



Snehagram

**Annual Report
2021 -22**

IMPERFECT
BE...

AC



More  into Those Hands...

**"THE POOR AND THE SICK
ARE THE HEART OF GOD.
IN SERVING THEM,
WE SERVE JESUS CHRIST."**

St. Camillus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

The year 2021 – 2022 has been a challenging, yet accomplishing and fulfilling year for Snehagram, which was established in the year 2013 with a view of actualizing a transitional program of children living with HIV towards independent living by training and enabling them to stand on their own feet and live a decent life in the society.

I am really excited to see that Snehagram has partnered with different like-minded personnel and NGOs in raising adolescent children to reach the mainstream of society. This is the right occasion for me to acknowledge and appreciate all those generous people who have stood by

The Trust has achieved several milestones ever since the fellowship programs were initiated by the center. I am overwhelmed to say that the CSR donations from generous companies and NGOs who have partnered with Snehagram in conducting the ongoing fellowship program across the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have enabled 50% of the students to get placements in various companies and different organizations. I would like to place it on record and acknowledge the tireless efforts of the director, administrator, staff, and collaborators of Snehagram who have put in actualizing this dream.

We have a long way to go still. Our dream is big, but resources are limited. It's a strong appeal to all the people who love their children... we have 'fathered' several children who are deprived of their parents and we continue to love and care for them as if each one of them were our only child who needs attention. Together we can create a difference in their lives and change their destiny.

I am grateful to all the benefactors and supporters of Snehagram. I also appreciate our volunteers and well-wishers who have devoted their precious time each year to help us fulfill our mission. I look forward to the future with great enthusiasm, hope, and inspiration.

Bijoy K. George
President, Snehagram Charitable Trust

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Each year we look back at our journey and feel overwhelmed ... Not just for the distance we traveled but for the immense support we have had from everyone whom we met, partners, teachers, children, friends, everyone stood by in all the needs, trusted us, in our works, we are always confident in our services as it always benefits the children directly.

With a simple intention to offer meaningful education, a learning environment that encourages excellence, creating a training place for enhancing one skill and advancing the abilities, creating peer lead model for positive impact on the personal and professional life. Creating a home away from home to help continuous endeavor to be humane, and of successes and failures.

Seeing these children reminds me on Life is really wonderful. It's a whole new experience of wonder, happiness, sorrow, fear, love, and anxiety. Life is beautiful. There is no other way to say it. It's amazing, wonderful, and miraculous. Each day is a gift, and we should take advantage of every moment. There are so many things to enjoy in life: nature, loved ones, friends, music...the list goes on and on. We should savor every experience, good or bad because it all makes us who we are. As it is well quoted "Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful." Let these smiles of children bring beauty to many more lives.

Fr. Sunil Joseph MI
Director, Snehagram

ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK



Smiling is contagious. whether to yourself or to someone else, even a complete stranger. It is important to realize the beauty of a smile. I recently came to Snehagram and these children's smile has be very contagious to me, they make me smile always. Seeing these children smiling stabilizes and makes me feel more in control every day.

It reminds me that, despite the fast pace of life, we must always remember to be happy and appreciate the little things in life. These help us to overcome times of fear, anxiety, and nervousness. Smiling helps us convey a love for others. Sometimes, when no words can be spoken, a smile is all that is needed to fill the air.

A smile is a universal sign of happiness. I believe it is the ultimate connection between all humankind. No matter how big or small, if a smile is genuine it creates an ineffable feeling in the atmosphere. I believe in the power of a smile to make the saddest of circumstances a little better. These children have been smiling and facing their challenges all through their lives. "There is always a reason to smile, you just have to find it"

Fr. Biju Elanjikkal MI
Administrator, Snehagram

SNEHAGRAM

Snehagram, the adolescent phase of the comprehensive care programme by Sneha Charitable Trust (SCT) for the Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), was established in 2013. This programme is a result of SCT's ardent pursuit for an advanced care programme exclusively for CLHIV. This programme which spans across three phases envisages providing comprehensive care by addressing all the issues and needs of children pertaining to each developmental stage and to help them to have an independent living as they reach adulthood.

VISION AND MISSION

Snehagram envisions ensuring the quality of life and future of the orphan and vulnerable children living with and affected by HIV and leading to healthy and productive adulthood by comprehensively addressing their needs on education, health, psycho-social and emotional well-being, vocational training, life skill education and value formation so as to enable them to live a healthy and happy life.

OUR MOTTO: EDUCATE FOR LIFE

OBJECTIVES.

- To create a home away from home for children living with HIV to rebuild their lives
- To encourage children to attain optimum education for building their lives for future
- To ensure the quality of life through comprehensive and holistic care integrated with adequate psychosocial and emotional wellbeing.
- To build self-esteem and confidence through life skill training, guidance, and support.
- To guide and support young adolescents to transition into responsible, healthy, and hope-filled adults.
- To enable the children to develop their skills for securing a job through vocational training based on their aptitude
- To mentor and rehabilitate young adolescents to settle in life.

