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Sometimes all you
need to do
is just start



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Joy and humility at 3

We complete 3 years on 15th September 2012, the kids are in the fourth and final year of the program. Our first day of class seems like a lifetime back and yet it feels like just yesterday.



The steady challenge in these years had been balancing time between educating the mind and educating the heart. While the academic component is the most important aspect of the program and hence must take up the greater share of time, how we use every opportunity to creatively integrate values in the academics that we teach has been tough and yet fulfilling. When asked what is it that they do in class, the kids are immediate in listing English, Math, Science and Computers. Value formation is not something that they ever name. Yet proof of the change in their behaviour and values is evident every time we interact with them.

A child cannot be taught by anyone who despises him, and a child cannot afford to be fooled.

The moments spent in looking at where we started and where we are right now have shown us sadly just how the number of children benefitting from the program has reduced by half the original number, some dropping out for lack of interest in education, others because of family pressure and in the rare instance even child marriage. Those who have stayed in the program have gained academically, but each in a different measure. The gain has been very high with some and less with a few. The detailed lesson planning and weekly assessments help but the motivation of the student to work hard and excel is critical.

The kids in the Poveda Learning Centres have demonstrated 31% increment in Science and 9 % in Math against their grade 6 scores. They have the language skills but need more people visiting their centres to practise their English.

Thanks to our volunteer Liza didi, the kids have in this academic year interacted with two gynecologists, an inspector from the CID and an HR professional.

Poveda Kids, the playschool and kindergarten started in 2010 has its own curriculum, textbooks, standardized timetables, teaching aids and assessments. The centre has 17 kids enrolled this year.



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From our kids



Rahul bhaiyya teach us computer and I draw mehendi and make greeting cards.

Rubina

First time we don't know how to speak in English and I was not interested, but when we joined this class, so now my favourite subject is English and we learn more and more activities

Reshma

Rozanna didi teach us English and Swati didi teach us Math and Science, I can understand them. Bhaiyya did everything for us.

Raziya

For Goa trip, Joana didi is coming to beach. One girl is sleeping in hostel and we put powder on face.

Ganesh

Manaswita didi, Shubi didi, Basil bhaiyya and Yuvraj bhaiyya come teach us computer. In my life, I don't forget Poveda Foundation.

Swati Didi and Dimple Didi teaching to girls stitching, painting, drawing, greeting cards, candles and craft.

Ashwini

First Bhaiyya is teaching English but now Rozanna didi is teaching. Bhaiyya taught us try try but don't cry. I like dancing and any program I am dancing.

Shraddha

I like Liza didi, didi is simple and smile very nice.

Sonali

Rozanna didi is excellent teaching.

Monika

We went to IUCAA and saw new science exhibition and we went to Shaniwarwada and saw big Shinde Chhatri. I come to class and make candle.

Parveen

First I am not speak English, then I am came everyday, then I speak English very nice. We are gone to Goa, we are very enjoy Goa. I don't forgot in my life.

Pramila



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देणाऱ्याने देत जावे, घेणाऱ्याने घेत
जावे, घेता घेता एक दिवस देणाऱ्याचे हात घ्यावेत.

मी स्वाती कदम. मानवी जीवन ही एक अमूल्य देणगी आहे. मानव म्हणून जगणे आवश्यक आहे. मानव देव ही बनू शकतो व दानव ही, परंतु मानव म्हणून जगताना विविध भावना, श्रद्धा, विश्वास, मातृत्व, स्नेह, इत्यादी गोष्टी मानवी जीवनासाठी आवश्यक आहेत.

१५ सेप्टेम्बर २००९ पासून पोवेदा फाँडेशन मध्ये सेवा करताना मला ही संधी प्राप्त झाली. या संस्थेय इ ७वी पासून इ १० वी पर्यंत विध्यार्थ्यांना केवळ विधार्ती न बनता भावी जीवनात आदर्श नागरिक बनविण्यासाठी प्रयत्नशील पणे काम केले जाते. आपल्या आजू बाजूला परिसर कसा आहे, जनजीवन कसे आहे, भावी जीवनात सुस्थिती शैक्षणिक पात्रता, विज्ञानातील गमती जमती तर्न विज्ञान कसे शिकता येईल हे प्रत्यक्ष अनुभवातून शिकविले.

