



What is your Aim?  
I want to become  
a Maths teacher, answered  
8 years old

**Bhavani**

She started as an elementary school student at MADURAI SEED, completed her under-graduation in Maths, and teacher training program now.



**MADURAI SEED**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023-2024**

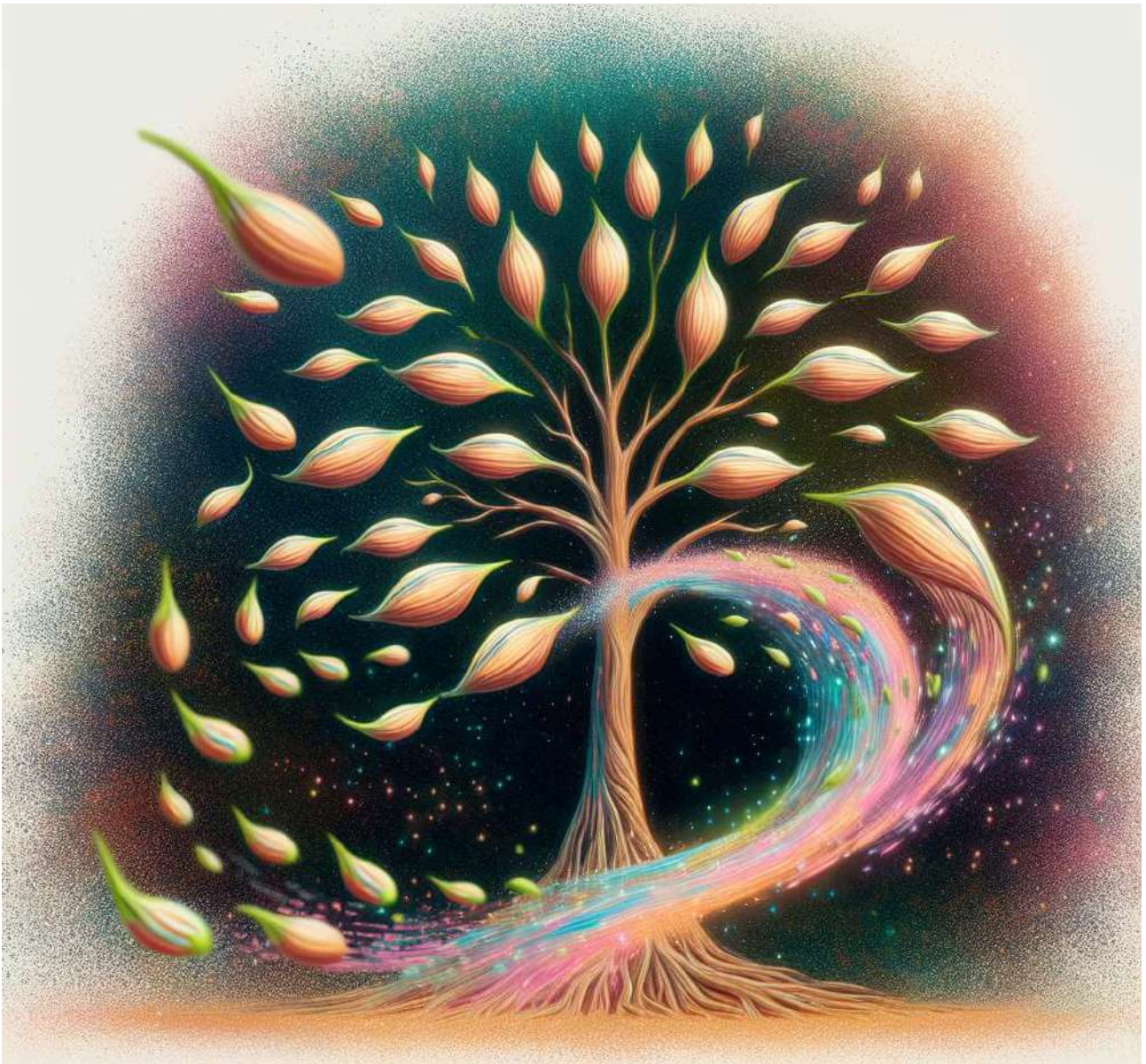


# PAVITHRA



Pavithra is completing her under-graduation in Commerce this year, she is determined to do masters degree. She has been coming to Madurai Seed since childhood.





**MADURAI SEED**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023-2024**

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





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**Play a lot ... Smile even more  
Keep the child in you alive always ...**





**Education is your power**



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*Oh, deep in my heart  
I know that I do believe  
We shall overcome*



## **From the Director's Desk**

Madurai Seed has grown into a successful organization, started in 1999, and reestablished in 2007, when looking back the journey is remarkable. This is the silver jubilee year, the 25<sup>th</sup> year is the time to stop, look back into our achievements, learn from the drawbacks, thank our friends and supporters, and cherish beautiful memories.

Like all years, we have done more programs which will make them to come to Seed regularly. We think having a bond is important; by coming regular they are able to receive education through evening classes and other events, get guidance and work on goals.

Going forward, we are more focused in our activities and outcomes. You will hear big change in our approach and operations in the coming years. Post-Covid and digital natives comes with the additional problems to solve.

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

31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

A.S.Karthikbharathi





**Dream it ! Do it !**





## 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







The power of education  
lies in its ability to  
transform lives



## Beneficiaries Overview

Karumbalai Children			
Arangam	Boys	Girls	Total
<b>Vandugal Arangam</b> (6 to 9 years old)	23	35	58
<b>Vergal Arangam</b> (10 to 13 years old)	50	35	85
<b>Kanavugal Arangam</b> (14 to 17 years old)	29	18	47
<b>Total Children in Karumbalai</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>190</b>
Boys Hostel			
<b>Hostel Children</b> (11 to 17 years old)	98	--	98
<b>Overall Children Beneficiaries</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>288</b>
Young People			
<b>Thedalgal Arangam</b> (18 to 23 years old)	<b>09</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>





## Holistic Education Centres

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



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

school, we encourage activity-based learning, and try to implement different methodologies for different needs.

Totally **190 ( 102 Boys + 88 Girls)** have benefited from the evening education centres in **Karumbalai**.

- 48% children are studying in government schools
- 37% children are studying in government aided schools
- 15% children are studying in private schools





## Working for Hostel Children

This hostel for boys aged from 10 to 17 years is run by Tamilnadu Harijan Seva Sangh, and has a long history and tradition. Currently, **98 students** are staying here and studying in a nearby government school. Madurai Seed works hand in hand with this hostel in the previous years also.

- We take volunteers, visitors, resource persons who come to Madurai Seed to the hostel also.
- Madurai Seed volunteers are helping them in organizing some events.
- Madurai Seed's Diwali and Margazhi Utsav Annual Cultural Festival were conducted in the hostel campus
- We provided exam materials, breakfast for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> students in April 2023 and March 2024.
- Eye camp conducted for the children and staff with the help of Dr.Preethika.
- Our volunteers visit the hostel often and converse with the students about their education and encouraging them.
- Madurai Seed children and young people took part and witnessed their annual day programs.





## Thedagal - Young People Education Centre



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

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

They are studying different subjects in different colleges. They are studying subjects like Tamil, English, Commerce, Maths, History, Teacher education, computer science, etc. There are **20 young people (09 boys + 11 girls)** in the year 2023-24.

Studies	Male	Female	Total
UG-First Year	03	04	07
UG-Second Year	01	01	02
UG-Third Year	00	03	03
Post-Graduation	01		01
Teacher Training (B.Ed)		02	02
Teacher Training (B.PEd)	01	01	02
Teacher Training (M.PEd)	01		01
Diploma	01		01
Alumni	01		01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>



## Stories of Hope

- 12 are the first persons from their families reaching college level education
- By supporting 20 young people, 17 families are benefiting.
- 8 are from scheduled communities, 12 are backward community.
- 11 are studying in government aided college courses.
- 6 are continuing education after under-graduation.
- 3 girls are finishing under graduation in 2024, they are planning to go for post-graduation.
- 1 boy is finishing Masters in Physical Education, he will become P.Ed teacher.
- 1 girl is finishing teacher training, she will become Maths teacher.





## Scholarships



“

A Scholarship is a vote of confidence  
in your abilities and future success.

”

## KFR CHILDREN FUND

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

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

Arangam	Boys	Girls	Total
Vandugal Arangam 6 to 9 years old	17	11	28
Vergal Arangam 10 to 13 years old	19	26	45
Kanavugal Arangam 14 to 17 years old	15	12	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>





## ASHA STIPEND FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

In the year 2023-2024, **young people** were benefited by this program.

**Rs.** (12 months) were distributed among young people according to their hours of work.

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



**In the heart of every young person  
lies the potential for greatness**

## FMS – COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



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

financial assistance to aspiring students who wants to become teachers.

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

Studies	Male	Female	Total
Under Graduation	04	08	12
Post Graduation	01	00	01
Teacher Training	02	02	04
Diploma	01	00	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>





## **LIBRARY**

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

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

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



**Reading makes your world bigger**

### Seminar: 28.07.2023



Volunteer Annie and Steve have given a presentation on Kalaingar Centenary Library for children from classes 7,8 & 9. They have planned to visit the recently opened Kalaingar Centenary Library in Madurai on Sunday. so, as a preparation children listened to

this presentation. Steve has collected pictures, videos, and information about the library and made a captivating PPT. Annie has given information about libraries in general, library etiquette, ways and means to use libraries, etc. Children found it very resourceful and asked questions.

### Visit: 30.07.2023



Children from classes 8,9 along with volunteers Annie and Steve visited the recently opened Kalaingar Centenary Library. They were eager to visit since they already listened a presentation from Annie and Steve on Friday. They were astonished by the infrastructure, facilities, and huge collection of books. The artefacts,

photographs, and historical representations about Madurai were kept aesthetically. They enjoyed visiting children's book section, science corner, and gallery area. We hope children will use the library more and more, since they are introduced with taste for books, and importance of library. Thanks Annie and Steve.

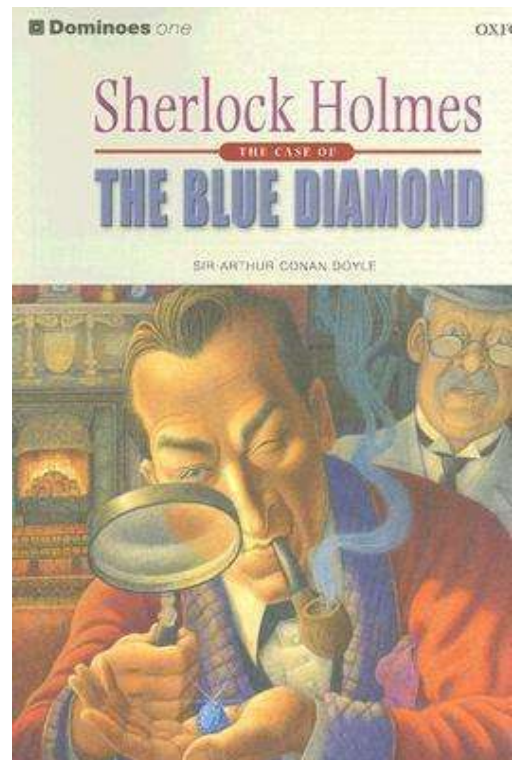
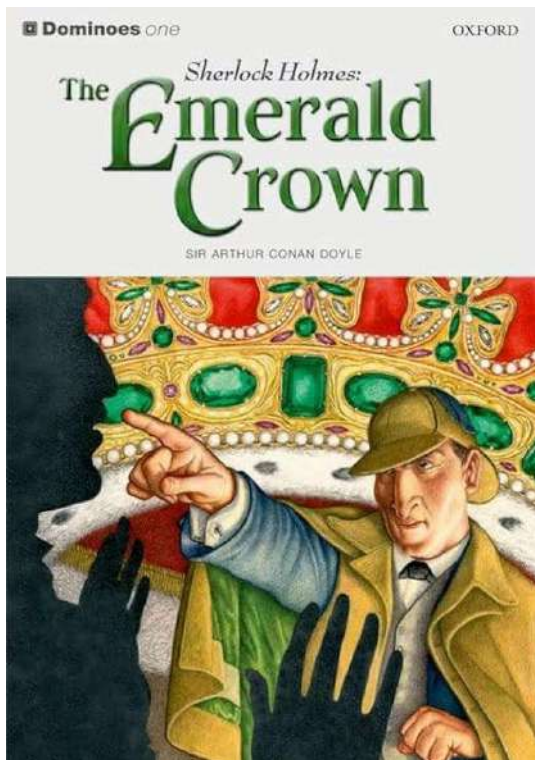


## Workshops

### Reading for Entertainment



Prof. John Potts from Zurich facilitated the workshop on "Reading for Entertainment" for Madurai Seed young people. For two workshops, two kinds of books were chosen. One on fiction and another on fact/history. Prior to preparatory lessons, students were split into two groups. In each group there was 7 pupils. Books to kindle their curiosity and interest in reading were selected. Sherlock Holmes' "The Blue Diamond" and "The Emerald Crown" were distributed to the students in each group. They started reading and finished it before workshop begins. In the preparatory lessons, John sir taught them general things related to books, reading and stories. They practiced on recognizing kinds of stories, and elements in it. Also, vocabulary and sentence framing using adjectives and adverbs related to reading were taught by John sir using flash cards. The workshop started with claps welcoming John sir to facilitate. For this workshop Sherlock Holmes books were selected. One group with "the Blue Diamond" and other with "The Emerald Crown". Readers were ready to discuss about their books.