HISTORY



Snehagram, the second phase was established in 2013 to cater to the needs of children who have been under care at SCH once they reach past the age of 13. A major focus in this phase is to impart vocational skills and prepare them for independent living. In this phase, the children are also provided with the opportunity to complete their academic education at least till the higher secondary level along with life skill education and other health and life enrichment activities.

It is a residential program for boys and girls who are 13 years and above with a focus on vocational training and rehabilitation. It has the facility to offer residential training for 200 children, both boys and girls. Snehagram facilitates a preparatory platform for adolescent CLHIV to face the challenges of life when they reach adulthood. This unique model is evolved to meet the long-term needs of childhood development, adolescent issues, personality development, value development, employment, and community, and family acceptance.

SERVICE DELIVERY



ACADEMIC PROGRAM



Snehagram follows a student-centered academic program. Most of the children lack formal education as they dropped out of school for a considerable time. Hence, the children are facilitated to follow the curriculum of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and take the examination conducted by NIOS at the secondary and higher secondary levels. Participatory and activity-based pedagogy is being followed.

Each class has three or four study groups and their discussions and progress are monitored by the respective teachers. Teacher mentored sessions are followed by group discussions and individual learning.

The three main components of the education program include academics, skilling and leadership training. Classroom sessions provide academic preparation for secondary and higher secondary education under the National Open School Curriculum. Second, the curriculum focuses on holistic learning, with job-oriented classes, vocational trainings and life skills, including basics of computer, language and communication, customer care services, driving, farming, craft-making, tailoring, and embroidery. Third and most important, the curriculum promotes leadership and management skills through a 'child parliamentary system' that democratizes learning and mutual respect, ensures meaningful interaction and bonding among adolescents, and promotes teamwork and leadership. The students of Snehagram are grouped into five; 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th (PUC), and undergraduate. Students' progress is monitored and assessed through comprehensive evaluation conducted in every semester.

From the year 2013 to 2021, 250 students participated in the 'learning for life' curriculum. As of 2021, 80% have completed class 10 and have passed board exams; 50% are pursuing class 12 and 20% are enrolled in graduate degree programs. The students get employment across sectors, such as in hospitality, information and technology, and teaching. Students have gained the confidence to independently manage their expenses and invest their savings for higher education, and also plan their future lives that involve a smooth integration into society. The Academic Year 2022-2023 was officially open on 05/07/2021. All the classes and sessions are conducted within the institution and the subjects are taught by mentors and staff in Snehagram.

Impact

- All the students of 10th and 12 Class registered in NIOS
- All the students are able to complete their 10th as the minimum education.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Many children are involved in different activities and setting their lives to improve their future careers. Some of the programs that are introduced for skill training are:

- Organic Farming
- Dairy Farming
- Chicken Farming (Separate units for broiler and indigenous variety)
- Data Entry (Reporting and Documentation)
- Mango Garden cum plant nursery (To train children in preparing the land, planting, maintenance, pruning, etc.)
- Catering



Impact

- Children have developed self-confidence and many have identified their potential career choices.
- Children have got exposure to different career avenues before them
- Children are interested in learning one independent living skill.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular activities are devised to help children in value formation and life skill training, resilience building and coping, and in preparing them to face challenges in life. Some of the programs that are introduced for co-curricular activities are:

- Sports and games
- Running
- Dance
- Yoga
- Gardening
- Exposure visits
- Creativity Development Programmes
- Monthly Cultural Program



Impact

- Children are able to find out their hidden talents.
- Adolescent children can channel their energy to productive work
- Develops skills and imagination of children.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Leadership Development Programmes

Adolescents living with HIV confront a great challenge in getting transitioned to healthy adult life. Snehagram is meeting this challenge by making every effort for developing leadership skills in them. Some of the activities are as follows.

- Training programmes and workshops
- Developing Peer Leaders among the children to train the children in the communities.
- Life-skill training
- Living Value Education Programmes

The aim of the leadership program is to develop a good balance between different skills that would help become an effective leader i.e. problem solving skills, decision Making, planning, and managing power and influence. The program helps in the ability to convince others with their manner of speech and action, then the possibilities of success are limitless. This creates a platform for an extensive interaction with people and developing essential skills to have an influence over.



Impact

- Children have the ability to make decisions for themselves.
- Children are improving their quality of life
- Increases participants' ability to lead change, improve teamwork, enhance performance and ultimately deliver better results.

