



Edhiroli
எதிரோலி
Echo of
Volontariat



News Bulletin of Volontariat for the Month , October-2014

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Editorial:

The month of October witnessed some good rain, building some hope in the minds of the farmers. The children were happy as they were given a few holidays due to heavy rains.

The nation commemorated the birth anniversary of the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi on the 2nd. The usual rituals of celebration like garlanding his statues and paying floral tributes to his portraits were done. The present day leaders gave loud speeches about his faith in non-violence, belief in truth, promotion of handloom, usage of articles made within the nation etc. But in reality, like we declare a holiday on the date of his birth, we have also declared leave to most of his philosophies! Not many in the younger generation believe in non-violence, we lack cleanliness both in the outside environment and in the minds of the people; truth has become rare, particularly in the words of the politicians. But still we are progressing; it is because we still have some leaders and a good number of citizens who are always straight in their thoughts and actions, which makes this system to make progress.

Deepavali or Diwali, the great festival for the Hindus, was celebrated on the 22nd.

I took off from my routine responsibilities of directing Volontariat in its field area. I assumed a different role of visiting the different Aiding committees of Volontariat in France & Belgium, to brief the members and volunteers over there, about the latest developments in the Pondicherry committee and the new systems evolved in managing the organization. The European members were given a glimpse of the field happenings in Pondicherry. The problems and difficulties on both sides were discussed and shared. I was in France and Belgium during the entire month of October 2014. I benefitted by the air ticket offered by the Association La Voix de l'enfant, which had invited 6 of our children along with 2 educators to participate in the Fraternity Cup event organized in Paris from 19th to 27th October.

I had the opportunity to travel with my wife and I take this opportunity to THANK each and every member of the different committees of Volontariat in the various cities of France and Belgium for their warm welcome and hospitality in providing us nice accommodation, organizing wonderful visits and even more for the delicious French cuisine. Merci beaucoup! Nandri !!

With regards,

Sendil Coumarane, Director, Volontariat

Fraternity Cup 2014

This is the 4th consecutive year our children are participating in this Sport, Cultural & Educative event organized by the Association La Voix de L'enfant.

Participants:

Three boys – Kesavan, Radhakrishnan & Gopi and three girls – Vijayalakshmi, Egavalli & Fathima, all of the age 11 years were selected to participate in this wonderful event. Regular attendance in the Volontariat evening school, participation & exhibition of talents in the different extra curricular activities, a minimum interest to play football and all the children who own the necessary documents to procure a passport for travel were short listed and based on these criteria, these six children were selected to participate in this mega event.



The social workers Ms.Gnanapriya and Mr.Mouralidarane were selected to accompany the children as educators for this programme.

Activities:



The children of 11 nations: France, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Romania, Brazil, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Senegal, India, Palestine and Afghanistan, participated in this grand event. Workshops on Music & Singing, discussions on child rights, and projects of the children to be carried out in their home towns after returning from this event were carried out. It was very much an interactive event, wherein the children of different nations with different backgrounds crossing the language

barrier actively participated in all the sessions with the help of their educators. It is certain that the children have learnt and evolved after this one week's intensive session.

In spite of their affinity towards their original food habits, the children enjoyed dining in common and had fun in sharing their bedrooms with their friends. The football play time was really wonderful and the mixing of children with those of other nations to form a team, was a beautiful idea of making the children interact with each other. It was a good initiation to break the barriers and open the way of brotherhood to a Single Nation for Mankind.

Sightseeing:

Our children were excited to make their travel through the Metro train and were surprised to witness the discipline of the French with regard to the traffic signals. No doubt, they jumped in joy on seeing the World Wonder – Eiffel Tower, through their own eyes and would have a lot to tell their friends and parents, after climbing the 328 steps to reach the second level of the tower.



The treasure hunt game planned to discover the important sites and monuments of the city of Paris was a good idea to make the children explore the beautiful city and the history behind it. Our children were friendly and active during the whole event and won the love and affection all the delegations through their colourful and sizzling cultural performance of dance and yoga.

A Very big thanks to the organizers of this event, especially to the President of La Voix de L'enfant, Mme Martin Bourse and its Director, Mr Jerome Baptiste.

Deepavali Festival:

Diwali is certainly the biggest and the brightest of all Hindu festivals. It's the festival of lights (*deep* = light and *avali* = a row i.e., a row of lights). The festival literally illumines the country with its brilliance, and dazzles all with its joy.

There are lots of stories behind the celebration of this festival. One story marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama. There is another popular version which also tells the story of Lord Vishnu, who in his dwarf incarnation, vanquished the tyrant Bali, and banished him to hell. Bali was allowed to return to earth once a year, to light millions of lamps to dispel the darkness and ignorance, and spread the radiance of love and wisdom.

Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman from his fourteen year long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the capital of Rama's kingdom, illuminated the place with earthen oil lamps and celebrated with fireworks.

All the simple rituals of Diwali have significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. According to one belief, the sounds of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state. Still another possible reason has a more scientific basis: the fumes produced by the crackers kill a lot of insects and mosquitoes, found in plenty after the rains.

Health for Kids:

During this month a health awareness animation programme for the Kindergarten children was conducted through animation films in the computer class room. After the movie, the teachers interacted with the children to assess the level of their understanding on personal and oral hygiene. The children were divided in groups of 10 to 12 in a batch and were quite interested in this activity.



Conclusion:

The festivity is over. The children had a wonderful experience. The Director had interacted with the members of the different aiding committees in Europe. It is now time to follow up things in Pondicherry. We need to proceed further and that's what we will try to do during the days to come.

