



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

June 2015

## Board exams: 100% in XII, 98% in X Overall improved performance



Topper M. Nandhini being chaired by her friends

Sevalaya students once again did everyone proud with a stellar performance at the Board examinations of 2015. The topper's marks are an improvement with Std XII topper M. Nandhini topping with 1145 as against last year mark of 1130. Topper in Std X R. Mohan scored 484 out of 500, up by 1 mark of last year. In Std XII, Students scoring centum in individual subjects also grew in numbers. Whereas the class XII batch repeated the Sevalaya tradition of 100% pass, the pass percentage in Class X

was at 98%.

The stellar results have been achieved by

overcoming many odds and challenges, thanks to the determination and hard work of the children, with crucial organisational strategies and the extra efforts of Sevalaya staff.

M. Nandhini, who was the topper in Std XII says, “My dream has come true now. I wanted to become a Chartered Accountant and now with this mark I feel that I can achieve this. I thank my school for helping me to get this mark”.

Says R. Mohan, who has been studying in Sevalaya from his Kinder garden, “My teachers supported me very well and only through the encouragement of the teachers I could achieve this.”

The results are a validation of Sevalaya's mission to provide high quality holistic

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Centums in...

Subject	2014-15	2013-14
Maths (XII)	2	NIL
Accounts (XII)	3	NIL
Social Science(X)	3	3
Science (X)	13	NIL

### The Toppers

#### Std XII



**M. Nandhini - 1145/1200**  
“My teachers motivated me a lot”



**V. Praveena - 1110/1200**  
“Parents were of great support to me”



**C. Maheshwari - 1087/1200**  
“I will now work hard to achieve my aim”

#### Std X



**R. Mohan - 484/500**  
“I would like to thank my teachers”



**N. Pradeepa - 466/500**  
“My school was of great support to me”



**S. Hariprasath - 464/500**  
“I owe this to my teachers”

# Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

Once again Sevalaya children have proved that underprivileged children from the villages can do equally well in academics if proper facilities are given to them. A school with proper classrooms, laboratories, equipments, books, note books, other learning kits, library and above all caring teachers, will make sure that children who have lost both parents, children with single parents, children from broken families, children from bonded labourer families, children who have criminal background and left under the care of Sevalaya under juvenile justice act, children from very poor village families can also do well in 12th and 10th grade exams.

On the day the 12th grade exam results came out, the school was like a temple where festivals were going on. Along with the students who came to see their

results, we also had alumni members and children from the next batch, early waiting to see the results. Same was the case for 10th grade results too. Sevalaya once again achieved 100% results in 12th grade and 98% in 10th grade. The toppers scored well above 95% marks. Many students got 100% marks in Science, Social Science etc. More importantly almost the entire class got above 60%. When we look at the results considering they are all first generation learners, we can understand the effort put in by the teachers.

Good facilities in this village have been made possible by generous contribution by people like you. When you see that every paisa donated by you have been put to good use and resulted in good outcome, you can experience the joy of giving. Sevalaya thanks you for your continuous support in the last 27 years.

This year also we have 2000 such children, who need your support.

To get the initial requirements of two sets of uniforms, notebooks and other educational kits, we need an average of Rs 1000 per child. To support a child for a full year for education, it will cost Rs 8000 per child, per year. If you prefer to create an educational endowment to support one child permanently, it will cost Rs 1,00,000.

You can send cheque drawn in favour of Sevalaya to our city office address.

You can do a direct transfer to our bank account. Details are provided in our website [www.sevalaya.org](http://www.sevalaya.org)

We are sure of your support this year too.

Thanks and Regards

Murali

## Endowments for XII Scholarship



Uma Gopalan and her family members visited Sevalaya on 1st May 2015 and created an endowment for the scholarship of students who have completed std XII, to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of her father S. Mahadevan.

This endowment will be used for the higher education of one student.

## Bags presented



Sevalaya sent an appeal to Nandalala Seva Samithi Trust to help children with school bags for their use. In deference to our request the President Nandalala Seva

Samithi trust visited city office, handed over 30 school Bags to Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan, Honorary correspondent of Sevalaya.

