
Annual Report 2016-17

Auro Mira Service Society

Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016



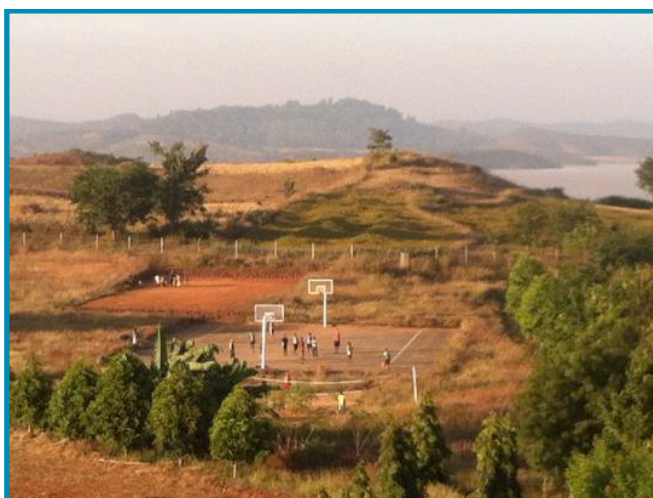
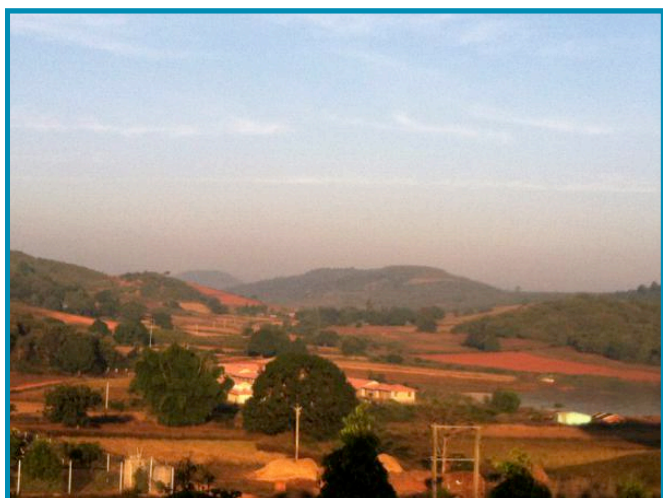
*"...we are not here to repeat what others
have done, but to prepare ourselves for the
blossoming of a new consciousness and
a new life."*

The Mother

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Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir School Report 2016-17

Looking back...

...to see how far we have come...



*I saw them across the twilight of an age,
The sun-eyed children of a marvellous dawn,
The great creators with wide brows of calm,
The massive barrier-breakers of the world...*

Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir traversed its journey of yet another exceptional year filled with exuberant enthusiasm; meandering with the echoing laughter of the children, through multifarious events and rich experiences. Under the star studded sky, surrounded by the undulating hills, beside the tranquil water of the reservoir the School lovingly fosters children with care and makes learning a joyous discovery. It

nurtures inquisitive minds, creative sensibilities and marches ahead in an unhindered quest for knowledge and self discovery. As one looks back at the year that passed by, vignettes of smiling, eager children exploring new possibilities flash across the screen.

First, the changes. A few children from the Gratitude Group have started staying in the hostel. This year the group for *shramdan* has increased. The children help to keep the surroundings clean and take part in all the chores that are carried out on the premises. They clean the toilets, help in the kitchen, practise music, do *yogasana*, clean rice and pulses, indulge in gardening, etc. Multifarious tasks done with joy, as an offering.

Due to scarcity of water, the focus has shifted from growing vegetables to planting fruit trees. Children water the plants, remove the weeds growing around them and put manure from time to time without any adult supervision. It is a joy to see the children shoulder the responsibility of nurturing these plants. It is as if the children and the plants under their protection are growing together in an ambience of harmonious coexistence. Each fostering the other with love and salubrious care.

The roof on half of the ground floor of the new Girl's Hostel has already been cast. Many children from Faith, Concentration and New Creation helped on the days of casting the roof. In the absence of the villagers during the festivals the children from different groups carried out the work by turns.

Sports facilities and equipment for children have seen an increase. There are six new unicycles. Unicycles came as donation from Mr Naresh Modi and Mr Hemant Didwania. The children have got more roller skates and hoopla than the previous year, received as donation from Sri Aurobindo Ashram-Delhi Branch. Some of the skates were received from Parthiv Krishna. A play room has been set up for the little ones with different kinds of colourful toys. Maximilian Patzer has donated a dozen juggling clubs as well as many juggling balls for the children.

The School now has a moped, a four wheeler and also a small refrigerator. Most of the cooking is done on gas. The children of Aspiration and Golden groups got new flutes this year.

The School library has been shifted to a more spacious hall. The children of the School have always spent a considerable time reading and looking up books. Books are their special friends. This is true for children of all age groups. The improved cataloguing and arrangement of books has made it easier to locate books.

