

KALKERI SANGEET VIDYALAYA



ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009

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INTRODUCTION

Over the years the Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya has developed and adapted its programs and activities to suit the needs and demands of its students.

The year 2008-2009 was marked by the admission of many new students and introduction of new instrumental classes in the music department.

During 2008-2009 at KSV, one hundred and twenty five students were officially enrolled; sixty girls and sixty-five boys aged five to twenty years old. Three-quarters of the students are of Hindu faith and the remainders are all Sunni Muslims.

The majority of students are from surrounding villages and the twin cities of Hubli and Dharwad.

The criteria for admitting students to KSV are based upon the economic and social situation of the student's families.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT



This year saw many changes within the music department. Three new members of staff were recruited to replace members of staff that had left the institution, and another four members of staff were employed which enabled the department to expand its activities. This gave the students further outlets to express their talents in music.

The new members of staff were Pandit Ram Rao Kulkarni for Bansuri classes, Shri Ramesh Kolkund who is responsible for preparing a group of students for the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) junior music exam and finally Shri Arjun Vatar who is responsible for the intermediate level vocal classes at KSV.

The other new additions to the music department were Shri Pandit Basavaraj Banjantri, the new Shennai master. Shennai is a traditional Indian wind instrument. Shri Basavaraj Hiremath was also employed to take care of junior students who are at the elementary level of music studies. The female students at KSV were very happy this year due to the appointment of a new full-time dance teacher, Kumari Savitha Hegde. Now all the girls in the school are

involved in Bharatnatayam classes. Finally, we employed a new tabla accompanist for Pandit Somanath Mardur's senior vocal class.

Unfortunately this year there were no music examinations as the majority of students had not yet reached the level required to sit the KSEEB Junior Music Exam. By 2009/10, many of the students will have reached a higher level in music studies, and they will then sit external examinations for music, either with KSEEB or Gandharva Mahavidyalaya,

both nationally recognized examination boards; there will also be internal examinations. This is a new system that will be introduced at KSV to enable us to continually monitor the students' aptitude and progress in their music studies.



ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

Once again the academic department has gone from strength to strength. This year saw the arrival of two new teachers - Shri Raju Kalgi for secondary science classes and Shri Mohammed Wallikar for secondary social science classes.

The examination results of the academic year 2008-2009 were most encouraging indeed. This year the pass rate for academic examinations



was 89%. Of the one hundred and eight students that sat their examinations, only twelve students had a result below the pass mark of 35%. Of the twelve students who failed, six of them were new students who had arrived at the beginning of the school year.



This year there were only three students in the 10th standard class and all three of them passed their final matriculation examinations. Two went on to gain admission to Pre-University colleges in Dharwad and are studying arts PUC courses with a view to taking B-Music at university. The other student went on to enroll for technical training at Nettur Technical Training

Foundation in Dharwad.

There was an expansion in the extracurricular activities related to academic studies this year. The basic library facilities were expanded - many books were donated to the institution from both within India and from abroad. The library now contains over five

hundred books in Kannada, Hindi and English. The children are encouraged to discover the joy of reading from a young age. The library facility is open every day after classes.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

A major milestone was achieved this year in May when the administration department at KSV received confirmation from the Ministry of Home Affairs that we had been approved for FCRA registration. This means that KSV can now grow in a more consistent manner in the future with the injection of foreign funds.

New staff joined the administration team this year. Shri Arjun Bhangdi was appointed as Site Maintenance Manager and the number of the children's wardens was doubled this year so now there are two wardens each for both for the boys and girls. Shri Vasant Kumar, a disciple of Pandit Ram Rao Kulkarni, KSV's Bansuri master, was appointed as boys' warden and Smt Pakiramma Pagodi from Kalkeri was appointed a girls' warden.

STUDENT HEALTH

The physical and psychological health of students is paramount. Minor ailments are dealt with on campus: students with more serious problems are taken to the doctor or hospital, as appropriate, always accompanied by a member of staff.

Good health depends, among other things, on a good food and we rely on our hardworking kitchen staff to provide three healthy and balanced



vegetarian meals per day. Significant inflation in prices of foodstuffs in 2008-2009 posed some difficulties but we will continue to provide healthy balanced meals for our students despite the limited budget, but without compromising the quality of meals.

VOLUNTEERS

During 2008-2009 we welcomed about thirty volunteers from various countries such as Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

We generally receive ten to twelve volunteers in each four month period and the volunteers work on tasks such as classroom assistant, office administration, children's wardens, gardening and cultural animation.

