



Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

Annual Report

2022-23



September 2023

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.

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Cover image: Siddhi Dhumal and Ayukti Kangune of grade 7 hold bouquets made by them by arranging flowers on acacia thorns. Concept and photography: Kalpita Dandavate

Preface

We are happy to present the annual report of the Pragat Shikshan Sanstha for the year 2022-2023. The report covers the period of one year starting from August 2022 to July 2023. In the report, we present a broad picture of our activities, programs, and achievements as well as our reflections on the future.

We take this opportunity to thank all the donors, both individual and institutional for their generous support which has enabled us to continue our work for quality education. We thank **SPA Education Foundation**, Mumbai for supporting our *balwadis* and a small library at Apli Shala. We are grateful to the **Granny Cloud** for making us partners in their venture. We thank **Jai Nimbkar, Zia Quraishi, and M.G. Charitable Trust** for their generous and sustained support over the past several years. We thank **Prashant Mulay** and **Edna Sackson** for supporting poor students to pay their fees. We are also very thankful to **Cummins India** for providing science and math material for our Dadasaheb Abhyankar laboratory.

We thank the **H.T. Parekh foundation** for making it possible for us to work with anganwadis and primary schools in Maan (Dist. Satara) and Ausa (Dist. Latur) blocks. We also thank all the government officials and educators for responding positively to the efforts. We thank **Parimal a Pramod Chaudhari Foundation** for supporting us to develop '*Pustakmaitri Abhyaskram*', a course for people working with children and books.

We would also like to thank **Shri Prabhakar Keskar** for his generous endowment donations, Late Krishnaji Shankar Keskar Scholarship for three students annually and Late Pramod Yeshwant Keskar Fellowship for a teacher to do educational research.

We are grateful to our trustees, members of the governing council and friends who always support and advise us. We thank all our teachers and staff members who are committed to the mandate of PSS and work tirelessly in the pursuit of excellence. We are grateful to all the parents and students of Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan and Apli Shala for being with us.

Manjiri Nimbkar
Madhura Rajvanshi

Annual Report 2022-23



*We dream of a world
where no child will be
deprived of education
or be forced to attend
a school that will
mutilate their spirit.*



Annual Report 2022-23

India has promised the world that by 2027, all the children in the 3–8-year age group will have acquired the skills of foundational literacy and numeracy. This is a truly commendable aim. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for foundational literacy and numeracy was rolled out in 2022. It is a large document of 360+ pages, but lacks the vision, imagination, and rigor of the NCF 2005. Maharashtra has started adopting it with some important additions to develop the State Curricular Framework. We are happy that Pragat Shikshan Sanstha is a part of the process and has succeeded in incorporating important information, pedagogical practices and learning outcomes for the 3-6 age group, along with some photographs of children's work showcasing emergent literacy, a relatively new concept in India, which was not sufficiently explored even in the NCF. There also seems a possibility that our *Pustakmaitri* program will be a part of the government policy, as the director of SCERT has shown great interest in it.

Educational Outreach

Bridge Between Pre-primary and Primary: A Continuum in Education



A little girl in Pangari Anganwadi (Maan Taluka) reads to her grandfather during a parents' meeting

The program 'Bridge Between Preprimary and Primary-A Continuum in Education (BBPP)' began in October 2021. This was the post COVID year when schools started full time for the first time after almost one and a half years of complete lock-down and six months of controlled activity. It was an uphill task for all the stakeholders. Children showed a lack of motivation. Teachers showed mental and physical fatigue. Parents showed fear. On the whole there was an absence of normalcy and a presence of fear and chaos. Our work began on this background. Near normalcy returned over the year.

In 2022-23, we worked with 25 Zilla Parishad schools and 25 anganwadi centers (AWCs) in Ausa block of Latur district and 50 anganwadis in Maan block of Satara district. Our work consisted of 5 components. 1) System strengthening by capacity building of educators-teachers as well as anganwadis workers (AWWs) and helpers- through workshops,



Anganwadi children visit an iron smith in Selu, Ausa taluka

exposure visits, on-site support and reading material. 2) Providing material- ECE kits, stationery and other play material including dolls' house and playdough (shadu clay) were provided. We also provided books for the anganwadis as well as the schools. The schools were given a primer for language learning and mathematics workbooks. 3) Dialogue with the parents, school management committees and the

community- We carried out home visits, parents' meetings, and community meetings with book exhibitions in each village that we worked in. 4) Liaising with government officials at all levels 5) Evaluating children's learning and classroom practices.

The table below shows the scope and outreach of our program in a nutshell.

Table 1. table showing the scope of the program Bridge Between Pre-primary and Primary: A Continuum in Education

Project phase	Name of district	No. of AWCs	No. of primary schools	No. of children	Type of intervention
Second	Latur	25	25	2110	Capacity building of teachers, AWWs, AWHs, providing library books and stationery to schools and AWCs, providing language primer and mathematics workbooks to school children, carrying out assessment of second std. children providing ECE kits to AWCs, liaison with govt. and community.
	Satara	50	Nil	755	Capacity building of AWWs, AWHs, providing library books and stationery to AWCs, providing ECE kits to AWCs, liaison with govt. and community, 10 model AWCs set up.

You can read the extended annual of BBPP project report on this [link](#).

Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (MPSP) invited private Civil Society Organizations to offer help in reaching the targets set by NIPUN Bharat by 2027 in pre-primary and primary schools. Following the first meeting in July 2022, PSS was given permission to work in the 3-8 age groups in Ausa block of Latur district and Maan block of Satara district. Accordingly, the whole intervention plan was submitted to MPSP and quarterly reports were submitted thereafter.

Pustakmaitri and Library Outreach

Pustakmaitri, the name of a new course developed and piloted by PSS in now formalized and will be offered again in the slightly changed form from June 2024. In the meantime, Pustakmaitri has also taken the form of a program and we hope to convert it into a movement over the years.

In the lockdown we had started a small library program in Apli Shala (AS)* for the children living in Mangalwar Peth, a Dalit area of Phaltan town with the help of the Funds from SPA Foundation. Two more community libraries were started in 2022 in Jorgaon and Vinchurni villages about 20 kms south of Phaltan. One of our balwadi teachers Rajashree Kakade runs the library at AS (25 children) while another balwadi teacher Prajakta Ahiwale and the KNB librarian



A reading aloud session in progress at the Jorgaon library

Pradip Dhekle runs the Vinchurni (35 children) and Jorgaon (15 children) libraries respectively. They read aloud to children, conduct various library activities with them and issue books for independent reading.

* PSS runs two balwadis in Phaltan- Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan (KNB) and Apli Shala (AS), the latter being situated in the underprivileged area of the town. Apli Shala also provides space for the sewing class for women and a library program.

Early Childhood Education

2022-23 was a challenging year for the balwadi teachers as the children were coming regularly to school after a huge break of two years. Children's self-control and social-emotional skills were found to be severely affected due to the forced house-bound conditions, lack of peers to play with and lack of routines and systems at home. However, with great efforts in the classroom, continuous communication with the parents and capacity building inputs by ECE



experts Dr. Neelima Gokhale and Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar, the balwadi team managed very well.

It was observed by the teachers that many children did not choose to go into the classroom library corner. The teachers created attractive looking library cards for children which motivated them to use the library.

Our balwadi team also worked as the resource team for the project BBPP. They visited the anganwadis, conducted the training sessions of anganwadi workers and built capacities of the field team.



PSS balwadi teachers Nilofar Shaikh and Manisha Jadhav conducting a training session for AWWs at AUSA

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan

2022-23 was the most normal school year since March 2020. The masks were almost gone, children came regularly to school, and absolutely no homework was given to them, which involved using mobile phones. The WhatsApp groups of the parents created in the pandemic were kept only for communication with the parents.

