OUR REACH

129 ongoing projects across
16 states in India.

PROJECTS
97 Chatralayams | 7 Community Development Projects
4 Community Service Initiatives | 3 Facilities for people with special needs
6 Educational Institutions | 6 Healthcare Facilities | 4 Sustainable Living Projects
2 Traditional Knowledge Systems

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How Learning Takes Place

If you have to learn something, you should have a mind that is capable of learning, which is with the present, with what is going on right now. Even the words I speak when I am giving a talk may not be heard by everyone. I find that, in the audience, there will always be someone nudging another, asking what the Swami said. Well, that is because their mind was elsewhere.

There is another reason why the mind does not learn. If the language of the message, which is to be learned, is not understood, then, too, one cannot learn. Even if the language is understood, if one is not prepared for the type of knowledge that is given, one cannot learn then as well. The language may be understood, but the arguments and various implications may not be understood at all. Moreover, you cannot learn if the one who teaches you does not have the appropriate language and method to communicate. You then get bored.

The one who teaches should know what he or she is teaching. Moreover, if the teacher cannot hold the minds of the listeners in his or her hands, the students cannot learn. You must have experienced this in school. Some teachers are capable of making you understand, others are not. The teacher must be able to communicate and the student should be alert enough to receive.

Therefore, it definitely takes two to learn.

More importantly, true learning takes place when knowledge is unfolded.

Unfolding is different from lecturing. If I am going to unfold, I make sure that you see what I see.

Take the example of the sculptor who was able to see the statue of Krishna within a rock, and chipped off the portions of rock that were covering Krishna to the naked eye. This is called unfolding.

In the same way, knowledge is something that is unfolded. There is something that the teacher sees. What he [or she] has to do is to make you see, too. If the teacher has a vision and has something to convey, that is unfolded. Chip by chip, the teacher removes things that cover up the knowledge. If there is doubt, it is removed. If there is vagueness, it is removed. If there is error, it is removed. Then, what is inside is conveyed.

Therefore, knowledge is always unfolded by one person to another. In this, the sculptor and the teacher are identical. The only difference is, the stone doesn't run away when the sculptor sculptures [it]. Even if it is shaky, he can make it firm, so that where the chisel is placed is where the hammering takes place—and that is where the effect is seen.

So, you have to place yourself, your mind, where it needs to be. When the teaching takes place, your mind has got to stay there. Only then can the sculpting take place.

PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI
Founder – AIM for Seva

Excerpted from Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s discourse to young adults. August 2004
our PHILOSOPHY

The AIM for Seva philosophy of sustainable development is supported by three pillars: Care, Innovate, Educate. Each of our carefully designed projects resonates with one (or more) of these pillars, thus ensuring a structure and form for AIM for Seva to reach the depths of rural India, in line with Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s vision.

**Educate**
- Chatralayams (Free Student Hostels)
- Educational Institutions
- Skill Development Centres

**Care**
- AIM For Seva
- Krupa Home
- Shanmuga Society
- Healthcare Facilities

**Innovate**
- Organic Farming
- AIM For Seva Krupa
- Home Products
- Philosophical Publications

VISION

To transform society through a network of Seva, of caring, to bridge the urban-rural divide, empowering every person to contribute to the progress of the nation.

MISSION

Empowerment through value-based education and reaching out to the children of rural India through a network of Chatralayams (Free Student Hostels) and schools.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Namaste.

It is my pleasure to present to you AIM for Seva’s Annual Report for 2018–19.

True to the purpose of our organisation’s vision to impact society, we work at the grassroots to bring about a change at large—and our line of Chatralayams help us to attain this goal. Today, AIM for Seva has established 97 Chatralayams, and our aim is to continue to expand the number and reach of Chatralayams as and where required. Currently, we are also focusing on integrating schools with the Chatralayams, as we feel this will give our students a more sustainable solution, bring in more facilities and expand our reach as well.

We have consciously made a decision to refer to our free student hostel model as ‘Chatralayam’—a place where students or ‘chatra’ live. Where students live, the priority is education. To ensure that they have stamina and good health to attend school regularly, we provide nutritious meals. For their mind to be motivated, and for them to focus firmly on their studies, we inculcate a culture of discipline. To ensure their physical well-being, we bring in yoga and sports.

A defining trait of our Chatralayams is that the environment is one where students are grounded in more than just academics—social skills, ethos, values and cultural validation. There is no separate ‘values class’ for these students—every day, they live out the values they are taught, be it in the way they do things, address each other, or go about their routine. The right set of ethics are integrated into their being, and they carry it with them right through college and adult life. The students live with us—24/7—for at least eight years (except when they go home for vacations), so we get a chance to impart to them a ‘social DNA change’, which is aimed at making them conscientious citizens of tomorrow.

We truly realised our movement’s value when some of our alumni wanted to donate their first official salary to AIM for Seva, which stood as a reinforcement for what and who we are. They have also said that they would like to go back and help AIM for Seva, so that they can add value to the other children who are currently studying in our Chatralayams.

While our founding principles are the same, each Chatralayam is unique—apart from the diversity in languages and cultural traditions across the different states, each Swami ji / Swamini ji (coordinator) who handles the Chatralayam brings in their own unique touch to make it a home away from home. Through these Chatralayams, we ensure that the education, culture and heritage of our nation is preserved and propagated, and that our core values are imparted to students—who are the torch bearers of our nation.

Since 2001, we have been on a mission to bring education to the last mile through the Chatralayam model. We will continue to expand our hostel presence across the four corners of the country.

Warm regards,

Smt. SHEELA BALAJI
Chairperson and Managing Trustee – AIM for Seva
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Major sections of this book (six articles) were penned by a team of external writers on request from AIM for Seva; the articles were based on their visits to the Chatralayams, and on objective reportage. The Chatralayam (free student hostel) model aims to offer students from rural and tribal regions across the country uninterrupted education while residing in a holistic home.

The articles in this report are based on personal interactions and interviews, which help the reader to gain a greater understanding of life in a Chatralayam. Each of these accounts allows the reader to understand what it is that makes these Chatralayams a home away from home for thousands of young students.

AIM for Seva has 97 Chatralayams across the country, which benefit 3,800 students from 1,700 villages, with plans in the pipeline to establish nine more in 2019–20. However, numbers don’t tell the full story.

The guiding principle behind all our projects, especially our Chatralayams, is to sustain traditional values while using modern technology to address real-time needs. This helps create a bedrock of knowledge and practices that are made accessible for generations to come. While preparing this report, we tried to investigate the larger effect of such a model of living. We sought deep-seated answers to questions such as:

- What is the impact at the grassroots level?
- What more are the students gaining, apart from a certified education?
- What do the students ultimately take back when they leave the Chatralayam?

The answers we gleaned to the above questions gave us an insight into the distinctive journeys of each student over the course of their time at the Chatralayams. Between the lines of each testimony lies a larger lesson on life, such as in Ranjan Majhi, a Class 6 student, who now insists on allocating time for studies even when he goes home for vacations (‘A Few Good Men’, Pg 56). We see the transformation in Pankaj Parmar, a Class 7 student, who has come to see that every act is to be done with dedicated effort, without worrying about the end result (‘It Takes a Village...’, Pg 34). When R. Gayathri talks confidently of becoming an IAS officer, it is evidence of how far she has come from being a reticent teenager who once suffered from lack of even basic necessities like two full meals a day (‘Room to Grow’, Pg 46).

Our writers’ accounts bring to fore the holistic benefits our students have experienced, in addition to their improved performance in studies and at school. The drive to showcase the ‘human’ side of these stories comes from the need to emphasise the personal growth and change that germinates from within each student—the metamorphic journey every child undergoes whilst staying at the Chatralayams.

Structure of the Annual Report

This year’s Annual Report begins by tracking the impact we have created (from ‘Our Impact’ to ‘Performance Metrics’; Pgs 8 to 11).

Prior to the start of each article (begins after the data sheet under ‘Step In’), we have provided a summary of major events organised by AIM for Seva in 2018-19. The events are classified in two-month time blocks. Within each article, we have included a short segment (under the title ‘Closer Look’) that details either the transformation experienced by our students or a donor’s sharing on what motivated them to give to this movement.

Bearing in mind that we are dealing with children, their safety and security is of utmost importance to us, and we have instituted several key measures in our Chatralayams to this end (‘Kavach’, Pg 72). We have also provided a bird’s eye view of our other key initiatives (‘Trikalam’, Pg 74).

Our journey over 18 years, and the results we have achieved on the ground was made possible by the contributions of corporate and individual sponsors and donors—we thank them for their invaluable support (‘Partners In Progress’, Pg 42).

We hope this report adequately captures our learning and growth over the last 12 months. We look forward to the journey ahead, bearing in mind that we have many more miles to go and promises to keep. We look forward to your feedback. Do share your thoughts at aimallindiamovement@gmail.com.

– AIM for Seva Team
OUR IMPACT 2018-19

Over the last 18 years, AIM for Seva has impacted the lives of over 20 million people in 16 states.

**Education**

- 8,600 students are currently benefiting from our Chatralayams and educational institutions
- 5 new Chatralayams’ foundations laid in Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh
- 9 new Chatralayams in the pipeline

**Care**

- 19 children with special needs being educated
- 38 adults with special needs provided with support
- 116 women trained through community development projects (tailoring and computers)
- 1,52,900 patients treated annually

**Innovation**

- 58 farmers signed up for organic farming training programme
- 120 varieties of heritage seeds conserved
OUR REACH

AIM for SEVA
Educating Rural India

97 Chatralayams
2018

104 Chatralayams
2019

Chatralayams (Free Student Hostels)

2018-2019
△ Girls Chatralayams
● Boys Chatralayams

2019-2020
★ Girls Chatralayams
■ Boys Chatralayams

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PERFORMANCE METRICS

With each passing year, we are proud to have maintained consistent performance by students from our Chatralayams in the Class 10 and 12 Board Exams. This correlates to our findings that our Chatralayams have played a major role in motivating students to stay on in school and complete their formal, certified education.

CHATRALAYAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Class 10 Results</th>
<th>2019 Class 12 Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>393</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students appeared for the 10th board examinations</td>
<td>Students appeared for the 12th board examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93% Pass</td>
<td>87% Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37% 1st class</td>
<td>31% 1st class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25% Distinction</td>
<td>52% 2nd class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Outstanding</td>
<td>15% Distinction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHATRALAYAMS COORDINATORS MEET

The bi-annual AIM for Seva coordinators meet was held on March 7 and 9, 2019 in Chennai. The conclave saw the participation of 25 of our coordinators from across India and key members from AIM for Seva’s central office. Our coordinators’ selfless service to motivate every child who comes to our Chatralayams is a key contributing factor in the sustained success of our Chatralayam model.
Anil Dodiyar, a former student from the Shri Chunilal Vij AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Rohtak, Haryana, has done us proud by securing a rank of 3912 in the IIT JEE exam (2019). He has secured admission in the Bachelors of Technology (Information Technology) course at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, Haryana. What is interesting is that he was coached by Dinesh Kumar, an alumnus of Seva Niketan AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, who is now pursuing his Bachelors in Dental Surgery from Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Both boys were students of Acharya Nawneet ji (coordinator of our Chatralayams in Rohtak-Haryana, Ghaziabad-Uttar Pradesh and Solan - Himachal Pradesh), who is a graduate from the IIT Kharagpur. “Dinesh and Anil are hard-working and self-dependent—traits that we try to inculcate in all our students.” says Acharya Nawneet ji. Anil adds, “Acharya ji is responsible for my success; I am inspired by his thoughts. Dinesh sir is a nice man, and I am thankful to him for helping me.”

