



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

DECEMBER 2016

Lights, laughter and cheer - the gifts of Deepavali



Left : Santhosh John, CEO, Jouve India Pvt Ltd distributed new dresses, crackers and sweets to 2020 children of Sevalaya and 70 senior citizens

Right: Ruby Swadel Bell and Aleisha Nicole Murphy, volunteers from UK, enjoying sparklers with children on the eve of Deepavali

Deepavali, the festival of lights was a weeklong celebration at Sevalaya, both at Kasuva Campus and off campus where our children and elders were invited by various organizations to take part in the festivities marking the triumph of good over evil.

The festivities commenced on 22nd October with 3 different organizations hosting the celebrations on that day in which many of our children and staff participated.

136 students and 4 caretakers of Sevalaya participated in the *Ananda Deepavali* celebrations organised by The Rotary Club of Madras, T Nagar, at VGP Golden Beach. The special guests were Natarajan Nagoji, Governor, Rotary International District 3230 and popular film artiste Srikanth. The children enjoyed the rides at the theme park at VGP and the gifts from the Rotarians added to their merriment. "I get the feel of *Deepavali* today itself" said a beaming Dinesh, student of Std VIII.

136 Sevalaya kids and 4 caretakers had a memorable evening, attending an

evening of music, dance and colorful *Deepavali Kondattam* at Spencer Plaza, one of the biggest shopping malls and a landmark of Chennai. The event was organized by Raindropss, a youth based social organization. Film songs, old and new was rendered by the battery of leading playback singers and electrifying dance performances of Twist N Turn Dance Studio, Master Mrithiyesh and special performances by Instrumentalists Vetri on the Drums and Dilip on the keys made the children to enjoy the celebrations at the best. Music Director turned producer AR Raihanah, also the Brand Ambassador of Raindropss, presided over the grand celebrations and wished the kids to celebrate the festival with joy and safety. "This is the first time I am coming to a shopping mall, and I love it." said S Sumithra of Std IX her eyes filled with wonder.

20 children from Sevalaya participated in *Mazhalai Oli – Deepavali* celebrations of Inner Wheel Club of Madras South Dist 323 at YMCA grounds, Nandanam. Shama Prasanna, District Chairman of Inner

wheel participated in the celebrations. The children enjoyed the festival dinner and were thrilled with the gifts they received.

Rtn. Vijayakumar, President and 20 members of the Rotaract Club of Blue Whales, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Esplanade landed at the campus on 23rd October 2016 to celebrate '*Damal Dumeel Deepavali*' with the 150 residential children at Kasuva campus. They conducted competitions and distributed prizes. They also burst crackers with the children.

On 25th October 2016, 28 students from Hussain Memorial Matriculation Higher secondary school and 4 staff members including their PT Master Gopinathan who is an alumnus of Sevalaya, visited the campus to greet the children and elders on the occasion of *Deepavali*. They gifted dresses for all the elders, distributed sweets for the children.

Santosh John, CEO, Jouve India Ltd, was the Chief Guest at the *Deepavali*

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"Sevalaya's FCRA certificate renewed upto 2021. Thank you for your support. Contributions from abroad welcome."

Joy of giving : the way of life

Dear Friends,

Idli is almost the symbol of south India. For many people the day starts with *idli*, *chutney* and *sambar*. As it is a steamed food, it is also considered a very safe food. If you want to avoid spices, fat etc, you can keep eating *idlis*. When people have stomach upset or feeling a bit unwell they generally restrict the food to only *idlis*. If you are eating out and not sure about the quality of food, *Idli* is considered 'unspoilable' and in any hotel, in any village you can eat *idli* and your system will come to no harm. But all this belief has gone down the drain now!

When you steam *idlis*, normally cloth is used so that the batter does not stick to the cooking vessel. After cooking, the cloth is pulled out and the *idlis* fall off the cloth like rain water dropping from clouds. But this cloth has to be washed before reuse, so there is a labour involved and cost involved. Now many restaurants have resorted to the practice of using plastic sheets instead of cloth – the

reason being the *idlis* fall off smoothly and also they can use and throw the plastic sheets. No need to wash it and thus saving on labour. Quick work at less cost.

