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UDHBHAHAHA

Savi Nenapugalu

2019 - 2020

April 2019

A parent created a Whatsapp group called "Re-visited". The opening message read as, "It's time for us to restart and rebuild. With renewed hope and new aspirations let us get together again". And that's what we did! We moved forward, slowly, taking one step at a time, with lots of hope, support from the community and gave shape to our aspirations. The journey thus far has been a divine experience, filled with milestones, ups and downs, surprises and dilemma, action and downtime, happiness and pain; a bag full of rich experiences, giving us the impetus to do more!

THE BEGINNING

It was a motley group of teachers and parents that came together in April, battling dark clouds of uncertainty looming in our minds, but secure in the belief that together we could make this happen. During the course of the month, we identified a new location and set 19th of June as the date to begin. Early June, our first set of donations came in with the help of a parent. Though we had the support of parents, the wisdom of elders is very much essential. So seeking this, the teachers made a trip to Mussorie and spent 9 days with our mentors, Shri Pawan Guptaji, Smt. Anuradhaji and Sri Arun Elasseryji, in the midst of the picturesque and mighty Himalayas. The serene ambience and the cicadas in the background, along with valuable insights from our mentors, helped us to gain clarity about the direction in which we had to move, lay down our guiding principles and plan the curriculum. Around the same time, “Re-visited” got a new name – “Udhbhavaha”.



View of our campus before we moved in



Teachers & parents inspecting the new campus



Engaged in deep discussions with Pawanji at his home in Mussorie

THE BEGINNING



Arrangements and decorations for the homa

We initially planned a temporary arrangement to start classes in a few parents' homes, since we felt the new premises needed to be repaired and worked upon, to make it suitable for our use. However, as the start date came closer, that seemed unviable. So on 16th of June, foreseeing practical difficulties, we decided to begin at Udhbhavaha campus, making best use of the infrastructure that was already in place. The whole community came together to get the campus ready and it is no less a wonder that it was made possible. 19-Jun-2019, true to its name, UDHBHAVAHA became a reality, emerging from our hearts and minds onto terra firma. We conducted Veda Vyasa Homa and Vidyaarambha ceremony with 20 children, 14 families and 11 teachers.”

Harish anna conducting the homa



ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA

Full-fledged classes began on 20th of June, with academic subjects, languages (Kannada, Samskrita and English), stories, painting, handwork, krishi, yoga and kreedha.

Children of similar age-groups are led by a teacher.

- ❖ 4 – 6 years : Smt. Aditi Kiran
(now Smt. Latha Krishna)
- ❖ 6 – 7 years : Shri Manjunath Beliraya
- ❖ 7 – 8 years : Shri Prithvi Raj
- ❖ 8 – 9 years : Shri Umesh Prabhu
- ❖ 9 – 11 years : Smt. Deepa Shekar
- ❖ 12 years+ : Shri Shashank Srivastava



An academic class in progress



Aditi akka with her tiny tots

ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA

Bharathanatyam was introduced in Aug 2019. By Nov 2019, Shastriya Sangeetha, Kalaripayattu and Wood work classes too started. Below are the names of the teachers who impart kalas, academic and aarogya subjects :

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| ❖ Bharathanatyam | : | Smt. Megha Srinivas |
| ❖ Shastriya Sangeetha | : | Smt. Deepashree Gurumurthy |
| ❖ Kalaripayattu | : | Shri Suvrathan Gurakkal |
| | | Shri Jenish J |
| ❖ Wood work | : | Shri Mohan Subramanya |
| ❖ Yoga | : | Shri Vasant Jajoo |
| | | Smt. Lalitha Jajoo |
| ❖ Krishi | : | Shri Diwakar Channappa |
| ❖ Samskrita | : | Shri Harish A R |
| ❖ Kreedha and Kannada | : | Shri Kiran M S |
| ❖ Craft and handwork | : | Smt. Asha Mallapur |
| ❖ English | : | Smt. Jyothi Rahul |
| ❖ Physics | : | Shri Rahul Raj |
| ❖ Biology | : | Smt. Sandhya Prabhu |

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UDHBHAVAHA

ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA



Children engaged in krishi with Diwakar anna

Would you like to buy freshly-harvested, organic vegetables?



