

Sevalaya school adds 12 modern class rooms 500 needy children to benefit from ₹2 Cr Corporate funding



N Devanandh, Operation Director, Haworth and Vasudevrao Anand, Finance Director, Haworth, inaugurating the classroom



The modern classroom sponsored by DTCC

Five companies jointly funded ₹2 crores for the construction of the new primary school building at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, as a part of their CSR initiatives.

The additional capacity will allow the intake of an additional 500 needy children, who will have access to quality education free of cost.

The new building has 12 spacious, well ventilated and furnished classrooms, powered by solar energy equipped with smart boards, CCTV cameras, and RO water facility.

One classroom in the new Primary school building, sponsored by DTCC under their CSR programme, was inaugurated on 23rd September 2021.

Praveen Manivannan, Executive Director, DTCC, Chandra Kumaran Pragalathan, Executive Director, Chennai site Lead, DTCC and Gopinath Jayaraman, Associate Director, DTCC, joined the virtual inaugural function.

They appreciated the way the project was efficiently executed on time by Sevalaya, despite the pandemic.

Another classroom, sponsored by Haworth, was inaugurated on 24th September 2021.

Vasudevrao Anand, Finance Director, Haworth, N Devanandh, Operation Director, Haworth, Joseph Antony, HR manager, Haworth and Mahendra Balan, Sr. Finance Manager, Haworth, were present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Vasudevrao Anand expressed his interest in partnering with Sevalaya for more projects.

Rotary's Best Teacher awards to Sevalaya teachers

K Revathi and S Mariyammal of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiya Higher Secondary School, were among the six teachers honoured with Best Teacher Awards by Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna, as part of Teachers' Day celebrations.

The selection has been done on the basis of "the teachers' profile and the extraordinary work done during the pandemic".



Rotary International District 3232 District Governor Nominee Ravi Raman, RI District Vocational Service Chairman, S N Balasubramanian presenting award to Sevalaya Teachers K Revathi and S Mariyammal



Uniforms from Gurukrupa, Sports equipment from Hatley



School uniforms, educational materials and sports equipment worth ₹50 lacs were distributed to 2100+ students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar School at Kasuva centre, on 24th September 2021.

Gurukrupa Foundation (GKF), USA, has been sponsoring uniform materials to Sevalaya students for many years. This year the uniforms were stitched by the underprivileged women who were trained at Sevalaya's community

college at Zamin Endathur.

Uniforms sponsored by GKF and Notebooks and stationery items contributed by many individual donors worth ₹38 lacs were also distributed to the students at the event.

Sports kits and equipment worth ₹12,20,000 sponsored by Hatley, a Canada-based Apparels Company, were also distributed.

Each kit had 57 items, such as sports

shoes, medicine balls, sports jersey, shorts, yoga mat, Tracksuits, Resistant Band, Massage and Roller as also a huge hamper of sports equipment.

Rekha Ramu, Chairman, Pandeswaram Village Panchayat, Tiruvallur, was the Chief Guest for the event and distributed the items.

Rekha Ramu quit her lucrative career in the IT industry to contest in the Village Panchayat elections as an independent candidate and is now the Chairperson of Pandeswaram Panchayat in Thiruvallur District.

Explaining her own example of using the opportunities in life wisely to achieve her goal, she advised the students to have a clear goal and achieve in life.



Saipem funds Govt school infra projects



The School Infrastructure Improvement Programme, a CSR Project of Saipem India Products Pvt Ltd, implemented by Sevalaya in the Government schools in the neighbouring villages, was inaugurated on 16th September 2021.

Under this ₹31 lacs, Project Saipem funded the revamping or new infrastructure in three Government Schools. Govt. Higher Secondary School, Vengal, got a much needed toilet block. Govt. High School in Pandeswaram

benefited from renovation of classrooms, kitchen area and toilets and furnishing the classrooms with new benches and desks. Anganwadis in Gowdipuram and Ekambara chathiram were renovated. At the Govt. Girls High School, Velliyur, classrooms were renovated.

