

## Bangalore Chapter



### Why ?

'India has come a long way in its technological and economic development'. How many times have we been blinded by this hollow statement? We certainly hold our heads aloft with pride chanting slogans and cheers at India's development, celebrating victories and moments of triumph finally make their way into history text books. For those of us who still live in this hypothetical 'Utopian India' and are under the presumption that India is doing great, here's some food for thought. Around 300 students, eight classes, tutored by only five teachers and all cramped in just six classrooms. This is the plight of children at a government school in Bangalore, which proudly calls itself the silicon valley of India.

If we just stopped for a moment and asked

ourselves the question 'Why?', we would be surprised to realize that the answer does not exist. Why must children of two different classes share a classroom? Why do students, both girls and boys have to use the open exposed areas in their school as substitutes for clean toilets? Why should students who deserve an equal opportunity as their 'high class' counterparts in the society be unaware of something as common as a computer? So pitiful is the state of affairs of another government school at a location right in the heart of the city, which is supposedly home to over 10,000 individual solar millionaires and around 60,000 people who have an investable surplus of Rs.4.5 crore US\$ 1.15 million) and Rs.50 lakh (US\$127,360) respectively. (Wikipedia: 'Bangalore')

Well, these questions are easier asked than answered. Each of us is probably waiting for someone to emerge out of nowhere and provide answers to them. Nirmaan believes in being the one to make the difference. Nirmaan urges every individual to ask himself the question, 'Why should I wait for someone to step forward and revolutionize the country? Why can't I take this opportunity to utilize all the knowledge I have gained, the vast network of friends and the resources that have been bestowed upon me? Why somebody else? Why not me? It is the answer to these Why's that Nirmaan, Bangalore strives to achieve. Here's presenting to you the first issue of our monthly newsletter. Read on...

### Nirmaan @ B'lore

In Bangalore, Nirmaan has started its chapter 6 months ago and has been working pro-actively on school adoption program. The vision of school adoption program is to convert backward rural and urban Government schools into

Model Schools in 3 years of time so that they are on par with the best run city schools in terms of infrastructure and performance. We have adopted two Government Schools in Ulsoor, Bangalore. Apart from this program, we have also

adopted a school cum rehabilitation center for disabled people called WARDS and have been supporting it in providing teaching staff and also in marketing the products prepared by them.

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# School Adoption Program—Government Telugu High School, Ulsoor

“Reach for the moon, you may hit the stars”, an injudiciously exploited cliché. Well, here we have a gentleman who’s been reaching for the Sun, but has barely managed to get past the clouds. Mr.VenkataRamanappa, a tenacious and ambitious teacher, a worthy recipient of numerous state awards in the profession of teaching, the incumbent Headmaster of the Government Telugu Medium Higher Primary School, strives hard to accomplish his mission. He envisions the transformation of this school into a model school in three years and his persistent determination is worth more



Nirmaan member taking up Maths class for standard 6 at the Telugu Government School

scientific equipment. The school contains a resourceful, yet ill-maintained library. The library requires to be furnished and more books, newspapers, and magazines have to be added to its collection. Teaching aids like charts, television etc. have been provided by certain donor agencies, voluntary organizations and corporate concerns. The school still requires additional teaching aids in the form of CD’s, props, scientific models etc. Fully functional sewing machines, quite a rare sight in a Government supported school. But again, unused due to lack of experienced instructors. The school has washrooms for both boys and girls, yet seldom maintained clean as there is nobody employed for this purpose.

Delving deeper into these issues brings several points to our attention. The effort and investment

to compete in various external academic competitions and successful students will be recognized and rewarded. Academic counseling sessions shall be conducted on a regular basis wherein goals shall be set for each student and able guidance provided to them to attain the same. Moral science classes shall form an integral part of the academic curriculum to ensure the development of values and ethics in children at the toddling level. Science exhibitions and educational tours shall be organized to enhance the exposure of students. Finally, students will be urged to participate in societal development activities viz. planting trees, cleaning and maintaining roads within the premises, collecting donations for the aged and for bereaved families of army officers, to imbibe a sense of responsibility towards the country and its people. It is no

than a mention.

Pondering over why the school continues to lag behind the rest could put one in a quandary because it is neither the lack of infrastructure nor is it the lack of a firm driving force. This school has it all. A library, decent classrooms, playground, hostel, drinking water facilities, washrooms, boundary walls, computer labs, you name it! Yet the school continues to crawl up the ladder of education struggling to reach the top. The problem lies with all these facilities and infrastructure being under-utilized, unutilized or insufficient. On paper, the school possesses six modern computers provided by the Government. However these systems have been idle due to the dearth of faculty specialized in this field. The science laboratory has also been under-utilized despite assistance from the Government in providing

that has facilitated the procurement of advanced equipment and infrastructure hardly reflects in terms of students’ performance. Their overall development is greatly hampered by the lack of appropriate guidance in dealing with various aspects of life, not just the academic channel. Nirmaan has performed an elaborate analysis of the situation that encompasses the Government Telugu Medium Higher Primary School and all the hurdles that lie between the school and its success. Students require motivation to sustain their interest and contribution. To this effect, students will be sponsored

Nirmaan shares the onus of nurturing the children and transforming them into worthy citizens, capable of fending for themselves in every walk of life.

longer just Mr.VenkataRamanappa whose dream it is to see a model school emerge within three years. Nirmaan shares the onus of nurturing the children and transforming them into worthy citizens, capable of fending for themselves in every walk of life.



