



NEWS LETTER

April - June, 2011



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GANDHIGRAM TRUST INITIATES A PLAN TO IMPROVE VILLAGES BY DEVELOPING 100 GANDHIAN VOLUNTEERS

Gandhigram Trust has initiated a new training programme for developing Gandhian volunteers for promotion of Village Industries products (Developing Gram Karmi Samakya for Gram Shilpa Promotion). This project is funded by National Council for Rural Institute, Hyderabad (Ministry of HRD-GOI). The objectives are developing Gandhian volunteers for improving villages, to create livelihood opportunity through village industries, to develop networks of institutions with Gandhian ideology and strengthening the village economy.



A series of training programmes have been planned. The first training programme was inaugurated on 25.05.2011. Addressing the inaugural session, Shri K. Shivakumar Secretary, Gandhigram Trust said that they would not just stop with propagating ideologies, but utilize it effectively to improve the rural economy.

Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee said that the rural women should involve with commitment for the improvement of villages. She stated that sufficient opportunities would be there for women volunteers to make them self-reliant. While obtaining economic independence, the volunteers would adopt Gandhian ideology to lead a perfect life.

Managing Trustee Shri. M.R. Rajagopalan said that Gandhian economic programme and Gandhian ideology would strengthen villages. Self-sufficient villages would create ample opportunities for the people to improve economic activities and boost their personal income. The courses are designed to train them on all aspects to make the villagers self-sufficient. The Trust would help volunteers with necessary facilities, including marketing of the products.

Prof. Dr. S. Narayanasamy, Department of Gandhian Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute (D.U) Gandhigram, gave a special lecture about the training programme. He expressed that the village volunteers should inculcate the characteristics like compassion, dedication, determination, organizational skills, management skills, magnanimity and self-assurance.

“The Heart of the volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

- DeAnn Hollis

VILLAGERS DONATE MONEY TO ERECT STATUE OF GANDHI AT KODAIKANAL

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled in Mannavanur, a village in the Palani upper hills, west of Kodaikanal and it was made possible due to the donations given by the villagers.

These villages, with a population of just over 5,000 are mostly agricultural labourers and small farmers growing potatoes, garlic, beans and carrots. Yet, they did something unique; they collected donations within the village and erected a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. The village already boasts of statues of MGR, Anna, Kamaraj and even V.O. Chidambaram. The villagers felt that not having a statue of Gandhi was a deficiency they had to correct. In this effort the village youth, the Gandhigram women's and men's SHGs and the village elders all got together.

This statue was unveiled on 20th April, 2011 by Shri.Lakshmikantan Bharati, freedom fighter, State Planning Commission Member and former Collector of Madurai. Speaking on the occasion Shri. Bharati said that in more than sixty years of public life, he has attended and chaired many public meetings, but this meeting in Mannavanur has given the greatest satisfaction. He congratulated the villagers for their unity and their desire to remember Mahatma Gandhi and walk in his footsteps. He urged the villagers to completely stop consumption of alcohol and exhorted them to buy at least one piece of Khadi cloth every year.

Ramanathan of village organizing committee, who spoke on the occasion said that Mannavanur wanted to remember the great soul, who had brought freedom to India and

who had always worked for the betterment of India's villages. Sri. P. Arumugam, Deputy Secretary of the Gandhigram Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust and Sri.Thangavel, Secretary of Lakshia Kudumbam also spoke on the occasion.

ONLINE TEACHING FOR THE CHILDREN OF SOWBHAGYA ILLAM

The children of Sowbhagya Illam (Children's Home) are connected with online teaching from Ann Foundation, USA. Ann Foundation is a specialized institution spreading educational materials through online teaching. They have assured to help the inmates of Sowbhagya Illam for teaching spoken English initially and later for value education and office management. They have built-in study materials and will be directly reaching with the children at the convenient timings.



Rtn.MPHF. Thiru.R.S.K.Raghuraam, Director, PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul extended his support by supplying 5 apple computers, installation and internet connection which has initiated the computer lab set up and online connection in sowbhagya Illam. He assured that they would take care of the technical and hardware support to maintain the flow of communication between Ann Foundation and Sowbhagya Illam.

