

**School Kit Report
2012**

**SEVA
SAHAYOG**
Celebrating Humanity



School Kit Report 2012



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SEVA SAHAYOG

Seva Sahayog (SS) is a NGO which aims at strengthening and building capacity as high impact Indian Voluntary Organization by productively engaging socially responsible individuals, groups and corporate community.

It aims at building a network within India and around the world which will be a pool of resources with financial strength, knowledge, commitment and vision to transform India. The NGOs in Seva Sahayog network are those, who have demonstrated a sound and robust record in grassroots work, but lack resources such as technology, finance and human resources. To take their work to the next level, the SS network aims at effectively channelizing these resources to the NGOs.

The core team of SS is composed of volunteers highly placed in IT and other corporate entities. Members of the core team have grass roots exposure with various NGOs in various sectors and have worked dedicatedly for development initiatives. Seva Sahayog is thus powered with a unique skill set of deep understanding of grass roots realities and a clear vision of the role corporate India can play to support community initiatives.

SS is largely a volunteer-run organization with adequate professional staff backup and well-equipped office set up centrally located in Pune city. SS has over 400 registered volunteers.





A Brief History

SCHOOL KIT

Being in India, one can always realize the lack of spread of education in the country and the need to take steps to improve this situation. So it's never too soon to start an initiative which will benefit the Indians of **tomorrow** to be more able and competent in the country as well as internationally. The basic requirement for a person to be competent in today's world is education. We at Seva Sahayog realized this need and started the School Kit Program to encourage the youth to go to school and complete their education to pave a better future for themselves.

The School Kit Drive was initiated way back in 2007. As the years went by not only did the popularity of this program grow but also the requirements went up. In 2007, the core members or the visionaries of this program went about gathering the requirement of School Kits from various NGO's and devised methods as to how to procure the materials to fulfill these needs. In the first year the requirement was around the five thousand mark, and Seva Sahayog was able to reach somewhere near the mark. With the great success that the School Kit Drive achieved in its first year itself, next year the demand for school kits went up to nearly 15,000. Although being short handed in its initial years, Seva Sahayog still managed to get near the 10,000 mark. And such the trend continued year after year, the popularity of this program kept on increasing along with the requirement of the School Kits. In our fifth year, we were able to provide 30,000 school kits to various NGO's in and around Pune, and we didn't limit ourselves to that. We aimed higher for the next year and as the years have gone by we believed that it was not just the bags that could limit our efforts for this noble cause but we can add more dimensions to it.

NEED OF NGOs

According to the Right to Education (RTE) act of 2009, every child is entitled to free and compulsory education. This marked a historic moment for the children of India. Although such an act has been passed, but there still seems to be a lack of motivation for the children to go to school. NGO's have recognized this issue and want to make amends so that the India of tomorrow is educated and able. After the act had been passed, schools started providing only text books to the children and no notebooks or other materials essential for studying in a school. These text books were also either too old or of very cheap quality and rarely did the children get these text books on time.

To reduce the plight of these children Sevasahyaog tried to do what they could from their end. We decided to supply the other materials that were not being given to the children by the school. These included school bags, notebooks, pencils, geometry cases, crayons drawing books etc. With the increasing population the demand for these materials has also been growing over the years and Seva Sahayog tries its best to fulfill the dreams of all the children who are needy.



Why?

We all have experienced the joy of having new School Bag, Books, Pencil box etc on the very first day of the school. With the School Kit Program we hope to create the same moment of happiness for the underprivileged children's in the society.

What?

The school kit is an assorted set of materials such as school bags, notebooks, pencil boxes, drawing book, crayons etc. It is ensured that needs for school children from Class 1 to Class 12 are met. Thus we do not have a single kit for all the children. We have divided the kits based on their needs into 3 different categories.

How?

Contributions come in from more than 100 companies like Infosys, KPIT, BMC Software and Eaton etc. These contributions are either handed over as a lump sum to Seva Sahayog else, Seva Sahayog also sets up its stalls in various companies to seek contributions from individuals from that company. With the money gathered, supplies are ordered and these are then assembled by the help of our volunteers.

Who?