Asha akka teaching children to create magic with their hands; transforming everyday materials into something nice and useful



ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA

Deepashree akka
teaching
shastriya
sangeetha



Bharathanatyam
imparted by
Megha akka

Kalaripayattu class led by
Suvrathan gurakkal and
Jenish anna



ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA

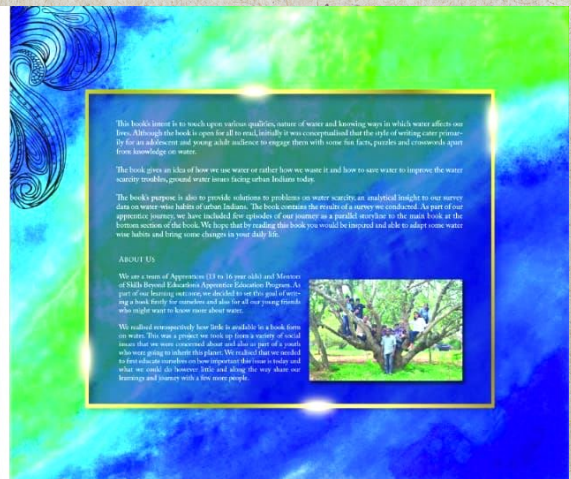
For children of Deepa akka's class, we collaborated with another similar initiative called Chilume. Every Monday, Manju anna teaches Kannada at Chilume, which is attended by our children as well and while there, they get to interact with their peers. They participated in the Katha Kathanam event in Vidyapeetha under the guidance of our Sanskrit teacher, Harish anna.

The children of Shashank anna's class started with project-based learning in association with an organization called Skills Beyond Education, run by Capt. Preetham Madhukar, a master mariner and a ship captain, who has spent close to 2 decades sailing across the world. Udhbhavaha teachers, Shashank anna and Kiran anna, were also part of the project and played a significant role in guiding and mentoring children as the work progressed. The project on Water Conservation, culminated in Nov 2019 with the launch of the book they had written, titled "Call of the Blue". This literary work by Shashank anna's class children has been highly acclaimed by the Udhbhavaha community as well as outsiders who got an opportunity to peruse the book. And that's not all! The children have come a long way since they started working on this project. They faced real-world challenges and developed skills and abilities to deal with the same.

ACADEMICS, AESTHETICS AND AAROGYA



Different stages of the project on Water Conservation



Front and back cover of the book "Call of the Blue"

TEACHERS OF UDH BHAVAHA



Diwakar anna



Umesh anna



Sandhya akka



Latha akka



Manju anna



Shashank anna



Deepa akka



Kiran anna



Harish anna



Megha akka



Deepashree akka



Prithvi anna

TEACHERS OF UDH BHAVAHA



Mohan Anna



Vasant Anna



Rahul Anna



Asha Akka



Lalitha Akka



Jyothi Akka

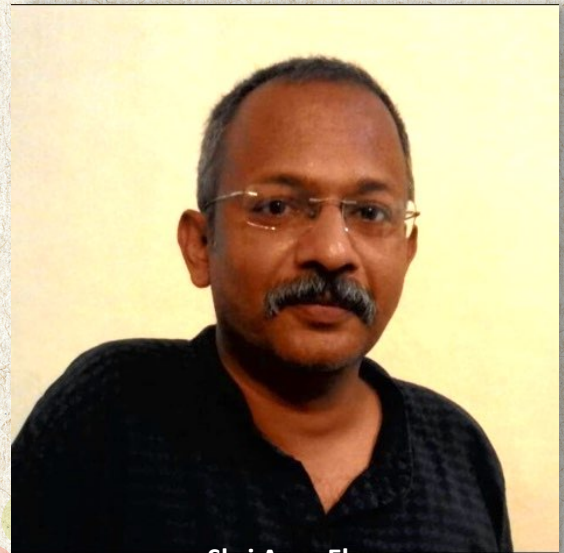


Suvrathan Gurakkal (seated)
Jenish Anna (standing)

ADVISORS OF UDHAVAHA



Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta



Shri Arun Elassery



Shri Govinda Das

OUR CAMPUS

The community worked hard and affectionately, aided by the grace of almighty, to transform a wild estate into the enchanting environs of Udhbhavaha that we see today, mesmerising one and all who come here!

