

Telephone conversation updates from Sanjeev Ranganathan

Seva Chakkar have informed the bank that they have the funds to purchase the building. The building owner is not living in Chennai, but has moved to Maduri I believe. He has not responded to the letter that was sent out by the bank to complete the purchase of the building. I think it's some standard stall tactics to continue getting the rent for a few more months. The owner doesn't come to collect the funds, only his manager does. Seva Chakkara has told the manager that they want to speak directly to the owner and stopped paying rent from April. The bank is aware of the situation and has not terminated their offer for the 31 March deadline. Instead they are sending out a field officer to the owners home to speak to the owner and hand over the request to complete the settlement. We'll know more once we hear the field officer's report.

The children's exams were mid way through. Lakshmi seems confident that the elder children would have done ok. She is hopeful about the children in grade V who are writing open exams too, but thinks that the teachers did a lousy job when they were there and at least one of them should have been present to take care of the kids/monitor teachers at that time.

I could not speak to Velayudham. He was in the hospital. Apparently Lena has undergone an operation for his urinal tract. The problem was discovered when he was 10 months old, but the doctor advised that the child was too young for an operation. He is 1-1/2 yrs old now. The surgery cost would be around Rs.7000 when that does happen. She also mentioned that for elder children, especially those going to college Rs.1000 a month that we try to raise via SAC only covers the very basic expenses and many local and other donors still pitch in on adhoc basis.