



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Sevalaya's News Letter

APRIL - 2003

Dear Friends,

This month is the financial year end in India. We look at our annual plans for donations and also budgets for expenses and try to understand what went well and what went wrong. We have fallen short by around 25% in the donation collection front. Because of this we were not able to build the new library block; we were not able to buy more lands for agricultural use etc. But our cost control is better now. We tried to create wealth out of waste by disposing of scrap. We also produced our own milk, rice and vegetables to some extent. We still have teething problems in these areas, hopefully we will be better next year.

Why did we fall short of our donation collection target? We have tried our best, day in and day out, we did conduct few shows to collect funds, many donors visited the campus and sponsored food and sponsored children's education. But with all this, the collection was below target. We can talk about the economic slow down; there is not enough money with people to donate etc. May be it is all true. The world does not have enough money for such service activities.

But on the other hand, how much of money is spent on wars? Each bomb dropped kills hundreds of children. The pictures of children with blood all over their body makes us think. Lot of money was spent to inflict wounds on these children. If the bomb was not dropped, the children would have been saved. At the

same time, that money could have been used to educate these children.

Is it lack of resources that is creating the problem for service organizations? Is it the economic down trend or the slow down or whatever it is, the problem? If that is the case, how are we getting money to fight with each other? In Sevalaya, even if two small children quarrel, (mostly because one child took away a piece of chocolate from the other), we try to tell them that it is not human to fight with each other. As human beings we have other options. But when these children watch television now-a-days, observing what is going on, what do we teach them? There are always grown-up substitutes for chocolates, like oil, but is there no grown-up substitute for fighting?

Look at the amount of wastage of resources! How many Sevalayas can do service for centuries with this money! With all that money we can feed all the orphan children and senior citizens in the whole world. How many libraries can be built! How many schools can be built! Instead of that, we are bringing down buildings. We are rendering people homeless. Instead of feeding orphans, we are creating more orphans, by spending lot of money!

Yes. We have to forgive them, for they know not what they are doing. We can only pray and say 'Sabuko Sanmathi De Bhagavan' (O, Lord, please give proper understanding to all)

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Science in Action

In the last issue, we had briefly mentioned about the Science in Action Exhibition conducted by our Mahakavi Bharathiyar School. A detailed report is given below:



Ms.J.Umamaheswari, Joint Director, Elementary Education inaugurated the Exhibition on 28th Feb.2003. Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated the efforts of the teachers and students and noted that the display of models and explanations by students were better than in any city school exhibitions.



Mr.R.Kannan, Director of Elementary Education presided over the valedictory function on 2nd March 2003. He lauded the best manner in which the Exhibition was organized. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Sevalaya in running a school, providing quality education to the poor, destitute and orphan rural children. In particular he noted that Sevalaya apart from not charging any fees, also, provided free books, note books, uniforms and even free transportation to all the children studying in Mahakavi Bharathiyar

High School which is Government recognised, but unaided. He urged the students to make the best use of the opportunities provided to them, which not many city children are fortunate to get.

Along side, there was an exhibition, "Arise, Awake "on the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Both the exhibitions were very well attended by parents, pupils and teachers of nearby schools and the general public.

They do us proud

All the children put up by us for the 8th Standard public Examinations have come out successful. The First Rank goes to G.Asha who has scored 372 marks out of 500.

Likewise, all the children who appeared for the District Level Tamil Examination conducted by the Tiruvallur District Tamil Teachers Association for 10th standard students, all our students have passed. The school first rank goes to Shri Vinodkumar with 90% marks.

Kudos to our teachers and children for this creditable performance.

Women's day

International Women's Day was celebrated by Students of Ikeda College with our children at our Campus on 8th March 2003. There was a variety entertainment programme by the students in which our children also participated.

Study Circle Meetings

Date : 01.03.2003
Speaker : K.Mohan
Book : Kalki's various works

Date : 08.03.2003
Book : Tamil Thatha U.Ve. Swaminatha Iyer.

Author : Ki.Va.Jagannathan
Speaker : B. Nirmala

Date : 22.03.2003
Books : Flower and Fruit by N.D.. Sundara vadivelu and This is the way to Happiness by P.A.Akbar
Speaker : T.Nagaraj

Date : 29.03.2003
Book : Oorukku Nalathu Solven-Tamil
(I will tell something for the town)
Author : G.Radha
Speaker : S.Kavitha

Training and Development

A leadership Training Programme was conducted for leaders and potential leaders of the organisation at Sevalaya Campus in Kasuva Village. The theme was Communication. The four modules of the course were: Clarity of Thought, Clarity of Communication, Perfection in action, and Evaluation. The session was highly interactive, with group discussions, case studies, Role plays and Management Games. As the coverage was on day-to day situation in the workspot, the participants found the session useful.

There was a programme of Administrative Training for our Staff members dealing with administrative work, as also the field staff who have to do with administrative procedures, on 22.03 2003. Staff members from both the administrative office and the service centre participated in the programme. In his initial remarks Mr.Muralidharan stressed on the importance of adhering to procedures, without at the same time getting lost in the quagmire of beauractic red-tape. The Quality-Time-Cost triangle was explained. Following this there was a day long discussions on records to be maintained, the processes to be gone through and controls to be excersised. In the feedback, the participants,said that the session , first of will be very helpful to them in handling day to day administrative matters.