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Our educational institutions are centres of excellence that focus on the all-round development of students, which include modern pedagogical tools and practices. This, we feel, has helped institute a way of teaching that makes the learning experience more fruitful in the long run.

2019 Class 10 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
<th>First Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semmangudi Higher Secondary School, Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kadalur, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIM for Seva Balika Vidyalaya, Khategaon, Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 Class 12 Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
<th>First Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semmangudi Higher Secondary School, Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIM for Seva Balika Vidyalaya, Khategaon, Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JOB FAIR AT SWAMI DAYANANDA COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE, MANJAKKUDI, TAMIL NADU

Two jobs fairs were held last year at the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu. The first edition of the job fair saw the participation of 208 final-year students and 72 alumni from the college, and 459 final-year students and alumni from other colleges. The second edition saw the participation of 605 students from 18 colleges in the region. Of this, 180 were from our college. A total of 490 offers were made during the second campus placement; 315 students were selected, with some getting dual offers; 160 of our college students received placement offers.

NEW BUILDING PREMISES IN SHEIKHPURA, BIHAR

The soft launch of a new building premises at the Sumitra Surma AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Sheikhpura District, Bihar was done in May 2018. Boys from neighbouring villages will benefit from this hostel.
NEW BEGINNING IN BELGAUM, KARNATAKA

The *bhoomi pooja* of AIM for Seva’s Chatralayam for Boys in Tondikatti Village in Belgaum, Karnataka was performed. Supported by LIC Housing Finance Limited, this 4,595 sq.ft. Chatralayam will accommodate 100 students. Guests and dignitaries from nearby villages such as Bijaguppi, Budnikhurd, Kunnal, Kamakeri, Guttigoli and Hosakoti attended the event.

ANTHEM BIOSCIENCES SUPPORTS AIM FOR SEVA AT TCS WORLD 10K RUN

Twelve employees from Anthem Biosciences Private Limited participated in the eleventh edition of the TCS World 10K Run on May 27 to support AIM for Seva. Some of our volunteers also participated in the ‘Majja Run Category’ and ‘Jabong Run in Costume’ segments.
When parents undertake the journey to enroll their son(s) in the Jaya Smrithi Dhama AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Udupi, Karnataka, they do so with the hope that it will help their wards gain uninterrupted education. What really happens is that the boys experience a metamorphosis—one that makes them conscientious and compassionate as well.
“When I was a young boy, my father had an iron grip on me and my siblings. There wasn’t much room for us to debate with him on any matter. In fact, his word was the law. If he said, ‘The crows are white,’ we were expected to agree that they are white. And that was the end of that. I grew up to be just like him. I was quite a disciplinarian—regardless of whether it was in the classroom or at home. It was the only method of ‘teaching’ I knew. I was very rigid and harsh, and truly believed that being tough and reprimanding people firmly was the best way to ensure development.” These are the words of Sri. H. Manjunath, a retired teacher and current warden at the Jaya Smrithi Dhama AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Udupi, Karnataka. We are sitting inside the newly constructed building of the Chatralayam, and are joined by some boys of mixed ages. The older boys giggle as they remember the stern man he used to be; the younger ones look on with mixed expressions of surprise and disbelief.

The Chatralayam was founded in 2008, and currently houses 118 boys. Hidden in a remote patch of land amongst the meandering pathways of Arasikatte, near Bantakal Post, the Chatralayam serves as a boarding residence for students ranging from the ages of eight to 18, many of whom come from various communities in and around the Bijapur District.

The hostel’s coordinator is Swami Mokshananda Saraswati ji, whom the boys consider a benevolent authority. Apart from overseeing the functions of the hostel, conducting the morning and evening prayer sessions, food preparation and yoga classes, Swami ji has formed a good rapport with the boys. While the phrase, “Swami ji is coming”, is often used to warn the younger boys to halt their tomfoolery and pull out their books, you would also see the boys rushing into Swami ji’s room in the evenings and asking him to join them for a game of volleyball.

Swami Mokshananda Saraswati ji has been instrumental in setting up most of the facilities within the old block and the new multi-purpose building (which was built in mid-2018)—both of which are connected. Echoes of chatter and play is heard through the walls, and we catch glimpses of the boys running around and putting away their bags, queuing up for a shower or exchanging stories about school. We are also distracted by technicians, who have come to install the hostel’s new solar panels (procured via donation). Manjunath is about to go and speak to them when Swami ji gestures to him to sit and walks off towards the technicians.
Manjunath continues: “It is different now. I joined this Chatralayam two years ago. What many people don’t realise is that living with these boys, talking to them, seeing them face challenges…all of this has changed me as a person as well. I realised I couldn’t just scold them and make them behave in a way that I thought was right. They each come from different families and places, and have to stay here and adjust to this new life, new routine and new people. I had to understand them first—what they were going through, and accordingly appeal to them. For that, I had to listen to what they had to say. Now, my own children and wife have started to say that I have changed—that I am kinder and more patient. They even tease me for it now!”

Filling the Gaps

The simple façade of the building and the fact that the boys seem to be tuned into a certain rhythm belies the amount of work that goes into running and sustaining the Chatralayam—not to mention helping the boys adapt to this new life. A typical weekday begin at 5.30 a.m., with prayers and rotational chores—lending a hand in making the meals, cleaning the kitchen post dining, tending to the cattle, sweeping the building, arranging their belongings, and so on.

After that, they head off to their respective schools. Manjunath’s priority is to ensure that each and every child is on the bus to school. The students are enrolled across four schools, which are situated close by—two English- and two Kannada-medium syllabi schools. After they come back from school, there are chores to be finished, a round of malted milk for all, some time for play, and then the study session at 6.30 p.m. By this time, almost everyone is huddled in one of the several study groups scattered across both buildings. Some boys cheekily check their peers’ work by peering over their shoulders.

Sundays are more relaxed, with the students being allowed to sleep in for a bit longer, and then given time to wash their clothes and indulge in play. There is, however, a mandatory presentation that the boys have to make on what they learned in school the previous week. This is to help inculcate accountability and point out areas where help is needed.

Every summer, the hostel puts out an advertisement in the local papers for admission calls. Manjunath himself recalls answering a similar advertisement for the warden’s position. “That’s how we usually get the
word out on any openings—be it for students, faculty and other help. We usually invite every family that answers our advertisements. The primary criteria we look for during the process is whether the candidate comes from a family that is unable to afford education.” Some of the families learn of the Chatralayam from alumni in their village, and then send their children here.

The decision to send the children to the Chatralayam is not an easy one. The journey, for starters, is a long one. “Many of these families travel several hours to reach the hostel,” says Manjunath. The long roads and lack of regular bus-stops mean a fair bit of walking as well. Add to it the fact that the students will be spending months away from their families at a stretch, and it becomes a very serious commitment—one that these boys and their families have been making over the past decade.

What seems like a hard decision actually becomes a blessing when one considers the arduous journey some of the students undertake just to avail basic education. Charan Mani Bhovi and Dhanush Mani Bhovi, brothers aged 13 and 11 respectively, who came from a village in Bijapur district, share that they had to travel for at least an hour-and-a-half by bus to school—one way. For them, being in a place that is barely a stone's throw from school means that education is now within arm's reach, literally.

The more pressing issue is that many schools in rural areas have no proper standards for assessing the students' development—and parents and their wards are left with limited tangible benefits from making the effort to attend school regularly. “One of our students had been attending school till sixth standard in his village. What was shocking is that his teachers had been promoting him through the classes without even recognising whether he had learnt anything or not. At the age of 12, he came to the hostel—and he did not even know the English alphabet! He had to catch up on nine years of education in one year to keep up with his peers. This is the case with a lot of the younger boys at our hostel—and

“We are all like brothers here. When you're away from your families for so long, you have to take care of each other. The hostel is also far away from everything. So, we become one big community. We support each other in times of need.”
it becomes our duty to ensure that they adapt to their new pace,” says Manjunath.

Shivananda Vittal Vegga, a Class 8 student and aspiring police officer, chirps in, “I had finished my studies till primary school from a school in my hometown, but they never really paid attention to what I was doing. Unlike my current school, no one guided me on how to go about my studies or whether I was doing my work right. At the hostel, there are people to turn to if I need help. Also, Swami ji or the warden is always checking up on our progress.”

This gap in learning curves means a growing demand for additional help. “I offer tuitions and additional help in maths, science and English, but we do need more teachers to help the boys keep track in school. Despite the school faculty also offering their help in after-school tuition, there is a need for full-time teachers at the hostel,” Manjunath adds.

A Family Away from Home

There is also an emotional element to be addressed—namely, homesickness. Swami Mokshananda Saraswati ji tells

CLOSER LOOK

The Will to Persevere

Thirteen-year-old Charan Mani Bhovi told us he wanted to go home. “The studies are very hard here. I don’t know English, and all the lessons are in English,” he said in Tamil, his mother tongue. He was holding the hand of another boy. “My younger brother, Dhanush,” he said. Eleven-year-old Dhanush Mani Bhovi smiled eagerly. Even after Charan let go of his hand, the younger boy hovered close to him.

The boys’ parents are no more; their sister and her husband helped look after them after their parents’ death. Charan wanted to go and work in a car workshop—like his older cousin brother, whom both boys adore.

As we talked, the warden came over and told Charan that his sister had called. The boys’ cousin brother had had an accident and was in a critical condition. Silence fell. “We have to go home,” Charan said. This time, the reason was a different, grave one.

There was no outward show of grief; Charan was calm and collected. As the duo bade us goodbye, several questions raced through my mind: Would the boys return to the Chatralayam? Or would Charan go to work in a car workshop? I also couldn’t help wondering: For a boy who faced a personal crisis with such calm maturity, would English prove to such a daunting hurdle?

I silently wished that the boys would come back to the Chatralayam—and experience what I hoped would be a wholesome childhood, and grow into mature, successful individuals.

Five months after our meeting, we learnt that Charan and Dhanush had returned to the Chatralayam. To tackle their English lessons, they were relying on help from the warden and fellow students at the Chatralayam. The newfound habit of reading storybooks was an added bonus.
us he had to keep up the boys’ spirits from the first batch that came in. “I would play with them, or ask them to help me with my work. That way, they would be kept busy and would soon get over missing their parents. After a month or so, they get used to the life here and are happy.”

Manjunath adds, “The first month or so is the hardest. It was also the hardest part for me in the beginning. The younger boys get very quiet when they feel upset or begin to miss home—they are not their energetic selves anymore. That gives it away in many cases. They don't share their feelings openly, so it is our duty to take note and help them.” He gestures to Eeranna Badavaraj Biradar, a boy who is relatively quiet in comparison to the rest of his peers. “Eeranna was quite the recluse in his first few months here. Now, he's probably the most helpful of all the boys here. Swami ji sometimes teases him by calling him his ‘right hand’ man.”

Eeranna nods and responds in his soft voice, “I like to
keep myself busy, whether it’s studying, or helping Swami ji and the others around the hostel, tending to guests, or playing. Our routine at the hostel is a lot more rigorous than anything most of us had at home. It keeps me on my feet and I like helping out whenever I can.”

The boys are allowed to borrow Swami Mokshananda ji’s or Manjunath’s phones if they want to call their parents—the calls usually happen on the weekends, with provision made for urgent requests as well. The real help, however, comes from the support extended by the new ‘family’ at the Chatralayam. “A majority of the boys here are around the ages of 10 to 13. We have only about 12 students who are currently pursuing higher education, but I think the age difference between the boys is an advantage. The older boys who have been with us for many years often help the younger ones,” says Manjunath.

