

# SNEHAVAANI



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## Director Speaks



This issue of Snehavani begins with the Closure of the Academic year 2019-2020 and begins with the summer season. The students have been in a mood of serious preparations for the exams and looking forward the holidays that they can be free from the daily routines and have some difference at home or with relatives.

The last item of our calendar, 'Snehagram Run' offered us an enthusiastic and meaningful conclusion. As we were blessed with a gentle summer season we were puzzled by the arrival of COVID-19 and the lockdown. The departure of Mr. Subin Varghese for his new job at home town, a staff who served Snehagram and Sneha Charitable Trust for the last 10 years taught us that change and separation are inevitable and imperative.

Though holidays were with lockdown, the students were able to make good use of the time and were ready for the opening of the new Academic Year 2020-2021. Unlike the regular NIOS Classes we had to design different topics to help going with some learning. The new school year commenced with a special week of fun and creativity that included items like sports, arts, creativity and so on.

Converting an unused structure into a simple and beautiful facility of gathering called 'Shanti Illam' happened to be an innovative outcome of the lockdown. The good weather in the campus and presence of students brought out a wonderful harvest of vegetables and fruits and it helps us to know the future possibility of farming. The onset of COVID -19 apparently cast shadow on the future financial support but God's providence was very clear as 'Learn for Life Foundation' one of our best supporters came in with donations to meet the expense of coming few months. It underlines the assurance St. Camillus our founder received from the Lord that "it is not your Work but mine, go ahead".

I thank God and all those support and encourage us in this noble work and wish our students all the best and God's blessings!

**Fr. Johnson V. Varghese MI**

## Beginning Of Summer

By Prashanth

All through the year, our region is having warm weather. March to June is extremely hot. The plants are looking stunt waiting for the summer rains. We have to wait some more time to feel freshness of the first summer rain. To our surprise the weather was not as it used to be every year. It was rather cloudy at the same time windy. We were blessed with enough showers to keep the nature cool and moisture throughout the summer season. We hardly had to worry about watering but we had to worry about clearing the wild weeds and bushes.



## Closure of Academic Year 2019-20



By Bharathi

The academic Year 2019-20 was officially closed in the first week of March 2019. Students are on study leave where they spend most of the time in personal studies and preparations for the exams. Students of 11th standard who have no exams are packing their baggage for their summer holidays. The other students toil hard revising the lessons for a better performance in the annual exams. Students were waiting to write the exams and show their talents by getting the best marks in the exams.

## Snehagram Run

By Ramu

We run, therefore we live. That's the motto of Snehagram. On 15 March 2020, we had Snehagram 5k run organized, it was an internal 5k run as we didn't expect many outsiders to join for the run. We enjoyed the presence of Mr.Muali and his wife for the run. The race had a kick start and all the fast runners raised the dust in the beginning ran to beat their best timing. Nobody was left behind even the staff joined the race and made it even colourful. The sun was shining bright giving a pleasant weather to the runners. There were water stations and medical help to meet any emergency situation. One after the other rushed to the finish line beating their best timing. It was a day to be added on to our memories.



## Spandan Program with Christ University, Bangalore

By Naina Rao

Working for Snehagram under the flag of Project Spandan, launched by the Department of Psychology, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), has been one of the most enriching experiences for both of us as project heads. We had initial apprehensions about how much we'll be able to impact the lives of students at Snehagram but the lovely visits and our interaction with the students left us with no doubt that this project was worth all the effort!

Our visits have been a rich source of knowledge to us. We feel we have learnt so much more from the students than what we've taught them. Their discipline, punctuality, positivity and resilience are just some of the many things that we've learnt from them. Our conversations with the students, the highly interactive life skill sessions, the meals that we had with them, the football games that we enjoyed together and the academic learning and teaching experiences are some instances that have transformed us internally. In fact, we look forward to our visits every month as it brings us great joy and lights up our weekend with satisfaction as well as recreation. Children at Snehagram are high achievers! No one can deny this after seeing the many laurels they've earned for themselves and for the organisation. Babu, for instance, inspires all of us in the team! Every conversation with him charges us up with the will to achieve big in life. The fact that he clearly knows what he wants in his future at such a young age is truly admirable.