The kits are distributed to children from slums, schools, and education-support-centers run by NGOs in and around Pune. Some of the NGOs partnering with us in this initiative are: Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, Sarthak, Surajya Prakash, Chaitanya Mahila Mandal and Rashtriya Sarvangin Gram Vikas Sanstha etc. Around 100+ NGOs have benefitted this year from the school kits that we were able to prepare.

When?

Every year, during April the kick off meeting of School Kit is conducted. It is a general briefing of the aims, timelines and expected numbers. After that the contribution/collection phase starts. During this, funds are collected from various companies, societies, individuals for procuring the materials required for the kits. The kitting phase starts approximately from the last week of April and carries on for about 6 subsequent Sundays. The distribution of these kits also start somewhere in the third or fourth week of kitting.

Objectives of School Kit

Primary Objectives

- a) Seva Sahayog "School Kit drive" aims at bringing SMILES to children as they climb up to the next stage of learning.
- b) To ease the burden on parents who want to send their children to school but cannot afford the supplies required.
- c) The brand new school kit serves as a motivation for the underprivileged children to attend school.
- d) It offers the first step for us towards the spread of education. With the other initiatives at Seva Sahayog we wish that not only do the children feel like attending school on the first day, but this feeling remains for each day for the whole year.

Secondary Objectives

- a) To promote volunteerism.
- b) Make volunteers aware of the other initiatives of Seva Sahayog.
- c) To take the involvement of volunteers to the next level and involve them in the teaching initiatives of Seva Sahayog. This is to ensure that children do not only have adequate supplies to attend school, but they also have educated teachers to help them out throughout the year.



Orientation Meeting

As is the tradition of Seva Sahayog, all volunteers are invited for a meeting on the first Sunday of every month. Incidentally since 1st April was the first Sunday of April, we met up at our regular meeting place i.e. Bal Shikshan Mandir to discuss the plan and agenda for School Kit 2012. There were many first time volunteers who came to this meeting to be a part of the School Kit drive. During the course of the meeting the history, the expectations, the plans were made clear to all the volunteers present. The core committee members for the School Kit Drive 2012 were introduced to the volunteers, and their collective and individual roles were explained to the volunteers. Volunteers were asked to spread the word about the drive so that procuring funds as well as help to complete this project became easier.

School Kit Drive 2012



Key Highlights: 2012

100+companies channelized School Kit Drive	1000+volunteers participated for School Kit Assembly
120 +NGOs benefitted	200+coordinators participated
Drive conducted across companies in Pune and Mumbai	Around 35000 kits distributed together by Pune, Nashik and Mumbai Seva Sahayog

Kitting Activity

After almost a month long collection drive, it was finally time to start the kitting activities. It is that part of the program in which all the volunteers come together to assemble the materials into separate school bags which can be handed over to the children. This activity takes place over 5 or 6 consecutive Sundays, which is filled with joy, excitement, fun, songs, games as well as serious discussions regarding volunteering. Sunday after Sunday records were broken this year when volunteers were managing to kit more than 5000 kits per day. The kitting activity is divided into 4 parts. These are quality check of the bags, assembly of each kit, carrying to storage and counting and lastly stacking up in the storage area.

The quality check of the bags involve, checking if the zippers of each bag is functioning or not, if there are any holes in the pockets of the bags or any other defect. Then the checkers also strap in the back straps and open all the zips of the bags so that materials can be easily inserted into them.

Assembly involves the volunteers to place the prescribed number of books, and other items into each bag. Three types of kits are prepared for children of different age groups; these are Primary kits, Secondary kits and Higher Secondary kits. Each of these 3 variants has different items and number of items allotted to them. So the volunteers keep these details in mind and then place the materials into the bags and zip up all the pockets.

This year, unlike earlier years, the Kitting activity was so highly geared that a record of 5000+ kits in a day was noted down. Around 250 people used to gather in the mornings for this beautiful drive with all enthusiasm. There were days that the kitting target was completed much before the said date and we had to really start up with the distribution activities. The enthusiasm seen was really worth appreciating.