Praveen Badavaraj Hakki, who has been a resident at the hostel for the past seven years and is presently completing his SSLC, nods in agreement. “We are all like brothers here. When you’re away from your families for so long, you have to take care of each other. The hostel is also far away from everything. So, we become one big community. We support each other in times of need. This year, a new student named Harsha has joined us. He doesn’t have parents, and finds all of this quite new. I don’t know why, but I feel like I need to be there for him…we all need to be there for him.”

**Fertile Ground for Positive Change**

The positive change that life in the Chatralayam brings about is to be seen to be believed. The Headmaster of one the schools told us that the ‘Chatralayam boys’ are the most disciplined of the lot. They come out in single file when they leave the class, are well-groomed and keep their things neatly.

It is a result of the transformative journey the boys go through. The Chatralayam has now become a well-functioning and sustainable cosmos of empathy, strength and value. The boys have inculcated a sense of natural discipline that is not reinforced through strict and harsh methods. Whether it is waking up with the sun, regularly attending prayer sessions, doing their chores, supporting one another, or even travelling long distances to visit their families by themselves, they redefine the idea of a successful education.

In their own unique way, they each help contribute to not only building a stronger and sustainable community within the hostel, but also to their personal growth. Life here focuses on creating a change at the grassroots. The Chatralayam acts as fertile ground for the young saplings that come in. While the initial periods of germination is slow and difficult, with the right amount of sunshine and rain, the seeds are bound to sprout strong and tall—it is just a matter of time. And when the saplings spread their roots deeper, the soil simultaneously becomes secure.
ORGANIC FARMING TRAINING PROGRAMME IN MANJAKKUDI, TAMIL NADU

A first-of-its-kind organic farming training programme was conceptualised and organised by the Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET - our implementation partners) on June 23 at Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu. A group of farmers participated in the event. Training support was provided by the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, an independent organisation working in the areas of organic agriculture and *vrkshayurveda* (ancient Indian plant science). The programme had a theory class followed by a practical session.

NEW CHATRALAYAM IN BIDAR, KARNATAKA

In addition to the Chatralayam for girls in Bidar, Karnataka, which currently houses 50 students, we made arrangements for a new 6,500-sq ft Chatralayam for boys as well. The *bhoomi pooja* for the boys’ Chatralayam was attended by Sri. T.V. Raghunandan Rao, land donor of the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam in Yadavaram, Telangana, our coordinator, Sri. Krishna Reddy, and others.

NEW CLASSROOM AT SWAMI DAYANANDA ROTARY MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, KADALUR, TAMIL NADU

A grand celebration commemorated the opening of a new classroom block at the Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Kadalur, Tamil Nadu. Sri. Anburaj V., Deputy General Manager of Karur Vysya Bank, inaugurated the three-storied building that now has space for 12 classrooms. Karur Vysya Bank has supported the construction of two classrooms while Essvee Foundation, with the aid of Sri. K. Lakshmanan, supported the construction of another classroom in the same block.

COMPUTER BLOCK AT SEMMANGUDI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, SEMBANGUDI TAMIL NADU

Cognizant Foundation supported the construction of a computer laboratory at the Semmangudi Higher Secondary School in Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu. Sundaram Fasteners Ltd. and AIM for Seva USA contributed 20 desktops, and sets of 20 chairs and desks for high school students.
ZONAL SPORTS MEET KICKS OFF

A Zonal Sports Meet was held at the Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kadkur, Tamil Nadu, from July 16 to 25. Volleyball (boys), kabaddi (boys and girls) and handball (boys and girls) were the sporting events. A total of 1,150 students from 30 schools participated in the event, with 480 students taking part in volleyball, 350 students participating in kabaddi, and 320 students participating in handball.

NEW CHATRALAYAM FOR BOYS, GUJARAT

A bhoomi pooja and khatmuhurt programme for a new Chatralayam for boys were conducted by P.P. Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati ji and P.P. Mahanta Sri. Shambhunathaji Maharaj at Dhandhuka, Gujarat. The construction of AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Dhandhuka, Gujarat is now completed. The academic session has commenced.

NAME OF THE CHATRALAYAM:
Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam

LOCATION OF THE CHATRALAYAM:
Peddakottala Village, Nandyal Mandal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh

WHEN WAS THE CHATRALAYAM STARTED?
2004

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE CHATRALAYAM?
70

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE CHATRALAYAM?
6 years (Class 2)

WHO IS THE COORDINATOR OF THE CHATRALAYAM?
Sri. S. Kumaravelu

*Data source: www.census2011.co.in and www.onefivenine.com
At the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam in Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, the word ‘family’ gains new meaning—everyone who comes within their fold is seen as their own. And this ‘home’ is where the best examples of gracious living are set and followed.

“Namaste athamma!”
“Good morning athamma!”
“Athamma, come down with us.”

The girls who mill around me are smiling, bright and chirpy, at 5.30 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Some reach for my hand, others smile at me, and the older ones solicitously ask if I slept well. We are standing in the corridor outside the room where I am staying. The sun is just beginning to rise and I savour the pleasant dewy weather, which will dissipate in a couple of hours. The lush paddy fields that lie beyond the compound of the Chatralayam glint like carpets of emeralds. A sense of contented calm pervades the place, broken only by the gentle chatter and soft laughter of the girls as they
dress up and tidy up their rooms. The girls are all wearing maroon salwar kameez. Bright faces and neatly combed braids are the norm. Their clothes have not a wrinkle on them, and their dupattas are pinned in place. I see a young girl running over to one of the older students with her scarf in hand; the latter is joined by another girl, and they help her pin it on. By the time all the girls are ready, the rooms are arranged neatly, and the floor is spotless.

After a few minutes, I join the group to go down for the morning prayers, but am stopped at the foot of the stairs by a girl who is carrying cups of steaming hot tea. “Have tea, athamma,” she says eagerly. I cannot resist her enthusiasm; she nods happily as I comment on the delicious hint of cardamom in the beverage. The rest of the students, in the meantime, are ushered towards the assembly hall. Soon, a chorus of voices rise in a melodious crescendo as the girls chant a series of prayers.

I am called ‘athamma’ or ‘aunty’ by the group of 70 girls at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam in Nandyal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh. When I walked in through the gates of the Chatralayam the previous evening, lines of young and older girls streamed out from inside the building. “Namaste, athamma,” they all said, one after another, their palms pressed together in the traditional greeting. As I greeted them back and asked them their names, many of them offered to take my backpack. When I asked what the term ‘athamma’ meant, the warden, Sri. Moksheswara Reddy, replied, “It means ‘aunty’. They are saying you are like their aunt.”

It was an affectionate form of address—and, with that one word, the girls had effortlessly brought me into their fold. Not just me, but also the photographer and his assistant, who accompanied me; they called the men ‘mamaiya’ or ‘uncle’.

“Everyone who visits is referred to as athamma (aunt) or mamaiya (uncle),” Moksheswara Reddy tells me, and adds that
older people are referred to with terms used to greet grandparents in their native Telugu. “For us, everyone is like family,” he says with a smile.

**Home Is Where The Family Is**

The Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam was started in Nandyal in 2004, and Moksheswara Reddy has been serving as its warden ever since. Formerly a farmer in Prathakota, he heard about the opening for the warden’s post at the Chatralayam through his relatives and applied for it. After his appointment, he attended a formal warden training programme in Hubli, and then took charge of the place. He moved into the campus with his wife, Mallika, and daughters Jothi and Ambati Ooha, and has stayed here ever since. Jothi, who finished her MS in Computer Engineering at Sri Ramakrishna Degree College, is currently a lecturer in Sri Ramakrishna Degree College, Nandyal, joined the Chatralayam when she was in Class 6. She stays here now, along with the rest of the girls—the only difference is that she doesn’t don the standard uniform anymore and is clad in a regular salwar kameez. Ooha is currently in Class 12.

Since his joining here, Moksheswara Reddy and his wife have been overseeing the running of the Chatralayam. They were drawn to the job since they like children, and saw it as a welcome change from the problems they were facing while being engaged in agriculture. Moksheswara Reddy adds that he has gained a lot of respect in Nandyal since taking up this job. He dons the roles of guardian, gardener and watchman at the Chatralayam. His wife takes care of the cooking and supervises domestic tasks. The girls happily help with all the chores, be it clearing the garden, sweeping the floor or peeling vegetables and grinding spices. Moksheswara Reddy and Mallika are ‘nana’ and ‘amma’ (‘father’ and ‘mother’) to the girls, while Jothi, like all the older girls, is ‘akka’ (older sister).

The girls come from neighbouring villages, including Gumitham Thanda, Harinagaram, Gorukallu Thanda, Thammadapalle and LK Thanda. While girls from the Chenchu and Lambadi tribes have lived and studied here in the past, they have since left the Chatralayam after completing their schooling. Most of the girls come here after hearing about the place from their friends or relatives. Their aim is to avail the opportunity for uninterrupted, quality education while staying in a place that offers them safety and a home-like atmosphere. “My wife and I are their parents while they are here—we tell them so as soon as they come in. And all the girls here are their sisters,” Moksheswara Reddy says. “They can come to us whenever they
need anything, and we take care of them.” He tells us that the girls adjust to life at the Chatralayam very quickly, and rarely miss their home or family. He adds that the younger ones can be rather naughty, and that they need to keep an eye out to ensure that they don’t get hurt or into trouble of any sort. Just then, one of the youngest girls passes by with a cheeky smile. Moksheswara Reddy pats her head and fondly calls her ‘kothi’. In local parlance, the term means ‘little monkey’ and the term is employed as an endearment for children, and is meant to encourage them to be as active and energetic as their simian counterparts.

The students go home twice a year for the Sankranti and Dussehra holidays, and their parents visit them once a month or once in two months, usually on Sundays. During such visits, the visiting parent is lavished with attention by many of the girls, and the parents also try and bring home-made snacks for all of them.

All-round Development

A sense of discipline and perfection seems to be ingrained in the routine here. The students’ shoes are arranged in neat lines under the staircase, lunch boxes are stacked in a pyramid and their clothes are folded and hung on clothes lines that are strung across the rooms. There seems to be very little by way of instruction, and more of an invisible chain of direction from the older girls, who gently guide their younger counterparts, including a silent nudge during study time when someone’s attention is slipping from their books. Siddi Triveni, who is in Class 10 and aspires to study agriculture, tells me, “We help to teach the younger
girls how to keep their things, how to get dressed and help them with their homework. They always ask if they need something. We also ask our akkas or amma and nana if we need help.” It is obvious that studies hold the highest priority here—the girls make a beeline for their books in the evening and sit in orderly lines and pore over their books. Many tell me excitedly that they want to get good marks so that they can become a lecturer like Jothi. Some of them hope to get a job in Information Technology or in some private firm after completing their studies, and look forward to being able to support their families. A computer lab was set up in 2009 in the Chatralayam, and Jothi conducts classes in programming every Sunday for girls in Classes 8 and above, so as to help them expand their repertoire of practical skills. She says this would also help them become job-ready.

Sports and extracurricular activities are given importance as well. Yoga is part of the daily routine, and the girls perform several rounds of surya namaskar with ease. Kabaddi and badminton are sports of choice, and the demure-looking girls can be quite feisty when they get into the kabaddi pitch. Little wonder then that some of them (Yerva Naga Jyothi, Nenavath Rameswari Bai, Modirecha Sireesha Bai and Savaram Nagaveni) play for the school team and have even qualified for state-level teams. They tell me proudly about Nimmala Nagamma, one of the former students here, who
was the school champion in javelin throwing, and eagerly press Boya Krishnaveni, who holds a black belt in karate, to show us some power moves.

We are also treated to a demonstration of their local folk dance, kolannatu, which is performed in a circular rhythm with a pair of sticks that are struck in rhythmic order. They also perform chekka bhajan, or devotional singing accompanied by a set of cymbals set in wooden frames.

