



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 5

Sevalaya's News Letter - JUNE 2010

Serve 3

Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Nearly 20 years ago, when the Sevalaya School just started functioning, we went from hut to hut to tell the villagers that they should send their children to school. We tried to explain how important it is to educate children and that Education is the only solution for their poverty. They argued with us and first point was that they had no money to pay for education. We told them we will run a 100% free school no fees, free uniforms, free books, free note books etc., and tried to motivate them to send their children to school. They again hesitated and said that they will lose the wages that the children will earn as "coolies". It is a waste of time going to school as we will not pay them anything! This also we explained by telling them that they can consider it as a small investment for a better future for their kids. Finally they agreed to send the boys to the school. Girls? - A clear NO. In some villages girls can't cross the "house boundary". In some other villages they can't cross the "village boundary". So if there is a school within the village boundary, which is anyway very small, they have no problem in sending the girls. We met many such girls who completed grade 5 and discontinued studies as the school with grade 6 was outside their village boundary.

We decided to speak to the mothers and convince them to send the girl children to school, even if it is outside their village boundary. We asked them to think about their sufferings in their life and did they want their daughters also to suffer like that? Did they not want a better life for their daughters? Education can only change the situation and here is one organization offering free education. So

what is the issue? After three or four rounds of talks, finally some women agreed and they said that they will explain to their husbands. Thus the dead lock was broken and slowly the girls started arriving at our school. In the next years, the momentum started picking up. As there were many girls who discontinued studies for couple of years, started rejoining, suddenly the school had 65% girls and 35% boys! Year after year, we started clearing the "back log" and now boys and girls are almost equal.

Today look at what is happening! Every year girls are getting more marks in both 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year is a record as Jothilakshmi, daughter of a small time private firm worker, got 481 out of 500 just 14 marks behind the state topper, and many other girls scored well above 450 out of 500. In the 12<sup>th</sup> grade also we had Praveena, daughter of a house maid came first scoring 1028 out of 1200. She will be joining an Engineering college soon.

When we spoke to the toppers and asked them what they want to do in future, they all want to go for higher studies, and then for high flying jobs, join big firms and travel all over the world!

Where are the "boundaries" now?

Thanks & Regards  
Murali



D.Praveena

G.Jothilakshmi



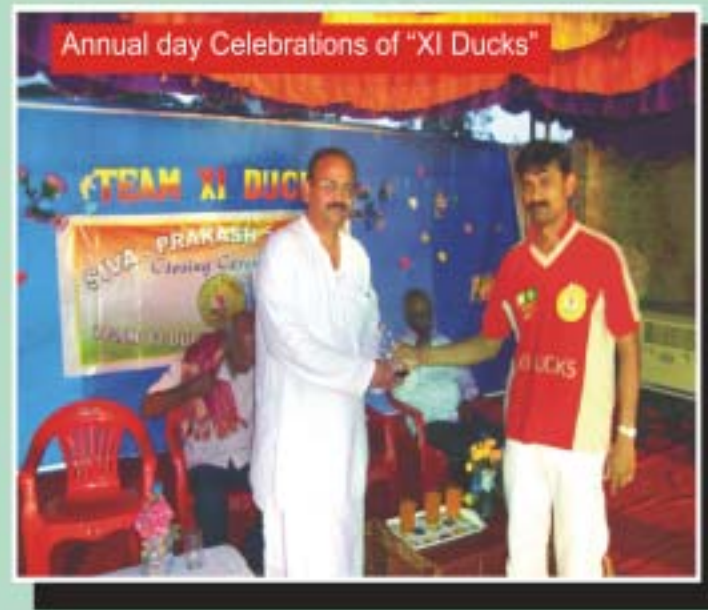
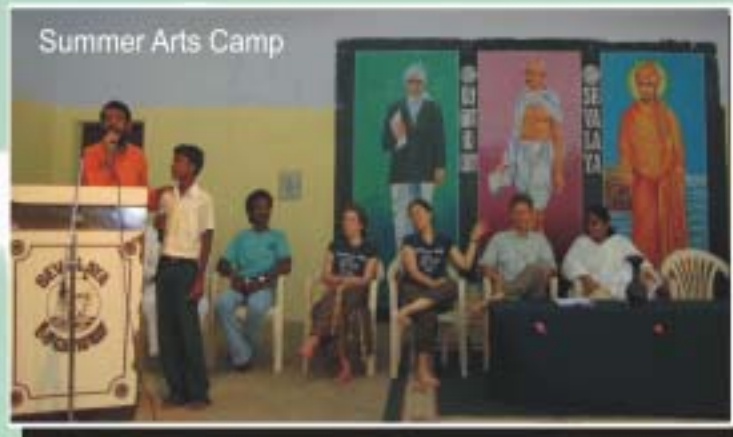
Events