## Say "Chocolate"



Lotto Choco Pie Ltd, a manufacturing company at Nemam, presented 500 Choco Pies to the children of the hostel.

## Desks, coaching offered



Prof. Akilan of Akilan Institute, has donated 25 desks for Sevalaya's School. Top performing students from class X and XII will be selected and given additional coaching by Sevalaya in partnership with Aim100.com to make them excel and achieve better percentages in the Board exams.

(Continued...)

free education as a key element in achieving its vision of transforming the rural poor and improving their quality of life. All efforts are taken to ensure that children who are admitted to Sevalaya's school grow up into balanced individuals with good culture & integrity having necessary skills to cope with life. Staff who work at Sevalaya are aware of this tremendous responsibility and are ready to don various roles, as they work for the upliftment of the children they serve.

This is one of the core reasons for the continued success of the students of Sevalaya in their board exams. Starting with a pass percentage of 27% when the first batch of 15 students wrote their Xth board in the year 2001, Sevalaya was able to break away from the bondage of the past, achieving 100% in the year 2003. Since then there has been no looking back and except for an odd year when one or two or a maximum of three

environmental toxins and stress impact brain development. To overcome these intrinsic handicaps, additional hours had to be found and extra efforts had to be made by all.

#### **Extra hours, extra efforts**

Teachers handling various subjects in the X & XII level, work practically all 365 days. Sundays and public holidays are all seen as opportunities to spend more time with the slow learners to help them understand and study. Classes begin as early as 8 am to teach subjects like Maths where each and every sum is explained in detail.

Night classes are held for children who are not able to learn at home either due to the environmental conditions there or to help those who have learning difficulties and need more time and care to help them cope. Children coming to the night classes are provided snacks. Some children coming from very poor

for KG classes are provided healthy, nutritious lunch and learn the basics in a stress-free relaxed, interactive, Montessori playway method. Even in higher classes, the class teachers keep a constant watch to ensure that all students are eating properly and wherever they notice problems due to acute poverty, they immediately bring this to the notice of the school HM who makes arrangements for such children to eat along with the hostel children. The children in the hostel who have suffered a lot right from their birth are provided balanced and nutritious diet through the day to compensate for earlier deficiencies. The hostel uses a special salt 'Sundar Salt' that is enriched with minerals which helps to tackle problems like ulcers in the mouth and the health problems often found in the rural areas. When teacher in classes find day scholars with similar problems, parents are called and the problem and its solution are explained.



*Every winner is an inspiration for the next generation*

students failed, it has been a creditable centum tradition that has been set. There has also been a steady rise in marks, with most students in the 70% and above category. This year, 63% of X and 57% of XII students scored above 70%.

#### **Challenges**

The challenges to scholastic achievements have been many. Practically all the students come from poor home environment and are first generation learners. The home atmosphere is unsupportive and often unstimulating. Research findings underline the detrimental effects malnutrition, poor sanitary and hygiene practices have on cognitive and motor development of a child in the early stages. Poor nutrition,

backgrounds, including broken homes are allowed to stay in the hostel from January if they so desire as this ensures healthy food and an environment conducive to learning.

S. Lakshmi, Commerce and Accounts teacher, of the school was a very happy person. She was much delighted about the students getting centums in accounts. "I am proud of my students who have made my dreams come true. I will strive to help more students to achieve such success in the coming years."

The special efforts to make up for earlier deficiencies start right in the lowest classes.

#### **Nutrition to Yoga**

At Sevalaya, the tiny tots enrolling

#### **Team work**

S. Mariammal, Academics Headmistress of the school was overwhelmed by the results. She says "I do not have words to share my happiness. The students have put in great efforts to get good marks. I also appreciate the teachers who have worked day and night to get this result. This is a team work and not an individual effort. I thank my team for giving this result".

At school, one of the common problems faced by many students is poor memory & retention capacities. Children attend yoga classes every week and practices like Brahmari, Kapalabhati, Anulom Vilom are taught, which improve retention capacities. Teachers also help students practise Super Brain Yoga - a technique which again helps brain functioning.

