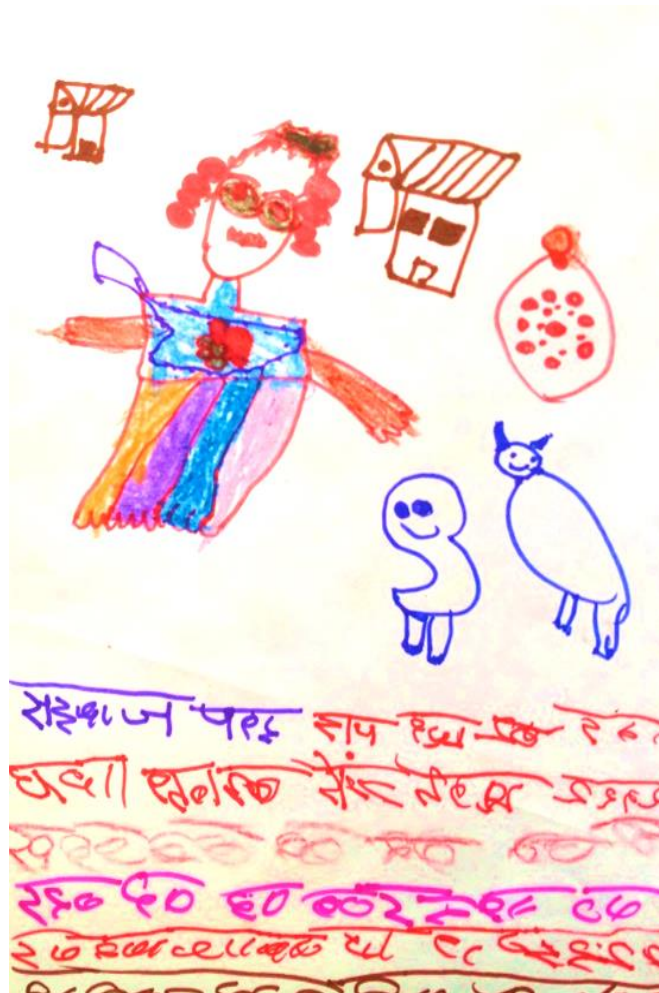




Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

Annual Report 2016-2017



August 2017

Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

The Pragat Shikshan Sanstha is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and as a trust under the Bombay Public Trust Act of 1950.

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Preface

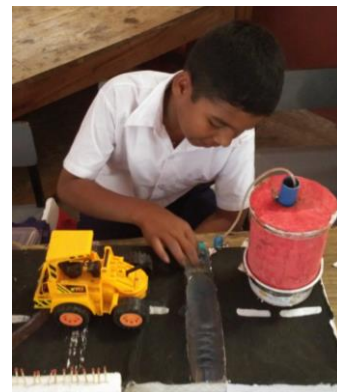
We are happy to present the annual report of the Pragat Shikshan Sanstha for the year 2016-17. The report primarily covers the period of one academic year starting from June 2016 to May 2017. In the report we present a broad picture of our activities, programmes and achievements as well as our reflections on the future in the changing scenario of education and funding.

We take this opportunity to thank all the donors, both individuals and institutions for their generous support which has enabled us to continue our work for quality education. Our special thanks go to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, CmF and USAID for their support in developing a viable and scalable model for achieving 100% early literacy in government schools in rural India. We thank the Maharashtra Foundation (NY) for their support in establishing and supporting the project 'Taking education to Homes' (TEtH) over 2 years. We thank SPA Education Foundation for supporting TEtH in the past two years. We thank B&V Company Pvt. Ltd. for believing in our dream of taking good reading material to remote rural children through B&V libraries. We are grateful to the Granny Cloud and TED Prize for making us partners in their research project with support for building the SOLE lab and carrying out the Granny Cloud and SOLE programmes for 2 years. These 2 years have been a great learning for the whole school. We thank Jai Nimbkar, Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Nandini Trust and M.G. Charitable trust for their generous and sustained support over the past several years. We also thank Rohini Ooman on behalf of Late Mr. George Ooman, Suhas Jog and Ms. Rohini Joshi for their generous donations in the year 2016-17.

We are grateful to our trustees, members of the governing council and friends who always support and advise us. We give our special thanks to the core team involved in writing the modules of Early Literacy for the project NELPSPB for giving their time and expertise as well as playing an active role in training of our teachers. We also wish to thank our core team, admin heads and vyawasthapaks for shouldering the administrative responsibilities collectively to strengthen the PSS. We wish to thank all our teachers and staff members working on various projects, and are committed to the mandate of PSS and work tirelessly in the pursuit of excellence. We want to thank all the parents and students of KNB and Apli Shala for being with us. We want to thank the parent teacher association of KNB for its sustained support and help in maintaining a dialogue with the larger parent community. Finally we want to thank the whole learning community who make all these efforts worthwhile.

Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar

Pragat Shikshan Sanstha's Annual Report 2016-17



***Our dream is of a world where no child will be deprived of an education,
or be forced to attend a school that will mutilate her spirit.***

Education is a social construct and reflects the socio-political scenario. Today it is undergoing some worrying changes. Textbooks are changing where mythology is being called science. Fundamentalism is being preached under the disguise of culture. The whole education system is becoming dictatorial and event-based rather than of freedom and thoughtful action. NCF 2005, the very foundation of the Right to Education is being replaced. It is becoming more and more important to take a stand for upholding the constitutional values of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in this country fast becoming intolerant of diversity of all kinds.

On this background PSS continues to spread the constitutional values through all its programmes. PSS has a unique approach to literacy that combines systematic classroom instruction along with bringing the children's life experiences to school, space for expression through speech, drawing and writing, offering them the opportunity to work with different kinds of materials and introducing them to plenty of good children's literature. This emphasizes the image of a child as a capable learner and focuses on providing her with a free, liberal, stimulating and challenging environment of equality. We are applying this approach not only in our own schools and *balwadis* but also in places where we are partnering with other NGOs and government.

In the last year we worked directly and indirectly with Zilla Parishad teachers and students, government officers, communities, children from remote areas, children affected by violence, environmental degradation and exploitation. We try to build relationships by long term comprehensive programmes of sustained inputs with capacity building, curriculum development, exposure visits and internships at our organization, and on-site as well as long distance mentoring.

