

LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL

Implement corporate CSR projects where needed

-S Kailash, Sr Manager, Komatsu, at BGV Day celebrations



S Kailash, Sr Manager HR & GR, Komatsu was the Chief Guest at the BGV Day celebrations at Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre at Kadayam on 11th September 2022.

Kailash said that Komatsu was keen on spending CSR funds in areas where there

is need and does not restrict itself to the location of its operations. He appreciated Sevalaya for creating a monument for Chellamma Bharathi in Kadayam.

“Sevalaya has constructed the building and Komatsu has sponsored the furniture. Now it is the duty of the people of Kadayam to bring life to this building and maintain it as a vibrant learning centre”, he observed.

Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners from schools in Kadayam, on this occasion. Earlier, competitions were held on topics related to the lives of Bharathi, Gandhi, Vivekananda, for schools in Tamilnadu. 1,340 students from 32 schools in 18 districts participated in the competitions conducted.

M Meenakshi Sundaram, Librarian, District Library, Kadayam, Neelakandan, Retd Headmaster, Sethuramalingam, President of Vasagar Vattam, Kadayam and Lion Gopalan, participated in the function.



“On 11th September 1921, Bharathi shed his mortal body only to attain immortality through his poems and writings. It was on 11th September, 1906 that Mahatma Gandhi coined the term ‘Satyagraha’ for the innovative method of fight against oppressors, in South Africa and it was on 11th September 1893, that Swami Vivekananda delivered his historic speech at the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago”.

Sevalaya Murali on the significance of 11th September, BGV day.

Bharathi paintings to enliven Kilakadayam Railway station



11th September 2022 marked the inauguration of a project to beautify Kilakadayam Railway Station with the paintings of Bharathi and Chellamma, as a homage to the couple.

Sevalaya is collaborating with the Indian

Railways for this project that recalls the two years Bharathi spent in Kadayam. A man far ahead of his times, he faced the wrath of the then traditional society,

and was even excommunicated. It was in this town many of his immortal poems were composed.

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Sevalaya has built a monument to honour Bharathi and his wife Chellamma, at Kadayam, where the couple had stayed for two years, and the poet wrote some memorable poems.

Komatsu has sponsored furniture for the Library. The project to create a mini museum with electronics- assisted and interactive displays for young visitors awaits a donor. Another high visibility project needing financial support is beautification of Kilakadayam railway station with paintings of the couple, across 1,700 sq. ft of the station building.

Against a budget of ₹3 cores, donations of ₹27 Lacs have been received. We appeal to fans of the poet, to participate with financial contributions, to fill the deficit.

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Around 1,500 Sq feet of wall space will be visually treated by artist Mari Anand who launched his work at the inauguration.

A corporate partner will have exclusive wall space where it's employees can pay their pictorial tribute to the poet and his wife. School children from Kadayam will also be given wall space and guidance to add their art.

P Prince Vinoth, Station Supdt, A Mohammed Bilal, Station Master, S Robert, Station Master of Kilakadaiyam railway station, and Krishna Jagannathan, a Bharathi admirer, and a great orator, were the Chief Guests of the inauguration function.

Krishna Jagannathan spoke eloquently about the greatness of Bharathi's poems, of our Motherland and its heritage.



The railway officials offered felicitations for the efforts of Sevalaya and offered support for this initiative.

"It was a line from a powerful poem

of Bharathi, which I happened to read when I was a small boy of 11 years that was the inspiration for Sevalaya", recalled Sevalaya Murali.

Covid-inspired, Sevalaya's annual Science exhibition was themed, Health is wealth



T Sadhasivam, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Pattabiram range, Avadi, inaugurated the annual three-day Science exhibition at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 25th August 2022.

Given the overwhelming impact of Covid over the last couple of years, the theme was health, with sections devoted to different types of illnesses, and preventive measures.

The Chief Guest felt the theme was apt for today's lifestyle. Recalling his childhood and the healthy lifestyle, he highlighted the benefits of organic food and the damage our hurried lifestyle causes. He appreciated the demonstrations and was happy to see participation by nearby schools.

Since early 1990's, Sevalaya has been conducting annual science exhibitions based on a relevant theme. As Annappurna, former Head Mistress and

now a Trustee, explained, teams of 6 teachers each were formed for each of the 11 sections. That Headmistress Vijaya is an MSc in Zoology helped. Each team

had a mix of high school and primary school teachers, ladies and gents. The planning started only in July last week. A WhatsApp group of all the 85 teachers was formed, for them to share whatever ideas they had.

Says Arasani, captain for 'Deficiency diseases': "We worked for four days. We got information from YouTube". That stall had some top-quality models, made of shampoo bottle, woollen thread, metal rods, hose pipe, paper of various types, clay and oil paints.