Due to paucity of resources, we started with the existing building in the campus that had 3 rooms and a kitchen. However, there was much work to be done. The building needed a major facelift to make it suitable for our purpose. And so we got going, armed with brooms, paintbrushes and a drilling machine! For many, it was a revelation that hard, physical labour can be fun. We swept and mopped, laughed and screamed, painted and drilled, climbed and jumped...In the end, the work was done while the children, parents and teachers had a whale of a time!

Shri Kiran, an architect, has given us an innovative, cost-effective design for 3 classrooms that would be ready for the coming year. The Guddali Puje (Bhoomi puja) happened in Dec2019 and we are waiting for the construction to start.

Yellow marigolds and varieties of hibiscus started blooming in place of weeds. Nourished by tiny, inexperienced hands with eager, learning minds, cabbages, palak, methi, tomato, radish and carrots sprouted readily. Children harvested and sold it in the community.

We waited and we waited and we waited some more... and finally in August, the skies relented. Dark clouds laden with rain gave way and showered their abundance, quenching the parched earth and drenching all other life forms. As the rumble of thunder subsided, we saw a whole new world open up before us!

OUR CAMPUS



Getting the campus ready for day zero!



Children having fun @ the kaluve



View of the kaluve after the rains



Monkeying around!

OUR CAMPUS

The dry kaluve (canal) nearby had filled up with enough water to drown a careless stroller. And all we wanted to do was jump in and get wet! Over the following months, the kaluve became the center of action for us; we played in the water, experimented with wooden rafts, created check dams and tried to build a bridge of rocks like the vanara sena. Bet the kaluve was happy to have so much activity happening in it!

When it rained heavily for the first time, we heard a loud commotion as we entered Udhbhavaha. And we were all curious to know what it was. So we all walked towards the sound, wondering about this strange cacophony. Lo and behold! We saw thousands of frogs congregated for their annual monsoon mating frenzy. The varied notes from different species of frogs mingled together into one delightful, amphibian orchestra!

Few more incidents worthy of attention happened at a large, abandoned well, a short walk away from Udhbhavaha. This well appears to be very old, with cut stones lining the sides and a few steps at irregular distances. When the well was dry, we had noticed a large turtle in it, that could have got stuck as the water level receded. After the rains arrived and the well filled up, we saw snakes and couple of flapshell turtles.

OUR CAMPUS



“How did the vanara sena build a bridge with rocks?”, children wonder



I'm bored; can I take the cows for grazing?



Or shall we build a temple?

OUR CAMPUS

On one occasion, we had to rescue a large Russell's Viper that had fallen into the water and seemed to lack the energy to pull itself out. At another time, we helped pull out a pregnant goat that had accidentally fallen into the water while grazing. You see, the well does not have a wall to keep animals and people from falling in!

The kreeda ground emerged from the grassland at the far-end of our campus and pathways were made leading up to the ground. Kiran anna, our kreeda teacher, played a pivotal role in enabling this.

What do children of Udhbhavaha do when they get bored? They graze our cows, Yamuna and Sarayu, or.... They build a temple. This temple built and consecrated by children of Umesh anna's and Deepa akka's class, have Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi as the deities. You will notice this as you walk towards the kreeda ground from the main building.

A GROWING COMMUNITY

After the initial settling period, we opened up for admissions in Nov2019 and added 6 children across all classes. Admissions continue to be open.

With the new subjects being introduced, we had about 7 teachers joining us.

Aditi akka, who had been with us since inception and was the teacher for the tiny tots in Shishuvatika, had to leave in Jan2020, as her health was not permitting. In Feb2020, Latha akka joined and took these children under her wings.

This year end, we also had to part ways with two families.

From the beginning, we felt the need to have someone from the nearby village, who could help us around with various tasks. We found just the person in Sridhar anna who joined us in Jan2020. He is a native of Muddaiahanaapalya and an all-rounder – you walk in to Udhbhavaha and you will see him either watering the plants or making a new vegetable patch ready or cooking or plucking those raw mangoes for children or making a new swing or playing lagori with children or sharing some thrilling stories with us. If you don't see him around, he's probably away to make purchases or providing logistical support with the Bolero.

Early in the year, we received hearty blessings in the form of our cows, Yamuna and Sarayu which arrived from Gauribidanur. Yamuna added to our joy when she delivered an adorable calf, Lakshmi, during February this year.

We started the year with **20** children, **14** families and **11** teachers. The year-end brings us to a community strength of **22** children, **16** families, **18** teachers (8 full time and 10 part time), **1** support and **3** cows.

