



Marathi Vidnyan Parishad

Brief Report 2010-11

1) Programmes for BMC school students

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad was selected for conducting programmes for students of BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) schools under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'. The programme was conducted in two stages. First stage programmes were conducted in the month of Feb. 2011 and the programmes included workshop on science through toys. In all, 1281 girls from 25 schools were taught how to make toys from easily available household material. All the girls were taught 20 toys in two sessions. Second stage programmes were of two parts one being counselling about environment and solar energy. It was held in 25 schools and it benefitted 1270 girls. The second part of the second stage was again science through toy workshop which included 12 toys to be taught to the girls and boys. Altogether 2586 students from 52 schools were covered up, spread from Colaba to Dahisar on one side to Mulund and Chembur on other side. The programme was liked by these under privileged students, not only that it gave them immense pleasure but some learning also. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad volunteers completed the task of conducting these programmes in very short time successfully. BMC's education dept. funded the activity.

2) Workshops

2.1) Programme for students

2.1.1) Experiment workshops

Normally students do not get opportunity to perform experiments themselves in school. In order to overcome this difficulty, Marathi Vidnyan Parishad designed and developed different types of science experiment workshops based on syllabus of 6th to 9th standard. One set of 20 experiments was arranged twice and 99 students performed the said experiments during the year.

Special experiment workshops were arranged for Junior group (5th to 7th standard) and Senior group (8th and 9th standard) separately. Workshops for both groups were conducted for two days. These workshops were attended by 420 students from junior group whereas 206 students were benefitted from senior group. Experiments from physics, chemistry and biology were included in these workshops.

Workshops titled Balodyan were conducted specially for students from 1st to 4th standard. It benefitted 20 students at Vidnyan Bhavan and 73 students from programme held at schools located in Andheri and Mahim. These workshops included experiments, stories, musical instruments, information about trees and animals etc.

2.1.2) Workshops Science through Toys

Children like toys. Hence in the said workshop, they are provided with easily available household material and they are taught how to make toys from the same. They are explained the scientific principle involved in it. This activity can be looked upon as two in one – learning and playing – both together. Two days duration workshops were conducted for junior and senior groups and these workshops benefitted 80 students, whereas 233 students participated in one day workshops. These workshops were held at Mahim, Vasai, Turbhe and Chembur during the year.

Taskar Family Science Dissemination Fund

Mr. S. T. Taskar, former Vice-President of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, gave donation of Rs. 50 lacs during the year as 'Taskar Family Science Dissemination Fund'. The interest on the fund is to be utilized 1) To send Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika to 500 schools in the jurisdiction of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Chapters 2) To improve quality of Patrika 3) To conduct programmes for college students 4) To give award to small scale industrialist who develops new product with research and markets the same. We are grateful to Mr. S. T. Taskar.

2.1.3) Science propagation for the handicapped

Programmes for blind students are conducted for last eight years and that for deaf-mute students since 2007-08. There are three schools for blind one each located at Dadar, Tardeo and Badlapur which participated in Marathi Vidnyan Parishad programmes.

Two programmes each were conducted giving information about animal and plant cells, blood circulation system with the help of models. Dr. Shashikant Pradhan gave information about human body development, diet and immunity. These two programmes were conducted at schools located at Dadar and Tardeo and these programmes were attended by 78 blind students. During December and January a programme for sharing information about bone system in the body with the help of model (caracass) was conducted in all three schools for blind and it benefitted 124 students. A lecture on diet, health and related problems was delivered by Dr. (Ms.) S. V. Joshi in the school at Badlapur. Similarly programme of information about various designs of houses, was conducted in the same school with the help of models. Importance of ear, eye, teeth and tongue in the human body was explained in all three schools for blind and it benefitted 132 students.

