

GUJARAT HOUSES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Activity Report F. Y. 2022-23

We are engaged in Educational, Medical and Social activities

EDUCATION

St. Francis De Sales English Medium School, Thasra

In today's world the importance and craze for English is increasing. Considering the need of the hour, we started SFS English Medium School at Thasra, Kheda district in the year 2011. Now the school has reached up to 10th standard.

The aim and purpose of the school is to cater the middle class and poor children of this area and to make them to live in the society with its challenges, make them better human beings and responsible citizens.

We have been privileged to lead the school for the last 13 years and look forward to 2023-24 with optimism and enthusiasm. The school has developed remarkably and has a good reputation in the area as an educational institution focused on quality teaching and discipline.

In the year 2022-23 S.F.S. our School had second batch of Standard 10. Nineteen students had appeared for the Gujarat Education Board Exam and we had 100% result. We extend our Congratulation to all students, our sisters, teachers and non-teaching staff for their hard work and commitment.



Different activities were conducted in S.F.S. school in order to develop every student's intellectual capacity various talents, skills, games and sports.

Nursery Opening (11/07/2022)



We opened the Nursery School on 11th July 2022 as now it is allowed to have Nursery in the school since the Government has brought the rule that only after completion of 6 years of age we can give admission to the child in class 1.

Har Ghar Tiranga (Competition)



Rakshabandhan (10/08/2022)

15th August (Independence Day)



Janmashtami (18/08/2022)



Teacher's Day (05/09/2022)



Children's Day (14/11/2022)



Christmas Celebration (24/12/2022)



26/01/2023 January- Republic day



Pariksha Pe Charcha: 27/01/2023



Farewell for 10th class Students – 04/03/2023



SOCIAL WORK CENTERS

Asha Niketan Social Work 2022 - 23

The year of 2022 brought the blow of fresh air in the world after 2 years of pandemic. The year began with different programs, meetings and with many initiatives.

This year brought a new venture of organic farming Training program, in order to encourage farmers for organic farming. This was a project received through Alboan a Jesuit Funding Agent in Spain. 60 farmers (10 from each village) had been chosen from 6 villages for the Organic Farming training program. The program manager Sr. Annie took keen interest to organize and plan this project. The main objective of the project was,

1. To start an ecologically and financially sustainable practice of organic farming among the tribal farmers through training programs
2. To support Farmers to become aware of the benefits of organic farming and the ill effect of chemical farming by the trainings programs.





The farmers were continually monitored by visit and taking the evaluation of each product. We could successfully finish this project, it was a pilot project handed on to Asha Niketan by Alboan {the project agency} for one year. The various activities conducted in the project are:

- **1st Activity: Rapport building with farmers**
- **2nd Activity: Training programs for 60 farmers**
- **3rd Activity: Practical demonstration**
- **4th Activity: Exposure Program to Himmatnagar, Narukot, Modasa and Vadali**
- **5th Activity: Distribution of Seeds to 60 farmers**
- **6th Activity: Every 3 months evaluation meeting in the 6 villages**
- **7th Activity: Regular follow up and visit**
- **8th Activity: Kitchen Garden**
- **9th Activity: Country Chicken Farming**
- **10th Activity: Distribution of the manure bed to prepare vermin composed manure**
- **11th Activity: Monthly evaluation, reporting and planning**

The training program included,

Various types of organic manure and the methods of preparing it.
 The water storage and harvesting the rain water
 Different types of herbal medicines and natural cure.
 Kitchen Garden
 To explain about the manure bed. [vermin composed bed]
 The need to start organic farming
 Explained about the vermin composed manure bed and its usage
 The side effect of the chemical and pesticides



Achievement of the project:

- All the farmers are interested and ready to risk for the organic farming. The farmers are.
- And each farmer will inspire 5 more farmers for organic farming.

- Successful kitchen gardening- Most of the farmers have prepared a Kitchen Garden with the pure organic manure.
- The idea about organic farming have become firm.

The another venture was along with the co-operative women, the institute of Asha Niketan ventured into a business field. Being a tribal area, the forest product are plentiful in it. One is dodi. It is oil extracted from mahuda seed. The seed has oil content. Here people know about it already and in the month of June the main work is to collect these seeds, dry them, break and clean them. Then they used to take these seeds to shop where the oil is extracted from these seeds. They were using it for pain and even for cooking. After several meetings awareness input, women were convinced to start this work of dodi oil extraction in the institute. Sr. Annie along with co-operative women took the initiative to start this work.



