



Annual Report

2007-08



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What is it that captures in a nutshell what 2007-08 has meant for Kilikili?

Undoubtedly it is the explosion in the volunteers Kilikili has drawn. At the end of 2006-07 we had but 20 volunteers on our mailing list, today we have 180! Homemakers, teachers, special educators, mothers, fathers, grandmothers, architects, graphic designers, software professionals - its a motley group. And it is the commitment, energy, enthusiasm of our volunteers to stretch and dedicate themselves to the Kilikili mission that stand out for us, this year.

Volunteers in Kilikili do not just 'work' with Kilikili – they shape Kilikili, they contribute to developing its programmes, they decide strategy, activities, projects, they raise resources, build contacts, raise awareness doing what in their own spheres, they can. And it is in this effort, we believe, that the strength of having a strong volunteer base lies. If our work is to finally create an inclusive community, then the more number of people touched by this cause, this message; the closer we get to that goal.

This year has also seen an expansion of our outreach to children with and without disabilities, their families and schools. A small group of children, parents and schools who regularly visit Coles Park is emerging, which needs to be consolidated in the year to come. The year has also seen the partnership with the BBMP being strengthened with the Municipal Corporation showing willingness to make ten more parks inclusive. New partnerships have been forged – with ThoughtWorks, a software company for developing a park in Jeevan Bhima Nagar, with a parents group for a park in Whitefield – and existing partnerships such as the one with the parents group of FAME India strengthened. We have also been able to establish contact and build relationships with other NGOs working on disability issues.

What follows is a description of the key activities and processes that have taken place over 2007-08, its impact, our learnings and the challenges that we face. We welcome your feedback.



You don't volunteer for Kilikili,
you are Kilikili!

“I enjoyed playing!”

“Such events benefit my child by making him mentally strong to mingle with different people and face all situations.”

- A CHILD AND A PARENT AFTER PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENT ORGANISED BY KILIKILI

The integration and inclusion events were initiated last year as a platform to generate awareness among children, parents, teachers and schools regarding the facilities made available at Coles Park.

The purpose was also to ensure that the park was indeed an inclusive playspace; where children with and without disabilities interacted with one another. Three such events were held in 2007-2008 and each of these events was a learning experience for all of us at Kilikili.

■ On 30th June 2007, an event was held at Coles Park for children with disabilities, to re-inaugurate the park and formally launch the Inclusion Events. The purpose was to renew contact and urge children and parents in the area to utilise the different play equipments made available at the park. The event was well attended. An invitation for volunteers on the iVolunteer site (a platform that connects volunteers with volunteering opportunities) had also elicited a positive response, ensuring that a large group (almost 45 volunteers) attended the event and participated actively – assisting children, helping with registration, speaking to parents etc.

Some parents of children with disabilities shared that this was the first time they had come to the park with their children. One parent was particularly overwhelmed by the affection and care that the volunteers shared with the children. She said that, as the volunteers in a sense represented 'the world outside', such a positive experience was encouraging for both the children and their parents. This and other responses only reiterated that the issue for children with disabilities, is not just one of accessibility but also, as significantly, about acceptability.

■ The second integration and inclusion event was held on 25th August 2007 and involved a twinning



programme where children with disabilities and those with typical abilities were paired to interact and play with each other.

To represent the latter group, the girl guides from Goodwill School were invited and the children interacted well with each other. In fact, following the programme, one of the girl guides contacted Kilikili to find out details about her partner as she wanted to keep in touch with her! This was encouraging as it was the first effort at twinning and indicated the potential for more such events.

■ The third event held on 1st Dec 2007 marked the introduction of new play equipment – the tyre tunnel, the wheelchair sand pit and the sensory integration track – at Coles Park. The twinning programme at this event included children from nearby St Germain and St Rock schools. A preparatory session had been conducted with the children from St Germain to orient them to the twinning programme and to the park. At the event, what came across strongly was the importance of play for all children as many children from the two regular schools had not had such exposure and experience of playing in the park. It highlighted the need for greater sensitisation among schools and parents on the developmental value of play.

“It was more than just a day of charity. It was good – a bit disturbing but eye-opening.”

A VOLUNTEER FROM SAPLABS AFTER THE EVENT

SAPPORT, the CSR initiative of SAP Labs India, was actively looking to associate with a non-profit organisation in Bangalore City to engage its interested employees.