Thenmozhi was in charge of 'Prevention and immunity' stall. A primary school teacher, she had high school teachers



Each stall had these little angels in shining dresses welcoming visitors with well-rehearsed messages



The power of observation and creativity in the choice of materials were evident in many displays

in her team, but that didn't matter. "We six teachers had a brainstorming session. Each teacher was asked to give six ideas. They were discussed and ideas for implementation selected collectively". said Thenmozhi.

Then they got into the how of each and the materials needed. Somewhere along the line, this idea came: "Prevention is the way to avoid going to the hospital, which is now a crowded place. When they started working, the children came up with the idea of creating paper bases and human cut outs, instead of small plastic toys in human shape". Soon a three story model was ready.

The teachers created contents by collecting information from school text books and from the internet. Children then worked with the teachers. They have used as much natural materials and no thermocol except a sofa. The children brought grains, pulses and fruits for display, from homes.

None of the exhibits were prepared at home, thus not troubling the parents. Some resourceful people identified materials from the red tag area (where 'useless' items are discarded, in 5S practice). Though a budget of ₹3,000 was given per team, many have spent hardly any amount. Some of the creations are so good, they will be added to the science lab displays.

Regular classes were suspended just for two days. The preparations and the stall duty to explain the displays, involved around 500 children - 50 of them from primary, 100 from secondary and 350 from high school classes. "During the exhibition when the kids came near me eagerly and listened to my demo, I felt excited", says T Deepika of Std IX D. She also realised that simple things like calendar cardboards, newspaper and chart paper can be used creatively. K Priyalatha of Std VIII A found that the exhibition "makes our thinking broader and gives us confidence to do more."

Day 3, a Saturday, was for dismantling and packing. The teachers gave a treat to their respective teams. For the teachers, it was reliving their childhood - thinking up shapes, painting, and creating models. Team work made it a greater joy, with the added energy of creative thinking, researching and bonding. It was revealing for many teachers who discovered hidden talents in their regular backbenchers. Front benchers, beware!



Models made from shampoo bottle, woollen thread, metal rods, hose pipe, paper of various types, clay and oil paints



Puppet show made easy

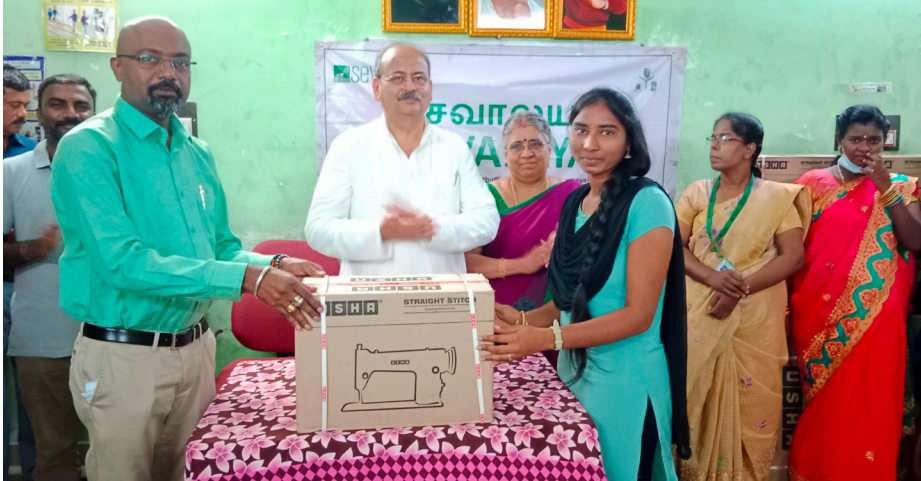


Houses, factories....They made them all with imagination and creativity



Message: Prevention is the way to avoid going to the hospital, which is now a crowded place

Free sewing machines distribution



Free distribution of sewing machines to needy women and the certificate distribution function for 10th batch students was held on 1st September 2022, at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar community college in Thirubhuvanai, Puducherry.

Leo Christopher, Head - Puducherry Plant, and G Aaron, HR executive, from PPG Asian paints (Revocoat) India P Ltd

were the Chief Guests.

M Rajesh, Deputy Manager, Engineering Department of the corporation participated in the function.

Certificates were distributed to over 100 students who had completed the tailoring course. 10 sewing machines were distributed to economically backward students, who had completed tailoring training at the community college.

Guna Sundari, a student of the computer course, spoke on how the course was very helpful to her to learn a new skill, boosted her confidence, get a job at a pharmaceutical company and perform well.

The Chief Guest Leo Christopher, in his address, mentioned that PPG Asian Paints focuses on 4 areas- education, women's development, the environment, and tree planting as their CSR projects and expressed his happiness in partnering with Sevalaya for the past 7 years for implementing various projects for the benefit of the underprivileged.

