



**VIVEKANANDA KENDRA, KANYAKUMARI  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
THOOTHUKUDI**

**Report for the activities of  
Cultural programme in Educational institutions and Medical activities  
Period April 2019 to September 2019**

Submitted to  
**OM CHARITY INDIA FOUNDATION**

**1. Block level cultural competitions for rural school children**

The work for conducting cultural competitions for rural school children is progressing satisfactorily. The competition syllabi /instruction forms have been printed and sent to schools. (1) Story-telling (2) Recitation (3) Drawing (4) Oratory (5) Memory and (6) Quiz are the talents that are being nurtured. In the five Southern districts of Tamilnadu, India, 77 such Block level competitions have been completed. 569 schools sent in their students. 9177 students competed in these tests. 192 parents and 499 teachers attended these programmes as observers and facilitators. Local volunteers were involved in large numbers.

**2. District Level competitions for Urban School Children:**

A separate syllabus has been framed for urban children. The competition work is being completed in phases. In the five Southern districts of Tamil Nadu, India, 4 such district level competitions have been completed. 52 schools sent in their students. 665 students completed in these tests. 33 parents and 83 teachers attended these programmes as observers and facilitators. The students showcased their talents in story-telling, recitation of inspiring passages from our saints, drawing scenes from our culture, singing songs on patriotic and cultural themes, remembering our scriptures and talking on our culture.

### **3. Written examinations on cultural themes for higher secondary students:**

Application forms and books for India are being distributed in Higher Secondary schools. The schools volunteer for such tests because of the positive impact made on the students both boys and girls. The eleventh standard students receive **Narguna Nayakar Swami Vivekananda** (Tamil) and **Vivekananda for Values** (English). For the students of the twelfth standard the book prescribed is **“Sarada Deivamum Thozhutha Devi”**. More than a hundred schools have received these books and the students are preparing themselves for the written tests to be held soon.

### **4. Cultural tests for College students:**

Four hundred colleges have been approached apprising them of the Kendra’s cultural education programme for college students. The response is good. In the five southern districts, the Kendra workers go in person to meet the Principals and tell them about the scheme. We contact the outside colleges through e-mail, phone and post. Books have been sent to many colleges. The subjects are (1) Ramayana (2) Indian Culture (3) Swami Vivekananda’s Life and Message (4) Sri Ramakrishna’s life and message (5) Indian culture seen through the eyes of Swami Vivekananda (6) The teachings of Swami Vivekananda.

The work of preparing the question papers and the forms for answer sheets is progressing.

### **5. Conferences of Cultural class children:**

The 176 weekly cultural classes in five districts involve 6512 children. Each district organizes two or three conferences for these students every year to showcase their talents in (1) group singing (2) Role playing (3) drama acting as cultural themes (4) Speeches on our culture (5) Dressing up like our National heroes and heroines and (6) Story-telling. The local people host such functions. The parents are also involved. Certificates for participants and prizes for winners add to the attraction of the programmes. Books alone are offered as prizes. Such a conference held in Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli district on 01.09.2019 involved 130 students from 10 cultural classes.

## 6. Deepa Pujas:

Deepa pujas conducted in village temples by local women try to bring about equality, friendship among rural women and remove untouchability. 300 such deepa pujas are held every month and are attended by 10,000 women. The habit of visiting temples, the sociable mentality and peace of mind ensue.

These women are organized in centrally located big temples once a year to conduct Mass Deepa Pujas, lectures on Indian Women-hood and Processions. The local volunteers, temple authorities and local philanthropists help. In the year 2019-20 eleven such mass pujas were held. The details are given herewith. In **11 places 11,259** women performed such mass deepa pujas.

S.No	Date	Place	No. of Deepas participated	No. of Villages participated
1	21.04.2019	Kovilpatti	1200	30
2	26.01.2019	Thiruppullani	850	35
3	28.04.2019	Shenkottah	425	30
4	05.05.2019	Kanyakumari	1412	81
5	09.06.2019	Nainarkovil	700	40
6	15.06.2019	Ambai	861	30
7	23.03.2019	Tiruchuli	1012	40
8	18.08.2019	Uthragosamangai	812	40
9	07.09.2019	Kommadikottai	1104	45
10	28.07.2019	Padmanabapuram	812	40
11	29.09.2019	Rameswaram	2071	102
		<b>Total</b>	<b>11259</b>	<b>513</b>

## 7. MEDICAL CENTRES:

In Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi district in 14 villages through our medical centers deserving poor patients are benefited. In this three units doctors are visited rural centers weekly twice are thrice. This financial year 2019 – 20 up to 6 months 10,251 patients got treatment and medicines.

The common ailments are (1) Fever (2) Stomach ache (3) Joint pain (4) Cold / cough (5) Back pain (6) Wounds and (7) Skin diseases and (8) Diseases related to mal-nutrition and unhygienic living conditions. The doctors also counsel the patients on (1) Bodily cleanliness (2) Freshly cooked warm food (3) Not throwing away rice water (4) use of water-rich fresh vegetables such as bottle gourd, rib-gourd and cucumber and green leafy vegetables and fruits.

