



*The Retreat's*  
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# VIEWPOINT

October - November 2021

## TRAINING IN NURSERY AND ORGANIC KITCHEN @ MANJAKUTTAI, MANDHAI & KOMMAKADU

The main objective of Project NaSH is to give Sustainable Livelihood for the Tribals of Yercaud. In the 1st and 2nd year of Project NaSH, the beneficiaries of Yercaud, Manjakuttai and Nagalur got benefitted. In continuation of the awareness training to other villages of Shevaroyhills, we have reached the people of Mandhai, Manjakuttai and Kommakadu.



On 8th, 9th and 10th of October, 2021 the Awareness Trainings were happened at Mandhai, Manjakuttai and Kommakadu villages respectively. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS INDIA Foundation explained about the project and the importance of organic farming. Mr Marshal, Project staff explained about the process and preparation of organic manure – Pancha Kavya. He has mentioned about the importance of using the organic manure for the soil and the plants. He also gave the awareness about Organic Kitchen Garden. Initially, he insisted the people to start the kitchen Garden and cultivate vegetables for their own use. This method seems to be successful in the hill, i.e., creating interest among the participants in gardening and achieve the task of propagation of nursery plants. Finally, Mr Ramesh, the field staff of Shevaroyhills Tribal Development Institute, explained the methods of nursery plantation to the participants. The training programme was ended after getting the feedback from the participants. Each participant received 30 grow bags initially to start nursery plantation in their places.



## HEROES FOR HUMANITY PROJECT INAUGURATION

SPS INDIA Foundation, The Retreat Don Bosco, Yercaud in collaboration with Desai Foundation have been conducting various awareness campaigns and welfare assistance to help Yercaud residents recover from the impact of the second wave of COVID. In continuation of the service Heroes For Humanity project is launched for the tribal community of Yercaud on 2nd October, 2021.



The programme started with a prayer song Fr Raj SDB, Rector, The Retreat, Yercaud and the TNPSC Commission member felicitated the guests and welcomed the gathering Mr Venkatesan Block Development Officer (Yercaud) Mr. Senthil Murugan Block Development Officer (Yercaud) were the special guests for the event and they have appreciated the activities we have done during the second wave of pandemic Fr Selva Kumar SDB the director of SPS INDIA Foundation has given a brief description and importance of the project. This project aims to cover the Health and Hygiene Awareness of COVID 19 vaccination camp, menstrual hygiene awareness, baseline survey, hotline tele support and distribution of antigen rapid test kits and medical kit distribution.

In this programme Block development officers, BDO coordinator, government officials, medical officer, panchayat president, Yercaud youth volunteers, Salesian co-operators and volunteers participated. The programme ended by vote of thanks proposed by one of the volunteers present for the meeting. After the inauguration, small meeting was arranged for the volunteers to make them understand the project. There were around 36 volunteers from 4 zones namely Yercaud Nagalur Manjakuttai and Maramangalam. Fr Selvakumar SDB, Project Director and Ms Sangeetha Area Coordinator explained the roles and responsibilities and functioning of the project especially the expected outcome of the Community Facilitator Head (Community Facilitators) (Data Support and Tele support volunteers).

## Heroes For Humanity Project Volunteers Meeting

Heroes For Humanity Project Volunteers meeting held on 19th Oct, 2021 at The Retreat, Yercaud. The Community Facilitator Heads, Community Facilitators, Hotline Tele Support Staff and Data Support Staff of Yercaud, Manjakuttai, Maramangalam and Nagalur zone were present for the meeting. Fr. Selva, Project Director of SPS India Foundation asked the volunteers to introduce about themselves and share about their field work experiences. He has briefed them about the purpose of the meeting and the things they would receive along with t-shirt, hygiene and medical kit.



He has also motivated the volunteers to do the detailed data about vaccination, COVID-19 awareness and their success stories of each volunteer. Ms. Sangeetha, Area Coordinator explained and insisted the volunteers about the documents they have to submit after each survey. Fr. Raj SDB – Rector, The Retreat Yercaud and the Founder Chairman of SPS India Foundation distributed the Medical and Hygiene Kit to the Volunteers. Each volunteer received a T-shirt, Forehead thermometer, Oximeter, pair of hand gloves, Faceshield, Face Masks and Hygiene kit (Sanitary Napkin, Soaps, Sanitizer, Hand wash etc.,)

## Blood Donation Camp @ Yercaud

On 31st of October 2021, SPS INDIA FOUNDATION of The Retreat – Don Bosco in-collaboration with Primary Health Centres of Yercaud, Grand Palace Hotel, Yercaud and Youth Volunteers of Yercaud organized the Blood Donation Camp at Government Hr. Sec. School, Yercaud from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The main objective of this event was to promote awareness on importance of blood donation amidst the youth of the hill. The camp was inaugurated by the chief guests including Fr. Raj, Rector of the Retreat Don Bosco, Dr. Thompson Block Medical Officer Yercaud, Mr. Prasana Manager director of Grand Palace Hotel, Yercaud, Dr. Ravindhran Salem Government Hospital and Dr. Ram Madhan, Primary Health Centre, Manjakuttai. Fr. Raj gave an informative speech about blood donation and duties and responsibilities of volunteers and every citizen of the country.



