

CORD - CHINMAYA VIJAYA

KAZA, GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

Annual News Letter: April 2015- March 2016

April 2015- June 2015

The Year 2015 – turning the leaf, yet one more year passed by and the children at Chinmaya Vijaya have set into another stage in their life – aged between 4 to 18 – a dozen of them have entered a crucial milestone of their lives : **Class-X (SSC)**, whereafter many changes take place in their career to visualize and set future goals for their life. Concomittant with the physical and mental development of the children the greenery and vegetation in and around the Ashram too had grown making the premises more lively and surroundings more picturesque. With all the developments taking place, everyone at the Ashram was hopeful of seeing a promising future in the offing for the children.

This report made for the quarter April through June 2015 gives an account of the various activities and happenings at the Asram directed towards the development and well-being of the children. The luckiest part everyone here believes is that all those that visit the place feels themselves a part of the onerous cause of the children that really makes the Trustees and Organizers forge ahead with more zeal and enthusiasm.

APRIL 2015:

Dr. Sumathi Amma and Dr. AppaRao both were in India during the first two weeks of the month; paid daily visit to the Ashram; Sumathi Amma was present seeing off the children to school in the morning and again promptly present in the evening to receive them back from the school – her concern and love for them is one of its own kind. The major activities of the month that need a mention are:

5th April 2015: A short-film on ‘Chinmaya Vijaya’ was shot by an Agency from Hyderabad covering their daily life at the Ashram and at the School as well. Drs AppaRao and Sumathi Mukkamala and Sri Alapati Rajendra Prasad, local MLA took part and gave an account of the life of the children at the Ashram and plans about their future. The short-film shooting activity is seen from the following pictures.



8th April 2015: A free Dental Camp in association with Sibar Dental College was organized to ensure dental hygiene of the children. Some of the children received prizes in ‘Hand-writing competititon’ at the school.



With Prizes won in Hand-writing Competition at School

16th 29th April 2015 :

During this period while the older children were busy preparing for the examinations the younger ones in LKG and UKG had their summer vacations from 18th April. Children that completed IX Class had a 2 months advance coaching for X Class upto 29th. Out of the 108 children that attended the school only two LKG students were detained in the same class while the rest 106 passed and promoted to the next higher class. The grades the children achieved from LKG to VIII Class were given which is attached separately. The school observed holidays from 30th April to 11th June 2015.

29th April to 3rd May 2015:

A '**Bala Vihar**' camp under the name "**Guru Cool**" was organized by a group of enthusiastic volunteers from Chinmaya Mission, Mumbai during this period. Sri Lingamaneni Bhaskara Rao, Chairman, LEPL Group did the "**Jyothi Prajwalan**" Brahmachari Kushal Chaitanya from Chinmaya Mission, Guntur and some more from Vijayawada participated in the Camp. The volunteers taught various aspects of life skills for the children and imbibed in them a sense of being a responsible Chinmaya Mission follower. The children enjoyed the Camp and had an invigorating experience with the guidance of the Volunteers in the presence of Brahmachari Kushal Chaitanya and others from Vijayawada.





MAY 2015:

Children were on summer vacation and after Guru Cool Camp upto 3rd May and celebrating Birth Day of HH Pujya Gurudev on 8th May 2015 under the aegis of Sri KV Ramana Murthy of Chinmaya Mission, Guntur they were allowed to go home from 9th to 23rd of May 2015. Sri Ramana Murthy taught the children with the values Chinmaya Mission stands for and asked them to develop “Service to Humanity” as the motto of their Life.



9th – 23rd May 2015: During this period the children were sent to their native places to visit their kith and kin. Some of them had a single parent and some unfortunately lost both – but in order not to lose their connection with the culture and ethos of the native groups they belong to the Ashram sends them back home for a brief period. This gives them some kind of happiness and make them strong to go forward in Life with a Mission to rededicate themselves to the Society and Community they hail from.

Some of the children that stayed back at the Ashram had their fun time with Ms Aruna taking them to various nearby localities, exhibitions etc., on outings.



24th – 30th May 2015: All the children reached back to the Aashram during this week – They joyfully share their experiences at home with each other and the way they spent the days among their own. These exchanges gives us an idea how deeply they are connected to and their bonding with the places and people.

JUNE 2015:

1st – 8th June 2015: As there is still time for the children to join school for the next academic session, in order to utilize the brief intervening period after their return from home visit, computer classes were arranged at the Ashram. Ms Ratna Kumari from IT Deptt of NRIAS gave them coaching on E-Mail creation and operation. The children are now happy using the same to interact with Dr Sumathi Amma and Smt Shanti in the US. In the evenings they had tuitions classes in all their school subjects. The best available faculty from nearby Mangalagiri town conduct these classes on all the week days while on Sunday they had dance classes.

