

# OISCA International, South India Chapter

## Annual Report – 2016- 17

Respected President and Fellow OISCANs,

With immense pleasure and pride let me present the activity report of OISCA International, South India Chapter for the year 2016-17 on this 32nd Annual General Body meeting. As in the previous years, many chapters came forward with various innovative and new activities in addition to the routine activities. In the current year four new chapters were added to our fold and there are requests from different states to begin new chapters. Presently we are having 103 chapters with 4900 registered members.

It is rather difficult to present a detailed report of all the chapters in the present meeting. At the same time I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the innovative activities conducted at South India level and Chapter level. Let me use this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all the chapters that were deeply involved in spreading the OISCA message not only among the student community but also to the entire humanity.

### Children's Forest Program (CFP):

Children's Forest Program popularly known as CFP, the flagship project of OISCA was started along with the formation of OISCA, 32 years ago and is in full-swing in 1775 schools in South India. Love Green Clubs established in Schools are the basic unit of CFP. The total number of saplings planted, comes around 1, 00,000 every year with the participation of 75,000 students. Different types of educational programs, competitions and distribution of study materials are some of the ways to inculcate love to environment and to motivate the students to engage in conservation activities. It is estimated that during the last 32 years we have planted more than 32 lakhs saplings throughout South India. We have to appreciate the efforts of Mr. P.K. Nalinakshan, CFP coordinator for the wonderful success of this programme. As a recognition to this unique programme, Government of India conferred OISCA South India Chapter with Indira Priyadarsini Vrisha Mithra Award (IPVM) in 1998.

### Vijayawada Tree Planting Project

We have started a new project at Vijayawada in association this year with OISCA TOYOMA Chapter and Toyoma Prefecture Government, Japan. OISCA South India is establishing CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FOREST at Vijayawada, with the support of OISCA Head quarters at Tokyo. Under this project we have planted 100 saplings each in two schools and in eight schools are in progress. The grand inaugural

ceremony was held at Vijayawada in two schools in the presence 35 Japanese delegates and local MLA. A variety cultural program of students follows the event.

### Herbal Tree Planting festival

At Peruvannamuzhi (Kozhikode) Water Treatment Plant area of Kerala Water Authority, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016:

Obliging the request from Kerala Water Authority and considering the need of the day, OISCA decided to take-up a mega tree planting project at Peruvannamuzhi, Kozhikode. Accordingly a survey was conducted to assess the requirement. As the venue is a forest fringe area on the banks of Peruvannamuzhi River, adjacent to Peruvannamuzhi dam and water is sufficiently available for irrigation, we have decided to plant medicinal plants. Preliminary discussions were made with the officials of State Medicinal Plants Board of Kerala and their response was overwhelming.

The final survey was conducted on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 with officials from SMPB, KWA and OISCA. Huge number of trees was clear felled from the area and top of the hill was leveled for the construction of a colossal treatment plant to purify the water lifted from the river at the valley to cater for the need of whole Kozhikode district. This is a project taken up by KWA with financial support of JICA. The plant authorities offered about 5 acres of land among the 'Plant buildings' and sedimentation area for planting. The survey team found more than 2000 big and small plants can be planted aesthetically within the provided area.

As recommended by the experts, we have decided to plant about 1000 Asoka plants as 1<sup>st</sup> phase. OISCA Perambra chapter took the initiative with the assistance from OISCA Kuttiadi chapter and OISCA District chapter. M/s Suez Environment, consultant to the Treatment plant operations offered all assistance for the future maintenance and protection of the plants.

A grand inaugural function was conducted at the office premises of the 'plant' on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016, to make the "Herbal Planting Festival" a memorable one. Er. Abdullakkutty, Exe. Engineer and who was the brain behind this treatment plant inaugurated the Planting Festival. 300 children with teachers from the schools in and around Kuttiyadi and Perambra, OISCA Officials from different parts of Kozhikode also actively participated in the planting festival about 400 plants were planted on the day itself though there was heavy rain. The planting continued for one week and the balance plants also were planted KWA and their consultants they also agreed to continue the program until the campus become a lush green Herbarium with the support SMPB and OISCA.