CHILD PARLIAMENT

Child parliament is a system of self-governance by children. INSA India, a partner of Snehagram supported in setting up the child parliament system in Snehagram which is actively functioning since 2013 and has become an inspiration to many more organizations working for Children Affected by AIDS (CABA) in the country. Under this system, children select their own parliament; Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister along with ministers for Law, Education, Health, Environment, Sports and opposition leader. Cabinet meetings and parliament meetings are convened regularly and children take an active part in managing and guiding the affairs of Snehagram

HEALTH



Since the beginning of the Snehagram program, we have been following a three-pronged approach in healthcare; preventive, promotive, and curative.

The preventive aspect focuses on preventing our children from infections by keeping them mentally and physically fit through sports, running and exercise which have become a lifestyle itself for our children. These along with a balanced nutritious diet play a pivotal role in preventive healthcare management.

The promotive care aspect of our healthcare is based on the belief that “health is a state of complete mental physical and psychological wellbeing”. The onus is on creating a healthy mind in a healthy body. Children are helped to address the psychosocial issues related to adolescence through individual counseling group counseling and peer counseling. There are well-being groups of children who meet every week and discuss their issues and provide mutual support in dealing with life challenges and in goal setting.

The curative aspect takes care of treatment and drug adherence. All the children, in compliance with the NACO guidelines, are currently on ART (Anti-retroviral Therapy) and some of them are on second line treatment.



Impact

- Minimal cases of hospitalization and Zero viral load
- Decrease in medical expenses, especially drugs for co-infections
- Children have become confident that they can stay healthy with minimal expense for healthcare
- Involvement of sports and nutrition has decreased risk of disease.



PROJECTS

I'mPossible Fellowship

The I'm possible fellowship was launched by Sneha Charitable Trust on 26 January 2021. We started the fellowship with 10 fellows and 4 mentors. The fellowship is built on the four Sustainable Development goals they are Health, Gender, Livelihood and Education. The fellows in I'mpossible Fellowship reach out to 250 children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The students are monitored and supported to lead a healthy life and guided to complete their Education.

Through this fellowship, we are able to bring all the students together and share joy, happiness, learning and give guidance and teach life skills, and take sessions on the 4 STGS through camps.

The community students feel confident that the fellow is there to listen to their needs and help them in their challenges and guide them to the vision they have. Through the fellowship, the fellows have helped the students to focus on their health and supporting them in education and livelihood, and lead a happy life.

Our fellows have been placed in 7 partner institutions. Our fellows have been getting fully involved in the placement areas and supporting the management. I' M possible fellowship is a great platform to reach the students in different community and be connected as one community and stand together to support each other's.



The Positive Running Program

INTRODUCTION

The Positive Running Program is instituted in memory of Rishi Shet, a young teenager who was a champion runner. The program aims to empower children and youth by using athletics as a catalyst to harness their physical abilities and confidence to pursue an active, healthy and holistic lifestyle. It incorporates routine running activities and strength training, ensures appropriate nutrition for children, and supports the acquisition of appropriate training equipment. Attention to good nutrition is paramount, and support for providing daily eggs, fruits, and protein drinks is ensured.

Regular fitness camps are conducted, and participation in running events is encouraged and supported. The program is supported by the Rishi Children's Trust, in collaboration with the team from Johns Hopkins University.



Initiatives

Snehagram, Krishnagiri

Initiated in August 2021

As a flagship site, all 72 Snehagram residents aged 13-17 years participated in the training program. A year later, 42 children have completed their graduation from school and have left the Snehagram campus for employment. The remaining 30 children are continuing the program with enthusiasm, and are active in making Snehagram a hub for training other trainers.



Christy Girls, Kolar

Initiated in March 2022

Physical activity was a new approach, and all 18 HIV-affected girls residing at Christy participated enthusiastically. After the initial assessment, the girls were provided T-shirts, running pants, and shoes. Basic strengthening exercises were introduced initially followed by running short distances of 1 km, as the target was to get everyone to experience the benefit of running. Five months after program initiation, the girls are able to run 5 km without difficulty.



Dayabhavan, Tumkur

Initiated in June 2022

The 25 resident boys aged 13-18 years at Dayabhavan who elected to participate in the training were excited to get their pair of running shoes and gear. Two leaders were selected, and within a few weeks, the zeal for participation was clear. This has been the first time the boys ever ran, and many witnessed the positive impact on their mental health, as well as on their studies. Within 3 months several of them were able to run 5 km without difficulty.



Snehasadaan, Mangalore

Initiated in July 2022

While exercising was a regular activity prior to 2020, COVID-related interruptions were evident. Through the Positive Running Program, physical exercises was restarted by introducing strength training and running as a regular activity. The 32 resident boys aged 10-18 years demonstrated commitment to the training and welcomed running as a regular activity.

