – SAFA India and Blue Cross Society
- Eye camp at Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Karwan
- Aarogya Rakshak training at Vatsalya Sindhu
- Visit to Blind Hostels – Begumpet, Mehdipatnam and Dilsukhnagar
- Launch of Sponsor a Child
- Basic Health Camp at Sanathnagar school
- Second Seva Fellow to Bundelkhand

VANAYATRA - FIELD TRIPS OF YFS

APRIL 2010 - VANAVASI KALYAN ASHRAM, ACHAMPET



This was first outdoor event of YFS. 15 YFS volunteers visited a tribal hostel in Achampet, Mahbubnagar District run by Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad (VKP), to be a part of their Annual Day celebrations. The hostel had 40 primary school children and 16 higher secondary school children who were all taught free with free accommodation. These children belonged to the Chenchu tribe. Life expectancy of the Chenchu tribe is just 23 years. It is no surprise that this tribe's population has dropped from 25 lakhs to 25,000. The visit also included a Darshan at the holy shrine of Srisailem.

During the function, the children performed gymnastics, traditional arts like Kolatam and Chekkabajana, Archery and Gita chanting. The high skill levels of the children, their discipline and confidence mesmerized the audience. The dedication of the VKP volunteers, working in extreme circumstances with minimal resources, strengthened the resolve of all YFS volunteers to work harder.

AUG 2010 - VANAYATRA TO BHADRACHALAM

YFS truly demonstrated a new way to celebrate Indian Independence by arranging a VanaYatra to Bhadrachalam during Independence Day 2010.

33 Youth for Seva volunteers from Hyderabad set out on a VanaYatra to the remote villages in Khammam district. The goal was to celebrate the day with tribal children in these villages, meet the local volunteers and understand the local network of Seva projects. A total of 150 school kits were distributed at 3 locations and a new library was set up in one hostel for tribal children as part of the 'Akshara Bharati' initiative. A breathtaking boat ride on the Godavari River through Papi Hills was an added bonus to the trip!

The volunteers were overwhelmed by the experience, to say the least. Overall it was an eye-opening and inspiring journey, which will be etched in the memories of all the volunteers for years to come. All thanks to the local Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad and Sewa Bharati volunteers for making this possible.

This is what a few volunteers had to say about their experiences, esp. about the full-time volunteers who have happily devoted all their time for the society.

"There is no reason why these people should leave their well off lifestyle and jump into the Rashtra Nirmaan Yagna. For most part of the trip, I was thinking – What is that one thing that keeps these people motivated so long? It seemed, this question would ever remain unanswered until I looked up in search for an answer. The Tricolour was waving high in the blue sky...!" – Nilesh Rathi, Microsoft

"I just want to say it in a line...It's my first day of my life with great satisfaction."
– Krishna, TCS

OCT 2010 – ORACLE VANAYATRA TO KURNOOL



Oracle Volunteers tied up with Youth for Seva for their Global Volunteers Day celebrations. They visited the flood hit areas of Kurnool District and participated in rehabilitation work.

The trip included a visit to an orphanage for boys, an Abhyasika (tuition center) and the flood hit villages in Kurnool and Mahbubnagar District. Volunteers also participated in tree plantation and interacted with the children and the villagers.

The volunteers were pained to see kids whose parents had been washed away in floods and they were not even aware of what had happened with them. They were happy with their 'Anna', the one who looks after their hostel. The volunteers were requested to visit with some educational CDs and also provide help in conducting science experiments.

One of the Yatris, Nirupama says '*We do not need to have anything to GIVE. Giving happens from within and there are no barriers to it.*' Rightly so!

NOV 2010 – VANA YATRA TO ARAKU VALLEY

26 YFS Hyderabad Volunteers from 15 different companies went on a VanaYatra to villages in the Araku Valley.

The special feature of this particular Vana Yatra was that volunteers stayed with the Vanavasis in their village. Families hosted two volunteers each and it was an experience of a lifetime to be a part of their family and lead their life. Taking bath in a river, sleeping under the moon and star-lit skies, performing Bhajans with them late into the night, learning and performing their traditional dance Dhimsaa and most of all to find a place to store all that love they shower upon. It's probably impossible to give back to them all that you get. There's love oozing out of every word they utter and every action of theirs.

YFS has decided to raise funds for four projects including Bhajan Kendra + Sports Center + Single Teacher School + Adult Night School in 3 such villages and be able to sustain them for at least 3-4 more years.

