

Pragathi



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA MEDICAL MISSION

Agali PO, Palakkad District, Kerala State
(Registered Charitable trust)
Reg No. 55/IV/2004

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Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission trust activities continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic period. In spite of several setbacks during the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the work of the mission advanced in many fronts. We present here an account of the mission activities during 2021-22.



Hospital

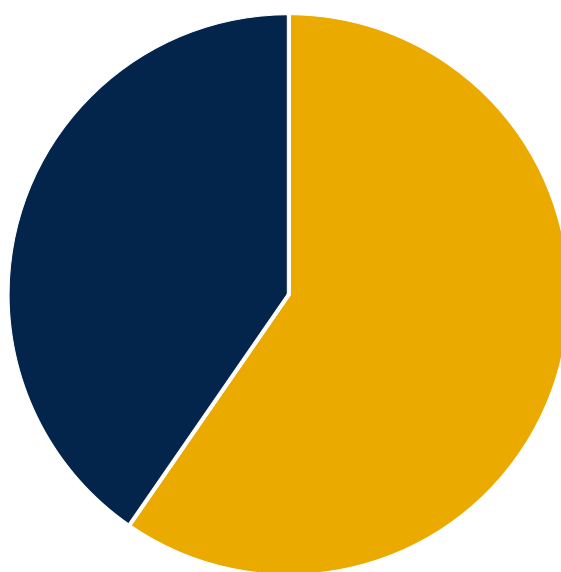
The hospital activities went on uninterrupted throughout the year. We have been able to provide a wider range of services with several new doctors and nurses joining the hospital. Dr.

M.V.Chidambaram joined as Anaesthesiologist. The Obstetrics and Gynecology Department became fully functional under the leadership of Dr. Jayalekshmi S, Senior Gynaecologist who joined the hospital on 1st April 2021. Dr.Prakash V.K. was Consultant in General Medicine. There are 9 full time doctors in the hospital now. Several Specialist doctors visited our hospital to provide specialist medical services. Emergency services were provided 24x7 for all 12 months.

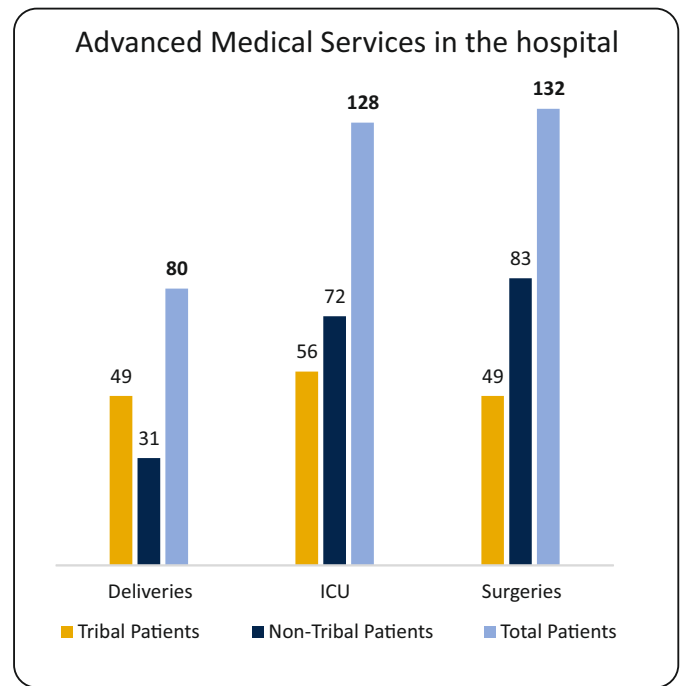
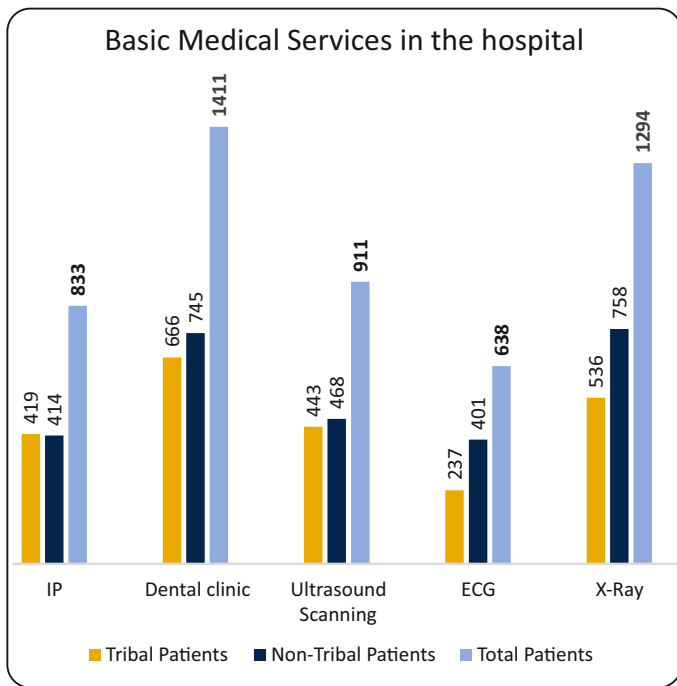


