

2013-14

Samvedana Annual Activities

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Empathy • Enrich • Empower



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I ORGANIZATION / PROJECT DETAILS

i. Name of the organization with contact address, phone & e-mail

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ii. Name of the Project Founder

Janki Vasant
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iii. Title of the Project

Availing Education to underprivileged Children of Ahmedabad district through Samvedana

iv. Project Start Date/Month

9th April 2003

v. Operational Area/Location

Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

vi. Reporting Period

01st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

We introduce ourselves as a nonprofit organization, registered under Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950 and Section 80G of Income Tax act, 1960, working for the integrated development of slums with a focus on education and health of socially and economically deprived children.

Currently our main programme is to provide supplementary education and vocational skills to the children of the slum dwellers and farmers who reside in different urban slum communities of Vadaj & Vastrapur and nearby villages of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. SAMVEDANA is committed to giving meaning and purpose to the life of these underprivileged children by providing them quality education through the centre run by us. Along with academics from class 1 to 12, we have initiated steps for grooming the life of these children and their families; eventually working towards modifying lives. The committee staff and the volunteers are the real a back bone for the success of this programme.

This report leads us to understand the progress of the Project. This is the narrative reports of the activities occurred in the last 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014

BRIEF REFLECTION

Samvedana this year commenced its 11th round of success, having shaped futures for 10 years. With this we are proud to share that this year the graph of students' result has gone much higher. This year out of 20 students in 10th STD we got 85% percent result. 45% scored above distinction, 40% scored above first class, 10% below first class and 10% students failed. Also we this year got students scoring above 85 & 90 out of 100 in Science and Math. Likewise in 12th Board 3% students scored distinction, 85% students scored above first class and 7% scored second class and 5% student failed that too only in 1 subject of whom they would be giving re-test in July. Samvedana is glad to share that our students have expand their horizon from just thinking of engineer, CA or being doctor.

Samvedana in the month of April launched its formal school called Vasant Paathshala located in the rural belt of Ahmedabad district. The school endeavors to provide quality education and thereby a bright future for children of farmers. The school believes that education is not restricted to academics and in fact involves creating a holistic environment that provides opportunities to explore inner potential, creatives & confidence of the students.

The school provides a platform where a child not just learns about health or hygiene but also gets the courage to dream, learns to thrive on the silence of prayers, also Learns to share and ultimately the students are empowered to reach out to their community with a valued message. We believe in putting a stop to urbanization along with providing the platform and exposure to rural kids to keep them at par with urban kids. Currently 2 main schools and 19 baalghars in villages like tarapur, badarkha, choti boru, moti boru, keliavas,

Children from all the age groups in the mid of April enjoyed the 15 days big event of the year "Happee Summer 2013" and its "Annual day" – a unique Summer Workshop, conducted by volunteers, coming from privileged section of the society to share their expertise, joy and happiness. . This workshop includes lots of performing arts activities in three groups of children – Joy, Smile and Giggle. During the annual day kids performed different dances and drama, also had a showcase of creative items prepared by them during the camp. This year Samvedana got opportunity to organize the workshop at Eklavya Sports Academy; venue which gave children the professional exposure of sports like Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Table Tennis, Swimming and Karate. The workshop undertook 350 students from Samvedana's Vadaj as well as Vastrapur centre.

Children started off with their actual schoolings after 15 days warm up in the month of June. Several festivals celebrated by students and team were Rakshabandhan, Independence days, Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi. Apart from this at Samvedana the teachers' team went for one teacher training at Vasant Paathshala as well as to Calorx

Teacher's University. Samvedana kids also went to the event called "AAO KHWAB SAJAA DE", wherein kids from Akshara enjoyed full day picnic and the youth of Samvedana performed dance and mime in the evening for the young children. Udgreev also got an opportunity to put its stall. This event was organized in the memory of Late Ms Trupti Dalal, famous choreographer and founder of Avishkar Academy in Ahmedabad. Apart from the workshops and regular activities, this quarter started off with distribution of spectacles to the community people by Rotary club. A special parent meeting was also organized for Eklavya students wherein parents were shared about the criteria for scholarship and their participation into it. This quarter also had three exhibitions for Udgreev wherein the work of the children was highly appreciated.

