



DSI SOUVENIR (1994 – 2014)

This Edition takes you back to our memory lane when DSI was just evolving. Every milestone we leaped brought us intense joy. It is indeed a delight to share our tale with each one of you.

Special Souvenir Edition: 30th January 2015

INSIGHT

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PREFACE

TWO DECADES OF LOVING AND SHARING

Message from the DSI Founder and Managing Trustee

This year as we commemorate the 20th anniversary celebration of DSI, I take this moment to look back at our past years, how our organization have been influenced by the wonderful people whose vision and foresight have helped to rebuild the lives of young children and women in need. Our hearts are brimming with joy and praise to see the wonderful progress and empowerment of the children and women through the efforts of DSI.

It gives me great pleasure to write a brief message of goodwill of DSI on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. I have been associated with DSI from 1994 as a Founder trustee till date and registered the trust along with Mrs. Kasthuri and Mrs. Chandra Devadass.

In 1992, DSH based in Hamburg was established as an NGO. Subsequently an independent Trust in the name of DSI was established in 1996 at Kilavedu, Chengleput, South India. Thus DSI a non-profitable, non-political, charitable trust providing services irrespective of caste, creed or religion, to needy children and women in Tamil Nadu. DSI has been licensed as a fit person Institute by the Directorate of Social Welfare to meet its objectives of providing residential and non-residential services.

The founder chairperson of DSH approached me to start a family and child welfare project in Chengleput town. We are very grateful to the following funding bodies. In 2009, Mrs. Inga Ekelund from Sweden joined DSI to support our school and Mrs. Annie Wojczewski, the chairperson of DSH is mainly helping the fosterships and running of the project. Not to forget all our local donors for their very generous funding and guidance.



Mrs. Ruby James
Managing Trustee, DSI

Many programs have been developed over the years - child-care, schools, community health and education, preschool and women development programs etc.

I have always enjoyed the work here and I congratulate all the dedicated workers and supporters for their devoted services in developing the various programs in a professional way. We can now take steps in developing family life education program for our sponsored children in the Home, School and villages and for their parents too. The purpose is to inculcate basic moral values in our growing children who are now exposed to the degrading influence of films, TV and other media that influence their lifestyle in another direction at a very young age.

However the improved performance of DSI has one drawback - Parents failing to understand the need for children's higher education. This is a major concern for DSI. The DSI deserves your full continuous and increased support. So far the programs are promising and we still firmly believe that good programs will always find committed supporters. We are doing our best for the needy.

As we continue our journey, we hope to serve the poor, needy and marginalized of our country. We in DSI are pleased with the cooperation of DSH for their financial support in development of the project. I am sure under the very affectionate and dynamic leadership of DSH, we would continue to touch the thousands of children and women's lives in a positive manner with the objective of ultimate empowerment. Of course these figures only mark the quantitative result of our services, but I'm sure that by reading the full report you will also get a fair impression of the quality of what has been achieved by DSI.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

***Mrs. Ruby James
Managing Trustee***

GOVERNING BODY OF DSI

Managing Trustee: Mrs. Ruby James

Chairman DSH: Mrs. Annie Wocjewski

Treasurer DSH: Mrs. Anja Rachow

**Correspondent DSI School: Mr. James Vijayakumar
Chakkaravarthi**

Board Members:

- **Rev. N. Manova Santhosam, M.A(Eng)., M.A(Rel.Ed)., B.D**
- **Mr. S. Suresh Ebenezer, M.E**
- **Mr. S. P. L. Rajkumar, B.A., B.L (Legal Advisor)**
- **Mr. S. J. D. Gnanapragasam, B.E**
- **Dr. S. Sugantha Esther, M.Sc., M.Ed., Ph.D**
- **Mrs. Uma Balasubramanian, B.A (Head**

Mistress, Hawischar Happy Primary and High School)

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Since 1993, I have been on the board of DSH, I remember very well the start of DSI, my first visit to India and to DSI, Kilavedu. Both countries, India and Germany, are very different but the teamwork between Ruby James and DSH has enabled to give children a home as well as an education. I would like to say thank you to Ruby James not only for the good cooperation but also for showing me so many interesting places in India and exposing me to the Indian culture.

Congratulation DSI RUBY JAMES!

Mrs. Annie Wojczewski
Chairman, DS Hamburg



Mrs. Annie Wojczewski
Chairman, DS Hamburg

CORRESPONDENT'S NOTE

Being the Correspondent of Hawischar Happy Nursery and Primary School and High School, it gives me great pleasure to reach our 20 years milestone. Our school has achieved many merits since the time it was started. The children who passed out the board exams were toppers, we achieved 100% results. It was a wonderful moment for us to see our kids perform so well.

