



AMSS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



**Auro-Mira Service Society
Sri Aurobindo Ashram
Delhi Branch
Sri Aurobindo Marg
New Delhi 110016**

Contents

1. School Report Apr'-Sept' 2014.....	2
2. School Report Oct'14-Mar' 2015.....	15
3. Camps and Trips.....	43
4. Dental Programme.....	46
5. Horticulture.....	48
6. Infrastructure.....	49
7. New Initiative – Koraput Project.....	50
8. Visitors Contributions & Feedback.....	51

School Report of the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir

April to September, 2014

On paths unexplored, we have walked fearlessly and made space for many to walk along. Whether it is the sun shining bright or the relentless rains, our hearts are filled with warmth, our minds seeking wisdom and in all of this, creativity has blossomed. We are the Mother's blessed children and we continue to value persistence and hard work.

Beauty, aesthetics and creativity we seek in all that we do. On the wings of freedom we fly and yet we are of this earth. Alert and aware, we'd always like to be, and yet we can welcome the unknown. Strength of a strong faith we carry within us, success and failure, neither elates, nor hampers. In pursuit of the truth we must move together, with joy and in simplicity; the eternal children that we all are.



The old must pave way for the new, for change is the only constant

In the last six months we have had a lot of new members joining our large school family. We've had Saumya di, Sumanto bhaiya, Nigel bhaiya, Anuradha di, Bindu di and Suparna di - each one bringing in their own.

Saumya di is working with the Rainbow group and helping the children with their classes. Sumanto and Nigel bhaiya are taking language classes, while Anuradha di takes care of the library.

Suparna di and Bindu di are working with Bina di in the Twinkle group. Bindu di also helps the children from the Aspiration and the Golden group with their maths. Suparna di takes care of dance and other physical activities.

There is a special guest that has recently arrived from Delhi - Bunty, an adorable little puppy has come to be with its friends at Kechla. The children have become very fond of it and take care of the puppy as per their turn.

We have also been graced by the presence of a wonderful little child, Jigyasa, who has joined us in the Twinkle group in the month of September.

The school has had a science laboratory for a while now, but in the last few months, not only has it been upgraded, but also segregated into a chemistry lab and a biology lab. Both the laboratories now have the best possible equipment and the children now have a perfect space to conduct all their science-related experiments.



Creativity in initiation and creativity in accomplishment



A significant portion of the last quarter has been spent by each child in exploring their individual creativity and appreciating creativity in others. After working really hard for a year, the children accomplished their mission when they finally performed the play *Jungle Book* in Jeypore, Damanjorhi and Koraput.

Children who are staying in the hostel participated in this play. Fifty five children performed in the play. The journey of preparing for this play was insightful, energetic and gave a further boost to the relationship between the *diyas* and the children, as well as amongst the children themselves. Besides the fifty five children participating in the play, the whole school pitched in, making masks and props for the play. Some costumes were even made by Milan didi and Nisha didi who were in Kechla with some of the students from MIS. Some students from MIS painted three backdrops for the play. Everything was prepared well in time. Rehearsals for the play took over everything else- all efforts, all energies and all creativity was geared towards one thing- The Jungle Book.

Finally, the play was performed in three different places one after the other for three days. The whole exercise was physically exhausting but after each performance and the applause, the children felt encouraged and rejuvenated, looking forward to more.

On the 19th of April, the children performed their first show in Jeypore, at the Sri Aurobindo Integral school. They were confident and totally at ease through the hour and a half long program. The next day they performed at the Integral school of Damanjorhi. The event started with our children playing the Mother's music and some chanting. The third and the last performance was fixed at the Sanskriti

Bhawan of Koraput, and the programme was coordinated by Mr C.H Santakar. The Collector of Koraput Ms Yamini Sarhangi, along with her children enjoyed the play.

The play was also performed for the many visitors who came to the school. Children from MIS and teachers from Mirambika who came to the school in the month of June enjoyed the play immensely. They were also impressed by the props, the costumes and the stage backdrops, all of which had been made by our *diyas* and the children themselves.



Taking an upward swing, swinging on the wings of joy and freedom

Rajo: The swing festival



On the 14th of June, the school bore a festive look. *Rajo* or the swing festival was celebrated in the traditional way. All the children had a bath with turmeric water in the morning. The girls wore colourful clothes and were decorated with *kumkum* and flowers. Some boys and girls made crowns with green leaves for the boys. Srinath bhaiya along with some children from the New Creation and the Concentration groups made a swing using bamboo sticks on a big, old tree, close to the school. To add to the celebrations, Sulochana di prepared a traditional Oriya sweet *pitha* for everyone in the school. She also spoke to the children about the importance of the day and the children sang some songs related to the swing festival, both in Oriya and in Hindi. Minoti didi, along with Parvati didi created a new version of an old song, which everyone enjoyed singing. Sangeeta didi along with Radha didi wrote a new song for the occasion and even composed music for it. After completing the morning celebrations in the school, all the children went with their respective groups to play on the swings. In the afternoon Ishpreet, Sonal and Abhishek, our friends from the Teach India campaign organized some games in the sports field. Some novelty games were also organized separately for the younger children. The programme culminated with a brief meditation session around the 'special' tree for the day. The children also offered and expressed their gratitude to the tree for allowing them to swing on its branches. Joy was in the air, and it remained so till the day came to an end.

In the simplest of chores, I seek creativity



14th April to 21st April

These last six months have been very fulfilling creatively. Many friends from India and abroad joined us in our creative exploration. In April, we had six friends from Switzerland visiting us at Kechla. During their stay, they performed a play 'the man who planted the tree' at various places. This was done in order to create awareness amongst the villagers to take care of their forests and how important trees are for us and the environment that we live in. The play had some light and sound effects and it was not very difficult for the villagers to understand the overall theme of the play even though the language was alien. Our children also accompanied them and helped them to translate the play as well as spread the message of saving trees. They also helped our children to improve their movements and their actions for Jungle book, the play that our children were already rehearsing. On the 18th, the 19th and the 20th, they performed the same in Koraput, Jeypore and in Damanjorhi for the teachers and the students of integral schools.



Many Many friends: Beautiful bonds are there to stay forever

Over the years the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir has had several visitors. Every single person who has come to the school has been touched by the sincerity and the simplicity of our children. Each person has brought in something unique and shared that with our children. In return, they have carried back something priceless- unconditional warmth and affection. The crying farewells and the countless cards given by our children are the prized possessions of many. In the last six months we've had many friends visiting and it's been our privilege hosting them.

26th April

Bulu bhaiya from Angul visited Kechla and he spent most of his time in our library reading spiritual books.

28th April

Dr Satish Sharma, ACF from Udaipur along with Dr Mihir and twenty three other people visited the school and discussed the role of animals in the ecological balance with our children. He also spoke about how each and every animal and plant is useful and about the medicinal values of some plants.

