



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

MAY 2020

## Safeguarding 200 plus lives

**Ever since the Covid-19 scare hit the country, Sevalaya has been bracing to keep its campuses at Kasuva and Thanjavur out of bounds for the invisible enemy.**

The school and all Community colleges including the one at Kasuva were closed. Around 116 children who had some relative who would accept them for a temporary stay were sent off. Yet there were 213 lives to be safeguarded: 80 orphans, 54 elders in the elders' home, 69 cows in the gaushala and 10 elders in the Home at Thanjavur. These residents have nowhere to go.

Taking up the challenge, systems were put in place to ensure "zero positive case" status. Thanks to the humane attitude of a bunch of employees, life goes on in Kasuva and Thanjavur.

A small team of supervisory staff and skeletal staff for essential functions have

been running the show in these lockdown days. Shelter, safety, food, physical and mental health—these became the focus.

The residents were scattered around the campus, maintaining social distancing norms. The importance of personal hygiene and health was reiterated. In addition, many awareness campaigns were conducted in order to educate the community and the staff about personal hygiene and social distancing. The employees relying on public transports were advised to work from home.

Headed by S Dinesh, Head of the Vivekananda Unit, eight wardens take care of the boys and girls hostels: G Krishnaswamy, V Selladurai and K

Purushothaman take care of the boys. V Thanalakshmi, K Annamani and T Vasanthi looks after the girls.

Dr P N Ayyappan, Medical officer, opted to stay inside the campus. He takes care of the health needs of all residents. He also educates dos and don'ts in self defence against Covid -19.

Radhika, care taker of old age home, volunteered to stay inside the campus with her children Keerthika aged 6 years and Vamika aged 5 years, to take care of the elders. S R Priyadharshini, the Centre Head is managing the centre at Thanjavur.

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## Awareness for villagers



Sevalaya's Medical team, headed by Dr Gajalakshmi, and assisted by staff nurses, nursing assistants, in its well-equipped mobile medical van, visited 4 villages - Kasuva, Magaral, Nathamedu and Perumalpattu - in Thiruvallur district to create awareness among the villagers about the Corona pandemic.

Through door to door campaign, roadside meetings and demonstration of handwashing techniques, nearly 500 families were reached.

P Srinivasan, President of Perumalpattu Panchayat Union was very appreciative of this initiative.

## Ventilators & PPEs gifted to government hospitals

BNY Mellon, through Sevalaya handed over 200 PPE kits and two ventilators to Govt. General Hospital, Thiruvallur. Vidya Durai, CSR Head of BNY Mellon, and A A Kingston, Vice President, Sevalaya handed over the equipment to Maheswari Ravikumar IAS, District Collector of Thiruvallur. Another 100 PPE kits were also handed over to Govt. General Hospital in Kanchipuram. This project is sponsored by BNY Mellon India.

Associates of BNY Mellon India contributed and Sevalaya coordinated and organised the distribution of groceries to families of 750 migrant labourers and daily wage workers in Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Pune.



Sevalaya provided 100 PPE kits to Govt. General Hospital, Trichy. The kits were handed over to S Sivasu, IAS, District Collector, Trichy. Another 100 PPE kits for Govt. General Hospital, Thanjavur were handed over to M Govinda Rao, IAS, District Collector, Thanjavur. A Mageswaran, Trustee, Sevalaya handed over these kits.



# Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

Looks like Corona is going to throw new challenges to charitable organizations, like it is doing for all other sectors.

First of all, it will generate lot of new and more work for NGOs. There will be more poor people, the poor would have become poorer, but the rich would not have become richer. Many would have lost close relatives, so lot of emotional support will be required. NGOs will have to gear up to fill up this gap as well.

We see the condition of orphan children, destitute senior citizens and abandoned animals. There is a constant demand for accommodating them in Sevalaya, but our facilities are all full. May be, after corona, these numbers will go up and there will be need to set up more infrastructures to house the needy.

There will be lot of new poor people, who will need financial support. We already know about job cuts and pay cuts. If whole economy is down, everything will

slow down and the labourers and daily wage earners will find it difficult to get any job. Can NGOs look at creating new jobs?

Already the pressure on NGOs is building up. We keep receiving calls from many places asking for help. The immediate basic need is food. We are responding to the extent possible. But after corona settles down, need for jobs, need for regular income will start.

