



MADURAI SEED
ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019

VANDUGAL ARANGAM

Creating a joyful world for children



KG



1st std



2nd std



3rd std



4th std



MADURAI SEED

Annual Report

2018-2019

MADURAI SEED is a voluntary organization to support and empower the underprivileged children and young people



Report by

V.Elavarasi, M.Mansurali, V.Mariammal, A.S.Karthikbharathi, C.Arunkumar, K.Muthupandi

439/1, Arjun Shanmuga Illam, East Street, Karumbalai, Madurai - 625020

0452-2537670, 94425 37670, maduraiseed1999@gmail.com, www.maduraiseed.org

THANK YOU

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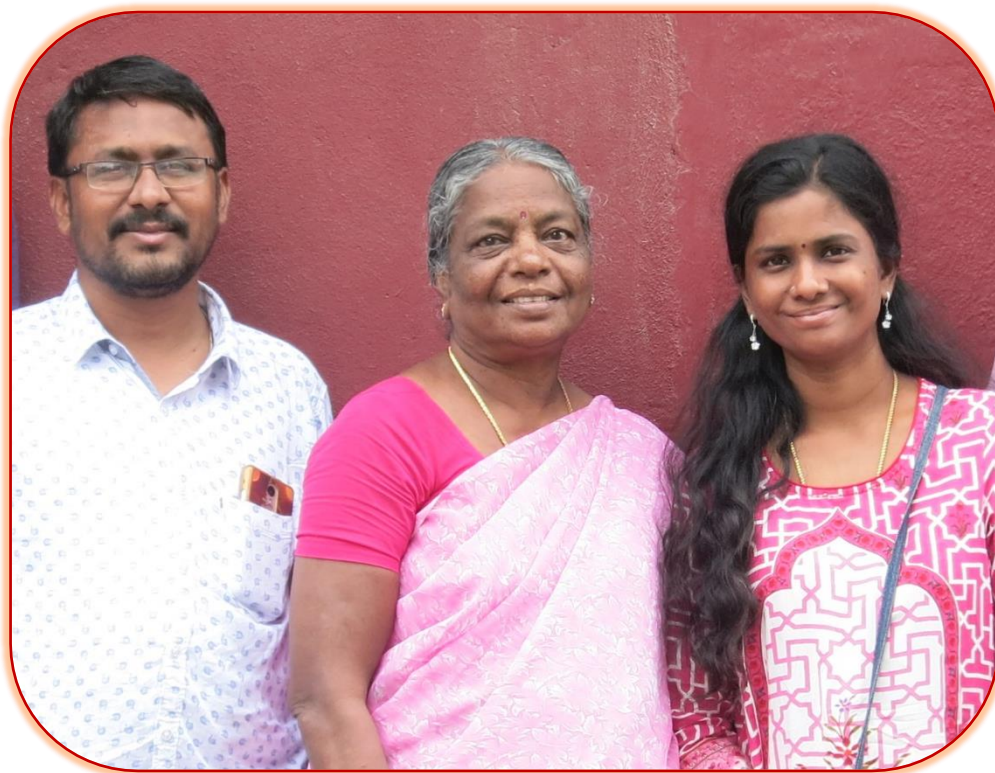


“All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them”

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People



Managing Trustee : **V.Elavarasi, M.Sc, B.Ed**

Financial Trustee : **M.Mansurali, MA**

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



Accountant

A.S.Karthikbharathi, MA, M.Phil, B.Ed



Director

C.Arunkumar, MA, B.Ed



Coordinator

K.Muthupandi, M.Com, B.Ed

From the Director

Dear Friends and Supporters

I am very pleased to share the 20th year journey (2018-2019) of Madurai Seed in this annual report.

Our endeavours have provided children and young people with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have and raised them as confident individuals who can start to think of their dreams, and works to develop the skill sets and educational qualifications needed to achieve the dreams.

Along with our regular activities, when looking back this year we have done more activities in the field of art, craft, theatre and teacher trainings to volunteers.

I feel heartened and grateful to all our board members, advisors, donors, partners, volunteer, and well-wishers for travelling on this journey and collectively working together.

I look forward another decade and more years envisioning Madurai Seed is able to accommodate more children, grown into a more sustainable organization, fulfilling dreams of more young people, and implementing more innovative models.

Thanks to you all.

