

Preservation of spiritual heritage through Institute participation (Dindi/ Pilgrimage Ceremony)

The educational trust “Shri Gajanan Maharaj Shikshan Prasarak Mandal” is established in the year 1988 in a small village name as Otur. The trust has been provided quality education to the students with various education fields around the Otur area. Otur has been known as a village with a rich spiritual heritage since time immemorial. Saints Keshav means Babaji Chaitanya Maharaj, who were the mentors of Saint Tukaram Maharaj, have taken samadhi at Kapardikeshwar on the banks of river Mandvi in 1571 at Otur. It is said that Sixty years after Samadhi, Shri Chaitanya Maharaj visited in a dream of Tukaram Maharaj of Dehu and invited him to visit Otur and gave Ramkrishn Hari Mantra of warkari path on the basis of that grace, Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj gained fame as Saint Shiromani Jagadguru.

The institute has some other locational (religious) advantages such as the Ashtvinayak of lord shri Ganesh’s Lenyadri temple is 12 km and Vighneshwar temple of Ozar is 11 km away from the institute. The Shivaneri fort a birthplace of ‘Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’, who is known in history as a “Janata Raja”, is located at a distance of 23 km from Institute. Considering all these facts the institute has been trying to prevent spiritual heritage to participate in various religious events as follows.

1. Provide accommodation and meals for Ashtavinay pilgrims.
2. Participation in Appearance Anniversary Festival of Shri Gajanan Maharaj.
3. Participation in Bus pilgrimage from village Otur to Shegaon, Shegaon is the Shire of shri Gajanan Maharaj.
4. Participate as a volunteer in Otur to Alandi Dindi Ceremony

Objective of the Initiative

1. To prevent spiritual heritage through institute participation in various religious events
2. To make students aware of Dindi/wari (pilgrimage) with voluntary involvement of students
3. To understand the importance of spiritual things in social environment.
4. To learn event management skills with managing actual event.
5. To make aware of social responsibility among the students.

Participated Spiritual/ religious Event by Institute

1. Accommodation and meals serve for Ashtavinayka pilgrims.

Ashtavinayaka literally means "eight Ganeshas" in Sanskrit. Ganesh is the Hinduism/Hindu deity of unity, prosperity, learning, and removing obstacles. The term refers to eight Ganeshas. Ashtavinayaka yatra trip refers to a pilgrimage to the eight Hindu temples in Maharashtra state of India that house eight distinct idols of Ganesh, in a pre-ascertained sequence. The Ashtavinayak yatra or pilgrimage covers the eight ancient holy temples of Ganesh which are situated around Pune. Among these eight ganesh temple two temples Ozar and Lendyadri located near around the institute. Every year in the month of December, 250 to 370 Ganesh devotees of Shiddhivinayak Ganesh Mandal organized Ashtavinayak pilgrimage by bus from Pune city. His two-day stay and meals are provided at the institute. The program has been planned with the of students and teachers voluntaries

2. Faral Distribution to Warkari/Dindi

Pandharpur Wari or Wari pronounced *vaaree*, is an annual pilgrimage (yatra) to the town of Pandharpur, in the Indian state of Maharashtra, to honor the deity of Hindu God Vitthal. The wari involves carrying the paduka (a type of wooden slippers or footprints) of a saint (Sant in marathi) in a palkhi, most notably of Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram, from their respective shrines to Pandharpur. Thousands of warkaris or pilgrims join this procession on foot. Warkari is a Marathi term which means "one who performs the Wari" or "one who venerates the Vithoba". The tradition is more than 700 to 800 years old.

One local wari name as Chaitanya Maharaj Dindi Otur also went to Alandi and Pandharpur every year with near about 300 warkari. The Institute arranges the Breakfast for the devotees of this Dindi. All the planning of this program is done by the students.

3. Appearance Anniversary Festival of shri Gajanan Maharaj

Shri Gajanan Maharaj Prakat Din festival is observed in Magh Marathi month. It is not the birth anniversary but appearance anniversary festival of the great saint from Maharashtra, Shri Gajanan Maharaj. He was an avadhuta. His life was his teachings. Through his activities he spread Bhakti, love, wisdom and opened the path of self-

realization to many. To promote this customs to people is main objective of this program. The most important activities on the day are held by our trust is food donation to pilgrimage.

Outcome of Initiative

1. Increase Spirituality among the Students

Institute does not make compulsion to student to participate in those events. It's observed many students are voluntarily participating in to these events. That helps to increase spirituality among the students. Healthy spirituality gives a sense of peace, wholeness and balance among the physical, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of our lives. However, participation of these types of events is the increase the spirituality that lead to become success in life.

2. Event Management a Participative/experimental Learning

The successful execution of any event required extensive range of event skills both personal and team based. That skill might were acquired, developed and practiced during actual participation and managing of this types of events. The students learn the skills by these events that will helpful to them in future carrier.