Activity 1: John sir asked them to discuss in pairs about their book in their same group itself. For 15mins, they discussed in pair about the outline of story, characters, important words, setting, important episodes, twist and ending.

Activity 2: For this, two groups are mixed and in pairs they were instructed to ask and answer about their partner's book. They got to know about the other book with new characters, settings, twist and plots.

Activity 3: Again in pairs, readers had to find things in common and differences in two books. Readers found similarities and came up with points to highlight about their books.

Katrin, Urs and interns motivated readers to use English while discussing. Readers came forward to talk about Sherlock Holmes, and interesting episodes from the book. Teacher volunteers are now readers of Sherlock Holmes. New hobby is added as they got familiarized with books for entertainment. John sir suggested more books from the library to start reading.



## "Reading for Knowledge"



Prof. John Potts from Zurich facilitated the workshop for Madurai Seed young people. Second day of the workshop focused on books that expand our knowledge about the world and people lived years ago.

In the preparatory lessons, vocabularies and fixed expression to share thoughts and interesting facts about the stories were discussed by John sir.

In the workshop, two books "The wild west" and "The curse of the Mummy" were chosen. Before providing the books, John sir split readers in two groups. One group with book "The Wild West" and another "The curse of the Mummy" started exploring about cover page, brief summary at the back, and what kind of story it was. In pairs, they read chapter 1 from the book and discussed about Red Indians, cowboys, gunfights and wagon trails. John sir cleared readers' doubts on those vocabularies. More words from another book "The curse of the mummy" gave them thrilling experience while reading about Tutankhamun and secret behind his tomb. Both books provided them plenty of knowledge on people and historical facts. It was new to our readers to get such an exciting reading experience.

Readers learned a lot on finding the right books for them. They shared how resourceful the workshop sessions were that ignited spark on their reading habit.

16 young people took part in the workshop. Katrin, Urs and Interns supported them while using language to discuss. The whole workshop was carried out by John sir, from whom we never stop learning new things.

## THENKODU CHILDREN BANK

The children are provided with individual pass books to enter their saving. They can pay from minimum 1 rupee to whatever pocket money they get. The children get back their saving with 20% interest rate during the start of their school. The starting of the school year comes with some expenses, these savings assist them at a right time. Younger children are more curious to save than the older children. **In the year 2023-2024**

**Total children joined in the bank: 190**

**Total children paid Rs.100 subscription: 114**

**Total Amount Saved by Children: 36,465**

**Total Interest Given by Madurai Seed: 7115**

### Individual highest savings

S. No	Name	Class	Amount
1	Hasini	II	5857
2	Brintha	VII	4194
3	Yazhini	VII	2611



### Distribution Event 2023

Among 114 children, Hasini from class 2 has saved Rs. 5,857/ in her account. She came first in Savings! Her little hand hold the money bag with gifts from Madurai Seed.

The event was carried out by teacher volunteers with welcome speech by Pavithra, about Thenkoodu bank and its purpose

explained by Jeeva, children lists reading by Loganayaki. The money was distributed by MSCF leaders Vishwa and Keerthana. They were honored with shawls.

Interns Nithila and Muthulakshmi took part in the event and distributed the prize money for class 7 students. Children with their parents came and received the savings money.



## **SKILLS AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

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

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

## Special Days



**“We make each day special, informative, and enjoyable...”**



## 15/08/2023 | Independence Day



Madurai Seed was all set for the 77th Independence Day with beautiful decorations, and colourful presence of children and young people. One by one they arrived and pinned flag on shirts. Volunteer girls dressed in same colour and boy volunteers in white shirts gingered up the event. It was time to welcome our eminent chief guests Prof. Dr. E. Annamalai and his daughter Dr.Melliyal Annamalai from Asha

Boston with handmade flower bouquets.

Usually at Madurai Seed, the national flag is hoisted by Children Federation leader. In that way, Keerthana in 12th std , MSCF leader was welcomed and honoured with parade. She was introduced to the guests and invited to hoist the flag. With mindful of pride, Keerthana hoisted the flag. Salute and claps of students sowed peace and love in hearts.

Keerthana shared the Independence Day message, "On Every Independence Day, we and our country grow a year older. Like as we age, our thoughts, good deeds and character must grow higher. Religion, caste, and gender-based discrimination, are on the rise in the country. It is the children and youth of the future generations that we need to prepare against this. Let us take pledge and stand together." Along with Keerthana, students took pledge to contribute their best to the society they live in.



Our chief guest Dr. E. Annamalai spoke to the students, " I'm 80 years old and have seen a lot of progress and milestones in the country. You should also see better progress. Flag salutation is not flag worship, it is worship of our country's principles of freedom, peace, equality and secularism." His presence made the day more memorable and special.

Trustees Elavarasi, Mansur Ali, Mariammal teacher, Alumni forum incharge Sathish Babu and MSYF president Pavithra were honoured with shawl and bouquets. Breakfast was provided for children and guests. The morning went so fast, but not the prior preparation. The day before, children and young people had long rehearsals to parade, welcome guests, and organize without disturbing the public. Karthik provided a mind map on it and volunteers brought it up.

## 05.09.2023 | Teacher's Day Celebration



In Madurai Seed, Children shared about their favourite teaching volunteer. First year new teaching volunteers shared about their experience. Director Karthikbharathi advised all teaching volunteers to move on with children more closely and friendly, and keep on talking with them about school, family, and their

ambitions and reflect upon their interests and needs

## Children's Day Celebration: 14.11.2023



A series of informative and interesting event was planned to celebrate the joy of this day. Firstly, little masters were welcomed with Children's Day wishes and candies. Hands and feet hopscotch, paper plane launcher, and more fun games mused them in the entrance. They enjoyed playing again and again. The hall was decorated with happy emojis and balloons. The main program started by telling the importance of celebrating this day and the reasons behind it.



Volunteers gave PPT presentation on famous child prodigies belonging to different field. Children listened to their life stories and achievements. Few clips and videos of the

youngest achievers were screened for children. Children enjoyed happy childhood songs, then one of our volunteers Sathish taught them dance for English songs. Mesmerizing children's dance was followed by two short animated movies. Finally, everyone was given peanut candy bar, ended the evening very sweet.



## Republic Day: 26.01.2024



Pavithra, leader of Madurai Seed Young People Federation hoisted the national flag. She was invited with a beautiful rally and a flower bouquet. She addressed the participants about the history and importance of celebrating republic day. The preamble of the Indian Constitution was read

out aloud and repeated by the participants. Everyone was given sweets at the end.

## Women's Day: 08.03.2024



Madurai Seed celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm and fervour, emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment and equality. The main aim of the event was to recognize and honour

the contribution of women in various spheres of life. The girl volunteers and their mothers were welcomed with flowers. A brief note on inspiring stories behind this day was addressed by Jeeva. For their outstanding contribution to the children here, they were appreciated by Karthik. Pavithra talked about self – defense emphasizing women's safety and security.

**You can get everything in life you want  
if you will just help enough other people, get what they want...**

## CELEBRATIONS



**Remember to celebrate milestones,  
As you prepare for the road ahead.**



## Ramzan: 21.04.2023



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

religious festivals were celebrated included children from all religions they learn to respect and rejoice principles of every religion.

## Diwali: 12.11.2023



Diwali is so colourful and it does not end in a single day. At Madurai Seed, we have three different Diwali – one with Alumni, another one with Sevalayam boys and last one with Madurai Seed children. In all three celebrations, we have dance, music, dinner and fire crackers. On Diwali

day, every volunteer and children assembled in the morning in colourful attires. After a prayer, they shared sweets with Diwali wishes with each other. Children fired crackers and young people clicked photos flashing bright lights on their faces.

**“The true spirit of the festival lies in the joy through caring and sharing, and spreading happiness”**

## 23.12.2023| Christmas



The bells are jingling, the balls are rolling, the stars shine bright on the Christmas tree. Colourful children turned on festive mode. The celebration began when Santa thaatha and paati joined the rally from Seed office. This rally went on to friends' houses and distributed gifts. Carols all

along the way echoed happiness on Jesus birth.



Then, all assembled in Vandugal Arangam to see surprise and secret gifts of Madurai Seed for this Christmas. The first surprise gift is our beloved Mr. Sasikumar Anna's visit to Seed with his lovely family. He mingled with children and wished all a Merry Christmas. Along with them, he

cut the cake and shared it with full of joy and love. To have the real spirit of Christmas, a slice of cake is not enough! Sasi Anna sponsored dinner for all! Before dinner, there comes treat for eyes and ears! Children from all classes gave their best. Dance, songs, mime and drama in series received applause. We enjoyed non stop vibes in their performances. Children in class I to IV proved that angels can dance. Drama on stage by children from V to VIII conveyed a message that God likes the one who helps the needy. Class IX danced with full of energy and it boosted Santa to join. Class X to XII did a mime performance on the importance of believing in yourself. Volunteers narrated the birth of Jesus through a video presentation. Verses from Bible were read by Bhavani and her team. It is not just a celebration but also a show to prove their talents on stage.



## Pongal Festival: 15.01.2024



This year marks the 25th year of Madurai Seed. So, the plan is to have 25 Pongals. Due to lack of space to put 25 Pongals in Karumbalai streets, our Pongal Festival was held at the Gandhi Museum Campus. Madurai Seed has arranged same colour saree for all 25 parents, 25 woman students and volunteers, same colour shirt for 25 boy students and volunteers. We provided Pongal gift comprised of a small pot, small mud stove, sugarcane, cooking things, breakfast, and lunch. Parents, young people and children took their pots and other Pongal items, and arrived to Gandhi Museum as a procession.

A half-day celebration was spent with cooking, singing, playing, worshiping and playing. Our Trustee Teacher Mariammal participated in the function and inaugurated the Pongal festival. As one family, the Madurai Seed family, we all gathered at one place and helped each other, talked, laughed, cooked

Pongal and bonded. Stove, firewood, water, bunch of turmeric, Pongal items and sugarcane were distributed to 25 people separately. The 25 pongals were lit one after the other. The sound of the clan echoed throughout the campus.

Swiss friends Nick Bell, Maggi Lussi Bell and Rose Galey from Madurai Seed joined us in the Pongal celebration in Tamil traditional attire and enjoyed dancing with us. A large number of public and foreigners who came to visit Gandhi Museum participated in Madurai Seed Pongal celebration. Folk singer Murugan enthused the children by singing songs about nature, Pongal, Amma, Jallikattu and the Tamil language.



## Summer Camp



Going to camp with head full of dreams,  
Leaving camp with heart full of memories...



## VASANTHAM SUMMER CAMP 2023

“Life stories and memorable moments are being made at Summer Camp”

MADURAI SEED is where learning and fun always occur together. Summer Camp is conducted every year during May month as residential, day camps, and sometimes both. As residential camps, and tours during the camp children were taken to Chennai, Kanchipuram, Coorg hills, Tirunelveli Aathur, Kanyakumari, Kerala, Pondicherry, Kodaikanal, Sirumalai, Chinnamanoor, and Kambam to give them rich learning experiences.