Running Events

The essence of the Positive Running Program is to create not winners of the race, but winners for life. The Positive Running Program encourages the children to participate in regional and national running events, to help them achieve greater heights, but at the same time, foster the feeling of family and community.

Ranipet Marathon

Dec 2021

The program participants practiced as a team, competed with themselves, and improved their respective personal best timing. Snehagram participants took everyone by surprise with their impeccable finish and won many awards. The joy and happiness the students experienced were beyond words.



Anadhayana

June 2022

The event, while raising funds for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, was great motivation for many of the program children to participate in the 5K and 10K events.



Bangalore Challenge

July 2022

A challenging route with many steep and gentle slopes, this run reflected life with its inevitable ups and downs. With a ready smile on the children's lips, they began the run and paced forward, and demonstrated their amazing stamina.



Footprints 2022

August 2022

Footprints raised funds for orphans and disadvantaged children across India. This created an opportunity to run for children living in difficult circumstances, it empowers them to harness their physical abilities and confidence and pursue a healthy and holistic lifestyle. Children from different institutions took part in the 5K and 10K events.



CONCLUSION

As of August 31, 2022, a total of 147 children in 4 centers have directly benefitted from participation in the Positive Running Program. The Program has demonstrated how running as a group can have great social benefits. One can gain friends, often for life. The benefits of this program are anticipated to be wide-ranging and long-standing. Running is an activity that can be easily built into one's lifestyle, and can promote healthy living well into adulthood. This program will teach children the value of practice and perseverance, build endurance and self-esteem, foster a sense of well-being, and develop leadership abilities.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Positive Running Program aims to continue reaching as many children in the next year and will continue to provide support as described. The goal over the next 12 months (2022-2023) is to reach 500 HIV-infected, HIV-affected, and other disadvantaged children in Karnataka. During this time, we will initiate monitoring, evaluation, and learning plan to understand the impact of the program on children, youth, and graduates of the Program. We will organize training camps for physical activity blended with values and life skills. By the end of 12 months, we plan to expand this program into other Indian states.

Snehasparsh

HIV Care Initiative: Sustaining Lives Amidst COVID Crises



Karnataka is home to nearly 87,000 HIV-positive households of these nearly 25,000 households are headed by single women. There are nearly 78,000 children in these households, of which 7-8% are infected with HIV. Around 10- 15% of the PLHIVs are young adults and in the age group of 18- 25yrs old. Young adults live with single parents, widowed and deserted mothers, and aged grandparents, who have lost everything, trying to save their HIV-infected sons and daughters.

Hence during the growing up days of the child, poverty, stigma, mother's/grandparent's sickness, extended family separation, etc., have had major impacts. This leads to deprived childhood, malnutrition, lack of access to education, denial of childhood needs, and a supportive environment for growth physically, mentally, and socially. Despite the improved treatment, young adults continue to live with an uncertain future. These young adults also experience multiple losses in their families because of HIV; some may have lost their mother, father, or both parents; others may have lost siblings or members of their extended family. All these experiences create fear and insecurity.

During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the lives of the PLHIVs are very critical. Further, the issues related to the non-availability of employment and regular income, especially for daily wage laborers and women employed in informal sectors are undergoing financial and nutritional crises. Karnataka is one of the six high prevalence states in the country.



Objectives of the Project:

To increase access to health, education, social protection, and sustainable livelihood linkages for adolescents and youth (13-24 years) living with HIV, through a Peer-Leader approach. To prepare adolescents and youth living with HIV to be resilient, responsible adults and lead a healthy and socio-economically productive life. To enable youth living with HIV to successfully initiate a professional career or be linked to employment opportunities, through partnerships with Government and NGO Initiatives.

Key areas of Intervention:

1. Health (SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being)
2. Education (SDG 4 – Quality Education)
3. Livelihood Linkages (SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth)
4. Gender Related Concerns (SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)

It is the seventh month of the project HIV Care Initiative working with HIV-infected adolescents and youth. The project is able to see gradual growth in terms of ART adherence and basic health, the project aimed to have good relations and understanding with local networks, organizations, and training institutions that are willing to collaborate and support youth. The peer lead program has opened up lots of positive space for conversation and sharing, many share their opinions and aims in what they want to develop. The projects are well rooting down in learning the needs of each individual and supporting them accordingly, this month's project reached out to 420 beneficiaries and recorded the communication of 400 youth from three districts.



Snehasparsh: Empowering with Care



Snehasparsh: Empowering with care, a project supported by Thoughtworks has helped us to reach nearly 700 adolescents and youth in the districts of Bangalore, Vijayapura, Kalburgai, Bidar, Bagalkot, and Kolar. Of the 700, 47% were females. Nearly 85% of the individuals contacted have been adherent to treatment, these were followed up and counseled.

