

The Baate Mane Gopalapura

'A loving home near Bangalore for girl children who do not have parents able to care for them.'



Annual Report 2014 – 2015

A Message from the Chairman and Managing Trustee

Another year has passed and we are delighted to submit our annual report for 2014 to 2015. This is our annual opportunity to share with you some of the achievements and developments over the past year. The report highlights the academic achievements of some of our older girls, together with the many life skills and arts programs in which our girls have participated during the year.

Baale Mane remains quite a young organisation. Many of the girls who have been with us since the very early days are now only just reaching the point where they are finishing their studies and entering the workplace. One of our biggest lessons over the last few years is to understand just how challenging this transition is. You will read in the report about our care planning program, which we continue to refine, and some of the activities that we engage in with the girls to assist them in their transition. Some girls are handling the transition incredibly well: others are finding it much more difficult. We are continuing to learn how best to support girls in all circumstances, balancing the need for support with their own need to take their own decisions and make their own way in the world.

One particular lesson of the past couple of years has been how difficult it is for girls who have studied at school in local medium to embark on college studies, all of which are only offered in English medium. In this connection, it is particularly pleasing that we are able to report that a further 5 girls are now attending English medium school.

None of what we do would be possible without the support of our team: in particular, we would like to pay tribute to the dedication of our staff who toil relentlessly to help girls. We would also like to thank the volunteers who support us from time to time, and the many organisations with whom we partner both in the city of Bangalore and the wider world.

In May this year we said goodbye to Danielle Edwards who has been our external relations manager for the past two years. Danielle has contributed in so many areas – building our external relationships and developing our transition programme to name but two. She will soon be returning to Australia where she will be taking up an exciting position in the care sector and we wish her well in her future career.

We hope you enjoy reading our latest report.



