

Annual Report

Progress report from
**Bal Siddhanath
Vidyalaya**
Pune, India



Bal Siddhanath Vidyalaya, Belsar
(Affiliated to Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara)



Includes
Kuma Labs Update





A Reflection by Navanath Shinde



Namaste,

In 2024/25, I have had the profound privilege of witnessing firsthand how our Rays of Sunshine have truly illuminated this small village, extending across the world in a powerful ripple effect that begins with each student.

I am proud to say that Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation has brought about a visible, qualitative, and quantitative transformation in the lives of nearly 200 wonderful souls in a short period. This report reflects that change—and the most vital indicator of our success is seen in the happy, smiling, and confident faces of the students in the snapshots included here.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of the school committee, village leadership, and parents, along with the generous contributions from Rainbow Boosters (UK) and the KUMA Foundation (USA). Most importantly, the students have responded with tremendous enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication - driving the meaningful change we all hoped to see.

Looking ahead, the Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation aims to deepen partnerships, enhance learning environments, and support students beyond school education. We are committed to helping them pursue higher education and achieve their dreams.

Only when they, too, are able to hold someone else's finger and uplift others, will the circle be complete - from being helped to becoming a helper.

Navanath Shinde

Founder

Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation



Our Inspirer Pandit Abaji Panshikar

2024/25 Top Achievements

Our ongoing support and active influence are having a profound and holistic impact on the students. This comprehensive engagement extends far beyond academic achievements, significantly enhancing their essential soft skills, fostering increased confidence, nurturing well-rounded personalities, and ultimately contributing to their overall academic excellence. Some highlights include:

1. We are proud to communicate with you that 80 students from our school participated in Maharashtra Olympiad Mount (MOM) exam conducted by Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited

2. NMMS (National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Exam) – 8th Standard:

- 1. Scholarship Recipient: Rajlaxmi Atul Abanave** (INR 120000/ \$140 for the next four years)
- 2. Eligible for SARTHI Scholarship: Shivam Balaso Jadhav** (INR 80000/ \$90 for the next four years)
- 3. Passed – Shreya Ganesh Jagtap**
- 4. Passed – Shravani Sachin Jagtap**

3. Interschool Science Project Competition: 2nd & 3rd prize

4. The school secured First Rank in the Street Play Competition held under MASUM organization.

5. Under the "Samay" initiative by Udyam Learning Foundation – A group of our 9th Standard girls qualified for the district-level exhibition for making purses and soft toys.

6. At the Taluka-level Sports Competition:
Kho-Kho Competition – First Rank (Std. 9 Girls)
Kabaddi Competition – Second Rank (Std. 9 Girls)

7] Academic Year 2023–24 S.S.C. Exam (Std. 10):
School Result – 100%

MOST IMPORTANT IMPACT OF OUR LAB AND IN COMBINATION WITH ALLIED ACTIVITIES INITIATED BY OUR PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN INDICATED BY **42 NEW ADMISSIONS** FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AGAINST ONLY 25 ADMISSIONS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. AND WE EXPECT THE SIMILAR HIKE IN THE NEW ADMISSIONS FOR THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR.





Rainbow Boosters Update

As we reflect on the 2024/25 academic year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the collective efforts of our Rainbow Boosters community.

It's truly inspiring to witness the tangible impact of our shared commitment to empowering rural students. From supporting fundamental needs like school fees and uniforms to fostering crucial digital literacy skills and creating spaces for holistic development, our work is a testament to the power of conscious giving and collaborative action.

This year has not only been about sustaining our core programs but also about innovation and growth. The continued success of the Kuma Lab and the expansion of our "conscious giving" initiative fill me with optimism for the future. These achievements underscore our belief in providing not just education, but also the tools and environment necessary for students to thrive.

Looking ahead, I am energized by the possibilities that lie before us. Let us continue to work together, with unwavering dedication, to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and empower even more young minds. The students we support are not just the beneficiaries of our efforts; they are the future leaders and change-makers who will shape our world.

Thank you for being a Ray of Sunshine, and for believing in the power of education to transform lives.



'We set out to 'help one person' and together we have helped hundreds and it's given us the confidence and motivation as a community to go on and help more.'