Distribution Activity



Distribution activities start approximately during mid May and go on till mid June. This activity is believed to be the epitome of the school kit experience. All volunteers are encouraged to be a part of the distribution activity during which the complete kits are either handed over to the NGO's or directly to the children. Regular mailers are sent to the many volunteers informing of the visits to these NGO's. Volunteers need to nominate themselves if they want to join Seva Sahayog in these visits. It is believed that seeing the smile on the faces of children when the school kits are handed over to them makes this whole drive worthwhile for the volunteers.



1000+ volunteers had participated and were a part of this drive right from the start to the end, out of which 200 coordinators had participated, a total of almost 120+ NGO's were benefited. The distribution drive was across the companies in Pune, Nashik and Mumbai.

A total of 35000 kits were distributed well in time.





Participating Companies

Companies:

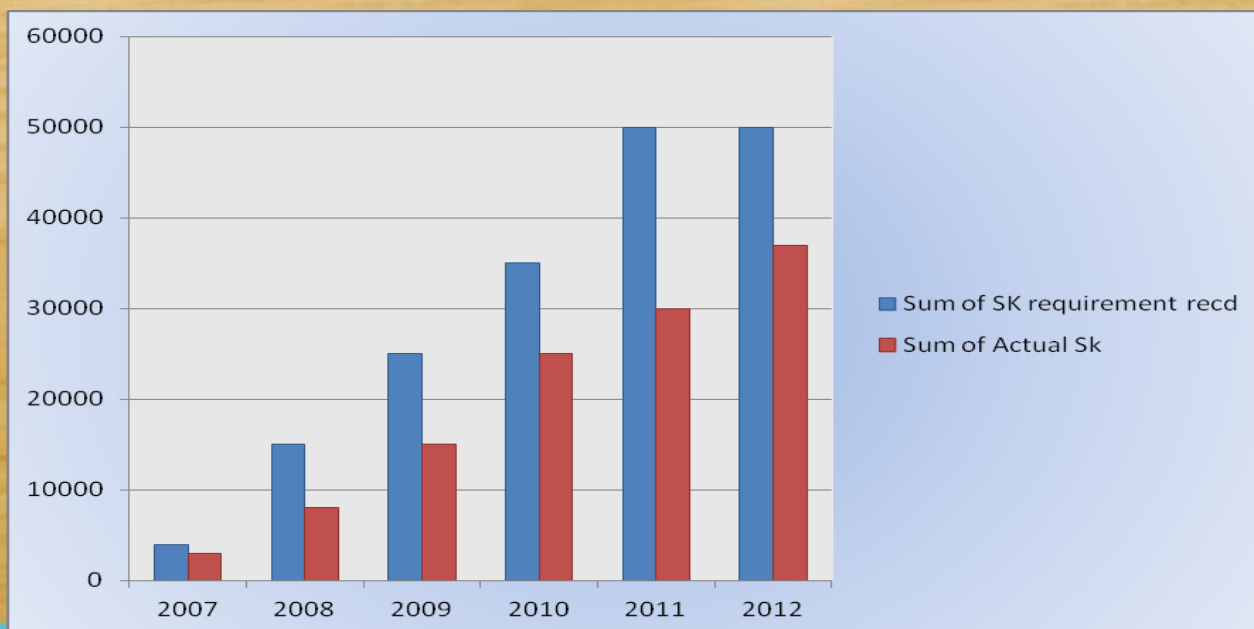
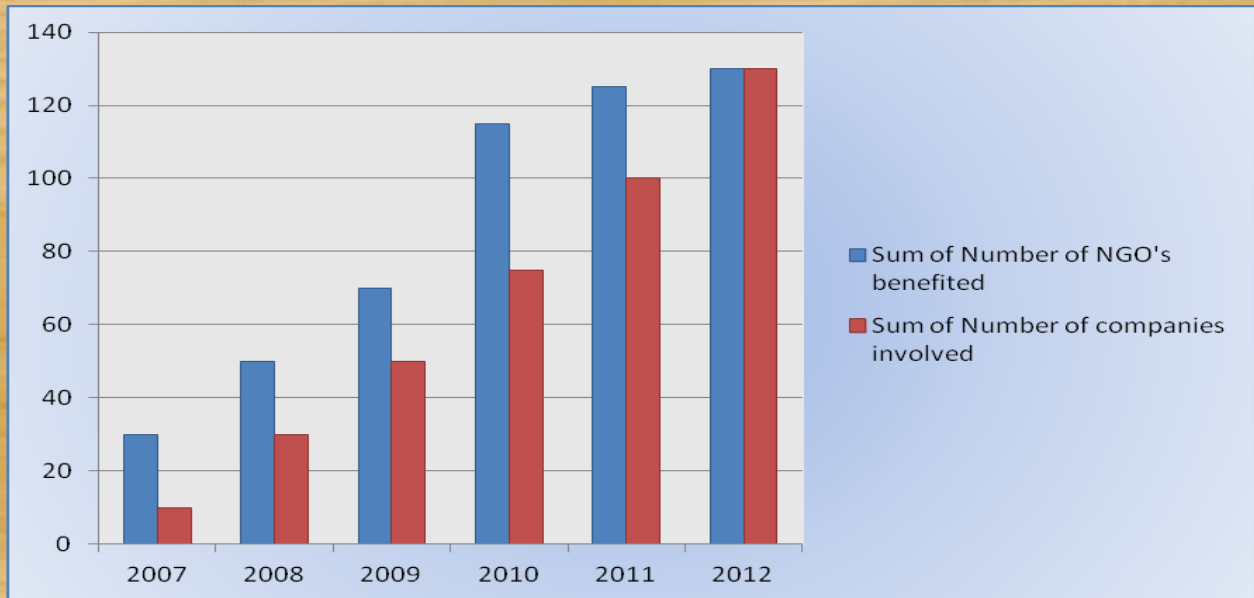
100+ companies which include names like BMC, Infosys, KPIT Cummins, Sungard, Yardi & many more participated in this drive. (Some apartment complexes in Pune and a huge number of Individual donors too made cognizable contributions.)





