



BAAL DEVO BHAVA
Shishukunj
LET EVERY BUD BLOOM

Shishu Bhavan, 25-27 High Street, Edgware HA8 7EE

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Annual General Meeting **EC Reports 2009-2010**

Attached is a compilation of reports from various EC members. We hope you take time to read these comprehensive reports.

Executive Committee

President	Nitinbhai Mehta
Vice Presidents	Kamleshbhai Shah
	Amarbhai Shah
Secretary	Kajalben Shah
Secretary - Assistant	Nirajbhai Shah
Treasurer	Mitinbhai Shah
Assistant Treasurer	Pravinbhai Pindolia
Head of Field Activities (HoFA)	Mahelbhai Shah
Baal Pravrutu - Kendras	Rajbhai Mistry
Baal Pravrutu - Events	Nirajbhai Shah
Baal Pravrutu – Strategy	Anandbhai Shah
Kendra Nayak - Brent	Shefaliben Patel
Kendra Nayak - Finchley	Pratikbhai Shah
Kendra Nayak - South	Vikashbhai Patel
Communications	Priyaben Shah
Gujarati	Prabhutaben Rawal
ShiPA	Giteshbhai Vasa
ShiPA – Assistant	Pravinbhai Pindolia
ShiPA – South	Saileshbhai Bechar
SIP	Sunitaben Dhanani

Governors

Governors	Amratbhai Kanjaria
	Chhaganbhai Dabhi
	Dineshbhai Gorasia
	Rameshbhai Patel

Proposed Shishukunj Baal Pravrutti Calendar: March 2008 to August 2009
(dates/events subject to change)

2009

Sunday 19 th April	Kendra Re-opens (Summer Term)
Sunday 24 th May	Kendra Closed (Bank Holiday)
Sunday 5 th July	Walk 4 Children
Sunday 19 th July	Last Day of Kendra
Saturday 25 th - Sunday 26 th July	Shishu Shibir
Friday 28 th – Monday 31 st August	Jeevan Ghadtar Shibir
Sunday 6 th September	Kendra Re-Opens
Saturday 12 th September	New Intake Introduction Evening
Sunday 13 th September	New Intake Day
Sunday 20 th September	Baalmandir New Intake Day
Sunday 4 th and Sunday 11 th October	Shishukunj Navratri celebrations
Sunday 20 th December	Last Week of Kendra

2010

Sunday 10 th January	TriKendra Day (Cancelled due to bad weather)
Sunday 17 th January	Kendra Re-opens (Spring Term)
Tuesday 2 nd February	Shradhanjali
Sunday 21 st March	Annual General Meeting

Secretary

Namaste!

This has been another busy and productive year for Shishukunj London. Some of the highlights have been our fundraiser in the Summer of 2009 – Walk 4 the Future – which saw young and old walking to raise money for our organisation; and the purchase of our new Bhavan, previously known as Gemini House and now called Shishu Bhavan.

Our Kendras are the heart of our organisation and in the last 12 months they have worked hard to evaluate and radically reform activities, looking at the developmental needs of each baalak. You will have noticed age-based and project-based activities with increasing use of external resources and excursions to embellish what we provide. This is an ongoing process of reform, but we are already seeing the fruits of this with a more challenged workforce and more enjoyable and thought-provoking activities for the baalako. The latter has resulted in consistently higher sankhyas at Kendra than in previous years.

We now also have a 4th Kendra – Yuvak Kendra – which is for the development of the youth in our organisation. In the background the Baal Pravrutti team are continuing to review other aspects of our activities including some of our annual activities and the products of this work will start to be apparent over the next year.

ShiPA continue to be the backbone of our organisation. They have supported our big fundraiser – Walk 4 the Future – and have been instrumental in supporting the purchase and move to our new Bhavan. All the while they continue to support our day-to-day activities at Kendra and other Baal Pravrutti. They have also developed their own meetings during the year, tapping into their in-house expertise. A particular highlight was a recent presentation entitled ‘A Child’s Moral Compass’.

Sewa work has taken yet another dimension this year. We continue to support projects abroad with the SIP team by providing funds and delivering containers full of clothes and equipment. This year has seen the development of Sewa work at Kendras with baalako and the workforce developing a hands-on approach to caring for those less fortunate than themselves.

