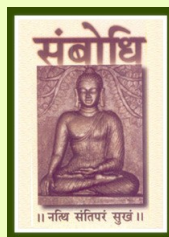




Jetavan

Annual Report 2016 - 17



About Jetavan

An outreach programme of the K J Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies, Jetavan is a non-sectarian space created to encourage spiritual practice and physical wellness among the local community. It was inaugurated in January 2016.

Jetavan is a collaborative effort of Ven. Dhammadipa, Godavari Biorefineries Ltd, K. J. Somaiya Buddhist Studies, an institute of Somaiya Vidyavihar, the Somaiya Trust and several donors from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Europe, Canada and the US, whose support was invaluable. The building reflects the commitment of all collaborators to the environment as it uses almost completely natural and re-used materials. This was possible due to innovative approach to materiality by Hunnarshala Foundation, Bhuj, whose artisans played a large role in construction. The architectural design by Sameep Padora and Associates has already



Message from Shri Samir Somaiya - President, Somaiya Vidyavihar



" We are responding to the twin needs of Sakarwadi - spiritual guidance and economic well-being. Jetavan reflects our commitment at Somaiya Vidyavihar to underscore citizenship and community service, even as we provide avenues for career building to young students."

Activities at Jetavan

A. Need Assessment Survey:

This was an important activity which was conducted with the help of Second Year Sociology students and faculty of S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science and Commerce (in December 2016) and First Year Management students of SIMSR (in January 2017). It was conducted in Sakarwadi, Kanhegaon and Varigaon, to enable us to identify community needs. Pending the results of the survey, some activities for livelihood has been initiated.



Students of SYBA (Sociology) from S K Somaiya College of Arts, Science & Commerce during the debriefing during the needs assessment survey.



Students of SIMSR interact with community members, most importantly the little ones!



B. Economic Activity:

i) **Newspaper Bag Making:** with the assistance of Ms. Kokila Deshpande, women are making carry bags from old newspapers and industrial waste cloth. The bags are bought back by Ms. Deshpande @Rs 8 per bag. In the last two months they have made 4000 bags. As more women are joining in, we have addressed the need for punching the bags in Sakarwadi by designing a machine with the help of Engineering College, and a contribution of Rs 55,000 has also been made towards the cost of a fly press we need to buy. . A dummy die has been fabricated by Vocational Training Institute. The machine will be in place by April 2017.



Ms. Kokila Deshpande teaching the art of folding newspapers



Proud to independently source old newspapers and make bags without male assistance!



ii) **Access to Government / non-government Welfare Schemes:** Haqdarshak - a start-up company - conducted a workshop (13th February) and introduced their mobile app-based programme which allows a registered person to easily scan through various schemes (1600 between centre and state government schemes in Maharashtra) such as loans, scholarships, medical insurance etc. Interested people from the community will be trained to assist others with submitting their applications and earn a fee per submission.



The Haqdarshak Team with Mr. Girish Hirve



Eagerly listening to the presentation by Haqdarshak

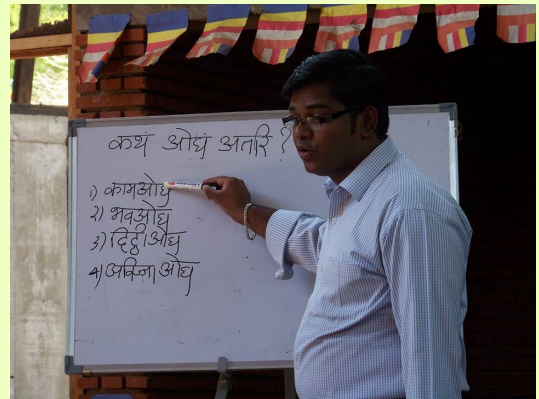
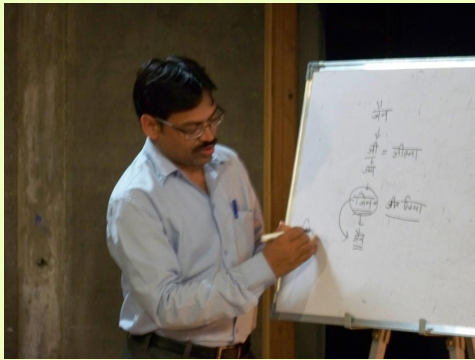


C. Education and Training:

- i) **Basic Pali:** On a pilot basis, the community was introduced to Pali language. Based on the success of the same, Mr. Santosh Jopulkar, an ex-student of the K J Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies, residing at Nashik, commutes every weekend to Sakarwadi to teach Pali across all age groups.



