

"SUCCESS ATTENDS WHERE TRUTH REIGNS"
- Gandhiji's Message on the inauguration of Gandhigram in 1947

Gandhigram Trust



NEWSLETTER

January - March, 2012



TRANSITION MANAGEMENT

With transition management gaining momentum in the market economy, Gandhigram Trust realized the importance of changes in every day procedures, work process, and organization structures and started gearing up for changes in the administration while keeping their commitment in following its vision.

To begin with an administrative retreat was organised for the second line executives of Gandhigram Trust on 25th and 26th February 2012 at Avvai Ashram Sivasailam with 20 members from different units of Gandhigram. Shri. K. Shivakumar, Secretary, Gandhigram Trust inaugurated the workshop and listed out the objectives of the programme and the need for updating skills towards professionalism. He also explained the PAC (Parent, Adult, Children) mode towards analyzing the problems and strategies towards problem solving.

Dr. V. Dakshinamurthy, Management expert and programme designer moderated the first day of the workshop with sessions on stress

management, understanding leadership, effective communication skills and introduction to creative thinking.

Shri. A. Krishnamurthy, Chairman, Simpson's group explained the concept of transition management in a nutshell. He shared his experiences and advised the team on preparing itself towards change. He emphasized the need to have the environment of flexibility and the need to be surrounded with people who are better equipped and are much competent. From the administrative perspective he stressed the need to have clarity in our thoughts, ability to reason and the ability to deal with people.

Shri.S.Shankararaman, Treasurer, Gandhigram Trust emphasized the need for transformations. He briefed on the need for democratic and consultative mode towards transition management. He also advised on appreciation diversity, strengthening the overlapping intersection between institutional vision and personal aspirations. Where ever there



is congruence, the gap areas need to be analyzed and work on them for realignment.

Shri V. C. Nadarajan facilitated discussions on transition management. He elaborated the process of transition and strategies of coping with change.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Homage paid to Kasturba Gandhi

Annai Kasturba Day was celebrated on 21st and 22nd February 2012. A special meeting was organised at Samiarpatti, a nearby village to propagate the life style of Kasturba Gandhi.

A special sarvodya prayer was organised on 22nd 2012 at 7.30 am at Dr. T.S. Soundram Manimandapam. The students of Kasturba Sevikashram and Kasturba hospital gave a talk regarding the virtues of Ba. This was followed by women's meet for the employees of Gandhigram Trust, Kadhi Trust and Lakshmi Seva Sangham.



On 22nd February 2012 at 6.00 pm a public meeting was convened at Kasturba Hospital. Dr. S. Kasthuri from Trichy presided over the function. In her brief speech she requested the women folk to have good health habits and good diet to do their responsibilities. Sri. Reiner Youngst, Editor, Geographische Rundschau, Germany gave a special address and he expressed his wonder regarding the participation of the employees in developing Gandhigram. Sri Achal Krishnasamy and Dr. R. Kousalya Devi felicitated the function. The Sevikashram Special Hr. Sec. School students received the prizes for their achievement in the public examinations held on March 2011. Selvi A. Prabha, XII std. and Selvi. Suganthi, X std. from Kasturba Sevikashram secured prizes for their prudent achievement. The celebrations came to an end with cultural programmes.

Sowbhagya Illam

The memorial day of Shri. V. Krishnamurthy Anna, former secretary of Gandhigram Trust was organised at Sowbhagya Illam on 13.01.2012.

Shri. Ravi Narayanan, Chairman & CEO Axis Acro Space & Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, donated a City Ride Van with a cost of Rs. 8, 15,776, on 28.1.12.

National Female Childrens day was conducted on 04.02.2012. Mrs. Karpagam, Project Officer (Rtd), ICDS, Karur enlightened the children by stating about the social problems, Eve teasing, Dowry problem, etc.



The Director, Ann Foundation, USA, visited our Sowbhagya Illam and interacted with the children who are attending the online course on 29.02.12. The children expressed their liking and improvement in their ability in spoken English through online teaching.

Kasturba Sevikashram

The students participated in the drawing and the essay competitions organised in the Celebrations of World Consumers Day on 8.3.2012 and three of them received prizes from the District Collector, Dindigul.

The school has been given the status of examination centre for conducting X std. practical examination on 16.02.2012. The first practical examination was held on 19.03.12.

You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation – Brigham Young

Avvai Ashram

Vocational course on basic computer was provided to 38 children of our Ashram with the help of M.S.P.L Polytechnic.