Sincerely



KARTHIKBHARATHI A S





MADURAI SEED is a grass root level nonprofit organization founded in 1999, aims to promote underprivileged children and young people through education. “Seed” refers to our belief that every child has great potential, when children and young people are supported with adequate resources and opportunities they can grow and achieve great heights.





Our Mission

To provide a supportive nurturing environment for socially economically disadvantaged children and young people to discover and develop their mental abilities, to enrich their sense of self-esteem, to empower them with emotional stability, and to promote personal and social responsibilities.

Highlights of the year 2018-2019

- Madurai Seed is stepping into **20th year** in the educational interventions for the upliftment of underprivileged children and young people.
- In the 2018-2019 educational year, we functioned through 3 children centers, 2 young people center, and 2 hostels. Around **475 children** got benefited directly through these evening supplementary education centers.
- **26 Young people** got benefited directly.
- **61 students** wrote the public exams in 10,11, and 12th classes. 75% of them are first generation educated.
- **4 young people** settled in full time jobs.
- **4 young people** are completing under graduation.
- **2 young people** are completing their professional courses.
- Madurai Seed's board is shuffled. Karthikbharathi is given Director position, where Elavarasi is the president and Managing Trustee.
- A new website is launched www.maduraiseed.org
- Our programs got attention from lots of Tamil and English newspapers.
- Asha for education and Friends of Madurai Seed has sponsored for a lease of new classroom for children



Event Spotlights



Vasantham Summer Camp for 6 days

**Margazhi Utsav – Children Carnival –
Theater Festival for 5 days**



Production of 2 children plays

**Partnership Activities – Teacher
Training by Nandavanam, Chennai**



**English classes by abroad
volunteers and interns**



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





Learning and Growing Together



Holistic Education Centers

• **Children Education Centers**

5

• **Young People Education Centers**

2

List of beneficiaries from holistic education centers

Arangam	Male	Female	Total
Vandugal Arangam Classes 1 to 4	40	47	87
Vergal Arangam Classes 5 to 8	51	51	102
Kanavugal Arangam Classes 9 to 12	25	34	59
Boys Hostel Classes 6 to 10	117	-	117
Children Hostel Classes 1 to 5	60	50	110
TOTAL Children	293	182	475
Thedalgai Arangam College young people	13	12	25
TOTAL Young People	13	12	25



Vandugal Arangam



Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
I	10	06	16
II	13	09	22
III	08	19	27
IV	09	13	22
Total	40	47	87

Vandugal Arangam is an education center for children from classes 1 to 4, aged between 5 to 9 years old. 4 teaching volunteers are there to teach children. “Vandugal” in Tamil means active kids. There are some kindergarten kids also joins

Tamil and English language basics are given more importance in this center like identification of alphabets, sounds, and basic vocabularies. The volunteers do this through rhymes, pictures, stories, and drills. The students also get help in mathematics and school home works. The center functions two hours 6 to 8 in the evening from Monday to Friday. During the weekend, they play games, read stories, and see movies.



Vergal Arangam



Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
V	11	12	23
VI	14	13	27
VII	15	15	30
VIII	11	11	22
Total	51	51	102

Vergal Arangam is a study center for children from classes 5 to 8, aged between 10 to 13 years old. 4 teaching volunteers are there to teach children. “Vergal” in Tamil means roots. This age group children needs to stay rooted in the education system to avoid dropouts.

English and Math classes are given more importance in this center because they are the two subjects children find difficult. The volunteers do this through individual attention giving and clearing the doubts. The students also get help in school home works and tests. The center functions three hours 6 to 9 in the evening from Monday to Saturday. Saturday is a kind of no bag day, on that day children play games, read library books, involve in other creative activities.



Kanavugal Arangam



Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
IX	14	10	24
X	04	07	11
XI	05	09	14
XII	02	08	10
Total	25	34	59

Kanavugal Arangam is supplementary education center for children from classes 9 to 12, aged between 14 to 17 years old. 8 teaching volunteers are there to teach children. “Kanavugal” in Tamil means dreams. These adolescent children need more guidance and counselling.

Individual subject wise classes are given importance because 10,11,12th std are attending board exams. In these classes, the students have to identify their skills, study interest, and career interests. They have to choose different subject disciplines for 11th and 12th std. These children also are taking part in all the extra-curricular activities to learn crucial life skills and values. Girl children are encouraged to continue studies and higher education.



