

Balvani, developed by children living in the rural areas of Lalitpur district, is an eye opener and testimony to the fact that children are attentively watching our actions on issues that have a bearing on their lives. The issues raised by the children in their newsletter not only present the challenge in Lalitpur but also serve as a benchmark for development initiatives in all districts that lag behind in socio-economic indicators.



The state is committed to the well being of its children and therefore in all our schemes and programmes due emphasis is being placed on the development of the child. In this direction, **Balvani** can be expected to play a crucial role by giving voice to these children which will contribute not only to their empowerment but also hopefully gear up child-friendly processes in the state. The Lalitpur pilot project in the area of quality education has already been replicated in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh. We hope that the children's documentation initiative would also find meaningful acceptance in all districts. The role of children in development is invaluable and we can learn a lot from their insights into their community and surroundings.

I am also delighted to note that whereas in the first edition of **Balvani** the child reporters focused upon identification of issues and concerns, this time their skills as are honed enough to compare results and report on changes taking place in their environment. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of these 30 young reporters and wish them all success. The state stands committed to respond to their concerns and appeals to all readers of **Balvani** to contribute in making Lalitpur a truly integrated and child-friendly district in the state.

V. Venkatachalam

Shri V Venkatachalam

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