8th – 11th June 2015: The children immersed themselves to prepare for the School starting on 12th June. They went to the school and got the books for the next academic session.

12th June onwards: The school at Gollapudi (Indian Springs) reopened on this day and the children attended the new session with their cheering visages confidently stepping forward for a promising life. After the reopening of the school, the students of Class-IX that successfully passed IX and entered Class-X (SSC) were awarded the progress reports and grade cards. A separate sheet showing the results is attached.

During the month of June 2015 Dr AppaRao and Dr Sumathi Mukkamala were in India who were later joined by their entire family i.e, Son, Daughter-in-law, Daughter, Son-in-Law and grand-children. It is interesting that besides Drs AppaRao and Sumathi Amma, all their family members showed equal concern and love for the children which is indicative of and assures about the incessant existence of the Ashram for decades to come.



25th June 2015: A team from Sujana Media visited the Ashram; had an interview of Drs AppaRao Mukkamala and Sumathi Amma. They telecast the interview of Dr AppaRao for over 10 Minutes on 'Maa TV' on 27th June 2015 which was well-received in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

July 2015- Sep 2015

The Schools commenced in June 2015 after a long Summer vacation and the children started attending from 12th June onwards. During this quarter (July to Sep) the children usually get busy with their school preparations. As all the children were successful in their year-ending exams, they attended the school with renewed energies to work hard and achieve the next higher goal set for themselves in the subsequent academic year.

The month-wise activity chart with small description for this quarter is as below:

JULY 2015:

Dr Sumathi Amma being here around upto 10th July, she has been regularly visiting the Aashram both in the morning and evening. When the children come back from school she used to inquire about the day's activities in the school and how they spent the day in the school.

Now the Aashram has a total of 108 children and all of them are receiving education at Indian Springs School, Gollapudu. They attend the school regularly by bus. The children of all the classes (from I Std to X Std) had Unit-I Exams from 24th July 2015 to 31st July in which they all did well with most of them scoring 'A' Grade.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India and a legendary Scientist whom people of India used to lovingly call "The Missile Man" had always been a source of inspiration to the Children at the Aashram. During one of his visits, he paid a special visit to the Aashram and endeared the children with his great words of wisdom. The Nation unfortunately lost this Great Soul who always had a special place in the hearts and minds of all Indians the world over. On the day of his demise the children of the Aashram along with all the staff conducted a "Mourning Prayer" for the Peaceful Abode of the Holy Departed Soul to eternal rest and observed a two minute silence in a Condolence Meeting organized near the tree dearly planted by Late Dr Kalam Ji during his visit. Dr. Sumathi Amma expressed her deep condolences in memory of Dr Kalam. Though most of the people of this Great Country had no personal acquaintance with Dr Kalam, everyone across all communities, castes and religious beliefs found a Great 'Guru' in him. Such was his charisma.



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August 2015:

At Chinmaya Vijaya on the 9th of Aug 2015, the children took part in "Chinmaya Jyothi Yatra". All of them went to Sidhhardha Academy along with Smt Santha, Smt Madhavi and care-takers. "Chinmaya Jyothi" reached Vijayawada crossing Nellore, Guntur and other major towns of Andhra Pradesh.



The month of August is in fact synonymous in all Indian minds with “Independence Day” and everyone remembers it so - such is the importance of this month for us. All the children neatly dressed in their attire happily participated, sung the National Song, National Anthem and other patriotic songs. Dr Sreedhar Koneru, COO, NRIAS was invited as Chief Guest who gave his message to the children.



On the 28th August the children performed “Varalakshmi Vratam” and on 29th they celebrated “Raksha Bandhan” festivals. They were all seen very joyful tying Rakhis to one another that shows their love and care they have for each other.



Departure of Smt Aruna from Chinmaya Vijaya: Smt Aruna worked for the Aashram since the days of its construction 2005 and all the children used to enjoy her motherly love and affection; but owing to her personal obligations she left for Manipal to take care of her grandson on 12th July 2015. She was given a very warm send off by Smt Santa incoming Care Taker and other staff and children in the Aashram.



