



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - November 2012 Serve 8 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

A bus with few school girls is travelling in a lonely hilly road in the North West Pakistan. Suddenly some men appear from nowhere with AK 47 guns and stop the bus. The storm into the bus and brandish their guns and shout "Who is Malala?". There is complete silence. They shout again and again bringing the gun closer the girls. The girls are brave and they still keep quite. "If you don't identify Malala we will shoot down every one" – no reaction, again the girls are silent. Then the shooting happens and now Malala is recovering in a London hospital.

Malala, at the age of 11, started writing on social media networks about the plight of girls education in northern Pakistan – how they have been prevented from going to school, how the number of girls in each school went down day by day and how her school finally closed down. She had the courage to expose what was actually happening inside northern Pakistan, which many leading media channels failed to do.

After the shooting incident many Pakistani girls have come out in the open with placards "I am Malala". All over the world this little girl has become the symbol of girl child education.

When Sevalaya School started functioning two decades ago, we went from house to house asking poor parents to send their children to school. After lot of persuasion, they agreed to send only boys as they believed that even if education is offered free, it is not required for girls. We kept persuading and they kept giving reasons like lack of transportation, lack of toilet facilities for girls in schools, etc., Etc.

When we countered all their problems with solutions like, we will send our bus and do free pick up and drop, we will provide clean toilets separately for girls, we will take responsibility for their safety, etc., etc., still they were unwilling to send girls to school as in the heart of hearts, they strongly believed that education is not for girls. There were few parents who developed confidence in us and started sending girls to our school. So in the beginning there were more boys and fewer girls. As the parents saw the results, slowly the mindset changed and suddenly there was a rush of girls, with the result after five to six years, we had nearly 65% girls! Now that the "backlog is cleared", we have almost a 50:50 ratio.

There was no AK47 or terrorists in our villages physically, but it was all there in the mindset. To counter that, we didn't have to shoot down the terrorists, but we had to put in nearly two decades of sustained positive effort. Now girls are scoring top marks in 10th and 12th grade, many of them have gone for higher education. No girl is out of school in all the 32 villages around Sevalaya.

Help "Malala" by joining hands in the positive work.

Sevalaya joins in prayers with the rest of the world in wishing speedy recovery for Malala. In addition, we also pray for "speedy death of such fundamentalism".

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Public Relations

On 01/10/2012, State level World Elders day was celebrated in Vellore, by the Social welfare department, Government of Tamil Nadu. Mrs. B. Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Mr. V. S. Vijay, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare and Mr. Mohahammed John, Hon'ble Minister for Backward classes and Minorities participated and graced the occasion. Sevalaya received the "State's Best Old age home Institution Award" at the hands of Hon. Minister for Social Welfare.

On 03/10/2012, twenty five senior staff, representing various arms of CSR, from SCOPE International visited the Campus.

On 06/10/2012, Sevalaya participated in the Battle of Buffet program, as part of the Joy of Giving week.

On 07/10/2012 a Musical event in aid of Sevalaya titled 'Yowvanam' was presented by Lakshman Sruthi orchestra at Kamarajar Hall, Teynampet.

On 10/10/2012 & 11/10/2012, Sevalaya put a stall in Microsoft office in Hyderabad as part of the "NGO day" celebrations of Microsoft.

On 24/12/2012, Mr. Stuart Drew, Executive Vice President, HCL Technologies Ltd, visited Sevalaya campus and distributed gifts to the children and interacted with foreign volunteers.

Bharathiyar Team

Events

Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated on 02/0/2012 in Sevalaya. Mr. Rajasekar of Uratha Sindanai was the Chief Guest. The chief Guest distributed prizes to the winners of the Free State Level Examination on the life of the Mahatma conducted by Sevalaya. Students from all over Tamilnadu participated in this event.

M/s. Arthanareeswar trust celebrated their 1st annual function at Sevalaya's service centre on 07/10/2012. They organized sports events for the residents of Sevalaya and donated record notebooks to the school.