A new volunteer at Kilikili, who was an employee at SAP Labs, proposed the possibility of organising an event with Kilikili to coincide with Charity Day at the company. Children from the organisation Swantana (that works with homeless children with mental and physical disabilities) were invited to Coles Park to spend a few hours playing. Around 20 employees from SAP Labs attended the event, held on 08 Sep 2007. On reaching the park, they regrouped into different teams to undertake the various tasks necessary for the event to run smoothly. Some got busy decorating the place, a few were responsible for ensuring registration of the children while the others were keen to assist and play with the children.

While almost all the SAP Labs employees who attended it were happy to have spent their time interacting with children, a few were extremely overwhelmed by the extent of disabilities faced by the children. The learning and sharing that took place left all the participants immensely enriched by the experience.



Learnings

These events have been a significant means to reach out to and generate awareness among a larger group of children, parents, schools and volunteers. Reflecting on their impact has enabled Kilikili to recognise that, in future, activities at the events need to be planned so as to include, to the maximum extent possible, children with different disabilities. This would help to ensure that no child/group of children with certain disabilities are left out, during the event.

The twinning programme at the events has also been a learning experience for Kilikili. We have realised that bringing together children with and without disabilities only at the events is inadequate to ensure true integration and inclusion. The need for a consistent and long-term intervention with schools to orient children before and after the play experience is needed.

Another crucial learning for Kilikili from the events held last year has been with regard to ensuring an appropriate orientation for the volunteers. Most often, volunteers at these events do not have previous experience of interacting with children with disabilities. For some, the experience becomes overwhelming as they are uncertain how to respond and interact with the children. It is therefore critical that volunteers are well prepared before the event and are supported by the presence of some experienced individuals at the event. Equally important is the need for a debriefing after the event to address concerns and issues of the volunteers. This would ensure a greater impact and better interaction at the events. It would also support the volunteers to place their experience in perspective.

Last year saw the launch of the school programme in an effort to reach out to more children and to initiate the involvement of educational institutions in ensuring inclusive play.

Different schools in the vicinity and elsewhere were contacted and invited to visit Coles Park. Over the last year, the Association for People with Disabilities (APD) school and Snehalaya have been active participants of this programme. The potential of the school programme, in impacting children's development, is evident from the experience of the Snehalaya Opportunity school.

Children and teachers from St Mary's Snehalaya Opportunity School had attended the Integration and Inclusion events in June and August 2007. Discussions were then held with the principal and teachers to enhance their participation in ensuring Coles Park as an inclusive playspace. Starting in September 2007, the teachers and children began visiting the park for an hour every Friday.

In the initial period, some children were very eager to play and use the play equipment. Some were hesitant and a few so overwhelmed that they cried and refused to enter the park. Over time, however, with the consistent support of their teachers and the Kilikili volunteer, the children lost their inhibitions and overcame their fears of new places and new equipment; they were then able to enjoy their time at the park.

At a recent review meeting held at the Snehalaya school, the teachers shared that this process of regularly visiting the park has had a positive impact on the children and their learning. The children's confidence has visibly increased through regular exposure at the park. Some children have also demonstrated better articulation of their feelings and needs.

One of the main reasons for this achievement has been the consistency both on the part of the school

and the Kilikili volunteer. This has been found to be particularly important to ensure regularity of the interaction and therefore a greater impact on the children. The bond that the teachers and children share with the volunteer is seen to visibly influence the children's experience of play at the park. Each participating school, thus, requires a designated volunteer as an anchor, to ensure greater effectiveness.



While the Snehalaya experience has been particularly positive, the learning for Kilikili has also been to work towards extending the scope of the programme. This would entail enrolling more schools and simultaneously ensuring their consistent involvement and regularity at the park. It is also believed that as more number of schools participate, it would lend to a more holistic and effective structure for the school programme – be it in terms of higher frequency of visits or even addressing the specific needs of certain disabilities.

“Our school children keenly look forward to their time at the park and cannot wait for 11 am on Fridays!”

The Family's Day Out programme was launched in keeping with the objective of ensuring that the inclusive playspace in Coles Park is used more regularly not just through schools but also by families having children with a disability.

Over every Saturday morning, in February and March 2008, families were encouraged to visit the park. The objective was to enhance interaction among all children and reiterate to parents the therapeutic and developmental value of the play equipment at the park.

“Our children feel safe here. They get an opportunity to play and enjoy with others.”

A PARENT ACCOMPANYING HER CHILD TO COLES PARK



Kilikili firmly believes that different sections of society have a key role to play in ensuring a more inclusive world. In this regard, the last year saw the initiation of new partnerships (with a local company, a parents' group) that has redefined possibilities for extending the reach and realising the growth of this effort as a movement.