But more than this the Aashram had a shocking news with the sad and sudden demise of Smt. Aruna on 28th August 2015 at Manipal due to a massive heart-attach. While at the Aashram Smt Aruna served with all her sincerity. Smt. Aruna was really a great support to the Aashram as she had put in her best and served the children extending motherly affection to all the children and the children too regarded her with lot of respect and adoration towards her. Smt Aruna was a strict disciplinarian and used to handle the children with all caution. Unfortunately it all so suddenly happened Drs. AppaRao, Sumathi Amma, all the employees, children and everyone directly or in directly connected with the Aashram felt aghast and saddened with her loss.

In memory and respect of Smt Aruna, the Aashram conducted a condolence meeting / memorial service on 6th September 2015. Dr.Raju N Mantena and Smt Leela Butchi Babu, Trustees of Chinmaya Vijaya deeply deplored the sudden death of Smt Aruna. All the near and dear, brothers, sisters and daughter, friends and acquaintances of Smt Aruna took part in her memorial service and offered condolences praying the

Almighty to rest Her Soul in Eternal Peace. The children too, fondly recalled their memories and attachment with Smt Aruna.



As customary gesture, prasadam was distributed to the children and the participants.

On 30th August 2015 the 2nd Chinmaya International Gita Competition, 2015 was held in 'Chinmaya Vijaya' where all the children participated and the winners were awarded prizes and certificates.

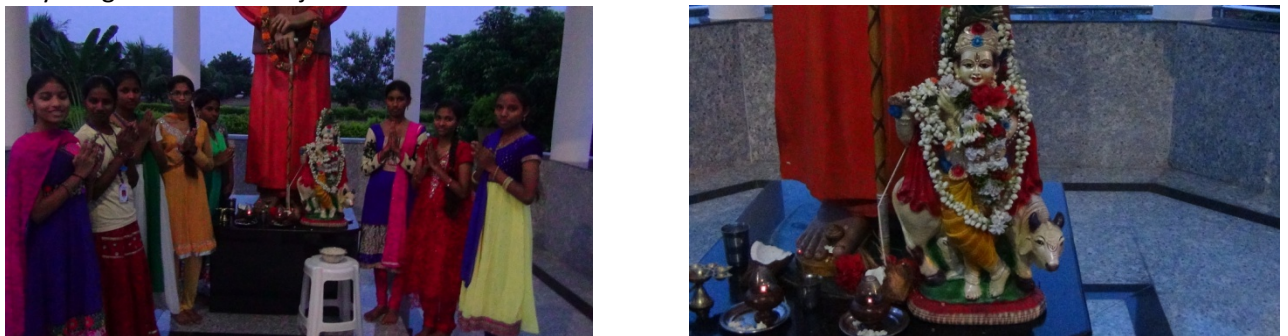
September 2015:

On 5th Sep 2015 occurred 'Teachers Day' and Sri Krishna Janmashtami – The children celebrated both these functions with a lot of fervour.

They greeted and performed pooja to their teachers in the Ashram as well as in the School as a mark of respect and adoration towards their 'Gurus'.



In the evening they all sat together and celebrated Sri Krishna Janmashtami – the birth of Lord Krishna ; they sang Sri Krishna Bhajans and danced to some tunes.



On 17th Sep 2015, the children performed Sri Vinayaka Chavithi with all sincerity and seriousness – they all prayed Lord Ganesh to remove all obstacles in their Lives and give them a peaceful and pleasant life. They distributed prasadam to all the staff and other children in the campus.



As a result of the '2nd Chinmaya International Gita Competition held on 30th Aug, 6 children were selected for the District Level Bhagad Gita Competition held on 27th Sep 2015 at Guntur. (1) Ms M.Divya; (2) Ms Aruna Kumari; (3) Ms G.Sasirekha (4) Ms P. Lakshmi Prasanna (5) Ms.B.Phalithi Kumari and (6) Ms Ch. Manisha Rani participated in the competition and prizes were given to them on 30th August 2015 in appreciation of their performance.

Oct 2015- Dec 2015

The benevolence of Pujya Gurudev His Holiness Swami Chinmayananda and the kind benedictions of HH Swami Tejomayananda, all the activities of theam – Chinmaya Vijaya Orphanage are going as planned. All the children are hale and hearty and agile with their enchanting dreams of coming up in life with flying colors.

The quarter October to December brings with it many festivals, the onset of winter and a pleasant healthy morning everyday. In order to create a sense of oneness and cultural bonding, the Aashram organizes celebration of all festivities and all important National Holidays in a moderate way involving the children to bring out their talents and skills.

October 2015:

The month of October starts with the Birthday Celebration of the Father of the Nation Mahathma Gandhi, which falls on the 2nd of the month. Being a National Holiday, on this day the children assembled in the prayer hall, reviewed the importance of the day in the History of India that has, in fact, in the later years led to the freedom of the Nation and paid their heartfelt respects to Gandhiji.

