

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya

A school with a difference!



Kalkeri
Sangeet
Vidyalaya



Introduction

Free of any cost, the Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) provides education in academics and performing arts to children from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, food, accommodation and healthcare are also provided.

More than just a school, KSV is a living and working ideal where the students can blossom and aspire to a promising future. KSV is both traditional and modern in its approach. Tradition is taught through the disciplines of the Indian classical arts, and the modern educational program aims to have a truly student-centered educational approach which is based on the children's interests and allows each and every child to learn at their own pace.

Founded in November 2002, the school is located in a peaceful valley near the city of Dharwad. Established on three acres of land a short distance from Kalkeri Village, the school consists of permanent as well as non-permanent buildings, and there is a strong emphasis on energy sustainability and eco-friendly building techniques.

In this peaceful setting, the children enjoy the tranquility necessary for their academic studies, music practice and many other cultural activities.





Mission and Vision



Mission

KSV empowers, supports and encourages children from socially marginalised and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to realise their full potential and attain a better life. This is done through an intensive and comprehensive educational program and through the performing arts which are undertaken in a peaceful rural residential setting.

In such an atmosphere, the children learn many social skills, receive a nutritious diet and adequate healthcare services. Care, love and compassion are fundamental elements of the whole process. In this peaceful setting, the children enjoy the tranquility necessary for their academic studies, music practice and many other cultural activities.





Vision

It is the fundamental right of all children to have access to education, adequate food, healthcare services and to participate in their community's cultural life. Empowering disadvantaged children gives them the opportunity to obtain academic qualifications as well as developing their musical talents.

Through their achievements at KSV, the students will be in a position to attain more meaningful livelihoods, thus breaking the cycle of persistent poverty and creating a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Through their music, the students proudly contribute towards the conservation and diffusion of India's vast musical heritage.





History



KSV started as an informal music school in October 2001 in Dharwad. Mathieu Fortier, a Canadian citizen studying Hindustani classical music, his French wife, Agathe Meurisse Fortier, a Fine Arts graduate, and sitarist Ustad Hameed Khan, then the principal of the Music Department at the Karnataka College in Dharwad, started a free evening music school, giving the opportunity to forty children from disadvantaged backgrounds to learn the rudiments of Hindustani classical music.

Later, with the help of Mathieu's brother, Blaise, the endeavour was expanded into a residential school where students could dedicate themselves completely towards their academic and musical studies. They were soon joined by British national Adam Woodward, the current director of the institution.





In November 2002, land near Kalkeri was leased and the school started with a few children and two teachers. After eighteen months, there were forty students, six teachers and a handful of volunteers. Two years later, the Kalkeri villagers, appreciating KSV's work, donated three acres of land which is the current site of the school today.

Over the years, KSV has broadened its horizons beyond music whereby the students now have the opportunity to take classes in dance and drama alongside their academic studies.

KSV now supports 235 children, teenagers and young adults, and employs over 70 members of staff, comprising of teachers (academic & performing arts), the administration team, wardens, cooks and maintenance workers.

Many of KSV's students have successfully completed their higher education in music as well as in other fields, and have found meaningful employment which brings them a huge sense of accomplishment and achievement, thus realizing the school's vision.





The Students

- KSV's students come from the many rural and urban communities in North Karnataka where access to education is limited. Admission to KSV is only offered to children whose families are facing socio-economic challenges. Many students come from large families with a majority of girls
- Thirty per cent of students belong to the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (communities officially recognized by the government as historically, socially and economically disadvantaged)
- Seventy per cent come from large families classified as Other-Backward-Castes (recognized by the government as below the poverty line)
- Twenty-five per cent come from single-parent families
- Five per cent are orphans



Family background:

- Fifteen per cent of the parents are illiterate and did not attend school
- Forty per cent of the parents did not complete primary school
- Fourteen per cent of the parents completed primary school
- Twenty-one per cent completed the 10th standard
- Ten per cent of the parents completed college
- None of the parents attended university





Services Offered

KSV teaches children from 1st to 10th standard and then continues to support students into their higher education both financially and through mentorship. It is a residential school, so the students are on campus seven days a week for ten months of the year.

