

PARIVAAR

NEWSLETTER (JANUARY TO JULY'19.)



Dear Friends,

We are happy to present our Newsletter for January to July'19.

Parivaar has progressed leaps and bounds in this period, expanding both in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our supporters, well-wishers, volunteers, and mentors. Without

your support this would not have been possible.

Regards,

Vinayak Lohan

109 SEVA KUTIRS IN MADHYA PRADESH - NEW EXPANSION IN SHEOPUR AND CHHINDWARA DISTRICTS

We have started our 109th Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Seva Kutir (Meals cum 6 hours Supplementary education and overall Child Development Program) in Madhya Pradesh (there are now more than 9000 children across impoverished 109 tribal villages across 4 districts in MP). Recently we have started 2 centres among one of the most impoverished tribal community of Seharia in Sheopur district in Chambal area of Northern MP (once famous for its dacoits). The Seharias have among the lowest life-expectancy in the whole country, and the malnourishment among Seharia children is the worst in whole of MP. We have starting building up a strong team in the district. We are very quickly rolling out many more centres in that district. The village communities were very keen to have the services of our Seva Kutir program. We are also expanding in Chhindwara district soon and one team has been permanently located there. We have now 750 persons working in Parivaar Madhya Pradesh. By December end we will have 150 Seva Kutirs and this year's budgetary allocation for MP Seva Kutirs is Rs 15 cr - and for whole of Parivaar (with our Bengal residential institutions and other infrastructure build-up will be Rs 30 cr). We will also be setting up a free residential educational institution for higher grades in each of these districts where Seva Kutirs operate; the first to start off will be in Dewas district.



S.No	District	Number Of Seva Kutirs
1	Dewas	49
2	Sehore	38
3	Mandla	20
4	Sheopur	2
5	Total	109

PARIVAAR BENGAL : 94 MORE GIRLS FROM ADIVASI AREAS OF JHARGRAM AND BIRBHUM ADMITTED INTO PARIVAAR SARADA TEERTHA

94 more girls from adivasi areas of Jhargram and Birbhum have been admitted into Parivaar Sarada Teertha (Girls Residential Institution) in Bengal. With this we have now more than 800 resident girls in our Bengal residential institution, and more than 2200 resident children in all. Capacities are being expanded to reach more 3000 by 2021.



PARIVAAR BENGAL : 93 MORE BOYS FROM ADIVASI AREAS OF JHARGRAM AND BIRBHUM ADMITTED INTO PARIVAAR VIVEKANANDA SEVASHRAMA



NEW BUILDINGS AT SARADA TEERTHA

We are building 3 new buildings at our Bengal Girls' Residential Institution 'Parivaar Sarada Teertha' - one new School building unit, one new 3-storeyed residential block to accommodate 400 girls, and one Assembly Hall.



NEW BUILDINGS AT BOYS CAMPUS

We are building 2 new buildings at our Bengal Boys' Residential Institution 'Parivaar Vivekananda Sevashrama' - one new 3-storeyed residential block to accommodate 400 boys, and another new Dining Hall where 1000 can take meals.



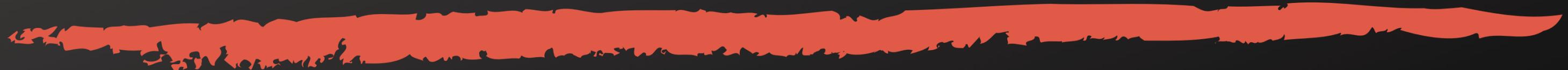
WHEN POOREST CHILDREN BECOME 'GIVERS'

When poorest children become 'Givers'

We took an interesting experiment during last Diwali for our Seva Kutir children in tribal areas of MP. 200 children were given Rs 200 each with the proviso they should use them to serve others, unrelated to their families. It was interesting because these children who were themselves in deprivation had to forego possible items themselves like firecrackers, clothing or sweets to use this money for others. The children were then to recount how they spent this 'charity wallet'. Our initial reference point at the point of embarking upon this exercise was 'Hamid' from the 'Idgah' story by Premchand where the poor 6 year old boy spent the entire day in the village fair without eating anything to buy kitchen tongs ('chimta') for her elderly grandmother. Our idea was to let children go even beyond that by suggesting they serve others completely unrelated. It was also an experiment to explore how does 'giving' compare with 'self-enjoyment' as far as joy and happiness go. The results have been eminently positive in favour of giving. A sample video of 5 kids is given below.