29th April

Mr Rakesh Pahwa visited us for the fourth time. He spent half a month with the children. During his stay he spent his time with various groups. He taught some songs to the children in the Aspiration and the Golden group and helped the children of the Concentration and the Faith group with their maths. He also did a play with the children of the Concentration group. Besides this, he also taught two new songs to the children of the faith group *mera man bhula bhula, jai jai maa*.

Rakesh bhaiya would always join us in our spiritual discussions on Mondays.

6th May

Prabhat bhaiya, an ashramite and an accomplished orator from Dalijorha, visited Kechla for two days. He was accompanied by Santoshi Apa and a bhaiya. Prabhat bhaiya spoke to the children about selfless work. On the 7th of April, he held a study circle in Ratamatiguda which was organised by two young boys from our school, Hari and Madan.

Another ashramite from Dalijorha, Anadi bhaiya came for two days. During his stay he enjoyed the beauty, the peace and the quiet of nature. He also corrected some yogic postures of the children.

11th May

We had some student visitors from MIS. They spend their summer vacation at Kechla and were deeply touched by the warmth extended to them by the children. Some of them continue to be in touch with the children.

Mr Gautam Bhalla and Mrs Divya Bhalla, along with their children Nandini and Madhav visited Kechla for three days. The children enjoyed swimming with our children and went for trekking to a few places that are close by.

22nd May

We also had Sujit Mandal a professional flute player at Kechla to teach flute to our children. Sujit da also guided the tabla and the vocal group along with the flute group for an orchestra. He also paid special attention to the use of fingers and to hold one's breath when playing a flute. He also taught some songs like *hey naath hum par kripa kijiye, gurubrahma gururvishnu, and prabhuji daya karo*. He also taught the children the notation of *Om jai jagadish hare, sare jahan se aachha, anandalo ke mangala loke, sangachhadhwam, sangbadadhwam* and a few more. The children too enjoyed *raags* like *bhupali* and *hanshadhwani* very much, but their favourite was *Pather Panchali*. He also enjoyed his stay at Kechla immensely and went swimming and trekking with the children.

27th May

Bismay, a third year teacher trainee from Mirambika came along with the 1st year teacher trainees Shraddha, Sharmila, Lali, Sandeep, Madhav and Anandi. Shraddha helped the children in the Golden group. She also taught some chantings to them. Sharmila and Sandeep worked with the children of the Rainbow group Lali helped in the Twinkle group in the morning and would join the Aspiration group in the afternoon along with Madhav bhaiya. Madhav bhaiya taught paper craft to the children. Bismay helped the children of the New Creation group. Anandi worked with the flower group and helped the children with their reading

7th June

Sonal, Ishpreet and Abhishek from Teach For India project visited Kechla for about two weeks. Sonal spent her time with the children from the New Creation group. They worked on the topic of 'paper' and even made some hand-made paper. Ishpreet spent his time with the Golden group and Abhishek worked with the Aspiration group.

10th June

Sulochana didi along with Minoti di visited Kechla for about ten days. This was Minoti di's first visit to Kechla and she was completely overwhelmed by the scenic beauty of the area. She worked with the Twinkle group children and also spent a considerable time with the teachers guiding them with their schedules and lesson plans. She also taught a song, *hum bharat maa ke aaj naya itihaas banayenge* which the children liked a lot.

During this particular visit, Sulochana didi spent most of her time with the children of the Faith group. She showed the children how to integrate aesthetics and science in a subject like home science. With her help the children also did some practical training. She also guided the teachers how to help the children to take care of their physical and material things. During her stay we celebrated the swing festival which she enjoyed very much.

Vidula didi visited Kechla for a couple of days. She enjoyed her brief stay and after going back subscribed a magazine *Bhoomi*, for the children of our school.

Dilip Bhaiya and Bhavna didi who work with the Delhi Ashram visited Kechla with their two daughters.

Corrine S. Schmidt, a Swiss lady, visited Kechla for a month. She spent her time with the Faith, the New Creation, Concentration and Aspiration groups. She taught the children several songs and helped them with their English. On the occasion of the school's birthday, she presented some stationery to the children, which she had collected from her friends.

Mukul Bhaiya worked with the children of the New Creation and the Faith group in the science lab. He worked with them on their understanding of grammar.

Sujan bhaiya and Deepesh bhaiya, both from Calcutta visited Kechla for ten days. They taught the children to play the flute. They taught the children some *paltas* and one tune from *Rabindra Sangeet*.

What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare



With joyful celebrations galore, the school ensures that despite the many things that need to be taken care of, there are several events that are celebrated enthusiastically, and that there is enough time to both play and ponder.



Festivity was in the air - 5th July: Celebrating the school's birthday

Raghu bhaiya with some children from the New Creation and the Faith group decorated the rooms. Anuradha didi and Bina didi decorated different rooms. Minoti didi took the responsibility of the exhibition. Children from different groups prepared their own props and masks for their respective plays. Some children from the smaller groups also helped in arranging the room. On the 5th the programme started early in the morning. Everyone went to the Ashram Meditation hall at 8.45 am where the children meditated with the Mother's music. With *Vande Mataram* playing, they marched from the Ashram premises towards the school to the song '*hum Bharat maa ka aaj naya itihaas banayenge.*' A *hawan* had been organized by Bharati didi and Vidyotma didi in the school. The school environment was rejuvenated and purified by the sacred *mantras* chanted by the children. The day was packed with the following activities:

1. A brief meditation session was organized, and the children meditated to the Mother's music.
2. An orchestra by the music groups (table, flute, vocal) guided by Sumit bhaiya a flute teacher was held at the school.
3. An exhibition of the children's work was displayed. Parents of some of the children attended the programme and our guest Corrine didi unveiled the exhibition. The parents went around looking at what their children had created and were there in the school till 4 o'clock.
4. Children of the Aspiration group performed to the song '*phulon ka taron ka*'.
5. An action song in Oriya - *Ei bana mulake school aamara* (our school is surrounded by a jungle) was performed by the Rainbow group too.
6. The Concentration group "how did the squirrel get the stripes" in English.
7. Movements to the chanting of *astoma sadgamay* and *shri vakra tunda* by the Twinkle group.
8. A play by the New Creation group titled 'a bag of gold coins' in English.

The morning activities were followed by lunch and the program after lunch was resumed at two o'clock in the afternoon.

9. The program in the afternoon started with Mother's music.
10. Sambalpuri dance was performed by some children of the Concentration, Golden, New Creation, and the Faith group.
11. A song by the Rainbow and the Aspiration group.
12. Children from the Concentration group performed 'Eklavya' in English
13. The Flower group performed a play 'a day in school' in English.
14. An action song titled '*titli*' was presented by the Golden group.
15. The Aspiration group performed a play in English entitled 'the brahmin and the tiger'.
16. Seven children from the New Creation group performed a play 'Sukhu and Dukhu'.
17. Golden group presented a poem *basant* along with some actions.
18. A western folk dance was performed by the children of Concentration New Creation and the Faith group on the music of Prime Minister, New York New York, Maim Maim, Posty's Jig, Ga Agum.
19. Faith group also presented a puppet show, 'the squirrel and the fox' in English with some songs.
20. In the evening at about 6.30, the children went back to the Ashram where they meditated as well as read the Savitri.