SCHOOL KIT DRIVE

YFS volunteers visited a few financially limited schools, where the students lack the infrastructure to study. As per the survey conducted, most of the students could not afford the basic things needed for their education. The reasons were many; parents being away from the children, absence of caretakers for the children, single parents with a financial crisis, parents no more, family below poverty line etc.

YFS through its strong tie-ups with NGOs and good sponsors made a concrete plan to initiate the School Kit Program and aid these schools. YFS volunteers, in consultation with the school staff, decided on the basic items that will be part of the kit - 1 School Bag, 6 long Books, a label sheet, 2 Pens and 1 Geometry box.

Over 150 volunteers gave their all and campaigned in 23 companies collecting about 2500 school kits. The volunteers then came together to pack the school kits which was a fun-filled activity with games, songs and food. The School kits were distributed in 16 Government Schools in the city, slums and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. Volunteers also distributed the school kits in tribal hamlets of Khammam district which were hit by the floods in the Godavari River in August 2010.

A session on Superbrain Yoga by one of the volunteers followed the distribution event in the schools, which taught kids to practice simple physical exercises periodically to improve their brain functioning and concentration.



EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES



YFS volunteers conduct regular weekend activities in various schools and orphanages across the city. Since the volunteer involvement is on weekends, YFS has chosen its activities to supplement the teacher. These activities include Spoken English, Fun Maths, Science Experiments, Computer Training, Elocution, Games, Treasure from Trash craft classes, Drawing etc. Cultural activities like Gita chanting, Yoga and folk dance are also taken up.

YFS BLOOD DONORS REGISTRY

Voluntary blood donors form the back-bone of the blood banks, which in turn are the foundation of a safe, adequate and sustainable National blood transfusion system. Blood donation is safe, simple and it saves lives. India requires 4 crore units of blood annually, but only 5 lakh units are donated. Keeping in view this shortage, YFS Hyderabad Health Team encourages its volunteers to be potential blood donor. The team maintains a registry of over 100 donors, who would be contacted for help on demand for a particular blood group. Many people signed up for blood donation even at the Seva Melas held across various companies

AKSHARA BHARATI LIBRARIES

YFS Volunteers strongly believe that quality reading develops the wisdom to make appropriate choices as one grows, which ultimately enhances the quality of life by making them better citizens. This is YFS's way of contributing to the India's Vision 2020 of being a developed and self sufficient nation.

AKSHAR BHARATI LIBRARIES AT VATSALYA SINDHU AND BHARATI BHAVAN

YFS has so far inaugurated 2 libraries, one at Vatsalya Sindhu – a destitute home for boys in Secunderabad and the other at Bharati Bhavan – a Hostel for Tribal boys in Bhadrachalam.

Children here are explained about the values of life, how to hone their different skills and then how to achieve higher goals in their life. Volunteers also read to them, stories of eminent and great personalities of India.



BASIC HEALTH AND EYE CAMPS

During the visits to various Govt Schools, Orphanages and Slums, YFS volunteers identified that several children suffer from ailments and malnutrition, which go unnoticed. To help such children, volunteers tied up with several doctors, medical students and institutions to assist them in their efforts. YFS is today a proud partner of LV Prasad Eye Institute and conducts regular eye checkup camps with their kind co-operation.

A step ahead is the Aarogya Rakshak program. This is an attempt to train teenage students and inmates of orphanages to help themselves and their friends in times of medical need. This includes first-aid training and home remedies for simple ailments.



Reports from couple of such camps are given below.

AUG 2010 - FREE BASIC HEALTH CAMP AT KARMIKA NAGAR

YFS Health team conducted a Free Health Camp on 29-Aug-2010 in Vinayak Nagar Community Hall, Yousufguda. Three doctors were invited - 2 children specialists and 1 general physician to this camp. General health check up, BP check up, Diabetes test were part of the camp.

Around 15 YFS volunteers initiated this camp and helped the doctors in all the way through the camp. Efficient door to door campaigning ensured that many people turned up. Volunteers monitored the patients well so that none of the patients missed out on the checkups done.

Doctors appreciated the work that YFS has been doing and thanked the volunteers as they got a chance to do their bit for the society.

NOV 2010 - EYE CAMP AT VATSALYA SINDHU

YFS volunteers conducted a basic eye screening camp at Vatsalya Sindhu (destitute center for boys) to identify students who need eye treatment. All the 30 students staying here were screened. Students ranging from age 5 to 14 stay in the hostel. During the screening volunteers identified that most of the students suffer from headache and watering in their eyes. The camp got over around 6PM. All the students who need treatment will be referred to LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).