Students are motivated to participate in various intra class, inter class, inter school activities /competitions which stimulates their thinking, reasoning abilities and has a cascading effect on learning. The annual exhibitions every year at Sevalaya play a great role in generating curiosity, improving creativity and sharpening the mind.

The Sevalaya library has 20000 interesting books and library classes with book reviews by students also help in improving cognitive skills. All these in turn have a positive impact on learning skills and the result can be clearly seen

# Vibrant volunteers at Sevalaya



## S. Chandrasekar

Two vibrant volunteers have joined Sevalaya in key positions S.Chandrasekar and B. Chandramouli.

S. Chandrasekar is a banker having worked in Banks in India and abroad. His experience in Banking includes various operations at different levels, including software development. Another field in which he has gained expertise and experience is as domain consultant.

Now he is holding the position in Sevalaya as the honorary leader of the High level team-“Documentation of Processes.”

### Search for an NGO

With a deep desire to put his expertise to use for a voluntary organization, he has been on the search for a suitable NGO for a long time. It was when, Subhashini Ragavan, a friend, suggested Sevalaya, he visited Sevalaya’s website and learnt all about the organization. He speaks with remorse, “How such a popular organization doing good work for over 25 years, escaped my notice- I do not



## B. Chandramouli

know!” He adds with a chuckle, “All is well that ends well! My search for a good NGO to offer my services has ended!”

He is happy with the assignment he has taken up. “Systems and processes are already well in place in Sevalaya. However, with the rapid strides Sevalaya is making in recent years, with multi site and multi project operations, this is the right time when the processes are consolidated and well documented. Sevalaya is having the “Go Digital” project where all the operations are to be automated. The work that I do will form the framework for this massive operation”

B. Chandramouli had a long innings in Life Insurance Corporation of India as an executive holding various portfolios, chief among them being HR, and Administration. He is known as one of the best officers with an employee friendly attitude and a humanitarian approach.

He enjoys life by travelling a lot and

keeping in touch with friends, relatives and colleagues. He is always available on call to any needy person requiring help in any matter. He has also been supporting charitable causes by services and contributions. Still there was some discontent in him, and he wanted to do sustained work in an organization till his energy lasted.

### Two reasons

There are two reasons for his choosing Sevalaya. One of his colleagues is serving Sevalaya for about two decades in the organization. He found in him a fulfilled individual. One more-important reason is: he is attracted by Sevalaya supporting helpless and destitute old people. Having personally witnessed the plight of several senior citizens, this cause seemed to him the Supreme one.

Chandramouli is leading the team with the high Level Goal, “Perfect Accounts and administration”. Like Chandrasekar he also feels that with the astronomical strides Sevalaya is making, with several projects undertaken in partnership with Corporates under CSR, it is high time that a perfect and comprehensive Accounting system that will stand the test of time is established at this stage. He has earnestly taken up developing systems, monitoring operations, and also working at the operating level.

Both Mouli and Sekar are assets to our organization particularly at this stage of our growth.

Purpose of life is life with a purpose. “I have found my purpose in life” Says Sekar. Echoes Mouli.

# Sevalaya students at Shell’s annual day



Students of Sevalaya were the proud participants in the annual day function of Shell Global. 7 students participated in the Mime. The theme of the mime was Traffic Rules .This programme was choreographed by a team from Shell who took extra efforts to train the students.

The employees of Shell are regular donors to Sevalaya. They said, “We wanted the Sevalaya students to perform on our annual day and hence we invited them for the function. They performed exceptionally on Road Safety and we are very happy about this”.

# Organic Farming at Sevalaya



Sevalaya believes in living in harmony with nature and adopting organic farming is a step in this direction. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has polluted the soil and food itself has turned poisonous. Hence Sevalaya focuses on practicing and providing training in organic farming.

The 5 acres of land in the campus of Sevalaya is cultivated through organic farming only. The Gandhi unit of Sevalaya concentrates more on farming and plan to cultivate vegetables and paddy in our field .

