Change
An Ongoing Journey!



Seb's Projects India
Lighting Lives

SEB'S PROJECT INDIA

Annual Report
2016 - 17



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Foreword

The Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust and Seb's Projects India presents its Annual Report for 2016 -17.

An incredible journey working towards ushering change in remote communities in the Jawadi through quality education, basic health care and opening out opportunities for a better livelihood.

This report focus on CHANGE. We wish to share with you the change through the eyes of various stakeholders to give you a glimpse of our work and its positive impact. Much effort has been directed this year towards training and building capacities of local people to take a lead role in addressing developmental issues.

There is still a long way to go! We dedicate this report to all the HEROES - our motivated and passionate staff, teacher's, volunteers and partners who have been a part of our journey and made things happen.

Anna Hunter & Laura Walford
Trustee Director
SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL TRUST

Emma Koshi
Director
SEB'S PROJECTS INDIA

Change through the eyes of the Jawadhi people!

Building the capacities of the tribal communities towards sustainability and taking leadership into the future has been our focus. It is heartening to see change being driven by young people themselves.

Thangama



Thangama, a resident of Thandayankotai village, is today an empowered, literate, numerate, skilled and confident young woman. The last 8 years have opened up many opportunities for her family and her community. Thangama was once an illiterate, teenage mother of 3 children, living in a little hut with a space for lighting a wood fire to cook in one end of the room with hardly any ventilation. She had never ventured out of the Jawadhi Hills. She made meager living cutting wood, which she balanced on her head and carried downhill for sale.

Today, Thangama is capable of making decisions for herself and her family. Her 2 girls are both in school and her son is doing a Polytechnic course. She has built a well ventilated house with four rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. Her income has substantially improved through the very successful Eco Trails, and her soap-making and tailoring skills. She is a much sought-after tailor in the community and nearby villages. Her ability to lead the women's self-help group and negotiate and advocate on behalf of the community to secure land rights and community certificates must be commended. She looks at life with so much hope. She is a role model and inspiration to many tribal women.

Mohan



Mohan is an enthusiastic, motivated tribal youth from Chinnur. A few years ago when his father passed away, all that his mother had was the gift of her 3 children who were exceptionally bright students and eager to continue their schooling. Today, Mohan is a final year student at an engineering college doing his B.E in Civil Engineering. His brother, Rajapathy, has finished school and is applying for a degree in Health Allied Sciences. The impact of education will help him achieve his dream and change the course of his life forever.

Saraswathi



Saraswathi is our Balwadi teacher at Periyapanaparai. She was a quiet, shy, soft spoken girl when she joined Seb's. Over the years, she has done a good job with the Balwadi children in teaching as well as addressing health needs. She mobilizes the community during the mobile medical unit visits to the village. She understands the needs of the children and efficiently carries out all the activities of the Balwadi program. During the regular home visits she has developed a good rapport with the people in the community and takes the time to educate young parents on issues relating to their children's welfare. Saraswathi's journey as a Balwadi teacher and her achievement is truly commendable. The program motivated her to pursue a Diploma in Teacher Education and she was able to fund herself through this course. In her own words, "Having a job and a steady income has helped me to achieve my dreams and make my own decisions". Saraswathi is now a valuable resource to the Periyapanaparai village parents and young people look up to her.

Sulochana and Asodha



Two tribal girls who got married soon after completing their schooling took the bold decision to take up the opportunity offered to them to do a Diploma in Patient Care at the Sitiling Tribal Initiative Hospital. Although it was difficult staying away from their families for a period of two years, they took it as a challenge with the hope that they could become the messengers of health in their communities. They have recently returned on completion of their program and are excited to work among tribal communities educating young mothers regarding nutrition, antenatal and postnatal care, and the need for immunization, as well as referring patients to hospitals to access treatment and care. They are the first trained health professionals from the community.

We work where we are needed- where children have no functioning schools to go to.

Empowering marginalized children through quality learning opportunities is the focus for our education program. Children who were never enrolled in schools, school dropouts and migrant children are given an opportunity to learn at Seb's Schools. 100 percent of our children are first generation learners.





The feather in our cap is that 4 of our children passed the government entrance exams for admission to a government English-medium, Eklavya model residential school which will open many windows of opportunity to these children. We have also been successful in helping the community access special schemes for tribal communities and advocate on their behalf.

