

## LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE OF TRUST ACTIVITIES

Spring - 2020

Dear friends,

I wish you all a good health and all the best! Let's pray that this corona virus pandemic ends soon and our life returns to normality.

Oh my god! We all are in a situation that nobody has imagined ever and the crisis that world is facing now. Living in the present situation and much more suffering of poor is all like a bad dream. It is totally traumatizing. Are we experiencing this as real truth around us? But we all know that we are going through the toughest period in our life. So many people are infected and many are dead and we all are facing a real problem.

***Let us be together in the heart... Let us pray... and we shall overcome.*** This day also will pass and eternal optimistic in me always believe in the Camus quote, ***"in the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."***

Amid this situation I am writing this text to convey my prayers for every one of you through this News letter and also taking time to express our overall views in respect to our TRUST activities for a long term perspective.

As it has been stated in all my previous articles in the News Letters, TRUST India's very existence is only because of the people of Netherlands. The relationship that was built with St. Eco Trust continues till date and stands tall. To be precise, for TRUST-India, nothing would have been possible to achieve without the cooperation and support of yours and St. Eco Trust.

In 1993, we started the organization with the true vision of ***"Emergence of a world full of Love, Peace, & Harmony by "living together & growing together"*** and we aimed at achieving this goal through the mission ***"To imbibe in people the spirit and motivation to live together understanding the importance and need for peaceful coexistence in spite of differences"***.

As you all know that, we have been serving the development needs of the underprivileged especially children & Nature. It is with the active support of the friends of St. Eco Trust, Holland that we have been undertaking many children centered programs like Wonderland Children's Home, Eco Club activities in Wonderland and Vilvarani, Environmental program in schools and villages, Computer educational program in Vilvarani & Wonderland and also University Higher Educational Program for the Eco children etc.

When we look at all the major works undertaken during the last 27 years or so, we have many positive results. And we are still able to continue many of the programs because of you dear friends. Your love and affection for the project is very much appreciated always.

Presently I would like to convey the message to all of you that it is a time for introspection about the certain aspects and to effect some changes and modification with regard to the ongoing activities of TRUST. We feel that it is important to focus the future of our project and giving importance to empowering the community especially children & Nature and giving right way of education in general.

As far as the continuation of Children's Home activities at Wonderland is concerned, the subject has been a matter of discussion for some time now. At the same time we like to bring in more result oriented changes with regard to the Children's Home activities. After careful discussions and analyzation of all matters concerned, we have come up with the plan of closure of the Children's Home activities at Wonderland from April/May 2020. It doesn't mean that we leave them behind uncared. They will be under our care and protection till they complete their higher education for sure.

***I would like to inform you that we take this decision in order to introduce new intervention aimed at improving the quality of personal development of children in the new scenario. To this end, we would like to focus the future of TRUST projects in a coherent manner and for a long term perspective as well.***

Cycle of life always gives us experiences; and the life is experiencing itself. Over the last 27/28 years of experience has given us remarkable transformation in developmental activities especially for the Children & Nature. Let me not talk too much about on data and research etc but coming from the start, the following simple aspects have come up in our mind:

***Children need to understand about their educational, character and life development etc through real experiences in a family atmosphere. Going through this process of parental care, interaction with their own community and environment for education and socialization practices during childhood is utmost important for overall development of a child. This will definitely influence the child to become better individual and ultimately benefit the total development of a nation.***

With the above firm thoughts, here I would like to inform you that we shall give more value to children's total development and create new opportunities for the children from Wonderland Home to play primary social role in the society by integrating them with the family in the village atmosphere where social involvement and activities gives them better life learning experiences and academic education as well with our support. For TRUST, we also believe that integrating the Home children with their family members will help them grow both mentally and physically well.

Now I would like to state that 3 boys have completed their 12<sup>th</sup> board exam during March 2020 and are being discharged and handed over to their respective families. We will be supporting them for the higher education depending on their interest. Further, I would like to inform you that TRUST organizers meantime had a detailed discussions with the parents/ guardians of the all the boys at Wonderland Children's Home and it is very much heartening to note that the single parents/ guardian have welcomed our plan and happy for the idea of **integration**. They readily agreed and accepted to take care of their wards from now and continue the school education from their own family environment.