Residential camps in CESCO, Sevaiyur CCD, Kambam, Sirumalai, Chennai Nandavanam, and day camps at Karumbalai centres, Karumbalai School, Karumbalai community hall and Gandhi Museum have given strong memories and intense learning contents.

### Vasantham Camp 2023

After Covid, this year’s Madurai Seed Vasantham camp was planned as residential for six days from 20.05.2023 to 26.05.2023 at Akkanapuram village, in the nearby district of Madurai. To beat this summer, hill areas are the right choice for camp.



There is a farm (Sathuragiri Vanam) under the foothills of western ghats run by Senthamizh Selvi, a social activist cum organic farmer. She has been given the responsibility of camp director. Exciting tempting *Sathuragiri vanam* welcomed us with its vast and beautiful nature. Input sessions were planned. Resource

persons were booked. Activities were scheduled. Food menu has its rich varieties like fish, chicken, egg, rice, and healthy breakfast varieties like millet upma, millet Pongal, and dinner recipes like chapati, dosa and idly.

## Vasantham Camp – First day – 20.05.2023



Children and young people assembled with backpacks to see the big world out there. In the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup>, we travelled by private bus and reached Akkanapuram in the evening. The bus ride led us to a feeling of utter joy, and celebration. The distant route has given us the exotic view of numerous villages, ponds, farms, agriculture lands, view of western

ghats, etc. With short tea break in a highway motel the journey continued till the evening. Finally, we reached the place under the dark sky and silent night in the village. Camp director Senthamil Selvi welcomed us with her team.



Children and young people liked the place so much. Dinner was ready but we were served cake first. It was the 75th birthday of Senthamil Selvi's mother Mrs. Dhanabakiam. We listened to her life story, greeted her and received her blessings. And we celebrated her birthday along with the very first day of camp. A sumptuous dinner – chicken gravy with

biryani was served for all.



Then, formal meeting with children about camp procedures, regulations, accommodation, water and toilet facilities, bed time and wake up time were announced. Three-quarters of children were completely new to the camp. All of them were divided into six teams with Tamil names – Kuthugalam, Kummalam, Aaravaram, Anandam, Kondattam, and

Urchagam synonyms of happiness.



## Vasantham Camp – Second day – 21.05.2023



From waking up to bed time at night, the second day brisked up everyone. Activities like campus cleaning, identity card making, time table preparation, responsibilities chart making went on in the early morning.

Everyone woke up around 5 am, the whole Sathuragiri hills was visible under the sun in the colour of round orange candy. The distant mountains, gardens, trees, vines and cattle, picturesque view of camp building in the middle of farm gave visual treat to the eyes.

After the morning tea, campers started to remove plastic and garbage from the premises. After shower, we had breakfast and assembled in the main hall for morning input sessions. Responsibilities and chores like cleaning, tea providing, food distribution, arrangement of drinking water, event management, stationary incharge were given to teams.



Mr. Pamayan, an organic farmer, writer, agricultural activist facilitated the input session. He discussed with children about seasons, organic farming, and importance of agriculture. He elaborated in western seasons and Tamil specific seasons. He explained about the Tamil concept of five

landscapes in the ecological view. He also conducted some games to cheer up the kids.



After lunch break, Our camp director Senthamil Selvi trained children some songs related to village life. With music and claps, the singing session ended with thanks note to the camp director. As three-quarters were new to Vasantham camp, we recalled all our old camp songs and gave it a life.



After two sessions, our volunteers Srinath, Bhuvaneshwari, and Mahalakshmi, physical education trainers gave coaching to all children to play volleyball, shuttle, and team sports.

Sunset. It was time to walk along the aisle of vines, fields, pond, cotton field, and banana plantation. Volunteer from

Sathuragiri , Mr. Nava Jeevan led us for the walk. It refreshed our mind, and body with cool breeze and peaceful surrounding. Then we returned to campsite as it was getting dark.





### Vasantham Camp – Third day – 22.05.2023



energetic and active to get into rest of the day.



was chosen and children were taken in two mini vans.



summer. Snacks, drinking water and brunch was provided in between water plays. Despite being a small water park area, it was nice to see children ran around, jump into water from slides, dancing in mini waterfall and swimming.

Then, we returned to the campsite and had fish fry and fish gravy for lunch. Water sports and tasty food made us nap for some time.



After evening tea time, there was a folk-dance training. Few of the children and young people have already learned “Oyilattam” – Dance of Beauty, from previous camps. Volunteers Satish, Jeeva, Bhavani, and Mahalakshmi pitched into teaching Oyilattam for children. In two groups, they practiced

many difficult steps within two hours in the evening. Till dinner time, camp ground echoed dance steps and beats. Dinner was provided to all and after a brief planning meeting for the next day, everyone went to sleep.

### **Vasantham Camp – fourth day - 23.05.2023**



In the morning brainstorming session, campers in circle shared their known and favourite Thirukkural (classic Tamil couplets). It was different and interesting to know the meaning and the reason they had liked it.

A morning walk like other days but it was planned to explore the garden and lands around. Nava Jeevan, a volunteer from Sathuragiri showed us the garden and introduced us different trees, plants and herbs. He also explained about drip irrigation



and solar panels. It was refreshing for the body and great learning for the mind to know about the organic farm land surrounded by guava, mango, jasmine, coconut, castor, chilli, sesame, wild flowers, wild plants, green vegetables, various grasses, expensive sandalwood and teak trees.





On their way children tasted fresh mangoes and guavas from the trees. Children collected leaves, vegetable and took pictures of some rare plants and collected information about it from Nava Jeevan. For them, it was the best field experience rather finding information from textbooks and

internet.



A day trip was scheduled for the day after a long walk. Lunch and snacks with backpacks were taken. Passing through villages, ponds, and lakes we approached a mountain. Our carts landed in a small stream. Wow! What a scenery! No words then. Only wow! Wow!! That we heard from our Seed campers.



A temple located narrated us different stories and festivals the locals celebrate. Before that, we went up and reached the house and garden of Sathuragiri camp volunteer Ms. Palaniyammal's cousin. Various plantations like mango, jackfruit, banana and papaya all along the way made us mouth-watering. Trees are

more in number compared to the number of people and it surprised our children.



Then, we went to a check-dam amidst the forest, overflowed with water. It was not just a bath; it was a chilling and daring bath which gave us an unforgettable experience. Young people dived into it, children tried diving with support of volunteers and the not so deep stream held us to enjoy the beautiful view around

us like we were daughters and sons of mother nature. We spent there for four hours and came down the hills to have lunch.

Thalimalayan temple, a peaceful place to get oneself lost in prayer or conversation to God. We thanked and honoured Palaniammal for showing us the stream and temple.



In the evening, we returned to the campsite Sathuragiri. Tea and snacks provided for all to stay active for the “Cultural Night”. There are six teams, each team has to present four shows and finally there were 24 shows to be staged for the Cultural Night. It was the last night, so we arranged “Camp Fire”. We sat around the campfire and shared favourite camp moments, happy times, teasing, jokes, and cooked up ghost stories. The performances began on stage. Teams showcased their talents in dance, songs, poems and storytelling. It was the right time to thank and honour everyone behind this successful residential camp of Madurai Seed. Senthamil Selvi, Dhanabakyam amma, Palaniammal, Muthumari, Navjeevan, and chefs who made delicious food were called upon the stage and honoured by our Volunteers. It was the last night in the campsite and we would sure miss the place. We sat talking for hours till midnight as we could not sleep thinking about missing the place that we spent on for five days.



### **Vasantham Camp – Fifth day – 24.05.2023**



The last day at the campsite and we got ready with our belongings.

To honour the Camp director and her team, volunteers and team leaders started making crowns, garlands and bouquets with jasmine, wild and colourful flowers and leaves. Team leaders honoured the camp directors

and everyone who made our accommodation and trips safe and cheerful. We thanked them with claps and few words about the pleasant camp experiences. We said a big thanks to the team and left by bus with wonderful lush green memories. Madurai under hot sun reminded us how much we missed the camp place, Sathuragiri.

The residential camp was over but not the whole camp. To end the fifth day well, all children and young people came to Vandugal Arangam in the evening. They planned for the valedictory day and presentations about the camp.

### **Vasantham Camp – Sixth day – 25.05.2023**



At 10 am, everyone who attended the residential camp gathered at Vandugal Arangam for the valedictory day. Teams were given topics about the camp to give presentations. They were asked to present using colourful drawings, cartoons, comic strips, and collage.

They came up very creative presentations. Everyone in the teams spoke about what they liked and learned new from the camp. They presented it as songs, stories of chain events, drama and using pictures. Few parents attended the event. Camp photos were screened.





At last, best team from the Camp – Anandam team was selected and they were awarded. Vasantham camp 2023 ended with mutton gravy, fried rice and idly served hot for the dinner. We say many thanks to our trustees, volunteer team, donors, especially Friends of Madurai Seed (FMS) for giving our

children and young people such opportunities to learn, to have fun, and explore new things. Thank you so much.



**Camp is a place to step outside your zone,  
and discover new things about yourself ...**



## CLUB ACTIVITIES



Not all classrooms have four walls...



## Chithirai Festival: 04.05.2023



During Chithirai festival, which is a grand festival in Madurai, thousands of people gather in a place. We also take part in this historically, culturally important tradition. For two days in Tallakulam area, and Anna Nagar area we have provided **water** and **buttermilk** to people. In these two events, nearly 3000 people benefited from that service. We

don't do this service as a religious activity, but seeing the occasion as a time for working, sharing, spending time together as a family.

## Election: 15.07.2023



Madurai Seed Children Federation (MSCF) and Young People Federation (MSYF) elections were conducted as an open forum election. Everyone gathered in Vandugal Arangam. Students from 12th std girls competed for MSCF President. Children from classes 12<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> competed for representatives. Volunteers proposed the names

of suitable candidates. Students voted them by raising hands for their favourite. Young People's leader was selected among college third year students.

MSCF president Keerthana (XII) said "Those who have problems do not hesitate to let me know, I will try to solve them together with the Director". MSYF leader Pavitra (III Year) thanked everyone, and told she will make the volunteers work more committed. Kanavugal Arangam Representative Asifa (XII) expressed her happiness for choosing her within a couple of months of her admission in Madurai Seed. Congratulations to the new MSCF and MSYF team.



## Zoom Conversations with Girl Children: 18 & 19 August 2023



9th, 10th, 11th, 12th class girl children and girl volunteers had productive discussions regarding problems of girls in their communities and schools via Zoom with Meliyal Akka. In order to solve a problem, one could be able to think, realize, identify, and describe the problems. They discussed about many problems some of them are listed below.

1. Growing girl children are not fed enough nutritious food. There is gender discrimination in food sharing at home. There believe unscientific beliefs regarding foods for girl children.
2. Toilet hygiene is very bad in schools and colleges. Toilet designs aren't girl's friendly.
3. There is no place for girls to play in the residential area. Boys are allowed to play in streets and go outside to playgrounds outside.
4. There are no exclusive organizations to speak about the rights and problems of women in our area.

They brainstormed upon these problems, and possible solutions together, Meliyal Akka gave her insights and made them articulate by asking questions.

## Mind Games: 03.09.2023



Volunteer Jeeva conducted online - word games, memory games, picture scramble puzzles. He has curated various games according to age groups. Volunteer Iswariya conducted "Paatuku Paatu" and "Find the song by BGM". Thanks Jeeva and Iswariya.

### Career Guidance Program: 25.09.2023



Kanavugal Arangam children from 9<sup>th</sup> std to 12<sup>th</sup> std along with volunteers participated in a career guidance program organized by “Kalvi Pettagam”. Students asked many questions about higher education and vocational interests.

### Food Festival: 29.09.2023



Children celebrated the joy of cooking, and sharing food together. They did magic with different recipes. Children from class 1 to class 12 become chefs to provide the best taste. They took individual roles in team to buy provision, cook, and organize stalls. With healthy competition between teams, they provide healthy recipes for the public to taste.