Our school mainly targets in admitting the poor children from the nearby villages, to give them good education with minimal amount of fees. The DSI home children also attend our school and benefit from it. The strength of our school has multiplied based on the results that the children were able to achieve with the help of teachers tremendous support. Many children have been able to get admission in



MR.S.JAMES CHAKRAVARTHI.B.A.,B,G,L.,
CORRESPONDENT

good schools to pursue higher education and also have been able to get into good colleges to study their professional courses.

We hope to continue our service to these under-privileged kids and maintain the discipline and standard. With the help of our sponsors, school bus was rendered to us, which has been very useful in transporting the children to school and back. We thank everyone for their support. We wish to continue striving for the upliftment of the downtrodden children to bring them up to a good level in society.

*Mr. James Vijayakumar Chakkaravarthi
Correspondent (DSI Hawischar Happy Primary and High School)*

TRUSTEE'S NOTE

I'm really delighted and proud to be a part of DSI since my childhood, from the time this organization was started. I help my mother Mrs. Ruby James in doing the Documentation work, such as creating newsletters, brochures, maintaining the website and much more. DSI has grown in leaps and bounds these 20 years, and so nice to see all the children and women benefited through our organization.

The Home children who have finished their studies have now become professionals, technicians, nurses and teachers are living independently in the society, able to earn well and uplift their families. Women supported by DSI have been doing small-scale businesses and able to run their families well. Irular families supported by DSI have found shelter, food and education. It has been a spellbound journey since our vision and objectives were all met in magical ways. Although we faced many setbacks, it was with the constant guidance and support of sponsors and well-wishers that we have overcome all the hurdles and we are



**Mrs. Jennita Fepcine,
Trustee, DSI**

now here in our road-map. Thanks to everyone who were involved with DSI in making the hopes and dreams of our children come true.

Mrs. Jennita Fepcine
Documentation Support

BOARD MEMBER'S NOTE

Looking back through the history of twenty years gives a promising futuristic view for DSI

I am happy and privileged to be associated with DSI from its inception. The dedication, sincerity and hard work of likeminded people of DSI and DSH have been the keys for the successful and triumphant stories of DSI in all of its endeavors.

The service rendered by DSI is very evident and seen vividly in the infrastructure of DSI homes and schools, the lives of our DSI children and the development of Irular community. The progressive and sustainable growth of DSI projects are noteworthy and a boon to the community.

The transformation of the children and the women who have stepped into DSI for better future is made possible by the collaborative team work of DSI and DSH. The constant financial and moral support given by the sponsors and well-wishers from Germany and Sweden in this long journey of two decades in both bright as well as gloomy times is a commendable one. I appreciate and am grateful for all the generous hearts and extended hands for this great venture.

The DSI is determined to work with transparency, integrity and retain its zeal and passion in the years to come. We look towards the future with optimism and commitment to fulfil our vision of a secure society.

I wish DSI many more years of success in community developmental work and initiative. Let DSI continue to be a devoted, loving and caring



**Mr. Suresh Ebenezer,
Board member DSI seen
with Mrs. Ruby James**

mother to many more needy children in society; providing emotional, physical, financial and educational security to them.

At this juncture let us rededicate and commit ourselves to cater the needs of our DSI children and let's strengthen our hands to uphold them, which will develop a healthy and stable rural society.

SURESH EBENEZER
Board Member

SPONSOR'S NOTE

MY DREAMS BECAME A REALITY

My name is Inga Ekelund, Sweden and I came to DSI the first time in the year 2009. On that time I was a new retired teacher. From I was a little child I had a dream to go to another part of the world for helping people, especially children. 2009 this dream came true and I came to DSI.

Being a retired teacher I started my volunteer work to educate children in English, both in the home and in the school. After a time I also worked with different important things as daily going in the school bus to keep the children, meet parents and see how our schoolchildren lived. Sometimes I helped the staff in the kitchen, Ruby in the office and as a mentor for the teacher.

All work was very interesting and important and I liked and like to be together with all of them. As a teacher I like to be in the school and educate in different subjects. DSI has a very good pedagogic and quality in the school, from UKG up to 10th Standard. Besides classes in Tamil medium they also have classes in English medium.

The teachers are very purposefully and clever and do their best in the education so the pupils will have good results for coming to higher



Mrs. Inga Ekelund (Sponsor, DSI)

training center. DSI has being a second home for me and when I now have returned in year 2015, it is sixth time. I do it with a lot of happiness and gratitude for all you have given me of experience and joy. It is a pleasure for me.

