



**LOK
KALYAN
SAMITI**

YEAR' 2023

NEWS

For Private Circulation Only



*Sponsor
a
Child
&
Transform
their
Life*



From the Desk of the General Secretary

Greetings from Lok Kalyan Samiti!

Dear Friends,

Happy to bond and engage with all of you once again. Those of you who already know about the journey of Lok Kalyan Samiti and its programmes, will remember that around this time of the year, we put the spotlight on our very successful 'Sponsor-a-Child' programme being run at our Nand Nagri Centre for more than three decades through this edition of our newsletter. And, those of you who will be reading this for the first time and start knowing about our work, this is the reason to explore and get motivated to support our endeavors.

While, we have included a brief overview of the 'Sponsor-a-Child' programme in this newsletter for you, I would still like to briefly introduce our Nand Nagri Centre as a hub of child-centric activities with a major component of remedial education run as a school model for more than 400 children (boys/girls) studying from Nursery to Class 10. Most of these children are being sponsored by our esteemed donors and the Centre observes an activity calendar and healthcare monitoring round the year to complement the studies for well-rounded progress of these children who come from impoverished backgrounds.

The fact that this programme for the past more



than 30 years has sustained and supported hundreds of children from the resettlement colonies of the area actually speaks for the huge success of this program and its evolution as a model. With Covid pandemic, the digital literacy and online world became inevitable and also gained acceptance among the masses all over the world. This was challenging for the Centre where our teachers including the community of donors rose to the occasion, like any other education provider, to empower these children with digital means to continue their education by on-line methods.

And, last year with full reopening of schools, our Centre too restored physical classes and reinvigorated teaching/learning. Post-covid, like parents everywhere, our parent community too have started taking more interest in education of their children and during the Parent-Teacher meeting they are opening up to express both their satisfaction and fears. So, the trust of these two important stakeholders has improved. The gadgets that the Centre acquired or received including the improved technology-enabled pedagogy and training of our teachers are staying strong and benefiting all children.

As I call upon you to go through this newsletter, to catch up with the progress and information updates, I would like to leave you with a thought that all of us have felt while working for this programme. These children are not

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beneficiaries but agents of change. It might be helping them as individuals but it is also developing the community, which still needs a helping hand and empowerment through education. It is also closing the gender gap and fostering inclusivity. So, please do come forward to support us. Those, who are already helping us by way of sponsorships and donations, this is also an occasion to profoundly

say a big thank you.

It is your support that is keeping us going and we always expect your generous help. May God bless you with happiness and health!

Mrs Harita Gupta
General Secretary

An aspiring Model: say the Centre Students

Having comfortable desks, fans, tidy spaces, open aired rooms, provision of drinking water, clean toilets, etc. sounds very ordinary for any normal Education Centre/Institute but if these observations are of students who spend hours here after attending schools, it is outright a comparison.

While preparing for this newsletter, we casually asked students in the Centre to think freely what they like about the facility and quality of education and the replies from the cohort were so pleasantly surprising that we felt validated for putting efforts in raising the infrastructure quality and conducting teacher trainings from time to time.

As most of students at our Centre are from government schools, their observations point to the things they miss or crave for in their schools. A peaceful environment conducive to study, discipline, provision of drinking water, a clean usable toilet, seating desks, running fans and ventilation in rooms. We're happy to note our Centre has been able to provide all this.

Another striking observation that came to fore was children were impressed with teachers both for their approach and teaching methodology. Several children said the behavior of teachers was likeable and the way they enforce discipline is effortless and part of culture. Classroom cleanliness, tidiness of the Centre was another major finding in the observations of these children.

From time to time, the Centre distributes items like bags, shoes and in the recent past E-tablets among the students and this has also gone well with them. They genuinely value these items and feel it helps in their education and fulfils a need.

Through these children, we also posed a simple question to parents as what change they see in their children after joining LKS? Most parents felt that compared to expensive private tuitions, remedial education given in the Centre was low cost within budget and of good quality. They also agreed that after joining LKS, the interest of their wards in education has increased and their learning skills improved. Parents also said that good habits, routine and discipline improved after their children were enrolled at the Centre.





