

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

# Gandhigram Trust **NEWSLETTER**



**OUR VISION: Wholistic village development as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi  
April - June, 2013**

## **CREATION OF MODEL VILLAGES**

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSSR Foundation, addressed the inaugural function of model villages at Gandhigram on 24 April 2013. Thoppampatti, Samiyarpatti and Anna Nagar in Gandhigram Panchayat have been identified for this project which will be designed with the technological support of MSSSR Foundation.



Inaugurating the project Dr. M.S. Swaminathan said, "Total prohibition will be in place. For example, around Rs.5 lakh has been going out of Pillayarnatham in the district, due to sale of liquor. If there were no liquor shop, the money would be spent on economic activities. Second, hunger should be eliminated. Residents of the model village should be properly fed. Non-violence and communal harmony should prevail."

All modern electronic gadgets such as mobile phones and GPRS should be utilised to take information and knowledge to rural communities, which are essential for rural development, Dr. Swaminathan said.

He insisted on setting up of a translation research institute to propagate the latest technologies to rural people in languages known to them.

Gandhigram Rural Institute Vice-Chancellor Dr. SM Ramasamy said the GRI, Gandhigram Health and Family Welfare Trust, Sanitation Faculty and Krishi Vigyan Kendra would jointly work in these villages to ensure protected drinking water, healthcare, primary and adult education, women empowerment, proper sanitation facility, resource maintenance, environment protection and communal harmony adopting the philosophy of Gandhian constructive programme.

Trust Secretary K. Shiva Kumar said the model village planning and development committee had been constituted to execute the pilot project. On the success of the model, the trust will emulate it in other parts of the district.

**OUR MISSION: Enhancement of socio-economic status of village community through interventions in Health, Education, Social Welfare, Livelihood and Extension services including R&D on appropriate technologies**

## CENTRAL CORE COMMITTEE

### The Learning Organization

An one-day interaction on “The Fifth Discipline – The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization” by Peter M. Senge was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 with 27 participants as a continuation of the ongoing process of Vision building, Re-engineering etc., in the Gandhigram Trust Context.



The participants who are in leadership position in their respective units were introduced to The Five Disciplines involved in converging into a Learning Organization (L.O). These disciplines are

1. Systems Thinking
2. Personal Mastery
3. Mental Models
4. Building Shared Vision
- and
5. Team Learning

Inter-relationship among these disciplines in the organizational context of Gandhigram Trust was explored. Each discipline was critically looked at and thoroughly discussed from a practical point of view.

Shri V. C. Nadarajan, Expert, introduced the philosophy of the learning organization. According to Peter Senge learning organizations are:

...organizations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together.

The basic rationale for such organizations is that in situations of rapid change only those that are flexible, adaptive and productive will excel. For this to happen, it is argued, organizations need to ‘discover how to tap people’s commitment and capacity to learn at all levels’.

### The value system and effective teaching

In order to strengthen and update the teachers with modern values and also to the students of Lakshmi College of Education (106 participants) an one-day seminar on “The value system and effective teaching” was organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 with an expert input by Mr. Tom Jose, KKID,



Coimbatore. The difference between the efficient and effective of teaching was highlighted with examples by a vivid presentation.

In the second session, the topic “Classroom Management” was discussed which highlighted on the importance of giving special attention to the vulnerable children with low intelligence, learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, broken and problematic families.

The topic “On Being Proactive” was discussed with the focus on continuous learning in the third session.

In the last session of the seminar an excellent presentation was made on “The differences between a Gurua and a Teacher”.

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*Words can inspire. And words can destroy. Choose yours well.*

*- Robin Sharma*

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## Study Circle

An one-day workshop on ‘Digital Photography’ was conducted by the Study Circle of Gandhigram Trust on June 20<sup>th</sup> at GIRH & FWT. 16



members from various units of Gandhigram Trust participated. Mr. Ilango Samuvel Peter and Mr. Linges of GIRH & FWT were the resource persons.

## HEALTH

### Kasturba Hospital

Dr.G.Natchiar, Director, Aravind Eye Hospital, addressed all the staff members of the hospital on 23.04.2013 and explained the areas of improvement as found by her team of management consultants.

**Multi-Purpose Health Worker Training:**  
After a gap of four years Multi-Purpose Health Worker (Female) training was restarted on 05.06.2013 at Kastruba Hospital. Thirty trainees have joined the course and the training period is two years. This training ensures Community Health Care Services by the trainees in villages.

