



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 16

Our vision is to reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable lives in India and light them, one at a time.



Having impacted the lives of numerous people in the past eight years, Seb's Projects India continues to work in rural communities and in twenty three tribal villages, with women, among the youth and children. We reach out to the rural poor and marginalised, and strive to provide equal access to education, basic health and livelihoods for all. Education and sports, skill training and job placements and income generation programs together enable them to make better choices for improved quality of life.

Seb's Projects India is part of a greater network bringing change by actively engaging with individuals, society and government for effective changes through innovative approaches.



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FOREWORD

*The Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust and Seb's Projects India
presents its Annual Report for 2016-17*

It has been an interesting and challenging journey and this report is a testament to Seb's Projects' expanding footprint across the Jawadhi Hills and rural communities in Vellore District. Though the challenges seem formidable the Seb's team firmly believes that effective, practical solutions exist.

Through our Education, Health and Livelihood programmes we have touched many lives and opened many windows of opportunity to people / communities who are otherwise discriminated against, whose rights are denied and who have no access to many of the government schemes. Social exclusion has restricted communities' choice to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Seb's is about giving them a voice and making their voices heard.

*Anna Hunter
Trustee Director
SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL TRUST*

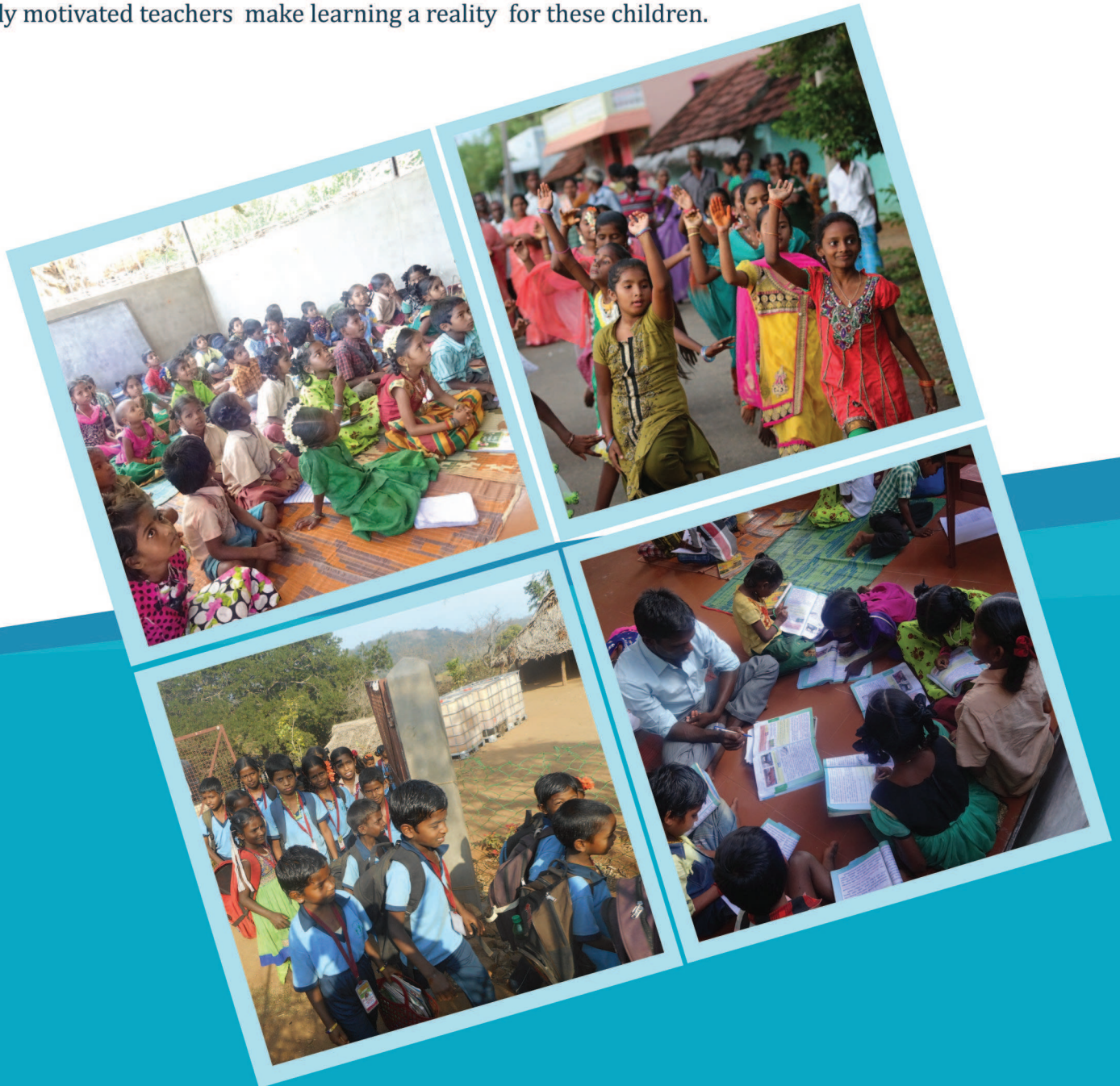
*Emma Koshi
Director
SEB'S PROJECTS INDIA*



