

Welcome From the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

This edition of Titali focuses on some of the activities held during the months of April to July of 2011.

Most of the months in this period coincide with the summer vacations in schools across India. In the best interest of children, volunteers engaged them in creative activities. Besides, the volunteers also took a break from the classroom and spent significant time for the welfare of the communities in which Pankhudi serves.

Starting from June 2011, new PR representatives were elected in all the chapters of Pankhudi. I would like to thank them for taking the responsibility and reporting the activities in their chapters.

On behalf of the newsletter team, I hope you have a wonderful time reading this edition of Titali.

Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to: news@pankhudifoundation.org.

Best regards,

Rutvij Kotecha
Chief Editor/Coordinator – Titali (Newsletter of Pankhudi Foundation)

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✦ Interactive performances by 'Yours Truly Theatre' for Visually Impaired Children - Prathima Kharvi

On June 4th, 2011, an interactive theatre performance was organized by the 'Yours Truly Theatre' group for the students of Sri Ramana Maharishi Ashram for Blind (SRMAB), Bengaluru, India.

The group is an Improvizational & Interactive Theatre Group based in the city. Ranji David, Nandini Rao and few others from 'Yours Truly Theatre' were the performers for this event. Teachers from SRMAB, Pankhudi volunteers and more than one hundred students attended their performance.

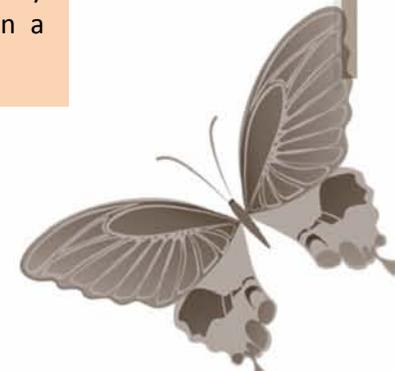


(1, 2) Students, teachers and Pankhudi volunteers attending the performance. Courtesy : Vaibhav Choudhary



The performance predominantly involved the usage of sounds so that the students could connect with the performers and understand the play. It was a unique experience for the volunteers and the teachers alike, for they were also blindfolded.

The performers enacted stories told by the students and few incidences that happened in the lives of these students'. They also enacted the students' hobbies and future plans in a humorous way using various sounds.



Everyone in the audience truly enjoyed the show. The children especially appreciated the fact that they were able to relate their real life stories to the dramas.

Volunteers and the teachers realized that the students should be frequently involved in similar interactive drama sessions in order to encourage them to express their views coherently.

Pankhudi Foundation is very thankful to 'Yours Truly Theatre' group for their valuable time and wonderful performances.



(3) Nandini from the 'Yours Truly Theatre' in action, (4) One of the students reciting a story to Harsha. Courtesy : Vaibhav Choudhary



✦ Paper Bags – A Sustainable Approach – *Abhishek Shenoy*



Children flaunting their paper bags and volunteers cheering their efforts. Courtesy: Abhishek Shenoy

Environmental pollution due to plastic bags is one of the prime concerns. Therefore, an effort was made at Suman Nagar (in Mumbai, India) to educate the kids about the issue and how it can be tackled by the use of paper bags.

On May 28th, 2011, Ms. Savini Sonavaria arranged an art and craft session to teach the kids how they could make their own paper bags. Around 20 children participated in this event.

She highlighted the advantages of using these bags and how plastic bags can be avoided while shopping. Based on Savini's guidance, kids crafted their own paper bags; and also decorated them with pictures of Bollywood actors and cricket stars.

Pankhudi Foundation is grateful to Ms. Savini Sonavaria for sharing her creativity with the children.

Parents Induction Meeting - Nivedita Ghonge

On July 31st, 2011, around 55 parents had gathered at College of Engineering Pune, India for the Parents Induction meeting. These meetings are organized by the Pune chapter every year before the commencement of new academic sessions in schools. The objective of these meetings is to build a healthy relationship with the parents and spread a social message. This year the team of volunteers focused on spreading awareness about the importance of girls' education.

The program kicked-off at 10 am with a brief introduction of Pankhudi Foundation, its goals and activities in other chapters.

This was followed by a movie named 'Girl Stars' produced made by 'Going to School' team (<http://goingtoschool.com/>). The movie depicted the story of an underprivileged female student who succeeded in becoming a teacher. During the course of her journey, she faced various resistances from her family and the society. The parents were touched by the video as they were able to connect to the story and its theme. This gave the volunteers an opportunity to communicate to the parents the importance of education in their daughters' lives.

Subsequently, the chief guest Ms Vaishali Kashid, who works as a bus conductor with Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), shared her success story. Since her experiences were similar to the story shown in the film, parents truly realized the essence of education.

One of the families from Patil Estate was recognized as the "Ideal Family" for supporting their children in getting educated. At the same time, their kids had reciprocated by being dedicated and sincere in academics.

The volunteers concluded the meeting by expressing their gratitude to parents for attending it.



Parents assembled in classroom at COEP for the Induction meeting.
Courtsey – Akshay Marathe



Left – Chief Guest Ms. Vaishali Kashid, Right – Ruby RP; Chapter Representative. Courtsey – Akshay Marathe

Health Awareness Campaign at Priyanka Camp – Chhavi Negi



Doctors interacting with the patients. Courtesy: Chhavi Negi

The health camp was a runaway success based on its popularity amongst the residents of Priyanka Camp and the nearby slums.

Pankhudi Foundation sincerely appreciates the efforts made by Dr. Neelam, Dr. Prashant and their team for conducting the health camp, arranging the medicines and logistics.

On April 30th, 2011, the doctors from Safdurdjung hospital had organized a health camp to increase health awareness amongst the residents of Priyanka Camp (in Delhi, India). Volunteers from Pankhudi's Delhi chapter had assisted the doctors in organizing this camp.

Few booths were setup to measure the vital signs of the patients. These tests made them aware about their health conditions and gave them a chance to clarify their doubts with the doctors. In addition, the doctors distributed medicines to the patients as per the patients' medical conditions.



Doctors interviewing people if they had any medical history. Courtesy: Chhavi Negi

✦ Impact day celebrations with Deloitte - Chhavi Negi

Each year Deloitte employees observe 'Impact Day'; during which they spend an entire day performing community services. This year on June 10th, a team from Deloitte (Delhi branch) had visited Priyanka Camp to celebrate Impact Day with Pankhudi Foundation.

The employees from Deloitte sprayed insecticides in the area in order to combat mosquitoes and other insects. They also performed a hilarious skit to emphasize the necessity of hygiene.



Kids showing their paintings. Courtesy: Deloitte employees



Various competitions like – drawing, poem and story recitation were organized to enliven the spirit of the children. Deloitte employees and Pankhudi volunteers were very appreciative of the children's creativity and aptitude. Having received prizes for their performances, the children felt very encouraged.

Towards the end, Deloitte employees mentioned that "It was indeed a very enriching experience for all of us. It was our pleasure to associate ourselves with Pankhudi and contribute to their cause."

Pankhudi volunteers are eager to celebrate Impact Day once again with Deloitte employees.