## EDUCATION

### Gandhigram Primary School

The children are being given training in spoken English. The alumni of our school who are in professional courses conducted oratorical, essay,

storytelling, drawing, reciting *Thirukural* competitions etc to our students and encouraged them by giving away valuable prizes.

### Thambithottam Higher Secondary School

B. Anitha and K. Hemalatha of Class IX were selected in the Rural Talent Search Examination conducted by the Government for a merit scholarship of Rs.4000/- for four years. An amount of Rs. 1000/- for this year was received already.

Two students of Commerce group brought laurels to school by securing both State First and the State Second in in the +2 public examination in the subject Indian Culture. They both belong to the same family of economically very poor background.

### Lakshmi College of Education

Dr. R. Ramasubhu, Assistant Professor, Department. of Biology, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram gave a talk on “Bio diversity” on 10-04-2013.

St. John’s Ambulance First Aid Training programme was conducted on 26-04-2013.

A workshop was organized for Young Investors on 22-04-2013. Mr. Ramesh Sankar from SEBI, Chennai was the Chief Guest and he highlighted the significance of savings.

An one-day tour was arranged to Kodaikanal on 27-04-2013.

An one-day lecture on “Child Health Care” was held on 29-04-2013. by Mr. Thirupathi, Ekam Foundation, Chennai.

The Alumni meeting was held on 01-05-2013. The alumni shared their memoirs and planned to meet in September 2013 to draw a plan of action for the development of the college.

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*You are not just paid to work, You are paid to be uncomfortable – and to pursue projects that scare you.*

**- Robin Sharma**

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Lakshmi College of Education celebrated its Annual Day on 4.05.2013. Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee of Gandhigram Trust presided over the function and Dr. G Natchiar of Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai was the chief guest of the event. Dr. Natchiar in her special address said education and healthcare are two important sectors that need much



attention. She said that as she gives light to the eyes of people through vision the student teachers from Lakshmi college of Education where Gandhian ideologies are followed, could light the lives of the children by imparting knowledge.

She expressed her admiration for student teachers lighting their lights from the traditional lamp lit by the elders and thereby spreading the light of knowledge to the world. She wanted the student teachers to be a good role model for the school children.

A farewell party to Dr. S. Indirani, Associate Professor of Home Science was hosted on 25-05-2013. Dr. R. Kousalyadevi Amma, Life Trustee, Shri. M.R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee and Chairman and Shri. K. Shivakumar, Secretary felicitated.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

### **Sowbhagya Illam**

As per the Junior Juvenile act 2000 and Amendment 2006, District Child Protection Office Guide Lines, The Home Management Committee and Mess Committee were formed.

Twenty children appeared for the S.S.L.C.Examination in March 2013 and 16 of them passed.

All the nine Children who appeared for Higher Secondary Examination were passed.



Twenty children from Sowbhagya Illam participated one week (12. 05. 2013 – 17.05. 2013) Training programme on Creative Scientific Temper at Kalvilai, Vivekanandha Kendra, Kanyakumari. The children found it very useful and enjoyed the workshop.

Two girls completed five year diploma course in Bharatha Nattiam, Nattuvangam. Of them one has joined as dance teacher at Sowbhagya Illam, and one has applied to Dr.Soundram Trust.

### **Kasthurba Sevikashram**

During 2013 March 58 students appeared for +2 public examination and 44 of them were passed. Out of 57 students who appeared for the SSLC examination, 56 of them passed. A compound wall was constructed at the back side of the school campus for the safety of the students.

### **Avvai Ashram**

Four children appeared in the SSLC examination and all of them passed. 30 women from the villages around Sivasailam have been undergoing

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*While victims condemn change, leaders grow inspired by change.*

**- Robin Sharma**

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a six-month certificate course in tailoring with the help of MSPVL Polytechnic.

A vocational training on basic computer skills was provided to 30 children with the help of MSPVL Polytechnic.

With help of TdHNL project a vocational training centre for food processing was setup for training the special children.

12 children participated in a five-day summer camp in May 2013 organized by Swami Vivekananda Kendra, Kanniyakumari.

Ten male children participated in a five-day sports camp at Vikramasingapuram conducted by Thamiraparani Sports Club.

