

LSS EduTimes

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 1st, 2015.

Lok Seva Sangam

From the LSS Governing Body (Education)

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A special welcome to the first e-newsletter from LSS!

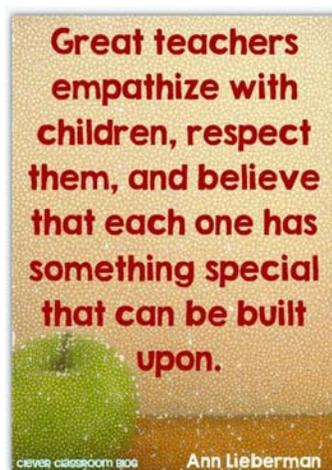
Lok Seva Sangam (LSS) is a voluntary organisation in existence for four decades, working in the fields of health and education. Our **mission** is to provide quality education to underprivileged learners by providing them with equitable opportunities, thus empowering them to become independent lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

The purpose of this e-newsletter is to give you a monthly update of our work at the three Education Centers in Mumbai, India, namely - Chunabhatti, Bainganwadi and Cheeta Camp. Currently, LSS runs two programmes at these Centers, namely, the Balwadis (Pre-Primary: 2 1/2 to 5 yrs.) and the Tutorials (4 to 13 yrs.). Collectively, the Centers cater to

the educational needs of approximately 300 students from ages 2 1/2 to 13.

Though our learners are underprivileged, we are fully convinced that our Education Centers must provide an environment that will enable all our students to achieve their full potential. We will consistently endeavour to see that they receive and enjoy the best learning experiences at our Centers.

We are grateful for the generosity, support and assistance we have received and continue to receive from all our donors, sponsors and volunteers. Together with the management and staff, I look forward to interacting with you and making your association with LSS an enjoyable and fruitful one.



— Ms. Sandra Pinto
Member of the Governing Body
(Education)

An update from the Balwadis ...

Editorial Board

- Ms. Sandra Pinto
Member of the Governing Body (Education) and ALSP Trainer
- Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza
Manager
- Ms. Seema Patil
Teacher-Coordinator

In September, the Balwadi students were taught the following -

English - Concepts such as: Nouns (Introduction of names of flowers, vegetables); Story Telling (The Thirsty Crow); Capital letters of the alphabet; Introducing themselves; Conversation about festivals. Skill focus - listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Math - Counting numbers; Calendar reading (days of the week, ordinals); Size and colour differences.

E. V. S. - Use of the sensory organs - touch, sight, taste; Parts of the body.

Eurythmics and Games - The National Anthem; My grandfather had a farm, ..

Craft and Drawing - Paper folding; Paper tearing; Paper crushing.

— Ms. Bhavaneshwari Nigam,
Ms. Leelavati, Ms. Krushnavati.
(Balwadi Teachers)

An update from the Tutorials ...

Our tutorial students are enrolled in different schools where the medium of instruction is English, Hindi or Marathi. At the tutorials, students are assisted in completing their home assignments given by their school teachers. Besides this, the concepts taught in school are reinforced through further explanation and practice.

English - Reading Comprehension, vocabulary usage, correct sentence formation.

Math - Concepts taught are reinforced through practice.

Marathi - Assistance given to students who go to schools where the medium of instruction is English.

Science - Concepts are reinforced with the help of experiments.

Social Studies - Topics taught in class are reinforced through stories.

Special attention is paid to slow learners and students with learning difficulties.

— Ms. Kalpana Gangurde
(LSS Tutorial Teacher)



Tutorial and Balwadi students celebrating 'Raksha Bandhan'.

Health Check at the Education Centers

LSS conducts two health checks for its students every year.

At the Bainganwadi Education Center, eye exams were conducted by optometrist, Zahid Ali Shaikh on 2nd and 12th September. There are 72 Balwadi students at this Center. 3 children have been detected with eye problems. Ms. Manisha contacted their parents and they were advised to go to the Shivaji Eye Clinic for a follow-up.