Remedial sessions were continued for students lagging behind in studies and a lot of work was done on their handwriting and reading. Regular sessions were held for parents to

show them children's progress as well as the methods of helping children academically at homes.



A remedial class



Parents' meeting to discuss children's progress

A good number of field visits, school camps for all the classes and the annual project work helped children connect beautifully with each other, teachers as well as society.

The teachers visited a couple of innovative schools in Maharashtra and there was a valuable sharing between the schools to learn from each other.

Shri. Vishwas Jagadale, the headmaster of secondary section of KNB received the *Adarsha Mukhyadhyapak Puraskar* (Ideal Headmaster Award) from Satara Jilla Mukhyadhyapak Sangha.

Children's Activities

The Annual Project

At KNB, the annual project is one of the most important parts of the school year. The theme of this year's project was 'Fear'.

Students and teachers together deliberated over the idea of fear, what scares them and the possible reasons. Conscious efforts were made for several children to face their unreasonable fears through arranging visits to places like the city police station, the cremation ground, cemetery and a school for specially abled children. Two of our former Adivasi students graciously agreed to have an online conversation with the children who thought they were afraid of Adivasis, mostly due to the false depiction of the tribals in media.

Older students studied what exactly happens in our brains when we feel scared. A Ph.D. student studying Neuroscience, Smt. Ketaki Mulay helped the 9th grade students to understand the chemical processes involved in the generation of fear.

The project included a substantial amount of artwork. Under the guidance of art educators Shri. Ranjit Kokate, Smt. Shalaka Deshmukh, Smt. Harshada Shinde, and Smt. Kalpita Dandavate, the children expressed their thoughts about fear through art. They used various tools and methods like taking imprints, tearing, or crumpling the paper, scratching it with sharp objects, pouring colour on it, to display the concept of fear. The resultant paintings were astounding.



The presentation of the project in the form of an [exhibition](#) was unique where three sections were made in the exhibit hall using high curtains made with newspapers which acted as the display boards. The first section was about the various types of fears, the second one was an attempt to create a scary space and the third one was about understanding one's fear and dealing with it. Though the theme was somewhat abstract, the students and teachers were able to put together one of the best project exhibitions of the school in the last 30 years.



Children painting the display curtains



Visitors at the project exhibition

Well-known cyber journalist, social media researcher and trainer Smt. Mukta Chaitanya visited the exhibition, appreciated it and wrote about it in her [Facebook post](#) as well as a [newspaper article in Lokmat](#).

Children's Parliament

The elections for the *Balsansad* or the children's parliament took place in August 2022. 14 boy and 7 girl candidates from the 8th and the 9th grades stood for the election. They canvassed for a week and displayed their manifestos. They promised more fun, sports and cleanliness in school. The tenth standard students made the voting arrangements. 199 students of grades 5 to 10 voted for 8 ministers- 4 girls and 4 boys.

These ministers throughout the year tried to maintain order and discipline in the school. They raised awareness about cleanliness and took a direct part in keeping the school clean. They also took the responsibility for arranging sessions every day to improve the handwriting of the students. To solve the problems of the student citizens they prepared some samples of complaint letters, explained them during the assembly. The written complaints were discussed and solved in the weekly cabinet meetings.

While evaluating the cabinet's annual work, the chief minister Ruchita Satpute and home minister Ganesh Dhaigude said that although the parliament had done very good work for the school, the ministers had failed to win the hearts of the students and they should have made some more efforts to maintain coordination among them.

School Camps

School camps are excellent ways for children to come together to have fun while learning lifelong lessons. They are important for children to start developing a sense of independence while trying new adventures.



This year KNB arranged school camps for all the classes from the 1st to the 10th in November and December. Younger students stayed in school till around 9:30 pm while older students spent the night in the school. The typical camp schedule included games, a movie

show, cooking together, campfire, singing and a lot of running around the school. The teachers too organized a separate camp for themselves which resulted in great fun and bonding.

Scout-guide Activities

In the year 2022-23 students participated in various *khari kamai* (earning money by doing some jobs) activities organized by the scout-guide. Grade 5 and 6 students performed house or garden work in their own or neighboring homes, the seventh graders put up a vegetable market in the school while grade 8 to 10 set up food stalls. A sum of Rs. 21312 was earned by the students from grades 5 to 10.

Eight girl guides from grade 10 participated in Guide Rajya Puraskar (State Award) camp organized by Bharat Scouts and Guides in November 2022 at Sonthali, Kolhapur.

Other scout-guide group activities included cooking a full meal and cooking without vessels.



Vegetable market by grade 7



Grade 10 students' cooking activity

Movie Screenings

Many movie screenings were done for varied age-groups. Animation movies like Ratatouille, Madagascar and Despicable me were popular among younger children. The Oscar winning movies Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio and Elephant whisperers were also screened for the students.

The two most engaging and moving films for children were Apollo 11, a documentary made from the actual footage of USA's Moon mission and The World's Most Famous Tiger, a documentary on the life of the life of tigress Machli of Ranthambore National Park.

Krida Mahotsav

Students were extremely excited about the Krida Mahotsav or sports festival this year as it was happening after a 3-year gap. The 10th grade students did all the arrangements.

On the first day relay, cricket, and dodgeball matches were organized at the Phaltan airfield, while on the second day students played volleyball, kabaddi, lagori and musical chair on the school playground. Likewise, the ninth started students arranged games for the first to the fourth-grade students.



A volleyball match

Wildlife Education



Dr. Girish Jathar showing the book of Indian birds to the students

Grade 8 students got an opportunity to watch birds with Dr. Girish Jathar, an ornithologist and Deputy Director of Srushti Conservation Foundation, Pune. in the Vinchurni area around 5 kms from Phaltan. They spotted 21 different species of birds.

Dr. Jathar also did two presentations for the students of KNB- Wonders of Nature for grades 5 to 7, and Bird Migration, for grades 8 to 10.



The wildlife week quiz

In wildlife week (1 to 7 October) teachers showed the students some interesting short videos each day at the assembly and at the end of the week conducted a small quiz based on these videos. The videos were of Komodo dragons, Arctic foxes, Leaf-cutting ants, Rinkhals (spitting cobras), Pallas's cats and kangaroos.

Field visits



Children learn a lot through field visits. This year children visited various places in and around Phaltan. Grades 7 and 8 went to see the Banganga river. Grade 8 students wrote some beautiful English poems based on this visit. Some of them were included in the Navneet 2023.

Students interested in historical items were very happy to visit a small exhibition of old coins and antique objects organized at the Mudhoji college, Phaltan. Grade 2 students visited Kumbhar tek, where they saw the pottery work in progress.

The tenth standard students visited Omkar Old People's Home at Kuravli. They conducted various art and craft activities with the grandmas and grandpas, cut their nails and chatted with them. The old people felt very happy to meet the students.

The grade 6 students visited Dr. Nandini Nimbkar's garden to observe various kinds of plants. The grade 10 students went to the Zoology lab at Mudhoji college to study animal classification. The 7th students visited Shivaji Raje Horticultural college and Maloji Raje Agricultural college to see the soil analysis system, vermicompost and mushroom cultivation.

Getting to know each other

Usually, each class in KNB is a mirror of society with children representing various religions, castes, and economic sections. The grade 5 students, however, does not have any Muslim classmate. Their Marathi teacher Smt. Jayashri Kadam realized this during one of the read-aloud sessions and decided to invite Mrs. Asma Tamboli, a parent and our former balwadi teacher. Children asked her a lot of questions about Islam, which she answered very patiently and thoughtfully. Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar has written a beautiful [article](#) based on this interaction in the Marathi Magazine Palakneeti.



Art Activities

Mumbai based artist and art teacher Shri. Ranjit Kokate has been working with KNB students for over two years now. He conducts frequent online sessions for children and visits once in three months to work with them. Shri. Kokate along with our art teacher Smt. Harshada Shinde have been consistently working on children's artistic expressions. They are also encouraging students to work in groups and think of different materials for their artwork.

