

Parivaar Newsletter Jan '15 - June '15

(Dedicated to the loving memory of Sevavratee Shri Baidyanath Maity)

Latest Children Data:

1. As on 1st June '15 there are 1023 children (730 boys and 293 girls).
2. Out of them 559 are from highly impoverished tribal pockets from districts of Bankura, Purulia, Midnapore (W), Birbhum West Bengal and Singhbhum, Saraikela, Ranchi and Giridih in Jharkhand.
3. From non-tribal areas i.e. 464 children, the children have either lost both the parents or have only mother who is in very difficult circumstances of deprivation. These are children of high vulnerability prone to exploitation, child labor, vulnerability of being used by anti-social elements, child labour, conditions of homelessness etc.

State and District wise distribution of Children at Parivaar till 1st April 2015		
State	District	No. of Children
West Bengal	24 Pgs (N)	38
	24 Pgs (S)	150
	Bankura	21
	Purulia	24
	Burdwan	7
	Howrah	8
	Kolkata	232
	Medinipur (E)	4
	Medinipur (W)	261
	Birbhum	99
	Nadia	4
Jharkhand	Singbhum (E)	145
	Saraikela	1
	Ranchi	7
	Giridih	1
Bihar	Chhapra	4
	Navada	14
	Nalanda	2

Chhattisgarh	Durg	1
Total		1023

Winter Carnival:

14th December was the day of Grand Winter Carnival at Parivaar. A plethora of attractions thrilled the children from morning till evening : Rock Climbing bouncy, sixer bouncy, slide bouncy, Caterpillar bouncy, 2 trampolines, maze, Giant Wheel, Toy train, Merry-go-round, ball pool, 4-in-1 games, Magic Show, Juggler's show. An unforgettable experience for the children.





Children enjoying rides during the Winter Carnival at Sarada Teertha on 14th December 2014.

Parivaar had its 6-day Annual Athletic Meet from 26th to 31st Jan, comprising 250 plus events.





Children from all age groups and Seva-vratees participated in 6-day long Annual Athletics Meet 2014-15

Fieldwork by Parivaar Seva-vratees:

Rigorous fieldwork by Parivaar team in villages of West Bengal and Jharkhand for pre-admission process for admitting children was conducted. More than 100 children from some of the most impoverished adivasi areas of West Bengal and Jharkhand are being admitted in coming months into Parivaar.



Parivaar Team involved in rigorous fieldwork in the villages of West Bengal and Jharkhand

Skills and Vocation Educational Cell:

Parivaar has started a Skills and Vocation Educational Cell and its first program has been in collaboration with the Balrampur Institute of Vocational Aid (BIVA) from February 2015. The objective of this program is to impart life skills to children, which can also be beneficial, though it's not the primary objective, for their livelihood preparation.

The Process

All the children were properly guided and counseled while selecting for the courses to be conducted at Parivaar. These efforts were intended to make them realize the relevance and utility of the skill training. Thus, out of 9 different options offered by BIVA, they have chosen 3 courses as per their interest.

BIVA provides the trainers to conduct the training sessions. It also prepares the training agenda, shares it with Parivaar and co-ordinate with the trainers in such a manner that the training programs are conducted smoothly. Parivaar bears the cost of honorarium of the trainers, raw materials and facilitates overall operational management.

These skill training sessions have been introduced for interested groups of children from Class 9 to 12, and undergraduates. The table below shows more details on each selected courses:

Sr. No.	Course Name	Course Duration	No. of Children
1	Air Conditioner & Refrigeration Maintenance (for boys)	260 Hours	27
2	Hair & Skin Care (for girls)	180 Hours	40
3	Computer Hardware and Networking (for boys)	180 Hours	36
Total			103

At present, the sessions are conducted on every Sunday from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. At the completion of the course and an evaluative examination, a certificate from BIVA will be awarded to all the successful participants.



The “Air Conditioner & Refrigeration Maintenance” training session being conducted at Parivaar Boys’ Campus.



The “Hair & Skin Care” training session being conducted at Parivaar Sarada Teertha.



The “Computer Hardware and Networking” training session being conducted at Parivaar Boys’ Campus.

Future Collaborative Possibilities in this Space

Parivaar is also in talks with some more local nodal agencies of National Skills Development Corporation, such as Edusol, Globsyn and Gurukul Edutech, for introducing some more courses like Hotel Management, Hospitality Industry, Programming Languages, Sales & Retail, Banking, and Food Processing. These are small steps but hopefully solid beginning to this new dimension at Parivaar.

Holi at Parivaar:





On 5th of March, Holi 'the festival of colours', was celebrated at Parivaar. All the children and Seva-vratees enjoyed it thoroughly!

Teacher Professional Development Workshop Series:

The 3rd phase of Teachers' Professional Development workshop was conducted by Dr Tamo Chattopadhyay from 18th May - 20th May 2015. This workshop was in continuation with the 8-session workshop conducted by Dr Tamo earlier in February-March 2014 and a 7-session workshop conducted by Nitesh Sachan from 10th Oct - 18th Oct, 2014.

Dr Tamo serves as a Foreign Associate with Center for Studies of Privatization in Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and as a Visiting Faculty at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University Of Notre Dame, USA; and was the Director of International Educational Development with Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives. He heads the Innovation Institute for Education & Social Development (IIESD).