Pritesh Chauhan

Founder - Rainbow Boosters

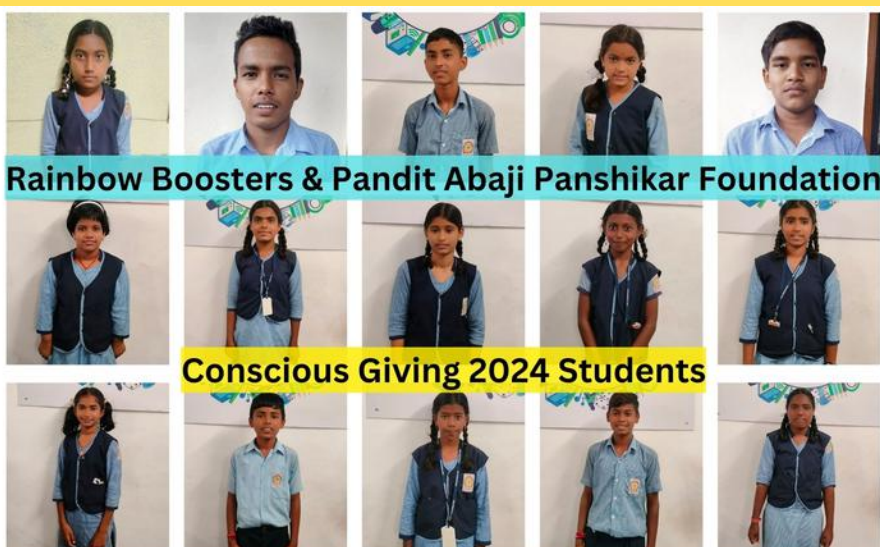


Conscious Giving

A key element of our work this year has been the development of our "**conscious giving**" initiative. We are committed to fostering direct connections between our donors and the students they support. We have successfully connected "**Rays of Sunshine**" with their students, allowing them to witness the tangible impact of their generosity.

This approach, a unique USP for Rainbow Boosters, strengthens our community and ensures that support is directed to those with the greatest need. We are proud of the initial interactions between students and families and plan to expand this initiative in the future.

2024/25 Rays of Sunshine Recognition



We extend our sincere gratitude to the following donors for their exceptional contributions of £50 or more. These donations went towards paying fees, buying uniforms and new books for these students:

Sukh & Sunny Dhaliwal & Family (UK)
Zoe Thurling & David Chervalier & Family (Canada)
Poonam Padurang Warang (India)
Sheetal Tambe (India)
Navanath & Priya Shinde & Family (India)
Dr Shashiben & Late Rameshbhai Metha
Viren Metha & Family

Bhavika Chauhan & Family (UK)
Isha Navanath Shinde (India)
Paul Negus & Family (UK)
Harsha & Kiran Chavda & Family (UK)
Ramila & Raj Chauhan (UK)
Rik & Nimisha Pancholi & Family (UK)
Kristy Odend'hal (USA)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

- Dr. Ajay Vora who has donated £10000 on behalf of his father Late Babulal Vora which will go towards creating a playground for the students, pending planning permission.
- In addition to supporting a student Dr Shashiben Metha, also donated a laptop for use by the teachers at the school.





Empowering our students
with the digital tools and
skills they need to succeed
in the 21st century.

KUMA
FOUNDATION





Progress Report 2024/25

Partner Perspective on the Kuma Labs Progress

Kuma Lab and Educational Enrichment

We are particularly proud of the continued success of the Kuma Lab. It is inspiring to see the students' sustained enthusiasm and engagement with this resource, a testament to its value and impact. The Kuma Lab continues to be used with the same excitement and intensity as when it was first launched.

Our collaboration with Mr. Khedekar has been instrumental in ensuring the smooth operation of the Kuma Lab. His dedication to timely maintenance and his expertise in developing a relevant and valuable curriculum have provided our students with a significant advantage, giving them the "leapfrog" into the digital world that we envisioned.

Mr. Khedekar's guidance has been invaluable in shaping the students' educational experience and preparing them for future success.

Looking Forward

The 2024/25 academic year has been marked by significant achievements, reflecting the dedication of our team, the generosity of our donors, and the hard work of our students. We are excited to build on this momentum in the coming year, expanding our programs and deepening our impact.

Navanath Shinde

Founder

Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation

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Bal Siddhanath Vidyalaya, Belsar
(Affiliated to Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara)

A Message of Gratitude From Balsiddhanath Vidyalaya (School)

In this era of science and technology, school students in India must be prepared for the forthcoming challenges in the field of information technology and computer-related fields. Nowadays, computers are an unavoidable part of everyone's life. So, school students must get a chance to learn computer handling skills in a proper way.

