



# DEVNAR

The Quarterly News Letter

**Jyothi**



July 2015



Dr. & Mrs. Goud receiving the best N.G.O award from the C.M. of Telangana Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao.



Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra along with Dr. A. Saibaba Goud Founder chairman at Devnar Computer lab.

## NOW I SEE .....

LILY EGBERT, Principal



I read about Deborah Kenrick, a blind person who immensely enjoys Broadway musicals, though she struggles to understand the setting and movements of the characters on stage. One day she attended a play in New York which used D-scriptive, a new technology which conveys the visual elements of the stage production through a small FM receiver. A recorded narration -

keyed to the show's light and sound boards describes the set and action as it unfolds on stage. After seeing the play, Deborah wrote that if any one asked her whether she 'saw' the show her answer would be, yes: I genuinely and unequivocally mean that I saw the show,

This struck me as a vivid illustration of Devnar School Students 'schooling experience. When they come to Devnar School, they bring a certificate for person with physical disability issued by government doctors. They do not know their own abilities and potentials. Gradually in an environment of love, encouragement and motivation provided by all working in Devnar School, the world becomes clearer and bigger day by day and they begin to 'see'. When the light of knowledge breaks through slowly, opening their minds to the external world, their disability becomes only a practical inconvenience. They reach great

heights of achievement and become socially productive and responsible adults. When people see how Devnar School has transformed their lives, they are amazed.

There are several heartwarming incidents in my 15 years of service in Devnar school, when the students opened my eyes to 'see' better. One day in my English class, there was a reference to pets and the students asked me if I had any pets, I replied that I have a small fish with beautiful colorful fins given by my grandson. I told that I have named the fish 'Jade' and explained the four letters represent the first letter of the names of my 3 grand children, 2 daughters and my husband. Before I could go to the next sentence, one boy shot back, why is Devnar family not represented in the name of your fish? We are also your grand children. He added the 'd' in jade stands for Devnar family also. I was really humbled, as I realized how small my mind was, bound by narrow domestic walls' whereas their minds were open and expansive, including many more, beyond the biological family. I began to see the beauty and wisdom of his words and how with a sweep of imagination, he made me 'see' that Devnar will always be a part of my family. I began to see that I need to take, all the inhabitants of the whole world with different ideologies, culture and languages as members of my own family. The students can do that easily but I have to go a long way. I will make an honest effort from now to accept the whole world as a family of God's people.

### DEVNAR FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

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## HIGH LIGHTS...

- " All 32 students who wrote S.S.C examination in March 2015 passed in distinction and 11 students got 9 points and above.
- " Sai Junior College produced very good results in Intermediate exam. 2 of our students Hareesh and . Sri Lakshmi scored 99 out of 100 in Commerce subject.
- " Our old student Khyathi scored the perfect 10 points in C.B.S.E
- " 2nd June: On Telangana formation day Dr. A Saibaba Goud and Mrs. A. Jyothi Goud received the best N.G.O. award from the Chief Minister of Telangana.

## STORY OF DEEKSHITH



Hello friends. I am Deekshith, a Chartered Accountant. Proud to be an EX student of Devnar. Today I am going to tell you my story.

I hail from a small village named Peddur in Karimnagar District. I am the eldest son of my parents. Naturally, they were delighted at my birth. But very soon, the delight turned to despair when they found out that I had problems with my vision. My parents took me to many doctors but it was not of much help.

My parents soon moved to Karimnagar so that my younger brother and I could get better education. My mother insisted that I attend only English Medium School. This foresight helped me immensely in my life. It was here that my parents first got to know there are special schools for the visually challenged. And so I joined 'Devnar School for the Blind' in my 5th grade.

This was perhaps the hardest time in my life. Being away from home and the people I loved and trusted was the scariest experience. So far, throughout my life, despite all the challenges, my family was close by to support and encourage me. Now, for the first time in my life, I was in



Winners of the all India chess tournament organized by Devnar foundation in association with All India chess federation for the blind with Dr. & Mrs. Goud.

a new city, in a new school, with strangers, and my family far away. I was terrified. It took me about an year to make peace with myself.

