

# Extend a hand to underprivileged kids

The Vinimay Trust offers unconditional support and encouragement for the development and upliftment of these children

PRIYA NAIR

OFTEN big ideas start from small ones. When a group of BARC scientists formed an informal group to help underprivileged children, they had no idea that they would end up helping thousands of destitute children from across the city.

Vinimay Trust works with destitute children in Chembur Children's Home and Bal Kalyan Nagri. Apart from providing food, clothing, educational and medical facilities, Vinimay also gives these children several opportunities to develop their social and inter-personal skills.

Atul Shah, one of the trustees, says, "Since there are several institutions for destitute children, we decided that instead of starting

another one, we will help the existing ones." Since most of the volunteers of the Trust are based in Chembur, we work in this suburb, adds Shah.

As part of their programme, the Trust celebrates the birthdays of these children. The celebrations include presenting the child with new clothes, performing the child's aarti and clicking his or her photograph.

Shah says, "We started this programme because most children do not understand the concept of the birthday. We also celebrate birthdays of our staff and volunteers so that the children do not feel that they are different."

The Trust conducts a study centre throughout the year and a play centre once

a week. A daily breakfast programme in Bal Kalyan Nagri is also organised by the Trust.

Apart from these the Trust conducts picnics and outdoor trips. Shah says, "We teach the children concepts like reading the indicator at the railway station."

Shah says, "We don't provide them with special meals on any particular day, because the next day they will have to start eating ordinary food. But on December 31 we arrange an elaborate buffet dinner where the children can fix the menu."

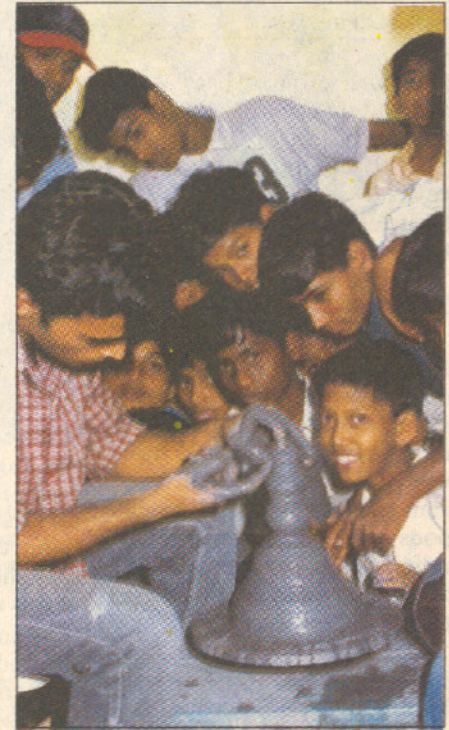
Vinimay Trust and Our Children Trust jointly conduct a five-day long sports and culture meet — Bal Mahotsav — once every two years. So far seven Bal Mahotsavs have been organ-

ised and children from these institutions now hold jobs and are integrated with society. Shah says, "Our main aim is to help children intergrate into society to prevent them from becoming destitute."

The Trust also runs a transition hostel in Kopar Khirane, for the boys who leave the institute at the age of 18. The Trust also gives interest free loans to the boys to rent a room before they are able to achieve a decent bank-balance.

Shah says, "We need sponsors for our breakfast schemes and require volunteers for teaching. Those interested can also donate funds for the hostel building and can have a dormitory named after them."

Call: 25578130  
priya@mid-day.com



The Trust also conducts workshops

