

MADURAI SEED

Annual Report

2022-2023





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ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

MADURAI SEED is a voluntary organization to support and empower the underprivileged children and young people. A registered body under Indian Trust Act.



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**All kids need is a little help, a little hope,
And someone who believes in them.**



Be the light that helps others find their way

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Learning can happen anywhere, not just in the classroom

From the Director's Desk

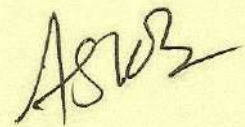
Greetings. I am very happy to present you this annual report of 2022-2023. Madurai Seed has successfully completed 24 years of journey since 1999. We have helped numerous children and young people to finish schooling, to complete colleges, to achieve a vocational goal, and to grow up with values and social commitment. Our goal is simple, our action plans are simple, our administration structure is simple, but the impacts are big. The results are improving each year, we could see and experience the outcomes directly. Thanks to the big hearts of our donors, friends, and supporters. Without them, this journey wouldn't be possible.

We are committed to construct a positive young people and children society, despite the challenges they face in families, locale, and schools. We like them to be identified as "Madurai Seed Student" who are motivated, skilful, and strong to beat the odds. We will continue our works more targeted and impact oriented, and advocate for the education and resources for underprivileged children and young people to emerge as main stakeholders of future world.

We are grateful to all the donors, friends, moral supporters, resource persons, advisors, former volunteers, and everyone who joined hands with us. Thank you.

31st March 2023

Yours



Karthikbharathi A S
Director



Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary...

ABOUT US

Started in 1999, MADURAI SEED is a grass-root level voluntary organization promoting socially economically disadvantaged children and young people through education. The drop-in centres and a range of skills and personality development activities give children and young people the opportunity to make progress educationally, personally and socially, and to work towards a vocational goal.





Creating a joyful world for children...

VISION

MADURAI SEED envisages a state at which,

"All the Children and Young People Are Educated, Healthy, Mature, Responsible and Capable of Leading Our Future World"

MISSION

"To Provide a Supportive, Nurturing Environment for Socially, Economically Disadvantaged Children and Young People, to Discover and Develop Their Mental Abilities; Enrich Their Sense of Self-Esteem, and to Empower Them with Emotional Stability to Promote Personal and Social Responsibilities."

VALUES

- ***Learning from each other***
- ***Growing together***
- ***Sharing is caring***



**A good education is the foundation for a better future.
It unlocks the doors of opportunities.**

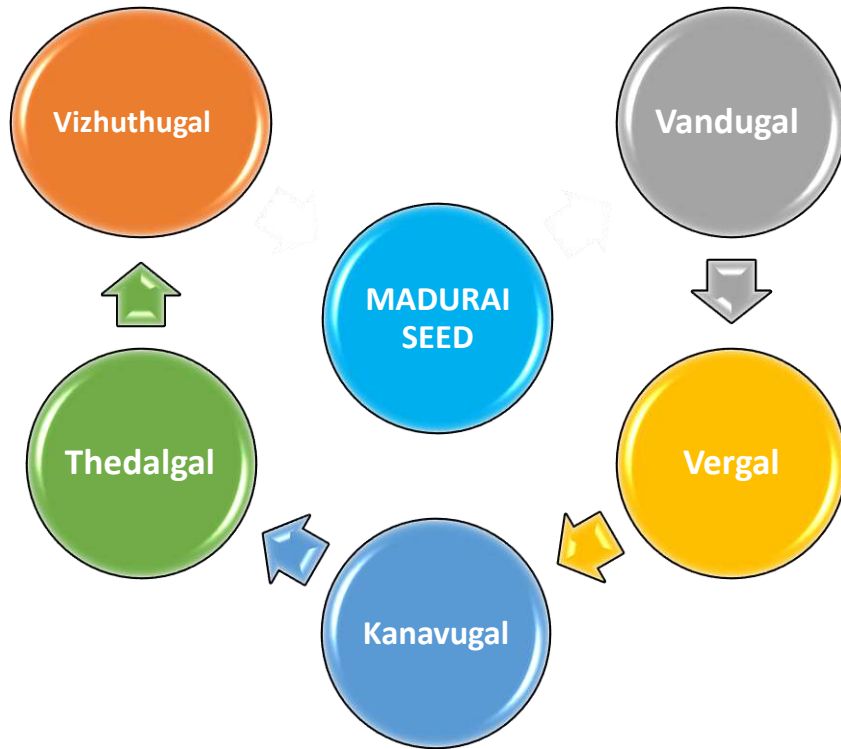


Beneficiaries Overview

Karumbalai Children			
Arangam	Boys	Girls	Total
Vandugal Arangam (6 to 9 years old)	33	45	78
Vergal Arangam (10 to 13 years old)	50	49	99
Kanavugal Arangam (14 to 17 years old)	32	16	48
Total Children in Karumbalai	115	110	225
Boys Hostel			
Hostel Children (11 to 17 years old)	78	-	
Overall Children Beneficiaries	193	110	303
Young People			
Thedalgal Arangam (18 to 23 years old)	07	10	17



A Continuous Cycle

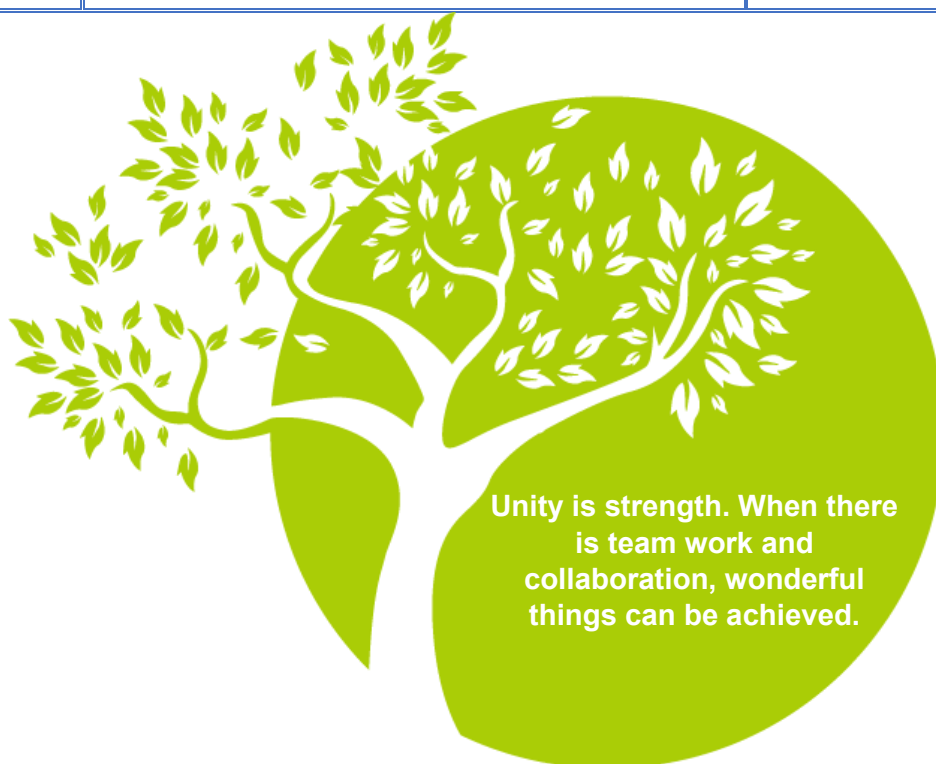


Vandugal Arangam	6 to 9 years old	Classes 1 to 4
Vergal Arangam	10 to 13 years old	Classes 5 to 8
Kanavugal Arangam	14 to 17 years old	Classes 9 to 12
Thedalgal Arangam	18 and above	College
Vizhuthugal Arangam	Former Madurai seed students	

This continuous cycle of learning, growing, and giving back is our motto. During school they are learning, getting academic success, finishing schooling. During their college, they are giving back as volunteers, after getting a job they are coming back as alumnae. This cycle ensures their academic growth, career growth, and giving proof for our works.

Projects & Partners

Projects	Actions	Partners
Madurai Seed Narpanigal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic Education Centres • Stipend for teaching volunteers 	Asha for Education, Boston
Asha Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director – Projects Management • Working with resource people 	Asha for Education, Boston
Skills and Personality Development Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library / Children Bank • Camps / Field Trips / Special Days • Trainings / Workshops / Seminars • Club Activities / Celebrations 	Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland
KFR Children Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships for school students 	Kantonsschule Freudenberg, Switzerland
FMS Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships for college young people 	Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland
Coordinator Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating project activities 	Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland



HOLISTIC EDUCATION CENTERS



Vandugal Arangam



Vergal Arangam



Kanavugal Arangam

Holistic Education Centers

The education centres offer the students a proper space to do their homework and additional classes where they have the chance to study in small groups; it gives them a place to go and something to do in the evening.



There are three centres according to the age group of children. These centres are functioning three hours a day, and six days in a week. Children are getting support for their school subjects from the teaching volunteers.

Extracurricular activities are also conducted here time to time. Unlike school, we encourage activity-based learning, and try to implement different methodologies for different needs.

Totally **225 children (115 Boys + 110 Girls)** have benefited from the evening education centres in **Karumbalai**.

- 57% children are studying in government schools
- 30% children are studying in government aided schools
- 13% children are studying in private schools
- **20 students** are writing **12th std** government public exam in 2023.
- 15 are the first persons in their family to finish up to 12th std.
- 35 children are going to write 10th, 11th, 12th board exams in Karumbalai centres.
- Among 35, 59% of them are first persons in their families reaching this level of education.

HOSTEL



Working for Hostel Children

This hostel for boys aged from 10 to 17 years is run by Tamilnadu Harijan Seva Sangh, and has a long history and tradition. Currently, **78 students** are staying here and studying in a nearby government school. Madurai Seed works hand in hand with this hostel in the previous years also. During Covid and After around 2 years, we haven't been in touch with them. In this year 2022-23, we have done more programs for them.

- One of our volunteers is **teaching Maths** to the 10th std students here on Sundays
- Madurai Seed has sponsored **Audio/Sound systems** to the newly built hall in the hostel.
- On **children's day**, we organized three resource persons to conduct three different programs
- Took part in **Pongal** celebration at Sevalayam
- Conducted **reading session** and provided the small book about freedom fighter V.O.Chidambaram to all children
- Conducted **song-singing session** by Vidya, an NRI volunteer.
- Madurai Seed's alumni meet and Diwali program was conducted in Sevalayam premises.



Thedagal - Young People Education Centre

There is a need for directing the power of young minds to constructive and meaningful exposures. We are very proud to engage with young people and channelize their passion and energy for the benefit of their society.

This team consists of college-going young people. Most of them were the erstwhile Madurai Seed children. They teach children at the education centres, and organize extra-curricular activities for them. They are also equipped with necessary educational, vocational guidance and personality development programs.

They are studying different subjects in different colleges. They are studying subjects like Tamil, English, Commerce, Maths, History, Teacher education, computer science, etc. There are **17 young people (7 boys + 10 girls)** in the year 2022-2023.

Studies	Male	Female	Total
UG-First Year	02	01	03
UG-Second Year		03	03
UG-Third Year	01	03	04
Post-Graduation		02	02
Teacher Training (B.Ed)		01	01
Teacher Training (M.PEd)	01		01
Diploma	01		01
Preparing for Govt.Exam	02		02
TOTAL	07	10	17

Success Stories:

- 15 volunteers are going to colleges
- 2 alumni who finished college, now preparing for government exams
- Among 17, 10 are girls. 7 are boys.
- Among 17, 9 are first graduates.
- 7 are from Dalit community.
- 4 joined as new first year volunteers in 2022.
- 11 are studying in Govt / Govt Aided colleges/courses.
- 3 girls and 1 boy, are pursuing higher education (post-graduation & teacher training) even after under graduation which is a great development.