The Gujarati team has been hard at work working on a new syllabus and training of our teachers. In the short hour they have each week for Gujarati teaching, they work hard to provide the seeds of the language and we hope that you continue to water these seeds at home.

In terms of communications this year, we are moving ever closer to becoming paperless. Our website has a new host who has worked hard to create a more user-friendly site with more versatility for the future. If you haven’t visited it recently, it is really worth a good look. You will also have noticed that we are sending more communications by e-mail. Please keep your e-mail address updated with us and we are sure you will find it a more efficient and convenient way of communicating with us.

The Waiting Lists for Brent and Finchley Kendras are currently less than one year. South Kendra continues to take new baalako weekly. Please continue to spread the word of Shishukunj to friends and relatives, encourage them to visit our website and apply to the waiting list. We would always like to welcome more members to our family.

Every achievement within Shishukunj owes its success to the triangular partnership at the heart of our organisation – between the baalako, parents and workforce. This openness and togetherness remains one of our biggest strengths.

Our part-time Admin Officer (Suryaben Shah) has now moved to our Edgware Bhavan and maintains the office, working on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for a total of 20 hours. She continues to go beyond the call of duty in working for Shishukunj and we do appreciate her hard work.

Finally, I would like to thank Nirajbhai for his support as Assistant Secretary over the last year.

Baal Devo Bhava
Kajalben Shah
Secretary

Brent Kendra

Namaste Bhaio & Beno!

Since the last AGM, the aim on Kendras has been to adopt a strategic plan, which focuses on strengthening and extending our existing activities. This change has come about after reviewing Kendra activities and better understanding the individual needs of the baalako, workforce and parents. Therefore since the Summer term Karykars, Talimi Karyakars and the workforce have been attending workshops at our new Shishu Bhavan, brainstorming ideas and collectively coming up with fun, imaginative and dynamic activities, which will continue to develop the baalako physically, mentally, spiritually, culturally and socially over the year.

Based on our old timetable the Summer Term focused activities on physical development. Baalako were taught the different forms of Kawayat and following on from that, an African drumming workshop was planned for our 6-8 year old baalako. The term ended with a fantastic summer fair planned and prepared entirely by our Dasta Nayaks and Nayabs. Bringing fine arts on Kendra has been a long-term aim to raise both an awareness and interest in baalako. Exposing baalako to different fine arts may help to then further pursue those interests outside of Kendra.

Our Shishukunj ethos "Gammat saathe Gnaan" (learning through play) has been very apparent in activities on Kendra through the autumn and spring term. Shishu gooch, our nava baalako who joined in September, have taken no time at all settling in and engaging in activities. They joined Giju gooch half way through the autumn to begin a five-week creative writing project, which started by visiting the Roald Dahl Museum in Buckinghamshire. Through the spring term both gooches have stayed together and have been working in groups to find out about the different continents. Gandhi gooch, our 9-10 year old baalako, began the autumn term learning about our four philosophers and, after receiving coaching from professional drama teachers, transposed the information learnt into documentaries. Their focus through the spring term has been more physical, they have been learning Poi and will be having their day trip away later in the term. Vivekanand gooch, our 11 year old baalako, joined Devchand gooch, our 12-14 year olds, with the aim further challenging this particular age group. They have been involved in inter games competitions, organising a market using young enterprise type skills to raise money for charity, beginning to understand the relationship between a teacher and a child through watching Taare Zameen Par and more recently making a music video.

We are trying to approach seva on Kendra through practical experiences. We have therefore planned in Seva days/activities for all three gooches later in the term. Within these days/activities each baalak will not only understanding the importance of giving but gain a real life experience. Cultural and spiritual activities within in the past three terms have taken shape through celebrating festivals from world religions and cultural celebrations. Baalako have enjoyed the different experiences, hence this is a feature of Kendra we hope to further enhance.

We are pleased to report that our aim to invigorate Kendra activities has been a great success due to the sheer hard work of our workforce. ShiPA have been a continual support at Kendra. The Kendra Nayabs Pranaybhai, Surajbhai, Kevalbhai as well as the Kendra Karyakars have been working hard alongside the workforce to make their ideas come to life. I take this opportunity to congratulate the baalako for their participation and enthusiasm and commend the workforce, Talimi Karyakars, Karyakars, ShiPA and Kendra Nayabs in continuing to make Brent Kendra a happy parivaar!