Festivity continued until the next day, when we had the following programs:

Children from the Aspiration, Golden, Concentration, New Creation and Faith group performed a play in Oriya. The play was based on the six seasons and the main festivals celebrated during each of these seasons. The play also included a scene from a village during various seasons. The Flower group performed a dance on an Oriya song '*dela tume aamaku nua Jugara Bani*'. The Twinkle group presented an action song, '*taarein chamakte aasman mein*'. *Bhangra*, a folk dance from Punjab was performed on the song *dhol bajda punji bajdi*.

The village folk dance was presented by the children of all the groups. Towards the end, some village ladies who work at our construction sight joined our children. The programme came to an end with the happy birthday song and meditation with the mother's music

10th August

It's not just any thread that ties a brother to his sister.

On the occasion of Rakshabandhan, the children decorated the plates, early in the morning with sweets and colourful rakhis, which the children of all groups had been making for a week. Some of the children also cut grass for the cows and went to the cowshed to tend to the cows. The children first sprinkled turmeric water and anointed the cows with red *kumkum*. Some children fed the cows, while the others tied *rakhis* to their horns. They also decorated the cows with flowers and also did some chanting in the cowshed itself.

This time the teachers of the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir also presented a play for the children on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. The play was based on the story of Indra and Sachi. Apart from this, Bobby didi and Srinath bhaiya narrated some mythological as well as historical stories connected to Raksha bandhan.

After the play everyone tied the sacred thread on each other's hands and prayed for a happand prosperous life for all.



The Guiding spirit - Chachaji's birthday

For Chachaji's birthday, Bina di, Suparna di and Bindu di decorated the space around Chachaji's photo. Some children made a beautiful flower rangoli. Chachaji being an Arya Samaji, the children did a *hawan* that was followed by Mother's music. Children from the Concentration and the New Creation groups performed plays from Chachaji's '*madhur kahaniyan*'.

While children from the Concentration group enacted- *Bhagwat kripa and teen prashn* , the New Creation children presented -*Ramdas chor and Krishna* . All the plays were in Hindi.

After the programme, all the children along with their *diyas* read books of Chachaji and they also wrote a story or an anecdote from Chachaji's life that inspired them.

The sparkling light continues to lead the way - Sri Aurobindo's birthday and Independence Day.

The day started with some children going to the ashram for a special meditation session from 6 to 6.30 am. The other programs started at 9.00 am with the Mother's music. While the Golden group had an action song that they performed to *Durga stotra*, the Aspiration group sang a *bhajan* about Sri Aurobindo. The Flower group presented an action song *hum hai chanchal* and children from the Twinkle and Rainbow groups presented 'pip pip pip pip dare dare dum' and *nanhe mune rahi hain* respectively.

The children from Flower to the Faith group participated in a play about the freedom movement. The play covered almost all the important incidents from 1600 until 1947. On this occasion the children learnt many new patriotic songs; *kadam kadam badhayecha, ek hai aapni zamin, aaj himalay ki choti se, ei vatan ei vatan, mere rangde basanti chola, Jhansi ki rani, vaishnava jana tu, raghupati raghava raja ram*.

We also celebrated Nishtha's birthday with ice cream, something that everyone relished after the program. In the evening, the children went to the Ashram to salute the Mother's flag. They also lighted some *diyas* in the Ashram courtyard and some children read Savitri in the meditation hall.

The God who was also a prankster - Janmasthami

As Janmashtami was celebrated only one day after Independence Day, it was decided that only a small group of children will perform a play. However, on Janmashtami, children from all the groups came ready with something or the other as an offering to the adorably enchanting God Krishna without any help from any of the *didis* or *bhaiyas*.

The offerings were in the form of music, dance and drama. The day ended with the children having learnt ten *shlokas* and three of them were from the 10th chapter of the Bhagwat Gita. These were rendered by the children of the Concentration group.

Flanked by Riddhi and Siddhi, may the elephant-headed God bless us all - Ganesh Chaturthi

On 29th August, we celebrated Ganesh chaturthi. This time some children made their own Ganesh idols without any help from their *diyas*. Most of the children had been working on their individual idols either during the lunch hour or during games. On the final day, however, only a few of them could give their idol a proper shape. Some of them decorated their Ganesh idol with beautiful colours and glitter.



For the first time, the children wanted to do a play on Lord Ganesh. Some groups decided to enact a few interesting anecdotes from Lord Ganesh's childhood. Children from the Faith, New Creation and the Concentration group learnt two songs about Lord Ganesh- '*hey Riddhi Siddhi ke data*' and '*Sri Ganesh aarti*'. The children also sang some devotional songs as well as performed some action songs. The day ended with the recitation of the sonnet BECAUSE THOU ART by Sri Aurobindo.

Guide me, lead me, until I can seek on my own - Teacher's day, September 5th

Children from the Faith group organised a get together for all the teachers. It was a well-kept secret and came as a pleasant surprise. They made colourful cards with a song written for every single *diya* and even sang it for them. They also made sweets for everyone with a little help from Rupali didi.

Another six months have gone by and we continue to stay steady in the present. The past is over and the future will arrive. While we continue to keep our 'ASPIRATION' high, the 'FLOWERS' are blooming. Firm in our 'FAITH', the stars will always 'TWINKLE' and the 'RAINBOW' will bestow us with varied colours. The 'GOLDEN' light will bring enlightenment and we will continue to build a 'NEW CREATION'. In the depths of our own 'CONCENTRATION', the well-being of all is sure to come about.

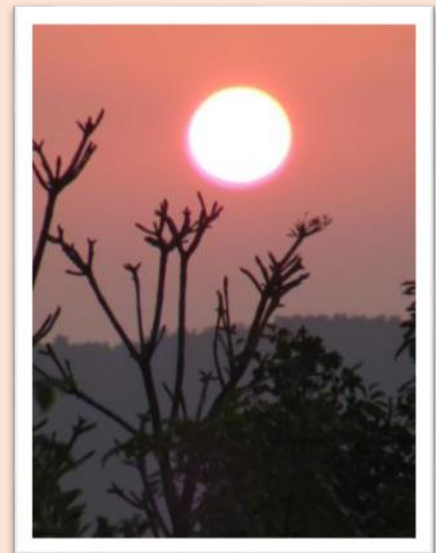
AURO MIRA VIDYA MANDIR

School Report

Oct.'14 - Mar.'15

The "wonderful" does not exclude the "rational" - the rational perception of the world expressing itself through laws functions. The need of the future, however, is not an academic rationality, but a living educative process that allows the child to grasp at every opportunity, every day, the secrets lying in the unexpected flow of life.