He spoke to the students about the importance of education. He narrated the inspiring story of his wife, a woman entrepreneur who became successful from a humble background. He urged the students to gain knowledge using the facilities provided by Sevalaya, and apply the knowledge to improve in life. He also advised the students not to waste their time on social media.

Teachers day celebrations



Teachers day was celebrated in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr Sec School on 5th September 2022. A N Henry Maris, Secretary, Nazareth College of Arts and Science, Avadi was the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest shared a beautiful story to the students to make them realize the significance of teachers' work. He also talked about the 4 main criteria that successful teachers should have.

He shared some profound ideas with the teachers, such as the importance

of teachers who teach listening skills, showing confidence in children, treating all students equally, and creating a secure learning environment. He also mentioned about K Ramachandran, a Tamil Nadu teacher who received the National Best Teacher Award.

Sevalaya children presented a colourful cultural programme. Silver coins were presented as gifts to all staff of Sevalaya, on this occasion, as is the practice over the years in the organisation.

Rotary Club honours teachers



On 11th September, 2022, the Rotary Club of Madras, Vadapalani and Interact Club of PSBB Senior Sec School conducted various competitions for teachers as a part of the Teachers Day celebrations. The event was held at PSBB School, K K Nagar, Chennai.

Teachers from over 17 schools took part in the competitions, The Chief Guest Rtn Jayanathan, Vocational Chairman, District 3232 presented prizes to the winners.

D Pradap, Asst Headmaster, Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School received the Best Teacher Award at the hands of the Chief Guest, in the presence of Rtn. Hema Mani, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Vadapalani.

Survey: Why do Sevalaya Alumni come back to work in Sevalaya?

Here are ten Sevalaya alumni who now serve in Sevalaya as teachers, an accountant, an assistant in the Girls Home, Value Education Coordinator, and a cleaner. What did they learn at Sevalaya? Why are they back here?

Why join Sevalaya?

The topmost motivation is a desire to serve. Having benefitted from the Sevalaya years, they have a longing to give back to society. Some of them, especially those who did excellently in their academics, were dissuaded by relatives and close friends while joining Sevalaya: the pay would be better private organisations as compared to an NGO.

All of them acknowledge the hard work put in by their teachers to mould them into what they are today. The extra care taken to correct their basics in the different subjects, the extra timings given in the morning/ evening classes or holidays to give them more practice, saw all of them improving steadily and scoring high marks in the board exams which in turn helped them secure admissions in good colleges. All of them fondly recollect the extra care taken by each and every staff to patiently clear all doubts in the different subjects. The teachers helped them with their emotional well being, helping them get over their problems of adolescence and at the same time the care they took to keep a track of.

Many of them were not aware of their

hidden potentials and feel eternally grateful towards the motivating teachers. Now they are passing the baton, helping their wards discover their talents.

The importance and opportunities given for excelling in sports at Sevalaya gave many a chance to explore their skills and play at zonal, divisional and state levels. Thenmozhi, Arasani and Bhuvaneswari, Secondary Grade teachers, are clear that sports and competitions transformed them from timid young girls to bold, confident personalities. Arasani discovered her sports talents after joining this school. Thenmozhi recalls her participation in competitions (speech, dance, essay writing etc.,) which she now passes on to her students with passion.

Abhirami, Drawing teacher, recalls an incident. At a netball session, noticing her petite build, the HR Executive of a Corporate where she had gone for training, asked, "Will you be able to throw the ball?". Abhirami scored 22 out of the team score of 25 points. He apologized to her profusely, for wrongly prejudging. "When we went for matches in many top city schools, opponents would look at us with disdain and dismiss us mentally. At the end however they would be wonderstruck when we walked away with the trophies", she recalls.

The impact that Sevalaya has made in their thoughts, actions and life becomes clear.

Life stories of great people told at the daily assembly, the weekly Value Education classes, and the constant exposure to thoughts/ principles of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda have left an indelible mark on everyone. A sound foundation of values made them stand apart from others in the colleges/ institutions they studied or worked earlier.

P Saravanan's habit of greeting all, always throwing rubbish in dustbins had made him the butt of jokes initially but later drew the attention and appreciation of professors and seniors in college and brought in many friends/guides. During his college days when boys got together for drinks, he would refuse, and tell them about the pledge taken at Sevalaya, to abstain from drinks. Later, some habitual drinkers confided in him, saying, if their schools had taught them this discipline, they would not have been addicted to the habit.

C Bhuvaneswari, Secondary Grade Teacher, talked about learning life skills, decision making and problem solving, hard work fetching good marks and how her entire life changed. She is able to manage things in her life and working place more effectively.

A Arasani, Secondary Grade teacher, was motivated to join Sevalaya by her sister who had completed her higher secondary here. She considers it a turning point in her life where she learnt the values



P Abhirami

Drawing Teacher

Sevalaya paved the way for me to bring out my drawing skill and discover my talent.