Thanks a lot to Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation, Pune; KUMA Foundation, USA; and Rainbow Boosters, UK for giving the students of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's Balsiddhanath Vidyalaya, Belsar the golden opportunity to learn computers in a well-equipped computer lab with all the facilities, including unlimited internet, a well-qualified instructor, and a mentor.

With great efforts by Mr. Navanath Shinde Sir (Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation, Pune), Mr. Ray Kimble (KUMA Foundation, USA), and Mr. Pritesh Chauhan (Rainbow Boosters, UK), a well-equipped computer lab was set up in our Balsiddhanath Vidyalaya in the academic year 2023-24 under the mentorship of Mr. Khedekar Sir (Rainbow Computers, Saswad).

Students from 5th to 10th standard gained knowledge as well as enough practice in basic skills like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. They were also trained in using the internet for getting information, communicating with people in foreign countries, and preparing for various competitive exams such as the Science Olympiad.

The importance of the lab was seen in this year, 2024-25. The students have a great chance to practice for various competitive exams using the internet. One student from 8th standard has been selected for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship, and one student for the SARATHI Scholarship. Many students were selected by Mr. Shinde Sir and the foundation for financial help with their school fees and allied expenses. With all these efforts, an improvement in students' achievement has been observed, and obviously, an increase in the school's reputation is also noticed through the admissions.

We, all the staff from the school, are heartily grateful towards all the honorable donors for their helping hand towards our school and students.

Mr Kadam Manojkumar Daulatrao
Senior Teacher Balsiddhanath Vidyalaya Belsar





Igniting Futures: A Year of Growth at Kuma Labs

Message from Ray Kimble - Kuma Foundation Founder

It has been deeply moving to see and be part of the growth of the Kuma Lab in Belsar this year. What began as the seed of a shared vision between the Kuma Foundation, Rainbow Boosters, and the Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation has taken root in powerful, tangible ways. From academic success stories to growing personal and digital confidence, the uplifting impact on students is clear.

The rise in enrollment over the past year, along with the consistency of the students' enthusiastic commitment, speaks volumes. When children are given access to opportunity, they show up with curiosity, energy, and joy.

While technology plays an important role, the driving force of this work is to create the conditions for students to begin seeing new possibilities for themselves. It's truly incredible to witness the moment they realize they can learn something new, take pride in it, and begin imagining what's next.

The success of the Kuma Lab reflects a strong community built on trust and shared purpose. From village and school leadership to the dedicated instructors and technical team, each partner has played an essential role. Most importantly, the students themselves continue to show us what's possible when support is met with effort and excitement.

We're incredibly proud to be part of this journey and look forward to growing this work in the years ahead, walking alongside these bright young minds as they shape their futures and inspire others to do the same.

Mr Ray Kimble

Kuma Foundation Founder





Rasika's Review

A Year of Engagement in the Kuma Labs



My trips to the Kuma Lab in Belsar over the past year have been immensely fulfilling and enlightening. Every time I enter the lab, I see the excitement and curiosity in the eyes of the students who are just learning about the digital world.

What began as a small project has grown into a dynamic learning environment that is gradually boosting students' self-esteem and influencing their goals. For many of the kids, the change I've witnessed is profoundly personal in addition to being academic.

Students are developing daily, from mastering the use of simple programs like Microsoft Word and Paint to gaining the self-assurance to showcase their work. More significantly, they now enter the lab with pride and a sense of ownership.

The Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation, Rainbow Boosters, and Kuma Foundation have worked together in a meaningful way to make this initiative possible. Collaborating with these fervent and dedicated organizations has only served to reinforce the effectiveness of collaboration in bringing about long-lasting change.

Whether it was through facilitated classes, casual conversations, or after-class snack sharing, spending time with the students has given me enduring memories. I always come away from their visits feeling more inspired than before because of their infectious energy and tenacity.

"The smallest learning space can occasionally serve as the largest window to a better future."

Thoughts and Aspirations

It's been wonderful to observe how young minds can be developed to their full potential when given access to basic digital resources. I want to keep taking care of this place with the same consistency, love, and attention that it has gotten thus far. These students' journey is just getting started, but it's already lovely.