On 17th October A Seminar was organized for the tribal women, Sr. Annie and Sr. Jigna joined the program, the famous speaker Mr. Hemant Shah was welcomed as resource person. The seminar was on “knowing our constitution” Mr.Hemant a retired judge helped people to understand the constitution in a nutshell and with simple language, it helped them to have some basic knowledge of our constitution. It was an enriching and informative seminar for our staff.

In the Co-operative Society this year there are 7000 beneficiaries from 63 villages, day by day the strength of the Co-operative Society is increasing. Each month, 40 new members are added in the Co-operative Society. The members truly benefit of this Society. We heard the testimony of 3 members who are in the co-operative from its beginning they acknowledged and appreciated the hard work done by Asha Niketan Social Service Centre.

In the Co-operative Society mainly loans are given for, Medical expense, Marriage expenses, Education expenses, for building house, bore well, for any social function or custom to fulfill, for Agriculture purpose, to buy cattle, to pay back the loan taken from some other person, etc. Women are doing wonderful work and they are proud of themselves that now all the people recognize them as their leaders in their village. Any social gathering or any protest for the rights of tribal, women remain always ready to fight back, and even the government, the police, Sarpanch of a village knows the strength of these village women and ask their help for any gathering to support them. This is the greatest achievement and women are very enthusiastic to do something new.

Social work center: Jeevanshara, Himatnagar

The Sarvodaya Mahila Bechat and Diran Sahakari Mandali:



Its main goal is to help the poor women to help themselves, empowerment, live with respect and dignity and to achieve the social, political and economic development. Women are aware that through the savings they can be self-sufficient and do a lot for their family and children specially the girl child. Also they can bring about changes, transformation and break the social barriers. There are 996 members. Many women take loan to educate their children. On 11th March we celebrated the international women's day. Women took part actively in the celebration. Hostel girls performed the dance – drama on importance of upbringing the girl child and in educating them. Madam Cecilia was invited to enlighten the women specially making them aware of some of the aggravating causes for cancer and its prevention. Also Madam Bismilla spoke on rights of women.

WELFARE CENTERS

JEEVANDHAR HOSTEL: We take care of tribal girls of Aravalli and Sabharkantha districts, Gujarat. We had 62 students in our hostel during the Financial Year 2022-23. Majority of the students



were of 11 & 12 standard for science stream. We create conducive atmosphere for the overall development of our children. We help them to develop their knowledge and skills with different activities in the hostel. They are studying in the school run by the Arch Diocese of Gandhinagar.

They are given extra classes in the school after the school hours. We celebrate different festivals such as Diwali, Navratri, Holi, and Christmas. Thrice a year, we organize the seminar for student on personality development and how to progress in study.

Shanti Nivas Boarding, Thasra: The boarding re- opened on 13th June. There were 66 girls in the beginning. We admit in our Boarding girls from 5th to 12th class. They are from middle class families and mainly from Thakor community. There were seven girls in the class 10th & 12th. The result of 12th class was 100% and 10th class one failed. All girls from 5th to 9th and 11th passed with good marks. The girls have regular coaching classes for Maths and Science. They also had seminar of orientation and personality development. We had the celebration of religious, social and national festivals. Prior to each celebration we conducted different competitions.

They take part in the school activities too. Such as sports and different competitions.

On 12 of September, we celebrated the girl child day. Our children performed dance drama on "Protect girl child". Two students from the hostel gave a speech on the responsibility of the girl child in the family and how we must progress in life.



Sr. Elizabeth encouraged them saying, "You are the treasures of your family, and you must aim at becoming a great person in the society". It was a wonderful occasion for them to become aware of their talents and develop self-confidence. On 14th November we celebrated children's day by organizing various games.

Many of our students after having passed out from our Hostel have taken the profession of Nursing. In the last one decade, many children went for higher education and made lots of change in their life style, having a better job and lead a decent and dignified life.

St. Joseph Boarding, Umreth: In order to promote and enhance gir'ls education we run St. Joseph boarding, through which the girls from rural area can avail good and value based education. During the academic year 2022-23 we had 74 girls in our boarding studying in standard 5th to 12th. Most of the new comers were in 11th science and commerce. The girls come from ST, SC and OBC.



Besides providing boarding and lodging to the children, we provide them with opportunities for all round development. Seminars on health and hygiene, sex education, work- shop on personality development were conducted during the year. Parents meeting was arranged in order to facilitate better the students education, and make parents aware of their responsibility in the all-round growth and development children.