**Filling Stomachs and Hearts**

Come time for breakfast, and the girls sit in neat lines; the older girls help to serve the steaming hot food. Prayers are recited in unison and then everyone tucks in. As we come into
the dining hall, we hear cries from all corners:
“Come and sit with us, athamma.”
“Come here, mamaiya. Sit here please.”
“Here, athamma, take this plate. I will serve you.”
“Mamaiya, please have some more.”

We sit down, overwhelmed by their loving attention. The girls are eagerly attentive and press us to eat more. Our stomachs and hearts are filled.

“The girls here are so affectionate, I want to stay here and look after them till the end of my life. Why would I go anywhere else?” Moksheswara Reddy tells us. We nod in agreement. We may not be staying beyond a day, but we have become uncles and aunt to the girls at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam, Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh. And we have experienced a new definition of the word ‘family’.

Few years back, I visited Manjakkudi for some Corporate Social Responsibility work facilitated through my previous organisation. There, we could see hundreds of cycles—which belonged to girls who had come from the nearby 150-plus villages. It was heartening to see so many girls coming to school. When a girl is educated, she will make sure her children are educated too.” These are the words of Mr. Sundar Subramanian, who (along with his wife, Mrs. Sheela Sundaresan), has been a long-time associate of, and donor to, AIM for Seva. Formerly residents of New Jersey, USA, Mr. Sundar and his wife are followers of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, and were present at the launch of the AIM for Seva movement in the USA in 2001.

What drove him to become a consistent donor was Swamiji’s all-inclusive vision and service-oriented modus operandi that reached tribal areas, and women and children—particularly the emphasis on education and healthcare. “We were motivated to do what we could for the movement. We kept feeling we were not doing enough to give back. Donating to the movement is one way we can help to propel social change… Each rupee we give goes a long way—it goes to villages, to Chatralayams, to women and children. You can see the effect too, when they launch a new Chatralayam or rural initiative. The benefit will last for several generations… Each time my wife and I see a new initiative being launched, we feel that we have so much more to do—and we are doing our best to catch up!” says Mr. Sundar.
NEW CHATRALAYAM FOR GIRLS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

A Chatralayam for girls was inaugurated in Ameenapet in Eluru Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Land and building donor, Sri. Kocharlakota Rao, who lives in the USA, graced the occasion along with other guests from the village. Eluru Mandal in Andhra Pradesh, once known for its rugs, is now better connected, thanks to improved infrastructure. The Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh at present has 14 students and we hope to serve many more.

NEW TOILET BLOCK AT SEMMANGUDI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, SEMBANGUDI, TAMIL NADU

In line with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Swachh Bharat Mission, the new toilet blocks at the Semmangudi Higher Secondary School in Sembangudi, Tamil Nadu, have been functional since August. We had started raising funds for the toilet block via a crowdfunding platform. We specially thank Dr. Sajani Raman, USA, and other donors who came forward with generous contributions.
Organised by Spirit of the Earth, an initiative of AIM for Seva the first edition of the India Organic Fair was held from September 7 to 11, 2018, in Chennai with concept support from the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was a pan-India fair that saw the participation of 65 vendors from 18 states.

A new hostel building, new school building, teachers’ quarters and guest house was inaugurated at the AIM for Seva Balika Vidyalaya in Khategaon, Madhya Pradesh, on September 14 and 15.
It Takes a Village...

...not just to raise a child, but also to inculcate the values of empathy, discipline and inclusivity—a lesson that is brought to fore at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

“Careful of the gravel, it can be prickly. Although, I must say, it is like great acupuncture for your feet!” Swami Vishnuwaroopananda Saraswati ji laughed heartily at his joke, as we walked along the pathway to the premises. With a ready smile and friendly demeanour, Swami ji reminded us of that one loveable older member in everyone’s family—the one who always has a quick pun or witty remark up his sleeve.

We were at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Nagpur, Maharashtra, which was established in 2014. The building hardly resembled what one might typically associate with a student hostel. At the very core of the premises was a large bungalow with bright purple walls—it was a house that was evidently meant for a very large family. Earlier, the taxi driver was able to find the location only because of the house’s bright colour and the towering temple that sat right in front of it,
all of which are contained within the same plot of land. The kitchen and the dining area were separate places with long stretches. At first glance, it seemed as if someone had tried to fit an entire village’s infrastructure into a small piece of land. There was loud chatter from outside the plot. Most of the boys were playing about on the undulating earth, making the best use of the Sunday afternoon. An intense cricket match was on and there was much shouting and cheering from the sidelines; some boys lay under the tree, basking in the sun, untouched by the commotion around them. “We have 55 boys enrolled in our hostel, but barely a handful of them are from Nagpur; the majority of them are from adivasi and agricultural communities in Madhya Pradesh. We have a small group of boys from Meghalaya as well,” Swami ji remarked as we strolled by the ground, drawing curious glances from many of the boys; one of them paused midway and stood with his bat at an awkward angle. “We put out advertisements specifically for families that fall in the below-poverty-line category, and we make it a point to meet every family member or guardian that drops off their children. We find this mostly important for when they come back during the holidays to pick up the children. We don’t feel comfortable letting the boys leave by themselves. And if no one comes, they stay here with us,” Swami ji added.

“Six!” the boy who was batting yelled, as an uproar of cheers and shouts erupted. Just then, a young boy sprinted

“Swami ji, where are the dandiya sticks?”

“They’re in the prayer hall. Are you going to dance?”

“Some of us want to. So, I’m going to get them. Thank you!” He shot off towards the building.

“We had a professional come in and teach the students how to dance with dandiya sticks, when we celebrated Janmashtami. Now, they perform the dance often—whether it’s a festival day or just another Wednesday!” Swamiji laughed.

Eleven-year-old Krishna Raju Digole soon came back out with a heap of dandiya sticks in his hands. He slowed down when he approached us and asked, “Would you like to join us?”

We said we would watch them perform, and began to clap along to the beat of the game. Krishna and five other boys performed an elaborate routine that sped up with each rotation. As they neared the end, as if on cue, the warden called everyone to wash up for lunch. As they made their way towards the kitchen, the boys continued to debate as to whether the hit was in fact a six or not. “We follow a routine that is very similar to other Chatralayams. Morning aarti (prayers), which the boys conduct on their own. And
“My principal objective is to donate towards causes that support education. It doesn’t matter who, where or what. I donate because I believe in AIM for Seva’s work to educate children,” says Mr. R. Vaidyanathan. He and his wife, Nithyakalyani, have been donating to AIM for Seva since 2016.

The couple came to know of AIM for Seva after Nithyakalyani attended a programme conducted by the organisation and brought home a pamphlet that detailed the work carried out through their Chatralayams and schools. “I just look at an organisation’s credentials once—and, if I am convinced, I don’t pry anymore. I trust that my money will be used for the best purpose. When I read through the pamphlet, about the work they are doing in villages, I was convinced that it was a credible and trustworthy organisation,” says Mr. Vaidyanathan.

Why the preference to support education in particular? “I believe you can give people a livelihood through education—and change their lives. It is like throwing seeds—not all the seeds you throw will become plants and trees. Maybe 10, 20 or 30 will bloom…and they will have their impact on the world at large. It doesn’t matter who they are or what they do in life. You feel a sense of satisfaction that, at the end of the day, you have made a difference in another person’s life.”
then they do yoga...they also help out with the gardening. They have school on weekdays, breakfast-lunch-dinner, and finish off their day with a study session," Swami ji said, as we walked to the kitchen. “We have two families residing here. One of them looks after the students and helps them with their studies and the other helps manage the cooking. The warden and his wife have two boys who are also a part of the Chatralayam. The cook’s family has two small toddlers—you might see them running around with our other boys. The boys are very fond of them.” Indeed, we had noticed two small children earlier—a girl and a boy—trying to catch up with some of the older boys out on the field. What was touching to watch was that the older students immediately became very conscious—they slowed down immediately, so as to allow the little ones to join in easily.

Ours, Not Mine Or His

“For the past five years, we have done everything in our capacity to make sure that everyone who resides at the Chatralayam feels at home. The staff have brought their family here. In fact, my own mother stays with us. She’s inside right now, but she’ll come out when the sun is higher. She needs the sunlight to function—like a plant!” Swami ji broke into a chuckle. Then, he continued, “Because we live like a joint family here, the boys rarely feel homesick. Of course, we’re not replacing their families or hometowns, but we are giving them a space where they can be comfortable. They call my mother ‘grandmother’, they call the cook ‘chacha’ or ‘uncle’, and they take on the roles of older and younger siblings to each other. In a way, we are like a little village.”
Rahul Nathuram Chouhan was one of the handful of Class 10 students studying at the Chatralayam. He had moved to this Chatralayam in 2015. “My brother came here before me, and recommended that I join as well.” Rahul continued to speak to us as he unrolled the mats for the rest of the students to sit on. “I think I’ve learnt a little more from being at the Chatralayam than from school.” Rahul grins and continues, “I was quite the jungle cat; I used to climb all the trees in my village. After coming here, I have become calmer. I think having a daily routine really helped me. Initially, I found it difficult to focus, but I started to enjoy it after some time. Even sitting at my desk for hours in school used to seem horrible! That changed faster than I had expected after coming here. At school, my favourite hours are during Hindi class. I have grown fond of our poetry classes.”

“As we treaded across the gravel, Swami ji looked towards a couple of boys running in through the gate and called out, “Rahul, come here.” The older boy sprinted towards us. “Why don’t you talk to our guests? I am going to go and stretch my legs for a bit. Looks like the acupuncture was too much for my soles!” Swami ji laughed again before walking ahead. “The other boys and I were about to help the cook with preparing the food. Would you like to come with us?” Rahul asked. We followed him into the kitchen, which resembled a shed with a low ceiling. “We don’t actually cook the food, because chacha and his wife usually have it ready by the time we finish our morning prayers, or when we get back from school. But we do help to serve the food and clean up afterwards.”

“Sorry, one second!” He jumped up and ran into the kitchen, from where he brought out a stack of stainless steel plates, which he started to place alongside the mats. “I hope you don’t mind me talking to you and doing my work at the same time,” he says, looking at us, and then continues, “We have all come to think that this is our home, so we like to make sure everything is done properly—whether it is cleaning the kitchen, tending to the garden, or doing the dishes.” His words indicated to us a deeper change that had been instituted in all the students: For these boys, it was all
about personal responsibility, and ensuring that they could do whatever was in their ability to make things easier for those around them.

There was a sudden rise in noise levels as the rest of the boys began to pool into the narrow isle, and seated themselves on the mats, each one in front of a plate. We were invited to sit down with them. Lunch commenced with the chanting of prayers, with everyone reciting hymns that give thanks for the food. Some of the older boys came out of the kitchen with large vessels of rice, vegetables, rotis and sweets, and began serving us in a quick, orderly fashion. Once everyone had finished, a few of the boys volunteered to help the cook clean up and dispose off the scraps into compost heaps. Pankaj Parmar, a student of Class 7, who is from Jhabua District, Madhya Pradesh, took charge of sweeping the floor clean. As he began his work, he said to Rahul, “Why don’t you go ahead and join the cricket game? I will take care of them.” We were pleasantly surprised by his confidence and friendliness. Pankaj, our new host, escorted us back to the ground. We asked him how all the boys managed to keep such an efficient division of work between them. “We have a timetable we made upstairs…one of the wardens helped us make it. Every day, a different group of boys help out with a certain set of chores, except for laundry, which we do on our own. On some days, it is cleaning the hostel floor or kitchen work; on others, it is leading the morning prayer and serving food.” Pankaj looked away for a moment, and then said excitedly, “My team is bowling! Let’s go see the match!” He scurried ahead of us. We joined him at a shady spot under the tree, and cheered for the teams.