Mary C
Managing Trustee
Baale Mane Trust

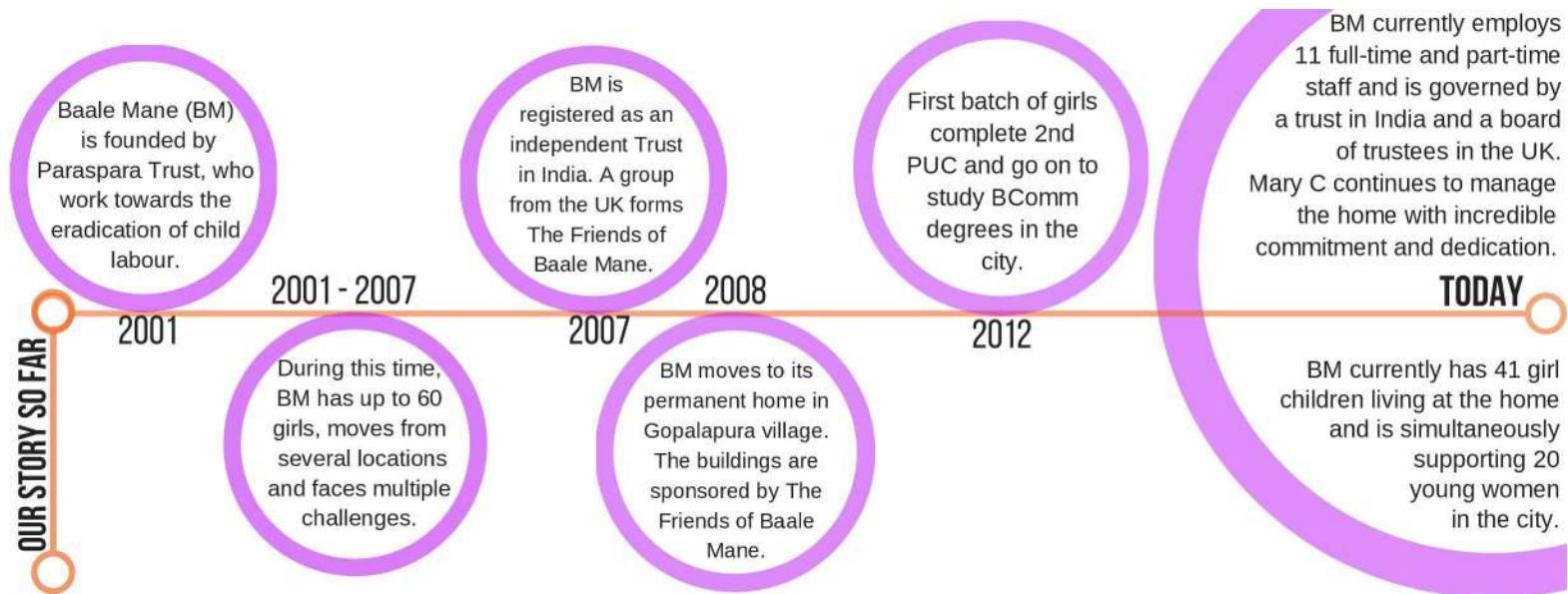


Chris Harrison
Chairman
The Friends of Baale Mane

About Us

The Baale Mane Trust is a long-term home for up to 50 vulnerable girls, located in the village of Gopalapura, near Hesaraghatta, 35 km North West of Bangalore. Many of the girl children are orphans or have been rescued from domestic child labour, domestic violence, street dwellings or single parent families living in poverty. Our care is focused on the four principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; **Survival, Protection, Development and Participation.**

Our Story



Our Mission

To nurture and resource the girl children of Baale Mane and empower each girl to lead a self-sustaining adult life.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Providing each girl child with a safe and nurturing environment
- Strengthening each girl child academically based on individual ability, with a strong focus on developing independent life skills
- Allowing each girl child to express themselves creatively through dance, drama, singing and cultural activities

Our Aims

The Baale Mane is dedicated to the care of girl children from vulnerable backgrounds such as orphans, those with a single parent who is unable to care for them and girl children who have experienced child labour, domestic violence or abuse, street dwelling and abandonment.

Unlike many other children's shelters, Baale Mane aims to provide girl children from disadvantaged backgrounds long-term support in an environment that resembles a home, not a hostel.

Activities: Education

This school year we have been able to send 5 more girl children to the Vivekananda English Medium School. We felt they were able to cope with an English curriculum and plan to send more girl children in the coming years. This is crucial to ensuring they have good opportunities both in employment and further study.

The girl children have been excelling all round in their studies, and this is demonstrated in their results. This year saw some amazing academic achievements with all the girl children achieving 1st or 2nd Class results in 10th Standard and 2nd PUC exams, which we are delighted with. Notably, both Shilpa and Ramya achieved a first class in their 2nd PUC (A Level) results and are both now going on to study for BA degrees in the city.

Activities: Arts and Life Skills Programmes

Imo Sahi from Sangam Projects (described by its founders as a meeting place for people, cultures and ideas) has been working with the girl children making arts and crafts at weekends and running Summer Camps. Having been involved with Baale for a number of years, we are very appreciative of her efforts with the girls, who adore her sessions!



Imo –

"This year we have worked on block printing, weaving and rag rug making, macramé bracelets, tie and dye, appliqué, embroidery, quilting, knitting, and crochet... As far as possible all the sessions use waste materials which are 'up-cycled' into usable or decorative objects. The girls are extremely enthusiastic about learning new skills, excited to work on new projects, and very quick to learn! Some of their work has been absolutely exquisite, as a number of girls are very creative and careful. I have also never seen such impressive collaborative team work and independent self organisation skills. Working with the girls is a fun, joyful, energetic, (sometimes stretching), but a positively life giving experience. It is an absolute pleasure to and a privilege to be a small part of Baale."

Internship Opportunity

5 of our independent young women based in Bangalore had a great time learning from Lionbridge, an IT company and partner of ours, who offered two week internships for them. They gave informative sessions covering topics ranging from computer basics, interview skills, team building and corporate etiquette. It was an extremely valuable experience for all 5 girls and we are looking forward to many more engagements in the future.