Awareness on, exploitation and discrimination of the girl children, trafficking of girls etc... were provided during the year. Girl's child day was celebrated with various programs like, singing competition speech completion dance competition, rangoli; drawing and competition which helped them to bring out their skills and build self confidence besides making them aware of their dignity as a girl child. All the winners were given prizes. Besides all these we give personal attention to each girl children. Counseling whenever required and give them career guidance according to their aptitude.

All the national and religious feasts were celebrated in the boarding. All children participated in the various cultural program and sports and games and other activities conducted in various occasion. Many got prizes in the sports conducted in the school. Very poor children were given financial support for their studies. 4 girls were given complete free education and around 50% of the children were given concessions for fees. Coaching classes were arranged for Mathematics, Science, and Commerce

June 21st we had yoga section at 6 o'clock in the morning. All girls participated in the yoga to celebrate **the yoga day**.



Singing Competition :- Many girls from 5th to 12th took part in the singing competition and Rathod Payal Vikrambhai of std 11th stood first, Parmar Santhoshi stood 2nd and NargaveKiran stood 3rd. All the winners were given prizes.



Mehndi competition:- Sixteen girls took part in Mehndi competition and all of them did well. The best were given Prizes



On 15th August we had Independence Day celebration in the boarding. This year we put flag everywhere to mark the special day “ghar ghar Triranga” and on the same day students of the Boarding planted trees all around the hostel.



Girl child day Celebration:-

Before the celebration we had different competition. Drawing elocution and Hair style competition were conducted. On the 8th we had cultural program in which all girls participated. Followed by the cultural program they had grand dinner. All students and staff enjoyed the delicious meal served to them.

Navratri celebration:- Before “Dasara “we had Garba competition (a special dance of Gujarat)

in different groups. All the girls took part in it and they danced very enthusiastically. Common Garba continued for three days on the ground.



Diwali celebration:- Girls made beautiful rangoli in front of the Boarding and in the evening we had meaningful prayer service to make them understand the meaning of Diwali is the festival of Light and victory over evil. All class students representative kept diya on the rangoli. They

conducted beautiful prayer service. After the prayer we had sumptuous meals with all the inmates followed by the fireworks. The next day all girls went for Diwali holidays.



Republic day was celebrated on 26th January. They cleaned the boarding and surroundings to keep our compound clean to remark the "Green Earth"

Every month meetings were conducted by Sr. Leema to give them some moral guidance and make them know values of life, their worth as a girl and importance of education.



Farewell Function;- In March before the board exam began farewell was given to 12th class students by 9th and 11th class students. They performed some cultural program. Each outgoing student shared their experience in the boarding. They gained some moral values during their stay in the hostel and some felt it was their second home.

They were given files, pen, and pouch on their farewell day. Each one appreciated our boarding atmosphere

and the values they gained for their life. Annual exam started on 5th for primary school children and on 10th for High School students and Higher secondary students. All finished their exam on 20th and went home for annual holidays.

Asha Niketan Boarding, Bhiloda: Asha Niketan boarding organized many programs for the Boarding children during the academic year 2022- 23



In the year 2022-23 from Asha Niketan boarding 27 girls for 10th standard and 13 girls from 12th standard appeared for board exams and the result was excellent. In 12 standard 100%



result and 9 of them got above 70% in the exam, one of them stood 2nd and other stood 3rd in the school. Class 10th result was 97%, 3 of our girls failed and all others passed with very good percentage.

The new academic year began on 12th June 2022. We had 187 children in the boarding, they were from 1st to 12th standard students. Students are from around villages of Bhiloda Taluka, many are with one or the other family problems, sisters render their service to the Boarding children round the clock. The children are given support, guidance if needed counseling. Their parents are also given moral support by Asha Niketan boarding. Some poor children are helped with school books, uniform and school fees. Tuition classes were arranged for children.

The following activities were organized for the development of children in the year 2022-23.

on 21st June being international yoga day children were given input session on yoga.

After the 'Yoga day' celebration children were encouraged to plant trees. They were made aware of the damage done by human beings on earth and to restore the mother earth the minimum thing we can do is to plant trees. On 22nd June children planted sapling of trees in the Boarding campus and they were given charge to take care of these trees

On the same day Bachuben Bachubhai Kharadi the head cook of the boarding who worked with us last 25 years, got retired. She had a farewell program conducted by sisters, children and other staff of the Boarding. We expressed our appreciation and gratitude for her 25 Years of service. She was felicitated by a bouquet. As a small token of love we gifted pressure cooker from the boarding and shared meal with all the family members. She also was given a sum of gratuity.