The beneficiaries from critical socioeconomic backgrounds were prioritized - among the beneficiaries, only 26.5% have both parents alive and 35% live with single parents, 22.5% with grandparents/ extended family members, and nearly 16% stay in the hostel/ PGs, hence the critical need to reach out arises. The livelihood linkages had been a challenge, due to the COVID impact and moreover,

only 15% have completed graduation or diploma courses, a further 22%, are pursuing 12th and more than 60% were below 10th. Of the cumulative, 19% have requested support to continue studies, and the project is making the needful efforts. But we were able to partner with 10 organizations, that provided support and services during the COVID crisis as well some were supported to get suitable jobs. Peer leaders have grown up to become the primary link between adolescents and youth. They used both their personal experiences and learnings to build their lives and link the beneficiaries to critical services amidst the COVID crisis. Nearly 60% of the beneficiaries were supported with dry ration during the COVID crisis through building partnerships with other donors. Life skill and youth camps were supported and facilitated for more than 200 children, youth and adolescents. Nearly 100 community leaders were identified.

Through our work with HIV-positive adolescents and youth, we believe the best possible way is to work with the community and facilitate them to prioritize the critical factors that impact the major influencers of life. Steadily addressing them will help to solve the concerns and issues of the community, hence the project continues to build on the strengths and leadership and focus on reaching out with quality services.



Magic Bus: Livelihood Training

Sneha Charitable Trust and Magic Bus, entered into a partnership, towards sustaining livelihoods. Established in 1999, Magic Bus India Foundation works with children and young people from underserved communities, taking them from a childhood full of challenges to a life with meaningful livelihoods. They equip young people with the skills and knowledge they need to grow up and move out of poverty. Magic Bus, a youth centered Livelihoods Program connects the aspirations and potential of young people to available market opportunities.

They build employability skills and map job potential based on individual strengths and mobility. In this context, Sneha Charitable Trust has partnered with Magic Bus to address and support the skilling as well as placement issues of children born into HIV-infected families. Currently, 27 young adolescents are enrolled in the virtual training program for 45 days following these along with in-house placement support. Sneha Charitable Trust has assured long-term support to the students, in the completion of the training program, as well as to ensure the sustainability of their lives.



The training was split across 10 weeks where-in each week focused on the critical aspects to facilitate the participants, build their employability skills, and equip them to sustain themselves in the jobs. The training also focused on addressing healthy living practices and facilitated sports and holistic living approaches. The last two weeks focused on interview skills and mock interviews.

The students during the week are introduced to the training program and primarily focused on the process of the training. The sessions addressed 'the concept of Learning to Employment'. A schedule was shared on the critical learning areas, especially focused on - Communication Skills, Life Skills and Computer Skills

Learning are focused on the use of Electronics and computers in work as well as the importance of life skills and communication skills that are critical in Jobs. Focus is given on understanding customer services, especially customer rights, and the importance to treat customers respectfully and politely.

We use systematic communication in our day-to-day life so that communication skills improve, during the work it is important to ensure proper communication and we work to address that skills.

Emotional Management is always a challenge for vulnerable communities, as they face a lot of challenges in their early life. The sessions focused and the importance of managing our emotions in our workplace.

Patience and Resilience are two words, that continue to impact the career, hence it is important, that during our work, we work towards building these two virtues

Financial Management has always been a challenge, when there is money, we spend generously and when we don't have enough, it is important to manage finance effectively, both in our jobs as well as in our working environment.

Being confident and presenting to a company through a good resume, assures job, hence during this week, the focus was on the critical aspects related to Resume building as well as equipping oneself to communicate well.



Transitional Program of Snehagram Children for Independent living



The transitional Program of Snehagram Children for Independent Living is a project designed to train the children at Snehagram, in order to make them skilled in various fields. These trainings are designed to prepare them for the outside world as they move out from the center.

The project mainly focuses on the four significant aspects where children needed support; The primary focus was on the infrastructural development, which consisted of building cluster homes for their accommodation, construction of a cow shed, green shed, poultry farm, and irrigation system for their livelihood.

The second focus was on availing materials and machinery needed for their training; this is concerned with getting the materials for the formation of agriculture, and office management, and for the trainings such as carry bag making, mechanical, hydro phonic, and external electronic training. The third and fourth activities include availing facilities for income generation, which include the aquation of cows, a facility for a milking machine, cattle feed, materials for cultivation, seed and fertilizers, and a freezer van for transportation.



The project requires a longer period for implementation, but so far, we finished the majority of the facilities and have been training our children in various fields of employment. We are happy to see our children living in a home-like environment at cluster homes and being skilled in various areas of income generation. We are looking forward to the completion of the project in the coming year.



EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



Share your Care: My Experience with Food Kit Distribution

It was my first experience distributing the food kit and I was keenly interested in doing it. The recipients of the food kits were the families who have been living with HIV. They lived with their families and I was surprised to realize that they have been leading standard lives as regular families.