But the problem here is plastic when heated, melts, layer by layer and gets added to the food. So some part of the *Idli* we consume is plastic. Many restaurants, instead of giving food on banana leaf, have started serving on banana look-a-like paper sheets, which has a plastic coating on it. Also on top of steel plates, instead of keeping banana leaf, they have started keeping thick plastic sheets, locally called as "butter paper". When people take packed lunch, all the soups like *sambar*, *rasam* etc are packed in plastic covers. Hot *sambar* and *rasam* are very tasty but now-a-days, we are having a taste of plastic also! Most of the tea shops serve hot coffee and tea in thin plastic cups. If these things are just harming environment, who cares - but there is a far more serious health hazard.

This is a potential cause for cancer. So it is no longer the problem of waste disposal, our body is slowly becoming waste and our relatives and friends will very soon dispose it! It is high time we pay attention to this issue.

We request our friends in food business to stop using plastic. Let us not create an unhealthy society in the name of cost cutting. People should become more aware. When I eat out I check in the restaurant if they are using cloth or plastic to cook *idli*. I refuse to eat on plastic sheets or butter sheets. I refuse to drink tea in plastic cups. I repeat, it is no more a matter of protecting the environment, which most of us will happily ignore, but now it is matter of our own health. Atleast now, let us take it seriously.

Which is the symbol of south India, *Idli* or cancer? Choice is ours.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

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celebrations at campus, on 26th October 2016. "Though *Deepavali* is celebrated as the festival of lights, it can also be seen as the sparkle of innocence, in young children." he noted. Expressing his happiness to be present among the children and elders of Sevalaya for the celebrations he lauded the cultural team for their excellent performance on the occasion. He expressed his hope that the children of Sevalaya who grow up in an atmosphere of love and compassion will develop the same attitude of care and concern all their life.

Sweets and snacks were distributed to the children by 40 students from Vivekananda Vidyalaya Guru Kalashram,



Children enjoying Ananda Deepavali at VGP Golden Beach

Sivanvoil who visited the campus on 29th October 2016, to celebrate *Deepavali* with our residents.

Sevalaya thanks the numerous



Sevalaya students attended the musical extravaganza organized by Raindropss

individuals, and institutions who donated rice, wheat flour, foodstuff, fireworks, toiletries, and sponsored dress material to the children and elders for *Deepavali*.

Volunteering at Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ashram at Puttaparthi



Sevalaya's Community College students volunteering at Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ashram kitchen at Puttaparthi

Ten students from the community college volunteered their time at Puttaparthi ashram from 15th to 25th October 2016. This is the third year that students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College were invited to volunteer at Puttaparthi ashram. They assisted in the activities of temple canteen and helped out in administrative department at hospital. Some of them were also roped in to assist in security work. The ten days that they spent at the ashram were very fulfilling and the volunteers gained knowledge of local

resources to solve the needs of the community.

"When I went to Puttaparthi and volunteered my time there, I was able to understand the needs of the community and able to assist them. It was a very fulfilling experience."

P Gokul

"I liked working with different groups of people. I understood the value of team work to achieve the goal."

A N Dhananchezian

Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2016 for Outstanding Service to Humanity

Sevalaya was the recipient of Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2016 for outstanding service to Humanity. V Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya received the Award at the hands of His Excellency the Governor of Punjab, V P Singh Badnore on 11th November 2016 in the presence of Rajesh Bharathi Mittal, President of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust and Bipin Gupta, General Secretary of the Trust.

The award is instituted by Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust and carries a cash award of ₹ 1,00,000 and a citation. The Trust was founded by the late Congress MP Sat Paul Mittal, Winner of United Nation's Peace Award in 1983, to propagate the ideologies of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Trust presents these awards for outstanding service to humanity, on the occasion of Jawaharlal Nehru's Birth Anniversary every year.

This year on the occasion of 127th Birth Anniversary of Nehruji, Sevalaya



Sevalaya Murali receiving National Award from his excellency V P Singh Badnore, Governor, Punjab

was awarded this Prestigious Award for reaching out to more than 2 lakh beneficiaries for the past 28 years, by

providing free education, health care and marching on still with a vision to create a free university for the rural poor students, which is in line with the ideology of Sat Paul Mittal.