The school offers a dual curriculum of academic studies alongside the performing arts. This includes Hindustani classical music, Kathak dance and drama classes, in addition to academic studies following the Karnataka State syllabus. The medium of instruction is Kannada, Karnataka's official language, but the team makes sure that all students develop effective English communication skills.





Academic Studies

The primary aim of KSV's academic department is to implement a truly student-centered educational approach which is based on the children's interests and which allows each and every child to learn at their own pace. To achieve this, teachers undergo constant training and capacity-building to improve their teaching skills and to learn about various alternative approaches in education. They are also encouraged to use new technologies in the classroom such as computers, tablets and projectors.

The subjects taught in lower primary (1st to 4th standards) are Kannada, English, mathematics, environmental sciences and arts; storytelling and games complete the program. In upper primary and secondary (5th to 10th standards), the subjects taught are Kannada, English, Hindi, mathematics, science, social science, computer science, arts and sports.

After completing secondary school, the students are strongly encouraged to pursue higher studies. They can either stay at KSV or stay with their family while attending college or university in Dharwad. In either case, KSV will continue to provide them with financial and moral support as long as they demonstrate dedication towards their studies. Since 2010, over 60 KSV students have attended college or university and 10 hold a university degree.





Performing Arts



The most unique element of KSV is the focus on the performing arts. All of KSV's students are, in their own way, young artists.

Performing arts classes run from 8.30am to 11.30am five days a week. Students are divided into two groups: elementary classes which are less intensive (1st to 4th standards) and regular classes (5th to 10th standards). Also, students have time in their daily schedule to practise their artistic disciplines Individually.

Elementary classes provide a broad range of activities over the course of the first four years. Children are given an introduction to Hindustani classical music (vocal) and to dance (folk & Kathak); this is combined with activity-based learning, education through games, arts & crafts and sports & games.

For the students of the regular classes, three hours are dedicated each day to performing arts classes; most students take two options from the following disciplines available: vocal, tabla, sitar, violin, bansuri, Kathak dance and drama.





