



NEWS LETTER

January - March, 2011



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TRIBUTE TO KASTURBA GANDHI

KASTURBA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT GANDHIGRAM TRUST



Kasturba Day was celebrated on 21st and 22nd February 2011 at Gandhigram Trust in a grand manner. On 21st evening the day was celebrated in the Government Higher Secondary School at Chettiapatti, a nearby village. The Function was coordinated by Lakshmi College of Education. Dr.N.Margandan, Former Vice chancellor and Dr.S.Narayanasamy, Professor, Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, Gandhigram Rural Institute, enlightened the audience with

illustrations from the life of Kasturba Gandhi.

A special prayer was organised on 22.02.11 and the students of our educational units spoke about the life history and dedication of Kasturba Gandhi. A meeting was organised especially for the women workers of Gandhigram Trust and they actively participated in many competitions and won prizes.

A memorable function was organised in the evening at Kasturba Hospital. Dr. N. Kamalamma Professor of Home Science (Rtd.), Gandhigram Rural Institute presided over the function. Sri.S. Sankararaman, Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudi, gave key note address. The dignitaries blessed our students and distributed the prizes to the outstanding students of



Sevikasram Special Higher Secondary School and Sowbhagya Illam. A magnificent cultural programme was rendered by the students of Gandhigram Trust.

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- *It is Ba's Inspiration, which helped me to reach the heights of my inner self, she was my priceless Jewel*

- Mahatma Gandhi on his wife Kasturba Gandhi

CHANGE OF MANAGING TRUSTEE

Dr. R. Kousalya Devi had given a letter that she would like to be relieved of her position as Managing Trustee and would like to nominate Shri.M.R.Rajagopalan, Secretary as Managing Trustee.

According to the Trust Deed the Managing Trustee of the Gandhigram Trust shall be entitled to nominate the next Managing Trustee for life. The relevant portion of the Trust Deed was read out in the meeting.

Her letter was presented before the Board. The Board resolved to accept her request and appoint Sri.M.R.Rajagopalan as Managing Trustee for life.

The Board also resolved in the resultant vacancy of the post of the Secretary. Shri.K.Shivakumar, Treasurer & Associate Secretary be appointed as Secretary and Dr.G.Pankajam was appointed as Associate Secretary.

Till now the post of Treasurer was looked after by Shri. K.Shivakumar, Associate Secretary because of the qualification and knowledge of subject matter. Considering the qualification and competence of Shri.S.Sankararaman, it was resolved that he may be appointed as Treasurer.

The Board placed on records the commendable leadership and services rendered by Dr.R.Kousalya Devi for the past 14 years of her tenure as the Managing Trustee of the Trust.

The Secretary Shri. M.R. Rajagopalan informed the Board that Dr.R.Kousalya Devi will continue her position as Life Trustee of the organization and will provide leadership as guidance as its Mentor.

ALL UNITS OF GANDHIGRAM TRUST TO BE MODERNISED

Gandhigram Trust has been going for a major structural change in order to modernise administrative functions and expand its activities of tapping new avenues and strengthening existing business activities without diluting Gandhian principles. With the new Managing Trustee, Secretary, the Treasurer and the Associate Secretary the Board also constituted six committees and an expert panel for ensuring effective functioning of all units under its control. Each committee has staff representatives and members of core committee.

Decentralization of power would ensure better functioning of the units. Youngsters were roped into these committees to chalk out future plans and execute them. Automation would also take place in a large scale. Moulding young generation to handle administration independently is under way. The Board had developed a resource management package to improve the financial status. Main focus would be on increasing donation base.

SOWBHAGYA ILLAM

With the aim to improve the academic excellence, supplementary coaching had been arranged to our children with the sponsorship of Mrs. Mirudula Ramesh. Further she had arranged for a discussion with the psychiatrist, Dr. Ramasubramanian of Madurai. The Assistant Superintendent and one of the tutors attended the discussion on 02.02.2011. Psychologist Dr. Sharmila from Dindigul met the children, had a discussion and motivated them to solve problems and better achievement in studies.