Every Bit Counts

What one could immediately pick on was that most of the students at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys, Nagpur, Maharashtra, had inculcated a sense of accountability that didn’t come through coercion or mandate. These students truly enjoyed their work and roles, and had developed a sense of sharing and inclusivity that was inculcated from the practice of staying in what resembled a joint family. What was heartening was that it was the boys who kept an eye on the youngest members of the Chatralayam—making sure that they were safe and cared for. It was the perfect blend of humility and pride: No one shrugged off or looked down upon their household duties, but instead followed through on every one of their undertakings with dignity and efficiency. There was no ‘mine’ or ‘his’. ‘All work is my work, and I will do it well’ is a motto the students at this Chatralayam seem to follow.

Every student we interacted with behaved with a sense of purpose and timeliness, and they were excited to be a part of a larger cosmos, no matter how small or simple their roles might have been. Perhaps what comes out of all this is a strong tradition of work ethics that is embedded in these students—there is no need for authority or fear of reprimand. This system offers the boys a sense of direction that is self-stimulated. It facilitates a feeling where everyone feels like an important piece of a puzzle—where, no matter what shape or size it may be, it is still necessary to the bigger picture.
Over the last 18 years, we have grown from 1 to 97 Chatralayams across India to give students in rural and tribal parts uninterrupted access to formal education. Our Chatralayams have helped many students to complete their schooling and go on to pursue higher studies and/or gainful employment. Today, these students stand as motivational examples for peers and juniors in their villages and tribal settlements.

We thank all our partners (corporate supporters and donors) for their invaluable contributions, which helped us put in place and sustain this positive cycle of change.

We are happy to share a glimpse of the long-term impact* Chatralayams have had on the ground based on first-hand interviews with 480 stakeholders (students, parents, wardens and hostel coordinators).

The exercise looked at how Chatralayams help primary and secondary beneficiaries by enabling students to complete their education, increasing their aspirations, enabling changes in their knowledge, skills and attitude, and aiding in their holistic development.

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**PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**

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<th>IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE</th>
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<td>I am more interested in my studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has there been an improvement in your marks after coming to the Chatralayam</td>
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The environment of the hostel is conducive that ensures students focus on their academics. It gives them a daily schedule and there is a disciplined approach towards academics. Such efforts have resulted in an increase in their overall marks in school.

- Warden of a Chatralayam in Andhra Pradesh

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<th>CHANGE IN CAREER ASPIRATIONS</th>
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<td>Education has helped them form their career aspirations</td>
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We were able to understand what we wanted to pursue in our career due to the continuous guidance provided to us by the coordinator in our hostels, and today we are pursuing a career which we are interested in.

- Chatralayam alumni from Andhra Pradesh

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<th>CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR AND SKILLS</th>
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<td>I am able to communicate more freely with my friends</td>
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<td>I am able to manage my time better</td>
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<td>I am able to manage my stress better</td>
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*Impact Assessment Study conducted by Sattva Consulting (2018)

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It is heartening and humbling to see the deep-rooted impact we have had on the ground. Our growth and expansion have been the result of several people’s dedicated efforts – from our staff and volunteers, coordinators and wardens, to donors and corporate partners. Every one of their contributions has made an indelible positive mark on a child’s life.
OUR SUPPORTERS
**WOMEN OF INDIA NATIONAL ORGANIC FESTIVAL**

Spirit of the Earth, an initiative of AIM for Seva, took part in the 5th edition of the Women of India National Organic Festival 2018 held in New Delhi. The fair was held from October 26 to November 4 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi. Organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, the main objective of the Women of India National Organic Festival was to boost organic culture and promote women entrepreneurs and organic farmers. Women farmers and entrepreneurs from across 26 states of India presented a vast variety of organic products at the festival.

Spirit of the Earth presented 12 varieties of organic, heritage rice from the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Odisha, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Varieties such as Chak Hao Poireiton, Gobindo Bhog, Kaattuyanam, Karun Kuruvai and Mapillai Champa were sold out.

**ART FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Titan, the fifth largest integrated watch maker in the world, supports the Art for Development programme at the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chhatralayam for Girls, Yelahanka, Karnataka (45 students), and Emirates AIM for Seva Chhatralayam for Girls, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu (28 students). The girls from the Dharmapuri hostel exhibited their mosaic art work at ‘A Hundred Hands’, a movement that promotes indigenous handicrafts. The event was held from November 28 to December 2 at Jaya Mahal, Bangalore.
AVANE VANDAAN: A DIFFERENT SHOW

On the eve of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), residents of AIM for Seva Krupa Home presented Avane Vandaan, a dance drama on four divine messengers in our legends and history—Hanuman, Krishna, Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi and Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The programme was held on November 30, and was staged by our 38 differently-abled adults. Act 1 showcased Hanuman going to Lanka and getting the chudamani from Sita in Ashoka Vatika. In Act 2, Krishna goes as the Pandavas’ emissary to the Kaurava court, but his peacemaking efforts unfortunately fail. Act 3 touched on Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharishi’s life and his quest for Arunachala. The event concluded with an ode to AIM for Seva’s founder, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati. All our artistes got a roaring round of applause from the audience.

Dr. Ambika Kameshwar, acclaimed danseuse and founder of RASA (Ramana Sunritya Aalaya), provided the concept, script, music and direction for the show.
ROOM to GROW

At the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls in Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, the students are testimony that handing over the reins of responsibility to the doers is the best way to create a generation of empowered citizens.
“Look, she seems to be posing for you!” Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji laughs as she pointed to one of the cows. Sure enough, Vani, as the cow is called, looks at us intently for a few seconds, then tosses her head and peers at us from the corner of her eye. “She never does this for us! And we are the ones who look after her, feed her and milk her every day!” P. Sangeetha, one of the girls at the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls in Udumalpet, Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu, says with a light-hearted laugh. Even as she speaks, Sangeetha’s fingers are busy massaging the cow’s udders as she prepares the gentle bovine animal for milking. Another girl, G. Menaga, joins her within minutes. They begin milking the cow deftly, and the tin can placed between them is soon brimming with frothy milk. The other two cows (named Gurukrupa and Kamadhenu) are similarly milked with dexterous efficiency. The calf, Revathi, does not seem very interested in any of us.

Just as the cans are closed and lined up, two older girls come up in a two-wheeler; they are handed two of the cans, and they ride off towards the neighbouring village. “There is a cooperative society in the village that buys excess milk from the farmers, and sells it in the local market. The money we get from this sale is used to buy fodder for the cows and for the general upkeep of the cowshed,” Swamini ji tells us. After a pause, she adds, “It serves as an opportunity to help the girls understand how to practice self-sufficiency, and to enable them to become more confident when dealing with people. They also had to learn to handle cash and keep accounts properly. Once I taught them how to do it, I told them that they had to take care of it.”
‘Taking care’ brings with it a whole new meaning for the girls at the Chatralayam. For one, it is interesting to note that Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji and the girls don’t use words like ‘work’, ‘responsibility’ or ‘duty’—they refer to everything they do as ‘karma yoga’. The term, loosely translated, means the act of performing any and every task with dedication but without getting worried about the end result. Here, the added emphasis is on making sure that every task is given utmost care and attention, to the point of perfectionism. Moreover, the girls are eager to impress upon Swamini ji that they are more than up to the task they have been handed—no matter what the task may be.

A Balance of Work and Play

The Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, which was inaugurated in 2012, is located on the outskirts of Udumalpet (73 km from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu). A little bridge painted in orange and white (which the girls refer to as “our colours”) leads to the campus, which is tucked away amidst paddy fields.

Step in and you feel like you have been transported into a little natural haven—the pathways are lined with trees and plants; there is a kitchen garden that boasts varieties of spinach and medicinal herbs; white hibiscus, sunflower and varieties of jasmine are in bloom in the garden. Terracotta lamps and clay pots that hold creepers are hung from the bamboo beams around the campus. The goshala houses three fully grown cows and a calf. Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji, the coordinator of the Chatralayam, oversees all the affairs connected to its day-to-day running. She personally looks into the induction of every student, much like the admission into a regular school or hostel, but she adds that almost every girl who wants to come here is welcomed with open arms. The girls, who vary across ages, range from the youngest in Class 5 to girls who are in the second and third years of college. They are enrolled in the RVG Matriculation School in Kurichikottai and the L.R.G. Government Arts College for Women, Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. Most of the girls come from families of poor economic means, and have limited access to education.

Keeping in mind AIM for Seva’s vision that opportunities for education and social mobility should reach (especially) remote locations, Swamini ji visited the tribal areas in Mavadappu, Esalthattu and Perumpallam, Tamil Nadu, and requested the parents there to send their children to the Chatralayam. It was not an easy request. Unlike families in the villages, who see education as the stepping stone to social mobility, tribal families view it as an impediment to the girls’ marriage in later years, as there are very few men who have completed formal education. Today, nine of the 67 girls enrolled in the Chatralayam are from tribal families, and, even though the pace may be slow, the number is surely climbing. Her bigger role lies in ensuring the girls’ physical, emotional and mental well-being. Swamini ji ensures that she is up to date about them—their health, studies, peer-to-peer
squabbles and happenings at school. “A girl can just walk by me, and I know if there is something wrong with her. I then ask her what it is and help her with it. Usually, it is something to do with homework not being completed, some health issue or an argument with a friend…. I have to make sure that they talk about it and resolve their problem.”

Her affection for the girls is evident—be it the use of endearments when she calls to them, the affectionate pats or occasional word of praise. The girls call her ‘Maaji Ma’—a term that brings together respect and endearment; they regard her as a parental figure and role model rolled into one.

Much like a parent, Swamini ji draws the line well between work and play. Alongside an emphasis on school work and studies, the girls are encouraged to pursue extracurricular activities as well—which includes outdoor activities such as yoga and silambattam to literary pursuits such as learning the scriptures (specialised teachers come in once a week to conduct the relevant classes).

In addition, they are each assigned to a group that is to carry out a specific task in the Chatralayam (such as taking care of the garden, keeping the dormitories in order, helping in the kitchen, taking care of the storeroom,
arranging and cleaning the prayer hall, or feeding and milking the cows). Each group has an 'in charge', who has to delegate, guide and assist the girls in their tasks, and ensure that the work is done in a systematic and neat manner. (In case the question arose, the task is no excuse for skipping homework, and vice versa).

There is an 'overall in charge' as well, who has to ensure that the different groups are working harmoniously—by themselves and with each other. R. Maruthilega, who is currently in the third year of her B.Com CA degree at L.R.G. Government Arts College for Women, Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, is the current overall in charge for all groups. She is soft-spoken and has a gentle demeanour that endears her to the rest. “If we are put as the in charge for anything, we have to work alongside the younger girls to guide them. We have to set an example for them to follow, so we have to make sure we do our tasks really well. This way, we learn the task well and become responsible,” she says.
No Skill Left Behind

For Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji, the division of tasks is not just a means of inculcating a sense of discipline—it is also to train the girls in a variety of skills. R. Gayathri, who is in the second year of her B. Com degree, is our guide around the campus. She explains how the girls are informed a week in advance of their upcoming duties—it is then their responsibility to prepare for it as needed. “If we have to conduct the pooja on the coming Sunday, we have to make sure that we learn the mantras well, as we have to guide the rest of the girls. If we are put in charge of the storeroom, we have to measure the provisions and vegetables, and calculate if we have enough for the rest of the week. We also have to create a menu of the vegetables to be used each day, based on which ones will spoil fast, and give it to the cook. If we are going to run short of any provisions, we have to make out a list and ask Maaji Ma to help us arrange for the items.”