On 13/10/2012, Hony. Coordinator Mr. T. S. Venkataramani spoke on "Karma Yoga of Swamy Vivekananda" to all the staff of Sevalaya.

Global hand washing day was celebrated by Hindustan Unilever on 15/10/2012. The program was organized by Ms. Sudha Shankar and senior executives from HUL Chennai took part. Students were told about the importance of hand washing and were taught the right method of washing hands.

On the occasion of World Food Day on 16/10/2012, Mr. Aravind Santhanam, COO of Sistema Shyam Tele Services Limited,(SSTL) and his team donated major items of one month's groceries for the residents of Sevalaya Children's Home and Old Age Home.



Winter Camp Orientation Program for German Volunteers



Cultural Program by German Volunteers



TCS AXA group Quiz Competition Awards



Encouragement Awards Presented by TCS



Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations



Global Hand washing day Celebrations by Hindustan Unilever Limited

Navarathri function was celebrated at Sevalaya on 10/10/2012. Mr. R. Natraj, the Manager of Indian Bank, Thiruninravur was the chief guest on this occasion. Cultural program was presented by the students of Sevalaya.

Training Program and field Visit

The Principal and 28 teachers of Kaligi Ranganathan Montford Public School, Perambur visited the campus on 09/10/2012. They took classes for the students and donated cash and books to the school.

The teachers of Elementary school attended the Cluster Resource Center (CRC) training at Veppampattu & Pakkam on 20/10/2012. This training is conducted by the education department to improve teaching methods.

Six staff members of Sevalaya visited TI school, Ambattur on 19/10/2012 and another six staff members went to SBOA Matriculation School on 31/10/2012 to observe the 'Teaching Learning Process' in their class rooms.

Sports and Competitions

TCS AXA group organized a Quiz competition for Stds IX & XI on 06/10/2012. The students were exposed to questions generally asked during various competitive exams.

Book reading competition was organized by Mr. K.C.Prem Babu and associates of Tata Consultancy Services on 13/10/2012. Students were asked to read books from the library earlier and give book and talk about them on stage. Prizes were given to the students who presented what they read, very well. Awards were also presented for academic excellence in 2011-2012. Students who had secured the 4th, 5th & 6th place in each class from Std I to XII were given prizes.

Students took part in the competitions held at Sri Niketan School on 13/10/2012 and Puthiya Thalamurai quiz held on 17/10/2012. Ajith of std XII won the 2nd prize in the quiz competition. In a function graced by Hon'ble Minister Mr. B.V.Ramanaa, Sevalaya was one among the three schools that received free library books.

Volunteers

A group of volunteers from IIT visited the campus on 07/10/2012 and conducted spoken English classes for std X students. They took classes for the resident students of Std XI on 27/10/2012.

On 09/10/2012, eighteen volunteers from Germany arrived in the Campus for Winter Camp and an impressive Orientation program was held. The winter camp was organized by FSL India from 09/10/2012 to 19/10/2012. The volunteers painted the Blackboards of Higher Secondary classes, took classes in the elementary school and decorated the walls of the Montessori classrooms with beautiful paintings. On 19th in the valedictory function, the overseas volunteers and the students of Sevalaya stormed the stage with their folk and classical dances, which left the audience spellbound.

School Clubs

The Social Science club visited the railway station at Thiruninravur. They met the Station Master and learnt about the various job opportunities in the Railway Department. Students were given interesting puzzles in the mathematics club and the science club students did experiments on magnetic force. The English club organized a reading competition. The Tamil club members learnt about the importance of letter writing and were exposed to different kinds of letters.

On 15/10/2012, which was declared a Big cleaning day, Junior Red Cross, Pasumai Padai and the NSS unit of Sevalaya joined hands with the German Volunteers and cleaned the entire campus, including Children homes and Old age home.

Gandhi Team

Events

Mr. Loganathan, Head of Gandhi Unit and Mr. Venkatesh, Agriculture department staff conducted a training program on Organic farming on 13/10/2012 and 14/10/2012. Twenty farmers in Karalapakkam Village attended the training.