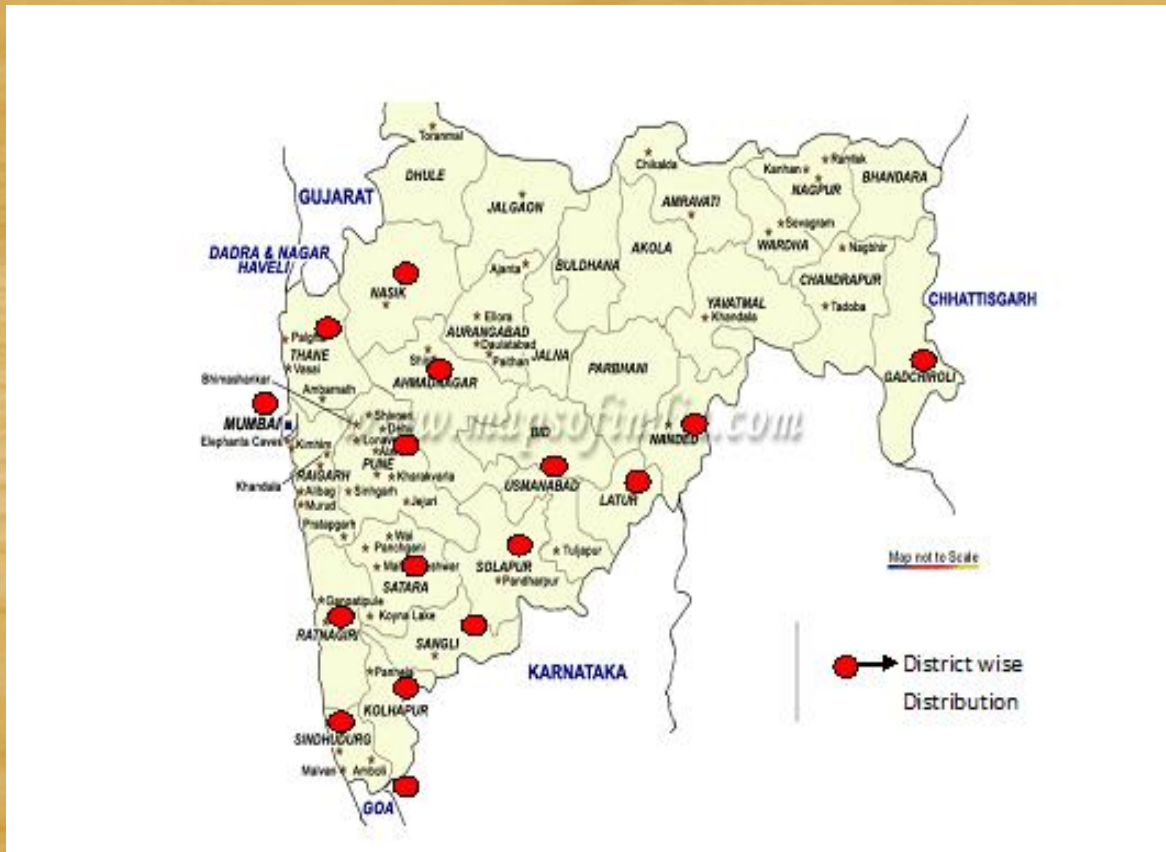
School Kit 2012 Report



Reach of the Programme

School Kit Program has widen its scope by reaching to the children scattered all over Maharashtra. Following places (marked red circle above) are the area where School Kit Program was conducted.

Places Covered: Pune, Goa, Nasik, Thane, Mumbai, Navi-Mumbai, Ahmednagar, Gadchiroli, Aurangabad, Nanded, Latur, Usmanabad, Solapur, Kolhapur, Satara, Ratnagiri, Sangli and Sindhudurg.





Experience of Beneficiary NGOs

It's a very nice initiative taken by Seva Sahayog, Its because of them that our children are getting the motivation to study and the support that Every child requires. Like every year, this year too they distributed bags and were successful to get smiles on the small faces. We thank you Seva Sahayog.

Mr. Vijay Shivle (Project Coordinator of Surajaya Prakalp, Yerwada, Pune)

Every child needs support, and we have been seeing this support from your organization since past 4 years constantly, the kids with us not only are joyous and feel blessed but they also understand their responsibility when the bags reach their small little hands, we have such kids who use their bags with utmost care and also inform us that as long as the one they have is in good condition , they wont need another one. This means a lot to us. It's a quality that has been developed in them.

Mr. Girish Prabhune (Founder of Gurukulam NGO, Chinchwad, Pune.)

We feel so privileged that we are associated with an organization like yours, We have been getting constant support over the years, whether it is school kits or aids, like blackboards, blind kits etc.. Therefore, I would on behalf of all the NGO team members would like to thank you for the excellent initiative.

Miss. Anjali Devgaonkar (Founder of Astithva Prathisthan, Purandar, Pune)