मराठी ही जरी मातृभाषा असली तरी इंग्रजी ही जागतीक भाषा आहे व विध्यार्थ्यांना या भाषेत प्राविण्य मिळावे, त्यांना पुढील शिक्षणात इंग्रजी भाषेची अडचण होवू नये म्हणून भैर्या व दिदी विध्यार्थ्यांना समजेल- सहज सोप्या पद्धतीने इंग्रजी शिकवितात.

मानव सेवा हीच खरी ईश्वर सेवा. आयुष्याचे सार्थक झाल्याचे समाधान या विध्यार्थ्यांच्या सहवासाने होते.

Goal व God =G², चे प्रयत्न म्हणजेच पोवेदा फाँडेशन, होय.

Swati Didi



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From our volunteers

The teaching vocation demands giving of oneself unconditionally through acts of love, patience and understanding. I have taught for thirty years in only two well known schools. I was a little apprehensive when Reeves requested me to teach in his NGO about 20 Std X students at Morwadi, though I must say it has always been my dream to do so. I started in July, it is a challenge and there is no turning back. To be greeted early morning by my adolescent girls and boys a Good morning Didi and Thank you Didi before I leave touches me at their respect and gratitude. During class hours to their vibrant, enthusiastic faces, eager to learn, speak English, question me, clear a doubt even correct me, amazes me. They are indeed intelligent, hardworking and self confident, daring to tread paths their parents never ventured...Like other children they enjoy poking fun at one another, disturbing the class, getting over excited and keep dreaming. I permit that behavior for some time then come down them firmly and they take it in their stride. They need to be encouraged, motivated and corrected to help them journey their difficult life. Though they are aware of their background and situation, nothing deters all the girls and most of the boys from achieving their big dreams. They have taught me how to live. Reeves and Swati understand them perfectly well and they are my inspiration. It is the privilege and right of each of these children to get the BEST and be successful.

Rozanna didi



It's been like a big fun ride with the kids, over the last few months. These guys are exceptionally talented and are always buzzing with energy. They love competing with each other, especially boys v/s girls. The boys are like a chilled bunch of restless bouncingballs, whereas the girls are the go getters, ready to dash out their wits. Although, I come here to give lessons to children about how to use computers, it is they who really give me the lessons of life. Hearing out their difficulties and life situations, gives me an immensely truthful perspective of life. These children are the brightest citizens of our world and we need to do everything possible to make their light shine.

Rahul Bhaiyya



I have not interacted much with the children, but the little that I have, I must tell you that it is a heart felt experience. The experience with the children is something that cannot be expressed in words but it is a feeling of complete satisfaction. If one would observe the children at any point of time, you would feel that they are hungry for knowledge. They try to grasp any information that you would like to share with them. This is observed during the class when you see them so attentive to you. I always had one thing in mind that I wanted to contribute in some way to the 'Girl Child. I see this at Poveda, where there are many girl students as compared to the boys and it is this that gives me the motivation to keep contributing as a volunteer.



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Liza Didi

Your's truly....

One morning, on their way to the Morwadi centre, the Chinchwad girls were talking about no electricity in the community the previous night and how they had to complete their school assignments. Reshma said, 'I used the torch on the mobile to complete my work. Pallavi said, 'I took the lamp from the mandir and did my work. My sister told me that God would not be happy with what I did and I said, who cares?

Such is the inspiring resilience of our kids.



The girls of the Morwadi centre are extremely committed to the computer class. You will find them every Sunday morning, with hair dripping from their bath, clean clothes, decked up, bright, eager and punctual in class.

I walked into the Morwadi centre one Sunday morning. It was way past 11 and our kids were earlier than bhaiyya. To my satisfaction and delight I found three of our kids, each with a laptop completely oblivious to the world, fully engaged in the creation of their power point presentations. What a joy!

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At a Teachers' Day celebration recently, textbooks, chalks, dusters and the blackboard were brought forward as the most essential tools of a successful teacher. I cringed.

I asked several students across different 'good' schools when India received Independence. None of them knew the exact year.

13 year old kids that I tutor in the evenings, did not know what hail is and have not yet played in the first rains nor collected hail yet.

I wonder what is better then?

To have and not know.....

Or

To not have and really wanna know....

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Reeves Bhaiyya



*Sometimes all you
need to do
is just start....*

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A big thank you to God!



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