EDUCATION

According to the constitution of India, the government is to provide free and compulsory education to all children below 14 years. 'Education for All' is a historic step taken by the Government of India by enforcing 'The Right to Education Act', which brings the country closer to achieving the objectives and mission of the Millennium Development Goals. The Seb's Education programme is part of the global initiative to bring children who are vulnerable to migration, child labour and illiteracy to a place of freedom and dignity, a place of learning and sharing, a place of wholeness and development.

Seb's educational initiatives vary from running pre-schools to primary and middle schools. They have enabled children from the tribal communities to have easy access to education and open windows of opportunities for their future. Children follow the state government syllabus and appear for exams. Regular monitoring and supervision and home visits along with dedicated, highly motivated teachers make learning a reality for these children.



Highlights

- *Today every child of school-going age in the tribal villages we are working in attends a Seb's school, reaching out to 290 students*
- *71 children between the ages of 2 and 4 attend the Balwadi/child care centres, and nine of the little ones have been enrolled in Std.1 in Seb's school.*
- *110 children have graduated to middle/high and higher secondary levels.*
- *43 students have been enrolled in the new tribal primary school at Thaniyamarathur*
- *We started a tribal school with 40 students in Panangkateri.*
- *All students are provided with textbooks and notebooks. This has significantly improved the teaching and participation of children in the classroom activities.*
- *The performance of Seb's School students was rated far above the level of the state government schools in Tamil Nadu based on the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)*
- *Over 250 children participated in a week long summer camp which was held in all of the school villages. This was time for fun and creative activities.*
- *The improvement in school attendance has resulted in fewer children being forced to work and being trafficked.*
- *The schools have brought communities together to discuss and address other community issues that affect their lives.*



When Vennila was born, her father was involved in illegal tree logging to earn a living. He was shot and killed by forest officials in a violent encounter.



Her widowed mother had to send away Vennila's two older siblings to work in the neighbouring states as daily wage labourers. Today, Vennila is 8 years old and a star student in year 3 at the Thaniyamarthur school. Her siblings are now back in the village, much to the delight of her mother.

SPORTS

Sports continues to be a huge attraction in our tribal schools and sufficient sports materials are made available in all our schools. Each community has greatly appreciated and benefited from the sports education. The Seb's Interschool Annual Sports Meet was organized, in which 290 children from seven different villages performed a mass drill, a march past, tournaments and athletic events, cheered on by community members. It also made each of our schools situated in remote areas feel a sense of oneness and belonging in being part of Seb's School in the Jawadhi Hills.

Highlights

- *The sports programme encourages children to attend school regularly.*
- *Initially sports in tribal communities were rough and tough. Today children play games understanding the rules of the game in the true spirit of sportsmanship.*



HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Every tribal child that graduates from Seb's school is supported and mentored through secondary school and into college through our scholarship program. Tie-ups with philanthropists have enabled young girls and boys to fulfil their dreams of higher education through the Seb's scholarship program. Students belong to economically weaker sections of society, whose families are largely illiterate and usually have only one earning member.

