



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - October 2008** Serve 7 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

When we are happy it is quite natural that we want to share our happiness. That is why we have so many birth day parties, many gatherings, wedding parties etc. Many people come to Sevalaya also on such occasions and celebrate the day with the children and grand pas and grand mas. Helping others on important days is also part of our culture. But will you be able to help others when you are in deep sorrow? Will you even have time or the ability to think about others when the situation is very bad for yourself?

A doctor couple in Chennai did just that last week. Sixteen year old Hitendra met with a road accident and suffered a head injury. He was declared 'brain dead' in the hospital, after all treatments failed. His parents, Dr. Ashokan and Dr. Pushpanjali, took the bold step. They informed the doctors that they were willing to donate all the organs of Hitendra to people waiting for organ transplant. Immediately the organs were removed and rushed to various hospitals in the city and many others got a lease of life. Heart, kidneys, eyes etc., were all distributed to waiting patients, thanks to the bold decision of the parents of Hitendra.

When a death happens in a family the mood is so depressing that one doesn't think of donation etc., at that point of time. Eye donation is a very simple procedure, if a phone call is made to the eye hospital, they will come and take the eyes, which will give sight to two blind people. This is not a major surgery nor the body will be

disfigured. But many people are not able to think of such things when their near and dear has passed away. May be some of the relatives can think of this and suggest to the family. But even then, many families refuse to donate as it is against their religious beliefs.

The noble act of Dr. Ashokan and Dr. Pushpanjali should give all of us courage to donate our organs, when the time comes. It is something which we can't keep it with ourselves or we will not be able to take it with us.

When 'You' have gone, what you have left behind can't be yours.

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Correction on the last issue:

In the last issue we had reported that 'Atma charity wing of IIT donated Rs 50,000 to Sevalaya'. Actually Atma charity wing identifies the beneficiary organizations and the money came from students of IIT through the 'Saarang' program.



**Sevalaya received
the Best Green Campus Award**

"Vaiyath Thalaimai Kol" book was released by Mr. Thangam Thennarasu



Sevalaya's 20th annual report was released by Mr. K.R.Periyakaruppan



Awards

on 13/09/2008, the Police Department's 150th Annual Day was celebrated as "Police & Teachers Day" at Bhajrang Engg. College, Veppampat. Thiruvallur District Collector Mr. Rajendra Kumar IAS, Thiruvallur District Superintendent of Police Mr. Senthamarai Kannan IPS, Thiruvallur District Chief Educational Officer Ms. C.Vijayalakshmi were the chief guests. Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec. School received the Best Green Campus Award, in the function.

Events in the Campus

The annual competitions for the schools and Colleges in Chennai & Thiruvallur District organized by Sevalaya based on the lives and works of Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Swami Vivekananda were held on 02/09/2008. The events were conducted with a view to encourage the students to read and imbibe the values propounded by these great personalities. Students from 16 schools and 3 colleges participated in the competitions.

Vinayagar Chaturthi was celebrated on 03/09/2008. "Teachers day" was celebrated on 05/09/2008.

Sevalaya's 20th Annual Day Celebrations and Tamilnadu's Former Chief Minister Arignar Anna's Centenary Celebrations were held on 13/09/2008. The chief guest Mr. K.R.Periyakaruppan, Honourable Minister for Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Govt. of Tamilnadu released the 20th annual report. He lauded the efforts of Sevalaya towards uplifting the standards of the economically weaker people for the past 20 years. Commending the excellent performance of the free school run by Sevalaya for the rural poor children, the Minister expressed his confidence that Sevalaya will surely achieve its dream of a free Rural University for the poor. Inaugurating Perarigner Anna centenary

celebrations, the Minister spoke about Annadurai's sense of Duty, Honesty and selfless service and said that Sevalaya was truly following the Great Leader's footsteps who declared that "God is seen in the Smile of the Poor". Mr. E.A.P.Sivaji M.A., Member of the Legislative Assembly, Thiruvallur, Mr. A.Krishnaswamy B.A., B.L., Member of Parliament- Sriperumpuder Constituency, Mr. V.S.Shanmugam Chairman, Thiruvallur union and Mr. R.S.Rajarajan B.A., B.L., District Councilor, Thiruvallur participated in the celebrations.

Selvi. Nisha Krishnamoorthi, Detroit, USA presented a Classical Bharathanatyam Programme at Sevalaya 14/09/2008.

Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan's bhajans were conducted at Sevalaya for Hostel students on 26/09/2008.

Sri Sri Ravishankarji's Art of Living Programme was conducted for 3 days from 28/09/2008 to 30/09/2008 for the students of 9th to 12th standards by Mr. T.M.Venkatesan.

External Events

"Vaiyath Thalaimai Kol" a collection of 15 articles authored by Mr. V.Muralidharan and published by Vanathi Pathippakam was released at a function in Vani Mahal, T.Nagar, Chennai at on 01/09/2008. The book was released by Mr. Thangam Thennarasu, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Govt. of Tamilnadu. The first copy was received by Mr. M.B.Nirmal, Founder President of Exnora International. Mr. A.Annamalalai, Director, Gandhi Study Centre, Mr. Tiruppur Krishnan, Editor, Amudasurabhi, Mr. Azhagapaan .C, Film Director, Mr. Lena Tamilvanan, Editor, Kalkandu and Mrs. Sulochana Ramaseshan, President, Exnora International were the special guests in the function. These articles were published as a serial in Kalki, the Popular Tamil Weekly.



The District level Throw Ball competitions were inaugurated by Chief Educational Officer, Thiruvallur

25 students from 9th & 11th standard participated in the second round of quiz programme conducted by Associates of Tata Consultancy Services at their Siruseri office, Chennai on 27/09/2008.