With need for more expansion in activities is demanded out of NGOs, the source of income for NGOs is going to shrink. Funds from overseas may not come in a big way, as there is problem all over the world.

Corporates are having problems in running their business and many may make losses. Hence, CSR funding may go down.

Individual donors may have reduced income for themselves. Many big corporates in India have already

announced no pay hikes this year.

Many medium and small scale companies have not paid even March salary. With the result individuals may have less money on their hands to make any donations.

So should the NGOs take a stand and reduce their activities? Of course, all depends on funding. If there is a reduction in funding, projects will be reduced.

Is there a way out? How about self-generation of funds? Can NGOs look at making products, thereby creating new jobs and employing those who lost their jobs due to corona? Sell the products and profits ploughed back into charitable activities? Looks like we may have to think more in this direction. Government should consider relooking their tax laws which will enable this.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

## Covid 19 relief materials distributed to 300 underprivileged in Lalgudi



Relief kits consisting of rice, dal, oil and other essential groceries were distributed to 210 daily wage labourers and 90 sanitary workers in Angarai village and Lalgudi, 200 daily wage labourers in villages in Peravurani Taluk, Thanjavur and families of 200 differently abled people in Pattukkottai, Thanjavur. These people were affected by the nationwide Covid 19 lockdown.

The relief kits were distributed to honour the memory of Violin Maestro and Padmabhushan awardee Lalgudi

G Jayaraman, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

Lalgudi G Jayaraman's son Lalgudi G J R Krishnan and daughter Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi raised funds for this project and Sevalaya implemented the project.

Food was also distributed to auto drivers, hair dressers, cooks, temple workers and destitute elders. The programme was organised by K Muthuramakrishnan, Advisor, Sevalaya and A Mageswaran, Trustee, Sevalaya.



## Oviya makes masks as free gift



T Oviya, a student of Std VII in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School is very busy despite the lockdown. Oviya has found a way to join the fight against Corona.

A resident of Palavedu village, Oviya is busy stitching facemasks out of cotton cloth - nearly 20 masks every day for free distribution.



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P Radhika, P Vijayalakshmi and R Ravi help in taking care of requirements of the old age home and keep the premises clean. To take care of cooking, V Venda, cooking assistant agreed to stay inside the campus. E Munusamy, old age home resident who was a cook earlier, volunteers to cook and feed the people staying inside the campus. The kitchen team comprising of Ravi, Geetha, Venda and Munusamy *thatha* keep the kitchen running.

Joining the action are senior managers who reside in the staff quarters: A A Kingston, VP, Operations, M T Anandan, HM, Primary school and A Sankarapandiyan, Physical Director, Sevalaya school. Timely help came from K Purushothaman, stores in charge, who volunteered to work all days to ensure proper supply of provisions.

Though the stores were well stocked, the real challenge was vegetables. Sending someone out for vegetables would have been a risk. The agriculture team came to the rescue. They supplied onions, tomatoes, 4 varieties of greens and over a dozen varieties of vegetables and fruits including papayas and bananas.

The inhouse bakery provided biscuits for the children. Saravana bhava, a volunteer, is continuing his services even in this tough times to check any electrical and maintenance related problems. Also Tamilarasan and Subramani, the security personnel, soldier on, ensuring proper security system at the gates.

The 69 cows are being taken care of by Karuppasamy, Gaushala supervisor, with support from Durai, Velusamy, Vadivel, Malarkodi and Nagamma, all staying inside the campus.

Malarkodi has taken it upon herself to feed the bio gas plant which keeps the kitchen fire burning for 3-4 hours per day.

T Santharaj takes care of the front office and deals with all donor related activities. G Palaniswamy, though a teacher, volunteers in agriculture.

K Pandi, The English teacher, engages children during study hours and also monitors maintenance of registers like medical check ups conducted for residents, cleaning schedules in campus and counselling sessions organised during the lockdown period.

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## Keeping away their hunger pangs

Lockdown brought in its wake loss of jobs for the daily wage earners including migrant labourers and the rural poor. With hunger knocking on their doors, Sevalaya swung into action. Throughout Tamilnadu, Sevalaya has been offering timely supply of essentials.

### Trichy



Many auto drivers, temple workers and daily wage earners in Lalgudi, Trichy Dt approached Sevalaya for support. Coordinated by Sevalaya's advisor K Muthuramakrishnan in Lalgudi, Sevalaya distributed relief kits to the needy in the town.