Highlights

- *110 students have support for middle and high school education.*
- *Five young women are pursuing a nursing course.*
- *Seven students were supported for their higher education in college and two of them are pursuing engineering courses.*



HEALTH

Health is invariably a neglected issue amongst the tribal communities in the Jawadhi Hills. They live in poor hygienic conditions, have poor nutrition and cultivate unhealthy practices, all of which makes them susceptible to various health conditions. An improvement in the health status has been effected in all twenty hamlets where Seb's has a presence in Jawadhi Hills.

The first step in addressing health needs was to help improve the health-seeking behaviour of individuals and the community as a whole. Less than 20% of children were fully immunized and 67% were found to be malnourished. Our major focus is on the mother and child care program, which is an integration of health, nutrition and development that addresses the needs of pregnant women and children upto 5 years of age. It is a "continuum care" for the holistic development of child early before birth.

The pre-school programme runs on a health-based approach. Access to the mobile medical unit, periodic medical camps and follow-ups have helped raise awareness and eased accessibility of health services. For immediate response, health workers from the community have been trained every quarter and their capacities built to address health issues.

As part of the health project we have initiated a water and sanitation project as a requisite in providing good health to all.



Highlights

- Around 180 children were administered with polio drops.
- Catchup immunisation given to 38 children below the age of 10 .
- For the first time, a special programme was organised in the village where 26 pregnant women registered for ante-natal care from the government.
- Improvement in the health seeking behaviour of tribal communities resulting in six women having institutional deliveries and new born babies registered for immunization.
- The district health department facilitated in issuing birth certificates for new born babies delivered in the Jawadhi Hills.
- Around 247 children were given de-worming tablets and awareness was created in the school and community on healthy living. All the school children now regularly wear footwear to school to protect themselves from infections..
- The district health department distributes vitamin and iron supplements for adolescent girls.
- Micronutrient supplements were distributed to 78 lactating mothers and 42 pregnant women in the tribal villages.
- 2 child care centers (balwadis) were inaugurated with 71 children between 3-5 years for early child care and development.
- A hot nutritious meal is provided for all the 290 Seb's school children.167 children below 5 years are given noon meals and nutrition supplements.
- Periodic monitoring of height and weight measurments were taken for pre-school and Seb's school children.
- For the first time 38 water points were tested and issues with contamination are being addressed. Safe drinking water has been made available in 70 percent of our school communities.



LIVELIHOOD

In the tribal project areas, land, water, livestock and forest remain the main source of livelihood. Most families depend on seasonal agriculture and the forest as a source of income. Over the years, the deteriorating forest and the implementation of forest protection laws have adversely impacted these activities, resulting in decreased income for the local communities.

Interstate and intrastate migration of labour has become a common practice to earn a livelihood. Seasonal migration is a common phenomenon. In such situations, it has become crucial for the tribal population to diversify their avenues of income, which will provide livelihood opportunities outside traditional farming. Seb's has promoted home-based microenterprises such as poultry-rearing, soap-making, tailoring and Eco-trails.

The Goodbye to Paper project empowers destitute women to earn a living with dignity and self-confidence. This has enabled them to educate their children and aspire for a better life.



Highlights

- *Two women's self-help groups from different villages produce soaps and their personal hygiene has improved with the use of soap.*
- *Zaila soaps have been marketed across the country through TRIFED.*
- *Eggs from the poultry-rearing project are supplied to the schools for the noon meal, generating a steady income.*
- *The income of women in the sustainable livelihood program has substantially improved resulting in each member having a savings bank account and supporting their children through education.*



Baby studied up to 9th standard, and then discontinued her education after her mother's death. Her father is handicapped. She became a rag-picker to earn a living and sustain her family. She was deserted by her husband and lived with no support. Seb's intervened and supported Baby to undergo three months of ironing training. She completed her training and now runs a successful ironing business.

DREAM PROJECT

'Dance to Reach Every Aim with the Magic in you!' This is the motto of the DREAM program. DREAM is a curriculum run in rural schools that offers exciting opportunities for students of all ages, enabling young people to develop their skills and confidence through computers, art and music.

