

VANASTHALI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PUNE.

ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2010

FOREWORD

Vanasthali Rural Development Center (VRDC) was established on the 21st of December 1981, with a definite purpose in mind: to work mainly in villages for the welfare of women and children.

In its steady march towards the 21st century, India is making all efforts towards a better life for its people. Still, the village population suffers from neglect and deprivation. The rural society is still denied basic amenities of life, viz. sanitation, hygiene, housing, transportation and Medicare, smothering chances for bettering the standard of life.

VRDC is a voluntary organization, which feels that the process of rural development has to be initiated at the grassroots level. Social awakening has to be generated at the inner core. We feel that 'education' is the only means to break the vicious circle of poverty and ignorance. Good living conditions will follow automatically.

While setting an agenda for its activities, VRDC has given top priority to the overall 'personality development' of the rural woman. We have tremendous faith in her innate intelligence, her resilience, and her zest for life. We feel that she is relegated to a secondary status due to social constraints and lack of exposure. So our endeavor is two-fold. We make her the focal point of our activities, so that her potentialities are fully utilized. We also see to it that she becomes a catalyst in the process of rural development. Arranging for formal and non-formal educational activities for rural women is the mainstay of our activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

- To start a "Balwadi" in every village and give every child an opportunity of getting quality education.
- To conduct six-month training courses at village level or other convenient places, thus enabling rural women to start Balwadis, and propagate the importance of education around them.
- To develop and execute programs for rural women for making them self sufficient and thus achieve a respectable position in her family and community.
- To conduct camps, book exhibitions, film shows, and informative lectures on health and
- To conduct six months training course for health worker.

BALWADI - SCHOOL & TEACHERS

To encourage more and more children to attend the school and continue the education throughout primary school, Vanasthali started 'balwadi' (nursery school) for children in every village. 'One village one Balwadi' is our motto and to train and develop the local young women to raise and run balwadis is our primary activity. VRDC runs Balwadis in eight districts of Maharashtra.

Statistics of Balwadis –2009-2010.

Sr No.	District	No of Balwadis	No of Teachers	No of Students.
1	Pune	38	38	1061
2	Nasik	02	02	70
3	Solapur	24	24	1035
4	Nagar	07	07	195
5	Sangli	6	6	205
6	Latur	29	29	1350
	Total	106	106	3916

The Total strength of supervisors and Asst. Supervisors for running these Balwadis is as follows.

Sr. No.	Distric	Supervisors	Asst. Supervisors	Helpers
1	Pune	9	12	9
2	Nasik	2	2	--1
3	Solapur	3	1-	-
4	Satara	3	2	--
5	Nagar	3	6	--
6	Sangli	1	1	1
7	Kolhapur	1	2	--
8	Latur	1	1	--
9	Sindhudurg	1	-	--
		24	27	11

BALWADI TEACHER TRAINING COURSE (Six month duration)

The Teacher training course is an opportunity for women in remote villages to have informal as well as formal education, which otherwise is not possible due to lack of facilities. Such education is always useful in their daily life. Vanasthali is happy to provide qualitative education almost at their doorstep.

Statistics of the Balwadi Teacher Training Course

Sr.No.	Distric.	No. of Course.	No. of Trainees	No of Trainers
1	Pune	16	315	50
2	Nasik	05	66	14
3	Solapur	02	25	11
4	Satara	02	30	10
5	Nagar	03	29	12
6	Sangli	--	--	5
7	Latur	2	30	3
8	Sindhudurg	1	19	5
	total	31	515	115

JEJURI PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary school at Jejuri, started in 1996, has shown good results. The school runs up to 4th standard primary class. The progress of children is satisfactory. We have received encouraging support from the children's parents, on whose initiative this school was started. The staff consists of 1 supervisor, 5 teachers, 1 clerk, 1 librarian and 1 helper. Parents attend meetings for discussing school activities. A fully equipped library is provided for the benefit of the children, as well as the teachers and parents. Since last year the primary school has been converted into Semi – English medium school.

The school bagged the first prize in the Malhar Mahotsav – cultural fest.

Statistics of Jejuri primary school.

Std	Boys	Girls	Total
1st	18	24	32
2nd	22	13	35
3rd	25	17	42
4th	16	19	35
	81	63	144

HOBBY CLASSES – Municipal Schools, Zilla Parishad Schools, Remand Homes & Ashram Schools

Villages lack not only in civic amenities but also in wholesome recreational activities. Our study-cum-hobby classes in Municipal & Zilla Parishad schools, remand homes and in government 'ashram' schools serve a dual purpose. They encourage the destitute children to take up their studies more seriously, as they receive assistance in their homework.

