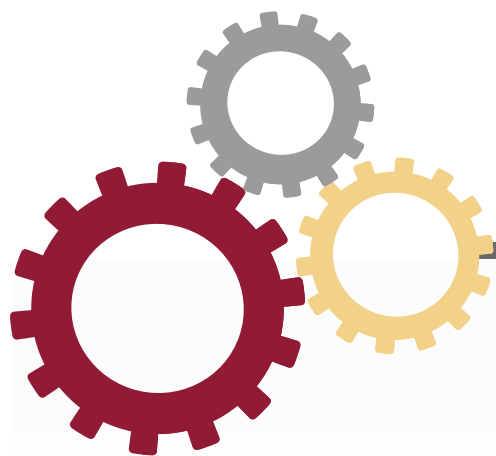


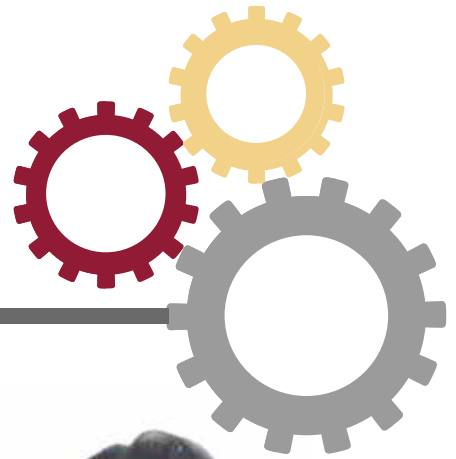
# **Partnerships** **Forging** **Change**

**SEB'S PROJECTS INDIA ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018 - 2019**



# FORGING PARTNERSHIPS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## From the director's desk

*The year has gone by so quickly. We continue our programmes, taking incremental steps, experimenting and reviewing our school education programmes to ensure learning is enjoyable for our children so that they develop and acquire both foundational and functional skills appropriate to their age.*

*Our partnership with the government has had a lasting impact on our programmes and the development of the tribal communities. As mentioned last year, the State Planning Commission, through the District Administration, had sanctioned 2 classrooms, a toilet block for girls and boys, and a kitchen for 5 of our NRSTC Seb's School's. It was heartening to see the willingness of individuals in the community who came forward to register and donate their land to the Education Department for building the school. There has been an undue delay in the execution of the work but we are assured that work will begin at the earliest. This will unleash many opportunities for the children at the school, with the possibility of even setting up a smart classroom to enhance learning and teaching using technology.*

*The Seb's Project Education Programme is slowly reaping the fruits of education in these remote communities, with over 200 children continuing their school education and several successfully graduating from professional courses.*

*We are also excited to witness the change in the lives of the women entrepreneurs in our communities who have confidently moved forward by exploring further business potential on their own and making it a success.*



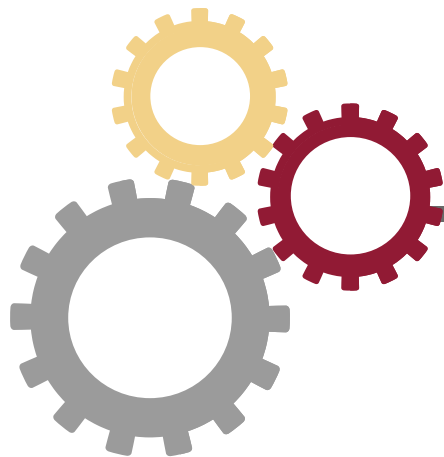
*The visit from the Sarvajal team of Piramal Foundation and the possibility of finding a sustainable solution for safe drinking water will hopefully become a reality, impacting the health of the people.*

*The Seb's Projects team partnered with other NGOs to enhance and add value to their work with the expertise we have gained over the years, which has been a new initiative undertaken by our staff.*

*Anna Hunter and Laura Walford, Directors of the Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust in London, have been the wind beneath our wings, helping Seb's Projects to dream big and be a part of our journey.*

*None of this would have been possible without the continued support and trust of many like-minded partners and donors, individuals and institutions, who are committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities living in remote areas by providing a ray of hope.*

*- Emma Koshi*



# EDUCATION

## Celebration of Learning and Annual Sports Day at Seb's NRSTC Schools in the Jawadhi Hills in partnership with Corporater

The winding forest roads in the Jawadhi Hills lead to a little tribal hamlet called Periyapannaparai, where Seb's School students from 6 other hamlets – Periyathankutai, Maruthavallimedu, Palamarathukollai, Kupsoor, Thanimarathur and Chinnaettipetti – had gathered for the much awaited Annual Sports Day on 3rd February.