<https://youtu.be/g75jFi0XBKE>



DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS AT SANDALPUR (DEWAS), MP

The construction of the residential complex at Sandalpur in District Dewas (MP) has been going on in full swing. This campus will be operational from 2020. It will have children from Seva Kutirs after Grade 8 and will be a vertical integration of the Seva Kutir model. Eventually we plan to develop one residential institution for each of the district we are operating in Madhya Pradesh.



FILM ON SEVA KUTIR PROJECT



[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/MW8EUKIRIQI](https://youtu.be/mw8eukiriqi)

SEVA KUTIRS : SALIENT IMPACT FEATURES

The key objectives of the SevaKutirs project are to address the problems of malnutrition and poor educational status of children from poor, rural tribal villages in Madhya Pradesh. In the SevaKutirs, children are divided into 3 groups, as per their learning levels. As on 20th July 2019, there are more than 9000 children in 109 SevaKutirs in 4 districts in MP – Dewas, Sehore, Mandla and Sheopur.

Key Educational Impact

- Children in the age group of 4 to 6 years of age have shown a 52 % improvement in terms of learning basic functions in English language such as being able to identify alphabets (A, a, B, b and so on) and being able to identify & name objects (such as Cat, Apple, Ball etc). Similarly, in Hindi they have shown a 54 % improvement and in Maths, as high as 75 % (in terms of being able to read numbers and count objects)
- There is a 64 % improvement in children of 6 to 10 years of age (grades 2 to 5) in terms of learning their grade level skills in English language (such as reading simple sentences) and 60 % improvement in Hindi language & in Maths, they have shown a 43 % improvement in skills such as addition and subtraction without carry and multiplication.
- For children in grades 6 to 8 (11 to 14 years of age), there is a 55 % improvement in terms of mastering their grade level skills in English language, such as reading paragraphs. In Hindi, this has been 52 %. In Maths, the improvement is 19 % in terms of mastering skills such as 3 digit multiplication and division, LCM, HCF, fractions etc.

KEY NUTRITIONAL IMPACT

- There is a 20 % decline in the numbers of children with severe malnourishment. The level of nourishment is calculated on the basis of BMI (Body Mass Index) for children above 5 years of age and Mid Under Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape to children below 5 years
- 83 % of children showed a positive movement in BMI. That means that there is indeed an improvement in their nutritional status, though it may not have been sufficient for these children to come into the normal category.
- There is a very small percentage of children (7 %) who have shown a negative movement in BMI. This is because of various illnesses that they catch. This is in fact an effect of their malnourished status because children who are malnourished catch diseases such as flu, diarrhoea etc very frequently. But with the nutrition that they are getting in the Seva Kutirs, this figure is expected to go to 0.

OTHER SECONDARY IMPACT

- We have arranged the admission of 785 students in Government secondary schools at class 9 level. Out of this, 91 children have been admitted into government hostels. These children are from remote areas and would have dropped out of school education if we had not got them admitted into these schools and hostels.
- We are also starting hostels in rented buildings for 41 students in Dewas, 55 students in Sehore and 92 students in Mandla who could not be admitted into government schools and whose day-schools are very far-off from their homes / villages.



NATIONAL YOUTH DAY (SWAMI VIVEKANANDA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS) IN MP

On 12th January, the Birthday of Swami Vivekananda, which is also now observed as National Youth Day we had massive celebrations across our Bengal residential institutions as well as all 94 Seva Kutir centres in Madhya Pradesh. In Bengal we had a multi-day spiritual function with devotional music across both our boys as well as girls institutions - that we have had routinely for last 16 years. But the major part was in MP where in all 94 Seva Kutirs (across 94 villages) we had a huge village-level public celebration. There were processions (Shobha-Yatra done by Kutir children and sevavratees) across all 94 villages, more than 50 village elderly being invited for a feast across all 94 villages and served by children and our sevavratees (thus more than 5000 elderly being hosted and fed sumptuously), and a host of other events and competitions (quiz, arts and crafts, rangoli, elocution, speech) for children in all Seva Kutirs. Large part of expenses in this too were borne by communities themselves.



VILLAGE WELFARE ON THE OCCASION OF SRI RAMAKRISHNA JANMA TITHI IN MP

This year the Janma-Tithi of Sri Ramakrishna was on 8th March which incidentally also was the International Women's Day. In all 102 Seva Kutirs in poorest villages across 3 districts in Madhya Pradesh we organised feasts for the elderly. More 5000 elderly had a sumptuous meal. 2600 of them were women who were also gifted a Sari each. 5000 copies of a brief 'Life of Sri Ramakrishna' in Hindi were distributed among all.



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THANK
YOU

