MARRIAGES ARE MADE AT UDAVUM KARANGAL, BESIDE HEAVEN

Everywhere in the world Father’s Day and Mother’s Day are being celebrated respecting the role of parents. In the tiny little world of Udavum Karangal, Pappa Vidyaakar is a light house for all those who do not have parents. The children grow in an environment of discipline, education, respecting elders, helping others’ cause and sharing. They see Pappa as a mentor as he is the guiding factor for all their success, solutions and family life. The idea behind marriages at Udavum Karangal is that the unwanted girl child, who never had a home, becomes a home-maker through marriage. She finds a lasting companion and the emotional void in her is filled. As a mother she gives what she was denied. She enters the main-stream of the society in a more challenging manner to stand on her own legs, while still being a part of the large family of Udavum Karangal. A Renaissance of traditional values!

This celebration of marriage goes on and on at Udavum Karangal and till date 162 marriages have been performed. Every girl who has entered matrimony has expressed fulfillment of life and her for gratitude towards Pappa. The latest wedding were on 1st and 8th September 2019, as follows:

BARGAVI RAI WEDS ARAVAZHI

Ms.Bargavi Rai Vidyaakar was married to Mr.Arvazhi on 1st September 2019 at Sai Baba Temple, Shanthivanam, Thiruverkadu, Chennai. The bridegroom Mr.Arvazhi has finished B.Tech, MBA. and works as an on Asst. Engineer in Michelin Tyres Ltd, Chennai. He is a native of Vellore but settled in Vanagaram, Chennai.

PRARTHANA WEDS KARTHIKEYAN

Ms.Prathana Vidyaakar’s wedding with Mr.Karthikeyan was held on 8th September 2019 at Sai Baba Temple, Shanthivanam, Thiruverkadu, Chennai. Mr.Karthikeyan owns a Transport Agency by name K.K.R Transport in Thiruverkadu, Chennai. He has studied upto 12th Std. and now also pursuing B.com Part time.
course. They are residing at Thiruverkadu for many years.

JEEVAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Jeevan Community College is presently functioning at the RVN school premises for courses viz., Nursing, Montessori, Home Care etc. To improve the infrastructure facilities and also bring in more educational activities for livelihood, it is proposed to construct a Community College at Thiruverkadu. The design of the building has been finalized and awaiting Planning permission from CMDA.

SPOT ADMISSION CAMP, 2019 AT JCC

JCC has been affiliated to TNOU for conducting various courses, like Nursing, Montessori, Home Care, etc, for which women from around Thiruverkadu who are wanting to find a livelihood, are admitted. They are given scholarships and fee concession for the course. After the course completion they are assured of employment through Campus Interview.
Recently, for admission to various courses, a Camp was conducted on 20.07.2019 at the college as part of spot admission campaign for 2019-2020 batch.

Forty candidates have been enrolled for admissions on the date of Spot Admission and free books were distributed.

**CAMPUS INTERVIEW IN JCC**

JCC assures employment to its students on completion of their courses in various Hospitals. The course is exclusively for women, especially with under privileged background.

The Campus Interview was conducted on 6th Auguest, 2019 in JCC by Appasamy Multi Speciality Hospital. Ms. Jayanthi, Nursing Superintendent & Mr. Vikram, HR from this Hospital conducted the interview for selecting qualified candidates for their clinical settings located in Arumbakkam.

Candidates who successfully completed their Nursing course in the Academic Year July 2018-19 attended the interview.

**MARKET DAY CELEBRATION AT RVN**

Market Day was celebrated on 12.07.2019 by the Kinder garten students at the Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan School, Thiruverkadu. All of them had brought some vegetables and fruits and a market like scene was set up with two children posing as sales men. Two of the children were trained to pose as consumers and each vegetable name was called aloud so that the children could get used to common names of vegetables and fruits. They could also identify the colours. A salad was made with vegetables like carrot, beetroot, tomato and onion and distributed to the students. Fruits salad was also made and given to the students.
VEGETABLE GARDENING AT RVN SCHOOL

The students studying in IV STD, RVN School enthusiastically joined together and did a project on vegetable gardening inside the school premises. Some of the students bought the vegetable seeds like Brinjal, Chilly, Ladies Finger, Coriander, Ridge Gourd, Pumpkin etc. While some other students bought cuttings of herbal plants like Karupuravalli, Thulasi, Priandai, Hibiscus etc. which were kept in pots. They cleaned the areas, made holes to put the seeds into them and then water them. Their teacher Ms. Geetha was instrumental in doing this project. She also added that they should water the plants daily and remove the weeds. The children clearly understood the process of planting, maintaining a garden and the value of growing vegetables in our own place. They also knew about medicinal plants and their use.

