



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

**Love 7      Sevalaya's News Letter   -   April 2012      Serve 1      Price-Re.1**

## Dear Friends,

Anywhere you drive in Tamil Nadu, just out of completely nowhere, in the middle of paddy fields, you will see huge concrete buildings. I have seen some of them in the middle of a river, and in places where completely there is no human settlement. If you stop your vehicle and care to go close by to these buildings and see what they are, then you will notice some name boards, which will tell you that they are engineering colleges. Where do students come from for such colleges if there are no houses or towns or even villages nearby? Well if you take a closer look, you will see hundreds of buses lined up – this is not a bus terminus, but they are all college buses, bringing students from as far as even 100 KMs.

Well, the good news is that anyone who clears the grade 12 exam can get an engineering seat, even if you are a just pass case, if you have some money to spare. We even see nearly 10,000 seats go vacant in Tamil Nadu Engineering colleges, so the supply is more than the demand. Many other courses like pure sciences and arts have no takers and some of the arts and science colleges have closed down these departments. Everyone is happily becoming an engineer.

There has been talk about the huge resource pool India has and the trained human power can take over the world. We can supply to the world all technicians and engineers. But recent reports based on studies by some reputed agencies give a different picture. Many of our engineering graduates or post graduates are not employable.

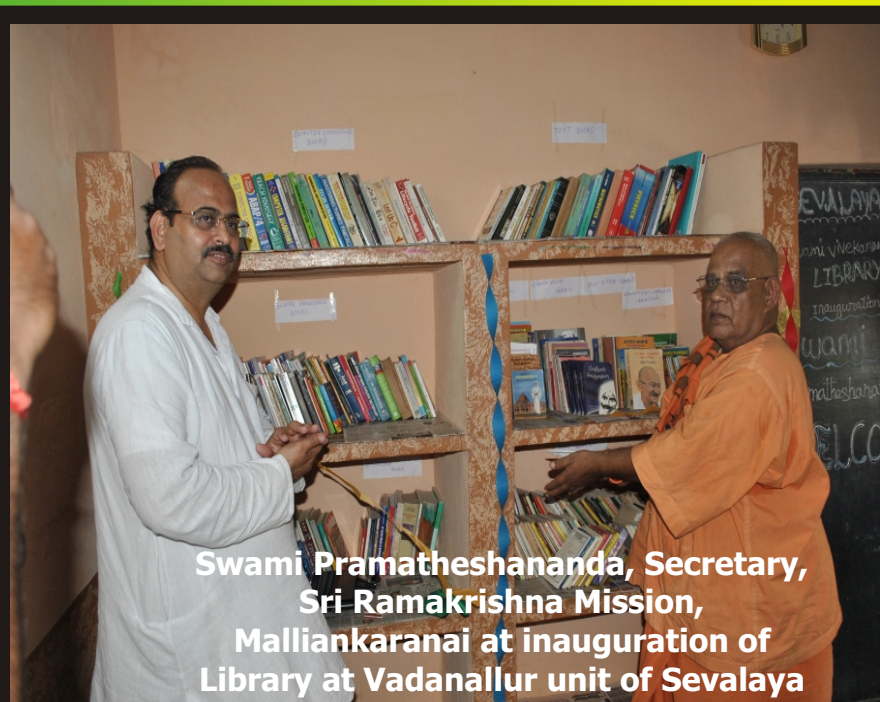
Due to the poor quality of facilities like labs and libraries and also poor quality of teachers etc., the students actually have not learnt enough in four or six years. The communication skills and soft skills are found wanting in many cases and infact only 25% of the huge human power produced are actually employable. (There is another report which says only 4% are employable, but even 25% is a bad enough number)

So what happens to the rest 75%? May be their parents were poor farmers and own small piece of land, but this "Engineer" will not go back to the village. Hence they settle for some small jobs in the city or stay unemployed and depend on their parents for existence. I have heard of families which have sold their land and cattle first to educate their children and then after four years they sell their jewels and other belongings to support their unemployed kith and kin who are staying in the city. We also see reports of some engineering graduates who are involved in chain snatching, bank robbery, kidnap etc. recently.

