

SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST

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## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT 2016-17

Seb's projects believe education helps to break the cycle of poverty and open windows of opportunities to a young person. For this reason Seb's Project is educating more the 300 students in Jawadhi hills through Sebs primary school education and over 120 students through middle/high school and higher education. We also believe that first generation learners need a lot of emotional support and hand holding to complete their schooling and pursue their ambition. Most of our students often fail to fulfill their dream for higher studies because the cost of higher education is expensive in India and most families cannot afford it. Seb's through its scholarship program has provided an opportunity for every child who has gone through our schools or part of our projects to continue education at school level and pursue higher education to acquire specific skill sets that can make them employable.

Seb's scholarship program started in 2010 since then we were able to see remarkable progress in the pro-

gram. Thanks to friends of Seb's project who willingly support the scholarship program. Currently we sponsor 26 school going children and 10 students in college and other professional courses. We are thankful to all the generous sponsors who support this program.

Our scholarship students have moved from school to college at various levels. They were able to choose a professional course and excel in them. The group of students studying in boarding school is doing well in their studies. The tribal students in Christianpet schools have regular support from our volunteers who are young engineering students from the VIT Engineering College. A group of young volunteers visit them every week and help them in learning English and Maths. Awareness program were conducted to both boys and girls about health and personal hygiene.

We would like to share the stories of young girls and boys who did us proud and are remarkable.



## CHELLAMA



**Chellama** is 17 yrs old, completed her school education in VRV higher secondary school, Ranipet. She is a slum dweller from Vellore old town and lived in very poor condition from her childhood. She often did her homework under the street light while living with her mother. Her father died and her mother is an alcoholic. Sebs has been supporting her education since grade eight. Now she has got an opportunity to pursue higher education doing a Diploma in nursing at MA Chidambaram College of nursing in Chennai. She is very quiet but an ambitious young girl.

Chellama has now completed her first year of the course.

During a recent visit we found that Chellama has changed a lot in the way she speaks and relate

with others. We are happy that the education given to her has built her inner confidence and given her hope for a brighter future.

She voluntarily shared her practical experiences in hospital work. She was excited to talk about her experiences in different departments, the new medical terms she has learnt and treatment using medicines during ward placements. Chellama says she feels happy when she holds the stethoscope and wears her nurse's uniform.

She is enjoying her hostel life. She participated in a dance competition and won the first prize. Chellama is one of our promising scholarship candidates who will definitely have a bright future.

## BHAVANI



She is the daughter of Lakshmi who is part of the Street women project 'Goodbye to Paper'.

She is currently doing her Second year of Diploma Nursing at Ranipet Scudder Memorial Hospital. She had a difficult first year and took a while to adjust coming from a Tamil medium school and her home situation often was very demanding. Seb's staff spent time visiting her and counseling her. She has well settled in her Second year at the college and is doing well. In the month of February she has gone with the rest of her class for 6

weeks to Chennai on a psychiatric posting. She was looking forward to this placement. In the second year she was posted in the surgical and medical wards as part of her training. She enjoys working in the wards with patients and interacting with their families.

It has been interesting to see the change in her personality one of determination and maturity in the past year.

## PANDIAN



Literally grew up in the streets of Vellore. A talented young man who after 2 years of dropping out of school decided he needs to get back to school and complete his high school. Last year on finishing school registered in a local Polytechnic Institute to do a diploma in Air- conditioning mechanics and electrical wiring. He has been regular with his course and enjoying the practical work.

Last semester they were sent to Bangalore for a month on a job placement. Pandian has no parents and lives with his aged grandmother. He is very passionate about football and is a member of a local team. He dreams big and we are happy to be a part of his journey.

## MOHAN



Mohan is an ambitious self made young tribal boy. He has completed his third year of Civil Engineering and has done well in his course. He takes an active part in all the college activities. Recently he went on a study tour visiting engineering projects in Tamil Nadu and the neighboring states. He seems to make use of the opportunities provided in the college. He is currently busy on doing a project making models of bridges as part of his course and enjoying it very much. The picture attached is of Mohan doing a survey project on laying roads in hilly regions.

He feels he needs to improve his computer skills and is keen to learn more about designing using CADD.

His younger brother is finishing Higher Secondary School and is keen to do Medicine. He has been doing well at his studies and hopes to make the grade. He also has a younger sister who is in Grade 9

Their mother is very proud of her sons and very supportive to them. She is a daily wage laborer and works hard for a living. Mohan's father died a few years ago

## VAIDEESWARI AND SAMUNDI



They are our tribal young girls who started school at Seb's and on finishing school are pursuing a professional course in Nursing.

Samundeswari is into her Second year and Vaideeswari in her first year of B.Sc Nursing at Chennai. It was a difficult start for both of them going from a tribal community to live and study in the city moreover a big shift in learning as they are taught in English. They have both settled into their courses and coping well with some additional assistance from teachers who are understanding and supportive. The tutors at the college took a

lot of interest to encourage and support them as a result they have gained confidence. Both of them have participated in various extracurricular activities and have excelled in sports. The city life seemed to have rubbed off on them in the manner they dress and present themselves. The Tribal home communities look up to them and their parents are very proud of their achievements. They have also become good role models to the younger generation.



## ASODHA AND SULOCHANA



Asodha and Sulochana are two young educated married women from the Jawadhi hills of Dhaniyamarthur village. These girls completed their high school education and got married. Asoda's husband Swaminathan works for Sebs tribal school and Sulochana's husband is a daily wage laborer.

Seb's identified their interest and helped them to join auxiliary nursing course in the year 2105. They are at the end of the two year course. We are happy that both of them have completed their course and undergoing their training in the same institute. By the end of August 2017 Asodha and Sulochana will finish the training and return to Jawadhi hills and serve their village.

It is inspiring and motivating for us to see their dedication and interest in completing their course. Being married tribal women in the village it took a lot of courage on their part to leave their village and stay in a different environment for two long years. It is truly commendable.

During their holiday visit to their communities they have created awareness on health issues and the health seeking behavior of those communities have improved considerably in relation to other communities.

## Looking ahead

**Do you think you can be part of us?**

- **Sponsor a primary school in a tribal village**
- **Sponsor a secondary student**
- **Sponsor a university student**

The year 2017-18 is very challenging, since 20 tribal students from Seb's school are graduating to middle school and 4 finishing high school. Higher Education has become increasingly expensive. Helping our students to equip them with a skill and become employable has been the aim of our education program. Also develop their leadership skills to identify issues in their communities and address them and with the hope they become the change makers!