The inauguration of computer centre and online communication were held on 09.04.2011. Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee

***"I believe that where there is pure and active love for the poor there is God.
God in every thread that I draw on the spinning wheel."***

- Mahatma Gandhiji

presided over the function, stressed that the children should make use of the opportunity available and should concentrate on learning the latest technology. Shri M. R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee elaborated that online learning could be routed with RuTAG, IIT, Chennai and that the Trust would be interested in Capacity Building programmes for the students. Shri K. Shivakumar, Secretary of Gandhigram Trust indicated that initially the programme would be for spoken English for the children in Gandhigram and later it would be extended to as community programme and value education for rural educational development. Smt. P.R.Sankari, Mentor, Intel Teach Programme, Tamilnadu, extended the support by way of giving training to the children. This would support in executing the above programmes. She would be guiding the children and would also plan to conduct short term certificate-programmes for children.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Eight students appeared for XII Std public examination from Sowbhagya illam and secured Cent percent results. Selvi. Pragadheeshwari secured 959/1200 and Ms.K.Selvi 933/1200 Marks. Ten students appeared for X Std public examination and eight students have passed. Selvi Krishnaveni secured 420/500 and Selvi Rohini 417/500 marks.

KASTURBA SEVIKASHRAM SPECIAL HR. SEC. SCHOOL

Sevikashram students visited Dindigul Naga Mills. The visit was arranged by Queen City Rotary Club of Dindigul on 8th April 2011.

26 Students appeared for the XII Std public examination and all have passed. Selvi A.Prabha secured 991/1200 and got the first

rank in the school, six students have scored above 900 marks. 61 Students appeared in the X Std public examination and 57 have passed. Selvi S.Suganthi secured 459/500 and got the First rank in the school. Ten students have scored more than 400 marks.

AVVAI ASAHRAM –SIVASAILAM

All the students who appeared for XII and X Std Public Examinations have passed. Additional supplementary coaching was given to the students in the evenings. Training was given in tailoring, computer and dance. Classes for learning Thevaram were conducted to the students.

SANTHI SCHOOL FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The Thamirabarani Sports Club,V.K.Puram organized a summer sports training from 05.05.2011 to 20.05.2011. Nearly 13 students of our school had participated and bagged



prizes. Five students appeared for X Std public examination and 3 have passed the examination.

Vasthu Pooja was performed for the building compound wall. Dignitaries from Simpson group, Gandhigram Trust, students and staff members participated in the function.

DR. T.S.SOUNDRAM VIDYALAYA MATRIC SCHOOL

Teachers and students of Dr.T.S.Soundram Vidyalaya gave Farewell to the outgoing V Std students on 11.04.2011.

“I like a teacher, who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.”

-G.M.Terevelyam



Dr.G.Pankajam, Advisor and Smt.S.Rajam, Correspondent of the school had participated in the farewell and blessed the students. Nearly 50 new students have joined the school from LKG to V Std.

GANDHIGRAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dindigul Nehru Yuva Kendra conducted a drawing competition on 5.4.2011. Students of our School participated and ten students bagged gold medals and eight bagged the silver medals. Participation certificates and the medals were distributed through the Head mistress of the school. With the help of Selvi. K.S. Neela, Director-Resource Mobilisation all the black boards of the school were painted.



Teachers of our School donated bags, slates and other learning materials to the newly joined children. They have also contributed Rs.12,000/- for electrical wiring works for the class rooms constructed under 'Namakku Namae Scheme'. Nearly 50 new students have joined the school and total number of students is 419.

THAMBITHOTTAM HR. SEC. SCHOOL

P.Aravindan XII Std student of Indian Culture bagged State level Second Rank. XII Std students have brought a remarkable result of 98% with the first mark of 1091/1200 by Master M.Saravanakumar. Class X students have improved with 92% of result. Mr.A.Xavier Renir Prasath scored first mark in the school 488/500 which is three marks less than district rank. 19 students have scored above 450 and 50 have scored above 400. Eight students have scored centum in Mathematics and one in Social Science.

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

College day function was held on 26.04.11. Dr.N.Markandeyan, Principal, GTN Arts College, Dindigul was the Chief Guest and delivered the college day address. Sri.M.R.Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee, Dr.R.Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee, Sri K.Shivakumar, Secretary, Gandhigram Trust participated and blessed the students. Dr.A.Meenakshisundram, Principal i/c presented the college report. Dr.S.Indirani gave the welcome address and Dr.T.Krishnammal gave the vote of thanks.

DR. SOUNDHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Community college of Gandhigram Trust conducted the Term end examination for both theory and practical from 06.06.2011 to 14.06.2011 for the Diploma and Certificate courses.

The third Academic Committee meeting was held on 29.06.2011. Dr. R. Kousalya devi, Chairperson, Dr.Shanmugam, Senior Regional Director, Madurai, (IGNOU Representative), faculty members and special invitees attended the meeting. Dr.G.Pankajam, Director

“A dream is not what you see in your sleep. A dream is the thing, which does not let you sleep”

-Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



Dr.Soundram Community College presented a brief report of the activities of the college. The syllabus for new courses were presented for approval. Diploma in Health Assistant (HAD3001), Certificate and Non-credit course in Herbal Medicine Siddha-(Modified), Certificate in computer Application (CAC)-(New), Certificate in Nai Talim (CNT) – NCRI (New) were approved.