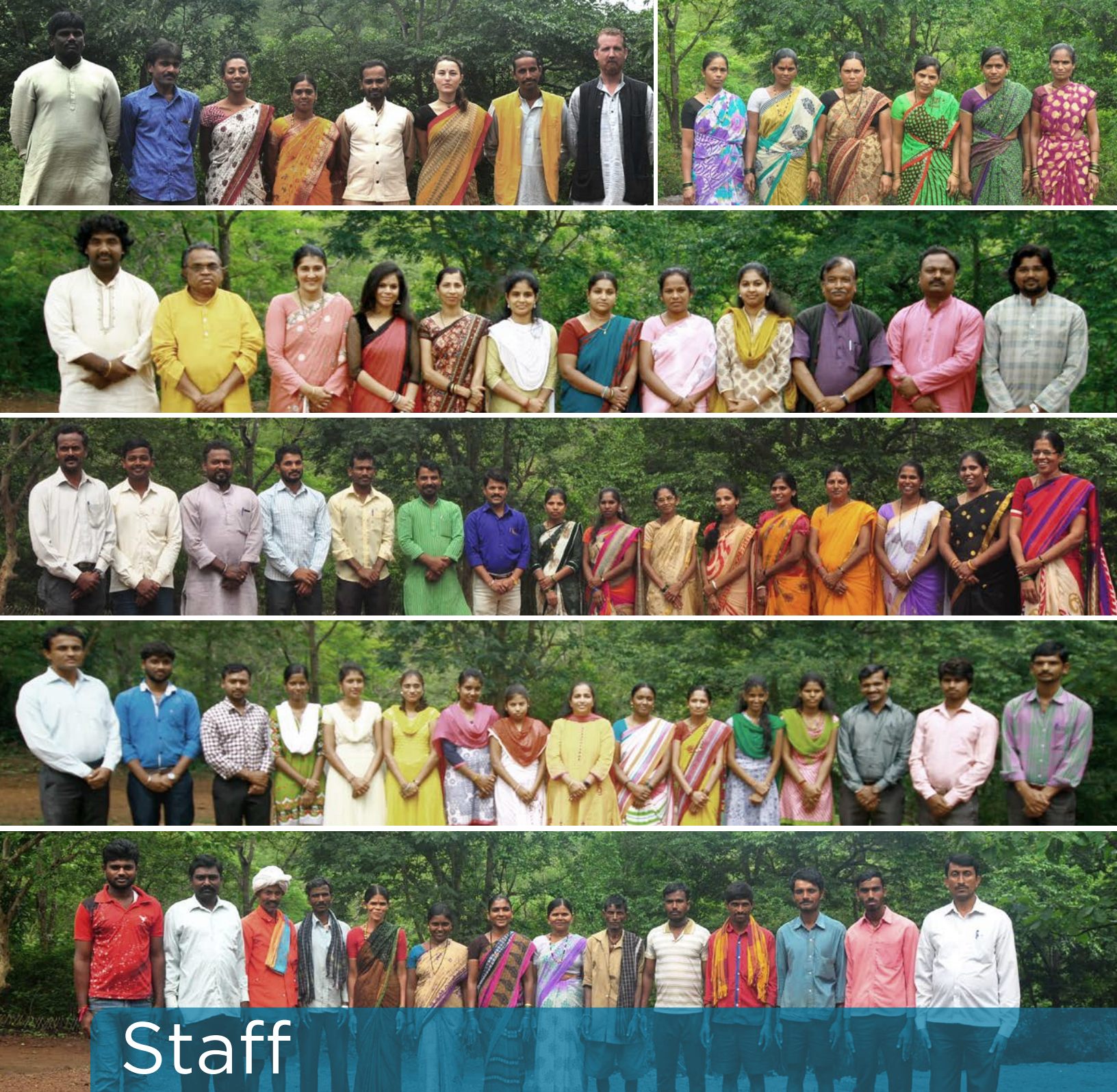
Nutrition, Health and Welfare



As a residential school, the health and welfare of the students is paramount. Three nutritious home-cooked South Indian vegetarian meals are provided every day. In total, the school's kitchen staff caters for over 300 people per/meal every day.

KSV runs a small infirmary onsite that is managed by volunteer healthcare professionals. This facility is sufficient to deal with basic medical needs of the children, staff and volunteers. However, for more serious health issues, children are taken to one of the local hospitals, several of which have a partnership with KSV that entitles the school to free or a reduced cost for treatments and medicines.





The KSV family is a multidisciplinary team of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals from various backgrounds. They are fully qualified and experienced professionals creating a motivated and dynamic team of mentors for the students.

KSV employs 75 members of staff and two long-term interns (2-year internships) across its Academic, Performing Arts, Student Welfare, Administration, Kitchen and Maintenance departments.





Volunteers

KSV recruits around 30 volunteers each year from India and around the world. These volunteers commit to stay a minimum period of 5 months at the school. The presence of volunteers at KSV contributes significantly to the development of the students and in the smooth running of the school.

All the volunteers are chosen to fulfill tasks such as English teachers, community arts workers, children's wardens, healthcare workers and fundraisers based upon their qualifications, experience, skills and interests. In addition, the volunteers significantly contribute towards helping the students gain a better understanding about different countries and cultures which enables them to have a broader view of the world.

Since the programme started, KSV has hosted over 350 volunteers. As well as giving their time, volunteers also make a financial contribution to KSV for their stay; these contributions represent five per cent of KSV's annual budget.