Each team was given money to buy provisions and they started preparing for food festival. At first, in teams they planned the expenses and profit with volunteers. Then they sketch out roles and responsibilities among themselves. In teams, they chopped vegetables, boiled, fried, stirred, mixed, poured, dipped and finally brought it for sale to the public along the Ea(s)t street of Karumbalai. In 25 stalls, 25 different

recipes were arranged on table in front of MS office and centers. The street looked colorful with children and their parents filling their plates. The price of each recipe ranged from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 and in two hours, all stalls sold.

Teams calculated the money invested and profit gained. The first three teams who won by making good profit were appreciated by the guests. Three guests were much impressed by the team work where in most of the teams, boys prepared food with no girls' help. They not only enjoy eating, now they enjoy cooking.



**01.10.2023 | Sports Meet:** Indoor and outdoor games were conducted. Children were divided into 6 groups. In Madurai Seed, 3 young people are studying physical education course. They volunteered as conductors and umpires. The games were conducted in our education centres, Gandhi Museum ground, and street. Outdoor games like Kho Kho, Kabadi, and Volleyball are conducted.

**31.10.2023: Anti-Bribing Awareness:** Madurai Seed children took part in the anti bribing awareness conducted for school children by Madurai IT circle. They participated in drawing competition, slogan writing competition, essay writing competition. They were gifted with certificates and stationaries.

**Screening: 18.11.2023:** Madurai Children's Film Society, Yadartha Film Movement,



Moota Teachers Movement, Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Artists Association were jointly organized the 17th Madurai International Children's Film Festival 2023 from 14th to 19th November. On, 18.11.2023 The fifth day screening was held at 6.30 pm at Madurai Seed Education Centre. Madurai Seed volunteers coordinated. About 70 children attended the screening event. International films Neighbours, Trees and Flowers, Father and

Daughter, A Little Match Girl were screened. After each screening, children and teacher volunteers had interesting conversations.

**3 days Theatre Training: 24,25,26 December**



Vadivel, theatre artist and trainer from Kaleidoscope trained children in theatre. He started with theatre games. Students are encouraged to tell a fairy tale. Then they discussed a final story for a play. Two groups were divided and given guidance to enact the same story. They discussed drawbacks and good things in both plays and improvised it into a single play. It was kind of an introductory

workshop to the children.

## VIZHUTHUGAL

### Alumni Meet 1 | 5.11.2023

Madurai Seed organized a get together on celebrating this festive occasion - A wonderful meet for the former volunteers of MS after many months. Alumni meet is organized every year during Diwali in which all the former volunteers meet. This year it is organized in such a beautiful and quiet place in rural part of Natham- Vathipati village.



Our guest Ms. Divya Bharathi, a documentary film maker was welcomed with flowers and honored by trustee. Alumni was honored

with shawls and flowers by the present young people of MS. Alumni started arriving the venue bringing happiness to the event. One by one, they lighted the handmade clay lamps. Alumni Ramki with his wife Kalaiselvi, Surya, Sathish, PremKumar, Mukesh, Vindhiya, Ziniya and Swetha gathered in the hall. Karthik addressed and welcomed them.

They were asked to share their memorable moments when they were at Seed as students and volunteers. They came forward and shared their favourite games and songs they played when they were as students at Seed, turning points when they were as volunteers at Seed. It was beautiful to hear that their memorable moments are filled with outings and residential camps of Seed. They pointed out that Madurai Seed and different stages of life are inseparable. The meet showed their transformation from a happy child into independent young adult in a better job with responsible and caring mind towards their family.

Ms. Divya was invited to talk about her life journey as an independent young woman. She with her strong nature created an impression in our minds that we should never give up whatever the circumstances are. She was very much impressed on hearing about Alumni's success stories. After photo session, lunch was provided for all.



## 07.11.2023 | Diwali Alumni Meet 2



Madurai Seed young people, and children celebrated Diwali with Sevalayam Hostel students. Also, alumni who missed the previous meet at Vathipati, came and celebrated along with the children. Alumni Muthuganesh, Vasanth, Mukesh, Vindhiya, Ziniya, Prem, Ramki, NagoorRaja, Swetha, and Sathish added life to the celebration. Their childhood, and whole student hood was spent in Madurai Seed and Karthik honored them with flower, and shawl feeling proud as they are in better jobs. An Orchestra group was specially invited for Sevalayam boys and Seed Children. A treat for the ears - Music and songs of the orchestra group. A treat for the eyes - dance of our girl volunteers and alumni. Alumni were invited to perform on stage and they sang their favourite songs. Children enjoyed the whole show clapping, singing, and dancing vibrantly. Alumni were thanked and sent off. Children shared Diwali wishes each other. Then children had dinner with alumni in the hostel. With sweets they departed towards Karumbalai.



## EYE CAMP

### 24.10.2023: Eye Camp



Dr. Preethika from Preethika Eye Care Hospital conducted an eye camp for Madurai Seed children and parents. 120 took part in the camp, from which 12 were identified and provided free glasses. After the camp, Dr. Taj, Dr. Kunal, Dr. Preethika all were gathered to address our children on the importance of playing outside, reducing screentime, eating healthy, etc.



### Eye Camp In Sevalayam: 18.11.2023:

Madurai Seed young people volunteered in the eye camp organized in Sevalayam hostel. Among 120 screening, only 2 had sight problems and provided with free glasses. Dr. Preethika and our director

Karthikbharathi jointly organized this program for hostel children.





## SILVER JUBILEE EVENTS

**Celebrating Women**

**25 days – 25 sessions –**

**25 women**

**25 Teams**

**Silver Jubilee Cup Cricket  
Tournament**

**Food Festival**

**25 food stalls**

**Pongal Celebration**

**25 Pongal**

**Margazhi Utsav**

**Annual Cultural Festival**

**Honouring Prof.Prabhakar –  
25 years of journey together**

**Institution Day**

**Honouring Theatre Activist**

**Vijaya Kumar – For his 25  
years of service in theatre arts**

**Science Day – Honouring  
Science Activist Sathya  
Manickam – For his 25 years  
of service in science  
awareness, street theatre, etc.**



## SILVER JUBILEE CRICKET TOURNAMENT

17.12.2023 | Cricket Tournament



Madurai Seed Silver Jubilee Cup – Cricket Tournament was conducted among 24 teams. Nearly 250 young people took part in it. Madurai Seed Alumni and young people took care of the time table, scoring sheet, umpiring, and overall management. Before the tournament there was a captain's meeting. Money reward and medals were awarded to winner, and runner team. Also disciplined team which paid attention to rules and umpires was received a participatory award. The contacts of all young people was formed as a WhatsApp group, news about job, courses, and important events are posted in it regularly.





## Margazhi Thiruvizha

Annual Cultural Festival: 30.12.2023



Children present their theatre skill on stage. But this year, Madurai seed wanted to give them new experience through a collaboration with Prof. Prabahar and Kaleidoscope team. In the direction of Prof. Prabahar, Molliare's "School for Wives" already

received lot of applause when staged at the American College. For children, young people and parents and public of Madurai, we presented it on the Margazhi Utsav at Sevalayam hostel on 30th Dec 2023.



Stage was set, guests and public were welcomed by our young people. They had a brief interaction with professors, scholars, and theatre artists. Also, a nice meet with new faces who came to know for the first time about MS activities for children. Madurai Seed has transformed many kids to confident young

minds through plays, and theatre shows. Karthik thanked one and everyone before the show begins. Many who introduced those theatre artists to MS were honored by trustees. Ari Ara Velan anna, and Prof. A.Ramasamy received our honor with smile on stage. A video about our journey with Prabahar sir was screened for the public. Clips of different theatre activities of MS children held during Margazhi Utsav and holiday camps were included in the video. The play begun. Five actors arrested hundreds of eyes for an hour. Prof. Prabahar brought Molliare's Arnolpe on stage. Mixture of strong and witty discourse in his performance received claps from audience. For the first time, we witnessed him from an another dimension which was great and amazing. Prof.Prabhakar was honoured for his 25 years of journey with Madurai Seed.

## Institution Day: 01.02.2024

It is a day to thank the countless volunteers, donors, supporters and friends in the long journey from 1999 to 2024. This year is even more special with Madurai Seed's 25th Silver Jubilee Celebration. Madurai Seed Trustees Mariammal, Elavarasi, Mansur, John Potts (President of Friends of Madurai Seed (FMS) Switzerland), Katrin & Urs (Members of FMS) were also present.

Due to time and space restrictions, our children and young people's own performances are not taking place. But the highlight of the festival was the solo play by children theatre activist Vijayakumar from Thanjavur. Earlier John Potts & Katrin jointly inaugurated the new nameboard of Madurai Seed.

Vijayakumar, who has been active in theatre for 25 years, mainly in the field of children's theatre, was felicitated and honoured. John Potts, Katrin & Urs congratulated the children and youth of Madurai Seed and delivered the Foundation Day message. A play that made children happy and adults into children, "Kurumpukkara Kuthirai" captured the hearts of all with Vijayakumar's skilful acting, music and humorous dialogues. Madurai Seed has sown positive changes in the lives of innumerable children and youth through education in its 25-year journey and we will enthusiastically continue the good deeds in the coming years too.





## 25 SEMINARS



## CELEBRATE WOMANHOOD 2023-2024

Date	Day	Theme	Guest Speaker	Topic
06.10.23	1	Read	Ms. Pavithra	Savithri Bhai Phule – the trailblazer in women’s education
07.10.23	2	Speak	Ms. Keerthana	Sathyavanimuthu – Real Pearl
08.10.23	3	Believe	Ms. Shalini	Hellen Keller – an unstoppable spirit
09.10.23	4	Achieve	Ms. Bhavani	Shining sports star on field
10.10.23	5	Appreciate	Mrs. Akila sankar	Smile. Play...Thrive
11.10.23	6	Inspire	Dr. Melliyal Annamalai	International Girl Child Day
12.10.23	7	Learn	Dr. Mary Megala Hm	Interviewing the nature lover
13.10.23	8	Honour	Mrs. Velammal	Elder’s word
14.10.23	9	Reflect	Mrs. Aarthi	Celebrate being a woman
15.10.23	10	Express	Ms. Vanadhi	Story of a forest fairy
16.10.23	11	Discover	Mrs. Elavarasi	Marie Curie – the mother of Modern Physics
17.10.23	12	Know	Tr. Ms. Mariammal	History of Supreme “Mother Mira”
18.10.23	13	Succeed	Dr. Senthamil selvi	As living history
19.10.23	14	Meet	Dr. Thamizhachi thangapandiyani	Books and readers
20.10.23	15	Listen	Dr. Revathi Subhulakshmi, Dr. Bharathi baskar	Books and readers
21.10.23	16	Guide	Dr. Suchitra	Why I became a journalist
22.10.23	17	Shine	Dr. Nartagi Natraj	Dance show
23.10.23	18	Value	Mrs. Pandiyammal	Footprints of traditional dance
24.10.23	19	Lead	Dr. Preethika	Eye camp
25.10.23	20	Bloom	Ms. Sowbarnika	Life is living what you want
26.10.23	21	Aspire	Ms. Chaitanya	My stories and poems
27.10.23	22	Act	Dr. Prema	Early Buddhist women personalities
28.10.23	23	Nurture	Ms. Suriya Preeti	Story carpet
29.10.23	24	Plan	Mrs. Vijayalakshmi	Towards the goal
30.10.23	25	Enjoy	Yazhini	Light Music



## Celebrate Womanhood 2023



*“She is a dreamer; she is a believer; she is a doer; she is an achiever”*. Madurai Seed honours “Her”, motivates “Her”, and celebrates “Her”. Madurai Seed dedicates this whole month with her inspiring stories, and achievements. To transform the present girls into bold and self-esteemed woman, it is necessary to talk about all women personalities who lead the society

in unique way. For 25 days, 25 women personalities were invited to interact with Madurai Seed children and young people. Those sessions instilled deep high thoughts about being a woman who participate and shine in equal-footing with men. Dasara/Navrathri festival in this month is for worshipping goddesses, but Madurai Seed marks this festival for celebrating and paying tribute to women from various fields. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October, guest speakers visited Seed either directly or zoom and gave input session for all children and young people.