This is the result of converting education into business. If schools and colleges are run only with an aim of making money, we will only end up ruining the society. We have had great philanthropists, who gave away everything they had for the cause of education and such institutions are still functioning. They are of good quality as profit is not their motto; there is in fact no profit. We need more of such institutions today.

**Thanks & Regards**

**Murali**



**Swami Pramatheshananda, Secretary,  
Sri Ramakrishna Mission,  
Malliankaranai at inauguration of  
Library at Vadanallur unit of Sevalaya**



**Shri.K.Thangaraj, President, Sai Samaj  
during Sri Ramanavami celebrations**



## Public Relations

Mr.V.Muralidharan attended The FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of commerce and industry) annual advisory committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March, in Chennai and discussed corporate about social responsibility.

## Admin & Accounts

Budget for the year 2012-2013 was prepared by all units and they were discussed and approved in the management committee meeting held on 25/03/2012.

## Bharathi team

## Competitions

Sevalaya students participated in Electrofest organized by the Electronics Department of Hindu College on 02/03/2012. The school team won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Debate and Thangapandiyan of Std XI won the prize for best speaker.

## Events

A de-addiction camp for villagers was conducted by Alcoholics Anonymous on 02/03/2012.

Students of Junior Red Cross cleaned the area in and around Puliur hospital on 02/03/2012.

The Board exams for the XII std students commenced on 08/03/2012. The students were taken to Shiva Temple and Hanuman Temple at Pakkam on 03/03/2012 and a special Pooja was performed. X Std students were taken to temple on 26/03/2012.

## Functions

Forest officers of Poondi forest organized World Forest Day celebrations on 21/03/2012 at Sevalaya. Members of Junior Red Cross and Karuna club took out a rally reinforcing the importance of planting and nurturing trees and safeguarding the existing ones. School students presented a small mime on the same concept. The Forest department gave away prizes to students of Pasumai Padai clubs of Thiruvallur who had shown great concern and sincerity in all their projects and to a farmer from Kadambathur for planting a large number of trees in his farm. Sevalaya got the best campus award from Tamil Nadu forest department for growing many trees inside the school campus.



Organic Training in Progress



Junior Red Cross students of Immaculate school Avadi and Jain School Perambur at Sevalaya

Sri Ramanavami was celebrated at Sevalaya on 30/03/2012. Mr. K.Thangaraj, President, All India Sai Samaj was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

## School Clubs

In the English Club members played word games with the British Volunteers which helped to improve their vocabulary. Competitions on environmental issues were conducted by Karuna Club." Look all around and you can see maths everywhere" was the talk in this month's Maths club by Ms.S.Sumathi and Mr.R.Kannan while creative games were played in the science club that made learning elements and symbols fun.

## Staff Study Circle

Mr. V. Jeevanandan shared his views on the book "Teach your Children to think" (Tamil) by Mr. P.C.Ganesan. on 03/03/2012. On 10/03/2012, Mr. D. Pradap spoke on "Life – A Review" (Tamil) by Ms. S. Leela's book on Thrifty spending for prosperous living was Ms. J. Sarojini's choice for discussion on 17/03/2012. On 24/03/2012, S.Lakshmi spoke about the book "Some Ideas for Success" (Tamil) by Mr. P.C.Ganesan.

## Tours

Students of Std II, VI & VII were taken to Vandaloor Zoo and students of Balwadi and II Standard were taken to Thamarapakkam Shiva Temple. 20/03/2012

## Training

Two volunteers from Chinmaya Mission Tamarapakkam spoke to the students about the Science behind the different rites and rituals of Hindu culture.

Dr. S.Gunasekaran, Head of the Physics Department of Pachaiyappa College gave motivational lecture for Std XI and Std IX students on 10/03/2012 and Mr. Ananda Rajan of Pattabiram spoke to the students on life skills on the same day.

Primary school staff members attended the training conducted by CRC Government training on 03/03/2012 and 17/03/2012 on child development and storytelling as an aid to teaching.



Dr. S.Gunasekharan, HOD, Physics, Pachaiyappa College with students of Stds IX & XI



## Volunteers

Mr. Prem Babu of Tata Consultancy Services and his friends had initiated a month long book reading project for students from Std. VI to XI which culminated on 10/03/2012. Students gave brief speeches on the books they had read and winners were chosen. The winners were from std. VI and XI and the classes will be taken on a tour to Anna centenary library.