Health checks were conducted on 8th August,

12th September and 30th September at the Cheeta Camp Education Center by our own LSS doctors - Dr. Manjunath Kini, Dr. Dilip Jani and Dr. Kamlesh Upadhyay. There are 115 Balwadi students at this Center. Though most of the students were in good health, some students had cough and cold, dental problems and skin allergies. The required treatment was given to the students.

— Ms. Seema Patil



Eye check-up for the students of the Bainganwadi Education Center.

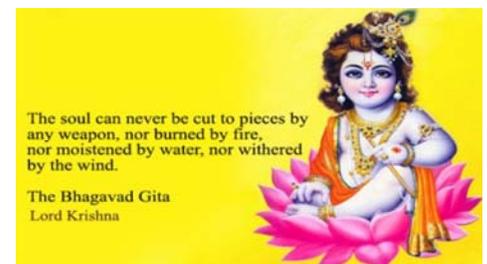
Celebrating Janmashtami

Janmashtami is the birthday of Hinduism's favourite Lord Krishna. It is a special occasion for Hindus, who consider him their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one.

At LSS Education Centers, the festival is celebrated with teachers preparing statues of Krishna, his consort Radha and his childhood friend Sudama. Students are taught to form a human pyramid for 'Dahi Handi'. 'Palnageet' and various songs related to the festival are sung. Students were treated to special sweets

of 'gulab jamun' and 'prasad' made of coconut, bananas and cucumber.

— Ms. Jaya Guttedar (LSS Tutorial Teacher)



The soul can never be cut to pieces by any weapon, nor burned by fire, nor moistened by water, nor withered by the wind.

The Bhagavad Gita
Lord Krishna

"You have the right to work, but never to the fruit of work. You should never engage in action for the sake of reward, nor should you long for inaction". — Krishna Quote

Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP)

A new venture recently started by the Lok Seva Sangam is the Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP). The aim of the programme is to provide young adults and parents the support needed to improve their lives and the lives of their children. The programme consists of three modules - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced.

Registration for the Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP) Basic Module at the Chunabhathi Educational Center was done on August 28th. 10 students registered for the programme. Subsequently, 3 more students registered on September 1st and 4th.

The programme began on September 1st. Most of the students are housewives who do not

know English or have a basic knowledge of English. They have had to leave their studies as they got married and did not get the opportunity to pursue further studies. Their children are now enrolled in schools where the medium of instruction is English.

The reasons learners gave for joining this programme were: a) to have meaningful interactions with their children's teachers; b) get jobs to provide their



Students engaged in writing at the Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP)

children with a better life; c) to help their children in their studies.

Some learners are also interested in pursuing further studies after completing all three modules!

— Ms. Sandra Pinto

Teachers' Day Celebrations at LSS

In India, since 1962, educational institutes celebrate September 5th as 'Teachers' Day' to honour Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the great teacher, academic philosopher and India's Second President, as he was born on this day in 1888. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a strong supporter of education. Instead of celebrating his birthday separately, he requested Indians to observe the day as 'Teachers' Day' to honour all the teachers in India.

At LSS, we celebrated Teachers' Day at our Head office at Everard Nagar. We had a meeting in the presence of Paul Sir, Ethel Ma'am, Sandra Ma'am and Liz Ma'am.

The meeting started with a discussion of the syllabus for the Balwadi. A copy of the syllabus was distributed. Very good and important suggestions were given by Sandra Ma'am related to the syllabus. Then we shared our experiences and difficulties. After tea and snacks, Paul Sir spoke a few words

and honoured each teacher with a gift—a personalised coffee mug with the LSS logo and each teacher's photo. The LSS teaching staff are very thankful for this precious gift.

— Ms. Kalpana Gangurde
(LSS Tutorial Teacher)

"When we think we know, we cease to learn."

— Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is the day when all Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

In India, it is a holiday in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.