Samvedana also participated in one of the unique fund raising event "Food for Change" which was held on 6th October during the joy of giving week. This event is a platform for NGOs to raise funds by giving passes of the food for change, which will include musical evening, with various cultural programmes and dinner being organized by 6 best hoteliers of Ahmedabad. There were around 1800 people present in the event and it sensitized the audience about the cause and took all to one platform. Samvedana was able to get 1 corporate table and around 65 passes worth Rs. 3,000 for this event.

Apart from this, Samvedana had 2 more Local Action - Fund Raiser Events during this functional year -

In the month of February it was "Motif - Charity walk" - a walk organized by MOTIF.inc for all the people of Ahmedabad to come for a cause. Every year Motif through its panel selects 4 NGO's working for various causes. This year Motif organized its 12th Annual Motif Charity Walk in Ahmedabad, India. The event has become a prominent annual event for the city of Ahmedabad held on every second Sunday of February. This event provides a transparent platform for individuals and companies to come together to promote health awareness, and raise funds for different NGOs every year. This year, 6,122 participants and 56 companies, including a leading international corporation supported the fun filled 5 km walk / 10 km run along with live music, school bands and enthusiastic dance performances by Motif employees. This year's highlights were more than 300 school children participating in the event.

The beneficiary NGOs of this year's Charity Walk were:

- Samvedana Trust: Provides educational opportunities for the underprivileged
- Sarjan Foundation: Vocational training for the underprivileged
- SRISTI: Promotes creativity of grassroots inventors to solve local problems
- Vidhya Bharati Foundation: Education and health awareness for the underprivileged

In the month of March Samvedana organized its regular fundraising event "Sahyog- Cricket for the Cause", a 15 day cricket tournament played by the employees coming from corporate to support a noble cause. 30 companies participated this year for this tournament. We also had Bhaskar group as our media partner, MY FM - 94.3 as our radio partner, Coca Cola as our beverage partner, Gandhi Corporation as venue partner, Khushi

Advertising, Simulations, and IOCL. Samvedana was honored to have Mr. Darshan Jariwala as the chief guest for the closing ceremony of Sahyog. The Winning team for this year was Kataria Automobiles Pvt Ltd and runner up team was Infostretch Company, who played this format for the first time and also made to the finals.

Different exposures and awareness camp on health, life skill, were conducted to sensitize the students and widen their thoughts.

Round the year, in all the centers teaching, counseling students and parents, conducting mid term and term end exams, thereby parents' meeting were held in which students and parents' were appreciated for their results, behaviors, attendance and overall development. Students who have been irregular and have shown below average results along with their parents were counseled and also strategies for students who are also supporting their parents by doing household chores were provided in the meeting. Total 6 meetings were undertaken during the year. Proper reading facilities for the students of 10th and 12th Board and faculties to support, motivate and clear the doubts of the students was been constantly provided to the students

Samvedana also took part in various social days which are celebrated like World Women's day, World Environment Day, Save Girl Child, Child Labour Day by organizing workshops and also health camps like this year we organized gynaec camp for women from various Anganwadis and mothers and sisters of Samvedana students. Also the planning of thyroid camp in the month of May is taking its shape for our urban and rural beneficiaries.

In Udgreev Project two exhibitions were organized wherein this time the speciality was the appliqué work done by women and girls of both our urban and rural areas, madhubani painting and worli painting done on the table accessories and tea coasters lead to increase in the demand. This quarter Udgreev got a big achievement by getting order of 1000 file folder having Madhubani art done by the artisans, which meant more employment opportunities for the artisans of Udgreev.

There had been amazing development seen in all the domains of the children, youth and people. Also, have observed fighting spirit among some of the children and parents who have faced problems and critical situation in their support system.

INITIATIVES OF SAMVEDANA

अक्षरा
Primary School Education
for I to VII grade

इत्तान
High School Education

शुक्लव्या
Adopt/Sponsor a Child
for Education


udgreev
i am the pride, i am the glory
Vocational Skills – Earn and Learn

मित्रा
Inclusions, Volunteer
Interactions and
Workshops

शुक्ल
Counselling, Community
Visits and Awareness
Programmes


Vasant Pathshala

बाल गृह
Anganwadi Initiative


**Vasant
Grameen
Unnati**

1. AKSHARA – PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

“AKSHARA” is a humble initiative, a genuine desire followed by relentless efforts to enable this ‘tryst with destiny.’