Jeevan Bhima Nagar Park

Kilikili had identified enrolling local companies as an exciting possibility to generate awareness and build greater public participation to ensure inclusive play. This was also seen as mutually beneficial as most companies today have a defined Corporate Social Responsibility initiative and are able and willing to mobilise funds, if necessary. ThoughtWorks - a company in Indiranagar (Bangalore City) – was also seeking to partner with an organisation not merely to donate funds but rather to create a platform for their employees to engage and share their resources. A preliminary meeting between ThoughtWorks and Kilikili took the process further, discussing the possibility of making the local park in Indiranagar an inclusive playspace. The initial hesitation from the employees at lacking the necessary expertise, were soon allayed, as Kilikili reiterated the need for commitment and interest rather than expertise. The first task undertaken was to visit parks in the area to shortlist an appropriate park for the project. Two parks in the locality were identified and an initial sanction was obtained from the City Corporation (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike). Volunteers from ThoughtWorks came forward to approach local schools and enrol interested residents for a consultative process, that would enable a collective vision and consensus on the inclusive park to emerge.

Jayanagar Park

Though the process had been initiated at a park in Jayanagar the previous year, in collaboration with FAME India and other schools in the neighbourhood, it transpired that the identified space would fall under the impending Metro Rail project. Consequently, much of the year was spent in lobbying with the BBMP to identify and sanction another park in the area. This was achieved and the new costing and proposal was presented to the Municipal Commissioner; who sanctioned the entire amount!

Efforts were also made to form and strengthen a local group of parents (of children from the school run by FAME INDIA). This group is now active and has assumed responsibility to take the process forward in a sustainable and consistent manner.

Namma Jathre

In December 2007, Kilikili participated in Namma Jathre – a festival to sensitise the average citizen to development issues by offering an avenue for NGOs to showcase their efforts. Identifying this as an opportunity to generate greater public awareness on inclusive play, Kilikili scheduled activities for children at the 2-day festival. Through clay modelling and banner painting, children attending the festival were invited to express themselves on their notion of an ideal park and further, on inclusive play. While the children participated in this activity, parents were engaged in discussions on the importance of play and making public play-spaces more inclusive.

“Only by involving more and more people in different ways can we realise our vision of making this a movement, rather than a programme.”

A KILIKILI STEERING GROUP MEMBER

Kilikili has always maintained that the local municipal authority plays a key role in ensuring that public parks become inclusive playspaces.

Furthermore, it is only with the resources and reach of the BBMP that scaling up such a process is possible in a more systemic manner. In this context, the last year has seen a consolidation of the working relationship between Kilikili and the BBMP.

Advocacy and Lobbying

The partnership with the BBMP has included both ongoing advocacy work as well as discussions on specific issues involved. For instance, meeting newly appointed BBMP officials and enrolling them to the work of Kilikili is an ongoing process. Similarly, specific issues related to renegotiating the location of a park in the South Zone and meeting the Commissioner for the Jayanagar Park have also been addressed with the BBMP over the last year. The BBMP is considering making at least one park in each Zone accessible and more sensitisation programmes like this would certainly contribute to making this an effective effort.

Awareness generation

Kilikili facilitated a workshop on 13th July 2007 for officials of the BBMP's Horticulture Department (those directly working on park development and maintenance) to understand the importance of play for a child with a disability and the need to make parks accessible for all children. The participants were introduced to the different kinds of disabilities. They were then taken to Coles Park where the need to design play spaces taking into account the whole play experience rather than just merely adding equipment, was highlighted.

The BBMP is considering making at least one park



in each Zone accessible and more sensitisation programmes like this would certainly contribute to making this an effective effort.

Kilikili has found that frequent transfer of officials, while leading to some delays, does not indicate a lack of interest on the part of the Municipal Corporation. While it would still be too soon to say that the partnership is institutional, we believe that with consistent effort, this would be a reality in the years to come.



“This has opened my eyes to a new world.”

MR. BASAVARAJ KESARI,
HORTICULTURE SUPERINTENDENT (SOUTH), BBMP (AFTER ATTENDING A WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY KILIKILI)

'The group meetings over the last year have been good. Our understanding of the issue and what it involves on our part, has certainly grown'.

A MEMBER OF THE STEERING GROUP AT KILIKILI.