KASTURBA HOSPITAL

Kasturba Hospital has a 25 bedded Geriatric ward to take care of old and sick people. The Hospital is doing its best to make them all feel at home. 31 Senior citizens are now in the hospital for old age care. There is now an increasing demand for Geriatric Care. The hospital is planning to construct one more Geriatric ward with 25 beds.



Kasturba Hospital is mainly concentrating on maternal and child health. The number of deliveries conducted in the hospital in the months of April-333, May-364 and June (up to 24th)-288.

The third, fourth and fifth meeting of the Antenatal care project were held on 04.04.2011, 02.05.2011 and 06.06.2011 and 10, 16 and 9 Antenatal mothers participated in

the meetings respectively. The project is to promote the health of the Antenatal mothers through education and make them feel more confident during labour.

A new Super Deluxe Special ward named Ilamparithi Illam was opened on 08.06.2011. Smt.N.Gandhimathi, Associate Professor of Tamil, M.V.M. Government Arts College, Dindigul, donated Rs. 4 Lakhs for this construction.

VILLAGE EXTENSION

Village Extension wing is involved in the special programme for Alleviation of Anaemia and other micro nutrient deficiencies among rural SHG women and their family members. Blood samples were collected from 215 women and 160 children. The results of blood test showed that 61.39% of women and 55% of children were anaemic.



30 TOTs were trained to provide health education on micro nutrients and its deficiencies to the SHG women.

WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

The midterm evaluation by Arghyam team from Bangalore visited Samiyarpatty near Gandhigram on 6th & 7th June 2011. The team found out that all residents of Samiyarpatty village have been getting more than the required quantum of water because of the implementation of a novel Water Conservation and Action Research study programme.

“Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.”

-Vernon Law



Water meters have been fixed in 39 household in potable and 7 public taps and 28 non-potable household service connections. After implementation from April to May 2011 the total usage of water is reduced. The water usage was found to be 225 liters /per family, 57 liters / per person in April 2011. It got reduced in May 2011 to 194 liters / per family and 49 liters/ per head.

Water Quality Test Training programme was conducted from 22nd to 27th June 2011 to the power pump operators (PPO) and water committees. Mr. S. Murugesan, Chief Chemist explained about the water parameters and its advantages and disadvantages. Mr.Vijayakumar, PPO, conducted practical session. 107 participants from five Gram Panchayats attended the above training.

DR. SOUNDRAM TRUST

The napkin unit was shifted to spacious new building (Dr.Soundram Matric School-old building). Now two SHG members are working. An order from Rajapalayam worth Rs.40, 000/- has been received and the production is in progress.

KHADI & VIPC TRUST

There is a huge demand for the Muslin sarees of Gandhigram. Smt.Jegatha Rajappa a design expert visited our unit and introduced new designs. Smt.Gitaram of The TVS family arranged for funds to the tune of Rs. 7 lakh for new designs and additional requirement to the

natural dyes unit. She has also ordered for 100 sarees in new designs.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission have provided partial funding for Ready WARP project costing Rs.6 Lakhs. Our contribution is Rs.1.50 Lakhs. The machineries to implement this programme are being installed at T.Supulapuram village.



KVIPC Trust introduced a special Amla juice to take care of the health of diabetic patients

TdHNL (Terre des homes Netherland)

Sri Thanga Perumal, Programme Officer, TdHNL project visited the special centre for school drop outs on 29.04.2011 and discussed about the education of drop out children and future plans.

GANDHIGRAM SALES

REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) TRAINING

A Two day training on sales promotion of Siddha, Ayurveda medicines and Village Industries products was organized by Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) at Gandhigram from 6th June to 7th June 2011. HDFC bank had identified seventeen members from SHGs from Kulithalai and Ramnad and sent them for Training.

During the Training our doctor's team consisting of Dr. Karthikeyan, Dr. Revathy, Dr. Sundarameenal and Dr.Thilagavathi handled

“Life’s most persistent urgent question is what are you doing for others?”

-Rev.Martin Luther King



classes for the participants on the importance of Siddha and Ayurveda medicines, preparation methods in Gandhigram and usage methods.

The participants interacted with the speakers and clarified their doubts. In the valedictory session Shri M. R. Rajagopalan, Secretary of LSS, Shri K. Shivakumar, Secretary of Gandhigram Trust, Shri Manohar Rao from Arghyam participated and distributed the certificates.

