

VINIMAG

October 2016 to March 2017
(For Private Circulation Only)



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www.vinimaytrust.org

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to bring you yet another issue of Vinimag – our bi-annual newsletter.

Our Feature – “**Back to our Roots**” brings to you the story of how Ravi Panchal, one of the boys at Smt. Coomiben Babubhai Shah Tarun Sadan – our transition hostel for youth emerging out of the CWIs determinedly set out to trace his family along with a little help from his friends and of course, his Vinimay family.

A new initiative by Vinimay – Life Skills Training for the students at Tarun Sadan has been outlined in greater detail in this issue.

A roundup of our regular activities during the period October 2016 to March 2017 also forms part of this newsletter.

To keep us motivated, we request all our readers to send us your contributions and/or feedback to info@vinimaytrust.org or to the postal address given at the end of this newsletter.

Warm regards,

Editorial Team

BACK TO OUR ROOTS



Ravi Madhav Panchal, who was separated from his family when he was a kid, is a born dreamer. Currently he is working at a Pathological laboratory but he wants to serve the country by joining the Police force. His aspiration reignited in him his latent desire to trace his family so that he could mention it correctly in his application forms whilst applying for a job. His unrelenting effort paid off and Ravi was reunited with his family after a long gap. This column presents a brief sketch of this endeavor.

Ravi, arrived at Vinimay's Tarun sadan at the age of 19 from D.N. Sirur Balakashram, Vile Parle, Mumbai and stayed for two years. Before coming to Mumbai at D. N. Sirur, he stayed at Navrange Balakashram, Pandharpur till the age of 12. A key

trigger for commencing his family tracing efforts was his recalling that his father had come to meet him and his sister once long time back when they were kids. So he got his address from the visitor's register of Navrange Balakashram which was of a small village named Khurdari, a few hours' drive from Latur. Thus began the journey of Ravi which finally materialized in a reunion with his father.

Ravi decided to begin the tracing of his family from Latur. He first went to Solapur, took his childhood friend (also named Ravi) with him, and reached Latur where a helpful petrol pump owner provided them with food and shelter for the night. Guided by the Petrol Pump owner, they left early next morning for Khurdari village and reached there late afternoon. They enquired with the elders of the village but nobody could recognize Ravi or his father. Finally someone could recognize him as the son of one Mr. Vitthal Panchal. He told Ravi that his father had left the village long time back but he calls every now and then and he would be able to provide the phone number of this father the next time he calls. They spent their night at a lodge there and with the assurance of getting the contact details of their father soon, they left the village for Latur the next day. At Latur, they rested a bit, watched a movie, and then went to meet his sister at Tuljapur. Her sister welcomed them and they stayed with her for two days before going back to Solapur.

Ravi stayed with his friend at Solapur for a day

and then both of them took a train to Mumbai the next day. They were on their way to Mumbai when he got a call from the Sarpanch of the Khurdari village. He gave them the news that his father has been staying at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai for last 14 years and comes to the village only during Diwali. He also provided him the phone number of his father. Unfortunately, his bag and mobile phone were stolen at Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station of Mumbai. The mobile contained the phone number of his father as given by the Sarpanch. Luckily, he had tried calling his father from his friend's phone and hence could retrieve the number. Ravi's employer Mr. Dawle, who is like family to him, talked to his father on his behalf and went to meet him along

with Ravi, Ravi's friend, and Sanjay Sir from Tarun Sadan. Ravi's father was very excited to see him after such a long time. Ravi got to know that he was left at a temple along with his sister by his grandmother as their financial condition was not good. Police found them and got them admitted to Navrange Balakashram. Hence the tracing ended on a sweet note with Ravi being united with his family. He spent two months with his father before returning back to stay with his friends. But he is in his constant touch and guidance. The endeavor thus resulted in another successful attempt at family tracing by a Tarun Sadan student. We wish Ravi all the best in fulfilling his dreams.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM AT TARUN SADAN

The Smt. Coomiben Babubhai Shah Tarun Sadan Hostel is a transition hostel started by Vinimay in 1999 to cater to those boys who emerge out of the various CWIs at the age of 18. We primarily admit those boys who are orphans or have negligible family support. The main objective of Tarun Sadan is to provide the boys with the resources required to integrate themselves into main stream society, help them in developing inter-personal skills, assist them in securing a job and give them direction in order to enhance their savings.

Some of the key activities undertaken by Vinimay Trust for the youth residing at Tarun Sadan are:

- Creation of their official documents
- Aadhar card, Voter card, Pan card, passport
- Opening their bank account
- Provide opportunities for gaining vocational skills
- Provide Life Skills training
- Encourage and facilitate their employment
- Plan and monitor their progress during their stay at the hostel
- Provide practical training on day to day skills like grocery shopping, cooking, maintaining the hostel premises etc

All the above activities are aimed at enabling the youth to manage his own life once he moves out

of the hostel into mainstream society.