S.No	Name	Subject
1	Kaleeswari. A	M.Sc. Geography
2	Nandhini . P	M.Sc. Maths
3	Srinath	M.P.Ed (Physical Education)
4	Bhavani	B.Ed (Maths)
5	Jeevananthan. S	Competitive Exams Coaching
6	Sathish Babu	Competitive Exams Coaching
7	Mahalakshmi. S	BBA, Business Administration
8	Hemalatha. K	B.Sc. Microbioogy
9	Swetha. G	B.A. English
10	Bhuvanesh. A	B.Sc Physical Education
11	Gopika. K	B.Sc. Mathematics
12	Pavithra. A	B.Com Commerce
13	Ishwarya. P	B.A Tamil
14	Loganayaki	BCA, Computer Application
15	Eswara Pandi	BA, Economics
16	Nandheesh	BA, Economics
17	Sundar	Diploma



VIZHUTHUGAL ARANGAM



Vizhuthugal (Aerial Roots) is the Alumni Association for former children and volunteers. Aerial Roots give support to big trees. The alumni feel even they are in several walks of life at the moment, their roots are here.

The alumni can render monetary support, knowledge support, or moral support. Children and young people of today are getting more inspirations from them to study well, to come up in life, and to come back to Madurai Seed. They can join themselves in our activities, visit the centers, teach classes, and make use of our resources and contacts. The circle gets bigger when they talk about Madura Seed in their working environment.

The alumni are working in various arenas of society as Engineers, teachers, police, advocates, government employees, social workers, technicians, entrepreneurs, and private employees. Most of them are first generation graduates. We value their coming back as one of the strengths for the organization. It is an important extension of Madurai Seed family. They meet once in every year to reaffirm the bond between them and their alma-matter.





We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.

We are one big family.

SCHOLARSHIPS



**Education is transformational,
It changes lives . . .**

KFR CHILDREN FUND

KFR school students have been supporting every child of Madurai Seed since 2008. Children who attend classes regularly at Madurai Seed, and showed interest in the savings scheme are eligible for this scholarship. We fix average amount for each class and distribute it equally to all children. Children from 1st std (5 years) to 12th std (17 years) are receiving this scholarship.

Thanks to Laura Villiger, Martin, KFR Principal, Staff, Students, Seeds for tomorrow team for their efforts and love.

Arangam	Boys	Girls	Total
Vandugal Arangam 6 to 9 years old	16	18	34
Vergal Arangam 10 to 13 years old	30	20	50
Kanavugal Arangam 14 to 17 years old	21	15	36
TOTAL	67	53	120



KFR Children Fund - Scholarship Distribution Programs



On 08.11.2022 61 students from 7th to 12th standard were given scholarship. Scholarships are provided on the basis of savings in children's Bank and regular attendance at Madurai Seed Education Centers. The program was attended by children and parents. Director Karthik Bharathi, Children

Federation President Surya, Coordinator Arun Kumar, Accountant Muthu Pandi and Volunteer Jeeva presented scholarships. Parents were instructed to take care of their children's education, to send their children to Madurai Seed regularly, and to give both freedom and supervision. Photos were screened about camps and activities.



On 09.11.2022 59 students from 1st to 6th standard were given scholarships. Trustees Elavarasi and Mariammal distributed the scholarships. Director Karthikbharathi shared with enthusiasm about KFR School and how the students there conduct a food festival

and provide educational scholarships to the children of Madurai Seed. Teacher Mariammal congratulated the children and parents. Parents were asked to send their children to school and Madurai Seed regularly, reduce their mobile phone time and encourage savings in our Children's Bank.

ASHA STIPEND FOR VOLUNTEERS

Asha For Education, Boston has been providing monthly stipend to teaching volunteers, which is very helpful for their education, and little expenses. It is an honorarium for young people who are committed to give their evenings to teach children from their locale. They also spend their holidays assisting in other works involved with special programs and activities. It is a little monetary support to the young people which is not equal to their hard work and commitment towards their responsibilities.

In the year 2022-2023, **17 young people** were benefited by this program.

Rs. 5,40,000 (12 months) were distributed among young people according to their hours of work.

Thanks to Asha for Education, Boston Chapter and Dr. Melli Annamalai



When one teaches, two learn ...

FMS – COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship aims to promote young people in their college studies. The student who avails this specific scholarship are guaranteed to receive financial support through the whole years till the degree is completed. They can concentrate on their studies without thinking of financial burden, plus they are also giving back to the organization through volunteering work. Teacher Education B.Ed scholarship provide financial assistance to aspiring students who wants to become teachers.

Thanks to John Potts, President and members of Friends of Madurai Seed, Individual donors for this young people scholarship scheme.

Scholarship Distribution Program: 31.08.2022

17 young people were benefited. Young people's parents also took part in the program. Among 17 young people, 12 are first generation college goers. All 17 are working as teaching volunteers in our education centers. All the youths are socially and economically backward and are driven by education to eradicate poverty. Assistance amounts of Rs 5000, 7000, 10000 were given in the form of cheques.

Studies	Male	Female	Total
Under Graduation	03	07	10
Post Graduation		02	02
Teacher Training	01	01	02
Diploma	01		01
Coaching Classes	02		02
Total	07	10	17



LIBRARY

Senthamizh Library has books for children and young people in both Tamil and English. Library is being used by children and young people regularly in the weekends. They can access it for teaching in their classrooms during evenings in the weekdays.

We have a very extensive collection of teacher and student resource books for English language learners for self-learning and to use in class rooms. Graded Tamil, English, and Bilingual story books from reputed and international publishers are available.

We accept used books from individuals and sellers. Books are being sponsored by our supporters. We also buy books during Madurai Book Festival regularly.



**The more you read, the more things you will know,
the more you know, the more places you will go.**

(Read more library activities from page 27 to 31)

THENKODU CHILDREN BANK

The children are provided with individual pass books to enter their saving. They can pay from minimum 1 rupee to whatever pocket money they get. The children get back their saving with 20% interest rate during the start of their school. The starting of the school year comes with some expenses, these savings assist them at a right time. Younger children are more curious to save than the older children.

Total children joined in the bank: 147

Total children paid Rs.100 subscription: 112

Total Amount Saved by Children: Rs. 85,444

Total Interest Given by Madurai Seed: Rs. 14,025

Individual highest savings

S. No	Name	Class	Amount
1	S. Devi Sree	IV	5492
2	M. Praba Ranjani	IV	5376
3	R. Alex Pandi	IV	4932

Arangam wise highest savings

S. No	Arangam	Amount
1	Vaandugal	35970
2	Vergal	31241
3	Kanavugal	18233



SKILLS AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

In addition to the regular evening classes, MADURAI SEED provides skills and personality development programs through club activities, camps, trainings, workshops, seminars, field trips, dance, drama, creative activities, and sports to encourage the growth of young minds and to help them identify and develop their talents. Children and Young people have minimum resources and opportunities in their families and schools. These programs help children and young people to learn various life skills, and develop interests towards various fields. Club activities give knowledge in variety of subjects which broadens their exposures. There are clubs for literature, Social Science, Science, Sports, Performing Arts, and Medicine. There are 3 children representative and 1 youth representative for each club.

Senthamizh Library	Thenkoodu Children Bank
Puthuyugam Children Magazine	Pudiyar Velichangal Young People Pamphlet
Vasantham Summer Camp	Trainings / Workshops
Seminars / Meetings	Field Trips / Participations
Special Days / Celebrations	Film Screenings / Group Discussions
Mutram Literature Club	Galileo Science Club
Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club	Suvadugal Sports Club
Vanmugil Cultural Club	Annai Medical Club

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

<p>Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramzan • Diwali • Christmas • New Year 	<p>Special Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence Day • Teacher’s Day • Children’s Day • Republic Day • Institution Day • Science Day • Women’s Day 	<p>Culture Specific Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chithirai Festival • Pongal
<p>Excursions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arittapatti • Children Park • Teppakulam • Theppa Thiruvizha • Govt Exhibition • Keeladi 	<p>25 Resource Persons have visited taught sessions from May 2023 to March 2023.</p>	<p>4 abroad volunteers and 6 Indian volunteers have given classes, trainings, etc</p>
<p>Field Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gandhi Museum • Book Fair • Ahimsa Fair • Madurai Children Literary Festival • Madurai International Children Film Festival 	<p>“Margazhi Thiruvizha” was celebrated emphasising dance and Oyillattam</p> <p>Vasantham Summer Camp was conducted for 15 days.</p>	<p>Some more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Meet • Election • Cooking Classes • Online Meets



Library & Reading Sessions

Many group reading sessions have conducted. Students got individual copies in some classes, each group got a copy in some sessions, sometimes pages of books were screened through projector for reading.



Reading Marathon: 14.04.2022



Chithirai festival started and we planned to have a book reading session about Goddess Meenakshi from a novella written by writer Jeyamohan called “Kumarithuraivi”. It was gifted to every volunteer to read and feel the divine narration about Meenakshi’s marriage. The novel was written in a historical background. Also, it talks about

marital customs and depicts Meenakshi as the daughter of a king. Each volunteer read one chapter, and finished the novel as a group.

Long story reading: 11.11.2022



Thaeneer Kudil Children's long story by Yuma Vasuki was read by the children on the same evening of the book’s launch. An excellent children's story with a simple style, elegant plot and deep content. The paintings of illustrator Prakash are astonishing. Teachers can introduce this novel as an introductory book to introduce children to a slightly long story. Reading provides many opportunities to

discuss, learn, and revise.

Mass Reading: 18.11.2022



It is a short book of 31 pages about the life of VOC, a freedom fighter. The book introduced his multidimensions as a lawyer, freedom fighter, pioneer of labour union, Tamil scholar, etc. We distributed this book to all students nearly 100 copies as it is the 100th anniversary of VOC. As a group reading event, each person read

one page and others followed that.

Reading in screen: 23.11.2022



the big screen.

Children and young people read “Periyaar Thaatha” a fantasy encounter of a young boy with social reformer EVR.Periyar. We projected the pages of the book in the big screen and tried to read. Everyone loved the values Periyaar taught from environment protection, equality, and rational thinking. It was a different experience reading in the

Reading in Boys Hostel: 25.11.2022



100 books about VOC, the freedom fighter distributed to the hostel boys. It is a short book, yet it took long time to read. As a whole team everyone read the book and discussed later.

Reading in classes: 03.01.2022



her social life, her teaching journey, etc.

Savithri Bhai, the book about first woman teacher from India that too from a scheduled caste background. Her life is full of challenges, but she was determined, motivated, and succeeded. Children from class IV to IX read the book in their classes, and summarized the book under many topics like her personal life,

Neelam Dalit Literary Meeting: 29 & 30.04.2023



The literary meet was conducted by Neelam cultural centre. Many acclaimed political leaders, writers, researchers, and professors talked about Dalit literature, literature of the marginalized, the impact of them in the cultural and political aspects of Dalit upliftment. Our young

people listened the speeches and panel discussions held there.

Book release event: 07.05.2023



Young people took part in the book release event “Thoonga Nagara Ninaivugal” by A.Muthukrishnan. The book is about their city Madurai. It shed lights on the unseen corners in the history, social, cultural, industrial aspects of

Madurai. It also highlighted what can be done to preserve the uniqueness of Madurai city. Young people listened to the guest speakers and the author about the book.