LITERACY PROJECT PLANNED FOR 12 NELLAI SCHOOLS

Gandhigram Trust has plans to introduce India Literacy Project in 12 schools in Kalakkadu block in Tirunelveli district in order to enhance quality of education in rural areas. Backward, remote and needy schools have been identified for the project to be launched. The project will concentrate on life coping skills for children, organize parent teachers meetings, training programmes for staff and education support to differently abled children. Supplementary education centre will also be constructed in villages. Nearly 900 students from 12 schools from 10 villages would be benefited by this project with Rs.11 Lakhs funded by ILP, USA.

A NEW PROJECT FROM CIMAP

Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Centre (CIMAP), Lucknow and Gandhigram Trust are planning a project to motivate the farmers to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants in the villages in



and around Gandhigram. Shri.Ram Raja Sekar, Director of CIMAP and his five associates visited Gandhigram on 18.06.2011 to discuss the scope and modalities for introducing the new project.

The Managing Trustee of Gandhigram Trust, Shri M.R.Rajagopalan, Secretary Shri K.Sivakumar and the HODs of various units of Gandhigram Trust participated in the discussion. The coordinators of projects expressed their plans and activities, which would be implemented in this region. The Director of CIMAP expressed that his centre is interested to start a small laboratory and a model farm at Gandhigram.

In this regard four young scientists from CIMAP visited Gandhigram on 27.06.11. The team visited all the units of Gandhigram Trust and also the Siddha and Ayurvedic unit at Kasipalayam. They have discussed about the transfer of technologies of CIMAP especially scientific value addition to the Siddha and Ayurvedic units. They also visited the site which would be utilized for starting a laboratory and model farm.

HRD (Human Resource Development)

HRD unit of Gandhigram Trust completed its first year and stepped into the second year. It has released a revised edition of pocket size telephone directory and distributed it to all the units. Suggestion boxes were fixed in different places of Gandhigram Trust. Janatha Personal Accident Insurance

“The purpose of one’s life is fulfilled only when one is able to bring joy to another.”

-Holy Mother Sri Saratha Devi

Policy Scheme was introduced to 246 employees of Gandhigram Trust and Dr.Soundram Trust. Visited Avvai Ashram and Santhi School in Sivasailam and conducted core committee meetings and gave counselling to the staff members. A proposal had been sent for Jindal Award for our activities at Kasturba hospital in health including drugless healing.

SELF-RENEWAL PROCESS OF GANDHIGRAM TRUST

As a continuation of Strategic Planning, Shri VC.Nadarajan, a management expert and Smt. Buvaneshwari introduced Log Frame Approach (LFA) to the staff members of Gandhigram Trust on 27th and 28th May 2011. They discussed about the characteristics of LFA, and LFA Matrix. The LFA prepared by Smt.Revathy, Dr. Karthik and Smt. Yamuna were presented and discussed. Sri. K. Shivakumar Anna gave valuable inputs for the improvement of the LFAs prepared.

OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED AT GANDHIGRAM TRUST

- * 4 MSW students from Dr.Ambedkar University, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh did their block placement for 30 days during April and May 2011.
- * 3 MSW students from Bharat Matha College, Cochin, Kerela did their block placement for 30 days in the month of June and July 2011.
- * 10 Fashion Technology students from Mother Teresa University, Kodaikanal

undergone the training in the Natural dyes Unit for 30 days in the Month of May 2011.

- * Training of trainers (TOT) on “Micronutrients deficiencies and food supplements” was conducted for SHG Coordinators on 11th and 12th April 2011.
- * TNVRC training programme was organised for 16 batches, nearly 300 SHG women were trained in Governance, Finance and Management from April to June 2011.
- * 3 SHG women from Kalahasthi, Andhra Pradesh experimented Kalam Kari design using Natural dyes from 20th to 25th June 2011.

VISITORS

- * Shri. Chidambaram, the grandson of V.O.Chidambaram visited Sowbhagya Illam and various units of Gandhigram Trust from 21st to 24th April 2011.
- * Students from Kasturba College for Women, Pondicherry visited Gandhigram Trust during the Month of April 2011.
- * Mr.Manohar Rao from Arghyam, Bangalore visited Gandhigram Trust regarding “Promotion of Sanitation and Action Research” in Samiyarpatti village on 6th and 7th June 2011.

Exemption under Sec.35AC Notification S.O.129 (E) Govt. of India dated 14-06-2011.

Gandhigram Trust has been sanctioned exemption under Sec. 35 AC of Income Tax Act 1961 for Rs. 100.00 Lakh including a corpus fund of Rs. 50 Lakh for a period of 3 years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

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