The school Headmistress thanked Saipem and Sevalaya for upgrading the facilities in the school and said that the children were very happy to come to the 'new' school.

Gianni Di Pietro Director, Madhusudan M B, Head, Human Resources, Chidambaram R M, General Manager and Babu S, General Manager from Saipem and Sevalaya Murali participated in the event.



Seven ardent Sevalaya supporters to be honoured

Here is the roll of honour 2020- 2021 for the Best Friend of Sevalaya Award. This honour is in recognition of their all-round support to Sevalaya's various centres in conducting activities, in introducing new initiatives and helping the growth of the organisation. The nominees will be honoured at the Annual Day function of Sevalaya.



K Gopal, Kadayam

K Gopal, M.A,B.Ed , Retired teacher, Secretary of *Kadayam Nala Sangam* has been a supporter of Sevalaya since 2019. In addition to his monthly donation, he sponsored the distribution of food packets to the 50 mentally impaired people during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



S Subbaiah, Thanjavur

S Subbaiah, Rtd PA to Superintendent BSNL, Thanjavur, is introducing 10 new donors per month. He has also donated funds for Puf Panel roof shed work for the Old Age Home building in Thanjavur. He also volunteers his services to organise functions at Thanjavur Old Age Home and when the elders are taken on trips.

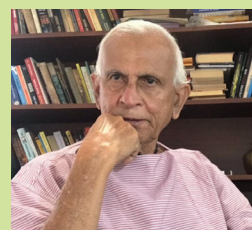
R Krishna Pradhapan, Gudalur

R Krishna Pradhapan, the President of Merchants Association, Gudalur has introduced many new donors. He has also assured the support of all members of the Association for Sevalaya Samaritan. He has rented out his building at a very nominal rate in a prime location in Gudalur (near the main Bus stand) for the Community College .



Dr A Manivannan, Thanjavur

Dr A Manivannan, Hony. Lecturer, Dept. of Business Administration, Govt. College of Arts and Science, Lalgudi, has introduced 10 new donors every month, donated groceries for ₹1 lac for a year and volunteered during the COVID relief activity at Lalgudi.



D V Sridharan, Chennai

Sevalaya benefited from the generosity of D V Sridharan, Former Marine Engineer and Author of the book *Good news India*. He has donated nearly half an acre of land for the construction of an Old Age Home in memory of his grandmother Janaki Vijayaraghav Achariyar and a community college in memory of his niece Gayathri Narayanan in Zamin Endathur Village in Kanchipuram District.

P Murugan, Kadayam

P Murugan, M.Com, M.Phil, M.Ed Rtd HM, Kadayam, supports Sevalaya's project of installing Bharathi Chellammal statue at Kadayam. He helped in Sevalaya getting the support of Lions Club of Kadayam.



D Punitharaj, Panruti

F D Punitharaj, Village Assistant, VAO, Mambakkam, proved a great help by persuading companies and individuals to donate to Sevalaya. He also got government officials involved in the activities of the Mambakkam centre.

Birth Anniversary celebrations of Gandhi Ashram Krishnan



The 113th Birth Anniversary of Gandhi Ashram Krishnan, noted freedom fighter was celebrated at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Home on 7th September 2021.

The photograph of Gandhi Ashram Krishnan was garlanded and the

S Subbiah, friend of K Muthuramakrishnan garlanding the photo of Gandhi Ashram Krishnan

residents paid floral tributes.

K Muthuramakrishnan, son of Gandhi Ashram Krishnan donated the plot in which, Sevalaya's Old Age Home in Thanjavur, in memory of his father, stands now.

Sweets were distributed to all the residents on the occasion.

Rotary club donates dress material



Dress material donated by Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna

On 2nd September 2021, four members of the Rotary Club of Madras, Chenna Patna visited Sevalaya's Kasuva centre and donated dress material worth ₹30,000. Impressed by the activities of Sevalaya in various areas, the members advised the students to make best use of the opportunities provided by the organisation.