The cow dung from the Gaushala is spread across the fields and ploughing is done. This will make the fields more

fertile. Then the land is ploughed again and then cultivation is done. Vegetables like ladies finger, brinjal, cluster beans, bottle guard, garden beans, chilly and variety of greens are cultivated in the fields which is in turn used in the kitchen. The vegetables are highly nutritious since no pesticides are used.

## Panchakavyam

After the cultivation the land is sprayed with "Panchakavyam" a manure which is prepared by the Gandhi unit. This manure consists of the urine of the cow, cow dung, fertile soil, dried fruits and curd. This combination is left for 15 days and then diluted with water and sprayed in the fields. This will help in good

production of the vegetables.

Insecticides are not used in this farm. As an alternative neem leaves are soaked in cow's urine and kept aside for 15 days which is then sprayed into the fields. This preparation is considered to be a good insecticide. This will not allow any small insect to attack the vegetables.

Sevalaya's children get this rich organic vegetables to eat.

Sevalaya not only uses these techniques in their farm but also trains the nearby villagers in organic farming. There are few villagers who have understood the importance of organic farming and have started practicing it in their farms.



## Working for this organization brings happiness to me

**P. Krishnan**  
*Goshala and Agricultural assistant*

Says, P. Krishnan, Goshala and Agricultural assistant of Sevalaya's Gandhi Unit. Krishnan is working in Sevalaya for the past two years. He is a hardworking person and very dedicated in his work.

Krishnan comes from a very poor family from Thandimedu village. His wife is a daily wage earner and he is survived by his only son who is also doing farming work. At the age of 60 his support to his family is very much required and hence he joined Sevalaya.

He is used to the cow rearing work and farming and hence his work at Sevalaya is not difficult for him. He is very much attracted by the way the organization functions and hence he feels happy to work here.

"Krishnan appa is an excellent worker and will not hesitate to do any work. He always takes the instructions from the head and works with full interest" says A. Kaviyarasu, Gandhi Unit Head.

## New Chappathi machine in the kitchen



Thanks to Asian Paints Hygiene Improvement Project, Sevalaya's kitchen is now equipped with a new Automatic Chappathi maker which can prepare 1200 chappathis in an hour. Children will now enjoy hot Chappathis thrice a week.

# Living values training made lively

One of the greatest challenges in education today is shaping youngsters into good citizens with well grounded value systems. The rapid advances of technology in various forms providing easy access to global entertainment, media and diverse views have slowly eroded our ancient value systems. In such a scenario Sevalaya management has always laid great emphasis on value education and an innovative methodology using incidents from the lives of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda is followed at Sevalaya's school. As a part of this continuous effort to further improve these classes some Sevalaya staff attended a living values facilitation enablement programme

organized by GA Trust from 13th May to 16th May 2015 at Thennagur near Vandavasi. The training was conducted by T. Ravichandar of VSET who led the participants through informal interactive, exploratory sessions into a journey of discovery of the methodology of facilitation.

The entire programme was lively from the start and theory sessions were followed by practicals where participants were given an opportunity to practice the newly learnt skills by interacting with the 60 children attending the 15 day children's summer camp organized by the Trust from 10th to 24th May.

The well planned sessions helped the

participants to clearly understand the difference between teaching & facilitation and the greater impact the latter process had on the young minds. The interesting available tools –pictures, videos etc added more value to the training programme. VSET shares a well planned,universal ,nonsectarian, dynamic,contemporary content which is in conformity with the Indian educational Boards & UNICEF recommendations.

After getting the positive feedback about this programme , Sevalaya Management organized the same training at Sevalaya's Kasuva campus from 27th to 29th May for 40 teachers from Primary to Higher Secondary, so that all teachers could start the coming academic year armed with these new skills which would help them mould their wards in a holistic manner ready to face the challenges of life by helping them discover the right values necessary for life.

