



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 4 Sevalaya's News Letter - February 2010 Serve 11 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

In India we often come across many small vendors in our railway stations and bus stands. They even get into the train or bus and travel with us for some distance selling whatever small things they have. Hot roasted peanuts are one fast moving item with such small vendors. We see many children, young ladies, old ladies and men sell such things and travel with us till the next station. They don't buy any tickets and just move from one train to the next and keep travelling back and forth between couple of stations all day. How much money they can make? Can they support their families? Can they have two square meals a day and educate their children? When you look at them running around from train to train, it looks like they are unaware of such requirements and they just want to beat the other vendor in reaching the customer. Ignorance is bliss.

I have wondered how far these vendors will travel. They keep travelling all day, but just go back and forth between two stations and hence the net distance travelled will be zero at the end of the day. Have they or their families ever seen what is outside their village or town? Will they get a chance and money to travel outside their villages?

Yes, one such person travelled right upto America recently! Was he selling peanuts no, he was selling software! How did this happen?

One lady, who was selling peanuts in Thiruninravur railway station, when she lost her husband, handed over her son to Sevalaya, many years ago. This child, Ilyaraja, stayed in our hostel, studied in our school and went for higher studies and then got a job in one of the leading software companies in India. As he showed lot of interest in giving back to his organization where he grew up, we made him one of the trustees and he manages the hostel where he stayed for many years.

Recently as part of his job requirement he had to travel

to USA. I am not sure how many kids from orphanages have come up to such levels and travelled outside their country. Even many middle class and upper middle class youth in India long for a chance to go abroad. We have our own doubts about students studying in Tamil medium village schools, if they will get the confidence to talk in English, manage travel even outside the state. We had the same doubts about Ilaya when he stepped out of the institution and went for his first job and also now when he had to go abroad. But he has done very well and even joined our last month's management committee meeting over Video conference.

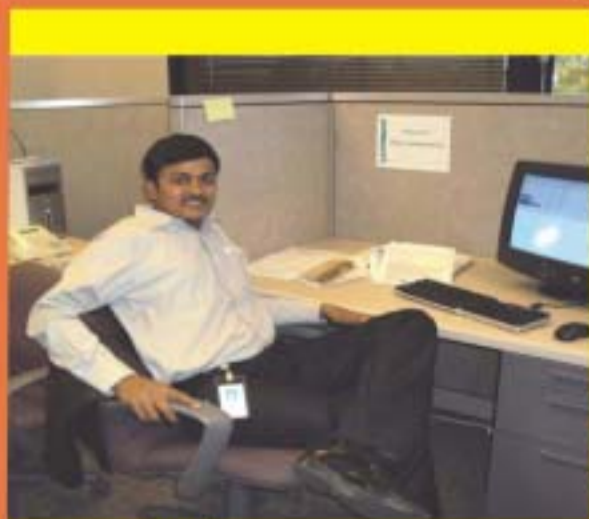
If he had not got the opportunity through Sevalaya, may be he would have been happily travelling between two rail stations, just going back and forth, everyday. Good education has taken him out of his small circle and has made him travel from continent to continent. Sevalaya and all its supporters can pat ourselves on our backs for changing lives.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Annual Day Celebrations of Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation



Ilyaraja



Farewell party for the outgoing XII std Students

Bharathiyar Team Events

Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary was celebrated as "Vivekananda Day" on 10/01/2010. The rank holders of the State Level open book examination on Swami Vivekananda conducted by Sevalaya in December 2009, received prizes and certificates at the function at the hands of the Chief guests Dr. N. A. Perrumal (Director, Vision for Wisdom, Aliyar) and Mr. K. Perumal (HOD, Dept. Of Physics, Vivekananda Vidyalaya College, Coimbatore & Joint Director-Vision for Wisdom-Aliyar). The Chief guests congratulated Sevalaya for its noble mission undertaken by it in various sectors for the uplift of underprivileged children and Youth.

Mr. V.S. Shanmugam (Thiruvallur Union Chairman) inaugurated the "Smokeless Bhogi Awareness Rally" organized by Sevalaya on 12/01/2010 to create awareness on the need to celebrate Smoke Free Bhogi in the interests of the future of our earth and the need to celebrate Mattu Pongal without the traditional Jallikattu. Many children from the schools in Thiruninravur area and the NSS volunteers from The New College Chennai participated in the rally carrying placards with slogans like "Let's create a smoke free world and live healthily" ..

Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamilnadu was celebrated in a traditional way on 14/01/2010. Newly harvested rice was cooked in earthen pots in the open space on a brick stove with milk and jaggery and offered to Sun God. Mr. N.R. Sambasivam, Proprietor, NRS Brick Chamber, Kasuva and Mr. R. Ramadoss, ex Panchayat Union leader, were the Chief Guests and blessed the students. NSS Students from The New College, Chennai also participated in the celebrations. Swami S. Sureshji from Art of Living conducted a Bhajan Programme for the children.