The club also sponsored special lunch for the residents on that day.

Running event at Sevalaya



On 25th September 2021 Chennai Runners -Porur Racers conducted a

running event at Sevalaya.

The race covered a distance of 10 km from Kasuva to Sirukalathur 21 runners from Porur Racers and 13 children from Sevalaya participated in the event. All the participants were awarded medals.

5 students were identified by the Porur racers as elite runners having the potential to participate in National event, The Porur Racers team taught a few exercises to the participants and shared with them tips on how to practice for marathons.

The team also sponsored breakfast for all the residents.



School reopens: relief and joy marks reunion



After a long break of 18 months, on 1st September 2021, Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School at Kasuva was reopened for the higher classes (Std IX to XII).

This is one development that has made the students, their parents and the

teachers equally happy!

For students, it is the joy of being back with friends, the familiar settings of the school, their class rooms and their seats. The initial euphoria of the unexpected holidays declared in soon wore off. As R Monisha of 9A, from Pattabiram explains:

"Soon I felt alone. Both my parents work and I am a single child. From morning to evening I am alone at home. We did not have a smartphone at home. So I was not able to attend online classes either. Then my school provided a mobile for online classes which I started enjoying".

Sevalaya had distributed 30 mobile phones and 40 tablets to the most deserving students, with the support of donors. Yet there were challenges. As Monisha points out, "Recharging the phone became a problem at times. Also, some topics were very difficult to understand. I couldn't clear all my doubts in that short time". Of course, the teachers gave their best in online classes. They found a lot of new methods to teach. Says Monisha: "Some online games were very interesting. But still, it cannot be like the school atmosphere. I wanted to come to school".

The teachers found it difficult to convey the concepts to the students completely.

They could not understand their individual problems, could not clarify individual doubts and could not assess the level of their understanding through open-book exams. "The biggest problem was getting the undivided attention of all students in a class during the online or WhatsApp class". explains A Nirmala, English Teacher.

Parents found their children addicted to the mobile phone and internet - particularly games like free fire and pubg.

The children would not brook any control. Working parents had to leave their children at home unsupervised, not knowing what their children were doing.

Some of the children also felt stressed when they were alone at home.

Since phones are not allowed in schools and the children are under the control of teachers, parents like Ekkambaram and Sudha, in general expect an end to the excessive usage of phones.

The teachers are also happy to see their students. "The school holidays made me feel like a prisoner in a cage for all these days. The experience of taking online courses felt like speaking to the ceiling. Due to the network issues, only half of the messages I conveyed will be heard by students. I am thankful that such a situation has ended. Today, interacting with children has brought back my enthusiasm." Says P Maheshwari, English Teacher. The eye-to-eye contact with the students gives satisfaction to both sides.

Now we can assess the students and can understand their level of knowledge in the particular subject.

Tracking homework given through Whatsapp was too difficult to follow. Now it is quite easy to track them and check the homework within 10 to 15 minutes".

The Government has reduced the syllabus for Stds VI to XII. It is a great relief to all teachers as well as the students. Now they can complete their syllabus within the given time. This will help students do well and build their self-confidence.

Now that the school has reopened, Monisha is very happy. "When I reached the school campus I felt excited. I can't express my feelings in words. I met my friends and our lovable teachers.

The School management has taken all precautions to safeguard us. We are very safe here and happy".

Safety precautions

Regular checking of body temperatures and recording.

Wearing two masks is insisted upon. Sanitizer is provided to all students, staff and teachers at the entrance gate.

Social distancing is ensured in class and during breaks, under the supervision of teachers. Hand wash is provided. And drinking water near class rooms. Any student with unhealthy symptoms (cold, headache etc.) are sent to the resident doctor and sent home if required.