A GROWING COMMUNITY



Yamuna and Sarayu arriving at Udhbhavaha



Yamuna with her new-born calf, Lakshmi

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING

June 2019

Our monthly Manthans, starting with the orientation program in this month, focused on creating common ground based on the vision and principles of Udhbhavaha. Talks from esteemed guests like Naren and Capt. Preetham Madhukar added immense value to the community. And everyone looks forward to the grand pot-luck lunch arranged at the end of Manthan. The delicious dishes prepared so lovingly by mothers (and some fathers!) is a real treat to the palate. Should we say that this is one of the key attractions of Manthan!

August

The Dates Harvest Festival happened in its full glory at Diwakar anna's Marali Mannige Farm, Gauribidanur. Children of Shashank anna's class were more than glad to guide visitors around and ensure that they had a "sweet" time! Visitors came from far and wide, and were amazed at how dates could be grown organically in a place like Gauribidanur.

Though we got to enjoy the bounties of the monsoon, many across Karnataka were not as fortunate. Several districts of our state and many parts of India were devastated by floods. People lost their homes and belongings. Teachers of Udhbhavaha and children of Shashank anna's class visited some of the flood affected villages near Nargund and distributed basic essentials to the people there.

October

Diwakar anna was live on Vividh Bharathi Radio. He shared about how the book "One Straw Revolution" by Masanobu Fukuoka inspired him to go back to farming and live off the land. He also talked about the need to introduce younger generations to farming, which he is doing at his farm Marali Mannige in Gauribidanur.

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING



June 2019 – Manthan in progress



Yummy pot-luck by mothers!



Let's play some leg cricket!

Manthan

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING



August 2019 – Distributing essentials to flood victims

At a sunflower field while returning from Nargund



A visit to the temples of Badami

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING

November

We started conducting our open day program called Parichaya. This program is for the public to know about our work and also get a guided tour of our campus. In this way, people who are interested can become part of the Udhbhavaha community. We have conducted three Parichaya events during this academic year.

December

“Children – a magical journey or a puzzle to solve?” is an outreach program conceptualized by our teachers. Enabling parents to decipher child behavior and what role they play in the development of their child is what we look at in this program. We delivered this first in RR Nagar in December and the next one in Anchepalya in February.

All students and teachers attended Harish anna’s wedding. We relished the delicious South Indian food served and returned after showering the lovely couple with our blessings and best wishes.

Two of our teachers, Manju anna and Shashank anna, had the privilege to be part of the “Jagriti Yatra” this year. Jagriti Yatra is a 15-day, learning journey in train, taken up by 500 young, ambitious youth as they travel across India along with their mentors, meeting role models and entrepreneurs across the country.

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING



Udabhavaha Parichaya,
a public program

All of us at
Harish anna's wedding



"Children"
a puzzle to solve or a magical journey
A workshop by our teachers

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING

January 2020

This is a special month for us at Udhbhavaha, as we started cooking in a wood-fired, earthen Ole (stove). This is remarkable considering that many of us are experiencing this for the first time! And as a part of this, children are fortunate to be involved in the journey of a seed to their plate as food. During their krishi class, children prepare the soil, sow seeds and nourish the plants with water and manure. Come Thursday, they harvest the vegetables they have grown and prepare a sumptuous meal that we all sit together and eat. When children toil in the hot sun and grow their own food, do they have to be taught not to waste it?

February

A 2-night star gazing event was anchored in the campus by Capt. Preetham Madhukar from Skills Beyond Education. The session were filled with stories from Greek mythology about stars, constellations and planets, a contest to spot shooting stars and satellites, and Indian names of stars and planets. Children got to stay at our campus for 2 nights and thoroughly enjoyed walking around in leopard territory at night!

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING



Chop..chop..chop...
we eat what we
grow

Cooking on a
wood-fired,
earthen ole



---and then, we all eat
together. Burp!

EVENTS WORTH MENTIONING



View of the night sky just before sunrise, showing Mars, Jupiter and Saturn



Star-gazing session led by Capt. Preetham



That's my favourite star / planet !!!

Star-gazing program

WISDOM OF ELDERS

At Udhbhavaha, we live by the belief that the wisdom of elders and the learned is an essential factor for our success. Wise words and life experiences shared by others enrich our understanding of life and how to create effective learning experiences.