There was great zeal, excitement and a festive atmosphere, with the communities coming together to cheer the students on. The chief guest, Dr. Sekar Viswanathan, Vice President of the Vellore Institute of Technology University, and Mr. Joytheeswara Pillai, the SSA Assistant Project Officer from the District Education Department, inaugurated the colorful exhibition put together by the 7 schools with children enthusiastically explaining their displays and art work. The dignitaries took the salute at the impressive march past of the students, accompanied by marching music played by the Seb's Arni School band. The mass drill by the children to the beat of drums with great precision was the highlight of the morning. The students entered into the spirit of the occasion in a grand way with the lighting of the Olympic torch.

It was a time for all the children to compete in various athletic events and the winners were awarded trophies and medals. The Palamarathukollai school team won the Kho Kho match and the Thanimarathur team took the Kabaddi trophy.

Dr. Sekar Vishwanathan encouraged the parents to ensure their children attend school regularly and to continue their education past primary school. He emphasized that education is the change maker to better their lives, and encouraged the students to excel in learning. He also spoke about the opportunities that VITU provides for rural students through their STAR initiative.

Mr. Joythieswara Pillai appreciated the teachers for their efforts in planning an event of this nature and encouraged the students to work hard and use every opportunity to develop their talents. He offered his full support to improve the existing facilities and to make Seb's School a model in the Jawadhi Hills.

Dr. Sekar Viswanathan - Vice President VITU  
Mr. Joytheeswara Pillai - APO District Education Dept



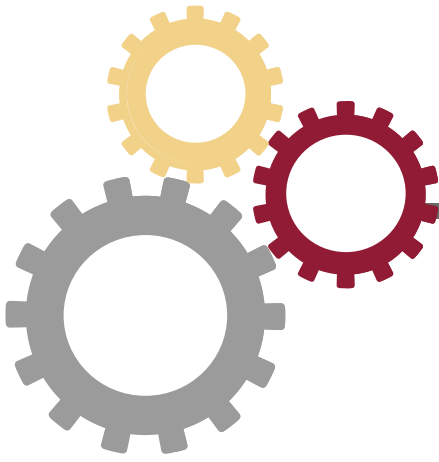


Lighting of the  
Olympic torch.



Seb's school  
Exhibition.





# EDUCATION

## Educational Tour of Vellore city

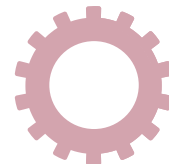
We are happy to report that the District Education Department and SSA arranged a study tour for the students in all our tribal schools. The one day trip for our children was a carefully planned combination of a site visit to Vellore Fort and a hands-on learning experience by visiting the Vellore Science Center. For most of the students, this was their first trip on a bus down the hill into Vellore.

At the Science Centre, they were able to learn concepts of science through simple models and experiments, led by the Science Centre resource trainers. The trainers introduced students to simple principles of science which our children were able to connect with. Students tried doing some of the experiments and discussed them with their teachers. They were also able to connect their lessons from their classroom learning.

The experience at the 3D theater was thrilling and fun.

In the afternoon they visited the Vellore Fort Museum. All the exhibits in the museum were very informative. The children were able to understand the history and they also interestedly took notes on the displays at the museum.

Mr. Jyotheeswara Pillai, the Assistant Programme Officer from the Education Department, along with his team took a personal interest to plan this programme so meticulously and made the educational tour very memorable for both the NRSTC Seb's students and their teachers.



Seb's School students in front of the Vellore Fort Museum.



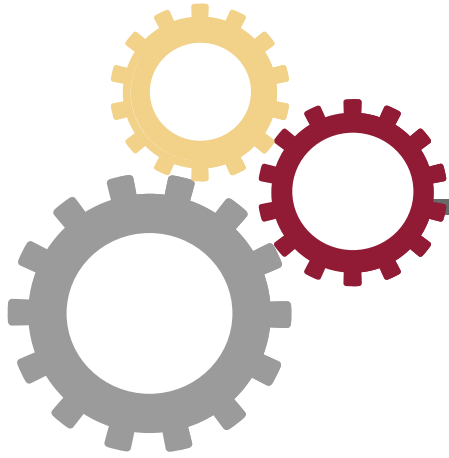


The District  
Science museum.