Occasionally professional qualified volunteers come to work in a specific area. This year Lisa Landry, a professional nurse from Quebec in Canada, came to KSV and supervised three nursing students from Laval University who came to the school to perform an internship as part of their university education.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Art Classes**

From January to March 2008, with the participation of Mr. Jacques Sylvain, a professional artist, students have become familiar with Western techniques of drawing and painting.



- **Sports and Games**



With the help from our foreign volunteers many sports, games and activities have been organised throughout the year. Each year one day is set aside for the KSV Olympic Games. The students are organised into teams and take part in many competitive sports. After the games certificates and medals are awarded to the winning students.

There has also been the introduction of sports leagues for volleyball, cricket and hockey. The leagues are voluntary for the students. Time is set aside for them to train in their chosen activity and then throughout the year games are played in a league system.

On Sundays which are the children's day off from their studies the volunteers have organised games and activities that require collective participation, such as: treasure hunts and nature walks.

- **Conversational English Classes**

In the more senior standards, 5th – 10th, each class has five English periods in one week. One period was set aside for conversational English which was organised by one of our volunteers. These classes have given the students much more confidence when it comes to actually applying the language skills they have been taught as part of the curriculum.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF 2008/09

Visits to KSV

Throughout the year KSV has seen a constant stream of visitors from senior local dignitaries to curious tourists. Some of the highlights are as follows;

- **28th February 2009 - Visit by Canadian Students**



Twenty students between the ages of fourteen and seventeen accompanied by five adults from the Academie Antoine Manseau School in Quebec, Canada visited KSV for one week. They stayed in the Mandar Hotel, Dharwad and travelled to the school each day by bus. They took part in many activities such as building maintenance, working in the gardens and kitchen. The visiting students also made various presentations to the KSV students about their country and culture which enabled a nice exchange of cultures.

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- **26th March 2009 - Visit by Shri Santosh Lad (Local MLA)**

Shri Santosh Lad, our local MLA, came to visit KSV and he spent some time with the children and the staff. He had a tour of the campus after which he



pledged to supply all students with school uniforms. In the evening the volunteers, Shri Ustad Hameed Khan, Shri.A.Kazi and Shri Maruti Bhangdi, the Kalkeri Chairman, attended dinner with Shri Santosh Lad at the Naveen Hotel, Hubli.

Internal Programs and Functions at KSV

At KSV we observe the main Hindu, Muslim and National official holidays in the Indian calendar. These events provide an opportunity for community participation which emphasizes the sense of unity and brotherhood to the children, teachers, volunteers and other staff of the school. The students are encouraged to prepare and present speeches, drawings and organize musical concerts for such occasions.

During the year 2008 2009, some of the highlights of internal programs and festivals were:

- **15th August 2008 – Independence Day**

Shri Maruti Bhangdi, the Kalkeri Chairman, was the Chief Guest of this event. The function began with a flag hoisting ceremony at the campus grounds after which there was a cultural program consisting of speeches and patriotic songs.



- **27th August 2008 – Ganesh Chaturthi**

The Ganesh Idol was brought from Kalkeri by some of the senior students; it was then taken to Madam Patil's house which the students had splendidly decorated for the occasion. On the last day of the festival there was a procession to the lake where the idol was immersed.

- **2nd October 2008 – Gandhi Jayanti**

A modest program was organised to celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. After a puja, a program was organised in the Yogashala where some students gave speeches in either Kannada, Hindi or English about the life of Gandhi Ji and his impact upon today's world; a music program by our students rounded off the day's celebrations.



- **26th January 2009 - Republic Day**

At our function to celebrate Republic Day, Shri Pandit Somanath Mardur hoisted the national flag which was followed by some of the children giving speeches in Kannada, Hindi and English about Republic Day. Some of the students then performed a modest music program. The function was attended by all the students, staff and volunteers from KSV.

- **12th March 2009 - Holi**

As is the case every year at KSV, Holi festival was celebrated in and around the campus with all students, staff and volunteers. After breakfast everyone went out into the surrounding forest area and celebrated Holi with the usual colourful spirit.