. It starts at the grassroots and involves children at the primary and secondary level.

To empower and enrich the less-privileged children in their formative years, so that they can carve a better future for themselves

Education means more than academics; it means health, hygiene, sports, extracurricular exposures, activity-based programmes, interactive interactions with sensitized privileged volunteers and organizations, global exposures through interns from around the world, picnics and more. A team of 20 teachers and one academic head run the centre very efficiently.

What AKSHARA Does:

1. Regular school structure for grade 1 to 8 supporting 450 students at two centers.
2. Two special remedial classes and bridge programmes for children with special learning difficulties.
3. Provides child friendly library, AV room and computer lab.
4. Organizes monthly picnics, counseling sessions and field visits.
5. Provides daily nutrition.



Since last year Samvedana also initiated its own rural schools with an objective to develop the students holistically and cater to their needs.

2. GYAN - HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Vision:

- Support the students in their quest towards a better future through higher education.
- To help deserving students, who despite all obstacles, social and economic, manage to make it till here on their own mettle.

What GYAN Does:

1. Supports high school education (standard 8th to 12th) through daily classes.
2. Organizes workshops on various subjects such as computer software knowledge, personality grooming, career counseling, HIV and sex education, environment awareness and other issues.
3. Counseling and parents meetings held monthly.
4. Helps in getting admission to high schools of the neighborhood.

3. SAKHI - COUNSELING, COMMUNITY VISITS AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

SAKHI provides counseling work that is integral to Samvedana's projects. To help him grow out of the conditionings and grow beyond their environment of abuse, trauma, neglect and deprivation into a space of freedom to dream, inspire them to design their life with dignity courage and honesty.

Vision:

- To be the friend in need, the bridge to a happy destiny.

What SAKHI does?

1. Home visits to children
2. Counseling with children, parents and teachers
3. Orientations of volunteers
4. Teachers training

4. EKLAVYA – EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Vision:

- Lend a hand to carve a future.

What EKLAVYA Does?

1. Nominates deserving students for scholarships.
2. Helps meritorious but economically constrained students to continue further studies.
3. Provides three hour daily tuition classes.
4. Organizes additional workshops during the summer and Diwali vacations.

Today, we have 55 such students supported by Samvedana for their higher education and educated future who belong to urban slums as well as rural areas.

5. BAALGHAR – ANGANWADI HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVE

In India, child mortality is posing a threat. A child rights group, 'Save the Children,' conducted a survey in 2009, which reported that two million children, under the age of five, die annually in India. We at BAAL GHAR take care of children in the 78 Aanganwadis. Many of these are in the rural areas. The project is challenging but interacting with the women and children bring forth a satisfaction that is beyond the expression of words.

What BAAL GHAR Does?

1. Fights the high child mortality rate in the country.
2. Confronts the challenges of undernourishment amongst pregnant women, lactating mothers and young children between 0 and 6 years of age.
3. Partners the government as a responsible organization in shouldering social responsibility.

6. MITR -INCLUSIONS, VOLUNTEER INTERACTIONS AND WORKSHOPS

With MITRA the lamp of love lights the path for all and it is the society that emerges enlightened.

Vision:

- When you make service the purpose in life, you find purpose in action.

It is about volunteer service, giving back to society and learning and bettering ourselves in the process. MITRA; are volunteer run initiatives.

What MITR Does?

MITRA is all about loving, caring, sharing and service; it is all about likeminded people coming together to make a difference. . Although many questions still remain, we have learned that the power of love can heal, transform and traverse all barriers.

1. Workshops, Interactive sessions by volunteers for children.
2. Happee Summer Creative Workshops organized by volunteers
3. Alternate Sunday volunteer programme
4. Community Awareness Programmes.
5. Festival, Birthday, Anniversary and other memorable days celebration by volunteers

7. UDGREEV - VOCATIONAL SKILLS – EARN AND LEARN

Vision:

- Lend support to the adolescent youth and women so they can stand on their own feet with self pride and confidence.
- To find a solution beyond education, one which prepares them to be economically sustainable.