The Vellore  
Fort museum.





# EDUCATION

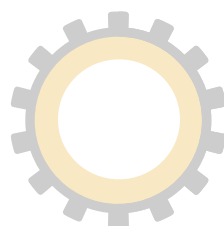
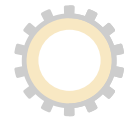
## Spreading the Joy of Reading

A Book in a Box library is a new initiative introduced in our Seb's tribal schools to improve the habit of reading. We believe that reading can change lives, especially for first generation learners and tribal children who have no print environment at home.

The Seb's school in Periyapanapari village came up with the idea of housing their library in the unused room next to the school and to call it the Tyler Reading room, where children can come in and find joy and pleasure in reading. This library has handpicked

storybooks in both Tamil and English, daily newspapers, General Knowledge books, maps and atlas books, dictionaries and lesson guides.

This has been a delightful new experience handling colorfully illustrated books other than their school textbooks. In the words of Sathyamoorthy: 'I wait for an opportunity to go and read, as I enjoy reading very much.' It also nurtures a love for reading by walking in and finding the books that speak to them.





# EDUCATION

## VOLUNTEER ESCORTS TO ENSURE EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Unfortunately the children from Chinnapanaparai, Kolayam, Jadayankolai and Vazhapandal villages are unable to attend school as they live in a remote area with poor road facilities. They have poor access to basic necessities such as primary education or basic healthcare. Since the start of this academic year the students from these villages have been escorted about 3kms every day to school.

Thanks to Velliama a village volunteer and Rajendren a Seb's School teacher for their tireless efforts and perseverance to escort 20 students from their respective villages. They walk through a difficult terrain for 45 minutes with the children to get to the school.



## SEB'S MUSIC BAND

Developing musical talent in rural students and providing them with an opportunity to read music and play an instrument in both Kings School and Seb's School - Arni, has been a matter of great pride.

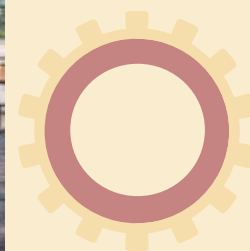
Over the past six years, over 200 students have learnt an instrument and play in their school band, even performing for special events in the community. Many of them aspire to play for a band in the armed forces. Their teacher Mr. Selvam, who is a retired navy officer was part of the naval orchestra, has been a source of inspiration to them.





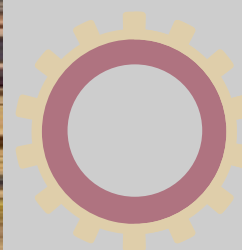
# EDUCATION

## Village Education Committees



The Village Education Committees in each of our school areas have shown greater involvement in the functioning of the schools. The Seb's team also spent time building their capacities to take on a bigger leadership role and take the lead in sustaining the schools into the future. Monthly meetings are held to discuss issues and work on solutions.

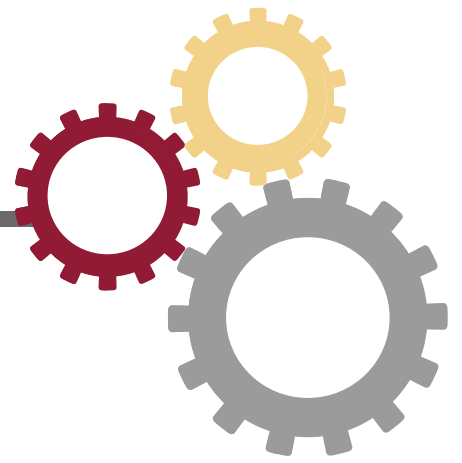
## Maruthavallimedu community coming together to make bricks



Realizing the difficulty in transporting bricks to build the Maruthavallimedu school. The community came together to make bricks to build the sides of the class room walls. There was great excitement and it took them nearly a month to make and burn the bricks. Their contribution was the free labour that they provided.