Baal Devo Bhava
Shefaliben
Brent Kendra Nayak

Finchley Kendra

Namaste! 2009-2010 has been a year of change across the board at Finchley Kendra. This change has not come without its challenges. I feel all those affiliated with Finchley Kendra have risen to the challenges to the best of their abilities, working incredibly hard to offer the best for our baalako. With that in mind, I would like to begin with thanking everybody for their continuous hard work.

The end of the 2008 – 2009 year saw Finchley Kendra celebrating Holi for the first time: a fantastic day for the baalako, slightly less for parents having to drive them home after! Following the Easter break, we started seeing change. A trial 'Baalmandir' Kendra started and we re-organised some of our workforce to look at age specific activities. In July, Nirajbhai stepped down as Kendra Nayab and Rakheben took on the role from September.

A new calendar year brought a lot of new things to Kendra; new Kendra Nayab, new strategy, as well as two new Kendras, 40 new baalako plus a further 23 new baalako in Baal Mandir. Whilst a third of our workforce have been involved with tailored talim at Yuvak Kendra, catering for age specific activities where we focus on individual developmental needs has been challenging. The need to continuously review the quality of our Kendra activities whilst managing change has not always been the easiest of tasks. However, we are beginning to see the fruits of our hard work. We now have more challenging activities for our older baalako and more innovative and creative activities for the younger ones.

To give you a small insight into some of the activities, we have had support from people outside the organisation with Vocal Vistar – singing classes, African drumming workshops, and the forthcoming Chinmaya workshops – spiritual development classes. In addition to this our baalako have enjoyed bhangra workshops, continents projects, learnt about different tribes, different festivals. Our 12 -14 age group have recently been watching 'Taare Zameen Par', which has really helped them to see differences in baalako and the challenges that life throws up. The focus on our core activities has not been forgotten; for example, whenever we have ramat gamat sessions we really focus on self-improvement in a specific games rather than playing as many as we can. Our biggest challenge came about at the end of Autumn term when we organised 4 separate gooch trips simultaneously on one day. They were all fantastic, and it was evident that the baalako gained valuable experiences from all. Also, Rakheben stepped down as Kendra Nayab to take on the Nayak role at Yuvak Kendra. Since then Shivbhai has come on board as Kendra Nayab. All in all, the last 12 months has been a fabulous learning experience and thoroughly satisfying given the improvements in our Kendra activities.

Our objectives set out last year were 'Holistic Development' and 'Gamat Saathe Gnaan' – and these will continue going forward. Over the course of the year we have started focusing heavily on these through introducing new activities, looking at our baalako's developmental needs and creating activities based on these, by really questioning every activity and seeing whether the baalako are learning from them albeit they may be having fun.

Going forward for the next year there are further objectives that we have set ourselves:

- Further the idea of 'Gamat Saathe Gnaan' into every activity for all baalako.
- Achieve a high level of discipline at all ages.
- Actively develop the workforce to enable them to take on the next step.
- Make sure our baalako are happy and enjoying activities organised.

The past 12 months have been the most challenging months that we have experienced, especially with the superb progress our sanstha has made. However, we work best when under pressure and this occasion has been no different. Our young, enthusiastic workforce continue to perform admirably as role models for our baalako, and consistently show great passion for our activities. We must also thank the silent workers who do not like to be mentioned but by doing the little things, help the Kendra run as a whole. This includes ShiPA, Gujarati teachers, Gujarati assistants and Karyakars. Last but not least, I must thank Nirajbhai, Dillanbhai, Rakheben and Shivbhai for their endless dedication and commitment in helping Finchley Kendra progress over the last year. The future looks to be very bright for Finchley Kendra – lets all work together to create the best environment for our baalako to develop.

Baal Devo Bhava
Pratikbhai Shah, Finchley Kendra Nayak

South London Kendra

Namaste Bhaio and Beno!

Wow how a year has flown so quickly. The last year has been frantic but also very productive.