All of them hailed from the local area and conversed predominantly in Tamil. The whole event was a unique experience as there were many learnings, especially with regard to HIV and related concerns the day also was observed as World AIDS day. I used the opportunity to converse with some of them and I was happy to meet them and talk to them. It was a memorable day for me filled with lots of new knowledge.

Sunny Smiles Camp

On 6th December 2021, the camp under the banner Sunny Smiles (SS) began. The main objective of the camp was to bring forth relaxation and entertainment to the students in Snehagram as they were all exhausted after their semester exams. It was 6 days camp, and each day was focused on different themes namely, environment, sports, arts, creativity, fun, and knowledge.



Everyone had been keenly preparing for this special camp. The first day's topic was the environment and all the activities were related to nature and the environment. It was amazing to see the students come up with very creative and innovative ideas. The following day we focused on creativity.

It was interesting to see numerous creative ways of expression of art as every team made different and unique presentations. The third day was focused on Knowledge. We can always use knowledge as a powerful tool in our lives. There is a number of ways a person can acquire knowledge and information. The major goal of this session was about learning from the books and acquisition of study skills through various fun-filled activities. The teams were very well prepared with their speeches on the topic of the life of a student. The following day we focused on art, and the teams tirelessly put their efforts to bring out the best in them. The day was filled with creative activities and the most amusing and entertaining event was fancy dress camp Sunny Smile came to an end bringing bright smiles as the name suggests to the faces of every student. It was truly reinvigorating and fruitful on many levels.

Interaction with John Hopkins Team

It was a meeting with our benefactors and supporters, as they were here to evaluate and support the “I’m possible” fellowship. We had Dr.Anita, Dr.Arun, Dr.Aastha khan from John Hopkins, and Ms. Paromita a photographer who was interested in the stories of the children. The meeting focused on four important topics such as health, education, livelihood, and sports.



Each of the mentors explained their roles and the different pieces of training that they went through. The fellows shared their experiences during their placements and their roles at the institutions. The question and answer session did enlighten and educate many of us and the doctors appreciated the efforts of the mentors and fellows. The doctors met a few of the mentors and fellows and there was a meaningful interaction between them. We were happy that the feedback we received was positive. This will help us reach out to many infected and affected children and support them in their health, education, and livelihood.



Diwali: Festival of Lights Celebrated

Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals in the country. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. We always celebrate this beautiful festival in Snehagram. I was so excited this year to celebrate Diwali. I was really happy when I heard that Obbattu (obbattu is an Indian sweet flatbread that originates from Gujarat, Maharashtra, and southern India) was part of the dishes as it is one of my favorites.

I love the display of fireworks though I always dread lighting them. It was disappointing to hear that Snehagram does not promote fireworks as it can create pollution. I learned that staying away from fireworks will surely save the environment and me and the future generation. I took delight in looking at the campus and the surroundings as they were beautifully lit with different lights.

Fitness Training for Runners

A three-day fitness training was organized for selected children to be the lead trainers at their respective institutions. The major objective was to learn basic exercises which can help maintain fitness and good health. This was a great way to bring everyone together, and motivate them to learn so that they can become trainers themselves. This is a peer-led model to reach out to the maximum number of children and help everyone maintain good health through running and exercise.



Snehasparsh Meetup Arranged

The main objective of the meeting was to gather all the students who were in Snehagram and are currently engaged in different jobs. There were 20 of them who joined the meeting. Discussions and sharing followed next on adherence and COVID-19. It was very informative to learn the difficulties that people faced during the pandemic primarily getting their medicines and adhering to them.



A few of the challenges raised in the discussion were addressed by the peers with the help of Dr. Michael and Fr. Joy. The meeting decided to organize a regular health checkup in order to make sure that any health-related issues need to be given priority at the earliest. The fitness issue was also addressed; many of the students who were very active in sports and maintaining fitness had now lost it completely due to the pressures of work and other tasks. A short 10 minutes fitness workout was designed with the help of Ms. Devika. We wrapped up the meeting with lunch. All the participants were excited about the next meetup.



Partners Meeting with Magic Bus

On March 4, the Magic Bus team invited Snehagram for the partner's meeting in Attibele. Fr. Teji Thomas, Director, Dr. Michael, the Technical Officer, and Mr. Babu joined the meeting. Many HR personnel from different firms had come and it was a wonderful ceremony.

Many companies received awards and recognitions for their contribution to Magic Bus. Snehagram received recognition as an emerging company and it was an honor to receive the award from the city manager. We got to meet many like-minded people and it is in reality a good place to create job opportunities for our children at Snehagram and those in the community.