The child welfare committee inspected the Ashram and distributed certificates to our children on 11.01.2012. Our children are registered under Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and it is valid up to 31.07.2014.

Santhi School for Differently Abled

The students of Santhi School participated in the sports for the differently abled children held at Anna Stadium, Palayankottai on 6.1.2012. Nine boys and four girls participated in the various events and bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Gandhigram Primary School

Science exhibition was organised to commemorate the National Science Day on 28.2.2012. The students have proved their creativeness by displaying models, demonstrating experiments etc. Shri. Palanisamy, PTA chairman inaugurated the exhibition and the parents appreciated the hard work of their children.



Thambithottam Hr. Sec. School

The 57th Annual Day was celebrated on 1.2.2012. Sri. M.R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee presided over the function. Smt. P. Usha District Educational Officer, Dindigul delivered the special address emphasizing on developing self-confidence and endurance to attain self-actualization.

Dr. R. Kousalya Devi distributed the prizes to the examination toppers.



A one day workshop on Solid Waste Management was organised on 24.2.2012 Dr. Thilagavathy, Prof. Gandhigram Rural Institute delivered a special address. Dr. Kumuthakalavathy Prof. GRI listed out the significance of vermi-composting.

Lakshmi College of Education

The Biological Science B.Ed., trainees won the overall championship shield at Bio-Fest competitions on 11.02.12 organised by Gandhigram Rural Institute. The Home Science B.Ed., trainees won individual prizes at Home-Fest competitions on 11.02.12 organised by Gandhigram Rural Institute.

The college has been reaccredited with B grade by NAAC.

Community College

70 students were admitted in the courses offered during January 2012 session.

The students of Diploma in Health Assistant attended the psychiatric class taken by Dr. Vijayarengan on 3rd January 2012 and also they went to Polio Camp on 19th, 20th & 21st Feb. 2012 to Perumalkovilpatti, Chettiapatti and other nearby villages of Gandhigram.

The students of Certificate in Herbal medicine Siddha went to Kolli Hills, Kaviraj pharmacy and Siddhashram on 15th to 17th March 2012.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world
– Nelson Mandela

Kasturba Hospital

Geriatric Care

There is an increasing demand for geriatric care and our hospital is constructing one more 15 bedded geriatric ward with the donation from the family members of Wilson Soda Factory, Chinnalapatti. Shri. R. S. Super Deluxe Ward was opened on 06.02.2012, Smt. Sheela Bolar donated Rs. 5/- Lakhs for this construction. The construction of a guest house is going on with the donation of Selvi. K. N. Charumathi and her relatives.



Kasturba Hospital, and Holistic watershed development project- Nilam-1 federation organised the National Tuberculosis Revised Preventive Programme for the SHG members of Ambathurai and Perumalkoilpatti on 04.01.2012 & 15. 02.2012.

On the initiative of Gandhigram Trust Secretary Shri. K. Shivakumar, kitchen waste based methane gas plant was installed free of cost by Vivekandanda Kendra, Kanyakumari on 06-02-2012 for the Training Centre Hostel and the plant is functioning well.

Village Extension

Women's Day

The International women's day was organised on 8th March 2012 at Dr. T. S. Soundram Manimandapam in a delightful manner with the participation of the students of Lakshmi College of Education and more than 1000 SHGs. Sri. Ramachandran, Medical Officer, T.B, Dindigul



District gave a special talk regarding the preventive and curative aspects of T.B. An informative documentary film was shown on 'Micro Nutrients' prepared by Dr.Malavika.

A new project has been sanctioned under Tamil Nadu PudhuVazhvu Project with the position of Block Disability Facilitating Agency in Nilakottai.

Khadi and VIPC Trust

KVIC has sanctioned Rs. 3,60,000/ to construct individual work shed to eight Khadi artisans of Vikramasingapuram area.

A proposal for establishing a bakery unit under the RISC Scheme of KVIC has been sanctioned by the Divisional Office, KVIC, Madurai.

The Tamil Nadu Government has formulated the "Khadi Spinners and Weavers Welfare Board" in which 210 artisans have registered their names. Remaining artisan's applications were forwarded for registration. They are eligible to a monthly pension of Rs. 2000/-.

Smt. K.V.Jeyashree and Smt.G. Madhu participated in the exhibition organised at Rajiv Gandhi Craft Council, New Delhi, from 15.03.2012 to 17.03.2012, and sold the new design Khadi Sarees of Gandhigram Trust and also received orders for more sarees.