Shane's Inspiration Visit

Shane's Inspiration is a US based non-profit dedicated to creating Universally Accessible Playgrounds and programmes that integrate children of all abilities. Kilikili has been in correspondence with Shane's Inspiration for the last 3 years, with Shanes Inspiration offering tremendous support in the initial conceptualisation of Kilikili's work and programmes. Representatives of Shane's Inspiration were keen to understand the Indian context for accessible play spaces and visited Bangalore in August 2007. They visited the different parks, attended an event and interacted with parents, volunteers, and steering group members. Though the contexts were found to be different, the visit was useful as a platform to share experiences and explore possibilities of a mutually beneficial partnership.

Orienting volunteers to the vision

Some of the key volunteers had shared their concerns and uncertainty regarding their understanding of the future direction of the work. Consequently, in September 2007, a session was facilitated for the volunteers regarding the goals and plans for Kilikili. This helped them gain better clarity on the work and the diverse possible roles they could play therein. Following the session, the volunteers came forward to anchor certain key roles within Kilikili, such as managing specific projects, fund raising, building awareness.



Developing a collective vision and mission for Kilikili

In Jan 2008, a session for the steering group members and core volunteers was facilitated by an external resource person to arrive at a collective vision and mission for Kilikili.

Our Vision

We will be widely recognised as a unique movement owned by children, parents, volunteers and other stake holders, collaborating with the government and resource agencies to promote and fulfill every child's right to inclusive play.

Our Mission

To eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities and fulfil the right to play for children of all abilities through creating culturally appropriate inclusive play spaces using participatory research and development, integration initiatives, consultancy and advocacy.

A significant outcome of this session was the collective consensus that Kilikili should grow as a movement and include all sections of society. The session was also useful in directing the annual planning process that took place later that month.

The last year has enabled us to identify some of the aspects related to our work that need to be addressed in the future.

These would form an integral part of our work in the coming year to move closer to our goal of an inclusive world.

Building local community ownership

Without doubt, more neighbourhood parks as inclusive playspaces would form the most effective means to build greater awareness on the need for inclusive play. Strategically, Kilikili would focus on initiating processes for future parks in partnership with local groups – parents, companies, special educators, and schools. It is believed that this is the only way to ensure sustainability and true inclusiveness. Parents would then cease to view themselves as recipients or participants of a programme. Issues of maintenance would then be seamlessly addressed, as the ownership of the processes and the park would be assumed by the local group.

Institutionalising processes within BBMP

Our partnership with the BBMP would also work towards ensuring that public parks become inclusive playspaces as a matter of right and the rule of law; rather than rely on individual interest. For instance, including aspects within the defined BBMP rules for a public park; working with contractors responsible for building public parks during the design stage itself, are some of the areas that our work would focus on.

Design and Innovation

Being a pioneering initiative, the absence of prototypes in the Indian context for universal design of play space and equipment has meant learning from experience and making necessary changes along the way. Though a challenge, this has also offered an opportunity for innovation and for the team to acquire a greater sense of ownership to the process and the issue. It has also meant that design for us, is not something taken out of a textbook, but something that evolves through a very organic, participatory process that involves all stakeholders.

Inclusiveness within

Another conscious effort in the coming year would be to work on making the internal set-up at Kilikili more representative and inclusive. It is believed that including individuals representing various sections of society, within Kilikili, is critical in order to effectively understand and represent issues of inclusion and integration and achieve the envisaged vision of this movement.

“The work at Coles Park offers us tremendous opportunities for learning. We will continue to contextualise this experience to institutionalise processes for future parks.”

A MEMBER OF THE STEERING GROUP OF KILIKILI

Our Reach In Quantitative Terms

Events

185 children with disabilities
82 children with typical abilities
35 families and
180 volunteers participating.

Family day programme

20 families

School programme

37 children (from 2 schools) every week

Parks

Completed development- 1 at Coles park
In development- 1 each at Jayanagar and Jeevan Bhima Nagar

Outreach through awareness programmes

250 people

Steering Group Members

Name	Occupation, role in Kilikili
Rani Benedict	Working in IBM, Parent, Trustee
Ganesh Anantharaman	HR and OD trainer, Parent, Trustee
Kavitha Krishnamoorthy	Development professional, Parent, Managing Trustee, Chief Functionary
Chitra Vishwanath	Architect
Meena Jain	Special educator, child psychologist, Committee on Welfare of children, GoK member
Mary Jacob	Architect, Faculty, Srishti School of Design
Alex Rodrigues	Development professional, Parent

Volunteers Coordination Group

Name	Background
Anil Jain	Software professional
Asif Mohammed	Software professional
Kausar Chinoy	Montessorian
Krishnaveni R	Media professional
Kumar B	Sales, Telecom industry
Raghav Sampath	Software professional
Roshin Joseph	Software professional
Shylaja Varma	Montessorian, special educator



It is the active and constant support of many wellwishers that has helped ensure that the Kilikili mission is achieved. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the following people, who have, in ever so many ways been cotravellers.