Our partners in the year 2016-17 were 100 Zilla Parishad and 4 Ashram Schools in Phaltan Taluka, Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell of Tata Chemical Industry running 20 centres of supplementary activities in Deobhoomi Dwarka district of North Gujrat, very close to the Rann of Kutch, Agakhan Foundation, running 20 *anganwadis* in the same area of Gujrat, Ram Krishna Mission running 30 Early Childhood Education Centres in the remote, Naxal areas of Chhattisgarh and Mumbai Mobile Crèches running centres in the construction sites of Mumbai. Along with sustained and sizable inputs in these places, we have given short workshops for several groups visiting us. Through all these endeavors, PSS is today reaching out to thousands of children and adults. (Annexure 3)

Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC), a joint initiative of Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) and Ambuja Cement Foundation has its base in Ahmadabad. CSPC has the mandate to work on issues addressing livelihood enhancement of communities affected by increasing salinity in the coastal areas. They also aim to initiate education quality enhancement initiatives in Mithapur cluster of Jamnagar (now Devbhoomi Dwarka) district from the academic year 2015-16. The aim of the interventions is to demonstrate quality learning outcomes by augmenting the efforts already being made under the government structure. The programme design entails a joint implementation effort by Trusts' personnel along with partners, Pragat Shikshan Sanstha being one of them. The field team at Mithapur paid a 3 day exposure visit combined with training at PSS in July 2016. The training included inputs on effective teaching of reading and writing in the early years of school and use of libraries in early literacy. Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar from PSS paid two visits to the learning centres run by CSPC and discussed their needs

which were addressed during the sharing meeting. She also observed the *anganwadis* to which inputs were given by the Aga Khan Foundation and gave feedback and some suggestions.



Learning through language games



Library display in learning centre

Ram Krishna Mission Ashram (RKM) at Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh invited PSS to give trainings to 30 *Ekal Vidyalay* teachers of RKM in *anganwadis* situated in very remote areas of Bastar. Two of the PSS core group visited Narayanpur and one of the *balwadi* sites. They felt that if PSS methods were introduced in the *balwadis*, the Madia children from remote Bastar villages could begin education without losing their culture and spirit. Two workshops were carried out in Narayanpur. The Narayanpur team of CDPO, 30 *Ekal Vidyalay* trainees and 3 supervisors visited Phaltan to observe the PSS *balwadis* and undergo training as well as prepare educational material. Activity kits containing blocks, rangometri, jodo straws and jodo blocks, paper, crayons, water colours and brushes, material for doll's corner and books worth Rs. 2,000/- were provided to each *anganwadi*. A demo *balwadi* was set up and conducted during each of the workshops so that the trainees could see the setting up of a classroom and activities first hand.



Trainer explaining a math concept in a group



Children at science corner discovering 'air'

Digital Education Guarantee Card

A short partnership was carried out with Sir Dorabji Tata Trust to help begin the project 'Digital Education Guarantee Scheme' at Someshwar near Phaltan. The project was concerned with ensuring access into government schools for the children of the migrant sugarcane cutters and their tracking using digital media. PSS was the administrative partner and also carried out some workshops and its experts visited the field. Meetings with the ZP teachers and School Management committee were carried out to orient them with the problems and needs of the migrant children. Recreational centres were set up with books and other play material at the temporary settlements of the cane-cutters. Help was sought from outside agencies to provide the children with uniforms and books as well as mid-day meals. Effort was also done to provide toilets solar lanterns at the settlements.

Black & Veatch Libraries

The Black & Veatch (B&V) libraries have been running for a whole year now. These libraries were set up in 6 villages near Phaltan with the financial help from Black and Veatch Company Pvt. Ltd. with a firm belief that children will read if they got access to good books. Volunteers were selected and trained in looking after books and carrying out activities with them to ignite interest about books in the minds of the children.

Libraries were started in Malawadi, Tardaph, Kuravli, Wakhari, Dhawal and Tathawada in the month of January 2016. All these libraries are run by volunteers, all women, from the villages or from nearby hamlets. They are trained by the library team of PSS. Each of the six villages has books worth Rs. 55,000/-, a glass fronted library cupboard, carpets, stationery, art material and other things to carry out book related activities.

The B&V libraries became active from January 2016 and the collective library membership from all 6 villages is 1052. In four of the villages, books are kept in the houses of the volunteers while in 2 they are in spaces made available by the local bodies of *Gram Panchayats*.



Book display at a *Kitab Mela*



A student from KNB reading aloud in a class

The children and teachers were benefitting from the libraries. However the whole village does not know about the importance of books. To inform the villagers, '*Kitab Melas*' were held in each village. Children would come early in the morning on the day of '*Kitab mela*' to display books and children's work like drawings and stories. The site of the *Kitab Mela* looked like a honey comb buzzing with activity and chatter. Older children were reading aloud to younger ones in one corner. At another, there was a puppet show going on. At yet another, science experiments were being carried out. A grandmother from the village was telling stories to a big group of youngsters. Even e-books were being read in a room. The villagers visited all the corners and looked at the village children's art and craft and stories and poems.

The B&V library model is a slightly lavish model with books worth Rs. 55,000/- being given to set up the library. However our other model of community libraries, which is more modest, is working well in 150 villages under the project Nurturing Early Literacy in Primary Schools in Phaltan Block (NELPSPB). Information about these is given in the next section.

Nurturing Early Literacy

Nurturing Early Literacy in Primary Schools in Phaltan Block (NELPSPB) is an early literacy project funded jointly by the Tata Trusts, Centre for microfinance (CmF) and USAID. Last year PSS was working with 96 ZP schools and 4 *Ashram* schools and 200 teachers (2 from each school). It is a project with a multipronged approach. The project focuses on building up capacities of teachers through workshops, in-person onsite support and organizational and peer support through Web Based Portal. The workshops are designed to discuss the socio-emotional aspect of learning, language pedagogy and classroom practices. Production of films and distribution of activity kits for children was done. 100 libraries were set up through funds collected from the community and matched by CmF and USAID. The teachers were provided with a handbook called *Mule Shikti Kartana* and the children with four readers called *Gabushethcha Panja*, *Kumpanachya Aat Kombada Oradla*, *Kurdaya Karu* and *Hirvyagar Panyat Kalyashar Mhashi*. Use of technology in the form of a Web Based Portal for two-way communication and to reduce loss of content is the innovation and challenge in this project.



Capacity building of ZP teachers



Oral language development while playing with activity kit

A very important feature of NELPSPB is the village libraries. These libraries are set up with books worth Rs. 5,000/- in the first year with an addition of books worth Rs. 3,000/- each year till the project ends. Volunteers are chosen from the village and trained by PSS librarians. They carry out book related activities in the school and also issue out books. Children love the books, stories and pictures and are encouraged to draw and write about their own experiences. A book exhibition is

held on special days like 15th of August, 26th January and 1st May, the day of school results. Local gram-panchayats are requested to budget certain amounts for books and stationery every year to continue the library activities after the project is over. We feel that slowly but surely the community is taking ownership of the libraries and they will continue with some help from time to time.