What UDGREEV Does?

Education alone does not answer all the questions for our children at samvedana, so Udgreev.

Teaching our children and women to live life with confidence and realize their self worth. UDGREEV is just not about economic independence but also about self esteem, better understanding of the world and for building a brighter future. Through UDGREEV, attempts are made to link the creativity and talent of the children to the requirement of the market, so that they are economically independent. Adolescent girls and boys and women learn to make hand made products like diyas, hand-crafted textiles, table accessories, decorative envelopes, environment bags, paper bags, other paper products, mud mirror work frames, wooden mobiles, hand painted t-shirts, abstract paintings and more.. Hence, Udgreev

1. Provides vocational skill training through expert faculties to 50 students and 500 women belonging to urban and rural areas of Ahmedabad.
2. Organizes exhibitions where their expertise can be showcased.
3. Support trained artisans to find jobs.

8. VASANT GRAMEEN UNNATI

While working with the children and women residing in the rural areas, assistance to the farmers arise and thus our aim is to help and educate farmers to ensure an educated, financially sustainable future for the rural community. We want to develop a model which would lead to holistic development of villages by giving professional training to the farmers in all identified villages. We will replicate the model in other clusters after achieving success in the first project. We strongly believe this would bring about immense rural development in these villages.

Our main objectives are:

- Ensure that the farmers use best techniques and technology to make farming more productive and efficient.
- To empower farmers to capitalize on their renewable resources.
- To encourage farmers to work as a team through group farming.
- To reduce pilferage by developing efficient logistic solution.
- To provide profitable market linkages to farmers by which they can lead respectable lives. By achieving all of these, farmers will believe in farming as a lucrative source of livelihood.

BENEFICIARY'S PROFILE

Samvedana has its functioning in different areas:

1. Vadaj slum pockets: Covering 2 main slum pockets in Vadaj.

Name: 1. Vasukinagar 2. Tulsinagar

Population: 1000 families approx..

Profession: Mixed – Labor class and lower level staff in companies.

Caste: General and Scheduled Caste.

Category – BPL & APL (Low Economic)

2. Vastrapur Slum Pockets: Covering 5 slum areas

Name: 1. Sarkari Vasahat 2. Doordarshan Hanuman dada 3. Gokulnagar chapra 4. Ganpati mandir Vasahat 5. Bharwad Vas

Population: 500 families approx.

Profession: Sweepers, cleaners, vegetable vendors, rag pickers, road side toy item and footwear vendors, migratory construction labors

Caste: Schedule Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC

Category – BPL Category

3. Rural Area – Vataman (70 kms from Ahmedabad, Taluka: Dholka)

Population: 12 villages each having population between 500 to 3000 people

Profession: Farm labors and few farmers.

Category – BPL & APL

Caste – OBC

As families don't have the background of education, also abusive environment has been witnessed thus; children falling under the age group of 5 to 18 years, going for regular schooling in municipal school or local private school have been the main target group beneficiaries.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Sr. No.	Our Initiatives	Functioning Area	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Akshara:		
	A. Vadaj	a. Vasukinagar& Tulsinagar Slum, New Vadaj	a. 350
	B. Vastrapur	b. Sarkari Vasahat Prathmik Shala	b. 150
	C. Rural Project	c. Lana, Vataman, Badarkha, Matar and others	c. 600
2	Gyaan	Swami Vivekanand Institute of Training, Akhbarnagar, Ahmedabad	125
3	Eklavya	Swami Vivekanand Institute of Training, Akhbarnagar, Ahmedabad	55
4	Udgreev	Swami Vivekanand Institute of Training, Akhbarnagar, Ahmedabad	
		Urban Area Rural Area	100 400
5	Sakhi	Slum Communities – Vadaj, Vastrapur, Dholka Project	700 parents
6	Mitra	In all projects at different interval of time	80 volunteers
7	Baal Ghar	a. Chandlodia – 31 anganwadis b. Ghatlodia – 21 anganwadis c. Thaltej – 36 anganwadis	Total 2160 preschool children

MAJOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Classroom Teaching-Learning Processes Samvedana's all centers teaching learning methodologies depends upon the learning styles of the children. In all the centers – blackboard teaching, exposure visits, hands on experience projects are being mainly implemented. At community centers, use of natural resources to explain science & math's concepts, experiments, are being undertaken. Also utilization of audio-visual aids, computers for explaining certain topics takes place. For children who are weak, special attention with surprise tests, volunteer support is being undertaken. For intelligent children they are been made mentor for those who are slow in learning and thus this way they are able to revise. Also they are provided with practice work

Assessment and Examination of students In last year there has been three exams conducted in all its centers and also surprise tests were been taken every 15 days both oral and written

Nutrition Support: Children are being provided with different seasonal fruits every day. According to different season nutritious items like dates, laddoos made out of jaggery, peanuts and wheat, chikkis were given in winter, different fruits, glucose biscuits in summer and in riny season – seasonal fruits, peanuts, dates, dryfruits are also provided. During different festivals they had full meal..

Celebrations, Exposure Visits and Events

- Last year all the centre celebrated the festivals like Rakshabandhan, Janmashtami, Navratri, Eid, Diwali, Christmas, Makar Sankranti and Holi.
- Children from 1st to 4th standard were taken to special kids garba organized by Anvil Foundation at Baghban party plot. Over here 70 students were taken, they along with playing garba were been provided with gifts and dinner.
- This year before Diwali Samvedana to give the experience of shopping organized an event called "Mummy - Lets' go shopping" for the community people. The whole event was planned and executed by the youth of Samvedana and volunteers from Aasman Foundation. With the concept of "dollar to rupee", all the people had to buy the coupons – for Rs. 50 they get coupons for shopping till worth Rs. 500, likewise for rs. 100 they get coupon for shopping till worth Rs. 1000. There were counters of apparels for gent, ladies, children, home décor counter, toys counter, stationary counter, footwear, accessories and books counter. Near about 450 people visited and took the benefit of this sale.
- Samvedana students celebrated the festival of lights – Diwali with their Samvedana peers, teachers and volunteer friends at the Diwali Mela organized by the youth of Samvedana. This time there were 5 food stalls, 5 games stalls and 5 rides for the kids in the mela. All the food stalls were handled by youth of Samvedana, games stall by the volunteers and rides by the teachers. 3 ladies from Anganwadi volunteered to put mehndi for the girls. One group of ladies also kept food stall. Children also

enjoyed their dinner with ice-cream candy and took return gifts. There were total 600 children who enjoyed this whole event.

- During Christmas the youth of Samvedana planned gettogether for their young peers. They even planned the joy of giving by becoming santa and providing warm clothes, toys and biscuits to the people staying on the street.

Features of the year:

- Samvedana this year got the support from the community people for the community centre at Vadaj through which 260 students are been provided the supplementary teaching. Three parents of Samvedana are providing space in their homes to run the classes in the morning from 8.30 to 12.
- Hema Belaramani one of our Eklavya scholarship student who since last 3 years was securing among the top position, once again finished her Nursing by securing 1st rank and got placement in Sterling Hospital.



Following other activities were conducted by the several Samvedana's initiative:

- In the month of June, at the time of re-opening school there was a big function names "Pravesh Utsav" was organized to welcome the students, motivate poor



people to send their children for education is being done and in one of the wards, Mrs. Anandi Patel, Minister was present to give away the token of love to the toddlers.

- Two eye check ups and follow up camps were conducted, both at Samvedana's Anganwadi centres – one in Thaltej centre and another in Ghatlodia centre. The number of beneficiaries reached out were

around 550 people. Amongst the beneficiaries maximum have been diagnosed for having numbers and around 230 total spectacles are being provided by Rotary club. These all patients were not only diagnosed for their complaints, but will have their follow up sessions at one of the esteemed eye hospital named – Nagri Hospital, Ahmedabad.

