# A 7-year partnership with Guru Krupa Foundation

It was sometime during mid 2008 that Sevalaya had a visitor- Mukund Padmanabhan from USA to our Kasuva campus. After a tour of the campus, Mukund, who was very much impressed by the transparency of the management process and the professionalism of the organization offered support through **Guru Krupa Foundation (GKF)**, a private incorporated in New York State of which he is the President. And since then, as the cliché goes.... there is no looking back.

The purpose of GKF is to fund charitable causes in the Foundation field of education, Social and Religious /cultural.

to Higher Secondary, the strength of the school swelled and in the year 2009 -2010, there were 1400 underprivileged children studying in the school. The school building had reached its optimum capacity and there was an urgent need to have a separate Primary school block to accommodate the ever rising demand to admit more children from more and more villages around Kasuva, where Sevalaya is located.

GKF again came to our aid with their generous contribution initially for the construction of a classroom at the pre primary section in the financial year



And in accordance with it the has been a consistent and reliable source of support for various educational initiatives of Sevalaya.

#### **Teachers' Salary**

One of the major activities of Sevalaya is the Mahakavi Bharathiyar School, which provides quality education free of cost to nearly 2000 rural poor children which includes 150 orphan, destitute children at Sevalaya Homes. Salary to the Teaching staff has always been a major component of the total expenses of the organization. Nearly 85% of the a month's salary expense for teachers was funded by GKF in the financial year 2008 - 2009.

### **Building Construction**

Sevalaya School started out as a Primary school in 1991 with a strength of 25 children. With the passage of years and expansion of activities in terms of opening up High School and upgradation 2009-2010, followed by sponsoring the construction of the entire second floor of the new Primary school building in the financial year 2010-2011.

#### Bus

Poor children from nearly 40 villages around Kasuva study in the school run by Sevalaya. The bus services in these rural parts are limited and connect only the main roads. The last stretch of 1 Km from the main road to Sevalaya campus has to be covered by foot only. Travel by congested public bus and a walk of nearly a km will tire out the students especially the young primary school kids at the start of the school day itself. Hence Sevalaya provides free transport facility for primary school students. Sevalaya had a school bus which could accommodate only 30 children. As the number of students increased, the need for a bigger bus to accommodate more children was felt. Moreover, the bus was also used for

taking children on tours and educational trips. GKF again stepped in with their valuable donation for a bigger school bus with a seating capacity of 60, in the year 2011-2012.

#### Solar street lamps

Situated in a rural area, power cuts were the rule of the day at Sevalaya and this affected the functioning of the organization, where activity starts at 4:30 AM with the feeding and milking of cows at gaushala, Yoga Schedule for children, cooking, etc and ends at 11:30 PM after study hour / dinner from 6: 45 to 8:30 PM and post dinner study hour for Higher class students.

Taking recourse to alternate source of energy was considered and tapping the solar energy was the best option we had. Here again, GKF pitched in and funded setting up of solar street lamps on the campus in the year 2012-2013.

## Library furniture, Book, Note books and Uniforms

Sevalaya runs a free general library and reading room for the beneficiaries and the villagers. The library has a collection of over 15000 books. As the activities expanded, it was decided to set up separate libraries for the staff with focus on subject books and motivational books and for the primary school kids with a large collection of colourful children's books, encyclopedia, comics etc.,

Sevalaya also provides notebooks every year to all the school children free of cost. In the year 2013-2014, GKF funded the furniture of the libraries, purchase of additional books for the libraries and notebooks for all the school children. The children were thrilled to receive superior quality notebooks with the logo of Sevalaya and GKF printed brightly on the cover. GKF continued funding the notebooks in the year 2014-15.For the year 2015-2016, GKF has sponsored uniforms for all the school children of Sevalaya.

The meeting point of the principles of Sevalaya and GKF is to help those who are less fortunate than oneself and support causes related to the acquisition of knowledge (both materialistic and nonmaterialistic) and we hope the mutually enriching partnership of Sevalaya and GKF will flourish in the years to come.