## Summer Rains

By Veeresh

Summer heat was mild and moderate compared to previous years. We received good spell of showers over the period of 10 days gaps. Rain cooled down temperature, and plants and grass turned to be lush green. Life and colours are back to the campus. It was a ray of hope in the dryness of Lockdown.



## Farewell to Mr. Subin

By Akhila

Right from the beginning of Snehagram, Subin also started his journey with us being part of us in everything. He played an important role in accompanying our students to various places for multiple reasons. Lastly, he was serving as warden of boys, purchase manager, and maintenance in charge. We sincerely thank Subin for his selfless service to the institute.





## Being a leader

By Lakshmikanth

I am Lakshmikanth Reddy doing B.Com third year. Subin sir was the warden for the boys and as days came he had to leave for good. Later, I was asked to be the assistant warden for the boys with the help of Abi sir. I started taking up the roles and responsibility. For me it was not tough to take it up because when Subin sir was there I was already doing some of it. I was asked to guide the morning duty and make sure all students do their duty properly. I was also asked to supervise cleaning and maintenance of guest houses. I was also doing head count in the hostel before locking the door of the hostel, and opening the doors in the morning at 6 a.m. It was a good experience to take up such little lead roles in the house. I was happy to guide the juniors in small ways I could. Few challenges are that I have to get up early and open the door before they get up, and to take the head count before going to sleep. I am doing it without any issues and happy to continue with it. Hoping always for the best and to have many learning and, I believe this will help me in the future to find a job in the same line. Thank you all the staff and my friends for helping me to take up this responsibility.

## Opening of Academic Year 2020-21



By Sahana

As the formal school system remains closed due to lockdown, we commenced our school, as scheduled, on 1st June. Challenging situation makes human beings creative and engaged. After the cancellation of the NIOS annual exams, we had to plan class out of the bookish knowledge. The students personally were the happiest at the cancellation of the exams as they need not write the exam. But after the result were published few of the students regrets of not writing the exams as they hoped to get higher marks if written the exams. On the other hand the students who had no hope of getting through the exams this year were the happiest. Though no formal classes in 10th and 12th, regular classes are conducted on various topics for all the students. This makes them engaged and interested in learning new things.



## Fun and Creativity Week

By Sukesh

The second week of July was highly productive and creative loaded with energetic activities to break the routine schedule and bring in a mood of celebration. Since the lockdown, this was the first planned camp that we conducted for the students because even the students experienced the heaviness of COVID 19, though not directly. Nothing seemed normal for us, because many of us could not go home in time and exams were postponed and everything was at halt.



We had all possible activities to unearth the best in each student and to break monotony of daily routine. The week was planned like: sports day, arts day, environment day, GK day, creative day and cultural day, and to close the week with a small celebration to commemorate 7th anniversary of Snehagram.

All students seemed so proactive and energetic throughout the week and we could see how they were also using this time to get rid of boredom. We had so many surprises also by the students because students who were always hesitant to participate also came forward to make the best of this time. That was the best part of the whole week.



All the activities were done using the available resources of the campus. Activities were also planned in such manner which needs only natural resources that we have in the campus. It was enriching experience to watch students getting involved with such high level of energy and sportsman spirit.

They managed to do everything with the available resources. Just to give an example we had a competition to make Rangoli using only grass. The organizers were amazed to see that the students brought even the rarest weed to make a beautiful Rangoli. One more thing was the Mehndi (henna) competition in which even boys had to participate. For boys, it was the first experience, and literally they enjoyed it. Several of such small activities brought the best out of students.



Overall, the whole week was a spectacular event. We were really happy to see many students involving fully in the activities. The activities were all conducted in groups and points were given for each activity. Prizes were also planned for the winning team which was one of the motivating factors of active participation.



## Birthday of Fr. Johnson & Annual Day

By Arpan

7th anniversary of Snehagram and birthday of Fr. Johnson, Director, was celebrated on 21st July 2020. There was no organized program nor invited any guest due to the pandemic. It was for the first time in the history of Snehagram where there were no quests for the anniversary of Snehagram. The day was spent as a family time, meaningfully interacting with one another.