Then, Mr. Prasana, Managing director of Grand Palace Hotel thanked the SPS INDIA FOUNDATION of the Retreat Don Bosco, Primary Health Centres and the volunteers for having the heart to serve the people. He also said that when his business partners wanted to do something noble to the people of Yercaud, they immediately thought of the Retreat-Don Bosco which is known for social work in the locality and for serving the poor people in need. A Team of 6 Doctors and 15 Nurses were present for the camp. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS INDIA FOUNDATION initiated the camp by donating blood as the first person. Then, all the doctors and the medical team donated blood to create awareness. They were followed by the post novitiate students with their oratory youngsters and the volunteers. Refreshments were provided by the Grand Palace Hotel. The donors were given pickup and drop by the Primary health centres of Yercaud. More than 150 Youngsters came for the event with lots of enthusiasm but only 130 were allowed to donate blood. Among them more than 50 donated blood for the first time. The Retreat-Don Bosco along with other collaborators feels proud for making such a great impact in the lives of youngsters.

## Heroes For Humanity Project Volunteers Monthly Assessment Meeting

Heroes For Humanity Project Volunteers Monthly Assessment Meeting held on 7th November, 2021 at Retreat, Yercaud. The community facilitator heads, Community facilitators, hotline tele support staff and data support staff were present for the meeting. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS India Foundation addressed the volunteers and asked them to share their field work experiences and the number of villages they have reached for the vaccination awareness and data collection for the month of October, 2021.



He has asked all the volunteers to complete the vaccination awareness before 15th of November, 2021 and informed them about the tasks they have to complete for the month of November, 2021 viz., baseline survey, HOTLINE (PULL) – Helpline Number Activity and Mask Distribution. Also informed them about the expected work to be completed on a daily, weekly and monthly basis and how it will impact their attendance, performance, reporting and the remuneration. Ms. Sangeetha, Area Coordinator has explained the volunteers in detail about the baseline survey activity, Helpline number activity they have to do and the expected documents to be completed on a daily basis.

Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS India Foundation has distributed the HFH Project Voluntary ID cards to the respective Community Facilitator Heads and masks were given to the volunteers to be distributed in the villages during the vaccination awareness and data collection. To encourage and recognize the HFH volunteers, prizes were given to community facilitator Ms. Revathi of Maramangalam Zone, Mrs. Manjula of Nagalur Zone, Tele Support Data Support Staff Mr. Ashok and Tele support staff Mrs. Rajeshwari for their attendance, performance for the month of October, 2021. At the end of the meeting the volunteers have submitted the bills and invoices for the fuel and mobile recharge expenses they have incurred for the month of October, 2021.

## Arts camp for the evening study centre children



The arts camp was organized for the students of our Evening Study Centres during the post pandemic situation wherein still the schools are not reopened for the tribal children in Yercaud. The camp was organized by the Retreat - Don Bosco Community (Youth Services) in collaboration with a professional artist Mrs. Lakshmi Swamy from Chennai. The camp was conducted in their own centres for the small children from class 1-8 (at Vasambadi and at Murugan Nagar). For the students of 9-12 were invited to the Retreat campus and the arts camp was conducted for them. Moreover, the materials needed for the arts camp were sponsored by the arts teacher herself. It was held from 12th - 14th of October 2021. The children were grateful for the special arts camp organized for their talent hunt. It bore fruit amidst the evening study centre. The art teacher too was overwhelmed by the interest and response shown by the children.

## Children's Day Celebration & Distribution of Rain Coats



We have celebrated the children's day in all our evening study centres and in SOTCHO (SOLA TRIBAL CHILDREN'S HOME): Vasambadi, Murugan Nagar, Kovilmedu and MGR Nagar. The celebration was well planned and executed by the post-novices along with the respective night school teachers. There were about thirty children in each of our night school. The celebration was stretched to the whole week prior to the Children's Day (14th November) to respective night school children. The children performed awareness dance, songs and staged meaningful skits. The entire celebration in night schools was organized and coordinated by Fr. John Wilson SDB, youth director and Cl. Maria Jerin SDB, Asst. Director of night school centre. A special thanks to Fr. Raj SDB, the Rector of the institute for all the support and love that he exhibits for the growth of the tribal children. The children were given the rain coats as children's day gifts. A big thanks to Mr. A. P. Swamy & Mrs. Lakshmi, who have generously sponsored the rain coats for the children, which serves the need of the neighbourhood tribal children of the hills. It remained a memorable moment for the children, staff and the parents too.