

EKAL NITE 2009 – BALTARANG – GREAT SUCCESS (INDO KIDS CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA)

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF) of Australia organised Ekal Nite 2009 – Baltarang Indo Kids Cultural Extravaganza – on 18th April 2009 in Bankstown Civic Centre Sydney.



One of the many great performances of Ekal Nite 2009 Function

The purpose of this function was to increase the awareness of EVF Australia's activities in the community. Around 150 children performed in the show, which included Indian classical, folk, and Bollywood dances. The program contained 14 performances which were presented by the following Sydney's leading choreographers.

- Indian Dance School
- Sudha Sharma of Sur and Beat Band
- Ruchi Sanghi's Dance Academy Ankur Saini of Mayur Indian Dance Academy
- Sharmila Maitra of Geetanjali School
- Shwetambra Barar of Contemporary Dance Academy
- Nicky Kiran of Natya Nivedan Group
- Karan and Mukesh Rao directed Skit
- Purvi Desai
- Vijanti Amarsee

The program was attended by a sell-out crowd of more than 600 people. A presentation about the Ekal activities was made by Deepali Garg, the Youth Co-ordinator of EVF Australia. The funds raised from this program will be used to sponsor 15 schools that will educate about 450 children.

EVF Movement

Although India has made excellent progress in many areas like education, science & technology, this phenomenal progress has failed to improve the living conditions in many remote and isolated areas of the country. Even today a large fraction of Indian rural and tribal population is illiterate and thus vulnerable to exploitation.

The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF) is an independent non-government global organization that facilitates the development of Ekal Vidyalayas (one-teacher schools) in rural and tribal India to achieve overall development of these regions. **Currently more than 27000 such schools are operating in India.** The mission of Ekal Vidyalaya movement is to set up 100,000 Ekal Vidyalayas by 2013. This will cover nearly all the villages in India where no school exists today.

EVF has spread to many other countries including USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, UAE, Canada and Hong Kong. EVF Australia was launched in May 2004 and is currently sponsoring about 350 schools. Each school sponsor is allocated a school, and an Internet login name and password is assigned so that the sponsor can track the progress of that school.

An Ekal Vidyalaya class has 30-40 children in the age group of 5 to 14 years. The children are offered 5 years of schooling and primary health education. The organization is primarily run by volunteers to keep administration cost low to a maximum of 10%.

By donating \$480 (less than \$10 a week) you can sponsor one Ekal Vidyalaya. It will help change life of about 30 children. Villages provide other infrastructure needs to keep cost low. **The donations in Australia are tax deductible.**

EVF is now reaching to other countries and is running about 1000 schools in Nepal and now planning to start schools in Srilanka.

EVF Australia volunteers believe that most of us coming from India got education that was almost free. One of the most effective way to pay back this debt, to our mother land and our voluntary HECS (form Australian Perspective), is through a gift of education.

You are urged to sponsor a school. For more information, please visit our web site at: www.ekal.org.au and/or contact:

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