

Echoes of Eco



February, 2019

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

Vol:10 No: 12

Gandhi Peace Prize 2015

Vivekananda Kendra received Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2015. It is for the work and contribution in Rural development, Education and Natural Resources Development. The decision to confer these awards was taken at a meeting of the five-member jury Wednesday (16-01-2019) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, BJP leader L K Advani, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi as members. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation and a handicraft item. The award was received by our President Shri.Parameswaranji on 26th February in a grand function at Darbar hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The award was given by Hon.President of India, Shri.Ram Nath Govind in the presence of Hon.Prime Minister Shri.Narendra Modi.



In the acceptance speech, Vivekananda Kendra paid rich tributes to the Pulwama victims and dedicated the prize money to the Indian Armed Forces for the welfare of the Martyrs.

In this issue:

- Gandhi Peace Prize 2015
- The Happenings
- Visions of Wisdom:
 - Vertical Drift
 - Fostering Small Scale Alternatives
 - Cyclical Pattern



Let all be happy. Let all be healthy.
Let all see the good in others.
Let no one suffer from
unhappiness. Let us pray for peace.

(Upanishad)



"The first duty of the agriculturalist must always be to understand that he is a part of Nature and cannot escape from his environment. He must therefore obey Nature's rules"

- Albert Howard



GANDHI PEACE PRIZE - 2015

CITATION, VIVEKANANDA KENDRA, KANYAKUMARI

Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, was founded by Shri. Eknath Ranade in 1972. It is guided by Swami Vivekananda and Gandhian philosophies.

The Kendra has over 800 activity centres across India, runs Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas catering 45,500 children in tribal areas- of Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Andaman Islands.

The educational philosophy of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas is rooted in the thought of Swami Vivekananda "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man." The schools provide an all-round holistic education and have been acknowledged for their substantial contribution in improving the educational scenario in these areas.

The rural development work of Vivekananda Kendra has made a positive impact in these states/UTs. They run over 200 balwadis, health care units and medical camps, youth and women leadership development programs, skill development programs. The Kendra is at the forefront in promoting rural talents, old age homes especially for old women and training Arogyarakshaks for interior areas.

The Kendra has been working to reduce the carbon foot prints of buildings by adopting more than 30 green technologies. To promote sustainable agriculture, it has adopted innovative technologies like Azolla and bio-formulations like enhanced fish amino. The Kendra has promoted indigenous Siddha Varma medical system where instead of medicine food becomes the medicine. It has taken lead role in water management through community participation, revival of water harvesting structure and water democracy More than 30 traditional water bodies in Rameswaram have been revived by the Kendra. In the field of Renewable Energy, the Kendra has achieved excellent results. It is generating energy innovatively by utilizing kitchen wastes through its Shakthi Surabhi Scheme.

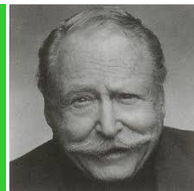
Gandhi Peace Prize recognizes contribution of Vivekananda Kendra in Education, Rural Development, and Development of Natural Resources.





"All the great agricultural systems which have survived have made it their business never to deplete the earth of its fertility without at the same time beginning the process of restoration"

- Albert Howard



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Composting technologies" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery on 2nd February. 04 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Practical demonstration is on

Training programme on "Terrace Garden" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery on 23rd February. 08 participants attended the training. Smt.S.Premalatha was the resource person.



Camp participants observing the live model of Bio-pest repellents at J.C.Bose nursery



Feedback from the field

Organic cultivator - Flowering the Dreams

Smt.R.Praveena
Mankaadu village
Rameswaram
Mob: 8489382137



R.Praveena, resident of Mankaadu village is a participant of our Kitchen Garden Training. She has a good space in her backyard hence she has used our seeds for growing it in the field. However, she has not wasted our grow bags, she is wise enough to use grow bags to grow flowers. She is happy about it. Seeds given were used wisely and planted in her backyard with pumpkins, papaya, Ladies finger, Tomato, Raddish etc. She has the problem of high salty water. Some of the plants have not come up good due to the nature of water. But she has dreams of growing her own vegetable garden in her house. If the water contamination problem due to prawn farms near the village is not there she assures that the vegetables can grow well in their soil and prays the rain gods to shower good in her village.



"Neither in theory nor in practice does one farmer in a hundred realize how important it is to cultivate, cultivate, and cultivate"

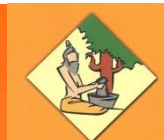
- Albert Howard



**Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture**



Happenings this month



**Happenings this month:
Holistic Health**

Training programme on "Vermi Compost Technology" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery on 23rd February. 16 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Camp participants standing near the vermi compost bed

Training programme on "Vermi Compost Technology" was held at Panichamoodu, Kanyakumari Dist on 15th February. 50 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Malankara Catholic College, Marthandam.