### Reprinting Books details:

	<b>Name of the books</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Desiya Kaviyam Ramayanam	5000
2	Vivekanandar Ilaignarkalin Idaya Veerar	5000
3	Kumari munaiyil Swami Vivekanandar	2000
4	Narguna Nayakar Vivekanandar	10000
5	Bharatha Panbadu	5000
6	The Ramayana Our National Epic	2000
7	Sivapuranam	3000
8	Vinayagar	3000
9	Sri Krishnar	3000
10	Niraivana Valkaiyai Nokki	2000
11	Viveka Kelvicalum Pathilgalum	1000
	<b>Total no.of reprinted books</b>	<b>41,000</b>

## INSPIRING INCIDENTS OF KENDRA FIELD-WORKERS

### **Ms. V.Janakipushpam – Vallioor – Tirunelveli district**

On 15.6.19 I went to Ambai for 1008 Deepa Pooja. We went to a flower Vendor near the temple to buy flowers for the pooja. The owner of the shop Shri. Senthilkumar recognized me and talked to me. He recalled his days in Sengunthar Elementary School 30 years back. He told me that I had taken cultural class there and he remembered the song “Raman Piranthathu Navamieley” taught by me. He also admitted that he lived peacefully leading a simple and straight forward life. He used to give us flowers in a considerable rate. His faith and remembrance touched my heart and much encouraging to my service.

### **Ms. C.Saraswathy – Ambai – Tirunelveli district**

On 15.6.19, 1008 Deepa Pooja was held in Ambai. We approached Muthu Vessel shop for donation and also for purchasing some containers for keeping Prasadam. The owner Thiru. Pitchathurai from Oorkadu village is a longtime well-wisher of our Kendra. He never missed Bhagavat Gita classes conducted by us and also sponsored prasatham for the programme many years. We were discussing about our inconvenience of staying in Srinivasa Thirumana Mandapam as it was booked for a marriage. He at once told about his new house in Oorkadu where 25 could stay comfortably. Another person standing by his side was ready to offer his house also. I was much impressed by such people having helping tendency for social workers like us.

### **Ms. N.Vasanthi – Vallioor – Tirunelveli district**

I was collecting rice for the Annapooja to be held on Swamiji’s Memorial Day. I approached painter Shri. Mani for his donation. He told me that he had prayed for a good thing before giving the rice the previous year. As it was fulfilled as he liked, he donated 300 kgs of rice this year. His faith in our service had inspired me a lot.

### **Ms. V.Janakipushpam – Vallioor – Tirunelveli district**

On 4<sup>th</sup> July the Annapooja at Kanyakumari was held in a well grand manner. The regular donars of “Pidiyarisi” from Vallioor came for the pooja in a Van. They had come last year also. One of the ladies told me that She had kept the prasada given in tied up cloth in her rice pot with faith and that had not emptied the pot even in times of financial tightness. Then they are relieved from money Shortage also. She had spread this matter to more families in her circle and made them join in ‘Amiritha surabhi’ Scheme and fetched them to the Annapooja.

That lady named Meena's service and faith towards Vivekananda Kendra service activities inspired me much.

**Ms. A.Kanagambaram – Kovilpatti – Thoothukudi district**

I went to Swami Ayya Hr. Sec. School, Nagalapuram to inform about cultural competitions. A teacher came to me saying that her son was a student of our Creche and now he is in I Std. Then she said that when the monthly magazine (Vivekavani) came by post he ran and embraced it. He used to consider it as Swamiji's book and opened it piously. As the subscription was not renewed it was stopped. I couldn't console him. She requested me to arrange for the book and giving me the subscription. Her kind approach and the boy's dedication touched my heart.

**Ms. A.Kanagambaram – Kovilpatti – Thoothukudi district**

The cultural competitions were held in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Pudhur. During the valedictory function the teacher who felicitated the function recalled the 3 days attended by her during her College days and praised the activities of the camp. She encouraged +1 students to write the test and induced them to attend the camp at Kanyakumari. Her address impressed me a lot. She also assured me to send more number of students next year.

**Ms. T.Saroja – Peyankuzhi – Kanyakumari district**

I went for book sales in a School. +2 Students were looking at the books. The School correspondent entered there and the Students stood aside respecting him. He went through the books and was attracted by the book 'Concentrates mind'. There were only 5 copies. He purchased all the 5 copies and gave them to the Students advising them to read those books and try to them to the Students advising them to read those books and try to develop mind control and concentration. This event touched me.

**Ms. R.Vazhalakshmi – Kannirajapuram – Ramnad district**

This incident depicts my personal life problem. On 03.08.2019 ( Aadi Perukku) we, the balasevikas were in Mariyoor temple led by our senior Sakunthala akka for the arrangements of "Sumangali Pooja". When the pooja was about to start my husband came there with my child. He never allows me to go without his permission. So, on seeing him with the child I was confused and worried. But he sat aside looking at me doing the work. He didn't disturb me till the pooja was going on. Then I went near him. He was much pleased with the holy services and he told me that he would never again stop me from such services. This change in him touched my heart and I thanked the Almighty for his grace.

**Ms. B.Radha – Ponnagaram – Ramnad district**

On 20.08.2019 I went to Uthragosamangai for the Deepa Pooja held in Mangalanathar Temple. So many people came there for worship. Some of them asked me about the arrangements for pooja and asked me whether they could also join. I replied them that anyone could participate if willing. They felt very happy and joined with us. This incident has inspired me.

**Ms. V.Janakipushpam – Vallioor – Tirunelveli district**

On 06.08.2019 union level cultural competitions were held in Nanguneri. In the valedictory function Nanguneri Govt. Hr. Sec. School teacher Tmt. Kanagavalli felicitated the function. She expressed her views about the competitions. Every year she prepared their School children and brought them to the Venue herself. The other teachers never praised or encouraged her. But that particular year more number of students enrolls their names and hence she had asked the class teachers to take in charge and practice them. Then only the teachers realized the student's innate talents and their interest in participating in those events. They revealed their surprise to Tmt.Kanagavalli and praised her for the efforts taken. Tmt. Kanagavalli admitted that the cultural competitions held by Vivekananda Kendra not only inculcate the interest of the students but also develop the interests of the teachers. Her speech inspired me a lot.

With regards,  
In the Service of the Lord,

*S. Ayyappan.*

( S.Ayyappan)