Women's Day Celebration Organized

This day was very special for all the girls at Snehagram as it was women's day. We dedicated the day to all the women and a free run was organized. Many students took part in the long-distance runs and many completed 13 -15km of run. The experience of running long distances was fairly hard because several of us tried it after a long time.

Later that day many experienced aches and pains in their muscles but we were moved by the words of Prakash; as he said "this pain is nothing compared to the pains the women face every day in society". It was amazing as all the boys prepared a card for the girls in Snehagram with their names on it; boys gave the cards and wished all the girls here in Snehagram. Every girl while receiving the card looked happy and pleased. It was indeed a happy day to celebrate and we owe our respect to all the women for their contribution to society.

Bangalore International Hubba

This BIC's vision was framed by a group of like-minded civic leaders, educators, professionals, government officials, artists, academics, and thinkers, who felt that Bengaluru deserved an institution that encouraged the intellect, facilitated open dialogue, and stimulated the senses. This *Hubba* was to bring together like-minded NGOs and create space for promotion and be able to raise funds.



We posted our pictures, and banners and displayed reports of videos on television. We tried making it more interesting and thought-provoking. We also had candles for sale, and it was one of the centers of attraction at the event. There were more than 80 other NGOs who had set up their counters as well. It was a unique experience for every one of us as it gave us an opportunity for us to explain and promote our activities. Many came forward to learn about our NGO and quite a few bought the candles. This hubba is a great initiative as it gives the opportunity to display our work and relate to many others.

Attending Job Interviews

After the magic bus training, the trainees were sent to attend various interviews to get selected and placed for a job.

I was just revising how tensed and worried I was for the past minutes. When I heard that three of them were not selected because we were just 18 and they said only people from the age of 19 were allowed to work in that company.

I was a bit worried when they said that I should wait for some time. When two of my friends were selected for a job, I was frustrated and had no patience to wait, I was waiting for my turn for the interview, When I and my other friends were leaving the place, I was happy because I was selected for the job.

Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day is very special to each child as it brings them joy and it fills them with excitement. In the midst of the exams, the children in Snehagram wondered if they would be celebrating this special day. The day started with prayers and thanks-giving as one family. It followed fun-filled activities and some of them were such as drawing, essays, poems, and story writing.



The best efforts were appreciated and rewarded. The group activities thereafter were some of the most loved games. There was a healthy competition between the teams and finally, the team named Rudra won the competition. In the evening we had Cricket Match, which was a family game where all gathered together and took pleasure playing and watching the game. As we drew close to the day, we were grateful for the wonderful day with lots of beautiful moments and memories to cherish.

Interaction with Dr. J. Philip, Principal Founder, XIME & Chairman,

Xavier Institute of Management and Education is a premier management institution in Bangalore, which imparts quality management education. XIME completed 28 years of glorious service to the Nation.



The story of XIME's journey is also one of sheer determination and grit. It has come to symbolize the resilience of our founders, rising as it has done from its humble beginning to a world-class Institution with fully residential campuses in Bangalore, Kochi, and Chennai. It was an honour to meet and get connected with XIME and hope this will open many more doors.

Field Visit to Nagpur

In this space, the engaging education leaders get the first-hand experience of creating effective, engaging, and inclusive learning experiences, working in the present school system, especially in low-income communities, and understand the challenges to create such learning experiences. Also, they are able to identify and explore their role in the larger movement and identify and develop a set of skills and mindsets that are required for their role.



In our observation, we experienced that the children were quite enthusiastic after going to school, and getting themselves enrolled, every child we met, was self-aware, equipped to pursue their passion and lead a successful and happy life

Seva Café @ Snehagram

It has been my experience that when you're focused on giving others you're less likely to become consumed by your own concerns and challenges. Giving provides an opportunity to look beyond our own world and see the bigger picture. This statement lies true with the Seva Café team; they come down to Snehagram only with the intention of giving, the team cooked breakfast and lunch.



Students were so delighted to taste some scrumptious dishes that were prepared, it was indeed finger licking. I learned that giving is one of the best investments you can make towards achieving genuine happiness. True giving comes from the heart, with no expectation of reciprocation. You'll find that the more you give, the more you'll receive.

International Aids Conference

AIDS 2022, the 24th International AIDS Conference, called on the world to come together to re-engage and follow science. It sought to define future research agendas, shift the latest evidence to action, and chart a new consensus on overcoming the HIV epidemic as a threat to public health and individual well-being.

