

A brief report on Mathru Educational Trust for the blind

Mathru is a non-profitable, voluntary organization with an aim to provide basic needs, fundamental confidence, economic stability to the visually challenged through education, training, skills development and placement.

We at Mathru run a free residential school for the blind with 51 students who study across the board from grade I to VII. we plan to expand our endeavor each year by adding one more grade each year which finally will culminate at grade X.

The prescribed syllabus of the Government of Karnataka, that is the State Board syllabus is followed besides this mobility training, daily living skills, computer education, music and musical instruments training, sports, painting , knitting, craft, dance, drama etc. are other few activities which will enable and support an overall development of a blind child. Mathru also maintains periodical regular health check up and proper nutritional balanced diet. Students of Mathru are also given an exposure to the main stream school surroundings and learning experience by another educational institution Kensri Academy in areas of conversational English, Sports, Bhagavadgeetha(Religious discourse and recitation) learning etc.

Mathru has given placement to 7 visually challenged who are working in the institution as resource teachers, music teacher, computer instructor, mobility and sports instructor, Braille instructor to name a few .

Admission for the year 2007-2008

At the beginning of this academic year 11 students were admitted to different grades namely Pavitra , Kavitha, Jyothi, Manoj, Poornima in Grade I, Nataraj, Gayatri , Nagamani in Grade II, Mutturaj in Grade VI, Raja- in Grade VII and Ramakrishna for adult Braille centre and who is also learning to play the harmonium.

School drop outs for the year 2007-2008

There were four children who discontinued their stay with us at the beginning of the academic year. Chickalakshmi, Neelamma, Prajeeth, Manjunath. Out of the 4 students 2 girls were not sent back by their parents. Manjunath a student of Grade VI was taken back by his sister as they moved to Tamilnadu. Prajeeth a student from A.P was sent back home from the school, since there no improvement in the mobility, daily activity as well as in speech area in spite of extending occupational therapy at a training centre called Asha rehabilitation centre for the disabled, Jayanagar. Keeping these factors in mind the institute decided to send him back with an advice to the parents to teach him independent living skills and interact more to improve his talking skills for at least one year.

Activities from April to June 2007-2008

During the summer break from April 1 to June 1, only those children who do not have parents stayed at Mathru. Three teachers namely Bhagyashree Gull, Manjula, Bhagyalaksmi, were sent to **Mathru Chaya** an organization at BSK II stage (working for

the visually challenge) to learn speaking in English, communication skills and Namath code (higher version of Maths to teach the blind children) for 45 days.

Academic activities of Mathru for the year 2007-2008 started on June 1st.

A teacher for Grade VII, mobility instructor /PT and craft teacher were appointed. Many volunteers also joined Mathru to teach knitting, painting, to speak English, dance etc. All these opportunities have made Mathru a complete learning centre for the blind children, a place to unravel their hidden talents and capabilities.

On June 5th **Concern India Foundation, Bangalore Branch celebrated World Environment** day. Students of Mathru academy of Art , Music and Dance had the privilege of exhibiting their talents through a ballet on **water conservation** called “ **Ilidu baa Taye Ilidu Baa**” at Brigade Road , Bangalore .

On 24th June on the eve of Helen keller’s day **Pro-Vision Asia** conducted an essay competition for the disabled children. We are very proud to say one of the our student Manjula of Grade VII won II prize.

On June 27 Mathru celebrated **Helen keller’s day** and also the inauguration of the academic year. The chief guests of the day were Dr. N.K. Srinivasan, Managing Trustee of ABC-India and Mrs. Usha Vishvanath, President of Citizen Forum, Yelahanka New Town.

On June 28, 29, 30 school conducted internal test for the students.

July 7th students of Mathru participated in the valedictory function of the **Concern India Foundation** at Lalbaugh and exhibited the same ballet.

July 8th students of Mathru gave musical programme at **Kannada Janajagruthi Vedike at Electronic city.**

On 13th of July the students of Mathru also gave a musical program at Hotel Mourya, at racecourse road on the occasion of 5th Annual Day celebration of **Friends Circle for the Blind and Disabled, Hulsoor.** Association donated a computer as well as cooking oil and rice for the consumption of the blind children.

On the accasion of Guru poornima children of Mathru academy of Music , dance and drama gave bhajan Programme at Sai temple at New Town, Yelahanka. School conducted monthly test on July 28, 29 and 30.

Activities for the month of August

On 5th of August Mathru held a parent's meeting and discussed with the parents about the progress, problems etc., and nearly 25-30 parents attended and we had a good response from the parents.

On August 15th Mathru celebrated India 's 60th Independence Day.

On 16th of August children of Mathru went for one day picnic to kaiwara a pilgrimage place at Chintamani and also Koti lingeswara temple, a historical place at Kolor Dist. Children thoroughly enjoyed the excursion.

On 28, 29 and 30 of August, monthly tests were conducted.

Activities in the month of September

Mathru celebrated teacher's day on 5th September. Children and Trustees wished teachers and presented gifts for their valuable services. The concept of occasion was explained by the invited guests.

On 10th and 11th of Sep, **M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology** conducted work shop at Mathru on the Basic computers and M.S.word. Students of Karnataka welfare association for the blind and also students of Viveka Bala Mandira, Bangalore also participated in the workshop.

.We are proud to say that Mathru moved a step ahead in its goal of giving education to the blind children.