In his acceptance speech, V Muralidharan dedicated the Award to Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Swami Vivekananda who are the main source of inspiration for Sevalaya and to all the staff of Sevalaya and the rural students and senior citizens - the beneficiaries from the underprivileged section of the society. Thanking the Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust, he added, "I had to travel the entire length of the country to receive this award. The Trust functioning in North India has selected our institution from down South and this proves that we are united as a nation. I don't know your language nor have I ever been to this part of India but this National Award has broken all the barriers and united us."

Felicitations at Thanjavur



T Venkatesan, CEO, Thamarai International School; V Gopalan, Convenor, Bharathi Ilakkiya Payilagam; S Rathinavelu, District Judge (Retd); Sevalaya Murali; Rtn MJD Arokiasamy, LIC of India, Thanjavur

Irai Pani Nanbargal Kuzhu felicitated Sevalaya Murali on receiving the Tamilnadu State award for the Best Social Worker (Women's welfare), at a function in Sri Besant Lodge in Thanjavur, on 3rd November 2016.

V Gopalan, Convenor of *Bharathi Ilakkiya Payilagam*, recalled his long association with Sevalaya and its rapid progress over the years. District Judge S Rathinavelu (retd), Dr Indira of Sri Ramakrishnar Ashram, Mariammar Koil, T Venkatesan,

CEO of the Thamarai international School and Rtn MJD A Arokiaswamy (LIC, Thanjavur) praised the selfless service of Sevalaya Murali and his family, the transparency of the organization, as well as the range of services offered by Sevalaya, all of them free of cost to the underprivileged section of the society.

The speakers assured support for Sevalaya to expand its services for the destitute elderly in Thanjavur.

Vigilance Awareness Week at NABARD



Sevalaya Murali addressing the senior staff at NABARD Chennai on 4th November 2016

Sevalaya Murali featured as an 'Inspiring Ideal man 2016'



Women Exclusive brought out an issue honouring 'Inspiring Ideal men 2016' on the occasion of International Men's day (19th November 2016). The article highlighted Sevalaya Murali's unwavering commitment to social causes and described him as a "Perfect Idealist".

L&T Infotech and Sevalaya team up for digitisation and social causes



Biji Wilson, Head, Human resources, L&T Infotech inaugurating the 'Gandhi Online' program at Gandhi Study Centre, Chennai

Sevalaya & L&T Infotech have teamed up again, this time to bring the works of Gandhi online. This unique initiative will scan and digitise the works of and about Mahatma Gandhi in various languages and uploaded online. Readers who want the books will be able to order it online and it will be delivered in pdf format. This initiative to digitalise 1 lakh pages of his works and biographies is intended to benefit people across the globe, students, youth, scholars, researchers, activists in public life and many more.

The project was launched on 3rd November 2016 by Biji Wilson, Head, Human resources, L & T Infotech. She said that she was very happy to partner with Sevalaya and Gandhi Study Centre in the digitization initiative to propagate the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and added that L&T Infotech would like to engage its employees in this digitization project. S Pandian, Chairman, Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi and Dr M Prema, Gandhi Study Centre participated in the event.



Volunteers cheerfully posing with tree saplings in front of Sevalaya's Vadanallur community college



L & T Infotech Volunteers with pattis at Sevalaya



L & T Infotech Cricket Team with Sevalaya Team

Children's day programme for the children, by the children



Amarchand Jain, Advisor, Sevalaya talking to the children on Children's day

Sevalaya teachers decided to give the students rest for a couple of hours between classes and engaged them in sports activities, song and dance programmes, on account of children's day. The primary students got to watch cartoons for one hour. A very novel way to celebrate the day!

Sevalaya's children performed a cultural programme for the patients at the Govt hospital, Thiruvallur on the occasion of Children's day. They distributed fruits and biscuits to all the sixty children in the children's ward, with love and affection.

Get well soon, CM



Sevalaya residents joined the IT wing of AIADMK, Thiruvallur District at prayers conducted on 25th October 2016 at the Kasuva campus for the speedy recovery of Tamilnadu Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalithaa.

Festive lunch for Sevalayans



Special lunch for 2500 Sevalayans on the 5th Anniversary of Infnitheism on 11th November sponsored by NSN group of institutions

Save Water, Save Energy, Save Earth - Shell Nxplorers workshop



Villu pattu (folk music) based on energy and water conservation theme by school students during Nxplorers event

As a follow up activity of the Nxplorers workshop on Energy, a Shell Initiative, which our students attended in September '16, Nxplorers Students Club was formed at Sevalaya. The aim of the workshop was to introduce a creative approach in bringing about a positive change in the areas of food-water-energy. The Nxplorers club took up creating awareness about the importance of water and energy conservation in the villages as it's project.