Building trust: Parent Teacher Meetings

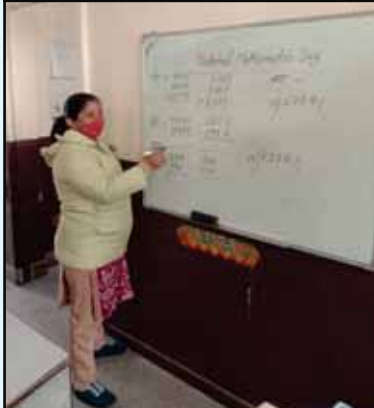
Parent Teacher Meetings or PTMs are a monthly routine at the Centre and over the past year, these meetings are increasingly turning into a dialogue and communication platform between parents and teachers of the Centre where parents are opening up about their concerns and engaging in understanding the process. For

teachers, these meetings are a way of earning trust of the community and solving problems of children by making parents understand about the needs and priorities. These meetings are also becoming a channel of receiving feedback from parents for improvements in pedagogy or otherwise.

Adding to knowledge and Purpose: Importance of National & International Days

LKS's Nand Nagari Centre since its inception has made celebrations and marking of important occasions part and parcel of organizational culture. With students in the Centre, the organization has taken a visionary view of imparting value education and dispositions through these mini events. And now these are standard calendar activities that provide creative outlets to students and teachers to learn and teach through them.

In the past year, International Days were added carefully to shine a spotlight on themes that need societal attention. These included International Girl Child Day, International Hand washing Day, World Food Day, World Toilet Day, International Maths Day, etc.





While all National Days including Independence Day, Republic Days, Gandhi Jayanti and Children's Day are a definite celebration at the Centre, now Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti, Bal Veer Diwas, National Youth Day are also added. Among the festivals that are celebrated apart from Diwali, Holi, Christmas, Eid are Lohri and Guru Nanak birthday.

In addition to this, activities around environment, sustainability, climate change and other pressing national and international challenges are also undertaken to sensitize children on these issues.

Same holds true for teacher workshops and guest lectures.





Bag Distribution: Coincided with the National Children Day on Nov 14, 2022

Shri Akshay Kumar, ACP Delhi police, was the chief guest. He encouraged all students towards their study and distributed school bags later. In all 217 bags were distributed on the day. He also visited each and every class and asked some questions from the students. All the students replied very enthusiastically.



How has our work impacted the surrounding areas/communities

In 1975, more than two lakh people from various slums of Delhi were relocated and resettled in Nand Nagri and other resettlement colonies. These were predominantly menial workers, laborers or semi-skilled workers and economically as well as educationally backward.

Lok Kalyan Samiti, took a decision to serve these people and opened a Centre in Nand Nagari with a view to help in community development and support these people with basic healthcare, self-help and initiate them in education and other state programs. With a dedicated team of volunteers and workers, the Centre soon became one of the pioneering NGOs in the area for community development.

As basic medical care along with Eye Care was already a forte of LKS, extending same services to the Centre made sense. But the work was not only limited to these two. There was an opportunity to lift the communities out of poverty and backwardness. So, education was seen as the next



logical step to involve the people. And making them agree to educate their children wasn't that easy.

As our volunteers of those years put it, "We used to walk through dirt, water logged lanes and by lanes covering our mouth with handkerchiefs bumping into many a drug addicts, drunkards, gamblers and



other horrifying characters. But we knocked at each house, reached out to most of them, and remained patient and persistent." Rallying young children with placards and sloganeering rallies helped in raising public awareness on developmental and social issues. Providing medical facility and clinicians added to the appeal and ambit of Lok Kalyan Samiti's activities in the area.

The surveyors mostly the newly recruited teachers convinced parents to send children to school. LKS did a yeoman service in educating the community of these people about gender equality. The teachers and volunteer taught them not to discriminate against girls, as girls and women were seen fit only for household chores and menial jobs. Breaking this tradition and thinking was easier said than done.