Developments

New Admissions

During the last year we have refined our New Admissions Process. An initial application is made for each girl outlining her circumstances. This is then followed up by our staff during home visits. The recommendations made by Mary and the staff based on the collated information are passed on to the Trustees for review and final decisions.

We have had 4 new admissions this year, and they have settled well into the family. The girl children have given them a very warm welcome and are helping them to adjust to life at Baale Mane very well. Three of them were referred by the Paraspara Trust and came from situations of child labour and domestic abuse. The fourth came from a very difficult family home and a situation of extreme poverty. We are striving to provide them with a happy and fulfilling childhood at Baale Mane.



Case Study: Saritha
Saritha (13) was welcomed to Baale 2 years ago. Having lost her mother to TB, and her father in an accident, Saritha was surviving by begging outside a city hospital. Since coming to Baale she has progressed very well in her studies, and has been admitted to English Medium School. Naturally very bright, she is doing very well across her subjects and is very active outside of school, participating in many extra-curricular activities and soft skills. Her confidence has also grown over the last year, which we feel has been helped by the Care Planning program.

Staff Developments

Health Insurance for Staff

We are happy to announce that we are now providing health insurance for all of the full time staff members at Baale Mane. It is important to us that our staff are recognised for their efforts and are provided with a safe and secure work place. Many of our staff come from disadvantaged backgrounds themselves, so it is wonderful to provide them and their families the healthcare services that they deserve. We hope that this will help in making Baale Mane an even happier and healthier workplace, which will in turn create a happier and healthier home for our girls.

Transition and Independence Plan

Our independence plan refers to our maturing girls who are preparing for, or currently living independently in the city, and are transitioning to a fully independent life.

There are 8 girl children in transition this year. All will participate in a course covering exercises and theory on life and work skills, independence, relationships and decision making, along with practical sessions with Emily (who has recently taken up the position External Relations Manager). The programme was first implemented last year, and works alongside our Care Planning program.

Our Independence Plan is being updated this year and will be developed alongside new policies to ensure that the girl children are getting the very best support possible. It is also important to be fair to each girl and of course, our overall aim is to set them up for a successful start in their working lives.



Life Beyond Baale Mane

Fathima has graduated from her internationally accredited beauty diploma and is currently undertaking her first placement in the world of work. Recently, Shilpa and Ramya moved to the city, and are both studying for BA degrees, after great results from their 2nd PUC, joining the other independence girls. They have adapted very well to the transition, and are enjoying their courses very much.

Eight of the independence girls live in the city studying B.Com and an Animaster Degree. Most of the girls have been doing a fantastic job at managing studies and living independently, however some have found it to be a struggle in their final years of B.Com. Baale Mane has been supporting those with these difficulties and exploring a variety of career choices and next steps for those who feel they cannot manage to continue with a degree, which has been a great learning curve as a young organization and has led to various improvements in the Transitions and Independence Planning so we can continue to improve our support to young women trying to settle into self-sustaining lives.



Case Study: Nagamma

Nagamma is 21 years old, and joined the Baale Mane family aged 10. Both of her parents died from HIV/AIDS, leaving Nagamma and her two brothers behind. One of her brothers had contracted HIV, and her other brother is mentally challenged. We are extremely proud of Nagamma and all she has accomplished in setting up her independent life in the city in the last couple of years. Unlike many of her peers, she did not want to study further after completing her 10th Standard. Instead, Nagamma went out into the working world and took on independent life. Working in a fashion store as a sales girl, Nagamma is living and working happily in the city and has been saving. She is a great role model of independence for our younger girls.

Events and Achievements: TCS 10K



We were delighted with our fundraising total for the TCS 10k, which was 3 lakhs (£3000). A big thanks to all who ran, donated, spread the word and cheered our runners on the day. Pallavi featured on Star Sports, and very deservedly won the Star Sports Believe Award!

Highlight of the day!

The Baale Mane girl children were awarded First Runners Up in the India Cares Foundation Kingfisher Costume Competition and won a prize of ₹50,000!

