Editorial

The close of 2016 has brought difficulties due to the demonetization of currency, particularly to those who have no documented presence. However our work continues as before, with hopes that the year ahead be peaceful, productive and healthy.

The smiling faces of fifth grade school girls awaiting the finger prick for hemoglobin test bring our yearly round of health checks to an end. These girls have been coming for the past five years for health check-ups and are happy to be out of class.
Regular Health check up in Primary Schools

A few photographs from our regular medical examinations in the various government schools.

Annual health check-ups of under five years at Mohanam Kindergarten.
Mohanam Kindergarten is a part of Mohanam Cultural Centre under the Auroville Village Action Trust. The centre provides youth from the neighbouring areas a place for extracurricular activities, with evening tuition and creative art classes and encouragement to develop original performances and craft skills: some young men have made, and are using, a set of varied bamboo musical instruments. There are about 70 to 75 children from the neighboring villages in the kindergarten. It is one of the few schools providing well-planned nutritious food. Our regular program here includes medical examinations, a class about healthy food, and points about sanitation and hygiene to the mothers.

Dengue.....

Edyanchavady Village pond  Health Inspector’s class
Dengue fever is a major health problem with yearly outbreaks common in the monsoons due to breeding of mosquito larvae in small collections of water. The causative virus, spread by infected mosquitoes, causes high fever with a risk of complications like haemorrhage due to low platelet count, particularly in the elderly, the very young, or those with pre-existing diseases.

This year the fever outbreak occurred twice in the same geographical area in Mathur colony. The health department sent its health inspector and team of health workers to locate and remove breeding sites of mosquitoes. We invited Health Inspector Ravi to give our health workers a class on Dengue. He demonstrated the living larvae in a sample of water collected from a small coconut shell lying on the road side. The Health workers were amazed at how little water was needed for the larvae to survive. They, in turn, pass on this vital information in their villages.

**Orthopedic Camp at Auroville Health Centre**

Dr. Vijay Raghavan, an orthopedic surgeon from Pondicherry, kindly provided a free orthopedic camp in the health centre. Many elderly patients with osteoarthritis and bone or joint problems consulted him. He gave a class on prevention and treatment of osteoarthritis and avoidance of complications, with dietary restrictions. Physiotherapists were present to give guidance on relevant exercises. Bone density tests were conducted as well, giving the patients who attended a better picture for further follow-up.