From deep or my heart I will say Thank you to DSI India and Hamburg for this twenty years, for all the good and important things you have done for DSI and wish you all the best and Good Luck in the future.

Inga Ekelund
DSI sponsor

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Providing education for poor children from illiterate family background in villages and for our Home children
- Supplying nutritional food, support to the destitute children
Identifying tribal settlements and providing education, shelter, and food for their children
- Training people in rural villages about healthy habits, nutritional diets, and eco-friendly agriculture
- An integrated living style to serve people from all religions, castes and indigenous backgrounds to be treated as equal – giving them the independence of making their own decision to do what they want to do in their life
- Encouraging destitute women in rural areas to engage in income generation activities like producing detergent powder, incense sticks, marketing self-made products
- Training and encouraging women to rear milk animals goats, produce herbal medicines and protect indigenous medicines
- Provide awareness on the importance of the natural resources, train them in preserving the resources with regular education also to learn about agriculture and vocational training in new technological alternatives to preserve nature
- Helping international volunteers in inter-cultural exchange
- Training village people in organic farming and animal husbandry
- Organizing community health programs/camps and give health education

ACHIEVEMENTS

Shelter, education and healthy environment is provided to 200 children below the age of 16 years in our Home. Among them, 60 percent are girls and 40 percent are boys. They live in cottages, 10 children in every cottage, and are cared by a housemother in every cottage.

About 40 kids from poor families are taken care in our Tiny Tots nursery Home; primary and high school have been built to provide education to the Home kids and the kids from the nearby villages. A vehicle is bought to bring children from far-off villages, and also to encourage them to attend school, as distance is a constraint for them leading to dropouts.

Music classes, karate, dance and gardening is taught to the children in the Home. This helps them practice these skills during their leisure time.

About 100 children from outside are supported by our project by providing education to them. Many have become nurses, engineers, mechanics, and teachers.

About 16 villages have been adopted and are visited by our health staffs. Regular medical check-ups are conducted and the value of health and hygiene is taught.

Five women self-help groups are formed and women are trained in small industries like producing incense sticks, shampoo, and bleaching powder. A program called rotating loans is practiced. Methods to grow herbal garden and prepare herbal medicine is taught and practiced.

Assorted businesses like small cattle breeding, tailoring, small cottage units, selling saris, dry fish and flowers, are also practiced.

At present, 4 tribal villages have been adopted and pre-schools have been built for the tribal children. More than 100 children in these villages are getting education, and nutritious food.

Houses are built for tribal families and the art of irrigating and rearing milk animals are taught to them and practiced.

Every three months, volunteers from European countries have been working with the children.

About 50 volunteers have visited so far and exchanged their views and culture with our children. Children have learnt to become more open and independent.

On the time of the catastrophe TSUNAMI the project through the funds from the friends from Germany Contributed few boats to the needy fisherman and set up a tuition center for school children providing them with note books and stationeries.

About 40 destitute children from the TSUNAMI affected areas are taken into a home in the project which will help them to get all the basic facilities and education.

SEEING AHEAD

For the next 10 years we are looking forward to achieve our targets for the betterment of people living under the poverty line.

Providing better housing and basic amenities for the Irular tribes living in poor condition. Providing vocational and technical training about the modern and environmentally friendly machineries, giving them the opportunity to start their own enterprise with the knowledge gained.

Education to be of a quality to reach the standards of training in the urban areas. Supporting Irular children by educating them and providing healthy diet. Creating interest to develop skills in generating new ideas to initiate ventures in preserving the environment and healthy living.

Helping more than 500 destitute women in the villages, to improve their socio-economic condition by providing loan and training them in small trades. Supporting more girl children in the Home by protecting them by social problems by giving shelter and education.

HISTORY OF DSI

Dewi Saraswathi India (DSI) Trust is an Indo-German



Mr. Gunter Spitzing, Founder and Former Chairman, DSH



German consulate at Chennai during the inaugural ceremony of DSI when it was started

agricultural farm.

Collaborative NGO started by the founder chairman Gunter Spitzing DS Hamburg and co-founder Managing Director DS India Mrs. Ruby James.