Akkam Trust conducted a summer camp for our children for three days.

### **Santhi School for the Hearing Impaired**

Seven students appeared for the SSLC examination and four of them passed.

21 students participated in summer sports camp from 2013 May 5 to 20 at Vikramasingapuram conducted by Thamiraparani Sports Club and had won many prizes.

## **EXTENSION**

### **Multiple Rehabilitation Training**

The First phase of Multiple Rehabilitation Training (15 days) to the Community Development Facilitators was conducted from 10th May to 10th June 2013. An exposure visit was arranged for two days to Amar Seva Sangham, Santhi School for Hearing Impaired, High School for the Blind, and Community based Rehabilitation Project at Thirunelveli District on 17th and 18th of May 2013.



Empowering the differently abled persons; is under progress. So far 100 special SHGs have been formed.

### **Life Long Learning for Farmers**

In collaboration with the M.S. Swaminatha Research Foundation (MSSRF) voice mail has been introduced to our SHG members under L3 programme with an aim to up-scale mobile learning. Three awareness programmes were conducted regarding this mobile learning and so far 100 SHG women are tied-up in this network. 150 more SHG women are ready to have this tie-up.

### **Awareness building**

An Awareness meeting was conducted on destroying *Parthenium* in and around the living area and field at Thoppampatty on 8th May '13. A team of Resource persons from KVK explained the villagers about the ill effects of *Parthenium* plant and methods of destroying the same.

### **KAP survey**

A survey was conducted as per the initiation of Dr. D.K. Oza, Former Vice-Chancellor of GRI in five village panchayats (Gandhigram, Ambathurai, Pachamalayankottai, Jambuthuraikottai and

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*Surround yourself with people courageous enough to speak truthfully about what's best for your organization and the customers you serve.* **Robin Sharma**

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Thoppampatti) of Athoor block on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on liquor consumption. It was found that 82.5% of the 103 families selected had the habit of liquor consumption among its male members.

The children of 48% of families could not concentrate in their studies 29% of the children felt ashamed of their father's drinking habit. The needs of the children in 17% of the families under study were not met with.

#### **DST –Core Support.**

**Mechanization of Charkha and Loom:** Three Nepal looms were modified into motorized ones for the production of different models of Denim cloths.



A comparative study on the fabric produced by Rapier loom, Power loom and Nepal loom is under progress.

**Eco- Friendly Fabrics:** Indigo has been planted in 0.75 acre for extraction of indigo dye stuff. To improve the efficiency of the spray drier, Prof. Mani of IITM has been involved in modification.

**Sanitary Napkin & Baby Diaper:** Developing a technology for baby diaper is under progress. Now a new machine has been designed for stitching the baby diaper. This machine is under trail run at Tirupur.

**Establishment of Herbal Garden:** A herbal garden with sixteen varieties of commercially viable medicinal

plants has been established. An one-day awareness training on cultivation of herbal plants on 22nd May 2013 was conducted. 25 farmers were selected for cultivation of herbal plants.

**Jaipur Foot Technology:** A mould for ankle support using High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) material was designed which would enable easy manufacture of ankle support with less weight and more durability.

**Post Harvest Technologies:** Development of medium size oil expeller was designed with the collaboration of M/S Andavar Lathe Works.

**Health Related Technologies:** A baby warmer cum phototherapy unit in a transparent box was developed in association with PPG College of Technology, Coimbatore. Prof. M. Ravindran also suggested some modifications to retain the stability of the temperature inside the box and this is under progress.

**Technology Transfer:** Anugraha, an organization (Referred by - Women India Association) was supported by Gandhigram Trust to establish a sanitary napkin unit at Faridabad in Haryana in the month of June 2013.

#### **REJUVENATION OF AN OPEN WELL**

##### **– A CASE STUDY**

Ambathurai Panchayat is located at 3 km away from Gandhigram Trust. Most of the people belong to schedule caste and very few are from other castes. Agriculture is the main occupation. This village consists of 421 houses and the population is 1895.

History reveals that the open well near Panchayat office belongs to the reign of Pandiyas. It is called as Pandian well. The depth of the well is 40

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*Lift your teammates up versus tear your teammates down. Anyone can be a critic.*

*What takes guts is to see the best in people. - Robin Sharma*

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feet. It was constructed with the stone wall. The people are using this water for drinking, cooking, bathing and for rearing cattle. The well water is good for drinking. It seems that because of the good quality of the water people carried this water to Cholavanthan and Singapore. The women are not allowed to collect water during the menstrual period and they are not allowed to use slippers around the well. They considered the well and the surroundings as a holy place.