## Green Wave Project

The Green Wave is a global biodiversity campaign to educate children and youth, being initiated by Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Environment Program (SCBD). Each year, The Green Wave contributes to worldwide celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, May 22. As a part of CFP activity OISCA South India also actively participated in it during this year too. Though all the schools are on summer vacation 27 schools from various chapters were participated. Children engaged in varieties of environmental programs including nominal planting. Certificates were given to all such schools jointly by UN & OISCA.

## National Medicinal Plants Board projects in Kerala Schools

These are some of the prestigious projects implemented by OISCA along with CFP in schools and colleges. We successfully completed the Herbal Garden Development Project supported by National Medicinal Plants Board of Department of AYUSH, Govt. of India in 262 schools in Kerala in 2006. Since the project has been successfully implemented, as a mark of appreciation, Govt. of Kerala entrusted OISCA to implement a similar project SOOT in another 300 schools for State Medicinal Plants Board and the same has been successfully implemented in 317 schools.

About 4-5 lakhs children are involved in this project and they are growing about 60,000 herbal trees/plants under this project. Various types of awareness programs are carried out in schools, besides nursery raising and mass tree planting. Many of the schools have prepared natural medicines with most of the raw drugs collected from their own plantation. They have studied the recipes from ancient Ayurveda texts to prepare the medicines with the help and guidance of experts.

Since all these projects have been successfully implemented, National Amla Mission entrusted OISCA to implement a special project to propagate Amla (Nelli) by planting hybrid variety plants in association with schools and other local NGOs. We have implemented this project in Kasaragod, Kozhikode, Alappuzha and Kottayam Districts. We are indebted to Mr. K.K. Chandran, Mr. Sreekumar Dr. K.S. Rajithan and Mr. O.L Pios for the support and guidance extended to implement this project.

## Sacred Grove Conservation Project:

This Project is funded by State Medicinal Plants Board and Sir Syed College Taliparamba is supporting OISCA in the implementation. Sacred Groves are the forest left untouched by local people due to some religious belief. We have successfully implemented the project in three Groves at Kannur district.

The main activities includes Biodiversity studies, constructing medicinal plant jaiva veli, cleaning up of ponds and wells, awareness campaigns etc. About 1000 medicinal plants were planted as bio fence. More than 40 species of medicinally important plants are preserved in each grove.

#### OISCA- Nagercoil Tree Planting Project:

OISCA Nagercoil chapter is maintaining the Nagercoil Tree Planting project, which was re greened with the support of Green fund, Japan. So far OISCA members were able to extend the plantation to 5 more hectares. Local People and the Local administration are cooperating with OISCA in this noble venture. At the same time under the able leader ship of Mr. D. Ravindran founder secretary, Nagercoil chapter, they are maintaining the previous project at their own expense. About 1000 students from different CFP schools are participating in the tree planting programs every year. This land which was barren 15 years ago is now converted into a thick forest and the raising water table in the pond dug at the final stage of the project is a visible example for the success of the project.

#### River Protection Project:

Some of the OISCA chapters have undertaken a unique program called "Save River" from its present deteriorating condition. They are planting thousands of trees on the banks of the river from its origin. Students from different schools and colleges are participating in these projects.

#### Mangrove Forestation project

OISCA Chapters are also implementing mangrove forestation activities. Hundreds of college students under the able guidance of Chapter officials are participating in this novel project in different areas of Kerala.

#### Herbal Plantation at Govt. Social Welfare Complex.

About 700 inmates are living in different institutions at the Social Welfare Complex, Vellimadukunnu, and Calicut. Out of this 80 inmates are in the old age home. Most of them are ailing from different diseases. As a part of the Silver Jubilee Year celebrations, Calicut chapter came forward and developed a herbal plantation in about 2 acres, adjacent to this old age home. About 300 big plants of different medicinal species were already planted as a memorial of Silver Jubilee year. The inmates of the institutions are taking keen interest in nursing the trees.

### Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY)

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India selected OISCA International, South India Chapter to implement AHVY in "Mural style fabric painting craft" at Kozhikode Corporation, in the state of Kerala. We executed the AHVY scheme in 35 Self Help Groups consisting of 20 artisans in each group with a total of 700 artisans from 12 villages in Kozhikode Corporation. Self Help Group provide a social support system, The beneficiaries of all SHGs under these project get free training in mural style fabric painting, better wages through market of finished project, educational scholarship for their children, health and accidental insurance, and above all, other financial help through bank under subsidized schemes. OISCA have now 1600 certified artisans. Some of our artisan's names were recommended for National Awards.

### NAI ROSHINI(Leadership Development Training for Minority Women):

We have conducted "Nai Roshini" – Leadership training for Minority Women – Project of Ministry of Minority Affairs Govt of India.

Leadership development, Rights of Women, Home Management, Family Welfare, Communicable diseases, Organic farming for safe food, Life skills, Stress Management & Conflict resolution Skill & Entrepreneurship development, Self & Wage employment, Role of women in Panchayathiraj, Information technology in daily life and Use of internet, Services of Akshaya Centers, Financial literacy & banking, Skill development loan schemes & various credit facilities of Banks, Health & Hygiene, Childhood illness, Safe drinking water & Water conservation, Domestic & Solid waste management, Services of various departments, Right to Information, etc were the other classes taken by eminent faculties from various departments and agencies.

### International Educational Exchange Program (IEEP) Sponsored by OISCA Japan:

This program has been initiated to disseminate the Children's Forest Program and to nurture those who work for OISCA. We are carrying out this program with the intent to create friendly relations among the nations concerned. The International Foundation for Cultural Harmony and OISCA Academy is sponsoring this program. 35 students have been selected and sent to OISCA Academy for plus two courses till this date. All expenses including airfare, tuition fees, accommodation etc were borne by OISCA. In the reporting year Ms. Megha Geo from Navodaya vidhyalaya, Idukki dist.has successfully completed and returned from Japan. Mr. Siva Srikrishna of Sathya Sai Vidhyapeeth, Koilandi, and Ms Nazila NazerKollam got selection for IEEP for the coming academic year. Mr. Atsuo Sugahara, Manager of OISCA

academy and Mr. Nagai were visited Calicut to select students for IEEP during December.

#### OISCA Social Awareness & Leadership Training for school students (SALT):

As the name suggests this is a versatile training course imparting life skill training to school students. This is an extracurricular educational program conducted yearly for selected 9<sup>th</sup> standard students from various CFP school. It has been devised to raise in the young minds the lofty ideals of National Integration, Communal Harmony, Civic Sense, Environmental Awareness, Road Safety Measures, and Commitment to the Society.

#### OISCA Eco Resource Center, Wayanad:

Various training programs are going on at Eco Resource Centre, Meenangadi, Wayanad with Dr. Thomas Thevara as its Director. Student groups from different parts of South India are arriving here to attend the residential camps designed to attract them to become the volunteers of our Mother Earth.

This centre can cater the training programs for 200 persons at a time with residential accommodation for 100 persons. The building was constructed with the financial support under the Grass Root Grant assistance Project of Government of Japan. We are planning to conduct various training programs for youth in India and abroad at this centre. This year we have conducted 47 residential camps and 121 one day programs at the centre. We have constituted a governing body for the smooth governance of the Eco Resource Centre.

#### OISCA Women's Chapters/Forums:

OISCA Women's Forums are working since 1992 with the main objective to ensure participation of women in its activities. The Forum actively participates and supports the activities of OISCA and conducts seminars and workshops on various topics related to women. Classes are also conducted in Handicrafts, Toys making, Fabric Painting, Glass Painting, Ornament Designing etc. on holidays and vacations. They are also conducting various empowerment programmes for tribes in tribal belts.

