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Balodyan is a residential hostel project governed by Vidyarthi Vikas Prabodhini for nomadic and orphaned children. This initiative was started in Jun 2009 and as on today total 16 children been enrolled. Now we are taking big step and planned to expand the Balodyan for 100 children, separate hostel for Orphan Girls, rehabilitation Center for Orphan Women, Old age Home, and Technology based Knowledge and Learning Center for Educational and Social Activities.

Vidyarthi Vikas Prabodhini is a registered organization working for improvement in rural education system in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, India since last 5 years. We are providing basic needs like computers, benches, library, laboratory and sports equipments, and audio-visual devices to implement the structured syllabus in rural schools.

We are also running the Educational Adoption Program for economically challenged students.

From Editor's Desk

Dear Sponsors and well wishers,

Greetings from Balodyan

It is out great pleasure to publish Balodyan updates through this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support & contribution to Balodyan.

If you have any suggestions/comments to improve this initiative please write us to editor@balodyan.org or visit our [facebook](#) page to leave your comments. Still long way to go.

With warm regards,

Balodyan Team

Latest Updates

- Mr. Laxmikant Deshmukh (IAS) - District Collector, Kolhapur and Mr. Nitin Savgave- Mayor, Sangli visited Balodyan on 15th Aug 2010.
- Mrs. Manjusha Ruikar, (Director, Kinder Ranch) visited Balodyan. Kids had a lot of fun and open discussion with her. She also donated the contributions collected by her associates in Dallas, USA to sponsor the Balodyan children.
- This academic year, 7 new orphan children joined to Balodyan.

Photo Gallery



Writer's Dignity



Sadhna Shanker

A senior officer of the Indian Revenue Service. Has worked in senior positions in the Ministry of Finance, Health and Home Affairs. Currently Commissioner of Income Tax, working as Staff Officer to the Union Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs.

As a freelance writer her articles/work has appeared in the all major English newspapers. Focus of her writing has been on the changes in India, and impressions and insights gained while traveling to various parts of the world.

Dear friends,

When I was younger and still studying I remember always being told how important education was for me. The emphasis was always on formal education. Life taught me that formal education is but one step, although a very important one, in the quest for knowledge. We have to keep the doors and windows of our mind open to let the winds of learning through.

Let me tell you a small story about what I learnt from trees.

New Delhi has trees that flower in all seasons. In spring the 'Tesu' flowers passionately in various colors, summer sees the yellow 'Amaltas' and flaming 'Gulmohar' take over, and autumn sees "Mexican silk' blooming daintily in the air.

One fine spring morning when the Tesu flower was flaming in the city, on a walk a friend pointed out to me

'See the shape of the trees as they stand. Doesn't it seem that each tree has a personality of its own? That young eucalyptus looks like a girl in the first bloom of youth. The big mango tree there seems like a matron who has led a full life. That slim tree with its curving branches seems like a graceful dancer.'

The quiet, persuasive flight of imagination somehow caught my fancy. It is true, every tree can be described as having a unique personality of its own. Even as it stands firmly rooted to the ground, it seems to reach out to the skies beyond. The leaves of the trees danced in the wind, each with its own way of turning.

The next day, while standing in the terrace of my small flat, I saw a small peepal had sprung up in the corner in concrete. With its green,

glistening leaves, it was struggling to grow in the most inhospitable and hostile environment. The mere fact that it stood there was a triumph.

Now whenever I see a tree I wonder what aspect of life it will reveal to me. Trees show us how each of us can develop a unique and distinct persona, even if life seemingly doesn't offer too many vistas. However deeply rooted we may be, we must try to grow and branch out. Trees tell us that even in the face of strong currents each of us can decipher and discover our own individual ways of turning and adaptation. We can learn from them that it is possible to overcome all obstacles, to flower and bloom so that our life's potential is realized.

Does this sound too philosophical? And boring? However, let me tell you that you live in a challenging world. It is a world that requires knowledge and ability to adapt, change, learn, unlearn and relearn.

The world you inhabit is replete with competing claims about what is right and what is true. When faced with a challenge you will need to have confidence in the values that are dear to you. Don't ever be afraid to speak your mind when those values are at stake.

And that confidence will come only if you realize that learning is a lifelong process and comes from many domains, even trees. To excel in this complex world you need to keep alive your thirst and quest for new ideas and thinking.

The world can be what you want it to become. Keep your curiosity alive and stand up for what you believe in.

Sadhna Shanker

Readers Comment

- Visit to Balodyan was very touching and exciting experience! After hearing their stories I can say that children are much stronger than adults to digest the extreme circumstances in life. - **Manju Ruikar**.
- It gives us great joy and pride to be associated with such a noble cause - **Mukul and Hemangi Joshi**
- It gives me immense pleasure and a sense of belonging by being a part of something special, that you have started. The thought that the photos I click, is helping some child is out of this world - **Shreyas Patil**

Journey of Balodyan



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