The Marathi magazines namely, "Chava", "Ranwara" and "Vidyabhyas", devoted to general knowledge and recreation for children, are provided in hobby classes and remand homes. Children get plenty of information about wild life, environment, science, etc. and also plenty of recreational matter in the form of brainteasers, riddles, stories, poems etc.

Hobby class activities, i.e., drawing, painting, paper handicraft, books to read, bring some fun and relief in their lives. Although we are not getting any monetary assistance from villagers, they help by providing classrooms and craft supplies. When hobby class camps are arranged for several days in summer and winter vacations, local people provide some snacks or sweets to the children.

For this wholesome activity which brings out hidden talent of children we get invaluable monetary support from Tech-Mahendra foundation, Asmae- France and Castricum Helpt Mutthathara- Holland.

Statistics of Hobby Classes in Municipal Schools, Zilla Parishad Schools

Sr. No	Dist	Schools	No of Hobby classes	Teachers of Hobby classes	No of Children
1	Pune	93	329	329	11336
2	Nasik	11	63	63	02375
3	Solapur	22	22	22	01595
4	Satara	21	82	82	03542
5	Nagar	38	90	90	03373
6	Sangli	15	43	43	01284
7	Kolhapur	2	7	7	00250
8	Latur	2	10	10	00350
	Total	204	646	646	24105

Statistics of Hobby classes in Remand Homes.

Sr No.	Dist.	Remand Home	Teachers	No of children
1	Pune	1	7	227
2	Nagar	2	4	150-
3	Kolapur	1	3	60
	Total	4	14	437

Statistic of Hobby classes in Govt.Ashram Schools.

Sr. No	Dist.	Ashram Schools	Teachers	Hobby classes	No of Children.
1	Pune	8	17	17	892
2	Satara	1	4	4	95
3	Nagar	2	2	2	75
4	Sangli	1	1	1	120
5	Latur	3	29	29	1260
		15	53	53	2442.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES.

Vocational training centre at Somatane village

At this center, training is imparted to women to learn special skills, which will enable them to earn, and become economically independent . During this period 150 women benefited from various training programmes.

The Somatne Centre participated in the exhibition held at Ishanya Mall conducted by Ishanya Foundation as well as at Hinjawadi in Teach-Mahindra organization, Products such as Nachini flour, Nachni Ladoo , Biscuits and artifacts were displayed with the guidance of Kalpana Gunaki - the coordinator of the Somatne Centre. The stalls received a very good response. Books for children were kept on display and sale. This activity also got good response.

At this center consulting facility for women and their family problem is available and 5 cases were handled at this centre.

RURAL LIBRARY MOVEMENT

Vanasthali is one of the organizations selected by the 'PANAPOI VACHANALAYA' movement to participate in their efforts to make available, in remote rural places, wholesome, interesting books and reading materials for villages. 'Yashonidhi Nyas' has so far channeled, through VRDC centers, hundreds of portable libraries. The response from the Vanasthali supervisors, teachers, reader's, young and old, and even from the whole village communities has been heart warming. Over 8,000/9,000 books so far are in circulation.

Home of Hope - foundation from California whole heartedly supports this project.

Three delegates participated on behalf of Vanasthali and Panpoi Libraray Vachnalaya in international conference for children's library in Delhi. Power point presentation about library project was presented by Nirmal Pendharkar and it was very well received by the delegates.

Mobile library Van –

Vanasthali has started its first mobile library van in Baramati on 13th August 2008. After getting good results we started this scheme of mobile vans i.e. Somatane, Shirwal, Lonand, Shrirampur, Lasalgaon, Saswad.

A van/jeep goes from one municipal school to other in the surrounding area. The van is decorated in an attractive manner with informational charts, pictures and it stores story books, educational books and educational toys etc. It serves as Mobile Library as well as like a hobby class activity. The students/parents read books from the mobile library with the help of a Tai (facilitator). The van/jeep moves in the 200 km radius thus ensuring an equal opportunity in every area.

Shirwal-Lonad Mobile van is sponsored by Paranjpe Foundation (Pune). Two more Vans (Baramati and Somatane) were supported by Frères de nos Frères- Switzerland and Vans from other centers were supported by Home of Hope- USA and Shrirampur – Lend-A-Hand (USA)

This activity has received very good response from children, parents, educational officers and village people.

Health worker's Training :

This kind of training course was started last year on experimental basis. After seeing the success and the response, this has become a part of our activities. Six months training is given by trained doctors and social workers. First three months are devoted to theory and the remaining three months are used for practical training in Hospital. VRDC and "Jagruti " together are conducting these courses.

Regular Nursing course required higher education and is also very expensive while this course can be done by eight or ten standard passed girls. After the training these health workers can work as assistant to Nurse, hence they are in great demand in Hospitals. Also with changing social picture, such as longevity and hardly anyone to look after senior citizens at home, breaking of nuclear families these health workers get job as care-taker for patients and old people. Almost all the trainees get employment as soon as they finish the training.