There have been a couple of managerial changes, firstly after a year and a half in charged Vikashbhai stepped down as Kendra Nayak of south with me taking charge and then two of the most positive changes were Amitbhai Maru and Sanjaybhai taking over as Kendra Nayabs (our first two south Kendra Nayabs)

On Kendra we continued with the holistic developmental portfolios, this enabled the baalako to be challenged Physically, Mentally, Socially, Spiritually and Culturally. Our workforce has done a fantastic job in ensuring that our baalako are challenged and developed through all aspects, not only with the activities on Kendra but also activities outside of Kendra.

ShiPA

The ShiPA group had grown stronger and stronger over the last year. There is a positive buzz with these individuals. The group have not only been strong on Kendra but also have taken an initiative and organised activities for themselves Kendra (Badminton, Yoga etc)

What to do over the next year.

By this time next year south Kendra should be independently running, to ensure this happens hard by me and the north representatives need to ensure that firstly Amitbhai Maru and Sanjaybhai are ready to take on the role and secondly the workforce is ready to take the Kendra on top its next chapter.

In the last year through Kendra activities and the challenges that our senior team has been faced I am fully confident that the Kendra is developed and have the sufficient talim and learning tools to carry the Kendra on in the future.

Over the next year, we will also marketing again in the local community to try to increase the Sankhya at Kendra.

Finally, we must keep relationships with external parties, Oshwal, Shaka, and the Aashna house and at the same time expanding contacts, working in south to ensure that every baalak is developed in their own unique way.

Finally

A vote of thanks firstly for Vikashbhai the departing Nayak who did a fantastic job in taking the Kendra through its transition. Also huge thanks to my Nayabs, Amitbhai and Sanjaybhai and the workforce they have done a phenomenal job and always approach Kendra with great enthusiasm which they then pass on to the baalako. Also our huge ShiPA workforce, your hard work and commitment is fully appreciated not only from me but from my Kendra Nayabs but also Heeralben, Amitbhai Shah and Paragbhai. And finally the last three individuals that I mentioned, one of the reasons why this Kendra is ready to be fully independent is cause of their hard work behind the scene, so yeah thank you to all.

Baal Devo Bhava
Himalbhai Hirani
South London Kendra Nayak

Gujarati

During May/ June 2009, 21 baalakos sat for the Gujarati GCSE examinations and most of them passed with grades A – C. Congratulations to all of them from the Gujarati team.

In September about 51 baalako at Brent and 38 baalako at Finchley Kendra started the bhasa vargo classes.

During September 2009, Sujalben took over as the new head-teacher at Finchley Kendra from me.

The OCR GCSE examinations structure and syllabus has now been finalised. The Gujarati team has been working on revising the syllabus according to new OCR specification and time allocation for Gujarati classes in Shishukunj and has successfully completed revising the syllabus for the whole year. Now the Gujarati team is working with a term syllabus. This has provided the consistency between the Kendras in terms of teaching and has made a big impact on baalako's learning. Teachers from both Kendras meet regularly to discuss the teaching methods and how to deliver the lesson using focused planning to encourage active learning and accommodate the different learning styles.

During December, a teacher's workshop was held at the Finchley Kendra to enhance teacher's skills in terms of planning and assessing. The workshop was led by Rashmitaben, Sujalben and myself. The workshop was received very well by the teachers and everybody agreed that we should regularly have more such workshops in the future. Now the teachers have created an end of term test for baalako to measure the strengths of teaching and learning.

This year, the Gujarati team has seen a greater turnout of helpers. Gujarati team is very grateful to the parent helpers for dedication and commitment.

At present we are trying to encourage more parents – teacher communication, to ensure a three way dialogue between the baalak, parents and teachers.

The Gujarati team is now using the SKLP level-1 book from September with a revised syllabus as a workbook in yr1 and to carry on using in year-2. For other year groups, currently Gujarati team is looking into introducing the available workbooks.

We know Gujarati is very important to our baalakos and great effort is made to teach them in the limited time available to us with more emphasis on making it enjoyable for them.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all the teachers and helpers, the Kendra Nayaks and their teams and the EC for their support during the past year.

Baal Devo Bhava

Prabhutaben Raval
Gujarati Co-ordinator

Shishukunj International Projects

We, at Shishukunj, endeavour to fulfill our fourth objective “to relieve sickness, poverty and distress amongst children” every year and this year has not been any different.

As well as the funds allocated to various organisations after the due diligence is done, many varied activities have also taken place including forging stronger ties with institutes with like-minded people. We have also made new friends along the way.

