



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 4 **Sevalaya's News Letter - June 2009** Serve 2 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Nearly 13 years ago a lady came to our campus. She brought with her three small kids. Her first daughter was five years old, the second daughter 4 years and the third daughter 3 years old. The woman was very poor and she told us that she had lost her husband recently. She had been left alone after her husband's death and she didn't know how to support the three very young daughters. Even if she has to take up some small job, who will take care of her kids? Where to leave them when she is away? She had no money to pay to any school to get them educated. Someone in her village told her about Sevalaya and she came to us, and told us "you are my only hope".

In Tamil there is a saying that even a king will become a pauper if he has five daughters. But in this case there are only three daughters, but the lady is already a pauper. We got the details from her, and asked her to come the following day. Meanwhile we sent one of our staff to her village to cross-check the details. We came to know that whatever that lady was stating were true. Then we assured the lady that we will take care of her daughters and admitted all three of them in our hostel and school. They all started from class zero and year by year, moved on to the next grades.

Sevalaya hostel has more number of girls, Sevalaya's school also has more girls. The old age home also has more grand mas, of course the goshala is full of cows! This is because of the reputation we have over the years that Sevalaya is a safe place for girls. Many girl children who had dropped out of school as the parents in the villages thought that school is not a safe place for grown up girls, started sending

girls again to school, after a break of two to three years, when Sevalaya's school started functioning. In fact that is one of the reasons why we have more girls in our school.

The first of the three daughters who joined our hostel and school 13 years ago, is Chitra, who has done us proud today by coming first in the school in this year's 12th grade exam. She has scored 1100 marks out of 1200 marks, a record for our school. In fact in 10th grade, she came first in all the schools put together in Thiruninravur area. Her sisters are also doing well in their respective classes.

What next? She wants to become a doctor. All the Gandhian ideas she learnt in our school have made a lasting impact in her mind – so she wants to be an "Indian medicine doctor". She is keen to join the Siddha medicine course. We are in the process of finding out how to get admission and what it will cost. In four years time, Sevalaya hopes to produce its first doctor! I am sure we will have many more to come.

This year we have got 14 kids scoring above 1000 marks out of 1200 - Many among them are girl children - and we hope to get admissions in good universities for them and also find ways and means to get the money required for it.

A lady doctor coming out of a poor widow's family, who was not even sure of two square meals a day – This is a transformation we can be really proud of!

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Toppers in Higher Secondary Level



K.Chitra
1100/1200
Redhills



S.Ashok
1098/1200
Sivanvoil



N.Sarathkumar
1075/1200
Komakkamedu

Students who have scored above 1000 in Higher Secondary Level



M.Kalaivani
1069/1200
Puliyur



S.Parvathy
1050/1200
Aayalur



S.Manokaran
1040/1200
Kasuva



T.Newton
1039/1200
Thiruninravur



S.Suresh
1021/1200
Ambattur



V.Dhanalakshmi
1016/1200
Alatthur



P.Amul
1014/1200
Seiyaaru



S.Suganya
1014/1200
Kilampakkam



P.Durga
1014/1200
Kasuva



M.Vanitha
1004/1200
Thamaraippakkam



S.Karan
1005/1200
Thiruvanmiyur



E.Jayapriya
1003/1200
Ramanathapuram

Toppers in SSLC Level



K. Sangeetha
459/500
Ramanathapuram



U. Ganapathy Ram
455/500
Nanganallur



M. Kanaga
451/500
Komakkamedu

Students who have scored above 400 in SSLC Level



S. Bhavani
443/500
BandiKavanoor



S. Velu
432/500
Melappedu



P. Ajai
430/500
Pakkam



R. Vignesh
428/500
Avadi



M. Premkumar
422/500
Melappedu



R. Priyanka
419/500
BondiKavanoor



L. Kandaswami
419/500
Korukkuppettai



G. Revathi
418/500
Komakkamedu



H. Sathish
409/500
Karalapakkam



R. Padmavathi
407/500
Ramanathapuram



K. Neela
406/500
Redhills

Non violent parenting

Anecdotes from great lives imparting basic values like Truth, Non violence ,etc appearing in our columns are well received. Reader Meera Neelakantan from Canberra has sent a piece on non violent parenting based on the experience of Arun (Mahatma) Gandhi, son of Manilal Gandhi, and grand son of Mahatma Gandhi. We reproduce the same, and are sure that it will be of interest to our readers.

Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and founder of the M.K.Gandhi Institute for Non-violence, in his June 9 lecture at the University of Puerto Rico, shared the following story as an example of "non-violence in parenting":

"I was 16 years old and living with my parents at the institute my grandfather had founded 18 miles outside of Durban, South Africa, in the middle of the sugar plantations. We were deep in the country and had no neighbors, so my two sisters and I would always look forward to going to town to visit friends or go to the movies. One day, my father asked me to drive him to town for an all-day conference, and I jumped at the chance.

Since I was going to town, my mother gave me a list of groceries she needed and, since I had all day in town, my father ask me to take care of several pending chores, such as getting the car serviced. When I dropped my father off that morning, he said, 'I will meet you here at 5:00 p.m., and we will go home together.' After hurriedly completing my chores, I went straight to the nearest movie theatre. I got

so engrossed in a John Wayne double-feature that I forgot the time. It was 5:30 before I remembered. By the time I ran to the garage and got the car and hurried to where my father was waiting for me, it was almost 6:00. He anxiously asked me, 'Why were you late?'

I was so ashamed of telling him I was watching a John Wayne western movie that I said, 'The car wasn't ready, so I had to wait,' not realizing that he had already called the garage. When he caught me in the lie, he said: 'There's something wrong in the way I brought you up that didn't give you the confidence to tell me the truth. In order to figure out where I went wrong with you, I'm going to walk home 18 miles and think about it.'

So, dressed in his suit and dress shoes, he began to walk home in the dark on mostly unpaved, unlit roads.

I couldn't leave him, so for five-and-a-half hours I drove behind him, watching my father go through this agony for a stupid lie that I uttered. I decided then and there that I was never going to lie again. I often think about that episode and wonder, if he had punished me the way we punish our children, whether I would have learned a lesson at all. I don't think so. I would have suffered the punishment and gone on doing the same thing. But this single non-violent action was so powerful that it is still as if it happened yesterday. That is the power of non-violence."

Published by: [Bhuvanewari Muralidharan](#) and owned by / on behalf of [Sevalaya](#) and published from [F2, Jains Eden Park, 4 - Judge Jambulingam Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004](#) and printed by: [S.Kannappan @ Gem Offsets, 24 \(Old no.-20\), Swami Achari St., Royapettah, Chennai - 600 014.](#)
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