Impact

- *The DREAM project has impacted over 1350 students at King's School Kasam, the CSI Higher Secondary school at Arni and Senji Mottur primary school.*
- *A workshop held on stress management preparing Higher Secondary Students to face their public exams at Arni School helped achieve a 100% pass percentage in the board exams.*
- *Two bands with 20 students each were trained by a professional music teacher. Both the bands had the opportunity to perform at various public events in Vellore district.*
- *A photography workshop by CMAP trained children at King's School to explore self-portraiture using photography, pictures and text.*
- *House-mothers of MBKG Pannai orphanage had an exciting workshop on Rangoli and traditional Indian art. The art session brought colour to their lives!*



HUMANITARIAN CLOWNS

The Humanitarian Clowns is a group of international volunteers who visit our districts to provide care to people in distress and promote local volunteers to get involved in social medicine. The method is to create a joyful atmosphere enhancing the well-being of individuals and groups. Seb's is honoured to partner with them in this project. A group of local Seb's volunteers have been involved in working with different communities damaged by poverty and ill health. This public health outreach program promotes healing and brings laughter to the injured spirit.

Impact

- *More than 200 local volunteers are registered with the clowning programme.*
- *A new initiative, "Feed the Needy", distributed more than 3500 food packets to poor and homeless people.*
- *Volunteers actively participated in flood relief at Chennai and Cuddalore.*



PARTNERSHIPS

The year 2015-16 helped Seb's Projects India consolidate its projects and also initiate new programs as a result of the new partnerships.

CHILD CARE CENTRE

The partnership with the **Integrated Child Development Department and Shishukunj** helped address the needs of another segment of the tribal population -the health and nutrition of children below the age of 4 and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Balwadis or child care centres.

HEALTH

Our new 4 wheel drive vehicle, presented by **Drs. Saramma and Ian Sargeant**, has transformed our work in the hills in terms of road accessibility and reach, particularly in improving health of the tribal communities.

The **District Health Department and Primary Health Department** at Odugathur further facilitated health care by initiating the immunization program in all our villages. They also promote ante-natal and post-natal care.

The **CMC CHAD** hospital have made health care a reality for tribal communities through monthly clinics held in different villages in the Jawadhi Hills and the support and care of very sick patients at the hospital premises in Bagayam.



LIVELIHOOD

Seb's Projects' partnership with the **District Forest Department** over the years has enabled us to focus and improve address various aspects of life of the tribal communities in the Jawadhi Hills. Their involvement in the setting up of the Eco Trail as a means of livelihood, as well as their continued participation in the programme, has made the Eco Trail a huge success.

TRIFED has supported, and continues to support, the Eco Trail by marketing the handmade soaps produced by the Thandayankottai self-help group. The MOUs signed between Seb's Projects and Abdul Hakkim College of Engineering and GTECH College have further strengthened the Eco Trail- a sustainable livelihood program in Thandayankottai village.

EDUCATION

Seb's has been partnering with the **District Education Department** through their "Education for All" program under the banner of NRSTC schools ever since we started schools in the Jawadhi Hills.

Seb's partners with **Pratham**, an innovative learning organisation that aims to improve the quality of education in India. Seb's Projects has adopted Pratham's innovative teaching - learning methods, learning materials and measurement tools.

The partnerships with the following foundations and individual donors have helped to reach out to over 300 tribal young people and over 1800 students in rural schools with education and hope.

- Maria Marina Foundation
- Caring One Foundation
- North Bridge House School
- Charlotte Miller Art Project-CMAP
- Prayag
- Oferr

- Fiona and Graham Bonham-Carter
- Linda Farley
- Angela and John Hulme
- Sarah Lloyd
- Amie Jackson



CMAP WORKSHOP

SEB'S TEAM



DOMINIC
Tribal Project
Coordinator

Dominic leads the Tribal Projects in the Jawadhi Hills, and oversees the Health, Livelihoods and Education programs. With a Master's degree in Social Work, and vast and varied experiences working with Sri Lankan refugees, Domnic has a passion for working with people and building partnerships. He strongly believes in a more holistic educational experience and not just knowledge gathering in classrooms, and is bringing his passion into our classrooms!