Siddha Medical Camp

Sports folio

Our children T.P.Silambarasan and Krishnamurthy have been selected for the Volleyball team of the Tiruvallur District Athletic Association.

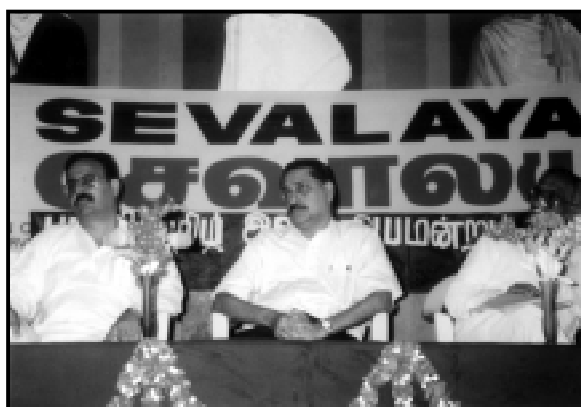
In the sports meet held between Tiruvallur and Ponneri Education Districts, G.Revathy of our Institution secured the III place in 400 Metre's race and has been selected for special coaching.

Special Coaching

Retired Headmaster, and author of the 8th Standard Mathematics textbook, Mr.V.Kannan stayed at our campus for three days from 19.03.2003 to 21.03.2003 and conducted special coaching in mathematics for our children taking public Examinations.

A Special Function

A function to distribute free notebooks, uniforms and medicines to the poor,orphan and destitute children of Sevalaya was organised by the Tiruvallur District Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Peravai in connection with the Birth day celebrations of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu at Sevalaya in Kasuva village. Shri.D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister of Law, and Shri.R. Kamaraj, M.P., participated in the function and distributed the items. The distinguished guests lauded the services rendered by Sevalaya to the underprivileged children and senior citizens and assured the support of the Government in all its endeavours. Shri.B.Ramana, District Secretary Dr.Puratchithalaivi Peravai proposed a vote of thanks.



Bharathi Tamil Ilakkiya Manram (Literary Forum)

INTREPID TRAVELLERS

Every year, at the Mahakavi Bharathiyar High School at our Sevalaya campus, we take students from senior classes on a tour to some place of interest within India. The itinerary invariably includes one major city, like Mumbai or Hyderabad or Bangalore, and some nearby tourist spots. Travel is great education. Our students gain so much knowledge about their country within those 10 days, which perhaps, a year of classroom lecturing would not achieve.

The three guiding lights of Sevalaya, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi, were all intrepid travellers who undertook extensive travels within our country. They saw the land, mixed with the people, observed their problems, and then went on to change the course of history.

Swami Vivekananda, soon after he took *sannyasa* at the age of 24, felt the urge to lead a wandering life, in the tradition of Indian monks. He travelled alone, visiting holy centers of pilgrimage, meeting great *Vedantic* scholars, seeking out solitary spots for *tapasya* in high mountains or on the banks of holy rivers, and, most importantly, meeting and getting to know the people of India. He led the life of a typical *parivrajaka* (wanderer), carrying just a wooden staff, a *kamandalam* (water pot) and a change of clothing, and living on alms. He travelled, mostly on foot, from the snowy Himalayas to the deserts of Rajasthan, and through Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka to Kerala. He reached Kanyakumari in December 1892, after three years of continuous travel. There, sitting on the "last bit of Indian rock", he contemplated on the condition his country. For three days and nights he meditated there on what he had seen of his land and the people. He came out of it with a vision for bringing about a regeneration of India. Swamiji lived the rest of his life for the realization of that vision. He travelled to the far shores of America and Europe carrying the message of *Vedanta*. The world woke up to the glory that was India. The

long suppressed soul of India began freeing itself under the inspiration of his message. The wandering monk had not wandered in vain.

Mahatma Gandhi started the first of his many travels over India under the advice of his 'political mentor' Gopalakrishna Gokhale. When Gandhiji returned to India in 1915 after spending 21 years in South Africa, Gokhale advised him to first spend a year travelling around the country, gaining knowledge and experience. Gandhiji took his mentor on his word, and visited the cities of Bombay, Poona, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Delhi. He met all the great Indian leaders of that era. At that time he was a staunch loyalist of the British Empire; and the travels to the cities brought no change in his outlook.

But in the following years his travels took him to rural India. There he saw the impoverishment that 200 years of colonial rule had brought to Indian villages. In Champaran District in rural Bihar he witnessed firsthand the exploitation of poor peasants by European plantation-owners. In south India he saw the once proud village weavers and other craftsmen degraded and reduced to dire poverty. " *The semi-starved masses of India are slowly sinking to lifelessness*", he lamented. The staunch loyalist turned into a non-co-operator. His travels had brought about the transformation.

Subramanya Bharathi also travelled all over India and beyond, but he did them differently. He went trekking on the slopes of Himalayas, trudging through the silvery snows. He went sailing on the Western seas, on trading ships that filled the sea. He built a bridge across the Palk Strait and drove down to Sri Lanka. Then he went across to Pakistan and enjoyed boat rides on the River Sindhu on moonlit nights.

At any rate, those were the travel plans that he dreamed of. He did not live to see those dreams fulfilled. But he sang of them in beautiful Tamil songs. The songs live on, and they are the treasures that Bharati's travels gave us.

For Free Circulation :

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