In Search of the Light

Grade 7 and 8 children were given the opportunity to do photography experiments with natural as well as artificial lights during their Diwali vacations. They used their parents' mobile phones to click images. They experimented with varied angles and object arrangements. While searching for the light they had to think about the shadows and darkness too.

Self-portrait

Grade 3 and 4 students used their own photos first to do a pencil sketch of their faces and then to make a collage using newspapers.



Hairstyles



Grade 6 students used different kinds of papers to make attractive hairstyles. Each hairstyle was different from the other. Some children used colored papers as highlighters. The length of the hair, texture and styling was all according to their choices. Shri. Kokate has unraveled this whole process in his Marathi [Facebook post](#).

Stick sculpture

This was a group assignment. Three different groups of grade 8 students created an imaginary animal, prepared its sketch and then by using bamboo sticks in the school premises erected the sculpture. They used strings and rags to tie the sticks together. Later they wrote stories based on these imaginary animal characters. You can read about the fascinating process of making the stick sculptures in Shri. Kokate's [Facebook post](#).



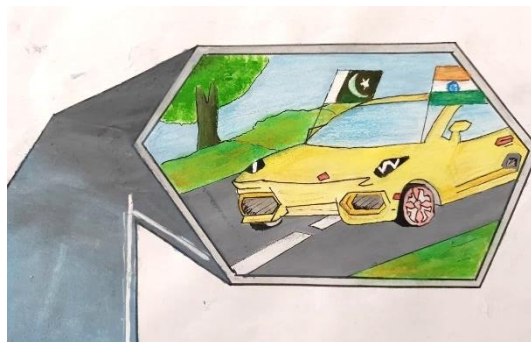
Indo-Pak Peace Calendar

Aaghaz-e-Dosti, an Indo-Pak friendship initiative launches a calendar every year. The calendar is made from the paintings on Indo-Pak peace made by the school students of India and Pakistan. In the 2022 calendar A 10th standard KNB student Gauri Ghanwat's painting was published. This year we participated once again and sent 16 paintings by students of grades 6 to 10. Two students' paintings were shortlisted in the final 12 paintings selected from India. However, they did not make it to the final 6.

We plan to continue this activity each year as it creates a wonderful opportunity to have a dialogue with children regarding the strained relations between the two countries and the role of humanity in finding possible solutions.



Aryan Jagdale, Grade 8



Jaykirti Randive, Grade 8

Finding Vitthal in the Nature

For a specially organized abhang program, students were challenged to make paintings, collages and a big sculpture of Lord Vitthal using the materials and shapes available in nature.



Sundar Te Dhyam

[A wonderful musical program- 'Sundar Te Dhyam'](#) was organized in school on the occasion of *Ashadhi ekadashi*. The 5th to 9th students participated in this program. Students sang and danced on various *abhangas* of the great saints of Maharashtra.

The 8th students had made a big idol of Lord Vitthal by using natural material. The assembly hall was decorated with creative images of Vitthal.



Tàarruf Poetry Recitation

Two KNB students and a teacher participated in a poetry recitation program organised by Tàarruf Foundation, Pune, on the occasion of birth anniversary of late Shrimant Anantmala Devi Naik Nimbalkar.

Sanskruti Kadam from the 8th grade, Pranali Kadam from the 9th grade and our science and math teachers Geeta Bobade recited their Marathi and Hindi poetries. They were largely appreciated by the organizers as well as the audience.

Library Activities

A total of 720 new books were added to the Iravati Karve Library of KNB. The library now has 12320 books. Some were gifted by parents and teachers while a few came in Parag Honor List Book Box 2022. It is a curated collection of quality children's literature and KNB library was selected for the book box third year in a row.

The construction of a hall above the library building was completed this year. Children have fondly named it Imli Ghar, given its proximity to the tamarind tree. Imli ghar is primarily used for library classes, movie screenings and training workshops.

Book talks

Book talk is talking about a book one has read to generate curiosity among others to read it. All students from grade 5 to 9 did short book talks at the assembly over the year.

Book Exhibition and storytelling sessions

On the occasion of children's day, a book exhibition and two storytelling sessions were organized for the children. The Goshtaranga team from Sonale performed three stories for the students, while author and editor Shri. Rushikesh Dabholkar conducted a fantastic read-aloud session for the younger children.



Students write down the names of the books they want to buy from the exhibition



Children engrossed in Rushikesh dada's stories

The Display Corner

A special display corner was created in the library which is used to introduce children to well-known authors, illustrators, and personalities.



A display corner arranged on the birth anniversary of Mrs. Kamalabai Nimbkar which had her photographs, a book authored by her and a book and article written on her

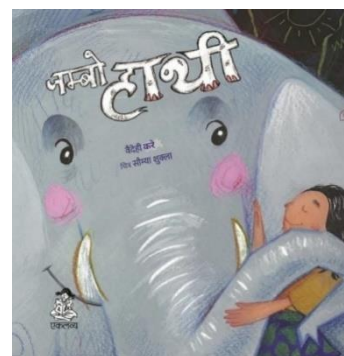


Students going through the Indian constitution and the articles by Dr. Ambedkar on his death anniversary

Creative Writing

[Navneet](#), the annual publication of KNB, consisting of children's writings and illustrations was very special this year as it was edited by a group of very talented 9th grade students. 14 girls and boys went through all the writings submitted, made notes, talked to the authors individually and put together a wonderful issue.

11 students' writings and paintings were published in the Hindi magazine Chakmak this year. One of the stories'- [Jumbo Hathi](#) by 6th grade student Vaidehi Kare was published as a book by Eklavya Publication, Bhopal.



Granny Cloud

The Granny Cloud program was made available to grades 4 and 5 in the year 2022-23. Children talked with grannies once a week using Skype. Total 6 grannies, 2 from India, one from Germany, one from Japan, one from England and one from Canada interacted with children and helped them to improve their English comprehension, expression, and confidence through activities like read-alouds, puppet shows, art and craft, singing, discussions, internet searching and presentation, hand and finger puppet show and word games.

Granny sessions are always very lively with a great sharing of ideas and knowledge on wide-ranging topics. Along with learning English, children also teach Marathi language to the grannies. They have a choice to decide what to do in a particular session and the stress-free environment benefits learning.

Examinations

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Exam

For the academic year 2022-23 the tenth board exams result was declared in June 2023. 18 out of 32 KNB students who had appeared for the examination, got distinction (marks above 75%). 15 students got marks above 80% and 7 students got marks above 90%. Anjali Raut got 93.20%, the highest in the school.

Drawing Grade Exam

Total 56 students KNB students participated in the 2022 grade level drawing exams conducted by the Government of Maharashtra and all of them passed with good grades.

43 students appeared for the elementary grade drawing exams. 12 of them got an A grade, 6 got a B grade and the rest 25 got a C grade. 13 students appeared for the intermediate level exam from which one student received an A, 4 got a B and the rest 8 got a C grade.

Yoga Sadhana Exam

Yoga Sadhana Institute, Pune conducts 6 different levels of yoga exams every year. In 2022-23, 58 KNB students from grade 4 to 10 appeared for the exam and passed with the first class. KNB yoga teacher Manisha Bhosale had set up a beautiful yoga nritya for the Republic Day ceremony which was appreciated by the Yoga Sadhana Institute personnels and they invited 8 students to Pune to perform this nritya in their convocation ceremony.

Competitions

Science

Taluka level Science Exhibition was held at Tirakwadi. Two 8th standard students, Zeel Karne and Ashish Raut displayed the model of a pheromone trap for organic pest control. Both of them also participated in the primary level quiz and came second. Nishant Jadhav and Divya Gandhi from the 9th standard participated in the secondary level quiz and came first.

