



# Youth for Seva

*Experience the joy of giving*

## Activity Report 2013-'14





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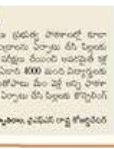
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Messenger on a cycle

OFFBEAT Dharma Teja pedalled 1000km in 10 days to identify 1000 children who could benefit from a volunteering programme



PEDAL ON Dharma Teja (centre) with other volunteers during the 1000-km ride

Dharma Teja, a CBET alumna, would set out on his cycle at 5.30 a.m. and navigate through the gullies of Mahabubnagar district, covering 90 to 100 kms per day. He covered 1000km in 10 days.

While doing so, Teja also identified 1000 children who would be beneficiaries of the Youth for Seva School Kit Drive 2013. The organisation, set up in 2010, has 400 active volunteers devoting their spare time to different causes, including education.

Teja was in touch with other youth volunteers in the villages, who helped him identify children who would benefit from the school kit drive. Teja found that health, sanitation and hygiene are all found wanting in some of the villages.

ಸಮಾಜಸೇವೆ ಯುವತೆ



ನಿಮ್ಮ ದೇಹ... ಯೌವನ ಸೇವಕರು... ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು... ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯ...

Deprived kids flower at Chiguru finale

METRO NEWS/HYDERABAD

Over 4,000 students from government schools, homes for destitute and physically-challenged, etc have been brought together on 'Chiguru', a cultural and talent platform, initiated by the Youth for Seva (YFS).

The platform is intended to provide opportunities for youth who want to take active part in community development

The platform is intended to provide opportunities for youth who want to take active part in community development despite time constraints. Chiguru is an initiative taken by YFS to encourage children who do not get an opportunity to showcase their talents to come forward and prove the talents hidden in them.

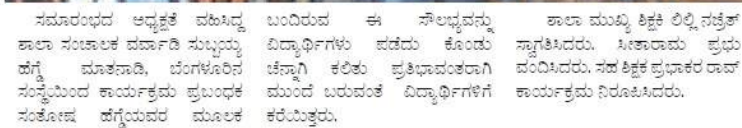


Children participating in Chiguru event in the city on Sunday

'Traditional and art dance forms topped the list of performances. Children from far-off villages performed some amazing acts on stage.

'Chiguru is a unique idea put into practice by giving the less privileged children an opportunity to exhibit their hidden talents in front of such well-known personalities,' said one of the guests.

ಉಚಿತ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್, ಪುಸ್ತಕ, ಲೇಖನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ವಿತರಣೆ



ಸಮರಂಭದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಈ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು ಈ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವನ್ನು

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯನ್ನು ಬಾಲ್ಯಾವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಿ: ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ತಿಪ್ಪೇಸ್ವಾಮಿ

ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಅದರ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡಿರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ...

# Message from National Organizing Secretary

**“If only eyes could see, and the ears could hear,  
the lament of a few, the cries of many,  
If only empathy could spring into action,  
and wipe the tears ere they run dry!”**

*The tide is turning and the times are changing. With the nation heralding the coming of age of its Youth, we are witnessing the awakening of a collective conscience, a conscience that is politically, socially and morally alive. Youth for Seva believes in channelizing the creative energy of this collective conscience, fuelling the compassion within and bringing about a transformation where the Youth will serve as positive change agents in society. The span of 1 year from April 2013 has been an eventful period for the toddler that Youth for Seva is.*

*Breaking away from the norm of organic growth, the chapters at Warrangal, Kurnool, Belgaum and Anand in Gujarath were initiated and established following the interest and commitment shown by volunteers who attended a Boot Camp organised in Hyderabad.*