# EDUCATION



Small things that can make a lasting impact

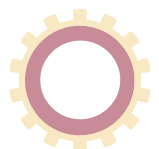
Exposing children to art opens many windows of opportunities. The other day, we met a young man who had a big a smile and introduced himself as a class three student from many years ago in a Government school. He is now a successful digital artist who said that he was introduced to color and a world of art through our art and craft program in school.







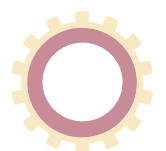
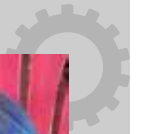
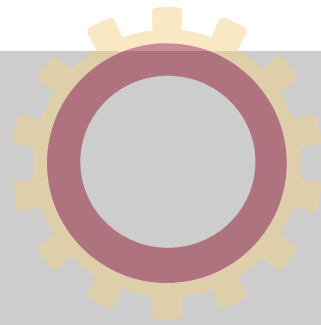
**Today 24 Students from Seb's School have qualified for admission into the Govt. Eklavya Model Residential School and continue their education. Congratulations to our students and teachers who trained them for their entrance exam.**







Eggs a part of Seb's menu.





# HEALTH

The search for sustainable solutions for clean drinking water.

An expert team from Piramal Sarvajal visited Seb's communities to study the challenges faced by them. It was both interesting and educative for the Seb's team to learn about Sarvajal and their perspective and commitment to finding appropriate and sustainable solutions for safe drinking water.

We sincerely hope it will result in a partnership to make safe drinking water a reality for all the Seb's communities in the Jawadhi Hills.

Following their visit, the Periyapannai community was enthused and came together as a community to clean their water source which was very dirty and muddy.



**Visit of the Sarvajal team to Periyapannai.**

- Geetha Venugopal,  
Program Manager  
& Ankur Kundu

**Community coming together to clean their water source.**





# HEALTH

Students leading health and education awareness campaigns.

The students of Seb's School along with their teachers have led several campaigns to create awareness on dengue fever and immunization, and to stand against child labour whilst encouraging school enrolment.



Health Clinics by CMC CHAD and Medical Camps by the District Health Departments

The monthly health clinic conducted by CMC CHAD has made health care accessible to our villages and more people have opted to go down to the hospital for further treatment when necessary. The District Health Department has also played an important role in helping with the immunization of the children and in counseling young mothers to avail the benefits of a hospital delivery and utilizing the government schemes.



**The Medical camp organised in Alleri by the primary health center.**

90 children from Palamarthukollai and Maruthavellimedu school attended and under went general check up.





# HEALTH

## HEALTH REFERRALS

Soundari is studying in 5th standard in Seb's School Palamarathukollai. During the medical camp the doctor noticed that she was very weak and had difficulty in breathing. Following the camp she was seen by the District Medical Officer who diagnosed a 1.9 mm hole in her heart and recommended immediate surgery.

With the assistance of the school teacher Mr. Senthil, the family approached the District Collector's office to access the Chief Minister's health insurance scheme. Soundari was admitted in Shree Gokulam specialty hospital in Salem and the doctors conducted the surgery on 17th December 2018. The operation was successful and Soundari's health has improved and she is now back in school.



### **The miracle of joining hands**

Poovarasan today a toddler attending Seb's Balwadi in Periyapannaparai. Many of you who have been part of our journey would remember that his 19 year old mother died in her 7th month of pregnancy leaving behind her little son who needed urgent medical support and care. Many Thanks to CMC CHAD for the neonatal support and the many donors who supported his nutritional needs at the early stages. The generous gift of a cow was given to his grand mother who was caring for him. He is a healthy and smart little boy enjoying Pre School. Thanks to many of you who joined hands to make a difference.