The rotational system means that each girl is put through several different kinds of tasks, and is made to understand how to best work with older and younger girls to get the work done. It sharpens their skills in logistics, mental math, interpersonal communication and timeliness. An offshoot of this training is their increased self-esteem and confidence, and a feeling of empowerment.
A Second Chance at Life

“We are working to make this a zero-waste campus,” R. Gayathri says, as she points to a broken suitcase that has become a mini flowerbed. She is an enthusiastic guide, and her tour is interspersed with bits of information about the girls’ daily routine.

Her vibrant chatter and cheerful smile belie the pain she went through in earlier years. Gayathri’s mother died six years back, when the girl was barely a teenager. Her father developed Parthenium allergy, a skin condition that limited his ability to step out of the house. With it came the inability to work or take care of his daughter. At that time, he heard about the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu.

When she arrived at the Chatralayam, Gayathri was very withdrawn. She barely spoke, and would respond only if a specific question was asked. She was physically weak, as her father had been unable to afford nutritious food or cook for her. The lack of emotional support from family members had given rise to fear and lack of security. There was a silver lining. “Gayathri looked at studies as her ticket to success, and she was very hardworking,” says Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji. For Gayathri, it was a second chance at life—and she grabbed it with both hands. It took her a year to emerge from her shell. From there, the metamorphosis was rapid. In the Class 12 board examinations, she scored 1119 out of 1200 marks.

Today, the 19-year-old is in her second year in the B. Com in Chartered Accountancy course at the Government Arts College, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, and aspires to become an IAS officer. Swamini Gurupriyananda Saraswati ji helped her procure second-hand IAS exam guidebooks, and she spends her weekends poring over them.

Opportunities for the Taking

A notable aspect is that the girls are encouraged to see each task by itself as an opportunity to become acquainted with a new skill or display a talent. They are groomed to see themselves as doers, to set the bar higher for themselves and their sisters. It is through entrenching such a way of thinking that the path is paved for long-lasting societal change. Where, once, lack of economic restrictions was taken to mean limited possibility for jobs or upward social mobility, the girls are now contemplating the courses that will enable them to pursue their ambitions. If one girl wants to become an IAS officer, another wants to become a police officer; a third mentions an interest in agriculture, while a fourth is considering working as a nurse in her village.

The students at the Atmalaya Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, are testimony to the positive change we can bring about by raising a generation of girls and boys who are given room for learning, not doubt. Who will come to view the world as a storehouse of opportunity. Who will understand that walking together is the best way to move forward. Who will not wonder if they have to lean in, but reach over and gently take the reins in their hands.
The Swami Dayananda Rotary Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kadalur, Tamil Nadu, received an award for securing 100% results in the Class 10 Board exams (2018), which was presented in Chennai at a ceremony organised by The Kanchipuram District Self Financing Schools’ Association. The school was upgraded to higher secondary status last year.
SWAMI DAYANANDA MATRIC HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MANJAKKUDI, TAMIL NADU, BAGS SWACHH VIDYALAYA PURASKAR

The Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School in Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, a project under Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET—implementation partner of AIM for Seva), Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, was awarded the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar, an initiative by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the ‘Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyala’ (SBSV) initiative in 2014 to ensure that all schools have access to separate functional toilets for boys and girls. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was instituted in 2016 to recognise good sanitation and hygiene practices in schools.

LAUNCH OF NEW CHATRALAYAM FOR GIRLS IN UTTAR PRADESH

Located in Unnao District, Uttar Pradesh, the Madhu & Rajkumar Nigam AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Girls is home to 25 girls. It is notable that this is the first Chatralayam for girls in Uttar Pradesh.

NAME OF THE CHATRALAYAM:
Dayasagar AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys

LOCATION OF THE CHATRALAYAM:
Malgaon Village, Bhawanipatna Tehsil, Kalahandi District, Odisha

WHEN WAS THE CHATRALAYAM STARTED?
2015

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE CHATRALAYAM?
25

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE CHATRALAYAM?
6 years (Class 2)

WHO IS THE COORDINATOR OF THE CHATRALAYAM?
Swami Paramahamsananda Saraswati ji

*CENSUS DATA*

| Location | Malgaon Village, Bhawanipatna Tehsil, Kalahandi District, Odisha |
| Local Language | Oriya |
| Population | 1,247 (12.75% of the population is in the age group of 0-6 years) |
| Cities Nearby | Bhawanipatna, Titlagarh, Kantabanji, Rayagada |
| Community | Scheduled Castes: 26.38% Scheduled Tribes: 40.66% |

*Data source: www.census2011.co.in and www.onefivenine.com*
The students at the Dayasagar AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Kalahandi, Odisha, are testimony to one of the most important lessons in life and living: That it is not ‘what’ but ‘who’ we aspire to be that holds the key to long-term progress.

A Few Good Men

The chilly breeze forewarns us of rain. After a few minutes, sure enough, there is a slight drizzle, but the boys are not moving. Some are playing cricket, while a couple of others are clustered around a mound of sand, which was dumped there in preparation for construction (“For increasing the height of the compound wall, in line with the government’s regulations,” the warden, Sri. Bhajaram Rana, explained). A closer look reveals that a couple of boys are busy creating works of sand art. A Shiva linga with a moat around it, and a couple of buttercup flowers to adorn it; a near-3D sketch of the Taj Mahal, complete with its pillars and minarets; and an idol of Hanuman.

All this, with just their fingers and a twig.

The appreciative comments that follow are met with shy smiles and gentle shrugs. The question as to whether they are aware of Sudarsan Pattnaik, the famed sand artist from the same state, draws blank glances and shaking of heads. As the rain threatens to become heavier, the boys head indoors, laughing as they shake the drops of water from their hair.

Talent in Spades

“These boys are very skilled with their hands,” says Swami Paramahamsananda Saraswati ji, the coordinator of the Dayasagar AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in

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Kalahandi District, Odisha, which was set up in 2015. He looks at a boy named Tumbheshwar Majhi and says, “He will become a great bowler one day. He has amazing aim! When he first came here, he showed us how he could hit a flying bird with a stone—freehand!” The comment, when translated into Odia, draws a lot of self-conscious laughter. Many of the boys come from tribal communities in and around the region, and Swami ji says that they have excellent hand-eye coordination, sharp observation and deft fingers—characteristics that have been ingrained in them from generations of hunting and gathering practices. Nabin Pujhari, who is in Class 5, is said to be able to catch fish from a stream with his bare hands; he can also climb trees quickly. After a pause, Nabin says in a soft voice, “We are used to hunting and fishing in our village…after coming here, we were taught to refrain from hurting the animals and birds, as it is painful for them.”

Our talk turns to their interests and hobbies. The boys like cricket, and many name M.S. Dhoni as an all-time favourite. Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar follow at a close second. Fifteen-year-old Dileswar Sahu, one of the few boys who is fluent in both Hindi and Odia (and helps act as a translator for the rest of the students), says he enjoys batting and hopes to be as good as Dhoni someday.

So, do they aspire to join the Indian cricket team? The boys shake their heads. Then, what do they want to be in future? “I want to become a good person,” Dileswar pipes up. The answer takes us by surprise. We ask a few
others, and most of them say the same thing. There is no second thought or premeditation; their voices and expressions are proof of innocent clarity.

What in their view stands for a good person?

“Someone who does the right thing at the right time,” says one.

“Who respects people,” adds another.

“Who believes in God,” says a third.

“Who does his work truthfully and sincerely,” a voice from the back pipes up.

So, why do they want to be ‘good people’? “If I am good, my name will be recognised wherever I go. Then, I will bring a good name to Swami ji, my family and village, and make them all feel proud. I will help to form a good impression on people,” Dileswar explains.

A Shift in Priorities

Dileswar comes from Malgaon Village. His uncle, the Sarpanch of the village, told the boy’s parents about the Chatralayam two years back, and asked them to consider sending their son there. Dileswar agreed when his parents raised the suggestion. Though he was just 13, he was aware of the limitations in his village. For one, there was little support by way of tuition or guidance. Further, Dileswar admits to not having prioritised his studies or exams prior to coming to the Chatralayam. “I used to spend a lot of time with my friends, and get into fights at school,” he says sheepishly. “I was not
a good student then, but I knew it was important to study hard and get good marks. So, I decided to come here.”

His story is not unique. Bhojaraj Sabar, who is also 15 years old, shares that he came here (from Kusumdar Village) two years back, as the Chatralayam seemed like a positive environment. His mother is no more, and he was raised by his father; his sister is currently in college. According to Bhojaraj, one of the key impediments back in his village was the tendency to fall into wrong company. “There are some boys who are always looking for trouble. They will find some excuse or another to get into fights, and we also get drawn into them,” he says.

There is also the issue of insufficient guidance from teachers. Chudamani Majhi, who is currently in Class 10, had trouble with reading and lacked the confidence to speak to others when he came to the Chatralayam two years back. His teachers had not paid much attention to his needs or progress. Now, he says, he is able to converse better and is getting more comfortable with his studies as well.

The boys have benefited greatly from the fact that they have found in Swami Paramahamsananda Saraswati ji and warden Bhajaram Rana, benevolent listeners who seem to understand their issues, and who offer guidance and support. “They are all used to having a lot of free time on their hands. If their parents are at work, there is no one to tell them what to do. So, they tend to go around the village with their friends and indulge in pranks or mischief. Here, they have to go to school and come back once the last bell is rung, so they have no distractions.” says Swami ji. He enlisted the support of Krishna Sahu, who works in an engineering college as a clerk, to come in once a week to coach the boys in English and to help in other subjects (as needed).
Seeds of Positive Change

Life at the Chatralayam follows a set routine: Prayers in the morning, going to school, a bit of play after returning, followed by a study session, and then a final round of prayers before bedtime. The boys are also taught yoga exercises a couple of times a week. Meals are prepared by a cook, and the boys take turns to serve everyone. Chores such as sweeping the floor, maintaining the garden and making the beds are done by rota (a chart shows who is to be part of which task group in that particular week). While most of the boys say it was hard in the first month to buckle down and follow a disciplined lifestyle, especially with regard to fixed hours for schoolwork and studies, they have adapted very well. They have formed close bonds with each other, which makes it easy to overcome homesickness. With time, they have become more responsible, and have lost a great deal of their aggression and boisterousness—except during playtime and the odd friendly scuffle.

The outward change in terms of becoming more focused and disciplined is one thing; a deeper, subtler change is induced, thanks to Swami Paramahamsananda Saraswati ji and warden Bhajaram Rana's practice of holding regular talks with the boys. During these talks, they touch on the need for the boys to work on their attitude and character. “I tell them that they should be so well behaved that people should look at them and say, ‘These boys are from the AIM for Seva Chatralayam.’ They have started to take this seriously now,” says Swami ji. “Once, when a couple of our students were...

A Giving Heart

“My late husband and I have been followers of Pujya Swamiji for about 25 years now. We have been giving to AIM for Seva for many years, and I continue to sponsor the expenses for two children each year,” says the elderly lady, who prefers to remain anonymous.

In his will, her husband had pledged Rs. 75 lakhs for the construction and upkeep of a Chatralayam in any tribal region in India. “My husband said that the people in tribal areas are the ones who have the greatest need. He didn’t have any preference for the region or place. AIM for Seva suggested a place in Odisha, and we agreed right away,” she says. This generous donation was channeled towards building the Dayasagar AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Kalahandi, Odisha—a beautiful home away from home for 25 boys.