*In tune with the mission of enabling partner institutions, YFS organised a day-long workshop for NGOs to enable them in engaging volunteers more effectively. YFS also launched a successful collaboration with the organic farmer federation, KRISHI PRAYOG PARIVAR. Following a workshop on organic farming, volunteers expressed their interest in understanding more about organic farming and in their endeavour came up with a bilingual website to market the products and also with a novel initiative to set up an “Organic Mela” in the first weekend of every month in Bangalore. It is interesting to note that the attempts of Krishi Prayog Parivar were undertaken as a case study in a management challenge in IIMB, Bangalore.*

*Another highlight of last year’s activities is the increasing nature of corporate volunteering with over 4000 volunteers being engaged in CSR initiatives and other projects facilitated by YFS. The “Workshop on corporate volunteering” that was held in Hyderabad for CSR managers was directed towards enabling designing of effective and sustainable volunteer engagement models for the corporate crowd.*

*“POSHIKA”, Social Incubator initiative added another dimension to the functioning of YFS. The incubator provides a platform for volunteers to come forth with their ideas for societal change, nurture them, and provide a support system to facilitate realisation of such ideas. “Yuva Chetana”- Warriors of Change for a Better Tomorrow, was yet another novel initiative undertaken to appreciate college students engaged in societal service and provide mentorship.*

*Volunteers were, are and will continue to be the backbone of YFS. Without the commitment, dedication and passion of the volunteers, scripting all our success stories will be impossible.*

*YFS is largely supported by the generous contribution from individual donors, who believe in the power of the Youth. We sincerely appreciate this gesture and look forward to your continued support.*

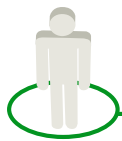
*YFS remains committed to consolidating its steps and ensuring that the programs undertaken continue to have a positive impact in society.*

**- National Organizing Secretary**  
Youth for Seva

*Youth for Seva (YFS) is a nation-wide volunteering movement to provide opportunities for youth who want to take active part in community development. YFS aims to empower youth to become positive change-makers who will enable institutions to work for the common good, without any vested interests.*

*Youth for Seva supports volunteers by matching them with volunteering opportunities best suited to their schedules, locations and interests.*

*YFS' goal is to enable schools, NGOs, government hospitals and other organizations in the social sector to face their challenges by connecting them with volunteers who wish to work towards social change.*



## **Vision**

To create a self-reliant society where developmental needs are addressed locally through individuals who act without vested interests.



## **Mission**

- To facilitate a movement of volunteering
- To empower and enable individuals to become positive change agents in society
- To enable institutions to effectively engage the community and benefit from their support
- To create models to address developmental needs through the culture of volunteering
- To promote sustainable lifestyles and strengthen the required social institutions to sustain communities



## Highlights Of The Year 2013-'14

### School Kit Drive

Youth for Seva undertook the **School Kit Drive** for the 7th year in succession. The drive is designed to support children from needy backgrounds, who are likely to drop out of school because they cannot afford to buy educational material. School kits containing a school bag, notebooks and stationery were distributed to underprivileged children in rural and urban areas in and around Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Chennai.



In the **Financial Year 2013-2014**, The school kits were distributed to **36000** children in total, reaching **286** Schools (**180 Rural, 106 Urban**) across India, including flood-hit regions of Uttarakhand. About **1000** volunteers participated in distributing these schools kits. In Hyderabad, nearly **400** volunteers spent half a day in packing **10,000** kits.

The schoolkits were personally gifted to the children by volunteers. Some of our donors also participated in the distribution process.



I thank YFS for the school kits offered to our children at the Lahari Orphanage home. Your support will open many new opportunities for these children. We need the support of organizations like YFS to reach our goals. Thank you for your generous support.

**- Anil Nalanda**

Lahari Children's Home, Hyderabad

The School Kit Drive is an admirable initiative by YFS. We at Agility E Services supported YFS with 500 school kits. Our employees helped pack & distribute the school kits also. We could see the smiles & joy on the kids' faces when they got the school kits, and that made our day. We cherish all the events we have participated in and look forward to many more.