Madurai Book Fair: 28,29,30 September 2022



Two years gap, the book fair was conducted after Covid scenarios. Children from Vandugal, Vergal, Kanavugal Arangam visited the book fair on various days with their volunteers. They eagerly went to each stall and looked at the books with awfulness. They also bought books

for their own use. Young people selected books for Madurai Seed’s library.

Oru Oorla – Children Literary Festival:



Turning Point, the book shop organized this festival for the third time. 40 people including 32 children and 8 volunteers participated in 10 different sessions held throughout the day. They took part in the story telling sessions, author's speech, panel discussion, and art classes. We visited book stalls and bought some. They never got tired. The program was conducted in a big private school's campus. They wish to have a same campus for their schools too.

Vaigai Literary Festival: 26&27.03.2023



The festival was organized by Tamil Nadu Government's school education and libraries department. There were seminars organized under various topics. The speakers were from their own city Madurai. Speakers ranged from writers, dramatists, artists, professors, archaeologists etc. They were projected as Madurai's cultural faces. The topics were connected to art and literature. Madurai Seed children and young people took part in the seminars and cultural events.

Book Sponsor:



Clive Oxenden, co-author of OUP New English File books has sponsored 20 upper intermediate student books and workbooks. Many thanks to Clive and John sir. The books will be used to teach college young people. Via zoom classes, John sir is going to help in planning lesson plans and activities to teach the lessons.

Thenkoodu Children Bank

Savings Distribution: 05.07.2022

The savings of 2021-2022 was distributed in the month of July at Vandugal Arangam. 129 children saved total of Rs. 53,922, Madurai Seed gave interest money of Rs. 10,723. Totally Rs. 64,645 was distributed to children. Parents and children took part in the program, before the distribution Director Karthikbharathi talked about benefits of saving program, benefits of coming to Madurai Seed regular. Videos of summer camp and holiday activities were screened.



A penny saved is a penny earned



Programs for hostel children



One of our volunteers is **teaching Maths** to the 10th std students here on Sundays

Madurai Seed has sponsored **Audio/Sound systems** to the newly built hall in the hostel.



Conducted a music-evening where the hostel children sang songs accompanied by instruments.

Conducted **reading session** and provided the small book on freedom fighter V.O.Chidambaram to all children



Audio Systems Sponsoring Program at the Hostel





Professor. Ari Babu talked about “Tamil Language” and conducted language games on Children’s Day.

Activist Sathyamanickam talked about science in everyday life and simple experiments on Children’s Day.



Theatre Artist Vadivelu conducted games for young children on Children’s Day.



Conducted **song-singing session** by Vidya, an NRI volunteer who visited Madurai Seed.



Murugesan, President of Friends of Madurai Seed, India hoisted the flag during republic day and talked to the children.

Abroad volunteer, Keith took part in the Pongal festival in the hostel and conducted games for children,



The 68th anniversary of freedom fighter Vaidyanathiyar was observed on behalf of Tamilnadu Harijana Sevaka Sangam at N.M.R Subparaman Primary School. Hostel students also took part in it. Madurai Seed children and youth attended the function as spectators and listened to the speeches of the special guests. They enjoyed watching the children's performances. Madurai

Seedu volunteers Arun Kumar and Jeeva were honoured with shawls.

Special Days



Every happy memory created is the treasure for the life time...

Independence Day:15.08.2022



The 75th Independence Day celebrations started at 7.00 am at Madurai Seed. Madurai Seed trustee teacher Mariammal hoisted the national flag in front of the program office. As it is the diamond jubilee of Independence national flags were hoisted in front of all

education centres. Managing Trustee Elavarasi, President of Madurai Seed Children Federation, President of Madurai Seed Young People Federation, representatives of the various education centres hoisted the national flag in other buildings. Breakfast was provided for all the participants. Cloth bags made by Thuvam, pens donated by ex-volunteer Gowthaman, water bottles on behalf of Madurai Seed were given as Independence Day gifts to the children.

Teacher's Day: 05.09.2022



The day was gifted with joy, fun, greets to the young active helping enthusiastic creative teacher volunteers of Madurai Seed. Students wrote poems, read and sang for their teachers. A video about Abraham Lincoln's letter to his son's teacher was screened. A

beautiful video made by Madurai Seed was dedicated to the young people who do service to others. We wished and appreciated them for working towards a change.

Children's Day: 14.11.2022



Dance: Children from class 1 to 4 participated. They danced with little movements, hand claps. Clap Song, Rally Polly song videos were screened and they watched and danced to it. They sang and danced to rhymes. Volunteer Jeeva coordinated the event. The joy, beauty and movement of the children made the show great.



Sing: Coordinator Arun Kumar conducted this event for the students of class 5 to 8. The children came up to the mic and sang their favourite songs. Although some were shy in the beginning, as time went by, the joy of singing came forward to infect them too. Then they came as a group and sang some songs. We enjoyed listening to some songs quietly with our eyes closed. It was a pleasant evening with music.



Speak: Trustee Elavarasi moderated the speech event for the children of classes 9 to 12. The children were happy and introspective, expressing themselves through talk. Some topics were written on the slips as a prompt to make them talk easily.

They chose one of them and spoke. Some topics were closer to childhood. Some topics made them think and talk imaginatively. Some topics were thought provoking. The goal of overcoming stage fright and getting everyone to hold the mic and speak was accomplished. Volunteers also participated in the event and spoke. The program was also an opportunity to understand one's dreams, skills and emotions.

Republic Day: 26.01.2023



leader HEMALATHA hoisted the national flag and gave republic day address. The participants were provided with sweet Appam and Spicy Vadai. Since there are no republic day functions at Schools to attend, young children took part in the flag hoisting program with much enthusiasm.

Institution Day: 01/02/2023



A long journey of Madurai Seed from 1999 to 2023 and it is time to look back the past, s thanks, be proud, celebrate friendship and hope for the future. Institution day of Madurai Seed was held in JC Residency Hall. Friends and supporters were invited for the event. Children and young people came colourful to celebrate the big day. Prof. John Potts, Katrin, Urs from Switzerland are welcomed by young people and children with flowers. Everyone gathered and made the event sparkling. Viji anni facilitated the whole event with her translation for the supporters. Murages anna with his presence energized children and young people. Prof. Prabahar and his wife Mrs. Malliga joined our celebration. Karthikesan, the warden of Sevalayam Hostel, Raja – the representative from Alumni who is the seed student in the year 1999 also joined. The event commenced with a prayer song. Karthik Bharathi with much excitement addressed everyone and honoured them individually with shawls and flowers. Karthik highlighted their contribution, and support in many ways to Madurai Seed children. He recalled the memories from the time he first met them to until now. Also, he spoke about the importance of the day.



It was beautiful to see how our journey with Laura Amma started and created a chain of like-minded people joining hands together to work for a big change. People behind the success of large section of Karumbalai were reconnected and rejoiced for their hard work and efforts. Prof. John Potts shared a few words on this occasion. He wished everyone for the transformation of children into successful young people. Laura amma conveyed her voice message wishing Seed children and volunteers on this day. Katrin and Urs shared their happy bond with Madurai Seed and wished for its further step into the 25th year. Karthik honoured children wearing the realistic face masks of supporters and friends those who could not participate in the event. Laura amma, Melli akka, Taj amma, Prabhakar ayya, Muruges anna, John sir, Katrin and Urs, Mariammal teacher, Mansur were honoured. The whole event was hosted by Viji anni in English and Karthik in Tamil. Dinner was served for all children, young people and guests. Everyone's hope, and wishes will guide us to make it a reality. Heartfelt thanks to the supporters and friends of Madurai Seed.

Women's Day: 08.03.2023



We celebrated Women's Day with fun quizzes, games and prizes. Programs were held focusing on women volunteers and girl children. Snacks were distributed to all girl children and volunteers.

Celebrations



Choose Happy...Do Happy...Be Happy

Ramzan: 02/05/2022



Ramzan was celebrated at Vandugal Arangam. Muslim students became the centre of attraction. The tradition of Ramzan and significance of fasting was explained to the students. Together we cooked “Nombu Kanji” and shared it after the celebrations. Muslim students brought briyani. When important religious

festivals were celebrated, we include children from all religions they learn to respect and rejoice principles of every religion.

Diwali & Alumni Meet: 22/10/2022



Glowing lights spiced up the joy and happiness. Decors, and earthenware diyas spread positive vibes around. Every year, Diwali is celebrated along with Alumni meet gathering. Madurai Seed connects the alumni with the present children. It motivates them to see themselves in a better future. The event was organized in Sevalayam hostel in Shenoy Nagar. FMS – India members Er. Muruges, Dr. Taj Rajappa, Er. Vinod Yogalakshmi, and special guests Mr. Karthikesan, and Er. Vinitha was welcomed and greeted on stage.



Alumni of Madurai Seed – Er. Manikandan, Tr. Arun Kumar, Tr. Muthupandi, and Er. Ramki came to the occasion with their family. Surya, Srinath, Premkumar, Vindhiya, Sathish Babu, Ramya, and Jeeva joined the celebration.

Vandugal, Vergal, Kanavugal children, Thedalgal young people, Sevalalaym hostel workers gathered to celebrate Diwali. Madurai Seed arranged an Orchestra team Mr. Ansen, Keyboard player, Mr. Ando, Tabla player, singers Ms. Kaylvizhi, Mr. Ganapathy. To turn on the festive mode in children and young people, mixture of songs that relaxed, calmed down, and songs that brought ceremonial rhythms echoed the hall. Dance performances of volunteers, children, presence of alumni and friends added a beautiful blend of delicious flavours to the show. Sevalayam hostel boys, seed team fired crackers, shared sweets and snacks, and exchanged Diwali wishes with each other. 31 numbers of alumni contributed for this celebration. Their contribution was thanked with gifts and books. Ramki's son Kirubakaran donated his savings money Rs. 224/- made the evening more beautiful.



Christmas: 24/12/2022



Christmas comes along with the long holiday season. The event started with a rally towards children and volunteer's houses singing Christmas carols - jingle bells along with Santa who gave away gifts and sweets to all children. Baby Jesus was welcomed in Vandugal Arangam with cake cut and songs. Arun's presentation on Jesus's

birth, Nandhini's presentation on how Santa became customary, and Hema's presentation about Christmas dollhouse were big snacks for the brain. From 1st std to 12th std, there were a parade of songs, dance and skit on the birth of Jesus. At first, they doubt, shy away, but with a little support and encouragement, finally they see themselves as the best performers on stage. Celebration filled our heart! Cake and Samosa filled our stomach!

New Year: 01/01/2023



Asha for Education Volunteer, Madurai Seed Supporter Dr. Melli Annamalai interacted with children and youth online. She planted the message of questioning and asking Why? We can learn, think, evaluate, accept, deny and move forward only when we question. We can find the answer to the question by self-introspection, or by asking someone who has the answer somewhere. She concluded his New Year's wishes by asking them to read books. In the IT era, reading became rare, AV medias occupied the minds of young children, and youth. But if we cultivate the culture of reading books, it will give numerous benefits, it will show us different from others, it will shape our personality. With the important new year message, another year started with so much hope.

Pongal: 15/01/2023



Five types of Pongal, five types of pots, five types of farm produce, and joy erupted in Madurai Seed centers and street on the Thai Thirunal-Tamil festival.

Children started arriving at 9 am. Five places were selected and decorated with Rangoli and sugar canes. Each group went on a procession with their pots, cooking items, farm produces, sugar canes around the street, and started cooking their Pongal. Financial Trustee Mansoor attended the function along with his family.

