



Education moves on to

Every Doorstep.

DOOR
STEP
SCHOOL



Message from our President



Mrs. Rajani Paranjpe (President)

In July 2009 Door Step School completed 20 years since it was registered as The Society for Door Step Schools. In 1993 we started our activities in Pune as well. In the course of time, we got popularly known as Door Step School and are many times referred to as only Door Step.

The journey of 20 years is long. We have expanded considerably in terms of coverage of children. Today our Pune branch alone covers nearly 50,000 children.

Mumbai also covers about 12,000 children. So, together we are directly in touch with more than 62,000 children. Now we are poised to expand further in the cities we work and even outside those cities. We have some proposals for working in cities like Sholapur and Nasik particularly for the children of construction laborers.

We have got similar proposals in the past but now we feel that we are better equipped to take on the challenge. The need is urgent and the numbers involved are large. The desire to reach out to as many children as we can is strong. However, there are always limitations for any one organization's capacity to grow. The need is to network with organizations working in the same field and help new organizations to start and develop. We are currently thinking on these lines. We would appreciate greatly if you have any suggestions in this regard. We also welcome your help in this matter.

-Mrs. Rajani Paranjpe



April 2010

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Doorstep school is a registered non profit organization in India under:

- Societies Act, Registration No.172-1989 GBBSD
- Public Trust Act, Registration No. F 13279 (Bom)
- Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Exemption Act, Certificate No. CH-39, D/IMS 28049

AN INSPIRATION

Sunita Bhalerao, a supervisor with Door Step School, who took up the initiative of admitting 22 under privileged children to the Municipal School in Gokhale Nagar, is an outstanding example of this wise saying.

Working towards the primary objective of Door Step School to bring education to the Door Step of every child, Sunita, while surveying a "Dori Vinanari Basti" (Weavers' settlement) near Bharati Vidya Bhavan found a number of children who were not enrolled in school. She tried in vain to convince the parents to enroll their children in school. Over the next 8 days she visited the settlement persistently trying to talk to the parents, each day more determined than the other. Amongst the parents who were usually drunk, playing cards or passing obscene remarks, she finally came across one who realized that Sunita had genuinely come to help them and their children and had no personal gain from this. This parent, the father of Nandini and Anisha, agreed to put his children in school.

Sunita got the start she was looking for. She took the children to the PMC School and approached the principal for admissions. The principal was reluctant at first since their attempts to enroll these children in school for the last 3 years had failed and he was convinced that these children too would dropout soon. However on a personal assurance by Sunita, the principal agreed and the children were enrolled in standard 1. The children went home with their new uniforms, shoes and school bags.

On seeing Nandini and Anisha with their new articles from the school, the parents of other kids were amazed and were very eager to put their own children to school. Sunita had successfully overcome the first hurdle to convince the parents but she now had a big task ahead of her.

She obtained the age certificates of all the 22 children from Bhabha Hospital, near Pyramid Signal and admitted them to the PMC School 107B in Gokhale Nagar, Pune. Door Step school managed the conveyance of the children to and from the school by auto-rickshaw.

In the year 2009, all of the 22 children passed standard 1. Unfortunately, 4 girls discontinued the school.



Where there is a will there is a way!

However, 4 boys from the same settlement who studied in another school also joined this school (PMC School 107B) in November of the same year. It is heartening to see these children form a group at night and do their combined studies in the community

The PMC School 107B was on the verge of closure because of a shortage of students' attendance. However, because of a total of 37 students from Door Step School (22 from Dori Vinanari Basti and 15 from a construction site labour camp) who went there, the school did not close. This was a commendable feat. On 26th December, 2009, Mr. Nilesh Nikam, the Nagar Sevak of Gokhale Nagar area felicitated Sunita with a shawl, a coconut, a rose flower and cash prize of Rs.151. She was also given the post of member of "WARD SHIKSHAN SAMITI" throughout Pune.

Sunita, who has served Door Step School for more than 5 years, had just this much to say, "This award ceremony, appreciation and felicitation was and will always be memorable to me. The noble work was a result of the support of a lot of people around me including my family, friends, colleagues, well-wishers and Door Step School".

Sunita's efforts have motivated other supervisors of Door Step to do the same and inspired them to never give up. Success will come to those who try. It is people like Sunita that help Door Step live up to its motto.

VOLUNTEERS SPEAK

I strongly believe that education is the way to change one's life for the better. Door Step School (DSS) shares the same idea. I was introduced to DSS in 2007, since then it has been a pleasure working for them as a volunteer. I loved the fact that DSS is very focused in its mission, transparent in its working and has strong ethics. I feel that this is the reason why everyday in office is still enjoyable. I have always been given a lot of respect and love by the staff."

**- Smita Joshi, Volunteer,
Reading Class Program**

"I volunteered at Door Step School, Pune for two months during which I worked at the office to prepare a database of funding sources to support DSS to communicate with its donors and raise money. Besides the administrative work, I also spent some time with the children giving English lessons and playing games with them. That experience was great and I can confidently say that the organization does wonderful work for the education of children in Pune. The staff at Door Step School was very helpful and patient with me. Working at DSS not only taught me about India and education but it also taught me much about human nature, an invaluable life lesson!"

-Marie Bollard, Volunteer, Office



ACHIEVEMENT

Shehnaz was a student of our NFE class at the Pashankar center in 2007. In April, 2007 she took the external exam for 1st standard and stood first in the exam. Her parents though were not yet ready to enroll her in a PMC school. Our coordinator tried to convince her parents but she continued her studies in the NFE class. She later returned to her native place but carried her books and guides along. When she returned in 2009, she had completed most of the syllabus of 4th standard. She took the external exam for 4th standard and passed with 62%. Her mother was ready to enroll her in school but her father was still reluctant. It was only thanks to the persistent efforts of our coordinator that the father finally agreed to the school enrollment. It took 2 years to enroll Shehnaz in a regular school but it was well worth the effort. Shehnaz is now a 5th standard student of Sant Tukaram School, Pashan.



