



Every child has
the Right to Education

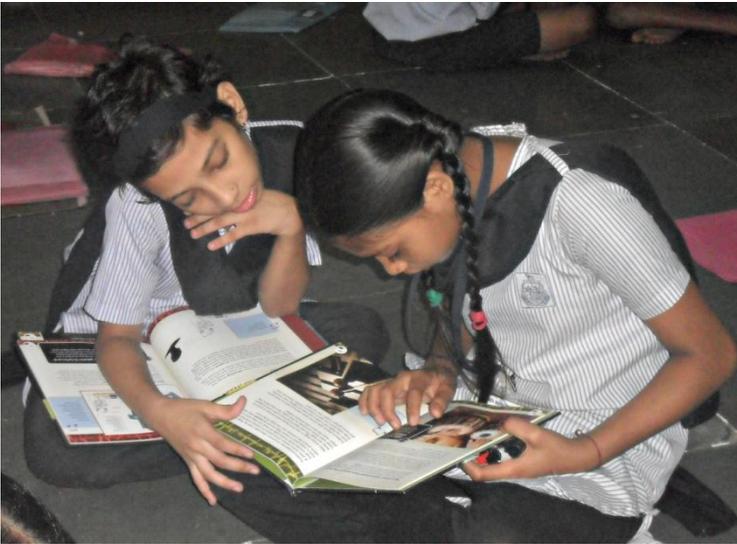
Newsletter

November 2013, 22nd Edition

“I have realized that there are many ways of teaching and the best is to follow the child.”

-Reshma Mulla, Aseema teacher

Follow the child - Such a simple philosophy yet, often, so difficult to do. While most teachers will learn this at some point in their training, it is only when the philosophy resonates from within, that they truly discover its meaning.



All children have within them an intrinsic desire to learn and an aspiration to be their best self. Our work then, as educators, is that of creating an environment that drives them to explore, question, think about and understand themselves and their world.

Over the past few months, some instances have stood out -

Our Resource Room has been buzzing with activity as the children take up new research projects. Each of these projects has stemmed from a question brought up by a child in the class. Rather than

simply leading the children to the answer, their teachers have encouraged them to delve deeper and find answers for themselves. The questions and topics they have chosen have been diverse - ranging from the life cycle of salmon to how musical instruments are made. The children take as much joy in researching a new topic as they do in sharing it with their peers.

Our children at the Pali Chimbai Municipal School enjoyed a special treat this month when young author Parinita Shetty visited our school for a book reading session. She read from her book 'Monster Hunters' and had the children completely enthralled.



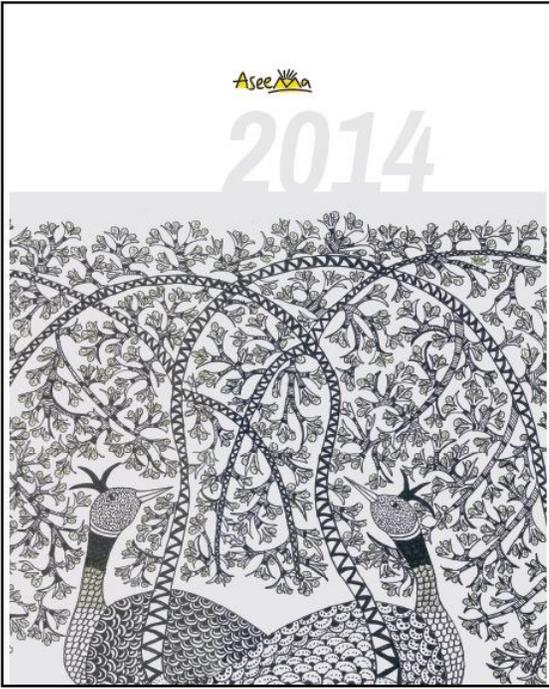
Our children at the Kherwadi Municipal School loved interacting with Shailesh Deshpande from Godrej Industries as he conducted a session on understanding business organizations with them. The children were eager to know about different departments and functions in a business and brainstormed on what it would take to set up a car manufacturing company. This session, along with others conducted earlier, serve to orient our children to different career opportunities and give direction to their aspirations.

Our young sportspersons have been representing their schools at various events. While the Under 12 Girls Team won the runners-up prize at an interschool langadi competition, the Under 14 Boys Team were runners up at a handball competition. Our older children also did extremely well and won 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal at a Judo event.