PARISARA GANAPATI – GREEN GANESH POOJA

Parisara Ganapati was an initiative of YFS Prakriti team to promote the use of eco-friendly clay idols and thus reduce the amount of chemical poison that goes into the lakes of the of Paris and paints. YFS various companies, spreading awareness religious significance of Volunteers set up stalls at selling clay idols in two for home use and 5 feet About 1200 small idols and sold at across the stalls. practices like using only festival décor, leaf cups for Nimajjan in the right way by



Other eco-friendly natural materials for the distribution of Prasad and not immersing anything

other than the idol in the water were also promoted. YFS volunteers got together for Samuhik Nimajjan and demonstrated the right way to do the same.

Following this initiative, YFS was rewarded with a half-page article in Surya Newspaper on 20th of September.

ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

As a part of promoting green and eco-friendly practices in schools, YFS came up with a three-fold program which found its application in Govt. High School Balamrai to begin with and has been running successfully now.

The program includes:

- **Green Commandos**
- **Treasure from Trash**
- **Plant a Sapling; Make it a tree**

Green Commandos : This is a 'Clean-and-Green' initiative designed for schools in which 2-3 students from each class will be selected and are known as 'Green Commandos' on a rotation basis. They are responsible for ensuring that the classes and the school as a whole are maintained clean. The class which abides by all of them and the best Green Commando are suitably rewarded.

Treasure from Trash : In order to help the students inculcate the importance and value of waste management, craft classes are conducted to teach children to make greeting cards and other items using waste materials like dried leaves, used paper, pencil shavings etc.

Plant a Sapling; Make it a tree – The main idea of this program is to make the children realize that it's not only important to plant a sapling, but to take good care of it and help it grow well.

SEVA MELAS – PROMOTING RURAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

Seva Mela is an initiative of YFS to bring to market the handicrafts made by rural people. It enables the artisans get a better price for their products and increases awareness about them in the urban population. It helps preserve their unique family traditions and nurture their age-old talents.

This year, YFS Hyderabad selected products from Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in earthquake hit Bhuj (Gujarat) and those made by tribals of Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. The products were 100% hand made and of very high quality.

Stalls were put up in many companies including CA, Infosys, Persistent, Avaya Technologies and Wipro. People were extremely happy with the wide range of items on display and there was demand for more numbers than the volunteers had managed to get made and procured.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAMS

YFS believes in continual improvement and in making volunteering easy and effective. To ensure a steady pace and prevent drop-outs, training programs are conducted, where experts from several areas and people who have been trained already and are volunteering for a while now, present all that they have learnt and applied, and share their experiences with the other volunteers.

Monthly training programs are conducted by YFS. Among them, there were 2 intensive training programs conducted in 2010. One was focused on 'Spirit of Volunteerism' while the other on the entire spectrum of YFS activities.

OCT 2ND TRAINING CAMP

About 90 volunteers attended the day long camp from different parts of the city and actively participated in all the sessions. Mr. Venkatesh Murthy, who started YFS in Bengaluru, graced the occasion. The sessions included workshops simulating various situations volunteers face on the field, how to publicize YFS work in various forums and an inspiring lecture by Mr. Venkatesh on the 'Spirit of Volunteerism'.

OCT 23RD-24TH TRAINING CAMP

An interactive hands-on training program was conducted on 23rd and 24th of October 2010. A wide range of topics were covered, including Teaching Spoken English in slums and schools, Managing and Engaging Children in Classrooms, Basic Health Check-up and Eye testing in schools and slums, Waste Management Programs in schools, Computer training for beginner and intermediate level, Health Care for Girls, Fun Maths and Science Experiments in Schools, thus enabling the volunteers to give their best in all the focus areas of YFS.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Several companies have officially tied up with YFS to conduct their volunteer activities. These CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities have turned out to be very successful. Below are two such events that YFS conducted.

OCT 2010 - SPORTS DAY FOR SLUM GIRLS WITH ORACLE CORP.



In the largest single day event YFS had conducted so far, 35 YFS volunteers from Oracle conducted a sports day and story telling event for 400 slum girls taken care of under 'Kishori Vikas Yojana' from across the city. It was conducted as a part of Oracle Global Volunteers Day. The

organizing capability of YFS volunteers was put to test, and they did extremely well.

As Deep Gaurab, a volunteer from Oracle puts it, *'The day ended with hundreds of smiling faces which is worth being preserved in a corner of your memory for the rest of your life.'* The girls exhibited a perfect balance of discipline, talent, knowledge and innocence which could melt anybody's heart.