Many villagers work in projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and are usually employed in the work of desilting and deepening village ponds/tanks. However they do not realise the importance of this work, which can improve underground water levels and prevent flooding.

Students felt that if villagers became aware of the environmental problems being faced all over the world, the quality of their work would definitely improve. At the same time energy wastage in villages (not closing taps even when pots are filled, not switching off street lamps till



late in the day) could be curbed.

On 2nd November 2016, 20 club members visited Sivanvoyal village and presented plays, songs and villuppattu carrying the message of the importance of energy and water conservation. The villagers (many of them parents of children studying at Sevalaya) were able to understand the gravity of the situation and promised to do their bit in this area.

S Haridoss of Std VIII who played the role of a king in the play said, "I feel very proud to be a part in Nxplorers club."

Offering Lamp to Krishna in Damodar Month



Lighted lamp offering to Lord Krishna by student during Damodar month

ISKCON (International Society of Krishna Consciousness) celebrates the month from 22nd October to 21st November as Damodar month. As per this tradition, when one offers a lamp during the month of Damodar, one's sins in many thousands and millions of births perish in half an eye blink.

V Vidya, an IT Professional working for Cognizant Technology Solutions and a

carnatic vocalist with many devotional music albums to her credit, visited Sevalaya along with her friends to make lamp offerings to Krishna on 12th November 2016, to conduct Damodhar programme. She narrated moral stories on Krishna's pastime to the children. They then distributed clay lamps, ghee and wicks to all the students. The students offered lamps to Lord Krishna. After prayers, *prasad* was offered to all.

With best compliments

"Better is to educate an underprivileged child"

-MahaKavi Bharathi

"The soul of India lives in its villages"

-Mahatma Gandhi

"God comes in the form of Roti for a hungry man"

-Swami Vivekananda

Well wisher

Vijayaraghavan R

A crusader taking Bharathi, Gandhi, Vivekananda (BGV) to Gen Next

A famous quote from Paulo Coelho's 'The Alchemist' states "When a person really desires something, all the universe conspires to help that person to realize his dream." Many trainers at Sevalaya have talked about this and one of India's greatest role models of this century Dr A P J Abdul Kalam had constantly talked about dreaming big. R Vijayaraghavan, Social Science teacher at Sevalaya since 2000, a great admirer of Dr Kalam, loves to talk to students about Bharathi, Gandhi, Vivekananda and of course Dr Abdul Kalam.

Vijayaraghavan visited Rameswaram on 15th October 2016, the birth anniversary of Dr Abdul Kalam and

went to the Municipal Union Middle School (*Uratchi Onriya nadunillai Palli*), where Kalam studied. On reaching the school he was surprised to note that the day was celebrated as Youth Inspiration Day (*Ilaignar Ezhuchi naal*).

Besides teaching social studies at school, RV sir as he is fondly called by all at Sevalaya, renders yeoman service to the organization by spreading the message of BGV (Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda) in schools in and around Chennai and in several other districts like Pudukottai, Krishnagiri, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Chengalpet, Thiruvallur. On 15th he was at Rameswaram as planned and wanted to talk to the children studying in the

Adding fizz to Chemistry teaching

Sevalaya organized a training on "Easy Chemistry" on 12th November 2016, at Kasuva campus, for 100 Chemistry PG Assistants from Government and Government aided schools from Thiruvallur and Ponneri. P Meera, Subject Matter Expert, Chemical Division of Scope E knowledge centre, Nandanam conducted the session and dealt with topics such as easy approach to Inorganic Chemistry, handling problems on Physical Chemistry etc through a Power Point Presentation.

Sevalaya extends its thanks to N Latha, Joint Director for Higher Secondary Education Department, Govt of Tamilnadu for giving permission to conduct this workshop.



school where Kalam had been a student. He met the HM and told about Sevalaya, his service of spreading BGV message and his desire to talk on the topic 'Gandhiji's path to a scientific Mahatma' - *Gandhiyin vazhiyil vingyana Mahatma*.

Dream come true

RV sir got the opportunity to meet Kalam's adopted daughter who had come to the school that day to render some service in memory of the great man. The Headmaster of the school was very happy that a teacher had come all the way from Chennai to talk to his school students.