GIRI DHARAN
Project Coordinator
Humanitarian Clowns

Giri is the cheeky chappie in charge of the clowning program! A talented clown, he is inspiring the young people of India to get up, put their hats on and reach out to people less fortunate than themselves with a big smile! A great coordinator and passionate about his work, the clowning program has taken leaps and bounds under his care!



EUNICE TITUS
Project Coordinator
Health

Eunice has a Masters degree in social work. She leads the health and nutrition program in the Jawadhi Hills. She spends her days building the capacity of young tribal girls to oversee the health and nutrition of their communities, gathering vital information on the health indicators of our target communities and networking with district health departments.

WE LOVE WHAT WE DO. IT'S WHO WE ARE....

And we couldn't do it without each other. Each one of us has a special passion, special talents, and special experiences every day.

SEB'S TEAM



VIJAY

Project Coordinator
Dream

Vijay works on our DREAM program, travelling all across rural Vellore every day to reach out to children in the Seb's Schools with exciting and stimulating lessons, mentoring children who need that extra bit of support. He believes that education is the greatest gift you can give a child, and brings a great passion for teaching into all he does.



VIJAY KARNAN

Project Coordinator
Livelihoods

Vijay is responsible for the livelihoods programs that Seb's Projects runs. He supports and builds capacities of women starting micro-finance projects.

OUR TRIBAL TEACHERS

Our 16 tribal teachers are the heart and soul of our projects in Jawadhi Hills. These great teachers spend 5 days and nights every week working in a variety of roles. By day, they work to make lessons as creative and engaging as possible, inspiring the first generation of educated children in Jawadhi Hills to have a dream. By night, they are advocates and health workers, holding meetings to motivate communities to improve health, sanitation and welfare in their communities. When there is an emergency, they are the link these isolated communities need to the world outside.



WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF SEB'S PROGRAM?



Seb's projects India is the NGO helping us to reach the unreached children in remote tribal communities. We value their efforts to bring quality education using local teachers. as getting to the school poses great challenges.
District Block Resources Teacher Educator.

Although I have never had the opportunity to attend school, I am happy to donate my small piece of land to build a school so that my children and future generations will benefit from education.-**Saroja Kupsoor village.**



I belong to the first batch of Seb's Primary School children from Thandayankotai. Today I have successfully completed my schooling. Looking back my education has changed my life in many ways. I feel confident and full of hope. My community looks up to me. I want to become a nurse and give back to my community.- **Vaideeswari**

We value the partnership with Seb's projects for their reach in the Jawadhi Hills, their ability to usher in health-seeking behaviour in tribal communities and their assistance in rolling out our health initiatives such as immunization in these communities.-**Block Medical Officer.**




My son Viajy owes his life to the Seb's teachers who took us to hospital for treatment. He was diagnosed with diabetes. They helped me to understand the nature of his disease and my role in supporting him, particularly with his meals and medication.
- **Kamtchi Periyathantankotai**



It is a dream come true to have safe and clean drinking water within our village. It has made a huge difference to us women who otherwise had to walk long distance to fetch water for our homes and we were often not sure of the quality of water.
- **Periyapanaparai village.**



HERE'S WHAT MAKES SEB'S PROJECTS UNIQUE

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- ★ The focus on empowerment that runs through the organisation can be seen at all levels among the staff and in the program design.
 - ★ Our children are first generation learners. Our tribal teacher escorts children to school on a 40-minute walk from neighbouring villages each day.
 - ★ A team of motivated and dedicated tribal teachers who understand the complexities of tribal culture and tailor their responses appropriately.
 - ★ Seb's Schools serve as a safety net to prevent children from being trafficked, alcohol and other abuses.
 - ★ We build capacities of educated young tribal girls through professional training to lead the health program in order to make health care a reality in these remote communities.
 - ★ Partnering organisations has greatly improved the quality of our programs. Pratham has been working closely with our schools to address gaps and to improve quality of learning.
 - ★ Seb's has over 200 young volunteers, who support the programme at different levels.
 - ★ Communities actively participate and engage with all Seb's programs making them sustainable in the long run.



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