They wrote and performed sketches about child labour, child marriage, dowries and sexual harassment, and used the wings on their costumes to demonstrate choice, freedom and why it is important to EMPOWER GIRLS. Awareness about their rights is an important part of life at Baale Mane, and we were very proud as we watched them communicate this in just 3 short minutes, and winning this prize for their efforts!



Our Donation to Nepal

Baale Mane also partnered with the Global Women's Project and donated 10% of the fundraising total towards the Nepal earthquake relief campaign. It is a core value of Baale Mane to work towards sustainable futures in the wider global community. We chose the Global Women's project as we feel their work reflects the Baale Mane ethos of a focus on women and children, sustainability and local and grassroots development.

Events and Achievements: Continued

Daan Utsav

Daan Utsav (earlier called the Joy of Giving Week) is India's "festival of giving"! Launched in 2009, the festival is celebrated every year from October 2 – 8th brings together Indians from all walks of life, to celebrate "giving". Baale Mane participates as an NGO this year focusing on two main activities: The Wish Tree and Under The Stars.

The Baale Mane engaged with a number of Corporates who participated in this year's Wish Tree initiative. This provides an opportunity for Baale Mane to identify items that are needed or requested by the girl children rather than being given what others were already giving away or throwing out. **Biocon, IHS and Swiss Re** all took part this year and fulfilled an impressive amount of the girl's wishes.



Under the Stars 2014

In 2014, Under The Stars, a unique sleep-out event in Bangalore, aiming to raise awareness and funds for the homeless was held for the second time and again organised by The Baale Mane Trust in partnership with RECAL Bangalore (The Alumni Association of NIT Trichy). The Baale Mane had three Gold Rough Champions, Heloise Treis, Danielle Edwards and Rajan Narayanan and one Silver Rough Champion, Gale Rodrigues, who helped to raise a substantial amount of funds. We are grateful to these individuals who went the extra mile for Baale Mane. Our fundraising total was over 3.5 lakhs, which is a fantastic effort.

Independence Day at Humming Tree

Once again, our girl children had the pleasure of performing at The Humming Tree, a socially minded music venue in Indiranagar, Bangalore. The girl children performed Dollu Kunitha to a crowd of around 200 people. There were many other artistic performances on the night that the girl children had the opportunity to enjoy.



Bhumi Nakshatra

The Baale Mane girl children competed in the 2014 Bhumi Nakshatra program. The competitions involved many artistic events including, clay modelling, dancing, drama, and singing. The girl children won 1st prize in Advertisement, 3rd in the Group dance competition. Pallavi won 1st prize in the solo dance, Meena 2nd prize in clay modelling, and Asha was awarded 3rd prize in storytelling. Nandini was the star of the show, being awarded 'the Star of Nakshatra'!

Thank You: Sponsors and Partners

Shadhika

We are very happy to announce our new partnership with The Shadhika Foundation. Shadhika is a US based NGO with a mission to invest in the education, empowerment, and economic self-sufficiency of girl children for India's future. We at Baale Mane believe in a collaborative approach and are constantly looking to align ourselves with organisations that follow a similar ethos. They will be supporting us with our transition and independence programmes to assist us in our mission to nurture and resource our girl children to lead a self-sustainable adult life. We are delighted to have been selected as a Shadhika grantee for this year.



Shadhika
Investing in Girls for India's future

The Kavitha Foundation

Kavitha Foundation, from the Netherlands, donates towards the education of the Baale Mane girl children. Fundraising activities this year included children's candle making and selling along with Indian and recycled products across 5 markets. Kavitha Foundation ran a project about India in a primary school, starting with a celebration of Holi and "Kavitha's colour run" with pupils to raise funds too! During this project they taught about education in India and about Baale Mane, they tried out Bollywood dance and tasted Indian food. In 2015 Kavitha celebrates the 5th anniversary of the foundation.



The Better Not Bust Tour

In January 2015, a group of University of Wollongong students toured around India with the purpose of raising money for Baale Mane.

The group raised 3.8 lakhs (£3,800) which we will put towards the Campus Expansion Programme! We are very grateful for their efforts in raising money for Baale Mane.