A class 6 student tries his hand at the blackboard

# School Adoption Program—Government Kannada High School, Ulsoor

Strolling down the streets of Murphy Town, this was a sight one could not miss. A dilapidated building with paint peeling off its walls, sheltered by a tin roof which seldom served its purpose, wearing the badge of 'Government Kannada Higher Primary School.' A cursory glance at this building sufficed to reinforce a realization that this school certainly needed a helping hand. Nirmaan volunteers enlightened the Kannada school authorities with the purpose and mission of Nirmaan. Our assistance was greeted with open arms and the School Development Monitor Committee brought to

our attention the key issues demanding immediate action. As an outcome of this meeting, a renovation of hard and soft infrastructure was identified as the need of the hour. After an elaborate analysis of the list of requirements and a discussion of possible ways to fulfill them, Nirmaan undertook the implementation of the issue of foremost priority viz. the repair of washrooms for boys and girls, presently out of use due to the clogged drains and broken walls, which leave the rooms in a pitiful state. The revamping has made significant progress since the commencement of the project.



Kannada Government High School at Ulsoor

In contrast with several Government schools across the state and to the surprise of many, the Government Kannada Higher Primary School owns a well established computer Laboratory. The laboratory currently hosts five personal computers donated by IBM. Nevertheless, this suffers a severe handicap. The medium of instruction followed by the tutorials and the games in these PCs is English. This drastically deteriorates the performance of the bigger chunk of students who are hardly conversant with English, leave alone comprehending a tutorial in this

language. In such a scenario, the involvement of Nirmaan towards regulating the efficient utilization of resources becomes imperative. To implement this, Nirmaan volunteers conducted coaching classes dealing with the basic aspects of computer education like keyboard and mouse operation, MS paint,

folder and text document creation, spending a grand total of 20-25 hours with class VI and 10-12 hours with class VIII. We also facilitated the procurement of two new computers provided by GE healthcare.

The school receives a consistent supply of textbooks by the Karnataka Government free of cost. However, supplementary study material like workbooks which are essential for students to track their understanding and performance are donated to children by some corporates. Nirmaan lays

Nirmaan is steadfast in its determination to convert the Government Kannada Higher Primary School into a model school in a span of three years.

a lot of importance on extra curricular activities as an essential component of a child's personality. To that effect, the entire school will be divided into four houses and regular events and contests shall be conducted within the premises. This will help enhance the sense of participation and the competitive spirit in children. On days of national and religious importance, singing, dancing and art usher in a festive mood and provide students with a platform to exhibit their innate talent and ingenuity.

All in all, Nirmaan is steadfast in its determination to convert the Government Kannada Higher Primary School into a model school in a span of three years. The consistent support of the school authorities, the financial muscle of the corporate world, and most importantly, the individual contribution of You and Me, are indispensable that shall transform this vision into reality.



Computer Classes taken up by Nirmaan members at the Kannada School

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## Bangalore Chapter

### Join Us

We kindly appeal you to join our efforts to achieve a poverty free and an illiteracy free society. If you are interested to join, please contact any of the listed executive committee members.

### Contact Us

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*Nirmaan completes three years since its inception on February 12th, 2005. Persistence, Confidence in the mission of the organisation, and Compassion for humanity has been driving the members of the organisation ahead at every step. Nirmaan urges every one of you who believes in the cause to take part in this movement and contribute in your own way.*

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - Mother Teresa*

Use PayPal at [www.nirmaan.org](http://www.nirmaan.org)  
to donate for any of the projects.

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## WARDS - A School for Specially - abled children

Nirmaan expands its horizon and lays focus on yet another section of respectable citizens- 'The disabled society'. The Welfare Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled and Society (W.A.R.D.S) believes that every child is special. And in this endeavor to bridge the gap between these children and others in the same age group, WARDS has come a long way helping these children cast aside their weaknesses and fight their way through life, without a trace of inhibition. The school admits children suffering from any disability, be it physical, mental or, as seen in most cases, a combination of the two. The awe-inspiring force that has borne the massive responsibility of WARDS and brought it to where it stands today, is Mr.C.M.Kathavarayan, a visually impaired gentleman who continues to lead and serve the school with an undying vigor, paying no heed to his physical handicap. WARDS, he hopes, will bring out successful individuals who retain their place in this

competitive world. Nirmaan works closely with WARDS and assists them at various stages viz. planning, renovation, recreation and most importantly, financial requirements.

The capability and competence of the children of WARDS could leave one open-mouthed. These children are trained in activities like candle making, bag making, handicraft and other forms of art. Nirmaan organized an exhibition displaying these items in 2007 during the festive season of Diwali. It is stunning how the entire collection was sold out in just a matter of hours, earning WARDS a whopping figure. The Republic Day programme in January this year spoke volumes about the quality of training imparted to the children. Several mentally challenged children took part in dance programmes. Their ability to swing to music, to move their limbs in rhythm, and to follow and remember the sequence of steps, left the audience at a loss of words. Added to this, students are

encouraged to perform Yoga, use the gymnasium and participate in sports to ensure an overall development.

Working towards such a noble cause with such limited resources, the school certainly requires tremendous support from all over. Payment of salary for teachers and other expenses for rehabilitation services require external assistance as WARDS relies entirely on public donations. Nirmaan urges every citizen to come forward and make a contribution as the smallest thing we do can make a world of a difference to the unfortunate few.



Candles and Handicrafts made by the specially abled children at WARDS