A Arasani

Secondary Grade Teacher

My sister motivated me to study in Sevalaya. That was a turning point in my life.



C Bhuvaneswari

Secondary Grade Teacher

I learnt life skills, decision making and problem solving. Hard work fetched good marks and my entire life changed.



S Bhuvaneswari

Assistant HM

Deepavali bonus, gifts for long service and birthdays – all of it gives me the feeling that Sevalaya is like my mother's house.



G Kavitha

Physical Education Teacher

I discovered my sporting talents only with the help of our teachers.



E Jayapriya

Secondary Grade Teacher

Comparing to my school days, the opportunities at present available in Sevalaya are even more.



P Nagalakshmi

Secondary Grade Teacher

Sevalaya is the only institution which fulfilled the needs of everyone on time.



P Thenmozhi

Secondary Grade Teacher

The values I internalized and my co-teachers' support helped me overcome my personal problems.



B Rajeshwari

High School Science Teacher

I got full support from Sevalaya for my Higher education (M.Sc).



Shalini

Office Assistant

My brother and I grow up in Sevalaya's hostel. Now I have completed BA., B.Ed only because of Sevalaya's support.

of BGV and the participation in the sessions moulded her, made her bold and confident.

No regrets

Their experience working in Sevalaya has validated their choice in many ways. As all of them pointed out, Sevalaya sees to it that all staff receive their salaries on the first of every month, even during the lockdown months. This was in stark contrast to many organisations resorting to 50% or less salary during the pandemic. EMIs cannot wait, homes have to be run. Nagalakshmi's family faced a financial crisis during the Covid period. Her husband lost his job. EMI on the house loan, school fees for her children who studied in private school, running the house - her salary saw them through. Her friends also gave support in time of need. She has shifted her children to Sevalaya and is sure that it will create the best future for her children.

As S Bhuvaneswari, Secondary grade teacher, recalls, relatives who had felt she was making a wrong choice now applaud her for taking the right decision. This feeling is shared by all of them. Adds Bhuvaneswari: "The bonus given during Diwali and Sevalaya's lovely gifts and awards (long service, birthday, best employee etc.) gives me the feeling that Sevalaya is like her mother's house where all the needs of a daughter are fulfilled".

Sevalaya has always invested time, effort and resources to develop the staff and so all staff talk about this effusively. Some of them have worked in other organisations before joining Sevalaya and they find this difference in the culture here. They

are motivated to go in for higher studies, with financial support, where possible. Simultaneously they get trained by volunteers from different corporates / countries or trustees, in different areas including computers, thus improving their skills and multitasking abilities, boosting self confidence and self image. Not only have they improved themselves, but they pass on this passion for self improvement to their students.

Thenmozhi acknowledges how the opportunities she got through Sevalaya has helped her face many personal problems. The values she learned and internalized and her co-teachers' support helped her overcome them.

All the primary alumni teachers are a close knitted group, sharing all problems

freely and frankly and supporting each other emotionally. They have close friends in their villages or close ties with relatives but this friendship at the workplace with their buddies is something they cherish.

The impact Sevalaya had on their thoughts, attitudes and lives is evident. Especially its trio of inspirers and their immortal words.

"Where there is no education, consign that place to the fire" - Bharathiyar

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" - Gandhi

All power is within you; you can do anything and everything- Vivekananda



P Nagendren

Bus Cleaner

I am quite average in my studies. It is only with the help of my teachers that I was able to clear the board exam inspite of my physical handicap. I have a decent job at Sevalaya.



R Janakiraman

Value Education Coordinator

The motivation I received and the opportunity to explore my talents made me aspire to reach higher goals and help me to become University topper in my Post Graduation.



P Saravanan

Accounts Executive

What I learnt in value education, of BGV, I will follow strictly throughout my life.

First 3 best decorations for Vinayaga Chaturthi given prizes



This year, eco-friendly Ganesha was promoted and the prize distribution ceremony for Vinayagar Chaturthi

Contest was held on 9th September 2022, at ShoppeSeva, Mylapore. Board member Kala Rao gave an overview of Sevalaya to the Guests. Hema Mani, Secretary, Rotary Club Madras, Vadapalani spoke on the occasion. Chief Guest, Sharada Prakash, Director, Giri Trading Agency pvt Ltd gave away the prizes.

The first prize for the best decorated Vinayaka was presented to Murali Shanker who also expressed his happiness at participating and meeting the Sevalaya team. Second prize winner Yazmozhi, from Thiruninravur, currently

based in Hyderabad joined online and young Harini who got third prize was delighted to be chosen for the clay Ganesha made by her at home.