Student stories

Dullu Adolkar, 25 years old, Master's Degree in Music

Dullu comes from a remote rural village located 4 km from KSV. He belongs to the Gowli caste, a minority group that herds cattle for a living. He spent his early childhood looking after the family's cows whilst his father went out to sell the milk. He was enrolled at the local primary school but, like many children from his village, he seldom attended classes. With little or no education, it was Dullu's destiny to follow in his father's footsteps - that is, until he joined KSV in 2003.

Dullu attended regular academic and music classes. During the first year, he learnt the basics of Hindustani classical vocal music and then started to learn sitar. Shortly thereafter, he showed a great talent and interest for this instrument.

After having completed his Master's degree in Music at Karnataka College in Dharwad, Dullu is now continuing his studies under the expert guidance of the renowned sitar master Ustad Rafiq Khan. His progress in music will enable Dullu to work within the music field either as a teacher and/or a performing artist. Dullu is well on his way towards lifting himself and his family out of the cycle of persistent poverty.

"Without the school, I would be working with my parents in the field. Everything I am doing would not have been possible. I'm very thankful to KSV and the founders. They gave me a new life."



Sangeeta Chavan, 23 years old, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education student

Sangeeta was living with her mother at home after her father left the family six months after her youngest sibling was born. Her mother made a living as a general labourer. Up to the age of ten, Sangeeta did not attend school and used to work as a domestic helper in private houses. This involved looking after children, doing the laundry, washing dishes and general house cleaning.

Sangeeta is the oldest of six children; she has four sisters and one brother. She joined KSV at the age of eleven along with her four sisters and her brother.

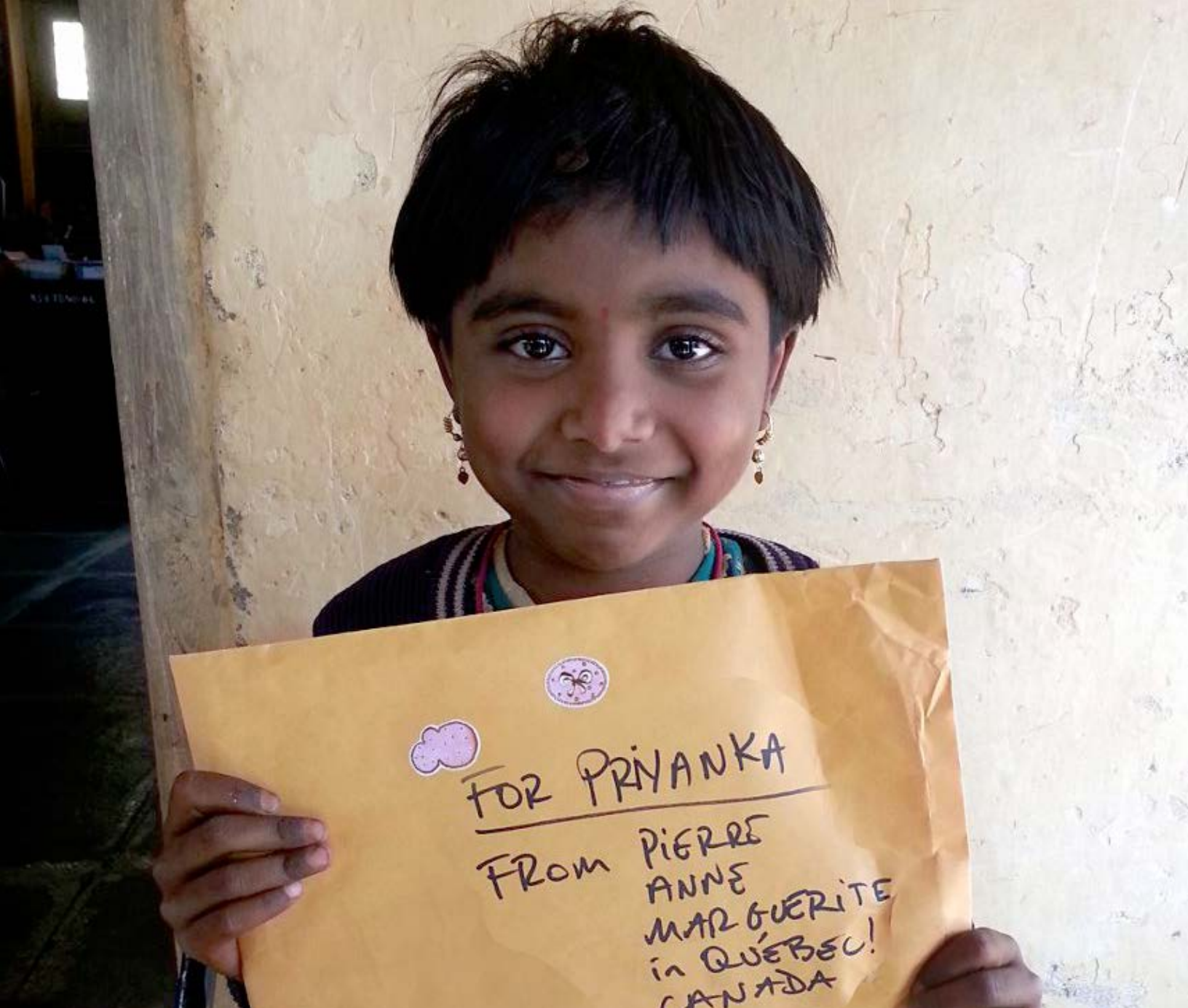
When Sangeeta arrived at KSV, it was not easy for her as she was not used to a formal school environment and she had a lot of catching up to do. There were only 30 students at the school at that time, so students were grouped according to their ability as opposed to their age. Because she had never been to school, she started to attend the classes with the small children. She could only speak Lamani, a minority group language her family spoke at home.