Swaminathan and Rajendran - Tribal Teacher

The Combined Activities for Maximized Learning tools by Pratham have greatly improved the reading, writing and mathematical skills of most children.

Teaching also became easy and it is a joy to see the work of the children improving dramatically.

Chinathambi and Jayamohan - Tribal Teacher





Although my work is difficult - travelling through rough roads in the Jawadhi Hills to reach a school - the excitement with which the children greet me and their eagerness to learn sport has kept me motivated. Children in all Seb's schools can play Kho Kho, Volleyball and Cricket, and are trained in athletics as well. Yoga is also taught to the children for fitness and healthy living.

Palani, - Sports Teacher

We appreciate your partnership as an NGO to provide quality education to children in remote TRIBAL villages in the Jawadhi.

Project officer, SSA
District Education department.



The best thing that has happened in our village is the start of Seb's School. Most of us in Periyapanaparai have never been to a school and remain illiterate. I am amazed that my two children can read and write fluently and, more importantly, they have taught me to write my name. I am proud of them.

Asodha -Parent Periyapannaparai



Children are encouraged to take up a project related to their study at school. They are exposed to practical learning outside the classroom. This provides them with an opportunity to use their creativity and to help them understand some important concepts in science and environment.

Jagadesan and Roja - Tribal Teacher



Today every Seb's school is well-equipped and there is great enthusiasm with learning. Every child in our school has textbooks and notebooks which have been provided by the Government SSA Department. Teachers are regularly trained by the block resource centres and are supported by their staff. All schools are registered under the NRSTC program.

Gnanaprakasham - Supervisor



The school bands in King's and Arni Schools have become so popular they are invited to perform at school and public functions. Selvaraj the music teacher is proud of his students and their achievements.Their ability to read music, tune instruments and perform as an orchestra is commendable and probably an opportunity to pursue as a career.





Panagateri school

Seb's only middle school in Panagateri served as a bridge school to streamline students back to school. All the 28 students have been enrolled to government schools.

9
Students in Professional Courses

150
Scholarship Students

299
Primary School Students

Greater collabration and partnership with the District Government offices has greatly strengthened our work in the Jawadhi hills, resulting in better insight to the needs of tribal communities and address them effectively. Also like to acknowledge the commitment and fervour of the Seb's team, who works together to bring change in the communities.

Dominic Savio - Senior Coordinator.



We as a group of young Indians wanting to make a difference. Visiting . Seb's school in Palamarathukolai opened our eyes to the needs of the school and the power of education.

Prayag Volunteer



Seb's school at Palamarathukolai

We work where we are needed- where there is no access to health services

Early childhood care and education is crucial for the overall development of a child.This programme is development-oriented and child-centered in its approach. Noon meals and nutritional powder are provided to children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, which has made a huge impact in their health status. The District Integrated Child Development Department visited our Balwadi and are very appreciative of our intervention in the Jawadhi Hills. The Block Medical Officer did a master check of our children and was fully satisfied with the nutrition provided for the children and their health status. It is interesting to also note the involvement of our Balwadi teachers in facilitating health for pregnant and lactating mothers and in providing health education.



Shishukunj Balwadi Center.



Health education amongst pregnant/lactating and young mothers has shown greater responsibility to access health and a better understanding of caring for themselves and their children.

Eunice - Program Co ordinator



Being a teacher at Seb's is very satisfying and I enjoy being a teacher. Making health a reality for tribal communities has been very close to my heart, and the opportunity to lead the health camps along with the District Health Department in the remotest areas has been the most challenging and rewarding aspect of my work.

Senthil



299

Children are provided with nutritious noon meal.



Addressing an Epidemic in the Jawadhi Hills

Periyapanaparai village had a threat of bird flu infection and the Kupsoor children were affected with chicken pox. The situation was reported to the PHC and a medical team visited the villages and distributed preventive medicines. Distribution of deworming tablets and Vitamin A supplements and awareness on dengue fever, were also done at regular intervals.



Advocacy

Birth certificates were obtained from the government offices and distributed to parents. Pregnant women are part of the Government Ante Natal and Post Natal care and have been enlisted in the government schemes.