Gokulashtami contest



The prize winners of Gokulashtami dress contest were felicitated at a function at ShoppeSeva on 3rd September 2022.

N Navin, AVP donor relations, introduced Sevalaya's activities to the parents, relatives of contestants, Senior teachers

from Lady Sivasamy Ayyar Higher Secondary School who were present at the prize distribution function. The details of the contest were explained by Kala Rao, Board member of Sevalaya.

Yogarukmani, Tamil dept, Lady Sivasamy Ayyar school presided over the function and gave a very inspiring speech. She presented the mementos to the prize winners announced by Bhuvaneswari, Honorary Correspondent, Sevalaya.

First prize was won by Ridhi R Shettigar from Mangalore, second prize was given to baby Sai Shravan from West Mambalam and third prize was jointly won by Baby Bharathan from West

Mambalam, and baby Mishka from Thiruvallur. The participants had shared photos of their children adorned as Krishna or Radha for the contest and very sweetly dressed up too!

S Raghavan, Senior Manager, ShoppeSeva, thanked the gathering and presented a memento to the Chief Guest.



Sevalaya team bags 37 medals



Over 900 students from 30 schools competed in the finals of Zonal Athletics competitions conducted by Dasar Higher Secondary school, Avadi on 12th and 13th September 2022.

Sevalaya's boys and girls won prizes in a number of athletic events in U-19, U-17 and U-14 categories. They won 12 gold medals, 13 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals in various sports including

Sprints, Shot Put, Javelin, Triple jump and Discus throw. They also won medals in volleyball, basketball, and handball at the zonal level. Every year, Sevalaya students who excel in sports are able to get college admission under sports quota.

Basketball Trophy



Sevalaya's boys team were the proud winners of the trophy at the Athur Srinivasa Iyer Memorial Inter School

Basketball tournament held on 27th and 28th August 2022 at La Chatelaine Junior College, Valasaravakkam. They beat La Chatelaine Junior college by 40-26.

S Punitharaj of Sevalaya received the Best player award and cash prize of ₹1000 and Shamsheer Basha of Sevalaya received the Best coach award .

Sevalaya team earlier beat Sethubaskara school team in a close match in the semi final (65-60) to enter the finals.



BNY Mellon sponsors outing for the seniors



BNY Mellon sponsored a trip for senior citizens at Sevalaya's Old Age Home on 5th September 2022. Volunteers from BNY Mellon took 20 elders from the old age home at Kasuva centre to Ashtalakshmi

temple, and Annai Velankanni church in Besant Nagar, Chennai. Over the past 7 years, BNY Mellon has been sponsoring various community development projects through Sevalaya. BNY Mellon employees

participate in various activities like education, homes, rural development, and disaster relief. Sevalaya thanks BNY Mellon for their continuous support.



DP world sponsors road safety programme



As part of its CSR initiative, DP World funds a road safety programme on 5th September 2022, in Kasimedu Beach, Royapuram, Ernavoor Junction, and Tiruvottiyur. This project focused on road safety for truck drivers and the general public.

Over 300 drivers are among the beneficiaries. They were all given a kit containing a mask, soap, and sanitizer, as well as pamphlets emphasizing the importance of road safety.



Competition on Bharathiyar's Memory day



On the occasion of Bharathiyar's memorial day, various competitions such as elocution, essay, and quiz were held in Hindu college on 12th September 2022.

Usha Mahadevan, Rtd.English professor, Hindu college, Pattabiram and Writer Maruthan, were the Chief Guests.

10 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School took part in the competitions. 2 boys from Std XII won second place in the quiz. 20 schools participated in the competitions.

Medical Camp



Sevalaya's medical team conducted a health camp at Gudalur with the Mobile Medical Van sponsored and supported by DTCC. 22 beneficiaries from tribal villages availed the free treatment and medicines.



Stress Management

Scarf India, a Chennai based mental health centre conducted a stress management program in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr Sec School. Over 45 teachers took part in this session and 7 mental health professionals came from Scarf India.

The session began with a warm-up activity. They conducted three events in various stress-related scenarios. The teachers were asked to act out all the identical scenarios. Then there was a discussion about the way each teacher responded to the given situation. Finally, there was a discussion on mental health, stress, and anxiety.



Sevalaya training gets them jobs



G Nandhini

A Monica

Two students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur were hired by A P R Finance Ltd on 2nd September 2022.

They had enrolled for the computer training programme sponsored by GuruKrupa Foundation, USA. In spite of finishing B.Com, and B.Tech (Biotechnology) respectively, A Monika and G Nandhini were not been able to get employment but joining the skill

development course provided by Sevalaya opened up this opportunity.

Sevalaya runs community colleges offering skill development courses in various streams in 11 locations. Over 1000 women and youth get trained every year and are employed in various industries.