The workshop was focused on the content of what teachers are teaching, and explored with them pedagogical strategies that are built on their actual curriculum. This was different from classroom management and student motivation / engagement strategies that had been covered in the earlier phases of the workshop. The earlier phases were more or less content-neutral. In this phase, Dr Tamo had conversations with the teachers around different content-area pedagogy; and encouraged them to think of ways they can link what they are teaching in their curriculum to what would be of interest to the students.

The second focus area was on student activities- helping teachers design more engaging learning activities for students. This was also touched in the earlier phases of the workshop; but this time Dr Tamo went a bit deeper with specific exercises with the teachers. It was a part of Inquiry Based Learning.

The third over-arching theme was differentiated teaching, which was less content-specific. Here Dr Tamo shared certain ways in which the teachers can optimize their classroom teaching time where there are students operating at very different levels of competency. Finally, a session with the school leadership was also conducted separately. Teachers from all streams of Amar Bharat Vidyapeeth and After-School program participated in the training together.



The 3rd phase of Teacher Professional Development Workshop conducted from 18th May to 20th May, 2015.

The ‘Swami Ranganathananda Humanitarian Award’ :

Vinayak Lohani was felicitated with ‘Swami Ranganathananda Humanitarian Award’ at Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture Kolkata.



Vinayak Lohani receives the 'Swami Ranganathananda Humanitarian Award'

The 'Bhaorao Deoras Sewa Samman':

Vinayak Lohani has been awarded the 'Bhaorao Deoras Sewa Samman' 2015 presented at Lucknow by Hon Governor, Uttar Pradesh.



Vinayak Lohani receives the 'Bhaorao Deoras Sewa Samman' 2015

The 'True Legend Award':

Vinayak Lohani has been awarded the 'True Legends Award' presented by 'The Telegraph' in association with '100 Pipers' in April 2015.



Vinayak Lohani receives the 'True Legend Award'

Roles with Government of India:

Vinayak Lohani has been inducted into Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) (2015 onwards), the apex consultational forum in Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India in June 2015.

Vinayak Lohani has been inducted as a Member of Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) (2015 onwards), set up by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a funding and capacity-building institution towards accelerating sustainable action in the domain of rural livelihoods.

Important Invited Lectures / Talks delivered:

1. 30 hour (20 sessions) lectures being delivered on various aspects of Social Entrepreneurship at IIM Calcutta for its MBA students from June '15 to Aug '15.

2. 25 hour (20 sessions) lectures delivered on various aspects of Social Entrepreneurship at IIM Indore in its Integrated Program in Management for 110 participants.



Vinayak Lohani with the students of IIM Indore

New Admissions at Parivaar:

Amlasole region in Midnapore (West) district in West Bengal has been infamous for its rampant malnourishment, infant mortality and even starvation deaths. Vinayak Lohani with his co-workers had first been to this region in March '07. At that time there was a lot of 'law and order' problem due to armed extremism there. Nobody knew them there and as a starter he brought 4 Sarpanchs from the local Adivasi community of Sabar and Birhores to stay at Parivaar for a week and then go back and spread the word in that area. Since then Parivaar has already admitted nearly 300 children from this region in last 8 years. A group of 41 boys from Amlasole got into Parivaar on a single day in March '15. A big group of girls will be admitted soon. They have now found a new life and a potentially bright future.



Newly admitted group of children at Parivaar from Amlasole region in Midnapore (West) district in West Bengal

Upcoming Infrastructure:





The new ABV building, which will cater to more than 2000 children, is on verge of completion.



The new residential blocks above the Control Desk at Sarada Teertha, which have a capacity to cater to about 200 children.



The new medical block at Sarada Teertha, to cater to increased number of girl children.



The new block above the Guest House at Sarada Teertha





The new 2nd floor residential block above the Dining Hall at Parivaar Boys' Campus.

In Memoriam : Sevavratee Baidyanath Maity (1979-2015)

A tremendous blow to the whole Parivaar family came at the sudden passing away of Shri Baidyanath Maity on 28th May '15. Baidyanathda was walking down the NH-6 near Bagnan, his native village in Howrah district, where he had then gone, and was hit by a heavy goods vehicle. He passed away on the spot itself. He had elderly parents, wife and a 4 year old daughter. Parivaar fully stands by them in the hour of irreparable loss and is committed to supporting them on a lasting basis.

Joining Parivaar on 28th March Baidyanathda epitomized the spirit of Parivaar very deeply. In these ten years he worked in multifarious roles and became a key person in the Leadership team at Parivaar. From the establishment of the separate Girls' Campus (Parivaar Sarada Teertha) in June 2011 he had been posted there. He was the program anchor for the tutorship program and coordinated relationship with outside schools which our post-secondary group attended. He was involved in conducting the daily prayer services at Parivaar.

As soon as this news reached us at Parivaar our team rushed to the spot. A 7-day mourning period was observed at Parivaar. On the thirteenth day of departure of Shri Baidyanathda i.e. 10th June '15, a Mangala-Hawana was conducted at both campuses of Parivaar. From that day till 28th June (a month after his departure) his photographs were placed at the Prayer Halls of both the campuses and all the children, Sevavratees, and closely associated local well-wishers of Parivaar offered floral tribute to the departed soul.

In the memory of Baidyanathda the two new blocks of Parivaar that are soon coming up (one each at boys' campus and Sarada Teertha) are being named as 'Sevavratee Baidyanath Maity Memorial Block'.

In his passing away we have lost a brother who was a living model of how a Parivaar Sevavratee should be. Everyone was deeply fond of his endearing nature and disposition. May his simplicity, sincerity, joyful nature, complete dedication, and spirit of service continue to inspire us forever.