Many chapters have their own OISCA Kalakshetram, an OISCA School for the Fine Arts to provide training on Classical music, Instrumental music, Classical dance, Mural Painting, etc. The school also holds special vacation classes and stage programs to encourage children in various fields of Fine Arts.

## OISCA Youth Forum

Focus on youth has been a major policy of OISCA since its inception. This led to the formation of youth forums. All the projects are supported by the youth forum members and on their own also they have been conducting various programs for career guidance, youth empowerment, soft skill developments etc.

## OISCA - Ambulance & Crane services, Sponsored by Govt. Of India:

As recognition to various road safety programs of OISCA, Government of India provided OISCA with an Ambulance and a crane to help the people who meet with accidents in roads. These vehicles are worth Rs.40 Lakhs, and OISCA is one among the 4 NGOs who got these facilities. Ambulance is now operating at Kannur and Crane at Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad.

## OISCA Top Teen Contest – 2016

For the past eleven years, OISCA South India has been conducting Top teens, a contest to identify and honor young talents. The contest is held at three levels consisting of a preliminary round, a district round and a state round. This year's Top teens contest began with the preliminary written test held at various centers in South India on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2016. The test was of 90 minutes duration and had 150 objective type questions. Thousands of students participated in the competition. Palakkad chapter got 1<sup>st</sup> and Vadakara 2<sup>nd</sup> in enrolling maximum number of students for the contest. Valuation of the answer papers was done at Chapter level and the district level competitions were held at the district headquarters. Three boys and three girls were selected from each district for the final competition. The Grand Finale of the Top Teens was held at OISCA Youth Centre, Calicut, with a whole day of tests and exercises in different aspects like public speaking, memory skill, creativity etc.

The winners : Boys Section: 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Alwin T. Sunny, St. Thomas HSS, Kannur, 2. Mr. Charles Varghese, Navodaya School, Wayanad, 3. Mr. Pranav S, TKM High school, Kollam, Girls section: 1. Ms. Dona Sabu, MSTR Reymond School, Chempanoda, Calicut, 2. Ms. Nazila Nazer, TKM HSS, Kollam, 3. Ms. Adira Dinesh NP, THSS, Edapal, Malappuram.

## OISCA IDU Suraksha Project & OISCA Migrant Suraksha Project

OISCA South India is implementing IDU and Migrants Suraksha Projects with the financial and technical support of Kerala State AIDS Control Society's (KSACS) HIV intervention program among the injection Drug Users (IDUs) and Migrants especially labours in Calicut district. Injection Drug Users are highly vulnerable to

blood borne infections, particularly HIV, HCV and HBV. National HIV sentinel surveillance study among the IDU's in Calicut showed the HIV prevalence among them getting doubled into 6.2% in just one year. On the other hand Migrants are more dangerous as they are the easy prey to this dreaded disease. I am glad to state that both the projects are effectively implemented and evaluated to be successful. We have appointed 19 youth (including 6 Post graduates in Social sciences) for the successful implementation of the project.

The South India holds the privilege of having 99 chapters, having the headquarters at Calicut, Kerala. The Trichy Chapter is the 100<sup>th</sup> South India Chapter was inaugurated by Mr. Yasuaki Nagaishi, Secretary General, OISCA International, Japan at Nehru memorial college, Thrichy. Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu State & OISCA State President was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

101<sup>th</sup> OISCA, South India Chapter was inaugurated at Singanallur, Coimbatore by Mr. Nagaishi at a grand function coupled with the International conference.

#### Recognition to Chapters:

OISCA South India Chapter Awards for outstanding performances, presented to chapters & members as follows in a glittering ceremony at Palakkad, which was hosted by Palakkad women chapter. The international, Secretary General Mr. Nagaishi was chief guest.