Boys Hostel Center



Standard	Boys
VI	21
VII	27
VIII	18
IX	33
X	18
Total	117

4 volunteers go to this boy's hostel to assist the children in school subjects. The boys are from various villages and slums around Madurai and study in a public school nearby. The volunteers teach from 7.00 to 8.30 from Monday to Friday. 10th std students are given special training for Maths and English.

There were children who lacked basic reading, writing in both Tamil, English, and simple arithmetic skills. Initial oral and written tests were given and identified such students from 6th to 9th std. If this lacking continues, the students suffer to pass 10th std and chances are high they will leave academic streams. So, special classes were given to them regularly. They were given basic classes sounds, alphabets, simple vocabularies, etc. Now, they are showing great improvement. We also add the hostel students in our public events.



Children Hostel Center



60 male and **50** female
students, totally **110** children
benefited from standard
1 to 5

The children are from classes I to V aged from 5 to 10 years. They are from very poor families around many villages near Madurai. They are very young children need family care and love but they are studying in hostel due to disadvantaged situations. It is a residential school. Our evening classes are from 6 to 7.30 from Monday to Friday.

2 volunteers went to this hostel last year. They assisted the children in learning alphabets, sounds both in Tamil, English and arithmetic operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children who lacked in basic skills were given extra attention and training. The children are also added in some of our public events and extra-curricular activities.



The dalgal Arangam



Year	Male	Female	Total
1 st year	02	02	04
2 nd Year	03	05	08
3 rd Year	03	01	04
4 th Year	01	00	01
Professional Course	02	02	04
Teaching Alumni	03	01	04
Total	14	11	25

The dalgal in Tamil means “**Discover**”, this center is for young people who are studying at college and teaching at Madurai Seed. They are the volunteers and important strength of Madurai Seed. Most of the volunteers are former children benefited in our centers.

Apart from their service as teachers and organizers of events, many programs are planned exclusively for young people to develop their life skills and personality, values, and exposures. They teach and learn; they give benefits and get benefits at the same time. Most of them are first generation college going young people and need education and career guidance. Higher education of women is very much encouraged.



- Among 25 young people, **15 young people** (9 male: 6 female) are **first generation** college going students.
- 25 teaching volunteers receive monthly stipend from Asha for Education, Boston
- Muthuganesh (IT field), Jensi (Accountant), James, Mathan (Private Jobs) have settled in full time jobs.
- Vasim, Srinath, Nandhini, and Premkumar are completing their under graduation.
- Vigneshwaran and Anand are completing their professional course in graphic designing and going to settle in jobs.

Courses young people are studying	Male	Female	Total
Graphic Designing	2	-	02
Engineering	-	1	01
Pharmacy	-	2	02
English	2	2	04
Maths	1	2	03
Tourism	2	-	02
Zoology	-	1	01
Geography	-	1	01
Commerce	1	1	02
Chemistry	1	-	01
Economics	1	-	01
Competitive exam coaching	1	-	01
Total	11	10	21
Course Completed Young People (Alumni)			
Engineering	1	-	01
Commerce	-	1	01
English	1	-	01
Tamil	1	-	01
Total	3	1	04



Thedalgal Resource Center

The center which was dedicated to the constructive activities for youth by Madurai Seed and Kaleidoscope is successfully going on achieving its dream. The center is now becoming popular and people use it for literary, art, and social activities. It is becoming a hub of alternative thinkers and activists in the field of education, art, and social service.

Madurai Seed and Kaleidoscope are using the place regularly for our programs. Madurai Seed children and young people are taking part in all the activities at the center.

Madurai Seed activities at Thedalgal Resource Center

29/07/2018	Workshop for effective communication for interviews and presentations for Madurai Seed young people given by Andrea Wilson
08/12/2018	Experiential Teaching workshop for Madurai Seed volunteers and
09/12/2018	Teacher trainees given by Nandavanam team
22/01/2019	Strategies for teaching English workshop for Madurai seed volunteers and teacher trainees given by Keith and Nick



Teacher Training workshops by Nandavanam



Workshop for young people



English workshop for teachers

VIZHUTHUGAL

Alumni Meet: Happiness in Togetherness



We are drowning in a lifestyle where celebrations and gatherings are occupied by gadgets, cinema, mediocrity, television, empty talks but the “**Diwali & Alumni Meet**” is a platform for former and current students to join as a family, to chat, to share experiences, and to have fun spending time meaningfully. The event was coordinated for the former and present young people of Madurai Seed to recite the memories and share Diwali wishes.