# HEALTH

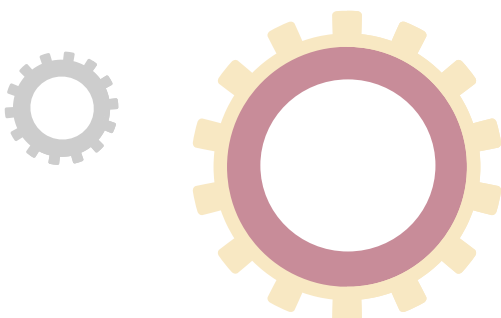
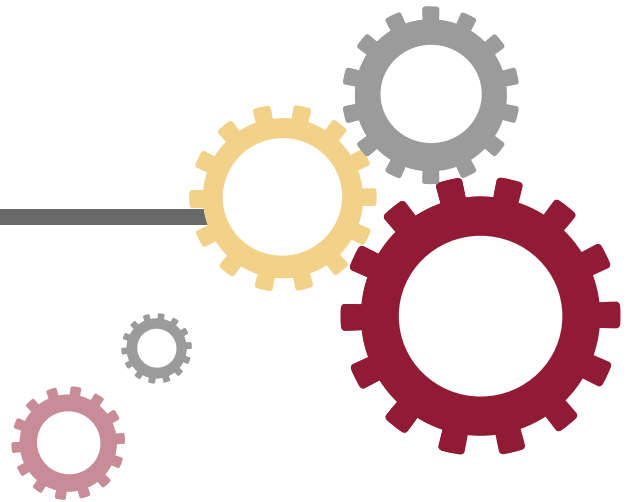
## BALWADI CENTER

In Seb's balwadi's we place great emphasis on children's interaction and exercises that help them to express themselves. A time schedule is followed for all activities which includes circle time, general conversation, free play and activities for physical and social development.

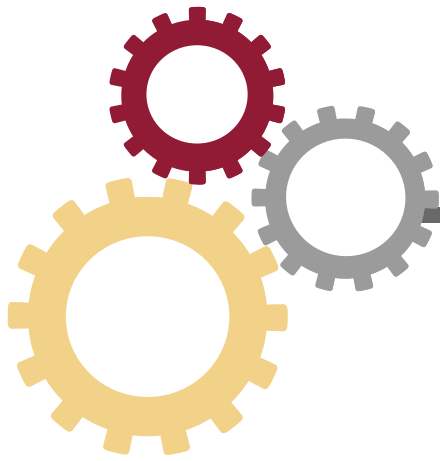
The balwadi centers in Palamarathukollai, and Periyapanapari are in the school campus with 54 children. Maruthavalimedu and Kupsoor are two distribution centers for nutrition powder supplements from ICDS which benefits 35 children.

The balwadi curriculum is followed as given by the ICDS which focuses on a particular theme every month. This year the ICDS Department provided the teachers with a teaching manual and the necessary learning materials for the children.

In addition to the nutritional supplement provided by the ICDS Department the children are provided with a noon meal including a boiled egg, vegetables and rice. We are happy that over the past three years children have moved from the Balwadi's to the Primary school with no difficulty. This smooth transition is remarkable and appreciated by the parents.







# LIVELIHOOD

The Seb's livelihood projects posed both challenges and opportunities as our aim had been to empower the women in our communities to take a lead role in improving their lives and those of their families.

**The Eco Trail** took a beating this year with an unexpected and tragic fire incident in a tribal area in Tamil Nadu. Trekking was withheld almost all through the year.

**The women of Thandayankotai**, our first self-help group are today confident women who have come a long way. They have diversified their businesses and continue to earn a stable income through soap-making, spinning, and better packaging and sale of forest produce such as tamarind, custard apple, honey and the Indian cherry.

**The Periyapannaparai** women have opened two shops of their own and the self-help group have availed of the government scheme to do small businesses.

**The millet processing** unit was set up at Peenjamandhai for cleaning, dehulling and destoning the little millets.

Although running the unit posed many challenges in the area of marketing, we observed the pattern of usage by the community showed that they were grinding the millet for their own consumption. In an average over a 100 families have used this facility.

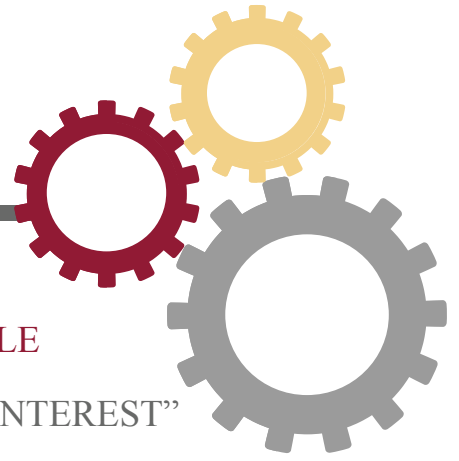
We were able to achieve our objective to make people understand the health benefits by consuming millets.