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Pune every year conducts Vidnyan Ranjan Competition, an open book test to enhance knowledge of science and scientific attitude. The questions are challenging and thought provoking and children can write answers by discussing them with peers, adults, searching in books or on the internet, or by actually doing the experiments.



Students at the science centre with science teachers
Asawari Shinde and Geeta Bobade

21 KNB students from grade 7 to 9 solved this 150-marks competition and sent it to Pune. 1246 students participated from all over Maharashtra and 56 of them were selected for the experiment round. 9 KNB students were selected for this round which took place on 4 March 2023 at the Pimpri Chinchwad Science Park. There they had to do 11 experiments in 2 hours. Adiba Tamboli from grade 7 came 19th

while Ashish Raut from grade 8 came 20th. All the participants got certificates and science books.

It was a unique experience for the students. Back home they demonstrated the experiments for other students at the school assembly.

District Institute of Educational Continuous Professional Development, Satra had organized a science quiz in Deur where a team of 3 KNB students participated and was selected in the first 8 teams.

English

On 30 December 2022, an English Word Bank Competition was held by Babasaheb Ambedkar Vichar Prasarak Mandal, Phaltan. It tested students' knowledge of spelling, pronunciation and meaning of words. 3 students each from grades 5, 6 and 7 participated in this competition. In the grade 5 group, Gatha Bhujbal got the 3rd prize, while in the grade 7 group Adiba Tamboli came 3rd and Parag Shinde came 5th.



Gatha accepting the certificate

Sports

The School Education and Sports Department of the Government of Maharashtra organizes various sports competitions every year. The KNB students participated in the volleyball, kabaddi, karate, yoga, and soft tennis competitions.

Shreyankumar Gandhi from grade 8 stood third in the division level soft tennis tournament held in Kolhapur in January 2023. Yash Nale, grade 6 came second in the district level yoga competitions. Yogiraj Bhingare, grade 10 came first in the taluka level karate competition.

Talks for Students and Parents

Several talks were organized for the students as well as teachers in 2022-23. Ketaki Mulay, a Ph.D. student of neuroscience talked to grade 9 and 10 students about screentime and its effect on the brain. Cyber journalist, social media researcher and trainer Smt. Mukta Chaitanya spoke to students as well as parents about the digital literacy and awareness.

Eminent psychotherapist and consultant Dr. Shirisha Sathe conducted a workshop on parenting of adolescent children.

On the occasion of International Women's Day Smt. Madhura Rajvanshi organized a workshop on introducing the menstrual cup to teachers, parents, and adolescent girls. She talked about its use and benefits. The participants had an opportunity to handle the cup and ask the questions in their minds about its use.



Dr. Shirisha Sathe

Teacher Professional Development

Exposure visits

Two groups of teachers visited Aksharnandan, Pune and Anand Niketan, Nashik, well-known innovative schools in Maharashtra to learn from them. Both of the teacher groups felt rejuvenated after the visits and tried to implement some new things that they had learned through this exposure. Some of them were offering farming classes to one of the grades, class

decoration competition for students where there is absolutely no involvement of teachers, organizing regular talks for parents and remedial teaching practices.



After coming back from the visits, the teachers presented their learnings to other teachers.

Jayashri Kadam and Priyadarshini Sawant present their learnings from the visit to Aksharnandan, Pune

Workshop on Understanding Sexuality

Smt. Madhura Rajvanshi attended a two-day workshop on understanding sexuality, organized by Prayas Health Group, Pune. She felt that the workshop offered a completely new perspective of handling the situations arising in the school environment pertaining to sexuality and relationships. She also came to know about a sexuality education program offered by Prayas for students from grades 1 to 10 and have decided to start it for the KNB students.

Diploma Course in Science

Our science and math teacher Geeta Bobade completed a 10-month online diploma course titled 'Teaching of science at upper primary stage' conducted by Department of Education in Science and Math, NIE NCERT, New Delhi in September 2022. She found it to be very useful in understanding how children learn science and the abilities, skills, attitudes, and practices science teachers need to develop.

Integrating art in other subjects

Other than giving pure joy, art is also important for students to learn skills like problem solving, creative risk taking, perseverance, collaboration, and flexible thinking. Mumbai based artists and educators Ranjit Kokate and Shalaka Deshmukh conducted a series of workshops for teachers to think about integrating art in academic subjects they teach. In the workshops teachers explored different kinds of materials, created artwork and prepared detailed lesson plans which involved integration of art in their teaching.

English workshops by Smt. Manasee Mahajan

Pune based educator Smt. Manasee Mahajan who has developed an English language curriculum for the age group 5 to 7, conducted two extensive workshops for all the balwadi, primary as well as secondary English language teachers to train them in systematic pedagogy of teaching English to early grades.

Teachers studied the workbooks for grade 1 and 2 and the handbook of phonological awareness prepared by Smt. Mahajan and have started integrating the activities and games in their teaching from the beginning of the school year 2023-24.



Teachers create card games in groups

PSS as a Resource Centre

Invitations by other organizations

Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar was invited for a symposium of a vision and models organized by Open Learners Collective at Chikhalgaon. The symposium was attended mainly by homeschoolers who are looking for new models of education and many practitioners presented new ideas for schooling like farming, looking after animals and scientific exploration. Dr. Nimbkar talked about the [importance of books and reading](#) to ignite children's minds. She explained the broader concept of reading to include art handicraft and communication.

Dr. Nimbkar was also invited for a [panel discussion](#) in a conference on 'Strengthening Public Systems for Foundational Education in Maharashtra', jointly organized by Leadership for Equity and Centre for Learning Resources, Pune. She spoke about the ways to make early childhood education accessible to all children.



Education coordinator Smt. Madhura Rajvanshi was invited by the [Palakneeti Pariwar](#), Pune to participate in a panel discussion organized on the occasion of the release of a book containing selected articles from Palakneeti, a renowned Marathi magazine on parenting and education running for past 30 years. She talked about how educators should deal with the matters of punishment, competition, and religion.

Aksharnandan, Pune, one of the sister schools of Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan had organized a 2-day meet of four innovative schools in Maharashtra to look back on their journey, introspection and moving towards a better future. The PSS team got an opportunity to [present](#) what they have achieved and where they encountered difficulties.



KNB was invited to put up an exhibition of children's writings and art work from the old annual projects based on the social and cultural study of Phaltan, in [Phaltan Taluka Sanskruti Mahotsav](#) organized by thinkmaharashtra.com.

Publications

Smt. Rajvanshi's field attachment study- Developing whole-class diagnostic assessment tools in mathematics' which she did in 2011 as a part of her M.A. Education program in TISS, Mumbai was included as a chapter in the book '[Reflection of Educational Practice- Science Social Science and Mathematics](#)' published by TISS and Ekalavya in August 2022.

Shikshan Parishad

On the last Saturday of every month 'Shikshan Parishad' is organized by the Phaltan Municipality Shikshan Mandal. Teachers from the schools in the city are asked to give presentations on various educational topics. This year four teachers from KNB gave presentations in the Parishad. Jayashri Kadam presented how an ideal school should be. Meenakshi Ghadge and Namrata Sakhare spoke about remedial teaching and educational planning for individual children. Madhura Rajvanshi presented 'The Effective Ways to Implement English Teaching Activities in School.' Reshma Ghanwat gave a presentation about School readiness and planning.

Visitors

Many schools, organizations and individuals visit PSS to understand its philosophy and work. The visits typically included class observations, discussions with teachers and learning the use of various teaching-learning materials.

In the year 2022-23 a team of 8 teachers from Learning Home, Pune visited PSS. Twenty individuals from Urme organization working with Zilla Parishad schools in Mulshi Taluka, Pune visited to see PSS's work in early childhood education. 8 balwadi teachers from Anand Niketan, Nashik too visited PSS balwadis.

