

TEXCITY TIMES

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Economic & Community Development

Economic and community development is one of the areas of focus for Rotary, and Rotary clubs around the world engage in various projects and initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth and improving communities.





President's Message

MY DEAR TEXTCIANS

Another Rotary month has gone by in a jiffy. This month we had a major focus on Vocational service. Vocations, or ones calling in life, play a pivotal role in shaping individual purpose and societal progress. In an increasingly interconnected world, the significance of teaching people how to fish rather than merely feeding them cannot be overstated. This analogy, derived from the age-old wisdom, exemplifies the importance of empowering individuals with skills and knowledge that enable self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

By nurturing vocations, we equip people with the tools and expertise needed to sustain themselves and contribute to the greater good. Rather than perpetuating a cycle of dependency, vocational assistance fosters independence and a sense of fulfilment. We extended monetary help and donating sewing machines to the physically challenged. When individuals are given this kind of help, they gain the ability to generate their livelihoods, ensuring a more stable and prosperous society. Moreover, vocational assistance often leads to economic growth and enhancing overall well-being.

A society that values and supports vocations places itself on a path towards sustainable development, reduced poverty, and greater self-esteem among its citizens. The importance of helping lies not only in addressing immediate needs but in nurturing the seeds of long-term empowerment and self-sufficiency, creating a stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant community.

The Youth Service committee has also drawn up plans to reach out to at least 15000 school children this year by visiting various schools and having special resource persons to talk about cybercrime and its prevention and about the menace of drug abuse and how to protect oneself from it. Our international trip to Turkey next month is almost finalised. The team under the leadership of International service director R S Maruti, after consulting five travel agents have finalised an excellent itinerary at the lowest cost possible.

It is heartwarming to see the support and participation of members in the various projects and I place my thanks on record for the same.

Let us together create hope in the world.

Rtn. MD Vijaykumar Sivanaesan
President 2023-24.



From the Editor

INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ONE DROP. TOGETHER, WE ARE AN OCEAN

Team spirit is the lifeblood of any successful group endeavor. It embodies unity, collaboration, and mutual support among team members. This helps the team members to draw strength from each other's unique abilities and perspectives. It fosters an environment where challenges are faced together, and victories are celebrated collectively. The prime aim of a leader, in our case the President of the Rotary Club is to cultivate a sense of belonging and camaraderie, creating an atmosphere where individuals shine and the collective achievements is greater than the sum of the parts. Our president Rtn. Vijaykumar Shivanesan is just doing the same. I am reminded of a very powerful anecdote about team spirit. Let me take this opportunity to share it with you all. The music band U2 was formed by school friends in Dublin. Adam Clayton, their bass player suffered from depression, which lead to alcoholism. He himself admits that because of this he was hard to be put up with, but the band always took care of him.

Their last album was called UNFORGETTABLE FIRE and it had a song in it called the PRIDE. The third verse in the song was about Martin Luther King and his tragic assassination. They were in Temple Arizona for a gig and had concerts scheduled on 3rd and 4th April, which marked the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. (4th April 1968). It was the first show of the tour and there was a lot of media attention. The day before the second concert on 3rd April they received a death threat.

The threat was: If you play pride on the 4th April, I will kill you. I have a gun and I will shoot you. The band told the FBI of the threat and they said that with this short a notice there was no way they could offer protection. Any one in the crowd could have a gun or there might be a sniper and that the best thing to do would be to cancel the concert. U2 are tough guys. They discussed and decided to go ahead with the concert.

Towards the end, they play PRIDE. As they came up with the third verse, their lead singer Bono was terrified. He closed his eyes and sang the words – "Early morning, April four, shot rings out in the Memphis sky, Free at last, they took your life, they could not take your PRIDE."

Bono says that whole time he was expecting a bullet. He got to the end of the song; eyes closed. He opened his eyes and saw the bass player Adam Clayton who was all the time playing in front of him, so that no one could take a shot on him. He was willing to take the bullet for his friend. Now if that is not friendship inspired team spirit then what is?

A great Rotary Club is where such kind of spirit exists. Happy that our Rotary club is one such.