For the couple, giving was a way of life. “I believe that what we have is not ours. We are carrying it for others. We have to take what we need for our maintenance but the rest doesn’t belong to us—in fact, we are carrying a gift meant for others.”
coming back from school, they walked by a couple of elderly people—one of whom was from the nearby Malgaon Village. The boys stopped and greeted them respectfully. Later, the person from the village told me about how happy and proud he was upon being greeted.”

Such appreciation helps to reinforce the students’ attempts at instituting positive change. Interestingly, it is not only the students who witness a sea change in their attitudes and behaviour—their parents do, too. Many of the parents are uneducated and come from tribal areas, where formal schooling has not made headway. “The parents were told that they had to call their children every Sunday,” says Swami ji. “Most of the times, when they used to call, they would ask their son if he was eating and sleeping well. They rarely asked about their school, studies or tests—because they didn't understand what their sons are studying or how to evaluate their marks.”

With time, the boys have begun to exhibit more patience, a greater sense of responsibility and increased drive towards studies. “Take Ranjan Majhi, who is now in Class 5. He was very naughty when he first came here. This time, when he went back home, he didn't go out—instead, he called some of his friends home and asked them to study, while he stood by and watched over them!” says Swami ji. Such incidents have made their parents sit up and take notice. More villagers are now enquiring about the Chatralayam and looking at the option of sending their children there. What’s more, the boys’ friends, who are witness to their changed bearing
and attitude, are beginning to express interest in joining the Chatralayam.

Progressive Transformation

Within a short span of time—the Chatralayam itself is only four years old, and many of the boys have been here for an average of two years—the students are beginning to show a sense of maturity that is far beyond their years. They are focussed more on the attitude they bring to their tasks rather than the laurels that await. Perhaps, that is why, one is led to wonder, they are not as easily buoyed by praise as well.

Swami Paramahamsananda Saraswati ji regards these changes as the seeds of metamorphosis for long-term progress. “Today, we have 25 students. When they leave this place, they will touch a minimum of 250 people for sure. What an amazing effect they will have on society! Those 250 people, in turn, will touch many more people,” he says with a smile. Within a few minutes, we get a sense of just how much of a transformation that will manifest as in future. Warden Bhajaram Rana comes in and tells the boys that he saw a pile of biscuit wrappers outside the compound wall, and asks them if they had thrown them there after the afternoon snack. The boys look guilty for a moment, and then nod. Rana chides them gently, reminds them of the garbage cans that have been set up, and adds that anyone passing by the Chatralayam will wonder why the people living there do not keep it neat and clean.

What follows after a pause is a chorus of promises to clean up the place once the rain has abated. About 20 minutes later, when we return after a walk inside the premises, there is not one wrapper left. There was no further word of instruction or direction; the boys had quickly and quietly cleared the place.

“We have to keep up our word, and do the right thing,” says Dileswar, when we point in surprise to the newly cleaned patch. “If not, how can we hope to be good men when we grow up?”
Ānanda, the first of our fundraiser series was held from March 7 to 9, 2019, at the Music Academy, Chennai. The proceeds from this fundraiser were channelled towards AIM for Seva Krupa Home, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, Chatralayams and the integrated community development initiatives at Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu.

Ānanda got off to a flying start on March 7, with Smt. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath’s Chintaye Guruvaram, a tribute by the artiste to her Gurus, who have led her on the journey of life. The concert was a freshly woven production with narratives, and highlights included songs from the Thiruppugazh. The event also saw the release of Kuru Sevam Tvam, a souvenir specially created for Ānanda. This book is a pictorial depiction of AIM for Seva’s journey over the last 18 years. On March 8, the audience witnessed a powerful play, Kurukshetra:When Things Fall Apart, which was directed by Dr. Gowri Ramnarayan. The play was based on three characters from the Mahabharata—Drona, his wife Kripi and son Ashwatthama. The hallmark of this play was its powerful dialogues and wonderful acting.

Ānanda 2019, ended on a grand note with Dr. Anita Ratnam’s A Million Sitas on March 9. Through her dance presentation, Dr. Anita Ratnam retold the Ramayana from a woman’s lens. The performance used sets and prop elements sourced from South Africa, South America, Malaysia, Japan and Europe, and told the story through the eyes of Sita, Mandodari, Manthara, Ahalya and Surpanakha.
We are happy to announce that our school in Padali Khurd Village, Badwah Taluk, Khargone District, Madhya Pradesh, was formally inaugurated in February. The Swami Dayananda Saraswati Vidyalaya was built by AIM for Seva with financial help from Sri Jugal Kishor and Smt. Bimla, residents of California, USA. Children from the neighbouring 25 to 30 villages will benefit from this English-medium school. For the current year, children from Class 1 to Class 5 will be given admission and, in subsequent years, one class will be added every 12 months. The Swami Dayananda Saraswati Vidyalaya, Khargone District, Madhya Pradesh, will become a higher secondary school in due course.
Making a Life, Not a Living
When I was in the second year of college (IIT, Kharagpur), my mind was filled with questions that had no direct or simple answers. I had a moment of ‘realisation’: That the education I was getting would help me earn well, but not necessarily ‘live’ well. ‘Living well’ had taken on a new meaning in my mind.

Many of my friends today have well-paying jobs, and an active, extravagant social life. However, I sometimes wonder…what is real happiness? Are these people happy? I used to ponder on these questions from an early age. I yearned for a more fulfilling sense of satisfaction, which I felt was deeper…that material things or family life may not give me. So, towards the end of my final year in university, I decided to turn to our ancient practices and wisdom for some answers. Looking back, I realise it was all a giant experiment. I joined weekly Bhagavad Gita classes. Before I knew it, I had found myself a community. One thing led to another, and I found myself in the ashram in Anaikatti with Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

At that point, the model of an AIM for Seva Chatralayam was merely an idea. By the time it materialised, we were having a hard time finding people to coordinate and head many of the locations. And that was when it hit me: This was my opportunity to give back, to fulfill my deep desire to contribute to society. Probably, I had come to see that ‘living well’ and ‘giving’ were synonymous in some ways.

What goes into making a Chatralayam is not merely bricks and mortar but a lot of thought on how to mould confident, empowered, responsible citizens of tomorrow. Acharya Nawneet ji, coordinator of the Shri Chunilal Vij AIM for Seva Chatralayam for Boys in Rohtak, Haryana, shares, in his own words, an insider’s perspective on how the organisation works to create a microcosm of holistic well-being for every student who steps into the Chatralayam.
I was initially a coordinator for a Chatralayam in Chandigarh in 2001. In 2006, we got a plot of land in Rohtak, Haryana, and constructed the Chatralayam that stands here today—and I became the Chatralayam’s coordinator.

It is not an easy task to run a Chatralayam. The first couple of years were the most testing. We started out with students from the vicinity, but it was all very volatile. In our second year, we had an imbalance with our demographics—we had a majority of boys who came from one specific region, and only a handful that came from other nearby locations. After a couple of years, we decided to take in students from other locations, or, at least, students residing beyond a 50-km radius. There were many teething problems as well. For example, we had many of our boys from the initial batches going back home at different points of time, or their family members visiting them without prior notice. This tended to affect our routine and we felt a strong need for regularisation of timings. So, we worked to institute some standard practices to bring the boys into a consistent routine, and to help us manage better.

Today, we have 39 boys, ranging from 10 to 17 years. They come from various states, such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. We have a similar routine to most other Chatralayams. We wake up at around 5 a.m. The boys do a range of activities until 7.30 a.m., including surya namaskar, and helping out with the food preparations. Then, they get ready for school. As of now, we have one couple that stays with us—the warden and his wife (who is also the cook). We don’t have any other staff, so it is a small family.

All the boys are divided into small groups, and they each take turns completing a set of chores. In the afternoon, after school, they finish their schoolwork and then play or watch some videos on our television. We make sure that whatever they watch is either child-friendly entertainment or educational.
If I have to be honest, extreme leniency or privacy is not something that can be afforded here. These boys come from homes where their parents work hard during the day, and have to stay out for long hours due to the nature of their work. As a result, the boys largely come from an unsupervised home environment. Many of them are used to running around the fields all day, with plenty of leisure time on hand. When they come here, we take care of every activity of theirs. The need to monitor them carefully was the result of our earlier experiences—and we have worked to create a conducive, safe and happy atmosphere for the students to learn and grow. We encourage the students to spend as little time as possible in their dorm rooms, and to spend more time with one another to maximise the benefit from each other's company. They can do their schoolwork, they can play, they can help the warden and the cook—without missing out on the fun of working together. And it has worked like magic for us so far.
Often, people ask me if the boys find it difficult to adjust to the routine and schedule of the Chatralayam. However, the truth is that these children come from much harder lives back home, so abiding by the routine of the Chatralayam is not much of a challenge for them. I have to say, though, homesickness is a very different thing—and the truth remains that we try and match the love and attention that their parents give. At the end of the day, the most important thing we can provide them with is a balance of education, nutrition and all other facilities that can help them realise their potential.

Take the support of external tutors for example. Many of our students need help with their subjects, especially maths and science. For this, I hired external tutors who would conduct maths or science sessions (for different age groups) a couple of times a week. However, when they travelled for holidays or had added work pressure, they found it hard to commit to the scheduled time. To overcome this, I reached
out to some of our alumni, who are now working in other parts of Madhya Pradesh and the National Capital Region. They readily took on the role of becoming tutors to our current students, and are dedicated to keeping up their commitment—especially since I asked them to! We have a strong bond, and they are always ready to give back to the Chatralayam in any way they can. They try and come in person once a month to assess the students’ progress. At other times, they conduct lessons over Skype or phone (with their voices amplified via a Bluetooth speaker). To date, they have not missed a single class as per the schedule. Weekly tests are conducted to see where the students need help, and we are noticing marked improvement in the boys’ grades and ease with their schoolwork.

Another facility that we are proud of is our kitchen garden. I truly believe that, in today’s world, organic methods of farming and cultivation are much needed. A majority of the boys in our Chatralayam come from agricultural families, and it is imperative that we help maintain the ties to their cultural roots. The organic farm started shortly after we constructed our building, and I was insistent on planting more flora in our backyard. Though apprehensive about what would grow and what wouldn’t, we made a beginning. What started as a small tulsi plant has now blossomed into a whole plethora of shrubs, bushes and vines.

Today, we can confidently say that whatever we consume is grown by us—all organic and with no chemical supplements. We even make our own compost; we make sure nothing goes to waste. The most significant effect this system has had on our boys—apart from exposing them to a sustainable model of living—is the very fact that they handle life in an ecosystem and, therefore, grow to become responsible individuals. They tend to the garden every day, and watch our plants grow and decay. This touches them emotionally, and, more so, it soothes them. Additionally, it keeps them preoccupied and adds immense beauty to our home. Even though it is on a very small scale and we buy our milk from external vendors, I would say that we live a self-sufficient, organic life. And… when they become adults, they could perhaps understand the financial aspects of it and take it up professionally.

Whether it is about the access the boys have to facilities or the sustainable lifestyle we foster, the only true hope I have for these students is that, when they leave the Chatralayam, they take with them the values and direction we have given. I had the opportunity to find a path that led me towards a greater purpose. Getting an education that is coupled with values teaches you how to live a confident and meaningful life. We all need to start moulding our institutions to teach our younger generations to not only become independent but also find importance in the greater good.

Desire to Do More

“I spent a lot of time in small villages when I was a young boy. My father was in charge of development projects in the backward and tribal regions of Gujarat (as part of the government’s five-year plans). So, I was well aware of how life was in the villages. I know the work that goes into developing these areas,” says Mr. Pradip Zumkawala, a long-time devotee of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati (since 1983) and donor to AIM for Seva. “When Swamiji started this movement, we (my wife and I) were monetarily helping to support the education of children of people who were working for us, or for people we knew through personal connections, in Ranchi and some places in Uttar Pradesh,” he says.

