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# LSS EduTimes

Volume 1 Issue 2

November 1st, 2015

## Lok Seva Sangam

## From the LSS Governing Body (Education) ...

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Welcome to the second issue of LSS EduTimes.

Many thanks for the appreciation and encouraging feedback of our first issue.

India remembers Gandhiji on the occasion of his birth anniversary, October 2nd.

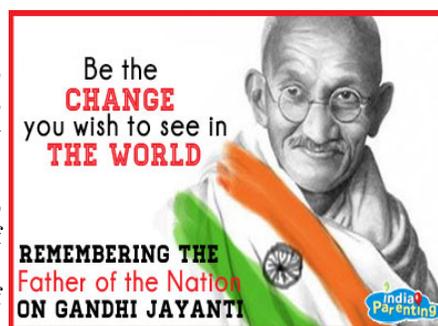
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, at Porbandar, Gujarat, in Western India. He was born into a distinguished family of administrators.

Gandhiji initially studied at an elementary school in Porbandar and later at primary and high schools in Rajkot, Gujarat. Though he thought himself to be a 'mediocre student', many instances show his

reasoning, intelligence, discipline and a deep faith in the principles of truth from a very young age.

He devoted himself to the propagation of Hindu-Muslim unity, removal of untouchability, equality of women and men, Satyagraha and khadi.

Gandhiji's life, ideas and work are a source of inspiration to all those who want a better life for humankind. Since Gandhiji's times, the political map of the world has changed dramatically and the social set-up has undergone a tremendous change. But the moral and ethical issues raised by him, however, remain central to



the future of individuals and nations. We can still derive inspiration from the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi who wanted us to remember the age old saying, "In spite of death, life persists, and in spite of hatred, love persists."

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

### Editorial Board

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

## News from the Balwadis ...

In October, the Balwadi students were taught -

**English** - Discussion of Gandhi Jayanti, matching pairs (lock and key, pencil and eraser, etc), match letters with pictures of birds and animals, introducing the colour yellow.

**Math** - number counting (1, 2, 3), drawing shapes (circle,

square, etc).

**E. V. S.** - Use of sensory organs, parts of the body, uses of water, pet animals, home and its uses.

**Story telling** - The monkey and the crocodile; The hare and the tortoise.

**Eurythemics and games** - 1,2, buckle my shoe; Chubby cheeks; prayer songs.

**Craft and Drawing** - finger printing, vegetable printing, paper crushing.

Besides the above, students were also prepared for their admission to mainstream schools.

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

## News from the Tutorials ...

Students who have been regularly attending the tutorial classes have now developed confidence while speaking and reading. Exams were conducted in almost all the schools so students were prepared for the same at the Centers.

Competitions such as drawing and essay writing were held and students actively



Students participating in competitions

participated in them. Festivals such as Dussehra and Muharram were celebrated and linked to their course work.

Some positive behavioural changes have also been noticed. While earlier some students were inattentive and refused to participate, they are now more involved and attentive.

Students studying in English medium schools have shown an improvement in their reading skills in Hindi and Marathi. In Math, they work independently at solving problems. The weaker students have shown more interest in learning Math. In Science, the students have understood very well the nutritional value of food and the features of living things.

— Ms. Kalpana Gangurde  
(Tutorial Teacher)

## An update on the health checks ...

On October 3rd, a health check was conducted at the Chunabhatti Education Center by LSS in-house doctors, Dr. Deelip Jani and Dr. Kamlesh Upadya. Of the 32 tutorial students, 6 were detected with deficiency of calcium and vitamins while one had a skin allergy. Of the 21 Balwadi students, 1 needs dental care while 4 students have a deficiency of calcium and vitamins. Dr. Jani

suggested giving Albendazol to all the students.

On October 5th, a health check was conducted at the Bainganwadi Education Center by LSS in-house doctors, Dr. Manjunath Kini and Dr. Deelip Jani. Of the 79 tutorial students at this center, 15 have various dental problems, 1 has an ENT problem and 1 was referred to a

pediatrician. Of the 72 Balwadi students, 1 student has a dental problem and 1 student has been referred for an evaluation.

An eye check was conducted for the Balwadi students of Cheeta Camp. On October 29th and 30th, 4 students have a problem with their vision.

— Ms. Seema Patil  
(Teacher-Coordinator)

## Celebrating Gandhi Jayanti ...

India celebrates October 2nd as 'Gandhi Jayanti'. This day marks the birthday of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or Mahatma Gandhi, as he is popularly known. Gandhiji was also called 'Bapu' as he is regarded as the 'Father of the nation'.

At LSS, the dress code for the students on Gandhi Jayanti was white. Four students participated in a role play. Three students played the

role of Gandhiji's three monkeys (Speak no evil, See no evil, Hear no evil). Teachers explained to students the significance of the day and the role Gandhiji played in India's freedom struggle. At the end of the programme, sweets were distributed to the students.

From this year on, at LSS, October 2nd was also observed as 'Helpers' Day'. Gandhiji propogated 'dignity of



labour'. Hence, the helpers at our Centers were felicitated.

— Ms.  
Manisha  
Jadhav  
(Tutorial Teacher)

## An update on the Adult Life Skills Programme ...

The Adult Life Skills Programme (ALSP) has now completed two months.

Unfortunately, 4 of the 13 registered students could not continue as financial constraints forced them to seek employment.