Sevalaya conducted a Volley Ball tournament on 15/01/2010, on the Mattu Pongal Day, as an alternative to the traditional Jallikattu. 30 teams from Kasuva and the surrounding 15 villages participated in the tournament. Dr. Ramu, Veterinary Doctor from Pandeswaram was the Chief Guest. He congratulated Sevalaya for providing a meaningful alternative to channelise the energy of the youth by arranging sports tournament instead of the traditional bull fight which is dangerous for both the youth and the bull.

Dr. K. R. Shyamsundar IPS, Director General of Prisons, Tamil Nadu was the chief guest at Sevalaya's annual sports day celebrations on 16/01/2010. He praised the services being rendered for the betterment of the rural community by the organization especially in the field of education and sports and gave away the prizes to the winners in the various sports events held this year. He also congratulated the physical education teachers for the laurels won by the students at the district level meets in various disciplines. Prizes were also awarded to the teams which won the inter village volley ball tournament held on 15/01/2010. The winners were the Hindu College Team from Pattabiram while the runners up were The Jai Friends from Velliyur village.

The 1050 students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School saluted as the national flag was hoisted by Mr. N. S. Nagalingam, Inspector Vengal Police Station on the occasion of the Republic Day function at Sevalaya on 26/01/2010. Students presented a cultural programme highlighting India's Unity in diversity and dances for Bharathiyar's patriotic songs.

Sevalaya's old students association along with The Indian Red Cross Thiruvallur, arranged a blood donation camp on the occasion. Nearly 100 old students, staff of Sevalaya, Trustees of Sevalaya and Villagers enthusiastically participated in the camp and donated blood.

A general medical camp was organized by Lions club of Excellence and Sevalaya on 26/01/2010. More than 10 doctors of different specialties and technicians examined the students and villagers and offered free medication.

Farewell party for the outgoing XII std was held on the same day. Old students shared the memories of their days at School and also their experiences on various career opportunities and higher education opportunities.

The Indian National Congress party of Thiruvallur arranged a lunch for the Children's home of Sevalaya on the occasion of its 125th anniversary and 61st Republic day. They also presented shawls to the inmates.

20 Students from Sevalaya participated in the Drawing competition, Dance competition and presented a Cultural Programme at Saarang 2010 - the Annual Cultural festival of IIT Madras on 25/01/2010. Our students won the I & II Prize at the Drawing Competition.



Sports

On 16/01/2010, Puliur Panchayat conducted Open Sports Competition. Students from Sevalaya romped home with 32 out of a total of 40 prizes.

Tour

On 06/01/2010, students of VII Std were taken on an educational tour at Poondi Dam.



Staff Book Review

On 09/01/2010, Mr. C. Adhimuthu spoke on "Vivekananda's Thoughts". On 23/01/2010, Ms. Bhuvaneswari spoke on Vivekananda's Education. Swami Vivekananda Patriotism was taken up for discussion by Ms. V. Magarika on 30/01/2010.



Bharathi, Gandhi Vivekananda Programme in Prison Puzhal Prison

On 02/01/2010 Mr. K.Shanmugam, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I and Ms. Dhivya to the residents of Puzhal III(Women) on Vivekananda Service. On 09/01/2010, Mr. M.Chelladurai addressed the residents of Puzhal I and Ms. V.Magarika addressed the residents of Puzhal III (Women), on Bharathi Fearlessness. Mr. S.Marimuthu and Ms.Shanthi spoke to the residents of Puzhal I & III respectively on Gandhi & Tamils, on 16/01/2010. Vivekananda Self confidence was the topic on which Mr. A.Mohamed Safi and Ms.Nadhiya spoke to the residents of Puzhal I & III On 23/01/2010. On 30/01/2010 Mr. K.Palani, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I and Ms. Bhuvaneshwari to the residents of Puzhal III(Women) on Bharathi Humanness.

Open Sports Competition -Puliyur Panchayat.



Republic day



General Medical Camp



Training Programme

On 23/01/2010 to 25/01/2010, 3 staff members from Sevalaya participated in the training programme "Balvikas" conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Samithi at Pondichery.

Vivekanandar Team

Visits to Places of Worship

On 01/01/2010 hostel boys and hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple. On 08/01/2010 hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple and Thiruninravur R.C.Church. On 16/01/2010, hostel boys went to Siva Temple at Thamaraiakkam and hostel girls went to Siva Temple at Pakkam. On 22/01/2010, hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple. On 29/01/2010 hostel boys went to Thiruninravur R.C.Church.