In addition to our work in individual schools, we have been working closely with authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) for several years. The MCGM has developed a public private partnership policy which will impact students across all its schools in the city. While the policy has inherent benefits, it is crucial that its implementation be closely monitored for the good of the children. For this purpose, the MCGM has set up a Steering Committee and invited our Chairperson, Dilbur Parakh, to be a part of it. We are beginning a new chapter in our association with the MCGM with optimism and enthusiasm.

While we work with the children and MCGM authorities, we realise we need to work more closely with the parents of our children as well. This month, we celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October. Along with other NGOs in the community, our social workers conducted street plays and organized a panel discussion with parents, MCGM representatives and others. The two day event aimed to spread awareness on the challenges faced by girls and inspire community members to extend their support.

In August we celebrated World Indigenous People's Day along with the tribal inhabitants from our communities in Igatpuri. This was a special occasion for the villagers as they honoured their tribal culture and heritage. Mr. Chaitram Pawar, an eminent social worker, was the Guest of Honour and a source of inspiration to all. A group of community leaders later visited his 'model village' in Dhule and were encouraged to initiate similar change in their own district.



The children of our Mumbai projects too have been delving into tribal culture – particularly that of the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh. Our calendar for 2014 features 12 exquisite Gond paintings done by our young artists. For orders, do write to products@aseema.org.

We take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Diwali. This Diwali, may we all look for the light within ourselves and spread goodwill and peace around us.

A special thank you to Abbott India Ltd., Ace Productions Pvt. Ltd., American School of Bombay, Aon Hewitt, Arti Vakil, Arya Vidya Mandir School (Juhu), Asha for Education, Ashok Piramal Group, Ashu Suyash, BNP Paribas, BPCL, B.R. Shenoy, Bank of America, Bansuri Foundation, Being Human – the Salman Khan Foundation, Bharat Ashok Sunderlal Charity Trust, Burtons, Cadbury India, Candies, Chaitram Pawar, Create Foundation, Crescent Moon, Curiosity Furniture, Deutsche Bank, Dr.

Digamber Chaure, Dr. Girish Songire, Dr. Ketan Kitkule, Dr. Sachin Mahajan, Dr. Yuvraj Bhangre, ETP International Pvt. Ltd., Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Ellen McFarland, Ernst & Young, Essar, Everstone Capital, Exim Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Federal & Rashmikant, FedEx, Forever Mark, G.E., GEF Advisors India Pvt. Ltd., GTA, Gharda Chemicals Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Global Conference Organizers (GCO), Godrej Industries Ltd., Greenlawns High School, Gulf Polymers, HDFC Life, HSBC, Highstreet Phoenix, Hilton Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Sahara Star, Hopping Bunnies, Ingersoll Rand, IL&FS, Ion Education, JP Morgan Chase, JWT India, Jamnabai Narsee School, Jasudben ML School, Kaizen Management Advisors Pvt. Ltd., Kangaroo Kids, Kantilal Chhotalal, Katrina Turcotte, Khubi Writer, L & T Finance, L & T Investment Management, Lanxess India Pvt. Ltd., Leaders Quest, L'Oreal, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, Maneckji Sorabji Mowdawalal Charitable Trust, Mehli Mehta Music Foundation, Mehul Shah, MET Knowledge Explorer, Moet Hennessy India, Mukta Arts Ltd., Mumbai Indians Education For All, My Gym, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Nerolac, Nielsen India Pvt. Ltd., Nomura, Novartis, Ogilvy & Mather, Parinita Shetty, Plan India, Polyset Plastic Pvt. Ltd., Prabhudas Lilladher, Prayaas, Promise to Act for Children Today (PACT), RPG Group, Ranjit Tendle, Red FM, Romell Group, SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Saint Gobain India Foundation, Sanjay Basavaraju, Sanofi, Shailesh Deshpande, Siemens, Sophia College, StyleCracker Borough, TV18 Broadcast Ltd., Taj Lands End, Tata Motors, Teach for India, Tech Mahindra Foundation, The Cathedral & John Connon School, TrustPlutus, Turner Broadcasting, United Way of Mumbai, VFS Global, Vijay Shah, Vodafone India, Zameer Manekia and all our supporters from the Joy of Giving Week.