Deeply committed to its objectives, "helping the needy children and empowering the destitute women", the two decades of DSI, since the 1996, has been a vast expansion in the number and scope. It caters to the welfare of downtrodden community by running wisdom home for needy children, primary and high school to impart quality education to the home children, village children and the Irula tribal children, DSI facilitate women self-help groups (SHGs) in villages and has a dairy farm, and



**Back row: Ruth (former Chairman DSH), Mrs. Annie (Present Chairman DSH)
Front row: Mrs. Kasthuri (Trustee), Mrs. Ruby James (Managing Trustee, DSI), Mrs. Chandra Devadoss (Trustee)**



HAMBURG HOUSE – First cottage built for kids in DSI



Mrs. Annie Wojczewski, Chairman DSH

WISDOM HOME

Its journey began with a humble beginning of 10 children with a destitute women as a house mother in a small cottage in a remote village named Keelavedu, which had no electric lights, no proper roads to reach. It is 5 kms from the buzzing Town of Chengalpattu on the way to the historical place, Mammalapuram. Since then DSI has been growing and now we have 135 children in the wisdom home in 10 cottages and dormitory in two campus of DSI. So far our wisdom home has been the first home for more than 400 children in their childhood and in prime teenage children.

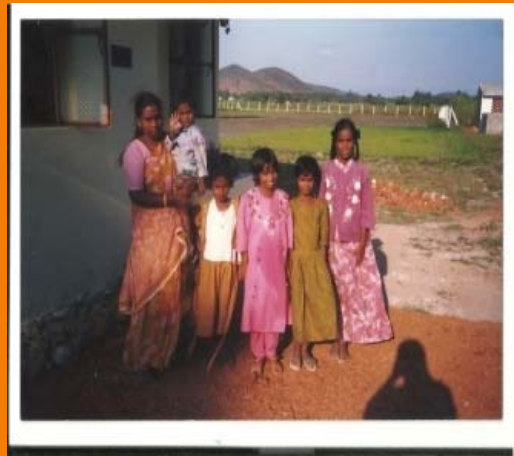
Daily we give milk to the small children, banana and egg in twice a week & meat once in week. Every month the nurse takes height & weight for the children. We have clinics in both homes, where the doctor comes in every Saturday. There is full time nurse for the home. In school time, the nurse is available for the schools also. We have a dental chair in our clinic, where the doctor comes once in three months.

Karate classes are conducted for home children. The girls enjoy dancing and singing and often dance at programs and special occasions. On weekends the boy's home has the use of sports equipment such as volleyball, football, and cricket. Resident students involved in Agriculture, poultry and farming.

During holiday seasons we arrange short Picnics and Tours for children. DSI is an inter-religious organization and hence all the festivals such as Pongal, Diwali, Bakrid, Christmas along with national festivals are celebrated.



DSI Site - 1995



First house mother with home children - 1997



Mentally challenged destitute children in DSI

We have 8 mentally challenged destitute children happily living in the in the wisdom home and 6 of them are getting special education.

HAPPY SCHOOLS

The Hawischar happy primary and high schools which are serving the society by providing opportunity for quality education, individual care and overall development for the students had a humble beginning in



1998 in a small hut and provided basic education for pre-school children. Then it grew and transformed into a Primary English medium School which took special steps to provide quality education to children of Irular community and also to economically and socially backward classes. Further development occurred as the community wanted a high school in both Tamil and English medium. Now we have around 400 children in the schools.

Both schools have well qualified and experienced teaching faculty who take special steps and care to develop students' holistic personality. Teachers use computer and audio – visual teaching aids to impart quality education to the students in an interesting mode.

To ensure the overall holistic development of our students equal importance Schools Activities – Karate, yoga, art and craft, games, dance and drawing is given to extracurricular activities like drawing, coloring, model making, music and dance. The Yoga, Meditation, karate, and physical education classes conducted ensure the physical and mental fitness of the children. As a part of curriculum computer is taught as a subject to the students from First Standard onwards. Children were given practical classes in computer in a computer lab.

All significant national, religious and local festivals are celebrated in the school. Students participated in all the celebrations in the right festive spirit. P.T.A meetings have been conducted in every term to review the activities of the schools and seek the parents' participations and feedbacks about our activities. Highlights- march past, tour, dramatics, computer education, Junior Red Cross, literary club.

The school regularly conducted spoken English classes for all the students with a specially trained teacher to improve students' English speaking skills. Special coaching classes for 10th std students are conducted till 8pm in the night for 2 months prior to their board exams. 10th std Boys and girls to stay in DSI home and have given accommodation and food.

The school has 2 buses and a van for transport facilities for the children. Kollamedu children and our home children whom pursue higher education at Chengalpet use these transport facilities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The community outreach team of DSI facilitate women self-help groups (SHGs) in villages especially in Irular community Block. Interactive Monthly meeting of villager women empower women with self-esteem, emotional strength and with the knowledge of legal rights, community health, nutrition and education of their children and so on. We aim at Sustainable development in the women and to have economically independence.



