



The Retreat's
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Viewpoint

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Vocational Training on Sewing

SPS INDIA Foundation, of the Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud in collaboration with Desai Foundation Trust (DFT) has launched the Vocational Skill Training on Sewing at Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal, in Virudhunagar District on 3rd December, 2021. This project is supported by PwC India Foundation. Mrs. Hemavathi from PwC INDIA FOUNDATION, Mr. Manoj Panda, from Desai Foundation Trust, Fr. Amalorpavaraj, Director of Cauveri Development Office, Tiruchy, Mr. Murugan, Saminathapuram Panchayat President, Mrs. Krishnaveni, Karisalkulam Panchayat President, Fr. Bosco, director of Don Bosco Vidivelli Kalavasal Virudhunagar District & Fr. Selvakumar, project Director of SPS India foundation .were the special invitees for the inauguration. Salesians of Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal had done all the arrangements for the inauguration.



Thirty beneficiaries from the villages such as T.Metur, Mayilapatti, Melanmarainadu, Karisalkulam, Kalavasal, Alangulam, Valaiyapatti & Subramaniyapuram were present. This first batch of beneficiaries of this project will be trained in basic Sewing for three months. They will later be given advance training on the same and be involved in starting the stitching unit in the same location. With this big dream, this vocational training had its simple genesis.

Exposure Programme for the Madras School of Social Work

The students from Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), P.G Department of Development Studies, Chennai had four days of Out Bound training in SPS INDIA FOUNDATION, The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud. All of them were warmly welcomed by the organization and Fr. Abraham, Administrator of the Retreat - Don Bosco presented the overview of Yercaud & history of the organization. Then, Fr. Wilson organized ice breakers session and engaged them with full of activities. Later, they were divided into smaller groups and were sent to evening study centres for the field exposure. During the training, they were enlightened about the current projects & programmes, specific works, achievements by our project coordinators.



Fr. Selvakumar, Project Director of SPS, evaluated the visit to evening study centres and gave orientation about their filed visit to the villages of Yercaud. Later, Fr. Raj, founder chairman of SPS, gave a talk on finance resource management & fund raising. On the last day of the training, all the students were sent to the Oratories, i.e., youth centres in the villages of the hills for the exposure and to get to know the lifestyle of tribal people. We ended the training with the short evaluation. They were happy and appreciated the organization for the various interventions done for the people.



HFH Monthly Volunteers Meeting

Heroes For Humanity Project Volunteers Monthly Assessment Meeting held on 19th December, 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 to increase the number of reach out in the vaccination awareness, vaccination survey and baseline survey. He has also informed them about the vocational skill - sewing training initiated and implemented by Desai Foundation Trust and SPS INDIA Foundation at Virudhunagar District. He has also appreciated the activities and performance done by the CFH and CF of Nagalur and Manjakuttai Zone for the efforts they have taken to reach out the remote villages of Yercaud. Specially he has appreciated Mr. Selvam, CFH of Manjakuttai Zone and Mrs. Manjula, CFH of Nagalur zone for their team work. He has also motivated them to achieve their weekly target.



Ms. Sangeetha, Area Coordinator has briefed the volunteers in detail about the last month performance of the CFH, CF, Data support and Tele support staff. She has also reminded them about the weekly targets to be achieved by each CF for the month of December, 2021 and informed them about the baseline survey deadline i.e., 31st December, 2021. Also she has guided and motivated the volunteers to achieve the targets for baseline survey. Fun based communication and listening skill games were conducted to engage the volunteers. All the volunteers were actively participated and enjoyed the session. The volunteers were asked to share their experience and challenges they have faced during their field work. The data support staff Mrs. Nithya Mary, Ms. Monisha and Mr. Ashok have shared the difficulties they are facing while entering the datas submitted by each CF. As a token of Christmas sharing, all the volunteers received the 2022 Year Salesian Calendar and sweet. The meeting got over after the distribution of tea and snacks to all the volunteers.