Each kit consists of 5 Kgs of rice, 1 Kg toor dhall, 1 Kg Salt, 1 litre oil, 100 gms chilli powder, 200 gms coriander powder, 50 gms *sambar* powder, 250 gms tamarind, 500 gms wheat flour, 500 gms sugar, 50 gms tea dust, 1 No toilet soap, 2 Nos detergent soaps and milk powder. Many of Sevalaya's donors contributed to support this project.

### Thanjavur



In Thanjavur, 75 daily wage earners were given kits comprising essentials for 10 days' requirements. Ravindran, Officer for differently abled in Thanjavur District, distributed the kits to the people from Kanganar Thottam, Surakottai, Nathamadipatti, Kathrinatham and Kollimedu.

The relief materials were delivered at the homes of the beneficiaries,

to maintain social distancing. A Maheswaran, Trustee, Sevalaya, volunteers Anand, Latha, Revathi, Dhanasekaran and Sakthivel participated in the distribution work.

### Thiruvallur



Sevalaya identified 200 families in Thirukandalam village, Thiruvallur district and is providing food everyday since 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Sevalaya has taken this quick initiative in partnership with its Corporate supporter Hyundai Glovis.

### Food for 42 Irula Families



"If this situation continues, we will not have even ₹ 10 in our hands" was the cry of a member of the Irula community in Thiruvallur District.

On reading this report in a weekly magazine, Sevalaya obtained permission from the Superintendent of Police of Thiruvallur District, and reached relief materials to 42 Irula families in Keezhapoondi village near Podhaturpet in Pallipattu Taluk, Thiruvallur District.

Each relief kit consisted of rice, toor dhall, fried gram, sugar, tamarind and salt.







### Continued from Page 3

To keep the residents in good spirits, indoor games are organised, with proper social distancing. Historian Pradeep Chakravarthy is conducting online story-telling sessions on Zoom for children.

Volunteers from Standard Chartered Global Business Solutions (SCGBS) conduct arts and craft for the children twice a week through video conference.

SCGBS volunteers also spend time

E Radhika, cleaning staff since 2018 has her daughter studying in Sevalaya school. She too opted to work.



"This is my opportunity to serve the needy in their hour of need", she says.

**E Radhika, Cleaning staff, Sevalaya**

V Venda, Kitchen Staff, has been working in Sevalaya since 2018. Her two daughters study in Sevalaya school and her husband is a watchman at the campus.

Already part of the Sevalaya family, all four shifted into the campus before lockdown. "How can we starve the children and the elders? Besides, for long I had longed to make a donation to Sevalaya.



This has given me the opportunity to serve Sevalaya", says Venda about her decision to work during the lockdown.

**V Venda, Kitchen staff, Sevalaya**

chatting with the elders through video calls daily since 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

35 ladies, from various walks of life, are offering their time to the girls in the Home. Each volunteer is assigned a girl to whom they make calls every day and chat with them.

This volunteering programme is facilitated by Aarti Madhusudan, Founder, Governance Counts, an initiative which helps non profits build more effective boards.

The girls enjoy these calls and are very excited to talk to the ladies who are very caring and affectionate.

To maintain the well-being of residents, visitors have been prohibited. For donors' convenience, donations are accepted through online transaction.

Donations in kind have been suspended. To ensure social distancing and avoid gatherings, important meetings are conducted through Skype.

The entire campus is cleaned and sanitized regularly to ensure the welfare of the people.

Sevalaya is playing its role valiantly against the virus, supporting people and trusting them to do the right thing in self defence. The lives in Sevalaya's care should and will be protected.

Many staff members across all levels from kitchen staff, drivers, to senior managers, AVPs and VPs have donated vegetables, groceries and cash donations to Sevalaya in this hour of need.

24 year old V Thanalakshmi opted to shift to the Girls Home, so that she could continue to work as a caretaker.

Her father, attached to the gaushala, is unfortunately stuck at Sevalaya's Thirumalaivaiyavur unit, 81 kms away.

"Staying split is painful. Yet, being of use to the girls and the elders is a matter of great satisfaction," she says.



**V Thanalakshmi, Girls home caretaker, Sevalaya**

## Non cooking staff cook one day's meals



Feeding over 200 stomachs three times a day can be a handful for the skeletal staff of 3 managing the kitchen during the lockdown days.