Rtn. Ramesh Nichani
Editor - Texcity Times

Rotract Club of Texcity Installation

On 3rd Sep 2023 Rotractor Maikchel Raj was installed as the 22nd President of Rotract Club of Coimbatore Texcity at our Texcity Centennial Hall. Rtr.Arjun was also installed as the secretary for the club. The Chief Guest of the evening was Rtn.Dr.Jayamurali Balaguruswamy, Director & CEO - KG Invicta Services P ltd. Also present were all the Senior District officials of Rotary and Rotract. The event was sponsored by our club.



The 3rd Board Meeting

The third board meeting was held on 6th Sep 2023 at our Rotary Texcity Centennial hall. The meeting was attended by 23 board members. The President brought to speed the members of what has been achieved and what else needs to be done. As usual the meeting ended with fellowship and dinner.



Anns Meet No. 3

Rt. Ann Sarah Shafi hosted the third Anns meet at her home, with a theme of iconic film characters. Attendees dressed as famous characters like Zeenath Aman and Alia Bhat. Renowned physiotherapist Mr. Murga Prabhu gave a talk on women's self-care. The highlight was Ann Sarah's mother's delicious Biryani. The host organized entertaining movie-themed games and awarded prizes to the winners.



Anns Club Project

Wish of smiles, the Anns project which collects funds in cash or kind from the Anns celebrating their birthdays in the month went to The Spine Academy, Tennampalayam.

The academy has 50 inmates all wheel chair bound or bed ridden depending on the severity of their spine injury. There was a request for basic groceries and vegetables which the "wish of smiles" was able to fulfil.

Contributions were from Ann Muthu (groceries worth ₹7500/-), Ann Vidhya Suresh – (urinary bags worth ₹15,000/-), Ann Menaka (urinary bag worth ₹5000/-) Rtn Jagadeeshwari (groceries worth ₹5000/-), Ann Pravana (groceries worth ₹5000/-) The total value of groceries given was Rs. 37,500/-. It was very heartwarming for the Anns to be able to help the needy with these basic needs. The District Governor Rtn. MD. T. R. Vijayakumar was the chief guest, District Director Rtn.MD.Gokularaj was the Guest of honour. Along with us were Asst Governor Rtn.Sriramulu, GGR Rtn.C.R.Vijay, Many Rotarians, Anns, Annettes and Rotractors of Texcity attended the function. Five medical cots & mattresses too were donated to the academy.



Vocational Service award

to Mr.J.Karunakaran of Oondrukol Arakattalai by District Governor

Rotary Coimbatore Texcity conferred a Vocational Service Award on Mr.J.Karunakaran of Oondrukol Arakattalai. He runs a home for 30 Bedridden patients and kids with Autism .Also he runs a Handicap Trust with 250 and more physically challenged people, This trust helps in setting up the physically challenged persons livelihood. The award was conferred by Our District Governor Rtn. MD. T. R. Vijaya kumar who was the chief guest. District Director Rtn. MD. Gokularaj was the Guest of honor. Also present were Asst Governor Rtn.Sriramulu, GGR Rtn.C.R.Vijay, DRFC & DGND Rtn.Chella Raghavendran and Texcity Rotarians, Anns, Annettes, Rotractors of Texcity & the family of the recipient.



District Priority

"Smiles"-Infant Care & Mothers Health- Deworming Day @ Shanthi Ashram

Rotary Coimbatore Texcity's Joint Collaboration with International Centre for child and Public Health

Deworming Day (10th August, Mop Day) we have reached out to 1576 children and families in the vulnerable villages under the care of Shanti Ashram and ICPH for this community outreach. Adult worms live in human intestines for food and survival and produce thousands of eggs each day. These eggs are passed out in the faeces of infected people. Infected people who defecate outdoors spread the

worm eggs in the soil. Eggs contaminate the soil and spread infection in several ways: These eggs can be ingested through vegetables that are not carefully cooked, washed or peeled; These eggs contaminate water sources; and are ingested into the children who play in soil and then put their hands in their mouths without washing them. Health impact of intestinal worms: They can lead to anaemia, malnutrition, impaired mental, physical & cognitive development, and reduced school participation.