The remaining 9 students have shown tremendous progress due to their commitment and eagerness to learn.

The students now have a vocabulary of more than 55 words. They can introduce themselves and engage in a simple conversation. They can write

their name and address and 5 sentences about themselves. The students have also begun reading independently, though at different levels.

— Ms. Sandra Pinto  
(ALSP Trainer)



## Celebrating Dussehra ...

Dussehra is a major Indian festival that culminates a 9 day fasting period of Navratri in the Hindu culture. During the 9 days, the various 'avatars' of the Goddess are worshipped. The day also coincides with the immersion of the idol of Goddess Durga. Effigies of Ravana are burnt on bonfires in the evening.

The festival commemorates the killing of Ravana by Lord Rama and the killing of the demon Mahishasur by Goddess Durga. Dussehra celebration spreads the message of victory of good over sin.

At LSS, the students and teachers of the Balwadis and tutorials celebrated Navratri by wearing clothes according

to the specific colour of the day. Students were taken on field trips of the various pandals of Goddess Durga. The significance of the Goddess' ornaments and symbols were explained to the students. Garba competitions were held.

— Ms. Jaya Gutthedar  
(Tutorial Teacher)

## Muharram ...

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar year and is the most important month in Islamic history.

On the tenth day of the Muharram month, Huzrat Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, along with 72 immediate family members and followers were martyred by the army of the then ruler called Yazeed.

The reason for the martyrdom was

that Hazarat Imam Hussein, his family and followers refused to be a part of Yazeed's immoral and unreligious dynastic rule.

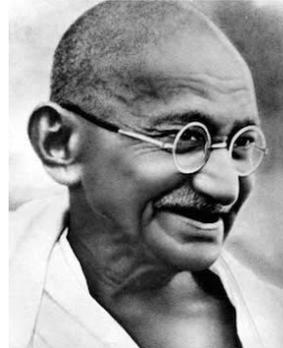
At the LSS Education Centers, teachers explained to the students the significance of Muharram, the most important month in Islamic history. They emphasised that one should always support the truth and not surrender to evil, no matter what the

cost.

— Ms. Leelavati Kotian  
(Balwadi Teacher)

## Special thanks to our annual/quarterly sponsors ...

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



“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.  
Learn as if you were to live forever.”

\* Mahatma Karamchand Gandhi



— Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza (Manager)

## Special thanks to our donors ...

- **Mrs. Geeta Gehi** for donating furniture for our Balwadi students and soft boards at the Chunabhatti Education Center.
- **Yogesh Ahuja** for his donation towards our health and education programmes.
- **Prema Velanganni** for her donation towards LSS' education programme.
- **Shalini and Sheldon (Everard)** for their donation of 300 food packets to children of LSS' education programme.
- **Aleimar Gruppo Onlus** for donation towards repair of houses of the students sponsored by them.



— Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza (Manager)

## We appreciate our volunteers ...

- **Gines (Spain)** for volunteering for LSS at Shatabdi Hospital.
- **Bob Marks and his daughter Lucy**, who taught the students nursery rhymes.



— Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza (Manager)

## Schedule of upcoming events in November

- \* 09/11/15 - Diwali Holidays begin.
- \* 11/11/15 - Laxmi Puja
- \* 12/11/15 - Diwali
- \* 13/11/15 - Bhau Beej
- \* 16/11/15 - LSS Education Centers reopen.
- \* 25/11/15 - Guru Nanak Jayanti

# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Diwali Holidays begin</i>	10	11 <i>Laxmi Puja</i>	12 <i>Diwali</i>	13 <i>Bhau Beej</i>	14
15	16 <i>LSS Education Centers reopen</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Guru Nanak Jayanti</i>	26	27	28
29	30					

## Aleimar Gruppo Onlus visits Lok Seva Sangam ...

Angela Brigatti and Dora Imberti from Aleimar Gruppo Onlus visited LSS from October 26th - 29th. As always, LSS was happy to meet them both.

*"It's always nice come back in Mumbai and visit Lok Seva Sangam's projects. It's the 3rd time in 3 years that we meet the staff and visit all the families that are in the child sponsorships projects, the kindergarten and tutoring project and for the first time the new English course project started from the 1st of September. We have the opportunity to assist at one of the lessons and spend some time with*

*the students and their teacher. The course is very useful, well arranged and very accurate, it gives to the students a real chance to improve their English and use it for their future. We appreciate Lok Seva Sangam's work, they are putting a lots of efforts to improve also educational projects as they believe that*



Angela Brigatti and Dora Imberti at the Lok Seva Sangam office

*through the knowledge everyone can improve his quality life.*

— Angela Brigatti

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loksevasangam.org

Donations made to Lok Seva Sangam are  
exempt from Income Tax under Sec 80G.

For more details, contact —  
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Eye check at Cheeta  
Camp Education Center



Photo Gallery

Celebrating Dussehra  
at Cheeta Camp



Gandhi Jayanti  
at Cheeta Camp



Paper  
crushing  
activity  
done at the  
Balwadis



Health check  
at  
Chunabhatti



Vegetable  
(okra)  
printing  
activity at  
the Balwadi



## What we do ...

**Lok Seva Sangam (LSS)** is a voluntary organisation, 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 (CBM) of severely malnourished children.

LSS runs 3 Education Centers for children of 2 1/2 - 13 years 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 ....