Medical Camps

A TB detection camp was organized by Lioness Club of Eternal Roses, Chennai at Sevalaya with the help of Huma Shasun TB Care (A Unit of the Rotary Club of Madras South West) on 15/09/2008 and 18/09/2008. 487 students & 50 senior citizens were examined for TB.

Others

On 25/09/2008 and 28/09/2008 Ms. Savithiri Srinivasan, Thiruninravur, conducted Classical Dance & Karnatic Music classes for our hostel girls. Under the topic of Self Governance, a training programme was conducted for our hostel students on "Dining Hall Manners" by Mr. A.A.Kingston.

Staff Book Review

On 06/09/2008 Mr. K.Shanmugam spoke on Mahakavi Bharathiyar's Gnana Padalgal (Songs of Wisdom). Ms. Muthulakshmi shared her views on Bharathiyar's poems on 20/09/2008.



Classical Bharathanatyam Programme at Sevalaya



TB detection camp at Sevalaya

Staff Training Programmes

A one day training on "Excellence in Teaching" was conducted on 07/09/2008 by Mr. Muthiyah Ramanathan, Director, Mind Dynamics Centre for the teachers.

Students Training Programmes

Yuva Sakthi Group, Chennai conducted a Personality Development Programme for the 9th & 11th Std students on 07/09/2008.

On 21/09/2008, Mr.Muthiyah Ramanathan, Director, Mind Dynamics Centre conducted a one day workshop on "How to score above 90%" for the 10th & 12th standard students.

Mr. J.Murali Krishnan & Mr. R.Shankar conducted a Personality Development Programme on 28/08/2008 for the 9th & 11th students.

Sports

On 08/09/2008 the District level Throw Ball competition was held at Sevalaya. The competitions were inaugurated by Chief Educational Officer, Thiruvallur in which 14 teams participated. The Senior Girls Throw Ball Team from SBOA Model School was the Winner & Sevalaya's Senior Girls Throw Ball Team was the Runner up.



Sri Sri Ravishankarji's Art of Living Programme at Sevalaya

Can a child tell a lie?

Many of us believe that children are not capable of telling lies. That is on account of superficial understanding of child psychology. Children do tell lies; particularly when they advance towards teenage. That is an impressionable age. They can be misguided and even manipulated to tell lies by seniors and elders for their own self serving purposes.

In his early childhood Gandhiji was a natural adherent of truth. All of us know the Kettle episode, wherein he did not heed the teacher's prompting to copy from the neighbor's slate. "Why should I not be truthful like Harischandra?" was the question he was asking himself day and night. There was an incident when he and his friends were questioned for stealing an idol from their family temple; all the colleagues denied any knowledge while the child Gandhi honestly admitted to have stolen it. Telling lie was a matter of shame for him. There was another incident. Young Gandhi had to report to school for gymnastics at 4.00P.M. He had no watch and the clouds deceived him. When he reached the school the period was over and all the children had left. Gandhi told the teacher what had happened. The teacher did not believe him. (He did not ask himself whether a child will tell a lie.). He ordered Gandhi to pay a fine of a few annas. To be convicted of uttering a lie, deeply pained Gandhi. He cried in anguish. He got the fine cancelled after his father wrote a letter to the teacher explaining what happened.

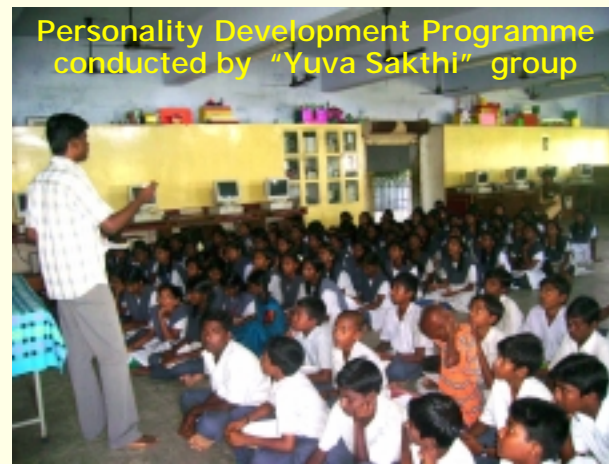
The same Gandhi, when he reached High school stage, got in to bad habits and started telling lies. It was because of misguidance by seniors. He took to meat eating, and he could not take dinner at home. He would say to his mother, "I have no appetite to-day; there is something wrong with my digestion." He took

to smoking and there was no money to buy cigarettes. He started pilfering stumps of cigarettes thrown away by his uncle. He stole coppers. When he was fifteen, he stole gold from the armlet of his brother. All this involved, being untruthful to his parents.

But at one point of time, his conscience hurt him. He decided to make a clean breast of it to his father in sick-bed by means of a letter, and was awaiting punishment. But, "pearl drops trickled down his cheeks. For a moment, he closed his eyes and tore the paper... Those pearl drops of love cleansed my heart." Gandhiji says.

That realization and confession, added with the father's love, made the child Mohandas Gandhi, a Mahatma. But for that moment, Gandhiji would have landed in jail, not as a gloried patriot, but as a noted criminal. The moral line is that it is not uncommon to tell lies in ones' early teens. But if one realizes the mistake, and makes a confession, he or she can become a Mahatma instead of descending to levels of indignity.

It is up to the parents to make their children Mahatmas or Goebbels.



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Editor: [T.S.Venkataramani](#)

Send your comments to: [Sevalaya, Kasuva, Pakkam \(P.O.\), Near Thiruninravur - 602 024, Tamil Nadu, India.](#)

Phone Nos. : [9444346699](#), [9444620286](#), [9444620289](#), (044) [26344243](#).
E.mail : sevalaya@vsnl.com visit at: www.sevalaya.org