

"SUCCESS ATTENDS WHERE TRUTH REIGNS"

- Gandhiji's Message on the inauguration of Gandhigram in 1947

Gandhigram Trust



NEWSLETTER

April - June, 2012



New designs and technology in Khadi production contemplated

The need to make Khadi products more attractive by incorporating new designs with application of technology was highlighted by several speakers at the inaugural function of a Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan at Gandhigram.

Shri. K.C.Kalappa, Member, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, stated that innovation in Khadi production and design was essential to compete with multinationals and to improve the sales of Khadi units. He appreciated the efforts taken up by Gandhigram Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust in developing new designs in sarees and innovation in the production of denim fabric aiming to attract youngsters to Khadi products.

Shri.M.R.Rajagopalan Managing Trustee, expressed the need for involvement of many youth in the production of Khadi in villages.



Shri.K.Shivakumar, Secretary of the Gandhigram Trust, stated that the new design and varieties in Khadi sarees were increasing the market potential for Khadi products. The newly designed sarees are special, which are made from organic cotton, dyed in natural colours obtained from plants.

Empowerment for women

RV Foundation is facilitating Gandhigram to develop strategies in building the capacity of village women federations in the village governance pattern. A two day orientation program for the President and Secretary of the federations were conducted highlighting the procedures for conducting meetings, documenting the minutes, selection of members, financial administration and Governance of villages.



The president of Mullai Women Self Help Group established their rights, struggled with the bankers and got a loan for Rs. 5 Lakhs. The

A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others – Ayn Rand

president has indicated her team will procure Jasmine and other flowers and will establish direct marketing with their customers in Chennai.

Financial Literacy classes were conducted to 109 SHG members and also for staff members of Gandhigram Trust with the help of Security Exchange Board of India.

Recent happenings . . .

Infrastructural developments

- Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan at Gandhigram
- Godavari Subramaniam Memorial Hall at Sowbhagya Illam
- Computer Lab, at Thambithottam Higher Secondary School
- New toilet facilities in Kasturba Sevikashram Special Hr. Sec. School
- Play structures for Gandhigram Primary School

Academic achievements

Master.M. Rajaram secured State first in Indian Culture (180/200). He was honoured by a



cash award Rs.10, 000/- by the Dindigul District Collector. Master.K.Veerakumar of XII standard secured the highest mark 1157/1200. Selvi.M.Kanchana Devi of X standard secured highest mark 474/500. Selvi.V.Swathi got centum in Social Studies. Thambithottam Higher Secondary School has secured 96% of result both in X and XII standard in the public examination held on March 2012.

Kasturba Sevikashram Special Higher Secondary School obtained cent percent result in twelfth standard public examination. Selvi. P.Vaitheeswari scored 1067/1200 marks.

Enriching Education and co-curricular activities

Nurturing Scientific temper : A training camp was organized to develop young Scientists by INSPIRE of M.S. University in the Santhi School, Sivasailam.

51 Children from Sowbhagya Illam are regularly attending the on line programme which is improving their English and computer learning. As a part of vocational training and making the children self reliant, tailoring courses have been started. 30 children are learning Bharathanatium and 20 children are learning Carnatic music.

The Akkam Trust of Madurai organized skill training in drawing, paper cuttings and handy crafts for the children at Avvai Ashram. The Valampuri Federation from Kanniyakumari organized training sessions on sea shell handicrafts.

Sports and Yoga

Art of Living conducted yoga classes for the children of Avvai Ashram. Three boys from Avvai Ashram and 15 boys from Santhi School for Hearing Impaired participated in the sports camp conducted at V.K.Puram.



Selvan U. Esakki Durai secured 1st prize in running race

The secret of life... is to fall seven times and to getup eight times. – Paulo Coelho

Awareness Generation/ orientation/ training Programmes

Gandhigram Trust has been recognized as a Block Differently Abled Facilitating Agency (BDFA) for Nilakkottai block under Pudhu Vazhvu Project from May 2012. Two special group facilitators have been recruited. Awareness programme on Identification of differently abled persons was conducted in 8 village panchayats.

Ms. Ambika, the Manager, Red Ribbon Club, Dindigul delivered a lecture on 'Celebrating Life' at Lakshmi College of Education.