Thank You: Volunteers

A huge thank you to our international volunteers who lived and worked at Baale this year. They include -



Theresa - " I got to spend only a small time at Baale Mane but the girls taught me so much about solidarity, standing up for each other, friendship and the importance of family. I had lots of fun & for two months Baale was my home, and the girls were my family. I wish I could have stayed longer, and I hope, that after all they did for me, I was able to give them something in return."

Theresa spent 2 months at Baale Mane, and ran fun-filled workshops with the girl children on Geography, Nutrition and Health amongst other topics.



Tiggy - "My experience at Baale Mane has been defined by my awe of the girls - their strength, their ability, their positivity and how full of life and spirit they are. As one told me about a week into my stay here, I now have 60 sisters as well as 2 brothers! I feel very lucky to be working with such strong women and girls and I have no doubt that I will learn so much more from them than they will from me."

Tiggy wrote the Communication Policy, activated our Social Media platforms and fundraised and ran for the TCS 10K in May. Since the end of the year she has joined our staff on a one year contract as public engagement coordinator.

Campus Expansion Programme

As detailed in our last annual report, we are currently fundraising for the Baale Mane Campus Expansion programme. The new building will enable us to take in 20 more girls, whilst providing space for the independence girls to come and stay with us at weekends. It will enhance the current hygiene, health, study and recreational facilities at Baale Mane, providing us with a dedicated sick room, better kitchen and bathrooms, a bigger library and a yoga pavilion. It will also create space for our live-in caretakers to have their own space, as they work to care for the girl children round the clock. The projected total cost of this project will be roughly 2 crores (£200,000) and so we are working to raise this amount by reaching out to potential individual and corporate donors.

We have also partnered with Billion Bricks, who have added useful proposals to enhance our plans from a functional, environmental and sustainable perspective. The project will be built using environmentally friendly materials and methods, with a kitchen garden, solar energy and rainwater harvesting. Not only will this building project increase our impact within Baale Mane, we are looking to a future where Baale Mane can become an outreach centre, working with other NGOs and the local community. In the immediate future however, we are looking to begin Stage 1 as soon as possible, which will create a comfortable space for our independence girl children to come and visit Baale Mane on the weekends.

We are receiving donations for this project in the form of funds and building materials, and for more information about how you can support it, please take a look at our website.

Financials

35AC

We have been awarded 35AC tax certificate by the Indian government. Under 35AC, any Indian resident donor who donates towards the Baale Mane Extension Project receives 100% tax exemption for the amount which they donate. The application process was extremely rigorous and ensures complete transparency and credibility. We are happy to be one of only a handful of organisations in India to be given approval.

Guidestar Certification

We were also recently awarded the Guidestar Gold Certification for Transparency and Credibility. We are extremely happy with this as we believe it reflects our commitment to quality programmes and high levels of governance.



GuideStar India Gold is a Seal issued after thorough due diligence of an organisation for legal & financial compliances and sharing these transparently in the public domain. It is a review based on facts presented by the NGO and verified against documents issued by regulatory authorities and statutory auditors.