Dinkar Gangal, chief editor of thinkmaharashtra.com came to see the overall working of the school.

Amruta Veer, an M.A. Education student from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai conducted a weeklong study for her field attachment titled 'Fostering a Disposition Towards Literacy: A Case Study from PSS Balwadi.' Our balwadi head Smt. Sameera Qureshi mentored her.

Financial Matters

The work of Pragat Shikshan Sanstha has four units based on their goals and funding structure. Apli Shala is a program based in Mangalwar Peth in Phaltan and works with the underprivileged. All the programs of Apli Shala like the balwadis, the library, and sewing class do not charge any fees and are usually funded by outside grants or donations. In the year 2022-23, SPA Education Foundation fully funded the balwadi and the small library programs.

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan (KNB) is a government-recognized unaided Marathi medium school offering an opportunity to learn math and science through English from the fifth standard onwards. KNB charges fees and it has a very affordable fee structure. For the academic year 2022-23 KNB charged full fees at Rs. 13,700/- for balwadi, Rs. 14,440/- for grades 1 and 2, Rs. 15,590/- for grades 3 and 4, Rs. 16,170/- for grades 5 to 7, Rs. 16,750/- for grades 8 and 9, and Rs. 17,900/- for grade 10. Rs. 500/- extra was taken from the students who had opted for learning science and math in English. The amount of school fees collected over the year was Rs. 51,49,711/-. With consistent efforts from the teachers and the office staff we were successful in collecting 100% fee-amount this year.

25% of children in each class from std. 1 to 7 are given admissions without any fees under the Right to Education (RTE) act. The government reimburses the full fee amount, although not on an annual basis. Last year we did not receive any amount towards the fees of these children. Total of Rs. 27,46,010/- is pending since the financial year 2018-19.

The third unit is the Educational Outreach unit under which we carry out programs with the government schools or community or other educational enterprises. In the previous year, we were carrying out direct intervention in Z.P. schools of AUSA block (Dist. Latur) and *anganwadis* in Maan block (Dist. Satara) through a project called Bridge between 'Pre-primary and Primary schools—a Continuum in Education' supported by funding from H. T. Parekh Foundation. We received a total of Rs. 99,34,247/- from the foundation of which we spent Rs. 99,34,247/-. From this project the PSS received an amount of Rs. 8,95,040/- for hosting the project and sharing its premises and resources for the running of the project.

The income from donations received, both foreign and domestic, in the year 2022-23 was Rs. 1,19,936/-. The interest on banks and investments was Rs. 21,13,690/-

The royalty on sale of books by Jyotsna publications was Rs. 1,00,113/- and the amount from sale of books (in-house publications) and other resources was Rs. 21,179/-.

We had a sum of Rs. 5,57,435/- available under the income tax act at the end of the year 22-23 for spending on the objects of the trust over the next 3 years. That was set apart u/s 11(2)(a) of the Income Tax act for carrying out major building and maintenance work, purchase of capital goods and other revenue expenditure on the objects of the trust. Of the above amount, Rs. 4,79,565/- has been spent on repairs and maintenance activity and revenue expenditure.

Shri. Prabhakar Yeshwant Keskar donated Rs. 22,00,000/- to the corpus fund making it to Rs. 1,97,92,287/-

The Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 SCHEDULE VIII [vide Rule 17 (1)]

Name: Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

Registration No F - 787

Funds & Liabilities	sch	Year ended 31st March 2023 (Rs.)	Property & Assets	sch	Year ended 31st March 2023 (Rs.)
<u>Trust Funds or Corpus</u>			<u>Immovable properties</u>		
As per last balance sheet	1	17,592,287	As per last balance sheet	6	6,399,752
Addition during the year		2,200,000	Add: Addition		-
Utilization during the year		-	less: sale		-
		19,792,287	Less: Depreciation		325,243
<u>Other Earmarked Funds</u>					6,074,510
Depreciation Fund		-	<u>Investments</u>	4	35,051,090
Sinking Fund		-	<u>Loans & Advances</u>		-
Reserve Fund		-	<u>Other Fixed Assets</u>		
Any Other Fund	2	9,000,472	As per last balance sheet		611,013
<u>Loans (Secured or unsecured)</u>			Add Additions during the year		1,322,296
From Trustees			Less Sale/Disposals during the year		1,860
From Others			Less: Depreciation		301,211
<u>Liabilities</u>					1,630,238
For Expenses	3	463,380	<u>Deposits & Advances</u>		
For Advances			To Trustee		-
For Rent & Other Deposits		-	To Employees		-
For Sundry Credit balances		-	To Contractor		-
		463,380	To Others		10,995
<u>Income & Expenditure Account</u>					10,995
Balance as per last balancesheet		13,661,446	<u>Income Outstanding</u>		738,094
Less: Transfer to Accumulation Form 10		-	<u>Other Current Assets</u>		
Add: Surplus as per I & E A/c		1,832,721	Stock in Hand		-
		15,494,167	Tax Deducted at Source		464,428
Inter Branch/ Divisional Balance			Affiliated Institutes		-
Notes to Accounts	15		Cash and Bank Balances	5	780,951
Total		44,750,305	TOTAL		44,750,305

The above balance sheet to the best of my belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and/Asset of the Trust

PRAGAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA
For Pragat Shikshan Sanstha
[Signature]
Trustee
Date : 20th Sept 2023
Place : Phaltan

C. Nimkar
Trustee

As per our report of even date
For KVMDS & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN 121347 W

[Signature]
CA Samrat Anil Garule
Partner
UDIN: 23159024BGVFN3237
M No. 159024



The Bombay Public Trust Act,1950 SCHEDULE IX [vide Rule 17(1)]

Name: Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

Registration No F - 787

Expenditure	sch no.	Year ended 31st March 2023 (Rs.)	Income	sch no.	Year ended 31st March 2023 (Rs.)
<u>To Expenditure in Respect of Properties</u>			By Rent		-
Rates, taxes, cesses		17,840			
Repairs & Maintenance		8,233	<u>By Interest/Income from Investment</u>		
Insurance		-	On Fixed Deposits/Investments		2,083,311
Salaries		-	On Loans		-
Depreciation		-	On Savings Bank Account		20,209
Other Expenses		-	On IT Refund		10,170
					2,113,690
To Establishment Expenses		-			
To Remuneration to Trustees			By Dividend		-
To Legal Expenses		23,530	By Donation		119,936
To Audit Fees		32,000	By Grants		-
To Contribution & Fees					
<u>To Amounts written of</u>			<u>By Income from other sources</u>		
(a) Bad debts		-	School Fees	8	5,246,915
(b) Loan Scholarships		-	Training Fees		-
(c) Irrecoverable rents		-	Sharing of premises & resources		992,660
(d) Other items		-	Sale of Books / DVDs etc		21,179
To Miscellaneous Expenses		9,315	Royalty		100,113
To Depreciation (other than property)		626,454	Miscellaneous Income		35,458
			Other Sources		-
					6,396,325
To Amounts transferred to funds		-			
<u>To Expenditure on objects of the Trust</u>			Transfer from Reserves		-
(a) Religious	7	-			
(b) Educational		6,079,857			
(c) Medical Relief		-			
(d) Relief of Poverty		-			
To Surplus Carried over to Balance Sheet		1,832,721			
TOTAL		8,629,951	TOTAL		8,629,951