"Dr Kalam had been deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi as is evident from his life." says RV Sir. His voice chokes as he talks about how nearly 150 students, all visitors and staff of the school gathered to listen to his speech, in the very hall where Kalam had been inspired as a young student, He does not fully remember what he spoke exactly. Words just came out in a flow and he spoke for nearly 50 minutes. When he finished a resounding applause greeted him. "The children loved to listen to anecdotes from

Kalam's life." he observed.

He then visited the resting place of the late President where thousands of visitors were streaming in to pay their respects. Members of the late President's family were also there. A private school had brought their JRC students there. After obtaining permission from the teacher in charge, RV Sir, standing right there, near the memorial, shared his thoughts about Dr Kalam and Gandhi with those students.

It was truly a dream come true for him to be able to interact with many students and share the messages of Gandhi and Kalam.

Several staff members who have worked in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar School earlier, are now working in Government schools in various districts of Tamil Nadu. RV Sir is in touch with all of them and it is through these teachers and their friends that he is able to carry on his mission of spreading Sevalaya's BGV message to as many children as possible. BGV training programme of Sevalaya is supported by Mara Breech foundation, USA.

Counselling for children

S Vijayalakshmi, MSW who has a rich experience in counseling children in various NGOs conducted a session on 10th November 2016 for the teachers on how to identify psychological problems in children, teaching techniques to be adapted to improve child's IQ and EQ. She stressed upon the need to not branding the children, use of only positive words to them, appreciating small achievements etc., As children learn more by observation than by advice, teachers should practice the values which they want their children to imbibe was the key point.



"The session was very useful. She gave tips on how to teach difficult topics in Chemistry and facilitate easy understanding." said Jackson Derover Raj, a teacher from the Govt Higher Sec School, Mattur, Thiruttani. Staff improvement programme are supported by Mara Breech Foundation, USA

Elephant, the gardener: a new perspective on human-animal conflict



Raghunath Krishna, Creative Director at Pencilsrock Academy, an environmental conservation organization and his wife Brindha Raghunath, visited Sevalaya on 10th November 2016 to conduct a workshop on Biodiversity. 60 students of Std VI to VIII participated in the programme. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness among children on the need to conserve biodiversity by loving and respecting all species, to orient them to look at nature for inspiration and design, to sensitize them

on the human-animal conflicts by role play and to make them understand that animals and plants have their right to exist too. They explained to the children about how elephants are our gardeners and discussed about different species of elephants, differences between African elephants and Asian elephants. This was followed by art session where the kids were taught simple techniques to draw different species and abstract forms of elephants. This was quite an interesting session with all students trying their hand

at drawing and proudly displaying their creativity.

The students were then taken to the play ground for a session of role play. Raghunath explained at a very basic level what was happening in the corridors of our forests and how the conflicts are happening and how animals are blamed for our wrongdoings.

The children performed skits of the events in conflicts by playing the role of elephant matriarchs and herd, concrete structures in the corridors, farmers and unsuspecting human victims. The enactment made them understand what is happening in our conflict zones.

“The staff were very cooperative and made the event a success! We would like to conduct more such events here. We are hopeful of creating advocates and soldiers for our environment through such events. The interaction with the children there was so good. We are very satisfied that the future is bright for our environment.”

Raghunath & Brindha

Expressive art therapy

The Psychology Department of Women’s Christian College in association with East West Centre for Counselling conducted a workshop on Expressive Art Therapy on 9th November 2016. Expressive arts therapy is the practice of using arts like drawing, dancing music, drama and storytelling instrumental music etc as a form of therapy, with emphasis in the process rather than the final outcome/ product.

A Lilly Sharmila and G Krishnaswamy, caretakers of the Girls and Boys Home at Sevalaya and V Magariga and S Lakshmi, primary school teachers of Sevalaya attended the training in which



44 NGOs participated. The sessions were conducted by Dr Veena Easvaradoss, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Women’s Christian College, Dr Eric Miller (Story telling), and Ms Magdalene Jayarathnam (Psychodrama) Directors of East West Centre for Counselling. The training was sponsored by Mara Breech foundation, USA.

Workshop on redefining urban environment

Kuruvilla Jacob Memorial Educational Trust organized a 2 day workshop on “Redefining Urban Environment” at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on 9th and 10th November 2016.