They had been working from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 without a break. Hence the residential staff consisting of 15 members decided to take charge of cooking on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Their families also joined in.

Work started early morning, to make *vermicelli upma* with coconut *chutney* for breakfast. Vegetable Pulav was the special item for lunch and the dinner was a simple meal with rice, rasam and poriyal.

The children and senior citizens enjoyed the change of taste in all the three meals.



Dharma of Sri Guru Medical, Thiruninravur donated 150, 3 layer masks to Sevalaya.

S C Suresh, staff, Sevalaya found many needy people in Gomathipuram, Thiruninravur going about their tasks without face masks.

So these masks were given to them with proper directions on the their usage and disposal.



# Coping with Covid fears

Residents get to watch daily news with latest updated information. Indoor games including chess and carom are conducted during the day from morning 11am to 12 noon

The children both learn and are entertained through regular video conference classes on art and craft taken by the volunteers. Children of classes Std V to Std XI attend video conference class by the volunteers from Standard Chartered Global Business Services (SCGBS) which improves life skills. Subjects including Maths, Commerce and Economics are also taught by the Volunteers.

Among the children who continue to stay in the campus is V Kiruba, student of Std IX. She came to Sevalaya at the age of six. Overcoming her initial fears and diffidence, she has become a good student in academics as well as sports. Lockdown has not really affected her, she maintains, as she goes about her routine work inside the campus.

She attends morning prayer regularly where she also gets briefed about current news. She likes to read short stories, novels and magazines.

She is fond of reading tamil *Pancha Tantra* stories. She is good at drawing. She watches sports news. At the video classes, Kiruba is the first one to answer all the questions of the tutor.

Her entertainment during her leisure time is playing indoor games like Chess and Carom. She gathers updated information from flash news in TV channels and shares it with her friends.

How can athletes cope with the lockdown? Volley ball player M Jaishankar shows the way. Once victims of child labour, M Jaishankar and his two brothers became hostellers and students at Sevalaya after their parents passed away.

His elder brother M Muthukumar has completed higher secondary education. His younger brother M Saravanan is studying in Std VII in Sevalaya.



Opportunities at Sevalaya helped Jaishankar discover his talents.

Today the 13-year old is a District level Volleyball player. He was making very fast progress so he started practicing twice a day, early in the morning and after school, seven days a week.

He also goes to Sevalaya's gym to strengthen his body. Jaishankar has won many awards for being the best volleyball player in Zonal level and District level tournaments.

Even during the lockdown, he practices regularly early in the morning and in the evening inside the campus itself, in the volleyball ground maintaining a social distancing.

While the entire world is worried, Jaishankar is very happy in Sevalaya campus and he does not fear about anything.

He shares the knowledge gained about Covid-19 with his peer group and others. He motivates other not to fear about the

virus and insist that they should maintain self hygiene. He is a good role model to his peer group teaching them moral values.





## A second life for her dreams

Priyadarshini S R is working as Centre head in Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Old age home at Thanjavur for the past one year. Hailing from Salem, her family is settled in Ooty. Her father is a farmer and mother is a school teacher.

She has one younger sister and one younger brother. Her sister is working in TNEB and brother has completed MBA. Priya completed B.Sc in Mathematics from Angels College in Bangalore and MBA in Marketing Management from Vinayaka Mission, Salem.

After completing B.SC, she started working in the automobiles industry. Her interests lay in trekking and photography. So she used to travel to Ooty at least twice a week. There she used to spend more time with the tribal people. She learnt that they were deprived of basic



facilities. Encouraging her efforts was her uncle D Ilangumaran, who has been a great support to her from her childhood days. A business man settled in Singapore, Ilangumaran agreed to partner with Priya to start a free school in Gudalur for the poor and particularly for the tribal people.

Priya left her job in Bangalore and settled in Ooty, taking care of the business of her uncle as well as working for the tribal people.

She took all efforts to start the school, and was excited at the progress and looked forward to her dream of the school realizing soon. But it was not to

be. The day before of the registration of their school, she met with a major accident which put her out of action for two years. She was bedridden for one year and after that she started moving around slowly. During that period she started to write a book on the life of the tribes and also documented the siddha medicine practice that was followed by the tribes. After her accident Dr Suseela, who treated her, Prof Irairasan, her mentor and her uncle stood by her through her recovery.