- ii) **Courses in Buddhism and Jainism :** A week-long introductory course in Buddhism, as well as a four day course on Jainism was conducted at Jetavan.



- iii) **Yoga:** Mr. Sudarshan Bindal, a student of Sanskriti Peetham, conducted sessions on Yoga over three days each visit. This was received very well by the community especially the women.



An angel concentrates



iv) **Learning is fun:** Ms. Ashwini Shelke along with Mr. Ashwin Jagtap has started support classes at Jeta-
van for students from Standard 1 to 7 that cover General Knowledge, English, Civics and Math. This pro-
gramme has been reviewed by the K. J. Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Stud-
ies Centre and several suggestions for improvement and modules have
been shared for implementation



Learning is fun



v) **Story Telling:** Recognising
the role of story-telling in the
development of children' s im-
agination and creativity, we have
started a story-telling class every
Sunday afternoon, by a teacher
from Sharda English Medium
School, Mr. Khale. Buddhist Cen-
tre has provided support by
identifying suitable stories from
the Jatakas and will add other
genres as well.



vi) **Career Guidance:** The Centre conducted
Career guidance programme for youth with special
focus on competitive exams like UPSC, MPSC and
Banking, in response to a need that was articulated
by them.



vii) **Environment** : with the assistance of Mr. Jagtap of GBL a model vegetable patch has been developed at Jetavan as a demonstration and encouragement for the villagers to start Kitchen garden outside their home.



viii) **Department of Pali, Savitribai Phule University, Pune** : Twenty students from the Department of Pali along with faculty visited Jetavan to study various activities conducted at Jetavan from the perspective of social engagement in Buddhism.



ix) **University of Westminster**: Twenty one Post graduate Architectural students and two faculties from the University of Westminster, UK visited Jetavan in Jan 2017. They interacted with our community at Sakarwadi and truly appreciated the exposure to rural India. They have expressed a wish to devise some way of assisting us, perhaps by designing inputs to a project, as a measure of their appreciation.





TESTIMONIALS

Women at Jetavan, Sakarwadi

‘We do not want men to help us. We can source the newspapers on our own’

Kokila Deshpande, Architect, Mumbai

‘The ladies had started coming to Jetavan and began spending collective work time together. This itself at that state was commendable, since they hadn’ t been used to any formal system of reporting at a designated place, maintain a disciplined routine etc. They managed to switch to this new way of life very smoothly! It is heart-warming to hear to see their commitment to this work’

Omkar Shankar Kokane, Student, S. K. Somaiya College, Mumbai

‘Seeing the people at Sakarwadi, I remembered my grandmother who stays in a village. I called immediately and spoke to her. One call to her brought tears in my eyes. My grandmother was very moved and told me to behave well as people are very different from city’

Prema Basargekar, Faculty, SIMSR, Mumbai

‘We enjoyed our visit to Sakarwadi and Jetavan. It had been a great learning as well as inspiring experience for not only students but for us as well.

Ben Stringer, Faculty, University of Westminster, London

‘Our short stay at Jetavan left everyone with indelible and very happy memories – my goodness the children are so bright and have such great energy and curiosity. The work that you are doing at Jetavan raises so many issues for us as architects, about our role in rural contexts, about how we engage with local communities, about potential interfaces between globalism and village life, about the role of the village in a more sustainable future’

Accolades :

Jetavan was featured on the cover of Architectural Review, May 2016 —a prestigious Architectural Magazine in the UK (pic below).

Jetavan also won the Third place in Public Category at the 2A Asia Architecture Award 2016- Vienna





We would love to hear from you! If you would like to get involved with Jetavan or have any queries do get in touch with us. You can write to us, e-mail us, or call us.

Jetavan

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