



Srotoshwini Trust

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1; SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



We look forward to hearing from you...

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CONSTRUCTION ROUND-UP



Pathshala hostel's land was acquired in 2015. After that, it took one and a half years to get the NA certificate for construction to begin. In October, 2017 the Bhoomi puja was carried out. In December 2017 we broke ground and started construction. Construction was completed by August 2018. The hotel was inaugurated on September 29, 2018 when our first set of children moved in. We started with 17 children who moved from our hostel in Sama to the hostel in Lasundra. Today after 3 months we have a strength of 50+ children.

September 29, 2019

HOSTEL INAUGURATION



PATHSHALA HOSTEL

HISTORY

Pathshala Hostel was first started in May, 2014 when the parents and the children requested us for a place for them to stay so that they could continue their education. The hostel operated from Sama, Vadodara with 8 children. The strength of the children grew from 8 to 17 in the last 5 years. The progress made by the children in academics, sports and co-curricular activities was so heartening that we decided to construct a hostel for 100 children. We have grown from 17 to 50+ children in the last 3 months after the hostel was inaugurated.

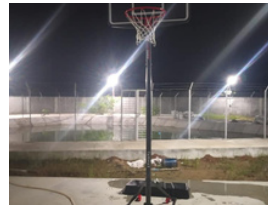
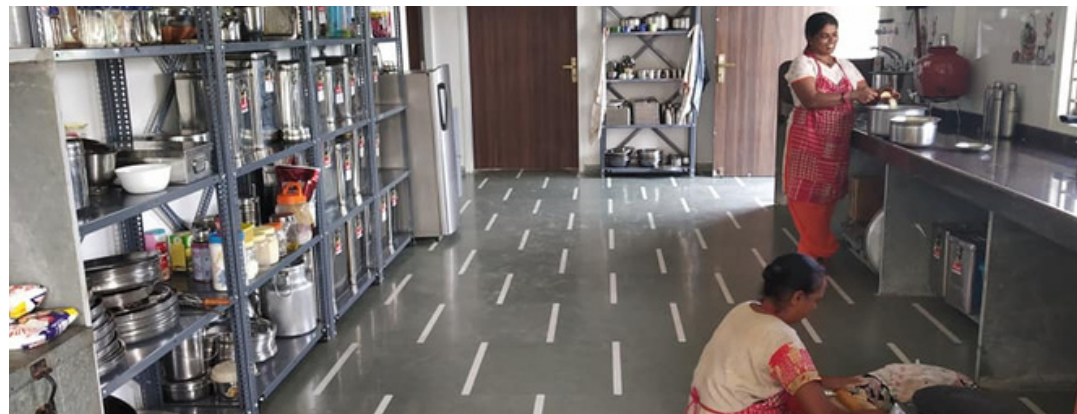


FACILITY

The hostel was planned in great detail back in 2015-2016 with the vision of making the facility as environment friendly as possible with lots of open spaces for children to run around.

The hostel building has admin offices, assembly/tv/study/dining hall in the ground floor, girls dormitory, computer room, art room, library on the first floor and boys dormitory on the second floor. The facility also has a football field, basketball court, table tennis and bicycles for organised play. There is special stress on free play for the children to explore and be creative.

There is a water treatment plant to process all the plumbing waste from the building and the water is reused for the garden. The rain water is harvested back to the water tank for reuse. A solar panel is being used for water heating. There are compost pits for all the biodegradable waste and the plastic waste is taken to a recycling plant in Muni Seva Ashram, Goraj. For the smooth transition of children from school to a job, we have a Skill Development center where live experiments will be carried out and vocational training will be provided.



ACTIVITIES

The 50+ children in the hostel are divided into 4 houses. The houses are named after the rivers of Gujarat - Mahi, Bhadra, Auranga and Utavli. Each child and house are assigned responsibilities for the running the hostel. It includes sweeping, mopping, cleaning, discipline, food distribution etc.

A responsibility chart is maintained at the hostel with each house receiving a star for exceeding expectations and a dot for falling short. Based on the final tally, the winning house receives an award monthly. October's winner was Mahi and they went on a trip to Crosswords, chose books of their choice which will now become part of the hostel library.

The children also participate in inter-house competitions like extempore, football, best out of waste, poster making, story telling etc. Pathshala classes have moved from Parshuram Bhatta to Lasundra now. Our Pathshala teachers come to Lausndra 3 days a week.

In December, the children came up with the idea of starting a tea stall on the hostel premises called "Cutting-Chai". The idea was conceptualized by the children and became operational on Dec 8. It will be a permanent fixture and will be run by one house every Sunday.



PATHBHAVAN

Our Learning & Development center continues to make big strides in the overall development of the children who attend evening classes at Pathbhavan from 6-9pm in the Sama area of Vadodara. The stress as always has not only been on academics but also on personality development. Multiple competitions - reading, dictation & public speaking were held.