Back on her feet, Priya decided to rejoin her previous employer. She was posted in Chennai. In a trip to Chennai, she had a chance to meet V Muralidharan, Founder and Managing trustee of Sevalaya.

She came to Sevalaya with Prof Irairasan who guided Priya to work in Sevalaya, telling her that both her thought to serve the poor by giving education and Sevalaya's ideologies were in sync. Priya's unfulfilled dreams found new life in Sevalaya's social actions.

Priya was placed in Thanjavur old age home as Centre head. She wants to see Sevalaya growing in Thanjavur by starting a school and a community college. Her efforts will not be lacking in that mission.

## Using his leadership qualities

30 year old P Muthu is a farmer residing in Thirukandalam village in Thiruvallur district. Though he dropped out of school education early, he has made sure his children get education. One is studying in 9<sup>th</sup> and the other is studying 7<sup>th</sup> in Govt. high school in Thirukandalam village.

Muthu is also the President of Tribal community people Society. That is a natural sequence to his leadership and helpful attitude. From his childhood he has been helping the poor and needy in the village.

He would guide the needy in approaching various government offices for the many tasks that are part of living.



Muthu's community leadership has made him an able ally as Sevalaya stepped in Thirukandalam village with a host of projects.

Partnering with Hyundai Glovis, Sevalaya has executed 12 projects in Thirukandalam village which include Solar street lights over a 2 km stretch, an RO water plant that meets the needs of the 50 families, breakfast for 130 govt school children and construction of a block of community toilets.

Muthu helped in identification and mobilisation of resources for giving awareness about the use of community toilet and RO plant.

He also helped in getting permission from local government authorities. He identified and arranged work space for the people working for the projects.

The projects gave him ample opportunities to exercise his abundant problem solving skills.

Muthu's next project idea: Sevalaya to start a medical unit in the village, since the residents now have to travel minimum 10 kms, to Periyapalayam, Redhills or Thiruvallur for medical emergencies.

# Shaping lives with education



Kavitha K who works in Sankara Nethralaya Medical Research Foundation Nungambakkam as an Ophthalmic nursing assistant is happily married and well settled in life, living at Melapedu, near Thiruninravur.

She gets a good salary and incentives at her work place and knows that she does not have to worry about her two year old son's education as she will be getting a special educational allowance plus added incentives every year.

But things were not so rosy 18 years back when her mother along with her two small daughters aged 7 and 6 were literally thrown out of their house by their alcoholic, abusive father and paternal aunts.

Fortunately they found their way to Sevalaya. Both sisters stayed in the hostel and did their schooling here. Both were good in studies.

Kavitha was good in sports and a good dancer too. She passed higher secondary with 75% marks. "What next?" was the next worry.

Kavitha had got forms to apply for engineering but where would she get the money from? Tulsi Trust used to support the education of 2 or 3 meritorious students at Sankara Nethralaya and Kavitha was asked if she would like to take up this offer.

She grabbed the chance and joined the ophthalmic nursing assistant course. She enjoyed the interesting 2 year diploma course and her good performance saw her getting a job in the same institution within a month of completing the course.

Kavitha is just one of the 1000 alumni of Sevalaya who have benefitted from

the higher education support Sevalaya arranges from their donors and well wishers every year.

Right from its inception ,the dream of Sevalaya's founder has been to start a university so that all underprivileged students can get quality education free of cost and realize their dreams.

Sevalaya therefore endeavours to garner maximum help to support higher studies so that no deserving child has to give up studies due to lack of funds.

There is a special team at Sevalaya to compile necessary data well in advance, monitor related activities and ensure that such funds go to the most deserving cases.

Many corporates, trusts and individuals have joined hands with Sevalaya to help these underprivileged, rural students pursue college education.

Their philanthropy has shaped close to 1000 lives. Having completed engineering, nursing, para medical courses, agriculture and various graduate and post graduate courses, they now hold good jobs in various fields.

BNY Mellon has funded the higher

education of 112 students.

Latentview technologies supports 30 students and Help Foundation pays for the college education of 34 children. In addition there are individual sponsorships.

Some corporates not only sponsor higher education but also arrange for skill development courses to increase the employability levels.

BNY Mellon arranged BNY steps programme imparting communication and other soft skills to college going students and one of Sevalaya's alumni M Lakshmi is now a proud employee of BNY Mellon.

