

1Q 2019

Newsletter



One School At A Time  
**OSAAT**  
A Safe & Strong School for every child

## And the Magic Number is.....Twenty Five!

We are very pleased to announce the successful completion of Government Higher Primary School, Kattemalalavadi, Mysuru district, Karnataka. This school is the 25th project in a long, and still growing, list of rural schools to receive a helping hand from OSAAT. This also happens to be a significant milestone for OSAAT, having started as a young non-profit organization in 2003 with a modest budget and a small number of volunteers.

Kattemalalavadi school, built in 1916, was brought to OSAAT's attention in 2018. Gururaj Nittur, an OSAAT core team member and the project champion assigned to Kattemalalavadi, distinctly remembers some of the highs and lows that stood out for him during his visit to the school in the early days of evaluation. "For a strong student population of 446, the number of classrooms was totally inadequate. Some classrooms were completely beaten down by weather and destroyed. But, it was clear to me that the school was doing something right. The school staff was so dedicated that they were just not willing to give up on the kids" he says.

Recalling the incredible conversations he had with the students, Gururaj says that the kids were so motivated that they were simply not going to let the condition of the school affect their education. "There was absolutely no hesitation in recommending that we take on this school project", he reminisces.

Today, Kattemalalavadi school shows off 4 brand new classrooms. OSAAT started constructing the new classrooms in September 2018, and completed the project on time. The inauguration, originally intended to take place in March 2019, has been postponed to June-2019 due to the elections in India. The cost of construction was USD \$49,000. Major funding for the project was provided by TriValley Kannada Sangha (TVKS), San Francisco Bay area, USA, supplemented by funding from LogMeIn Systems India Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru.

"We were eager to join hands with OSAAT when we were asked to help with raising funds for the school. Considering the fact that Kattemalalavadi is in Karnataka and we, as Kannadigas need to give back to the communities we grew up in, we put in quite a bit of effort to spread the word and raise money. It is very gratifying to see every dollar we raised going to such a worthy cause", says Mr. Gopala Sridhara, Member of executive Committee, TriValley Kannada Sangha (TVKS), San Francisco

Bay area, USA.

Executives of LogMeIn systems India Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru, expressed how impressed they are with their company's decision to partner with OSAAT. "We take Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) seriously. It is important for us to work with organizations that are credible and worthy of our partnership. We took a hard look at all the processes OSAAT follows - how they get the leads, what criteria they use to select a school, their site visits and fact-finding methodology, the thoroughness with which they screen the contractors and their work. We are very impressed, and seeing the end result that OSAAT produced with our funds, we know that we chose a worthy partner." We are getting ready for the inauguration!

### KATTEMALALAVADI SCHOOL BEFORE TRANSFORMATION

**Kattemalalavadi School,**  
**Mysore district, Karnataka**

Run-down building, 4 unusable classrooms. Needed 4 classrooms.

**Adopted by TriValley Kannada Sangha, SF Bay area, USA.**



### KATTEMALALAVADI...Ready for the big day!



### FCRA Clearance - the latest feather in OSAAT's cap!

For years now, we braced ourselves for the toughest scrutiny of all. We gritted our teeth and cleared every hurdle in our way. Finally, it happened! We are truly ecstatic about getting the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) clearance. Getting the FCRA approval is what we were always focused on for the last 4 years. Thanks to the relentless efforts of Team India, we have now received the FCRA approval from Govt. of India, by virtue of which funds raised in the USA can now be transferred to OSAAT India directly. This takes away the unnecessary time and effort spent on the transfer process and makes us focus on other important aspects of service delivery - the kids we need to serve in the rural schools!

## CSR Contributions soar to a new height

With great pride and humility, we are pinching ourselves! Team India has raised an unprecedented Rs. 94 lakhs (approx. US \$135K) in Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) contributions to date. Getting recognized as a worthwhile NGO partner is not an easy task by any means. But we have had the unmistakable proof - the school building we have built, and continue to build, over the years. Many corporate executives toured the schools, hobnobbed with the kids and their parents, and finally drew the conclusion on their own. We are, forever, thankful to all our Corporate partners! Team USA, led by Mr. Ram Kedlaya, and Team India, led by Mr. Satheesh Heddese, are interested in hearing from you, if you are passionate about educating poor children and giving them an opportunity for a better future.