60 Students from Disha, an initiative of Ma Foi Foundation, camped at Sevalaya for 4 days from 06/05/2010 to 09/05/2010.

Members of Sri Ramcharan Trust who have successfully trained and is assisting teachers in Chennai Schools to implement Montessori Education in Tamil Medium, visited Sevalaya on 06/05/2010. Sri Ramcharan Trust has agreed to train Sevalaya teachers and Montessori system in Tamil will be introduced in Sevalaya from the academic year beginning in June 2010.

A 7 day Summer Arts Camp "An Introduction to Arts" was organised by The Children's Art Village, California-USA and Aadi Arts Academy at Sevalaya. The camp was inaugurated on 24/05/2010 by Mr. Vasanth, Film Director. The week long camp introduced students to different forms of arts and helped to develop an interest in them. Students were taught music, dance, sculpting, photography, painting, drawing etc., by a faculty comprising of 6 artists from USA and 10 local artists. 200 students from rural economically weaker sections participated in the camp. The valedictory function was held on 29/05/2010. Mr.N.Kalyanasundaram (District Educational officer, Thiruvallur) was the Chief Guest. The children presented a programme of songs and dance they learned in the camp during the week. There was an exhibition displaying the various works of art - paintings, sculpture, photographs produced by the students.

Special lectures for the visiting Artists from USA was organised with a view to giving them an insight in to the inspirers of Sevalaya namely Swami Vivekananda, Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Mahatma Gandhi and the Heritage of Tamilnadu. On 24/05/2010, Mr.T.Shankar Ram (yuva Sakthi, Youth Motivation Group) gave a Lecture on swami Vivekananda. On 25/05/2010, Mr.G.Ram Mohan (Retired Indian Railway Safety Commissioner) spoke on Mahatma Gandhi. Dr.Va.Ve.Subramaniam, (Retired Principal of Vivekananda College) spoke on Bharathi on 26/05/2010, and on 27/05/2010, Prof.Swaminathan, (Retired Professor, IIT, New Delhi) lectured on Temple heritage of Tamilnadu.





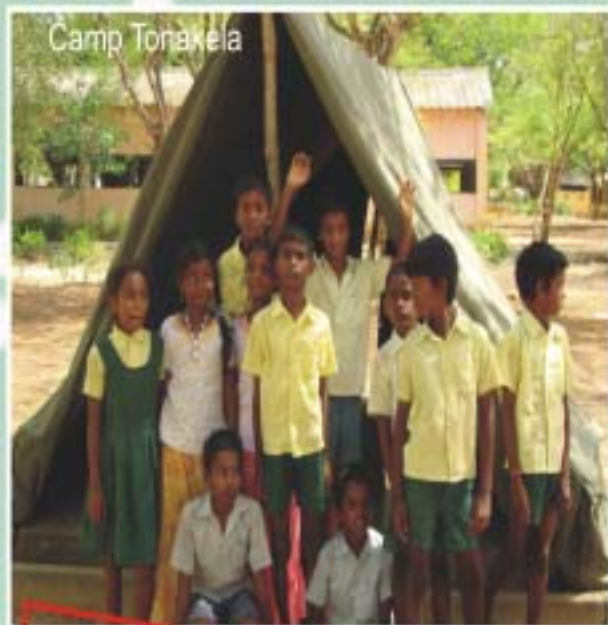
## Vivekanandar Team

The Annual 3 day camp at Camp Tonakela was held from 24/05/2010 to 26/05/2010. 30 students and 2 staff members participated in this camp. On the last day of camp Mr.Rathanji of Venkateswara Jewellers, Avadi distributed prizes to students who won various competitions like Drawing, Singing and Dramas conducted in the camp.

Mr. V.Muralidharan was the Chief Guest at the Annual day Celebrations of "XI Ducks" a cricket team at Thiruninravur on 02/05/2010. He distributed prizes to the winners of the Cricket Tournament organised by the team.

On 16/05/2010, Ms. Kodhai, grand daughter of Azha. Valliappa, a well known children's poet, visited Sevalaya and presented books.

On 17/05/2010, members from Lions club of Madhavaram visited Sevalaya and presented buckets and note books. On the same day 70 staff members from Nokia visited Sevalaya and conducted games for the children.