Another year, another session, another 6 months are complete at AMVM ... each day we carry our work with the above premise, and our resolve is firm. The authentic, placid, peaceful and spiritually charged atmosphere enlivened by cluster of trees, blossoming flower beds, gardens, surrounded by hills and calm waters provides the most appropriate environment.





NEW MEMBERS

Intense involvement, commitment, self giving of the inmates of AMVM is commendable. It is their dedication that holds up the institution.

Mr Ramesh Sahoo (Photographer and Artist) and his wife Mrs Puspanjali Sahoo joined us in Oct.'14. They voluntarily take up activities in various sections requiring work like kitchen, garden, cloth store and stationery room. Ramesh Bhaiya also guides children in drawing and painting.

Lalu Bhaiya joined us as a cook in January '15.

Miss Habiba Insaf dedicated her precious time in AMVM as a volunteer in Dec.14. She helps children of different age groups in their projects and also teaches art in Faith Group.

A DAY AT AMVM

He who gives to me with a heart of adoration a leaf, a flower and a fruit or a cup of water, I take and enjoy that offering of his devotion

With this feeling the children begin their day at 6.30am with chantings, and then proceed for Shramdaan. As our aim is to enhance the life skills we have divided the period into various corners - Flute, Tabla, Vocal, Yogasan and Pranayama, Kathak, Kitchen Work, Toilet Cleaning, Gardening, Cleaning cereals, pulses. accordingly children are divided into different groups and all children go to their respective corner as per the schedule. Besides shramdaan the older children also help in carrying the grocery and a few things from the boat to the hostel whenever required.



Cows have been part of Ashram life. Cows are looked after with love and care. Some children even cut grass for the cows and feed them. Ludo the bull is their favorite.

After breakfast, children go to school from 8:30-12 noon. Post lunch school continues from 1:00-3:00 pm. Twice a week, on Monday and Friday we have an hour's music class - for Vocal Music, Flute and Tabla. Other days children watch a movie. Besides that different groups have their turn to make chapatti and clean their toilets.



At 4pm children go for physical education / games - volleyball, basketball, football, fun games, swimming, running, cycling and also western folk dance (subject to availability of facilitator).

After tiffin and bathing, children from Aspiration group onwards have an hour's study time followed by meditation/evening assembly; whereas the younger ones directly go for evening assembly. Children sing devotional songs in Sanskrit, Hindi, English and different languages. It creates a serene and tranquil atmosphere. They learn new chants and songs very often.



Collective Meditation on 1st of every month in the ashram, helps to bring a feeling of brotherhood, binding the souls together in a common aspiration and helps us to work together in harmony and unity.



Post dinner some children also come to the library for self study. We wind up our day at 9:30pm.

PHYSICAL

For the body too has an important function in the integral perfection of man which is the aim.

For the development and training of the physical body we give importance on children's physical culture, games, gymnastics and other keep fit activities.

Daily children have a games hour in which they are scheduled to play basketball, football and fun games. Aspiration and Golden group children (8-10 year olds) have also started learning basic basketball and football skills.

Children from Concentration onwards go for swimming with Pranjali Bhaiya. Even though all of them have already learnt it but now we are emphasizing to build up their strength and stamina.



In the tough winter children were getting up early in the morning to go for running. Sometimes the children were going to the end of the village (2.5 km one way) or taking rounds in a short trail.



Teachers take daily turns to ensure children are taking bath and cleaning their rooms properly. Different groups on their days clean the toilets in the afternoon.



ARTS

The value of art in training of intellectual faculty is also an important part of its utility.

Drawing, painting and skill work are crucial element of our core curriculum. Children make models and charts related to topics taken up. They also make different paintings and sketches associated to some occasions and put up exhibitions.

Music too is an essentially spiritual art and has always been associated with religious feeling and inner life. It can be made to serve a deep purpose.

Classes for Vocal Music, Kathak, Flute, Tabla were conducted regularly. Many children practice instruments in their free time. Some children are also found experimenting to learn the keyboards by themselves. Children were given an orientation for basic guitar chords in Dec'14, after which they continue to enjoy playing in their spare time.



Dance is one of the highest expression of the inner life. It was associated with religion and it was an important element in sacred ceremony for adoration of the Divine. Some children have opted to learn Indian and Western folk dance once a week. Children are quick to pick up any dance form as they have a natural rhythm.



Madhumita di and Devasmita di, eminent Odissi dancers from Pondichery visited us between 1st-6th Dec'14. They introduced children from Rainbow Group onwards to the Odissi dance form. They also spent a lot of time with the children teaching them simple steps and mudras. Their visit culminated in a performance by the children based on the chants Guru

Brahma Guru Vishnu, Asatoma Sat Gamaya, and Bhumi Mangalam. The younger children were taught depiction of nature - flowers, river, mountains, animals, insects, birds and bees in Odissi.

Faith Group children also got an opportunity to attend Vocal Music, Bharatnatyam and Odissi classes at Matri Kala Mandir during their month long trip to Delhi in Feb-Mar.'15.

LIBRARY

The library is growing with a collection of good books on Children Fiction And Non-Fiction, Yoga, Religion, Philosophy, Literature, Education, Science, History etc. The room is open to all. Children use the library independently in their free time. Small children come to the library with their relevant diya and use the books under supervision.



MEDICAL

Medicine - It is never the medicine that cures, it is the divine grace alone that cures.

We provide first aid and medication for minor ailments in the school under the guidance of Dr Tarun Baveja through consultation over phone. Most of the villagers also come with their problems. They are given free medical care. Children requiring special tests and treatments are taken to the district head quarter medical.

Gauri, Kokila, Bikanti, Tulsa and Dhananjay Bhaiya were taken to Delhi for specialized tests and treatments.

Like every year Ms. Surya from Auroville came with Dr. Julien Luc for children's dental check-up. She was glad that this time children had hardly any problems. A few children got treatment for cavity. Some villagers also visited them for check-ups.

During their month long visit to Delhi, Faith Group girls went through general, dental checkup and treatment. Kokila went through detailed diagnostic tests. They also attended an eye camp, learnt exercise for better vision.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

The four Darshan Days, School's Foundation Day and Sports Day, Tara Di as well as Pranjal Bhaiya's birthday and are celebrated with daylong festivities. We also celebrate different festivals to inculcate Indian cultural values and traditions.

2nd October - Gandhi Jayanti

Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir celebrated Gandhiji's birthday by singing his favourite bhajans Vaishnav Jana To and Raghupati Raghav. Values like truthfulness, honesty, kindness, obedience etc. from his autobiography were focused through anecdotes.

4th October - Vijaya Dashami

All children assembled together in the evening to invoke the power. The children recited Durga Stotra and chanted a few shlokas. Milan Mam and Ananya mam from MIS read about The Divine Mother from the book THE MOTHER by Sri Aurobindo.

