



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 6 Sevalaya's News Letter - February 2012 Serve 11 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Recently near my residence many restaurants have mushroomed. There is a wide variety of cuisine - Pizza, south Indian, north Indian, Gujarathi, Rajasthani, Italian etc. On any day, if we go for dinner, all the restaurants are full and we can't get a table without waiting. There are too many people, some birthday parties are going on, many friends and families have a get-together - if you look for a quiet corner, you will never get it, either for lunch or dinner!

In the last two decades the country has seen high economic growth. Many industries have opened up, new private airlines, many new offices, new cars, etc - all indicating prosperity.

Recently a study report (HUNGaMA report) came out which made our prime minister call it a "national shame". The study was organized by a group of young politicians, artists, directors, social activists and policymakers called Citizens' Alliance Against Malnutrition. This study has revealed that at least 40 percent of all Indian children below the age of five are underweight. Hunger, lack of basic health education, bad sanitation and unclean drinking water are shown as the causes for this situation. Compared to this, in sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of children under five who face malnutrition is 24 percent, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. In China, a growing superpower alongside India, that number is only six percent. One child dies every 15 seconds in India due to neonatal diseases and 20 lakh children die before reaching the age of five.

The country sees over four lakh infant deaths every year within 24 hours of life and over 20 percent of the world's child deaths occur in India - the largest number anywhere in the world.

One in three malnourished children of the world live in India. Another interesting finding from the survey is that prevalence of child malnutrition is significantly higher among children of mothers with little or no education. It was seen that 55 percent of mothers never went to school while 84 percent had never heard of "malnutrition".

So why this divide? If nearly half the children in India are suffering from malnutrition, then what will be our future? We keep talking about growing young population in India and may be in 20-30 years time we will have the largest percentage of youth. If all the youth are unhealthy, what is the advantage of having such large "youth power"?

No doubt this is a national shame, but not doing anything about it is a national crime. Mostly these children will be in city slums, villages, etc. may be in some children's home like Sevalaya. We will have to plan and provide food, health education and provide for sanitation and good drinking water. There are many Government programs like ICDS, mid-day meals, free rice to the underprivileged, etc., but the results show that these programs are not effective. The problem is big - half the children are not getting proper food or clean water - so it needs everyone to participate.

If each one can help one person, then half the country can take care of the other half.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Smt. B. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Shri. B. V. Ramana, Hon'ble Minister for Environment in Pongal and Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi Celebrations at Sevalaya



Tailoring & Computer course Certificate Distribution Function at Vadanallur, Kanchipuram Dt.

Bharathi team

Events

Every year Sevalaya organizes 'Smokeless Bhogi' rally to create awareness on the harmful effects of burning waste especially plastics. This year's rally was held on 11/01/2012. The rally was flagged off by Ms.V.Thirumanju Aruldoss (Panchayat President, Pakkam) & Ms. K. Dhakshayani (Panchayat president, Puliur). Volunteers Lynn from Singapore and Caroline from China and Charlotte from England, Village ward members, and more than 1500 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec.School, Angel Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Dasar School, Govt Hr.Sec. School, Velliyur, Swami Vivekananda School Sivanvoyal, Melapedu Govt Middle School, Magaral Middle School & Pakkam High School participated in the rally. The students carried placards depicting the harmful effects of burning wastes especially plastics and rubber and raised slogans to spread the message among the general public.

On 14/01/2012, Sevalaya celebrated Smokeless Bhogi, Traditional Pongal and Swami Vivekananda Jayanthi. Smt. B. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Shri. B. V. Ramana, Hon'ble Minister for Environment participated as Chief Guests in the celebrations. The Social Welfare Minister distributed prizes to the toppers in the State Level free Examination on the life of Swami Vivekananda conducted by Sevalaya. The Minister also handed over the cheque of Rs 25000/- to Ms. Mahalakshmi of Sevalaya under the Govt scheme for marriage assistance to poor girls. She also presented a memento on behalf of Sevalaya to Mr. G.Chittibabu who had been Sevalaya's Headmaster for 15 years and has now joined Government service. Dr. P.Venugopal, Honourable Member of Parliament distributed gifts to employees of Sevalaya who celebrated their birthdays in January. Mr. N.S.A.R. Manimaran, Honourable Member of State Legislative Assembly, released "Vidiyal" the monthly manuscript magazine prepared by the students of Sevalaya and it was received by Puttur Mr. Chandrasekar, Union Chairman of Thiruvallur. Ms. Ruth Vennila, District Social Welfare Officer, Thiruvallur, Mr. Syed Rawoof, Probationary Officer, Thiruvallur, Mr. Sakthi Ramesh, Vice Chairman, Thiruvallur, District Councillors, Smt. Bommi, Smt. A. Selvakumari, Panchayat Union leaders, Smt. Manju Aruldas, Smt. Datchayani, Smt. Mallika and advocate Shri. R.S.Rajaraman participated in the function.