Dr. Shri. Gururaj Karajagi, Director of Academy for Creative Teaching, is a well-known columnist and author of popular book “Karunaalu Baa Belake”. He is instrumental in guiding many schools and his talks on teaching and parenting are quite inspiring. We were fortunate to host him along with Shri. Ravindra Bhat, Executive Editor of Prajavani, at Udhbhavaha and received valuable insights from him.

Few days before Pejawar Swamiji, Vishwasha Theertha left his body, during his visit to Vidyapeetha, some of our children had the wonderful opportunity to gift him a hand knitted cap and seek his blessings.

On our inaugural day, we had the good fortune of having Kondikonda bettada Swamigalu amidst us. Swamigalu setting his sacred feet in our campus is a blessing for us and we were overjoyed to hear from him that the energy in this space is most conducive for learning.

Shri. Arun Elassery, Director of Asli Shiksha and author of Learning to Learn series, is one of our mentors. He has visited us couple of times and offers continuous guidance and feedback.

WISDOM OF ELDERS



Dr. Gururaj Karajagi interacting with Udhbhavaha community



Capt. Preetham's session in progress

WISDOM OF ELDERS

We had a talk organized by Capt. Preetham Madhukar, who heads Skills Beyond Education and works on the apprenticeship learning model with adolescents.

Naren is an art and handwork teacher and is sought after as a trainer for teachers of Waldorf schools across India. We invited him to Udhbhavaha to obtain knowledge that he possesses. His sessions with children, teachers and parents were enriching and we got to learn much about artwork, handwork and understanding children.



Artwork class by Naren

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Indian festivals celebrated the traditional way are the best means for children to experience the cultural richness of our country. At Udhbhavaha, we make it a point to celebrate some of our festivals in a grand manner, keeping with local norms and practices, cuisines and colours. These occasions have also served as a space for us to meet and interact with people from different walks of life.

Guru Purnima

An occasion to commemorate our gurus and express gratitude. Guru Purnima was celebrated by an offering to Vyasa Maharishi and listening to pauranic stories narrated by Harish anna.

Varamahalakshmi

We sought the blessing of Goddess Lakshmi with a small puja and children sang the song Bhagyadalakshmi baramma, which they had learnt for this occasion.

Krishna Janmashtami

This festival brought all the ladies together in making sweets, a beautiful thottilu for baby Krishna, singing songs and bhajans in full spirit. Children had fun breaking matkas filled with buttermilk and chikkis, tied to the mango trees. And hey, this was no easy task, as the boys had to withstand the water being splashed on them by girls, while they tried to smash the matkas with a lathi!

Gowri Ganesha

Asha akka taught us to make idols of Lord Ganesha with mud, to mark the festival. Later, we conducted a puja and sought blessings of Lord Ganesha. Prithvi anna and Manju anna's class children sang the song – Gajamukhane Ganapathi ye nimage vandane; they had learnt this in their morning circle for this occasion.

FESTIVALS AT UDHAVAHA



Guru Purnima puja



Varamahalakshmi puja



Ganesha idols made with mud

FESTIVALS AT UDHAVAHA



Preparing sweets for Janmashtami



Manju anna checking the ropes



and the fun begins! Splash!



Janmashtami

FESTIVALS AT UDHBAVAHA



Sheela akka teaching children to make dolls

Children proudly displaying their handiwork



The dolls ready for gombe mane!



Saraswati puja

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Saraswati puja

Smt. Sheela Jayatheertha, a grandparent of one of our students, taught our children to make dolls and decorate them specially for this occasion. Children had a wonderful time while learning this unique traditional practice. They were thrilled at the end result! These gombes were arranged along with books and ayudha (tools) for the pooja conducted by Harish anna.

Gita Jayanthi

A visit to a small, beautiful Krishna temple tucked in the interiors of Kengeri where children offered the new Gita verses they learnt this year. Back in Udhbhavaha, the teachers and parents came together to do a complete chanting of the Bhagvad Gita, the entire 18 chapters.

Shivaratri

A puja to Lord Shiva, stories of His greatness, songs and bhajans marked this festival.

Holi

In it's local form called Kamanna Habba, Holi was celebrated in full zest amid news of Corona virus lurking around. Playing with colors, slush, water is something that children look forward to every year followed by walk on fire and in the night, burning Kamanna blurting out all the cusswords one knows is a sight to witness.