Different festivals and significant days of the year are celebrated in the School with a lot of excitement and verve. Through these festivals the children seek and express goodwill for everyone and preserve valuable cultural heritage.

Each celebration paves the path for a new progress and we move on step by step, slowly and yet steadily towards our goal.

Colourful strands in the rich tapestry...

...events at AMVM during the Year

First Term (April-September, 2016)

Sri Aurobindo's Arrival in Pondicherry (Darshan Day)- 4th April

All the children and the facilitators went to the *Ashram* for a special meditation to celebrate the day our sublime Master set foot in Pondicherry for the first time. Children commemorated the *Darshan* day through an offering of devotional songs in the Meditation Hall.



The Mother's Final Arrival in Pondicherry (Darshan Day) - 24th April

All the children along with their diya's went to the *Ashram* for a special meditation to commemorate the day of the Mother's final arrival in Pondicherry.

In the evening the children and all the members of the *Ashram* gathered to pay homage to the Mother's flag. The March Past was followed by the national song- *Vande Mataram*. The hills and the open spaces reverberated with the echo of the slogan 'Victory to the Divine Mother'. After the salutation to the Flag, every one lighted the lamp of aspiration.



Raja Parba - Swing Festival - 14th June

Raja Parba or Mithuna Sankranti is a special festival of Odisha and signifies beginning of the solar month of Mithuna, indicating the onset of rainy season. The festival marks the beginning of the agricultural year all over Odisha, with the first showers of the monsoon. This is a joyous day for the girls of Odisha, and is celebrated as the swing festival. The girls of the School took a turmeric bath in the morning, adorned new clothes and decorated themselves with beautiful flowers. Sulochana didi made the typical festival sweet pancake, *Pitha* for all the children and everyone relished them.

International Yoga Day - 21st June



Yoga is a part of regular routine of the students at School. AMVM observed the International Yoga Day by holding *Hathayoga* sessions for the children and the teachers.

School Foundation Day & Taradidi's Birthday - 5th July

On the Foundation day the children celebrate the School's as well as Tara didi's birthday. To commemorate this happy occasion Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir organised various programmes.



The day began with collective meditation by all the members of the School in the *Ashram* Meditation Hall. This was followed by a sacred *havan* at the School.

The celebrations continued with a cultural programme presented to mark the special day. Children of Gratitude group chanted sacred *mantras* continuously for fifteen minutes. The whole place echoed with the strains of sonorous *vedic* chants.



This was followed by an symphonic Orchestra, presented by children of Aspiration, Golden, Concentration and New Creation. Next, the little ones of Twinkle group sang a Hindi song,

Neela Asman and performed an action song on 'One Proud Peacock'.

Joy group showcased a dance drama, *Nanha Beej* in Hindi.



The children of Aspiration, Golden and Humility group gave a *Bharat Natyam* performance. The children of Humility group danced along the *Ganesh stotra*, *Mooshika Vahaana*. Sujata didi presented a dance performance. The morning celebrations concluded with the birthday song for the School and Tara didi.



In the afternoon a Basketball match was played between the children and diya. The teachers won the match by scoring 50 points and the children scored 42 points.

Celebrations continued in the evening with a few interesting cultural programmes. 'Neelu's Big Box', a play in English was put up by children of Humility group. Next, Suparna didi accompanied by Bhuvan, Bhavna and Sushila presented an enchanting dance. The rhythmic and graceful movements of the dancers fascinated the audience. The children of Aspiration group performed the play, 'Wonder in the Woods' in English. Children of Gratitude group sang *Jitenge Bazi ek Din* in Hindi. *Kim Nama Balam*, a Sanskrit play, was presented by the children of Golden group. The programme for the day culminated with *Savitri* reading by the eager readers in the School Meditation hall.

The next day, on 6th, Concentration group put up a humorous play in English *Tenali Raman*. Twinkle group children sang a bhajan composed in Hindi *Mata Tujhe Pranam*.

The children of Humility group danced to the rhythm and tune of the famous song *Bum Bum Bhole*.



Next, a play *Rooster Raga* in English was put up by Gratitude group children and Humility group did a musical play "Put Me in the Zoo".

The children of New Creation sang two English songs *Seasons in the Sun* and *Country Road* accompanied by Nigel Bhaiya on the guitar and the children with different musical instruments.

Ramesh bhaiya wrote a few poems in Oriya on the occasion of School's birthday and recited them wonderfully expressing feelings of gratitude. All the children did tribal dance and the programme concluded with collective meditation.



Ratha Yatra - 14th July



Ratha Yatra or the Chariot festival is an Odiya festival that involves journey of deities Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra and Sudarshana on a *ratha* or chariot. The festival involves an annual procession of deities. Children from Gratitude, Humility, Aspiration and Golden groups with their diyas went to Koraput to see the famous Chariot Festival (*Ratha Yatra*). All children were very careful and stayed together in the big crowd.