The women requested Arghyam and Gandhigram to clean the well and provide traditional system of rope and bucket for water collection instead of motor for pumping. They were ready to contribute their share and also gave assurance for the maintenance of the well in future.

The project team members discussed with the PRI members in the meeting and passed a resolution for cleaning the well. The project engineer facilitated the rejuvenation of the well. The PRI and women groups shared 20% of the total cost which came around Rs.25, 000/-.

The following works were carried out.

Pumping the water from the well and cleaning work done by Panchayat;

Cleaning around the well and removing the dirty soil done by Panchayat;

Rejuvenation of the well;

Rejuvenation of the platform;

Provision of the top cover for closing the well;

Provision of pulley for using rope.

After the completion of work it was handed over to the SHG Federation for future maintenance. Ms.Amsavalli has taken the responsibility of controlling the people against the misuse of well. The group members assured to protect the surrounding of the well by keeping it clean. Women groups ensured to take care of the well. Necessary arrangements for rectification of any fault if occurs in future, will be made by the group members.

### EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

#### Khadi and Village Industries Public Charitable Trust

An alcohol prohibition conference was convened by Theni District Sarvodaya Mandal on



30-05-2013 at Theni in which representatives from KVIC Gandhigram also participated.

### CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

On 08.04.2013 the Correspondent and the Assistant Superintendent of Sowbhagyailam

*To lead is to do good and to serve*

**- Robin Sharma**

participated in a training programme on “Combating Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children” at the Collector Office, Dindigul.



Mrs. Balkies, Nursing Tutor and Ms. Veliammal, Nursing Superintendent gave an orientation on ‘First Aid and Preventive Measures’ to the staff members of Sowbhagya Illam.

Three staff members from Avvai Ashram attended an one-day camp on 15-05-2013 at Ambasamudram on “Integrated Child Protection Scheme” which was organized by the District Child Protection Office.

On the introduction of IX std Trimester System in Tamilnadu State board schools the Head Mistress and four teachers of Kasturiba Sevikashram attended a training on “Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation”.

#### **OUR HELPING HANDS**

**Mr. Linkesh**, Artist from GIRH & FWT is taking drawing classes for our children at Swobhagya Illam twice in a week.

**Dr.Kubendran**, Professor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram donated books worth Rs.4000/-.



The World Bank donated note books worth Rs. 15771/- for Sowbhagya Illam through **Mr.K.Sathish Kumar**. The Secretary, Gandhigram Trust distributed the note books to the children .

**Dr. L. Raja**, Dept. of Life Long Learning Extension Education, GRI, Gandhigram evaluated the online teaching of English at Sowbhagya Illam which revealed that the speaking skills of the children in English had been improved a lot.

**Dr. Punitha** from Madura Coats monitors the health of Avvai Ashram Children and provides necessary medicines.

**The Friends Charitable Trust**, Tirunalveli has conducted a medical camp for Avvai Ashram children.

An eye camp was conducted at Avvai Ashram by **Aravind Eye Hospital** and spectacles were provided to the needy children.

The white washing of School and Hostel buildings of Santhi School, Sivasailam was done by **Simpson Company**.

The Gandhigram Trust thanks the above donors and other well wishers for their continuous support.

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*Shift from doing mindless toil to doing valuable work,*

*- Robin Sharma*

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## Retired Staff



### **Smt. Dr. S. Indirani**

Associate Professor in Home Science,  
Lakshmi College of Education, Gandhigram.

### **Smt. Fathima Mary**

Secondary Grade Teacher, Santhi High  
School for Hearing Impaired, Sivasailam.

The Gandhigram Trust thanks the above  
retiring staff for their dedicated service throughout  
their tenure.

## **A STORY FOR YOUR THOUGHT**

### **Hope that makes a BIG change in YOU**

The Professor began his class by holding up a glass  
with some water in it. He held it up for all to see &  
asked the students “How much do you think this glass  
weighs?”

‘50gms!’ ..... ‘100gms!’ ..... ‘125 gms’ ...the students  
answered.