**- Jagannath Ramanathan**

AVP, Agility E Services

## Chiguru 2014

Chiguru is a unique festival geared at helping students of government and non-formal schools get a platform to identify and showcase their talents. Youth for Seva first organized Chiguru in 2009. Today, Chiguru has grown to be one of Youth For Seva's biggest events.

This year, Chiguru was held in two cities: Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The Bengaluru edition saw a turnout of **2300**; and the Hyderabad event was attended by **3500** school children. Children from Government schools and orphanages, as well as children with disability participated in both events. A total of **1300** volunteers (*700 in Hyderabad and 600 in Bengaluru*) were involved in planning and execution of the event. Participating students were trained by the volunteers, who helped them discover their interests and develop their skills. The students participated in several categories including street play, 'Pick and Speak', spelling bee, singing, dancing, drawing, Bhagavad Geeta chanting, debate and quiz contests.



No. of volunteers for Hyderabad event: 700

No. of volunteers for Bengaluru event: 600



The YFS team organised Chiguru very well. We appreciate the way your team worked together to create this event. We are happy to offer the service of Yoga whenever you require it.

- D. N. Rao  
Yoga Expert



I am happy we were able to be part of this budding...Hope the bud of chiguru blossoms into a flower and later, fruit!

- Subramaniyan Venkatarama  
VP - Software Engineering, CA Technologies



## Highlights Of The Year 2013-'14

### Poshika: The Social Incubator Project

The social incubator project was set up to support individuals who want to initiate change in society. Poshika is a fellowship that provides an inspirational and nurturing environment to individuals who wish to contribute at the grassroots level. Individuals who have ideas for specific projects may apply; if selected, they will be provided with financial as well as mentor support.

Two projects were selected for incubation during the last year:

- A project that aims to create environmental awareness in government schools
- A project that aims to set up a mental health support system in the villages near Sira, Tumkur

### Yuva Chetana Awards

The Yuva Chetana awards were instituted this year to recognize the contributions of volunteers from colleges. All college students who were doing any kind of volunteering work were eligible for application.

A total of 150 students from 60 colleges applied (or were nominated) for the Yuva Chetana awards. Workshops and seva darshans were arranged for all applicants. There were 11 awardees under different categories: Best Visionary, Most Innovative, Most Impactful, and Most Consistent Effort. The winners were given a cash prize of Rs 10,000 each to support their chosen cause. These students will also benefit from the expertise of the YFS network through mentoring sessions and other support.



## Relief & Rehabilitation Work In Uttarakhand

In June 2013, the state of Uttarakhand saw a cloudburst that caused floods and landslides, in one of the worst natural disasters in India in the recent past. Twenty one YFS volunteers from the Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai chapters visited Uttarakhand in August 2013 to assist with the rehabilitation work.

Volunteers undertook a survey of the villages to identify the areas where the residents needed support. On their return, volunteers raised funds for:

- Setting up of one-teacher schools
- Sponsoring the education of 300 school students from the area
- Reconstruction of six schools in the area
- Setting up of computer centers for students
- Setting up of local health centers in the region



The visit to Uttarakhand taught me a lot of lessons. We understood the hardships the locals face: they have to travel miles together for a single meal. Children have to travel miles every day to reach school; those who work outside their villages are stuck, unable to earn a living. In spite of these hardships, the children are determined to study further and return to their villages. Their dreams make me want to do something to help them.

**- Avishek Aman**

Bengaluru

My experience volunteering at Uttarakhand was wonderful. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood, but the crops here are damaged. The locals told us that it would take at least three years for things to get back to normal. I thank YFS for giving me this opportunity to visit Uttarakhand; I learnt a lot on this trip.