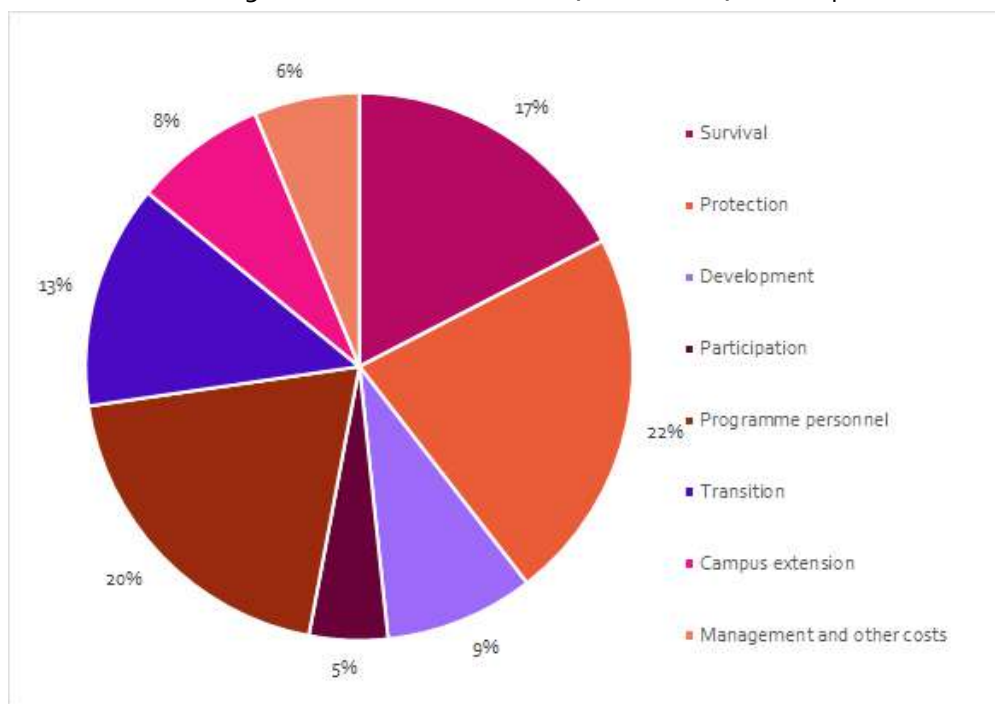
Financials: Continued

The chart below shows the split of the total annual operating costs of ₹64.6Lakh for Baale Mane in the year ended 31 March 2015 and is based on costs incurred by the Baale Mane Trust.

All expenditure at Baale Mane, with the exception of programme personnel, is recognised under the 4 principles of the 1989 UN Convention on the rights of the child: Survival, Protection, Development and

The financial information provided here aggregates the financial results of The Baale Mane Trust (audited by M A Braganza Associates) for the year ended March 31, 2015.

An aggregated financial statement, which includes The Friends of Baale Mane Gopalapura, is available in addition upon request.



Statement of Affairs

Statement of Affairs as at 31 March 2015	Baale Mane Trust	
	2015	2014
	Lakh ₹	Lakh ₹
Funds at beginning of year	30.6	22.9
Cash donations	62.3	58.7
In Kind Donations	0.3	0.8
Bank Interest	1.0	0.5
Income for year	63.6	60.0
Operating costs	64.6	52.3
Funds at the end of the year	29.6	30.6
Represented by:		
Fixed Assets	8.1	12.0
Cash on hand and at bank	17.8	16.4
Other net current assets	3.7	2.2
Total	29.6	30.6

Get Involved



Volunteer

Find out about our volunteering opportunities by getting in touch with us. We love to accommodate local and international volunteers for a variety of projects. Drop us an email at: info@baalemane.org to find out more!

Introduce or Visit Us

Connect us to your friends, colleagues and corporate contacts to help us seek support. Or, if you've got a free moment, drop by and meet the girls. Spend the day, play games, run activities and engage with the staff and girl children to learn more about Baale and what we do.

Donate

We are now registered with **Letzchange**, an online donation platform. You can view our **education** and **campus expansion** projects by searching 'The Baale Mane Trust' on www.letzchange.org.

Otherwise, donations are accepted in cash and are eligible for tax relief under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Our registration number is DIT(E) BLR/80G/53/AABTB4740M/ITO(E)-1Vol 2010 – 11.

Bank Transfer: Address: State Bank of India, Gokul Extension, Branch (60338) Bangalore 560 054 Account Number: 66017536497 IFSC Code: SBIN0060338 Branch Code: 60338

By Cheque: Make payable to 'The Baale Mane Trust' and send to Rajan Narayanan (Treasurer) C1103 Sterling Terraces, 100 Feet Ring Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560 085, India, (Tel: 9845030095)



Contact Us

Drop us an email at info@baalemane.org and one of our lovely team members will get back to you as soon as possible. If you'd prefer to give us a call, our office number is: **080 2773 7171**.