## XII Results

Sevalaya gets 90% pass in 12<sup>th</sup> grade exams.

D.Praveena	I	1028/1200
S.Revathy	II	1025/1200
S.Kanimozhi	III	969/1200

## XII Result -2010



## X Results

Sevalaya does it again - 100% pass in 10th grade exams. The students are first generation learners. Sevalaya has proved once again that every child has a right to education and given a chance a child from the lowest strata of society can scale great heights.

G.Jothilakshmi	I	481
I.Narmadha	II	474
M.Priyadharshini	III	470

## X Result -2010



32 out of 74 students who took the exam got above 400 out of 500 marks.

## In the media...

On 27/05/2010, Mr.G.Chitti Babu (Headmaster) & G.Jyothilakshmi(Topper in X Std Exams in our school) participated in Vijay TV's\_Neeyaa? Naanaa? Show, on Quality of Education.





# Gandhiji's Fasts VIII

## Chauri Chaura

In 1922, British Government let loose a reign of terror in the country. All the leaders were arrested. Freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of association were in peril. There was draconian administrative control on the Press. The three freedoms, in the view of Gandhiji and the Congress were fundamentally more important than the issues of Punjab, Khilafat and Swaraj on which the Congress were then focusing. In such circumstances, civil disobedience became a sacred duty. But Gandhiji's conviction was that it should be guarded by all conceivable restrictions. Every possible provision should be made against an outbreak of violence or general lawlessness. In the then unprepared state of the country, it was decided to confine the agitation to one little pocket. People of Bardoli taluk in Surat District of Bombay Presidency volunteered to launch the struggle in their area. They were fully motivated and had fully understood the spirit of Satyagraha and the importance of truth and non violence. This was approved by Gandhiji and the Congress. True to the unwritten code of the Satyagraha doctrine, Gandhiji wrote to the Viceroy of the intention but offered to postpone the agitation if the Government would release all non violent-agitators in prison, remove all restrictions on the Press, and announce that it would not interfere with non violent activities in the country. Government rejected the demands. Gandhiji on 7<sup>th</sup> February sent a forceful rejoinder intimating that the agitation would go ahead.

But on February 8<sup>th</sup>, newspapers conveyed the news of disturbances in Chauri Chaura village in Gorakhpur Dt.U.P. After a procession had passed at Chauri Chaura strugglers were interfered with and abused by the constables. Trouble started and the constables had opened fire, and when they exhausted their ammunitions they retired to the Thaana. The mob set fire to the Thaana where 22 constables were burnt alive. Gandhiji was profoundly shocked. On the spur of the

moment he decided to scrap the plan of mass campaign. The situation was complicated, as even the ink had not dried on his rejoinder, and Gandhiji would become the subject of ridicule. Gandhiji also imposed on himself a 5 days' fast from February, 12. He wrote: "There is not as yet in India non violent and truthful atmosphere which alone can justify mass disobedience, which can be at all described as civil, which means gentle, truthful, humble, knowing, wilful yet loving, never criminal and hateful.... It is claimed that no non violent volunteer had a hand in the brutality...no provocation can possibly justify the brutal murder of men who have been rendered defenseless and who had virtually thrown themselves on the mercy of the mob. And when India claims to be non violent and hopes to mount the throne of liberty through non violent means, mob violence even in answer to grave provocation is a bad augury."

His decision was decried by many close followers including Jawaharlal Nehru. They argued that Chauri Chaura cannot affect Bardoli. There is danger only if Bardoli is weak enough to be swayed by Chauri Chaura, Gandhiji answered them, "Just as the addition of a grain of arsenic to a pot of milk renders it unfit as food, so will the civility of Bardoli prove unacceptable by the addition of deadly poison from Chauri Chaura. The latter represents India as much as Chauri Chaura..."

About the Fast, he wrote: I must undergo personal cleansing. I must become a fitter instrument able to register the slightest variation in the atmosphere about me. My prayers must have much deeper truth and humility about them than they evince. And for me, there is nothing as helpful and cleansing as a fast accompanied by the necessary mental co-operation..."

### SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME		Other Sponsorship	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)
FOOD	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)	Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year	6000	80000
Milk(One Time)	500	7000	200	3200	Maintenance of One Cow/year	6000	80000
Breakfast(one day)	1000	14000	500	7000	Education Expenses for one Child/year	6000	80000
Lunch/Dinner	2000	28000	1000	14000	Salary for one staff per month	5000	850000
Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit	2500	35000	1250	20000	Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000	70000
Fullday food Expenses	3500	50000	2000	28000	Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000
Fullday food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000	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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