Ms. Beverly & Ms. Kym from project trust UK, are staying in the campus and taking classes in the primary section.

## Gandhi Team

### Events

Swami Vivekananda Library was inaugurated at Sevalaya Unit at Vadanallur village, Uthiramerur Taluk on 29/03/2012. Swami Pratheshananda, Secretary, Sri Ramakrishna Mission, Malliankaranai was the Chief Guest.

### Sevalaya's institute of sustainable Training and natural farming

A two days training programme on organic farming was conducted by Sevalaya's Institute of Sustainable and Natural Farming at Kasuva village on 13/03/2012 & 14/03/2012. 25 farmers from Chennai & Tiruvallur districts participated in it.

### Medical camps

On 18/03/2012, a medical awareness camp on anemia was conducted by Dr. Malavika Vinodkumar of Sundar Chemicals at Kasuva and Vathattur villages. 150 villagers participated in it. This is part of a six months project where regular blood tests will be done and medicines and nutrition given to improve the condition in the village women and children. In the process nearly 600 villagers will be benefited.

### Vivekananda Team

#### Events

On 03/03/2012, Mr. Dhinakaran, an alumnus of Sevalaya shared his experiences outside Sevalaya with the Home students.

Members of Arpanam an NGO celebrated Women's Day in a novel way by spending their time with the residents of Sevalaya on 05/03/2012.



**Alcoholics Anonymous at Sevalaya**

Mr. P. Saravanan & Mr. Jeevanandan conducted Children's parliament for hostel students on 10/03/2012.

On 23/03/2012, NSS students from IIT, Chennai visited Sevalaya interacted with residents of the old age home.

Members of the women's wing of jamaat-E-Islamic Hind, Central Chennai spent one day with the children and old age home residents on 24/03/2012. Special lunch was provided by them on that day and they discussed the tenets of the holy Quran.

### NSS Camps

On 03/03/2012, NSS students from Anna University conducted career guidance programme for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std students of Sevalaya Childrens' Homes.

### Visit to places of worship

On 02/03/2012 boys went to the Perumal kovil at Kaliyanur kandikai and on 03/03/2012 girls went to the Vinayagar Kovil at Kasuva Main Road. On 17/03/2012 boys went to the Vinayagar Kovil at Kasuva Village and girls went to the Perumal Kovil at Kaliyanur Kandigai.



**Jamaat E Islamic Hind ,Women's wing  
Sharing lunch with Sevalaya Chindren**



**World Forest Day celebrations at  
Sevalaya**



**Medical Awareness camp  
Conducted by Dr. Malavika**



## Swamiji-a role model for Seva workers

Reminiscences of Swami Vivekananda" published by Advaita Ashrama is a treasure house that gives us an intimate insight into the wisdom, genius, convictions and superb personal traits of Swamiji. Here, we will see two episodes from the recollections of Swami Sadashivananda. This Swami was working with Sevashrama which functioned on the inspiration of Swamiji's ideal of Seva. Most of the workers were sannyasis who had renounced their homes and had nothing to fall back upon. They lived on charity and this taxed their energies to the limit. The hectic work at Sevashrama also told upon their health. Many of them being ascetics would not take certain diets or sweets which were precluded and obviously they were undernourished. Swamiji was deeply distressed at this. In his abundant compassion, he called them all one day and asked them to eat properly and take nourishing diet. In order to serve others, it was necessary that bhody must be kept fit and strong. He said that the nature of the work and the constitution of the worker must be taken in to consideration in the selection of food. He stressed on the aim and purpose of Seva first and last. For the service of others, the body must be fit and healthy. Thus asceticism and Samskaras were of less importance to the true worker and the Karma yogi. He insisted that they took food along with him so that he could see their following his advice in letter and spirit.

In the Sevashrama, there was a young worker who was lean and thin. This youth had come from some interior part of Bengal and was stranded at Varanasi. He had joined Sevashrama as a worker out of necessity, but he was very weak and sickly. One day he went to see Swamiji. Swamiji inquired about him lovingly and asked to dine with him. "My lad, you are not very strong, and you have to work. You must eat well. You must come daily and dine with me. At least, you must take your noon-day meal here with me."