Jaggary Pongal, Spicy pepper Pongal, Milk Pongal, White-sugar Pongal, Red rice Pongal were held in sequence. Volunteers, alumni and children chatted, laughed, played and worked together. Children's Kummi dance was beautiful. We thanked farmers and nature with a worship. We all bite sugarcane and ate Pongal and dispersed. Let us live happily ever after as today. The first festival of the year brings energy and excitement to the whole year. Let love shine, prosperity shine, work hard and create great achievements.



Children and young people federations

MADURAI SEED Children Federation (MSCF)

MSCF acts as a body comprises of children leaders, club Inchargers, and class representatives. They are giving their participation in planning programs. It helps to develop their leadership skills and communication skills.

MADURAI SEED Young People Federation (MSYF)

MSYF acts as a bridge between young people and MADURAI SEED administration. MADURAI SEED relies 100% on its young people. This body plans activities for young people.

MSCF & MSYF Election: 10/08/2022

The functions and challenges of leadership and democracy are taught by the means of elections at Madurai Seed. Students from 4th, 8th, and 12th competed for Arangam representatives. Class 12th students ran for MSCF president. College final year students competed for MSYF leader. The elected leaders come forward and talked about how will they work to represent their fellow peer's voice in all activities and need.



Leaders: Hema Latha (College), HariBala (12th), Sivasankarai (8th), Kavin (4th)

Summer Camp



Lifelong memories are only camp away...

Vasantham Camp

From 16.05.2022 to 31.05.2022

16 days

72 children

12 young people

6 groups

Sessions

S. No	Topic	Speakers
1	Traditional Trees	Mr. Karthikeyan
2	Children Magazines	Arun Kumar
3	Mobile Phone Etiquettes	Mr. Madhavan
4	Snakes – Facts, Dos and Don'ts	Mr. Vishwanath, Mr. Srini, Wish to Help Trust
5	Story Telling – Book Angel	Mrs. Poonkodi

Practical Sessions

S. No	Activity	Resource Persons
1	No oil, No boil Cooking	Mrs. Renuka
2	Science Toys	Mr. Sathya Manickam
3	Mobile Phone Short Films	Madurai Seed Volunteers
4	Thermacol Cutting Crafts	YouTube

Trainings

S. No	Training	Trainers
1	Theatre Games	Mr. Vadivel
2	Yoga, Meditation	Mrs. Radhika, Ms. Krishma, Ms. Abhaya
3	Illustrations	Mr. Marion
4	Designing	Ms. Ramya

Field Trips

1	Valaiyapatti Village	Meeting with Farmer Palani
2	Tamukkam Ground	Government Exhibition

Screening: The Way Home

Physical Work Day: Cleaning Education centres in and around & Library

Healthy Snacks: Every day, children were provided with healthy snacks like mango, banana, jackfruit, watermelon groundnut, cassava, corn, curd rice, biscuits, ice creams, etc.

Vasantham Summer Camp

When Summer starts, it is time for a special treat to children to have unlimited fun with learning. The excitement on the first day remained till the sixteenth day of the camp. Everyday children met new guests from whom they have learned and explored.

Inauguration day, 16.05.2022



From 3rd to 9th students about 75 numbers of students took part in the camp and grouped in six teams named as Kuthukalam, Kummalam, Kondattam, Aanandham, Aaravaram, and Urchagam. All participants gathered in Vandugal Arangam and festive mood surrounded everyone. To the sound of musical instruments, participants'

procession departed to office premises. Yazhini from 7th std hoisted the camp flag. After inauguration, with much excitement and joy, they assembled to begin the first session of camp in Vandugal Arangam.

The first session was on "Trees – the soul of Soil and Earth". It was given by Mr. Karthikeyan, his curiosity and service he has been rendering are awe inspiring. Karthikeyan who has studied computer science but his interests is fully on planting and saving trees. He stressed the need to know names, uses and ecological significance of trees. He showed the pictures of trees and the children learned names of around 22 trees. The session went on for two hours, but Karthikeyan conducted games and riddles in between to develop their interest towards saving trees. When he spoke of trees, he cited their history, ecology, folklore, literature, and current events and science related those. After the session was over, children were given mangoes and boiled tapioca. Indoor games, short skits were planned and conducted in the afternoon.



Day 2, 17.05.2022



After warm up exercises, one from each group shared his/her experience from the previous day. All together sang camp songs that hit the sky. Then the main session of the day was begun by Arun Kumar on “Exploring Periodicals for Children”. He brought a collection of our library journals and magazines and explained

the main content of each. Along with that, he showed some digital periodicals from old to present times and interacted with the children about its main content, articles, editor’s work, cover page and so on. “Pudhuyugam” magazine of Madurai Seed was published for the children and by the children from 2007 to 2016. Children gave a glance to that. After few minutes of reading it, they wanted to publish the magazine in the coming years with their articles, and drawings. Arun Kumar highlighted the need for reading and reducing screen hours, and developing creative writing skills which will foster thinking process. After his session, peanut candy, cucumber was given to all. In the afternoon, participants in teams had fun games and activities. In the end, they were asked to dance and show their team names through little dance moves.



Day 3, 18.05.2022



A tasty day too!! A special session on “Fireless cooking “was given by Mrs. Renuga and Mr. Arun from Ambaram. Really, Renuga took the session to zenith. As a nutritionist, she explained the need to eat vegetables and fruits and importance of eating healthy food at home without much expenses. Also, she discussed

with the children the need to about the nutrients the body needs and the foods that contain it. Additionally, she pointed out that children especially boys should do small chores to help parents in cooking. Each team was provided with ingredients and step by step methods to do recipes.

The six teams chose their place and started preparing four salad varieties and two beverages respectively. The recipes were banana, coconut and jaggery mixture, Indian vegetable salad, beetroot and peanut salad, green gram, papaya and pomegranate salad, lemonade with mint paste beverage, and finally watermelon juice.



Each team was led by a volunteer. Under volunteers’ supervision, the camp participants cut, grated, chopped, washed, mixed, juiced, decorated and kept the dishes for display. Then, they tasted all the six recipes. Sure, they will try this and serve it for their moms. They learn many from this session, mainly, fruits and vegetables are lot tastier than junk food when it is made tasty. The boys wholly involved in washing and chopping the fruits without hesitation and this was what the session aimed to develop along with team spirit. The guests Renuga and Arun were highly appreciated for giving us the yummy session.

Day 4: 19.05.2022



Body and mind relaxation is must for every child. The day was dedicated to Practice Yoga. It was a very lucky day for us to meet Muruges anna along with the team Mrs. Radhika amma, little masters Krishma and Abaya. Just meeting them itself, was relaxing our mind and heart. We were curious to learn from the session. Radhika amma, with her over interest in the art of Yoga, after her 40 yrs, she becomes a yoga teacher. From her guru Ramasubramanian, she has mastered yoga practices. She has been teaching yoga for many in the past 20 years. It was started with the introduction of simple yoga exercises and meditation. The agility and enthusiasm of Radhika amma, who is 63 years

old captivated everyone. We did simple exercises before proceeding to yoga postures.

While Radhika amma was telling the names of Yoga postures, her granddaughters Krishma, a dental student and Abaya in her middle school, did the postures. As there was no enough space, the children split into two groups and practiced yoga. Radhika amma advised about the role of yoga in maintaining physical and mental health and the benefits of practising these for some time daily. Following the instructions of Radhika amma, children tried different poses from easy to difficult. With the help of Krishma and Abaya and Muruges anna, children learned basics in yoga and tried their best in doing advanced poses too. The guests were honoured. The session was over at 1.30 pm.

Day 5, 20.05.2022



Fifth and sixth days of the camp were facilitated by Mr. Maryan and Ms. Ramya. The camp day started at 10.00 am and ended at 5.00 pm with stories, songs, games and painting activities throughout the day. Artist Marian from Pondicherry came to teach painting to children. Maryan had worked in IT field for seven years as a French language

teacher. He quit from IT field and engaged himself with children through art, stories, and paintings as he loves that. He helps children to find their artistic nature by travelling to many parts of Tamil Nadu. He conducts workshops and seminars through his organizations called "The Sketch and Stories". For continuous two days, he joins Madurai Seed children.



First, Marian talked to children about visuals, expression, and creativity. To motivate them, he too involved and played with them to develop their sense of art. During warm up session, despite the big questions of what children want to become and why they want to be like that, the answers the children gave to it were simply surprising.

After that, they played in teams. It was story time after lunch. They created and narrated the stories in their own. Then Marian trained children to draw characters with small lines and shapes. Also, he gave ideas in viewing stories into visual sequences. Every child was asked to draw their stories with only four scenes on a paper. With full focus, they created their own world with colours like Picasso. With singing songs they heard stories and with hearing stories they made their drawing. After they finish, they came forward to the stage and narrated what they have drawn and the story behind the colours. It was a beautiful series of stories. Snack was given to all.

Day 6, 21.05.2022



Ms. Ramya from Chennai works in TCS as a program designer. She has started and run a social organization called “Chalkpiece” for designers with the aim of developing design thinking right from school. She joined the camp and facilitated “Arts and Design” session. Mariyan and Ramya split the participants into two groups. In Ramya’s session, colors, and designing introduction were given. With just three logs, children created number of shapes. With cardboards, they created models of schools. Also they made a trashcan that could be differently useful and innovative. Making secondary colours from primary colours were instructed to explore. Chart papers were changed into Karumbalai

google map. They decorated the board in colourful pattern unlike the usual boards in schools. With pictures, Ramya explained the differences between good and bad design in photos. With colour papers, butterfly, frog, flowers and many shapes were taught to create and stories were made with that. They joined all stories and made it into a book. Additionally, they narrated it with pictures. Like the previous day, this day went on with drawings and stories of Maryan.

Day 7, 22.05.2022

A beautiful Korean movie “The Way Home” was screened in the morning. A film about grandma and grandson. All of us in the hall were able to tell with tears that the movie’s essence had deeply touched us. Sunday movie screening was successful. When the film was over, children shared their experiences and memories with grandparents. During film interval, children shared snack with each other. As it was Sunday, the camp was over with only movie screening.

Day 8, 23.05.2022



A special session on “Practice cell phone Etiquette”, given by Mr. Madhavan. He is a research scholar in Thiayagaraja college. Madhavan, who believes in joint ventures, has been working as a content writer and video director for a while. He worked as an English Language Instructor in Fighter Wings, Aviator Academy. Also, he worked as a professor in Latha Madhavan college. He is interested in drama, reading, and painting. He has been an active volunteer in Kaleidoscope -Madurai Art Festival.



Madhavan first created awareness by telling the story of direct experiences on spending too much time on a mobile phone, playing on it for hours, and watching videos – all of which can degrade our physical, mental abilities and social qualities. The session went on showing the way how we as students can use the phone creatively, academically to develop skills to study and sharpen creativity. Phone usage swallows up all of our time. A scientific discovery that benefits from a variety of things often remains in our hands as an object of entertainment.

The lesson “Practice Cell phone Etiquettes” designed by AriAraVelan anna of “Aprajitha Thalir Thiran” project was screened for children, simultaneously they acted out the situations that came up in the video lesson. The awareness today is needed as it is directly related to education. After lunch, children in teams created a situation themselves and acted in it. It was filmed with the central theme from what they learned from the morning session. Along with their screenings, films taken in 2017 by our former volunteers and children also screened. All day long, cell phone was the concept and centre piece. The need for digital literacy, digital safety, digital detox to build a secure and prosperous future for children were emphasized in the session. Amla, cookies and lollypop were given as snack in the morning interval.