38 alumni members made their big part for the Diwali celebrations that took place in the Gandhi Museum on 4th November 2018. Among them, 24 paid subscriptions, 16 made donations and 30 celebrated Diwali with children.

- Our alumnus Mr. **Brownny** who is a teacher marked this occasion with his presence as the chief guest.
- Through stories and quotes, young orator Mr. **Britto** shared the need of reading.
- With a welcome speech, lighting lamps, photography, cultural, special wish from guests, dinner and tea added the event an extra dose of happiness among all.
- Balamurugan (2012 batch) brings handful of sweets and Muthaiya (2013 batch) presents cards to kids every Diwali.
- The “One up dance crew” dance performance of Madurai Seed children, and young people was breath-taking.
- Children enjoyed hearing Britto’s stories, guest’s Diwali speech and former volunteers’ fond memories of happy student hood in Madurai Seed.

We hope for a greater number of alumni’s participation in the coming year too. We thanked each and every one for celebrating this togetherness.

- **O.Manikandan, Saranya, Pethuraja, Sulthan, Muniyasamy** from Alumni has donated during various occasions

Scholarship Program

The scholarships help children and young people to cover their **school, college fees partly**. We always encourage parents to take part in a possible level. For some needy and committed young people we cover full expenses for higher education and professional courses. We are strong on the principle, the aspiration to study should not stop because of financial reasons. We give preference to regular children and young people who attend our education centers, single parent family, the urgency and importance.

On **08.07.2019**, scholarships for children were distributed in the presence of our trustees and parents. The parents are given inputs on importance of education, supporting their children's dreams, and Madurai Seed activities.



List of beneficiaries through scholarships 2018-2019

Arangam	Classes	Male	Female	Total
Vandugal Arangam	1 to 4	22	18	40
Vergal Arangam	5 to 8	25	32	57
Kanavugal Arangam	9 to 12	20	26	46
Total Children		67	76	143
Thedalgai Arangam	College Young People	10	07	17
	Professional Courses	02	01	03
Total Young People		12	08	20

Story of Hope



Hi, I'm Vicky. I came to Madurai Seed when I was 10 years old. I volunteered for 3 years here and completed my graduation in commerce. With the exposures I got from Madurai Seed, I was very much interested towards studying visual communication in college. But I couldn't afford it. Later Madurai Seed has given me opportunities to take photos and videos in the organization's events. That was the time I found my interest and started learning basic level photography and editing by myself. I like capturing

photos of people and their emotions. I wanted to become a professional photographer and video editor. While I was preparing myself to achieve the dream; Madurai Seed sponsored me to pursue Graphic designing and video editing course. With the big support of Ms. Andrea Wilson and FMS, I'm now qualified to work as video editor/graphic designer. I would like to extend my thanks to the sponsorship program of Madurai Seed which helps many young people to study and fulfil their dreams of what they wish to be.

Passion becomes profession



I'm Anand. I was 7 years old when I joined in Madurai Seed. Though I am an average student, Madurai Seed was very supportive to my academics in my school time; I was interested in dance then. I have completed my under graduation in Tourism and Hospitality Management. Madurai Seed gave me the first opportunity to work with cameras. I was practicing a lot with camera, learning about lighting and framing during outings, events in Madurai Seed. Cameras fascinated me. Madurai

Seed has done a great help in the course of discovering myself. I wished to study video editing course and with the sponsorship of Ms. Andrea Wilson, I could continue my studies in the field of my interest and it paved me a way to reach my destination as a professional video editor/graphic designer. Madurai Seed helped me to realize my potential, and supported me to execute my passion. Thanks to all



Skills and Personality Development Programs

Children and young people are deprived of opportunities and resources to develop their interests and skills. In this situation, our SAPDP programs raise the children and young people as confident and responsible individuals. They learn important life skills that shape their relationship with the society. They are able to think of their dreams for future and can learn necessary skills and values at present to achieve the dream. They can identify and develop their interests and talents.