Chachaji's Birthday - 13th August

On Chachaji's birthday, *havan* was performed in the School. All children participated in chanting *mantra*. In the auspicious occasion, all paid rich tribute to the great soul for his dynamic enthusiasm as well as his deep surrender to the Divine.

Babaji Maharaj's Birthday - 14th August

The birth anniversary of great *sadhak*, Babaji Maharaj was celebrated and the children went for a special meditation to the *Ashram* along with their diyas.

Sri Aurobindo's Birthday & Independence Day - 15th August



The School celebrated the 68th Independence Day as well as Sri Aurobindo's birthday on 15th August with an offering of a few devotional songs, patriotic songs, dance and

short plays by the children. A photography exhibition on the Mother and Sri Aurobindo was put up in the library as an offering to the Master. The importance of the national symbols and national heroes were also discussed with the children.

The day started with meditation at the *Ashram* Meditation Hall. The children and diyas of Auro Mira Vidya Mandir went for a collective prayer to the *Ashram*. The programme in the School began with the Mother's music followed by a bhajan by Surekha didi. This was followed by an action song "*Pyari Bharat Ma*" by the Twinkle group and another patriotic song "*Jahan Daal Daal Par Sone Ki Chidiya*".

The Joy group children did action with the song "*Veer Sipahi*". The children of Humility group spoke about Sri Aurobindo's childhood in English.



Next, Gratitude group presented a group song "*Vande Mataram*". The orchestra group of Concentration and New Creation played *Sare Jahan Se Achha* with the children on flute and tabla.

"Glimpses of Freedom Movement," a play in English was put up by the children of Aspiration and Golden group. Jagat and Basant gave a short speech on Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. A few children from Concentration and New Creation danced to the song *Satyameva Jayate*. It was followed by national anthem played by the children on flute. The programme ended with everyone singing the national song "*Vande Mataram*".



Raksha Bandhan - 18th August

Raksha Bandhan is a festival that celebrates the bond of protection. It falls on the full moon of the month of Shrawana and for children brings in enthusiastic excitement.





Children of all the groups made beautiful *rakhis* by using macramé. A few children wove intricate designs with colourful silken threads. The children tied *rakhi* on each other's wrist with love and prayed for their well being and long life. The festival is a celebration of the bond shared by all living beings. Some children tied *rakhi* to Bunty, our pet dog and to their beloved trees and plants. Stories from our mythology that highlight the close bond among all were narrated by Jagat, Kamlu and Hari.

Janmasthan- Krishna Lila - 25th August

Janmasthan was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. A few villagers attended the event. The play on Krishna was put up by all the children of Gratitude, Humility, Aspiration, Golden, Concentration groups and a few children from New Creation group. The older children helped Ramesh bhaiya in making the props. This was a lively presentation with beautiful songs and a dance woven into the play. The children enacted the roles of various characters related to Lord Krishna. Small children dressed in the attire of Radha and Krishna looked adorable.



Joy group children sang their favourite Krishna song, *Dekho Dekho Kanha Aaya*. Twinkle group sang a song on Krishna which was composed in Hindi by their diyas.

Ganesh Chaturthi

The children worshipped Lord Ganesh, the God of knowledge and wisdom who protects us from all obstacles. They invoked the blessings of Lord Ganesh by chanting mantra and hymns. Children sang '*Sang hai riddhi siddhi ke data*'. Nilamber. accompanied the song on the tabla. The youngest children of Joy group sang *Jay Ganesh, Jay Ganesh* with action. *Pahi Pahi Gajanana* was sung by the children of Twinkle group. Stories on *Ganesh ji, Tulsi and Ganesh, Ganesh and Kuber, Moon and Ganesh* etc were narrated by the children of Aspiration and Golden group. An English play- *Analasura and Vinayak* was performed by Humility group. Children of Concentration group sang *Jay Ganesh Jay Ganesh* along with a Marathi song *Sukh Karta Dukh Harta*. Some children played the song *Jay Gana Raya* and *Gaiye Ganapati Jagabandana* on the flute and a few children accompanied them on the tabla. The programme concluded with *Ganesh Naama Patha* by all the children. At the end the favourite sweet of Lord Ganesh was served to everyone.

Teachers Day - 5th September

Teacher's Day was celebrated by the School. Students made beautiful cards for the teachers. They also offered small bouquets of flowers to their teachers to express their love and gratitude.

Afforestation Programme



Children were made aware of environmental pollution. To keep the environment clean and unpolluted, the children took up a massive afforestation programme in the School compound. They planted saplings of Litchi trees, Rose apple trees, Guava trees, Blackberry trees and Jackfruit trees. Teachers as well as the garden workers also participated in the plantation programme.