Annual Multiplier Workshop for Existing Eco Club Members @ Namakkal

Saving and Protecting the Nature of Shevaroyhills of Yercaud is one of the primary concerns of SPS India Foundation, The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud. In collaboration with Cauvery Development Office, Trichy, SPS has several Eco-clubs for children & youth and community Clubs for the villagers of the hill. Fifteen volunteers, two animators & one Coordinator from these Eco-clubs participated in the ‘Annual Multipliers Workshop’ on the theme “Environment Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),” on 12th December 2021 at Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI), N. Pudupatti, Namakkal. Fr. Anto Vargese, Assistant Director of DBAI, Covai, gave an orientation talk on Ecology & Environment Protection. He insisted on the dire need to protect the nature by highlighting the ecological changes that we keep experiencing. During the second part of the session, volunteers shared their experiences. Later, several competitions were conducted and our volunteers received third prize in skit competition. There were also Animators’ Performance Review meeting and our animators presented the report of the proceedings and activities of Eco Clubs. It was a good experience for all of us and we were motivated to preserve nature in order to preserve the world.



Christmas Celebration @ Night School

On 11th of December, Christmas celebrations were held simultaneously in all the Night School centres of The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud. The children enthusiastically participated in the sharing of joy of Christmas within their centres. The student brothers from the Retreat organized the celebrations with grandeur. We shared the Christmas joy with around 150 poor children of the Yercaud town locality.

1. Vasambadi (Tank Pudur). The Celebrations were held in the FSM community campus. Fr. Michael SDB, the Principal – Jnanodaya Institute of Philosophy was present as the Chief guest of the celebration and rendered the Christmas message and distributed sweets and shared the Christmas joy with the children and the parents.

2. Kovilmedu

The celebrations were held in the SHY school campus. Fr. Abraham, the administrator of the community was present as the Chief guest of the celebration and rendered the Christmas message and distributed the sweets to the children and parents.

3. Murugan Nagar

The celebrations were held in the Murugan Nagar evening study centre. Fr. Selvakumar, the SOTCHO director was present for the celebrations as the chief guest and rendered the Christmas message and distributed the Christmas to the children and parents.

4. M.G.R. Nagar

The celebrations were held in the M.G.R. Nagar evening study centre. Fr. John Wilson, the coordinator of youth services, The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud was present as the chief guest and distributed the sweets to the children and the parents. Br. Jerin, the assistant coordinator rendered the Christmas message to the children and to the parents.

It was a memorable and joyful celebrations to the student brothers and the students. In all the centres, the student brothers and the children along with the teachers have prepared really well and have taken a special attention towards the experience of Christmas celebrations for the children. They were grateful for having organized the Christmas celebrations in their respective centres.



Christmas Celebration @ The Retreat - Don Bosco Yercaud

“Christmas is all about Sharing and Loving” with fulfilling of this quote, The Retreat Don – Bosco Yercaud a wing of SPS INDIA Foundation had a Christmas celebration together with the Retreat workers and SOTCHO Boys on 18-12-2021. The gatherings were held at Retreat Auditorium. The workers and SOTCHO students decorated the auditorium with full of colourful lights and stars around the campus. It was looking fine and makes the celebration more joyfulness. There was a beautiful crib made by the Salesian brothers in the auditorium. We organized the special programmes. We celebrated this special occasion with full of dance, skit and songs. The Retreat workers performed the carols songs. SOTCHO students gave their dance performance. The stages were looks so grand & colorful. During the program, the Salesian brother dressed as like as Santa Claus and cheered and sung a song & gave message on “Joy of Sharing and Happiness”. All of them were happy and sung along the Santa Claus. He performed a dance and shared the story of Jesus Christ. Our workers and SOTCHO students shared gifts with their Christmas friend. The joy of celebration from the organization, shared our gifts with all the students and workers. After the program, we provided cake and dinner to all the workers and SOTCHO students. The day was spent with full of fun and happiness round the organization.