This is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the country, partly because Ganesh is one of the most popular deities worshipped. His blessings are often invoked at religious ceremonies as he is the one who can remove



A statue of Ganesh made by the children with parent assistance.

all obstacles to success, particularly when people are starting a new business or enterprise. Lord Ganesh is known as the giver of fortune and one who can help to avoid natural calamities. He is also the patron god

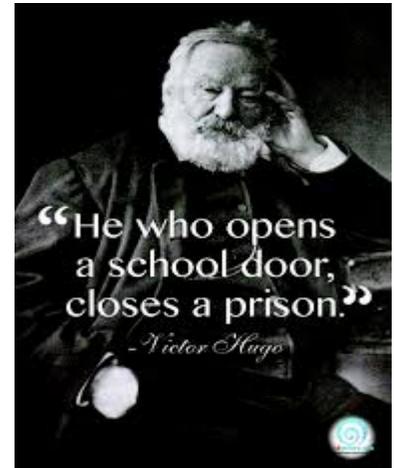
of travel. Ganesh is depicted with an elephant's head on a human body.

At the LSS Education Centers, Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated by making a clay statue of Ganesha, narrating the story of Ganesh and how He got the 'elephant head', making 'modaks' and visits to the various Ganesh idols in the area.

— Ms. Jaya Guttedar (LSS Tutorial Teacher)

Special thanks to our annual/quarterly sponsors ...

- * **Aleimar Gruppo Onlus** for sponsoring the Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP) and the education of 18 children.
 - * **School for Children** for sponsoring the education of 52 children.
 - * **Pontificio Istituto di Missioni Estere (PIME)** for sponsoring the education of 70 children.
- Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza
- * **SlumAid** for donations towards teachers' salaries.
 - * **SlumAid** for sending volunteers to teach at our Education Centers.



Special thanks to our donors ...

- * **Mrs. Geeta Gehi** for donating furniture to our Balwadi students at the Chunabhatti Education Center.
- * **Everardians and The Everard Welfare Association** for monetary donations and the Balwadi Annual Christmas Tree arrangements.



- * **Henry and Lorna D'Souza** for cash donation towards the Balwadis.

“Children must
be taught
HOW TO THINK,
not what to think.”

Margaret Mead
WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

- * **Sheldon and Shaline Serpes of Kareem's Hotel** for the delicious lunch packs for the children.

- Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza



We appreciate our volunteers ...

- * **Nieta George** (Student - Sophia College for Women) for volunteering to teach the tutorial students at the Chunabhatti Education Center.

Nieta writes about her experience at teaching at the Chunabhatti Education Center -
“My experience with them was interesting. I learnt to communicate. They all were very open and welcomed me with

open arms. More than studying they all wanted interaction time. In fact they didn't want to believe that it was my last day with them yesterday and wanted me to carry on”.

- * **Ginnes (Spain)** for volunteering at our dispensary and the Education Centers.

— Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza



Schedule of upcoming events in October

- * 02/10/15 - Gandhi Jayanti - LSS Helpers' Day.
- * 03/10/15 - Student Health check - Chunabhatti Education Center.
- * 05/10/15 - Student Health check - Bainganwadi Education Center.
- * 14/10/15 - Student Eye check - Cheeta Camp Education Center.
- * 17/10/15 - Student Eye check - Chunabhatti Education Center.
- * 22/10/15 - Dussehra (Holiday)
- * 24/10/15 - Muharram



October

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|-----|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Gandhi Jayanti - LSS Helpers' Day | 3 Student Health Check - Chunabhatti |
| 4 | 5 Student Health check - Bainganwadi | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Student eye check - Cheeta Camp | 15 | 16 | 17 Student eye check - Chunabhatti |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Dussehra (Holiday) | 23 | 24 Muharram |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Capoeira

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art and a very effective tool for opening dialogue with the hardest to reach young people who are not interested in school or by social projects. It embodies essential personal expression, confidence building, mind-body development. Capoeira as a martial art helps with - Trust through Interplay; Strengthening & Flexibility; Discipline.