For supporting and ensuring that inclusive play gets institutionalised.

Dr. Subramanya, Municipal Commissioner, BBMP

Dr Ashwath, Jt Director, Horticulture, BBMP

Mr. Yeshwanth, Joint Commissioner, (South), BBMP

Mr. Basavaraj Kesari, Horticulture Superintendent (South), BBMP

Mr. Muralidhar, Horticulture Superintendent (South), BBMP

Mr. Farookh, Engineer, (South), BBMP

Mr. Chandrashekar, Horticulture Superintendent (East), BBMP

Mr. Shivanna, Horticulture Superintendent (East), BBMP

Mr. Bishettapa, Engineer, (East), BBMP

Mr. L Krishnan, Managing Director, Taegutec, for showing faith in us again and sponsoring the new equipment at Coles Park

Mr. N Krishnamoorthy, President (DLOB), **Mr. Srinivasan**, Vice President (Pers and Admin),) and **Mr. S Selvaraj** (DGM, Pers and Admin) from TVS and Sons for not just offering financial support but also extending technical support

IBM for its generous donation

Alvito and **the team** at Focus Communications who respond to all needs, no matter the hour

Kumkum and **Navita** from Kena Designs for designing our brochure pro bono and Vykatech printers for printing it at reduced costs

Prarthana from Ivolunteer for the enthusiasm with which she mobilises volunteers

Nisha for redesigning the website and **Poonam** and **her colleagues at Yahoo** for providing the requisite technical expertise to get the website up and running

Savita and **Karthik** for their donation of a laptop

Mr. Rajesh Pai for carrying out a Campaign in his restaurant – Kanua – over November, December 07 and January 08 that helped create greater awareness and raised funds for us.

Tiffany Harris and **Brad Thornton** from Shane's Inspiration for all the invigorating discussions

Our partners in this journey of inclusion:

Children, parents, care givers and **families** who choose to be a part of Kilikili.

APD and **Snehalaya** who regularly bring the children from their school to Coles park

AWWA Asha, Asha Kiran, Spastics Society of Karnataka, Bal Jyoti, Jyoti Seva, Swanatana, St Germain and **St Rock schools** for bringing children to Coles park periodically

All our volunteers, steering group and coordination group members, without whom none of the collective Kilikili dreams could have taken off.



RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-03-2008

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<u>Opening Balance</u>					
Cash in Hand	535.40		Programme Expenses		106998.50
State Bank of India - SB A/c	51881.60	52417.00	Conveyance		11306.00
			Printing & stationery		2395.00
			Postage & Courier		662.00
Donation Received		251350.00	Internet Expenses		508.00
			Salary		5000.00
Interest on SB a/c		1644.00	Telephone & Fax		3723.00
			Website Regn.		2500.00
Loan from Trustee		8000.00	Bank Charges		60.00
			Audit Fees		7865.00
			<u>Closing Balance</u>		
			Cash in Hand	44.90	
			State Bank of India - SB A/c	172348.60	172393.50
TOTAL		313411.00	TOTAL		313411.00

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-03-2008

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Programme Expenses		106998.50	Donations Received		251350.00
Conveyance		11306.00			
Printing & stationery		2395.00	Interest on SB Account		1644.00
Postage & Courier		662.00			
Internet Expenses		508.00			
		5000.00			
Telephone & Fax		3723.00			
Website Regn.		2500.00			
Bank Charges		60.00			
Audit Fees		7865.00			
Excess of Income over Expenditure		111976.50			
TOTAL		252994.00	TOTAL		252994.00

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2008

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
<u>Capital Fund</u>			<u>Closing Balance</u>		
As per last Balance sheet	28417.00		Cash on Hand	44.90	
Add : Excess of Income over Exp.	111976.50	140393.50	State Bank of India - SB A/c	172348.60	172393.50
<u>Provisions</u>					
Salary Payable		24000.00			
Loan from Trustee		8000.00			
TOTAL		172393.50	TOTAL		172393.50

As per our Report of Even Date for M.R.Balaraj & Co., Chartered Accountants

FOR KILIKILI

Place : Bangalore
Date : 09-06-08

M.Ravindra Balaraj
Proprietor

Ms. Kavitha Krishnamoorthy
Managing Trustee