

## **ARS Newsletter November 2014**

### **Children's Village:**

It is almost 1½ year over now since we moved in to the Children's Village campus and children are enjoying their day-to-day life. There are 36 girl children and 10 staffs living together in three families (each family has 12 children). Also there is one cook, one Gardner cum security, one ABACUS teacher and one classical dance teacher working for the children's village project.

Thanks to Jürg Weber Foundation, children are happily going to school with a mini bus. 35 girls are going to 6 different schools (Primary, high school, English and Tamil medium schools) and one girl is doing her Bachelor degree in Computer Science. Every evening they are offered special tuition by 4 qualified teachers to take care of their educational part, so there is good progress in their education. Also they are learning some craft works from them. During Sunday they learn classical dance and ABACUS mathematics system.

Children are enjoying sport activities and gardening during their leisure times. During Saturday evening, they are offered Yoga lessons by an experienced Yoga Guru from this August onwards. This helps them a lot to understand their physical conditions and mental abilities. Also during Saturdays, we watch some nice documentaries or cartoon movies together at the rooftop.

Since the Government revised the spare requirement for the children homes, now we are trying to build a 4<sup>th</sup> house at the children's village campus. We got an idea of going for a natural building since the whole campus is environment friendly. If everything goes as per plans, this new house will be ready by end of March 2015 to move in.

Since beginning of this year, the older children (above 15 years) are involved in the administration and decision making at the Children's Village project, which started giving them a good hands on experience. Also this helps them a lot to understand the problems, solutions, works we do and outside world.

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### **Evening Schools:**

After the summer holidays, our new academic year started from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards. All evening schools started from then onwards again and as usual all kids started coming with great enthusiasm and also many new kids started coming. Students who are completed school education from Vengikkal evening school started their higher education in Bachelor degree in Commerce as per the guidance given by us. This is a great success since all three of them joined for higher education courses without any break!

A new evening school was started in Paliyapattu village in July, which was a long time due since last two years. Presently two teachers are teaching at this school

but we trying to appoint another one since we get more than 60 students everyday.

So there are 5 evening schools in and around of Tiruvannamalai and 3 schools are supported in the Jawadhu Hills region. An average of 600 students are studying in all these evening schools.

Once in 15 days, evening school children are given an opportunity to read the library books from our mobile library project. Computer classes also organized for them to improve their computer literacy.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India and many cultural programs were organized for the public in their area. It gave an opportunity for the parents and public to realize how much talented these kids. Also that helps us to motivate the parents and kids to continue their education in future too.

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### **Mobile Library:**

Mobile library also started its service back after the 5 weeks summer holidays. It keep on visiting all our evening schools every alternate week and also visiting three more other places to distribute books.

Also as a new effort, mobile library started visiting three more new places in the Tiruvannamalai town to bring back the reading habit among kids. Initially we went for a survey and it didn't turn that much supportive. But when the mobile library started visits their streets, it was completely changed. Even their mothers are ready to offer if we need any support to do this good works.

Now this mobile library operates Monday to Saturday every evening very busy. Also we started getting request from the adults also to distribute books to them but due to the timings it is not possible for us to do now but may be in the future when we find a solution we may do it.

Adding new books in the library also keep on going and also people are donating their used books to us. So the total number of books now crossed 3,000 by end of this year it may cross 3,500 easily.

Thanks to Dominik Kulsen, the books are safe and reaching even in the rainy seasons without fail.

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### **Mobile Clinic Project:**

Medical project is started in 2007 and we used a rented Jeep to visit the villages till 2010 March. In 2010 March with the support of Sabine Kraut (Bern) we have launched the mobile clinic project to visit the remote rural villages. This mobile clinic has a separate room for doctor, nurse and pharmacist and it also has air-

conditioner, refrigerator, oxygen cylinder, infuse table, water tanks, PA system, a television for health education and we can easily store one month's medicine in it. This project was supported by a Dutch organization but unfortunately their new board had decided to withdraw their support to this beautiful project from April 2015 onwards. So this project doesn't have any donor as of now and we can run the project till end of March 2015 with the money we have.

This mobile clinic team consists of an experienced doctor, two pharmacist, two nurses, one lab technician, a driver cum social worker and an assistant. They visit Monday to Thursday to the villages located very remote in the plain area of Tiruvannamalai. During Fridays, they visit the Jawadhu Hills villages (Puliyur region) with the Jeep (sponsored by Verein ARS) to treat people on the hills.

The mobile clinic project gives free medical treatment to around **40,000 patients every year** by their dedicated work at the cost of 36,000 CHF. Travelling in the mobile clinic vehicle on a worst road is not so easy but the dream of Regenboog drives them through all the difficulties by ignoring the challenges that they face through the journey. The problem of no money for this project for the future also a great challenge but we believe in our dream strongly and that will show us the light during the dark days...