Thanks to you, the Seva Sahayog School Kit Drive is successfully providing educational facilities, stationary, lab equipment, computers and other needful things to poor and orphan children. We are happy to see your volunteer participation in such social responsibility. These children are the victims of crisis in their lives or natural disasters. These children are often neglected for the basic needs and education. Hence, we try to provide them for what they deserve. Your contribution to this work will definitely encourage other people and our association too.

Dr. Prasad Devdhar (Founder of Bhagirat Gramvikas Sanstha, Kudal, Shindudurg)



Experiences of Volunteers

"It's not just about providing one School Kit to a child. It's about providing a new hope! Yes, SS volunteers do not just assemble School Bags; they do assemble new destinies for children making their dreams come true. For me, it's more than Joy of Giving. It's the joy of watching them fly and make their dreams come true.

When we gave bags to children, they were so eager to see what's inside them, they just opened the bags and were amazed, more than pleased to see all new things with a great smile on their face for that.... Donation, Assembly and then seeing these moments of Joy during distribution are worth anything."

Piyush Tarale,
Senior Engineer, KPIT

"Having been connected with Seva Sahayog since November 2011, I never failed to notice that in every possible meeting the topic of School Kit somehow or the other did come up. This led to building my curiosity about why this event is so talked about and what is so special about it. On the first morning of kitting itself, I could understand why people were talking about this activity since November or maybe even before that. Just the massive number of volunteers who turned up for this event signified much about the activity. From a Seva Sahayog perspective I believe this was just a stepping stone for the volunteers to be there for these under privileged children for the rest of the year. This effort should not end with the provision of kits to these children but an effort is required throughout the year to visit these children and in however small way we can maybe teach them something, or play with them or just put a smile on their face for a day."