WHY WE PREFER A WRONG MAP TO NO MAP AT ALL

Availability Bias "Smoking can't be that bad for you: my grandfather smoked three packs of cigarettes a day and lived to be more than 100. Or: 'Manhattan is really safe. I know someone who lives in the middle of the Village and he never locks his door. Not even when he goes on vacation, and his apartment has never been broken into.' We use statements like these to try to prove something, but they actually prove nothing at all. When we speak like this, we succumb to the availability bias.

Are there more English words that start with a K or more words with K as their third letter? Answer: more than twice as many English words have K in third position than start with a K. Why do most people believe the opposite is true? Because we can think of words beginning with a K more quickly. They are more available to our memory.

The availability bias says this: we create a picture of the world using the examples that most easily come to mind. This is absurd, of course, because in reality things don't happen more frequently just because we can conceive of them more easily.

Thanks to the availability bias, we travel through life with an incorrect risk map in our heads. Thus, we systematically overestimate the risk of being the victim of a plane crash, a car accident, or a murder. And we underestimate the risk of dying from less spectacular means, such as diabetes or stomach cancer. The chances of bomb attacks are much rarer than we think, and the chances of suffering depression are much higher. We attach too much likelihood to spectacular, flashy or loud outcomes. Anything silent or invisible we downgrade in our minds. Our brains imagine show-stopping outcomes more readily than mundane ones. We think dramatically, not quantitatively.

Doctors often fall victim to the availability bias. They have their favourite treatments, which they use for all possible cases. More appropriate treatments may exist, but these are in the recesses of the doctors' minds. Consequently they practise what they know.

Consultants are no better. If they come across an entirely new case, they do not throw up their hands and sigh: 'I really don't know what to tell you.' Instead, they turn to one of their more familiar methods, whether or not it is ideal.

If something is repeated often enough, it gets stored at the forefront of our minds. It doesn't even have to be true. How often did the Nazi leaders have to repeat the term 'the Jewish question' before the masses began to believe that it was a serious problem? You simply have to utter the words 'UFO', 'life energy' or 'karma' enough times before people start to credit them.

The availability bias has an established seat at the corporate board's table, too. Board members discuss what management has submitted - usually quarterly figures instead of more important things, such as a clever move by the competition, a slump in employee motivation or an unexpected change in customer behaviour. They tend not to discuss what's not on the agenda. In addition, people prefer information that is easy to obtain, be it economic data or recipes. They make decisions based on this information rather than on more relevant but harder to obtain information - often with disastrous results. For example, we have known for ten years that the so-called Black-Scholes formula for the pricing of derivative financial products does not work. But we don't have another solution, so we carry on with an incorrect tool. It is as if you were in a foreign city without a map, and then pulled out one for your home town and simply used that. We prefer wrong information to no information. Thus, the availability bias has presented the banks with billions in losses.

What was it that Frank Sinatra sang? 'Oh, my heart is beating wildly/And it's all because you're here/When I'm not near the girl I love/I love the girl I'm near.' A perfect example of the availability bias. Fend it off by spending time with people who think differently than you think - people whose experiences and expertise are different than yours. We require others' input to overcome the availability bias.

-ROLF DOBELLI

These infections can be prevented by:

- Administering and creating awareness about the impact of intestinal worms on a child's health
- Administering of Albendazole consistently twice a year
- Using sanitary toilets and not defecating outside
- Hand-washing, particularly before eating and after using toilets
- Wearing slippers and shoes
- Washing fruits and vegetables in safe & clean water
- Eating properly cooked food



District Priority

"Smiles"-Infant Care & Mothers Health-Nutrition & Health Checkups @ Shanthi Ashram

Rotary Coimbatore Texcity's Joint Collaboration with International Centre for child and Public Health for National Nutrition Week (1st to 7th September)

This has been very successfully carried out. The feedback from the rural parents in all nine villages has been very positive.

Under this project we have organized training and awareness sessions, provided nutritious meal, and micronutrients to 429 children and parents.

Why do we celebrate National Nutrition Week?

The main idea behind establishing the National Nutrition Week is to educate people about the importance of nutrition.

National Nutrition Week is celebrated from 1st to 7th September, to highlight the importance of having a balanced nutrition diet.