23rd October - Diwali

The day of lights and sound was initiated with Mother's music and invocation of Mahakali through chanting. Twinkle and Rainbow Groups presented the song - Deep Jale, Deep Jale. While the Rainbow sang Hai Ye Katha Ramayan Ki. Bikanti recited the Mahakali Part from The Mother book. A few diya sang Hanuman Chalisa. Few children from New Creation and Concentration recited Hymn to Durga and the programme concluded by quoting The Mother on Light.

Diwali Mela - New Creation children prepared mental and math games which everyone enjoyed playing. Paper money won as prize was used to buy eatables from the market setup by Faith Group. Children went to different stalls and relished their liking food. They also bought pencils, crayons, toothbrush, sweater, etc.



6th November - Boat Festival

A festival of Odisha, celebrated by remembering ancestors and the successful trade voyages was also celebrated in the school.

On the eve of the festival children made boats using banana stems, bamboo and colourful papers that were set afloat in the lake nearby next day morning.



14th November - Children's Day

The day was celebrated with much exuberance and cheer. Teachers and senior students put up a cultural programme. Children from New Creation performed a play - Hamare Chacha Nehru and also made sweets (bundi) for everyone. The enchanting voice of the Faith group girls singing - I Have A Dream And Tim Tim Karte Tare thrilled everyone. Aspiration Group children created a short poem about "children". They also recited, and sang a song "Sachi Lagan" with actions.

The older children took the younger ones for a walk and also organized a football, basketball match and fun games for everyone post lunch.



**24th Nov. - Siddhi Day, 5th Dec. - Sri Aurobindo's Mahaprayana and
29th Mar. - Mother's Arrival Day**

Children meditated in the ashram meditation hall with Mother Music. The day's message circulated in Pondichery Ashram was read to the children.

29th November- Pranjal Bhaiya's Birthday

***Willed to march for a heavenly cause
Forward, ever forward without a pause
Making the world better . . .
That one man lifting the yoke
To reach the heavenly stars.***

With gratitude we all lit incense in the ashram meditation hall wishing a long and prosperous life for our beloved Pranjal Bhaiya. Children thanked him for his selfless and sincere work by offering a cultural programme. Aspiration and Golden Group performed the Hawan with the help of older children. Following were the presentations by the other groups.

- Children from Concentration, New Creation and Faith recited the poem Blue Bird written by Sri Aurobindo.
- Rainbow Group - sang a song - Wake Up The Night Has Gone
- Flower Group - enacted an English play - Red Flower
- Twinkle Group - did two rhymes with actions - Five Little Monkeys And Everybody Clap (rhymes with action)
- Golden Group - also acted out an English play - Ten Greatest Fools
- Concentration Group - presented a classical music composition with Omi Bhaiya
- Aspiration Group - performed an English play - A Fly Went By
- Faith Group - sang - On To Duty To Our Work
- Golden And Aspiration Group - Created and recited a poem based on Pranjal Bhaiya and numbers



Later in the day, children from New Creation put up a science exhibition using models made by them. The programme finished off with children singing songs that Pranjal Bhaiya has taught them.



A few children made rangoli in the ashram courtyard using flowers. In the evening AMVM family lit diyas around it. Some children also read the Savitri. Children relished sweets, ice-cream and cakes the entire day.



25th December - Sports Day

*The body is the chrysalis of the soul,
an occult document of the all wonderful art
Unveiled all nature's meaning in a form
That helped to beat out new expressive forms
For the release of the imprisoned spirit
Of that which labours in the heart of life*

***Moulded idea and mood to rhythmic sway
Lifting the human world near to the Gods***

Invocation with Mother's Music initiated the day. Barun Palji lit the lamp. The presentations began with creative marching in salutation to The Mother by Aspiration to Faith Group children. This was followed by the Rainbow and Flower singing and dancing to the creative song - ***Jungle Ke Rakhwale***.



All the children assembled in a ***Tortoise formation***, a symbol of immortality, eternity, wisdom and tranquility. A prayer on physical education repeated by the children. Saumya Didi read the



significance of the Tortoise, how it gracefully teaches us the art of awakening our inner wisdom. Not only does it represent the ability to unite heaven and earth in our lives, it also stands for perseverance, protection and healing and is a reminder to keep our physical body in balance, taking care of it as the precious vehicle through which we experience life on Earth.



The Twinkle, Rainbow, Flower Groups were much enthused participating in the **Fun Relays, Obstacle Races and Musical Chairs** organised for them. Which was followed by a Football match between Aspiration and Golden Groups.

The post lunch session was also opened with Mother's music. The children Hari and Lalu welcomed the spectators (villagers and the MIS children). Every morning children of AMVM start their day with yoga and exercises. The children of Golden and Aspiration group presented these energy boosting **mass exercises**.

Concentration, New Creation, Faith Group presented the **Aero Wonders** an Acrobatics act. The youngest of our youngsters, the Twinkle Group enlivened the atmosphere with their presentation of **Rolling Thunder - Gymnastics**. This was followed by the resplendent **Bubbly Balloons** - a balloon dance by the Rainbow and Flower Group.



The Skills on Wheels, a skating item done again by Concentration, New Creation, Faith groups totally surprised us with their balanced agile movements accomplished through disciplined practice.

It was amazing to watch the children do skating, acrobatics, drills and dances that they had achieved with loads enthusiasm and energy; along with some training and practice.



Flower Group starred in the **Blazing Balls** an exercise and gymnastics drill using red balls. Selected Concentration, New Creation,

Faith groups boys and girls displayed their football skills carrying out the **Happy Feet** event. Aspiration and Golden group children with rhythm in hands excelled in the **Dumbbells Dance**.

Children's exuberance on the Sport's day was unmatched. Faith, New Creation, Concentration group children presented the **Joyful Jesters**. Children in dazzling colours presented a circus like act bursting with fun filled amusing tricks, walking on stilts, doing the unicycle, juggling, skipping their way to our hearts. Our discerning spectators appreciated the sheer steadiness of will, persistent practice required to achieve the required level of coordination and control.



The last event of the day was the **Rim Jhim Group** presenting the feet taping **Lazium** Dance performed by the Concentration New Creation, Faith Group girls.

A month long effort and preparation concluded in a joyful, exuberant day that was wrapped up with Shanti Paath.

24th December - Christmas Eve

Hail the new light. That it may grow in all hearts.

Christmas was celebrated as the festival of the return of the light. We invoked this eternal Light on the eve of the Christmas, gathering in the Ashram courtyard. The place was decorated with Christmas prettifications.

Children in the groups made stars and snow-flakes which they used to decorate their group rooms.

We had an early dinner and children set off to sing the carols in their special dresses. Our little stars of Twinkle Group were the special attraction on that eve. Children from Twinkle Group onwards sang different carols: Jingle Bell, Standing At Thy Alter, Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer, Deck The Hall, We Three Kings, Drummer Boy, Joy To The World, Jingle Bell Rock and Silent Night.

A few girls from MIS sang On The First Day Of Christmas. Sumanto bhaiya played guitar complementing the singing.