Some Shishukunj members were privileged enough to see firsthand and play an active part in helping, at one of the largest medical camps held in India. The Palitana medical camp held in December helped about 28,000 people and our 500 wheelchairs or so were distributed to the needy including many children.

Our greatest achievement has been to bring sewa and bhav to our kendras as part of the normal activities to raise awareness in our baalako that charity begins at home. We believe that if these qualities can be instilled in our baalako then that will enhance all that Shishukunj gives.

Funds raised:

Type of Donation	Amount
Individual - Standing orders, home money boxes etc.	£45,718
Corporate	£1872
Restriction Donations, i.e. for specific causes or projects	
• Marathon	£1950
• BGMS	£500

Additionally a portion of money raised through Shishukunj events – Baal Leela 2 and Walk 4 Future has been allocated to the SIP fund.

Highlighted Event:

Swimathon – a brilliant idea from 3 Shishukunj baalako which had a multipurpose. To have an event that was for the whole family, raise awareness of the importance of exercise therefore a healthier lifestyle and raise funds for our Shishukunj initiative, ‘Life 4 Children’ (L4C). Over £5000 was raised.

Funds allocated:

Mar-09	Arpan	Street children rescue	£ 1,000
Mar-09	Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Sangh	Building & Upkeep	£ 2,000
Jun-09	Rope Charitable Trust	Education project in Sudan	£ 3,150
Jun-09	Adivasi Seva Mandal, Makhoda, Borivali, India	Boundary Fencing	£ 1,500
Aug-09	Imani, Kenya	Milk powder	£ 1,000
Nov-09	Ratna Global Foundation	Purchase of wheel chairs	£ 6,500
Nov-09	Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Sangh	Building & Upkeep	£ 23,000
Dec-09	Bhartiya Grameen Mahila Sangh	Sponsorship	£ 9,300
Jan-10	Kalaniketan Shishukunj Nairobi	Food Program in Kikambala	£ 2,000

We have sent 2 containers this year under our Care & Share programme - a clothes container in July to India and a wheelchair container in October to Palitana, India in readiness for the camp mentioned previously.

We continue to sponsor medical camps in the Porbander District where children are given care kits containing things such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap and comb amongst others. Approximately, 7000 children have been given these kits and medical examinations.

I would like to thank **every** member of the SIP committee for their unerring hard work, dedication and support to make all the above possible. As in all aspects of Shishukunj, the constancy of the members, parents, karyakars and baalako is always there and very much appreciated.

We aim to continue in the same vain with everyone's help and endeavour to make a difference in the life of a child where a little joy replaces hopelessness.

Baal Devo Bhava
Sunitaben Dhanani
(SIP co-ordinator)

ShiPA

Having been two years as ShiPA Chair, I must confess that being part of ShiPA has been an absolute delight and a fantastic experience.

The role has allowed me to personally develop numerous skills and has involved me in areas of great importance, significance and interest within Shishukunj. There have been some huge successes like Baal Leela 2, Walk 4 Children, the Purchase of the New Bhavan and many other smaller events. However, none would have been successful had it not been for the dedication of a team of parents who have relentlessly been by my side and in many occasions pre-empted my demands. To name any one would exclude so many that have made the difference and I thank you all sincerely from the bottom of my heart.

I hope, together we have made a difference to our eventual aim of supporting and serving our baalako and strengthening our Parent body.

My parting request would be to the few parents that have not tasted the enjoyment of the ShiPA team work, to please come forward and take that first step. I promise you that it will be the most rewarding and gratifying experience.

I hope in time we will see regular and well supported gatherings at our Shishu Bhavan, where our numerous talented parents will share their skills. This would allow good bonding, in making new friendships and enhance our activities.

Looking forward, ShiPA has a huge role to play in getting the Shishu Bhavan into a suitable comfortable working home for the baalako. We have many parents that have the ability to achieve this dream and are forming a team to take this task forward. Our Choki responsibility remains an issue that really requires support but-I am confident it can be simply addressed by participation.

Finally, I must thank Pravinbhai who has been exceptional and who tirelessly assisted me. His discipline, thoroughness and good humour has been invaluable to ShiPA.

Baal Devo Bhava
Giteshbhai
ShiPA Chair