The development of the Web Based Portal (WBP) is yet another unique and in many ways path breaking feature of this project. This software was developed by First Click Technologies of Satara. It has a public login and an administrative login. The public login is at present restricted to the Zilla Parishad teachers from the project schools. The WBP offers the teachers a common space and a digital library. The common space offers short articles, certain activities, films and question & answer space. The digital library stocks e-books, educational videos, articles and contextually relevant photographs for picture talk. Some of this material can be downloaded and used directly with the students. There is a mechanism to tracking the use of WBP and we have found that use varies from quarter to quarter. The record showed an average of 6 hits per teacher per quarter in the year 2016-17. However following a special workshop for WBP, the hits increased to 20 per teacher in the last quarter of the year. There have been 45 questions asked by teachers and answered by PSS team of experts in the past quarter of April to June 2017.

On the administrative side of the WBP, the Project Associates write their reports of daily visits and quarterly classroom and library observations. There is a system of tracking the PA's school visits based on their reports. Baseline, midline and end line survey data too is stored, processed and graphs generated on the admin side. The children's answer sheets from these tests are also stored.

This project is helping us formalize our work in early literacy to become scalable. It has also given us an opportunity to build the capacities of our teachers as trainers as they are doing all the trainings of ZP teachers and library volunteers.

Taking Education to Home

This is a community based programme where we work directly with babies from birth to 3 years. We also empower the care-givers with the information about child development and the importance of early intervention. We talk to them and show them how a child's self-image can be built positively. We talk about brain development and how a child learns, the importance of a healthy, clean and violence-free environment for the child's socio-emotional development and necessity of rules and routines in bringing up a child. We teach them the skills of storytelling, loud reading and talking with the child.

There are at present 3 TETH practitioners working in the most underprivileged areas of Phaltan. Each one carries out a survey and identifies households having one or more children in the 0-3 age group. Each practitioner works with 20 children over 6 months visiting each child at least once a week. They also hold corner meetings to talk to the community. An expert is called once in two months to talk to the parents. Some of the children who have had early stimulation through this project take admission to Apli Shala *balwadi* and are found to be very receptive and ready to learn.

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan's (KNB's) academic year was as usual full with learning through creative activities. A special mention should be given to a workshop conducted by Dr. Mohan Des from Pune for KNB teachers and some grade 7 and 8 students. The theme was *Arogyabhan* or being aware of about your own body. The workshop focused on sexuality and relationships. This theme continued throughout the year with the annual school project being on the same subject and Children writing about it for the school's annual publication Navneet.

Children's Activities

***Arogyabhan* Workshop**

This was a four-day workshop with all the PSS staff and some grade 7 and 8 students participating in it. Dr. Mohan Des, the founder of the organization Arogyabhan, Pune has conducted over 90 workshops all over India. It was quite a unique workshop in which the instructors took the participants on a journey of the body going through nutrition, cleanliness, organs in the body, growing up, adolescence, sexuality, and sexual abuse and finally ending it with the concept of a healthy relationship.

The inauguration of the workshop was quite unique with all the teachers and students using their bodies to make beautiful sculptures. Everybody introduced themselves with their first name and an element from the nature as their surname.

The workshop unfolded over four days through skits, songs, activities, drawing, dancing and discussions with lots of pictures and photos. The four-day period of the workshop provided time and space to the participants to be comfortable with the content and to open up.



Colouring sensitive body parts



Group work

The Annual Project

As a follow up to the workshop and also to reach out to the entire school about this topic, *Arogyabhan* (health awareness) was decided as the theme of the annual project. The subtopics included were personal hygiene, community hygiene, pollution, food, internal body structure, effects of Lifestyle on health, addiction, old people's health, sexuality and mental health. The project work went on for two weeks. The main attractions of this year were the beautiful papier-mâché models made by the students. The project exhibition was put up for two weeks and the 9th standard students checked the Body Mass Indices and Waist to Hip Ratio of the visitors.

This year parents also participated in the project by putting up nutritious food stalls. The best food stalls were given prizes.

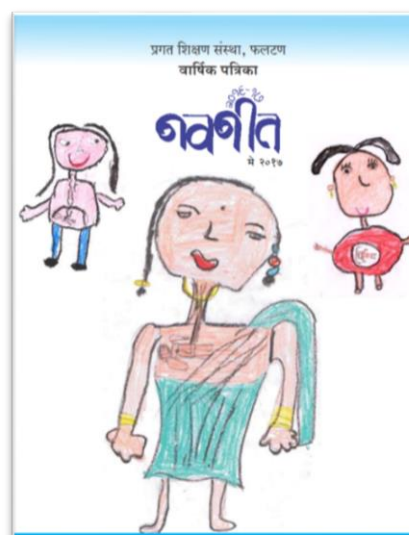


Students working on papier-mâché models

Navneet

KNB's annual publication Navneet is a beautiful and creative expression of children's experiences, imaginations and thoughts. It is a selection of children's writings which they have done all year round. It reflects children's experiences and stories.

Every year the cover of Navneet is well thought out and is based on some important event in the school. This year's cover features drawings made by grade 1 students about their first home in the mother's womb. After the *Arogyabhan* workshop the grade one teachers had a discussion with students about their first home in their mothers' womb. Students drew some very thoughtful pictures. Navneet also has a good article written by grade 8 students about their experience of the workshop.



This year there are more English articles than there ever were in Navneet, which is indeed a welcome thing.

KNB Bulletin

The KNB bulletin is a bimonthly English newspaper brought out by the 8th standard students with their teacher's help. All the 8th graders are the reporters of KNB Bulletin for the entire year. They have to be on the watch for things happening in and around school and make notes. Once in two months they sit in groups to write news items which are then printed in the form of KNB Bulletin. The bulletin is pasted on the board outside the school for all children and parents to read. The students also present the news at the assembly and perform a relevant skit for the better understanding of youngsters.

This year's presentations at the assembly were very creative. Students involved many of the teachers in their conversations. They also used quite a number of props like stretcher made by girl-guide students for the performance related to 108 ambulance service, seedling trays for the skit on work experience in the nursery etc.

Work Experience

Another annual activity for the KNB students is the work experience. The eighth standard students are chosen for this activity considering their maturity to travel independently and finish the given work responsibly. An opportunity to work full day at a real work place turns out to be a great learning experience for children. They get to interact with the regular staff of the place they visit and work collaboratively.