Till this year 5 health worker course held and approximately 50-60 women took the advantage of this course. The stipend they got from the hospitals during their training time came handy to pay the course fee.

SUPERVISOR MEETINGS AT PUNE OFFICE

Our zonal supervisors come together in the Pune office to exchange ideas, discuss problems, and deliberate on future plans. We had two such meetings this year.

ZONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Increasing activities of Vanasthali workers require premises to serve as our local offices. At present we have nine such regional offices, at Sangamner, Baramati, Jejuri, Saswad, Somatne-Phata, Lasalgaon, Sangola, Shrirampur and Talegaon. Local people have access to all our activities continuously. At our local offices, we conduct activities such as regular meetings of

teachers, supervisors and parents meeting etc.

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE

"VANASTHALI"

This publication gives plenty of opportunities to our teachers, supervisors, and rural readers to share their experiences, exchange views on different topics and try their hands on creative writing.

The bi-monthly issues this year were compiled, edited, and published by the centres

Sr.No	Month	Dist
1	May -2009	Aundh- Pune districts
2	July – 2009	Pune office
3	Sept – 2009	Jejuri primary school
4	Oct – 2009	Diwali issue – Pune office
5	March-2010	Women get-to-gether and Mobile Library van special issue from Pune office.

The Local supervisors and teachers efficiently handled the responsibility of collecting funds through advertisements and overseeing the publication. Our teachers have proved that they are in no way inferior to their city counterparts.

Residential Personality Development Camp. 3rd June to 6th June-2010

About 275 women attended the camp. Various activities were organized, such as lessons in handicrafts, yogasanas, science experiments, teacher training revision, recipes, health Insurance ,warily paintings, Puppets, newspaper making etc. in order to give boost to their personality development.

The camp was inaugurated by Sonali Kulkarni (famous actor) and concluded by Mukta Puntambekar (president of Alcoholic rehabilitation center).

A play based on science fiction was presented by a group of children. Every one enjoyed the play immensely due to the novel subject.

Our supervisors who has worked since last 25 years in our organization was felicitated by our guest Mukta Puntambekar in concluding ceremony.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Every year on 5th of Sept. the Teachers day-3 awards are given one each to a Balwadi teacher, a Trainee Teacher and Supervisor for outstanding performance. This year chief gust Meenal Barve. [Trustee-Paranjape Pratishthan] was invited to Preside over the function and hand over the awards.

Our supervisor from Kirloskarwadi Pramila Pawar merited the award as the **best supervisor**.

Sangita Nibalkar form Kathewadi [Baramati] was selected as the **Best Balwadi teacher**.

The trainee teacher **Ashwini Aher** of Shrirampur was adjudged the best **Trainee Teacher** to merit the award

NOVEL ACTIVITIES IN 2009 – 2010

Get together for local women : We asked our teachers to arrange get together for local women in their respective localities so as to avoid traveling to Pune all the time. In such camps

some lecturers and some competitions are arranged. It helps to educate local people about many things to bring novelty to their routine life. We have organized almost at all centres during Diwali holidays. Various competitions such as essay writing, cooking, cycling and games were organized

Our teachers get spontaneous response from local ladies that is the way Vanasthali tries to reach village women.

ADDITIONAL AID GIVEN IN 2009 – 2010

Personal Loans to teachers

Taking a regular pay packet home for her part-time job boosts the self-esteem of the Vanasthali worker. She can also take advantage of interest-free loans for buying sewing machines and bicycles; the former providing a new source of income and the latter facilitating her mobility. Loans are repaid without fail. We rarely have a bad experience.

The Loans given by VRDC our workers during the year (2009-2010) :

Personal : 3

Educational : 3

Aid for Toilet Construction

Somatne Village - 12 Families

Monetary help for Medical Treatment - 2 Vanasthali employees.

ASSISTANCE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FROM VRDC.

- Honorarium of teachers of 5 Balwadis of Mata Balak Utkarsha Sanstha, (Sangola), Dist Solapur
- Ushatai Lokhande Charitable Trust, Honorarium Secondary School Teachers in Sangise (Mawal) Dist Pune.
- Jagruti foundation - 3 Balwadi teachers honorarium.
- 26 teachers bought smoke free stoves and VRDC gave some financial assistance.

VISITORS IN 2009 – 2010

The following guests visited Vanasthali activities in 8 districts of Maharashtra:

- Anne Marie Dourlat (Entr'Inde - France)
- Sunanda Mane - Lend-a-hand - U.S.A.
- Kishan Bhatia - Lend-a-hand - U.S.A.
- Neelima Sabharwal Kavits - - - Malviya and Neelam Bhavanani
- Home of Hope - U.S.A.
- Chayya Sane -Canada
- Vandana Apte and Vidya
- Jaykrishnan
- Tech Mahindra Foundaiton
- Perspectives Asiennes France (12 French people.)