In the month of September, the children participated in the hostel inauguration and performed a street play based on the problems faced in their neighborhoods. They continued to practice and staged an excellent performance at the Durga Puja celebrations in EWCA. The festive season; Navratri & Diwali were celebrated with great fervor with new clothes, dancing, rangolis, laughter and fun.

During Diwali break, the children wanted to continue going to Pathbhavan while the teachers were out on leave. Organically the idea of "peer learning" was proposed by the students and they did a great job in self-managing. The older students took responsibility of the younger ones. Academics, arts, craft classes were conducted by the students.

The students also got some much needed exposure by learning about the ill effects of plastic waste and how to manage it. Classes were conducted on good touch, bad touch, giving them exposure to basic sexuality education in their formative years.

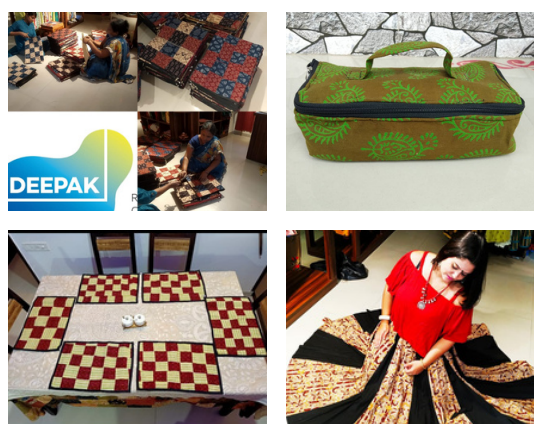


CHURNI

Churni is our creative initiative that empowers women by vocationally training them and then providing employment. They are employed to stitch household goods that are sold under the Churni label. We have 3 teams, 2 in Vadodara and 1 in Lasundra. There are a total of around 40 women in all. In the last quarter the strength of our new Lasundra team has increased to 25. Their products are sold at our Churni Store in Sama and there are numerous exhibitions organized in Vadodara and outside to increase sales so that the women have a steady monthly income.

In the past few months, we hosted multiple exhibitions at Pune; two hosted by our well-wishers Debishree and Sharmila in their homes. There were two others hosted at Thermax and Cybage. In Vadodara, we had exhibitions in Trisha Gallery, Kabir Farms, Sayaji, Jacobs Engineering and Kabir's Kitchen. Supriti, one of our well wishers and volunteers hosted one at her home too. Deepak Phenolics gave us a bulk order for laptop sleeves.

Other than exhibitions, the new team at Lasundra has learnt to stitch bedcovers and the two other teams in SanjayNagar and Jetalpur constantly go through training to improve the quality and design of the products. Other than our usual products, the women are learning to make mats and block printing dress material/sarees. They are also making crop tops and palazzo pants.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In this section we will feature two heartwarming stories from our children's community to highlight the positive effects of an education that focuses on all round development

In this picture, used sanitary napkins are being disposed in a clay incenerator donated by Vatsalya Foundation. Girls and boys together are doing it voluntarily. All of them have been explained about menstrual cycles and the use of sanitary napkins. A heart-warming reward to our team to see the uninhibited approach taken by our children to this task like any other.



Dipak Mahato, one of our Pathbhavan children, decided to distribute bananas amongst his Pathbhavan friends on his birthday as through our 'KNOW PLASTIC - NO PLASTIC' program he has learnt that chocolate wrappers are non recyclable and harmful for the environment. A lesson all of us can learn from.



OUR LOCATIONS

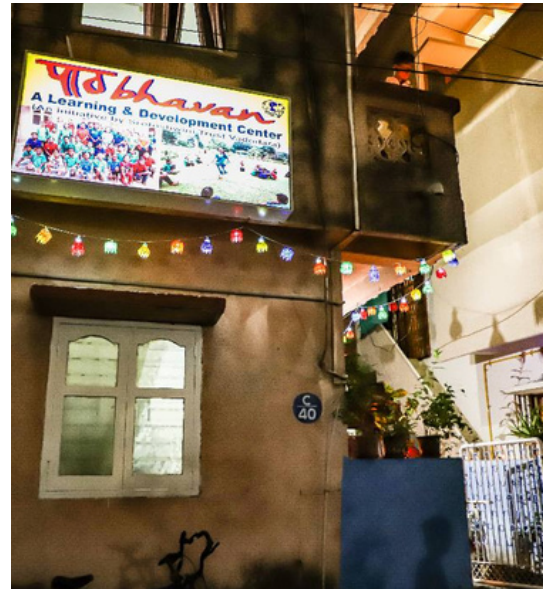
PATHSHALA HOSTEL

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PATHBHAVAN

C/40 Jay Yogeshwar Nagar Society,
Opposite Jalaram Temple,
Near Sama Bus Stand
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CHURNI STORE

#5 Saral Prakash building,
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