Shri.S.Rajamony interacting with the participants

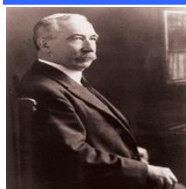
Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 200 patients.

Dr.V.Ganapathy presented a paper on "Clinical Application of Siddha Varma therapy" during International AYUSH Conclave 2019 on 17th February at Kanakakunnu, Thiruvananthapuram. 500 participants attended the celebration. The programme was sponsored by National AYUSH Mission, Govt. of Kerala.



Practical demonstration by Dr.V.Ganapathy during the seminar

Training programme on "Bio-methanation technology" was held at Gramodaya Park on 23rd February. 01 participant attended the training. Shri.Periyaswami was the resource person.



"I venture to say that at least half the illnesses of mankind will disappear once our food supplies are raised from fertile soil and consumed in a fresh condition"

- Albert Howard



**Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy**

Follow up of "Fish Amino Technology" programme was held at Ramanathapuram District on 26th February. 45 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by NRDC, New Delhi.



Fish Amino is ready for use - prepared by the participants after the initial training. Shri.Soundarrajan, DIO, IFAD was present.

Follow up of "Fish Amino Technology" programme was held at Pudukottai District on 27th February. 50 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by NRDC, New Delhi.



Shri.Kumaresan, DIO, IFAD attended the follow up programme

Construction of Portable Type Bio-methanation plants - IFAD, Thoothukkudi 1cum - 40 nos.



DST Core Group monitoring workshop was held on 5th and 6th February at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. Shri.G.Vasudeo and Shri.V.Ramakrishnan attended the Review meeting. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan presented VK-Nardep activities under the support of DST in front of the expert committee.



Secretary DST Prof. Ashutosh Sharma visiting VK-Nardep stall



"The appearance of a pest should be regarded as a warning from Mother Earth to put our house in order"

- Albert Howard



**Happenings this month:
Networking**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this
month:
Networking**

39 students from Cape Polytechnic, Aralvoimozhy, Kanyakumari Dist. visited Gramodaya Park on 1st February as a part of Study tour. Students learned Cost Effective Construction technologies.



Students visited model buildings at Gramodaya Park

15 Field officers from Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Killikulam visited Gramodaya Park on 2nd February as a part of training programme. Participants learned Bio-methanation technologies.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan explaining 'Bio-methanation technology'



Students learned Sustainable Agricultural technologies

20 students from St.John's College, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli Dist. visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 7th February as a part of Study tour. Students learned Sustainable Agricultural technologies.



Smt.S.Premalatha explaining Azolla technology

15 Field staffs from Tirunelveli Dist. Cooperative Milk Producers Union visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 28th February as a part of training programme. Participants learned Azolla technology.



Sir Albert Howard (1873-1947)

"The health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible"

- Albert Howard



Visions of Wisdom



Vertical Drift

Breakdown of village life, and cost inefficiency of agriculture operations. That is in the society's unwillingness to pay for its food and 'life' has expressed itself in horizontal migration from the village to the town. But the breakdown of the town is marked by vertical drift not in space but in mind. Drug, alienation, escapist entertainment, atomization of society, alcoholism, divorce, neurosis, mental breakdown, violence, war, breakdown of the family and community, alienation from nature, alienation from one's own self, total unhappiness and suicide, are the consequences of this migration, alienation and drift.



Fostering Small Scale Alternatives

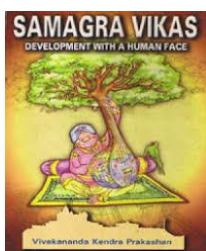
It is absolutely critical to have a different model of development.

The alternatives are to be many and diverse. A smaller scale is critical if we are to adapt to natural systems rather than attempting to manipulate nature and human needs to fit techno-economic structures. Instead of technological hubris, we need to encourage a spiritual communion with all life. The psychological and spiritual vacuum we now try to fill by grasping for material possessions can be eliminated by deeper community ties and the integration of work and leisure and care of the young and old.

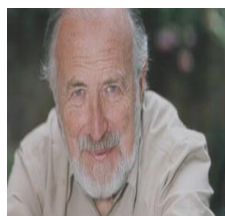


Cyclical Pattern

One of the most outstanding principles of ecology is the cyclical nature of ecological processes. As Fritjof Capra pointed out elsewhere, the present clash between business and nature, between economics and ecology, is mainly due to the fact that nature is cyclical whereas our industrial systems are linear. In order to achieve ecological sustainability, we must fundamentally redesign our businesses and our economy so that they imitate the cyclical patterns observed in nature. Just as the waste from one species are food for other species in an ecosystem, one industry's waste must become another industry's resource in a sustainable business world.



The Extracts from
Samagra Vikas,
Vivekananda Kendra
Prakashan Trust



Edward Goldsmith
Environmentalist,
Writer and
Philosopher



Gunter Pauli
Author of 'The Blue
Economy'