**- Jyothirmaie B**

Hyderabad



### Bengaluru Chapter: Ongoing Activities

**Tutoring Needy School children:** Over 600 volunteers worked with 110 government schools and tuition centers in Bengaluru to tutor the students in spoken English, Mathematics, basic sciences and Computer Studies

**Sapling Plantation Drives:** A total of 360 volunteers (corporate and individual) participated in various sapling plantation drives across Karnataka

**Doctor at Schools:** Our volunteers and volunteer doctors facilitate health screening and check-ups of students at government schools. Over the year, the Doctor at Schools programme saw the participation of 70 doctors and 54 non-medical volunteers

**Health and Menstrual Hygiene Awareness:** General health and menstrual hygiene awareness camps were held in 82 places across Karnataka. Over 40 volunteers worked to reach 7900 children (5700 children in rural Karnataka, and 2200 children in Bengaluru)

**CSR activities:** As many as 2000 volunteers (corporate employees) have been engaged in several activities as part of our programme for Corporate Social Responsibility. Volunteers participated in activities as varied as sapling plantation drives, tutoring schoolchildren, visits to orphanages, destitute homes and hospitals, and environmental awareness programmes



“Volunteering is about impacting our own lives as much as it is about impacting others’. I have learnt to go beyond my comfort zone. I moved out of the software industry because I wanted to do something real, tangible and satisfying. Volunteering suits my way of thinking.

Every individual must have a vision, mission and purpose in life. I am fortunate that volunteering with YFS has given me an opportunity to discover these. Everyday is a new learning. The more I have given, the more I have got back.”

- **Rajiv**  
Bengaluru

## Bengaluru Chapter: Events

**Summer Camps:** Volunteers were trained to conduct different workshops at our annual summer camps last year. 136 of our volunteers facilitated sessions at for 990 students at 33 locations in Bengaluru (April 2013)

**Lake Clean-Up Drive:** 60 volunteers worked with the BBMP and Green Lungi warriors to clean up Ulsoor Lake, and spread awareness about keeping the surroundings clean

**Ugadi Celebrations:** More than 70 volunteers were part of our Ugadi celebrations this year. The festival was celebrated with inmates of a government remand home, the Association for the Mentally Challenged, and patients and staff of the Oncology Department, Kidwai hospital (March 2014)

**Eco-Friendly Ganesha Festival:** More than 30 volunteers were trained to make eco-friendly Ganeshas with clay. These volunteers, in turn trained more than 200 children in making these eco-friendly idols (September 2013)



We all are not born with equal opportunities and those who are privileged enough, need to do their bit for the society. We should consider volunteering as a responsibility rather than as doing a favour. This is essential to sustain the spirit of giving.

- Harshitha  
Bengaluru

### Hyderabad Chapter: Ongoing Activities

**Health Camps:** Volunteers conducted regular health camps and awareness sessions in Primary Healthcare Centres, slums and government schools. Awareness sessions on general health, nutrition, seasonal hygiene and menstrual hygiene were also held in these locations. At our eye pre-screening camps, 8000 students were screened for eye problems; spectacles were given to 2000 of them. The total number of volunteers engaged in activities in the health sector this year was 629

**Tutoring people with disabilities:** Every weekend, volunteers visit schools for the hearing impaired to teach them to work with computers. At various centers for people with disabilities, our volunteers help graduates learn various interpersonal skills, this enabling them to get jobs

**Tutoring needy students:** Volunteers tutor students at government and other needy schools, orphanages, government ST/BC hostels and slums in Spoken English, Maths and Computers. 90 volunteers are engaged in teaching these students. Six students, who were tutored by our volunteers, won the National Merit Scholarships

**Cleanliness Drives:** A total of 200 volunteers have participated in our cleanliness drives. Volunteers helped clean up various spots across the city (including one heritage site). A drive was also taken up for eco-friendly immersion of idols during Ganesha Chaturthi

**CSR Activities:** As many as 2000 volunteers have been engaged in different activities undertaken as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility programme. Corporate volunteers participated in different activities including health camps, street cleaning, and field trips for the underprivileged.



