



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 8 Sevalaya's News Letter - March 2013 Serve 12 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

It is a common sight almost every day at Sevalaya campus that a woman with couple of children come and stand before the office and ask for admitting her children in the hostel and school. When I speak to them first, I tell them that it is their duty to take care of their children, however poor they are and not just dump the children in some hostel like this. Then they start telling their pitiable story and justify why they can't keep the children with them.

In many cases the husband is a drunkard and he spends all the money he earns on alcohol. As they keep consuming alcohol, all day and all night, they become very weak, and mostly die when they are in their thirties. The woman becomes a widow, with couple of small children, she can't leave the children and go for any work (mostly as daily wage earners in agricultural fields or in brick kilns) nor they can stay with the children and take care of them, as there is no money to run the family. In the days of Monarchy, we had wars every other day and many men I died a heroic death leaving behind widowed women. Today there are no monarchs and men do not die in wars, but we have a super monarch- 'Alcohol', waging war on families, killing many men and a few women in villages, creating anarchy.

If the men survive, they are a bigger problem. By the time they come home, they are fully drunk and they can't differentiate between their wife and daughter. During summer vacation when we tell the parents to take the kids home, some of the mothers want their daughters to stay back in the hostel, as their house is not safe for their daughters.

The fathers, under the influence of alcohol, are a bigger threat to their own daughters than any other stranger. The wife and children get beaten up every day and all sorts of abusive words are used in front of the children. So they say tell us that their homes are not safe and want their children to grow up in hostel.

The same women are all praise for their husbands, when the husbands are sober. "He is the best man I can ever see when he has not touched the bottle. He is very caring, wants his sons and daughters to do well in the school, very responsible about the family. When this 'devil' alcohol enters his mouth, everything changes." is the usual description given by the woman.

There was a time in Tamil Nadu when we had total prohibition and majority of people didn't even know about alcohol. In the movies villains were shown as drunkards. Now days, it is the heroes, who are drinking! With free availability of alcohol everywhere, even school children have become addicts.

Sevalaya has joined with likeminded Gandhian organizations and a massive campaign, requesting Government to stop selling alcohol will start on 2nd March. Many political leaders are expected to participate and demand total prohibition in Tamil Nadu and if possible, in the whole of the country.

Let us join hands and drive away this Devil.

Thanks & Regards
Murali



Annual Sports Day Celebrations



Ms. Alison and Juliane from Canada, volunteers of Children's Art Village camp

Functions

The Annual Sports day was held on 15/02/2013. Mr.S.Ulaganathan, Chief Manager, LIC of India, Thiruvallur presided over the function. Prizes were given to the winners of various events held for the students, senior citizens, parents, village youth & women. Gandhi Team won the overall championship. People from 12 villages participated in the sports events. 48 villages participated in the Volley ball tournament.

On 28/02/2013, Special science quiz on herbal plants was held on the occasion of science day.

Training

On 04/02/2013, Mr. Chidambaram of Exnora International conducted an all day personality development class for XI students.

On 23/02/2013, Ms.Seethalakshmi, Principal, Amritha Vidyalaya conducted a session on effective English teaching for staff handling English and a detailed CCE training for all staff.

Volunteers

On 02/02/2013, students from IIT Madras conducted Spoken English Classes for Std IX students and Personality development sessions for Std VII.

Ms.Alison and Juliane from Canada, volunteers of Children's Art Village, USA were at Sevalaya teaching music and dance to 100 children from 04/02/2013 to 09/02/2013.

Gandhi Team

Events

On 02/02/2013 & 10/02/2013, Sevalaya conducted many sports events for the parents, and youth of the villages. Nearly 150 members from 12 villages participated in the events. Prizes were distributed to the winners at the Sports Day.

Medical camps

On 03/02/2013, a free Anemia Blood test camp, organized by Sevalaya was conducted by Nutrition expert Dr.Malavika in the villages of Thamaraiykkam and Komakkambedu. 80 villagers were benefited and on 17/02/2013 the camp was conducted at Alathur village. 42 villagers were benefited.

On 20/02/2013, a free Dental camp organized by Sevalaya was conducted by Meenakshi Dental College in the village of Aayalur. 120 villagers were benefited.

On 21/02/2013, a free Eye Camp organized by Sevalaya was conducted by Sankara Nethralaya Hospital. 128 Villagers were benefited.

Trainings

Sevalaya conducted free training for making soaps and washing powder on 18 & 19/02/2013 at Aayalur centre, on 20 & 21/02/2013 at Vadanallur centre and on 22 & 23/02/2013 at Kasuva Centre.

NSS camps

Sevalaya's Gandhi Unit coordinated the NSS camp by nearly 150 students from Pachaiappa's college, Chennai, at Ayalur centre of Sevalaya, Ayalur village. The camp was inaugurated by Mr.V.Muralidharan on 18/02/2013. Among the various activities, the students cleaned a 700 year old temple. The temple was in a dilapidated condition and was not in use for nearly 50 years. Now regular prayers have started in this temple, thanks to the effort of the students.

Vivekananda Team

Events

On 02/02/2013, residents of Children's home attended the function "Stars of Chennai" in Kamarajar Arangam Teynampet, organized by VGP family. The Children were given stationery things and a memento was presented to Sevalaya.

On 14/02/2013, District Child welfare program's unit meeting was conducted by the District Collector, Thiruvallur. Mr. Kingston and Mr.Varadharajan participated in the meeting.

On 16/02/2013, the senior citizens participated in the program conducted by Sri Varasakthi Vinayaga Temple and Charities Trust at Paagalmedu. The Trust presented dhothies and sarees to the elders.

On 23/02/2013, Child Welfare Committee members visited the boys and girls hostel. They checked the student details and allotted ID nos as required by the Social welfare department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

On 24/02/2013, on the occasion of the birthday of Honorable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Dr. J. Jayalalithaa, special feeding was arranged for the residents of Sevalaya. Mr. B.V.Ramanaa, Honble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration and Stamp, created an Endowment last year by contributing Rs 160000/- for organizing special feeding on Feb 24th every year on the occasion of Dr. J.Jayalalithaa's birthday. This year, Thiruvallur District Chairman, Mr. Putlur Chandrasekar and members of the AIADMK, Thiruvallur North participated.

On 27/02/2013, an all NGOs meeting was conducted by the Thiruvallur Collector. Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the meeting.

Tours

On 01/02/2013, 28 boys and girls from Sevalaya Homes and 2 staff members were taken on a tour to Puttaparthi by Sri Sathya Sai Seva samithi, Puttaparthi. The program was organized by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Besant Nagar.

Visit to places of worship

On 01/02/2013, the resident boys visited the Kasuva Vinayagar Temple. On the same days the resident girls visited the Kaliyanoor kandigai Vinayagar Temple.

On 15/02/2013, the resident boys visited the Kaliyanoor kandigai Vinayagar Temple. On the same day the resident girls visited the Kasuva Vinayagar Temple.



Birthday Celebrations of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Dr. J.Jayalalithaa



XII std Students and staff at Pakkam Hanuman Temple