Sevalaya has been a driving force in improving the lives of underprivileged students.

In addition to skill training, the students are also taught soft skills such as interview etiquette and functional English. Partnerships with companies are also nurtured; industry experts are invited to give guest lectures and real-world advice. Industrial visits, internships, and placements are an integral part of these colleges.

Velicham Social Marathon

1400 children, youth and elders including 37 children from Sevalaya participated in the Velicham Social Marathon on 27th August 2022 at Elliots Beach, Chennai.

Sevalaya team bagged three positions- R Boopathy of Std XII came first in 10kms, A Manikandan of Std XII got second position in 5kms, and V Karthick (Handball and PET coach) came in 3rd place in 5kms category. The winners were presented with a shield.



Inner Happiness



Inner Happiness session was conducted at Kasuva centre on 3rd September 2022.

All the Staff at Kasuva centre participated in the event. Staff from other centres

joined the event, online.

Sevalaya Murali welcomed K R V Hari, author of the book "Searching for self - in Pursuit of Inner Peace." In his speech, Hari said "Everyone is running towards success. To live happily and achieve success, we need clarity about purpose and passion. It is because of the lack of these that today's youth can't bear the slightest problem and seek perverse decisions. We don't teach today's youth to live life. If we share what we have, many people will be there for us and we will be happy".

Interactive session for teachers



On 3rd September 2022, an interactive session for teachers was held at

Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr Sec school by P M Devarajan, TQM Trainer

and a supporter of Sevalaya. Over 30 teachers attended the session. He began the session with "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Till your goal is better and your better is best". He stated the qualities of a good teacher.

He held a quiz for the teachers. He split the teachers up into five groups. All the teacher participated enthusiastically. Finally, he stated, "You have been motivated by your teachers' good qualities. In the same way, you should impress your students."

Bharathi Gandhi Vivekananda day celebrations



BGV day was celebrated on 12th September 2022 in Thiruvallur. M Nishanthini, District Child Protection officer, Thiruvallur was the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest inspired the children by sharing a story that featured concepts like "We should perform the job that is assigned to us properly, take advantage of the opportunities that come our way, believe in ourselves first, and associate with good friends." Earlier, on the occasion of BGV Day, students participated in the oratorical and poetry recitation competitions. The Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the winners.



BGV day was celebrated on 12th September 2022 in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community college, Uthiramerur and Swami Chidgathanandaji, Ramakrishna Mission, Malliankaranai was the Chief Guest.



At the BGV Day celebrations at Gudalur centre on 13th September 2022, B Sabasesan, Principal, Kumaran Tutorial, Gudalur, was the Chief Guest.



BGV day was celebrated in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community college, Ambattur on 19th September 2022. E Kesavan ITI, Ashok Leyland (Retd) and Professor, Sky Yoga centre, Ambattur was the Chief Guest.



G Sudhakar, Correspondent, Parimalam Matric School, Santhavellore was the Chief Guest at the BGV Day celebrations at Sunguvarchatram centre on 17th September 2022.



At the BGV Day celebrations at Thanjavur centre on 11th September 2022, V S R Sembian, Head of Department of Visual Communication, Bharat College of Science and Management was the Chief Guest.



BGV day and Onam was celebrated in Pattinapakkam centre on 10th September and the Chief Guest was Munni Raj, Admin and Sub Inspector of Police, E5 Police Station, Foreshore Estate.



BGV day was celebrated in Thirubhuvanai, Puducherry on 11th September 2022 C Praveena, Chellam logistics was the Chief Guest.



BGV day was celebrated on 12th September 2022 at Zamin Endathur centre and D Raj Suresh, Revenue inspector, Zamin Endathur was the Chief Guest .

Soundaram is going strong at 101

101-year-old S Soundaram has been a resident of Sevalaya old age home at Kasuva centre since 2002.

A native of Madurai, she had done upto her SSLC. She got married at the age of 18 to Muthusubramaniam, a criminal lawyer and the couple settled in Vellore.

They had no kids. When she was 38 years old, her husband died of a heart attack and later she stayed in Vellore along with her mother-in-law and the children of her brothers. She worked in a school and raised her brother's children. Till today her brother's children are in touch with her.

Later, she was adopted by her relative Ramaswamy, who found her a happy home in Sevalaya.

When she joined here there were very



few elders and there was only one cook and one helper. All the ladies and the gents in the homes used to assist in the kitchen and they were very cooperative.

All the elders were given a cot and a cupboard during those days itself. Children used to interact with them regularly and they used to teach the children. She says she remembers the time where they all got 12 sarees in a year. Frequent visitors will be there.

Soundaram feels that the facilities have improved a lot compared to earlier years.

Online Bhajans, Elder Interactive sessions are taken, nurses are visiting regularly, with quality food and all, life is happy.