## Shanti illam

By Harish

On the 21st of July, Shanti Illam was opened and inaugurated. It is a Village type hut built with stone pillars and tiles. The ambience is serene and heavenly amidst the bosom of nature at the bank of pond. Chirping of birds and crackling of trees are freely available in this spot. It's an ideal place for meditation and relaxation. Thanks to the Nature.



## What a Harvest!

By Chandru

Plant today to harvest tomorrow. We feel this quote really stands true in our context especially this time where everyone feels the pinch. This year all plants produced their best and kept us less worried about going out in search of veggies and fruits. The seasonal fruits like mango, guava, jammun, chikku, and papaya were in abundance for our personal use, and also supplied generously to nearby villages.



## Farming Again...

By Kalesh

Tractor rolled on again over the wet red mud of the campus to prepare ground for the next season of organic farming. Received good amount of rains compared to previous years in summer which made tilling and preparation of ground easy. In June we started preparing the ground for cultivation, and our main objective was not to break the cycle of the harvest, so that we don't lack vegetables in our kitchen. We plant and grow vegetables which we need for our use. We planted tomato, chilly, radish, beetroot, cucumber, spinach, bitter gourd, rich gourd, bottle gourd and ladies finger in small quantity which will be enough for us. Consuming organic vegetables keep us healthy. Last year we were running an organic vegetables stall near our bus stop so that the villagers get to know the importance of growing and consuming organic veggies, but this year we couldn't achieve this due to COVID -19 outbreak.



## Solar Drying Unit

By Amar

In March 2020 we launched a new solar food drying unit. Three solar drying units were bought and installed in the campus near kitchen. It was an amazing plan because we in Snehagram have excess harvest most of the seasons, having this system it was easier to preserve the vegetable and fruits for the future. Drying tomatoes, mangoes, gourds helped us to not to waste the harvested crop and to make use of them effectively for the future. It is again a wonderful project as there is zero energy waste as it runs on solar power to dry food. It is also labour free project as there is no need of much man power.





## Impact of Covid-19 on HIV

By Dr. Mical Babu Raj

**COVID-19 and people living with HIV:** COVID-19 is a serious disease and people living with HIV are vulnerable to the infection, due to low immunity. While it is important to ensure effective access to HIV drugs to keep themselves healthy, it is also important that they don't become infected and have all the services/ facilities to address the challenges that the situation presents.



- Timely linkage to HIV care could be hindered during the COVID-19 pandemic. People living with HIV who should have initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) in hospital might be deterred or delayed because hospitals are busy treating patients with COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 pandemic might also hinder ART continuation. Hospital visits could be restricted because of implementation of city lockdowns or traffic controls. People living with HIV who are faced with ART discontinuation not only could undergo physical health deterioration but also might suffer great psychological pressure.
- Impact on the Nutritional and daily needs, due to lack of savings the community is dependent on the Government schemes or local donors.



## COVID-19 Response by Champion In Me

By Mr. Elvis Joseph

Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation with its long-standing partnership with Sneha Charitable Trust (Snehadaan&Snehagram) has made Sports & Healthy Lifestyle as a fundamental goal to build the lives of CLHIV



Champion In me has built a life-long positive effects on CLHIV, it has not only developed important social skills but strong character & values as well. In this journey they have celebrated success but above all learned to accept failures gracefully. This in turn has built immense resilience & confidence in them.

Throughout history, crises of different forms have challenged humanity. In an increasingly interconnected world, crises throw up profound questions for us all as individuals, communities, organizations, societies, nations, and as human race. From climate change to religious polarization, from HIV/AIDS to refugee crisis to COVID-19, humanity is being challenged as never before.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has crippled the state and Nation. Children and youth living with HIV need to be protected and provided with all recommended preventive measures to minimize exposure to the virus and combat infections that may compromise the immune system.



## Hearty Welcome to Bro. Absalin



Brother Absalin joined the community on 23rd July as regent. Snehagram wishes him a fruitful and meaningful regency time.





Br. Absalin

## Credits

**Director Speaks:** Fr Johnson Varghese MI

**Editing:** Fr Joy Inchody MI

**Writings :** Snehagram students

**Word Correction:** Jincy Johny

**Design:** Babu