Familia de Ouro – Outlook 2015

Familia de Ouro was started to create a support framework to empower the youth so they can live independently and positively impact their lives.

The target area in Bainganwadi consists of families with low income, lack of physical, mental and religious security, poor health. Violence is prevalent. There is dire lack of resources & substandard education further worsens the situation causing stunted self-growth.

Even if they get basic education, they cannot compete with the rest of the urban population,

which have better access to resources. However, the youth are talented in various non-traditional activities, which are not generally discovered or encouraged.

One of the major issues is the lack of belief in oneself to achieve a better quality of life. In order to address this issue as well as of self-expression, discipline, trust in the system, Familia de Ouro embarked on a program to use cross cultural activities such as martial arts, music, dance, etc. that would encourage each individual's skills and abilities, cognitive development, positive development and in time introduce targeted vocational training and placement.

Music:

The Music segment of Familia de Ouro not only seeks to expose its students to the vast world of music but also empower them with the knowledge and tools to explore this area by themselves, and share and apply their knowledge and skills in the professional world



(be it teaching, performing, maintaining equipment, managing events, composing or even simply playing it as a hobby for personal pleasure).

Contemporary Dance:

The aim is to instill not only dance skills but also soft skills, which help the kids in social interactions. The introduction of dance has also helped in keeping the kids in the violent neighbourhood of Govandi away from gangs and drug usage, which is prevalent in the community.

— Shantanu Ray

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**BRINGING QUALITY HEALTH AND
EDUCATION TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED**

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Balwadi students engaged in independent activity at the Chunabhatti Education Center.



Photo Gallery

Eye check at the Bainganwadi Education Center.



Health check at the Cheeta Camp Education Center.

A token of appreciation to our teaching staff



Students of the ALSP at the Chunabhatti Education Center.



What we do

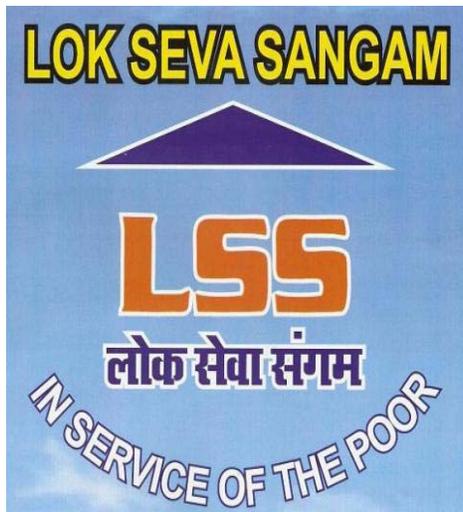
Lok Seva Sangam (LSS) is a voluntary organization, founded by Father Carlo Torriani and Sister Luigina Marchesi, both missionaries from Italy. LSS was registered in February 1976 under the Societies Registration Act and works for the control of **leprosy**, **tuberculosis**, elimination of malnutrition and enhancement of **education**. It covers a population of approximately 2.7 million in the E, L, M (East) and M (West) wards of Mumbai, India.

Cure without segregation has been the motto of LSS since inception and 300 odd deformed leprosy patients under its care are provided with physiotherapy, varied aids and appliances and dressing materials. The main aim is to detect cases in the early stages through its 15 dermatological mobile clinics and prevent impairment and disability.

Tuberculosis is a life-threatening

ailment and is highly contagious. LSS aims to prevent the onset of MDR and XDR by detecting patients early and convincing them to complete treatment without interruption.

To improve the outreach and efficiency



of the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) programme, LSS also works with 17 Anganwadis. It plays a major role in motivating the community to take an active part in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme while working towards decreasing child mortality and improving maternal health by Community-based management of severely malnourished children.

LSS runs 3 Education Centers for children of 2 1/2 - 13 yrs of age in Chunabhatti, Bainganwadi and Cheeta Camp and provides them with free meals, clothes and stationery. Besides this, the children are trained in Capoeira, fine arts, English, etc