During the first six years, Sangeeta worked very hard, attended her classes, learnt to read and write three languages, caught up in all the subjects taught at the school and reached a point where she was able to attend classes with the other students of her age. She also learnt to play sitar. Sangeeta has taken part in various musical performances with other KSV students in the Dharwad area.

Having completed a Bachelor of Arts, Sangeeta is currently studying to obtain a Bachelor of Education at Karnataka College in Dharwad. "I study in Dharwad, but I stay on campus at KSV. From KSV, I receive support by staying on the campus and financial support for my college fees, bus pass and other expenses."

Sangeeta has aspirations to become a primary school English teacher. "First, I would like to teach at KSV, so I can give back some of what I have received from here. "

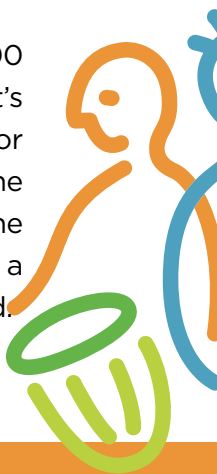




Sponsorship

KSV runs a successful Child Sponsorship Program which is the school's most sustainable and reliable source of funding.

This sponsorship program allows an individual, or a group of people, to give 1,800 INR (30 USD, 25 EUR or 35 CAD) per month in order to contribute to one student's education and welfare. The sponsor has the opportunity to correspond with his or her sponsored child, which enables the sponsor to follow their development. The sponsorship program allows the development of a wonderful relationship between the sponsor and the student whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of KSV. The sponsor has a great sense of satisfaction that their contribution makes a real difference in the life of a child.





**Kalkeri
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KSV is recognised under sections 80G and 12A.
FCRA N°: 094520060

** KSV is recognized by the Karnataka State Board of Education as "Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya Primary, Higher Secondary School, Kalkeri.
Registration No:
G2/PREG/2009-10/-2012/13- 2015/16

As per the RTE Act, KSV has all the basic infrastructures required and all teachers hold professional teaching qualifications. The school provides the 25% reservation for disadvantaged students such as schedule caste, schedule tribe and other backward castes. **

CREDITS

Content: Adam Woodward

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