Second Term (October, 2016-March, 2017)

Gandhi Jayanti - 2nd October

Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated with bhajans by the children. Many stories from Mahatma Gandhi's life were narrated. The value of honesty and truthfulness was also discussed with the children. Children paid homage to Bapu, the father of the nation.

Dussehra - 11th October

Dussehra was celebrated in School with joyous celebration. The children sang a newly learnt song *Ayi Giri Nandini*. They chanted a few *mantras* to invoke the Mother's power. An excerpt from The Mother, by Sri Aurobindo was read to the children. Children also recited *Durga Stotra* written by Sri Aurobindo. A few children went to Koraput to enjoy the festival.

Diwali - 30th October

Marking the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, the School celebrated Diwali. The children from different groups made colourful wax candles, using the stem of papaya plant as the mould. Children were also told stories based on Diwali. A small programme was put up by our young children. It started with a beautiful hindi bhajan *Bhajo re Man Ram Naam Sukhdayi* which was followed by an action song *Raja Ram Raja Ram* by Joy group. Next was a Sanskrit song *Raghunandan Raghuraja* based on the different names of Shri Ram by Gratitude group. Aspiration and Golden Group sang a beautiful bhajan *Ram ka Gun Gaan Kariye*. The programme ended with Humility group presenting *Amritvani*. Aspiration and Golden group organised Science Toy Corner. They arranged toys in different corners of the School. Children thronged the corners according to their preference. The fascinating displays led to immense excitement among all the children as they rushed to learn about all the toys and the place echoed with amusing sounds from different toys. In the evening everyone went to the *Ashram* Meditation Hall to light the lamp. The hostel as well as the School buildings were decorated with earthen lamps which the children had made with their little hands.

Children's Day and Boat Festival - 14th November

The School observed Children's day as well as the boat festival on the same day. By using the upper layer of banana stem the children made boats and decorated them with colourful papers and flowers. The children floated their boats recalling the glory of their ancestors. The children from Aspiration group, Golden group, Concentration group and New Creation group wrote poems which were displayed on the board and a few children recited their poems. A few children presented solo performance of vocal music and some played on the flute. Surekha didi, Mani didi and Vidyottma didi sang the famous song *Tarein Zameen Par* along with the children and Ganesh bhaiya



played the *tabla*. The teachers too revealed their talents and performed as per the requests made by the children's.

At the end of the programme, a letter written by the children to their teachers was read by Suryodhan.

Dear Bhaiyas and Didis

We thank you a lot for teaching us all that you know. We know that all of you love us a lot. We are very happy because all of you enjoyed the programme. we are very lucky to have everything and also such nice teachers. From today all of us will try to take care of our things and also try to help our teachers and Pranjali bhaiya to maintain and run the School well.

From all the children of AMVM

Thank you

Silence Day - 17th November

17th November was observed as the Silence day, as on this day the Divine Mother left her physical body and became one with the universe. The children offered their silent prayer to the Mother through collective meditation in the *Ashram* Meditation hall. The Mother's grace is palpably felt all around and acts as protection for all.

Siddhi Day (Darshan Day)- 24th November

Siddhi day was celebrated in the *Ashram* with joy and gratitude. Children went for a collective prayer in the morning and in the evening there was March Past paying homage to the Mother's flag. The atmosphere was filled with an echo of the National song. Everyone conveyed their respect to the Mother's flag and it was followed by lighting the lamp of aspiration.

Pranjal Bhaiya's Birthday - 29th November

*A single person of wisdom
Firmly rooted in society
Has a value and significance
Equivalent to a thousand.*



He is none other than the children's very dear *Pranjal bhaiya*! The person responsible of bringing in a quiet revolution in Kechla. All members of AMVM celebrated his birthday with gaiety. They prayed to the Mother for his good health and long life.

Children offered a short programme to celebrate the happy occasion. A few children from Aspiration group danced to the song *Chanda chamke cham cham*. Gratitude group danced to the song *School Chalen Hum* followed by a creative play in English by Aspiration and Golden group. Children from Twinkle group presented a song with actions. Children of Gratitude put up an English play. Tiny tots of Joy group sang a song with action, *Ek Chhota Beej* in Hindi. Faith group sang a few songs. Some children played *Dil Hai Chhota Sa* and *Jeena Isika Naam Hai* on the flute. Concentration and New Creation group wove a narrative based on anecdotes from Pranjal Bhaiya's life. Humility group presented it as a skit, which was very humorous and added verve to the programme.



Mahasamadhi Day - 5th December

December 5 was observed as the Mahasamadhi day, marking the withdrawal of Yogi Sri Aurobindo from his physical body. Like every year the staff and students assembled together in the Ashram Meditation Hall and the atmosphere was charged with profound gratitude and fragrance of incense offered by the members.