“I really don’t know unless I weigh it,” said the  
professor, “but, my question is:

What would happen if I held it up like this for a few  
minutes?”.....

‘Nothing’ .....the students said.

‘Ok what would happen if I held it up like this for an

hour?’ the professor asked.

‘Your arm would begin to ache’ said one of the student  
“You’re right, now what would happen if I held it for a  
day?”

“Your arm could go numb; you might have severe muscle  
stress & paralysis & have to go to hospital for sure!”

.....Ventured another student & all the students laughed  
“Very good.

But during all this, did the weight of the glass change?”

Asked the professor.

‘No’ .... Was the answer.

“Then what caused the arm ache & the muscle stress?”

The students were puzzled.

“What should I do now to come out of pain?” asked  
professor again.

“Put the glass down!” said one of the students

“Exactly!” said the professor.

Life’s problems are something like this.

Hold it for a few minutes in your head & they seem  
OK.

Think of them for a long time & they begin to ache.

Hold it even longer & they begin to paralyze you. You  
will not be able to do anything.

It’s important to think of the challenges or problems in  
your life, But EVEN MORE IMPORTANT is to ‘PUT  
THEM DOWN’ at the end of every day before you go  
to sleep...

That way, you are not stressed, you wake up every day  
fresh & strong & can handle any issue, any challenge  
that comes your way!

So, when you start your day today, Remember friend  
to ‘PUT THE GLASS DOWN TODAY!’

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*Don’t do your best work for the applause it generates but for the personal pride it  
delivers.*

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**- Robin Sharma**

## OUR YOUNG ACHIEVERS

THAMBITHOTTAM HR. SEC SCHOOL

Higher Secondary Public Examination 2012-13



A. Xavier Reni Prasad  
1100/1200



S. Devimeena  
1084/1200

State achievers (Sub: Indian Culture)



A. Victoria Rani  
186/200



A. Amalraj  
174/200

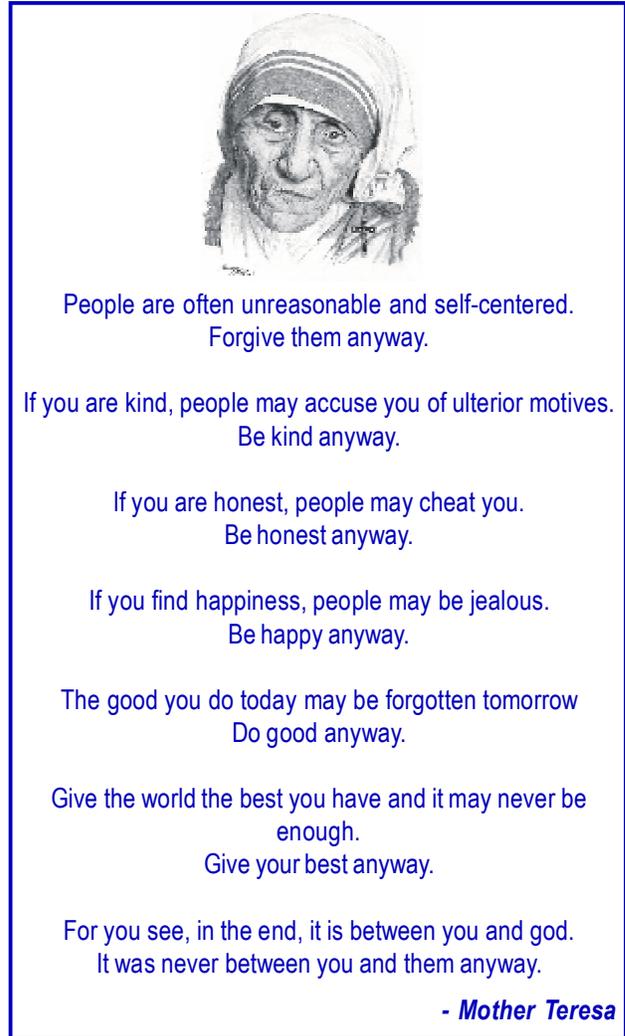
SSLC Public Examination 2012-13



G. Mahalakshmi  
488/500



D. Kaviya  
486/500



KASTURIBA SEVIKASHRAM SPL. HR. SEC. SCHOOL

SSLC 2012-13

12th std 2012-13



S. Sivadharisini  
422/500



M. Gowmariammal,  
1038/1200

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