



SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST

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III QUARTER REPORT

EDUCATION

ART AND CRAFTS: Seb's projects India is happy to partner with Articulate Charity works to educated children with art. Articulate is run by volunteer artists, arts educators and practitioners from the UK. It offers participants innovative creative experiences that can build their self-confidence and sense of self-worth. Articulate also work to give those practical creative skills and the confidence and support to go on and use those skills in the future.

Lucie Mytton is our volunteer who will teach arts in all the Seb's school for the next twelve months. The year has started so colorful for our tribal children. Weekly art classes are scheduled for all the schools to learn creative art. The art session brings lots of Joy and fun among the children. Children have the opportunity to imagine and deliver their skills and also feel the different art materials like paints, colour pens, art papers, patterns, handling scissors, masking tapes glues etc.



BRC training: Our teachers participated in the Block level training program organized by the government. Block Resource Center (BRC) is set by the government primarily to support teachers in schools. The Block Resource Teacher Educators (BRTes) support our teachers to address quality improvement. Practical problems faced by teachers are discussed and solved in the training program.



Outreach at Seb's school: Children at Seb's school were encouraged to teach their illiterate parents to write their own names. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of our young students and their ability to reach out to their parents. In couple of schools parents coming for the quarterly meeting have been able to proudly sign instead of their thumb impression.

Children were also encouraged to take up a project related to their study at school. This provided them an opportunity to use their creativity and help them to understand some important concepts in Science and Maths



Balwadi: The District Integrated Child Development Department visited our Balwadi and are very appreciative of our intervention in the Jawadhi hills. The Block Medical Officer did a master check of our children and was fully satisfied with the nutrition provided for the children and their health status. It is interesting to also note the involvement of our balwadi teacher in facilitating health for the pregnant and lactating mothers and providing health education.



Music at Seb's schools: The school band in Kings and Arni School are doing well. The band played on Republic day and School Annual day. The Arni band students tried learning to play new songs on their own. They have become so popular they have been invited to play at wedding celebrations around Vellore.



HEALTH

Health work for the month of January and February was well coordinated with the government PHC and CMC hospital. Mobile clinic visited the village and community people were treated for their illness. Since it was winter season majority of the adults and children were affected by cold, cough and fever. Home visits conducted and medicines were distributed for 28 patients.

Addressing an Epidemic in the Jawadhi hills

Periyapanapari village had a threat of bird flu infection. The situation was reported to the PHC and medical team visited the village and distributed preventive medicines. Adults were given tablets for ten day and children were given pediatric doses. Our balwadi teacher and health worker administrated the medicines to all the students in school and balwadi for ten days.



Advocacy

Five birth certificates were obtained from the government offices and distributed to the parents.

Pregnant women are part of the Government Ante Natal and Post Natal care and have been enlisted in the government schemes

Swatch Bharat Scheme for facilitating Sanitation in our tribal villages in process.



Immunization

MMR vaccine campaign was organized by the State government Health department. All the Seb's working villages were mobilized for this campaign. 309 children were immunized in all the seven villages. The picture above shows a line of children from Maruthavallimedu and Palamarathukollai Seb's School trekking to the nearest centre for immunization.



Fight for life

A young baby was born prematurely in the rural village of Periyapanapari. A very unfortunate and heartbreaking story, as the mother who was 19 years went into labour at 7 months. Sadly the mother died in labour. After which the baby was taken care by his grandmother in the village.

Due to the early labour and death of the mother, the baby boy was not able to be supported in the village. The weight of the baby was reducing gradually as there was no opportunity to provide alternative nutrition. Seb's Projects on hearing the condition of the baby intervened and made arrangements for the grandmother and the baby to be treated at the CMC CHAD hospital. The baby was admitted and incubated for 2 weeks and provided nutritional supplements. The baby has shown improvement in health and the baby has gained weight by 200 gms.

The grandmother is eager to raise this baby and is looking for help to support nutrition as the doctor's have recommended that the baby is fed with Lactogen milk powder for the next couple of weeks followed by substituting with fresh cow's milk. The milk powder is very expensive and beyond their ability to purchase.

The grandparent's are very poor and do not have a steady income to raise the child. The team at Seb's Project is researching into a livelihood project with the grandmother, to be able to care and support her grandchild.



LIVELIHOOD

People community market

The Periyapanapari shop has been completed and stocked fully. Thanks to Slade and Hudson for their continued interest and support. We are happy to report on this pilot livelihood project. The sales have increased day by day. There is great response from the community. People utilize the shop daily and have requests for many more items to be sold in the shop. The shop is managed by a volunteer from the community. Every day sales account is maintained in the register. So far the highest sale for a day was 600 rupees. All items in the shop are bought on wholesale market from Vellore thrice a month.



Tamarind deseeding and packaging machine

It is the season for harvesting tamarind in the Jawadhi hills and the families are involved in harvesting and the laborious process of deseeding and cleaning of the tamarind fruit.. Seb's Projects have assisted the self help women's tribal group to apply to the District Livelihood Support Department to apply for a grant to purchase machines that could help them with deseeding, cleaning and packaging.