Lakshmi Seva Sangham (LSS)

Joint efforts to validate products scientifically

LSS has joined hands with Alagappa University to improve the total quality

Tel me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand – Chinese proverb



management and scientifically validate the products. A special interaction meeting between a team of professors from Alagappa University led by the Vice-Chancellor S. Sudalai Muthu and technical and management team led by our Treasurer, K. Shivakumar was held on 11.01.2012. Dr. S. Sudalai Muthu assured that Alagappa University would help LSS in testing the quality of products and raw materials validate their products scientifically and also improve their production system.

Inauguration of Common Facility Centre under SFURTI

The inauguration of the third Common Facility Centre under SFURTI which was set up at Athilakshmiapuram of Athoor block, Dindigul District was held on 25th February 2012. Shri. Kalappa, Member, South Zone



KVIC was the chief guest. Smt. K.P. Lalithamaney, Director of the KVIC Divisional Office gave presidential address and stressed the artisans to follow the training provided by SFURTI during collection, cultivation and semi-

processing for getting best medicines. On the inaugural address Shri. Kalappa, South zone member of KVIC said that he was proud of South zone of India particularly Tamil Nadu for implementing all the programmes of KVIC and also successfully completing them. Shri. M. R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee thanked KVIC for providing SFURTI.

Completion of SFURTI Project

The SFURTI project came to an end on 31st March 2012. A final review was made by Smt. K.P. Lalithamaney, Director of KVIC Divisional Office, along with the Madurai Officers, community users and officials of Gandhigram. She congratulated the LSS for the achievement of the objectives and utilization of the funds in time for the purpose it was meant.

Water and Sanitation

Action Research- Water Consumption @ Samiyarpatti

The findings of the Action Research Project revealed that all the selected households have good awareness about water related issues like water borne diseases, quality



of water and water charges. The people took ownership for minor repairs such as leakage of taps, water meter and washer. The water consumption is reduced and also storage practices have changed. A positive attitude is observed with regard to the knowledge, attitude and practices related to collection of water, usage of water, minimizing the wastage and cleanliness of water collection points.

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail

– Abraham Maslow

Tissue Culture on Eclipta-alba Plants

Eclipta alba (Karisalai) plants were collected from the paddy field in Sakkanampatti village, Dindigul. The collected plants were successfully propagated through tissue culture methods and the same were planted in the field.



Dr. Soundram Trust

Dr. Soundram Trust has conducted a social audit for M/s Srinivasan Trust, at their Pune site area from 24.01.2012 to 27.01.2012. The team consisted of Sri. C. Krishnasamy, Dr. V. Balamurugan, Smt. R. Revathy and Smt. N. Ramuthai. The team has also conducted an evaluation for the Tuticorin Diocesan Association for the project 'Empowerment of Women through Economic Self-reliance'. Dr. V. Angala Thangeswari, D/o Dr. Vijayarengan of Tuticorin donated Rs. 33,140/- towards the cost of publishing the students quarterly 'Vadamalar' for one year.

The objective of Natural Dyes Research and Training Centre is to do fundamental research, develop and propagate natural dyes. Along with training in dyeing the centre has also developed seven natural water colours. Presently this centre is executing dyeing of fabrics and yarns to Khadi & V.I.P.C. Trust and propagating its health prospects. It is also undertaking dyeing of organic yarn for Tribal Health Initiative, Sittilingi.

Sanitary Napkin Research and Training Centre imparted skill training on the making of Sanitary Napkin to 32 SHG members from Sivagangai and The Nilgris Districts from 4th to 8th Jan 2012 & 22nd to 26th Jan. 2012.

Centre of Excellence- Gandhigram Trust has been recognized so in rural technologies

The Gandhigram Trust has been recognized as a centre of excellence in rural technologies by the Department of Science and Technology of India.

The DST has assured to give long-term core support to the Trust in carrying out research and development activities. To begin with, it sanctioned a core grant of Rs. 68.92 lakhs for undertaking research and development activities. The project will continue for the next three years ending in 2013-14 financial year. With this fund, the Trust will engage in developing post harvest technologies for eco-friendly fabric technologies, technological improvement and mechanization of Charka and look for new designs in textiles, sanitary napkin and baby diaper technology, research and development for improving Jaipur foot, establishment of herbal garden and other health and energy related technologies.

It would use the fund for developing an adaptive research and development, field testing, demonstration, technology teaching and documentation and training in these areas.

Besides, the DST will support the Trust in carrying out other rural development activities also. The Managing Trustee M.R. Rajagopalan will be the Chief Coordinator for implementing the project.

