

CHIMBAI STUDENTS' TRAVEL WOES 'BUS'TED'

The students of Chimbai Municipal School, Bandra, had a reason to smile on August 8 when the members of the Celebrate Bandra Trust donated a swanky school bus to the institution, at a function attended by the popular singer and TV host, Shaan.

"The students are thrilled with the new gift they have received. It will be of great help for us and the children who come from various parts of Bandra," said Dilbur Parakh, chairperson and trustee of the NGO Aseema, which has adopted the municipal school.

Carolyn Fernandes, Educational officer from Aseema added that the gift would ensure 100 per cent attendance by students and the school would no longer need to hire a bus to arrange outings for them.

The bus, which costs approximately Rs. 10 lakh, is the outcome of a festival organised by the Celebrate Bandra in 2005. The trust is a group of residential associations – like the Bandra West Residents Association, Bandra Bandstand Residents Trust, Federation of H West Ward Citizens Trust and Bandra Reclamation Area Volunteers Organization.



Darryl D'monte, chairperson, Forum of Environmental Journalist of India and trust member, said, "The trust has tried to give something back to the community. It is the outcome of the festival Celebrate Bandra has organised."

Shyama Kulkarni, trustee of the Federation of H West Citizens Trust, said that the Chimbai Municipal School was one of the best municipal schools in Mumbai. "After contemplating a series of options, we decided on a bus which would be of great help to the children and the school," she said.

The students of the school performed dances and sang to thank the members of the trust. And that evening, they travelled home in style – by bus!

Complete Turnaround

The Chimbai Municipal School in Bandra was on the verge of closing down six years ago. But Dilbur Parakh from Aseema, the NGO involved in educating underprivileged and street children, decided to adopt the school.

Since then, the institution has been completely transformed, with the number of students rising from 18 to 600. The medium of education is English and the school offers extracurricular activities like yoga, arts and sports.

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