Rasika Chinchkar

Kuma Foundation Program Manager





Insight Inside The Kuma Lab

A message from Mr Khedekar - Technical Consultant

Bal Siddhanath Vidyalaya, located in Belsar, a rural area of Purandar taluka, is now equipped with a fully modern computer lab. The lab includes high-quality furniture, the latest computers, webcams, headphones for each system, internet and network connectivity, a printer, projector, and UPS for power backup. It also has all the necessary software and a trained instructor. Because of these advanced facilities, the computer lab has become a key hub for student learning.

In this lab, students from 5th to 10th class learn computer skills every day. By the time when they finish 10th class, their journey from computer awareness to socially useful productive work readiness.

The Kuma Lab has significantly contributed to improving the overall quality of the school. With access to modern computers and digital resources, students are getting hands-on experience in technical education. This has led to noticeable growth in their confidence, thinking abilities, and problem-solving skills. As a result, compared to last year, the number of student admissions and daily attendance has increased.

Moreover, students have been able to prepare for various competitive exams using computers and the internet, which has helped them to achieve success. This has created a positive impression of the school and the Kuma Lab among students, parents, and the local community.

Mr Dattatray Khedekar
Rainbow Computers, Saswad





Our Tutor's Insight - Utkarsha's Review

Two Years of Nurturing Our Students into the Digital World

Over the past year, being a part of the Kuma Lab has been a truly fulfilling experience. The students have shown remarkable enthusiasm and growth in their digital skills. From shy and hesitant beginnings, many now independently navigate applications like MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Paint with growing confidence and creativity.

Student Engagement & Progress

Students are consistently engaged during the sessions. They arrive early, eager to explore new topics and apply what they've learned. What stands out the most is their growing comfort with using technology—a skill that was entirely new to most of them just a year ago. Many now assist their classmates during practice sessions, creating a beautiful culture of peer learning.

Success Stories & Notable Achievements

A particularly proud moment was when a group of students prepared a full PowerPoint presentation on their own, including inserting images, transitions, and presenting it confidently to the class. Another group created colorful posters using MS Paint to represent environmental awareness, which were displayed in the school corridors. These small yet meaningful milestones have built a strong sense of achievement among the students.

Addressing Challenges

While a few students were initially intimidated by the computers or hesitant to participate, continuous encouragement, hands-on sessions, and positive reinforcement helped break those barriers. Adapting the pace of the curriculum to suit their needs and celebrating small wins played a major role in building their confidence.

This year has not only enhanced their technical skills but also nurtured soft skills like communication, collaboration, and creative thinking. It is heartening to see how the lab has become a space of excitement, discovery, and growth for so many. I am grateful to Kuma Foundation, Rainbow Boosters, and Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation for their continued support and for believing in the power of education and access. The impact is visible—and growing.

Utkarsha Phule

Kuma Labs Tutor



Insight Inside The Kuma Lab

An Overview of Topics Covered by Our Students



The academic year 2024-25 has been a highly productive and engaging period for the students in the computer lab. As a part of this year's curriculum, our primary focus was to equip students from 5th to 10th class with essential digital skills that would enhance their academic learning and prepare them for future technological advancements. The curriculum covered a range of topics, including Microsoft office tools, digital creativity and problem solving techniques.

Throughout this academic year, we have conducted structured lessons covering the following topics:

Microsoft Word:



- Students developed comprehensive document creation and formatting skills, mastering file management and core functions within the Home, Insert, Design, Layout, References, Mailing, Review, and View Tabs. Key areas included:
- Formatting and editing various document types (reports, letters, essays, resumes, certificates).
- Working with tables, headers, footers, and styles for structured documents.
- Utilizing mail merge for personalized communication.
- Managing citations and creating bibliographies.
- Understanding basic automation through macros.
- Exploring web page conversion and advanced formatting techniques.

Microsoft Excel:



- Students gained proficiency in spreadsheet creation and data management, navigating the Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, and View Tabs. Key areas included:
- Data entry, formatting, and the application of fundamental formulas (SUM, AVERAGE, IF).
- Creating and manipulating tables, charts, and graphs for data visualization.
- Understanding and applying conditional formatting and cell styles.
- Utilizing data analysis tools and learning basic data transformation.
- Implementing worksheet protection.

Microsoft PowerPoint:



- Students built skills in creating and delivering engaging presentations, utilizing the Home, Insert, Design, Transitions, Animations, Slide Show, Review, and View Tabs. Key areas included:
- Designing and formatting slides for various purposes (academic, personal events).
- Incorporating multimedia elements (images, videos).
- Applying animations and transitions to enhance visual appeal.
- Managing slideshow settings for effective delivery.