Christmas - 25th December



Christmas was celebrated at the School with merriment. The tree in front of the library was decorated by the children with festive decorations. The children learnt the value of sharing and caring. They also presented various cultural programmes and sang carols to usher in the yuletide spirit.

Joy group carolled “We wish you a merry Christmas” followed by the carol “Away in a Manger” by Twinkle

group. Next, the Gratitude group sang “We wish you a merry Christmas” in a modified version. Children of Humility group sang “O come all ye Faithful” followed by the carol “Living Water” and “*Chup hai chanda, chup hai tarein*” in Hindi presented by Aspiration and Golden group. They also put up two plays in English based on biblical stories; “The birth of Messiah” and “The Wise King Solomon”. Concentration and New Creation group sang “Every tiny star that twinkles in the night sky” and “Joy to the World”. A few children from New Creation group sang “Drummer boy” with rhythmic beats.

Sports Day

Sports play an essential part in a child’s education to nurture good health and develop strong physical abilities. It also develops qualities like courage, initiative, agility of mind and body, team spirit and steadfast will.

The Annual Sports Day of the School started with the Mother’s music and homage to the Mother’s flag by our young marchers. After March Past relay races were organised for the younger groups and the senior children did high jump and long jump. The annual sporting event was filled with exciting moments of participants sprinting on the tracks, as the spectators held their breath in awe and broke into collective applause. The shared enthusiasm of the audience and outburst of cheering were amongst the best feeling one could ever hope to have.

The Physical Demonstration programme in the afternoon started by invoking the Mother's grace while the Mother's music played for two minutes. Lily didi and Sujay bhaiya, Shantakar bhaiya, teachers, Director of Coffee Board, Smt Padma Sastri were some of the guests present on the occasion. The unicycle experts of the School welcomed the guests and spectators.



The first programme was a dance by our senior girls on *Vandemataram*. It was followed by the Hoopla dance by the girls of Aspiration and Golden group. All the senior children participated in the Chau dance a folk dance of Mayurbhanj. The little ones from Joy and Twinkle group presented a mass drill with colourful flowers.



The senior girls danced with the song *Chak de India*. All the children from Aspiration and Golden group exhibited their talents on the roller skates. It was followed by Gratitude and Humility group children displaying Pyramid formations. A group of children from Aspiration onwards showed their dexterity in gymnastics. Hari, Madan, Mohan, Kamalochan, Mahadev, Basant and Nilamber mesmerised the audience with their talents on the unicycle. The programme concluded with a group dance dedicated to Lord Ganesha by the children of Gratitude, Humility, Aspiration, Golden group.

Inter School Basketball Tournament - 23rd January



The AMVM Girls' Basketball team took part in the Invitational Inter School Basketball Tournament organised by The Mother's International School, New Delhi. The team displayed remarkable acumen and played against six other prominent schools of Delhi. The AMVM team lifted the runner up trophy of the tournament, second only to DPS, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

Republic Day - 26th January



The children of AMVM went to Koraput Police Parade field where they participated in the Republic Day celebrations. This was for the first time the children participated in the events along with more than fifty other schools of the district. They put up a blend of unicycle and hoola performance which was completely unique for the spectators. The students brought laurels to the School by bagging the first prize at the district level

competition. They were awarded two trophies and a certificate.

Basant Panchami - 1st February

A small musical event was organised on the occasion of *Basant Panchami*. The teachers accompanied by the children arranged all the musical instruments in the hall. The event started by lighting earthen lamps with the Mother's music playing in the background. Children invoked the blessings of Mother Saraswati through chantings and *bhajans* dedicated Mother Saraswati.

The Mother's Birthday - 21st February

The Mother's birth anniversary was celebrated with joyful enthusiasm. It is a special occasion to invoke the subtle presence of the Mother. All the groups prepared a short items as an offering at the lotus feet of the Mother. The day began with a special meditation at six in the morning by eager aspirants. After a delightful breakfast all the children with their respective diyas went to the Ashram for a collective meditation. The cultural programme was organised in the School. The room was specially decorated by Vina didi, Vidyottma didi and Suparna didi along with a few children. On this occasion the School put up an art exhibition showcasing the work done by different students.



An exhibition on flowers and their spiritual significance was the other highlight of the day. Floral offering beautifully arranged around the hall added splendour to the festive ambience.



The programme started in the morning with the Mother's music. The power of the Mother was invoked by Twinkle group through *Matri Vandana*. *Durga stotra* by Sri Aurobindo was recited by the children of Concentration group. Children of Humility group sang an Oriya song. Gratitude group shared excerpts from the Mother's life in Hindi. It was followed by a beautiful hindi song by Golden group- *Manushya tu bada mahaan hai* and a play on the Mother's life by Humility group.

Birthday of Anuradha Sapru Kohl - 27th February



The staff and students paid homage to Anuradha Sapru Kohl. The School remembered her as well as her family with gratitude on her birthday. A special prayer was organised on this occasion. The students chanted sacred hymns and sang birthday songs.