Number of patients who received OP Services - Total No. of Patients : 34967

Non-tribal patients
40%



Tribal Patients
60%



A joint initiative has been started by Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission with KIMS Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram for upgrading neonatology services at Attappady. The cooperation will include developing nursing care, establishment of newborn care equipment, support for medical treatment and care. The first batch of nurses underwent 3 weeks training in the Department of Neonatology at KIMS Hospital in March 2022.

An Alfa Ventilator was donated by Red Cross Society, Palakkad. A critical care ambulance was donated by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. It will have facilities and equipment to transport critically ill patients. ENT Operating Microscope, Nasal Endoscope, C Arm and instruments were donated by SBI Funds Management Ltd.

The increased patient numbers and expanded spectrum of specialty medical services have resulted in an increased demand for beds and other facilities at the hospital. In order to meet this demand, the second floor construction has started which will add 25 more beds, a Medical ICU, a Newborn ICU and private rooms.

Our sincere thanks to Sodani Foundation, Sewa International, Roots Group of Industries, GD Naidu group of Industries, SBI Funds Management Ltd., Harman Inspired Charitable Trust, Dr. Jay K Raman, Sewa Canada, Sri Saurabh Gupta and many others for supporting us in providing free medical services to the tribal and other poor patients.



Malleeswara Vidyanikethan School

Due to the Covid Pandemic, classes at the school were conducted online during most of the year. Offline classes started partly for the higher classes in October and for all the classes in January 2022. But the academic programme was not compromised even during the online classes. The co-curricular and extracurricular activities were also conducted fully throughout the year. There were more than 100 admissions to the school in the new academic year. The total student strength was 352. 200 students were given free education and books. A STEM Lab and a Digital Language Lab was established at the school.

Six new qualified teachers for various subjects were recruited in the year 2021-22. There are 19 teaching and 7 non-teaching staff in the school. Seven sessions for faculty improvement were organized during the year. Five sessions for parents were held in which several experts interacted with the parents.

Literacy Week, Wild Life Conservation Week, National Constitution Day, Mathrubhasha Dinam, National Mathematics Day, National Science Day etc were observed with various programmes.

We are thankful to Antrix Corporation, EYGDS, Smile Foundation, Synergy Marine Group, Uthishta Bengaluru, Srimathi Bhanumathi Arunachalam and several other well-wishers who supported the facilities and free education of poor children at the school.



Skill Development Centres

Balachandran Smaraka Janavaibhava Kendram (BSJK) in Agali conducted tailoring classes and computer classes. Training is free for tribal candidates.