♦ *“You must be the change you want to see in the world”*

-Mahatma Gandhi



Sister Thangam, Maternal and Child Health Officer, Kasturba Hospital gave training to the House Mothers of Sowbhagya Illam to understand the concepts like First Aid, Food and Nutrition, Child Care, Problems of children and how to solve it .

Smt. Kavitha Mythili, Department of Home Science, GRI taught the House-Mothers the importance of nutritious food and cooking without wasting the nutrients.

Dr. N. Murugan, Prof. PSNA Engineering College, Dindigul convened a discussion on 'Goal Setting' and the ways and means of achieving the Goals.

KASTURBA SEVIKASHRAM SPECIAL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Alumini Association meeting was held on 20th February 2011. The Social Welfare Officer Smt. Gnanaguru was the chief guest. Sri. M.R. Rajagopalan Managing Trustee and



Dr. G. Pankajam, correspondent of the school felicitated the meeting.

Selvi. M. Pandimeena secured 441/500 marks in the X std. public examination, took

first rank in the school and bagged several prizes.

The Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension, GRI, conducted various competitions on 02.03.2011. Nearly 32 students participated and 7 students secured second and third prizes. The participants were given consolation prizes and certificates.

The Centre for Women Studies celebrated the International Women's Day and conducted drawing and dance competitions. The students participated and received prizes.

GANDHIGRAM SANTHI SCHOOL FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The students of Santhi School participated in the special sports competition organised jointly by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare- Central Government and Bharath Special Olympics at St.Xaviers College, Palayankottai on 12.03.2011. Nearly 15 students have participated in the sport events. Because of their excellent performance



they secured 1 Gold medal, 5 Silver medals and 3 Bronze medals.

DR. T.S.SOUNDGRAM VIDYALAYA MATRIC SCHOOL

The Eco-Club of Dr. T.S. Soundram Vidyalaya organised elocution and drawing competitions on the themes of Environmental

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- *The Highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence*

- Rabindranath Tagore



Awareness. They have planted trees in the school campus and also purchased instruments for gardening. The Directorate of School Education and Environment Development funded the programme.

GANDHIGRAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dr.Tim and his associates from the country of Peru demonstrated the simple ways of teaching Mathematics through activities and games on 07.01.11.

Our students participated in the competitions held at Kavian Matriculation school- Ammaiyanaikanoor on 08.01.11. Two of our students have secured second prize and



received cash of Rs. 1500/each.

The 5th standard students participated in the elocution and drawing competitions organised by the Integrated Water and Sanitation Project and received prizes in the celebrations of World Water Day on 22nd March 2011.

THAMBITHOTTAM HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Sri.I.Periasamy, Honorable Minister for Revenue and Housing visited the school and distributed English Dictionary to all students on 5.01.2011.

The Annual Day of Thambithottam Higher Secondary School was held on 12.01.2011. The Managing Trustee Dr.R.Kousalya Devi presided over the function. The chief guest Dr. A.Zahitha Begam, Associate Professor & HOD of Education Dept. delivered a wonderful speech and distributed the prizes to those who scored high marks in the Public Examinations and the first rank holders in each standard.

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Lakshmi College of Education has proved its distinctiveness by the achievement of the following students by securing three Ranks at District level on B.Ed. Degree Examination - May 2010 of Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Chennai.

1. Selvi. T. Sivapria 3rd Rank
2. Selvan. P. Stephen 4th Rank
3. Selvi. M.P. Lidwina Helen Mary

The students of Biological science participated in the Bio-Fest competition organised by the Department of Biology, Gandhigram Rural Institute on 18.02.2011. Sri.S. Chakkaravarthi, Ms. S. Mageswari, Ms. J. Gowri and Ms. T. Nirmala participated in the various competitions like Quiz, Dumb charade, Model making, Turn coat and Extempore speech and bagged the overall championship.