Day 9, 24.05.2022



It was time to start the “Theatre Games” event given by theatre instructor and scholar Vadivel from Kaleidoscope. He has been as a theatre teacher for more than 15 years. Game session started. As the number of children were high, the children split into two groups and played. Games were designed to increase attention, mind-body

coordination. Before that, Karthik recollected how theatre education in Madurai Seed has been a tool in learning process. He also explained what theatre students have received and learned through various forms of drama. Children enjoyed theatre games which went on the whole morning. “I was upset because of the fight at home in the morning, and now I am relaxed after playing and so I would not fight again”, Niranjan from 8th std commented. “The game has put us together, the goal is on keeping the mind in a state of full concentration “, a Monica from 9th shared. Facilitator Vadivel anna shared his thought that it was more joyful for him too. The games taught them togetherness, concentration, paying attention, not to give up for any instances. It was refreshing for both the mind and body with lot of kinaesthetic activities.



Madurai Seed - An educational organization that does not simply functions on the basis of fixed curriculum, philosophies or methodologies but with its unique activities, programs, and events decisively to provide education. One of the unique programs carried out is “Theatre Education for Children”. Through this, we have provided

theatre experience for many children, staged many plays in and outside Madurai, brought children’s talent to the limelight. Not only that, the artistic activities were very supportive in helping the underprivileged children and youth to cross the education path with much confidence and wide perspectives. We can say out loud that theatrical endeavours helped shape their lives as excellent engineers, talented teachers, successful executives and graduates.

Day 10, 25.05.2022



What do we do when we see a snake even it is harmless? We do anything to protect us from that snake. But who protects that snake from us? There is only one person who is a protector of these long reptiles. Vishwanath, founder of WishToHelp organization who saves numerous organisms like reptiles, birds, and aquatic. He also runs an oldage home and does excellent service for the locals in Thirunagar. He has been raising awareness among school children and college youth across Tamil Nadu about trees, birds, reptiles and the environment. It is astounding to see his fieldwork. He engages countless youth in creative endeavours.



An awareness program for children was held on the topic "Awareness on protection of Snakes" 10th day of Vasantham Camp welcomed Oorvanam Vishwanath and team. Mr. Vishwa, and Mr. Shrini raised awareness about snakes. Scientific factual information about snakes, human-snake encounters, safety, first aid, medical aid, importance of protecting snakes, environmental balance were taken from a 360 degree perspective. The children were intrigued by the display of photos, and videos on snakes. Vishwa took the event in a question-and-answer style that was understandable to children. Their misconceptions about snakes, unnecessary fear, etc. were sure to disappear through Vishwanath's interaction. A short film about snakes was screened. The evil, frightening and superstitious images about snakes created by movies, grandmother stories was shattered by this awareness event. It concerned about the safety of both snakes and children. What not to do after seeing the snake, how to be careful in places where the snake is likely to be, how to seek immediate medical attention and many things' children got to learn from Vishwanath. Then he introduced about his organization wildlife conservation and social works. He gave away brochures about snakes. Children asked doubts of them one by one.

Day 11, 26.05.2022



This day of the camp welcomed the Story teller who wanted the event should be in a way that stimulates reading to children. She chose a book called “Puthaga Devadhai” (Angel of Books). It is a

short novel written by writer Sivadas in Malayalam and translated by Yumavasugi in Tamil. It is based on a true story about a girl in Iraq. Story teller Poongodi chose this story as it will reach the minds of children and make them fall in love with reading. Poongodi, an engineer and business administrator has been continuously involved in reading and sharing stories what she reads, she has made it her continuous activity for children to continue education, through stories and fine arts, music, dance and drama. With her YouTube channel, she has been connected with various schools and colleges by her story telling. Also, she conducts various activities on theatre, parai music and dance. She has been awarded by different Tamil associations for her efforts to government school students. She was welcomed with a special introduction through songs, and music.



The event went on for more than an hour via zoom. Poongodi with her story telling art tied up everyone with their eyes on screen. A short story and it was mind blowing to hear it through her narration. Alia Mohammed Bagh, who risked her life in the war to save books was deeply ingrained in our minds. The only book Alia read at a young age

kept her constantly to search and read books. Today’s event made the kids discuss a lot. They had discussion and questioning about the experience of storytelling and books.

The importance of reading was repeatedly stressed about. Teacher Saravanan visited the camp and interacted with children through his humorous stories. Steamed peanuts was given as snack for all.

Day 12, 27.05.2022



Valayapatti- At 8am itself 50 children from 6th to 9th std and young people assembled at Vandugal Arangam. We travelled via Anna bus stand, Periyar and got bus to Valayapatti – a small hill village nearby Alanganallur. Bus travelling along the countryside kindled their curiosity about the village, people and their lifestyle. We reached

Valayapatti past Alanganallur from where we took a long walk in the hills to Palani's garden. We came through a dense forest surrounded by plants, vines, trees and rocks. Also, there were mango, jack, blueberry, guava, coconut, banana and drumstick trees on both the sides. New electricity connection works were going on when we visited the village. A joyful time for children in a new environment. There were lots of things to see, hear and know. We had lunch together in a big circle. A vast land for us to play. The clouds covered the sun bringing us rain when we were playing. After spending some time there, we left for Madurai.



That day was very different from other days in the camp where we walked, played in rain, ran through the dense trees, lived a day peacefully in a village atmosphere, interacted with farmers, looked and learned a lot from them.

. The special session was with the farmer Mr. Palani in Valayapati

Valayapatti – A discussion with a hill village farmer.

Children and young people arrived at Palani's Garden after a long walk under the sun. Mrs. Chennamal welcomed and guided us through the garden. Fatigue due to the long walk vanished in the joy of having come together where we should have come. It was like in a paradise to be surrounded by palm trees, full bloom blueberry trees, guava trees that have begun to sprout.



Also, it was mouth watering to see mango trees with many ripen mangoes. Instantly those mangoes become slices on our plates. Then we gathered together under a wider fern tree. The cradle hanging from the tree, the pumpkin on the wine running over the ground, rattan baskets, the beauty of the village life was pervaded by sheep, chickens and roosters. We sat down to talk to Mr. Palani-Chennammal couple. Karthik gave a brief introduction about them. They are the parents of Sukanya, wife of Mohan, one of our alumni.



We listened to Palani who talked about his life in the garden, interest, village experiences. His grandfather, father and his family has been living for three generations with trees, gardens, yields and livestock. Having just finished primary, he said agriculture is a profitable industry now and always. With his head upright, he added "This is me; this is the profession I am; this is how I live". He asked the children to protect cows, snakes or dogs not to hit, let's get away. He stays up all night to protect the garden from wild boars and pigs. He is a hardworking man who believes in physical work and he enjoys it. Every word of him surprised us and passed vibrations in the mind. They are easy to approach and mingle. They switched the motor on, high pressure water splashed on us. Then we had lunch in that natural setting. Children did not finish their questions on bears, snakes, and trees.

That day we realized from the side of the life of the couple that the joy of creating one, the joy of sowing, the pride of seeing its growth and the benefit of yield. A generation that loves trees and agriculture will emerge. It will tell the name of their grandparent. We thanked the couple. We breathed fresh air and lived in a simple harmonious life on that day.

Day 13, 28.05.2022



Today is Science Day. Before beginning the day, teams shared about their previous day camp activities. The trip on the previous day had refreshed them a lot. They rocked outdoors who are now in the 13th day of Vasantham camp. The teams were asked to present a dramatic form of what they would find if they invent or discover any scientific innovation. In teams, they scripted plays on “A clock -which predicts the onset of a heart attack, Plants – would automatically have a seasonal watering can, A garbage can – that segregate the waste, rotate and compost it, A water bottle – which can automatically boil and cool water “. Though some of those were invented already, their skit on each invention was appreciable. One of the teams came forward and shared that innovative and imaginative thinking is the first skill required for scientific discoveries. Instead of inventing things for needs, they learned that there must be inventions that help mankind, that there is a lot to think about, to read, to ask questions and to pay attention to the environment. Jack fruit with honey was served as snack for all.



In the afternoon, Mr. Sathyamanikkam, organizer of the Galileo Science Center, Education and Drama Activist from Theni district visited the camp. He was the facilitator of the noon session. He started the session with various examples of how to do and study a science lesson, how to look at it in conjunction with everyday life, and how to drive the mind into imagination. The program went on lively with making toys out of paper cup, origami hat, toys, screaming balls, etc., He put together toys and combined the scientific concepts of frequency, sound waves, centre of gravity, balance and force. Sathya anna interacted with the participants highlighting that not only science but also continuous learning is essential, study is the key to alleviate poverty and other social issues. Boiled Jack fruit seeds, mango sprinkled with pepper were the snacks given for all.

Day 14, 29.05.2022



One breezy evening, A team of teacher volunteers was taken to the chithirai exhibition. They watched around each stall. School education, fisheries, and forest departments, Madurai corporation, Tamil Development department, Thirukural painting exhibition halls attracted the attention.

One short walk, Students who are waiting for 12th results were taken to the Guidance program organized at Lakshmi Sundaram hall by Dhinamalar Tamil daily. It gave them an opportunity to get a clear idea about what to choose for higher studies. They attended educational seminar and heard experts' advice on various courses and best colleges. Also, they gained knowledge related to the course they want to study through visiting this guidance program.

Cleanliness matters, It was not just a Sunday; it was a day for cleanliness. Students from 9th to 12th and young people begun dusting the shelves, fan, library, and their classrooms. Also, the premises of office and along the roadside were cleaned. From 11 am to 1 pm, cleaning process went on. Ice creams served for all. This day was dedicated for keeping the environment clean and healthy.



Day 15, 30.05.2022:



Children in teams assembled in teams. The plan was to make some handicrafts with Styrofoam and materials obtained from during the cleaning process. Team leaders and volunteers were given needed materials and craft ideas to create. In a few hours, each team involved fully and made guitar, moon, anchor, peacock, eagle, flowers, clock, wall hangings, dream catcher, etc., The team leaders put all together a score for their outcomes and awarded them first, second and third place. Eventually all items were auctioned off. The guitar was auctioned for Rs. 30/ which got the highest auction price.



Boiled sweet corn and Peanuts mixed with flour, salt and pepper to taste was served as snack for all.

Camp ended at 1.30pm.



Again, all students from 8th to 12th std gathered at 4.30pm and they were taken to the exhibition at Tamukkam ground where they spent time in the stalls. Stalls explained about various developmental programs of the government, departments of education, police, national highway, local bodies, physically challenged, agriculture, small scale and large-scale industries and many. While visiting these stalls, they interacted with the staffs there and learned about the functions of panchayat raj, police department, schemes of government for needy and so on. It was a much-awaited expo after 2 years. Also, there was lot to have fun around the stalls. Young people enjoyed horror house, Ferris wheel, Cup and saucer play. They liked hot and spicy snack in the expo.

Day 16: Valedictory day : 31.05.2022



Children in teams sang camp songs in high pitch. It was a vibrant beginning of the valedictory day. Photos taken in the 15 days camps were screened for all. Camp participants in 6 teams prepared for the evening closing ceremony. They displayed paintings, crafts that was made during the camp. A mixture of

fruits and vegetable curd rice were served for all. Also, brunch on mango slices, cookies, banana with grated coconut and jaggery was given for all. Around 4.30 pm the valedictory function was started. The team leaders co ordinated the event wearing colourful hats and dhoti. Each team came forward and shared about their camp experiences through songs, and stories. Camp flag hoisted at the office premises on the first day of the camp was lowered with dance and music and handed over to the trustee. Parents took part on this celebration. Karthik appreciated each and every one partaken in the event uninterruptedly and enthusiastically.