48

Persons trained in tailoring and embroidery related courses



53

Persons trained in computer skills

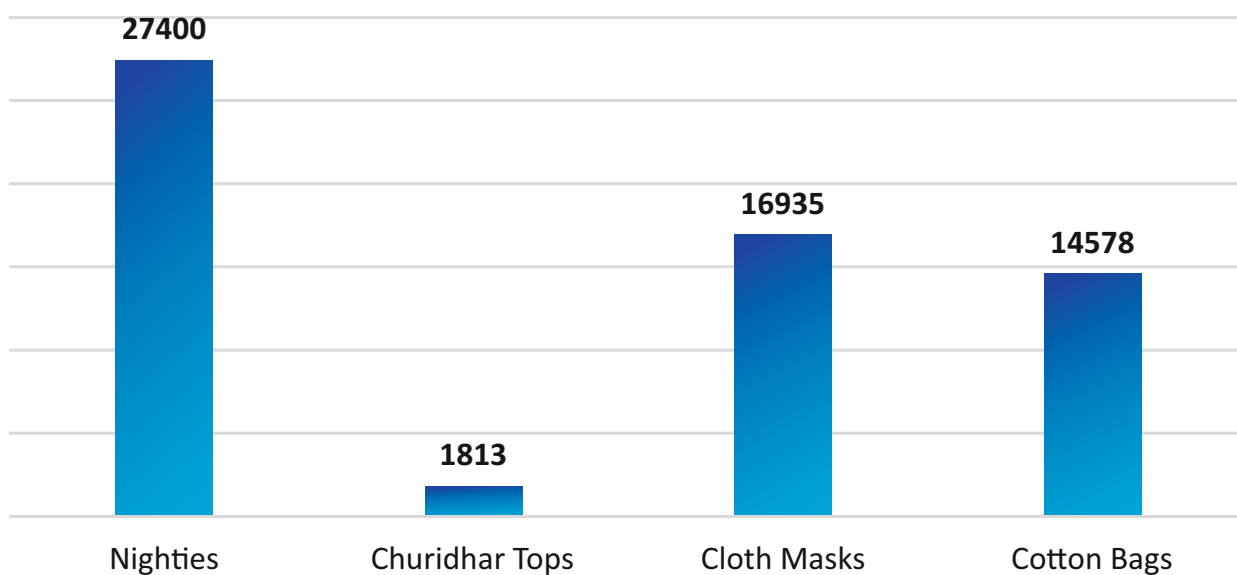
Four Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) training programmes were held at the centre. Each programme had 20 women as trainees for a period of 30 days.

Garment unit under the centre gives employment to 30 women. Last year, the following items were stitched at the centre.

The garment unit was given an opportunity to become a part of the "Parivartan " sustainability campaign by EY-GDS. They were given the opportunity to stitch 10000 cotton bags as part of this.



Sale Volume (in No.s)



Entrepreneurship training: A training programme for women working in the garment unit to develop their entrepreneurship skills was conducted on 4th October 2021. Trainers from Brama Learning Solutions conducted the training programme.

Vivekananda Janasevana Kendram at Sholayur provided computer education to 15 tribal youth. It also hosted one JSS training in MS Office in which 20 youth participated.



Community Projects

Community Mental Health Programme

The thrust of the programme during the Covid pandemic was to ensure that all the patients received a regular supply of medicines and also to provide timely medical help in case of exacerbation of symptoms. 28 new patients were added to the programme bringing the total number registered under CMHP to 299. The number of patients on regular follow up is 152. Documentation of case histories and follow up of existing patients was also a major target of the programme this year. MEHAC trust is giving technical support to the programme since 2011. A psychiatrist from MEHAC visits the hospital every month.

World Mental Health day was observed on 10th October with an awareness programme for social workers, focusing on the theme "Mental health in an unequal world"

Alcohol De-addiction Project: This year de-addiction treatment was provided to 55 patients. Follow up counseling, AA meetings, online meetings etc are held as part of the programme.

Adolescent Girls' Health and Nutrition Project:

This project was launched in February 2021. The activities are carried out in 30 tribal villages. Formation of Adolescent Peer Groups, monitoring of health indicators, awareness sessions on important topics in health and dietary interventions to target high risk adolescents etc are the activities taken up under the group. Currently 315 adolescent girls are members of the 30 peer groups under the programme. UST supports the project as part of its CSR programme. In the coming years the project will be expanded to 90 villages.