Taking into account all these hurdles and also the opportunities of learning it offered, LKS's Nand Nagari Centre transformed into a people's Centre with innovative thinking and programs. Vocational education chiefly cutting and tailoring was introduced to attract girls to the Centre. In the initial years, mothers too were incentivized to join





them so that the taboo is broken and women see the change for themselves.

Along with this, various extra-curricular activities from painting to sports, vaccination programmes and health check-ups were intertwined in such a manner that children and their parents saw a lot of value and avenues of engagement and development. The vocational training transformed into a Craft Centre and became a hub of women engagement, empowerment and enlightenment. The Vocational Training has been further expanded, to impart beautician courses, and our upgraded Beauty Parlour has become a Centre of attraction for the aspiring girls of the marginalized community.

While all these activities and small projects continued, in late 1980s, the Nand Nagri center started a tuition/coaching center for school going children on experimental basis. As the work got more serious, it was observed that many a children would drop out from schools owing to poverty or the parents being migrant workers moving to other location. In order to retain children in schools and support their education, in 1994 the center carried out a comprehensive survey of the population. After several deliberations and discussions on the outcome of the survey, it was decided that a holistic development programme for these children be devised in which, they will not only be retained in their respective schools but also groomed into smart youngsters.

Thus was born, what we call, Sponsor-a-Child project. Under this scheme, a donor sponsors a child at the center, who in turned gets remedial education, regular healthcare, and opportunity to be part of a host of personality and talent honing

opportunities. All these years, the idea has really grown big and is having an impact on the people. The efforts of LKS teams have transformed the neighbourhood. Hundreds of lives have been transformed into good and productive citizens, earners and achievers. The Center has grown in tune with times while adhering to the mission of child development. Classroom experience has been enriched with teaching aids having been provided to teachers. A library has also come up to provide reading resources for children.

The co-curricular activities aimed at nurturing the knowledge and talent among children is also a high priority. The Center works on an academic session-long activity calendar, which include a host of activities, like painting & essay competitions, debates, educational tours and participation in youth & children festivals and celebration of all important national events.

Music, drama, dance, folk songs, fancy dress competitions, making of greeting cards, pot painting etc. are some of the other holistic development elements that have become part of a child's life at LKS. We are proud of all our alumni who today are doing well in all walks of life as the first generation learners of formal education. The youngsters because of our pioneering work are today mainstreamed and our remedial education flame is still burning for them.

In recognition of the transformation that our Centre has brought about, the Ministry of Women and Child Development bestowed National Children Award on LKS in 2009. It is just one of the major recognitions and appreciations of several that our work has fetched us.

Note

We would like to inform you if you are sending Foreign Currency cheque for accepting the cheque, the Bank requires the scanned copy of the following documents. You are requested to send with your letter.

For Individual Donor:

Identity proof of Signatory with photo and address.

For Organisation:

- Copy of your Organisation Registration Certificate.
- Identity proof of Signatory with photo and address.

OR

You can also deposit your donation amount directly to our FCRA bank account or you can also pay through Website : <https://lokkalyansamiti.org>



You can send funds directly to our Bank Account

You can remit funds directly to our ICICI Bank account from your Bank account. Please note the banking details as given below :

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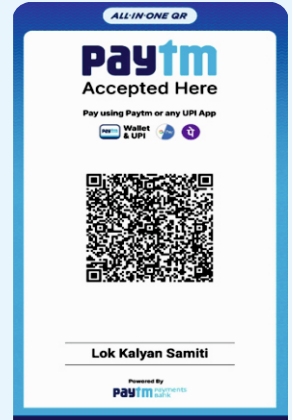
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Please do inform us by WhatsApp message on 9871006976 about your donation through Paytm/Bank transfer.



YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT...

- ☐ Contribution for Full Eye Operation Camps @₹75,000/- per camp*
- ☐ ₹35,000/- (Partial cost of eye camp)*
- ☐ Contribution for Operation @₹5,000/- per operation*
- ☐ Contribution for Children @₹5,000/- per child per year*
- ☐ Contribution for infrastructure fund*

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