Club Activities



Looking (front) into the history . . .

15.04.2022, 16.04.2022: Tallakulam, Paal Pannai



During Chithirai festival, which is a grand festival in Madurai, thousands of people gather in a place. We also take part in this historically, culturally important tradition. For two days in Tallakulam area, and Anna Nagar area we have provided **water** and **buttermilk** to people. In these two events, nearly 3000 people benefited from that service. We don't do this service as a religious activity, but seeing the occasion as a time for working, sharing, spending time together as a family.

05.05.2022, 06.05.2022, 07.05.2022: 10th, 11th, 12th Exam Prayer



on three different days for 3 classes before the commencement of annual exams, guidance was given to the students. Volunteers talked about how to plan and make use of study holidays effectively, answer sheet presentation, **study habits** and tips. They are provided with **exam kits** and breakfast.

on three different days for 3 classes before the commencement of annual exams, guidance was given to the students. Volunteers talked about how to plan and make use of study holidays effectively, answer sheet presentation, **study habits**

Cloth hand bags and water bottle bags: 07/08/2022



Ponmani is an entrepreneur who is interested in creating cloth products with sustainable and zero waste process. Their village tailoring unit produces cloth bags, cloth toys, inner wears in an ecofriendly manner. She talked among children and young people about their business ethics, importance of supporting local business, sustainable activities. We ordered small cloth bags, and water bottle bags exclusively for our children.

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Sports Meet: 08/10/2022



Children played chess, carom board, chinese checkers, and Pallankuli with so much eager and enthusiasm. Competitions were conducted age-wise not gender wise. So much team spirit and cheer ups flowed in the room. Each student was encouraged to participate compulsory in at least two

games. Young people organized the competitions in a very well manner. Outdoor Individual games like athletics, fun games, group games like cricket, Kho kho, Kabadi were conducted for children from 6 years to 16 years. The level of enjoyment and competition were understood by their tanned skin and sweat. Snacks were provided in between.

Talk with transgender people: 29/10/2022



Shaluma, and Ilakshaya both are transgender women. Along with activist Divyabharathi they came to Madurai Seed, to spread awareness about transgender people and discrimination against them. Shaluma and Ilakshaya broke all taboos around the topic. Children from 8th std to 12th std and college

young people took part in the program. They are the adult children and can understand the issues. In society, trans women are seen with shame, prejudice, and distress. They talked about being treated as equal, treated with love. They have formed a voluntary group "Pride Voice" to express their voice. Madurai Seed children welcomed them with compassion, they empathized their struggles, asked many questions.

Yadartha Rajan Touring Kottai: 21/11/2022



Children from class 1 to 9 enjoyed watching the movies "Paddle to the sea" and "The old man and the sea". Both are different types of constructs. Both films speak of boundless dreams, hard work, perseverance and idealism.

"Paddle to the sea" introduces children to nature, landscapes, seascapes, weather, environment. The story "The old man and the sea" is now in the curriculum for children. The animation is amazing. It was as if the paintings came alive.

On behalf of Madurai International Children's Film Festival (MICFF), Mr. Iravikumar, Mr. Rampichai and Mr. Sudhakar screened, talked and discussed films for children. Children talked about their favourite aspects of the film from their point of view. Yesterday's screening turned out to be a good program to remember Yadartha Rajan, Pioneer of film societies in Tamil Nadu.

Singing Class: 17/12/2023



Vidya (Netherlands-Madurai) had a singing class. She taught the children to sing Bharatiyar's songs with raga. Vidya has been learning Carnatic vocal since she was 3 years old. She who came to Madurai to spend her vacation has entered the field of teaching songs to Madurai Seed children. She taught two songs. Children practiced them individually as well as in groups. She made them sing chorus without shouting.

Story Class: 17/12/2023



Mritula and Viji Anni discussed “stories” with the 7th and 8th class children.

What do you do in your spare time? Have you learnt something new recently or wish to learn? Future dream? On what topic would you make a film about?

This session provided an opportunity to stack questions one after the other, ask questions, think, talk and share feelings. Songs, poems, movies, sports, our hobbies, lessons, family, street, everything is made of stories. The session ended with us wanting to see it, hear it, share it, and tell our stories. Expressing it without fear, shyness is the key to success.

Drawing Class: 17/12/2023



Krithika and Muruges Anna started drawing with the 5th and 6th class children. Take happiness as a topic, draw one thing which makes you happy, and give your colours. She allowed the children to draw freely and experience the joy of drawing. As a new technique in drawing, she asked to draw a natural look without putting it into a frame, perfect structure. We use stereotype shapes to draw. Break it she said. Thank you Kritika for a pleasant evening.

Margazhi Thiruvizha: 29/12/2022



The annual cultural celebrations of Madurai Seed is conducted in the name of Margazhi Festival focusing on fine arts and performing arts such as dance, song, drama, painting and handicrafts.

This time the 24th Madurai Seed Anniversary celebration was highlighted by dance. 4 dances by children, 1 song, 2 dramatic plays by volunteers made for a celebratory evening.

Appreciation to the volunteers who prepared the performances in a very short time, the 15 minute Oyil- folk performance left everyone in awe. Parents participated in the event and encouraged the children.



A greatness of a culture can be found its festival

Arittapatti Visit: 30/12/2022



We had planned to take the children to Aritapatti, hillock when it was declared as Tamil Nadu's first Biodiversity Heritage Site. A few years ago, we went to Aritapatti once with archeologist Vedachalam planned by our Madurai Seed friend Murugesan.



Aritapatti is mesmerizing as the hills are lined with rocks surrounded by springs, ponds, palm trees, fields, various plants, vines, trees, grasses, flowers and various birds. It is a liberating experience from the cramped habitats like Karumbalai to open

green nature and see the open sky.



We saw Jain beds, inscriptions, sculptures of Mahavira, early Pandyan period cave temple, all of which are historical and archaeological important. Karthik Anna and the volunteers explained them to the children. We took various photos and

played in the water. After lunch, they played fun games. It was a tour experience to see the most important historical and ecological place in Madurai.

Science Day: 28/02/2023



“Wow! Stars closer, the moon bigger!” excited Yasmin watched the sky through the Telescope. Madurai Seed inputs practical knowledge to let them explore directly. The new “Galileo Telescope” of Madurai Seed set upon the terrace in our educational center let them understand what happens in the sky. Observed the Moon’s phases, craters on it, and the movement of it. Children loved watching the dazzling moon and the twinkling stars. A video about solar system and introductions about refactor telescope created curiosity in them before they do sky watch. For students from I std to XII std, college goers it provided a real experience to observe, think and

discuss. Planner for sky watch has been made to explore the sky events.

Keeladi Museum Visit: 19.03.2023



Madurai Seed children and young people had a tour to the historic location - Keeladi Museum and Excavation site. The museum was newly inaugurated. It was in very big campus. There’s plenty in store for the students in the museum, which offers them exposure to the history, literature, culture, and archaeology proceedings. The archaeological museum with astonishing facts, artefacts, visual reality, models, audio-visuals, archaeological findings gave everyone a feast for eyes, mind, and knowledge. We also had lunch and refreshing bath in a coconut farm nearby.

Visits & Participations



The more you participate,
The more you contribute



The more you contribute,
The more you learn

19.04.2022. 20.04.2022: Appan Tirupathi, Poigai Karaipatti



Madurai seed young people and kids of 40 numbers witnessed culture specific **Chithirai festival**. It has been celebrated annually which unites people from various parts. Children experience the traditional local festival enjoying **dance, music, songs** in the large procession. They find it interesting to hear the tales and beliefs behind this celebration. There are child-

friendly spots with Ferris wheel & amusing fun areas. Also, it is the best day to eat out with friends and their teacher volunteers with more excitement

Athisayam – Water Park: 01/06/2022



We went on one day excursion to the **amusement park** Adhisayam in Paravai, 15 kms away from Madurai. For all children it was their first visit there and it gave them thrilling and **adventurous experience**. They had chill time in water games with non-stop fun and excitement. Children enjoyed in amusement park. 98% of

them haven't been to such park before. **Water sites** are always a place of much joy for our children. They enjoyed a lot there

Career Guidance Fair: 05.06.2022



Children from 10th, 11th, and 12th std visited a convention about educational and career guidance. They visited the stalls of many colleges and institutions, knew about what they are offering. They listened to motivational speakers who guided them through various opportunities for studying and working. It helped children lot through diverse opportunities.

Circus Visit: 19/06/2022



Circus became rare, and their popularity faded through time and mass media revolution. We didn't want to miss the famous Bombay circus shows happening in our city. We had 40 children and young people in the Bombay Circus held at Pudur, Madurai. An hour of quality entertainment with adventure shows, clown shows, dog parades were the feast for eyes.

Second hand cycles: 25/07/2022

RadioCity, the FM station has collected and sponsored used cycles for children. The cycles didn't look like second hand. They are clean, restored as new. 15 children from Madurai Seed aged 5 to 14 received the cycles in an event conducted at Thiagarajar College. They are very happy riding the cycles and owned it.

Visiting Ahimsa Fair:



Ahimsa Santhai was first of its kind event organized by the Nonviolent Economy Network from **22nd to 26th September 2022** at Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai. It was a celebration of local livelihoods and Climate action. There was a fair promoting local produce, traditional knowledge, sustainable economy, and hand-made produces. There were panel discussions, workshops,

fair, children corner, and cultural events. Children from various classes visited on various days.

Teppa Thiruvizha Tallakulam: 07/10/2022

We don't want to miss the local festivals, which gives children joy to go outside like a picnic. Children went to floating festival in Tallakulam, which is near by Karumbalai. They played at the children's park around the pond.

Chatrapati Water-way: 25/12/2022

Children and young people **collected the garbage**, cleaned the place. They played Kabadi, Cricket, Kho Kho, and Tug of war. There are so much to look around paddy field, lots of trees, plants, and insects. They enjoyed a **refreshing bath** in the water way. Water is always a fascinating thing for our children.

Park Visit: 31.12.2023

Vandugal Arangam kids aged 5 to 9 enjoyed outside air at the children park before their holidays are over. They went for toy train and frog rides. Nothing is more beautiful than the happy faces and cheers of children when playing

Park Visit: 17.01.2023

Excited children enjoyed playing in swing, slide, see-saw, hide and seek, etc., they did not get tired walking inside the park with friends singing and dancing in the drizzling rain and dark sky. After play time, hot and spicy snacks, puffs, sweet bun provided for everyone



Cooking Session: 26/12/2022



The children had brought some vegetables and other ingredients for cooking from their homes. Rice and some items were procured from Madurai Seed. The ingredients needed for cooking were separated and their names and nutrients were told. Learned about the recipe of sambar rice. The volunteers helped clean and chop. As soon as the stove was lit, they themselves came to cook each item. They danced and played till the rice was ready. They sat in a circle with friends and took a handful of sambar rice. They brought utensils from home and took food to their parents. Food cooked and eaten together tastes better.

Drama at Kaleidoscope: 08/01/2023



Madurai Seed children and young people were captivated by four men and a magic fiddle at Kaleidoscope!! It was began from a short journey from Karumbalai to Kaleidoscope with Children and young people of around 75 numbers on 8th of January.