On 21/01/2012 Mr. Prembabu and his team from TCS, initiated a month long activity- "Book Reading Programme" for students of Std VI to IX and XI. At the end of the month "Best participation award" will be given to the best class.

On 26/01/2012, Republic day was celebrated in Sevalaya campus. Volunteer Ms. Kym Anderson from UK hoisted our National Flag. A farewell party for the XII Std students was also given on the same day. 50 old students participated in the meeting.

The Annual Sports day was held on 27/01/ 2012. Mr.V.Mohan Inspector of Police, Vengal. presided over the function. Prizes were given to the winners of various events held for the students, senior citizens, parents, village youth & women.

5 students from 11th standard were offered free membership cards at the British Council Library.

Staff Training

On 04, 05 & 06/01/2012, Mr. V. Jeevanandam and Mr. J Lakshmanan attended the 2nd session of disability training conducted by Kuruvilla Jacob Memorial Trust at Vidya Mandir senior Secondary School, Chennai.

On 09/01/2012, Primary school staff attended a CRC training programme at Pakkam and Veppampattu.

On 21/01/2012, Mr. C.Adhimuthu, Mr.V.Jeevanandam, Mr. Benoy and Mr. E.Adam Basha attended a session on teaching English non-detailed and grammar through activity conducted by SBOA.

Staff Study Circle

On 07/01/2012, Mr. Adam Basha reviewed the book "Personality Development and Upliftment of Humanbeing", written by Prof. Radha and Prof. Raja Husain.

On 21/01/2012, Mr. R.Kannan reviewed the book "Approach to Development", written by Mr. R.Vaidhyanathan.

Participation in events outside Sevalaya....

10 students from Sevalaya participated and won prizes in the oratorical competitions conducted by Vendhan Tutorials on 10/01/2012 at their centre in T.Nagar, Chennai in which 150 students from various schools participated.

On 13/01/2012, Sevalaya displayed a photo exhibition on the Life of Swami Vivekananda in the "Adarsh Youth Mela" for College students organized by Yuva Shakthi on the occasion of National Youth Day – Birthday of Swami Vivekananda, at Vivekananda Auditorium, Anna University, Guindy, Chennai

Vivekananda team

Events

On 01/01/2012, 20 members from Human Rights Organisation, Uthukottai celebrated the New Year in Sevalaya Old Age Home by cutting cake. They also organized a feast for the senior citizens.

On 04 & 05/01/2012, senior citizens of Sevalaya went to the Pakkam Perumal temple for the "Vaikunda Ekadasi".

On 05/01/2012, 20 volunteers from Wings of Shade Cognizant, MEPZ, Thambaram, Chennai visited Sevalaya. They interacted with the residents of Children's Home and Old Age Home and presented gifts to them.

On 07 & 08/01/2012, the residents of Sevalaya Old Age Home went to Pakkam Shiva temple for "Aarudra Dharsan".

On 07/01/2012, the elders participated in the II anniversary celebrations of Sri Varasakthi Vinayagar Temples & Charities trust at Pagalmedu. The Trust donated bed sheets to the Old Age Home residents.



On 07/01/2012, Dr. Vikram, Psychiatrist and Ms. Anandalakshmi, Psychologist from SCARF, visited the campus and provided one on one counselling for the residents who needed such service.

On 08/01/2012, "Pasam Train Friends" visited Sevalaya and entertained the residents by presenting a cultural programme.

On 14/01/2012, 15 volunteers from Rotract club of Soka Ikeda College of Arts & Science for women, Madhanang Kuppam, Chennai, Rotract club of Gurunanak Arts & Science College and Rotract club of Anna Adarsh College for women in the title of "Soka Albatross", visited Sevalaya old Age Home and celebrated Pongal festival with the residents.