One experiment workshop was conducted for teachers of Zaveri Thanawala school and it was attended by 12 teachers. Botany related topics were explained to students from all three schools, with the help of microscope. Later on, one microscope each was donated to all the three schools viz. 1) Disha Karna badhir Vidyalaya 2) Utkarsh Mukdwani Vidyalaya 3) Rochiram Thadani High school. One deaf mute student was donated hearing aid and other three students were provided with button cells for the hearing aid. A book in Braille about 'Indian Women Scientists' was published during annual science conference, held at Bordi (Thane)

Nirman Krutadnyata Puraskar

Nirman foundation is felicitating persons working in social fields since year 2010. In the current year, foundation selected four persons viz 1) Dr. Anil Awachat 2) Mr. A. P. Deshpande 3) Dr. Ramchandra Morvanchikar 4) Mr. Abhay Yawalkar. Among these four awardees two, Mr. A. P. Deshpande (senior science disseminator) and Mr. Abhay Yawalkar (solar energy propagation) are associated with Marathi Vidnyan Parishad. Mr. Deshpande is Hon. Secretary of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad for last 35 years and Mr. Yawalkar is working as science educator with Marathi Vidnyan Parishad for last 21 years.

Congratulations to both Mr. Deshpande and Mr. Yawalkar.

2.2) Workshops for Adults

2.2.1) Science in day to day life

In order to involve more young persons in the activities of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad (MVP) a programme titled science in day-to-day life has been designed. A training workshop for college students was organized on Dec. 17, 2010 at Bordi (Dist. Thane). In all, 33 students from 15 chapters of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad participated in it. Chemistry was the subject selected, considering International year of Chemistry. Ms. Charusheela Juikar and her colleagues conducted the workshop under guidance of Hon. Secretary, Dr. (Mrs.) Manasi Rajadhyaksha. Later on students performed the experiments themselves. The chemicals used in experiments were mainly from daily life, hence only few equipments and chemicals were required to be given to students to conduct the workshops. The students are supposed to conduct five lecture-cum-demonstration workshops in their area of activity. Students were very much pleased as they could interact directly with renowned scientist Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Mr. Prabhakar Deodhar during their stay at Bordi for the science conference.

2.2.2) City Farming sessions

Solid Waste Management is a big problem now a days. One of the way out is to adopt city farming technique. This takes care of biodegradable waste generated in the houses which is about 40 to 45% of the total solid waste. City farming technique uses this waste gainfully and produces seasonal fruits and vegetables. City farming can be done in balconies or on terraces, where sunlight is available. The technique is explained and organic methods are introduced to overcome shortages of various ingredients as well as to control pests. Nine such sessions, were conducted during the year at Vidnyan Bhavan and it benefitted 105 persons. Apart from this, 80 students from Shishuvan Primary School (Matunga) visited the terrace garden and they were explained the process in short. Similarly two lectures were delivered by Ms. Mrunalini Sathe at Mahul and Thane.

2.2.3) Workshops for Teachers

One workshop of two days duration took place at Andheri. It was attended by five teachers conducting classes of ninth and tenth standard. Subjects covering regular syllabus were explained using power point presentations and experiments.

In all, 4 workshops for teachers in rural area of Maharashtra were conducted in the year. D.Ed. students i.e. teachers of tomorrow were the beneficiaries of one workshop held at Ajgaon (Dist. Ratnagiri). Three workshops were conducted one each at Malegaon (Dist. Washim), Majalgaon (Dist. Beed) and Erandgaon (Tal. Yewala). These full day workshop were conducted to guide teachers how to run science clubs in schools and these workshops were attended by 187 teachers.

Felicitations of Ms. Sheetal Dapale

Ms. Sheetal Dapale, resident of Dharavi hutment, worked hard against all odds and completed M.Sc., Ph.D. in Chemistry. She was required to face shortage of funds as well as other resources. In spite of this, she completed her education. Hence she was felicitated by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad on annual day at the hands of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad President Mr. P. S. Deodhar.

3) Courses

3.1) Vidnyan Mitra Course

The said course is conducted for seven days at a stretch and hence it is conducted in school vacation period. It includes information about various science subjects by way of projects, experiments, group discussion and so on. An educational visit is arranged outside Mumbai which consists of sky gazing, bird watching etc. This year 16 students participated in Mumbai whereas 41 students were benefitted by the course conducted at Vidya Vihar English School in Ratnagiri district.