Holi - 13th March

Holi was celebrated with safe colours. Children smeared turmeric paste as our ritual as well as according to the health point of view. They also went to the nearest lake for a mud bath



which is more hygienic. They also enjoyed putting mud on each other. They were very careful about not putting it in any one's eyes or mouth. The senior children helped in making *chhole bhature* and *pure*. At night the moonlight dinner was arranged in the school campus. Children enjoyed the sight of hot air balloon soaring through the night sky.

*The finest present one can give to a child would be to teach him
to know himself and to master himself.*

-The Mother

Activities Galore...



Trip to Simla village



Cycling Trip to Jeypore



Swimming at Night



Havan on 5th of every month



At the Basketball Court



Story Telling Sessions

Kechla Project - A Report

Construction

Construction work at Kechla continued at a steady pace through the year.

- ❖ Work for the Girls Hostel continued with the slab of the basement and half of the ground floor being cast.
- ❖ Impressive landscape work has been carried out in the School. The area around the class rooms of the younger groups was paved this year. The ongoing work would require more time as the primary focus for construction is the Girls' Hostel.



New Initiatives



Maintenance of Solar Panels



Distribution of Blankets

Tree Plantation Drive

A major tree plantation drive has been undertaken in Kechla. The students and the populace of the nearby villages have been motivated to assist in afforestation. The large number of saplings planted during the year has transformed the landscape. The following tally gives some idea about the massive drive.



SOCIETY LAND (old building campus and new land)

Kaju - 284
Banana - 21
Rose Apple - 36
Jackfruit - 84
Pineapple - 41

SCHOOL CAMPUS

Rose Apple - 20
Guava - 4
Lichhi - 18
Mango - 12
Jackfruit - 15
Jamun - 12
Kunduri - 5
Papaya - 10

SAPLINGS DISTRIBUTED TO VILLAGERS

Kaju - 364
Jackfruit - 12
Mehendi - 14
Kunduri - 18

Enhanced Farm Production

THE PRODUCE FROM THE OLD BUILDING CAMPUS

Paddy - 285 kg
Urad dal - 38 kg
Peanuts - 19 kg
Potatoes - 162 kg

THE PRODUCE FROM THE GARDEN/ ORCHARD USED IN THE HOSTEL

Corn	1415	pieces
Radish	2542	pieces
Jackfruit	66	pieces
Cabbage	443	kg
Dhania	121	kg
Spinach	443	kg
Beans	313	kg
Ginger	40	kg
Cinnamon	2	Kg
Potato	293	Kg



Tomato	30	Kg
Red chillies	49	Kg
Pudina	1	Kg
Cauliflower	131	Kg
Pumpkin	256	Kg
Bitter gourd	97	Kg
Cucumber	150	Kg
Snake Gourd	82	Kg
Lady fingers	97	Kg
Drum sticks	2	Kg
Bottle Gourd	78	Kg
Bamboo (edible)	71	pieces
Guava	4460	pieces
Rose apples	14	kg
Banana	3839	pieces
Papaya	689	kg
Sapeta	62	pieces
Star fruit	73	pieces
Mango	1771	pieces
Litchi	56	Kg
Lime	72	pieces
Lemon	463	pieces
Fire wood	69	Q
Urad Dal	42	Kg
Dal Semi	38	Kg
Peanuts	23	Kg
Ragi	4	Kg



Other Activities

Sanskrit Parikshan Shibir

A three day *Sanskrit Parikshan Shibir* was organised in Kechla. Shri Mishra who is a Sanskrit expert now working at the International Education Centre, Puducherry conducted the training programme for the teachers. About 20 interested teachers from different integral schools of Odisha participated in the *Shibir*. Shri Mishra spoke on various aspects of teaching of Sanskrit and during the three days he enhanced the confidence of the participants.

Meditation Camp

The School hosted a group of thirteen people from Delhi for a meditation camp. The calm and tranquil ambience, far from the madding crowd helped the participants to focus on their motto. At the camp fire AMVM children performed a few activities like dance, song and juggling for them. In their short period of staying they became very friendly with the inmates as well as the children of the School. A few children from Gratitude and Humility took them for trek to the view point.

School Camps

MIS STUDENTS AT KECHLA

Forty three students of class IX and four teachers of The Mother's International School took part in a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla from December 28, 2016 to January 2, 2017. Activities included Keep Fit exercises, day and night trekking, bouldering, rappelling, river-crossing, rowing, swimming in the Kolab river reservoir, learning eye care routines, interactive talks and discussion on environment and health, Pranayama, western folk-dancing, interacting with students of Auro Mira Vidya Mandir.



