

TRIBAL MENSA NURTURING PROGRAM
MENSA INDIA PUNE CHAPTER

Sita- Wildflower in Tribal Niche

Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program

Sita- Report for July 2007

The first phase of the Tribal Mensa Nurturing Program (TMNP), which is identifying Gifted Children from Tribal Residential Schools, begins in the month of July. The test administrators and coordinators of TMNP team have been very busy organizing visits to Tribal Residential Schools for the Mensa test.

While talking to the funding agencies about the needs of the children and the Tribal Schools, Narayan (Principal Investigator) realized an important point. Teachers, who are such an integral part of the growth and development of children here, need to be included in the program as well. For the holistic and continued development of children it is important to have a program for the teachers who are going to be in close contact with children. Hence, the **Tribal Teachers Training Program** was conceptualized and designed by Manas Tatva for TMNP.

Manas Tatva is a charitable organization who has previously worked extensively with children, parents and teachers. This program will help in improving the quality of education by exposing the teachers to new skills and techniques helpful in classroom situations.

The TMNP team welcomes a new mentor on board, **Col. Joshi** (or *kaka* as I will call him). *Kaka* is helping the TMNP team immensely by being the concrete that keeps things together. His foresight has helped the team to prepare for emergencies and his guiding hand is always there for support and encouragement.

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Along with guidance from *kaka*, Sachin *dada* and Sashi *tai* made preparations for the Identification phase of TMNP. Arrangements like travel, accommodation and test material were made by Sachin *dada*. Sashi *tai* was incharge of contacting the schools, getting lists of students appearing for the test as well as forming a team of trained Mensa test administrators from **Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology**.

For travel, **Sevadharm Trust**, Pune was helpful and let the team use their vehicles for the Testing program and the Integrated Tribal Development Project was helpful in providing an idea about the number of children in each school in the age group age 10 to 15 years.

The first phase of TMNP began on the auspicious day of Ekadashi on **10th July, 2007**. As the Palakhi with the *Warkari's* (pilgrims) entered the city of Pune, a team of psychologists rode out to the Tribal Residential Schools. The first school where Mensa test began was in Government Secondary Tribal Residential School, Vadeshwar in Maval taluka. From there then the team went to Malegaon and then to Khed taluka. A summary of the schools covered by the team in the month of July has been given below.

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Taluka	Village name	School's name	Date of visit	Number of students screened
Maval	Vadeshwar	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	10 th July '07	194
Maval	Malegaon	Sevadham Trust Tribal Residential School	11 th July '07 20 th July '07	184
Rajgurunagar (Khed)	Kohinde (Khurd)	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	12 th July '07	201
Rajgurunagar (Khed)	Tokawade	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	13 th July '07	243
Ambegaon	Rajpur	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	17 th July '07	164
Ambegaon	Terungan	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	17 th July '07	206
Ambegaon	Phulavade	Jnandeep Trust Tribal Residential School	18 th July '07	138
Ambegaon	Gohe (Budruk)	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	24 th July '07	273
Ambegaon	Aasane	Government Secondary Tribal Residential School	25 th July '07	196
Junnar	Otur	Sant Gadge Maharaj Tribal Residential School	25 th July '07	92 to be completed

A total number of **10 schools** have been visited by the team and **1891 children** have been screened in a period of 15 days.

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When the TMNP team came to my school, I recognized Sashi *tai* and Sachin *dada* instantly. During the morning assembly our Principal told us about Mensa and asked all of us to co-operate with the guests. I helped Sashi *tai* to organize all the children in one class. All children were given:

- A writing pad
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Shubham Karoti (book)
- Harit Sandesh (book)

I was thrilled at the sight of a new red writing pad. The books had short stories and poems which I was eager to read. The test lasted for 2 hours and I attentively listened to *tai* and did as she explained. It was a new and interesting test we did.

The Identification phase is still to be completed. Evaluation of the test is going on simultaneously at the Jnana Prabodhini Institute of Psychology.

I am eager to find out how I did on the test. The reports will be out by September first week.

As the Identification phase was running, the team was simultaneously planning for the Nurturing Program. The Nishta Centre at Kamshet which has been proposed for the Nurturing Program needs to be prepared. Work at the centre has been discussed and a proposal has been prepared for updating the centre.

All these people have been such an integral part of coming so far in the rains in search of us little ones. I would like to thank all the schools for letting the TMNP team to reach

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out to us, children. Also thanks to Sevadham Trust for generously giving their vehicles and for *kaka* to have come and be a part of the team.

Sita (Wildflower in Tribal Niche, Looking for Disha, To experience Santosh in My Life)

(Monthly Report, July 2007)

Written by: Ms. Sameena Manasawala