This year four groups of grade 8 students comprising of 7-8 students each went to Babulal Gandhi's organic farm, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Uttareshwar nursery and Nimbkar Goat Farm.

The students learned jobs like weeding; digging manure pits, seed bulking, label tagging, making seedlings, feeding goats etc. The students worked for 5 days and prepared their reports in groups on the 6th day.

They presented the reports with the help of slides at assembly and answered the questions asked by other students.

Sports Days (*bal-kridotsav*)



These two days in the month of July see the energy levels of children reaching at their peaks. Children participate in the competitions like lagorchi, kabaddi, cricket, relay, treasure hunt and musical chairs. The tenth grade students take the entire responsibility of organizing and conducting the competitions. This year we had to conduct a few of the games at the airfield due to the

absence of playground. The games were played on 14 and 15 July and all the 4th to 10th grade students participated in them.

Interschool sports competitions

Apart from the competitions held at school level, some of the students also prepare for and participate in the Taluka level inter-school sports competitions. This year 81 students participated in various competitions which are typically held in the month of August.

Aradhana Patil from grade 8 and Jayesh Nimbalkar from grade 6 stood 2nd and 5th respectively in the chess competitions. Tanmay Kumbhar from grade 9 and Saie Kumthekar from grade 6 stood first in Taekwondo matches in their weight categories. Sanika Pawar from 8th stood 5th in long jump while Siddhesh Nalawde from the same grade stood first in Discus Throw. Pratik Kakade from 8th stood second in shot put competition and Sujay Shende from 9th secured a 3rd position in 100 meter running race.

In under-14 yoga competitions the first 3 winners were Asif Mulla, Aditya Ozarde and Ishan Khandekar from grade 6. In under-17 competitions the Parikshit Vishe from grade 8 came second while Jayesh Nimbalkar from grade 6 came third. Tejas Gunjal from grade 9 came third in under-19 yoga competitions.

Scout-guide

Scout-guide has been a very active department in KNB since a last few years. Nita Saste, our guide teacher leads students effectively for *khari kamai* activities as well as the state camps.

This year grade 5 and 6 students worked individually doing jobs like house work, helping neighbours to wash their car, bringing newspaper, buying vegetables and fetching flour from the mill, cleaning the garden etc.



Grade 7 and 8 students worked in teams and put food stalls. Menu, this year, was quite innovative with children making, with the help of their parents, food items like dhokla, cake, cookies, homemade chocolates, fruit salad, *kachchi dabeli* and patties along with the regular *bhel* and *wadapav*. The team work, planning and executing were surely praiseworthy. A total of Rs. 21,257 was earned by the students under *khari kamai*.

Science exhibitions

In December there was 2 weeks of science fun for KNB students. On 15 and 16 December a school level *Apoorva Vidnyan Melava* was arranged in KNB. There were total 39 experiments in this fair. Selected 10 experiments were displayed at Taluka level science fair in Tirakwadi High School on 28 December.

On 20, 21 and 22 December there was a taluka level science exhibition in Mudhoji High School. 10 students participated in it with their 4 experiments- house heating system, air conditioner, LPG gas

leak detector and charger. Essay, elocution and quiz competitions were held on 21st December. In essay competition Divya Bhosale from Grade 9 got 4th rank and in elocution competition Bushara Sande from grade 8 stood 1st. She also won the 3rd prize at the district level.

Two of KNB's former students Omkar Magar and Archit Parulekar, now in the 11th standard also got first prizes for their experiment at Taluka level exhibition.

Exams

Government Exams for Grades 2-8

In a state survey conducted by Maharashtra State Council for Educational Research and Training (MSCERT), Pune for year 2013-14, it was observed that the average competency of grade 5 students was 53% in First language and 57% in math. As a result of this concern, state government decided to regularly test the basic competency of all students in Maharashtra under Pragat Shaikshanik Maharashtra (PSM). Since the academic year 2015-16, three exams are being conducted annually to test the language and math competencies of students from grade 2 to 8. The first is baseline, from which teachers know the weak areas of students and can then work on to improve. The second two are to test the students' improvement.

KNB performed well in these external tests which involved written as well as oral components. Difficulty level of the summative is much higher than the baseline.

Year	Subject	Baseline %	Summative 1 %	Summative 2 %
2016-17	Marathi	82.45	83.07	89.61
	Math	81.87	79.10	82.70

For year 2017-18 English and science tests are also being included.

SSC Results

For the 16th time in a row, the SSC results for the year 16-17 were 100% with all 31 students passing in the first attempt. Shivani Lalde scored 98.80% and stood first in the school. This is the highest score in the history of school since 1997's board exams. 19 students scored above 75% marks, out of which 5 students scored above 90%.

Drawing Grade Exams

Students are given help to appear for Government Elementary and Intermediate grade drawing exams. Last year 24 students from 7th and 8th standards appeared for elementary exam. All of them passed with 8 getting B grade and 16 getting C grade. Out of the 17 students who appeared for the Intermediate exam, 7 students got A, 7 students got B and 3 students got C grade.

Yogasadhana Exams

In the KNB Yogasadhana exams were conducted on 4 January 2017. Three examiners came from Yogasadhana Institute, Pune. Total 103 students appeared for the 6 levels of exams. All the participants did very well.

History talent Search Exam

History Talent Search Exam was conducted in KNB on 12 December 2016. 25 students from 5th standard appeared and 22 of them passed. 29 students appeared from 6th standard and 22 of them passed. Out of 26 students of 8th who had appeared for the HTS exam, all passed and 19 passed out of 31 students from 10th standard.

Music

Bharatiya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal, Pune conducts music exams in July and December. In 2016, 3 students appeared for the *tabla* exams and passed with first class. Total 7 students appeared for the harmonium exam and passed with first class.

Scholarship Exam

KNB came first in Phaltan taluka in 8th standard Scholarship Exam 2017 conducted by the Government of Maharashtra. Out of 30 students who appeared for the exam and 11 students passed. Aradhana Patil got 240 marks out of 298 marks and she came first in KNB and 36th in Satara district. Bushara Sande got 198 marks out of 298 marks and came second in KNB. This was the first 8th standard batch from KNB to give scholarship exam.

MTS Exam

17 students from 9th and 11 students from 10th appeared for Maharashtra Talent Search (MTS) exam this year. Shivani Lalage from 10th got the first rank in Satara district. From 9th Jioo Nimkar got a special prize while Madhura Ghanwat got a consolation prize.