Besides physical fitness of the children it is seriously felt that mental balance is equally important to make them strong and resolute. So, in order to address any behavioral issues children of these age groups may come across, Dr. Keerthi, Senior Postgraduate Student of Psychiatry from NRI Medical College and General Hospital was invited to conduct psychological counseling to the children from 2nd to 4th Oct 2015. Dr. Keerthi took active part and made it a point to visit the Aashram for the sake of the children as and when she found time.

The children of Classes VI to IX had their first quarterly examinations from 9th to 17th of the month. The School observed holidays from 18th to 25th Oct on account of Dasara Festival. All the children dressed up

neatly and performed “Puja” of Goddess Durga and Goddess Saraswathi on the “Maharnavami” day under the guidance of Mathaji Sevananda from Chinmaya Mission, Tenali.



On 19th October 2015, the 99th Birth Day of Prof. S.S.Srikhande who lives in the Old Age Home within the precincts of the Ashram was celebrated with the children. Prof. Srikhande distributed sweets and blessed the children.

Dr.Pardhasarathi Mukkamala and 20 of his close friends from in and around Eluru visited the Ashram and gave the children small gifts like pens, note books, pencils and distributed biscuits, chocolates and fruits to the children.

On 29th October 2015 Dr. Sumathi Amma came to India and visited the Ashram. All the children rejoiced with the presence of Sumathi Amma who inquired about the welfare of each child. It is a daily routine for Sumathi Amma to visit the Aashram everyday so long as she stays in India.

NOVEMBER 2015:

As the children resumed going to school after the Dasara Holidays, they were busy with their studies. The children of classes LKG to V Std had their quarterly examinations from 6th to 10th Nov.

On the 11th Nov, festival of Deepavali was observed with all pomp and show. Dr. Sumathi Amma came to the Aashram; the children gathered and offered prayers to Goddess Lakshmi; they were given firecrackers in the evening; they had a joyous time and a sumptuous festive Dinner with Sumathi Amma.



Sports and Games in the School:

On 15th Nov the Indian Springs School at Gollapudi (where the children attend) conducted school games and our children actively participated in all the sports and games like: 'Picking Potato', Book Balancing, running, skipping, throw ball, shuttle badminton, Kho-Kho; Kabaddi etc. Almost all the children won a number of prizes in the school games.



From 18th to 25th Nov the children of Class-X had half-yearly exams while the children of 6th to 9th Class had their exams from 25th to 30th Nov 2015. All of them fared well in the exams. Out of the 12 children of Class-X from the Aashram, 6 children secured 'A' Grade and the rest secured 'B' Grade. Hopefully they will come out with yet good results in the year-end Board examinations.

December 2015:

On 6th December Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana China Jeeyar Swamiji paid a holy visit to the residence of Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala on the banks of Holy River Krishna. Children from the Aashram were taken to the River House to sing sacred hymns in Praise of the Lord. The Swamiji was very much impressed and offered His kind blessings to the children.



On 7th December Smt.Subha Verma Pathial of Chinmaya Mission visited the Aashram and spent three days with the children. She inquired about the welfare of the children and found them all happy. Smt. Subha taught "Life Skills" to the older children and how to face difficult situations in life. Children felt encouraged.



On the 15th December Sri Bala Ayasola and his family who are well known to Drs. AppaRao and Sumathi Amma visited the Aashram, interacted with the children and inquired about their education, their extracurricular activities and future goals.

This being an important year for the senior children in Class-X, the school again conducted examinations from 10th Dec to 17th Dec. All the children did well in these exams as well.

On the 25th of December the children decorated the entire premises of the Aashram with lights and colors to celebrate "Christmas" festival. Dr. AppaRao and Sumathi Amma joined them and offered blessings. The children participated in the Semi-Christmas Celebrations at the School the previous day. Various activities and competitions were organized in the school – our children participated and won prizes.



On the whole, the quarter went on well with a happy note welcoming the NEW YEAR 2016 for all.

Jan 2016- Mar 2016

All the children are hale and hearty and agile with their hopes and aspirations for a bright career and life ahead as the Academic Session is coming to a close. This being the last quarter of the Academic Year, all the children are busy preparing for the final examinations of respective classes. This quarter is marked with some important festivals and some days of National importance. Besides, the children actively participate and involve in all the activities at the Ashram making it their real home to live and grow.