Till today she is not dependent on anyone and for her daily routines also she takes care of herself. Her friends testify that she is very adjustable with everyone. She is a very soft natured person, very calm.

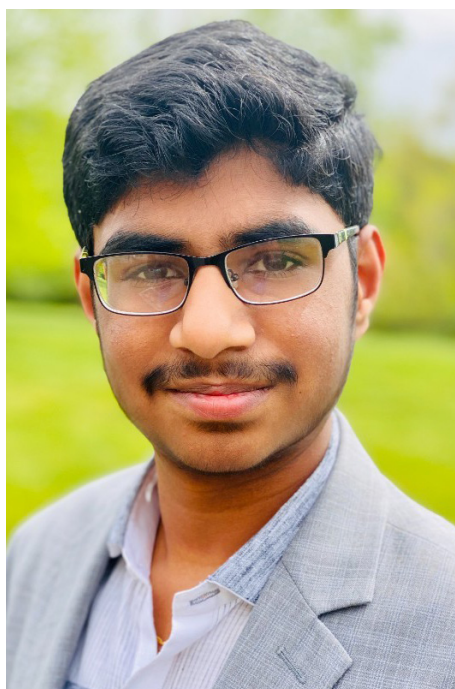
She will read newspapers daily and till today she has never missed it.

All these factors seem to help longevity and good health!

“Loving, caring, compassionate”, Volunteer Anish on Sevalaya kids

17 year old Anish Kumar, studying XI grade in North Brunswick School, New Jersey has been teaching English to ten Sevalaya children, for the past 8 months.

This youngster's value principle of giving back to the society was inherited from his parents and through Chinmaya Vidyalaya where he has been studying since his kindergarten.



He came to know about Sevalaya through Srikanth Nagarajan, a long time donor and volunteer of Sevalaya. Srikanth and his daughter Jhanvi were teaching spoken

English to the children of Sevalaya. Then Jhanvi and her cousin Jishnu took on that task, until they both entered 12th and Anish took over, alongwith his childhood friend Vignesh.

Anish says he loves teaching Sevalaya children who come from disadvantaged circumstances. They have amazed him with their remarkable improvements in grammar, vocabulary and not to miss, the American accent.

Compiling the stories they have written so far, Anish and Vignesh are creating a story book with graphics.

When he visited India in August, “the first thing I wanted to do was to surprise the ten”. Which he did, and found them “loving, caring and compassionate. When I was hospitalised for 10 days, they sent me heart-warming video messages”.

Lord Ganesha's birthday celebrated across locations



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated on 30th August 2022. Nithya Rekha Ramakrishnan, CEO & MD, Enernox Private limited, Asha Gopal, Director, Enernox Private Limited, R Sudha, MD, SK, Events & Women Entrepreneur and Saravanan Chandran, Social Activist were the Chief Guests.

The Guests emphasized the significance of education in everyone's life. Sudha, who was a government school student, inspired the students by stating even government school students can excel when compared to private school students.



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur, on 30th August 2022 with S Jayanthi, Ex Deputy Manager, Axis Bank as the Chief Guest.



At Ranasamudram centre, Shanmuga Sundaram, Ranasamudram Railway station master was the Chief Guest for the Vinayagar chathurthi celebrations on 30th August 2022.



Vinayagar Chathurthi was celebrated at Sevalaya's community college at Gudalur on 30th September 2022, and the Chief Guest was Vasudevan, Secretary, Nilgiri Wayanad Planters Association and liaison officer, Silver cloud estate, Gudalur.



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated at Thanjavur on 30th August 2022. D K Deepa, Village Administrative Officer, Thanjavur was the Chief Guest.



Thirubhuvanai centre celebrated Vinayagar Chathurthi on 29th August 2022 and Vasu, President, Thiruvandarkoil Trades Welfare Association was the Chief Guest



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated in Eraharam on 31st August 2022. A Saravanan, Gurukkal, Sinagperumal temple was the Chief Guest.



Uthiramerur centre celebrated Vinayagar Chathurthi on 30th September 2022 and S P V Sakthivel Sathya, Panchayat President, Salavakkam, Kanchipuram was the Chief Guest.



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated on 30th August 2022, at Uthiramerur centre. PMJF Ramar, Past District Governor, Lions Club, Sunguvachathiram was the Chief Guest.



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated on 31st August 2022 at Pattinapakkam. R John Chokkanathan, Founder, John Shark Academy was the Chief Guest.



Vinayagar chathurthi was celebrated at Zamin Endathur on 30th August 2022. N Venkatesan, Village Administrative Officer, Ozhavetti was the Chief Guest.