Resources to be Proud of

Diving in the Ocean of Books

Every year in the month of February the school organizes a Book exhibition by From Ecologic, Pune. This year there were around 10000 books with 2000 titles in the categories of story books, novels, biographies, informative books and science fun in Marathi, Hindi as well as English. Around 500 to 600 people and children from 13 ZP schools visited the exhibition in 3 days. The B&V librarians also visited with some of their children.



Children from ZP schools visiting the book exhibition

Each student from KNB bought at least one book and the school library bought 160 books worth Rs. 12000. This year the KNB library had appointed a committee of students to select books to be bought for the library. The committee comprised of 5th to 9th grade students, two girls and two boys from each grade. The members of the committee went through the books in the exhibition and selected around 100 books for the library by consulting each other. Now there is a big queue in the library for reading these selected new books.

We in KNB give a lot of importance to children's independent reading. This year a new teaching-learning pattern was adopted by the teachers for their classes. Each teacher took her/his class in library once a week. A timetable has been set up for the day so the library is practically occupied by the students the entire day. The purpose is to let children use books to learn a particular portion from the curriculum. They may use story books, novels, magazines or reference books like encyclopedias.

If you happen to step in the library in one of such periods, you will see children sitting individually or in groups reading, browsing through the books, looking for books, searching for words related to their theme in the book, writing a book report, understanding how to do a science experiment, reading aloud a drama, making a chart of the information they have read and many more things.

A very rich library of KNB is turning out to be a great learning resource for both students as well as the teachers.

School in the Cloud, Granny Cloud and SOLE

The two-year research project School in the Cloud (SinC) ended in November 2016. The SinC lab was set up in 2014 with the help of Prof. Sugata Mitra's TED Prize money. Now the lab is mainly used for the Granny Cloud sessions and Self Organized Learning Environment (SOLE) sessions. Other uses of the lab are independent searching, free use, watching educational videos etc. In February 2015, on the first anniversary of the lab and the project, an international SinC convention was held at PSS.



This year all the students from *balwadi* to eighth standard students benefitted from the Granny Cloud programme. Currently PSS has 18 grannies and there are 28 sessions in a week. Until last year the sessions were only for grades 1 to 7. This year the sessions were also started for *balwadi* children. Angele Oberheinrich, Melanie Harvey and Hal Isaacson took the main responsibility of the *balwadi* sessions. The sessions are typically for about 20 minutes after children's free play hour. The grannies sing songs and read story books to children. Many of the times they use puppets and pictures. Shruti Bhosale from grade 9 has especially been of a great help in facilitating the morning *balwadi* granny sessions.

In addition to the *balwadi* sessions weekly Skype SOLE sessions were started by Steve Rake from UK for grade 8 students. Steve puts many interesting and thought provoking 'big questions' for

them to research on. For instance, 'Who is responsible for the damage in a crash of driverless cars?' or 'Why are there so many written languages?' etc.

Dr. Suneeta Kulkarni has started conducting Skype sessions for primary teachers on reading aloud English books. In March 2017 Granny cloud core team member Melanie Harvey visited with Dr. Suneeta Kulkarni. She spent time with children and conducted SOLE sessions for grade 4 and 8.

Now after the end of the SinC research project, PSS will have to look for new ways to support the lab. Opening up the lab for children from community and conducting SOLE trainings are some of the options being considered. Also the PSS has been officially selected as the Granny Cloud Learning Lab.

Teachers' Professional Development

Visioning Workshop

In the year 2016-17 after the annual exam a visioning workshop was held for the teachers in K.N.B. it was conducted by Abhay and Prasanna Hullikavi. They explained the concepts of Vision, mission, goal and values.

Mr. Hullikavi emphasized that the goals should be specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic and time bound. Next day he explained how to use these concepts in classroom teaching.

The workshop was really useful for the teachers. The games and tasks used by the trainers were very interesting. They got a new vision. In the next academic year every teacher is going to try and pursue these concepts.

The Library Course

Two of our teachers, Priyadarshini Sawant and Mayuri Chavan are currently doing a Library educator's course developed by Parag Initiative of Tata Trust. It is a 7 month dual mode course with 15 days of contact at Bhopal.

Apli Shala

Apli Shala, the oldest component of Pragat Shikshan Sanstha's work continues its excellent work in Mangalwar Peth, one of the most underprivileged parts of Phaltan. Last year there were 100 students in the *balwadi*, 35 in the supplementary classes and 12 in the sewing class. The office and most of the work of the programme Taking education to Homes is also situated in the Apli Shala building. 3-5 students from Apli Shala are enrolled into Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan in the first standard every year.

Visitors at PSS

Every year PSS gets many visitors. The number of visitors has significantly increased. We conduct short workshops combined with classroom observations. Teams of preschool teachers from Vishwa Vedanta School, Raipur and Ram Krishna Mission, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, Tara Mobile

Crèche, Pune and Satara Balak Mandir, Satara underwent *balwadi* classroom observations and trainings.

The other visits for training were from Janseva Gramin Vikas Shikshan Pratishthan and Vikasganga Samajsevi Sanstha, Ghatji, both from Yawatmal. The resource persons from KNB conducted the trainings for Marathi, Hindi, Mathematics, Science and Library.



A first language workshop with teachers from Yawatmal in progress

In the year 2016-17 two students from the M.A. Education programme of Azim Premji University visited PSS. Ms. Neha Arora paid a two-day visit to understand the PSS language programme. Mr. Sagar Shitole did a month long internship. Under his topic of study, 'Use of Children's Literature for Children's Reading Improvement' Mr. Shitole did grade 2 language class observations and worked with a group of grade 2 children focusing on their difficulties in reading words involving complex words (*jodakshar*).

Mr. Merajuddin Syed, Secretary, Adharshila, Ms. Shaheen Shasa, Consultant – Wipro Applying Thought in Schools, Mr. Manish Asarkar, Legal & Compliance Head India, Black and Veatch Pvt. Ltd., Hon. Justice Ms. Mrudula Bhatkar, a team from Goa Education society, Fatorpa, Mrs. Rashmi Kapadia from Gujarat were some of the visitors this year.

Financial Matters

The work of Pragat Shikshan Sanstha is divided into three units on a theoretical and administrative base. Apli Shala is the program based in Phaltan and works with the underprivileged. Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan too is based in Phaltan and is a government recognized Marathi medium school giving admission to children from all walks of life.. The third unit is the educational outreach under which we carry out programs with the government schools, community and other NGOs.

Only Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan charges fees to a part of its students (Annexure 1.3). Other programmes are either partially or fully funded by funding agencies or by PSS.

The Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan charges full fees at Rs. 10,000/- in *balwadi*, Rs. 11,500/- for std. 1, 2 and 3, Rs. 12,500 for std. 4 to 8 and Rs. 13,000 for std. 9 and 10. However 21% of the 435 children

had fee concession and 30% had free-ship. The government of Maharashtra pays the full fees of 25% of the children getting free-ship under the RTE act. Another 5% students receive sponsorship from Nandini Trust, M.G. charitable trust and other individuals for part or full fees.

The outreach unit had two programmes last year. The Nurturing Early Literacy in Primary Schools in Phaltan Block (NELPSPB) program is funded jointly by USAID, Center for micro Finance and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. The B&V library project received grants from Black and Veatch CSR funds. DEGC programme received funds from the Tata Trusts

The income from donations received, both foreign and domestic, in the year 2016-17 were Rs. 35,26,631/- and the interest on investments was 14,84,571/-. The amount received from trainings and consultancies—mainly Early Childhood Education and library—was Rs. 7, 10,035/- and the royalty on sale of books by Jyotsna Prakashan was Rs. 53,139. The contribution by parents for Granny Cloud and SOLE activity was 24,000/-. The fees collected were Rs. 33, 65,818/-.

The way forward

With the decreasing interest rates, the way forward is not through just increasing the corpus but to invest in courses, trainings, materials and books which will give a continuous income and fulfill our new dreams and stabilize the core programs that strengthen the PSS academically.

We wish to develop the Centre for Language, Literacy and Communication, the foundation of which is already laid. It shall have a major component of Early Childhood Education and Early Literacy.

Our other dream is of developing good literature for early readers. We have already developed 5 readers for children through the project NELPSPB and these are greatly appreciated by the children and teachers in all our programmes.

We also wish to build an administrative building which will also showcase the exemplary work of PSS. A building to house the *balwadi* also is a necessity as our Early Childhood Programme is a path breaker one for India and trainings, workshops and conferences are expected to take place in this building.

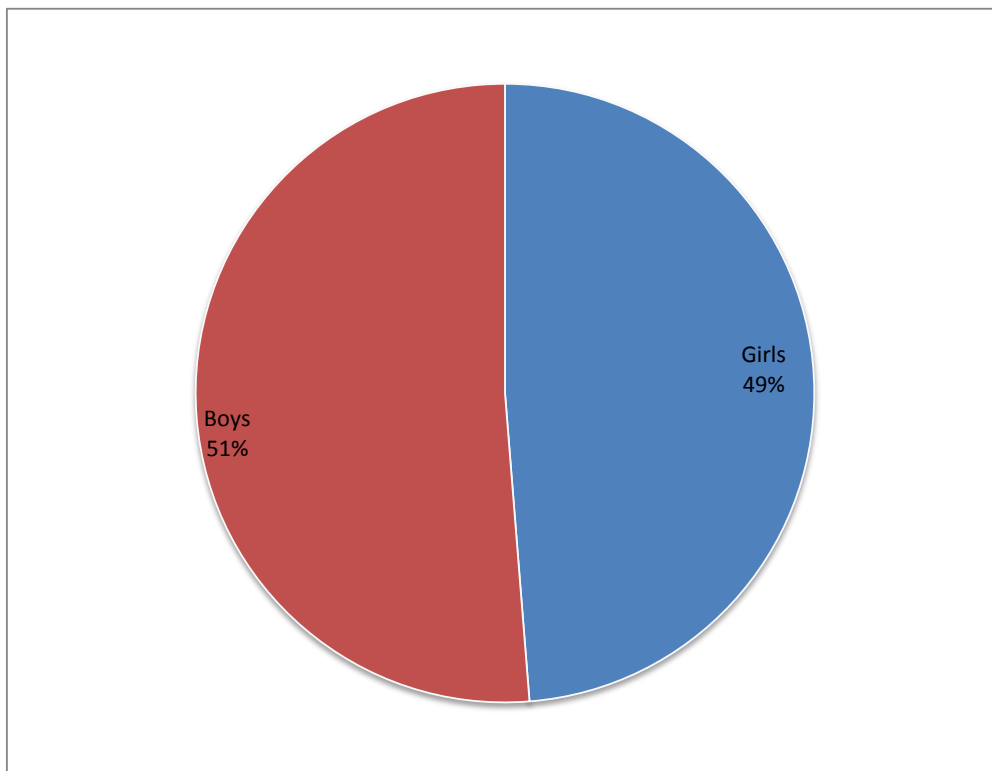
We wish to offer the granny cloud and SOLE programmes to other students and even English teachers from other schools for a fee. This will help the programme to become self-sufficient.

Annexure 1.1

Table 1. Enrollment by gender

Standard	Girls		Boys		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Balwadi	52	51	49	49	101
Primary (1-7)	111	46	129	54	240
Secondary (8-10)	49	52	45	48	94
Total	212	49	223	51	435

Fig.1. Enrollment by gender

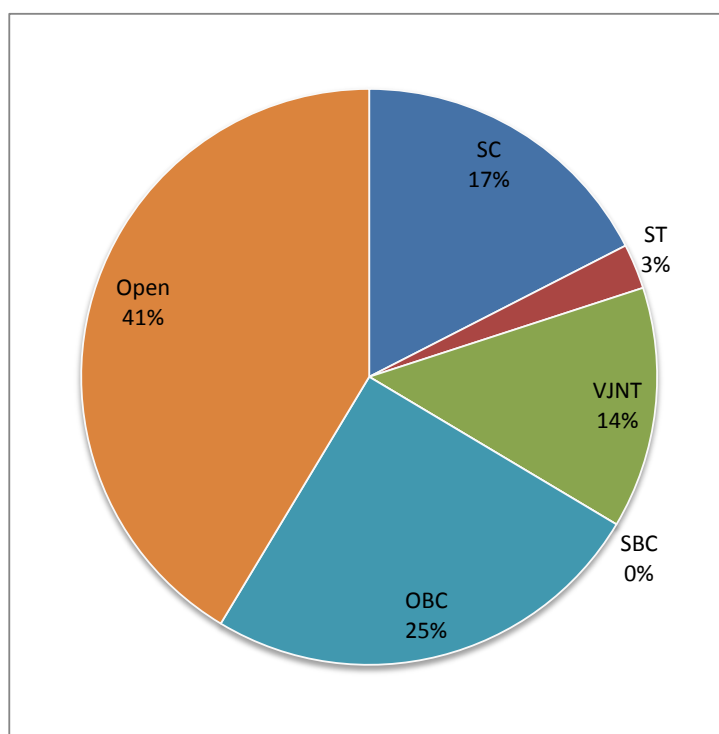


Annexure 1.2

Table 2. Enrollment by caste category.