CARNIVAL FOR CHILDREN OF RVN – "PALLI THIRUVIZHA"

Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan School (RVN) organized a CARNIVAL – PALLI THIRUVIZHA '19, for the students of the school and also for the resident children of Udavum Karangal on 15th August 2019 in the sports ground of the School.

Though many schools/ NGOs have organized such carnivals in Chennai city, these deprived children could not attend them due to long travel distance, lack of time, apprehension of parents of any untoward incident to girl children and non-affordability. Therefore, to fulfil the desire of these students, their parents and teachers to have one such celebration in their school, Palli Thiruvizha was organized on Independence day.

It was fun throughout for the children. Lots of fun games, Tatoo, Mehandi, Pot painting, garland stall, plants, books for children, toys & gifts for children, book fair, Health checkup and Food plaza were organized in the Carnival.
The RVN School organized Cleanliness Drive under Swachh Bharat Swasth Bharat Abhiyaan Programme in commemoration of Independence Day.

The main purpose of this programme is to create awareness among the students regarding cleanliness and its benefits.

All the students from 6th to 12th participated and teachers played an essential role in this drive. As a part of this Cleanliness Drive, the students undertook to clean the entire school premises.

It was a unique experience for every one and the students and teachers participated with great enthusiasm in this drive.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

RVN Hr.Sec.School celebrated Teachers’ day with great gusto and gaiety on 5th September 2019. Students performed a scintillating cultural show to denote their love, respect, acknowledgement and recognition of the hard work put in by the
teachers towards their development. All teachers enjoyed and appreciated the program.

The Correspondent of the school, Thiru. Vidyaakar awarded the teachers and students with the cash prizes. The program concluded with address by the Correspondent.

Residents of Sakthivanam and Thanjam, Coimbatore, Aadi festival was celebrated with a Pooja for the Amman deity at the premises.

**KRISHNA JAYANTHI**

Every year Krishna Jayathi function is celebrated with great fun and fair as children enjoy very

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**“AADI MONTH” CELEBRATION**

In commemoration of Tamil Aadi Month and to give the feel of the beginning of festivity to the
much. Similarly this year also on 23-08-2019, it was Krishna Jayanthi Day at Shanthivanam and elaborate arrangements were made by the volunteers. The cows & calves were decorated with flowers and kumkum. Pooja was performed in the evening with all the children and patients assembled at the temple.

It was celebrated on 02.09.2019 at Sakthivanam campus, Coimbatore and a Special Pooja at Karumariamman temple was organized.

The psychiatric patients require not only continuous medical treatment but also require occupational therapy which plays a very important role in helping the patients to lead independent life. If the occupation is an income generating one, the patients will have economic independence. Considering all these facts the PARIVARTAN project started giving a pair of goats free to the fully recovered patients in Coimbatore and the Nilgris districts.

On the night of 25th July 2019, a well wisher informed about the plight of an old lady fully drenched by the heavy rains a sitting on platform at 11.00 pm.

Mrs. Rukmani around 70 years has been lying there for a few days, disoriented and crying that God has forgotten her. She was brought by our volunteers to our Home-Karunai Illam at Maduravoyal and was first given a hot water bath. She smiled when she was given warm clothes with a cup of steaming tea.

She said, “I take back my statement that God has forgotten me. He has sent so many of them to
rescue me and give me my smile back after so many days of hardship on the streets of Annanagar.”

A drop of kindness costs nothing and this is not visibly found in the present generation.

**MR. GNANENDRA SHUKLA - REUNITED WITH HIS FAMILY AT MADHYA PRADESH**

Mr. Gnanendra Shukla was rescued in a very bad shape from the streets by our Social workers. He was given extensive medical treatment and in the process of rehabilitation he was able to give us the details of his family and home. He was from a place called Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. We immediately contacted his brother Mr. Akhilesh Shukla. Mr. Gnanendra was said to be under medical treatment for the past three months and went missing after that. The family was searching for him in and around his village. They were very happy to know about Gnanendra having been treated and able to recognize them.

He was handed over to his brother and free medicines were given to him to take for a month.