### Day: 1

#### Theme: Read

**Guest speaker: Ms. Pavithra, MSYF President**

**Topic: Savitribai Phule – The trailblazer in women’s education.**



Pavithra, a teacher volunteer and MSYF leader was welcomed by children to begin the first day of “Celebrate womanhood”. She presented about the social reformer, poet, and first female teacher of India – Savitribai Phule. Pavithra read and shared about Savitri bhai Phule’s service to the society in abolishing discrimination and gender inequality,

and her social reform movement which led to set up schools for girls. Her session highlighted the contributions, quotes, life history, struggle of Savitribai Phule to promote women’s education. Also, she pointed out that breaking stereotypes, and being an inspiring woman is important for the present generation too.

## Day: 2

**Theme: Speak**

**Guest speaker: Keerthana, MSCF President**

**Topic: SathyavaniMuthu – A real pearl**



Karumbalai people revere great leaders by naming streets, for ex: nearby and parallel streets of Karumbalai are named as Sathyavani Muthu nagar, Indira nagar, and MGR nagar in 1970s. Young generation should remember their sacrifices and contribution. Keerthana, MSCF leader talked about the iconic political leader and powerful woman activist Sathyavani Muthu on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood”. As

Keerthana comes from Sathyavanimuthu nagar, she took this opportunity to deliver how much she gets motivated and inspired by her. For the past 20 years, many volunteering activities have been carried out in this street, students from this street have learned a lot through classes conducted by American college volunteers, a sewing center and fitness center functioned here which helped many to emerge out into better knowledgeable persons. Keerthana pointed out those before getting into topic. She presented about the leader Sathyavani Muthu, her struggle against injustice, caste discrimination, influential political power, and active role for Dalits’ education. Keerthana’s session focussed on the need of hundreds of Sathyavani Muthu even in today’s society.

## Day: 3

**Theme: Believe**

**Guest speaker: Shalini, IX Std**

**Topic: Hellen Keller – an unstoppable spirit**



A presentation about Hellen Keller was given by Shalini from IX std. Through PPT, she showed the life history of Hellen Keller. She highlighted quotes, life instances, and achievements of her. Lists of incredible facts, and success in education field of her were explained by Shalini. Students listened to Hellen Keller’s speech on screen and learned fascinating information about her. It was motivating for students to read her quotes. She inspired students with her resilience overcoming blindness and deafness. Shalini’s presentation was interesting.



**Day: 4****Theme: Achieve****Guest speaker: Bhavani****Topic: Shining Indian sports stars on field**

Bhavani, a teacher volunteer of Madurai Seed displayed and talked about women sports players of India. She explained about exercise, mental health, physical health benefits of sports, careers in sports and so on. Her session boosted students to learn more about different sports. Then, female sports stars of India who have challenged stereotypes and gender bias were introduced. Also, she talked about their achievements and how that empowers India. It

encourages students to participate in sports activities and make passion come true. Additionally, Bhavani shared the importance of sports for girls to stay relax, focus under stress, and achieve goal. She told in detail about women sports stars who become role models through their hard work and dedication.

**Day: 5****Theme: Appreciate****Guest speaker: Mrs. Akila Sankar****Topic: Smile...Play...Thrive**

Mrs. Akila Sankar, co-founder of WinVinaya Foundation, great storyteller, special educator and trainer from Bangalore. She is skilled in treating mentally challenged children through storytelling and gestures. Also, she has conducted life skills workshop for more than 1000 people. For the past 17 years, she has been imparting training and awareness program to youth, parents and children. And we took this

opportunity on “Celebrate womanhood” event to appreciate her for all the great works she has been doing for special children. As she is in Bangalore, we virtually connected via zoom to honour her. After addressing her, session began on “Smile..Play..Thrive”. Akila Mam with her magic voice narrated a short story that was full of fun and humour. Children enjoyed listening to her magic carpet story. She interacted with children stressing the importance of playing outdoors, staying away from mobile games. In the end, she was thanked, honoured and appreciated by children and young people

## Day: 6

**Theme: Adhere**

**Guest speaker: Dr. Melliya Annamalai**

**Topic: International Girl Child Day**



Dr. Melli akka visits Seed via zoom or directly whenever possible and interact with young people. On 6<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate womanhood”, she was welcomed and honoured via zoom by our Children. It turned into a special day as we celebrated International Girl Child Day with our beloved Melli akka. She inspires us in many ways. In the session, she spoke about the importance of this day for promoting girls’

education. Young people interacted with her.

## Day: 7

**Theme: Meet**

**Guest speaker: Dr, Mary Megala**

**Topic: Interviewing the nature-lover**



Dr. Mary Megala, the head mistress of government primary school in Thanjavur met children of Madurai Seed via zoom on 7<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood”. She writes with great passion even about little things that we have forgotten or about ordinary people we meet in our everyday life. Karthik gave a brief introduction about her to students and the

session was two-way interaction as students interviewed her. They got to know about her love for planting, growing trees, her active role in educating rural children. As a social activist she advocates only ‘action’ not just words. She advised students to love the nature, and plant trees as much as possible. Her session motivated volunteers to be passionate and work towards goal. Most of her talks revolved around trees, forest, and nature. She pointed out how in love with nature reduces anxiety, stress, and anger by boosting psychological well being of teenagers. Her session made students to seek connections with nature.



**Day: 8****Theme: Honour****Guest speaker: Grandam Velammal****Topic: Elder's word**

Aged above 80, the elderly woman of Karumbalai was invited to talk to present generation. Velammal paati (grandma) are loved by everyone here. Madurai Seed children spent time with listening her stories since childhood. She gave some tips to live happily and peacefully with examples from her own life instances happened. She was honoured by our children and young people

on 8<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate womanhood”, as she is one of the strong women personalities we admire.

**Day: 9****Theme: Reflect****Guest speaker: Mrs. Aarthi Srinivasan****Topic: Celebrate being a woman**

A good teacher has some basic qualities – intelligent, creative, enthusiastic, motivator, eager to learn, responsible, engaging, warm - for all these attributes Mrs. Aarthi Srinivasan Mam is one of the best examples. She provides teacher training, self-development training program for children through her organization called “Nandavanam” in Chennai. For Madurai Seed youth, she has

been conducting many workshops titled “Understanding Different Learning Abilities and Right Teaching Methods”, “Experiential Teaching”, “Chennai Theatre Camp and Production” and “Personality Developmental programs” since 2013. Aarthi mam is one of our youth's favourite teachers. Via zoom, they welcomed her on 9<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate womanhood” event of MS. She spoke to them on “Celebrate being a woman” in an interactive way. Questions from her about what makes a woman stronger, when and how a woman can be successful, how she can develop her self-esteem and empower herself – all these made young people think and answer. She highlighted being financially independent is importance for women and asked all girls to accomplish it through education. For our young people, it was delightful talking to her.

## Day: 10

**Theme: Express**

**Guest speaker: Ms. Vanadhi**

**Topic: Story of a forest fairy**



Like the poems of Ms. Vanadhi, her lifestyle too impresses everyone. Many of us want to live like her spending more time in a quiet place with trees around without the noise of mobile phone notifications. Apart from being a nature enthusiast, she is a special educator cum trainer. A doer who firmly believes that nature will restore special children by nature. She started and runs an education center called Vanapechi(Forest Fairy) Learning Center in Tenkasi, a place which is surrounded by mountains and waterfalls. She is from Tanjavur and completed teacher training at Trichy. Madurai Seed children welcomed her via Zoom. Vanadhi mam shared about the great work she is doing by choosing a village where there is no understanding and awareness about special children. She shared her love for reading, dancing, teaching those children. Young people got to know about special children, trainings to work for them, function of her training center “forest fairy” and so on. For young people’s question on autism, and behavioural problems, she replied clearly. She shared that her future plan is to continue working for them and with them. Also, she shared many stories of rescuing children from autistic symptoms and sending them to regular schools.

## Day: 11

**Theme: Discover**

**Guest speaker: Elavarasi**

**Topic: Marie Curie – the mother of Modern Physics**



The first woman who made significant contribution to modern science can not be forgotten on the “Celebrate Womanhood” event of Madurai Seed. Students should know how she had overcome obstacles in order to earn a doctorate. To inculcate scientific interests especially in girl students, her unique findings and works in Physics were discussed in the session. PPT presentation with video clips about

radio active elements, nuclear reactor, and nuclear fission/fusion. Marie Curie’s biography, her pioneering achievements and discoveries were explained. Through learning about her, students get interests in developing their scientific knowledge.



**Day: 12**

**Theme: Know**

**Guest speaker: Teacher Mariammal**

**Topic: History of the supreme “Mother Mira”**



Teacher Mariammal, trustee of Madurai Seed gives her full moral support to children and young people. In all occasions of Seed, her presence spreads positivity. From board exams to festival celebrations, she blesses us through her prayer offerings to Mother Mira. On 12<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood”, she was welcomed by students with flowers. After that, students listened to the history of divine and supreme

force Mother Mira. A short biography of Mira with her poems, quotes and her remarkable works for spiritual peace were shared by teacher Mariammal. She also talked about Auroville, and Aurobindo in her life. Overall, it was a spiritual plus enlightening evening for students.

**Day: 13**

**Theme: Succeed**

**Guest speaker: Ms. Senthamizh Selvi**



**Topic: As living history...**The guest on 13<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood” was Dr. SenthamilSelvi, a social activist and founder of Sadhuragiri campus near Madurai. She is a doctorate, social worker, theatre artist, and also works for women’s progress. Countless youths have been guided by her organization “Ilavattam. For Madurai Seed children and young people, she has provided workshops

and seminars on ‘Personality and skill development’. She was welcomed and honoured by students. She started session with warm up activity. Then, she talked about people as iconic leaders through their unbiased action, constant and consistent support, relation-ship building nature, selfless mind and compassion. She insisted on reading books about leaders of present times to change the society we live in. Also, she stressed on the importance of individual self-development programs. From her 25 years of experience in this social work field, she narrated many instances of people she came across. She advised everyone to learn good qualities from others around them to shine more. Session was interactive and useful.

**Day: 14, & 15**

**Theme: Meet, and listen**

**Topic: Books and Readers**



Madurai Seed children and young people were taken to Book fair at Tamukkam ground to meet three famous women personalities. Dr. Tamizhachi Thangapandian, a politician and writer came to Book fair on 19<sup>th</sup> October and young people grabbed that opportunity to meet and honour her on the event of “Celebrate Womanhood”.

Also, on 20<sup>th</sup> October, young people met popular speakers Mrs. Revathi Subbulakshmi and Mrs. Bharathi Baskar and honoured them. On both days, they listened to their speech on different topics. It was a brief meet but meeting those iconic women was great.

**Day: 16**

**Theme: Guide**

**Guest speaker: Dr. M. Susithra**

**Topic: Why I became a journalist.**



“You can make a difference with a career in journalism” – Dr. M. Susithra, the sub-editor of The Hindu newspaper started the live zoom meet with this quote. On 14<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood”, she interacted with young people on “Why I became a journalist”. was an interesting topic to discuss for young people to think about choosing dynamic career in journalism. Doctorate M. Suchitra has been working in The Hindu since 2014, has written more than hundred articles on education, socio-cultural politics, women’s progress, music, cinema, Ambedkar’s theoretical politics, about Periyar, etc.,

Editor-in-chief of “Vetrikodi” page appearing in The Hindu Tamil newspaper, which provides essential guidance, awareness, and detailed information to the students, teachers, and parents about new changes taking place in the educational environment. Susithra mam shared how and why she became a journalist. Also, she highlighted that with a increasing demand for journalist, one can enter this field with creative mind and dedication to contribute the society. She explained in detail about getting into journalism career which was very useful for the college goers and high school students.



**Day: 17**

**Theme: Shine**

**Topic: Dance show**



Another visit made by young people to meet the Padmashri Awardee Dr. Narthagi Nataraj on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October on account of “Celebrate Womanhood”. It was a beautiful show watching her dance for ancient Tamil poems. Young people talked to her about the show and presented a portrait photograph of her. She was very much delighted and, on the stage, she pointed out how

happy she was for the presence of Madurai Seed young people in her event.