On the same day, Mr. Prem Babu and his friends from TCS, visited the Old Age Home and interacted with the residents.

On 15/01/2012, 20 Rotract club students from New College, Chennai celebrated Pongal at Sevalaya and entertained the children with cultural programme and organized sports events. Mr. Vekatesa Mudhaliyar of Puliur was the chief guest for Pongal celebrations.

On 16/01/2012, Mattu Pongal (Thanks giving festival for the cow- friend of the farmer) at Sevalaya's Vinobhaji Goshala. Sub-Inspector of Police, Vengal Ms. Paripooranam and Veterinary Doctor, Dr. Ram participated. Sevalaya also organized a 'Volley ball tournament' for the village youth as an alternative to Jallikkattu – the traditional bull fight. Nearly 42 teams participated.

On 26/01/2012, 10 students and 2 staff went and received cloth materials from Rajasthan Cosmo Club Foundation, under "Dinesh Kumar Bhandari" new cloth scheme for 1000 students at T.N.Rajaratnam Auditorium, Adyar, Chennai.

Volunteers

Ms. Charlotte Chapman from UK is volunteering at Sevalaya as a part of the Children's Art Village USA. Ms. Chapman is teaching the kids to make bottle birds- birds out of disposable plastic bottles and waste materials.

Ms. Kym of Project Trust from Scotland and Ms. Caroline of AISEC from Singapore are volunteering their services at Sevalaya. They work with Primary School children teaching them English reading and writing and rhymes.

Mr. Nick from Project Trust was on a one day visit to Sevalaya on 27/01/2012.

Ms. Linda Menges, a volunteer from Australia is at Sevalaya campus, volunteering her services from 30/01/2012. She is teaching English to the children.

Staff Training

From 27/01/2012 to 29/01/2012, Ms. Parameshwari, caretaker of Mother Teresa Girls Home participated in a 3 days training programme on the topic of "Female child protection", organized by Madurai School of Social Work in Madurai.

Students' Study Circle

On 01/01/2012, P.Gunasekar, of IX Std spoke on the book "Gandhi", written by Mr. T.D.Thirumalai.

On 07/01/2012, P. Janaki, shared her thoughts on the book "Where is peace?" written by Mr. Mohammed Abeed.

Gandhi team

On 21/01/2012, Karuna Club students went to Thamaraipakkam and planted 150 tree saplings.

On 22/01/2012, a function was organized to distribute certificates to the students who have successfully completed tailoring & Computer Training at Sevalaya centre at Vadanallur, Uthiramerur. Mrs. Pramila Vinayagam (Ex. President of Town Panchayat) was the Chief Guest and distributed certificates. Mr.Madhuraimuthu (Ward Member of Town Panchayat, Uthiramerur), Mr.Angamuthu (Agricultural Officer, Vadanallur), Mr.Jayachandran (Vadanallur), Mr.Dhanasekar (Vadanallur), Mr.Balasubramaniam (Vadanallur). Mr.Ravi (Vadanallur), Dr.D.Oza (Retd., Chief Election Commissioner), and Mr. Kannan (Vadanallur) participated in the function.

From 25/01/2012 to 29/01/2012, Sevalaya put up a stall in the Hindu Spiritual Service Fair 2012 at DRB Vaishnava College, Arumbakkam, Chennai.

Public Relations

On 17/01/2012 Mr. V. Muralidharan participated in the auditing committee meeting of Credibility Alliance - South zone, as a panel member.

On 20/01/2012 Mr. V. Muralidharan participated in the District senior citizens Protection Committee meeting, chaired by District Collector, Thiruvallur.

On 21/01/2012 Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the "Youth personality development" program organized by Puthiathalaimurai foundation at Arulmigu Sri Subramania Swami Arts and Science college" at Tiruttani.

On 30/01/2012, Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in a meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and pressed for 50% concession on electricity tariff for service organizations.



**Mr.Kumarianandan, Gandhian Activist
at Sevalaya's stall at
Hindu Spritual & Service Fair**



'Smokeless Bogi' Rally



**Planting of Tree saplings Sevalaya's
Karuna Club At Thamaraipakkam**