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- ***“Real Education consists in drawing the best out of yourself.
What better book can there be than the book of Humanity?”***

-Mahatma Gandhi



Our college organized a two-day Inter Collegiate Sports Meet for the student-teachers (Madurai Zone) of Colleges of Education affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education on 8th and 9th of March 2011.

Department of Mathematics organized a One- Day work shop on the “Preparation of Mathematics Laboratory Materials”, for the B.Ed., students of affiliated colleges of Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University on 04.03.11. Nearly 83 students from various colleges participated in the workshop. Dr. A. Meenakhisundaram, Principal in charge presided over the workshop and Dr.K.Vasugi, felicitated the programme.

DR. SOUNDHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students were admitted for 2011 January session. Nearly 43 students joined in the certificate in Herbal Medicine Siddha (Category-3) Course and also 40 students joined in Diploma in Herbal Medicine Siddha (Category-3) Course.

The results of Diploma in Health Assistant and Certificate in Herbal Medicine Siddha (Category-3) Courses were published. All the 55 students appeared for the semester December 2010 Term End Examination successfully completed the courses.

The Certificate in Herbal Medicine Siddha students went for an Educational tour from 25.03.11 to 27.03.11.

INTEGRATED SPORTS DAY

The Integrated Sports Day of various Educational units under Gandhigram Trust was held on 11.01.2011. The function commenced in the presence of our Managing Trustee Dr. R. Kousalya Devi. Sri. M. Shivaraman, Controller of Examinations, Gandhigram Rural Institute, inaugurated the Sports Day and Sri. M.R.Rajagopalan the Secretary of Gandhigram Trust declared open the sports event. The chief guest distributed the prizes to the winners and gave a special address to the audience.

ANTENATAL CARE PROJECT OF KASTURBA HOSPITAL

The Antenatal care project was started on 17.01.2011. The project is to promote the health of Antenatal mothers through education and make them feel more confident during labour. The project is also to increase community awareness of how to educate other Antenatal mothers. Monthly meeting was conducted in addition to the regular Antenatal checkups. The first meeting was held on 07.02.2011 and sixteen Antenatal mothers participated in the meeting.

VILLAGE EXTENSION

The SHG members of Palani and Thoppampatti working under the guidance of Gandhigram Trust organised their Annual Day on 25.02.2011. The chairman of Palani Town Panchayat presided over the function. Kantha vilas owner Sri. N.S. Selva Kumar,

• *“Education is the progressive discovery of our own ignorance”*

- Will Durant



Sri.Rathinam, Smt. Uma, Sri.David Barun Kumar, and Smt.Revathy delivered lectures regarding 'Rights for Voting'. More than 250 SHG members, councilors and other workers participated in the programme. The Tribals of Kodaikanal Balamalai gave cultural Programme.

Centenary celebrations of International women's day was organised by Village Extension on 08.03.11. All the Federation under Gandhigram Trust participated in this auspicious occasion. The participants discussed about the "Empowerment of women in the current situation and its importance".

All the in-charges of federation showed their talents in various competitions conducted during the programme. Prizes were distributed to all the winners and outstanding performers.

The staff members of Extension Wing attended the training programme for Trainer (TOT) regarding 'Financial Management' for five days conducted by TNVRC at Ulundoorpet during 22nd to 26th March 2011. Nearly 40 batches of SHGs training were completed successfully for one year agreement.

SAVE WATER TODAY FOR TOMORROW

The Water and Sanitation Project is introducing an innovative Action Research on drinking water supply at Samiyarpatti village of Gandhigram Panchayat. The purpose of the study is analysing the water consumption, water usage, wastage of water and expenditure for

the maintenance. They have planned to fix 75 water meters in the household connections for both potable and non potable waterlines. Gandhigram Trust has installed 60 water meters with necessary connections.