During my Seva Internship, I worked in two slums and an orphanage. The experience was incredible. The students always came to class with smiles on their faces, and a willingness to learn. The children helped me look at things with a new perspective. I would like to thank YFS for giving me such an amazing opportunity!

**- Kundanika Lakkad**  
Hyderabad

## Hyderabad Chapter: Events

**Summer camps:** Volunteers conducted summer camps across 20 locations in Hyderabad. The summer camps were attended by 500 children, and organized by 70 volunteers (April 2013)  
**Sapling Plantation Drives:** 75 volunteers took part in the Sapling Plantation Marathon organized in 19 schools. Volunteers helped over 1000 students plant saplings, and showed them how to take care of the plants. (July 2013)

**Pulse Polio Drive Hyderabad:** A total of 40 volunteers participated in both phases of the drive to administer polio drops to a total of 13,579 children (Jan & Feb 2014)

**Eco-friendly Ganesha Puja:** Volunteers held eco-friendly Ganesha-making sessions at 45 locations across the city. The clay Ganeshas used for puja were friendly way. This activity saw the participation of 55 volunteers (September 2013)

**Eco-Friendly Holi Celebrations:** Eco-friendly holi celebrations with 1000 children & adults from schools, slums, orphanages, government remand homes, ST hostels, old age homes and blind hostels as part of YFS' initiative to create environmental awareness. The celebrations were managed by 100 volunteers across these locations (March 2014)



I belong to a group of four volunteers who work at the CPDL (Centre for People with Disabilities) in Mastabank. This is a government-run vocational training centre for differently abled people. We have been teaching them through fun and games, videos and puzzles. We took them out to a mall once; many of them come from villages and had never seen a mall before. The expressions on their faces were priceless. It is these small moments that motivate us to go back every week.

- Shivam  
Hyderabad



### Other Chapters: Activities And Events

**Rehabilitation of Beggars, Bhadravathi-Shivamogga:** Volunteers helped rehabilitate children and elderly beggars by connecting them with NGOs that could help provide them with shelter and a means for livelihood. Parent counseling was organised for those who sent their children to beg on the streets. Volunteers also counsel school dropouts, and support them in continuing their education. 30 volunteers from this chapter continue to work on these projects

**Environmental Activities, Chennai:** A total of 98 volunteers participated in the environmental activities which included tree plantation and maintenance, beach clean-up drive, lake clean-up drive and awareness sessions on solid waste management

**Extracurricular activities for tribal students, Chennai:** Twenty nine volunteers made regular visits to the Vanavasi Seva Kendra tribal school at Karumandarai, to conduct extra-curricular and cultural activities for the students of this school.

**Assistance to the visually-impaired, Chennai:** Volunteers visited Netrodaya, an organization that supports the visually-impaired, to read to the children and adults, and perform scribe services there. Total number of volunteers engaged:15

**Autism Awareness, Chennai:** 45 volunteers worked with our partner NGO Swaabhimaan to create awareness about autism, and raised funds through the sale of paper products made by the NGO

**Weekend Tutoring, Delhi:** Volunteers tutor underprivileged students at 26 study centres run by our partner NGOs in Delhi. Students are given help in working with mathematics and English. An estimated 90 volunteers have tutored students this year

**Audio Book Recording, Delhi:** 50 volunteers worked to record textbooks from IGNOU and Delhi University, as well as material for civil service examination for students from blind hostels

**Eye Donation Camp:** Seventeen of our volunteers worked with partner NGOs to organise an eye-donation campaign to mark Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary, and created a database of potential eye donors in Chennai (October 2013)



I am a Btech in Computer Sciences, and I teach computer languages at Gopaldhaam Ashram coaching centre in Delhi. What keeps me going is the kids' zeal to learn, even though they do not have proper infrastructure or training. For those who want to volunteer, I would say, go for it!

- **Pulkit**  
Delhi

# Happy Moments





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# VOLUNTEER



**Youth for Seva**  
*Experience the joy of giving*

**Activity Report**  
**2013-'14**