Water

Safe drinking water was made available at Seb's schools by chlorinating the water as a result of the water testing. All water sources showed contamination of faecal matter. Since the chlorination of the water, fewer children have fallen sick. Water and sanitation continues to be a challenge and a distant dream for most tribal communities.



Health referrals

Ajith Kumar is a tribal student studying in class eight in a boarding school in Vellore Town. During a medical camp in school, he had complained of breathing difficulties. The Odugathur Primary Health Center had diagnosed him as having a ventricular septal defect. The PHC doctors referred Ajith Kumar to a Seb's school teacher for treatment assistance. At first Seb's helped Ajith Kumar's family to access the Chief Ministers Health Insurance scheme. Ajith Kumar was then admitted on 31.08.16 at Fortis Malar hospital in Chennai. After routine investigation, the doctors conducted a bypass surgery on 12.09.16. On 15.09.16 he was discharged from hospital. His health has improved considerably and he is now back in school.



Addressing emergency

Amuda from Palamarathukollai delivered her baby one night at her home. The mother and child were not doing well. Not knowing what to do next her husband took the initiative and called our school teacher to help his wife and newborn baby.The Seb's school teacher immediately contacted the government public health center for help. Without any delay, the hospital arranged for an ambulance to pick up the newborn baby and his mother and drive them down the hill to the hospital. The district health team appreciated the efforts of Seb's teacher for coordinating and it was the first time their ambulance was used to save a baby and mother in the Jawadi hills.

SEB's tribal communities are very distinctive from the rest of the tribal communities in Jawadhi hills. When we hold our mobile clinics they come forward to access health services and the children look clean and happy.

Dr. Divya Muliyil - CMC Chad



Fight for life

A young baby was born prematurely in the village of Periyapanaparai. It was a very unfortunate and heartbreaking story, as the mother who was 19 years went into labor at 7 months in the middle of the night. Sadly the mother died in labor, after which the baby was taken care of by his grandmother in the village. The weight of the baby was reducing gradually as there was no opportunity to provide alternative nutrition. Seb's Projects, on hearing about the condition of the baby, intervened and made arrangements for the baby to be treated at the CMC CHAD hospital. The baby was admitted and incubated for 2 weeks and provided nutritional supplements. Within two weeks, the baby had shown an improvement in health and was gaining weight. Now the baby is three months old and keeping well. Seb's continues to support the baby's nutritional needs by buying a milking cow and calf. We hope it will become a livelihood opportunity for the family as well.



- Health Checkup

Health Education -



Power to Art

Some people often question the importance of art. This year we introduced art into Seb's communities to allow children to explore and express themselves in a safe and fun environment. Workshops included drawing, painting, sticking, cutting, printing, weaving, making masks and using glitter.





The Girls' Project at Arni School made tie-dye and earrings. They all joined together and designed wings. Then we taped the wings to the wall and each girl stood in front of the wings and snapped a Polaroid.



The boys' hostel in Kasam made a colorful construction. Each boy made their own drawing a design, painting it and learning that abstract thinking and imagination can actually be really fun and produce exciting ideas.



As it is a challenge to access the Jawadhi Hills, fewer sessions were organized in the tribal schools. However, we managed to run workshops with the teachers and filled their bags with materials. They then headed up to the hills to run the art session with their colorful ideas.



We taught art to children with learning disabilities, where new and different materials were used to explore textures, shapes and colors.

For many of these children, art has taken the form of a learning experience, to help with concentration, behavior, and working within a group. A sense of achievement can be seen spread across the faces of the children,teachers and parents.

Art doesn't always have to mean a 'beautiful' end result, as people expect. And if anything, my time spent with these children is mostly to discover the process of art, for them to learn about themselves and the importance of expressing their individuality.

-Lucy Mytton

The cognitive skills of the students have improved much more by learning art and craft - Principal, Kings School.



I didn’t expect that I could do anything as well as this - D.Babu, Stu dent King’s School.



We work where we are needed- where there is no opportunities for income generation



People's Market

Periyapanaparai community shop, a gift from Slade and Hudson: A small People's Market shop was opened in Periyapanaparai village to initiate economic activities in the community.A self help women's group has been trained and run the shop efficiently. The community is very happy with the shop as there was no such facility. The nearest shop is more than 10kms away. It is the first of its kind!