Later everyone sang Felisnovidad and We Wish You A Merry Christmas. Children got sweets and toffees also.

As Christmas was in the atmosphere children were wandering about the Christmas father. Hira bhaiya dressed as Santa, appeared suddenly during the Sport's day celebration. He could not be recognised very easily.



1st February Picnic

All the school children along with Diya's and some guests Shanoor di, Sonali di and Oum-Hani di went for a grand picnic, trekking and rowing up to the Ashram New Land.





Carrying essentials from the hostel, collecting brush woods, making leaf plates, cutting veggies, children and Diyas prepared a sumptuous meal there itself. Children explored the jungle, went trekking, boating, swimming and rock climbing all in a day.

21st February - Mother's Birthday

The 137th year birth anniversary of The Sweet Mother was celebrated on 21st of February in the school with a bhajans and plays by the children.

Children also put an exhibition of Mother's portraits, which they drew and painted with lots of interest. Oum-Hani didi depicted The Mother's life history in brief. Children from Aspiration Group intoned the complete Durga Stotra in Oriya.

Golden Group children enacted a short play on the qualities of the animals told by The Mother. The little angels of Twinkle group did a prayer "O Sweet Mother".





The Flower Group children performed a play "Wake Up The Sun" and also offered an Oriya song Bandana Jara Chandanasama. Rainbow Group children did an action song Tum Karunamayi Ho Maa Mira. Children from Concentration and New Creation enacted a play based on the 12 virtues of the Mother represented in the symbol by herself.



All the children invoked The Mother through the song "O Sweet Mother" followed by the Savitri recitation by Oum-hani didi. In the evening the children saluted The Mother's flag with marching and Vande Mataram.



27th Feb - Anuradha Sapru's Anniversary

Children prayed for the Ms. Anuradha Shapru. They chanted a few sacred chantings around the plaque for a peaceful rest of her soul. In her memory, prasad was distributed to the children after the meditation.



6th March - Holi

Holi was celebrated with children relishing a delicious moonlight dinner in the school premises.

28th March - Ram Navami

On this occasion we sang Shri Ram's chantings and bhajans. Children of Aspiration presented a Hindi play on the birth of Shri Ram.

VISITORS

26th Sep. - 2nd Oct. '14 Hari Bhaiya

Hari bhaiya and his brother, expert basketball players trained a few children, helped in improving their basketball skills.

28th Sept-5th October - MIS Camp

MIS Class XI students accompanied with MIS teachers Milan and Ananya didi came for a trip dedicated towards community service. The children were divided amongst different groups. A few children worked together in the younger groups and some children worked with individuals. They helped in development of children language, mathematics, social studies and other skills. MIS and AMVM children played couple of exciting basketball and football matches together. Both school's children developed a good rapport amongst each other.



Hira bhaiya, a Physical Education specialist had also come with the MIS camp. He took classes on acrobatics and lazium. Gowry, Ruchi, Dolly and Shampa Di taught songs and rhymes, played games, and did various activities with the Twinkle, Rainbow and Flower Group.

Children were excited to learn contemporary dance from Ashwin Bhaiya.

29th October - Tara di, accompanied with her sisters Lata di, Chitra di and Chhalamayi di, Jyotika di

They all came to Kechla for a short three days visit; met with the children, visited different groups in the school.

Children enacted a few plays and sang a number of songs for them. They also went to various nearby hamlets with the children.



Lata di shared some of her interesting childhood incidents with us. She also told of her experience, being one of the first students at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education in Pondicherry.

Children were inspired by her stories, how she was an obedient and dutiful child of the Mother. Children put up the Jungle Book Play for them and we also had a physical demonstration session. On special request from the visitors children performed the village folk dance.

26th Nov - Shri Sudepto Mandal

Sudepto Mandal a renowned reporter from Bangalore visited us. During his two days stay in Kechla he discussed about the spacecrafts and satellites. He also told the children about the Indian satellite landing on Mars.

26th Nov - Hansa Di

Hansa didi, an ashramite of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch spent a few days in Kechla. She exhilarated the children with her thrilling stories of how she had to face the executioners in Africa. She passed the message that not only courage but persistent faith on the Mother and Sri Aurobindo resolves all the problems and answers all sincere calls. She told stories to the children and also gave the teachers a few tips on simple ailments. Though she had a bad knee problem, her courage coming all the way to Kechla is really commendable.



Dec.'14 - Rakesh Pahwa

Every six months Rakesh Bhaiya visits and works at school for 15 days. During his stay he helps the older children in their Math and English. He also helps the younger children in improving their reading skill.

Children enjoy singing with him. Some new songs he taught this time are - Babu Samjho Ishare, Sajan Re Jhoot Mat Balo, Lakdi Ki Kathi and Sare Ke Sare Gama Ko Lekar Gate Chale.



19th Dec. - 28th Dec.'14 - Barun Pal ji and Mitu Di

Barun pal ji is not only a proficient musician but also like a spiritual guide. His wife Mitu di a soft spoken, affectionate lady. They imparted some basic important knowledge on classical music to children. Guruji covered different fields of music in a very short time. The tabla playing children got an idea how to catch the rhythm and he also taught them different taal. The flute players learnt how to play the 'komal' notes and the vocalist could harmonise a few songs. Besides this all the children enjoyed learning Guru Vandana, Vishnu Shloka, Raag Bhairav - Utho Utho and Raag Yaman Kalyan, Sur Ke Sadhak. I Am Missing You Oh Krishna is a short prayer, beseeching Him to come. Children love it the most.

Mitu di taught our little singers few Bengoli songs - Dhitang Dhitang, Aguner Poroshmsni, Aananda Loke and also a Sanskrit



chant Sangachhadhawm. All teachers and students of MIS applauded AMVM children's music performance.

Dec.'14 - Brij Sapru, Raj and Dawn - visited the school and attended the Hawan ceremony. They spent some time with the children in all the groups. Children sang songs and also enacted a play for them.

7th January-Tara di and Tatswarupanand Swamiji - taught a few shlokas from Initiation to Bhagwat Gita. He also told a few moral and humorous stories to the children. The children also chanted a few shlokas in the meditation hall in his presence.



Dates - Jacques Albohair From Switzerland - Discover thru Me (DTMe)

DTMe is an intercultural project for peace education that aims to support the recognition of human unity in cultural diversity beyond differences of nations, religions, customs, languages and gender. Its aim is to work with children, but includes educators and parents. It is organised around a 3-year world tour on motorcycle and the book "The Little Prince". Jacques and his friend Paul stayed here at Kechla for a fortnight. They read the book with children, took their reactions in form of drawings and discussions.



29th Jan - 5th April 2015 - Shanoor Didi from Canada

Shanoor didi worked as a volunteer teacher for two months. She dedicated all her valuable time for the growth and development of the institution. In Rainbow Group she taught the children various songs and rhymes. Children improved their listening and speaking skills in English language. She also helped Flower and Rainbow Group in their Math. For the Aspiration group onwards she initiated reading circles so that the children become independent learners. After dinner she used to take French classes for the teachers and students. She also took a few session for the facilitators on teaching learning pedagogy.