Caste	SC	ST	VJNT	SBC	OBC	Open	Total
Balwadi	14	1	14	0	29	43	101
Primary	42	4	30	0	62	102	240
Secondary	20	6	15	0	18	35	94
Total	76	11	59	0	109	180	435
%	17	3	14	0	25	41	100

Fig 2. Enrollment by caste category

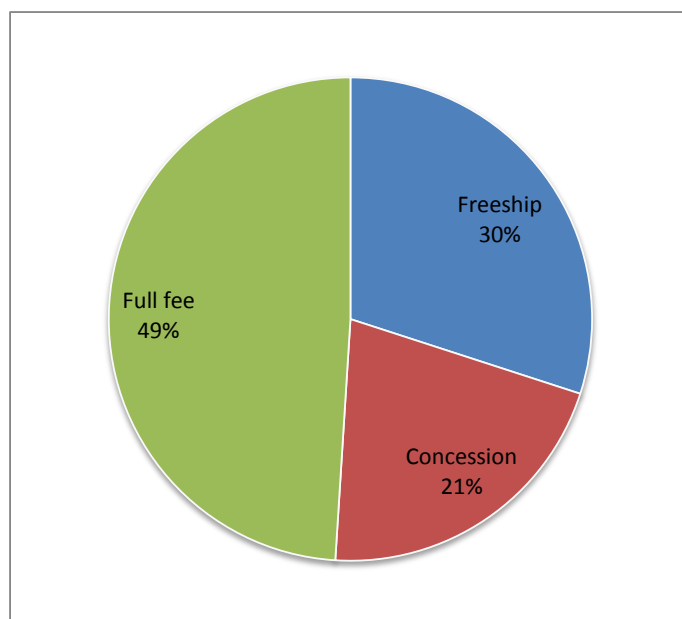


Annexure 1.3

Table 3. Fee Structure

Unit/Std.							Total
	Freeship		Concession		Full Fee		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Balwadi	10	10	32	32	59	58	101
Primary	78	33	39	16	123	51	240
Secondary	28	30	18	19	48	51	94
Total	131	30	88	21	212	49	435

Fig. 3. Fee Structure



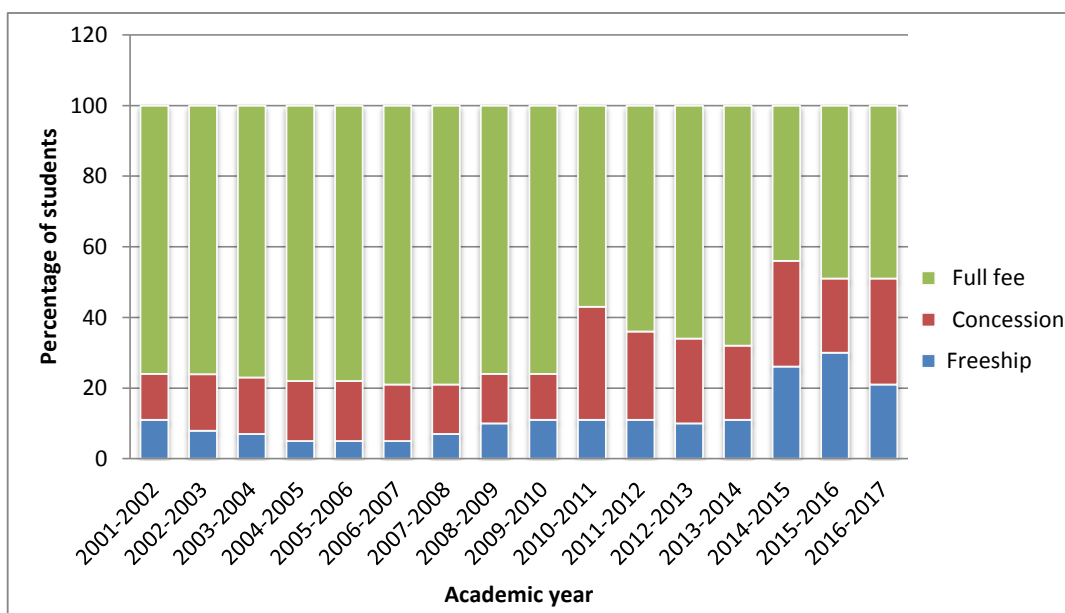
Annexure 1.4

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan

Table 4. Fee Structure over the past 16 years

Year	Number and percentage of students						Total no. of students
	Free Ship		Concession		Full Fee		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2001-2002	45	11	54	13	324	76	423
2002-2003	35	8	69	16	337	76	441
2003-2004	31	7	69	16	340	77	440
2004-2005	22	5	75	17	341	78	438
2005-2006	21	5	73	17	343	78	437
2006-2007	21	5	71	16	342	79	434
2007-2008	30	7	63	14	344	79	437
2008-2009	43	10	62	14	330	76	435
2009-2010	45	11	54	13	324	76	423
2010-2011	48	11	133	32	238	57	419
2011-2012	48	11	109	25	280	64	437
2012-2013	40	10	110	24	295	66	445
2013-2014	46	11	94	21	297	68	437
2014-2015	111	26	127	30	187	44	425
2015-2016	131	30	88	21	212	49	431
2016-2017	88	21	131	30	215	49	435