Eco Trail

The Eco Trail programme continues to be a great sucess. Nine batches from different departments of Abdul Hakeem College participated. Though the programme started a month later due to weather condition, the participants greatly benefited from it. The students' participation and the work of the women's self-help group was highly appreciated. This year the women's group raised an income of Rs.65,000 besides their daily wages of Rs.200 per individual per day. Many individuals in the community earned money by selling fruits that they have harvested which added to their livelihoods. It was interesting to witness the ability of the women to plan and think of opportunities to do small businesses.



Goodbye to Paper

Skill training continues to be the way forward in equipping women to earn a living particularly vulnerable women living on pavements. There are more women being trained to start ironing businesses. Many of the women are enterprising and successful making a difference to their families. Some others have been working with designing tiled tablels and conference tags.

Zaila soaps: Zaila are handmade organic soaps made by women self help group in the Jawadhi hills, which has been empanalled by TRIFED for sales across southern India.It has made an impact not only the livelihood of women, but has improved health and hygiene of the tribal community.

Millet processing machine: A large percentage of tribals grow millet during the year. Processing the millet will help them secure a better price and hopefully encourage them to make millet a part of their diet. A women's group has been formed and trained in the business.



People who have joined hands and shared our vision

Articulate – UK

Seb's Projects India partnered with Articulate, a UK-based charity. Articulate is run by volunteer artists, arts educators and practitioners from the UK. It offers participants innovative creative experiences that can build their self-confidence and sense of self-worth. Articulate also works to provide practical creative skills and the confidence and support to go on and use those skills in the future. Lucy Mytton, a volunteer from Articulate, taught art in all the Seb's schools.



Prayag- Chennai

The Seb's school in Palamarathukollai has a new look with the newly constructed classrooms which are spacious and well ventilated. We are thankful to Prayag, an NGO, for their initiative in building and painting the school building and for their interactions with the students. The school looks colorful and appealing for the children and has become the center for the community's development.



Humanitarian Clowns



The Humanitarian Clowns team arrived in the first half of November bringing cheer to a lot of people in Vellore. They visited the different projects around Vellore town. A get-together was organized for over a 100 local volunteers to share their experience and learningworking with differently abled, and elderly people.



Avanthi Fellows-Chennai

The main purpose of the Avanthi program is to provide academic guidance and training to students from low economic backgrounds.
A group of young volunteers from Avanthi visited our tribal villages. They helped our students in figuring out what they want to pursue in life, and making the most of the opportunities that come their way.



Anouka-VIT volunteers

VIT University is one of the major educational institutions in Vellore district. It has a wide range of clubs to serve underprivileged communities around Vellore. A group of young volunteers from Anouka NGO assisted our tribal children in middle school on Friday.
They taught English and Maths, and conducted a health and hygiene awareness session for adolescent boys and girls. Their contribution was a motivation for our children.



Our thanks to our partners and donors who have been a part of our journey

- Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust
- District Education Department
- District Health Department
- District Forest Department
- ICDS
- TRIFIED
- Shishukunj
- Open Works Foundation
- Maria Marina Foundation
- Articulate
- ICYE
- Prayag
- Pratham
- Saramma and Ian Sargeant
- Slade and Hudson
- Ramaprasad
- Sarah Lloyd
- John and Marle
- Angela and John
- Amy Jackson
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- Mammen Chandy

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DR. RUEBAN THOMAS KURIAN

MR. THARYAN KOSHI

MS. EMMA KOSHI

Kitchen Gardens at Sebs School





Outdoor practical learning

Seeds of change that took root :

• Greater engagement of parents in running the schools.

• Inclusion of stakeholders.

• Clean safe drinking water is available for drinking, resulting in fewer children falling sick.

• Most parents sign school records rather than thumb impression.

• Accessing Aadhar card using school ID card.

• Better awareness of nutrition leading to children setting up a kitchen garden.

• Through advocacy, for the first time children are provided with eggs twice a week.

• Communities are engaged in decision making regarding the wellbeing of their children.

• Young people are making informed decisions regarding their career.



Looking forward:

• Permanent infrastructure for four schools.

• Provide safe and clean drinking water for schools and communities using sky hydrant.

• Need to start two new balwadi centers.

• Need for SMART classroom to promote e-learning.

• Need for trained community health workers.



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