Alumni along with volunteer experts also conduct special coaching classes for Tamilnadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) exams for aspiring alumni at Sevalaya's Kasuva campus.

Similarly Latent View sponsored a training program for students of Stds V, XI and XII to improve skills and learn about various career options.

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Twins K Vaishnavi and K Vanmathi have 2 elder sisters and their father a tea master earns just enough to keep the family going.

Sevalaya's free education helped them to complete higher secondary but there was no money to pay for college education.

Sponsorship from Latentview technologies has helped them join B. Com course in Ponnusamy Nadar College. This will definitely help them stand on their own feet after graduation and raise the standard of living of their family.



Santha Kumar S is working with Indian Railways since the past 7 years.

15 years back Santha Kumar and his two younger brothers came seeking help to Sevalaya as his family was not in a position to support the education of the children.

He was able to graduate with a degree in BSc Computer Science only with help of the higher education support and later cleared the exams to get a decent job.



# The Black Act

Gandhi held a meeting of leading Indians to whom he explained the ordinance word by word. It shocked them. To Gandhi's mind, it was designed to strike at the very root of existence of Indians in South Africa. "We are innocent, and the insult offered to a single innocent member of a nation is tantamount to insulting the nation as a whole" All present, realized the seriousness of the situation. It was resolved to hold a public meeting at which a number of resolutions must be proposed and passed.

The meeting was convened on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1906 at the Empire Theatre. It was packed from floor to roof. Resolutions were passed by which the Indians solemnly determined not to submit to the legislation and suffer all the penalties attaching to the non submission.

The impact of the resolution was fully explained to the audience. One Sheth Haji Habib in his emotional speech said that they should pass the resolution with

God as witness and should never yield or submit cowardly to the degrading legislation. He solemnly declared in the name of God that he would never submit to the law and advised the others to do so.

Gandhi was taken aback by this suggestion, though he warmly approved it. He explained the implication of swearing in the name of God, and also the evil of breaking any pledge taken. he said that the man who solemnly pledges is likely to be subjected to severe punishments like imprisonment with hard labour, and even confiscation of property if he follows it.

He said that if any one felt that he was not having the strong will, he should not only refrain from taking the pledge, but also oppose it.

After hearing Gandhi, all present stood as one man with upraised hands and took the oath with God as witness.

The movement was named Satyagraha,

meaning Soul force or a force born of Truth and Love.

The Asian Registration Ordinance became an Act on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1907. It was to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1907, and the Indians were called upon to apply for registration before July 21. The time had come to start the Satyagraha struggle. There were some practical impediments in carrying the struggle under the banner of Transvaal British Indian Association.

A body named "Passive Resistance Association" was formed by the Satyagrahis. Gandhi found it necessary to re-administer the oath of resistance. A mass meeting of Indians was convened at Pretoria. Yusuf Ismail Mian, acting chairman of the British Indian Association presided over the meeting.

Several speakers expressed their resolve to defy the law. Kachchalia was one of the speakers. He said, " I swear in the name of God that I will be hanged, but I will not submit to the law."

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This saw students learning about new avenues of employment and good colleges in the city where they could study further.

Clearly, timely help can fulfil educational dreams of the underprivileged and set them up for life.

The difference such kindness and finite money makes is infinite, to the beneficiaries, whose lives it shapes.

Many success stories have emerged from Sevalaya's hostels for orphaned boys and girls. Hostelites are encouraged to study and stand on their own feet. Later they are married off in the traditional manner to partners they have chosen.

Sevalaya conducted the marriage of 4 of its alumni, who were also residents of the Home - Mahalakshmi, Selvi, Srinivasan and Abhirami.



S Dinakaran who has been working as a Chemistry teacher since the past 6 years has recently got a government job as a PG assistant. Now he is well settled in life.

He came to Sevalaya when his father left the family and his mother could not support him with her meagre earnings. The financial support he got here from individual donor helped him complete his graduation and join the teaching fraternity.

Nandhini R is a programmer Analyst with Cognizant Technology Solutions. Her father's illness had completely disrupted their family and her mother's daily wages were barely sufficient to hold the family together.

Her dreams of becoming a software engineer were realised when Sujith Kumar, Founder, *Matram* Foundation came to Sevalaya as a guest and talked about his foundation. She got full financial assistance to pursue BE in

Electronics and Telecommunications from Sathyabama University and got her dream job through campus recruitment.



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