The livelihood program with the **'Good Bye to Paper'** women has also been inspiring. Several of the women who were trained in ironing clothes managed their businesses and their homes successfully. When we met them for a review meeting the significant change in their lives from the start of the program was in their own words. "We were living on street pavements, : today, we are in a position to rent a house and care for our children in a safe environment."

Two of the women are supporting their children through higher education. Their economic independence has given them a new lease of life and self respect and has had a positive impact on them and their families.



# SCHOLARSHIPS



CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

“AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST”

**Our Graduates for 2019 are all first generation learners who chased and accomplished their dreams.**

Another opportunity to say a big thank you for your support that brings positive changes in the life of deserving young people.

*CHELLAMA Diploma in Nursing from M.A Chidambaram College of Nursing Chennai*



*SAMUNDESHWARI B.SC Degree in Nursing from M.A Chidambaram College of Nursing Chennai*



*BHAVANI Diploma in Nursing from Scudder Memorial Hospital and College of Nursing Ranipet.*



*Vaideshwari -3rd Year of B.Sc Nursing*



## Students at different stages of Higher Education

*Rajpathi-2nd year of B.Sc Nursing*



*Sathya -1st year of B.Sc Nursing*



*Dilip Kumar First year Diploma in Automobile Mechanics*

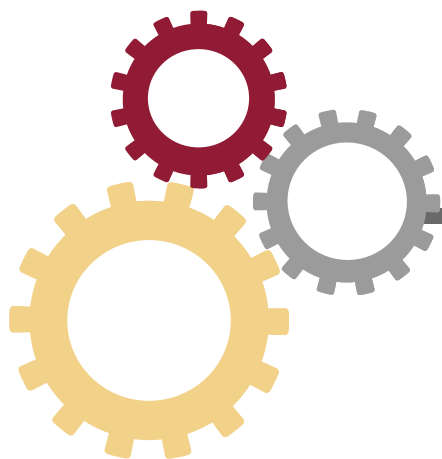


*Divya Bharathi- 1st of Diploma in Nursing*



**“Our 250 students are continuing their school education in Middle/ High / Higher secondary school through Seb’s scholarships.**





# SHARING OF SEB'S RESOURCES

Sharing our skills and resources with other institutions in the community and adding value to each other's endeavors has been very rewarding.



## Priyadharshini School for mentally challenged children in Gandhinagar Vellore:

Seb's Projects is involved in training teachers to use Art as a medium to reach out to the needs of these differently abled children. Sessions were fun filled and it was rewarding seeing the progress children made. We are also sharing our computer and technical skills to help them with publicity materials and video presentations.



**CMC Chatram:** Seb's Projects took the lead to address a specific need in the community, in partnership with well-wishers and volunteers in the community, to provide a hot nutritious breakfast 5 days a week over the past year to 100 inmates at CMC Chatram. This is an amazing project run by CMC, where they provide clean and safe accommodation for poor patients who come for treatment to Vellore from different parts of India.





# SHARING OF SEB'S RESOURCES

PROTECT A CHILD'S FEET THIS SUMMER

– A Footwear campaign:



A desperate need this summer was addressed in partnership with an NGO. The Third Hand', under the leadership of Giridharan and his enthusiastic volunteers who raised donors, procured 300 foot wear and distributed sandals to all of Seb's School students. We also thank Mr.M Ganesh of ANURAGHA for providing footwear for elderly people in the community.

## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

### Vedavalli School, Ranipet

The Seb's team led a workshop for school students during the month of June. 120 students from Vedavalli School attended a three day workshop on life skills and communication. Sessions were conducted on self-esteem, the importance of team building, and challenges faced by teens.

The students participated enthusiastically.

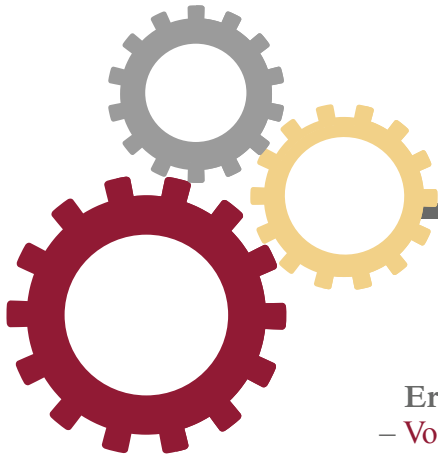
In the words of a student "It was an opportunity to think and explore about ourselves and our full potential".



