

IMPRESSIONS OF SEB'S PROJECTS

Linda and I were privileged to stay with Emma Koshi for a few days in March 2019 and have the opportunity to see the work being carried out by Seb's Project which we have supported over the years.

A major goal of the work is providing children with life chances that otherwise would not have been available.

We met with primary school children from tribal communities in their schools in remote villages being taught by teachers from the very same communities. These teachers understood the parents' wishes and concerns for their children and their futures, and could win their confidence and agreement to the children's enrolment in school. The children clearly felt safe and happy in school whilst their parents were working in the fields, enabling them to engage in learning.

We learnt how the authorities had originally viewed educating tribal children to be challenging a task, but that Seb's Project's success in establishing several schools in remote tribal areas had eventually won government support. One example of the government's current commitment was its sponsorship of a trip for these children, for many of them their first visit to a town like Vellore.

Here the children visited the Science Museum and the Vellore Museum. It was inspiring days later to hear from the children what they had found most interesting about the journey which had contributed to the continuing process of seeking to widen their horizons and hopes for the future.



At the other end of this process we also met with three very impressive young men, originally from very disadvantaged circumstances, whose education had been fostered through school to college with the assistance of Seb's Project.

One V is now a mechanical engineer about to travel to China on behalf of his company. Another M is a civil engineer now employed in building schools locally. A third P is a skilled air conditioning mechanic. S,C and S are girls doing their NURSING at MA.Chithambaram college in Chennai.



These young men and women spontaneously spoke of how the encouragement and practical support from Seb's Project had literally been **"life changing" for them, in one of their words "making me the person I am today"**.

Linda Farley and Patrick Bentley