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FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Independence Day and Republic Day

Both these days were marked by respect to the nation, flag hoisting, patriotic songs sung by children and of course, sweets. On Independence Day, children performed a play scripted by teachers, that brought out the significance of our freedom struggle. Republic Day saw us all listening raptly to Brijesh anna as he spoke to teachers and the senior children at Udhbhavaha, sharing his knowledge about the Constitution, our duties and responsibilities as citizens, many of which common people are unaware of and take for granted.



Independence Day celebrations



Brijesh anna educating teachers and children about the Constitution of India on Republic Day



Flag hoisting by Umesh anna

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Sankranthi

A vibrant atmosphere, sweet smelling flowers, tasty food, laughter, music and dance, warm hugs - an absolute treat to our senses and loads of positive energy – this is how Udhbhavaha was on the 12th of January, as we celebrated Sankranthi Habba. We chose Sankranthi as an occasion for all the extended family members, friends and well-wishers of Udhbhavaha to come together and celebrate under one roof. In an era of individualism and nuclear families, the experience of a community coming together to celebrate a festival is rare. The richness of our culture and tradition emerges out without having to explain them in words. When every aspect of a festival is stitched together with meaning and understanding, we experience a deep connection with life, the people around us and our beloved Karnataka maathe. These connections help children to stay rooted in their native culture, enabling them to explore the world with greater confidence and give their best to society as adults.

The 180+ people who joined us in the celebrations on that day left with an ecstatic feeling that they probably had not experienced before!



Felicitating Prabhakar anna

FESTIVALS AT UDHBAVAHA

Sankranthi

A festival doesn't start and end with the day of festival, days of preparation before, winding up after... all put together, gives the complete experience of a festival. The coming together of ladies to cook, men to decorate the house, children to play around and boast of the little contributions they made, the little fights and compromises, the meticulous planning and sight of joyous faces thrilled at the final outcome, the little chores of cleaning up... are unforgettable lessons of value education for children.

The day began with the auspicious Agnihotra homa performed by Suvrathan Gurukkal, that purified our atmosphere and set the tone for the day. This was followed by Ole puja, offering prayers before we start the cooking for the day. All surrounded the boiling Pongal, waiting and watching for the earthen pot to overflow and soon we could hear the screams Pongal-O-Pongal, not missing the sweet potatoes and peanuts that were boiling beside it. The ceremony of offering water to sun (Surya Arghya) was done by all children and guests on this auspicious day under the guidance of Harish Anna.



O suggi kaala higgi bandhitho
namma baalinalli bhagya thandhitho

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Sankranthi

Heaps of different types of millets were neatly placed and Raashi puja performed by Diwakar anna. This was also a wonderful occasion to express our gratitude to Prabhakar Anna who has always been a great support to Udhbhavaha, both here and during our visits to Gauribidanur. Song and dance add that touch of zest to a celebration. Prithivi Anna and his class children very aptly danced and sang "Suggi kala higgsi bandhitu", a song thanking mother nature for the bountiful harvest.

We took the opportunity to pay our respects to Yamuna and Sarayu, by performing Gau-Puja and had the cows jump over fire as part of the ceremony. Meanwhile, the ladies and men folk of our community toiled hard and happily, cooking up an elaborate lunch for our guests. As we waited with rumbling tummies, we were taken by surprise as a troupe of artists set the scene on fire with their Dollu Kunitha performance. The energy reached a frenetic level when our parents and guests joined in, adding steps to the dollu. All the dance and activity left us with a nice appetite and everyone thoroughly relished the sumptuous meal that was served. The celebrations came to an end with kite-flying in our large, open ground. Alongside, how can I miss mentioning the stalls of muffins and handwork items made by our own children which disappeared in a jiffy! We were extremely happy to see our guests leave with the thamboola and a seru of ragi, feeling light-heated and carrying fond memories to cherish for a lifetime.

FESTIVALS AT UDHBAVAHA



Agni-hotra homa
performed by Shri Suvrathan Gurakkal



Pongal-O-Pongal!



Raashi puje



Dollu kunitha



Kite flying



Cow jumping over fire

Sankranthi habba

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA



You don't like to get dirty?
You will get more colours on you!



Water holi!



Kamannana dahana



Can you walk on Fire?