- **21st March 2009 - Annual Day**



This function was held in KSV campus where the Chief Guests were Shri Maruti Bhangdi (The Kalkeri Village Chairman), Shri Subhas Moomigatti (Vice President of the Kalkeri Village Panchayat), Shri Gaiekwad (PA to Shri Santosh Lad), Shri Wilson Fernandez and Shri John Fernandez. Also present were all the students, staff, and volunteers as well as twenty students from JSS College Dharwad who came

that day for a social work project. There were speeches from the main guests, a two hour music program given by the KSV students after which the new portraits of prominent exponents of sangeet were unveiled in the Yogashala (KSV's Central Hall). These portraits were painted by a guest artist Jacques

Sylvain from Quebec, Canada. There are ten portraits in all and they were unveiled by KSV's senior music masters and the day's chief guests.



Concerts, Programs and Performances by the KSV Students

During the year 2008-2009, in addition to the numerous performances at the school campus, our students had the opportunity to perform in public on several different occasions. This gives students the opportunity to gain valuable stage experience which helps promote self-esteem and confidence.



Our students show a keen interest in these external programs. Indeed, these extra-curricular activities have an extremely beneficial educational value as they allow the students to experience a little more of the world around them which in turn helps to make them aware of their environment and provides them with some personal pride.

Furthermore, children are in Hubli Dharwad and attend music concerts on a regular basis. Their teachers, all professional musicians, often give performances and the more advanced KSV students are often asked to accompany them with the tanpura or harmonium.

Some of the main music concerts of the year were as follows:

- **5th April 2008 – Visit to Bangalore including Infosys and ICDE**



Seven students from KSV made a brief visit to Bangalore. There were three modest music concerts organised which enabled the students to showcase some of their work. The children played at the

Infosys campus, ICDE campus and at the house of Séverine and Marco (friends of KSV). All these concerts were a great success and the children's work was much appreciated. The children also had the opportunity to visit Lalbagh, an amusement park, an aquarium, the library and some of Bangalore's shopping areas. KSV wishes to express heartfelt thanks to Reena, Vivek, Vasant and Avinash, all of whom helped to make this such a successful visit.

- **10th June 2008 – Music Festival at Veereshwar Punyashram, Gadag**



Ten students from KSV travelled to Gadag to attend a three-day music festival, Gana Gandharav Ganayogi Panchakshara Sangeet Utsav, where they had the opportunity to see many local and prominent artists.

- **29th January 2009 - Deshpande Foundation Conference**

The KSV children were invited to participate in a cultural evening program in Hubli during the Deshpande Foundation's Annual Conference. The children performed a Bharatnatayam dance program and a music program for both vocal and instrumental. That evening, the school received much encouragement because a personal donation of Rs.10,000.00 was received from Shri Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande.



- **14th March 2009 - Lions Club Program at Srijana Hall, KCD, Dharwad**



KSV students were asked to perform at this program - they performed for an hour and a half singing classical vocal, vachanas and bhavgeet.

Exams and Competitions Attended by the KSV Students

- **12th July 2008 – Cultural Competition Organised by ISKON**



Eight of our students participated in a dance competition. This event saw various groups at different levels at Bharatnatayam dance. Compared with other participants, our eight apprentice dancers had not yet gained enough experience so therefore received only a consolation prize; nevertheless, this was a great achievement for them. Four of our

most advanced vocal students - Sukanya Badiger, Anasuya Lamani, Prakash Chavan and Sharda Lamani - participated and they achieved 2nd prize out of fifty candidates.

- **30th March 2009 - 10th Std Exams**

This year there were only seven students in the 10th Std and they all appeared for this board exam.

Meetings and Conferences Attended by the KSV Staff

- **27th – 31st January 2009 - Deshpande Foundation Conference**

This was a three day conference that was attended by Shri. A. Kazi and Smt. L. Patil. It was a chance to meet other NGOs and administration teams, civic activists, business leaders, professionals, academics and government officials from over ten countries and across India for a series of seminars, site visits and plenary sessions about the latest issues in development and social entrepreneurship.

Miscellaneous

- **29th March 2009 - Holidays**

Eight children remained at the KSV campus during the holidays to undertake extra preparation for their KSEEB Junior Music Exam which would be in June.

CONCLUSION

Overall this was a successful year. With an increase in donations we were able to expand our activities. All the students have been regularly attending their classes in both music and academic studies. The institution has seen a high pass rate in the examinations for music and academics which is above the national average. The popularity of KSV is still evident by the number of families seeking admission. The success of this year does not mean that the institution can relax. We still have a long way to go and many improvements to implement. In 2009/10 we hope to improve the integration of the new students, improve the dialogue between KSV and the student's families, improve inter-departmental communication, improve the evaluation of student's progress in their music studies and implement a more comprehensive program for our older students who are attending college and university.

