



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Sevalaya's News Letter

JUNE - 2003

Dear Friends,

Sevalaya steps into yet another academic year. As our major work is education, this is also considered as a sort of New Year for Sevalaya. Except financial matters, for which year begins on April 1st in India, for all other matters June 1st is the year beginning in Sevalaya.

We are stepping into this New Year, with lot of systematic planning. The planning process started three months ago. We requested all the trustees, staff, volunteers and children to come up with their vision of the Annual plan. We also came up with ten top issues for the year and came with a questionnaire for our donors. (Questionnaire designed by Lakshmi Murali of TCS). This was sent to most of our donors either by e-mail or by post. This year we received responses from nearly 100 donors. (Compared to 30 last year). These responses were studied in detail, compiled and inputs from Sevalaya's experience were also added. Decisions were taken on these ten issues and the respondents were informed. It was also published in our website.

Taking the inputs from all these (nearly 500 pages of document), a detailed annual plan for the period June 1st, 2003 to May 31st 2004 has been drawn. Sevalaya activities have been grouped under five units, 1) Hostel & Medical centre, 2) School & Library 3) Goshala, Old age home, Craft & Agriculture 4) Administration office and 5) Marketing office. For each unit, unit head, team and trustee in-charge were identified. The goals and

activities for each unit were consolidated from all the inputs received for the annual plan.

The annual plan document was distributed to all staff and volunteers on the first day of our annual training. The plan was discussed in detail and each unit was asked to further divide the goals and activities at individual level. At the end of the first day training, each staff and volunteer had drawn up their own goals and activities for the year, in total alignment with the organization's annual goals.

During the training, the vision, mission and core values of the organization were explained to all participants and the alignment of the annual plan with the long term goals were also discussed.

As a result of this exercise, all in the Sevalaya family (including the cook and the driver) have self development, unit development and organization development goals. In addition to this, the unit heads and the trustees have people development goals. All have agreed to review the progress against goals on a monthly basis, in a totally open manner - the progress made by one is known to all in the family. In addition to this, there will be quarterly review meetings, where all will meet together and re-look at the progress and the goals themselves.

With the support from all of you, I am sure that we will be going beyond the goals defined and we will accomplish more than planned for the year.

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Study Circle Meetings

Date : 3.5.2003
Speaker : T.R.Sarathy
Book : Ennangal (Tamil)
Power of Thoughts
Author : Dr.M.S.Udhayamurthy

Date : 10.5.2003
Speaker : Latha
Book : Ini oru Vidhi Seivom (Tamil)
We will evolve a code
Author : N.C.Sridharan

Date : 17.5.2003
Speaker : G.Madhavan
Book : Life and Teachings of
Swami Vivekananda

Sportsfolio

In the sports event conducted by Sevalaya for orphanages in the last week of April, 2003, R.Anitha of VIII Std, and G.Asha of IX Std. Of our Home, have romped home bagging Junior and Senior Championship respectively.

Health-care

Baskar Dental Foundation of Chennai conducted a dental Camp for our children and villagers on 28th May,2003. They have agreed to take charge of the process of Dental Education and care of our children.

With Dr.Suseela Samba murthy in charge of the paediatric care, and,Dr.Sharma , Dr.Kumaran and their colleagues attending to the senior citizens, Puliur Primary Health Centre always ready to come to our help in times of need and at regular interval, and with the free services tie up with Sundaram Medical Foundation, we have almost an integrated net work of medical attention. Keeping with the Gandhian Tradition, and true to the name of our Mahatma Gandhi Health Centre, We are planning to introduce regular Siddha system of meidcical care, with the help of service minded Institutions like Sathya Sai Group at Annanagar, Chennai.

Our hands of help to others....