**Day: 18**

**Theme: Value**

**Guest: Mrs. Pandiammal**

**Topic: Footprints of traditional dance**



Karagattam, a traditional dance performed by dancers with a karakam(pot) on the head. Mrs. Pandiammal, a professional Karagattam dancer visited Madurai Seed on 18<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood”. Dancers like her are the main reason for promoting and keeping the traditional dances alive. For that special reason, our young

people honoured her with shawl and gifts. Before that she shared about the number of performances she gave in various events since childhood. Though her daughter is also a good dancer, she has given her proper education. We could see her love for her dance through the way of her explaining its importance to present generation. It was a nice meet for everyone.

**Day: 19**

**Theme: Lead**

**Guest: Dr. Preethika**

**Event: Eye Camp**



Eye camp for children, parents, and young people was organized by Madurai Seed on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Dr. Preethika from Preethika Eye Hospital, a division of the most trusted Taj Hospital in KK Nagar, Madurai has specialized in Ophthalmology and took the initiative to provide free eye check-up for Karumbalai people. She has been practicing medicine for more

than 15 years. Totally 90 people got screening examined. After refractive error check, ten people were advised to check eye power and provided with free glasses sponsored by Dr. Preethika. For more than five children, eye drops were provided for their eye problems. This eye camp increased awareness to protect eyes from allergies, and detection of long and short sightedness. To parents, free eye camp provided knowledge on early cataract check for elders in family and they were advised to check eyes twice a year at least.



After eye camp, a brief meet with all children and parents was held. Our beloved Dr. Taj amma, her grandson Dr. Gunal and his wife Dr. Preethika spoke to children about the importance of eye protection. Dr. Preethika advised them to have less screen time, to spend more time in outdoor activities, to include vegetable, fruit and milk in everyday

diet. Also, she asked them to visit her hospital for free consultation as it is easily accessible from Karumbalai.

On this “Celebrate womanhood” event, Madurai Seed young people honoured her with shawl, and gifts. Dr. Preethika inspired every child for her utmost love and caring nature. She collaborated with Madurai Seed for two free eye camps and hundreds of people benefitted from that.



**Day: 20**

**Theme: Bloom**

**Guest speaker: Ms. Sowbarnika**

**Topic: Life is living what you want..**



Ms. Sowbarnika, a transgender visited Madurai Seed on 20<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood” event. She has a degree in Economics and lives with her family in Madurai. She knew a lot about Madurai Seed and so she accepted our invitation to talk to young people about her own life which she wanted to live. Transgender people are in the mainstream of society today and on this

special event, young people interacted with her. She shared happiness and pain behind being a successful transgender woman. Her story about challenges she faced during education, and parents’ support brought her closer to young people. She earns her own livelihood and lives independently. She won their hearts by being a strong woman whatever obstacle came on her path. Young people honoured her with shawl, books and gift for her perseverance.

**Day: 21**

**Theme: Aspire**

**Guest speaker: Ms. Chaitanya**

**Topic: My stories and poems**



Our trustee teacher Mariammal has introduced many friends to Seed children. One among them is Ms. Sukanya. Recent years she celebrates her daughter Ms. Chaitanya ‘s birthday with Seed children by providing dinner through teacher Mariammal. This time Chaitanya visited us on “Celebrate Womanhood” event on 21<sup>st</sup> day. She is pursuing her Masters in

Comparative English Literature at Central University, Pondicherry. She was welcomed and honoured by children. They talked to Chaitanya about her interest and hobbies. She is a budding writer, translator, youtuber, blogger, lyricist, language trainer specialized in English, Hindi and German. As a young creator, she provides online language training to schools and colleges. She read some of her translated poems and sang songs for children from her 7 collections of poems, short stories and 2 picture books. She celebrated her birthday with children after session. It was a treat to everyone and there is a lot to learn from her.

**Day: 22**

**Theme: Act**

**Guest speaker: Ms. Prema Revathi**

**Topic: Early Buddhist Women Personalities**



Ms. Prema Revathi, a writer, educator and theatre artist interacted with Madurai Seed young people via Zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> event of “Celebrate Womanhood”. She has been running an organization called Vanavil in Nagapattinam for tribal migrant people and their children since 2005. Also, she works for young people personality development. Through street

play and theatre plays, she is working for their progress. She interacted with children about theatre education and its importance on how it develops self-confidence and elicit inner potentials. As she loves Buddhism philosophy, children had the session on women personalities of early Buddhism period. Interesting facts of women during that period, their education and place in society were discussed. Young people listened to the stories of prominent women who were brought up by Buddhism. Session was interesting and informative for them.

**Day: 23**

**Theme: Nurture**

**Guest speaker: Mrs. Surya Preethi**

**Topic: Story Carpet**



Mrs. Surya Preethi runs “Turning Point” book shop nearby our location. She not only celebrates books but also readers. She has conducted annual literature festivals in the name of “Oru Oorla” for children and routine reading activities in her book shop. She spoke to the children about her school, college days spending most of the time in her father’s book shop. As a story teller and reader she

continues running her father’s bookshop On 23<sup>rd</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood” event, our children welcomed and honoured Mrs. Preethi. She told an interesting story which took children in a magic carpet to the story world. For half an hour, she captured their world with her art of storytelling. Later, she asked children to spend more time with books to develop creativity. Her session provided students the importance of books, reading and writing.



**Day: 24**

**Theme: Plan**

**Guest speaker: Mrs. Vijayalakshmi**

**Topic: Towards the goal**



“Ilakku”(goal) is an organization in Madurai which runs for girls education and their skill development. The director of this organization Mrs. Vijayalakshmi was the guest speaker on 24<sup>th</sup> event of “Celebrate Womanhood”. She is already a good friend and well wisher of Madurai Seed. Children welcomed and honoured her on this special occasion. She spoke to girl volunteers on developing skills to face challenges after college degree. Set of skill development programs were shown to engage them in learning computer programming, public speaking, content writing and so on. She invited the girls to visit her organization for ongoing personality development programs. Session was informative as girls got to know about innovative platforms after graduation.

**Day: 25**

**Theme: Enjoy**

**Guest: Yazhini**

**Event: Light Music**

25<sup>th</sup> day of “Celebrate Womanhood” and it was time to celebrate it with music and songs. Yazhini, a student from VII std hosted the event. Musicians Mr. Ramar, Mr. Kandasamy and Mr. Sivakumar were welcomed and honoured by children. Then the light music started on. Classical songs, Bharathiar songs and best of old songs were played by them. Children with their parents came and enjoyed the show. The 25 days events on the occasion of “Dusshera/Navarathri” ended well.



## Field Visits

### 02.10.2023/03.10.2023 | Thanjavore Visit



Exploring India's rich artistic heritage. Madurai Seed young people went on a trip to the timeless wonder – Thanjavore. We, 12th std students and volunteer girls of Madurai Seed had this first time visit to Thanjavore. On 2nd of Oct, we reached the land covered with paddy green field where we spent a night. The Sun

rise on 3rd of Oct showed us the enchanting beauty of the temple tower from the hotel view. We got ready with backpacks to experience the past in the present. Cholas' inspiring architecture could be seen from the entrance. The stones came alive in the magnificent Thanjavore temple and welcomed us telling the secrets behind building up such a grand marvel. It was interesting for our us to watch the statues meticulously carved. Like everyone, we too were baffling how this was built without any modern machines. Like the temple stand high, the Cholas in our mind.



We visited Art and Gallery, Sarasvati Mahal Library, Museum, Durbar hall in the Mahal palace. Also, the whole history about Cholas, Nayaks and Marathas were portrayed in the Audio-Visual delight tour in the palace. We got to learn more about their coins, collection of statues, weapons, musical instruments,

kitchen utensils, palm leaf scripts and things used in ancient times. They took the whole day spending at individual sections and then viewed the entire courtyard of Marathas. A day was not enough to discover the beauty of masterpieces in Thanjavore. The blend of architecture and art left a strong memory in our mind. During the photoshoot, the statues too joined us saying cheese to the Cholas! A proud historical visit for our MS team in this year.



## 12.01.2024 | Alagar Hills Trip



A picnic with friends is like a breath of fresh air for the soul. Kanavugal Arangam children and young people of Madurai Seed along with abroad friends Nick, Maggie, Rose went to Alagar temple and hiked the hill. They walked up and down, laughing, joking and talking past thick trees, small streams and lots of monkeys. A little temple worship, a little English speaking practice, a little mountain climbing, snack, a little bath gave the mind a great rest and enthusiasm on this day.

## New Year at Kollam: 01.01.2024



The very beginning of the year gave Madurai Seed young people a plenty of memories. A trip to Kollam in Kerala was organized by Madurai Seed to spend the New year's night. We reached Kollam on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> by train. On the way, it was a treat to the eyes amidst beautiful natural scenery. After refreshing, we went to the beach in the night with cakes, popcorn and candies. It was crowded, yet we found our spot to create memories.



On the New Year's Eve, we were at the Kollam beach, it was a new experience screaming happy new year at 12 in the midnight with the vast sky, sound of waves, crackers, and the mass of people. We again visited the beach in the morning, in the noon we visited backwater spot by boat. For many it was their first boat ride. Two days spent in Kerala, seeing places, and tasting different cuisines in the very start of the new year gave much rejuvenation for the whole year.

## Volunteering & Internships

Internship at Madurai Seed gives a lot of chances for interns to develop themselves for the future. Interns get to know about how an NGO function, impact of its contribution to the society. Also, it develops their communication, and teamwork skills. Usually, we have one or two interns at a time. Recent years, students from colleges approach us for internship.

### 10 Days Internship for Students from Thiagarajar College, Madurai

Like last year, 15 students from Thiagarajar College of Arts and Science came for Internship from 27<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2023. They are studying 2<sup>nd</sup> year B.A English. From the first day to till the last day of internship, Madurai Seed provided them various learning sessions on teaching, learning, life skill and personality development, social work and volunteering, data collection and analysis, and event management.

### 10 Sessions

Date	Sessions	Facilitator
27.05.23	NGO and its role in society	Karthik
	Self-Expression by interns	Karthik
	What is Internship?	Elavarasi
28.05.23	Field visit to the village Madapuram.	Interns
29.05.23	Sailing the ship called Internship	Prof. Dr. Ilango Natesan
30.05.23	SWOB – Know your Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Barriers	Ms. Senthamil Selvi, Social worker
31.05.23	Skill development training - Bike riding class and indoor game coaching to MS students	Interns
01.06.23	Personality development through theatre games	Mr. Vadivel, Theatre Artist
02.06.23	Field work, data collection Techniques though interviewing MS children	Arun Kumar
03.06.23	Data Analysis and Interpretation	Elavarasi
	Online resources for language development and literature studies	Prof. John Potts, Switzerland
04.06.23	Bring the world in your classroom	Mr. AriAraVelan,
05.06.23	Article reading and discussion	Written by Prof. Dharmaraj
	Screening interviews done on MS children	Interns
	Cook together, sharing food and memories	Interns
	Valedictory ceremony – cultural, certificate issued - Hosted by Alumni of Madurai Seed	Mr. Suresh Kumar and Mr. Manikandan, Chennai



## First Day: 27.05.2023



Karthik started the day with brief introduction about Seed and how his college and literature studies motivated him to work for. He highlighted how important it is to frame one's interest, skills and personality during college studies itself to choose right career path.

Followed by this, roles of functionaries working for an organization like MS was discussed. Every intern was given role as proprietor, accountant, website designer, photographer, coordinator, content writer, documenter, and so on to make them divide work among themselves. Hence their own organization has been started to understand clearly how an NGO functions effectively with everyone's



participation.



Morning sessions went on knowing about MS and noon session started to know about themselves through "Self-expression"- instead of expressing in words, and actions, interns drew their emotions and feelings on chart paper. From - what were they during childhood, to - how are they now as teens were expressed as a visual face art. Interns came forward with face art divided into four sections as per age

from 1 to 5, 6 to 10, 10 to 15 and 16 to 20. Colors on it reflected their happiness, sadness, success, failures, and love. It expressed their past and gave them an insight about their future. Last session of the day was about Internship, its importance and benefits, and skills to develop as an intern in Madurai Seed.

## Second Day: 28.05.2023



They went to a nearby village temple as a field visit. Topics related to the temple and village in the aspects of local believes, stories, commercial activities, landscape, transports were given to them. They talked to the local people and collected facts. The training was given in order to give them real field experience involving real communication with the public. They presented their views and data on the next day.

## Third Day: 29.05.2023



downfall - Achilles heel", and additionally, perspective on education, life and career.

"Sailing the ship called Internship" and the captain of the ship was Prof. N. Elango sir. Wherever the ship took us, the hours passed delightful. He discussed with interns what does a real internship give and take mutually. Every topic he touched was vast philosophically but he delivered it very sharp, crisp and easily understandable. "Know Thyself", "Control your mind" "An approach to self-control - The Ulysses Pact" "Overall strength with a weak point will lead to

downfall - Achilles heel", and additionally, perspective on education, life and career. His quote from various books, leaders was a genuine concern about youth, their self-discovery, solace from everyday issues, physical health and mental wellbeing. It looked like we were in literature classroom full of with poets, great writers and their characters from stories. It started learning about internship but ended knowing about oneself. For interns, there was so much to learn from Professor sir - his active engaging talk, and distinct verbal cues, spontaneous quotes and examples from books. Our sincere thanks to Prof. Elango sir.



## Fourth Day:



The whole day session was chaired by social activist Mrs. Senthamil Selvi. Karthik anna gave an introduction about her to all interns. Madurai Seed introduced Senthamil Selvi akka who is a field worker, folk artist, singer, and organic farmer.

Though the interns' study in Co-ed college, they have shyness, fear, and confusion to get along with opposite gender. The main focus of session was about gender equality in campus and work environments. Senthamil Selvi akka conducted games, debates and discussion to come out of unnecessary fear and misunderstandings about opposite gender. Interns learned to be practical, flexible and open as time went by. After each game, there was a discussion about it. It went through questions and answers on what was difficult and easy to follow, what strategies to be used to win in life, and mainly importance of having friendly and respectful relationship with each other was highlighted. Now only, they have come to know about their classmates through open discussions. A small change in better understanding about each other bridges the gap between them. In the

afternoon, fireless cooking relaxed their mind while working together. They prepared a healthy snack of banana, coconut, and jaggery. They shared works like washing and cleaning, slicing and grating.

After snack time, Senthamil akka also gave a brief introduction about on organic farming, harmonious lifestyle with nature and nutritional food habits. She was assisted by social work student Navajeevan. Interns honoured and thanked her for her valuable session on personality development of the youth.

### Fifth Day:



Not only learning, teaching is also part of internship. Each intern took role as swim coach, chess trainer, teacher, and so on. Interns trained students to learn swimming, chess, carrom, bike riding, etc., Students above 14 age were taught bike riding and students below 14 were given swimming training in nearby swimming pool and children from 6 to 8 were given indoor game training like chess, and carrom. For the first time, interns interacted with students about their childhood here in Karumbalai. Interns become trainers. Interns trained Madurai Seed children in chess, carrom, two-wheeler driving, swimming and few indoor games too. It was fun learning for both interns and children. Afternoon, interns

were reviewed by Karthik about their assigned responsibilities. Posters for every day sessions and activities were prepared and displayed. Interns shared their field experiences at Madapuram. Social work student Navjeevan attended sessions as an observer. Training and meeting was over by noon itself.

### Sixth Day:



Another day for interns to learn something new from internship at MS. The day was intended to improve concentration, co-operation, self-expression and problem solving. Theatre director and instructor Dr. Vadivel facilitated the session through theatre games. A detailed introduction about his journey with Madurai Seed was given by Karthikbharathi. Theatre games were based on improving observation skills, speed, composure, body flexibility,

postures, and understanding gestures. Games helped interns overcome fear, shyness, physical and vocal hesitancy. It was a very joyful learning for interns who were continuously drilled through activities like walking, jumping, running, singing, performing small acts. They physically expressed their emotions, and thoughts physically. They gained confidence and spontaneity in communicating and working with teams. Interns shared that the theatre games stirred up their childhood memories. Best exercise for body and mind that trained them to develop their personality. Interns thanked and shared how much they enjoyed playing such theatre games that provided them a new techniques and strategies to reflect on themselves.



## Seventh Day:



Intern students had theoretical and practical sessions today about "the meaning of data - uses of data - methods of data collection, visualization of data - data interpretation - data collection in NGO setting - looking at sample data and visualization - preparing a questionnaire - interviewing children and young people - making a video about the student"



Every one of the interns acted according to their designation for the past six days. Today, they had transformed the Vaandugal Arangam into Data collecting office and acted according to their designation. After the theoretical session about Data Analysis, every intern started to collect the data of Madurai SEED Students. For each intern, one student was

allotted by the Director. After the data analysing session, the interns were asked to create a video of skills and abilities of their allotted student. After completing the task, the session wined up with plans for the next day.

## Eighth Day:



The interns had a detailed explanation about Data Analysis. This session was facilitated by Mrs. Elavarasi along with the help of Mr. Arun. The interns learnt about data collection, variables, hypothesis in

connection with research. They have prepared tables, charts, and graphs. She conducted some warm up games for them. They had visited different Arangams of Madurai SEED - Vaandugal Arangam - Vergal Arangam - Arumbugal Arangam - Madurai SEED Program Office - Senthamizh Library - Thedalgam Arangam. After this, there was a discussion about what they had learnt. The last session was chaired by Mr. John Potts, who is the great supporter of Madurai SEED. The interns had met him through Zoom Meet. They had learnt about different online resources for both language development and literature studies. The students found them very useful.

## Nineth Day:



Mr. Ari Aravelan continued to expand and take it from question to question, answer to question, answer to answer, another question from the answer. A bird's-eye view of education, work, society, literary studies, and internship. College classroom life, college campus life, life faced in

society, touching each other, and today's session touched on many areas such as the knowledge, character, skills needed to complete each other, and the necessary coherence within these.

Without giving advice, without saying I will give knowledge, without saying I will tell you what you don't know - the success of the session was that they were able to speak in their own voices about what they knew, what they felt, their inadequacies, and what they needed to know. It made me think that Ari Anna could have been called on the first day.



He loved literary studies and asked them to enjoy and learn. Literature is about transmitting experience, showing real life, recording stories, assembling events, seeing things from a different angle, helping people understand, and teaching love, he shared with many examples. He asked the students to share the incidents that affected them during their internship.

If half of them are written down, they have the potential to come into literature.

The college campus has become like a Silent Spring. Life is necessary in the classroom. Internship has been included in the curriculum to get used to life. While getting used to life, life skills like Self Awareness, Empathy, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Emotional Management should also be practiced. Knowledge, Attitude, and Skill should complement each other.

At the end of the session, the discussion moved to another field, such as staying away from common sense, not just believing what we are told but finding the hidden truths, political, social, economic, caste discrimination, and social justice. Overall, Ari Anna and the students thought, talked, listened, and learned a lot in today's session.



## Tenth Day:



10 days were filled with different learning sessions, games, skill training, and conversations that directly and indirectly provided the students with the necessary personality development and life skills. We read, understood, and discussed Professor Dharmaraj's article "Kill the Village, Abolish the Tradition" together. The structure of the article, the

vocabulary, and the subject matter were completely new. Also, 12 out of the 15 participants came from rural and agricultural backgrounds. They understood the article as telling them to break away from the narrow circle of rural pride, family pride, agricultural pride, and festival pride and become a modern youth. They said that the Aritapatti field research section in the article was interesting.



Director Karthik Bharathi spoke about the opportunities that can be made continuous activities in their colleges and friendship circles without leaving the internship learnings and experiences. Today's

lunch was chicken biryani. The participants had brought a list of the necessary items from their homes. Biryani was prepared with leg pieces, eggs, curd and onions. The students themselves divided all the cooking work among themselves.

In the evening closing ceremony, Madurai Seed former volunteer Central Government officer Suresh, Madurai Seed former student, working in the IT sector O. Manikandan, and Thiagarajar College research student Madhavan participated and congratulated the students and gave guidance. The guests shared their employment opportunities, work skills, and life experiences. The students also shared what they had learned in these 10 days and the things that affected them. Books were given as gifts on behalf of Madurai Seed. This internship is not an end, it is a beginning and an introduction to face the big world, gain good experiences, and develop their skills for higher education jobs. Congratulations students, and may you win.

### **Volunteers Annie & Steve:**



Madurai Seed students get new experiences in learning from Volunteers abroad. Steve, a school student in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, with his mother Ms. Annie, a college counsellor volunteered in Madurai Seed from 18<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Both are from Dubai International School. As their native is Madurai, both know Tamil well. Their willingness and excitement to work for

children here was more than appreciated. Steve's Tamil has captivated the children. He taught English to Ninth graders using OUP books. Annie taught English for children from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They also presented a seminar about libraries, and took their classes to Kalaingar Centenary Library.

### **Social Work Students:**



From 1.2.2024 to 25.2.2024 for 25 days, American College Master of Social Work degree students Sandhya and Kavya participated in Madurai Seed for internship. They have managed evening classes for high school students, also they act as translators for our visitors from abroad during the tenure. They have given inputs regarding organization chart, managing

accounts, report writing, etc.

### **Gandhigram University – Development Management Students Visit**



13.03.2024: 31 third year students of Gandhi Rural University Administration and Management visited Madurai Seed. A session was held under the coordination of Prof. Mrs. Vanitha. Students asked various questions about NGO Management. Madurai Seed former senior teacher volunteer Officer Suarez, new volunteer Prem, Arun Kumar, Jeeva etc. gave appropriate answers. Director Karthik Bharti gave a presentation on

NGO Management Student Praveen explained Madurai Sidhu +2 students about Gandhi Grama University degree program. Thank you to the visiting students and Professor Vanitha for organizing the event.



## SITE VISITS

### Melli Akka Visit:



Asha Boston Volunteer, and our supporter Dr. Meliyal Annamalai's visit brightened the evening. New volunteers and students were looking forward to her visit as she was visiting us after three years. She visited all classes and enjoyed talking to the volunteers and children. She talked about education scenarios, post-covid education gap, innovation activities to improve children's basic reading, higher education of Madurai Seed young people, etc. She expressed happiness about majority of the children comes from government schools. She spoke to children studying in private schools through RTE scheme and English medium students.



She advised to the young people who are studying Tamil and English literature in colleges to read extra apart from syllabus. Don't just listen to stories, try to read them fully. That is what sets you apart from other students.

She spent a lot of time with the Kanavugal Arangam children. They discussed about why education to girls is important, how will you advocate for women's education in families. She asked the children about their social, family, economic, school, educational environment and opportunities they get in Madurai Seed. We are very happy in her visit and insights. It made us motivated a lot.



Also she has visited a boy's hostel where Madurai Seed works often. Warden Dr. Karthikesan and Dr. Meliyal Annamalai interacted with the house students. Students was happy to show their mark sheets. Deepan Raj who scored highest marks in school, has asked questions about America, and shared his school was renovated by HCL owner. Student Sasikumar attempted to translate an

English conversation. The evening was very interesting. Dinner was served to all. Melli Akka also met Gandhian and Hostel secretary Mr. Srinivasan.

## Nick, Maggie, and Rose Visit:



Nick Bell, Maggi Lussi Bell, and Rose Galey visited Madurai Seed from Jan 7th to 19th. They were welcomed by Seed children in a traditional way. As Maggi and Rose are first time here, Arun gave them a short presentation about MS. Then, they visited the children Education centres.

New building construction is in progress which has not come to this far without FMS support. Nick and Maggi who have taken huge efforts in fundraising for that, visited the site and discussed with Karthik on further steps to be taken.



From the next day onwards, mornings were filled with visit to nearby places like Gandhi Museum, Meenakshi temple and Palace and the evenings were occupied by classes for children and young people. Maggi taught children from 8 to 11, Rose taught children from 12 to 14 years and Nick taught college goers in Seed. Maggi in her four day classes focused on speaking part in Cambridge English

with a set of questionnaire about family, school, and lifestyle. It was helpful for them to learn vocabularies and sentence construction on that. Rose focused on speaking and listening through games and activities with Jeeva. Non-stop fun learning encouraged children to practice English effectively. Nick's session for the young people focused on speaking skills where he used videos and slides to talk about.

