

# The Retreat - Don Bosco

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## PARENTS MEETING OF SOTCHO (SOLA TRIBAL CHILDREN HOME)

The Sola Home, which houses the tribal children from remote rural villages, opened its doors to welcome the old boys and the new ones in the new academic year on 3 July 2022. The boys turned up with their parents, who appreciated our work for the tribal children. The parents were animated to accompany their children in their intellectual pursuits. They were informed of the rules and regulations of the Home and were asked to extend their collaboration in forming the boys in values and life skills. All the boys are enthusiastic and energetic to begin the new academic year. There are 60 of them in the Sola Boys' Home who are given care and protection.

## INAUGURATION OF ECO-CLUBS

Our institute cares for nature. As a sign of our care for nature, we inaugurated two eco-club units in Solar and kadumarathur villages. There were around fifty children who joined this green revolutionary movement. Our institute regularly conducts a few programmes to keep our children in green minds.





## Football Summer Camp - 2022

SPS India Foundation of The Retreat – Don Bosco which caters to the needs and welfare of the rural tribal people has emerged with a new initiative of organizing two summer camps for the children in collaboration with the Desai Foundation Trust. One camp focuses on the well-being of the boys through football. Though it is a football camp, it focuses on various aspects of life such as physical health, personal hygiene, psychological, spiritual, cultural, educational and social.



The inauguration of the camp was presided over by Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB, the provincial of the Salesian province of Trichy and he declared open the Summer Football Camp 2022. Orientation of the camp was presented by Fr. Selvakumar SDB, the director of the SPS India Foundation. Mr. Batsha, the football coach and national referee has voluntarily come forward to train the children.

### Day 1

### Day 2

The second day of the summer camp was centred on the spiritual aspect of the children. We taught them to do Surya Namaskar which is very helpful for their inner peace and good health. We began the football coaching with basic warm up exercises and ball practices. At the end, we organized a kind of small gathering where the children were introduced to group activities, action songs and claps.



### Day 3

The third day of the camp was focused on the psychological aspect of the children. Children were taught to do several breathing exercises. These breathing exercises were welcomed by all the children. The benefits of these breathing exercises were also taught to them. Students were divided into 3 groups according to their classes. The basic exercises and skills were introduced to them and were followed up by the staff. At the end, students were taught new action song and a new clap. Their interest in learning new things is very much obvious.



### Day 4

The fourth day of the summer camp addressed the educational and personal hygiene aspects of life. Students were given a session on importance of education, group activities, and personal cleanliness. The staff made the students to sit in a circle and checked the nails of the students to ensure that they are clean and healthy. Towards the end of the camp, students played a creative football game and the winners were appreciated.



### Day 5

The fifth day of the camp was centred on art and craft aspect of life. After their basic warm up and ball practices, students were given a chart to draw their dream field of play. The activity of drawing using the available materials helped them to be creative in their ideas and expressions. The best drawing was rewarded by the staff. Students were able to exhibit their artistic skills in a very creative manner.



### Day 6

The sixth day of the camp was focused on group activities and division of new teams according to the observations of the staff. Students were happy to be part of a team and they were very enthused to group activities. On this day, students were also trained to exhibit their talents and capacities on the stage.



On the whole, the camp was very successful. We remain grateful to the community members of The Retreat – Don Bosco, all the well-wishers, collaborators and volunteers for their valuable support and availability.



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## English Summer Camp - 2022

The summer camp 2022, began with the inauguration on 14th May 2022. The registered number for this camp is 112. All the students are from the Sherveroy Hills. The Retreat – Don Bosco's SPS India Foundation which caters to the needs and welfare of the rural tribal people has emerged with a new initiative of organizing two summer camps for the children in collaboration with the Desai Foundation Trust. The summer camp 2022 focused on spoken English as well as on the several aspects like educational and social awareness, physical and personal hygiene, spiritual and psychological, and cultural aspects. Each day was dedicated to one of the above mentioned aspects. Thus, this summer camp was a combination of both the language training and trades to lead a better life style.



The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB, the provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy. Also, Fr. Matthew Orathel and Fr. Micheal were present. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, the director of the SPS India Foundation, presented the course orientation. The crew for spoken English camp were Bros. Sebastin, Edwin, Megrath, Raphael, and Sr. Ester Rani under the guidance of Fr. Selva.

Every day, the camp began with the morning assembly which was organized by the students themselves in English. The students were divided into four groups namely, Ambedkar, Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Kalam. Each was given to chance to animate the morning assembly. From the second day of the camp, i.e, 17th May we began our regular class. The classes were based on English grammar and spoken English. They were been given eminent professors.



Morning hours spend through classes. On the other hand, in the afternoon, the students were given individual tasks to be completed. Moreover, they were taught phonetics to know how to pronounce the words that they may be well trained in English language skills. Further, they were also given some group activities to enrich their talents and skills. At the end of the day, we collected the feedbacks from the students. They were happy about the staff and the programme. They learned something new every day. The students were been encouraged by giving first place for winning the previous day competitions. They have given orientation on educational and social aspect so that they may learn good values for their life.

We remain ever grateful to the community members, well-wishers, collaborators, volunteers of HFH and domestic staff for their support and their availability for the success of the camp. We are grateful to the parents of each student for deciding to send their children over here for a learning experience.

## **Month in honour of Mary – SOLA ILLAM**

Our semi-boarding house for tribale school students of Yercaud began its month long celebration in hour of Mary, the mother of God. The marian month was started on 18th July 2022. On 22 July, we conducted drawing competition. On 29th July, we conducted dance competition in honour of Mary.

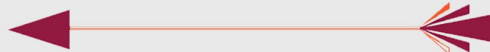




## Feedback of MSW Students from Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur



During my block fieldwork in The retreat- Don Bosco, yercaud, I learned how an organization is structured and how the community functions. I enriched myself with the new experience of working with the tribal peoples. The villagers of yercaud treated me well when I said; I was from the Retreat - Don Bosco. Because of their cordiality, I could easily mingle with the people; they were open-minded and told me their problems. Apart from theoretical learning, I learned much from my fieldwork. The Fieldwork learning taught me about the community problems, people's problems, needs, and experiences. Also, I learned about the duties of the community facilitator and community facilitator director. Correspondingly, I learned how they prepare and appoint the community facilitator for certain works and supervise them, especially their targets and salary basis. Further, I learned and analyzed the problem of the tribal peoples. So I was very glad to do my block fieldwork in The Retreat Don Bosco.



Through this block fieldwork, the trainee learned about the tribal people's lifestyle in Yercaud. The trainee visited the oratory on Sundays along with the Retreat brothers. It was a good experience, and the trainee met more youngsters in the oratory and understood how the Retreat Don Bosco reaches out to the youngster and the people of the village. The trainee learned about the 'Heroes for Humanity' project, which enhances the community's facilities by giving awareness and helping the needy. I learned about how the community facilitator took the survey to enhance the growth in the village. This project helped the trainee to know how to analyze people's needs and know the monitoring process, and it gave research work experience like how to create the tool and how to take the survey, and the trainee had much experience and enjoyed the fieldwork days.