Fig.4. Fee Structure over the past 14 years



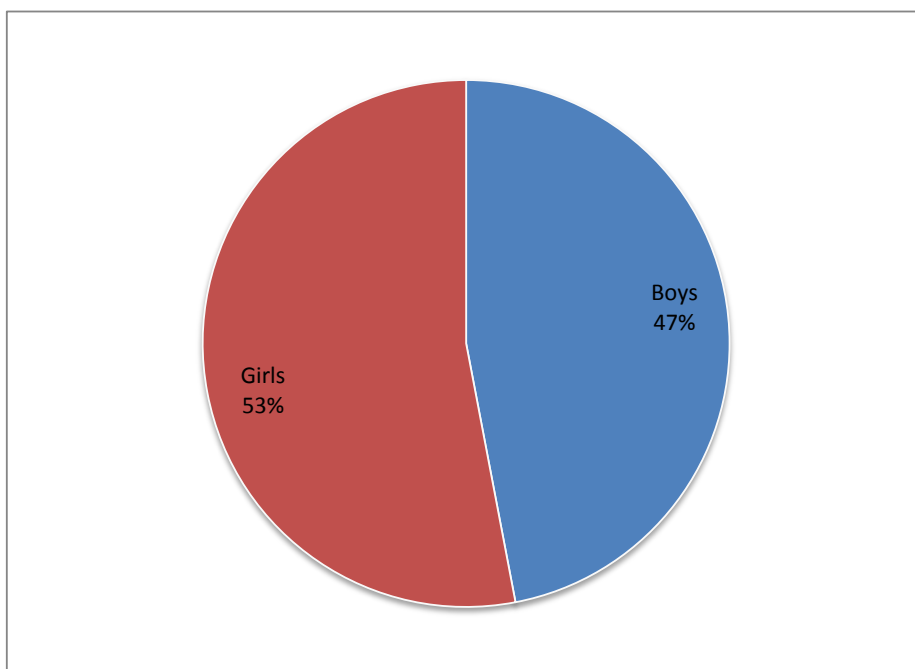
Annexure 2.1

Apli Shala 2016-2017

Table 5. Genderwise enrollment in Balwadis and supplementary classes

Balwadi	Boys	Girls	Total
Shishu gat Balwadi	18	20	38
Madhala gat Balwadi	7	10	17
Motha gat Balwadi	3	8	11
Supplementary classes 1-7	19	15	34
Total	47	53	100

Fig 5. Genderwise enrollment in Balwadis and supplementary classes



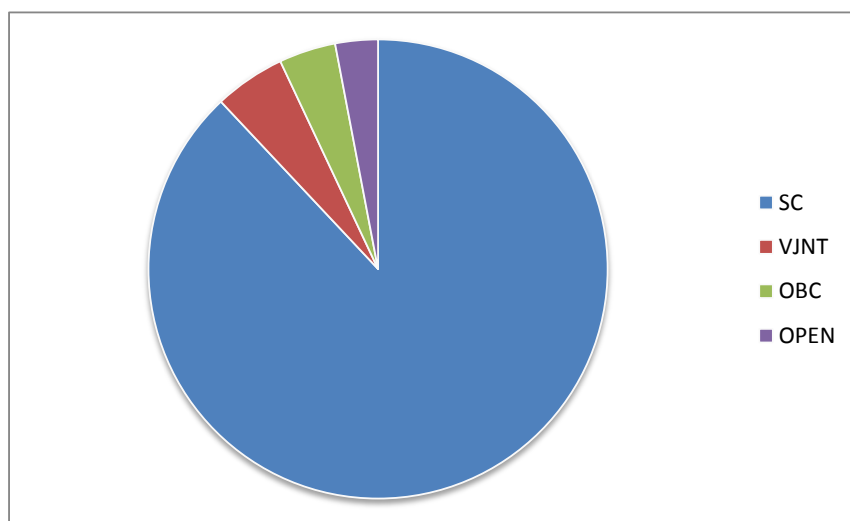
Annexure 2.2

Apli Shala 2016-2017

Table 6. Castewise enrollment in Balwadis and supplementary classes

Balwadi	SC	VJNT	OBC	OPEN	Total
Shishugat Balwadi	34	2	0	2	38
Madhalagat Balwadi	15	2	0	0	17
Mothgat Balwadi	9	1	-	1	11
Supplementary calsses 1-7	30	-	4	-	34
Total	88	5	4	3	100
%	88.00	5	4	3	100.00

Fig. 6. Castewise enrollment in Balwadis and supplementary classes



Annexure 3

Summary

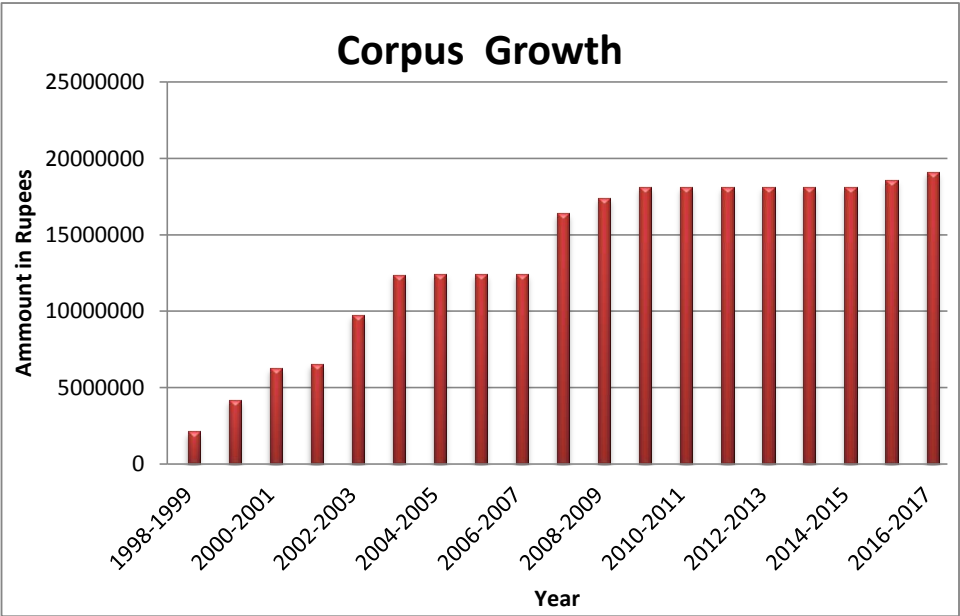
Table 7. Total number of direct beneficiaries of PSS programs 2016-2017

Unit/Program	No. of Beneficiaries	
	children	adults
KNB	435	870
Apli Shala	100	200
Sewing class	0	12
Supplementary class	35	0
TEtH	101	202
PSS teaching and non teaching staff	-	56
B&V libraries	1,064	236
NELPSPB	5,643	247
Total	7,378	1823

Annexure 4

Growth of PSS Corpus Fund 2016-17

Table 8. Growth of PSS Corpus Fund 2016-17



Get Involved



*Every child has a dream,
and quality education is probably the best path to that dream.
You can help a child to achieve her dream!*

- **Donate** to the corpus or any one of our programmes.
- You can also **sponsor** one or more children. The school fees are relatively modest- a maximum of **Rs. 13,500** per year, per child, all inclusive. You may opt to sponsor a boy or a girl of any age between 3 to 16.

You can donate to us or sponsor a child by using any of the following options.

- **Online:** Make payment by NEFT or RTGS in the name of
Account Name: Pragat Shikshan Sanstha
Account No- 38590200000157
Bank: Bank of Baroda
Branch: Phaltan, Dist. Satara, Maharashtra
IFSC code- BARB0PHALTA
- **By Cheque:** Draw the cheque in the name of Pragat Shikshan Sanstha and send it to our address.

You can avail of a tax benefit under 80G of Income Tax.

Contact

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