

PRATHAM MYSORE

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A BRIEF REPORT FROM APRIL.09 TO SEPTEMBER.09

Balawadi Pre-School Programme: “Making school-going into a habit”



Balawadi model designed and developed by Pratham Mysore is based on the established belief that school enrollment and continuity rate in school are dependent on the quality of Pre-School education received by the child during its early years.

Pratham Balawadis are run in slums and under privileged locations by young women from the comforts of their homes in slums and narrow lanes location by gathering 3 to 5 ½ year old from their neighbourhood. These women are trained by Pratham Mysore to handle the tiny tots for 2 to 3 hours everyday in sharpening child’s personal and social skills, physical motor skills, cognitive skills, language skills and creative skills.

Every morning the house of the teacher is lit up with the cheers and laughter of kids that soon turns the place into a centre of resource with lot of charts, and Teaching and Learning Materials around. The children begin the day by greeting each other. Later, they chant the rhymes, narrate stories, identify the animals, fruits and get involved in playing with colour cards, counting board and other activities that prepare a child for regular schooling.

Preschool programme coverage since April - 2009

Month	Pratham community Centres	No. of Children	Pratham Inschool centres	No. of Children	Anganwadi centres	Anganwadi children	Total children
April	50	1025	49	959	49	1296	3280
May					49	1259	1259
June			38	783	49	1193	1976
July	23	498	40	837	49	1149	2484
August	24	528	34	731	49	1178	2437
September	23	500	33	724	58	1424	2648

Pratham – SSA partnership programme:

The month of July 2009 marked the launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) – Pratham Mysore partnership to cover all the 111 government schools in the city of Mysore through the maths programme by targeting over 4000 children. The partnership effort involves the following implementation steps:

- Training government teachers to become active implementers of the programme in schools.
- Providing Teaching Learning Material (TLM) kits to schools.
- Assessing of progress of children and monitoring the programme at regular intervals.
- Dissemination of information/ documentation/ report generation.

As may be noted above, the first step of imparting training to the teachers was effectively carried out during the month of July 2009 in two stages ;

Stage 1: Selection of Master Resource Persons (MRP) and conducting two days training for them.

Stage 2. Training programme for school teachers through the MRPs.

In the first stage 20 active Master Resource Persons were selected among the government school teachers who were trained on 17/7/2009 and 18/7/2009 by Dr. T.Padmini, Trustee, and her team of trainers.

Later these trained Master resource persons conducted training programme for respective cluster level teachers on 24/7/2009, 25/7/2009, 27/7/2009 and 28/7/2009 involving over 350 teachers across 111 schools in the city.

The trained teachers have rolled out the actual course with effect from 3rd of August 2009 at their respective schools.

Library Programme

An attempt is made to nurture and build the habit of reading among children through library programme. Inspired by its remedial education programme, Pratham Mysore has introduced mobile libraries to provide access to books for children to facilitate learning and sustain their interest in learning. These centres are located in the communities and Government schools. The volunteers managing these libraries.



- i) Are trained to handle and cater to the reading needs of children in their neighbourhood
- ii) Visit homes of children with a view to stimulate an interest in reading
- iii) Organise weekend story reading sessions, cultural events co-curricular activities to foster learning.
- iv) Carry books to the homes of the children and create an access to this most valuable learning resource.

Library in progress

Month	Community Library	No. of children	Inschool Library	No. of children
April	45	4162		
May	45	4134		
June	47	4232		
July	46	4221	12	1157
August	47	4400	16	1701
September	47	4381	18	1817

Rural Initiative : is a campaign to introduce daily period of reading and arithmetic in the village schools using Teaching and Learning materials and well tested activity based curriculum developed and tried by Pratham Mysore last year. Currently, Reading and Maths are the 2 remedial packages that are being implemented to improve the learning levels of children in Govt. Primary Schools through grass root volunteers called Balasakhis. Kannada Vachana Kraya Krama is a reading programme used for building language skills in children of grade 1-7 which is intended to correct the graded difficulties at different levels of reading and pronunciation. Nagu Nagutha Ganitha is a maths package involving a creative kit having a collection of materials promoting the child's mental ability in developing skills in numeracy. The above twin programme is rolled out in the following taluks of Mysore district.

Taluk	Villages	Children
Mysore	3	534
Nanjangud	5	1147
T.Narasipura	5	877
Total	13	2558

10 villages of Hunsur Taluk is also being included in the programme from October 2009.