Presently all the boys are living with their parents/guardians safely. We are keeping in touch with the boys and their families on daily basis to ensure their health and safety. All the boys will be brought back to Wonderland after the lockdown restrictions and shall be handing over and integrating the Home boys with their respective family members in a coherent and official manner.

**TRUST also looking at the bright side of the child's integration with the family that it gives the child the strength and courage to face the world with positive influences in life,**

**an opportunity to be with the community and serve for the family to serve others & Nature..**

Because of the present situation and following the strict guidelines, we have temporarily halted all the TRUST activities in both the centers of Vilvarani and Wonderland. We are keeping vigil and also in regular contact with the Eco Club children and family and ensuring everyone's health and safety.

This is for your kind attention that we look forward ushering into plans and in a new scenario of action once we resume the activities in June. As far as the boys lived in the Children's Home @ Wonderland are concerned, after transferring the Home boys to their respective family members, we propose to take up the following actions:

- First and foremost plan of action would be to admit the boys in the village schools
- Making monthly visit to the children's family by our coordinators ensuring the parent's/family's care and children's educational status and all other aspects.
- Providing them with all the educational needs.
- Providing them with all the food provisions and other needs.
- Making the arrangements for all the boys to visit Wonderland once in every 3 months to be with Wonderland Eco Club children.
- Some boys are from the nearby villages of Wonderland and they could continue coming to the centre for evening classes and computer lessons.
- Some boys who live nearby Vilvarani campus could visit Eco Club @ Vilvarani on Saturdays/Sundays and participate in our activities there.

By implementing the above action plans, we believe that changes will have a positive impact and overall development of children. At the same time we will make sure that no child is affected in any manner for we work for them only.

In furtherance, I take this opportunity to inform you that, all the following and ongoing activities and programs will be resumed as early as possible, most likely from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June:

- Eco Club and Evening Tuition Classes for children both girls & boys at Wonderland & Vilvarani
- educational sponsorship & Life skill programs for children
- TRUST's "We Care Computer Center" in Vilvarani and "Wonderland Computer Center" to provide hands on-experience in Computer Technology,
- Higher Education program especially for girl children pursuing their University studies from the eco clubs etc.
- and sponsorship program for all the boys who were at Wonderland Children's Home

We always believe that collaboration and team work requires a perfect understanding and good communications between the organizations and the beneficiaries to work together to achieve a common goal. This perfect understanding that we have with St. Eco-Trust is the sole energy lead us to the success from the beginning till date. The friendship between St. Eco-Trust and TRUST, India over the years has become on a long-term in a sustained basis and the trust made us to work together as a team.

Our relationships with the eco children, friends, staffs and of course with ST. Eco-Trust stands tall and with our good gestures we shall usher in new possibilities after the present crisis...we shall draw wisdom from our years of experiences and explore a way for exploring in accordance with enhancing mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, managing differences and seeking common development for the Children & Nature. Further, we shall be looking forward to introduce new interventions aimed at improving the quality of the following sector in a phased manner:

- Environment and Health education
- Safe water, hygiene & Sanitation
- Gender equality, sustainable development
- Mother & child care
- Children, adolescents & youth engagement and peace building etc.

For TRUST, it's time to think .....Think to be more and completing actively to set up our life in competition on every level. We shall together guide them the correct direction of cordial relationship under our guidance and we shall help them to come out with their good cooperation and bring in positivity. Further, we shall help shape their future to go beyond all the difference and create Harmony by integrating them all together to achieve our common goal.

As always, I am proud to say that, only with the influence of Dutch friends, I was able to initiate the plan to establish the organization with the objective of improving the lives of those in need especially aiming at improving children and nature to give them a new lease of life for a better tomorrow through spreading the message of LOVE, PEACE & HARMONY.

I am sure that you will certainly understand and will appreciate our decision with regard to our activities. We at TRUST, India look upon dear friends of the Netherlands and St. Eco-Trust to continue supporting us in all regards so as to continue our activities. Friendship and love remains!

Thank you all once again. May God bless every one!

With prayers & kind regards,

C.S. Gireesan Nampoothiri.

Date: 23.04.2020.