The World Water Day was commemorated on the theme "Today's Water Resources and its Conservation" by the staff members of Water and Sanitation Project on March 22.03.2011 at Samiyarpatti. The villagers, school students and teachers attended the meeting. Amazing speeches were given by the prize winners of elocution competition on the themes of 'Water Conservation and Climate Change and its Impact on Water'. Sri T. Jeyaraman, Gandhigram Panchayat President presided over the programme. Dr.R.Kousalyadevi and Sri M.R.Rajagopalan felicitated the function.

DST CORE SUPPORT PROJECTS

FIELD VISIT OF OFFICIALS FROM DST – SEED DIVISION, NEW DELHI

A team of scientists, Smt.Shobana Baskaran, Dr.Sathya Prathamathi and Dr. Pushpangathan from the Department of Science



- ***“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will”***

-Mahatma Gandhi

and Technology, Govt. of India, and Dr. Anil Kumar from M.S. Swamynathan Foundation conducted field visit and on the spot assessment of Gandhigram DST CORE projects on 9th and 10th of February 2010. Scientists reviewed the projects and given suggestions for improvement.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OF SANITARY NAPKIN

The Gandhigram Trust has developed an appropriate technology for the production of cheap and affordable napkin to improve the menstrual hygiene among rural women and adolescent girls. This technology has been evolved by a team of members headed by Sri. M.R. Rajagopalan, the Managing Trustee of



Gandhigram Trust, with the support of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India, New Delhi and Rural Technology Action group (RuTAG, IIT – Madras, Chennai).

Gandhigram has established 5 units in different parts of the country and recently a production unit was established at KOHIMA, at Nagaland and it was appreciated by the State Govt. The Gandhigram Trust has started a new centre for propagation and training on Sanitary Napkin.

KHADI AND VIPC TRUST

Kadhi and VIPC Trust organised an awareness seminar regarding certification of ISO 9001-2000 for their products at Gandhigram on 09.02.2011. Nearly 60 members from various units of our sister concerns participated in the programme and shared their views.

LAKSHMI SEVA SANGHAM BIO TECHNOLOGY LAB

Gandhigram Trust took initiative for tissue culturing of rare medicinal plants which are in high demand. The culture plants to be supplied to the cultivators and interested farmers/herbal collectors. The Tissue culture Lab for medicinal plants was unveiled at LSS Campus by the DST core Evaluation team on 9th February 2011.



NEW SALES OUTLETS AT ULAVAR SANDHAI, PALANI UNDER SFURTI

The fifth sales outlet was opened in the Farmers Market at Palani, located in Travellers Bungalow Road on 16.03.2011. Siddha and Ayurveda medicines of Lakshmi Seva Sangham & Village Industries products of Khadi Trust were displayed in the outlet for sales. Good response was received from the public during

• *“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong”*

-Mahatma Gandhi



the inaugural day itself proves that the public now aware about the Traditional Indian Medicines as well as the centre is a good market to promote our products.

GSR TRAINING BY SFURTI

Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) organized a Two Day GSR training programme at Gandhigram on 11th March, 2011. Nearly 36 Traditional Siddha practitioners from in and around Trichy participated in the training. The doctors' team of Gandhigram Trust handled classes for the participants regarding Siddha



and Ayurveda Medicines, preparation and usage methods. Smt. R. Revathy discussed about the rural marketing of Gandhigram products. Shri.K.Shivakumar, Secretary of the Trust requested the GSR to popularize Traditional Indian System of Medicines among the public, especially in rural parts of the country. He also distributed the certificates, identity cards and other kits to the participants.

SELF RENEWAL PROCESS OF GANDHIGRAM TRUST

A two day workshop was held at Sivasailam on 5th and 6th March 2011 for the Self- renewal group members to finalise the vision, mission statements and to prepare the road map for the next five years for all units. Sri.V.C.Nadarajan, the Management expert guided the team. The members formulated the vision and mission statements under the headings Health, Education, Social Welfare, Economic generation activities and Extension.



On the second day of the workshop the groups prepared the road map to attain the vision and mission of Gandhigram Trust

• *“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”*

-Mahatma Gandhi

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