NOV 2010 - CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT PATNI COMPUTERS

In co-ordination with YFS, Children's Day 2010 was celebrated at Patni Campus, Hitech City. 45 Children from Vidya Bharati which included 26 Tribal Girls took part in cultural programs and games with Children of Patni Employees. Lots of fun, games and delicious food made it a memorable day for everyone.

Volunteers were deeply touched by the event children and this is what one of them had to say:

“Seeing the talent and the enthusiasm of these children who are less privileged than us reminds us to live our life with the same level of excitement and happiness.”
– Nidhi Patnaik, IBM

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

SEP 2010 –AWARENESS ON PARISARA GANAPATI AT HITECH CITY MMTS STATION

In its first public awareness campaign, volunteers from YFS distributed 2500 pamphlets at the Hi-tech City MMTS station to increase awareness in youth about how to celebrate an environment friendly Ganesh Pooja. The volunteers were pleasantly surprised to see that the pamphlets were well received and appreciated by one and all. This campaign played a key role in making the entire Parisara Ganapati program a success.

NOV 2010 - HYDERABAD 10K RUN ON KASHMIR TERRORISM ISSUE

25 YFS volunteers participated as a Team in the Hyderabad 8K run on 28th Nov. We raised awareness about the Kashmir issue and expressed our feelings that Kashmir was and will always be an integral part of India. Our feelings resonated well with the youth audience.

It was an ocean of people all around. Every person had his/her own motive to run - For health, to have fun or for a cause. But there was one thing in common, the zeal to participate and the enthusiasm which drove them to run. At once, life seemed so beautiful than before - it was colorful, vibrant, and cheerful and so on. There was a huge crowd to cheer the participants. The 12,000 odd crowd unanimously responded to our call and there were many who even made enquiries made about Youth for Seva, its activities etc.

As Sumanth Sharma, Hewlett-Packard puts it: *'I came back home with a reassurance that but for a few elements, the entire nation is one in the belief that indeed "Kashmir is an Integral part of India"'*.

TEENS FOR SEVA

Teenage children can achieve what others would doubt. They are highly energetic and still in the formative phase of their life. Inculcating the spirit of service and connecting them to the society at this age is very important. YFS has designed specific programs to achieve this end. Some of the salient points are:

SCHOOL 2 SCHOOL

Each school adopts a Govt. School within the city. This involves timely visits to the adopted school. Cultural programs, sapling plantation, games etc. can be organized. The focus would be on increasing the regular interaction between the students of the two schools, so that students can learn and share with each other. Combined summer camps can be conducted as well.

SEVA VACATIONS

Higher class students can be involved in service activities during their vacation time. This would involve choosing a specific service project, like teaching or inculcating life skills in a younger class for a period of one or two months. This would enhance the leadership and mentoring skills of the student-teacher and help in supplementing the limited education of the Govt. school children.

FESTIVALS FOR SEVA

Specific occasions like festivals and birthdays can be celebrated together, to increase the cultural understanding and social bonding among the students. Each family can also invite a student from the Government school to their home on that occasion. This would increase the interaction beyond the regular school time.

SEVA FELLOWSHIPS

Several volunteers feel that they want to spend more time volunteering or want to work in rural and remote areas. To channelize this desire, YFS started the fellowship program.

THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE SEVA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- Choose any location within the country and a project area of your choice (education, health, environment, rural development etc.)
- Selections are based on 2 rounds of personal interviews and fitness tests.
- Duration of fellowship is decided on basis of the project chosen. Minimum is 10 days and may vary with the project chosen.
- Projects are also available in Hyderabad.



YFS's first Seva Fellow, Ashwin Bhusare from Wipro, took time off during Diwali and spent 10 days in the Tribal forests of Orissa.

In his own words: *'I request each and every YFS volunteer to take out some time from their busy schedule and experience the rest of the country. This would bring some confidence among the poor people we visit. As I said every state has similar problems but solution is different. Before I visited Orissa some of my friends said that I had lost my senses and was wasting all my time and may not get back safe. I took the decision to go alone and visit the most insecure places of the country just to bring confidence among such people. It would be great if your visit brings some development among them. I strongly feel that we need to give back something to the place we visit; it should not become a tourist place.'*

And now, YFS's second Seva Fellow Ravikanth, is all set to embark on his journey to Chitrakoot on the 17th of December and spend time in the Seva projects there till the 2nd of January 2011. He will study the unique Self Reliance Campaign for villages developed by of Deen Dayal Research Institute.