Onam celebrations across the locations



Onam was celebrated on 10th September 2022 at Kasuva centre Rtn. Dr G Sairamanan, President, Rotary Club of Chennai Presidency and Rtn. M K Unni, Managing Director - Airy Business Centre Pvt Ltd, Chennai were the Chief Guests. Amidst the wonderful community spirit at Sevalaya campus, children of all classes had brought lots of flowers and made beautiful pookalam in front of their classes and inside their classrooms. Teachers brought special dishes to share with the students and many students too brought some extra food to share. A true Onam spirit and bonhomie.



Onam was celebrated in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 12th September 2022, R Gomathi, from India Meteorological Department joined as the Chief Guest.



Sunguvarchatram centre celebrated Onam on 8th September in the presence of Vanisree Janakiraman, Counselor, Thirumangalam as the Chief Guest.



Onam was celebrated on 10th September 2022 at Sevalaya free education centre, Koovamula, Gudalur.

Famous photographer Iqbal and Anuradha Iqbal were the Chief Guests.

They urged the tribal students to make use of the opportunity provided by Sevalaya.



Students and Staff at Sevalaya's Gudalur Community College had a colorful cultural event to celebrate Onam in the presence of Chief Guest Radhakrishnan, New Kalyan Jewellers. The students made a pookolam and performed a dance around it and all enjoyed a feast of special Onam Sadhya.



Onam was celebrated at Uthiramerur centre on 8th September 2022 and K Banumathi, Child Development Project Officer, Uthiramerur Block was the Chief Guest.



Onam was celebrated in Thirubuvanai centre on 9th September 2022, J Raja, Quality Manager, National Poly Plastic India, Private Limited, Pondicherry was the Chief Guest.



Onam was celebrated in Eraharam on 9th September 2022, Senbagam, Entrepreneur, kumbakonam was the Chief Guest



Onam was celebrated In Thanjavur on 8th September 2022, Ravichandran, proprietor, Balaji Bakery, was the Chief Guest.



Onam was celebrated in Zamin Endathur on 8th September 2022, G Gangatharan, Panchayat president, Peruvelli village, was the Chief Guest.

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Thillaiyadi Valliamma - (3)

(Source: "Agony of Valliamma" by Aziz Hassim)

When Gandhi visited the Mudliars' house, Valliamma had not arrived back. Her parents expressed their anxiety about her. She was always speaking of freedom, justice and struggle. Gandhi said that they should be proud of her, as she was born with a flame in her heart. He said that it was what was required at the moment. The Government stupidly believed that a gun could destroy peoples' determination.

As the talk was going on, Valliamma entered. Gandhi said to her warmly that she had shamed them with her words and her passion. During the talk Valliamma used an expression, "Shatham prathi Satyam". (Truth against a rogue.) The friend who had accompanied Gandhi liked the expression and viewed that it should be the rallying cry at their protest meetings. Gandhi expressed amazement at the choice of her words and wanted to know where she heard the words. The reply was equally amazing. "In my heart. Everything I say is from my heart. Gandhi wanted her to be with him at the stage during the next rally. Her reply was blunt. "I don't want a stage to talk to our people. They know what we are going through. We should be dealing with the

oppressor."

The talk turned to other things. The next day, Thambi Naidoo was expected to be released from Jail. Gandhi was going to meet him at the prison gate along with other comrades as a show of strength. Valliamma wanted to be there too. Gandhi felt that it would be unwise, as the people outside the police station were brutes. Most likely, the fighters would be attacked even if they stood there peacefully. Valliamma retorted that she was fearless as Gandhi and his comrades were. This was a quality that Gandhi had come across in the past few years, but never in a child of tender years. Gandhi wanted her to promise that she would stay behind the line of attack. Valliamma's pungent reply was:

"I make no promises. What happens will happen."

As people had gathered at the entrance to the prison waiting for Thambi Naidoo, Valliamma was right at the front shouting at the top of her voice, "Shatham Prathi Satyam" A senior Police official approached Gandhi and screamed, "Take your rabble and get out of here. We have instructions to shoot you if you

pursue the unlawful protest." Gandhi was answering softly and reasonably, Valliamma took an aggressive stance. "You have instructions to shoot us even though we are causing no disturbance? Who gave the instructions? You do what you have to do, and we will do what we have to do. 'Shatham Prathi Satyam'. That is the law we live by. Yours is a sick law. We do not obey evil laws."

The situation was saved, as Thambi Naidoo was walking out slowly and majestically.

But the officer swore to himself that he would wreak vengeance on the girl who humiliated him.

-To be continued.-



"This world will prosper in knowledge and intellect, if both men and women are deemed equal."
- Subramanya Bharathiyar

Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre, Kadayam
Implemented by - Sevalaya

Sevalaya is creating a monument for Bharathi at Kadayam where he exemplified gender and social equality through action. The monument will have Library, digital library and museum all of which are yet to be setup. We seek your participation in this great work of Sevalaya.

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