3.2) Concept Development Course

This is a specially designed course for the benefit of school students to explain the various concepts of science. It includes different forms such as lectures with demonstration, group discussion, quiz, project, experiments, guidance from experts, question – answer session etc. The said course was conducted for the benefit of students from fifth to eighth standard and Maharashtra SSC Board syllabus was kept in focus. It was conducted in English and 125 students participated in it. Dr. Shrirang Bakhale (first aid), Mr. Sunil Kadam (about snakes) and Dr. Manasi Rajadhyaksha (estimation and measurements) gave lectures during the course.

As in the past, an experiment-oriented version of this course was conducted in two schools. The schools were Shishuvan High School (Matunga) and Saraswati Mandir (Mahim) and it benefitted 55 students from these schools. Similarly this experiment-oriented version was conducted at Vidnyan Bhavan for sixth, seventh and eighth standard students. Totally, 100 experiments were performed by seventh and eighth standard students whereas 130 experiments were performed by sixth standard students. In all, 100 students participated in these short versions.

3.3) Correspondence course

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad started conducting examination by correspondence in science from 1998-99. Students are expected to perform experiments, undertake a project, write a book review, in addition to solving question papers. In all, 858 students registered for three examinations in Marathi medium and 531 appeared to the examination. Similar examinations are conducted in English medium since 2004-05. Altogether 100 students registered for three examinations and 51 appeared to the examination. Students from seventh to ninth standard as well as adults can participate in these examinations.

4) Audio Visual Programmes

4.1) Gender education for adolescent girls

The activity is being carried out since 1983. Scientific information is provided to women and adolescent girls through a slide show with commentary. Audio visual show is generally followed by question – answer session. Therefore every programme takes one hour. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad conducted 14 programmes, thereby communicating the message to 1109 girls / women in and around Mumbai. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad had prepared VCD's / DVD's on the programme in 2007-08. The distribution of these VCD's/DVD's was continued in the current year and in all 49 VCD's / DVD's were sold. In the current year, VCD's and DVD's were prepared with a commentary in Hindi and we could sale 10 VCD's / DVD's in the year.

4.2) Gender education for adolescent boys

The activity is conducted since 1999. Scientific information is provided to men and adolescent boys through a slide show with commentary. Audio visual programme followed by question – answer session lasts for one hour. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad conducted 6 programmes communicating the message to 494 boys. This programme is also available in VCD/DVD format since last two years. We could sale 38 VCD's / DVD's in the current year.

4.3) AIDS

Currently it is utmost necessary to educate people about AIDS, as prevention is the only way out. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad has developed the programme and started conducting it from 2003. Four programmes were conducted communicating message to 85 students / persons. Three programmes were conducted for deaf-mute students.

5) Lectures

5.1) G. N. Sapre Memorial Science Lecture Series

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad and Lokmanya Sewa Sangh, Vile-Parle are jointly organizing the science lecture series continuously for last nine years. In this year the said lecture series took place between Dec. 6 and 8, 2010 at Vile-Parle. Following is the list of speakers and their subjects are given in the bracket. Dr. G. P. Phondke (Advertisement and science), Mr. Makarand Padalkar (Social networking – challenges and opportunities) and Dr. Rajendra Barve (Mind – Yesterday, today and tomorrow). The attendance was around 70 per day.

5.2) Lectures on water shortage

Maharashtra experienced water scarcity in few districts which included Mumbai due to exceptionally low rain fall as compared to average rain last year (2009). In order to create awareness about it in society at large and communicate various ways to save water, Marathi Vidnyan Parishad decided to conduct lectures last year. As a part of it, 30 lectures were delivered in the current year and the total attendance was 800 approximately. In addition to this, a special session was arranged by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad jointly with Enviro Vigil on May 2, 2010 for the benefit of Chunabhatti residents. It was attended by 30 persons including local corporator and the audience was addressed by Mr. A. P. Deshpande and Prof. Vidyadhar Walavalkar. Along with this, 6 short films on water were shown on June 13, 2010 at Vidnyan Bhavan and it benefitted 30 persons.