### Government Schools in KV Kuppam Block

The Seb's team facilitated training on behalf of CMC RUSHA in government high schools in K V Kuppam Block, on adolescent reproductive health and drug abuse.

# VOICES OF SPONSORS AND DONORS



Erick, Ella and Alice  
– Volunteers from the UK

“We are very grateful for the chance to have worked with Seb’s Project India during our visit to Vellore. It has been a great insight into much of the charitable work that organisations like Seb’s do in India, particularly in helping change India’s future for the better, through educating its children. We didn’t realize how isolated and rural many of the villages where Seb’s Schools are located are; it was truly eye-opening to visit them, and getting to enjoy days with the children there was amazing. Everyone, from the teachers to the kids, were so welcoming and we are so glad to have had this opportunity”.



Linda Farley and Patrick Bentley  
– Sponsors of Higher Education over the years

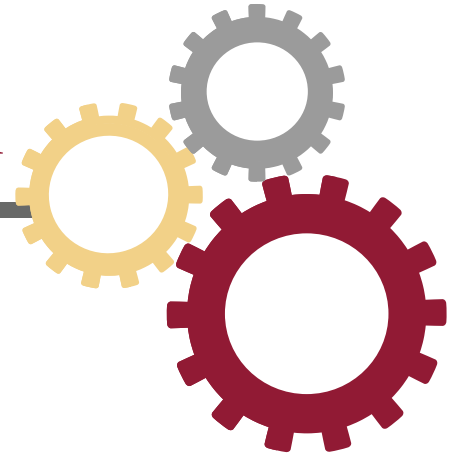


Linda and I were privileged to visit Vellore in March 2019 and have the opportunity to see the work being carried out by Seb’s Project which we have supported over the years. We met with primary school children and teachers from tribal areas. We learnt how the authorities had originally viewed educating tribal children to be a challenging task, but that Seb’s Project’s success in establishing several schools in remote tribal areas had eventually won government support.

At the other end of this process we also met with three very impressive young men, whose education had been fostered through school to college with the assistance of Seb’s Project and three girls doing their nursing at MA.Chithambaram College in Chennai. These young men and women spontaneously spoke of how the encouragement and practical support from Seb’s Project had literally been “life changing” for them. In the words of one of them, it is “making me the person I am today”.

A major goal of the work is providing children with life chances that otherwise would not have been available.

# CORPORATER – OUR CORPORATE PARTNER



**In the words of Tor Inge Vasshus, Corporater CEO who visited Seb's Projects and has continued his commitment to be a part of Seb's Projects:**

“Life, light and increase are three words we would like to bring to the world. Bring life where life seems lost, bring light where there is darkness, bring increase where things seem to decrease.

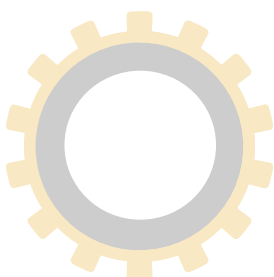
In Corporater's social impact initiative, we are also looking for these three words fulfilled.

The first Social Impact Prize was given to Neema for her engagement in Seb's Projects India. Since then Corporater has been an active partner of Seb's Projects India.”

## **SARAH LLOYD**

- a friend and donor of Seb's over the years.

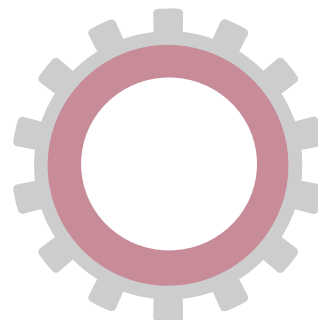
I loved your reports- so wonderful to read of all the lives Seb's has lifted and to hear of so many students being able to take their studies and skills further. I love reading the stories and your great photos always bring back very happy times there for me too. Also great to hear of wonderful developments, with you having galvanized the government support too for even greater widespread change and sustainability.



## **JOSE KOCHIYIL**

- a sponsor for higher education.

“I am so glad Chellama did well by completing her course in Diploma Nursing. I am so happy because at least one member of her family did come out of the vicious cycle of poverty and to be a part of her success story.”