The Power of Every Contribution

Every single donation, no matter its size, is a powerful catalyst for change within our school community. We believe in maximizing the potential of every pound, ensuring that even a small contribution can create a significant ripple effect. Your generosity allows us to extend our reach, support vital programs, and address diverse needs, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive. It truly demonstrates how a little can go a long way in fostering growth and creating lasting positive impacts. This year thanks to your contributions we've been able to:

- **Annual Maintenance Contract**
- **Technical Consultant's Fee**
- **Tutor Salary**
- **15 Students Sponsorship**
- **Monthly Internet Charges**
- **Scholarship**
- **Books Purchase**



A Small Boost Can Change A Life

Join Us: Empowering Futures in 2025/26

The profound impact detailed in this report is a direct result of collective generosity.

For 2025/26, every contribution, big or small, creates ongoing opportunities.

It enables us to sustain our vital programs and explore new projects, ensuring our 'Rays of Sunshine' reach even more underprivileged students.

Together, let's continue transforming lives and building brighter futures.

[Donate Here](#)



Our Journey So Far...

“When you become successful, hold the finger of a few people like you who are struggling in life, and help them stand on their own feet.”

These powerful words were the expectation of my mentor, guide, and Guru, the late Pandit Abaji Panshikar. He played a pivotal role in lifting me out of poverty—by supporting my education, buying me a home, and, most importantly, instilling deep human values in me.

This simple yet profound expectation became a guiding principle and source of inspiration for my wife Priya and me. It led us to support the education of several individuals, resulting in successful graduates in Engineering, Commerce, and Science. We've also been able to facilitate the acquisition of around 25-30 housing units among our family and friends.

These individual efforts took a major leap forward when we chose Bal Siddhanath Vidyalaya (BSV), Belsar, with the intention of uplifting the socio-economic conditions of over 180 underprivileged students.

When we first connected with BSV, we embraced the idea of treating students, parents, teachers, and villagers as our extended family—and to our great joy, they welcomed us wholeheartedly. As a result, we truly became one of them. This deep bond made our mission easier, and with collective effort, a remarkable transformation began. As many of you have witnessed, a 360-degree turnaround occurred in a very short span of time.

When we began our work at the school, the classrooms had leaking roofs. Several rooms designated as the Computer Lab, Science Lab, and Library were lying idle and in poor condition. The paint and plaster throughout the school had deteriorated, and most heartbreakingly, the students' faces lacked smiles, confidence, and interpersonal skills.

What we did have, however, was a devoted, proactive, and deeply committed Principal, Mr. Gaikwad, supported by an equally able and willing team of teachers.



Our Journey Continued...

We started by mentoring the children, organizing a series of motivational and inspirational sessions. We arranged interactive events with successful students from rural backgrounds—real, relatable role models. Through these efforts, we began to instill the importance of education and strong values in the children.

Principal Gaikwad secured a corporate sponsorship to re-roof the entire school. The teachers themselves contributed funds to repaint and revamp the classrooms.

Then, in 2023, our work reached new heights when Mr. Pritesh Chauhan, Founder of Rainbow Boosters (UK), joined us in this noble cause. Together, we identified the digital divide as a key issue, and Pritesh proposed establishing a Computer Lab at the school.

The idea quickly came to life thanks to the generous support of the KUMA Foundation, founded by Ray Kimble, who partnered with PAPF and Rainbow Boosters to make it happen.

What followed was transformational: a well-equipped Computer Lab with internet access and a dedicated tutor, Utkarsha, delivering a thoughtfully designed curriculum by our technical consultants Mr, Dattatray Khedekar of Rainbow Computers, Saswad. This changed the perception of the school among students, parents, and the entire village.

PAPF (Pandit Abaji Panshikar Foundation) also launched a Tinkering Lab, supported by educational kits provided by Rayat Shikshan Sanstha. Additionally, a state-of-the-art STEM Lab was introduced with the help of a Bangalore-based organization. These labs provided students with invaluable hands-on experience in science, math, and engineering.

These infrastructure upgrades boosted the confidence of students, teachers, parents, and the wider community. Today, the school has become a buzzword across neighboring villages and throughout the Purandar region resulting in the considerable increase in the intake of new students.



Inspired Collaboration

PANDIT
Abaji PANSHIKAR
FOUNDATION



[Rainbow Boosters Website](#)



[Kuma Foundation Website](#)