Criterion 7 - Institution Values and Best Practices

Key Indicator - 7.3 - Institutional Distinctiveness

QLM 7.3.1 - Portray the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 200 words.

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Birsa Munda Bal Gurukul

An initiative by Thakur Ramnarayan College of Arts & Commerce along with Birsa Munda Adivasi Shramik Sanghatana for the upliftment & development of Tribal community, Birsa Munda Samaj.

About Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali.

The SGNP is one of the most visited national parks in Asia and globally the largest park located within the city limits. Each year over two million people visit the Sanjay Gandhi National Park to witness the gorgeously blooming flora and fauna, including leopards, deer, flying fox, kingfisher, sunbirds, lions, etc.



About Chinchpada at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali.

The Chinchpada area, situated within the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, is one of the most densely populated Adivasipadas (tribal settlements) among the 13 such settlements in the park. Despite being located within one of India's largest metropolitan areas, the residents of Chinchpada face significant challenges related to basic amenities and education.

This report provides a detailed overview of the Bal Gurukul initiative implemented by the Thakur Ramnarayan College of Arts and Commerce, Dahisar East. The initiative aims to address the educational and developmental needs of children in Chinchpada, focusing on providing essential values and skills for the 21st-century world.







Demographic, Socioeconomic Background & Living Conditions

Chinchpada is home to a large number of tribals who predominantly work as daily wage laborers, household helpers, delivery agents etc. in the nearby vicinity. The prevalent illiteracy among the population has maintained a cycle of poverty and limited opportunities for advancement.



The community faces severe shortages in basic amenities, including clean drinking water, electricity, and adequate housing. These conditions exacerbate the difficulties faced by families, particularly children, who often do not receive the necessary care and guidance due to their parents' demanding work schedules.



Impact on Children

Children in Chinchpada are often left unsupervised, which can result in neglect and increase the risk of involvement in problematic behaviors or criminal activities. The lack of educational opportunities further compounds these issues, hindering their future prospects.



The Birsa Munda Bal Gurukul: An initiative for the Tribal Community

Objectives

The primary objective of the Birsa Munda Bal Gurukul initiative is to provide educational support and moral guidance to children in Chinchpada. The programme is in collaboration with Birsa Munda Adivasi Shramik Sanghatana. The program aims to achieve the below mention agenda in the upcoming 5 years.

- Academics
- Skill Development
- Cultural & Sports
- Educational Visit & Entertainment
- Festival & Celebrations



Targeted Beneficiaries

The Bal Gurukul caters to two distinct groups:

School-Aged Children: Children attending Hindi or Marathi medium municipal schools benefit from afterschool support to improve their academic performance and proficiency in English, which boosts their confidence.

Toddlers: Young children without access to kindergarten facilities receive foundational education and early childhood care and nurturing.

Understanding the Community Needs

To tailor the initiative effectively, a thorough survey was conducted to assess the literacy levels of the children and identify key areas for improvement. This survey also categorized children by age group to ensure that educational interventions were appropriately targeted to their specific needs.

Infrastructural Development

Recognizing the dire state of the existing infrastructure, the project undertook a complete overhaul of the learning environment:

• **Old Structure:** The original infrastructure was in poor condition, with a damaged roof and an unsafe, broken floor.





- **New Construction:** A new structure was erected using metal sheets, ensuring durability and sturdiness. This new building features:
 - o **Proper Lighting:** Adequate illumination for a conducive learning environment.
 - o **Blackboard and Chalk:** Essential tools for teaching.
 - o Cement Floor: A clean and safe surface to prevent health hazards.



Educational Support

Addressing the educational needs, the initiative provided students with comprehensive stationery kits. These kits included:

- **Backpacks:** To carry their school materials.
- Writing Tools: Pens, pencils, and erasers.
- **Books:** Essential for various subjects.
- Ruler and Sharpener: For efficient learning and note-taking.

These materials were carefully selected to support an effective teaching-learning process, ensuring that students have the necessary resources for their education.



Table of Materials Provided

Category	Items Provided	
Educational Materials	Pens, Pencils, Scales, Erasers, Rulers, Sharpeners, Notebooks, Textbooks	



Nutritional Needs

Understanding the importance of proper nutrition for cognitive and physical development, the initiative included:

• Ration Kits: Distributed every two months to the residents of Chinchpada. These kits provide essential food items, ensuring that students receive adequate nutrition to support their growth and enhance their learning abilities.



Category	Items Provided	
Nutritional Food	Dal, Rice, Salt, Sugar, Moong Dal, Toor Dal, Wheat Flour	

Value Inculcation

Education is not solely about academic learning but also about building Character and Values.

At Bal Gurukul, the initiative integrated value education through various activities:

- **Festival Celebrations:** Engaging children in cultural festivities.
- **Days Celebrations:** Recognizing important dates and events.
- Action Songs and Games: Promoting teamwork and creativity.
- **Sports:** Encouraging physical fitness and healthy competition.

These activities, organized by student volunteers and TRCAC teachers, contribute to the holistic development of children, helping them grow into responsible and informed citizens.









Employment Opportunities

The initiative also created employment opportunities within the community:

- Local Teacher: A graduate from Chinchpada Ms. Pooja Akash Bij, previously unemployed despite her education, was appointed as a teacher at the local school. Her employment serves as a source of inspiration for others in the community, demonstrating the value of education and the potential for local employment.
 - o Contribution: The teacher works for a nominal salary of ₹3,000, reflecting her commitment to bringing about positive change in her community.



Outcomes

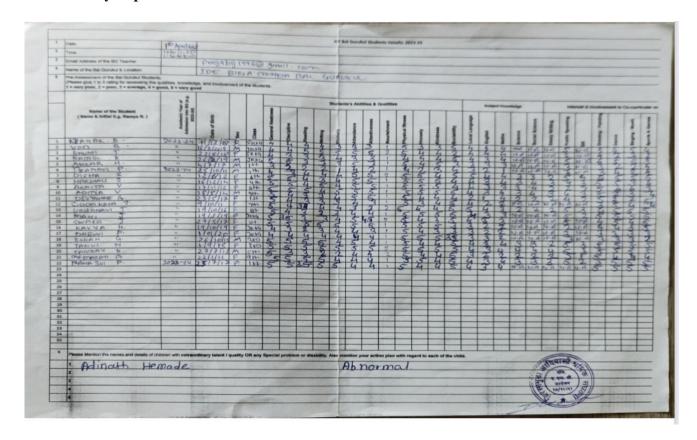
Since the inception of the Bal Gurukul, several positive changes have been observed:

- **Improved Literacy Rates**: Early assessments indicate a noticeable improvement in reading and writing skills among the children.
- Enhanced Moral Values: Children are exhibiting better social behavior and discipline.
- **Increased Community Engagement**: There has been a rise in community participation and support for the program.

The Bal Gurukul initiative represents a significant step towards addressing the educational and developmental needs of children in Chinchpada. By providing a structured learning environment and fostering essential values, the program aims to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy that has long plagued the community. Continued support and development of this initiative will be vital in ensuring a brighter future for the children of Chinchpada

Data Tables

• Literacy Improvement Statistics





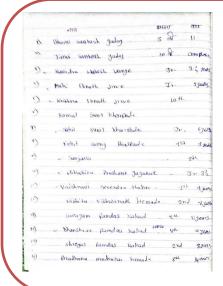
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• Students Records Admitted at the Time of Admission.



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Gallery