## PARTNERS' VISITS

### **The visit of the Directors of the Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust**

In September this year Anna Hunter, with her daughter Laura Walford and her family, visited Vellore to see the work which Seb's has been doing in the tribal villages of Tamil Nadu over the past 16 years. Both Laura and Adam, along with their two children, visited the schools and the other projects. Their visit to the Jawadhi Hills was memorable for them and everyone at Seb's Projects.

It was very rewarding for them to see that their hard work on behalf of the Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust in England has had a direct impact on these deprived and isolated communities so far away from home.

### **Marie and John**

Our partners in improving the livelihoods of the tribal communities along with friends visited the Millet Processing project. Since their visit we have been able to market some of the processed millets in ANURAGHA a Super Market in Vellore and exploring other opportunities to market the millets.







**The District Education  
Department  
The District Health  
Department  
The District Forest  
Department  
ICDS  
TRIFED**

**CORPORATER  
VIT University  
SARVAJAL  
VELLORE CMC  
FOUNDATION  
CMC CHAD  
SAM GRANTS**

**The  
Sebastian Hunter Trust  
and  
Seb's Projects India express  
our sincere Thanks to**

**Sajeeve K. Thomas  
Victoria Job  
Petra Tyers  
Renae Fardon  
Giridharan  
Sebastian**

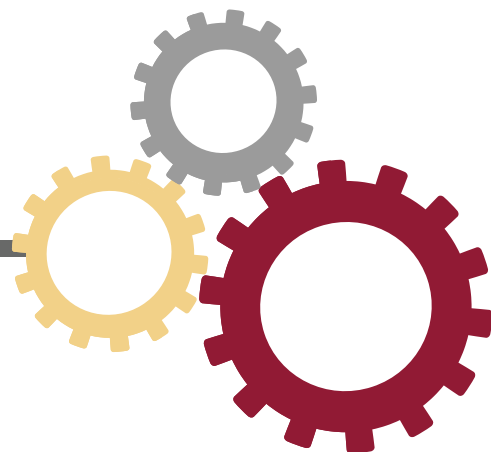
**HUMANITARIAN  
CLOWNS  
  
THIRD HAND  
ANURAGHA**

**Linda Farley  
Jose Kochiyil  
Sarah Lloyd  
Tor Inge Vasshus**

**Marie and John  
Angela and John  
Geraldine and Anup  
Amy Jackson and  
Charlotte**

**Saramma and Ian Sargeant  
Slade and Hudson Shaw  
Vinod and Asha Nehemiah  
Neema and Sharon Koshi  
Susie and Rohan Venketash**

# OUR FINANCE

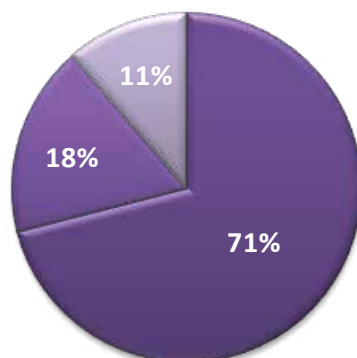


**INCOME :** ₹ 40,51,592

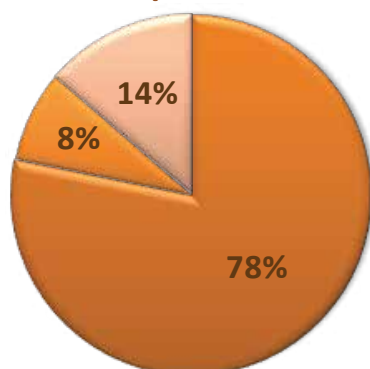
**EXPENDITURE :** ₹ 39,01,392

- Trust and foundation
- Corporates
- Individuals

Income



Expenses



- Projects
- Administration
- Scholarships

# OUR TEAM





JOIN HANDS  
WITH US  
BE PART OF  
THE CHANGE



**SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST**

Address : No.6, 10th East Cross Street, Gandhi nagar, Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 632005.  
Phone : 0416 224 3165  
Mobile : 91 9843042695  
Email : [sebsprojectsindia@gmail.com](mailto:sebsprojectsindia@gmail.com)  
Website : [www.sebsprojectsindia.org](http://www.sebsprojectsindia.org)