COMMUNITY SERVICE BY STUDENTS OF MIS

Thirty five students of class XI of The Mother's International School with three teachers reached Kechla on January 1, 2017 to help Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir children with academic and co-curricular learning. Each student was allotted two children to teach over a period of 8 days. From the feedback received, it is obvious that MIS students too had an enriching learning experience. The following are excerpts from their reports:



“The unique schooling structure is very conducive to an interactive & innovative learning process”

“Being here, far from the bustle of city life was a change we all needed to experience. The peace, the quiet and the stillness were a refreshing change.”

“The children here are absolutely lovely and carry immense potential... from their diligent attitude to the simple yet satisfying life they lead, these are unique individuals.”

“Shakespeare once said, ‘Nature has music for those who listen’ and I could hear a symphony”

STUDENTS OF TELANGANA SCHOOLS

A group of 48 students of class VII and 5 teachers/escorts of Sri Aurobindo International School of Hyderabad and New Creation School of Jangaon, attended a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla from January 8-12, 2017. Activities included morning keep –fit exercises, trekking, bouldering, rappelling, learning eye care routines, swimming in the Kolab river Reservoir, learning folk dances of England, USA and Israel, meditation, talk on Health, etc.



Dental Camp



This year the following groups were checked and treated:

1. Joy
2. Gratitude
3. Twinkle
4. Humility
5. Aspiration
6. Golden
7. Concentration
8. Modern New Creation
9. New Creation
10. Faith

In total 109 children were checked and 68 dental issues were detected in 42 students. The Health workers carried out 57 treatments and 54 preventive treatments on the children. This year 16 adult patients were checked and 13 preventive and curative treatments were carried out.

The comparative evaluation since the year 2011 shows gradual decrease of dental problem due to regular dental treatment and increased awareness regarding oral hygiene and care among the children.

- Đ In the 1st year 95% of students needed dental treatment,
 - Đ In the 2nd year 83%
 - Đ In the 3rd year 54%
 - Đ In the 4th year 34%
 - Đ In the 5th year 39%
-

They came, they saw, they inspired...

Our Visitors this Year

Anjana Di from Pondicherry School

Shashi Di- Teaching Yoga



Shashank Yadav, a designer, spent 4 months in Kechla. During his staying he helped the New Creation children with geometry and trigonometry. He also helped the Aspiration and Golden groups with their project work. A few children from Aspiration and Golden studied geometry with him. He also helped in report writing.

A group of doctors visited Kechla in the month of May. They checked the children's health status. The malaria expert taught how to check malaria and also provided a malaria kit.

A few teachers from Mirambika visited Kechla for 10 days. in this short period they helped the children in different groups. Smita didi worked in the Joy group. she taught a few action songs to the children. Hema didi helped the Twinkle Group children with Math and she worked with the teachers too in the project. Rekha didi helped the Rainbow (now Gratitude) group children with Math and project work. In Humility group, Dipika didi guided the children with their project activities. Jaishree didi helped the Aspiration group and worked on a project on 'Volcano' and she also helped the children with Math. Niharika didi helped the Aspiration and Golden group children with English and accompanied Vidyottma didi during the project class. Rajashree didi helped the children from Aspiration onwards in Math. Sulochana didi helped the children of Concentration group to learn Sanskrit. She did the play on Kalidas in Sanskrit. Even though, initially, it was difficult but later the children enjoyed it. She also helped the children of Faith group with Oriya and Home Science.

She emphasised on character building and held discussions with the children instead of only conducting monotonous subject lessons.



Smaranika and Gitu didi along with our librarian Anuradha didi shifted the library. This time they really worked hard to arrange the place in a better way. Without their effort it would have become a tough job for us. It was only because of their sincere effort the work finished very fast.

Rakesh Pahwa bhaiya and Nishna spent about a 15 days in Kechla. Rakesh bhaiya helped in different groups in different subjects and Nishna helped the different groups with the theatre.

Shweta didi taught Social Science to the children of Concentration and Faith group.

Deepa Kaushik didi taught Computers and Mathematics to Humility group and Home Science to Faith group

Aparajita A. Mathew didi taught Social Science to New Creation and some children of Faith group.



Gulshan Rai Sir taught Basket ball to many groups.

Ashok Kumar sir honed the athletic skills of the children. He focussed on stretching, stomach exercises, High jump and long jump, Sprinting and Running in the morning.

Anita didi worked in the Twinkle group. Gungun didi, daughter of Anita Didi spent time with the Aspiration group. Later, she also worked with Humility group.

Riddhi didi worked with Humility group, checked Math in Concentration and New Creation group.

Parthiv Krishna, Arjav Krishna and Bhuvana Nandakumar Didi taught Science to many groups.

Rachna Bansal didi helped the children of Faith group with Social Studies during her two week visit to Kechla.

Mita Bisen didi helped Concentration and New Creation group children with Chemistry. She also helped Mani didi, Bina didi with their studies. She trained Bharti didi in basic tailoring.