TdH-NL Project

28 children are appearing for 8th 10th and 12th examinations. One Ortho medical camp was organised for children with the help of German doctor. 18 SHGS were formed. 218 members were trained in SGH management.

India Literacy Project

Teaching Learning materials worth Rs.2 lakhs and Science Lab equipments were

Human nature is fundamentally good, and the spread of enlightenment will abolish all wrong – Dr. S. Radhakrishnan



provided to 13 schools. Shri. Rajan Ragavan, the donor, Shri.A. L. Rengarajan, Programme Manager, Shri. Victor ILP National coordinator visited the project area, conducted review and suggested ideas for further improvement. A Life skills training was conducted on 26th & 27th March 2012 for the Life Skills trainers of this project.

Human Resource Development

Core committee

The core committee organised a series of capacity building programmes to enhance the efficiency of the HODs and staff members of Gandhigram Trust on Creative Thinking,



Motivation, Project Report Writing, Process Documentation, Leadership, Stress Management and Communication Skills .Dr. V.Dakshinamurthy, Management Expert and training designer facilitated all the programmes.

Dr. Vijayarengan, Neuro Psychiatrist from Tuticorin interacted with the staff of the

educational institutions of Gandhigram Trust on 'Learning Problems in School Children' on 7th March 2012.

Father of Multiple Intelligence Theory

Harvard Prof to Break Down Intelligence at IIT -M on Jan 25

The current education system in India, especially K-12 segment (Kindergarten to Plus Two), does not cater to the unique intelligence of a child nor does it provide a platform for understanding the subject. To explain how it could be made child-friendly, Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA, and the father of the multiple intelligence theory is visiting India.

There are eight different kinds of intelligence in the human brain. Gardener's theory explains how they can be used to teach children. Each child's intelligence is on a different level, so there ought to be different methods of teaching. Multiple intelligences theory helps children to understand the subject of learning it by rote.

Gardener, who has authored over 25 books, has worked extensively in the fields of education, leadership, ethics and creativity- you would get a sample of his research during the lecture series. Last year, he was bestowed with the 2011 Prince of Asturias Award in Social Sciences. His research and writing made significant contributions in improving the system of education. His research focused of the various aspects of curriculum, the faculty and the reaching methodology....

iDiscovery Education was started in 2002 to improve the learning ability of 4-12 year olds through a student friendly teaching method. Its flagship programme, XSEED, has spread to over 700 schools in India and abroad and touched the lives of about three lakh students.

Says Anustup Nayak, partner at iDiscovery Education, "The inspiration to start

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant

– Robert Louis Stevenson

XSEED was Howard Gardner. His ideas about teaching for understanding and how each child is different inspired us to start this enterprise and reform the method of education." To register, visit www.howardgardnerindiatour.com (*courtesy- The New Indian Express, Madurai, Monday 23 January 2012*)

Trainings

- Organised a microenterprises training programme for 24 SHG members on "Preparation of Areca nut leaf plates and cups" from 02.01.2012 to 11.02.2012 for the Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation, Project implementation unit, Dindigul.
- LSS conducted training for 52 SGH members from 17 districts all over Tamil Nadu nominated by Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women on "Marketing of Gandhigram Products" especially on Traditional Indian System of Medicines i.e., Siddha and Ayurveda from 27th to 29th February 2012.
- A three day training was given to the members of PudhuVazhvu Project from 5th to 7th March 2012 by SFURTI.
- The third batch of training programme funded by NCRI for developing Gandhian Volunteers to promote village industries products of Gandhigram was held from 12th to 18th March 2012. 23 participants from Dindigul, Pudukotatai, Namakal and Trichy participated.

Visitors

- A three-member Japanese Team visited LSS and interacted with our staff members on 10th Feb.2012.
- Ms. Margret Wynn Drops and her family members from Germany visited their beneficiaries on 23rd Feb. 2012.
- 26 international delegates from Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Jordan and Lithuania visited Gandhigram on 2.3.2012.
- Prof. L.R. Verma, former Vice Chancellor of University of Horticulture and Forestry & Himachal Pradesh University, presently working with KVIC as an Expert Member for Science and Technology visited LSS on 24th March 2012.

Life Time Achievement Award

Dr. R. Kousalyadevi, Advisor, Kasturba Hospital and Life Trustee, Gandhigram Trust and Dr. V.S. Venugopal, Additional Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Hospital jointly received the Life Time Achievement Award on 06-03-2012 from His Excellency Dr. K. Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, presented by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai.

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Printed at : Dr. Soundram Trust, Gandhigram Press Fax : 0451 - 2453347

(For Private Circulation Only)