Over the years, Vinimay Trust has been able to accomplish most of the above mentioned activities except for the Life Skills training (which was done on ad-hoc basis), but we realized with our seventeen years of running the hostel that this has to be an important aspect in their journey from an institution to the real-world.

To this end, Vinimay Trust along with the support of the NGO - Toolbox (<http://www.tbxi.org>), identified the specific requirement of the Life Skills (based on a detailed survey conducted by Toolbox with the boys). A detailed Life Skills Training Program was developed by Ms. Shalini Dabholkar from another NGO - SocioCatalyst (<http://www.sociocatalyst.com/>). Mr. Aditya Charegaonkar (pursuing his PhD from TISS) was identified as the trainer who would impart the Life Skills Training to the boys. As Aditya himself is from a similar background, it was felt that he would be a good choice for imparting the training as he would identify and empathize with many of the issues that the boys face with respect to integration and interaction with the mainstream society.

The Life Skills Training program consists of two parts - a Basic Module of 10 sessions and an Advanced Module of 5 sessions. The sessions covered under the Basic Module include Self-awareness, Handling emotions, Creativity and empathy, Relationship Management, Motivation, Communication Skills and Social Behavior etc.

The Basic Module of the Life Skills Training commenced on Feb 5, 2017. The Advanced Module of about five sessions that would include topics like Financial Planning, Problem Solving etc. would be taken up at a later stage.

To sustain the interest of the participants and to incentivize them to attend the sessions, (as the boys with their institution background might have less attention span and might find it difficult to sit through training sessions), we, at Vinimay, planned some of the sessions outside the hostel, took the boys out for lunch after completion of every 4 to 5 sessions, etc.

In future, we plan to ensure that each and every boy at Tarun Sadan goes through both the Basic and Advanced modules of the Life Skills Training program.

ACTIVITY ROUND UP

I. CHILD WELFARE

A. Education

After the Board Exams, it was time for some fun for the Std X students at Chembur Children Home (CCH). Vinimay's day outing for Std X students of CCH was on 31st March 2017. Nineteen boys & two attendants from CCH along with Vinimay volunteers (Mukta Didi, Dhanya Didi, Uma Didi, Kallola Sir, Nikhilesh Sir) watched "Badrinath ki Dulhaniya" at Movie Time, Cubic Mall, Chembur. The boys were treated to orange juice and caramel Popcorn while watching the movie. After the movie, the Vinimay volunteers took them for lunch to a nearby restaurant.. Delicious lunch was served in the cool ambience which the boys enjoyed. The owner of the restaurant extended us a discount on the bill. After lunch, everyone went to Dhanya Didi's house in Anushakti Nagar. Manini Didi brought Kulfi which was savoured by the boys. Thereafter, there was a discussion between the boys and the Vinimay volunteers which focused on the future plans for each boy and how Vinimay can help them in the future.

The Std X boys at DSIS were also taken for an outing after the Board exams to Nehru Science Centre. 12 boys along with 2 escorts and 2 Vinimay volunteers visited the Nehru Science Centre. The boys were enthralled at the various exhibits at the Science centre and also watched a



DSIS Class X Picnic to Nehru Science Centre

3 D movie on African Animals and Life in Alaska at the dome theatre. It was a novel experience for the boys. This was followed by lunch at the Centre's cafeteria. A discussion about the future plans for the boys was also held.

Vinimay sponsored the examination fees and books for four boys from CCH and BKN and for one ex-CCH boy.

Vinimay donated a cupboard to CCH for storing the books and stationery related to the Math Lab

B. Supplementary Nutrition

The Supplementary Nutrition program continued on Saturdays at BKN and once a month at DSIS. We welcome Mrs. Aruna Chandran who joined our Supplementary Nutrition group as a volunteer.

C. Recreation – Play Centre

Play Centre activities at CCH, BKN and DSIS continued as usual.

At both, DSIS and BKN, Vinimay needs volunteers to help out with the play centre activities. Interested individuals are requested to get in touch with us through the contact details provided on the last page of this newsletter.



A Tattoo application in progress

D. Annual Day program at CCH



Quiz competition as part of Annual Day Program

The Annual Day program at CCH was held on 31st December 2016. The program kicked off with a quiz competition between all the kutirs (dormitories for the boys). A wide variety of questions was posed to the boys on various topics.

In the evening, there was a fun fair with food and gaming stalls put up. The “Tattoo” stall was a huge hit with the boys. A cultural program of song, dance and drama was put up by the boys and the evening ended with dinner and fireworks to welcome the New Year.

