

## OSAAT News

### Fast and Furious...at the silver milestone



**Kattemalalavadi Students Strike a Pose!**

#### SO, WHO ADOPTED THE KATTEMALALAVADI SCHOOL?

That's a question asked by many OSAAT supporters. Let's take a look.

First, team USA asked if Tri Valley Kannada Sangha of California (TVKS), USA, would adopt the school. TVKS accepted the proposal wholeheartedly. Their executive team planned and organized fundraisers, spread the word and appealed to their members. Their members took part in the fundraising events and donated money. A clear win-win situation

#### Thank you TVKS!

At the same time, Team India partnered with LogMeln Systems India Pvt Limited, Bengaluru, through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Executives of LogMeln inspected OSAAT's work both on site and behind the scenes. Impressed by how the projects are executed from start to finish, they joined the effort. What a great way to showcase the CSR

#### Thank you LogMeln.



**Inauguration day – Kattemalalavadi Higher Primary School**

### Kattemalalavadi – Let's go!

We knew we would get there slowly but steadily. Our 25<sup>th</sup> school project, Government Higher Primary School, Kattemalalavadi, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka, was inaugurated with all the joy and festivity the community could muster on June 8, 2019. No one could miss the excitement in the air. The kids came dressed up to put on a show for the crowds, the school staff was smiling from ear to ear, the parents and guests couldn't stop admiring the shiny, "new jewel" adorning the village.

Needless to say that for the OSAAT family, this milestone is significant. It represents the passion and dedication of people in two continents, 10,000 miles apart in distance but bound by one simple goal – "paying forward" the gift given by Mother India. We don't call that "giving back" anymore. We are looking ahead to the future – the kids that will thrive in the newly rejuvenated schools and go on to become tomorrow's pride of the nation.

Built in 1916, Kattemalalavadi school is home to 446 highly motivated children and dedicated staff. The school was given a new lease on life with 4 new classrooms and was completed on time and within the budget of \$49,000, under the leadership of Gururaj Nittur, OSAAT's project champion.

# ALAMBADI SCHOOL – A River crossed and a dream realized!



In less than 6 months, Alambadi Lower Primary School went from a tiny, cramped single room structure to a solid, beautiful, spacious building with shiny granite floors, a ceiling fan, and bright light fixtures.

OSAAT volunteers fondly remember crossing the Kaveri river near Hogenakal to get to the school in Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagara district, Karnataka. Crossing the stream hit the point home that the school, serving the local tribal community was on no one's radar for any kind of support. OSAAT's Alambadi Project Champion Srinagesh Subramanian says – "I knew instinctively what needed to be done".

**Mr. Keerti and Mrs. Sneha Melkote of California, USA, adopted the Alambadi school in its entirety.**

**This is the second school the Melkote couple have adopted this year. Thanks to their kindness, the dream inspired by the stream became a reality for the community.**



It was quite an adventure for the city slickers that crossed the river again on June 15, 2019 for the inauguration ceremony. The kids watched in amusement as the crowds gathered to admire the new school building. The kids and the local community put up a song and dance show expressing their joy.

B.V. Jagadeesh, Chairman of the OSAAT Board of Trustees, attended the event. He expressed thanks to "Help Educate A Child", for donating the power system to the school. Alambadi school is OSAAT's 26<sup>th</sup> successfully completed project.

*The school got another helping hand from India Sudar, an NGO that has assigned a teacher to the school for 2 years. The teacher has already started working there and excited about contributing to the children's education*





## NUMBER 27 HAS A CHARMING STORY TO TELL....

## BENKIPURA SCHOOL

The entire population of Benkipura joined the celebration of OSAAT's 27<sup>th</sup> Successfully completed project. Dressed in colorful attire and brimming with joy, they left no stone unturned in terms of traditions involving the inauguration of a new building. The school also planted a tree as a part of the festivities,



Govt. Higher Primary School, Benkipura village, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka

**M. P Kumar, CEO of GlobalEdge Software** heard of the plight of these kids and graciously adopted the school project in its entirety. Thanks to his generosity, the school has been rebuilt with 2 new classrooms and a new toilet block.

Brand new toilet blocks for boys and girls generated just as much excitement as the new school building with 2 classrooms. In villages like Benkipura, it is not uncommon for parents to stop sending their daughters to school once they reach a certain age and the school has no toilet facilities. That invariably ends any hopes of education for the girls.