Valedictory function of the the camp for the students was held on 24th May 2015. The students were given gifts and



*Quoting his experience in the camp, C. Aadhimuthu, teacher of the school says " I learnt more facilitation questions to ask the students which will allow them to speak without fear or hesitation. We could create critical thinking among students. It will be useful for all teachers especially the freshers."*



participation certificates. G. Babu was certified to be the best performer. The children felt that this camp was very much useful to them and they enjoyed the camp well.

R. Venkatakrisnan, says" I went to the camp with lot of hesitation, but after going there I enjoyed a lot and I felt like staying there itself".

# Sports camp for the children

This summer was more interesting for the children with sports camp being their major entertainment. The camp started on 8th May and continued till 31st May. Almost 50 students attended the camp daily.

The camp was conducted by M. N. Mohanrajan, Business Consultant for Engineering and Sports, free of cost. The children played indoor and outdoor games during the camp. He also donated jerseys and basket ball ring for the school.



## BNY Mellon Chennai Team Visits Sevalaya



BNY Mellon Chennai team headed by Lilly Prasad, Managing Director, Client Service Delivery, Leandra Mendosa, Regional head – Diversity, Inclusion and Community Affairs, and some members of Chennai team visited Sevalaya on 13th May 2015.

## Teenagers in focus



On 16th April 2015, Usha Ramakrishnan, a regular donor of Sevalaya took two sessions for teachers and students of VIII and IX on handling teenagers and their emotions.

## Sevalaya Founder Chief Guest



V. Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya, was one of the Chief Guests of the annual day celebration of Deepam Trust held on 14th May 2015.

## Sevalaya at Unilever sustainable living conference

Sevalaya was one of the very few NGO's invited by HUL, to participate in the round table event in New Delhi, held on 5th may 2015, to discuss the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan. Radha Srinivasan, Head Corporate Relations participated in the event and discussed ways in which Sevalaya can partner with HUL and contribute in its Sustainable Living Plan.

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# Fight or flight?

This is a well-known episode in the life of Gandhiji. This changed not only the course of life of Gandhiji, but of the course of the history of the entire world.

Soon after his arrival in South Africa, Gandhiji was travelling from Natal to Pretoria in the First Class compartment of a train. At Maritzburg station, a "white" passenger arrived, and was aghast at the prospects of travelling in the company of a "coloured" man. He asked Gandhiji to vacate; but Gandhiji sternly refused. Then a Railway Official was brought in who asked Gandhiji to move to a "Van compartment". When Gandhiji insisted on his right to travel

in First class, a Constable came and literally threw the luggage out. The train steamed away, and Gandhiji had no option but to get down. He went and sat in the waiting room. It was biting cold. He was shivering, and it was pitch dark as the lights were out..

A storm was raging in the mind of Gandhiji. What should be his response? Fight or flight?

He writes:

"I began to think of my duty. Should I fight for my rights or go back to India, or should I go on to Pretoria without minding the insults, and return to India

after finishing the case? It would be cowardice to run back to India without fulfilling my obligations. The hardship to which I was subjected was superficial—only a symptom of the deep disease of colour prejudice. I should try, if possible, to root out the disease and suffer hardships in the process. Redress for wrongs I should seek only to the extent that would be necessary for the removal of the colour prejudice."

It is significant that a tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi stands erect at the same Maritzburg station as a Monument of Triumph of Truth!

Rs 8,000 can fund one child's education for one year



With Rs 6,000, Sevalaya's 800 residents can have one meal

One Gau pooja can be sponsored for Rs 1,000



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Send your comments to: Sevalaya, Old no 10, New no 24, Kesava Perumal Westward Street, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004, Tamil Nadu, India

Phone: 9444620286, 9444333529, (044) 24950204

E.mail : sevalayamurali@sevalaya.org, sevalayaprm@sevalaya.org [www.sevalaya.org](http://www.sevalaya.org)

*Editor* T.S.Venkataramani

*Correspondents*

Anupriya Suresh, A.A.Kingston, B. Nirmala, B. Prabhakaran, Radha Srinivasan, A. Kaviyarasu

*Design* Thomas T Abraham