Palliative Care

A Pain and Palliative Care Program has been implemented since 2021. Elderly, Disabled and Bed-ridden patients are identified through the community network of SVMM such as the Village Health Workers, ERC Teachers, and Farmers. A team of Social Worker, Doctor and a Nurse visit these identified patients once in a month. The following activities are done by the team: Home consultation by the Doctor, Free medication to the patients, Counseling for the patients and their families by Social Worker, Identify their requirements and provide necessary support, Refer critical cases to nearest Medical Centre including ambulance support and Maintain a database of the patients. Currently, there are 36 patients under the program.



Educational Resource Centres: These centres are present in 50 villages. The children attending these centres receive remedial learning as well as value education for two days. About 750 children attend these classes.

Livelihood Projects



Medicinal Plants Cultivation Project: This project received NABARD support under Farming Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF). The project started in 2019 and concluded in December 2021. The project beneficiaries were 100 tribal farmers from 4 villages of Sholayur panchayat. The farmers cultivated medicinal plants in 25 cents of land and the products were procured by Artha Herbs and Derivatives India Pvt. Ltd (AHEAD) a subsidiary of Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore). Nine species of plants were selected, out of which six were cultivated successfully.

Sales for two plant products were held and majority of farmers have started receiving income. Four rounds of sales were conducted during the project period. A total sale of Rs. 3,32,510 was done in which 49 farmers have participated. The farmers are actively replanting and cultivating the medicinal plant on a larger scale. The project in its short term has created an impact in the lives of the farmers. It has resulted in income generation for those farmers who had taken up cultivation earnestly. The project was scaled up with addition of 50 farmers from two villages with the help of EYGDS. The farmers have also been linked to Kisan Credit Cards for any further farming they would like to do.

Tribal Development Fund: An Integrated Tribal Development Programme for 5 tribal villages of Sholayur Panchayat was sanctioned by NABARD under Tribal Development Fund. The Detailed Project Report for the project was prepared by the mission after conducting a detailed survey of the beneficiaries and their farms. The project will benefit 326 families. It will be based on medicinal plant cultivation.

Livelihood Enterprise Development Project (LEDP):

As part of this project, work on setting up of Freshwater Aquaculture Farms in Attappady was initiated in March 2021. The project is proposed to benefit 150 SHG members. Ten days training of five batches of 30 farmers has been completed. The chief trainer was Sri. C.M.Vishnu (Dheeran Live World, Coimbatore). The trainees will be further helped in setting up aquaculture farms by linking them to bank loans.



Kitchen Garden Project: This project was implemented with the support of Sewa Canada. The Project which began in August 2020 concluded in July 2021. It was implemented in 4 hamlets of Agali Panchayat. Beneficiaries with at least one cent of land and interest in agriculture were selected for this project. Along with seeds and additional support, capacity building programmes of beneficiaries were organized on methods of gardening and proper usage

of organic pesticides and fertilizers. Volunteer groups were chosen from the beneficiaries in each hamlet and they were provided with weighing machines and registers to document the volume of harvest. About 712 kg of vegetables were produced in these gardens over one year. Beans, Spinach and tomatoes were the most successful crops. The kitchen garden project successfully introduced safe and healthy production of vegetables at household level.

Rural Development Works

Drinking water project in Keeripathy: Keeripathi is a small tribal village in Sholayur Panchayat, which faced shortage of drinking water for more than a decade. There are 26 families in the village. The families had to trek 2 km in the forest to fetch water from a stream. The village experienced outward migration of several families due to shortage of water. The project of establishing drinking water system was taken up by the mission trust. The project was supported by Kerala Hindus of North America (KHNA). The project was inaugurated on 4th September 2021 by Dr. Satheesh Ambadi (President, KHNA).