S Manokaran and S C Suresh attend the workshop which mainly focussed on the problems of the environment, reusing waste materials, ecosystem and protecting it, wetland conservation and urban ecology. Short films were screened

to explain the hazards of environment and the measures to be taken by the teachers to educate their students about protecting the environment.

Teachers improvement training is supported by Mara Breech foundation, USA.

Right : Interactive session on redefining urban environment in progress

Bharathanatyam for beginners



S Srividhya, a Bharathanatyam dancer and daughter of Sundar Nagarajan, a long time donor and well wisher of Sevalaya, has volunteered to teach basics of Bharathanatyam to Sevalaya children during the week ends till first week of January. The session commenced on 12th November 2016, when she taught some basic steps to the students. All music and dance programmes are supported by Lionbridge Technologies.



God helps Gandhiji

After returning to India from South Africa, Gandhiji founded the Satyagraha Ashram at Ahmedabad. There were about twenty five men and women in the Ashram. This included five Tamil youth who accompanied Gandhiji from South Africa and others drawn from different parts of India. All had their meals in a common kitchen and strove to live as one family. After a few months of existence of the Ashram, Gandhiji received a letter from Amritlal Thakkar (Thakkar Bapa) to the effect: "A humble and honest untouchable family is desirous of joining the ashram. Will you accept them?" After consulting the members, who welcomed it, Gandhiji wrote back to Thakkar Bapa expressing willingness to accept the family provided all the members of the family were ready to abide by the rules of the Ashram.

The family consisted of Dudabhai, his wife Danibehn and their daughter Lakshmi, then a mere toddling babe. Dudabhai had been a teacher in Bombay. They all agreed to abide by the rules and were accepted. But their admission created a flutter amongst the friends who had been helping the Ashram. The very

first difficulty was found with regard to the use of the well which was partly controlled by the owner of the bungalow. The man in charge of the water lift objected that drops of water from our bucket would pollute him. So he took to swearing at the Ashramites and molesting Dudabhai. Gandhiji told everyone to put up with the abuse and continue drawing water at any cost. When he saw that the abuse was not returned, the man felt ashamed and ceased to bother.

All monetary help, however, was stopped. Following the stopping of monetary help, came rumours of proposed social boycott. The Ashram was prepared for all this. Gandhiji had told his companions that, if they were boycotted and denied the usual facilities, they would not leave Ahmedabad. There but go and stay in the untouchables' quarter and live on whatever they could get by manual labour.

A stage really came that the Ashram ran out of funds and there was nothing for the next month. Gandhiji decided that they would move to untouchables' quarter as planned. What followed then

was something miraculous.

A gentleman, - a Sheth- had placed his car outside the Ashram and sent word to Gandhiji. On meeting Gandhiji, he asked him whether he would be willing to take the help he desired to provide to the Ashram. Gandhiji told him that he was in dire need of such help as the Ashram was at the end of its resources. The next day the gentleman returned and placed ₹ 13,000 at the hands of Gandhiji, and drove away.

Gandhiji observes:

"I had never expected this help, and what a novel way of rendering it! The gentleman had never before visited the Ashram. So far as I can remember, I had met him only once. No visit, no enquiries, simply rendering help and going away! This was a unique experience for me. The help deferred the exodus to the untouchables' quarter. "

"This was not the first time I had been faced with such a trial. On all such occasions, God has sent help at the last moment."

Colourful rangoli by primary students



The Primary section at Sevalaya is always live with activity. On 26th October 2016, colourful flower rangolis adorned the grounds. Children of Std I were busy arranging the flowers and it was a pleasurable sight to behold! The children were learning about the concept of colours in classroom and what better way to learn than these hands on experience in making flower rangolis.

The story of Deepavali



Sudha Umashankar, Journalist and Social Activist told the children of V Std stories about *Deepavali*, and why we celebrate it, on 4th November 2016. The children listened with rapt attention and they thoroughly enjoyed the session.

An evening of musical melodies



96 children and 21 elders enjoyed listening to light music at an even organized by Rotary Club of Madras Chennapatna on 8th November 2016 at Indian Bank Auditorium, Adyar. Popular singers like Andrea and Sainthavi rendered songs much to the delight of the children. All music and dance programmes are sponsored by Lionbridge Technologies.

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