5.3) Other lectures

5.3.1) P. C. Ray memorial programme

This year P. C. Ray memorial programme was held on Aug. 2, 2010 at Acharya Marathe Collge (Chembur). It was in the form of lecture. The said lecture was delivered by Dr. M. M. Sharma (Ex. Director UDCT) on 'Wonders in Chemistry' and it was attended by 200 college students.

5.3.2) Lecture on 'Green Building'

Dr. Gajanan Sabnis, America based engineer, delivered a lecture on Green Building describing which things are considered and how building is designed to suit environmental protection. The lecture took place on Sept. 1, 2010 at Rachana Sansad Architecture College and it was attended by 125 students.

Lectures mentioned in 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 were jointly organized with National Centre for Science Communicators.

5.3.3) Extra Terrestrial Life

A lecture on the subject delivered by British Astronomer Dr. Arnold Wolfendale on Feb. 19, 2011 at Vidnyan Bhavan. This programme was jointly organized by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Khagol Mandal and National Centre for Science Communicators. It was attended by 70 persons interested on Astronomy.

5.3.4) Lectures for parents

Usually parents come to Marathi Vidnyan Parishad along with students who are attending some programme; hence four lectures were arranged for parents. These lectures were about 1) How to develop liking of science in the students? 2) Scientific temper 3) Preparation for competitive examinations and 4) Various materials. Among these lectures first three lectures were delivered by Dr. Manasi Rajadhyaksha (Hon. Secretary) and fourth by Dr. A. P. Jayaraman. (Retired Scientist, BARC)

6) Website (www.mavipamumbai.org) and Vidnyan Peeth

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad's website was upgraded and launched last year. It contains information about various programmes of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, announcements of competitions, future events, photographs of programmes conducted and news items. It seems the entry for science fiction competition from Bengaluru was due to website.

We want people to participate in discussion and question – answer sessions regularly, hence forum called 'Vidnyan Peeth' was started on website in the current year. We expect more and more people to make use of it. Similarly, some space was decided to be reserved for Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Chapters with nominal fee and Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Pune Chapter started using it. Therefore, this medium is available for all Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Chapters.

7) New Programme

Science education through internet with the help of experiments was a new idea. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad had done all the preparation of 30 experiments for shooting last year. The shooting of experiments was done in April 2010 and editing and other things were completed. After seeing the C.D. of experiments, it was decided to convert one room completely sound proof into a studio. Hence the necessary work was carried out. Shootings of two hundred fifty experiments was completed in the special room by Font and Pixel Media Pvt. Ltd. with financial assistance from IETS. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad designed the experiments and provided the necessary material. It is expected that shooting of 750 experiments will be done in the next year.

8) Forty fifth Annual Science Conference

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad's forty fifth annual science conference took place between Dec. 18 to 20, 2010 at Bordi (Dist. Thane). It was presided over by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Himmatrao Bawaskar (Effective treatment for scorpion bite), Mr. Naresh Raut (Successful small scale industrialist), Mr. Ramchandra Save (Innovative former) and Mr. Abhijeet Ghorpade (Science journalism) were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in the respective fields. Mr. Ramesh Paranjape and Prof. Vinay R. R. (Pune) were felicitated as best science disseminators. 'Development and Environment' and 'Innovative methods in education' were the subjects for seminars during the conference. One lecture by Dr. C. M. Pandit (Soil for agriculture), Science fiction story narration by Ms. Meghashree Dalvi, special programmes for children and women respectively were other programmes. Traditional dance by local tribal people was the entertainment programme. The visit on the third day of the conference was to Mr. Bhaskarrao Save's organic farm and Tarapur atomic power station. The conference was attended by good number of people throughout three days.