29 Jan - 7 Feb.2015 - Sonali di from US

Sonali didi came to Kechla after a long time. This was her third visit. She spent her valuable time with the children. As she is a regular teacher, she also guided the teachers in observing and dealing with problems. She gave Science and Math lessons to the New Creation children and took reading classes in the Flower, Aspiration and Golden Groups.



31st Jan. - 3rd Apr.2015 - Oum-Hani from France

Oum-Hani a professional singer from France reached in Kechla full of spirit. She spent her most precious time with children. She enjoyed the natural scenic beauty of Kechla and loved to work here. She worked on the all round development of the Twinkle Group children, doing various activities, drawing, colouring, walks, blocks, puzzles, singing, dancing, etc. She taught them lovely English and French rhymes. She also helped the older children in their play, Twelve virtues, which the children presented before she left.



Feb.2015 - Sumanto Bhaiya's Parents

Ms. Manica Ghosh, Sumanto's mother is an Author and Counselor who also takes trainings. She took a self discovery session with the teachers. Focus was how one can evaluate oneself, to improve life skills, deal with colleagues, adolescents and also stressful situations.

Feb.'15 - Yamini Sarangi

Former collector of Koraput visited us for a day. She took a tour of the school with her children.



17th Feb. - 20 Mar. '15 - Faith Group's Trip to Delhi

Seven girls of Faith Group went to Delhi for a study tour. The main purpose of the visit was to cover substantial portions of various subjects' curriculum. The MIS teachers did Home Science, History, Computer Science with them.



In the afternoon they were doing social studies with Mr. Ashok Achaya. Barun Pal ji - Focused on harmonisation in vocal music. They learnt basic exercises and steps of Bharatnatyam and Odissi at Matri Kala Mandir. They also joined the vocal music class of Premshila di.



Every Sunday the girls spent hours learning and very diligently practicing calligraphy, quilling, book folding, etc with Naval Bhaiya. They also visited the National Gallery of Modern Art with Ashutosh Sir of MIS. He explained them about different types of art, artists and also how art portrays the lifestyle of our ancestors has been evolved from generation to generation.

Children went to watch a cultural show with Ashram inmates. Children enjoyed the Goti Pua Nritya of Odisha and they were highly inspired by the program prepared by the blinds. They also went to see the book fair at Pragati Maidan with Kartik bhaiya. Children visited to different stalls and enjoyed reading books there itself. As a few children have started learning French, bhaiya bought them some French story books.

Children also performed Hawan ritual in the memory of Shri Anil Jauhar near Chachaji's shrine. The attendees (some foreigners and Ashram inmates) were flabbergasted with their diction.

Karuna didi an ashram inmate as well as a popular singer of the ashram talked to the children about advantages of Hawan. Children did Hawan on all Sundays with Sima Didi.

The trip concluded with the girls making "Thank You" cards for all their mentors and collecting loads of blessings from everyone.



Our school is growing delightfully, like a tree with flowers it is towering gracefully to spread its splendid fragrance.

CAMPS AND TRIPS

Thirty eight students of class IX and four teacher/ escorts of The Mother's International School (MIS) took part in a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla, Odisha, from December 23 to 31, 2014.

Activities included keep-fit exercises, *shramdan*, day & night trekking, bouldering, rappelling, river-crossing, rowing, swimming in the Kolab River Reservoir & cavorting at the waterfall, learning eyecare routines, Western folk-dancing, interacting with students of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir (AMVM) particularly in their Christmas and Sports Day celebrations, and visit to the tribal hamlets of Kechla, etc.



From the following feedback comments, it is obvious that the students had a wonderful time. “Kechla was one of the most amazing experience of my life. Not just as a school trip but as an interactive & learning experience”; “The best school trip until now by far. Not just because of the natural beauty here but also because of the children [of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir]. They’re all exceptionally talented and affectionate, and huge fun to interact



with”; “Kechla is a very wonderful place. The fresh air, sheep, cows, goats and chickens were very different experiences. Even the reservoir was just perfect for bathing”; “I really enjoyed bouldering on straight rocks and rappelling on Ashram roof... boat ride .. meditation sessions were calming.. eye camp was highly effective .. western dances were new and quite interesting”; “I loved all the shows and performances they [school children] put such as Christmas carols & the Sports Day programme... I would love to come here again in eleventh [class XI] and teach the kids”; “Even the things I didn’t like such as eating healthy food and waking up early are now part of my routine”; “I hope I have similar trips like [this]... I want to say ... THANK YOU MIS.”

A small group of 7 students, ranging in age from 10-15 years, and 2 teachers of **The Shivalik International School of Haldwani, Uttarakhand**, took part in a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla, Odisha, from January 1-7, 2015. Activities included keep-fit, shramdan, trekking, bouldering, rappelling, river-crossing, learning eyecare routines, swimming in the Kolab River Reservoir & cavorting at the waterfall, interacting with students of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir (AMVM) of Kechla, meditation, talks on Health, etc.



Nineteen class XI students of The Mother's International School (MIS) with 3 teachers reached Kechla on **January 1** to help Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir children with academics and co-curricular learning. As in preceding years, this trip formed a part of their 'Community Service' requirement.



Each student was allotted two children to teach over a period of 7 days. Positive feedback was received from the MIS students at the end, viz.: "Going to Kechla is like going to an exchange programme, wherein we the city dwellers learn about the village life and discover the joys of living their simple habitat. We students try to help our friends there by teaching them a few skills with the guidance of all the bhaiyas [male teachers of AMVM] and didi's [female teachers of AMVM] there. Surely they have taught us more...I hope we do get a chance to go back"; and, "Truly teaching and learning are two sides of a coin and during our intimate interactions we grew together towards a new realization and a sense of fulfillment. This trip was one of its kind and special because we came back with our hearts full of compassion and love which makes us capable of sharing the same with others..."

A group of **44 students of class VII and 5 teacher/escorts of Sri Aurobindo International School of Hyderabad** attended a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla, Odisha, from January 10-14, 2015. Activities included morning keep-fit exercises, shramdan, trekking, bouldering, rappelling, learning eyecare routines, swimming in the Kolab River Reservoir & cavorting at the waterfall, playing games with students of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir (AMVM) of Kechla, learning folk dances from England, USA, Israel, and Turkey, meditation, talks



on Health, etc. Children from cities are not used to walking long distances any more and one of the students in his feedback report wrote an extremely hilarious but apt comment about having had to do the seemingly endless treks: “.. but the only problem was walking, they [organizers] think that our legs are not legs, they think our legs are wheels.” Most of the students were very appreciative of the eye care and other activities.

One commented: “We even learned to become independent, by washing the utensils and clothes and to adjust with others.” Another became positively ecstatic: “Wow! Amazing! Exciting! Spectacular! Outstanding! We can’t say how happy we are...”

