

Dear brothers and sisters,

As most of you know, SSSVV, Visakhapatnam has celebrated its Silver Jubilee this year. To add to this celebration, the ex-students organization of the school, Students of Sai (SOS), organized a grand re-union for all the 20 batches of alumni (1989-2009) on 28th November, 2009 in the school premises.. There was a whopping response with more than 250 alumni and 20 teachers attending the event!!!

It all started at about 9:30 am. To relive the school days, the alumni decided to start the day with a mock assembly in the school rotunda, with a 'pseudo-captain' giving orders for the pledge, followed by distribution of presents to the birthday boys and girls of the month. While this happened, more people started trickling in.

By 9:45 am, the registration lines were so long, in spite of 3-4 people working incessantly at the registration desk, that one could not tell whether these alumni were lining up to get into the SOS reunion or a Rahman concert!

After all the students and teachers got in and settled down in the huge and new yoga hall, the event started off with short welcome speeches from the SOS executive committee member, Vinay Gudena (1992 batch) and the vice-principal, Anand sir (because the principal, Kausalya ma'am was unavailable due to a board meeting in Delhi). This was followed by a short introductory video about SOS and its activities.

The video gave way to what was considered by many as the most moving and gratifying experience of the entire reunion – the felicitation of our beloved teachers! About 20 teachers, including the retired ones, were invited onto the stage one at a time and loving messages were read out. Women were honored with classic silk sarees and men were honored with royal silk dhotis and kanduvas. All the teachers were overwhelmed with joy and most of them were in tears when they were given a chance to address the alumni. The entire sequence of events was so touching that all the alumni silently wept in happiness.

Soon after the emotional high, the alumni indulged in a physical high by enthusiastically participating in various sports and games. This informal interaction filled the school premises with excitement and laughter. Prizes were awarded as well!

A feast-like lunch was readily served as soon as the sports ended. It was delightful to watch the students serve food to the teachers at the beginning and the teachers volunteering to serve food to the students towards the end!

The post-lunch events were kick started with high-energy performances to drive away the drowsiness. The younger alumni lovingly put together and performed group songs and dances to enliven the ambience. There was a quiz and a debate as well. By the end of the session, the audience was completely charged.

The concluding session of the day was an open forum, where the alumni brainstormed/discussed ideas/suggestions on how SOS could better carry out its activities. A broad set of topics including future reunions, newsletters, career guidance, service activities, website development etc were covered. Several novel and brilliant ideas came up and were duly recorded.

At about 6:00 pm, the adjournment of the reunion was pronounced. The alumni diffused into smaller group to further interact among themselves and with the teachers for several hours. Overall, it was a fun-filled day that granted immense satisfaction to all the attendees.

Finally, it is blasphemy to end this message without recognizing the efforts of the people that made this happen. Volunteers from diverse walks and stages of life (11th grade students to renown doctors and CEOs) and from different locations of the world (India and abroad) worked at various times (8 months pre-reunion, during the reunion and post-reunion) to make SOS Reunion09 a grand success. It is this spirit of unity, which stems from love and manifests itself as dedication that keeps driving SOS forward in its journey. If you want to be an active part of this journey, please do let us know.

With Love,
The Executive Committee of SOS (A few others like you)