9) Various Competitions, Prizes and Awards

There were number of awards, prizes and competitions conducted by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad. Here are the details.

9.1) Science Research Awards

Science research award scheme was started in 2001-2002 in order to encourage budding science researchers. Under the scheme, there are three awards of Rs. 10,000/- each but it was not possible to give all three awards in any year in the past due to poor response. Hence new method of creating awareness was adopted in the current year. It has been successful and thirteen entries were received. Judge panel was able to select four projects for these awards clearly indicated the competition for selection. A project by Manoj Kumar Sutar (Ratnagiri) was selected for Parshuram Baji Agashe Award, another project by Virochan Chavan and his colleagues (Mumbai) was chosen for Leela Parshuram Agashe Award and Sharad Naik Award was shared by Ms. Nikita Korgaonkar, Ms. Rajul Talgaonkar (Ratnagiri) and Ms. Lavanya Anantnarayan (Mumbai). These awards were for the year 2009.

9.2) Haribhau Mote Science Prize

This year prize was for best science book for children in Marathi published in last two years. A book titled 'Apali Suryamala' written by Mr. Anand Ghaisas and published by Manovikas Prakashan was selected for the prize by judges from 19 entries. Prizes were given to both author and publisher.

9.3) Prizes for books from Medical field

There are three prizes for books from medical field in Marathi and these prizes are given once in three years.

In all, 11 books were received as entries for the prizes.

A book titled 'Janansathi Genetics' written by Dr. Kaumudi Godbole was selected for Dr. T. H. Tulpule prize, another book titled 'Jeevan Mrutuchya Seemareshevarun' written by Dr. Prachi Sathe was selected for Dr. R. V. Sathe prize and a book titled 'AIDS' written by Dr. Dilip Bawachkar, was selected for Dr. Chandrakant Wagle prize. Apart from this, a special prize was given to Dr. Sanjay Oak for his book titled 'Vaidyakshruti'.

9.4) Smt. Sunanda Wamanrao Desai Science fiction writing competition

This competition is being conducted since 1970. All leading science fiction writers in Marathi have participated in this competition in the past. This year 40 entries were received and fiction stories by Mr. Parag Deuskar (Bengaluru), Mr. Rajendra Chimanpure (Chalisingaon) and Ms. Meghna Paranjape (Pune) were selected for the prizes.

9.5) Prof. Dr. C. S. Karve Science essay competition

This competition is being conducted since 1967 and it is conducted separately for students category and open category since 1984. All essays are examined first at geographical divisional level and then divisional level winner essays are examined for state level prizes. Divisional level winners are also given prizes as encouragement. The subject for students group was 'Biodiversity in our surrounding' and winners were Pritam Kamthe (Talegaon), Amit Bhoye (Kalyan) and Omkar Nawalakhe (Nagpur) and Aniket Rawan (Kagal) were the winners. Second prize was shared. The subject for open group was 'Water scarcity and remedies' and Ms. Shweta Palawe (Ulhasnagar), Mr. Dyanand Birajdar (Omerga) and Sanjay Suryavanshi (Sakri) were the winners.

9.6) Best Chapter Award

In order to encourage healthy competition among Marathi Vidnyan Parishad chapters, best chapter award scheme was started in the year 2002-03. All chapters have been divided in two groups viz. Urban and rural, Award is given away every year. But one year it is given to urban chapter and other year it is given to rural chapter. Current year's award was for rural chapter and Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Omerga Chapter was the winner.

9.7) V. D. Chaugule Prizes

This competition is conducted once in three years. It is expected that students should study current problems and find out solution after studying the situation. The students are expected to submit project reports on the problem. There are two groups in the competition. Students from eighth to tenth standard form one group and 81 entries were received. Projects by Prafull Patil and Ms. Leena Mahale (Chalisingaon), Mahesh Devaikaar and Sweeti Meshram (Chandrapur) and Sumit Nawale and Prasad Sonawane (Ahmednagar) along with Vrushabh Deshmukh and Shradha Deshmukh (Arvi, Dist. Wardha) were selected for first, second and third (divided) prizes respectively. Apart from this, ten projects were selected for consolation prizes.