Holi

FESTIVALS AT UDH BHAVAHA

Hejje 2020 Udhbhavaha festival

Our first annual paadayatre. Starting from Diwakar anna's Marali Mannige Farm in Gauribidanur, we embarked on a 3-day journey by foot, traversing about 40 kilometres, covering 20 villages around Gauribidanur. Teachers, students, parents and a few friends of Udhbhavaha were part of this yatra, which was 30-member strong at its peak. The experience was nothing short of magical! Our hearts were gladdened to find people receiving us with such warmth and goodness, caring for us like family. We imbibed precious life lessons along the way – that of humility, embracing unpredictability, allowing events to happen and not control everything, perseverance and that where there is a will, there is a way!

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Miles to go before I sleep



FESTIVALS AT UDHBAVAHA



Mahesh anna serving kabbina haalu at an aale mane



Sanjeevanna, Subramani anna and Prabhakar anna, without whom this journey was impossible



The bullock cart that carried our luggage and some tired feet



The teachers who walked the entire distance barefoot



Oh, the joy of swimming in an open well!

WILDLIFE OF UDHABHAVAHA

No, we are not talking about our children!

Udhbhavaha is home to myriad wildlife, and you will be amazed to know that we coexist.

Some of them appear during the day while many others sneak in at night when there is no one.... Do you want to know who they are?



A Baronet butterfly



Diwakar Anna with a Bronze-back Tree Snake



No, we weren't looking for the key.
It's a leopard's pug mark!



How to hold a scorpion



Advitha getting to know a Rat Snake



A Russell's Viper that had to be rescued

FUNDRAISING

One of the key elements of Udhbhavaha's philosophy is the concept of "Dhaana / Dhaan". In Bharatha (pre-British era), anna, aushadhi aur vidhya (food, medicine and education) were never sold or offered at a fixed cost/ price. And teachers did not receive any pre-decided remuneration. Society at large supported educational institutions and took care of the teachers' needs. This model functioned in this land for centuries...

Even today, most families across our country are unable to completely finance their children's education, when we consider end-to-end costs involved. It is only possible when society plays an active role and each one of us does our bit. In many parts of the world, not-for-profit educational institutions receive external support for their capital expenses.

At Udhbhavaha, we manage our expenses from the donations made by parents, friends and well-wishers. We believe that Udhbhavaha should be accessible to all parents earnestly seeking holistic, alternative education for their child(ren). Their economic status should not become an imposing barrier.

As a result, we have consciously taken the following decisions :

- ❖ Parents do not pay a pre-scribed "fee" towards the education of their child; rather, they contribute/ donate, according to their capacity towards the running of the school.
- ❖ Teachers' salaries constitute 70% of our running cost. We offer need-based salary to teachers. We have teachers who take a relatively modest salary while some don't take any remuneration.
- ❖ The cost of creating infrastructure on campus is not borne by parents.

FUNDRAISING

These decisions have led to a shortfall between the income and expenditure of the school. This shortfall and infrastructure costs are met by our fund-raising efforts. We are also in the process of building our corpus through donations. Fund-raising is, therefore, a crucial aspect of the running of Udhbhavaha.

Some of the fundraising activities we have conducted are :

- ❖ Corporate training programs – A Bangalore-based, services company called Scalers needed Team-building and Leadership Development programs for their staff. This came through from a parent of Udhbhavaha, Shri Raghunandan Patre. Three programs were facilitated by Prithvi anna during the year and these received excellent reviews from the client. They are looking forward for more such programs in future.
- ❖ Childrens' Day – Scalers invited us to conduct a program for the children of their employees on Childrens' Day. Manju anna, Deepa akka and Prithvi anna engaged the children with songs, stories and drawing. Children thoroughly enjoyed the session and went back home with a skip in their step.
- ❖ Star-gazing event by Capt. Preetham Madhukar of Skills Beyond Education.
- ❖ Some parents and teachers solicited cash donations from their friends and relatives, while some others have contributed items of use – LCD projector, laptop, TT table, telescope

FUNDRAISING



Team-building program at Camp Srishti



Leadership development program for managers

Childrens' Day program at Scalers office premises



This was Udhbhavaha 2019-20 in a nutshell. We close this academic year with

a happy, positive note, excited about the new challenges, learning and growth the next year is

bringing with it.



See you again next year!