Grateful acknowledgement.

VRDC gratefully acknowledges the contribution of its many friends and well-wishers, who generously donate their time and money - Friends of France, Vidhyarthi Sahayak Samiti, N. G. Paranjape Pratishstan, Yashonidhi Nyas, Mata Balak Utkarsha Sanstha (Sangola), Jagruti

Santha, Ushatai Lokahnde Trust, Tech Mahindra Foundation, Inner wheel club - Pune, Jankidevi Bajaj Trust, local mahila mandals, grampanchayats, doctors, school authorities, villagers, Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, and many others who are with us.

Vanasthali gets support from local people in various ways; for example, a suitable place for running a balwadi may be offered free of charge. Also frequently local villagers give sweets, toys, or cash donations to the children. This gesture speaks for the increasing interest shown in children's education.

This year we got special help from Gauri Bapat and Kalpana Dabhade.

VRDC also thanks its balwadi teachers, helpers, supervisors and teachers of training courses. Thanks are due to its office staff and colleagues who regularly devote their time and offer many valuable ideas. The teamwork of Vanasthali is backed and encouraged by our trustees.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- AJADO – France
- Tech Mahindra Foundation - India
- Frères de Nos Frères – Switzerland
- Action Group – 365, Cologne - Germany
- Castricum Helpt Muttathara – The Netherlands
- Panah Schweiz Group - Switzerland
- Entr'Inde - France
- ASMAE - France
- Jill Spier - USA
- Home of Hope – USA
- Lend A Hand – USA
- Partage Sans Frontières – France
- CMC Ltd – India
- Mr. Prataprao Pawar – India.
- Stephanie Vigier and Bertrand Weydenmeyer - France

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR VANASTHALI.

- You can write interesting and informative articles for women and children for our bi-monthly.
- You can pay Rs.150 as annual subscription for Vanasthali bi-monthly.
- You can donate any amount of money as a token gesture on any festival or household occasion; for example - birthdays, anniversaries, or any auspicious occasion. (Please draw the cheque in favour of Vanasthali Rural Development Centre, Pune)
- You can send advertisements for the bi-monthly, especially for the Diwali issue.
(Donations to Vanasthali Rural development Centre are exempt from Income- Tax under section 80-G of Income-Tax Act 1960.)
Our friends in India and abroad substantially support all activities of Vanasthali at the grassroots level, both individually and through organizations. We are encouraged by this gesture of our friends.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Smt Nirmala Purandare (President)
- Smt Meenakshi Pawar (Treasurer)
- Smt Bharati Bhide (Secretary)
- Smt Nirmal Pendharkar
- Smt Manik Kotwal
- Dr. Ulhas Joshi
- Shri Abhay Shah

Auditor: M.J.Pethe & Co ; **Legal Advisor:** Advocate Shri Vinay Deshpande

Tax Advisor: G.N.Angal & Co

Public Charitable Trust No: F 2076 (Pune)
Established: 21 December 1989

DONATIONS IN KIND

Donations such as Computers, Clothes, Magazines, Toys, Books, Stationary, Chalks, Old Greeting Cards, Kitchen ware, Newspapers, Bicycle, Educational Aid, Waterbag, Kaleidoscopes, Cassettes, Pens, Fans, Uniforms, Camera, DVD Player, Sewing kit, etc. were given by the following people:

1. Dr. Aarati Prayag
2. Anjali Deo
3. Nirmala Barve
4. Meenal Barve
5. Archana Gondhali
6. Dr. Aruna Khare
7. S.N. Bhave
8. Shantabai Mahajan
9. Ramesh Phondage
10. Shobha Dodapkar
11. Sunita Deshmukh
12. Sucheta Aagate
13. Subhash Apte
14. Shalaka Thakur
15. Hindmata Pratishthan
16. Kamalakar Kulkarni
17. S.Jorge
18. Nupura Gadgil
19. Sumedh Bapat
20. Dr. Prathibha Mehata
21. Jyoti Deshpande
22. Aruna Mahajan
23. Ulhas Joshi.
24. Deepti Khare
25. Richa Ambica
26. Medha Dixit
27. Vaidehi Moghe
28. Madhavrao Deshpande
29. Alka Garud
30. Ruta Bawadekar
31. Neeta Khiwansara
32. Mughda Gupte
33. Sonali Bhave
34. Smita Chodankar
35. Kurtarkar
36. Shweta Joshi
37. Kalpana Joshi
38. Jyoti Deshpande
39. Anuja Shah