Notes on Accounts

9

As per our report of even date

For Pragat Shikshan Sanstha

PRAGAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA

[Signature]
Trustee

C. Nimbkar
Trustee

Date : 20th Sept 2023

Place : Phaltan

For KVMDS & Associates

Chartered Accountants

FRN 121347 W

[Signature]
CA Samrat Anil Garule

Partner

UDIN: 23159024BGVFN3237

M No. 159024



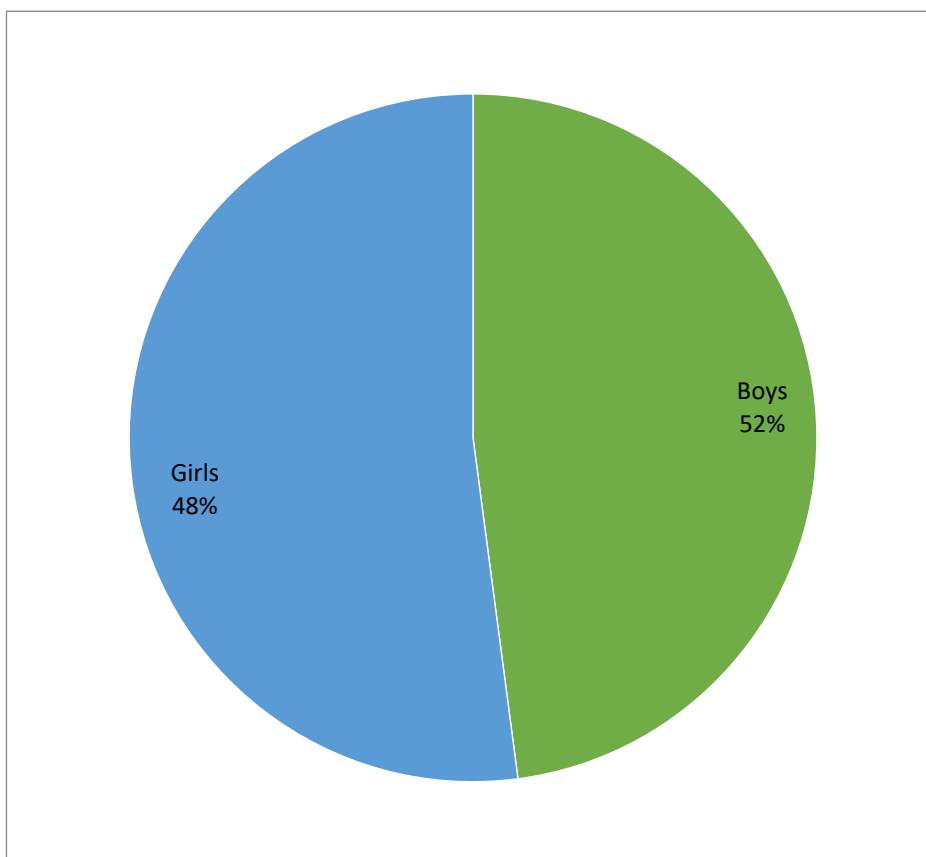
Annexure 1.1

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan 2022-2023

Table 1. Enrollment by gender

Standard	Girls		Boys		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Balwadi	51	23	53	23	104
Primary (1-7)	124	57	125	53	249
Secondary (8-10)	43	20	57	24	100
Total	218	48	235	52	453

Fig.1. Enrollment by gender



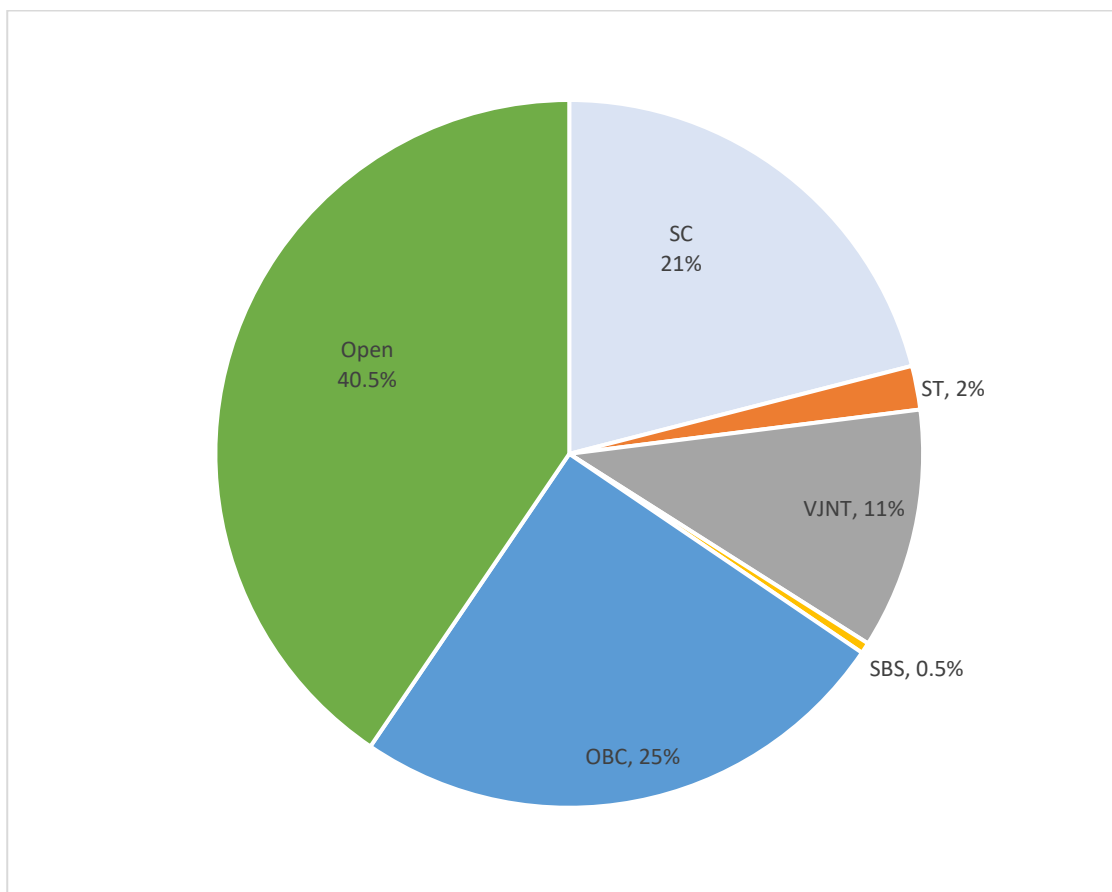
Annexure 1.2

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan 2022-2023

Table 2. Enrollment by caste category

Caste	SC	ST	VJNT	SBC	OBC	Open	Total
Balwadi	17	1	12	1	32	41	104
Primary	58	7	27	0	50	104	249
Secondary	19	0	10	1	32	38	100
Total	94	8	49	2	114	183	453
%	21	2	11	0.5	25	40.5	100

Fig. 2. Enrollment by caste category



SC	Scheduled Castes
ST	Scheduled Tribes
VJNT	Denotified and Nomadic Tribes
SBC	Special Backward Class
OBC	Other Backward Class
Open	All other castes not falling in the above categories