As a part of improving quality status, a one day orientation programme was organized by L.S.S. Dr. Sathya Rajeswaran Research Officer, Siddha Central Research Institute, Arumbakkam, Chennai, Doctors and other team members participated in the programme and prepared action plan for implementation.

Smt.R.Revathi participated in a two-day National workshop on Standardization of Sanitary Napkin.

The Core Committee organized an orientation programme for the new team members of Gandhigram Family. Dr.R.Kousalya Devi advised the new staff members to develop the attitude of social service and work without time bound. Shri. M.R.Rajagopalan requested the team members to carry out their responsibilities as volunteers. Smt. Lalithambika devi felicitated the function and recalled the commitment and

involvement of the workers in the past. Selvi.K.S.Neela spoke about the evolutionary aspects in the development of Children's Home.

25 children participated in the personality development camp at Kanniyakumari organized by Nardap – Vivekananda Kendra.

Study Circle

Shri.K.Shivakumar, shared the view points of 'Reconnecting with the roots and pre-connecting with the futures' emphasising to remember the original vision and mission of the founders and also the past leaders of an organization who have brought in many innovative approaches in building the organization. The social audit programme was also presented in the Study Circle.

The Gandhigram Central Core Committee has decided to re-organize its structure by nominating additional members from each unit. It has been decided to broaden the Central Core Committee with Dr.Manonmani, Dr.Karthikeyan, Dr.Uma and Dr.Balamurugan as coordinators.

Structural changes

The Government of Tamilnadu has sanctioned 15 new posts for the Children's Home which will help us to take care of the children in all the aspects like personality development, vocational life skill training and counseling. The welfare officers will be documenting the history of the children, their progress and facilitate integrated development of children.

Congratulations!

We congratulate the following new office bearers.

- Selvi.K.S.Neela has been appointed as the Correspondent of Sowbhagya Illam and Secretary of Gandhigram Primary School.

All knowledge that the world has ever received comes from the mind; the infinite library of the universe is in our own mind – Swami Vivekananda

- Smt. N.Valli has been appointed as the Headmistress of the Thambithottam Higher Secondary School.

Dear friend,

We are planning to redesign our communication out reach materials through brochures, website, newsletter and other publications. We request you guidance and ideas and we would be happy to receive your suggestions and view points through email.. ggmtrust@gmail.com, secggm@gmail.com

*Yours sincerely,
K.Shivakumar*



Sevikashram school students and Thambithottam Higher Secondary School students jointly made an Dengue awareness procession in ATS Nagar and Chinnalapatti. Dr.Muralidharan gave a special speech on Dengu fever, how to make precautionary steps and methods to avoid fever.

Upgradation of Technology

A new Digital printer/Copier/ Scanner purchased and installed in the printing press. The Digital Colour Printer can deliver 22 copies per minute. This improved printing technology will be aid in the multi colour printouts in forms Invitations, Certificates, Citations, Folders, Brochures, Pamphlets, Visiting Cards, Advertisement Notices, Labels etc. It can also be made use of as Colour Copier and Colour Scanner.

Health camps

Dr.S.Aram and Dr.Geetha Aram from Madurai conducted a medical camp for children of Sowbhagya Illam and identified minor deficiencies in the children. Both of them have taken pains to explain to the children about the

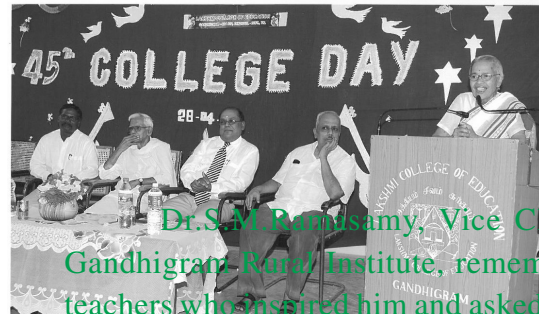


preventing aspects and counseled all the children.



Celebrations

The National Mathematics year 2012 was celebrated at Soundram Arangam, Lakshmi College of Education.



Dr.S.M.Ramisamy, Vice Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, remembered the teachers who inspired him and asked the B.Ed. trainees to update their knowledge by using websites and internet.