In the second group, only 10 projects were received from eleventh and twelfth standard students. A project by Ms. Ashwini Chandane and Pooja Khanekar (Pune) was selected for third prize. Three other projects were chosen for consolation prizes.

10) Sixth state level Children science conference

The state level children science conference takes place once in three years and sixth conference was held at Wani (Dist. Yeotmal) on Dec. 31, 2010 and January 1 and 2, 2011. In all, 115 students and 40 teachers from 19 districts of Maharashtra participated in it. It was presided over by electronics expert Mr. P. S. Deodhar, students participated in four sessions viz. – Science experiment workshop, Science through toy workshop, pottery and exhibition by rotation during the conference. V. D. Chougule prize winner students presented their projects on dias with the help of projector and all other students, presented their projects with the help of charts in classrooms. Senior scientists Dr. Bal Phondke and Dr. Sudhakar Agarkar conducted a session each, for both teachers and students together, with the help of experiments. The sessions were impressive due to the day to day examples narrated. There were three special sessions for guiding the teachers. The sessions were conducted by Dr. S. C. Agarkar, Mr. A. P. Deshpande and Prof. M. G. Khade. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Wani Chapter conducted quiz contest with the help of visuals. All delegates of the conference visited Rasoya Protein, Wani and could see the process of soyabean oil extraction as well as thermal power generation unit.

11) Publications

11.1) Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika

The science magazine 'Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika' is being published since 1967. Total ten issues of 32 pages each, 52 paged special issue on Golden Jubilee of Maharashtra state formation and 180 paged Diwali issue were presented to readers in the current year. Natural wealth project, solar energy, Golden jubilee of 'Laser', changing scenario in field of science and technology were the subjects of cover stories during the year. The serials, Kshitij Rekha, Antaralatoon, Parichit – Aprichit and Gammat Jammatt (Special serial for children) were continuously published. Diwali issue consisted of articles on solo circum-navigation by Commodore Dilip Donde, cyber crimes, butterflies, pearls, evolution of domestic utensils along with detailed life sketch of renowned scientist Dr. S. Chandrashekar. Circulation of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika is 4500 copies every month.

11.2) Booklets on science

'Shahari Sheeti Kashi Karavi?' By D. N. Herlekar (Marathi) was the booklet published in the current year with financial assistance from Mr. B. G. Bapat. Science through Game (Marathi) third and revised edition was brought out during the year. Different booklets worth Rs. 70,000/- were sold during the year. 'Balasathi Sarvkahi' (Translated by – Dr. Mandakini Purandare) and 'Prayogatoon Sindhantakade' (Written by Dr. Ajay Mahajan) were published in the current year. In all, 25 booklets in Marathi and 12 booklets in English, published by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad were available for sale.

11.3) Columns in News papers

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad is running one column in Loksata, a Marathi daily, since Jan. 2006. It was continued in the current year. The topic for calendar year 2010 was 'Medical sciences' whereas it was 'Technology' in the calendar year 2011. In the current year, One column was also published in 'Samana', a Marathi daily, for three months with 80 articles. The subject was brief life sketches of well known scientists. Apart from this, one weekly column is being run by Lokmat, Nagpur with the help of Dr. Shashikant Pradhan and Dr. Geetanjali Chitale. Similarly a weekly column in Kesari, Pune is being run by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Pune Vibhag since January 2011.

11.4) Encyclopedia of Science & Technology

In the current year, we could sale 148 copies of this encyclopedia, major contributors were BMC and Indian Education society. The encyclopedia is being converted into CD form and work has begun. CD format will contain more entries, pictures with all entries, video clippings, hyper links etc. in addition to the print format. We hope the CD will be ready in next year.