The project was done to achieve the following goals:

- Ensuring and Sustaining the Rights to Holistic Education & Nutritional Security
- Nutritional Literacy Sessions for mothers of children in early childhood across 5 service villages
- Master Chef Competition for Mothers Community Outreach in partnership with the Bala Shanti Programme
- Building Communities and Promoting Health
- Anaemia Prevention and management
- Little Chef Competition for High School Students
- Micronutrient distribution to vulnerable children



Rotary Coimbatore Texcity in association with Rajalakshmi Nethralaya trust of The Eye Foundation continued with eye camps at schools, villages and institutions where a large number of people work. Thirty one camps were conducted during the month and Six thousand eight hundred and twenty one patients were screened.

District Priority

"Smiles" - School Support & Health Care - "Eye Serve"

One thousand and two were identified for defects and eighty six of them have cataracts. At the centre nine hundred and eight patients visited. All the 86 patients identified for cataract underwent the corrective surgery and fifty seven other patients benefitted from direct walk-in. Forty two Retina and other special surgeries too were carried out under our EYESERVE project. Forty other patients benefitted from investigate procedures.



District Priority

"Smiles" - Mental Health - Counselling
- RYLA for Schools

Rotary Coimbatore Texcity Wins The Volleball Tournament Organised by Rotary Coimbatore Uptown

Rotary Coimbatore Texcity participated in volleyball tournament organised by Rotary Uptown at Nehru Stadium grounds. The club sent in two teams.

Team A - Rtn.Vijayakumar, Rtn.Brijesh, Rtn.Jude Alex, Rtn.Rajesh, Rtn.Nanjan Balu, Rtn.Ilango

Team B -Rtn.Suresh Lund, Rtn.Senthil Raju, Rtn.Senthil, Rtn.Irfan,Rtn.C.Karthikeyan, Rtn.Vinod Kumar.

Team B won the tournament. The event was followed by fellowship and lunch.



An ambitious goal of reaching out to 15000 students from different schools in the city to create awareness against cybercrime and the perils of drug abuse has been set by the club. This is going to be achieved by taking resource persons to various schools. The first two schools to benefit from this initiative where Avila Convent and Alvernia Convent. Both schools had 1000 students each attending this program.

The RYLA was inaugurated by our Past Presidents Rtn. Ramesh A Nichani and Rtn. Jose C Abraham. The resource person for Cybercrime was Rtn. Rajkumar Manickam and for the drug abuse was Mr. Ravi Kumar. Annet Prartana gave one of the schools tips on soft skills while Rtn. J.C.Kumar did at the other school. The program was much appreciated by the principals of both the schools.



District Priority

"Smiles" - Vocational - Livelihood - Employment for Differently Abled & Microfinance

In accordance with the Dist. Priorities Rotary Coimbatore Texcity identified physically challenged people and helped them to earn a livelihood by providing them microfinance to start their small business and also equipped some of them with sewing machines, xerox machines and printers to help them earn their living. These contributions were given by the hands of our Dist. Governor Rtn.Vijay Kumar in a function held at our Texcity hall on 12th Sep2023.

A sum of Rs. 50,000/- was given by past president Rtn. Arun Gokuldas which helped ten individuals to start their small business. Meanwhile Rtn. Palnival, Rtn. Brijesh and Rtn. PDG Capt. Mathews contributed towards five sewing machines given away to five ladies to earn their living. The total project cost was Rs.150,000/-.



Visually challenged Mr. Bannariswamy receiving Rs.14,000/- for a xerox machine.



Ms. Baby a terminal spinal cord defect receiving a sum of Rs.3000/- to start her flower business.



Mr. Rajenderan, who is disabled getting microfinance of Rs.3000/- for starting a popcorn business



Mr.Shankar who has deformed feet gets Rs. 6000/- to stock up material in his "Peeti Kadai" (provision store)



Mr. Boovantharan with spinal cord injury gets microfinance of Rs.3000/- to start his soap making and phenyl business.



Mr.Sasikumar gets a sewing machine (cost Rs.9,800/-)



Mr. Shaktivel a mentally challenged gets microfinance of Rs.5000/- to stock his "petti Kadai"



Mr. Siva with two disabled daughters gets microfinance of Rs. 5000/- to start his vegetable vendor business.