Best Chapter 2015-16: Sulthan Bathery Chapter

Best performances: Puthupadi Chapter, 2. Vadakara Chapter, 3. Calicut Women's Chapter, 4. Palakkad Vanitha Chapter 5. Kondotty Chapter  
6. Kottayam Chapter

Best Chapter President

Mr. Mohammed Master, Kalpetta chapter

Best Chapter Secretaries:

Mr. Shajan Sebastian, Bathery Chapter

Mr. M.K. Krishnaprasad, Perinthalmanna Chapter

Mr. Shameer Kalathingal, Tirur Chapter

Inspiring OISCA Award: Dr. K.S. Rajithan, Thrissur

Most Committed OISCA Award: Mr. Thomas Stephan, Wayanad District Secretary

Committed OISCA Award: Dr. Vijayakumar, Nagercoil Chapter

Special Recognitions for APYF conduct:

1. Dr. Parvathi Warriar
- 2 Mrs. Fousiya Mubashir
3. Dr. Thomas Thevara
4. Mr. C. Satishkumar

Special Recognition to Chapter: Mattannur Chapter, Kannur Dist.

Special Award for Sacred Conservation initiative: Dr. Sreeja Rajeev

Special Recognition to OISCAN:

Mr. Nallaperumal Pillai, Secretary, Tamil Nadu

Top in Top teen contest: 1. Vatakara Chapter, 2. Palakkad & Palakkad Vanitha

Best Annual Report: Palakkad Vanitha Chapter

This year we joined hands with the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra Delhi, a well-known organization based at New Delhi to conduct two training programmes in South India one at Palakkad and the other at Nagarcoil, Tamilnadu.

The first programme was organized with the support of OISCA Women's Chapter, Palakkad on the theme Micro finance for Women Empowerment and the second one was organized with the support of OISCA Nagercoil Chapter on the theme Disaster Management

I am glad to state that The VYK has agreed to collaborate with OISCA for organizing four such training programmes in the coming year in different states.

Jalanidhi Projects:

(Drinking water and Sanitation project aided by World Bank)

We have been entrusted by Government of Kerala to implement Jalanidhi Project in Different Panchayats.

1. Maniyur Grama Panchayat, Kozhikode, Dist. and Chorode Grama Panchayat, Kozhikode dist.

Earlier we have very successfully implemented Jalanidhi Projects at Thiravumbadi Panchayat (Kozhikode), Thirunelly Panchayat (Wayanad) and Padanna Panchayat, Kasargode dist. Total amount worth 50 crores were spent for these projects and these projects benefited about 20,000 families.

The Projects run by chapters: OISCA Children's Park in the heart of Palakkad. Mr. Nagaishi visited this park this year and released special news with photo about this park in Japanese OISCA bulletin. 2. OISCA Bhavan at Sulthan Bathery, well maintained by Bathery chapter. 3. Implementation of Geriatrics centre of Mattannur Chapter is still in progress. Setting up of a Youth Hostel at Idukki by Idukki chapter is in preliminary stage. 4. Setting up of Community centre at Palakkad of Women chapter is in progress.

We could send eleven members to this year Board of Directors meeting as per our special request. They are 1. M. Aravind Babu, 2. Vincent Panikulangara, 3. VP Sasidharan, 4. CP Ramadas, 5. P. Nallaperumal Pillai, 6 Fousiya Mubhashir, 7. Dr. AS Maheswari, 8 Geetha Viswambharan, 9. Lekha KM, 10 Seena Vijayan, 11. Reshmi Kishore. I am proud to inform you that OISCA South India Chapter has conferred

with a special citation for the outstanding activities in the function held at Parliament hall at Tokyo.

We have conducted OISCA Regional Conferences at many parts of South India. Many OISCA Members of different Chapters in these areas attended these conferences. We have upgraded OISCA South India website this year. May visit [www.oiscaindia.org](http://www.oiscaindia.org) for the latest OISCA South India Chapter programmes. OISCA gives thrust on team work and whatever we have achieved this year has been due the support and team work of all OISCAns. I extend my whole hearted gratitude to all OISCAns & Chapter leaders for the support extended to South India Chapter for the successful and smooth conduct of this year' activities. I am placing the report of OISCA South India Chapter for the year 2016-17 before this august body.

M. Aravind Babu,  
Secretary General`