But Devnar was the best thing that happened to me in life. Studying with other visually challenged students meant that I could not only cope up with others but actually challenge them. Soon, I was near the top of my class. Apart from academics, Devnar opened many vistas for me. Chess became a passion and I travelled across India participating in various chess tournaments. I also interacted with many professionals from various fields and this broadened my horizon further. From being scared and conscious of my disability, I found the confidence to express myself. I would always be immensely grateful to Devnar for this transformation.

Looking back now, I can see how far I have come; from that scared kid in a village to a proud Chartered Accountant today. Yet, the journey has not been easy. Far from it. There have been times when I felt defeated. There have been times when I felt cheated. I blamed God. I blamed my parents. I blamed society. Yet, I have been able to overcome these dark periods and emerge triumphant.

I have been able to succeed for various reasons. Most importantly, my family always supported me and loved me for what I am. I had access to good education and exposure to some good advice. I have made friends who have always been ready to help me. I have met teachers who have inspired me. So, this success of mine belongs to each and every one of them, as much as it belongs to me.

I have only some advice to give to you all. I know there will be dark days, days when you feel frustrated and defeated. But always remember that better days lie ahead. Trust me. I have suffered just like you. Never be afraid to work hard. Nothing that comes easy is worth it. Trust people. Make friends. Express yourself.

And most important of all, enjoy life, be grateful for what you have, have belief in yourself and never ever stop dreaming and give up. God Bless you all.



Adl. D.G.P Sudeep Lakhtakia, Dr. A. saibaba Goud, Mr. Kumaraiah & Sreedhar Murthy with winners of the 21st National cricket tournament for the Blind.

## THE REAL SEEING

**R. Parameswaran, Voluntary Teacher**



After taking my premature retirement from a highly reputed and prestigious organization in the world, which is 'Emirates Airlines' Dubai, I had joined Devnar School for the Blind in the year 2011 end as a voluntary teacher. I was working as Technical Training Instructor in Emirates Airlines for the development of Dubai local Nationals. Since teaching is basically my passion, I had directed that passion towards the development of Visually challenged special children in Devnar School after my retirement. I am grateful to Devnar school Management and students for having given me an opportunity to teach and at the same time learning from those children every day. When I was closely interacting with the children of Devnar School for the last 3 years, it had raised a doubt in me whether the word SEEING is only related to an organ of perception of external vision or is there any other factor in oneself related to that word SEEING. I was contemplating on this factor for some time.

When a little baby is born, he cannot speak. He tries to understand his surroundings with the help of his senses, especially those of sight and sound. Can we imagine that child growing up without any of these two senses, especially sight, which is his gate way to learning? Can we imagine his deep sense of frustration as he grows up? He will not be able to automatically pick up things like other children. But still, his needs are the same as other sighted children. As he grows, even though his loss is a physical one, he has to live like normal child and fulfill all the requirements of perception of seeing as per the normal sighted children, which is otherwise denied to him by nature. He has the necessity to convert his dis-ability into ability. Thus I have learnt from our Devnar

School children that there is only 'ability' and no 'dis-ability'.

I have also learnt that visually handicapped special children needs no pity and they are always gifted with some talent or innate ability. That innate ability in each child only needs to be tapped. We only need to encourage them to learn and master over their disability by their innate talent and make them to lead a fairly independent life. Our earlier batches of Devnar school children had already proved that there is no word 'dis-ability' in their dictionary by taking up jobs in various multi-national companies, Government of India undertaking/ Government/Semi-Government institutions and private sector units, after qualifying themselves in their professional education like C.A., Engineering, Law, Masters/degree level courses and Ph.D., They could succeed in every walks of life by managing to turn their dis-ability into an ability, sincerity, honesty and reliability.