Yuva Shakthi, (meaning Youth Power) is a Chennai based service organisation with the aim of building a better India with better youth. Our readers must be familiar with this organisation as some of our earlier reports have covered their activities. On 11th May, our Managing Trustee, V.Muralidharan addressed

their members on the topic: Evolution of an organisation. In his address, besides tracing the origin and growth of Sevalaya, he gave useful tips for crystallising, a Mission for an organisation, how to draw up objectives in keeping with the mission, evolving plans for implementation, monitoring activities and review. The feedback from the organisers was that it was a very fruitful meeting.

On the same day in the afternoon Muralidharan was with Mentors, a voluntary group supporting the higher Education of meritorious students from the under privileged sections of society. He drew up for the gathering of students an entire picture of the software Industry, including the international scene relating to job opportunities. He offered them guidance in the matter of pursuing studies with a career in Computer Industries in mind.

Human Resources Development

T.R.Sarathy, S.Saravanan and P.Selvam group leaders in Sevalaya units were deputed for a half-day training session on " The road to success "conducted on 4.5.2003 by Mr. Mervin, a well-known author of Self Improvement books, and a trainer.

Annual Training Programme for our Staff members.

A nine-day programme of training for our staff members and volunteers was inaugurated on 24th May 2003.

On the first day, Muralidharan, Managing Trustee, explained the Vision, Mission and the basic philosophy of Sevalaya. The Annual Plan for 2003-2004 prepared after elaborate consideration, with participation from donors, staff, volunteers and inmates was discussed at length.

On the Second day, R.Kannan, Trustee, Sevalaya, spoke on the subject of "Time Management". The next session on the same day was by T.S.Venkataramani ,on evaluation. In this context, it would be significant to note the following. The annual plan has been prepared on the basis of goals for each unit. Members of each unit conferred and fixed their own role of their unit goals, as also their distinctive contribution for the excellence of the organisation. All in the organisation including the volunteers and the trustees, not excluding the managing trustee, have set goals for

themselves . The performance of every one will be self evaluated on the basis of targets set by themselves for the unit goal, organisation goal as also for self improvement and development of people working with them.

During the session, there were lectures on Gandhi, Bharathi and Vivekananda as mentors of Sevalaya, respectively by Chittibabu, Selvam and Saravanan, our unit leaders. Bhuvana covered the topic of Team Building and T.S.Venkataramani, of Motivation. There was a lively lecture on Honesty by G. Rammohan. Mohana Chandrasekaran and K.Mohan respectively spoke on Clean Campus and Green Campus. As a practical exercise on the subject of Green Campus 60 saplings were planted on the day of the topic. Not very long in the future we have the prospects of walking in the cool shades of avenue trees as in the Theosophical Society compound, or Besant Avenue of Chennai. While T.R.Sarathy spoke on Customer Care, Annamalai has chosen the theme of No Wastage. On the last day of the session, Muralidharan was expatiate on the themes of Building up the image of the organisation, and Self reliance.

Afternoon sessions each day was devoted to Group exercises. The first half of the session was organised in group games, exercises, role-plays, and syndicate discussions etc., related to the topic of the day. The next half was the time for preparing the schedule of activities for the entire year, for the organisation as a whole including the administrative and public relations units, school, Goshala, old age home, children's Home, craft centre and the medical centre.

The entire team is well motivated and is gearing up for a hectic schedule of fruitful activities for the year June2003-May 2004.

Know our New Trustee.

We are happy to inform you that Mr. E.L.Narayanan, a financial consultant, has been inducted as a trustee of Sevalaya. A dynamic personality, he has earlier been actively associated with the activities of Sevalaya. He has set for himself the task to work towards the self-reliance oriented activities of Sevalaya.



Congratulations ! 100 % pass in 10th Std.



