Balagothra Sabha

Balagothra Sabhas are institutions of children started as part of the Attappady Special Project (Attappady Comprehensive Tribal Development and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Development Project). The aim of Balagothra Sabha is sustainable development of children. Balagothra Sabha is the children’s club/association envisaged at the hamlet level. Balagothra Sabhas aims at identifying the talents of each children, motivating them to follow their passion. Also, this institution of children envisages providing support to ensure their rights, nurture social awareness and mutual co-operation and help them grasp knowledge regarding health, art, culture, history etc.

As of now, 110 Balagothra Sabhas are formed and and
are functioning in Attappady. Weekly meetings are conducted by each group and reports on various activities/problems are discussed. House visits are conducted if any of the member faces any issues at home. Further, many creative projects are also planned for ensuring overall development.

As part of the Balagothra Sabha activities, we organised a ‘Balagothra Kalolsavam’ (arts festival for tribal children) at Attappady during April 2018. A total of 2000 students took part in the Kalolsavam and made the best of their effort to perform. For nurturing and for providing further training for these young talents, we are conducting coaching classes in dance, music and in instrumental music. In May 2019, one year after the conduct of arts festival, a ‘creative workshop’ was also organised for the children.

As a federation of Balagothra Sabhas, Balagothra Samithis are formed in Ward level, Balagothra Panchayath are established in Panchayath level and Balagothra Parliament was set up in the Block level. The meetings of the Balagothra Panchyaths are conducted on the second Saturdays and Sundays of every month. The problems/issues/subjects discussed in each Balagothra Sabhas are presented by the representatives in this panchayat level forum. They take needy decisions also at times. Other than this regular active discussions, classes and camps are organised under the banner of Balagothra Sabhas during vacations. Science camp, drama camp and drawing camp had already been organised in recent past.

In addition to nurturing talents and providing social education, we also aim to create awareness about health, education and children’s right to the tribal children and thereby help them move forward to greater heights. This handholding and support through the Balagothra sabha is really fruitful and we are happy to note that there is positive feedback and results of our activity.