E. Annual Day program at BKN

The BKN Annual Day program was held on 7th January, 2017. As a build up to the Annual Day program, a quiz competition was held with 6 teams participating in the same. Dr. Jayant Joshi of SSPD, BARC presented a module on “Science behind Magic” for the children. The module was a big success with enthusiastic participation by the children.

The evening saw the fun fair with food and gaming stalls with the stall on “Nail Art” being the most popular especially amongst the girls. The children then put up a cultural program comprising of many songs and dances.



Dance by BKN girls

The evening ended with a delicious dinner of Fried rice and noodles, Puri, vegetable korma and ice cream. The program ended with fireworks to celebrate the New Year.

II. YOUTH WELFARE/TARUN SADAN (CTS)

Tarun Sadan reverberated with a plethora of activities as this is the period in which major festivals such as Dussehra, Moharram, Diwali, and Holi are celebrated.

Dussehra was celebrated with much delight at Tarun Sadan. It not only stressed the ultimate victory of good over evil, it also carried forward the message of "Swachha Bharat". As charity begins at home, boys cleaned the premises of Tarun Sadan and decorated it with flowers. Tools and instruments were worshipped in a traditional manner and festive food: Amrakhand and Puri were served to all.

Delicious Kheer was prepared and served to all the boys and staff at Tarun Sadan on Moharrum.

Kojagiri Purnima, a harvest festival celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu lunar month of Ashvin marking the end of monsoon was also celebrated at midnight wherein boys were served Masala milk and Bhel.

Diwali celebration kicked in two days before the actual festival with sweets and snacks preparation. The initiative was taken by Rashmi didi who was ably assisted by the boys. Vinimay volunteers Sanjana Moushi & Anil Welekar also chipped in. It was also decided that henceforth

no crackers will be burst during Diwali as it leads to air and sound pollution. CTS boys Santosh Pawar and Vishal Shrivastav took special efforts in making a beautiful and giant sized lantern. All well wishers of Vinimay got together to celebrate the festival at Tarun Sadan. Tarun Vinimay group entertained the gathering by singing devotional and popular Marathi songs. The gathering exchanged among themselves best wishes for Diwali and relished sweets and snacks offered by CTS.

An orientation program for Vinimay mentors by team of counselors from Tool Box was organized. About 25 volunteers including Tarun Vinimay members and staff members attended and benefitted from the session. Many important, serious, delicate issues, which may spring up during the rapport building between the boys and their respective mentors were discussed. It was a thought provoking session for one and all.

A special Tarun Vinimay meeting was organized where a discussion on demonetization, it's good and bad effects were discussed in great depth. A good number of Tarun Vinimay members along with Vinimay volunteers were present.

A day's camp for new Aadhar card as well as for changes in the old Aadhaar cards was held at CTS with special efforts put in by Ms. Aarati Saravade of TISS and with co-operation from the Aadhaar Registration Centre, Saki Naka, Mumbai. A total 31 persons including CTS and ex-CTS students benefitted from the camp.

A day's picnic of CTS boys at Sanjay Gandhi

National Park, Borivali was arranged on 8th January. A total of 43 persons including 37 boys, 2 staff, 2 TISS students and two Vinimay volunteers participated in the picnic. The picnic began with the visit to Kanheri Caves followed by lunch. Thereafter, boys took a joyride in toy train. The TISS students added to the success of the picnic by their active involvement. Mr. Subhash Gowarikar and Mr. Vikas Joshi sponsored food and joyride for the boys respectively. The picnic was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

A batch of Social Welfare students accompanied by the Head of Department - Prof. Mahashweta Banerjee from University of Kansas, US visited CTS on 10th of January. The visit was arranged by TISS. Tyagarajan sir briefed them about the working of Vinimay Trust and Tarun Sadan. C.S. sir, Mukta didi, Manini didi, Kala didi, Ghade sir along with Tarun Sadan staff were present on the occasion. The visitors also interacted with CTS students. They applauded the commendable work being carried out by Vinimay Trust.

Makar Sankranti festival celebrated on 14th January. Rashmi didi volunteered to make traditional Til Gul Laddus at CTS with the assistance of boys.

Republic Day was celebrated at CTS on 26th January, 2017. Raghunath sir, Vinimay volunteer, was the Chief Guest. He hoisted the National Flag and addressed the boys. He apprised them of the significance of the tri-color. His talk had a clear message to boys: there is no shortcut to success. He also emphasized on the importance of English in today's world. The morning event also had

the boys singing many patriotic songs. A large number of CTS students and ex-students were present on the occasion.