**REUNION OF MR. EMMANUEL KONDERI, JHARKHAND**

On 27th July, 2019 some of our Social Workers, on information from the public, rescued a 18 year old lad from the streets of Porur, Chennai and taken to our Home in Thiruverkadu and shown to our Psychiatrist. His skin on both the feet were peeled out due to ulcer. He was self talking and highly depressed.

At the time of rescue

At the time of reunion
He responded to the medical treatment and was able to reveal his name as Emmanuel Kongari and family details and place of home town as Jharkhand to our Social Workers. With the minimum details provided, our Social worker could trace out his family through Whatsapp.

The family was very happy to know about their son being at Udavum Karangal, Chennai, and were eager to meet him. They reached our Home on 3-8-19 and there was a teary and emotional reunion between the mother and the son.

**MR. DERICK REGINALD KUNDER – MENTALLY CHALLENGED PATIENT RESCUED AND REUNITED**

Our Social Workers rescued Mr. Derick Reginald Kunder on 4.8.2019 from the roadside in Anna Nagar, Chennai and he was in emaciated condition. Though the man initially resisted, later got convinced to get into the ambulance. While on the vehicle he was heard to have been self speaking in fluent English. He was brought to Udavum Karangal’s Home at Thiruverkadu and was given a shave and a sumptuous food.

He was put on immediate medical treatment by a Psychiatrist and medicines prescribed. He seems to have starved for days together and was fighting with hunger. He had deep injuries in his head and pelvic region. Once the medication was given, he was recovering back to normalcy. He stated that his name is Derick Reginald Kunder and a native of Malpe District, Mangalore, but settled in Mumbai for more than 40 years.

He also gave the Counselors, all details about his family members. In spite of being apprised about the serious medical condition, none of the family members came forward to take the responsibility of the suffering sibling stating that Derick was quite unmanageable and has the habit of frequently running away from the psychiatric home in Mumbai where he was admitted several times for treatment.

Finally, his brother in law Mr. Manohar at Mumbai conceded to come to Chennai on 12.08.2019 to receive Mr. Derick. As expected, there was no emotional moment when the meeting took place between Derick and Manohar. Mr. Manohar however expressed his gratitude and thanked Mr. Vidyaakar for having rescued Derick and getting him back.

“There is no service nobler than doing something nice for someone who will never find it out”.

So far more than 7000 such persons have been reunited with their families.
DONATION TO GOVT. HOSPITALS / PHCS

On 25-7-19 Mr. Mohan, Health Inspector of Udavum Karangal handed over 10 Cots and 10 Mattresses to Government Medical College, Chennai. 2 Cots and 2 Mattresses each to Poonamallee Public Health Center (PHC) and Kaduvetti PHC, 3 Cots and 3 Mattresses to Sorancherri PHC and 2 Cots to Nemam PHC.

BP apparatus, Bed Pan, Fans and Tube Lights were donated to Periyar Nagar Primary Health Center on 31.07.2019.

DONATION BY BANK OF BARODA WORKMEN UNION

Udavum Karangal receives a steel book shelf every year from the Bank of Baroda Workmen Union and this year also the shelf keys were handed over at the function held on 19.07.2019 along with 8 bags of rice of 25kgs each.
The Bharatanatya Arangetram by Selvi. Keertana and Selvi. Prartana was well planned and organised by their parents Mrs. Srividya and Mr. Krishna Satya on 3rd August 2019 at Atlanta Georgia, USA for raising funds for Udavum Karangal and the event was very successful.

**ORIENTATION VISITS BY COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**Avinashilingam College**

The MSW students of Avinashilingam College, Coimbatore came to Sakthivanam, Coimbatore in September 2019 for an orientation visit as a part of their curriculum.

**DG Vaishnava College, Arumbakkam**

As a part of Internship Programme, 45 MSW students with 2 faculty members from DG Vaishnava College, Arumbakkam, visited Shanthivanam, Thiruverkadu on 29-09-2019. They were given a detailed account of the activities of Udavum Karangal, by Ms. Mohanapriya, Psychologist. The students donated lunch for the children.
AJK college, Coimbatore

There was an observation visit by First year MSW students from AJK College of Arts & Science on 22.08.2019 to Shakthivanam, Coimbatore.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The rescue and reunion of the mentally ill patient Mr. Emmanuel Kongari, Jharkhand was well reported in the leading dailies – Deccan Chronicles and The New Sunday Express.