Some times what the visually challenged employee in an Industry under certain circumstances can do, a sighted candidate in the same industry may not be able to do so. It reminds me an incident where a visually challenged employee who was hired as a typist in a firm. All his colleagues had shown pity on him due of his lack of vision. Whereas he refused to accept that pity feeling. But others could not understand why he rejected their sympathy. Then one day, something went wrong with the electricity. All the employees stopped their work and this typist went on typing without even knowing that the lights went off. He came to know only through other sighted employees. He laughed and asked them, 'for whom the problem is now? And whom to pity?' Visually challenged children might not have external vision but internally they can see better than all of us who can see externally. That is what, I consider as a REAL SEEING. Through that REAL INNER SEEING, our visually challenged special children of Devnar School convert every disadvantage situations into their advantages and turn their disability into ability.



**Our student Durgarao, Madhu & Ajay reddy who represented India in world cup cricket in South Africa were felicitated by the Governor.**



**Shri. Ashokan, Philanthropist is felicitated by Dr. & Mrs. Goud in the presence of Honorable Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya .**

## Calendar of Events (2014-2015)

**July :** 10<sup>th</sup>- Founder's day was celebrated in the school; medical camps were conducted in the school. Dr Ramana Chari, Rtd. I.A.S adviser to Telangana govt. was the chief guest.

**September :** 5<sup>th</sup>- Students organized special games for teachers on Teacher's day. Ms Kalpagam Director of National institute of nutrition was the chief guest. The management honoured all the teachers.

**November :** 4<sup>th</sup>- 20 scientists from all over India visited the school and observed the facilities provided to the visually challenged students in Devnar school.

**February 2015:** 12<sup>th</sup>: Our students took part in a fashion show arranged at Falukunama palace. They looked radiant and confident on the ramp.

17<sup>th</sup>: Our Chief Minister K.C.R's birthday was celebrated in the school. Deputy C M Shri Mohamood Ali, and Mr Srinvas Yadav Minister, cut the cake in the school.

20<sup>th</sup>: Prokarma Trust donated a vehicle with 9 seats to the school.

21<sup>st</sup>: 23<sup>rd</sup> annual day celebration was held at 5 P.M. Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble governor of Maharashtra, Shri. Bandaru Dattatreya, Labour minister, govt. of India and Prof. V.S.Rao, director Bits Pilani were the chief guests. Prizes were distributed to the S.S.C toppers and other meritorious students. Dinner was hosted by Sri Ram Agarwal.

**March 2014 :** 20<sup>th</sup> : Dr. Vishwanth gogte demonstrated experiments and models in Science. Dr Shukla showed biological models and explained them. Nightingales gave a lecture on Flu awareness.

**April 2015:** 29<sup>th</sup>: Devnar Foundation for the Blind organized 21<sup>st</sup> National Cricket tournament for the Blind with CABI. 8 teams participated in the tournament held on April 29<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Additional D.G.P, Sudeep Lakhtakia, and Dr. Sai Baba Goud, handed over the cup to the winning team. Dr. Ashokan, Philanthropist, Mohd. Adnan executive member,

Hyderabad cricket association, Mr Kumaraiah from Delhi Public School Nacharam branch, Mr. Viswanath, Chief general manager were among the guests.

**May 2015:** 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> All India chess tournament was held in Devnar School. 120 players from 15 states took part in the tournament. Sri Ramachandra Rao, M.L.C, Shri Narsimha Reddy bar council chairman, Shri. T. Longvah Director incharge N I N and Sri Charudatta Yadav were the guests of honour.

**June 2015:** 2<sup>nd</sup>: On Telangana formation day Dr. A Saibaba Goud and Mrs. A. Jyothi Goud received the best N.G.O. award from the Chief Minister of Telangana.

20<sup>th</sup>: International yogaday was observed in the school. Shri. M. Malla Reddy, Member of Parliament, was the chief guest.



International yoga day at Devnar School with Sri. Malla Reddy M.P.



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