The building that houses 2 classrooms is constructed out of Polyurethane foam (Puf) Panel sheets. As with all Government schools, maintaining the infrastructure is not easy for the school. Puf Panel sheets helped in reducing both the time and the cost of construction. Puf panels have high thermal efficiency, which ensures low heat transmission, thereby resulting in energy savings. Puf panels have the added benefit of being maintenance free.

OSAAT's Project Champion Gururaj Nittur says – "the best part is, the architects and engineers involved in all our school projects get an immediate sense of how important the reconstruction effort is, in terms of money, time and effort OSAAT wants to spend. They come on board with fresh ideas. A clear win-win situation!"

## Groundbreaking of OSAAT's 29<sup>th</sup> project at Chinnikatti

The groundbreaking ceremony for the OSAAT's 29<sup>th</sup> project was held on 12-May-2019 at Government Higher Primary School, Chinnikatti village, Byadgi Taluk, Haveri district, Karnataka. OSAAT will be building 6 classrooms and a toilet block. At an estimated cost of Rs 60 lakhs (USD 85K), this project is one of the "big budget" projects to date.

Kishore Kumar, OSAAT's Project Champion says that this school, which was built in 1964, is home to 200 kids in grades 1 to 8. He was horrified that several rooms he inspected seemed ready to collapse any day. "I didn't need to call on any expert to confirm that many of these rooms were very unsafe and had to be demolished. Standing inside a classroom, I could see the outside through a huge crack in the wall. It was beyond belief".

Kishore Kumar and other OSAAT volunteers who visited the school say they were quite impressed by the trophies and awards the kids have won in various athletic and cultural events. The staff includes dedicated and talented teachers.

**Amadeus Software Labs India Pvt Ltd, is the prime donor for this project.** Amadeus personnel attended the ground breaking ceremony, much to the delight of the school staff and children. As with all the corporate CSR partners who have evaluated OSAAT, Amadeus executives say they are very impressed with OSAAT's professionalism and the due diligence with which OSAAT conducts every step of every project from beginning to end. They got to see for themselves how the processes work - selection, site inspection, budgeting, resource allocation, fundraising, construction and completion.

OSAAT's Satheesh Heddese has worked with many CSR partners and he says -"it is very gratifying when they choose to partner with us. At the end of the day, they want to see tangible results for their contribution. When their contribution is put towards a school, the results they get are so much more. It is not just a classroom or a toilet that gets built. It is an opportunity to educate a child, uplift a school, hope for parents and the local community that their kids will have a brighter future".





## Projects in progress

**Govt Higher Primary School, Thungabhadra village, Raichur district, Karnataka:** OSAAT is building 4 classrooms and toilets. Expected completion – Aug-2019

**Major donors: IITB Alumni, Mr. Sanjeev Acharya, Mr. Raghunandan**



## Projects in pipeline

**Govt Model Higher Primary Girls School, Malur town, Kolar district, Karnataka:** We will build 8 classrooms, staff rooms and toilets. Expected start Jul-2019

**Adopted by Mr. Keerti and Mrs. Sneha Melkote, USA; Western Digital Corporation (formerly SanDisk) and Mitel Networks**



**Govt Higher Primary School, Surahonne village, Honnali Tq., Davanagere district, Karnataka:** Needs 4 classrooms and toilets. Expect to start in Sep-2019

**Donors: Yokogawa India, Allgo Systems**  
**Other donors are welcome to explore.**



**New Kannad Madhyamik Vidyalay, Morabagi village, Jath Tq, Sangli dist, Maharashtra:** Needs 2 new classrooms, kitchen, store room. Toilets need repair. Expect to start in Aug-2019

**Donors: VDA Infosolutions.**  
**Other donors are welcome to explore.**



**Govt Higher Primary School, Bai-aregoppa village, Hanagal Tq., Haveri dist, Karnataka:** Needs 4 new classrooms and girls' toilets. Expect to start in Aug-2019

**Donors are welcome to explore.**



## A Simple Checklist Can Lead To A Lot of Good

- ❖ **Visit: [osaat.org](http://osaat.org)**
- ❖ **Donate generously - funds, time, talent - no holds barred**
- ❖ **Volunteer your time**
- ❖ **Spread the word about OSAAT. Get your employers, friends and family involved. It takes a village to educate a child**