



Balasabha for Children



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Balasabha can better be called as 'Kudumbashree of Children'. During the initial days of Kudumbashree, children used to accompany their mothers during the Kudumbashree neighbourhood group meetings. On noticing that, Kudumbashree team thought of launching a special yet exclusive association for children. It is from that thought, the idea of Balasabha formation evolved. And during 2005, that idea turned out to be a reality.

The team envisaged moulding a socially responsible generation and so, while framing the action plan of Balasabha, the focus was on those activities which give social awareness to the children and ensure

their social intervention and participation. Preventing inter-generational transmission of poverty, acquiring knowledge through entertainment, developing leadership qualities, nurturing co-operative attitude, raising aptitude towards science, helping understanding democratic processes, ensuring participation in conserving environment, and focusing on personality development of the students are some of the key aims of Balasabha.

As of now, there are 32,878 Balasabhas in Kerala, which has 4,30,908 students as members. They join together for meetings on weekly basis or once in two weeks. Unlike Kudumbashree NHGs, personal savings is not compulsory for Balasabha members.

A few of the notable activities of Balasabha are as follows:

1. Bala Panchayaths and Bala Parliaments are being organised for the Balasabha children in Panchayath, District and State levels.

2. 'Nadariyan' Campaign to explore, research, study and have better understanding about tradition and culture of their own land and publish books on the same.

3. 'Ganitha Vismayam'-Olympiad organised in Panchayath, District and State levels to nurture aptitude for mathematics and science among Balasabha children.

4. 'Young Mentor Development Programme' organised for the Balasabha students between the age group of 15-18 for developing their leadership qualities.

5. 'Jagratholsavam' held joining all the students of Balasabha associating with other

governmental departments as part of the monsoon disease prevention activities.

6. Emergency Preparedness Workshop on 'Building Resilience' for Balasabha students when unprecedented floods hit Kerala. Training was given to the Balasabha members on how to face such emergency situations with courage and nurture resilience.

7. Balakrishi- organised special agricultural activities as a look back to the farming culture of Kerala.

8. Bala libraries formed aiming at developing the inherent talents of children through reading. "Knowledge is strength"- Bala libraries were formed based on this thought. The major portion of the books in the bala libraries were collected from the well wishers of Balasabha.

9. Balasabha gave coaching to students based on their aptitude towards arts and sports. As health issues are also increasing along with the increasing life expectancy rate and realizing the importance of staying healthy and fit, yoga training is also given to Balasabha children.

10. Skill training as per the aptitude of Balasabha children.

By framing and implementing such novel ideas like Balasabha, we strive to mould a socially responsible generation with good physical and mental health.