DST –Core Support Project

The Second phase of long term Core support project has been sanctioned by the department of Science & Technology, New Delhi.

Research and development activities are being carried out on Post Harvest Technology, Eco Friendly Fabrics, Mechanisation of Charkha and

Education makes a people easy to learn but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave – Peter Brougham

Loom, Sanitary Napkin /Baby diaper and establishment of herbal garden.

Harvest of Indigo plants and extraction of natural dye from Indigo, Myrobalan and Ventilago madraspatana have been carried out. 0.75 acre land has been prepared for establishment of herbal garden.

Bio village programme on Tulasi Ocimum sanctam launched

The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic plants (CIMAP) has launched Bio village programme at Gandhigram Trust. This programme is a part of CSIR – 800 aims to reach out 800 million people throughout country of its R&D for the benefit of rural community.



Training on Cultivation of Tulasi was conducted for SHG members selected from in and around Gandhigram by team members of CIMAP. Ocimum seeds were distributed to the farmers.

Upcoming projects

For strengthening Village Industries Production, KVIC has sanctioned a Bakery unit to be established in Gandhigram.

Support for activities

We are very much thankful for the generous support rendered by many individuals and institutions.

- Ms.Mirundhula Ramesh, Director, Sundaram Textiles, Madurai presented wrist watches

and also a set of stationery materials for all the children of Sowbhagya Illam .



- The staff members of World Bank, Chennai office donated a set of stationery materials including Geometry boxes, for the children of Sowbhagya Illam and also Santhi School.
- Mr.Vaidhiyanathan, the Auditor from Coimbatore Mr.Siva Rama Krishnan Auditor from Sivakasi, Queen City Rotary Club of Dindigul supported to provide drinking water facilities and sanitation facilities to Kasturba Sevikashram.
- Dr.Senthilvel of GRI, organized for a gift of 20 sets of benches and desks from Rotary Club, Dindigul for the Primary School
- Shri. Ravi Narayanan donated Rs. 31,000/- to purchase play materials for Primary School.

We are also grateful to the following donors for their continuous support.

- Smt. Kanaka Narayanamurthy
- Azhagai Ramanathan Memorial Trust
- M/s Prema Srinivasan Charities
- Sri. R. Vaidianathan
- Ms. Gita Ram
- Sri. Ram

*God wants sincerity, truthfulness and love. Out ward verbal effusions do not touch him – **Holy Mother Sri. Sarada Devi.***

- Sri. B. Kasirajan
- Sri. K. Annathanarayanan
- Dr. L.N. Rajaram
- Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Shivasanakar

Visitors

- 50 members of TIMBAKTU collectives from Anaparthi district of Andhra Pradesh visited Micro Enterprises on 19.04.2012 and 20.04.2012.
- Team Members of Puthuvazhu Thittam from Thoothukudi ,Thiruvannamalai and Virudhunagar Districts visited Gandhigram on –08th ,11th and 27th April 2012.
- Four Team Members from Umarikkadu Panchayat level Federation, Thoothukudi District visited on 16th April 2012.
- Ms.Geetha Communication Officer from Press information Bureau documented our experience in promotion of menstrual hygiene.
- Shri.P.Thanga Perumal Project Officer visited TdH-NL project area and recommended to



Reconstitution

Ms. Gita Ram has been appointed as Managing Trustee and Shri. M.R. Rajagopalan as Secretary of Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust.

survey the children affected by AIDS, street children and children working in cotton mills.

- Mrs. Madhu Krishnan and Mr.Kannan, from India Literacy Project – Kalakad visited the



project area and discussed the impact of quality education with headmasters and teachers of different schools included under ILP project

New Module for Life Skills Training

Gandhigram Trust is planning to develop new Life Skills module for training the students.

We invite suggestions to include in the new module.

The donations will get Income Tax exemption under section 35AC and 80G of Income Tax Act 1961.

Editorial Team : Shri. M.R. Rajagopalan, Shri. K. Shivakumar & Dr. K. Vasugi

Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram - 624 302, Dindigul District.

Phone : 0451 - 2452326,

email : ggmtrust@sify.com

www.gandhigram.org

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

(For Private Circulation Only)