"Nettaiya Kuttaiya" a play directed by theatre artist Vadivel and team was staged specially for us. The beautiful story of a little boy discovering that his violin has magical qualities to make things grow and shrink was brought to our eyes through amazing performance of four artists on stage. The children were thrilled to see the talking crow and duck. Sequenced with simple dialogues, and song, the play was gripping till the end. Travelling with the moon, we also grew by the soulful music from the violin. After a long time, this evening gave us a special treat from Prof. Prabahar Sir.

Enjoying a concert: 24&25/02/2023



Madurai Seed children and young people witnessed the concert of Kodai International School students at Lady Doak College and The American College. It was a brand-new experience for them listening to western music. They came to know about different kinds of string and percussion music

instruments. The orchestra and choir events are a very experience for us.

Sky Watch: 01/03/2023



At 6.30 pm, they went to Theppakulam area and enjoyed seeing the moon, Venus and Jupiter through the telescope organized by the Galileo Science Centre. The public, especially the college youths eagerly enjoyed seeing the moon through the sky. Science activist Mr. Sathyamanickam - Dr. Devi, gifted information cards about the moon to the children of Madurai Seed.



Internships



Internship at Madurai Seed: A hands-on experience, Voluntary participation, Supportive team, and Holistic understanding of community challenges.

Working with Interns/ Students:

12 students from English Department. Thiagarajar College, Madurai have approached for internship at Madurai Seed. We designed it as a learning internship for students. For 15 days, various resource persons came directly and through online to teach, guide the students in many areas related to their studies, interests, teaching, and skills and personality development. Madurai Seed young people also took part in many sessions.

Date	Input	Resource Person
08/07/2022	What is an internship	A.S.Karthikbharathi
09/07/2022	Teaching Phonemes	Elavarasi
10/07/2022	What are life skills	Ariara Velan
11/07/2022	Teaching life skill lesson in various schools	Intern Students
12/07/2022	Scopes of literature studies	Prof.A.Ramasamy
13/07/2022	Report writing	Arunkumar
14/07/2022	Photography	Vinoth Baluchamy
15/07/2022	Mobile videography	Vigneshwaran
16/07/2022	Know thyself – activities	Jeevanandan
17/07/2022	Video Making with children	Intern Students
18/07/2022	Valedictory Day	Intern Students

"I thoroughly enjoyed my internship and had very valuable experiences under the guidance of Karthik Anna, Elavarasi Anni, Arun, Jeeva and other volunteers and resource persons. Every day, there were so much to learn, reflect, and express. In the final day, I took videos of children, and Karumbalai people smile and laugh, which was appreciated by all my professors. I thank you Madurai Seed for giving me opportunities to think about myself."

- Mothilal, Intern Student-



10 primary school students from Kodai International School have come for a field study. They wanted to learn about the locality, children's lifestyle, and education. It was kind of cultural exchange program. They learnt from seed children; our children learnt from them.



- **10 students from Sociology Department, Lady Doak College** came to learn about NGOs, community development, problems in Karumbalai, etc. We assisted them for a field study and project, conversations with children and young people.
- **1 research scholar from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad** came for inputs regarding water management, community participation, and government roles in providing water, protecting water bodies etc. She interviewed me for nearly 5 hours regarding my experience with working with the locals, Madurai's water resources, water scarcity etc.
- **5 students from Madurai Agriculture College** came to learn about organizational aspects as a part of their rural sociology studies.



College is something you complete; life is something you experience

Volunteering

People are coming from Madurai, around India, and abroad are coming to volunteer, teach classes, share skills etc.

- **Vidya**, an NRI from Netherlands taught singing/song classes. She learns Carnatic music from childhood.
- **Krithika**, a home-schooled student from Chennai organized a drawing session for kids. She is an artist.
- **Miruthula**, a school student from Australia came and talked about reading, story writing for teenage children.
- **Murugesan, and Viji** our local friends and supporters have come during many occasions, and being an inspiration for our students.
- Keith, an abroad volunteer from Switzerland who is an English lecturer taught classes for our children and young people. He conducted cover letter and resume writing workshop for college students.
- Katrin and Urs, from Switzerland taught classes for children from 7th to 10th std.
- John Potts, from Switzerland who is one of our main supporters taught classes from 11th, 12th students and college volunteers about interview skills and general language practice. He also conducted a workshop on interview skills.



John sir online classes



Prof. John Potts, the president of Friends of Madurai Seed supports MS in many ways. His visit once a year is dedicated only for the development of language and teaching skill of volunteers in Madurai Seed. To learn continuously, John sir gives classes for Elavarasi and Arun Kumar every week on Friday mornings for 2 hrs. They learn new methods in teaching grammar, making lesson plans from OUP books and online resources, utilizing online websites for teaching English, and teaching tools to practice functional English in classroom. John sir's lessons provide appropriate learning activities and develop strategies to improve speaking and writing skills of children. Many topics have been covered – parts of speech, lessons in different levels of OUP books, vocabulary and writing activities. Also, regular updates from Madurai Seed are discussed during Zoom meet.

Workshop for young people:



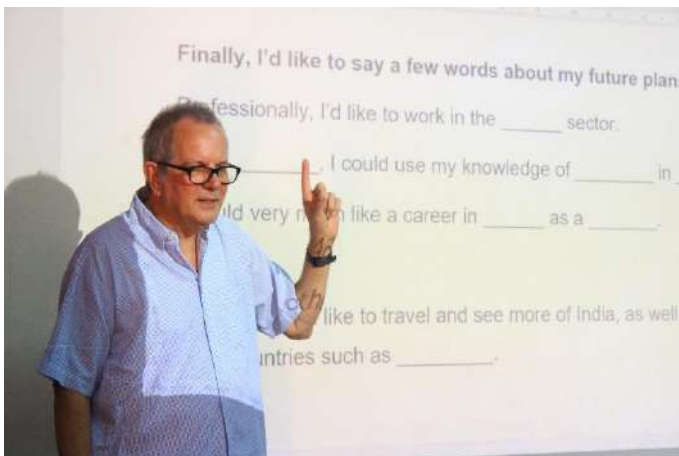
Prior to the workshop, John sir gave two classes with worksheets, fixed expressions and useful vocabularies to talk about oneself. Repeated drill, and pair work are encouraged during the class. College volunteers, 11th, and 12th std students took part in the classes and workshop. On the workshop day, there were 6 groups each with 4 students. John sir as interviewee and

Katrin as interviewer enacted the lessons into a mock interview for the students to understand it clearly. Like them, every pair in groups took role as interviewer and interviewee and practiced. In the end, they came forward and did their role with confidence as interviewee. The workshop was interactive and made super easy with flash cards on personality vocabularies. After the workshop, they gathered for another class to talk about easy and difficult things, and to recycle the learnings. Thank you very much John sir.

JOHN SIR VISIT



There is always a happy sort of synergy between the young people and visiting supporters of Madurai Seed. With Prof. John Potts from Zurich, the whole Madurai Seed team had a great time throughout his stay from 30th Jan to 9th Feb, 2023. Blend of student focused and student centered learning in his classes and workshop was effective as it met student needs and encouraged them to engage in active learning. In a short span of time, young people mastered the content and applied that in a particular context of situation.



With a definite pre planned lessons, and well devised teaching aids, John sir covered the primary aspects in an interview like self-introduction, way of presenting, vocabularies to use for, special qualification to highlight, and well-rounded details of education, personality and experiences related to the job. The two classes before workshop, workshop, and one class after the workshop were yielded great benefits, and helped young people to learn at their pace. We had a meeting to talk about administrative and financial matters. Karthik, our director presented extensive about this year's accomplishments and needs for future.

John sir, the president of FMS spent 24X7 for Madurai Seed children and young people in his stay as usual this time. His mornings were reserved for classes for Arun, Jeeva and Elaa, his evenings and weekends were for young people classes. Our long-awaited celebration after Covid time is his visit and Institution Day, which he turned it into a memorable one with his immense presence. Katrin, Urs, Murugesanna and Viji anni took part in all activities and classes with keen interest and they made it successful for children and young people. We sincerely thank John sir for his valuable time he spent with us.

Keith Classes:



Keith Rossborough from Zurich spent a week at Madurai Seed from 5th to 12th of January. Madurai Seed classrooms were busy with his teaching. Keith gave classes for young people on Communication skill development to face interviews. They learned to write cover letters when seeking a job.



A mixed classroom of students from 9th to 12th and college goes involved in speaking activities conducted by Keith with different part from grammar and role plays. Keith trained 5th to 7th class students on "Self-introduction". He taught them how to introduce oneself in social situations with fluency and confidence.

He was introduced to students of Thiagaraja College of Preceptors where he had talked about the Education System in Switzerland. He also took part in the Pongal celebration at Sevalayam Hostel and conducted fun games for the kids.



Katrin Urs - Classes



Katrin, an ELT teacher and Urs, an Engineer spent their holidays with MS family from Jan 30th to Feb 9th, 2023 in a very productive way. They gave classes for 7th to 9th children, engaged in teaching- learning activities, took part in weekend workshop for young people, made Institution Day vibrant by their presence in it.



Urs and Katrin taught children about Cryptogram. Students got to learn about encrypted words, decoding, set of patterns and methods to find the cryptogram puzzle. Handouts provided for them and in pairs, groups they could learn and write their own secret messages. It was fun and interesting to find out the characters hidden in codes.

They took a group of children to a temple festival, on the way they talked with about the festival, customs, their hobbies, and education. It was like learning while touring.



Katrin took part in John sir's classes and workshop for young people. She observed and provided them needed help during their practice hours in learning English. She in her impressive way of listening to and replying for the questions as an interviewee in the session gave students a real experience about interview situation.

Institution day became more memorable with the presence of Katrin and Urs. During their visit, time flies so fast but the moments with them are frozen in our heart. Also, we thank Muruges anna and Viji anni for their friendly support in taking care of Katrin and Urs in city tours, classes and outings.

Working with Taj Amma



Ever since, Dr.Taj (88 years old), has returned to stay in Madurai, she is been offering various things for the children and disadvantaged people. She is one of the pioneer doctors, social workers in Madurai. She contacts whenever she needs to provide something to the poor, homeless, disadvantaged students, government schools like cloths, food, books, stationaries etc. For Madurai Seed children she supported to buy children's books, newspaper subscriptions, water cans, stationaries through her friends.



Meeting with Dr.Eveline Masilamani



She supported and guided countless social activists. Our children's grandmother. It's a bond of 21 years. She is been in the FMS board since it's initiation. She is relieving from the board this year. We salute her for her tireless efforts and kindness. We had a chance to talk with Eveline amma one evening in Madurai. We honoured her.

Working with Resource Persons

Linking resource persons with children and young people in possible occasions is one of our important job. Resource persons from various walks of life and profession came directly and through online throughout the year. If you see the list, and their profile they are the great role models and inspiration. There are lots of things to learn from them.