Kasuva Community College reopens



Samar Naaz from Thiruvallur joined Sevalaya's Community college in

December 2019 for Nursing but then came the pandemic situation and the college announced online classes. She was in a remote area with network issues. She did not have android mobile phone in her family. Besides, Nursing requires practical knowledge. Now that the community college is reopened, she is very happy. "I feel safe and secure just as if it is my home. The college provided us not just knowledge and skills but also safety, and a comfortable environment."

Teachers day celebrations



Every year 5th September, the birthday of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the former President of India, an academican and a scholar is celebrated as Teachers Day in India.

At the Teachers Day celebrations at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 4th September 2021, Subba Reddy Suram,

Finance Head, Apollo Foundation, was the Chief Guest.

Speaking about the importance of teachers in everybody's life, the Special Guest assured to support Sevalaya in all its endeavours.

The children presented a cultural programme on the occasion.

In the run-up to Teacher's Day, a panel discussion and quiz competition was held for teachers in 18 districts.

160 teachers from 25 schools and colleges participated in the competition, of which 14 teachers were awarded prizes.

The winners received the prizes at the hands of the Chief Guest.

Bharathi – Gandhi – Vivekananda day celebrations



BGV day is celebrated by Sevalaya every year on 11th September. Vaidyanatha Siva, AVP, Banking Operations, was the Chief Guest for the celebrations.

Sevalaya Murali spoke about the significance of this date September 11th in the lives of Sevalaya's Trinity - Bharathi, Gandhi, and Vivekananda. It was on this day that Bharathi attained immortality, Gandhiji coined the term Satyagraha for his novel nonviolent struggle and Swami Vivekananda addressed the Parliament of Religions in Chicago.

Sevalaya students presented a colourful cultural programme highlighting interesting anecdotes from the lives of the three great leaders and their teachings.

Pointing out that a small seed of good thought had grown into a large tree called Sevalaya, the Chief Guest asked the students to implement the values of BGV in their everyday lives.

Earlier students 560 students from 28 districts had participated in speech, poetry recitation, quiz, and painting contests. 42 prize winners were awarded prizes at the event.

Prizes were also awarded to the students who had won the quiz competition conducted by the National Gandhi Museum and Library and the teachers who had encouraged them.



Prashanth Parthasarathy, PG. Dip. Business Administration, Founder and Director, Wheels and Wagons, was the Chief Guest at Ambattur centre



B Ramdos, M.sc B.Ed, PG Assistant, ARR Matric hr sec school, Kumbakonam, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's evening free training centre, Eraharam.



J Saravana Kannan, RDO, Gudalur and Natarajan, Sri Ramakrishna School, Gudalur, were the Chief Guest for at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur.



D Nalini, DECE, VAO, Mambakkam, was the Chief Guest for BGV Day celebrations held at Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college, Sunguvarchathram



Dr E Radhakrishnan, PhD, Principal, Meenakshi Ammal Polytechnic College, Uthiramerur was the Chief Guest at Uthiramerur Centre



Dr S Paramashivam, General Physician, Kadayam, was the Chief Guest at Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college, Ravanasamudram.



Dr R Jayashree, Asst Prof, Department of Education, SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashramam Krishnan Memorial, Senior Citizen Home in Thanjavur.



K Ezhilvendhan, M.A, M.Phil, B.Ed, Lecturer, Economics, L K Kumaran Govt Hr Sec School, Mahe, Puducherry, was the Chief Guest at Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college, Thirubhuvanai.



P Ganesan, M.sc, B.Ed, BT Asst, Govt Middle School, Mazhavankaranai, was the Chief Guest at Zamin Endathur centre.

Birthday of Ganesha, the God of beginnings, celebrated



Sevalaya celebrated Vinayaga Chaturthi at all its centres across Tamilnadu and Puducherry.

K G Viswanath, M.Sc PGDMLT, Proprietor, S V Medicals, Veppampattu, was the Chief Guest at the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at Kasuva centre on 9th September 2021.

