



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - December 2007** Serve 9 Price-Re.1

## Dear Friends,

Recently I happened to see screen shots on an international television channel, which showed Sinhaleese and Tamil boys playing cricket in the streets of Colombo. The area looked like a very poor area – the houses shown were very small huts and the children were wearing dirty and torn dresses. But their faces were full of smiles, the happiness and enjoyment they were getting by playing on the streets was a great sight to watch. They didn't care for what is going on in their country, they should have been born after the conflicts started, should have been growing up getting daily news about the killings, bombings, air strikes etc., but they remain unaffected, full of friendship and love!

When interviewed, the boys said that they go to the same school and they help each other in lessons and home work and very happy to have each others company. When asked about the problem in the north, they said that they are not part of it and they don't accept what is going on. They may have fights only when one boy argues about his run out during the game, but will never fight because they speak different languages!

Children in any culture have their own reasons to have small fights, but none of them will fight over the language, sex, caste, religion, nationality etc. We all start our lives with no prejudice, but when do we loose that? We enter the school with no prejudice, but by the time we have completed our education we have developed our own many likes and dislikes. Some of us take it very seriously and start fighting, in whatever

way we can.

History is full of violence and hatred. The king who killed maximum fellow humans will be described as great warrior. There is very little in our history books where children can learn peace and non-violence. Added to this, the type of education and content of history books are different in different countries. Even in our own country we see that people want to change and re-write history whenever the government changes.

In films also the Hero is one who can beat up everyone on the screen, except the heroine. Children see violence and hatred getting acceptance around them, in the history books, story books, films, etc. So as they go through the so called education process, may be they get the idea that it is okay to develop prejudice, it is okay to hate others even though that particular individual is not at fault.

The Tamilnadu Government has banned corporal punishment and we see in the news that teachers are getting punished even if they scold children. No doubt this is in the right direction, but some thought should go in to how to rewrite history books so that violence and hatred are not glorified and non-violence and love get the pride of place in history. Today the Nobel peace prize committee feels that they were wrong in not giving the award to Mahatma Gandhi. If history books can talk more about such people, we will pass the right message to the children.

Thanks & Regards  
**Murali**



**Deepavali Celebrations at Sevalaya Campus by the members of Rajasthani Association, Tamilnadu**

### Events

The festive mood set in at Sevalaya on 04/11/2007 when Mr. N. Sugal Chand Jain, President of Rajasthani Association, Tamilnadu, Mr. B.D.Mangal, Chairman, Community Based Projects, Rajasthani Association, Tamilnadu, other office bearers and members of the Association organised **Deepavali Celebrations at Sevalaya Campus. Mr. Mohana Sundaram, District Revenue Officer, Thiruvallur was the chief Guest. Mr. Arumugam, Member of Legislative Assembly from Salem also participated in the function.** The Association presented bed sheets to the residents of Sevalaya's Old Age Home and a kit containing sweets, chocolates, biscuits and pen to the residents of Sevalaya's Childrens' Home. The association also sponsored special meals for the residents of Sevalaya.

The celebrations of Deepavali, the festival of lights, commenced in full swing on Deepavali eve on 07/11/2007. Lion. D.Thulasingham was the special guest for the occasion. Lion G.Vadivelan also participated in the celebrations. New clothes and sweets were distributed to 1000 children. Commencing with lighting a 10000 walah cracker, celebrations went on till late night with flower pots and ground charkas lighting up the grounds of Sevalaya, and the rockets and other similar fireworks lighting up the sky accompanied by the sounds of bursting crackers.

Swamiji of Satyam Yoga Trust and the members of the Trust visited Sevalaya on 11/11/2007 and interacted with the elders at the Old Age Home and the children.

**Children's Day was celebrated on 17/11/2007. Ms. C.Vijayalakshmi, Chief Educational Officer, Thiruvallur was the Chief Guest. District Elementary Educational Officer Mr. K.P.Srinivasan and Assistant Elementary Educational Officer Mr. S.Dhanasekar also participated in the celebrations.** The chief guest distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held on the occasion of Children's Day.

Members of the "Pasam Train Friends Association"



**Children's Day Celebrations**

visited Sevalaya along with their families on 18/11/2007. They conducted games and other competitions for the children. Prizes were distributed to the winners.

On 23/11/2007, 70 staff members led by Mr. Sriram Vaideeswaran from Standard Chartered Bank visited Sevalaya Campus, fanned out to different units and engaged themselves in physical labour. The services rendered by them included painting of the Black boards in all the class rooms of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, cleaning of the entire campus, planting of about 50 saplings. The residents were awe struck by the highly sophisticated I.T. professionals engaging themselves in hard physical labour. The group also entertained the children and senior citizens of the Homes by conducting games and cultural events.

On the same day, a team of 10 members from the international group, AXA, U.K. visited the campus and interacted with the staff, children and the senior citizens. This group has adopted Sevalaya as their Social Partners in India. They have also sponsored the education of 60 Kindergarten children throughout their studies.

The residents of Sevalaya were treated to a sumptuous lunch by the friends from Standard Chartered Bank. The AXA group delighted the residents with a good number of gifts.

19 students participated in the second round of quiz competition conducted by Mr. Raveendra from AXA Group.

150 members of Deepam Trust and the Trustees, office bearers and volunteers visited Sevalaya on 25/11/2007. They had arranged for a Light Music Programme, a Magic Show and a Mimicry programme for the children. They organised a grand delicious lunch to all the residents of Sevalaya as well as for all the village children studying in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School.