Back then, Mr. Zumkawala was living in England. When he returned to India in 2007, he was keen to do more. At this juncture, he spoke to Pujya Swamiji about being part of the AIM for Seva movement. “It was stuck in my head that I had to do something,” he says. At around this time, he visited the Swami Dayananda AIM for Seva Tribal Girls Chatralayam in Anaiakkatti, Tamil Nadu. “We were very taken by the young girls there, the way they talked to us, their confidence and the way they were being taken care of… and that cemented our decision. We felt that whatever we had was to be shared.”
Running 97 Chatralayams is no easy task, more so when we bring in the question of the children’s safety (physical and mental). AIM for Seva has consistently worked towards ensuring the students’ well-being and security, and the organisation is committed to constantly reviewing and reinforcing them.
AIM for Seva has instituted and is running 97 Chatralayams in 16 states across India. Each of these student hostels houses boys or girls across different ages, from Class 2 to college-going students. The physical and mental safety of these students is the organisation's top priority and several measures have been put in place to ensure that the students are well taken care of. Our efforts are in line with giving our students a shield of safety (kavach) to help give them the right space to grow and bloom.

- In terms of physical safety, the buildings are secured with compound walls and gates and CCTVs (closed-circuit television).
- Each Chatralayam is taken care of by a sadhu / sadhvi who is well qualified, and has travelled extensively. They are all Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati’s students and are sufficiently trained to handle the children well. The wardens of all Chatralayams are put through a training programme and they come with the awareness that they are held accountable for their behaviour / actions.
- All the coordinators meet twice a year, and share their observations from each of our centres. So, there is sufficient awareness of the happenings in each of the Chatralayams and a learning circle to benefit from.
- AIM for Seva has built a network of local support as well, and the coordinators turn to them for assistance when needed. The Chatralayams are always located within a short distance of a village, and the coordinators form good rapport with the people living there.
- When the students go on short, planned trips to temples or on excursions to other places, they are accompanied by the coordinator, warden and cook—this way, we ensure that an older, responsible person is in the students’ vicinity at all times.
- All coordinators have the number of a local doctor, and the emergency contact number is displayed in the premises. Twice a year, health camps are conducted for the students.
- All students are given lessons on personal grooming by the wardens or coordinators. A kit of essential toiletries is given to the students upon joining, and they are taught about general hygiene and puberty (according to their age). Doctors and nurses come and brief them as well.

AIM for Seva insists that all students who stay in the Chatralayams should maintain close ties with their families back home. The students have to mandatorily go back home twice a year (for summer and Diwali vacations) and spend time with their family. At the Chatralayams, they are provided with all that is needed for basic comfort, but we avoid bringing in excessive luxuries as well. This is to ensure that the students develop a fair view and appreciation of both worlds (the Chatralayams and their homes) and, over time, develop an equanimous mindset that is not influenced by external affluence.

At every one of our Chatralayams, our coordinators and staff place special emphasis on our students’ psychological well-being. Efforts are made in particular to improve their confidence and self-esteem.
Keeping alive our culture and tradition, even as we embrace modernity and progress, has been an underlying driver in AIM for Seva’s initiatives. With this in mind, the organisation has put in place several projects through its implementation partner, Swami Dayananda Educational Trust (SDET), Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu. The projects focus on sustaining key practices that hold the roots of our rich heritage, including traditional knowledge systems, sustainable agriculture, value-based education and healthcare, bearing in mind that all of these elements go into making a holistic ecosystem of growth and enrichment.

VEDAPATASHALA

Cultural validation is an important element of sustaining our heritage and its offerings. Even as we adopt Western methods of education, it is necessary that we keep alive and propagate the learnings of our rich Indian heritage. To this end, the Swami Dayananda Vedapatashala was set up in Kodavasal, Tiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu, to impart studies in Vedanta. The seven-year course teaches mantrams and yagams, and is run by expert faculty members. Since 2006, 50 students have graduated from the Vedapatashala, and more students are continuing to join and undertake studies of this ancient subject.
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AT MANJAKKUDI, TAMIL NADU

Manjakkudi, the janmabhoomi of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati and the centre of our integrated community development programme, is an example of how modern facilities can be harnessed to bring about economic development and social mobility, without losing the intrinsic character of our country’s rural hinterland.

The movement in Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, began in 2001. The Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, was set up in the same year to empower rural areas, especially women, through education. With time, Manjakkudi became a vibrant centre of education for the surrounding villages as well. Today, the college offers 35 fully equipped and well-ventilated classrooms and 17 courses. We have 71 teaching and 63 non-teaching staff, a well-developed computer lab with 118 computers, a library with over 9,000 books and a 1,000-seater air-conditioned auditorium. The Swami Dayananda Matric Higher Secondary School, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, was set up in 2006, primarily as a school for the children of the teaching faculty in the Swami Dayananda College of Arts & Science, Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu. The classrooms include smartboards with Tata ClassEdge, there are clean washrooms and excellent sanitation facilities. There are also well-equipped computer labs, a library with 2,500 books and an infrastructure of 3 buses and 16 vans. Every day, around 5,000 students from around 300 villages come to study in the school and college.

When such premium educational initiatives are introduced in our villages, we can help mitigate the need for families to move to cities and towns in order to avail of necessary facilities. Thus, we are able to lay the foundation for a positive cycle of progress and development at the heart of our villages, which will, in due course, bridge the rural-urban divide.
SUSTAINABLE LIVING PROJECTS

Mother Earth keeps on giving, no matter how much we take—which is also the underlying principle of seva. Drawing inspiration from nature’s example, and with a view to expanding our circle of seva, Spirit of the Earth was started in 2017. The project worked to make optimal use of agricultural land available in and around Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu, and to revive heritage rice varieties. The project was begun with sowing Mapillai Champa. Today, Spirit of the Earth grows over 180 heritage varieties of rice (many of which have been revived after several years), which are brought from across India and even other countries such as Thailand and Burma. It also organises forums for sharing of best practices in farming and benefits of heritage varieties, and to encourage growing and patronage of these indigenous grains.

Through this initiative, we have been able to revive nutritious varieties of heritage rice, create a forum for preserving and sharing agricultural wisdom, and institute a cycle of sustainable cultivation—thus ensuring that our next generation is not deprived of the priceless wisdom passed on from our forefathers. To this end, we have instituted a 40-acre organic farm in the heart of the Kaveri delta in Manjakkudi, Tamil Nadu. The fields are tilled using natural and organic manure, and the farm produces heritage artisanal varieties of rice that include Chak Hao Poireiton (Manipur), Kalajeera (Orissa), and Thooyamalli and Mapillai Champa (Tamil Nadu). Apart from heritage rice, our organic farm has also successfully reared 70 species of medicinal plants, eight vegetable crops, 16 varieties of trees and 20 types of crotons, and paddy.

Closely related to farming is animal husbandry. A dairy farm with 76 local and 13 cross-bred cows is situated in shady and peaceful area in the village. The cows are given all-natural feed, and the manure generated from them is routed to the fields. Further, a daily yield of 90 litres of organic milk is sold to state-owned milk cooperatives in the region.

HEALTHCARE

Even as we work to bridge the rural-urban divide, it is imperative that we maintain a balance of traditional knowledge and Western medicine methodology. We run two hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, one hospital in Gujarat, a chikitsalaya in Bihar and an ayurveda clinic and a wellness centre in Tamil Nadu. AIM for Seva also has a 24-hour ambulance service, manned by an experienced nurse, to support the emergency needs of villagers in Manjakkudi and to ensure access to the nearest government facility in Kodavasal when in need.
These initiatives help to ensure that our healthcare systems tap into the best of the east and west, even as they serve the immediate needs of people in rural India.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A network of support and care for people with special needs and their families is needed in today’s society. Creating such robust networks will not only channel help to those in need but also set an example of empathetic caring in action.

One such initiative, the AIM for Seva Krupa Home, was started by Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 2010. Located in Maduvankarai in Sripurumbudur, 40 km from Chennai, the AIM for Seva Krupa Home is a residential facility that caters to differently-abled men with varied developmental disabilities (such as autism). The facility was launched with the objective of providing each differently-abled individual with dedicated lifetime care and support. Qualified caretakers help to assist and enable the residents to learn new skills and go through each day with dignity and self-confidence. Today, AIM for Seva Krupa Home has 38 male residents, aged between 18 and 65 years of age.

To provide similar support for children with special needs, the AIM for Seva Shanmuga Society was started in 2002 with the blessings of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati. Located in Hyderabad, the centre conducts special education classes, speech therapy and regular counselling sessions for 19 students.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Self-reliance and financial independence are two key factors that will help create an empowered generation of women who, in turn, will help uplift their families and the larger society. To this end, AIM for Seva runs two vocational training centres in Tamil Nadu (Smt. Seethalakshmi Ammal AIM for Seva Sewing Training Centre and Smt. Seethalakshmi Ammal AIM for Seva Computer Training Centre, both in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu) and three sewing centres and one non-formal education centre in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. These centres help to equip the women with vocational skills and basic computer literacy, which will help give them a leg up on the road to progress.
# Next Leg

## Upcoming Chatralayams 2019-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Boys/Girls</th>
<th>Inauguration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thennampattu</td>
<td>Vellore</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>22-Apr-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Raja Bhanpuri</td>
<td>Rajnandgaon</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>29-Apr-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nagthana</td>
<td>Washim</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Coming soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dhandhuka</td>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>10-Jun-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Padali Khurd</td>
<td>Khargone</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>24-Jun-19</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Khargone</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>24-Jun-19</td>
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<td>Chinnadarpally</td>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>16-Jun-19</td>
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<td>Anantapur</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>21-Jun-19</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tondikatti</td>
<td>Belgaum</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Coming soon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## How Can You Be Part Of This Movement?

**YOU CAN**

- Visit a Chatralayam to learn more about its working
- Sponsor a child / children
- Recommend deserving student(s) to join a Chatralayam
- Get your company to ‘adopt’ a Chatralayam, sponsor student expenses or donate as part of its CSR efforts
- Donate towards capital expenditure / infrastructure development
- Donate land and/or buildings towards building new Chatralayams
- Conduct programmes for our students
- Organise employee engagement programmes at our Chatralayams

For any of the above, contact

**AIM for Seva**

Email: aimallindiamovement@gmail.com
Phone: +91 44 2498 7955 / 2498 7966

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CONTRIBUTE

“Only by giving do you become a giver, a contributor. 
You become big by just using the will; action is the key.”
- Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Be a part of our movement by extending your support – every bit counts.

Complete Education and Care for 10 children for 1 year: Support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationary, uniforms, school bag and sports gear AND boarding, 3 meals a day, health check-ups and medicine

INR 3,60,000

Complete Education and Care for 1 child for 1 year: Support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationary, uniforms, school bag and sports gear AND boarding, 3 meals a day, health check-ups and medicine

INR 36,000

Care for 1 child for 1 year: Support by providing boarding, 3 meals a day, health check-ups and medicine

INR 21,000

Educate 1 child for 1 year: Support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationary, uniforms, school bag and sports gear

INR 15,000

Complete Education and Care for 1 child for 1 month: Support by providing tuition fees, books, notebooks, stationary, uniforms, school bag and sports gear AND boarding, 3 meals a day, health check-ups and medicine

INR 3,000

Meals for all the children in a Chatralayam on a donor designated day

INR 3,000

Donations accepted through cheques/DD in favour of AIM for Seva. For online donations, visit www.aimforseva.in

If you wish to sponsor a Chatralayam or contribute towards building and / or infrastructural facilities, please contact us at aimallindiamovement@gmail.com or +91-44-2498 7955.