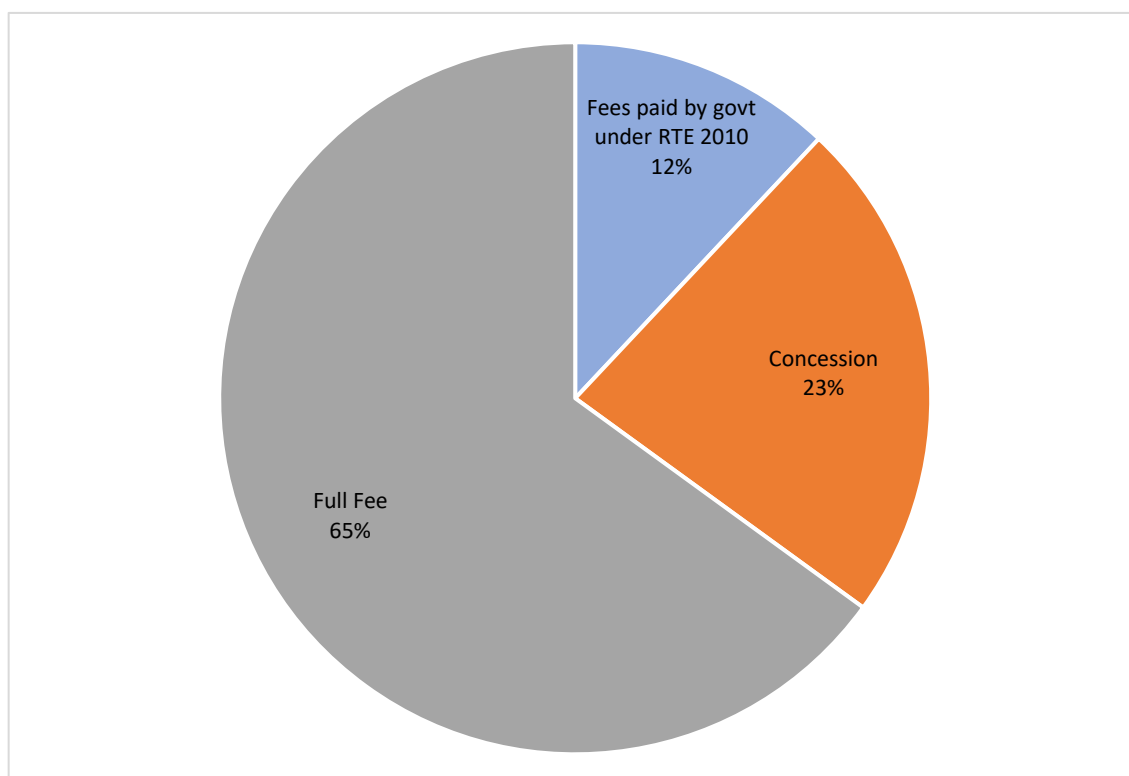
Annexure 1.3

Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan 2022-2023

Table 3. Fee Structure

Unit/Std.	Fees						Total
	Fees paid by govt under RTE 2010		Concession		Full Fee		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Balwadi	0	0	10	10	94	90	104
Primary (1-7)	56	22	47	19	146	59	249
Secondary (8-10)	0	0	36	36	64	64	100
Total	56	12	93	21	304	67	453

Fig. 3. Fee Structure



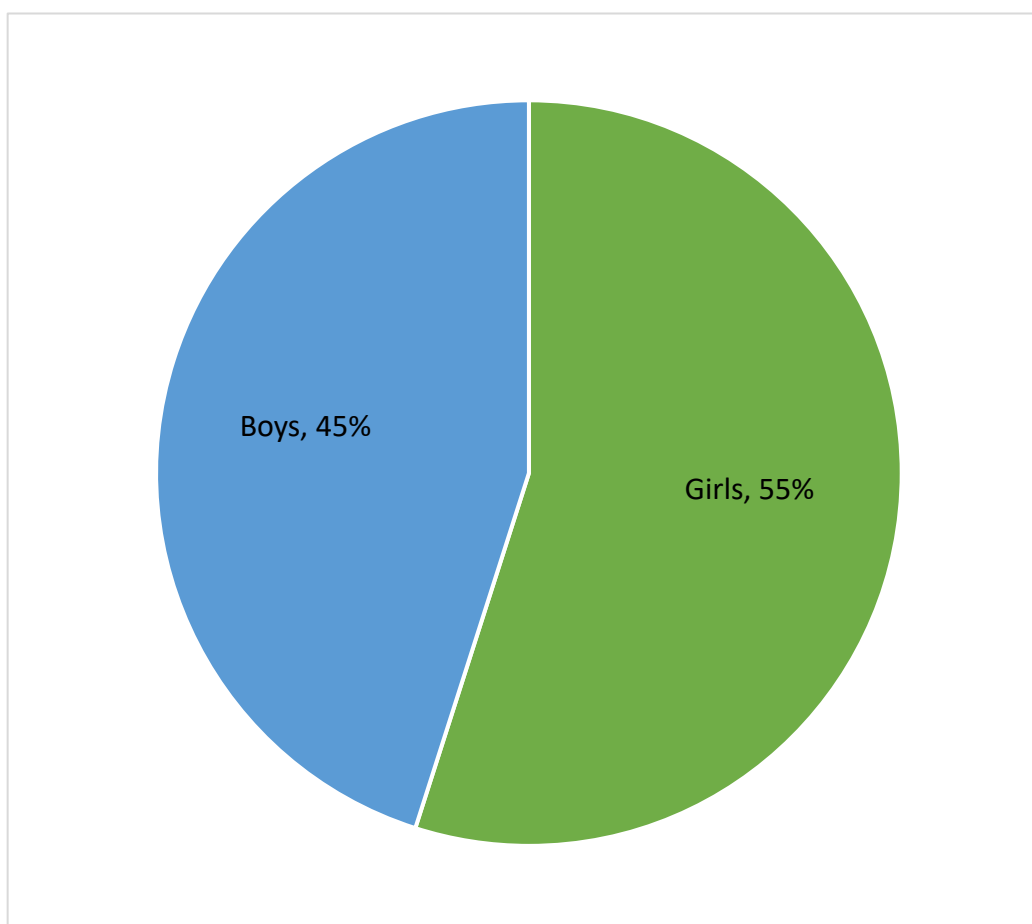
Annexure 2.1

Apli Shala 2022-2023

Table 5. Gender wise enrollment in Balwadis and sewing classes

Balwadi	Girls	Boys	Total
Shishu gat Balwadi	12	8	20
Madhala gat Balwadi	12	15	27
Motha gat Balwadi	5	9	14
Sewing classes	10	0	10
Total	39	32	71
%	55	45	100