- Counseling of the parents to send their children for higher education undertook at the beginning of the new academic year. Still 25% of the parents don't want their children to go for higher education i.e. post 8th std, one factor is “fees” and other factor is “security”, and thus to break their mental blockages the teachers of Samvedana counsel the parents to send their children for studies.
- On the Environment Day Samvedana in one of its community in rural area Samvedana undertook tree plantation where Hotel Fern's employees alongwith Samvedana children participated for preserving nature. Chef of the hotel also made tasty pastries, snacks for the children which was being served by the employee themselves.
- Special aptitude test for 20 selected students called Innate Intelligence test was conducted in the month of January. This test is being conducted by taking individual's finger print and their by analyzing his personality style, learning style, ratio of different multiple intelligence and lastly also helps in knowing career field. The results of these tests came in this quarter and post that students along with their parents were called for consultation. This consultation took place for 1 hour in which students were shared about their strengths, areas to improve, career to opt and lastly were also given different tips to improve their personality.
- Special **Motivating meeting** conducted with a focus on appreciating the workers and helpers for their commitment towards the work and their passion towards children. This meeting was conducted by the founder, Ms. Janki Vasant
- One of the Samvedana's big events “Happee Summer – 2013” took place for 15 days. This year nearly 60 volunteers joined out of which 35 volunteers came from



schools, 20 volunteers came from colleges and 5 volunteers were professionals working in different sectors. Samvedana students this year were given registration form for summer workshop where they had to choose, what activities

they would like to participate there were 9 groups – 3 for each Joy, Smile and Giggle. Activities this year were Art, Theatre, Dance, English, Computer, Heritage, Movie Appreciation, Cooking classes, Jewellery making and Values.

- Unique volunteer run workshop which is interwoven with creative, performance and intellectual activities was organized by the Samvedana volunteers for their underprivileged peers. This year Samvedana organized it at Eklavya sports Academy where all the gyaan kids along with 3 arts were also able to explore their skills in sports with professional coaches. First time these kids got an opportunity to play cricket in professional way, some participated in basketball and learnt techniques, some learnt in volleyball and likewise in other sports
- Mr. Cyrus Dastur founder of Shamiana Short film club took two sessions with the youth and sensitized them with current concerns and how they can be the change. In performance arts, few students took up dance and learnt contemporary form and freestyle form. Few students for the first time did singing mime and did amazing roles, few youngsters did comedy drama and made their own script and were able to entertain the audience on the last day. All the students showed different interest and understanding which in turn facilitated in developing their interests, thus developing them holistically.

STORIES OF CHANGE

1. **Master Jaydeep Goswami**, who is 13 year old and studying in 7th std, lost his father due to heart attack in the month of September. Her mother, who is working as an Anganwadi worker due to financial crisis was to stop his education and send him to work. After counseling her mother and Jaydeep at Samvedana, Jaydeep who has the thirst to learn and explore is now with the financial support from Samvedana is able to live his right of education and his childhood.

2. **Miss Heena Dagaya**, one of the sponsored students of Samvedana due to personal setback in her family had dropped her graduation studies. During one of the counseling session, she opened up that her mother due to emotional breakdown use to stay sick and started having suicidal tendency and thus she doesn't wants to leave her mother and go anywhere. The news was also there that her community people use to wrongly influence her parents not to get her educated. Thus due to all this, Heena quitted her studies. While doing nothing at home Heena started getting depressed as her energies were not channelized and slowly her behavior changed. After few visits at her place, Heena got convinced to come and spend some time with her old friends at Samvedana. She came twice and then started having inferiority complex as others were studying and she wasn't, so she stopped coming to Samvedana but started taking up orders of handicraft items being taught at Samvedana. Likewise, she after her household chores use to keep herself occupied. She used to occasionally visit Samvedana to attend workshops and meet her old friends and teachers. Fieldworkers use to visit her home and motivate her by sharing stories of other students and indirectly use to motivate her. One day, Heena came to Samvedana and shared that she realizes her mistake and thus would again like to start her studies. She was accompanied by one of the student of Samvedana and again started her studies. Today, Heena along with her studies is also doing part time teaching in pre-school near to her home and soon will be joining as volunteer with Samvedana for teaching.

Apart from these two students there are students like Hema Belaramani – who crossed all the hurdles and topped in her Nursing and also got placed through campus at Sterling Hospital.

ALLOCATION OF COST:

