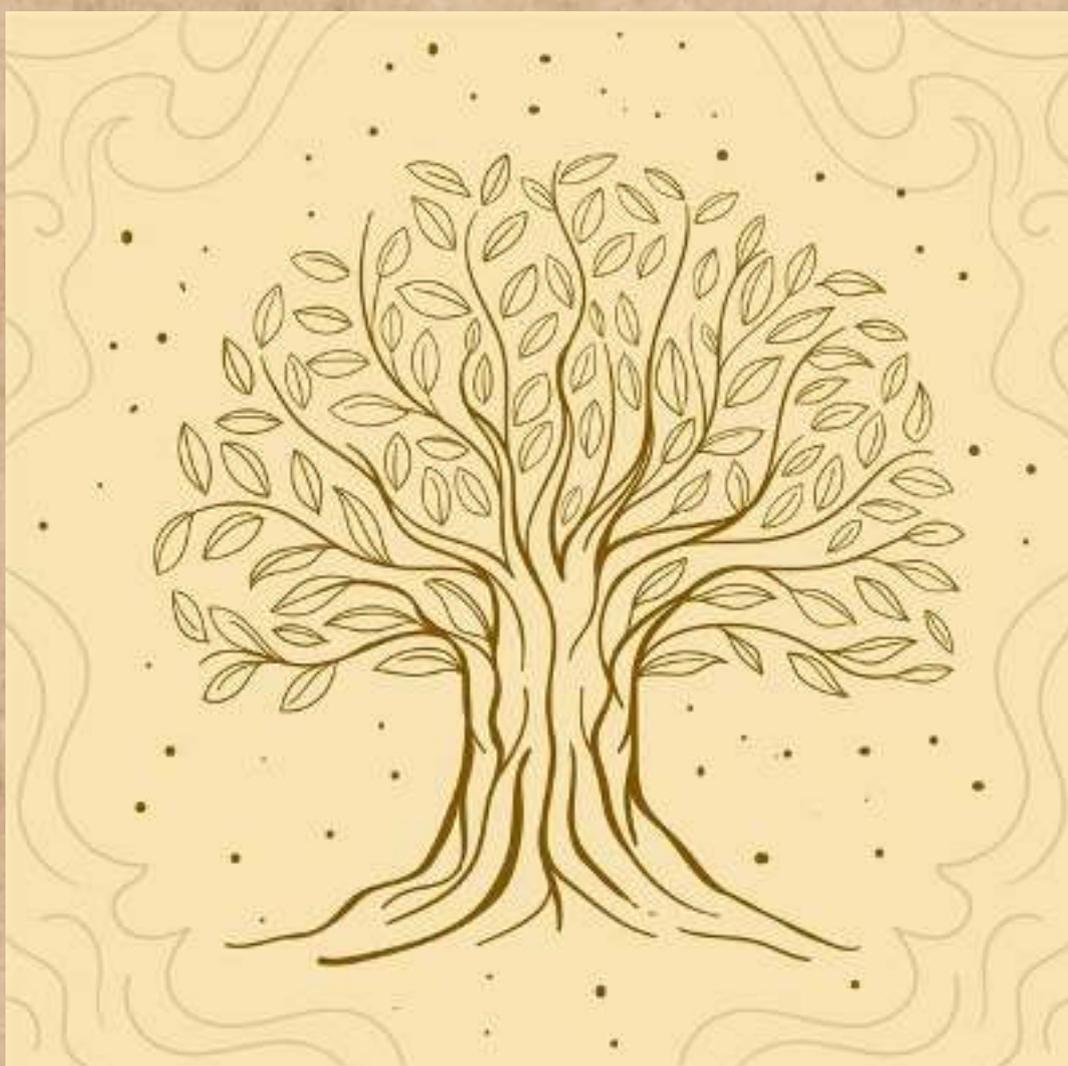




MADURAI SEED
ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



Yazhini, 4th std is telling a story in the storytelling event on 17.12.2020



MADURAI SEED

A voluntary organization to support and empower the underprivileged

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Report Prepared By

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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.

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

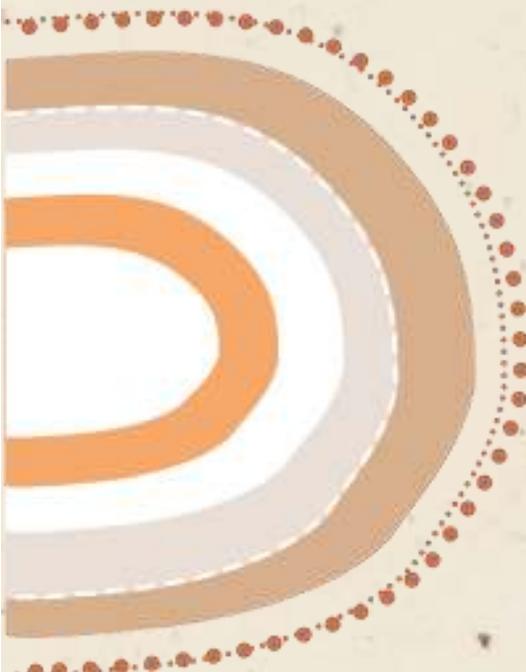
- Learning from each other
- Growing together
- Sharing is caring



Brintha, 3rd std playing in an outdoor session in December 2020

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From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends and supporters

Greetings, I am very happy to share you updates and highlights of the year **April 2020 to March 2021**. We hope that you all doing fine and healthy in this pandemic time. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. Children and young people in Madurai Seed are healthy and fine. It was a hard time for all and still not returned to normal life due to Covid 19 spread.

It is the 22nd year of Madurai Seed, since 1999. This year, we concentrated on young people development activities, school college admissions in the first six months of the year. We have resumed evening classes in the last six months of the year.

During full stretch of educational year 2020 – 2021, schools and colleges were closed due to Covid restrictions. Children and young people don't had chances to go to schools, meet teachers, and study. Madurai Seed was functioned to bridge the educational gap year. They depended only on Madurai Seed for educational, guidance, and recreational needs.

Madurai Seed was the only hope for education in this no school, no exam time. We tried our best, implemented classes, conducted extra-curricular activities to keep their interest in education alive. We hope you will enjoy reading this report. Stay healthy and safe. Take care all.



Love

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white rectangular background.

Karthik Bharathi A S

01 April 2021



EDUCATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BETTERMENT



Highlights of the Year:

- In the year 2020-21, **83 boys 75 girls totally 158 children and 23 young people** benefited from Madurai Seed in Karumbalai.
- Among 17 college going young people, 7 are men and 10 are women. Among 7 men, **2 are first graduates**. Among 10 women, **8 are first graduates**.
- **4 students** who joined first year college, have joined as new volunteers.
- **3 students** who finished college in May 2020, 2 have joined in B.Ed teacher training course, 1 joined in Diploma course.
- **2 B.Ed** students are finishing their college this year
- **3 undergraduate** students are finishing their college this year
- **15 students** who finished 10th std in May 2020, have joined in 11th std for the year 2020-21
- **16 college going** people were provided with scholarships.
- Provided Covid **lockdown relief** fund to **110 families**. Provided masks, sanitizers, soaps to families of our children and young people.
- **USTER**, a Swiss based textile engineering company has sponsored a generous donation through the efforts of our friend Murugesan
- The **New FCRA account** in New Delhi was opened successfully
- Flooring, Painting, and **renovation works** are done at Vandugal Arangam to equip the room for online classes.
- In **Hostel** teaching program, from January 2021 to March 2021, our volunteers taught to **60 students** from 9th std and 10th std.

List of Beneficiaries from Holistic Education Centers 2020-2021

Class	Male	Female	Total
1 st std	06	07	13
2 nd std	08	06	14
3 rd std	05	09	14
4 th std	09	08	17
5 th std	05	06	11
6 th std	13	06	19
7 th std	05	07	12
8 th std	08	09	17
9 th std	08	05	13
10 th std	6	3	09
11 th std	07	04	11
12 th std	03	05	08
Total Children	83	75	158
College 1 st year	1	3	4
College 2 nd year	3	1	4
College 3 th year	1	2	3
College 4 th year	1	2	3
College 5 th year	1	1	2
Alumni	6	1	7
Total Young People	13	10	23



"Children and young people need guidance and compassion far more than instruction"

April 2020

The Lockdown



April was the month when Covid 19 lockdown was imposed severely. Transportation, shops, hotels, offices, all public places are closed. People are ordered to stay at home. Only food and grocery shops were opened at particular time of a day. It was a strange and new situation; it took lots of time to get adapted. Everyone was captured by the pandemic anxiety.

In Madurai Seed, we have closed our office and centers at the end of March 2020 as per government notices. Before, we have given our children and young people positive words and awareness.

Our staff and trustees were involved in preparing the annual report and finance report of last year in this lockdown time.

College young people, 10th, 11th, 12th standard children were in confusion regarding their exam notification, results, and admissions. We made sure that they can contact us for whatever guidance and help regarding education.

We followed the news and government announcements regarding schools, colleges, and exams and passed on to the children and young people. We followed up on children and young people's health, and were ready to provide if anyone needs assistance. We have been in contact with the young people on a daily basis. Young people were allowed to take books from the library. Office was opened and closed time to time without much activities.



Educational institutions were strictly under closure nationwide. Only services for some essential needs like food, grocery, hotels were opened with time restrictions and protection measures. News about exams, colleges, schools' results were confusing and changing each week. Only some private schools have started online classes via some apps and WhatsApp. But our children are studying in government and aided schools they didn't have any opportunities for online classes.

Many people lost income and jobs for more than 2 months. Fortunately, no Covid 19 positive cases in Karumbalai, which allowed us to open office and meet young people. We have decided to involve in activities like

- Covid 19 awareness activities
- Thenkoodu Children bank saving distribution
- Lock down relief fund distribution
- Library management

Volunteers were useful in taking the beneficiary lists, distribution of items, and communicating with families. We have followed preventive and protection measures during meetings and events.

Covid 19 Awareness: 09.04.2020



Masks, Sanitizers, Soaps were provided to our young people, children and the family members at regular intervals and made awareness about social distancing, and preventive measures. We also provided *Arsenic*

album 30 tablets, Kaba sura drink to the families of our children and young people. We are careful about none of children and young people should get Covid, children had much free time and play time due to the lockdown. Whenever we meet a child, we never miss to ask them to study for some time, and tell the centers will soon open.

Library Management and Reading



Madurai Seed has encouraged reading among young people during the lockdown. A register was maintained to take books to home. They were interested in reading Tamil novels and short stories. Later after

some relaxations were announced, young people involved themselves in cleaning, sorting out all library books according to titles and authors. This took a huge physical work. But they enjoyed doing that.

Thenkoodu Savings Distribution: 18.05.2020



Every year Children's saving will be distributed at the end of June month to help their school expenses. This year, we have decided to handover the savings of children early because of the Covid 19 lockdown situation. Many people lost jobs and income since people in Karumbalai are daily wage earners like painters, mansions, street vendors, etc. We thought the children's saving might help them to manage this situation.

Most children had no school expenses like transport, uniforms, study materials, note books, like that.

From children's savings we collect subscription of Rs. 100 as an yearly subscription (monthly Rs.10) to manage the children bank registers and a token contribution of their membership in Madurai Seed Children Federation. But this year we decided not to subtract Rs.100 for membership. We have distributed the actual savings of children with 20% interest. Children saved Rs. 55, 888, the interest came around Rs.7000. Totally Rs. 62,588 was distributed to the respective children. Volunteers went to the home of every single child with Masks, and gave the savings.

Covid 19 Lockdown Relief Fund: 27.05.2020, 28.05.2020, 02.06.2020



The lockdown was imposed continuously from last week of March. In Karumbalai most people are daily wage earners and skilled labors like painters, construction workers, electricians, house maids, drivers, etc. They couldn't get jobs and go for jobs due to lockdown. Woman and elderly people suffered a lot. Boukje Grashuis, a woman from Netherlands asked us to support people in lockdown. Her daughter worked as an intern for a week during February 2020.



We took a beneficiary list among our children and young people families and added other destitute woman and senior citizens generally from Karumbalai. We have provided Rs.1000 per family, which is a large amount than government provided at that time. We handed over the fund to the women so which the money will directly benefit the core needs of the family without any misspending. For us, Rs.1000 is a moderate amount which will help them to cover vegetables and groceries for a month. **We have provided the fund to 110 families. The amount covered is 1,10,000.**



Lockdown was not lifted still, but allowed some relaxations for shops, offices, and transports. Importantly, children of all classes are given pass to next standard. It was announced no board exams for 10th std and 11th std. 12th std result was announced. Thus, it relaxed children and parent's anxiety.

Routine Classes in these months

6.30 AM to 8.30 AM	Two-wheeler driving training for young people
10.30 AM to 12.00 PM	Library Reading & Management
2.00 PM to 3.00 PM	Typing class for young people
6.00 PM to 8.00 PM	English class for young people



Typing classes:



Many jobs require typing skill and we used this long break during Covid times to equip our young people through typing classes. Keeping social distance in mind, chairs and tables (sponsored by our beloved late Chitra Mam) were arranged and 30 numbers of young people were trained to learn keyboard with continuous practice through Tux typing app in the laptop provided by the government. There are lessons that step by step brought them to type faster. They were monitored and given exams in the end of each lessons to check their speed and accuracy

level. At first, they learned to type letters and numbers, then words and finally phrases and paragraphs. Many of them scored high marks in the final type exam conducted by Madurai Seed. It ensures that they can add typing skill in their resume while applying for jobs and confidently go for interviews.



Driving classes for Young People

Madurai Seed provided two-wheeler motor training for volunteer girls and boys. With available bikes from neighborhood and friends, they learned driving and were instructed about safety rules to follow while riding a bike. **6 girls and 8 boys** attended 3 hours a day for one month and learned to execute U-turns and figure 8 which are must to get license. They were taken to race course road to learn in minimal area provided and get over fear of driving two wheelers. Our volunteer instructors who have license and known well about bike riding, guided learners to ride gear-powered motorbike and scooty. Girls are very much encouraged to learn driving as it will support them to be independent to go to colleges and work. On 15.10.2020, they passed the driving test and got licences



English classes for young people:



The classes aim to help volunteers and high school students to improve vocabulary, get motivated towards reading and listening to English stories, and develop interpersonal skills. Speaking “fluently” in English is not the

main objective here, rather trying to understand and communicate clearly without fear is given more importance during the classes. We use books from OUP, and online materials. Slip tests conducted thrice a week for thirty minutes help them assess themselves. Lessons are marked from elementary to pre-intermediate, and they are given lots of time to practice every day to check their understanding. Six groups with a group leader in each, help them to identify and correct mistakes while reading and group discussions. The classes provide them knowledge to construct simple sentences, frame questions, understand rules of grammar, and also it prepares them for the future to overcome difficulties while speaking in English in interviews and at work. Since June, classes have been given for 25 teacher volunteers plus high school students of Madurai Seed in the evenings.

John Sir’s English classes



Our beloved FMS president and ELT professional John Potts has taken online classes for Elavarasi and Arun on topics like report writing, letter writing, proposal writing, using photographs in a classroom, writing a lesson plan, taking online classes effectively, making effective worksheets, using online tools, and TKT materials and questionnaires. The classes were conducted

via Zoom link, the classes were very informative and useful, helped in developing the teaching skills.



With steep low in positive cases, and lockdown relaxations, we did many activities for young people. College admissions, 11th std admissions, online classes on Linguistics, scholarship distribution, Independence Day and teacher’s day all happened in these months.

Routine classes in these months

10.00 AM to 12.00 PM	10 th , 11 th , 12 th school subject supporting class
10.00 AM to 12.00 PM	College online classes
2.00 PM to 3.00 PM	MS Excel class for young people
5.00 PM to 7.00 PM	10 th , 11 th , 12 th school subject supporting class
7.00 PM to 8.00 PM	English classes for young people

Classes for 10th, 11th & 12th:

Due to schools closed in this pandemic time, many private schools are giving online classes for their students. But for Madurai Seed students who study in government schools, it cannot be an accessible one since they need mobile phones and data. With pdfs and books provided by schools, students can just sit and read without any interaction or understanding at home. On the other hand, they have to attend board exams in March 2021 and so Madurai Seed conducts them classes in the morning and evening for 6.5 hrs a day. Nandhini, Arun, Jeeva, Elaa, Sathish, Jensi, Mahalakshmi and Hemalatha take all subjects and assess them weekly through tests. It helps them to focus on lessons and clear doubts like in schools.

College online classes

Towards the end of August, colleges have announced online classes. We have opened one class room for volunteers to sit and listen to their classes without any disturbance, they also used our internet facility to attend classes.

Independence Day: 15.08.2020



In Madurai Seed, national flag has been hoisted by elected children leaders on the Independence Day since 2003. Children federation election wasn't conducted in this Corona time. Gopika, a student from 12th std hoisted the national flag and gave the Independence Day address on 15th August 2020. We prayed for the wellbeing of all in this difficult time. Young people

and few children took part in this program. Everyone wore masks and followed social distance. Sweets were distributed to the public. The participants were given breakfast.

Teachers' day: 05.09.2020



September 5th, we appreciate and honor our teacher volunteers as they pay very significant role in children's education. This time, we celebrated it without our students due to the pandemic outbreak. Our teacher volunteers gathered in Vandugal arangam after precautionary steps. With activities and some surprising

games, the day become one of the finest memories for them. A quiz on the facts and importance of this day, messages and poems, team bonding activities and brain games enthused every volunteer to participate. Before having dinner together, a small gift money was given to all.

College Admissions:



This year it was the difficult situation. 12th std students have received their results late. College admissions have started late. All the procedures were made online; application, selection list, etc. Government

colleges has started admissions very lately.

College final year exams weren't conducted. Students didn't know whether they will be conducted or not. Some colleges have started admissions for post graduate degrees.

Overall 12th std finished students and college final year students were in a stressed situation about their future plans.

However, Madurai Seed has helped them in getting information, guidance, and online application processes.

4 students have joined in first year college studies. 2 students have joined in teacher training courses. 1 joined in a Diploma course.

Swetha	B.A. English
Mahalakshmi	BBA, Business Administration
Hemalatha	B.Sc Microbiology
Mugesh Kumar	B.Sc Physical Education
Vinthiya	B.A, B.Ed
Vijayalakshmi	B.A.B.Ed
Vasanth	B.Sc, Diploma

Our language (12 online sessions)



Many will have questions about the languages and Tamil language; There will be misunderstandings. The purpose of the 12 speeches you will hear is to tell you some facts about both. How was language born in the world?, What does language

do to man? What does man use language for? How is the grammar of the language formed? What are the relations between the languages of the world? What has language got to do with government? What is the benefit of having multiple languages? What is language development? How do languages die?

What is Tamil? Why do we say that Tamil is like all other languages? What has the Tamil language got to do with Tamil culture? How has Tamil changed in two thousand years? Mother of Tamil Dravidian languages and world languages? What prevents the literary language Tamil from flourishing as a scientific language? What is the future of Tamil?

Texts will be set up to answer questions like these. The questions you ask will also be answered.

This is a preface written by Linguist E.Annamalai before the sessions. It was the time when In Tamilnadu politics we had discussions about language guidelines in the new education policy of India and Hindi language imposition. His lessons gave our students a scientific approach towards language.

About the speaker:



E. Annamalai studied Tamil and Linguistics at Annamalai University and received Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He taught in both these places later. He was the Director of Central Institute of Indian Languages. He designed and guided projects to describe, develop and teach the tribal languages of India. He was responsible for developing national policy and programs for the development of all

Indian languages, training teachers to teach, and producing materials to learn.

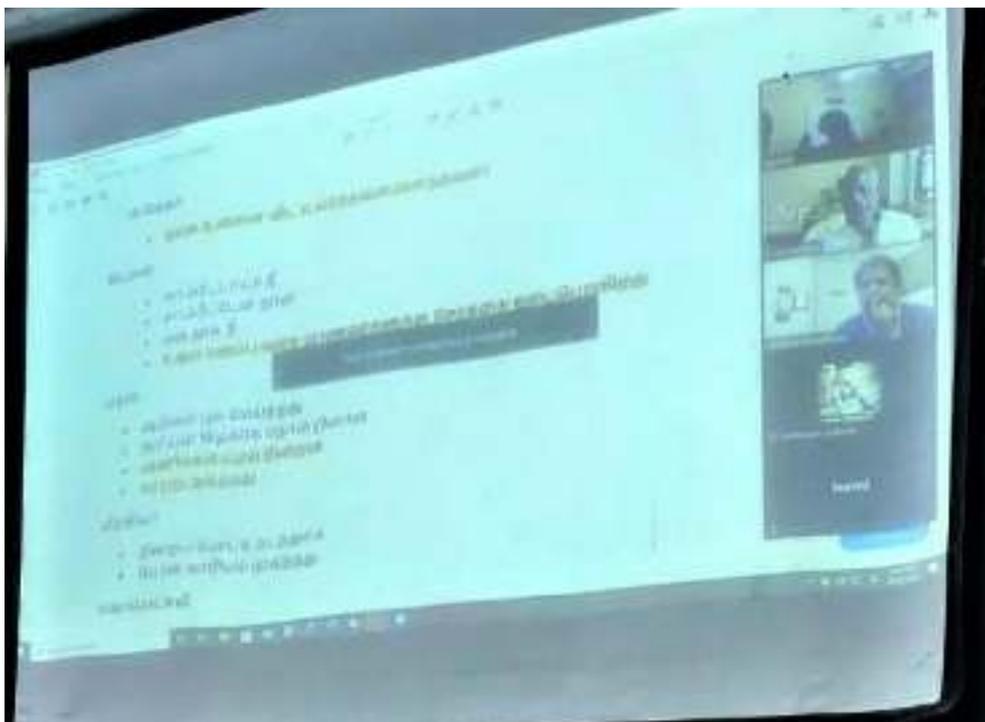
He was a visiting professor at Tokyo University, Yale University, Max Planck Institute, Melbourne University, International Institute of Asian Studies, Currently, he is Visiting Professor of Tamil at the University of Chicago. He was a member of the panel of the Endangered Languages Documentation Project, UNESCO's committee on World Language Survey. Under his leadership were produced *A Dictionary of Contemporary Tamil*, *Dictionary of Idioms and Phrases of Contemporary Tamil* and *Tamil Style Manual*. Some of his important books are *Language Movements in India*, *Dynamics of Verbal Extension in Tamil*, *Adjectival Clauses in Tamil*, *Lectures on Modern Tamil*, *Managing Multilingualism in India: Political and Linguistic Manifestations*, *Social Dimensions of Modern Tamil* and *Colloquial Tamil*.

He is a patron of Madurai Seed, he is the father of our beloved Melli akka from Asha for Education. His wife Nageshwari is also a Tamil author and has addressed in many of Madurai Seed's event.

Language Sessions:

He majorly concentrated on Tamil during the sessions, but also differentiated other languages like English when discussing grammar and quoted many world languages across the sessions. At the end of each session, students received homework and it was discussed in the next class. Students also were encouraged to ask questions during and after the sessions.

Date	Title
15.08.2020	Origin of languages
16.08.2020	Grammar is common for all
19.08.2020	What is the purpose of grammar
25.08.2020	What is a grammatical error
28.08.2020	Language is a social agreement
31.08.2020	Regulators of a language
04.09.2020	Regulators of a language II
07.09.2020	Three-layer structure of grammar
09.09.2020	Language as visual character
14.09.2020	Language and culture
17.09.2020	Relationships between languages
20.09.2020	Politics and languages



First session: 15.08.2020: Origin of languages



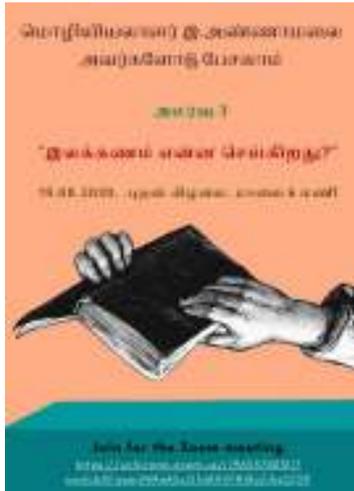
When you say that your language is the best, it also means other languages are inferior to your language. Isn't it? Professor and Linguist E. Annamalai says "All languages are equal. Any possibilities can be achieved by all languages. A language is made better by people who speak, write, think, dream, and explore it in every possible field". Professor and Linguist. Prof. Annamalai has simple words that can give you surprise and unknown facts. No jargons and complex theories. The first class touched the subjects like how languages emerged as an evolutionary advantage in humans. The differences between animals and humans in terms of languages. How human's languages are superior than other animals, how a language is useful in relationship, communication, and imagination.

Second Session: 16.08.2020: Grammar



The talk with Linguist E. Annamalai has opened many insights regarding grammar. He said "Everyone who share a same language sharing a same grammar regardless of socio economic educational regional differences". Grammar is in everyone's mind. Grammar consciousness is both biological and social. Sharing the same rules makes it possible to communicate. The purpose of the language is fulfilled with grammar. Grammar is like a frame. Inside the frame there are number of possibilities to make meaningful communication. Out of the frame, the language couldn't function meaningfully. We also discussed about spoken language and writing language differences of Tamil, how grammar is different in this both modes, and how it affects our grammar learning. The session ended with a question, the visual and digital era is affecting our writing, we write less comparing to previous generations, our grammar knowledge in writing obviously will become short, Will our language be stagnated as only a spoken language?

Third Session: 19.08.2020: Purpose of grammar



In the 3rd sitting, we have discussed various functions of grammar, difference between the scholarly grammar and grammar of the mass people. The grammar is allowing the application of language as long as there is an understanding.

Tamil has transformed in 2000 years as well as its grammar. A mutation shouldn't be considered as a wrong grammar. Common people are contributing huge level for a mutation in a language. In time, the mutation becomes natural and usual way of expression. The contradiction sometimes is because of schools (scholar) and society (common people). Language is not only scholar's entity. They can bring rules, but they can't stop the invisible, subtle changes that a language encounter in a daily life. Professor enumerated examples about some grammar mutations in Tamil, examples of spoken and written grammar which were useful to understand the discussed concepts.

Fourth Session: 25.08.2020: What is the grammatical error?



We discussed about grammatical errors in Tamil and identified which are errors and which aren't. We think written language is grammatically greater than spoken language. Prof.E.Annamalai explained in a linguistic point of view, that we all are speaking with grammar. Since our schools, teachers, academic writing, some professional environments denies a few forms of writing and speaking, it doesn't mean we are speaking with grammatical errors. As language is evolving constantly, some changes in expression aren't errors at all. Our young people have submitted their

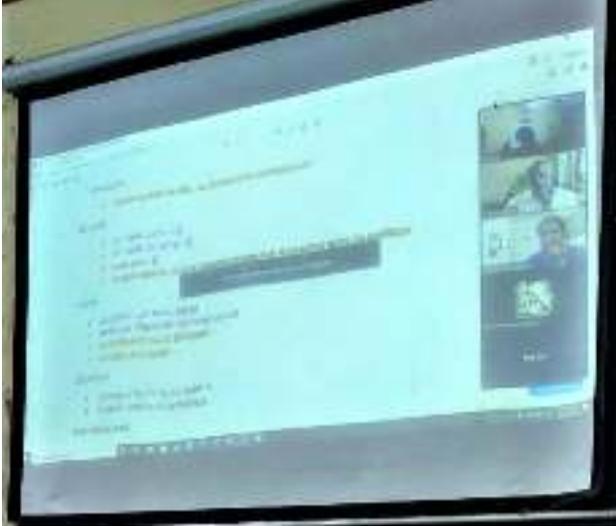
sentences which they think are having grammatical errors but they are using them in everyday life. Apart from a few sentences, most of the sentences were grammatical error free. The students were reluctant to accept them as proper sentences before. But Prof. Annamalai broke their hesitation by explaining some grammar rules, and how the language functions has changed through time. It was a very lively and productive session.

Fifth Session: 28.08.2020: Language is a social contract



Prof. Annamalai discussed how the language functions as a social agreement. He listed some examples like மரப்பெட்டி, பணப்பெட்டி, தலைவலி மாத்திரை, தூக்க மாத்திரை. When we say மரப்பெட்டி, we think of a box made out of wood, when we say பணப்பெட்டி, we don't think of a box made out of cash. Why? Because of social agreement. Likewise, when two terms mean a same thing, we take one term which is predominantly used in our society. There are vocabularies in language, but the meaning for those vocabularies comes from the social contract. Social contract plays an important role in word and its

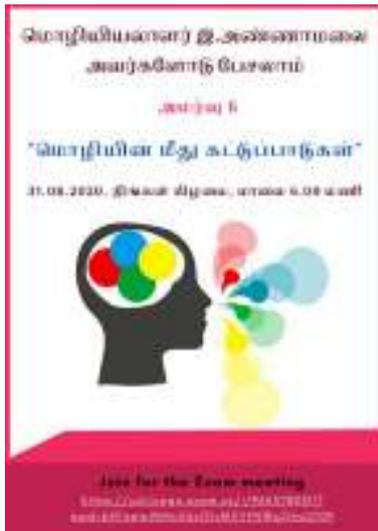
meaning. If there is no social contract between two people who speak a same language, there will be no proper communication between them. When the society changes its customs and practices, the contract also changes, and thus the language too.



We also discussed why the social contract is breaking sometimes, and bring miscommunication. Prof. Annamalai listed the reasons from the student's examples. The reasons could be mistakes in grammar, structure, pronunciation, audibility, spelling, listening, and understanding.

We can communicate when we agree to the social contract and grammar contract. Grammar contract can be written. Social contract can't be written, as it is changing constantly from place to place, time to time, and people to people. Prof. Annamalai expressed his sadness about the gap between Tamil speaking grammar and writing grammar, which is increasing. When there is too much gap between the speaking and writing forms, Tamil could become two separate languages, which is not good for a classical language. He also discussed some points in sound formation and phonemes which will be discussed elaborately in the next session.

Sixth Session: 31.08.2020: "Regulators of a language"



Prof.E. Annamalai has discussed about two kinds of restrictions on a language. One is speech sounds, and the other is grammar.

A language doesn't take all the sounds that a human can produce. It takes only some sounds and some combinations. Thus, a language is limited by the sounds and their combination.

A language doesn't operate without the grammar. It is the grammar that helps to communicate. Without, grammar it is gibberish.

All languages accept these two limitations. They accept these controls so only, they are languages. If a language accepts one rule in a grammar, automatically there is a compulsion it should follow some other rules depending on the first rule. It couldn't take one rule from here and one rule from there independently. All languages are common and inside a same circle, though they are different and diverse within themselves. It is why we are able to learn so many languages as we like, because they are inside a same box, but in different colours.

Seventh Session: 04.09.2020: Regulators of a language II



We have discussed learning from the previous sessions through homework. The homework not only demanded the right answer from a set of multiple choices, but also asked WHY which was interesting and required strong thought process.

Prof.E. Annamalai discussed about constraints of a language like sounds and grammar. We understood grammar constraint is different from grammar rules. We saw examples of the constraints when sequencing words in a sentence.

We understood the efficiency of a language doesn't comes from how much sounds and vocabularies it has, and it doesn't come from the transmutation ability, but the efficiency comes from its potential to produce more words express more ideas within a pool of what grammar and vocabulary the language already has. We talked about the position of verbs, tenses and prepositions, compared Tamil and English for the better understanding.

Eighth Session: 07.09.2020: Three-layer structure of grammar



Prof. Annamalai started the class with a discussion about gender bias words in a culture. He added that no language is a backward or primitive language. The community may be backward or primitive. As the community progresses so does the language. The language has the potential to change.

We also discussed about basics of grammar in terms of sound, word, and sentences. Prof. Annamalai said the sound in a language is a limited entity, it can be listed. Words are enormous but finite. But sentences are infinite and can't be listed.

Then, there was a discussion about semantic violation and grammatical violation in sentences. We understand a meaning of any sentences from two perspectives. One perspective comes from our worldly knowledge and another comes from our knowledge about the language. Some linguists are advocating it is not the duty of the grammar to explain the meaning of a sentence. Grammar's duty starts in sound and ends in sentence structure, where as some advocates grammar can explain meaning too.

We discussed our home works about syntax analysis of some Tamil sentences to understand the grammar, and discussed non-sense sentences to understand how we perceive meanings and violation in meanings.



Eleventh Session: 17.09.2020: Relationship between languages



Prof.E.Annamalai shed light especially on Dravidian languages and it's relationship with Tamil. Language families are classified on the basis of origin and grammar.

It was a revelation for everyone that Tamil is different from Proto Dravidian language. Tamil is one of the languages emerged from Proto Dravidian Language. We are having a proud that Tamil is the mother of all Dravidian languages which is not scientifically proven so far. Tamil perhaps the oldest, adaptable, and having literature richness.

When seeing the world languages family tree, we could see so much languages in the world, everyone will have their literature, history, and culture. Being proud about our language isn't wrong, it was the proud that saved our language and culture in spite of all discrimination and imposition. At the same time, we should not discriminate other languages too on the basis of unscientific facts.

Twelfth Session: 19.09.2020: Politics and languages



It was the final session in this class on languages. Cultural usage, political administration usage, and economical usage are the biggest pillars of a language, next comes educational usage and technological usage.

When saying cultural it includes what language do people speak in their families and in what language they follow their cultural practices. When there is a cultural invasion or fusion the language tend to change, transform, there is a chance for development as well as decline.

It was a beautiful journey of 12 lectures started from origin of languages and ended in politics of languages. Thanks to Prof.E. Annamalai and Melli Annamalai. There were so many things we learnt.

Scholarship for Young People: 12.09.2020



Scholarship Distribution Program was held on 12.09.2020 successfully. 16 Madurai Seed young people were provided with college education scholarships. The young people and their parents attended the program. Young people shared about their future plans and wishes to the parents, it was emotional and elevating. 9 out of 16 were given 100% scholarship and 7 were given partly scholarships. The young people have prepared 16 types of snacks from their homes and shared among themselves. Trustees of Madurai Seed Mrs. Elavarasi and Mr. Mansur Ali presented the scholarships and greeted everyone. Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland offers these scholarships to 16 students until their graduation. Asha for Education, Boston provides monthly honorarium for these 16 teaching volunteers to help their college studies.

Among 16

- 6 are male and 10 are female students.
- 9 are first generation graduates.
- 8 are from socially oppressed community.
- 4 are doing teacher training.
- 10 are studying other arts and science programs.
- 1 is doing engineering.
- 1 is studying diploma.

Success Stories



Srinath, his connection with Madurai Seed is a 16 year of long and steady journey. He has completed B.A. English and pursued two-year teacher training course in physical education outside Madurai in Sivanthi Aadhithanar College, Thiruchendur. He is interested in volley ball, ring ball, and

cricket. His parents aren't formally educated. His sister is a teacher graduate and married. He has rendered 3 years of volunteering service during his under graduation. During his B.Ed years when he comes to home, he spent his time in Madurai Seed's classrooms. He has completed his teacher training course this year 2021. Thanks to Andrea Wislon and Friends of Madurai Seed for their support.



Thanks a lot for your support beloved
Andrea Wilson

*I joined in Madurai Seed when I was 6 years old. I like sports very much. I couldn't achieve my dreams as a sports person due to many obstacles. It's not easy for a first graduate student from low-income family to choose a sports path. I have chosen academic path. Because of Madurai Seed's guidance and financial help, I am a qualified sports teacher now. I am in sports, doing what I like. I will sure repay my support in whatever ways possible to Madurai Seed in the future. Thanks to **Andrea Mam, and FMS** for helped me achieved this. Thanks a lot. – Srinath.*

Success Stories



Nandhini, a teacher volunteer of Madurai Seed is the first graduate in her family. She has completed B.Sc. Maths and pursued teaching degree. Her parents aren't formally educated. Her father works as a labourer and mother worked as a domestic worker. Nandhini is 20 years old and has

one younger sister studying XI std. She is very much dedicated to her teaching profession in Madurai Seed where she taught Math for higher secondary students.

A Good reader, responsible volunteer, an outspoken personality capable of conducting various activities for kids. She has rendered 3 years of volunteering service and continuing to do so. She studied B.Ed in KLN College of Education and completed her teacher training course in 2021. Thanks to Sarah Giles and Friends of Madurai Seed for their support.



Thanks a lot for your support beloved Sarah Giles

*Madurai Seed helped me to identify my skill, gave me opportunities to sharpen my skills, asked me to dream big, and helped me to achieve it. Madurai Seed is the place where I dreamt of becoming a teacher, after I started to take classes for children here, the dream grew big. The dream has happened true here in Madurai Seed with your support. The help you have offered for me has changed my life and family's life together. My humble thanks to **Sarah and FMS** for your huge help. I will sure continue to teach Madurai Seed's children in the possible ways. - Nandhini*



Life has become more normal; the fear of pandemic has decreased a lot comparing to the past months. We have resumed classes for 5th to 12th std children though schools and colleges aren't opened still. These months has ended with celebrations like children's day and Diwali.

Routine classes in these months

10.00 AM to 12.00 PM	10 th , 11 th , 12 th school subject supporting class
1.30 PM to 3.30 PM	Graphic Designing Class for young people
5.00 PM to 7.00 PM	5 th to 12 th std school subject supporting class
7.00 PM to 8.00 PM	English Classes for young people

Graphic Designing Classes

Vicky and Anand who studied graphic designing last year, went for a job. During lockdown, they have taught graphic design tools like Adobe Photoshop to other young people. 12 young people are learning from them. It was very nice gesture that our young people are learning from each other, sharing skills, and spending time in a productive way.

Classes for 5th to 9th:

Classes were resumed after 5 months. Children and parents continuously enquired about resuming the classes. With opinions from parents and young people, we have opened the centers for 5th to 12th std children aged 10 to 17, they are coming for two hours in the evening 5.PM to 7.PM. Timetables were made and places of classes are accommodated. The children are very happy coming to Madurai Seed centers. In these 8 classes, totally 85 children have enrolled for the current year. After long holidays and school closure till, we have managed to achieve this number of enrollments. We are sure the numbers will go high in the coming months, and after school reopening.

Since no schools, homework, or exams their only educational spot is Madurai Seed. We asked the volunteers to go by their text books finishing the lessons one by one but slowly. We helped them with the exercises in the books. Children showed much interest coming to the classes regularly. The parents cooperated well by sending them without any fear about Covid. They were happy that their children are finally opening their textbooks and started studying after so much gap.



Penmai Potruthum: Celebrating Womanhood: Inspiring She

From 17.10.2020 to 26.10.2020 (10 days – Online Sessions)

Navarathi (Nine Nights) is a Hindu religious festival celebrating woman goddesses. In Madurai Seed, we signify this week to learn from woman personalities and from their motivating stories. Every year we have celebrated this as a woman empowerment week or celebrating womanhood week by giving it academic and cultural twist. This year we gave much meaning to this celebration by listening to 10-woman personalities from various walks of life, they talked about their life and some talked in specific topics. In total 10 sessions, 8 sessions were conducted via zoom, 1 session was conducted via WhatsApp call, and one session was conducted directly at our center. It was totally a different experience conducting such programs via internet, and it was effective too, we could see from the enthusiasm of the speaker and participants.



List of Speakers

No	Speaker	Topic
1	Arockia Mary, Social Activist, Madurai	My Life and Struggles
2	ParvathaVarthini, Social Activist, Madurai	Women are equal opposites
3	Chithra, Media and Writing, Chennai	Gandhi for young people
4	Sathya, Transformation coach, Chennai	Emotional Wellbeing
5	Nageshwari Annamalai, Writer, USA	Women need individual perspectives
6	Krithika, Journalist, Villupuram	Women should lead ideal life
7	Varsha, Folk Artist, Pudukottai	My life as a transgender
8	Shanthi Nakeeran, Researcher, Delhi	Ayothidasar – An introduction
9	Esthar, Poet, Srilanka	My life and my poems in the mountains
10	Jaishree, Education Activist, Chennai	New Education Policy 2020

The 10 sessions brought positive insights among our young people. They've asked very good questions to the speakers, which showed their enthusiasm in attending the program. Since the program was conducted online, many friends and people from outside have also participated in the program. The talks were not only just lectures, the participants also involved actively by telling their opinions and shared their feedback. Healthy snacks were provided at the end of each program. The program provided a holistic view on gender equality, socially committed life, women empowerment, idealistic life, emotional wellbeing, and so on. It was a great series of talks; we are able to achieve this in this COVID 19 situation. The event acquired much attention in our social media platforms and appreciated by all.

17.10.2020: My life and struggles



Is it simple and easy to be associated in social activism for more than 30 years? It is not easy unless you have the guts like **Mrs. Arockiya Mary**. She is the State President of the Tamil Nadu Women's Movement. In her post-college years, she worked in rural development, especially for the welfare, protection and development of women, and gained field experience through various voluntary organizations. Arockiya Mary Amma is having great love for children and young people and being

associated with them. She has set up her life as a Marxist. She talked about her struggles and life among our young people.

Mrs. Arockia Mary amma spoke to our young people in which she shared about her life experiences, challenges, and struggles towards attaining justice and rights of people.

She has been the voice of many marginalized people. Her active role in fighting against and finding solutions for untouchability, and sexual violence shows woman-led protests never fail. Even there is an ordinary life like other women, she chose to stay close to those who suffer from issues like honor killings, gender inequality, etc.,

As a Marxist activist, and Tamil Nadu women's movement leader, she recalled her past life which she had totally dedicated for the people who have had faced wage gap, and caste discrimination. Breaking the stereotypes, she traveled half of her life serving every needy and now she is iconic for her support to them.

Her inspiring speech gave us hope at the same time, it left us in shock when we came to know about ongoing issues and her tireless fight facing any circumstances.

While we are growing up, we meet similar problems from the society. A meet and talk with Arockia Mary amma teach us to stand for our rights. Her speech lead young people to think and act for social problems they face. It will enhance them to adapt a life without being oppressed. By getting clear perspective of political and social ongoing issues, they can contribute mutually to themselves and the society. On the whole, She is an inspiration to us.

18.10.2020: Women are equal opposites



She is one of the most important female faces in Madurai. **Mrs Parvatha Varthini**. has been involved in the educational development for children for over 20 years. As director of the Little's Children's Center, she has shed light on the lives of countless children. She coordinates on all platforms such as public school advocacy, child labor prevention, equality education, mother tongue education, environment protection and women's development. She is a lover of nature, lives each day as a celebration. Amidst the struggles of life, she could see and respect humanity in all people. She values friendship a lot. As a Marxist, Parvathavarthini

Akka is a field worker, social activist and ecological activist. She discussed about gender equality among our young people.

Mrs. Parvatha Varthini, a Marxist, social activist, and field worker spoke to Madurai Seed young people via Zoom about "Women and Men are equal opposite" The opening lines of Varthini Mam set us to think wide about opposite of women sex are equal opposite.

Naturally, all living beings are capable of doing things in their own. Men can. Women can. Physiologically, biologically and emotionally they differ, and we cannot say they both are equal in those aspects. Ideally to say, women are equal opposite. We are surrounded by conversation about gender equality, feminism, and most of us perceive it as women's issue but it is not.

We impart girl children below 18 yrs about POKSO law, do we talk about it to boys? We ask girls to be careful outside, ever did we ask boys to behave nice to girls? We think boys only can have rights to stay/roam outside, have we ever thought a girl child too has desires like that? Is it practical for a girl to walk along seashore feeling the breeze under the dark sky full of stars? Nope. Even we are in this feminine era, there is an invisible line which girls can not see but prohibited to cross.

A liberation is true when women stop seeking it from men rather finding their own personality and liberate themselves, Men do not have to preserve women like a treasure, as women have the wings and know their vast sky spread above. Varthini Mam's expressive and powerful talk helped us to understand many issues against women. Her speech added confidence to our girl volunteers to fight against those and come up in life.

19.10.2020: Gandhi for young people



Gandhi is the unquenchable flame.

A small Diya for me from there, I lit.

Whenever my mind wanders, that little light guides me
again and again to strengthen my faith in human beings.

This is how Mrs. **Chitrapalasubramaniam** explained her attachment with Gandhism. She is the one who charms everyone with his simple speech, smile and words. Mrs. Chitra Balasubramaniam has worked a Tamil Professor at MOP Vaishnava College and Director of student FM radio project in the college. She is a freelance news reader, program anchor, and writer. She has interviewed prominent writers and activists of Tamil Nadu.

She is the celebrator of young people who works in constructive paths, and states with enthusiasm that there are a lot of Gandhis in Tamil Nadu. On the occasion of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary, she took the task of taking Gandhiji to everyone through Facebook posts and conversations. Her writings on Gandhi's Dandi salt march have been published as a book called 'Mannil Uppanavargal'. Her recent interview with Tamil political leader Thirumavalavan on Gandhi was a special one that everyone admires a lot.

Mrs. Chithra Balasubramanian, interacted with Madurai Seed young people on "Gandhi for youngsters". Before the session started, young people thought it would be a lecture about nonviolence and truth. But with her eloquent words, she summed up Gandhi's life as a message for youngsters.

She changed our opinion about Gandhi whom most of us think he was a wise old man and his principles apply only for aged people. Her vibrant opening talk took us to perceive Gandhi is an icon for youngsters. Simultaneously, she gave life instances and experiences which drove us to observe and understand Gandhi.

Learner. Even on his last day, before he was shot dead, he was learning Bengali. It shows he loves learning languages not to rule but to understand and serve all people.

Follow the instinct. Gandhi's first instinct made himself into a fearless young man when he was thrown in a dark and cold night out of the train in South Africa. Here, Gandhi made a decision to remove fear. Mahatma emerged. This incident which she narrated taught us two things.

One is to accept the situation and move on and another one is rise up to fight against it. From this, she shared us reading about Gandhi and his life experiences taught her to reach her goal as a professor against all odds. Opportunities to not be missed. When we see an opportunity that comes to us, its because we can do it. Let us think, if MK Gandhi missed his opportunity to go South Africa for his Islam clients' case to solve, what would have happened? We would have lost a great history to tell the world. Here, Chitra Mam point out that opportunities are valuable.

Truth. Gandhi prepared himself to fight for people in South Africa. Though at first, he faced challenges, he won. In this part of Gandhi's life, he believed in truth, Truthful to self. Truthful in our action. Chitra Mam explained it with his popular quote "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight with you, then you Win".

Dexterity. We learn it from Gandhi's life. Doing our own tasks, strictly following time is what we observe in Gandhi's Ashram.

Direct action. Chitra Mam shared about his thinking way and direct action, from his famous Dandi March which he initiated to collect all people under one shelter "Salt". He took this on hand since when salt tax severely effected poor and all class of people. Only 98 youngsters who are between 20 and 25 yrs of age started march with him. Later it become a massive and silent protest that turned world to look at us. It showed us that he was a man of action and motivation even in his 60s.

Faith. In the letters to Meera Ben and many, he wrote that he strongly believed in his actions, he believed himself, he believed human beings. He had faith in humanity and this is a great message to us.

We have heard lectures of people about Gandhi, but her take on Gandhi for youngsters that day was different, interesting, and it made us curious to read at least one chapter from his autobiography.

Before speaking about Gandhi, a gist from " The Little Prince" novel of Antoine Exupery was shared by her. When the Prince thinks all roses in this planet are same, the fox tells him that his rose special and unique. The fox pictures him that it is important to understand and build our love and relationship with everyone. If we are not in this Covid time, there would be a chance to meet her direct and build a strong relationship for MS young people with her.

20.10.2020: Emotional Wellbeing



Mrs. **Satya** was known to us as a teacher trainer at Madurai Seed Teaching Volunteer Training Camp. She encouraged our children at Madurai Seed-Nandavanam Drama Festival at Nilangarai Beach, Chennai for three days. She loves children and cares the progress Madurai Seed young people. She is one of our important resource persons. Based in Chennai, She is a transformation coach, motivational speaker, teacher for special children, counselor, and

psychotherapist.

She is the founder director of Yogitya Academy Center, which helps children with learning difficulties. She stays in touch with students, teachers, women, young people on countless platforms. Satya spoke to the young people of Madurai Seed on the subject of "emotional well-being"

Sathya Mam discussed on "Emotional Well - being" emphasizing important facts and issues related to our over all mental health.

She defined emotion and ways to handle it. Her presentation with bulletined points was helpful to understand what is emotion, difference between IQ and EQ.

With examples, she explained EQ concept. Many terms she discussed about are felt in our life time at least once.

She sorted out various factors of Emotional Intelligence like self awareness, self regulation, social skill and empathy. It was given with examples happening around us.

As most of us think IQ is more important than EQ.. but in chart IQ carries 20% for life success while EQ carries 80%. A prolonged exposure to any emotion will increase our stress level. We should have positive outlook and should be free from worry and for that we have to shift our negative thoughts. When we can't control our emotions, we fail to succeed. When we are emotionally not well, we tend to take wrong decision. Emotion influences decision making.

Sathya Mam, a teacher for special children, and counselor, designed the session on Emotional well being with lots of interesting factors. She provided us knowledge on how to stay balanced in life handling emotions to succeed in studies, and work.



The sky is full of stars and there's room for them all to shine ...



21.10.2020: Women need individual perspectives



Writer Nageshwari Amma writes at the age of seventy, started writing only after her 60s. She has written books in many genres such as novel, translation, history, travelogue, and politics. She care much for equal society, religious harmony, and world peace. She dreams about a day when poverty and caste discrimination is eradicated, women were treated equally, and all human being leading a respectful, moral life.

Nageshwari Amma, who holds a masters in sociology, has been writing her views on contemporary politics. She writes in Tamil.

First job in the United States,

American experiences

The other side of the United States,

Towards hometown,

A Historical View of the Palestinian-Israeli War,

Pope Francis: The New Dimension of Hope,

Stories of Nadar women of five generations,

From the day Cuba was liberated until today,

Linguistics: For beginners (translation),

Malkudi people (translation)

Her ideal leader is Gandhiji. She hates Imperialism and fascism. She wrote the horror faces of consumerist culture in many books.

She loved her hometown of Ramanathapuram and Mysore where she spent her later life. She is always concerned with the advancement of female children. Writer Nageshwari, her husband E. Annamalai and her two daughters, the whole family is interested in social work, writing and intellectual discussions.

She traveled around the world, multiplied her political, sociological and historical perspectives and passing it on through her writing. She is the one who always talks to everyone about religious harmony, the elimination of caste differences, and world peace.



Writer Mrs. Nageswari Annamalai expresses her thoughts, and experiences in her words. *Americavin Marupakkam*, *Pope Francis: the new dimension of hope*, *America Anubavangal*, and many more books of her help us to understand contemporary issues surrounding us. It was a great honor for us to have a zoom meet with a woman writer who even in her 70s keeps herself active by writing about her concern for society, and women.

Nageswari amma interacted with Madurai Seed young people in the topic "For the women to have different perspective"

She shared how her early days shaped her to perceive things different and that view of hers helped her to study the positive and negative impacts of caste system, marriage, and politics. The positive outlook brought her to stay close and think for the people who suffered by family patriarchal structure and dominant caste of the society.

Many experiences she shared from her past are ongoing still in our society. She explained why it is important for girls to have different perspective.. When girls start looking at things different and develop questioning skill, their individuality can be seen.

She interacted with young people about her views on politics, peace and harmony, equality, and poverty. The whole meet was concluded with her advice to develop questioning skill by having different perspective in life.

22.10.2020: Women leading ideal life



Ms. Krithika is a freelance journalist, now works as a reporter in the new Indian Express, having individual perspectives and style of living. Sister Krithika, who has a master's degree in sociology, is a freelancer with a series of readings and life experiences. Works for Indian Express English Magazine. Selfish. Savitribai is the one who acts as the ideal of Pule, Ambedkar and Periyar. An active young journalist who works through writing for the rights and problems of marginalized people and their development.

As a journalist, Krithika has written articles and news related to the community in various magazines such as The Wire and News Minute. Through Kritika's writings, there have been positive movements on the part of the government which have resulted in fulfilling the needs of some marginalized people. She is also a shadow puppet artist for children who is interested in working with children. Krithika's shadow puppet shows and trainings have reached countless children and activists.

Krithika appeared on screen along with women social reformers SavithriBhai Phule and Ponnuthayi amma to show us "Women lead a purposeful life" What was a purposeful life for them? More than understanding them as female teachers, Krithika expressed how they inspire us. Unlike other women, they liberated themselves from an ordinary life and lived for girls' education. Both of them started schools facing many challenges. Savithri bhai never gave up, she started school for girls to enroll and get them educated. Even when people threw stones and cow dung at her on way to school, she went to school carrying an extra saree to wear at work.

Ponnuthayi amma's life and her efforts for educating suppressed community children in Vadipati was shocking to know how a woman empowered herself and others even when her school built for them was destroyed completely by dominant caste. Krithika chose to talk about them as they brought changes in the society especially for girls. She emphasized on living an ambitious life rather just fulfilling our lives. Our volunteers interviewed her with few questions on journalism, her college life, books she read, life as a journalist, her achievements so far, her mentor/role models, and her love for writing. She concluded the zoom meet with a message for youngsters to read books while doing college as it will enhance them.

23.10.2020: My life as a transgender



Transgender **Varsha**, is a budding folk artist based in Pudukottai. She is currently studying for her second year postgraduate degree in Folklore at Kamaraj University, Madurai. She is the first post graduate transgender student ever got admitted in the university. Varsha takes education and art to escape from the disadvantaged situation she is facing day to day as a transgender. She has learnt various folk dances, and trying to do Guinness records.

Ms. Varsha Raj, visited Madurai Seed for an interactive "Meet and talk" event with young people. More than her identity as a transwoman, she is recognized as an emerging folklore artist by many. As we know transgenders face many challenges in getting equal rights like others, her experiences from past to till showed that the situation is the same even in 2020. The discrimination we show on them in education and job is growing more day by day.



She shared that even she face issues to get worried about, she is thankful for her family's support and professor's guidance. Young people observed her speech which gave them better understanding of her society and the rituals they follow. The most valuable lesson we have to learn from her is that,

nothing can stop oneself from dreaming high and achieving it when he/she has an interest.

After discussion and question hour, she performed a dance in dark yet she glowed with fluorescent wings. The wings she has is taking its slow flight little by little implying she will touch the sky. The event was organized to get to know the community who differs due to biological changes. Though they undergo painful hatred, inequality and fun of others, they are blooming as scholars, teachers, officers and artists like Varsha. From her session, she conveyed that they don't expect anything from us except understanding them well.

24.10.2020 : Introduction to Ayothidasar



At the launch of the book "Ayothi Dasar – Parpanar muthal Parayar varai" written by Prof. Dharmarajan, personalities like Jayamohan and Samas Su. Venkatesan spoke about Ayothidasar from their understandings. In his acceptance speech, Prof. Dharmarajan said, " When we encounter Original thinkers like Ayothidasar emerging from the dark cave of history, we should explore the opportunities for learning and gaining without being nervous. We should avoid labeling and getting into the research of whether he is good or bad. The wave of ceremony captured us as well.

We bought the book and started reading immediately. The book continued to be exchanged. Immediately, five people finished reading. Criticisms and discussions about the book flooded in the Facebook that month.

For the first time, many young people has known the name Ayothi Dasar on that day. Here we have planned this again to establish a comprehensive understanding of Ayothidasar. Mrs. Shanthi Nakkeeran talked about the pioneer thinker.

Mr. Shanthi Nakkeeran has worked as a teacher for children in Coimbatore, Sulur and surrounding areas through the Thalai Tamil School. She has a family background and operates on the principle of alternative education Tamil nationalism.

In the post-marriage period she studied MA Politics in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. During her studies she was busy organizing Delhi Tamil Reader Circle activities at the house where she lived.

She is currently submitting her doctoral research at the Gokhale Institute of Political and Economic Studies, Pune on discrimination against girls and the declining male-female ratio.

She is great at learning, reading, and sharing and continues to work on knowledge platforms.

Our professors Dharmarajan and Aribapu made this event possible.

Shanthi Mam's intro and narration about the chronicles were spontaneous that led us to explore Ayothidasar. From her session, we could spot more about him. A strong proponent of Buddhism, and a social reformer voiced for oppressed Tamil people through his "Thamizhan" magazine.

He was a forerunner of many things including anti-Hindi imposition, anti-casteism about what we are talking today. He rediscovered Tamil Buddhist practices and argued from Buddhist perspective about various rituals and celebration like Karthigai deepam, Diwali, etc., A renowned siddha medical practitioner retrieved ancient Tamil Buddhism.

He strongly advocated that in the beginning the people were following Buddhism and attained the status of what we call them as Paraiyar was because of the tactics of pseudo-Brahmins. And their main aim was to distort the Buddhist morals.

Shanthi Mam highlighted that Periyar, Ambedkar and many inherited Ayothidhasar's ideologies.

With just a little familiarity about Ayothidhasar is understandable for oneself - he was constantly making a cultural critique and untying knots of language, caste and religion through his writings.

We could understand many facts from the dark side of the history and Ayothidasar as the only ray of light in it.

Why there is a need to learn about him for our young people?. Because no one else could have imagined the strength of oppressed. No one one else could have given voice for the Tamils. No one else could have prevented our language from being destroyed. No one else could have struggled against pseudo-Brahmins. When no one else talked about women's rights for education, property, job and re-marriage, and here, Ayothidhasar drafted it.

There is a lot to learn from Ayothidhasar's life. Shanthi Mam took us to surf a few meters in the vast ocean. This opportunity helped us to visualize the ancient Tamil Buddhism, and their peaceful life before the entry of pseudo-Brahmins.

What a thinker and social reformer is Ayothidhasar and why he has not been taken to common yet? Here, the power of authoritarian and dominant caste stop them to understand him. Days are not so far to read and celebrate him. Luckily, we got a chance through Prof. Dharmaraj sir.

We sincerely thank Shanthi Mam for her steady discourse about Ayothidhasar. We wish you Good luck, always!

p.s: It was refreshing to see our Prof. Dharmaraj Thamburaj sir on screen after a long break. Thanks a lot for your experiments on Ayothidhasar, Sir. Keep writing!

25.10.2020: My life and my poems



Before I could finish dialing the numbers on the phone and end up saying Karthik from Madurai, "Those who touch the light of the heart reach the path of the goal" Hello, Karthik, the sweet Tamil voice came to me.

Trincomalee poet Esther Nathaniel has recited the above verses by Kuku Sivaraj and Kalal Shankar written at the foothills of Javadu.

Whether the Tamil voices of Sri Lankan radio reach us through the air or not, we are going to hear the voice of the poet Esther through the telephone.

Poet Esther studied political science, sociology and journalism in college. She is currently working as an Urban Development Officer in Srilanka. She has published two poetry books.

Esther continues to write about politics, feminism, and upland (Plantation) life. The mountain, the fog, the boy wearing trousers carrying firewood. About this photo the poet writes about collecting firewood for the girls and boys in the hills to burn for the winter, claiming that I was wearing a skirt instead of trousers. She continues to write about the plight of upcountry (Malaiyagam) people and their desire to improve their livelihoods, writing in Facebook and magazines. She pays close attention to the political events in Tamil Nadu and India.

One of Gangaikondan's famous poems ends like this.

Dear mom, Stop saying those fantasy stories. tell the story you lived, tell your life.

Esther, who fought for her basic needs as an upcountry woman and lived upright as an educator, government servant, poet, public servant, is something to listen to her story. A story that possess inspiration.

"We all have our crosses to bear, and we all just do our best in life", words echoed in the phone call from the writer and poet Mrs. Esther Nathaniel to our young people in the " Meet and Talk" session of Madurai Seed on 25th.

An upcountry part of Srilanka where she belongs to and we call her "Daughter of Malaiyagam", a land of plantations and mountains.

Poet Esther read her two poems written about the agony of people being hired and suppressed in the tea and coffee plantations.

Major problems like unreachable higher education for deserving students, denial of land and rights, inequality in education, health disorders and poor medical facilities, malnutrition, low wage, unsecured life, old and substandard shelters, which she conveyed through her words left us frozen.



Although they are the Tamils brought and enslaved long time ago, they still face challenges to prove their identity and they are denied from having basic amenities.

They are still unnoticed by the government and the lives of the people are incomparably marginalized by the rest of the Srilanka,

No one has concern for their literacy, and poverty. But, her writings bring the people to limelight.

Education is the only way to have liberation, and she highlighted that seeing number of girls in Universities gives her hope. Poet shared that there are a lot of problems that we can pile up, but she pointed out that these circumstances will change one day for sure.

We could understand their life and struggle, their fading culture, threats in the plantation.

She called every girl volunteer "Thangachi" and shared about , her people, love for writing and herself.

She manifested her dream of having everything available to everyone, quality education and proximity to schools for her people.

We could visualize people's present state through writer Esther. This study we had is needed for our young people to understand a neighbor country , its politics, people, education, culture, issues and solutions.

26.10.2020 : New Education Policy 2020



Jaysree lives in Chennai, graduated in Biotechnology. She came to the work of social services with a conviction that she should not travel in the field Corporate in a narrow way, but to live a useful life for many.

It is easy to access her for any guidance. With self-confident speeches and educational guidance to countless young people she has inspired many. She is the one who believes that action alone brings all good results.

For a better social change, a balanced society must flourish. She always put her efforts and time to achieve this.

As Secretary of the Agaram Foundation and its primary volunteer, she has touched the lives of more children and young people from underprivileged backgrounds. Even if one of the simple families is educated, the town is enlightened by the educated person. Jaysree is doing a tremendous job of bringing actor Surya's action plans all over Tamil Nadu for the superior goal.

She is active and having impressive speaking skill to make a normal day as a life changing day.

"Don't give them what you know, give them what they need", Ms. Jayshree from Agaram foundation interacted with our young people on "NEP 2020".

When it comes for discussion, only drawbacks comes before thinking about if any chances for positive learning outcomes since NEP has no fundamentals good.

Jayshree Mam first elicited our points and questions about NEP. From what we know, she started introducing many terms and articles related to NEP. Her session helped us to approach NEP experientially rather intellectually.

She explained where it fails, how this generation will be affected, what can we do now, where can we talk about it, what is the necessity to stand against it. The whole session provided us thorough knowledge about different factors drafted in NEP like; The terms that alienate and intimidate students from poor families who do not have conceptual guidance about entrance exams, three language policy, school complex, multi disciplinary university college campus, etc.,

We see many children struggling to learn second language, then how much it is possible for a child to learn three languages. According to the policy, when academic subjects will be learnt in mother tongue, the private schools will introduce English to students earlier than them. And it will create a gap in a society.



Tamil Nadu has schemes for bringing children to enroll in schools by means of schools proximity to their residential area. But by bringing "school complex", NEP paves them ways for dropping out from schools.

NEP has missed to ensure inclusiveness for all genders, physically challenged, children with learning disabilities. There is no alternative solution for our problem in it.

NEP takes our next generation back to the era where KulaKalvi was followed. The vocational courses and multiple entry and exit level in higher education will isolate the future youth from education.

The policy is supposed to provide opportunities to educate everyone instead it exacerbates stagnation and suffering of children and parents from remote part.

The practical requirements were met in the present education policy that brought up many first-generation college students, created them into self-esteemed citizens but future pupils will face many challenges by new NEP

Jayshree Mam's voice echoed for vulnerable, rural and disadvantaged students who are losing educational opportunities because of NEP.

Through her field experiences and data collected, she interacted with all teacher volunteers. It was very informative to understand the draft which is going to be implemented.

Though we bring the discussion late, her session was helpful to get us involve in this NEP to think and act.

We sincerely thank JayaShree Mam for her inspiring words "Let's talk, let's face; change will happen. Till then, we do our best"

Children's Day: 12.11.2020



Monica, Nibashini and Ayesha suddenly came in front of everyone with colorful sticks in their hands and said we are going to dance. Wow, for what song? They started to sing loudly in the middle of the great shout and changed to a thin voice in shyness and sang two or three lines. We couldn't understand any word of the song. They started laughing and dancing, singing simultaneously. They got confused in one dance move, and synchronized again. The bustle in the crowd. We identified their song, it is about Madurai composed by Prof. Prabakar. The song was searched on the phone, and played in the speaker. All three angels have exhausted by dancing.

Games were held with balloons and colored balls. The competition to catch the strawberry tied in the thread is very lively. Thus, children's day was observed in a simple manner with dance and games. Instructions were given to celebrate Diwali safely, and they are advised to revise text books whenever possible in this school closure time.

"Childhood is our right, we will work together to get bright" is the motto of the Madurai Seed Children Federation. Children are inherently rich abilities. Madurai itself will still work to create even more possibilities.

Diwali Celebration: 11.11.2020



The Diwali celebrations are held annually with the participation of alumni of Madurai Seed. This year Diwali was celebrated very simply.

6th standard children Jaiganesh, Kamalesh and, our female teacher volunteers presented a wonderful dance show.

The event was attended by 72 children and 48 young people and a total of 120 people participated in the program.

The light of the lanterns, the incandescent lights, and the lively cheers of the children kept the place alive.

Mrs. Elavarasi Karthikbharati, Mrs. Mustaqeem Mansoor Ali, Mrs. Vinitha Manikandan, Mrs. Sukanya Muthupandi, Mrs. Vigneshwari Arunkumar attended and shared their wishes.

The simple arrangements, the enthusiasm of the children and the enthusiasm of the youth made the evening beautiful. Dinner was provided to all. Thanks to the Madurai Seed Management and former Madurai Seed students.

Vizhuthugal Alumni Meet 2020: 11.11.2020



The Alumni Reunion took place at 7 pm on 11.11.2020 at the Madurai Seed Vandugal Arangam. 19 people gave annual subscription, 18 people donated for the Deepavali celebration. The meeting was attended by 14 people. Some people came as family and made the event very special.

Totally the subscription and donation came around Rs.3161. Thanks to Madurai Seed for providing dinner, snack tea and t-shirt.

19 participants is a small number, but among 19, there is 1 PhD holder, 3 Engineers, 2 Lawyers, 2 Post Graduate Teachers, 2 entrepreneurs, 2 public servants, and private job goers.





Routine Classes in these months

10.00 – 12.00 AM	Library and Indoor Games
6.00 – 8.00 PM	Classes for 1st std to 12th std

We have started evening classes for all classes from 1st std to 12th std. The number children increased day by day. At the end of the month, we have reached around 110 children through many activities. We have conducted more extracurricular activities. Children enjoyed coming to the activities regularly since they have no school works. We encouraged them to study, read text books even they have no school. Volunteers have helped them in the evenings to finish all the lessons.



MARGAZHI UTSAV 2020-21

22 Days Annual Festival of Madurai Seed

16.12.2020 to 08.01.2021

As Madurai Seed becomes the major part of the lives of Children and Young People in Karumbalai, its annual festival is celebrated by them in the name of "Margazhi Utsav". This festival was held in Gandhi Museum and Karumbalai premises in different creative contexts like children carnival, theatre festival, art festival, etc in the previous years. Due to this pandemic, Children's play could not be produced in this year and not been able to conduct outside Karumbalai. At the same time, we conducted more activities indoors to refresh the little minds and young minds with various creative art and cultural forms.

A series of **22 events** for children, young people and for both conducted continuously from **16th December 2020 to 08.01.2021**. Each team was given a fun name like "Wow! Hurray! OMG! Awesome! Amazing! Same teams were given additional name with nature's five elements as "Earth, Water, Wind, Fire, and Space" These 5 teams with volunteers in each team have participated in various events for 22 days.



List of programs

S.No	Date	Event
1	16.12.2020	Children Films – Screening
2	17.12.2020	Story Telling
3	18.12.2020	Drawing & Colouring
4	19.12.2020	Cooking – 5
5	20.12.2020	Singing
6	21.12.2020	Online seminar – Empowering Self and others
7	23.12.2020	Online seminar – Practices towards empowerment
8	24.12.2020	Guest Speaker: Comrade Nanmaran
9	25.12.2020	Christmas Celebration
10	26.12.2020	Short film making and screening
11	27.12.2020	Rangoli Competition
12	28.12.2020	Art & Crafts
13	29.12.2020	Dancing
14	30.12.2020	Poetry Reading
15	31.12.2020	Indoor Games
16	01.01.2021	New Year Celebration
17	02.01.2021	Creative Writing
18	03.01.2021	Guest Performance: Folk Singer Bala
19	04.01.2021	Drama performance around Covid situation
20	06.01.2021	Science Experiments and Model making
21	07.01.2021	Park visit
22	08.01.2021	Valedictory Day



Day 1: 16.12.2020: **Rajan Memorial Touring Talkies**

This year's Margazhi festival began with a screening for children in the memory of Rajan, an alternate cinema activist and director of Yadartha Film Society who had visited, interacted and encouraged our children during many of our events.



Around 6 pm, the ticket counter was opened, children stood in long queue to get the ticket which was sold for just one rupee. Before the screening, a short video made by Jeeva paying tribute to Yadhartha Rajan was presented. Children and young people watched four fantastic movies on big screen with a short interval

enjoying popcorn, spicy mango slices, corn, and biscuits.

The movies screened were:

- The Red Balloon
- Every Child
- Flowers and Trees
- The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore



This environment gave them a theatre experience that immersed them in the movie world created for them. The movies were about childhood, environment, book reading, and values. All went home with good memories and learnings.

Day 2: 17.12.2020: "Let me tell a *kutti* story"



A carpet took our children to a magical world where they narrated stories, fables, fairy tales, and so on. Their thought and imagination flowed as words; their expression was fun and interesting to listen; their confidence won our heart when they stood in front of the mike on stage. The short stories from the little minds brought characters such as leaping white rabbit, disciples of Paramartha guru, cunning fox, deceived crow, united brothers, golden egg, greedy king, broken tooth, singing grandma, etc alive to us.



For all age groups from 4 years to 16 years, the stage was set and mike was on. It provided each one an opportunity to speak out without fear and nervousness. With lot preparations by reading story books and practice, they appeared on stage, narrated stories and left with big applause.

This story telling event helped to stimulate children's language skills, imagination, life values and book reading. They used time wisely to make their own or favourite story, collected interactive words to retell stories, and made it possible to convey what they had in their mind. Stories are the wings for children to fly above their little hut. In the voice of young ones, even they did small mistakes while telling stories, it added fun to travel along. Stories are not just for kids. It connects us all.

Day 3: 18.12.2020: “Let’s draw and color”

It took just a while for children to convert a white sheet into a jungle with animals, sky with a rainbow, plants with colourful flowers, pond with frog, a sparrow with balloons, dolphin flying above the sea, and many pleasant scenarios with a box of crayons.



For classes from 1 to 4, printed drawings were given to let the children paint with their favourite colours. They took an hour to choose drawing and use crayon suitably. Walking, spying and chatting around for crayons they coloured, compared and

focused on what they are loving to do.

For classes from 5 to 8, topics such as Forests, Rainy season, the sea, Rivers and mountains, villages, and few more were given on the spot to think and draw. Children's imagination came out as meaningful drawings in the end.



For classes above 9 to 12, topics like Autumn season, exhibition and few more related to the present COVID-19 situation were given on spot. Their creativity was expressed through paintings. Individually, they presented it in front of their

peers.

Day 4: 19.12.2020: "Little chefs"

In Madurai Seed camps and programs, we inculcate the habit of learning and working together. The responsibility we have towards the children is teaching them to be independent in doing everything

"Food Festival" conducted for Madurai Seed children and young people created a learning environment that taught them to try new foods, differentiate healthy and unhealthy foods, cleanliness, budgeting, exploring through tastes, sharing kitchen works, and putting team efforts.



Each team was given a recipe to cook. The safety instruction was read, with team leader in each, they collected ingredients, chopped/sliced/minced

vegetables, mixed masalas, checked rice and water proportion, added salt, cooked meat, arranged and decorated the dish with lemon and onion. The classrooms turned into a mini kitchen. Along the street, they cooked meat using logs of wood, interesting thing was everyone involved in cooking for their team.



Little chefs made barbeque chicken, grilled fish, scrambled egg rice, Ghee Pepper Rice, and Mutton bone soup. There is nothing special in cooking unless it is shared. Children had a big dinner together.

Day 5: 20.12.2020: "Super Singers"



Madurai Seed's "Super singers" gave a live performance on the 5th day of Margazhi Festival. 117 children and 25 young people sang a mix of children's songs, Ghana songs, rhymes, folk songs, songs about nature,

awareness songs about COVID-19, and from various categories in their alluring voice. Individual and groups songs were also performed. They have put a lot of efforts to express their talent.



Soon as they grabbed the mic, they become real singers, some performed without notes, some kids with empty notes pretending as singers, some boys wore appropriate attire for the song, some sang

their favourite songs from the heart, some girls danced while singing, and it shows how much they love to exhibit their talent without fear and hesitation.

Volunteers also participated with their songs and stole the show with their lovely performance for children.

Day 6: 22.12.2020: "Empowering Self"

Mr. Arul Dev, the founder of People First and author of the book "Into Great Depth of your Being" interacted with young people of Madurai Seed via Zoom. Arul Dev is from Chennai who works on wide-ranging platforms such as integrated education, self-improvement, empowerment of inner strength, in-depth training, intuition and discovery of innate potential. He proceeded the Zoom meet in a conversational way rather lecturing on the topic. Every volunteer was attentive in the session that helped them to dissect how to empower oneself and others.



Arul Dev began with questions for volunteers - how everyone was facing this strange pandemic break, and elicited how they deal with it, and admit themselves to this environment. Even the whole world is upside

down, he asked them to extract only positive things to empower themselves by learning new lessons from it. Without being idle in this long break, we can put our time and work to develop any skills that help us to move towards self-efficacy and progress - that is "empowering self".

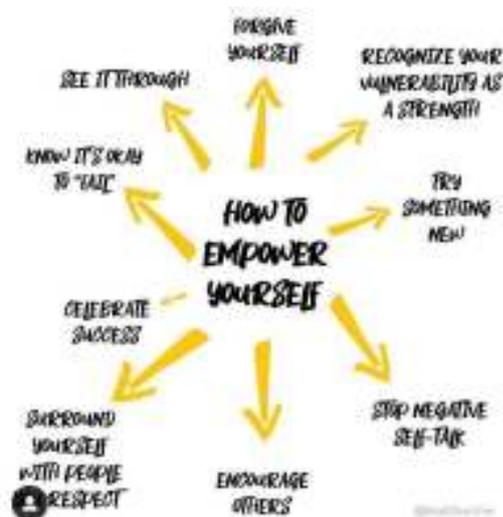
One of our girls explained him that her father spent quality time together because of bars closed during lockdown, but after it is opened, he became like before. To her, Arul sir suggested changing her father is not difficult if she could try to shower love/care on him - that is "empowering others". He pointed out that change is possible in such an environment and added if we could follow a good habit in this period, it will give us happiness and help ourselves and others.

Day 7: 23.12.2020: "Practices towards Self-empowerment"

An excellent teacher trainer from Chennai, Mrs. Arthi Srinivasan who is working for mentally challenged children visited Madurai Seed via Zoom on the 7th day of Margazhi Festival at Madurai Seed.



Her session step by step took us to learn more about personal empowerment. She emphasized on building oneself through the inner powers he/she has; By removing negative energy, we can face all circumstances. By grabbing the small positive and lucky moments that comes our way surprisingly. By remembering all good things happening to us every day. By thanking with gratitude what we have got in our life. By practicing good habits regularly for soul empowerment. By starting to feel our inner strengths and motives to achieve it.



In this period when we feel insecure without jobs and lack of contact with people outside, her session strengthened us to be confident and move towards a positive change. As an extension of the session, a breathing exercise was practiced by volunteers following her instruction.

Through her interactive online session, young people understood the concept of practicing oneself towards self-empowerment and the ways to implement it in daily life.

Day 8: 24.12.2020: Guest Lecture by Comrade Nanmaran



Respectful Comrade Nanmaran was a former member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from Madurai East Constituency. He was elected two times continuously and served 10 years as people's representee. He is known for his honesty and

simplicity in political life.

Our children and young people had great chance to interact with him. Young people learned a lot from his self-less service to the public. The speech continued through discussions and questions. He has written many children songs and it created a joyful atmosphere when he sang along with our children.

From his speech on Dr. Ambedkar, and Periyar we got to know the unknown contributions of them to the society. He highlighted their quotes and life incidents and it was real and inspiring for us to listen.



He advised children about importance of education and schooling and learning good habits. In a simple way, he answered for questions about contemporary issues, economics, agriculture, communism, and politics. He was honoured by

children and young people at the end of the session.

Day 9: 25.12.2020: "Christmas Frolic"

Hundred children celebrated the birth of one child. Dressed colourfully, children gathered in the hall wearing Santa hat and mask. In teams, they sang songs of Jesus and danced with full energy and joy. Songs, videos and verses for the festive day immersed all in celebration mood.

Children from each team presented about Bible verses, Christmas fun facts, traditions around the world.

Prasanna dressed as Santa visited nearby homes of children and gave them chocolates. All the way, Jingle bell echoed. Kids along with volunteer Jency made a wish and cut the cake, shared it with everyone.

Children in teams had plum and icing cake with crispy *murukku*. Together we had a wonderful celebration.



Day 10: 26.12.2020: “Camera...Rolling...Action”

"Story discussion, screenplay, casting, camera techniques, location for shots, script writing, dialogue writing, acting practice, costume designing, budgeting, scheduling, organizing, and finally executing"



Madurai Seed children and young people were busy in the past days in making short films. Every volunteer looked like a filmmaker; this great opportunity brought out many young directors to express their creativity. Five teams made one

short film each using mobile and handy cam. Most importantly, everyone in teams was part of making it. Volunteers are the directors; children are the actors. Some young people did role from backstage.



Along with volunteers, children learned software in editing, dubbing, and publishing the films. Five short films created by them were Each film impressed audience for its mixture of humour, plot, twists, and social messages. The films were short

and clear in telling the concept to the viewers. Always it gives happiness to children when their whole team effort and hard work came out fruitful and appreciated. Two international short films were played for them and in the end of the screening, participants came on stage and shared their favourite story, and clippings

Day 11: 27.12.2020: "Beautiful array of colours"

22nd Annual festival is made colourful with 22 designs of colourful *Kolams* of our girls. *Kolams* drawn by our volunteer girls and their moms made Karumbalai streets colourful. Even the residents were busy pumping water, they could not stop themselves looking at the finest art of our girls.

More creative with rice powder, they exhibited their love for using colours. Traditional *Kolams*, peacock drawings, Rangoli, Dot *Kolams* filled the roadside with array of bright colours.

Participants were given a bowl as gift along with Palm Jaggery Peanut Bar. 11th day of Margazhi festival brought parents and children together to celebrate at Madurai Seed



Day 12: 28.12.2020: "Craft Spot"

22 adorable crafts made by children and young people are decorating the walls and ceilings of Madurai Seed.



With five children above 12 years in each team, young people were given video guidance to make home decors like wall hangings, wind chimes. Using construction paper, glue, jute, ice sticks, coconut shell, woollen thread, twine, beads, newspaper,

cardboard, bangles, and many waste materials came out as beautiful decors.

In two hours, they experimented with different techniques in making crafts in fun and interesting way. Kavinesan from class 1 tried to learn cutting and pasting colour papers. Selva from class 2 involved in painting the coconut shell with black paint, Yazhini from class 4 observed making a stitching pattern and finally she made it. And like them, many children explored the art of creating with full concentration.



Madurai Seed provides a learning space in all activities. Children find it fascinating and so they continue taking part in it to learn something new beyond books. With the team members, holding the craft on hands, the smile they carried showed how much they are proud

and happy in projecting their own art.

Day 13: 29.12.2020: "Happy feet"



Children loves dancing and when they are taught, they express rhythmically to the music, synchronizing with movements, learning various dance steps.

Teams practiced dance sequences with volunteers for three days and performed it on the 13th day of Margazhi Festival of Madurai Seed. With full vibrant energy, they shook the hall continuously for an hour.



A day to be cherished; a woman to be celebrated;

One of the main reasons for this happiness at Madurai Seed is our beloved Laura amma. Her birthday on this same day was happily celebrated by kids with cake, dance and music together. We all wished her a long and healthy life.

14th day: 30.12.2020: "Poetry Reading"

Collection of poems from Senthamizh Library engaged young people in reading, it allowed them to understand and analyze independently. Everyone came on stage and read aloud their favorite classic, inspirational and contemporary poems in right tone, rhyme, pause, pronunciation and conveyed what the poems talk about. Participants felt confident and motivated towards reciting poems of popular Tamil poets like Kalapria, Kalyanji, Abdul Rahman, Mu. Metha, Vairamuthu, Meera, Manushyaputran, Meenakshi, Gnanakoothan, Muthurasakumar, and many.

Reciting poems encouraged them to enhance the taste of poetry language and develop a strong bond with literature. Poems well recited by Prof. Prabahar, Mr. Prabhakaran Seravanji were screened for young people.

Children below 15 years listened to poems curiously, and expressed how they enjoyed and loved the verses in it.



15th Day: 31.12.2020: "Around the clock"



Children from class 5 to 8 were given a collage activity to create using woolen. After they finish it, they exhibited it to others to view. The collage created was handed over to them for presenting it to their parents on New Year day. Children from class 1 to

4 were in utmost joy playing games blindfolded. They were surprised with chocolates and balloons.



Young people from class 9 to 12 with volunteers engaged in playing "Asude", a board game created by Mr. Abdul Rahman. The game taught them how to think and deal with the crises we face in the society. In groups, they played following his

guidelines helped them to refresh minds and get diverted from mobile games. Also, discussion and quizzes broadened their knowledge on sports.

Then, a small talk about the ups and downs we came across the year plus songs frozen the environment on this New year's eve. After dinner, we bade bye to 2020 and started counting down for the clock to ring at 12. We together welcomed 2021 exchanging greets, cake and hugs.

16th Day: 01.01.2021: "Hello 2021..."



The celebration at Madurai Seed was begun on Jan 1st with prayers of children and young people. The fresh start gathered everyone join hands with new hopes. After celebrations, it was time to listen to poems of a girl child

on welcoming New Year in her beautiful voice. Then, an interview of child Ananya, a Sri Lankan, about her poems and love for language was played.

Later, they all viewed about children who made significant contribution to the work of improving this world. They listened, read and heard about "Children 2020", in that regard, from Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg to Tiruvannamalai teen Vinisha Umashankar. They came to know lot information about children below 17 years as environmentalist, inventors, app developers, and international award winners. It was totally motivating our MS people to think about achieving something in this year.

Finally, children in pairs role played; one as achiever/inventor in a specific field, they took role as First woman mayor, Covid vaccine inventor, young photographer, and scientist; and other one as interviewer; they had to question them about their invention and findings. They put efforts and lot preparation on how to interview, how to ask series of questions before coming up on stage. From this activity, we could see a real life scenario which will happen one day.

Two videos about New Year celebration in Newzealand and London were screened. It was delighting to watch the fireworks and laser lights together. New Year started well.

17th Day: 02.01.2021: "Iyal - Creative writing"



It enabled children and young people to envisage themselves as writers. With papers and pen, they unlocked creativity and attempted to put imagination into words. They explored writing prompts on favorite

season/place, the dreams they had, favorite toy that lost, school memories, friendship, and few more about Covid period. Thoughtfully, they reflected from everyday life events and conveyed it through their writings.

As schools remain closed, this activity on the 17th day of Margazhi festival on 02.01.21, at Madurai Seed provided everyone a chance to recover their skills in writing. Happier the children while sharing what they have in their finger tip.

The hall was quiet with children and young people thinking and capturing vocabulary from their memory needed for the topic. A collection of stories was ready at the end of the activity which will be published in the children's magazine of Madurai Seed.



18th Day: 03.01.2021: "Sing on"



Margazhi is the season for songs; Madhichiyam Bala, a play-back singer and lyricist visited MS and cheered up the children and young people through his songs. First, he spoke to them about developing innate skills, learning by understanding,

having a passion for something to achieve. Then, he shared about his life from student hood as an average student to at present as a famous singer in film industry. He has his master degree in folklore and holds an honorary doctorate and also a policeman now; hence meeting him was a great excitement for our young people. From an ordinary family background, he has come up in his life as a celebrity singer and it was inspiring for our young people. He asked every child to develop a skill and love for art apart from studies.



He sang songs on this 18th day of Margazhi festival to the cheery crowd in the narrow lane of Karumbalai. Along with parents, children enjoyed singing folk songs, devotional, and social awareness songs with him. This live show hosted by MS connected

everyone. Finally, MS children Yazhini and Divakar rocked the show with their singing. It was a musical evening with singer Bala and his team! Madurai Seed honored them for their wonderful songs to the public.

19th Day: 04.01.2021: "Drama Xpress"

Drama is a tool for children to understand the world around them. It always inspires them and builds self-confidence. Every year, Madurai seed children produces two plays, as it could not happen this year due to Covid situation, they have tried to create short plays in this Margazhi festival on 04.01.21



On corona epidemic, five teams enacted stories regarding "Go Corona- superstitious fight", "What if God and corona virus meet", "Online class - funny moments", , "quarantine times" and an awareness play on "silent spreaders"

Thought provoking scenes, humorous dialogues were put up as parodies and lessons about the challenges during pandemic and the way we faced it. For some it was the first time performing on stage, every child and young people got into that character as a doctor, nurse, police, old woman, and politician.

Each plays directly imitated and portrayed lock down time life and curfew restrictions of the government. Also, it reflected on how much we trampled and disrespected the safety measures like wearing masks, washing hands and being at home in the beginning of Covid times.

The characters came on the play made us to remember and thank scavengers, doctors, social workers, police and nurses.

In their own, each team put efforts to prepare for the drama with complete script and dialogues. On stage, no one was seen fearful to deliver the message their play intended to.

20th Day: 06.01.2021: "Eureka moments"



Young people and children involved curiously in making science projects on the 20th day of Margazhi festival. They made Automatic Sanitizer Dispenser using IR proximity sensor, DC water pump, 32 C transistor, 1K resistor, and connector. First

time, they used soldering iron for connecting components. When they showed their palm in front of the sensor, the small machine worked dispensing sanitizer and it was an eureka moment.



Under volunteers' supervision, children constructed working models such as water fountain, door bell, lungs and a non-working model of kidney.

Children below 8 years demonstrated basic science experiments in front of their

peers. Bhavana and Yogapriya came up with many facts about everyday science.

Children understood scientific principles and function of each model while making it. They presented it with explanation of parts and its working. It enhanced their interests to observe and learn from the inventions, tools, technology around them.

21st Day: 07.01.2021 "Fun at the park"

The indoor programs kept children busy and to refresh them, Madurai Seed took them to Eco Park on 07.1.21. Before going, they put on mask, kept social distance, packed pocket sanitizer and formed a line and led by team of volunteers to the park. After nearly 10 months break, Madurai Seed children and young people around 120 numbers had a fun time in the park.



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. 21st day of Margazhi festival was spent happily in the park.



22nd Day: 08.01.2021: Valedictory day:



The final day of Margazhi festival, children shared what new things they learnt from the activities held, what was their favourite one, what was difficult to do, and how it helped them to activate body and mind. Only because of volunteers' support, it was easy to bring back happy moments together. It was a productive and memorable Margazhi festival for all of us.

Some Highlights:

- Children and young people were so busy and active in these 22 days. The Covid 19 Situation, schools & colleges closure, lockdown has brought a dull mood. But these programs got everyone on track.
- There were programs for children, programs for young people, programs for public, and programs for all together. It brought everyone as a team and family.
- Around 120 children and 30 young people benefitted from the programs.
- The regular study sessions were initiated after the 22 days, they came to the centers with much energy and enthusiasm.
- Healthy snacks were provided for all in these 22 days.
- Guests and resource persons from outside also participated in some programs.
- This continuous event wouldn't be possible with the hard work of our volunteers. They showed much interest in organizing them.
- The sessions were helpful to empower their creative mind, emotional mind, in teams they shine with their individual talent and participation.

We thank all the children, young people, volunteers, sponsors, donors for their participation, appreciation, and support.

12.01.2021: National Youth Day



There is a powerful force unleashed when young people resolve to make a change". To honour and appreciate the great volunteering our young people render to Madurai Seed, just this one day is not enough. They are our children's master and

responsible teacher volunteers. They make all events meaningful by their full involvement. They pass positive energy to children by bringing joyful environment. A motivating force to other youth in Karumbalai. A role model team for present children.

14.01.2021: Pongal Celebration



Happiness overflowed at Madurai seed when rice, milk and jaggery overflowed from the pot during the Pongal festival celebrated on 14th.

Children came in colorful attires, while young people one by one assembled in traditional dhoti and

sarees. Songs about this harvesting season and scenario of standing tall sugarcane, underground vegetables, fruits on banana leaf added flavor to the sweet Pongal. On this auspicious day, a prayer and thanksgiving to the farmers and the nature were done with a chorus of "Pongalo Pongal". Two recipes cooked were served. It was a big feast to all of us in the forenoon. All festivals are celebrated at MS to teach children about the rich culture, and traditions behind it. It helps them to understand the structure of our society, value of sharing, and celebrating togetherness without showing any discrimination.

25.01.2021: Guidance



Our friends and supporters Murugesan & Viji couple have visited the Madurai Seed centres along with their family friends. Krishnaswamy & Seetha and their daughter Shruthi are very much enthused about Madurai Seed and its works. They continuously encouraged our services with their kind and

supportive words.

Shruthi who has finished Masters in Microbiology at Pondicherry University has given a short and engaging introduction to various study fields in biology, higher education, and vocational opportunities in Biology. It was such a great guidance for our adolescent children. She encouraged them to study further and achieve great heights in whatever field they are. She told about various fellowships and facilities given in universities for post graduate and research studies. Shruthi is aspiring for research and doctoral studies. Our best wishes to her.

Thanks to Muruges Anna and Viji Anni for their continuous support, Thanks to Mr.Krishnaswamy-Mrs.Seetha-And Ms.Shruthi and welcome to Madurai Seed family.

26.01.2021: Republic Day



Republic Day is a ceremony to commemorate the uniqueness, prosperity and commitment of our constitution carved on the basis of unity, solidarity, social justice and protection of individual dignity. Indian Republic Day was observed at Madurai Seed on 26.01.2021 around 8.00AM.

Madurai Seed Young People Federation (MSYF) leader S. SURYA 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

February & March 2021

Regular Classes & Other programs

Regular classes in these months:

6 – 8 pm	Classes for 1 st standard to 4 th
6 – 8 pm	Classes for 5 th standard to 8 th
6 - 8 pm	Classes for 9 th standard to 12 th
10 – 12 am	Library & Indoor games



10.02.2021: World Pulses Day:

The day was observed at Madurai Seed to recognize the importance of pulses and legumes for a healthy diet. Volunteer Vindhya talked about the health benefits of having pulses in our diet. Volunteer Viji made an rangoli in a chart paper out of pulses. Healthy porridge of mixed pulses and legumes was cooked by the volunteers and provided to the children and public. Children were encouraged to eat healthy snacks.



20.02.2021: Guidance

Saravanan, James, Ulcer, Rashou, Belchia a group of engineering graduates as well as socially committed young people who are preparing themselves for the UPSC exams visited Madurai Seed. They have sponsored stationaries for 10th, 11th, 12th std children in Madurai Seed and Sevalayam Hostel. They also talked about their educational background, UPSC exam preparation and their ambition. They also talked to the higher secondary students about their future college plans and courses.

21.02.2021: International Mother Language Day



This day was observed to talk about importance of mother language in the educational development of children. A quiz program with questions about Tamil language and literature was conducted. It was easy as well as moderately tough. Everyone knew some interesting facts

about Tamil language. Short story books were brought from the library and circulated among children. They read some stories and shared their favorite in groups.

22.02.2021: Felicitation



Chitra Balasubramaniyan, Media person has received Maja Kone Award for her social media activities which lights up young people on Gandhian principles. She has also authored a book on Gandhi's Dhandi Salt March in Tamil. She is a good friend of Madurai Seed. She has

visited Madurai Seed centers after the award program. She interacted with the children and volunteers. A small felicitation program was conducted to honor her.

"I met the Madurai SEED children at their place in Madurai yesterday. Big kids are volunteers. Small children are learners. From 4.30pm the children started arriving with their books. In a short time, the place has become like a beautiful tree with a bird's nest. Volunteer students at a nearby college also happily listened and taught the children's lessons. I spoke to a student named Bhavani. She said that she was coming here from age 3, and was now volunteering her and studying B.Com. I was very happy.

28.02.2021: National Science Day



Madurai Seed children and young people celebrated National science day to commemorate the invention of Raman effect by Sir. Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman on 28th Feb. On 26th,

students from 9th to 12th and teacher volunteers chose 50 basic experiments and started preparing for it. Experiment sheets and materials were provided to them and they came up with their team on 27th Feb to demonstrate.

Young explorers love doing practically rather lectures on science. They proved each experiment with proper explanations and illustrations. Every term related to their experiment was clearly understood by them which could be seen from their confidence level while they curiously experimenting it on stage.

From simple experiments, they could explain Archimedes principle, Bernoulli's principle, why ships float, how aeroplanes fly, how spray bottle works, Newton's third law applications, atmospheric pressure, refraction using prism, divergence, expansion of gases, acid base reactions, electrostatics, and few more in a simple and clear way.

Young scientists did two experiments each that showed their interests and love on Science. In the end of the session, they had a small discussion about Raman effect and Sir. C. V. Raman's contribution to this field.

Young People Day out: Sirumalai : 07.03.2021 & 28.03.2021

20 young people went to Sirumalai for refreshment in two groups on different days. They haven't travelled anywhere for the last one year due to Covid restrictions. So, it energized them at the end of the financial year. Surrounded by lustrous green trees and the small village settlement, they enjoyed playing, appreciating nature, and taking photographs. The forest filled their mind and heart with beautiful memories.

World Theatre Day: 27.03.2021

In Madurai Seed, we have produced children and young people plays, conducted theatre camps at least once in a year. But, we haven't conducted such camps due to Covid restrictions. During January 2021, they enacted small skits about Life and lockdown during Corona, prepared by themselves. We made use of the Theatre Day in March 2021 to think, talk, reflect on dramas. Children discussed short stories in groups and made small skits. They took a small time, used minimum materials and costumes, but brought up sincere outcomes. Once again, it was proven that Theatre and our children are coming out best as always.

World Poetry Day: 21.03.2021



Children and young people were encouraged to read and enjoy poems. Tamil poetry book collections from the library were brought to the event. Karthikbharathi introduced the books and poets, and their aesthetic and political background. He also added reading poetry is a very personal thing, they give

different interpretations to different people. They kindle different feelings to different persons. They are powerful texts. Then the books were circulated in groups, they have read some poems and chose the best that they've liked. Children and young people came forward and recited them.



Due to the second wave of covid, there was a sudden rise in covid cases in Tamilnadu and India overall. We have closed the regular evening classes for children towards the end of April first week. However, young people continued to come to centers in the evenings.

Plans for the next year 2021-2022:

- Audio-Visual-Online classroom setups has to be done in two education centers.
- Supplementary Nutrition Program will be useful for children, young people, and their families during this pandemic and lockdown period.
- All young people should get two doses of vaccination. Vaccination awareness should be given to the parents and public.
- Young people will be encouraged to discuss on specic topics as an online forum regularly.
- Children will be provided with worksheets for basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills development.
- English classes will be conducted online for young people.
- Entreprenorial training, teacher training, skill development activities will be given to young people.

Renovation of Vandugal Arangam



Vandugal Arangam is the class room for children aged 5 to 9 years. It is also used for gatherings, special activities, screenings, online classes and a multipurpose room for all people together. The room is donated to Madurai Seed by **Karthikbharathi** which is his inheritance part from his family. The building was built with the support of **Friends of Madurai Seed**, Switzerland. At some times, the hall is flooded with children and young people around 100 people. Since no classes are held due to lockdown time, we wanted to refurbish the centre with good facilities. Flooring and painting of the centre was 10 years old, there are repairs to be done. Also, we wanted to make the hall suitable for online classes, equip the hall with more technological items which becomes a trend of current education situation.

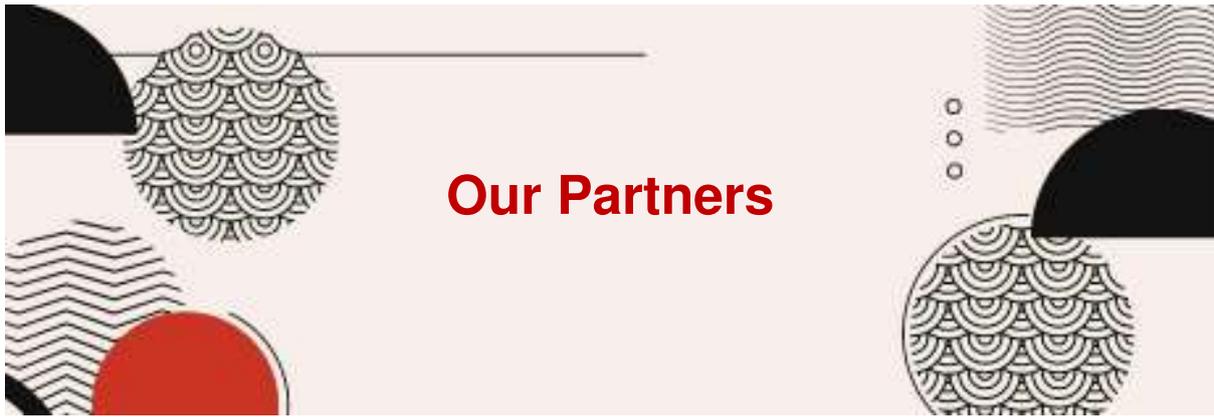


The renovation works started in the month of March 2021, the old floor was removed and alternatively used “Granite” as the floor. The walls, doors, windows got new colours. Tiles were fit in some parts of the wall and toilet. Electrical and plumbing works are done. All the repairs were done.

These much works took a long time to complete and required lots of physical work. Our volunteers were very helpful at that time.

USTER, the Swiss based textile engineering company sponsored the funds. Equipment for online classroom will be bought in the coming months. Lots of thanks to **Muruges Anna** for his enormous efforts.





Our Partners

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. Thanks to **Laura Villiger** and **John Potts**.



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. 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. She is a great motivator. She has been in contact with us always and interested a lot in our children and young people's progress especially girls. <https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=809>.





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

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Valeria Gemelli

Kantonsschule

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“Seeds for tomorrow”

Melliyal Annamalai

Keith Rossborough

Nick Bell

Katrin Blatter

Urs Wagner

Kasper Baechi

Lenail Veronique

Boukje Grashuis

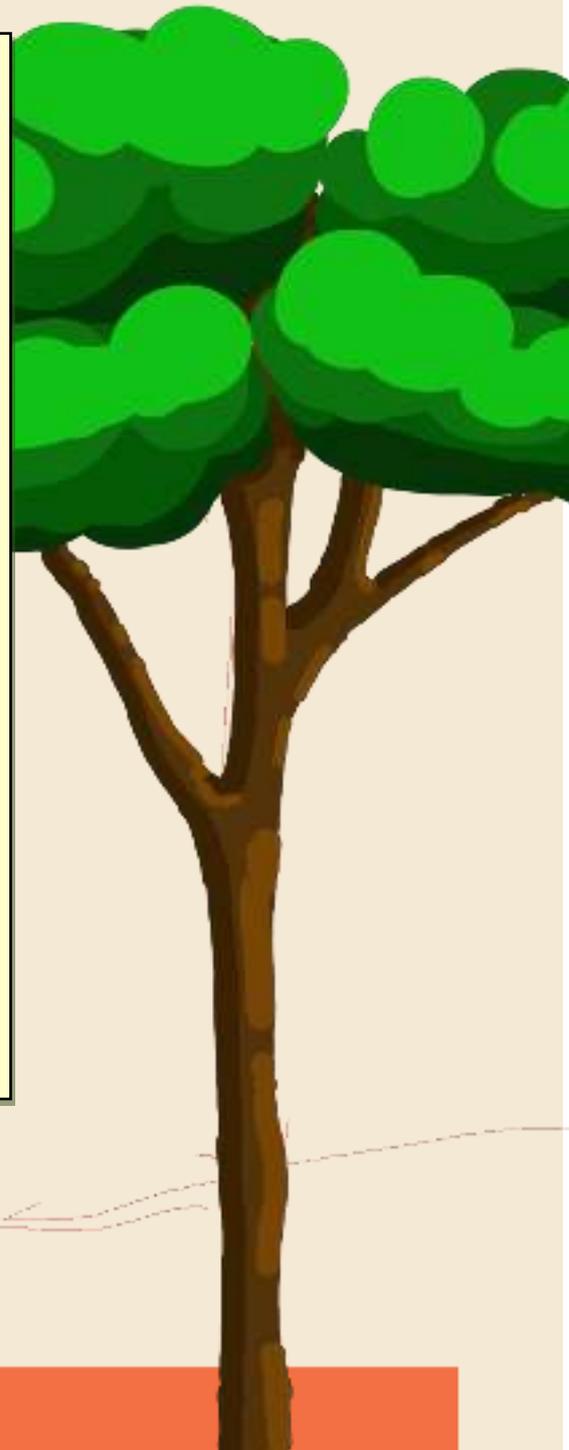
Ann Anderson

Prof.Prabakar

Viji Murugesan

Manikandan.O

Vinothkumar.R



OUR TEAM



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C. Arun Kumar
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Accountant

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 likeminded people, learning, working, and growing together.





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.

We encourage you to get involved with us. Get in touch, and always know what's going on. Together Everyone Achieves more.

Our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/maduraiseed1999/>

Our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/maduraiseed/>

Our Blog www.maduraiseed.blogspot.com

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Conclusion:

We have done things as much as possible in this strange situation. We are doing things to make young people and children use this time positively and to empower them with education and life skills. We plan to move forward with online classes and seminars from outside resource persons. We are also planning to conduct skill development classes towards jobs, entrepreneurship, communication skills, and self-motivation. We plan to conduct special classes to develop younger children's basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills which they completely lacked to learn because of school closure. Ultimately our aim is to provide our children and young people the needed guidance and moral support in this pandemic time. We are open in all days to keep children and young people motivated. We hope the new year will bring the regular life. We hope we all again will hit back with much energy. Thanks for the continued support and love. Thank you.





Children with their creation in the craft making workshop on 28.12.2020



MADURAI SEED

A Voluntary Organization To Support And Empower The Underprivileged

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