Four abstracts were submitted to the conference: 1) The impact of a structured physical activity program on health outcomes amongst children and adolescents living with HIV in South India 2) Learn for life: Enhancing lives of Children living with HIV 3) HIV-Positive Widow headed household: A peer-led program in Southern India 4) Empowering HIV-positive adolescents with education, 'Of the youth, by the youth, for the youth': a peer-led model for building resilience among youth living with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were very excited to have three of our abstracts selected to be presented at the conference in Montreal, Canada on July 28th, 2022. We saw this an opportunity that would build leaders and role models, it is amazing to see HIV- positive students standing out and using their voice to spread the message of hope.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Fr Sunil Joseph	Director
2	Fr Biju	Administrator
3	Ms. Reni	Counselor & CWC Officer
4	Mr. Prabakaran	Security Officer
5	Mrs Nirmala	Cook
6	Ms. Nirmala	Warden
7	Mr. Kalesh	Academic Co-ordinator
8	Mr. Lakshmikanth	Warden
9	Mr. Babu	Technical Officer
10	Mr. Sridhar	Teacher
11	Mr. Ramu	Teacher
12	Mr. Prashanth	Teacher

EXPERIENCES & CASE STUDIES

Getting through it...



It seems interesting to pen a few lines on my experience during my annual exams. I was appearing for my 10th-grade board exam. I read a lot on the previous night of the examination day. I revised my entire course. As the first bell rang, I had already started answering the questions. My hands started shivering initially but became steady gradually. Attention was diverted often to others. I was instead able to answer all the questions; I was happy with my performance until I came out and started discussing the answers with my friends.

They started discussing the answers, they had written to various questions and a small debate began, fighting to claim their answers were correct, many clarified by looking into the textbooks. Seeing and hearing this bothered me a lot in my answers. The happiness started fading away slowly and I started getting tense. I was now really worried about my marks. This interesting and unique experience shall always be remembered and recollected by me in my life.

Arun

Love and Compassion

Snehagram is a place of love and compassion. As a social work trainee, the internship at Snehagram was a fantastic experience that provided me with numerous learning opportunities that will be highly beneficial in the future. This was taught to me by Snehagram. The people there are fantastic; they did not interfere with our activities and cheerfully assisted us with our tasks. The most important thing to obtain is opportunities. Snehagram is a place where we can understand that we have fewer problems around us and are finding difficulties there.



In Snehagram, we saw that the difficulties we are going through are nothing. The trainees obtained significant insight into how a social work institution in a medical setting should operate, as well as the opportunity to remain and interact with HIV-positive youngsters. Within the constraints, the trainees could take advantage of possibilities and contribute everything to their fieldwork. Throughout the placement period, the trainees received continual assistance and direction from the agency's director, administrator, agency supervisor, and other mentors.

Sneha





Life is Hard

He has not seen his father because he lost him at a very young age, due to drinking and major health issues. At present, his mother is taking care of him and his brother. Muniyappan was heartbroken when he disclosed HIV. The most painful moment was, that even his brother and mother too were HIV positive. He thought that he lost everything and he stopped mingling with friends and he always stayed alone.

He started going to work and taking care of the family and even he was going to school. But his school life didn't last long. He dropped out of school after the 10th due to financial problems. Being a single parent, it was difficult to take care of two boys. But his mother was great support for him and for his brother. He was afraid to touch or play with children fearing that he would be contagious and to be around people he was hesitating. He looked down at his family. As he was given counseling and supported in his emotional management, he started to live with a positive mindset and to live life like anyone. His dream is to get a good job and get married and aims to be supportive of his mother.

Life is always beautiful

She lost her father at the age of one. She sees herself as unlucky as she received no father's love as every girl wishes. She had faced a lot of obstacles from a very young child. Her status was disclosed when she fell ill and was admitted to the hospital. Her mother was worried about her future as she had one more son to take care of. All the relatives discriminated against her mother every time they see her around. She says that her happiness never stayed longer.



She thinks that she can't live like a normal person like everyone and worries about people and how they would treat her. She completed her 2nd PUC with all the obstacles. She was given counseling and was filled with a lot of hope and courage. She started to take care of her health and began to help her mother with household work. Her dream and wish are to complete her studies and get a job, and take care of her mother and brother. She wants to spread positive thoughts to others and be a role model. To live a happy and healthy life.



COLLABORATIONS & ALLIANCES

- INSA India - Child parliament and developing child protection policy
- St. Johns Medical College –ART and Tertiary Healthcare
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health - ART and Tertiary Healthcare
- Attitude Prime Impact – Physical training, Fitness, and motivation
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes – Counselling, and guidance for girls
- Runners High - Sports and running training
- Rishi Children’s Trust – Fitness, running training, nutritional support
- SOS – supporting and guidance for mentors of fellowship
- Magic Bus – Livelihood training



"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier".



Snehagram Camillians

A Unit of SCT

Nachikuppam Post, Veppanapalli, Krishnagiri Dist.

Tamilnadu. Pin: 635121

Tel: +9448058060 +9449524530 +9385822437

Email: snehagram@gmail.com

website: www.snehagram.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/snehagram.camillians

Instagram: [snehagram_camillians](https://www.instagram.com/snehagram_camillians)



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