1	Karthikeyan	Environment Activist, Madurai	Summer Camp
2	Renuka	Nutritionist, Madurai	Summer Camp
3	Radhika	Yoga Teacher, Madurai	Summer Camp
4	Marian Britto	Illustrator, Pondicherry	Summer Camp
5	Ramya	Designer, Chennai	Summer Camp
6	Madhavan	Research Scholar, Madurai	Summer Camp
7	Vadivel	Theatre Artisit, Madurai	Summer Camp
8	Vishwa	Environment Activist, Madurai	Summer Camp
9	Poonkodi	Story Teller, Coimbatore	Summer Camp
10	Palani	Farmer, Madurai	Summer Camp
11	Sathya	Education Activist, Theni	Summer Camp
12	Ariaravelan	Life skill trainer, Madurai	Internship
13	A.Ramasamy	Tamil scholar, Professor	Internship
14	Vinodh Baluchamy	Photographer, Artist	Internship
15	Ponmani	Entrepreneur	Club Activity
16	Divya, Shalini	Transgender Activists	Club Activity
17	Aribabu	Tamil Professor	Children's Day
18	Vidya	Carnatic Singer	Club Activity
19	Krithika	Artist	Club Activity
20	John Potts	ELT professional	English Class
21	Keith	English Lecturer	English Class
22	Katrin	English Teacher	English Class
23	Urs	Mathematician	English Class
24	Murugesan	Engineer	Club Activity
25	Mariammal	Teacher	Club Activity

Rediscovering the Bond of Love: Talk with FMS people



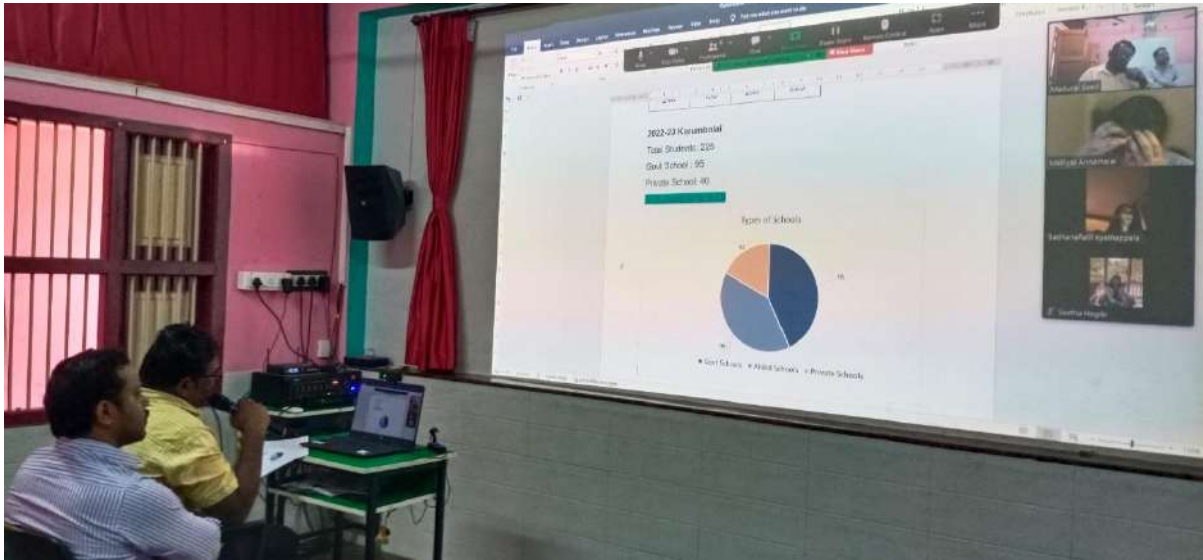
Friends of Madurai Seed in Zurich and young people of Madurai Seed rediscovered the bond of love and strength in the meeting held on 2nd July. How great to see our beloved Laura Mam and John sir, Keith, Nick and Maggi, Andrea, Katrin and Urs, Sarah and Andi!! We were excited to see them after such a long time. Many thanks to John sir and Laura Mam for organizing this meeting.

Our young people interacted with the supporters with blooming face and full smile. First, Nandhini doing her PG course, and Srinath preparing for competitive exams with his B.P.Ed course happily talked to FMS people for giving them hope and encouragement through their support. Vindhiya and Viji who are teachers in reputed schools shared that how much their parents are proud of them for being the first in their family to become teachers.

Bhavani has completed B.Sc. Mathematics this year introduced herself and pointed out that she wants to become a teacher and it is going to happen with all the support of FMS. Jeeva, a dedicated volunteer in Madurai Seed explained that it is an important stage in his life to work towards achieving his goal and thanked everyone for supporting him to study for banking exams. Through this meeting, young people highlighted that what they are now is only because of the real change initiated by the generous hearts.

Karthik thanked everyone in the meeting for coming up online. He felt that the meeting was an important event in this year. He recalled the tough times last year and expressed his love and million thanks in words. Also, he marked that there are many teachers, and graduates emerging and will emerge in future too with joint efforts. Arun who solved technical issues before and during online meeting greeted, conveyed his love to all and asked them to visit Madurai Seed. Really, everyone at Madurai Seed are looking forward to that momentous day.

Education Scenarios: A talk with Asha, Boston people



From Seed Narpanigal we had A S Karthik Bharathi (Asha Fellow) and two other college student-teachers who teach the children. From Asha Boston: Melli, Sadhana and Seetha Since Seetha is a new volunteer (and another new volunteer joined briefly), for some part of the visit Karthi updated them on Seed's work. This enabled the new volunteers to hear about this project directly from the project partner. We had discussions on some other topics. Medium of instruction 70% of the students go to Tamil medium. While government schools are switching to English medium, the government is also providing incentives that you might get a government job more easily if you go to Tamil medium, which might break the attraction students have for English medium, because English medium in many ways is further impacting learning (because neither the teachers nor the students can fully understand the English in the books). Increase in enrolment in government schools. Post COVID there has been an increase in enrolment in government schools, because parents didn't want to pay fees since schools were closed anyway. Out of the regular students who come to Karumbalai, 95 go to a government school (some of them to the corporation school in Karumbalai itself), 90 go to government-aided schools (which tend to have low fees since salaries are paid by the government, in recent years the quality has gone down considerably), and 40 go to private schools (several of them through RTE).

It is our goal to help the students stay on in the government schools (and government aided schools) which are free or low-fee institutions. This will remove the fee burden on parents and strengthen these public institutions.



We will do this by the supplemental help given in the Seed study centres. If the children are learning by the combined efforts of the Seed study centres and the government institutions that is a modest step towards strengthening these schools.

When one girl in a family goes to college, the other girls in the family go to college as well. This has been a consistent observation. They work with students at Sevalayam hostel, which is a government funded hostel for students from surrounding villages. These are students there from very disadvantaged backgrounds. They conduct reading sessions, provide notebooks and other material. Before Covid this hostel had ~200 students, post-Covid there are 78 students. They are trying to find out the reasons for this, and seeing whether they can talk to the parents and encourage them to send their students again to Madurai to stay in the hostel and study. All this is the invisible cost of Covid, which don't show up in any record

In Karumbalai there used to be competition for the volunteer teachers who got an honorarium for teaching at the centres, and in return were helped in college (fees, applications, guidance). This year there was no competition, which Karthi translates as 'fewer people going to college.' Covid has further devastated the desire to learn, students perhaps feel that the education does not have value, why not work now, just as we used to work when schools were closed. All this is the hidden cost of Covid.

OUR TEAM

Our team comprised of members who are grew up, or otherwise deeply connected with the same locale where we are working and know the problems inside out. The trustees and staff team work hand in hand and having regular interactions. The volunteers are the backbone and executing the activities in a major level. It is a friendly group of like-minded people, learning, working, and growing together, supporting each other.



V. Elavarasi, M.Sc, M.Ed

Managing Trustee & President

M.Mansurali, MA

Financial Trustee & Secretary

V.Mariammal, MA, B.Ed

Trustee



A. S. Karthikbharathi
Director



K. Murugesan
President, FMS India



C. Arun Kumar
Coordinator



K. Muthupandi
Accountant



Our Partners

Friends of Madurai Seed



Friends of Madurai Seed is an organization founded in Zurich in August 2008 with the aim of supporting Madurai Seed. The committee is made up both of people who know South India and Madurai Seed from personal experience and others who are passionately interested in daily life and problems there. Friends of Madurai Seed has the goal of helping to provide essential financial support for Madurai Seed on a regular basis. Friends of Madurai Seed supports Madurai Seed through guaranteed annual funding for education centres, skills and personality development programs, scholarships for children and young people. Friends of Madurai Seed also gives moral support to Madurai Seed and acts as a consultation partner regarding important planning decisions, English classes and teacher training.

www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org

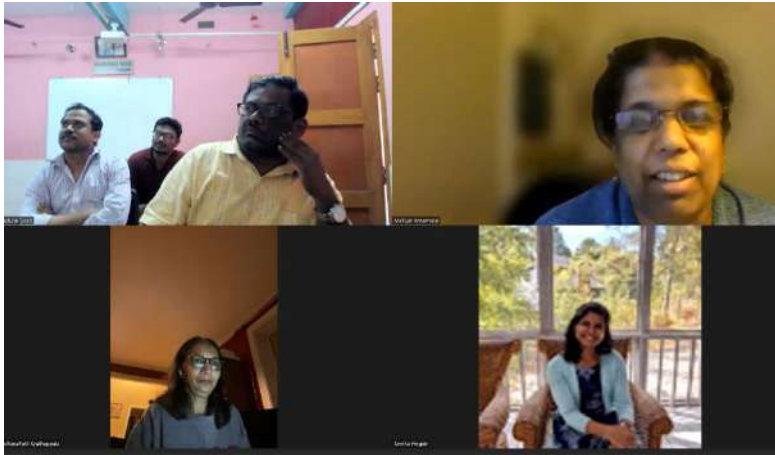


Asha for Education, Boston



Asha
for Education
Bringing hope through education

Boston/ MIT Chapter



Asha Boston Chapter is a chapter of Asha for Education, a non-profit organization. They are a completely volunteer driven organization. Asha Boston Chapter works towards promoting the education of underprivileged children in

India by providing financial assistance and support to the NGOs focused on education projects. Volunteers of Asha work closely with the project partners in India, while locally organizing fundraisers and community awareness events. Asha Boston provides monthly running expenses for Madurai Seed such as rents, telephone, electricity for education centres, and monthly stipend for volunteers. Melli Annamalai is the project steward. <https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=809>

Friends of Madurai Seed, India



This group envisions an effective community through likeminded people as resource persons, advisors, moral supporters, and donors from India. These friends and supporters boost up our children and young people by participating in the events, giving lectures or trainings, and also by being role models.

Together We Make A Difference

FMS, Switzerland

Laura Villiger

John Potts

Eveline Masilamani

Martin Anderhalden

Eliane Suess & Daniel

Patricia Jegher

Sarah Giles & Andy

Andrea Wilson

Clive Oxenden

Valeria Gemelli

Kantonsschule

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Ayilavan Creators

Thanks to all the individuals, donors, organizations, alumni, friends, motivators who stand with us, guide us, and shower love.

GET INVOLVED

As a donor, you can help Madurai Seed's dream projects come true or help the current programs to run continuously in the future. You can also support a child's school expenses or youth to get graduated.

As a volunteer, you can teach classes for children and young people in the areas of your interest and expertise. You can teach English, art and crafts, or any skill or knowledge that you would like to share.

As a friend, you can always be in touch with us, appreciate, and keep us motivated.



Connect With us

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Conclusion:

Closure of schools during the pandemic, too much of multimedia have left a strong negative impact towards education. Children and young people of today have different attitude and perspectives about family, education, career, the world outside. Call it a generation gap or fast-forwarding world. They need a sociable group to learn, express, act upon constructive means. Now, they lack it in schools, family and locale. That's where Madurai Seed comes into effect.

We are a great grassroot model. Children growing up as volunteers, and teaching the children from their same locale. Lots of children and young people found hope through education, changed their lives, developed a life with values.

We believe with existing working model, and emphasising more on educational activities, basic reading, writing, arithmetic development will help in the long run. We will continue to show them the positive side of schooling and learning.

We thank our donors, friends, resource people, moral supporters for helping us in this journey. We look forward to another year full of successful stories.

Thanks for your continued support and love



MADURAI SEED

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