EVENTS

QUEST SCIENCE QUIZ 14/03/2010

Door Step School in partnership with Quest Science and Math Lab organized a quiz competition for its children on the 14th of March 2010. Quest is a supportive activity of Door Step School. At Quest, children get information about Science and get to perform age appropriate scientific experiments. They get to experience and handle various scientific/lab apparatus. Children who have been regularly going to the Quest lab were picked to participate in the event. For each age group (junior and senior) two groups of about 13 students each were created. The children were very enthusiastic and knew most of the answers. The quiz masters did a good job of keeping the audience members engaged in the competition. The chit round was followed by the quiz master round. Both the groups did well and more than winning it was the participation that mattered. Each participating child went home with a certificate. It was evident from all the children's faces how much they enjoyed this event and how much they have learned from their time at Quest. The students, teachers, staff and volunteers of Door Step put in a lot of hard work and effort to make this event a huge success. Everyone went home with smiles on their faces!



DIWALI PARTY 10/10/2009

This year we celebrated Diwali at both our Community Learning Centers. The CLC in Dattawadi is sponsored by the Tech Mahindra Foundation. Volunteers from this foundation organized the party for the kids. It began with the kids welcoming the guests from Tech Mahindra. Mr. Akhil Mahajan (Tech Mahindra volunteer) inaugurated the Science Laboratory following which some of the students demonstrated experiments and also talked about the benefits of the lab and the community library. The fun events and prize distribution followed. Volunteers also distributed gifts to all the kids. The CLC in Shivaji Housing Society is sponsored by the Ernst and Young Foundation. A comedy show was organized for the kids, which they thoroughly enjoyed. E&Y volunteers distributed lunch boxes as gifts to all the 250 students attending the party. The students on the other hand gifted lanterns, greeting cards and paper roses to all the volunteers from E&Y.



DOOR STEP WINS THE "SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAAN" AWARD 09/02/2010

Every year "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan" recognizes outstanding contribution in the Non Formal Education System. For the academic year 2009-10, Door Step School was awarded the first prize for enrolling 644 students into school. This feat was achieved only due to the tireless efforts put in by our teachers. At the annual cultural programme held thereafter, 13 children from our "Grand View 7" location performed and were awarded the 3rd prize.



DSS at Forest Trails Site by Paranjpe Builders

Paranjpe builders have a strong sense of community development and along with Door Step School they provide education to the children of construction workers on 4 of their sites at Forest Trails, Athashri, Crystal Garden and Gloria. The Door Step School facility on their Forest Trails site is worth a mention. Even before Door Step set up a school on that site they had enrolled some of the site children into school. Currently, there are 28 students from the Forest Trails site that go to NFE, Balwadi, Creche and study classes. Paranjpe builders have provided a tin shed with good ventilation for all these programs. There is a 24 hour water supply along with toilet facilities for the children and staff. Paranjpe builders also provide the salaries for the three Door Step teachers on site.

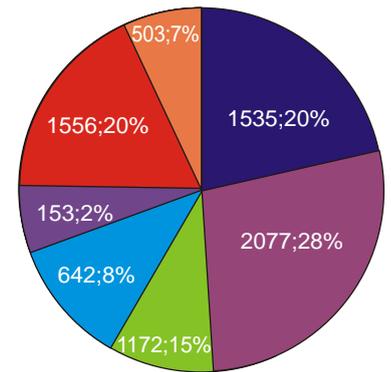
"Paranjpe Builders share Door Step School's vision in providing education to the marginalized section of society. They are doing their part by providing us with some excellent facilities and monetary support for our projects. They have been very cooperative and we hope that this continues in the future."

– Jayashree Joglekar, Director, Door Step School



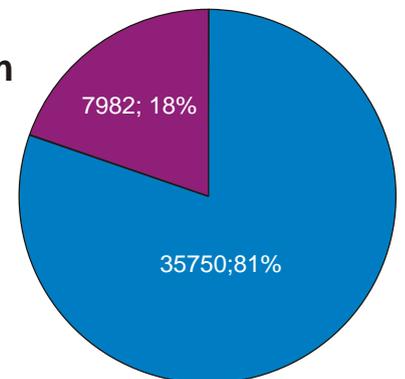
Project Foundation: Number of Children covered under Educational and Supportive Activities

- Child Care Centers (below 3 years of age)
- Pre-primary education (Ages 3-6)
- Study Classes (Ages 6-10)
- Reading Room (Ages 10+)
- Computer Classes (Ages 10+)
- Literacy Classes (Ages 6-14)
- Community Based Library (Upto 10th standard)



Project Grow with Books: Number of Children covered under the School Intervention Program

- Reading Class and Lending Library (1st to 4th standard)
- Lending Library (5th to 7th standard)



APPEAL TO DONORS

We are able to provide services to our community thanks only to your helpful contributions. Please do continue to support us. Our immediate needs are as follows:

Support for 5 new schools under Project Grow with Books:- Rs. 3,00,000

Support for 5 new Project Foundation Centers:- Rs. 5,00,000

Annual Maintenance Contracts for office/CLC computers:- Rs. 50,000

You can also help us towards a part of the amount mentioned. As always, every donation is welcome and goes a long way in helping the under privileged children of our community.