SPONSOR A CHILD

YFS volunteers worked hard for about 4 months to collect information from 150 students from rural India and 100 students from the urban slums, belonging to the poorest of the poor families for the YFS scholarship program.

PROFILE OF RURAL STUDENTS

The focus was on students belonging to the primitive tribal groups. These tribes are the most backward in our country and are struggling for survival. They are in need of education the most. Students from families whose annual family income does not exceed Rs 20,000 and in some cases, as low as Rs 5,000 have been chosen for the sponsorship. These students are the first generation to be educated in their families. YFS has closely worked with Vanavasi Kalyan Parishad (www.vanavasi.org) and Vidya Bharati (www.vidyabharati.org), organizations of nationwide reach and high reputation for collecting this information. YFS will also collaborate with them for Funds disbursement.

PROFILE OF URBAN STUDENTS

YFS has selected children from slums of Hyderabad, who are of very poor background. Volunteers have worked closely with Sewa Bharati (<http://www.sewabharathi.com/>) for this purpose.

Here are the salient features of the 'Sponsor a Child' program:

- Sponsorship of Rs 300 per month per child.
- Each child can be sponsored by one or more donors. Donor can support one or more students.
- Sponsorship covers education expenses including tuition during school days and vocational training during holidays.
- Each donor can also volunteer to be a mentor of a child. For privacy reasons, we encourage donor to mentor a different child from the one he/she sponsors.
- Donor gets status reports of the student twice in a year. Donor can be in direct touch with teacher/warden of the student to check progress.

CURRENT LIST OF REGULAR WEEKEND PROJECTS

- **Government High School, Gajularamaram (near Jedimetla)**
Activity: Teaching Maths, Science Experiments and Spoken English
- **Zilla Parishad High School, Rickshaw Pullers Colony, Jagadgirigutta**
Activity: Teaching Maths, Science Experiments and Spoken English
- **Government High School, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad**
Activity: Computer Training
- **Government High School, Balamrai, Rasoolpura, Secunderabad**
Activity: Teaching students about Waste Management, Bhagawad Gita Classes, Yoga Training and Computer Training
- **Vatsalya Sindhu (destitute shelter for boys), Moula Ali, Secunderabad**
Activity: Storytelling, Spoken English, Computers and Maths tutorials
- **Vaidehi Ashram (destitute shelter for girls), Saidabad, Hyderabad**
Activity: Computer training
- **Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram for Tribal Boys, Deenayal Nagar, Secunderabad**
Activity: Spoken English
- **Government Hostel for Blind Students (Boys), Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad**
Activity: Audio Content Preparation – UPSC exam material
- **Weekly Basic Health and Eye Testing Camps in Various Schools**

EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

YFS believes in joining hands and working together with other NGOs to realize the common goal of building a glorious India. Here are some recent efforts in this direction.

YFS volunteers put up a booth at an Eco-friendly Bazaar in Sloka Waldorf school in December 2010 to spread awareness about its activities. Many students, parents and teachers expressed interest in working with YFS and so did the other NGOs present there.

YFS also tied up with SAFA and Blue Cross in December 2010. SAFA works towards empowering women in slums and Blue Cross provides shelter to animals which have no homes, are injured or disabled. These associations help expand the reach of YFS and provides its volunteers a wider variety of projects to work on.

JOIN US

As the organization grows and spread its wings, it needs more dedicated volunteers to achieve the set goals. All of you are invited to be an integral part of the productive work that YFS has been doing and add more value to the same. New ideas are most welcome too. Join YFS and be responsible for making a real difference to the society and experience the joy of giving.

Please send an email to yfshyd@youthforseva.org to sign up as a volunteer.

YFS SAHYOG

Promoting volunteerism is the key focus of YFS. However, to run the above projects and many more, we need money. Here are some projects for which you can contribute financially.

- Akshar Bharati Library : Rs 9,000 per book set
- Sponsor a Child : Rs 300 per month per child.
- Minimum contribution of Rs 900. Annual sponsorship Rs 3600.
- School Kit Drive : Rs 300 per school kit
- Basic Health Camp : Rs 5,000
- Single Teacher School : Rs 10,000 per year

All contributions are exempt under 80G of Income Tax Act of India.

Account Details:

Sewa International, State bank of India [SBI]

A/c No. 31129537154, Special Personal Banking Branch [PBB]

Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad

MICR: 500002075, IFSC: SBIN0004159

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