Thiruvattur Congress at Sevalaya



On 19/01/2010 Mr. V.Muralidharan made a presentation on Sevalaya to CSO Partners in Chennai.

On 20/01/2010 Mr. V.Muralidharan, Mr. P.Selvam and Mr. A.Raj went on a visit to the wasteland development Project Point Return and met its founder Mr.D.V.Sridharan at Jamin Endathur near Maduranthakam. Sevalaya children will get training in organic farming in this village from May 2010. Later the Sevalaya team visited the organic farm Solitude, in Auroville.

NSS Activities

The NSS students of The New College, Chennai camped at Sevalaya for 6 days (08/01/2010 to 13/01/2010). The 150 NSS volunteers offered their services at cleaning, organizing awareness programmes etc. in Sevalaya and the surrounding villages.

On 19/01/2010, The NSS wing of Sevalaya undertook the cleaning of the Pakkam Siva Temple and Anjaneya Temple.

Mr. V.Muralidharan was one of the guest speakers at 10th Annual Day Celebrations of Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation on 29/01/2010 at Hotel Taj Coaramandel. Central minister Mr.Dayanidhi Maran was the chief guest.

Sevalaya children sang Gandhi Bajans at Marina Gandhi statue on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on 30/01/2010. The program was organized by Government of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the "Bharathiyar Evening" organized by Ms. Niveditha Ratnam on 31/01/2010. He spoke on select poems of Bharathiyar. While the songs were sung by Mr. Vedanth, Sevalaya children danced to Bharathi's "Pungal Viduthalai Kummi".

General Medical Camp



Blood donation camp



Gandhi Team

On 15/01/2010 Sevalaya conducted the Rangoli Competition in the villages nearby and awarded prizes to best rangolis in each village.

A two day general medical camp at Sevalaya was conducted by Deepsika Women's Association, HVF-Avadi on 22/01/2010 & 23/01/2010. Nearly 300 students were benefited by this camp.

On 29/01/2010, Sevalaya's cultural troupe "Kottu Murasu" presented a programme on Self Confidence through Dramas & Songs at Kaka kandigai Village.

Gandhiji's fasts

IV-Fasting as a penance for the moral lapses of his wards

The first ever Satyagraha fast has not been directly recorded. It must have been some time in 1908. We learn about it from a letter written by Gandhiji on May15, 1945 to Lord Samuel. Gandhiji wrote: "All I can tell you is that fasting is an integral part of Satyagraha. It is the Satyagrahi's ultimate weapon... You may not know that Satyagraha prisoners fasted in South Africa for removal of their wrongs..."

The first ever recorded fast of Gandhiji was in the year 1913 in the Phoenix Ashram in South Africa. It was a penitential fast for the moral lapse of two of the inmates. Two students were guilty of misbehavior with a twenty year old girl. Gandhiji felt that the only way the guilty parties could be made to realize his distress and the depth of their own fall was for him to do some penance. So he undertook a fast for seven days and took a vow to have only one meal a day for a period of four months and a half. The girl in question fasted with Gandhiji, removed her ornaments, put on the garb of mourning and had her hair cropped short as a sign of guilt and remorse. A similar incident in which his son was involved, in 1914, compelled Gandhiji to go on a fast for 14 days.

The penance pained every body. But it cleared the atmosphere. Every one came to realize what a terrible thing it was to be sinful. The bond that bound him to the boys and girls became stronger and truer.

About this fast, Gandhiji writes in his autobiography:-

.. The news of an apparent failure or reverse in the Satyagraha struggle would not have shocked me, but this news came upon me as a thunderbolt..... I felt greatly relieved (after I took the decision). The decision meant a heavy load off my mind. The

anger against the guilty parties subsided, and gave place to purest pity of them...

As for his experience during first two fasts, Gandhiji says that the first fast did not prove difficult to him, and he did not suspend or stop any of his normal activities. The latter part of the second fast was fairly hard, as, according to him, for, then he had not fully understood the efficacy of Ramanama and to that extent his capacity for enduring suffering was less.

The question arises, whether it is the duty of the teacher to fast whenever there is a delinquency on the part of his pupils... Gandhiji says that it is not his purpose to say that, but, he continues, "Some occasions do call for this drastic remedy. But it presupposes clearness of vision and spiritual fitness. Where there is no true love between the teacher and the pupil, where the pupil's delinquency has not touched the very being of the teacher and where the pupil has no respect for the teacher, fasting is out of place and may even be harmful. Though there is thus room for doubting the propriety of fasts in such cases, there is no question about the teacher's responsibility for the errors of his pupil.

Axioms: - For a Satyagraha fast as a penance,

1. There should be clearness of vision and spiritual fitness.
2. There should be true love between the penitent, and for whose fault he fasts.
3. The penitent should be really touched by remorse for the misdeed of the person for whom he fasts.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

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



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