Sujit Mandal, Subhash Das and Asit Mallick - They prepared an orchestra which the children put up on the school's birthday. Asit Mallick, violin player, taught the children keyboard and basic violin to Santa.



Subhash Das - taught the senior children tabla and also taught the Gratitude group some basic tabla exercises.



Sujit Bhaiya taught flute to all the children above Aspiration group.



Premsheela didi lovingly imparted the knowledge of different *ragas* like *Bilawal*, *Khamaj*, *Bageshri*, *Kafi*, *Bhairav*, *Bhupali*, *Alhaiya bilawal*. She also taught rhymes to the junior groups and bhajans to all the groups.

Vibha Raizada didi taught History to Kamli and Bikanti. She also taught Kokila and Darshana Social Studies and helped them to appear for class 10th board exam. She facilitated studying History in Concentration and New Creation group. She also took a few children to the tribal museum and did a project with the Concentration group on tribal culture. At the end of her stay, she assisted the children to put up an exhibition.

Anjana Sarkar didi and Chitra Jauhar didi from Pudduchery spent a week in Kechla. Anjana didi worked with the Joy, Twinkle and Gratitude group. She did a few activities based on expression, concentration, language skills and initial Math with Gratitude group.

Nigel's parents and sister spent a couple of days in Kechla. They enjoyed the serene beauty of the place and interacted with the children. The children celebrated Nigel's father's birthday by singing birthday songs and conveying their good wishes. His sister and father who are good singers sang a few songs in English and Malayalam. Children enjoyed the sweets distributed to celebrate the occasion. Nigel's parents donated a cheque of Rs 20,000/- for the children.

Kartik Vishwanath from Delhi spent a couple of months with the children of Kechla. During this period he helped the children of Aspiration group towards improving their English. He primarily concentrated on the writing skills of the children.



Maximilian Patzer visited Kechla for three weeks. He taught the children juggling and trumpet to Aspiration and Golden group children as well as a few teachers. A few children from Concentration and New Creation learnt playing the trumpet. He also helped the children of Humility group to learn a few tricks in skating. The Humility group children enjoyed doing Math and reading stories with him.

Durba Bhattacharya, a professional singer as well as a tabla player visited Kechla and taught the children *bhajans* of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo along with a few other songs. Children of different groups felt privileged for having the opportunity to learn from her. She also devoted her time to teach a few songs to the teachers. She helped the senior children in playing the flute. She taught a few *paltas* and encouraged the children to practise them regularly. During her stay, she taught more than twenty songs to the children. Most of these songs are now sung by the children with greater competence and confidence .



Vaishnavi Di, during her first visit from 5th June to 23rd July helped Aspiration, Golden, Gratitude and Humility groups with English and helped Humility group with their project. During her visit in the month of November, she helped the Golden group with their project, Aspiration and Golden with English and also took a few dance classes for different groups. She taught Social Studies to New Creation and Concentration group.

Brij Sapru, Anuradha Sapru Kohl's father; Eric Kohl, her husband and her children Lalita and Lena Kohl visited Kechla from the US.

Veerender Kaur didi visited Kechla with her husband for ten days. She taught Biology to New Creation and Concentration group. Though she devoted most of her time teaching New Creation group, she also taught Science to children of Aspiration and Golden group.



Ashwin Yadav bhaiya who came for the camp with MIS children taught a few dance compositions to the children. The children from Gratitude group onwards enjoyed the dance classes with him. During his short stay, he taught *chau*, a folk dance of Mayurbhanj and also choreographed a dance on *Vande Mataram*. He taught a dance choreography on *Ganesha vandana* to fifty young children, which they performed on the Sports day of the School.



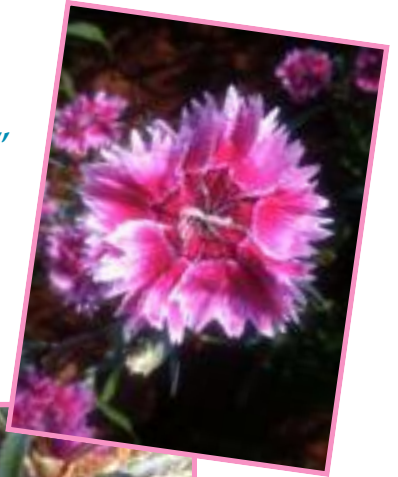
Berenice, and Sylvie from Germany with the children of Kechla.

Flowers in our Garden

Flowers of varied hues are grown on the campus with great love, affection and cared for by all. They are an integral part of the daily life and celebrations in Kechla.

*"The One, in His glory multitudinous,
Bursting into shape and colour like a rose,
Compels the great world-petals to unclothe."*

-Sri Aurobindo





*"Our life shall find in its fulfilled response
Above, the boundless hushed beatitudes,
Below, the wonder of the embrace divine."
- 'Savitri'*