Irrigation projects in Vellakulam:

While the medicinal plants cultivation project was being implemented in Vellakulam village of Sholayur panchayat, the farmers complained of scarcity of water for irrigating their fields. They were dependent on monsoon rains for their cultivation, even though there were water streams around their village. As a solution, a gravity irrigation project was implemented with support from

EYGDS. The first phase of the project, covering 25 tribal families and 80 acres of agricultural land, was completed in December 2021. It was inaugurated by Sri Mukul Pachisia (Global Operations Leader, EYGDS) on December 29, 2021. The project is helping farmers to cultivate crops in their lands for all the 12 months in a year. The construction work for the second phase of the project has started and is progressing.

Electric Fence for farming plots in Chavadiyur: The farmers in Attappady are always troubled by the invasion of their farms by wild animals. The farmers of Chavadiyur hamlet in Sholayur panchayat had been requesting an electric fence for their farms to ward off elephants. NABKISAN Finance Ltd, has sanctioned a CSR grant for construction of the fence. The work on the fence has started and is expected to complete by end of June 2022.

COVID Relief Activities during 2nd Wave

During the sudden surge of the 2nd Wave of COVID-19, a helpdesk was opened for providing essential services to COVID 19 affected needy families. The mission social workers distributed essential grocery kits, vegetable kits, medicines and provided tele-consultancy services and counseling for COVID patients.



As part of preventing the spread of the virus and promoting usage of masks, cloth masks produced by self-help group members were distributed to poor families, residents of containment zones, front-line workers, community health volunteers etc. All the COVID Relief activities were supported by Sewa International and Indians for Collective Action.

A special Traxx Cruiser Ambulance was flagged off for emergency transport of Covid-19 patients.

A Covid treatment centre was established in June 2021 for treatment of Category B & C patients with Covid 19 infection. The centre had facilities for oxygen support, monitors, ICU beds and full time doctors and staff. The centre was in operation for close to two months. Free food and medicines were given at the centre for all patients. Patients from government hospitals were referred to this centre for supportive care. The centre was supported by Sarva Vidya Trust, UST, Viswa Seva bhārathi and many well-wishers.

Free vaccination doses are being provided to the population of Attappady through vaccination camps. The initiative is supported by Sewa International and so far 200 doses of Covishield vaccines have been provided.



Covid-19 Relief activities were extended to other places in Kerala also. Prevention and Treatment was carried out in Cherpulassery in Palakkad district in association with Poonthottam Ayurveda Hospital. Local awareness and distribution of preventive medicines were undertaken in the area by local health workers. ICU equipments for treatment of critically ill patients with Covid-19 were installed in Sreevalsam Institute of Medical Sciences, Edappal with the help of Sewa Canada.

Community Organizations

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 75 Gramasamitis | 100 Village Health Workers | 15 Youth Clubs | 50 Women Self-Help Groups |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Health Centre in Idukki

Vattavada is a remote isolated village in Idukki district with very poor health facilities. The people in the village had to travel long distances to get basic medical treatment. In response to the demand from the people of the area, Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission started a health centre - Bhaskar Rao Medical Centre in Vattavada. The centre has an OPD, Day care facilities and an Ambulance for transport of patients. There is a full time doctor and essential staff at the health centre. The centre was inaugurated on 23rd March 2022. The centre was established with financial help from Sri Sivaraman Mahadevan, Youth For Seva, Bengaluru and Abhyudaya KKSS, Bengaluru.



Acknowledgements

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the support from EYGDS, UST, Antrix Corporation, Sodani Foundation, Sewa Canada, Kerala Hindus Of North America, Synergy Marine Group, Harman Inspired Charitable Trust, GD Naidu group of Companies, Roots Group of Companies, Sewa International, Indians For Collective Action, SBI Funds Management Limited, KIMS Hospital, Uthishta, Dr. Jay K Raman, NABKISAN Finance Ltd, NABARD, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Sri Saurabh Gupta, Sri Sivaraman Mahadevan, Sri Mukesh Jyothi, TIDE Trust, Youth For Seva and many other noble souls and organisations.