Complimenting Sevalaya for its various ways of serving the society, the Chief Guest particularly cited the free community toilets built by Sevalaya to help make our country clean.

He was appreciative of Sevalaya's services to the destitute elderly. "Earlier this area was known as Kasuva, but now this area itself is known as Sevalaya " he said.



Krishna Swamy Iyer, Gurukkal, Mangala Sakthi Vinayagar Kovil, Ambattur, was the Chief Guest for Vinayaga Chaturthi celebrations held at the Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur.



N Nagarajan, Gurukkal, Sivan Temple, Eraharam, was the Chief Guest at the celebration at Sevalaya's Evening Free Tuition centre, Eraharam, Thanjavur District



Dr R Natarajan, Correspondent, Sri Ramakrishna Matriculation School, Gudalur, C Palaniyappan, Murugan Metal Mart, Gudalur, were the Chief Guests at the celebrations at Sevalaya's Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur.



E Vasuki, Child Protection Officer, Uthiramerur, was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college, Uthiramerur.



M Venkatesan, Ex-President, Mambakkam Village, was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college, Sunguvarchathram.



D Raja Gopal, Chairman, Rasi catering & Mega Kitchen, Thanjavur, was Chief Guest at the Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial, Senior Citizen Home in Thanjavur



N Amudha, AKR Parcel Service agent, Thirubuvanai, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College at Thirubuvanai, Puducherry.



K Ravichandran, Development Officer, LIC, Madhuranthagam, was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Sevalaya's Zamin Endathur.

Government cracks the whip

From Dundee, Gandhi was taken to Volksrust court to stand trial for the charge of aiding and abetting prohibited persons to enter the Transvaal. He was glad to meet Polak and Kallenbach there in the jail. As it was the system that people could not be convicted without witnesses, despite own confessions, and as they did not wish the cases to be protracted, they managed to get themselves jailed, by Gandhi himself giving witness against Polak and Kallenbach. Gandhi had earlier witnesses against him.

Government did not appreciate the fact that prisoners upon their release should carry Gandhi's messages outside. They, therefore, decided to separate Gandhi, Polak and Kallenbach. Gandhi was to be taken to a place where no Indian could go and see him. He was sent accordingly to a jail in Bloemfontein, the Capital of Orangia, where there were not more than 50 Indians. He was the only Indian prisoner there. He was only happy that he could have much required solitude

and that there was the prospect of uninterrupted study. The medical officer in the jail became his friend even though the jailer was hostile. In those days, Gandhi was a fruitarian. The medical officer was careful that Gandhi got the required diet and did not have to starve. Kallenbach was taken to Pretoria jail and Polak to Germiston jail.

The pilgrims were taken on special trains. The Government did not arrange even to feed them, and when they reached Natal, they were prosecuted and sent to jail straightaway. Gandhi expected and desired as much. But the Government would have to incur additional expenditure and would appear to have played into the Indians' hands if they kept thousands of labourers in prison. And, the coal mines would close down in the interval. If such a state of things lasted for any length of time, the Government would be compelled to remove the 3 Pounds tax. They, therefore, struck out a plan. Surrounding them with wire netting, they proclaimed the mine compounds as

the outstations of Dundee and Newcastle jails. They appointed the mine owners' European staff as warders. In this way they forced the labourers underground against their will and the mines began to work once more. There is a difference between the status of a servant and that of a slave. If the servant leaves his post, only a civil suit can be filed against him, whereas the slave who leaves his master can be made to work by force. The labourers were now reduced to slavery pure and simple. The brave labourers flatly refused to work on the mines. They were brutally whipped. They were kicked, abused and had other wrongs which have never been placed on record, heaped up on them. Cablegrams of these outrages were sent to India addressed to Gokhale. Gokhale broadcast this news from his sick bed. In spite of his illness he insisted upon attending to South African business himself. Eventually all India was deeply stirred.

(To be continued)



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