Vinimay Milan - Vinimay's annual get together was held in the evening on 26th January, 2017 at Tarun Sadan. Cultural dances and songs were presented by the Tarun Vinimay members, their families, volunteers, and the boys. A large number of Vinimay volunteers, Tarun Vinimay members, ex-CTS students along with their families participated actively. A slide show on Vinimay Trust was also screened on the occasion.



Koli Dance Performance at Vinimay Milan by Vinimay Family members

Online registration for housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was successfully done. Around 40 CTS boys and ex-students registered in the schemes. The process was successfully piloted by Ms. Aarati Saravade, Mr. Mohd Sadiq, Mr. Deepak Sarabjeet and Mr. Sanjay Shetty.

Mr. Mohd. Sadiq, TISS Field work student, arranged a lecture with video clips on Human Anatomy by Mr. Shiv Rudra, a resource person

from F.P.A.I Mumbai, as part of his field work. The boys liked the program and had many queries which were diligently answered by Mr. Shiv Rudra.

III. NEW BEGINNINGS

Raja and Alka Pujari were blessed with a son (Riaan) on 06th Oct. 2016. Raja is an ex-student of Tarun Sadan. Both Raja and Alka have been fulltime volunteers of Vinimay Camps for children.

Shukriya and Madhuri Kamble were blessed with a son on 22nd Oct. 2016. The boy has been named Kiran. Sukriya is an ex-student of Tarun Sadan.

Bhim and Sangita Shetty were blessed with a son, Pawan, on 29th Oct. 2016. Bhim is an ex-student of Tarun Sadan and is an active Vinimay volunteer while Sangita is an ex-student of Asha Sadan.

IV. IN GRIEF

Samarendranath Chakraborty, father of Dr. Manini Ganguly and father in-law of Dr. Rajib Ganguly, both Vinimay volunteers, passed away on 05th Mar. 2017. He was an affable, pleasant and gentle person, who showed keen interest in activities of Vinimay. We convey our heart-felt condolences to Manini and Rajib.

Bhalchandra Patil, an ex-student of Tarun Sadan, passed away due to a heart ailment. He was a very friendly, serene and hard-working person.

He had heart valve transplant done when he was in a child welfare institution (David Sassoon Industrial School) and Vinimay had been doing follow-up when he was at Tarun Sadan Hostel. He moved out of Tarun Sadan after his planned period of stay. His condition suddenly deteriorated recently. Vinimay did all it could to save him, including raising funds of Rs. Two lakh for an emergency surgery, but he succumbed before it could be carried out. Few Vinimay volunteers and a large number of ex-students of Tarun Sadan gave him physical and emotional support while he was in hospital. His employer BOX 8 took care of some of the treatment expenses and also provided caregiver support during his stay at the hospital. Since he did not have any relatives Vinimay carried out the cremation ceremonies.

Lalji Yadav, ex-student of CCH, passed away on 03rd Nov. 2016. His health suddenly deteriorated and many friends and members of Tarun Vinimay reached the hospital to help him but to no avail.

Santosh Purohit, ex-student of CCH, passed away on 28th Mar. 2017. He was one of the earliest beneficiaries of Vinimay's Youth Welfare Program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ME

Fund a Program

- Your Donation of Rs. 5,00,000 (Rs. Five Lakhs only) can help us to cover the expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan on an ongoing basis
- For Rs. 30,000 you could sponsor the cost of groceries for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.15,000 you could sponsor the cost of vegetables for one month at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs. 3500 you could sponsor monthly expenses of one youth at Tarun Sadan
- For Rs.6000 you could sponsor the Annual get together dinner for 50 children
- For Rs.10000 you could sponsor a weeklong camp for 5 children
- For Rs.7000 you could sponsor the birthday of 25 children or birthday clothes for 10 children
- For Rs.1500 you could sponsor Supplementary Nutrition Program for 300 children

Donations to Vinimay Trust are exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Vinimay Trust is registered under the Foreign Contribution Act and is authorized to receive donations in foreign currency.

Cheques may be drawn in favour of "Vinimay Trust" and sent to VINIMAY TRUST, C.B.S. Tarun Sadan, Plot 21, Sector 23, Kopar Khairane, Navi Mumbai - 400 709. You can also send your donations directly by NEFT to our account as per details given below. Please inform us about your donation by providing your full name, postal and email addresses.

Name of the account	: Vinimay Trust
Bank and Branch	: Punjab National Bank, Kopar Khairane branch
IFS Code	: PUNB0662700
Account Number	: 1207000100256662 (Only donations in INR)

Work as a Volunteer

Contact Smt. Manini Ganguly
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FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES

Science Behind Magic show at BKN Annual Program