## Projects in Progress

<p><b>Thungabhadra School, Raichur district, Karnataka:</b> Was completely destroyed during the 2009 floods. Needs 4 classrooms and toilets.</p> <p><b>Major donors: IITB Alumni, Mr. Sanjeev Acharya, Mr. Raghunandan</b></p>		
<p><b>Benkipura School, Mysore district, Karnataka:</b> Inadequate facilities to house all the classes. Needs 2 classrooms and a toilet block. <b>Adopted in its entirety by Mr. M.P.Kumar</b></p>		
<p><b>Alambadi School, Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka:</b> Needs 2 classrooms and toilets <b>Adopted by Mr. Keerti and Mrs. Sneha Melkote, SF Bay area, USA.</b></p>		



## Projects in pipeline

**Malur Girls School, Kolar district, Karnataka:** Badly damaged building, inadequate facilities for classrooms. Needs 8 classrooms and toilets  
**Adopted by Mr. Keerti and Mrs. Sneha Melkote, SF Bay area, USA, Western Digital Corporation (formerly SanDisk) and Mitel Networks**



**Chinnikatti School, Haveri district, Karnataka:** Needs 6 classrooms and Toilets.

**Major Donors: Allgo Systems, Amadeus India.**



**Surahonne school, Davanagere district, Karnataka:** Needs 4 classrooms and toilets

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



**Morabagi School, Sangli district, Maharashtra:** Needs 2 new classrooms, kitchen, store room. Toilets need repair.

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



**Bai-aregoppa School, Haveri district, Karnataka:** Needs 4 new classrooms and girls' toilets.

**Donors: are welcome to explore.**



## OSAAT Receives the HCCC Grant

OSAAT continues to be recognized for its service to rural Indian kids, and is a proud recipient of a \$2,000 grant awarded by the Health and Human Services Committee of Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC), Livermore, California, USA. The

annual “Grant In Aid” program has been a tremendous source of encouragement and support to many local charities for the past several years. The award ceremony took place in March, presided by Mr. John Marchand, Mayor of the City of Livermore, and other dignitaries.

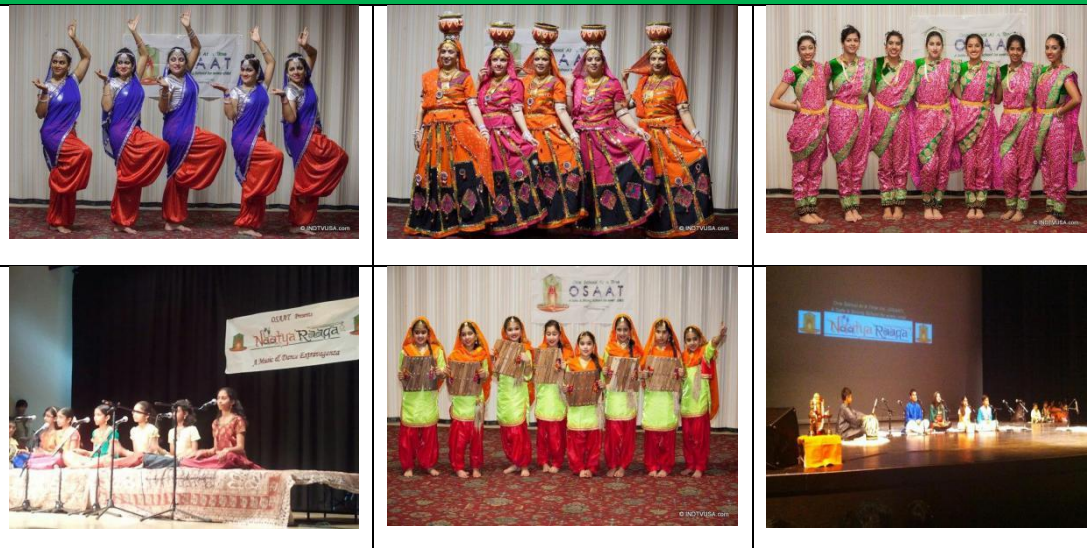
**OSAAT’s sincere thanks to HCCC for its continued support!**

## Naatya Raaga 2019 Delivers thrills and triumphs

Naatya Raaga, OSAAT’s 2-day signature event that brings together hundreds of Bay area dancers and musicians, took place on April 13-14, 2019. 41 dance teams and 21 music teams participated and dazzled the audience with scintillating performances.

Naatya Raaga continues to be recognized as a prestigious platform for not only the quality of the program, but also the valuable skills the young participants learn in terms of compassion, giving, teamwork and commitment.

The pictures are worth a thousand words when it comes to describing Naatya Raaga’s journey over the years, filled with colors, sounds, joy and exuberance!



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