On 15/10/2012, the Gandhi team of Sevalaya distributed 350 Kgs of Sundar salt sponsored by our Advisor & Nutrition expert Dr. Malavika, in the Magaral Village.

From 16/10/2012 to 18/10/2012 the Organic farming unit of Sevalaya joined hands with the eighteen German volunteers and carried out farming activities. They mended the field & sowed seeds at the Kitchen garden.

On 23/10/2012, Aayutha Pooja was celebrated in the Kasuva Campus and Ayalur unit. Project director of Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) Mr. P. Muniyappan graced the occasion.

On 25/10/2012, Aayutha pooja was celebrated at the Vadanallur village unit of Sevalaya. Tailoring unit beneficiaries and local villagers participated in large numbers.

On 27/10/2012, Children and Senior citizens of Sevalaya attended the Aayutha Pooja function organized by the Auto Drivers Association of Anna Nagar, Pattabhiram.

Mobile Library & KottuMurasu

On 07/10/2012, Sevalaya's Mobile library visited the KakkaKandigai Village. On 07/10/2012, KottuMurasu cultural troupe presented cultural program at KakkaKandigai village.

Vivekananda Team

Events

On 01/10/2012, District level World Elders Day was celebrated in The District Collector's Office, Thiruvallur. Twenty senior citizens from Sevalaya participated in the program. District Social Welfare Officer Mrs. Ruth Vennila honored the senior citizens with prizes and gifts.

On 01/10/2012, a group of staff from HCL came to the Old age home & Integrated campus and spent quality time with the Children and Senior citizens.

On 03/10/2012, valedictory function of eight day NSS camp of St. Gabriel's Hr. Sec. School, Broadway, was held.

On 07/10/2012, a group of senior citizens attended the Shashtiapthapoorthi (60th Birthday celebrations) of Mr. K. G. Kandasamy at Thiruvallur and blessed the couple.

On 14/10/2012, Senior citizens, Children Home Boys & Girls attended the yearly Cultural program "Love All Serve All" held at Chinmaya Heritage Centre at Chetpet, organized by the Jeevan Aashray Charitable Trust. The trust contributed academic stationeries and dress materials to our residents.

On 17/10/2012 & 18/10/2012 Children Parliament planning and practice sessions were held in the children's home. Hon'ble Child Speaker Selvi. S. Indhirani and Hon'ble Child Prime Minister Master K. Lokesh conducted the Children Parliamentary House proceedings on both days.

On 24/10/2012, Ambattur Sai Baba Temple donated breakfast, lunch and dinner to the children and senior citizens.

On 28/10/2012, one of our donor Mr. Arun's family, relatives and friends visited the Kasuva Campus and held sports and fun games to the resident children and senior citizens. Things in kind were distributed as prizes.

Student's Book Review

E. Vigneshwar of VIII Std reviewed the book 'Constructive Program' translated in to Tamil by Mr. G. Narayanan, on stage. R. Thiruvaraman of VII Std shared his views on the book 'Malarodu Malaraga' authored by Mr. Radhakrishnan, on stage.

Visit to Places of worship

On 08/10/2012, children and senior citizens of Sevalaya attended the Kolu Function at the residence of the popular TV News Reader Mrs. Ratna Aravind at Ekkaduthangal. The audio visual display of the conversation between Arjuna and Lord Krishna titled Paranthaman in the Eyes of Parthan in the verse and voice of Isaikkavi Ramanan and the realistic display of the lay-out of the holy town of Tiruvannamalai were the highlights of the Kolu and was enjoyed by the Sevalaya residents.

On 12/10/2012, Children Home Boys visited the Vinayagar Temple, and Girls visited the Perumal Temple.

On 26/10/2012, Children Home Girls visited the Local Vinayagar Temple, and Boys visited the Perumal Temple.

Aayutha Pooja Celebrations Ayalur & Kasuva Unit



Navarathri Celebrations

Aayutha Pooja celebration at Uthiramerur Unit