Fig 5. Gender wise enrollment in Balwadis and sewing classes



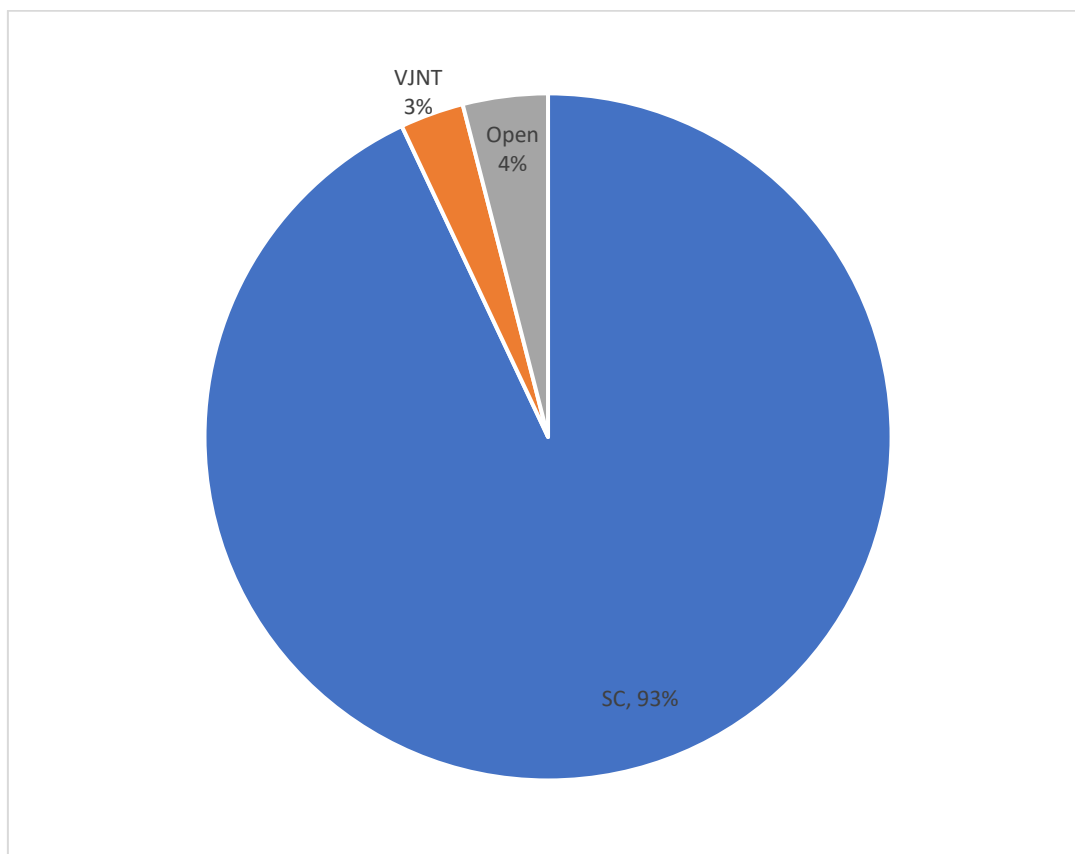
Annexure 2.2

Apli Shala 2022-2023

Table 6. Caste wise enrollment in Balwadis

Balwadi	SC	VJNT	OPEN	Total
Shishu gat Balwadi	20	0	0	20
Madhala gat Balwadi	24	0	3	27
Motha gat Balwadi	12	2	0	14
Sewing class	10	0	0	10
Total	66	2	3	71
%	93%	3%	4%	100

Fig. 6. Caste wise enrollment in Balwadis



SC Scheduled Castes
VJNT Denotified and Nomadic Tribes
Open All other castes not falling in the special categories

Annexure 3

Summary

Table 7. Total number of beneficiaries of PSS programs 2022- 2023

Unit/Program	No. of beneficiaries: children	No. of beneficiaries: adults
PSS teaching, non-teaching and project staff	-	69
KNB	453	906
Apli Shala Balwadi	61	122
Sewing class	-	10
Outreach	3265	3390
Total	3779	4497
Total number of beneficiaries	8276	

Note: 1. The adults in KNB and Apli Shala are indirect beneficiaries as they are caregivers of the students who are the direct beneficiaries.

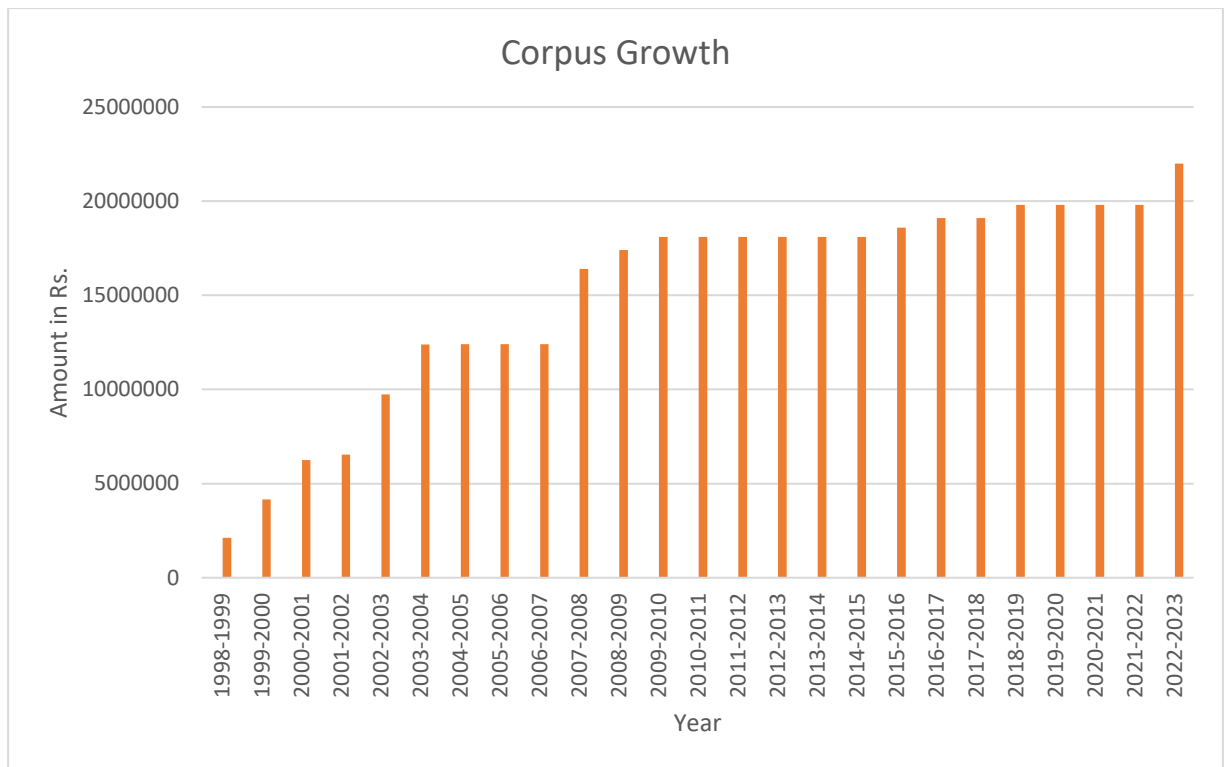
Annexure 4

Resources Developed by PSS

A	Publications
	For Children
1	17 Readers developed under NELPSPB Project
2	A set of 3 books compiling children's songs
3	Everyday English part 1 and 2 by Jane Sahi
4	Teaching English Through English by Jane Sahi
5	16 Navneet (KNB's annual publication of children's writings) issues
6	English workbooks and dictionaries
7	12 posters of Marathi children's songs
8	ECE Kit
9	Apan Vachuya (Marathi reading-writing primer)
	For Parents and Educators
1	Teacher Manual 'Mule Shikti Kartana'
2	Compendium of articles by reflective teachers
3	A set of 7 course books for an Early Childhood Education course
4	11 Palakneeti magazines issues edited by PSS team for the year 2015
5	Everyday English Book - 1 (Teacher Manual)
6	Everyday English Introductory book
7	Mulanche Srujanantmak Likhan by Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar
8	Teacher training modules for grade 1 and 2
9	Navopakram by teachers
10	Reports by CLLC Research fellows
11	Mulanche Granthalay: Pustakanshi Nate Jodtana edited by Dr. Manjiri Nimbkar
12	Pustak Maitri Abhyaskram (Curriculum for educators working with books and children) Book 1 and 2
13	Balshikshika Margadarshika (Manual for early childhood educators)
B	Films
	Documentaries
1	A Chance to Dream- A documentary on KNB school
2	Documentary on the work of NELPSPB project
	Training films
1	16 Balwadi training films (dubbed in Hindi and English)
2	13 Early literacy teacher training films
3	Everyday English training film- Here is a Tree
C	Online Resources
1	Web Based Portal for Teachers support
2	112 articles by teachers and well-known educationists on PSS website
3	Around 200 educational videos uploaded on YouTube channel of Pragat Shikshan Sanstha
4	6 Photo essays of village libraries, one of which is shared on the Tata Trusts website
D	Printed posters and library photo stories
1	6 Photo essays of village libraries
2	43 Posters of ECE
3	10 Posters of children's songs
4	9 Posters explaining constructivism
5	25 Marathi Story and Poetry cards

Annexure 5

Figure 8: Corpus Growth



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 of our programmes.
- You can also sponsor one or more children from Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan. The school fees are relatively modest- a maximum of Rs. 14500 to 18500 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.

- **Bank Transfer**
Account Name: Pragat Shikshan Sanstha
Account No: 38590200000157
Bank: Bank of Baroda
Branch: Phaltan, Dist. Satara, Maharashtra
IFSC code- BARBOPHALTA
- **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.

Pragat Shikshan Sanstha, Ring Road, Laxminagar, Phaltan 415523 | Ph: 9405304816
pragatshikshansanstha@gmail.com | www.pssphaltan.org