Kushan Biswas,
Senior Engineer, Tech Mahindra

It is thousand dollar worth experience to help these needy kids. Their willingness to learn is far more than any sophisticated convent students. I astonished after looking at their school, cleanliness, discipline, hospitality and moreover their always smiling faces with no complain about circumstances .I must say being at the school is one of the most memorable day of my life .As we reached to those student to distribute school kits by our own hands, we are assured that we helped the right hands .I feel a man is not complete in his life unless he give back to society . Thanks to SEVA SAHAYOG who work as bridge between we people and those under privileged ones. I wish to have many more such occasions with SEVA SAHAYOG in coming days.

Vyanktesh Rupnar,
Emerson Innovative Centre, Pune



Tushar Panat – This was my 4th year @ School Kit Drive by Seva Sahayog. The experience being there gets increases year on year. This drive is a platform for the people like us to think beyond your own personal/professional life and get the eyes to see the God in the form of children. Because it says “Service to children is a service to The God”. The aim of this drive is not just providing the bags, but to make children a socially responsible which in turn would benefit the society. This drive also helped in narrowing the gap between corporate and the common people. It’s worth seeing hundreds of people comes forward for a single cause to give their time for all the School Kit activities such as assembling, transporting, distributing. I wish all the very best to this drive.



Ameya Deshpande- One of the activity to support education amongst the under privileged children is the School kit activity run by Seva Sahayog. It may seem a small step of giving a school bag and material to each kid, but every big journey begins with a small step. And in this journey of more than 2 months the enthusiasm generated amongst each one is tremendous. Right from planning, procuring, volunteering, kitting, assembling and distributing each step is done with great enthusiasm by the team of dedicated volunteers. In all it is a magnificent experience in its own. Further steps to School kit are the daily Abhyasikas, Literacy survey and many more activities run by Seva Sahayog.



Shirish Aphale-I have attended 6 Sundays of school kitting. I was involved in the backside that’s storing of kits & later on dispatch of kits. It was a really good experience of team work & enjoyed it. The best thing happened; according to me in this exercise is the platform we could provide to young & educated citizens of India. It is heartening to see that they want to do something for our less privileged brothers & sisters. Old generations criticize them that they are just interested in parties, movies. Of course which I have never believed. Young & educated class today lost belief in political system. But there is urge in them to change the system. This is accordingly is the major success of school kit drive. While working with them I talked to few of them & asked what they wish to do. They have a lot of suggestions, ideas. We must develop them & it will be strong force that can complete the vision of Dr. Kalam India 2020. I think we should take this initiative forward, engage them for some activity round the year



Hiranmayi- 2012 being the second year @ School Kit Drive I realized that the highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish service & and the greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the needy. Lovely was the experience to meet up on Sunday mornings to contribute in whatever manner you can.

The journey right from preparing marketing material to kitting, to dispatching and delivering became worth of an experience when I could see the innocent smile while distributing the bags to the lovely children.

One of the best initiatives by Seva Sahayog...Happy to be a part of it.



Deepak Bang -Having being connected with Seva Sahayog since May 2011 , I never felt that myself so much involved in School Kit activity of 2012 within short journey of one year. It is not just providing School Kit to needy child but initiating Hope for education in their mind for better future to build nation.

This is very much worth experience for me & thanks to Seva Sahayog who work as bridge between we i.e. Corporate world to needy children around us.



Sucheta Mahajan-School Kit Donation Drive 2012 will always be one of my most memorable social activities I have ever participated, or rather contributed in. It was my 1st experience with Seva-Sahayog, and I am indeed gratified to be a part of it. The entire experience, right from planning, to fund collection, and assembling & distributing the school kits amongst the children was extremely satisfying. The management for this landmark activity, which is initiated on such a huge scale by Seva-Sahayog, is commendable. It was great to work and support each other for such noble causes!

It was also really inspiring to work with everyone, for others.

As it is rightly said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."