Nick, Maggi and Rose came in traditional attire and celebrated "Pongalo Pongal" with dance, and music. They also got to learn more about our rich Tamil culture and tradition behind this festival. We sent them off on 19th. In the library, they shared their experiences in Seed and played some fun games. They taught few dance steps to students for an English song. In the end, we thanked and sent them off for the tour.

Surprisingly, they returned on 24th to Madurai Seed with their tour group. 13 foreigners from different parts of the world came to know more about Madurai Seed as they have already known a little through Nick, Maggi and Rose. They interacted with young people about their favorite sport, subject, future aim and so on. Inspired and happy they were on seeing the MS family. It was wonderful to meet Maggi and Rose for the first time and we thank you "three" for the time you have spent for MS



## Visit by John Potts:



John Potts, the president of FMS visited Madurai Seed and spent two weeks with young people and children. From Jan 26th to Feb 9th, it was a great time with him. Our beloved John sir was welcomed on the first day by children with roses and fruits. He talked to the students in every class about their school and subjects.

Next day, he was taken to see the new building under construction. He discussed with Karthik about funds and its utilization. Coming year, children will start studying in new education center of Madurai Seed and John sir, Nick and Maggi are the main reason for this.

John sir in his visit focus on young people's English skill development through classes and workshops. This time, he gave them three classes and two sessions of workshop on "Reading books". Classes and workshops were organized to ignite their interest in reading English story books, and novels. The workshop prepared young people to see the world beyond text books It was well planned and organized by John sir and he inspires us all the time in this way.



Arun and Elaa have regular zoom meet with him on teaching English using resources. In this visit, to improve their teaching efficiency, John sir observed their classes and suggested some action points to focus more on. On Institution Day celebration, John sir gave a brief note wishing Madurai Seed family on its 25th year. Cutting cake is what makes the day more memorable and so John sir cut the

cake and shared it with children.

Also, he spared few hours for us to go around Meenakshi temple along with Katrin and Urs. In the planning meeting with Karthik and Elaa, past year's updates and coming year's plans were discussed. On Feb 8th, children gathered to say bye bye to him with small gifts and big love. Volunteers shared how his visit had illuminated their interests in reading books and they received reading log card from John sir to track down their reading history and provide remarks by themselves.

For two weeks, we had a very productive time with John sir. It will sure strengthen the language skill of our young people. His support, and love towards them for which we are thankful as always.

## Katrin & Urs Visit

30.01.2024 to 08.02.2024



Katrin & Urs, friends from Switzerland spent 10 days with Madurai Seed children and young people. They took part in the workshop given by John sir for two days. For 3 evenings, they have given science class with simple experiments.

The experiments involved color mixture, pressure, surface tension, buoyant force, etc. Urs was very enthusiastic and given many examples to make them understand. Katrin assisted Urs. Children were very happy to participate, answer, and do the hands-on experiments. They also played fun games and English games in their classes. Thanks Katrin and Urs.





## OUR TEAM

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



**V. Elavarasi, M.Sc, M.Ed**

**Managing Trustee &  
President**

**M.Mansurali, MA**

**Financial Trustee &  
Secretary**

**V.Mariammal, MA, B.Ed**

**Trustee**



**A. S. Karthikbharathi**  
**Director**



**K. Murugesan**  
**President, FMS India**



**C. Arun Kumar**  
**Coordinator**



**K. Muthupandi**  
**Accountant**



## Our Partners

### Friends of Madurai Seed



Friends of Madurai Seed is an organization founded in Zurich in August 2008 with the aim of supporting Madurai Seed. The committee is made up both of people who know South India and Madurai Seed from personal experience and others who are passionately interested in daily life and problems there.

Friends of Madurai Seed has the goal of helping to provide essential financial support for Madurai Seed on a regular basis. Friends of Madurai Seed supports Madurai Seed through guaranteed annual funding for education centres, skills and personality development programs, scholarships for children and young people. Friends of Madurai Seed also gives moral support to Madurai Seed and acts as a consultation partner regarding important planning decisions, English classes and teacher training. [www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org](http://www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org)





## Asha for Education, Boston



**Asha**  
for Education  
Bringing hope through education

## Boston/ MIT Chapter



Asha

Boston Chapter is a chapter of Asha for Education, a non-profit organization. They are a completely volunteer driven organization. Asha Boston Chapter works towards promoting the education of underprivileged children in India by providing financial assistance and support to the NGOs focused on education projects. Volunteers of Asha work closely with the project partners in India, while locally organizing fundraisers and community awareness events. Asha Boston provides monthly running expenses for Madurai Seed such as rents, telephone, electricity for education centres, and monthly stipend for volunteers. Melli Annamalai is the project steward.

<https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=809>

## Friends of Madurai Seed, India

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

## Vizhuthugal - Alumni

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

## Together We Make A Difference

FMS, Switzerland		Nick Bell
Laura Villiger		Maggi Lusi Bell
John Potts	Rose Gally	
Eveline Masilamani	Keith Rossborough	
Martin Anderhalden	Asha, Boston	
Eliane Suess & Daniel	Melliyal Annamalai	
Patricia Jegher	Lenail Veronique	
Sarah Giles & Andy	Anouk Kermiche	
Andrea Wilson	Ann Anderson	
Clive Oxenden	Dr. Taj Rajappa	
Valeria Gemelli	Muruges-Viji	
Kantonsschule Freudenberg	Manikandan.O	
“Seeds for tomorrow”	Vinothkumar.R	
Katrin Blatter	Suresh Kumar. G	
Urs Wagner		

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



## GET INVOLVED

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

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

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



## Connect With us

YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/maduraiseed1999/">https://www.youtube.com/user/maduraiseed1999/</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/maduraiseed/">https://www.facebook.com/maduraiseed/</a>
Blog	<a href="http://www.maduraiseed.blogspot.com">www.maduraiseed.blogspot.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.maduraiseed.org">www.maduraiseed.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:maduraiseed1999@gmail.com">maduraiseed1999@gmail.com</a>
Phone	9442537670

# FINANCE STATEMENT

## MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024

	Schedule	Year ended March 31, 2024 Rs.
<b>Income</b>		
Foreign Contribution Received		27,51,925
Donation Received		12,000
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>7</b>	
S B Interest		17,563
FD Interest		19,488
		<u>37,051</u>
		<u><u>28,00,976</u></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Programme Cost</b>		
Children Education Centre	<b>8</b>	7,91,212
Children's and Young People Skill & Personality Development Programme	<b>9</b>	10,19,965
Library for children & Young People	<b>10</b>	87,118
Scholarship Support for Children & Young people	<b>11</b>	9,48,281
Administration Expenses	<b>12</b>	3,03,928
Depreciation	<b>2</b>	37,125
		<u>31,87,629</u>
<b>Excess of Expenditure Over Income</b>		<b>(3,86,653)</b>

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

**For Arockiasamy & Charles**  
Firm Registration Number : 018079S  
Chartered Accountants

P.Arockiasamy  
Partner  
Membership No.018348  
UDIN : 24018348BKESWJ6977

Place : Madurai  
Date : 17.06.2024

For MADURAI SEED  
  
V. ELAVARASI  
Managing Trustee &  
President  
Managing Trustee



MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI  
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024


Receipts	Sch	Rs.	Rs.	Payments	Sch	Rs.	Rs.
<b>Opening Balance</b>	6			<b>Programme Cost</b>			
Cash on Hand		23,570		Children Education Centre	8		7,91,212
Cash at Bank		1,72,129	1,95,699	Children's and Young People Skill & Personality Development Programme	9		10,19,965
Foreign Contribution Received			27,51,925	Library for children & Young People	10		87,118
Donation Received			12,000	Scholarship Support for Children & Young people	11		9,48,281
<b>Interest Income</b>	7			Administration Expenses	12		3,03,928
S B Interest		17,563	37,051				
FD Interest		19,488	4,00,000				
Fixed Deposit Matured				Building Lease Advance			2,00,000
				<b>Closing Balance</b>	5		
				Cash on Hand		15,458	
				Cash at Bank		30,703	46,171
			<b>33,96,675</b>				<b>33,96,675</b>

For Arockiasamy & Charles  
 Firm Registration Number : 018079S  
 Chartered Accountants

P.Arockiasamy  
 Partner  
 Membership No.018348  
 UDIN : 24018348BKESWJ6977

Place : Madurai  
 Date : 17.06.2024

For MADURAI SEED

  
 V. ELAVARASI  
 Managing Trustee &  
 President

Managing Trustee

## CONCLUSION

Thanks for reading the report. In the moment of successfully completing another year in our journey, we have already started to dream of some major action plans for the next year.

- New study rooms, library, and meeting hall with adequate facilities will come into action.
- Working with other organizations to outreach more children and young people outside Karumbalai.

Madurai Seed provides a space for school children to come in as a child, to keep themselves in the education track, and go out as a skillful, educated youth.

Madurai Seed will continue to dream for the hundreds of children and young people who believe in us, who want opportunities to thrive, who want to change their lives through education. Madurai Seed will continue to be the hub for people who want to change other's lives, who want to share knowledge, who believe in love, peace, and harmony. Together we make a family.

We thank you all for being with us and believe in us. We are looking towards exciting times ahead. Thanks and Best wishes.









# Keerthana

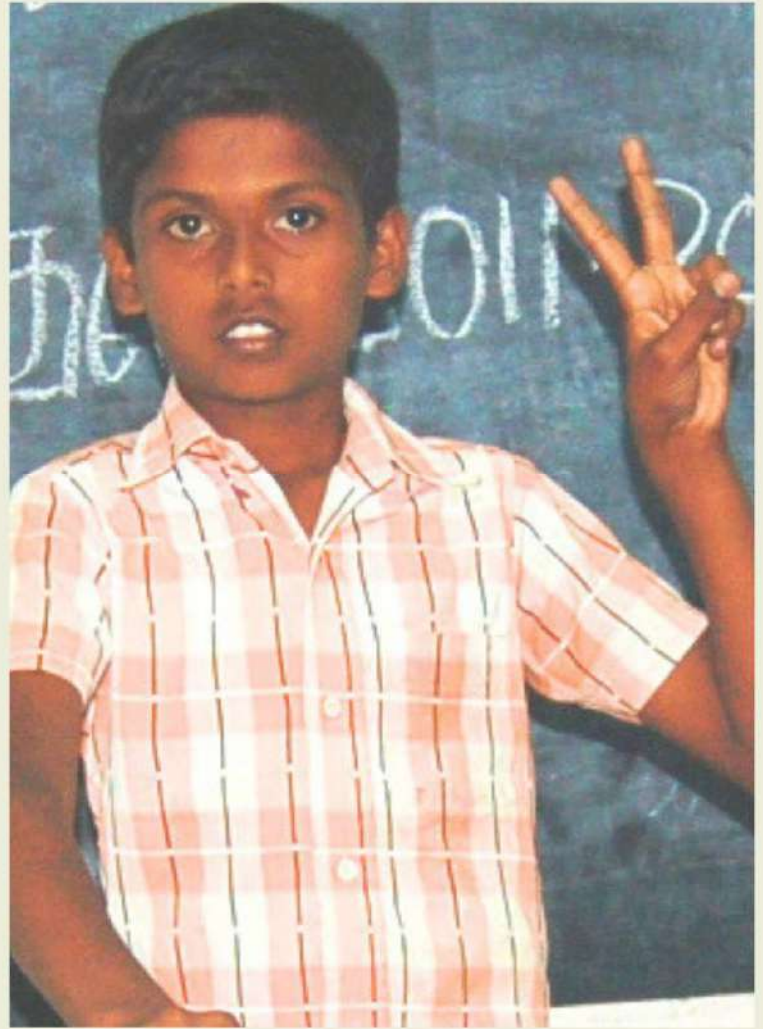


Keerthana has completed 12th std and planning to do college like her two elder sisters. The three sisters are regular students to Madurai Seed since elementary school.



# Srinath

has started as an elementary school kid in MADURAI SEED, now completed his graduation in English and Masters Degree in Physical Education. He is going to become a physical education teacher.



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