Prior to the girl child day{8th September} many competition were organized,

21st August: Drawing competition, Children were divided in groups in standard wise. They were given different topics for drawing. All the children did their best and enjoyed the competitions.

4th September: Singing Competition ; 5th September: Games

Standard wise different games were organized for children. Likewalkin with lemon in the spoon, breaking the eyes, sack jump, frog jump, miss India competition etc. Children were excited for the competition and all took part in the games with full enthusiasm.



On 28th August, a seminar was organized for students of both the boarding girls and boys of 9th to 12th standard on values and leadership. The main highlighting point was 'I am a leader'. Resource persons were Fr. Verghese SJ, Fr. Nixon SJ and Sr. Jigna SMMI.

On 8th September Girl child day was celebrated, There was a cultural program prepared by children. They brought out the theme “empowerment of girls”. They depicted this message by songs and skits. They also brought out the struggles a girl has to face in her life but at the end a girl is the real light of a home.



On 26th November A seminar was organized for 5th to 12th standard boarding girls. The main topic was 'Know yourself better', the resource person was Isudasbhai a renowned speaker in motivational talk for any age group. Children were motivated. From their work-shop they brought out the report, “if he can, she can, they can, why can't I?” This session truly motivated the children.

DAY CARE CENTRE, MANINAGAR

We restarted the Day care Center during the year 2022-23. We had only average 10 children in every month. Drastically the number was reduced due to close down of previous two years due to Covid-19 and also due to the new rule of the Government that schools are allowed to have



nurseries as at the completion of age six only they can have admission in Standard 1.

Though children were less we have taken trouble to take care of them, to educate them different aspects like how to behave with each other, how to co-operate, considerate and generous towards others in their play. We have taught them good manners, alphabets, numbers, action songs etc... we could keep them joyful through different games

and cartoon show.

HEALTH CENTERS

We have three health centers in Gujarat Houses of Mary Immaculate. They are Asha Niketan Health Centre, Bhiloda, Our Lady's Health Centre, Umreth and Shanti Nivas Health Centre, Thasra. Through our Health Centers, we are enabled to take care of the poor people of nearby village.

ASHA NIKETAN HEALTH CENTRE, BHILODA



Asha Niketan health center is known for all kinds of skin deceases and in the year 2022-23, an average of 500 patients were treated in the health center every month. Total number of patients treated in our health center in 2022-23 was 7,689. The skin deceases like scabies, fungal infection, psoriasis, eczema, general ailments like eye and ear infection, vomiting, anemia, worm infestation, fever, cough, cold etc... were treated.

Besides the service in the health center, sisters help families where there is alcoholism and the families are getting destroyed. Sisters give instruction to the family members how to provide Ayurveda medicine to the one who has drinking habits. They are given proper instructions regarding the administration of these medicines. Patients are given guidance and counseling on their visit to the dispensary to keep hygiene in their house and around them, and in some cases family guidance also are given.

SHANTI NIVAS HEALTH CENTRE: We treat in our dispensary the poor people who come from nearby villages. There is no medical facility in the villages & people have no means to go to big hospitals. People come mainly for general diseases like fever, cold & cough, anemia, diarrhea. Some patients are with skin diseases like scabies, small sores with pus, itching, herpes, zoster, eczema, psoriasis etc. In total there were 3977 patients.

OUR LADY'S HEALTH CENTRE: On an average of 40-50 patients come to our health center daily. Our center takes care of the poor and the marginalized that come with various minor diseases like fever, cold cough, Skin diseases, anemia, worm infestation etc. Sterility cases are given counseling and treatment. Often this treatment is successful. Our center is known for treatment of skin diseases. Many patients from far and wide come here for skin disease treatment. Last year we treated 12000 patients.

PLHA (Patients Living with HIV/AIDS) CARE



Once in four Months patients come together to share their experience of life . They are around 70 patience registered. They are given guidance and counseling. Tonics and some food materials are supplied to them. Family visits and coming together helps them to share their struggles and suffering and give them hope and meaning.

We are grateful to the Almighty for all His graces and blessings that we could reach out to the poor and marginalized to help them in various ways. We express our gratitude to all our benefactors, supporters and all sisters and staff for their hard work, commitment and total dedication that brought success to all our activities. We are grateful to our Provincial Superior Sr. Alice Joseph and her team for their support and encouragement. We extend our gratitude to our Auditors for their timely help and guidance.



