

October/ 2019

The CherYsh Post



Wishing a very prosperous Diwali to all!

Welcome to September Newsletter!



September-October are months of celebrations. At CherYsh too, the Shikshas celebrated teachers; personalities like LalBahadur Shastriji, Gandhiji were remembered by lighting lamps in their names, reciting their motivational quotes, singing their favourite songs, patriotic speeches and so on. On the other hand, it was a festival of good over evil and sweets and lights. It was very interesting to note that when children were asked what the festival meant to them, they did highlight sweets, new clothes, lights and crackers but also made references to the mythological stories of Rama killing Ravana and the victory of Good over Evil etc.

Thank God for Folk Culture and Oral literature which is very much alive in Rural India. Children don't just know the stories but they connect to them, and their values and norms are based on those many a times. It is the effort of our teachers to analyse and objectively explain to children the relevance of these myths and stories in today's time. One definite advantage of this active involvement in the local culture is that it balances out the digital onslaught.

Friends let us together with Haliyal Communities soak in the celebrations and wish that the light of education, knowledge and prosperity glow on them too!

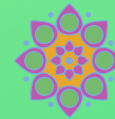
Join our hands in reaching out to them!

Happy Deepawali!

Best wishes,

Renu Mukunda

Director- Programmes and Social Innovation



Crafts and competitions held in the villages in the festival spirit

Celebrating our Learning Facilitators

On the 5th of September, Teacher's Day, we took out time to celebrate our Learning Facilitators, the backbone of our Shikshas. When these women take on the role of LFs, they become responsible for shaping the lives of their students through learning and education, becoming community leaders who advocate for education in their villages.

It was a day of fun and celebration for the Learning

Facilitators which included games like musical chairs, memory games, etc. But more importantly, the Learning Facilitators came together and talked about the personal growth they have felt, and the sense of pride and responsibility they feel as Shiksha LFs. Their development and growth is an important aspect of the project and are real indicators to marking our success in the path of development.



Teacher's Day celebration with our Learning Facilitators

Skill in Village Visit by Deshpande Foundation

Mr. Harish from Deshpande Foundation visited a few of the newly established Skill in Village Centres. He interacted with the students and Learning Facilitators and found abounding enthusiasm for learning among them. It was inspiring to see such initiative and motivation towards learning among them when formal

institutions like the government schools haven't been able to promote this.

It has motivated further steps in supporting the Learning Facilitators. More trainings will be provided to the LFs and workbooks are being arranged to enable better and structured teaching in the Skill in Village centres.

Navodyami Orientation Programme held for the women of Haliyal

CherYsh Trust and Deshpande Foundation have partnered on Navodyami to support dedicated women to become rural entrepreneurs, who can establish and run successful businesses. Together, we will extend our support in all aspects including training, market support and finding solutions together for various challenges as well. A Navodyami Orientation was held for the women community leaders, livelihood group members and women aspiring to be entrepreneurs from various villages of Haliyal on the 16th of September, 2019 at Deshpande Private Industrial Training Institute, Haliyal.

Mr. Shivananda and Ms. Rajeshwari from Deshpande Foundation, Hubli introduced the women to the Navodyami programme.

This orientation was a platform for the women to engage in a conversation about businesses, their importance and the role women can play in establishing such businesses. Important characteristics of entrepreneurs were highlighted through some interesting activities. The women participated in these and learned the important role that unity, creativity and focus play in the success of any business. While CherYsh Trust and Deshpande Foundation will support them, it is these women who will drive livelihood, business and growth. It is these women who will expand and change the economy of their villages, improving the standards of living while seamlessly breaking archaic gender roles still prevalent in village societies.



Navodyami Exposure Visit to Dharwad

Day 2 of the orientation involved an exposure visit to Dharwad. 20 women including the CherYsh Field staff visited the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Agriculture Sciences, Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant, National Mission for Food Processing etc. where they could see first hand the kind of trainings, standardisation and processing involved in commercial food production.

The women also visited Om Graha Udyog and Sumitra Nair's Chiggi Production unit, two businesses supported by the Deshpande Foundation Navodyami Programme. It was an opportunity for them to meet female business owners, who are not very different from them, ask them questions and freely interact with them. This interaction contributed in making their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs and working women a real possibility and boosted their desire to work towards such goals.



From left to right clock wise: Women at Om Graha Udyog Enterprise, Talk with Department of Home Science and Nutrition, Visit to Chiggi Production Unit, and Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plant

Celebrations and Preparations at Shikshas

Ganesh Chaturthi is a big festival in Haliyal. Preparations for the festival begin weeks in advance. People make the Ganesha idols and families paint them together. This festival spirit was also seen in the CherYsh Shikshas. Learning Facilitators had organised games and competitions for the students. Students made beautiful rangolis, drawings and really enjoyed playing games. Winners were given prizes by parents, LFs and others from the village community.

Exam season is just around the corner, so Shikshas are focusing on exam preparations for all subjects- English, Science, Mathematics, etc. Being at Shikshas gives the students an opportunity to prep in study groups that are guided by the LFs. This encourages good study practices among the students and creates positive interactions among peers, boosts confidence and reduces exam anxiety making them an important practice in Shikshas.



Survey in villages conducted by the ICT Trainees

The next step in the Information Communication Technology for Rural Education Project is to conduct surveys in the villages of the 20 trainees. This survey aims to understand the services that residents avail and their awareness of various schemes available to village demographics, so it can be provided at the Online Service Kendras. These Kendras are the end goal of the ICT Project.

All 20 trainees have been spontaneous with their task and have collected information from their respective villages. All this data is going to be reviewed to gain a better understanding of the needs of residents with regard to services and schemes. This understanding will be used to make the Online Service Kendras adaptable and viable. Furthermore, we envision these Kendras to become hubs where villagers of all age groups come to access information and avail online services.

MLC ESTATES LLP : CHERYSH'S CSR PARTNER

MLC Estates LLP is a property development firm that was established in 2015. It has become a reputed player in this space through several successful projects, including The Millenia which is a landmark in Bangalore. Mr. Sanjiv Shanmugam is the Managing Partner at MLC Estates and believes that social development is possible when resources are shared and in the importance of increasing access to education, skills training and entrepreneurship support for those who have little or no access to it. This has translated in their support of our work in Haliyal. MLC Estates has supported CherYsh as a CSR Partner since our very early days which helped us establish our work in rural and remote geographies. Their continued support enables and motivates our work in Haliyal.



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