R. Vinodhkumar
455/500



A. Sathish
434/500



C. Kuppuswamy
433/500



R. Nandakumar
415/500



M. Rajesh
413/500

R.VINOTH KUMAR	88	77	99	98	93	455
A.SATHISH	82	73	88	96	95	434
R.KUPPUSWAMY	87	74	87	90	95	433
R.NANDA KUMAR	86	77	90	79	83	415
M.RAJESH	78	71	96	84	84	413
V.NITHYAKALAYANI	86	75	78	75	81	395
S.SADHU	83	65	75	86	82	391
G.MARIMUTHU	81	63	77	73	82	376
A.VENKATESAN	83	68	59	85	80	375
M.RAJI	78	63	82	72	78	373
A.MANIKANDAN	74	63	76	72	74	359
R.ARUL KUMAR	78	63	49	79	81	350
P.VARALAKSHMI	78	66	61	67	73	345
A.MUNUSWAMY	76	62	59	73	74	344
V.VINAYAGAMOORTHY	59	65	74	70	71	339
R.MOORTHY	63	47	80	66	71	327
T.THIYAGU	65	58	64	73	50	310
R.SUKUMAR	67	54	49	66	72	308
K.HEMA	56	58	58	55	71	298
G.VATCHALA	62	57	52	50	77	298
S.TAMIZHARASAN	63	51	52	69	60	295
M.BHASKAR	47	51	67	54	70	289
M.MADHURAI	54	45	50	35	75	259

MUSIC IN THEIR SOULS

The students at our Mahakavi Bharatiyar High School are taught music in many forms. We have local volunteers who hold regular classes for them in classical Carnatic music. We have *bhajan* groups from Chennai making periodic visits to our campus to teach them the *bhajan* form of group singing. We have one of our own teachers teaching them the traditional folk music and folk songs of Tamil Nadu. And so on it goes. The idea is to get music into their souls, in the way our three guiding lights, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati, would have liked.

All the three of our leading lights were great lovers of music and believed in the role of music in nurturing young minds. Swami Vivekananda himself grew up in a household that was always alive with the sound of music. His father Viswanath loved music and was a good singer himself. Noticing early on the natural talent of his son Naren (who later became Swami Vivekananda), Viswanath started teaching him songs and making him sing with him. He arranged for proper training in music for young Naren in a traditional manner. Naren got trained in classical vocal and instrumental music under reputed masters. Though he learnt to play with mastery a whole array of musical instruments such as the *sitar*, *tabla*, *esraj* and *pakhwaj*, vocal music was Naren's forte.

Swami Vivekananda's guru Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was a great lover of his disciple's singing. Whenever Swamiji sang before him, the Master would go into a trance. To Swamiji himself, his singing became an instrument for adoration of the divine. He not only sang beautifully but was also an "authentic theoretician of music". He worked on compiling a treatise on Indian classical music in Bengali language, which was later edited, completed and published under the title *Sangita Kalpataru*.

To Mahatma Gandhi music was an activity not just of the throat or the fingers but "of the mind, of the senses and of the heart". He viewed music as being so important to young minds that he said, "Without music the entire education system seems to me to be incomplete". His own musical abilities were confined to his being able to hum a few tunes of his favorite hymns to himself. But he loved to immerse himself in divine music. He unflinchingly built up talented *bhajan* groups in his ashrams; and the renderings of the prayers from his *ashram bhajanaivali* by those groups were famous for their sweet melody. They would, for example render the Bhagavat Gita in such melodious tune that the very divinity of the text would appear to manifest itself in the music. "That alone is music which uplifts the soul," said Gandhiji.

To Mahakavi Bharati music was his being. The songs he wrote and sang can be ranked among the greatest products of the human mind produced in the twentieth century. His lyrics showed his mastery over the Tamil language. The haunting melody of his tunes was expression of the depth of his sentiments. He sang songs on every dream, every desire, every sentiment, for every group, for every occasion..... It was versatility unlimited.

He dreamed of India becoming free and sang:

Let us dance and let us sing

*Our Pallu song, now we have gained
Joyous freedom, joyous freedom!*

He wanted to spread a message of love borne of India's ancient wisdom:

Beat, O drum, proclaim in all

*The eight directions victory!
Sound, drum, the message of unity
Proclaim, "Flourish in love". Proclaim*

Welfare to all mankind!

That was the music from his soul.

For Free Circulation :

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