Self Help Group meeting

DSI facilitate community development projects in Irular village like Kollamedu, Madhur, Malalinatham. Some of the projects are Herbal Garden at Kollamedu, provision of bore well, reconstruction of houses at Malalinatham, providing free land for living for landless people of Irular community.



(Left) Group house – Thirumukoodal, (Middle) Creche at Madur, (Right) Reconstruction of houses at Mallalinatham

About 70 children from Kollamedu, an Irular tribal village, have been enrolled in our school. They are provided with free education, free books and note books and uniform, all stationary things, free midday, evening snacks and extra coaching classes and also free transport facilities. About 17 children of them who have not taken proper care at home were admitted and in the DSI home.



VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS

Many volunteers from Germany, England, Sweden, Netherlands and India helps in our project to learn and contribute their experience and talents. It helps the children and the volunteers to interact and to learn the multi-culture of our lives.

DSI never lacked visitors and have visitors throughout the year. Our chairperson Mrs. Annie DSH board members, Mrs. Barbara, Mrs. Inga Ekelund and few well-wishers from Sweden visit us regularly and see the needs and extends their help. Mr. Bijou Brigitte from German sponsored a school bus for the primary school. It was nice to have them as our guests.



Volunteer from Germany teaching the kids at Hawischar Primary school



FOSTER PARENTS VISIT TO HOME

Our DSI children's foster parents from Germany and Sweden visit the project to spend time with their foster and also with the kids of the DSI. They interacted with each other and their experiences in India.



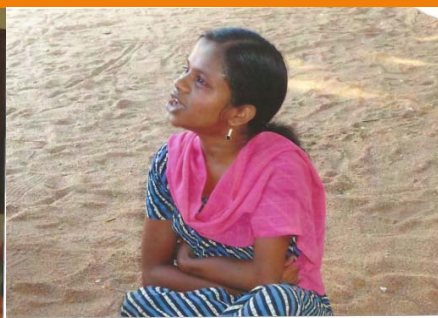


HIGHER EDUCATION

After finishing the schooling, children who desire to do higher education are given opportunity to do professional courses such as nursing, teacher's training, polytechnic, automobile technical course and to obtain graduate degree in arts, science and engineering. The higher education of the children in DSI are supported Bijou-Brigitte.



Nursing children from DSI Home



Poosanam, disabled child who did her Diploma in computer education



Hilda, our first education child to do nursing

AGRICULTURE AND MINI DIARY

The project owns local land for the production of rice and vegetables for the consumption of the children and staff. A small dairy and poultry farm is situated between the boy's and girl's home, which provides milk and eggs. In year we get 20 to 22 liters of milk per day. From the kitchen garden that yields greens, vegetables such as drumstick and coconut, and fruits like banana, the children are benefited.



(Left) Ploughing our field for paddy plantation, (Middle) Dairy farm at DSI, (Right) Agricultural field at DSI

SOLAR LIGHTS AND BIO-GAS PLANT

At present we use solar energy for light & fan in both homes. We used solar for heat water also. We have a bio-gas plant to supplement fuel for cooking. Further we have to install more solar equipment.



(Left) Solar lamp post installed at DSI Home, (Middle) Bio-gas behind the DSI Crèche, (Right) Solar water heater installed at DSI Home

AWARD

DSI organization received the GOLD STAR MILLENIUM state level award for the achievements in the past years from the National Integrity Cultural Academy and Human rights Vigilance organization on the 22nd of August 2010 at the ceremony held at German Hall, Chennai. We all are very happy about the award and thank the academy for recognizing us and honoring us in the state level.



Mrs. Ruby James, Mr. James, Mrs. Sugantha Suresh along with volunteers from DSI receiving the award

PHOTO GALLERY









DSI HOME CHILDREN (Past and Present)



Nancy (Diploma in Teacher Training)



Poosanam (Diploma in Computer Application)



Renu (ITI – Electrician)



Yuvraj (Self-employee – Tailor)



Inbaraj (Visual Programmer)



Vimalraj (ITI)



Anitha (B.A. English Literature)



Muthulakshmi (B.E. Civil Engineering)



Sharmila (B.Sc. Nursing)



Renuga (B.Sc. Computer Science)



Jancy (Diploma in Nursing)



Ishwarya (B.A. English Literature), Rajeshwari (B.Sc. Computer Science)



The DSI Home and School staff have been the pillars of our strength and courage to move ahead in all our expedition. We envisioned and we have been able to achieve them all with the backing up of these wonderful people. Our DSI children are really happy to be a part of our family. Their happiness is all that we have sought until now and forever more.

Thanks to all our members, sponsors and well-wishers for being a part of us!

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