Due to exigencies of work, the boy could not come for lunch during fixed hours. Swamiji patiently waited for him despite his need and medical advice to take food on time because of his ill-health, particularly Diabetes. He scarcely paid heed to doctors' and brother-disciples to take food on time. Although he agreed to abide by the advice, because of his motherly love for the boy, he would totally forget the entreaties and his own health. Before dinner, he anxiously inquired about the boy and waited for him; he paced the floor with impatient steps and was looking towards the door expecting him to appear at any moment. He asked anyone who met him, "Has he come? Poor boy! Why is he late today? He is very weak and has not taken anything till now! So young and weak and so much to do!" When at last the boy came, his face was glowing with the happiness and contentment of a mother who meets her son after a long separation. Smilingly, he asked the boy, "Why my child! Why so late? I know you are very busy. But, did you take your breakfast this morning? See, I have not taken any meal because I was waiting for you. Come, my son! Wash your hands and feet; let us hurry to our dinner. It is already late and you know, my boy! I am not so well. If I do not take my food timely, it will aggravate my illness. So, try to come a little earlier. But what could you do, my child, pressure of work has kept you so late; I know it; I know it."

While eating he kept a constant watch on the boy and whatever he thought to be good or tasteful, was given to the boy from his own plate. Others noticed that the Swami was hardly eating anything, but with loving care watching the boy taking his meal. Then they entreated now and then, "Swamiji! Kindly take something yourself, you are not eating anything today." Sadashivananda concludes this episode by saying, "But who would listen to it? The Swami had forgotten himself; to him the boy was Gopala!"

### SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

| SPONSORSHIP                      | CHILDREN HOME    |               | OLD AGE HOME  |               |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
|                                  | Contribution(Rs) | Endowment(Rs) | Contribution(Rs)  | Endowment(Rs) |
| FOOD                             |                  |               |   |               |
| Milk(One Time)                   | 500              | 7000          | 200   | 3200          |
| Breakfast(one day)               | 1000             | 14000         | 500   | 7000          |
| Lunch/Dinner                     | 2000             | 28000         | 1000  | 14000         |
| Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit | 2500             | 35000         | 1250  | 20000         |
| Full day food Expenses           | 3500             | 50000         | 2000  | 28000         |
| Full day food Expenses           | 5000             | 70000         | 3000  | 42000         |
|                                  |                  |               |   |               |
|                                  |                  |               | Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year       | 6000 80000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Maintenance of One Cow/year   | 6000 80000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Education Expenses for one Child/year                               | 6000 80000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Salary for one staff per month                                      | 5000 850000   |
|                                  |                  |               | Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma                        | 5000 70000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma             | 1000 14000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Medical Expenses for one child                                      | 500 7000      |
|                                  |                  |               | Medical Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma                        | 5000 70000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Educational Aids Educational Kits                                   | 500 7000      |
|                                  |                  |               | Sports Expenses for one child per year                              | 500 7000      |
|                                  |                  |               | Camps and Tours, Temple Visit for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma | 1000 14000    |
|                                  |                  |               | Higher Education  | 20000 300000  |
|                                  |                  |               | Professional Higher Education                                       | 50000 700000  |
|                                  |                  |               | Workshop/Training/for one Staff                                     | 2000 28000    |



12th Std Students at the Temple



10th Std Students at the Temple

Published by : Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan and owned by / on behalf of Sevalaya and published from F2, Jains Eden Park, 4 Judge Jambulingam Road, Mylapore Chennai 600004  
And printed by: S.Kannappan @ Gem Offsets, No. - 24(Old no.20), Swami Achari St., Royapettah, Chennai -600 014.  
Editor: T.S.Venkataramani

Send your comments to: Sevalaya, 63/32, I Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai 600020 Tamil Nadu, India.  
Phone Nos : 9444620286, 9444333529, (044)64611488, (044)26344243, (044) 24419009  
E.mail : sevalayamurali@sevalaya.org, sevalayaprm@sevalaya.org Visit us at: www.sevalaya.org

### DONATION FORM

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ District : \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address : \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby enclose my donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your donation payable by cheque to **SEVALAYA** and send to:

**SEVALAYA,**  
63/32, I Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai 600020

(Donations to School, Children Home and Old Age Home qualify for 100% exemption under section 35 AC and Rest 50% under section 80G of Income Tax Act, India)