JANUARY 2016:

The very first day of the month 1st Jan 2016 being New Year's Day, the children of the Aashram dressed up neatly and exchanged warm greetings with each other. Dr. Sumathi Mukkamala who happened to be on the premises, blessed all the children with new year gifts and joined with them in the New Year Celebrations in the evening.



Every year, on 10th January the guardians and close relatives of all the children are invited to see the children in their best spirits while in the Aashram. This event was organized on the 10th Jan 2016 as well and the close kith and kin of most of the children joined the occasion. This is done every year to give an opportunity to the relatives and close ones of the children to interact with them and the Aashram organizers in a given setting and also helps the children to carry on their bond with their social environs they originally belong to. They were a happy lot to see the children growing in a healthy and clean environment with a determined future of their own choice setting behind their sad past.



On 12th Jan 2016, NRI General Hospital organized a free eye-camp at Chinmaya Vijaya and children having any eye problems were given appropriate guidance and medical help for healthy vision.



The festival of "Sankranthi" was celebrated from 14th to 17th January 2016 with lot of religious fervour by all the children of Chinmaya Vijaya. Special dishes with sweet meats were prepared and served to the children reminding of our age old traditions and culture. Dr Sumathi Amma gave gifts to the workers of the Aashram and sports kits to the children that participated in the 'Rangoli' event on this happy occasion. Smt. Mounica and Ms. Sophia from USA visited the Aashram and spent 3 days with the children on the campus. They taught life skills and participated in the games organized for the children.



Republic Day: 26th Jan 2016 -This is one of the National Holidays and a festival for the citizen of India hence it was observed with patriotism and national fervour to instill, inculcate and imbibe in the minds of children the feeling of love towards the Nation. Dr. Narayana Reddy and family from USA visited the Ashram who also presided over as 'Chief Guest' on this occasion. He gave his message to the children upon nation building and moral standing.



On 31st January 2016 Society for Rural Scholars conducted a talent examination. 16 children from 5 to 9th class belonging to Chinmaya Vijaya participated in the competitive examination. The results are awaited.

FEBRUARY 2016: The main activities of the month include:

- (1) Dr. Mallikarjuna Rao Garu from USA stayed on the campus and taught the children the techniques of using computers, emailing and internet usage for educational purposes.
- (2) Children underwent 'Meditation Training' through out the month where Dr. Sumathi Amma also participated. Smt Swarajya Lakshmi from Hyderabad and Smt. Vani from Mangalagiri organized the Meditation Classes. It is a very helpful event for the children as they are busy preparing for the annual examinations of their school and Board in the following two months.
- (3) The children prepared well for their examinations and fared well in the school examinations. Some of the senior students were busy preparing for the SSC (Class-X) Board Examinations. They performed Saraswathi Puja on the 13th Feb 2016 to bless them with better performance in their SSC Exams.
- (4) The children also got trained in 'Drawing'. Mr. Martin from Mangalagiri taught and helped the children learn the nuances in drawing.



The Class X students had their preparatory examinations from 4th to 14th February 2016 and understood all the children did well in their examination. Children of Class-II to 8th Class had the unit examinaion from 22nd to 27th Feb – they too did well.

MARCH 2016:

As the academic session is coming to a close and the annual examinations approaching very fast, all the children seriously immerse in their studies for their respective examinations.

On the 5th March the School celebrated the Annual Day in which all the Children from Chinmaya Vijaya enthusiastically participated in all competitions like, Dance, Drama, cultural events, sports and games. Almost all of them won prizes for many of the events they participated.



Eight of the students from Chinmaya Vijaya were awarded certificates and small gifts for putting in best attendance in the school. Those participated in the Cultural Events could also win many prizes.

The festival of 'Shivrathri' was celebrated in all sincerity – the children, staff and workers prayed Lord Shiva for his kind benedictions. The children were taken to Lord Shiva temple in Chinkakani and performed Puja.

SSC Examinations for the senior children began from 21st March 2016. In all 12 students of our Aashram appeared for the Examinations. Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala visited the Aashram during the meantime and blessed the children. He encouraged them with his guidance and hopeful attitude; extended best wishes all the students to fare well in their examinations.



The overall educational performance and grades secured by the students in difference examinations during the academic year are depicted in the attached charts for all the classes from 1 to 10.

Dr. AppaRao said “one should not lose confidence and shall always go forward with a positive mind – then only they can achieve success.” He also said that a planned approach to education and regular study would help the students excel not only in their examinations but would also enable them excel in their Life. Hard work, courage, perseverance together with intelligence will bring laurels to any student – he quipped.

The children thanked him for his kind words and the references from the preachings of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda that has given a way for them to brighten up their lives.

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