11.5) Shikpkar Charitra Kosh

The notable persons who have contributed to all round development of Maharashtra will be introduced to the society through this project undertaken by 'Saptahik Vivek'. Among 12 volumes under the project, one was devoted to science and technology which was prepared by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad. The kosh was released on June 20, 2010 by Dr. Anil Kakodkar at Pune. We could sale 27 copies of the kosh till 31st March, 2011.

11.6) Science Literature in Marathi

Selected articles published on science in Marathi periodicals during years 1830 to 1950 were to be published in the form of 2 books of 400 pages each. The work was completed during the year. First volume will be published during April 2011 and second one in June 2011. Prof. B. M. Udgaonkar has written a foreword for the same. It has been edited by Mr. A. P. Deshpande and Dr. Vivek Patkar. The project has been funded by Vigyan Prasar, Delhi.

12) Other programmes

12.1) Vidnyan Safar

Students spend whole day at Vidnyan Bhavan performing 20 experiments, take information about trees, birds in the surrounding, visit the school garden and city farming garden, view one slide show as well as observe the wall posters etc. In the current year, 580 students participated in eleven programmes conducted. Among these programme one programme each was conducted for blind and deaf-mute students and it benefitted 22 and 35 students, respectively.

12.2) Anniversary Day

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad celebrated its forty fourth anniversary on April 25, 2010. Dr. Dilip Deobagkar, Vice Chancellor, Goa University was the chief guest. Dr. Deobagkar gave away three awards and a prize instituted by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad. Dr. Deobagkar expressed his thoughts on science research during the programme attended by 150 persons.

12.3) Book Appreciation programme

The said programme took place on Aug. 22, 2010. Initially, three books written by Mr. Achyut Godbole were introduced by three speakers Later on, Mr. Achyut Godbole was interviewed by Mr. Vinayak Karnik.

12.4) Murli Chugani Reference Centre and Rambhau Mhaskar Amalner C.D. Vachanalay

There was addition of 69 books in the reference centre during current year. Books have mainly come by way of donation from Dr. S. S. Soman, Dr. Bal Phondke and Mr. A. P. Deshpande. Hence total tally of books in reference centre has reached 4740. The exhibitions available at reference centre were displayed by Shree Saraswati Vidya Mandir (Bhandup), by Mouj Prakashan during their annual lecture series at Goregaon and Source group (Mahul) on different dates.

Dr. Rambhau Mhaskar CD library's stock has gone up by 76 CD's in the current year. The total number of CD's available in CD library is 416 now. In the year under reference, 36 members took advantage of CD library. Similarly CD's were shown during different programmes for students.

12.5) National Science Day

February 28th is celebrated as National Science Day every year. Marathi Vidnyan Parishad head quarters and its 33 chapters conducted various programmes such as lectures, exhibitions, seminars, competitions, audio visual shows, etc. to mark NSD. The theme of this year's NSD was 'Chemistry in day-to-day life'. NSD programmes were arranged for all sections of the society viz. – students, adults, ladies, general public etc. Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission sanctioned 70% of the grant requested.

12.6) International Women's Day

One programme was arranged at Vidnyan Bhavan on March 12, 2011 to celebrate International Women's Day. Ms. Smita Talwalkar (leading artist from Drama and Cinema) and Dr. Vinaya Jangle (Shifting of wild animals) narrated their experiences in the respective fields.

12.7) Green Building

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad has proposed to construct a new building. Discussions have taken place at various levels as well as number of architects have been consulted. Broad outline has been decided. We are all trying to raise funds for the project led by our President Mr. P. S. Deodhar. In response to this, we have received donations to the extent of Rs. 17.00 lac from 144 individuals / institutions in the current year. We could collect donations to the extent of Rs. 70 lacs so far, as against the target amount of Rs. 6 crores.

12.8) New Chapters of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad

New chapters of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad started functioning at Shrirampur and Sangamner (Both from Ahmednagar district) in the current year. At the same time, Marathi Vidnyan Parishad chapter at Bhopal was derecognized due to its inactiveness. Hence total number of chapters functioning are 69.

Marathi Vidnyan Parishad

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