Class IX students of The Mother’s International School took part in a camp at Kechla, Odisha from March 22-27, 2015. Following is an edited version of Shradha Sehgal’s report. “The days started with ‘keep fit’ which included running and exercising, after which we had exhausting but fun-loaded treks to the hills. We witnessed unparalleled scenic beauty, relaxed in the waters of the cool Kolab reservoir, had ‘games’ in the evening playing basketball, football or volleyball with the children of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir. We also did boating and stomach rappelling (it was gut wrenching, no pun intended). Often, we interacted with the enthusiastic children including in meditation wherein we would chant and sing bhajans. This was usually followed by a night trek where we would navigate our way through the innumerable trees, grasses and shrubs, only to find ourselves looking at the beautiful starry night sky and pristine beauty of Kechla.



DENTAL PROGRAMME

- Oral hygiene of the students is very good expect few students who has to brush their upper and lower molars.
- Few students need ortho treatment which is very costly and has to be followed every month.
- Dentist from France gave a gift tooth brush for all the students.
- We are very happy to see the good result and students are following our advice.



	Oct 2014
Total no. of children	100
No. of Male children	-
No. of Female children	-
Good	46
No of children need treatment	-
Simple scaling	1
Scaling simple done full mouth 00 2	-
Scaling 02 + 04	1
Scaling surface done full mouth 00 3	1
Scaling 03 + 05	2
Scaling 05	1
Scaling lower front teeth done 07 3	3
Sealant done in Milk teeth	-
Class I filling done in milk teeth	18
Class II filling done in milk teeth	4
Milk teeth temporary	37
Sealant done in Permanent teeth	5
Class I filling done in Permanent teeth	7
Permanent composite class III filling	1
Redone class I milk teeth filling	-
Redone sealant in Milk teeth	-
Redone sealant in Permanent teeth	10

Children not seen	-
Extraction Milk tooth	2
Not seen	3



REPORT OF EXTRA WORK DONE FOR THE VILLAGE CHILDREN, STAFF & TEACHERS AND WORKERS			
2014	Village children	Staff & teachers	Worker
Total no. of children	13	13	8
Good	8	5	3
Simple scaling	6	7	2
Surface scaling	-	1	-
Scaling lower front teeth done 07 3	2	-	-
Heavy scaling	-	1	2
Milk teeth temporary	2	-	-
Sealant done in Permanent teeth	1	-	-
Class I filling done in Permanent teeth	-	1	3
Class II filling done in Permanent teeth	-	1	-
Class III filling done in Permanent teeth	-	-	1
Permanent composite class III filling	1	1	-
Permanent teeth temporary	-	1	1

HORTICULTURE

Vegetables are grown in the ashram and also in the hostel and school. All of it is consumed by the children.

This year there was a bumper crop of litchis, mangoes and lemons. Various other fruits like guavas, custard apples, chikus and varieties of citrus fruits also grew in plenty. In addition to various vegetables like potatoes, onions, brinjal, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, cauliflowers, pumpkins and cabbage there was an abundance of spices and grains like cinnamon, aambahaldi, dals, suaan, ragi, paddy and lemon grass.



INFRASTRUCTURE



The school campus has been made even more beautiful. The structures were completed and paths are being made.



The new hostel excavation and foundations have started.



Construction of Table Tennis room is in progress.

Science Labs are well equipped



NEW INITIATIVE – KORAPUT PROJECT

Solar Lights distribution

90 numbers were procured and some have been distributed this year.

Smokeless Chulhas (stoves)



90 numbers had been procured in the previous year. Some had been distributed and the rest were distributed this year.

Boat repairs



In the previous major cyclone that hit Vizag, all the village boats were badly damaged. These were repaired this year.



Utensils were distributed to the needy.

VISITORS CONTRIBUTIONS & FEEDBACK



20.6.2014	Ishpreet Singh (Model Town New Delhi) (Teach for India)	It's a beautiful place with beautiful people, who carry beauty in their hearts and spread that beauty through their work. Every day that I have spent here, I thought about that first boat which arrived here with first set of bricks and sack of cements. I still can't fathom how this magicland could have been created.
20.6.2014	Sonal Aggarwal (New Delhi)	This place carries lot of positive energy. It felt like a dream timing here. These small bundles of cuteness can make you feel like a child and the innocence they carry with them is just un-describable.
08.12.14	Devasmita Patnaik New Creation Auroville	Kechala with its lake and mountains surrounded us with serenity and Pranjal Bhaiya with his youthful team, dynamic, enthusiastic and affectionate received us with open arms. The bubbling laughter and energy of the children fill our hearts with joy.
9.12.2014	Satyakam Karim New Creation Auroville	I am so happy and impressed to see what has been realized in this beautiful place of Orissa in such a short time. Such a wonderful achievement due to the goodwill, energy and perseverance of Pranjal and his team. This is a real example of how donation can be utilized so well for the benefit of many children and for the surrounding.
9.12.2014	Madhumita	Had a lot of joy working with these cheerful, affectionate and energetic children admired them when they became our guides (bare footed) for our treks... was truly moved, when like good hosts, they brought hot water to our door... felt grateful as their smiles accompanied us through our day. There is so much to learn from the young team here dedicated, dynamic and so loving towards the children.
27.12.14	Mrs. & Mr. Barun Kumar Pal Sri Aurobindo Ashram New Delhi	Our stay in Kechla Ashram was a memorable experience. Such a warm and affectionate hospitality. Mother's grace can be felt at every corner of the Ashram. Meditation Hall gave us so much peace and meditative environment.
9.1.15	Maria Wirth Johi Jabbar Road Dehradun	It was a real privilege to see such a beautiful, original, place in India and a privilege to see the children of this place being taken care of so lovingly.
14.1.15	Paul Gauthen	It was a very exciting experience to spend my finest time in India among such devoted and kind

people. It was also an inspiration for my own future life.

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|----------|--|--|
| 15.2.15 | Taruni Sarangi | The school and the Ashram in this remote location, the simplicity of the volunteers here and the confidence of the children who come from some of the most underprivileged backgrounds made me speechless. |
| 01.5.15 | Bappu & Nitu Deshmukh
10, Kosakadai Street | Spent some relaxing time with the teachers and students of Kechala School and exchange Pondicherry interesting ideas on pedagogy, teaching and puppet-making. |
| 3.5.2015 | Shanoor Gulamali
78 Sprucewood Dr.
Ont L 432R1 | Kechla is a true paradise with flowers and fruits @ ones fingertips, its villages and people are Thornhill. colorful in dress and heart. May Kechala always remain such a paradise. |
| 1.6.2015 | Maxmulian Patzer
Germany | Feeling very grateful and happy. Great children not exposed to TV, video games and branded things. Great teachers, very different qualities, always helpful and very knowledgeable and interesting visitors from all over India in all age groups. Feel like I have learned a lot already about this vast country and its history, culture, virtues and spirituality – even at remote place like Kechla. |