The NEWS :

1. **Walkaton Marks Teachers' Day :** Pratham Mysore joined educational institutions and Teachers in Mysore on the 5th of September 2009 to pay rich tributes to former President, great teacher and Philosopher Dr. S. Radha Krishnan on his birth anniversary, by participating in a walkathon programme along with other NGOs, teachers, students and everyone concerned with education.

2. **Pratham Mysore's Nurture Merit Programme - 2009**

For the second consecutive year Pratham Mysore partnered with Vidya Poshok a Dharwad based NGO, to identify and help students with aptitude and drive to carve a place of pride for themselves in society but who do not have financial strength to realize their dreams. Last year Pratham Mysore had generated over 200 applications and could select 50 students based on their performance in Nurture Merit Test (Common Test) for the assistance. This year, Pratham Mysore generated over 800 applications. The Test was held on Sunday the 12th April 2009 at St'Joseph Educational Institutions, Mysore which was attended by 552 students of which 206 were boys and 346 were girls. While 358 had come from rural areas, 194 hailed from urban areas. The medium wise break up being 59 for English, 491 for Kannada and 2 for Urdu. The table below provides information on Taluk wise attendance:

Taluk	Mysore (Urban)	Mysore (Rural)	T.Narsipura	Periyapatna	Hunnur	Nanjangud	Kollegal	H.D.Kote	Total
Children attended	190	201	50	24	69	9	1	8	552

A large number of students (413) came from government schools, followed by aided schools (117) and unaided private schools (22). Based on the performance of the students in 10th standard and the Nurture Merit Test, they were visited at their homes by the volunteers to assess the financial background

No of Students Selected in N M Test- 103

No of Students Scored 60% and above in SSLC- 85

No of Boys- 43

No of Girls- 52

After visiting the houses of 85 students 50 students (23 Boys and 27 Girls) were finally selected for assistance for this year.

On August 20th, young IT software professionals at Infosys, Mysore, took some time off to distribute the financial assistance to the tune of Rs.3, 43,864/- to the selected students. The financial assistance was raised by volunteers from SOFTEN, SWARG, and SAMARPAN- voluntary groups formed by employees of Infosys, Mysore. During the occasion 99 students were distributed with financial assistance which included 50 students from the current Nurture Merit batch, 44 from the previous Nurture Merit batch and 5 students from the professional courses. The occasion was graced by Prof.Tikot, CEO and Founder, Vidya Poshak, along with a host of volunteers from Pratham Mysore, Soften, Samarpan and local educational institutions.

3. **ASER 2009 (Annual Status of Education Report)** ASER which has now become an important input in the educational policies of both central and State Government is again in the news. Since the last 4 years the ASER report has been released by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. The Fifth ASER is all set to take place during October / November 2009 across all states. Facilitated by Pratham, ASER is the largest household survey undertaken in India by people outside Government, measuring the enrollment as well as reading and arithmetic levels of children in the age group of 6-14 yrs in rural areas. Pratham Mysore, as in the past, manages the operations in districts of Mysore's, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Mandya and Kodagu during the current year. Pratham Mysore's team is all set to launch this year's operation through a workshop in Dharwad on 12th – 14th Oct 2009.

4. **Material Development Workshop** : During the first fortnight of May 2009 a workshop was organized to develop Teaching Learning Materials involving Trainers, Resource persons and Teacher Monitors.
5. **Certificate Course in Preschool Education (Inaugural function)** : A formal inauguration of the Certificate Course Preschool Education, a course started by Pratham Mysore in partnership with Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, at a function on 24th May 2009 which was presided over by Prof. B.A. Vivek Rai, the then Vice Chancellor of Karnataka State Open University. Sri. Nagendra Kumar, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Mysore inaugurated the function, while Dr. T.Padmini, Pratham Trustee and Director, Certificate Course in Preschool Education programme, delivered the keynote address.



Following the function an interactive session was organized with the students enrolled for the course.

6. **Certificate Course in Preschool Education(contact classes)** : A four day contact classes was held from 22th May 2009 to 25th May 2009 for the benefit of students enrolled for the C.C.P.E course. Students numbering 32 attended the classes from places like Sringeri, Hassan, Udupi other than Mysore. Students were exposed to lecture/ orientation, field visits and demonstration.