- Senthamizh Library
- Children Federation (MSCF)
- Young people Federation (MSYF)
- Thenkoodu Children bank
- Puthuyugam Children Magazine
- Club Activities
- Camp
- Theater Activities
- Art and Craft
- Educational Guidance
- Teacher Trainings
- English Classes
- Young People Development activities
- Field Trips
- Special Days
- Celebrations

World Book Day: 23.04.2018



A book is a dream that you hold in your hands. Children and young people read stories together and interacted with each other. Children are introduced to Madurai Seed's **library** and important books available in there. They select books from various sections like bilingual story, English short stories, children magazines, fairy tales, science, and Tamil story collections. They **listed top twenty books** according to the plot, characters, and length and then they displayed it. The curiosity of the unplugged minds takes them to an imaginary

world.

Book Fair Visit: 3,4,5.09.2018



Madurai Seed children of 95 numbers visited the book fair stalls, bought books of their interests. It is an annual fair, they also liked attending famous writers' **speeches**, and **debates** of Tamil scholars. Book fair motivates and offers children to purchase from the **wide range of books**. This promotes them to have a small book shelf for their own at home. It was indeed a challenge for them to choose from various topics for kids. They explored in the newest book collections and

mostly bought science, comics and biography books from the book fair.

Long story: 25.09.2018



Volunteers Vigneswaran, Anand, Srinath along with Karthik Bharathi shared their "Qrius Learning" workshop experiences. They have introduced some techniques from "**Long Story Method**" learning. Children and young people have participated with great enthusiasm. The exercises were related to reading practice, **storytelling**, Tamil vocabulary, and sentence making. The volunteers shared that the workshop was

very novel, and learned many things related to teaching methods.

Thenkoodu Children Bank

Children save their **pocket money** in this bank. They were given **passbooks** and the savings are entered daily. Their savings will be returned to them in the beginning of new educational year with **20% interest** to their amount. This helps their educational expenses and reduce the burden on parents.

Every penny counts



On **11.06.2018**, the savings of the children in the year 2017-2018 were distributed. Parents and Children took part in the event. The children who saved more money in each class were given special encouragement prizes. 96 children saved **Rs. 26, 793**. Madurai Seed added interest of **Rs. 5213**. Totally 32, 006 was distributed to children.

Savings of children 2018-2019

Arangam-wise saving

Vandugal Arangam	Classes 1 to 4	Rs. 13141
Vergal Arangam	Classes 5 to 8	Rs. 13841
Kanavugal Arangam	Classes 9 to 12	Rs. 10855

Classes with highest saving

Class	Amount
2 nd std	Rs. 5861
7 th std	Rs. 5274
9 th std	Rs. 4395

Children with highest saving

Name	Class	Amount
P.Brindha	2 nd std	Rs. 4674
S. Karunya Thithi	7 th std	Rs. 1561
S. Loganayagi	9 th std	Rs. 1746

The savings in the year 2018-2019 will be distributed in June 2019 when the schools are reopening.

Madurai Seed Children Federation (MSCF)



MSCF acts as a body comprises of children **leaders**, club **Inchargers**, and class **representatives**. They are giving their participation in planning programs. It helps to develop their **leadership** skills and communication skills. These groups make the children feel they are important, responsible and their participatory rights are protected.

Madurai Seed Youth Federation (MSYF)



MSYF acts as a bridge between young people and MADURAI SEED administration. MADURAI SEED relies 100% on its young people. This body plans activities for young people. Young people act as **role models** for children. MSCF and MSYF are working together in order to play as a team.

Representatives of various clubs and activities

Children Federation (MSCF)	Sivasankari (IV), Dhivakar (IV), Bhavana (VIII), Haribala (VIII), Jerk (XII). Presidents: Jeeva XII, Bhavana XII
Young People Federation (MSYF)	President: Srinath Representatives: Vindhiya, Surya
Library	Kavya (IV), Aravind (VI), Gobika (X), Vindhiya (Volunteer)
Thenkoodu Children Bank	Dhivakar (IV), Kathigaideepa (VII), Swehta (XI), Surya (Volunteer)
Young People Saving Scheme	Makathu Nilavu (Volunteer)
Puthuyugam Journal	Saran (IV), Ranjani (VIII), Loganayaki (X), Sundari (Volunteer)
Mutram Literature Club	Kaviarasan (IV), Chithiraiselvam (VIII), Pandi (X), Viji (Volunteer)
Galileo Science Club	Kanishka (V), Kason (VI), Nesamani (X), Nandhini (Volunteer)
Aagayagangai Social Science Club	Vaishnavi (IV), Aravind (VIII), Hema (XI), Sathish (Volunteer)
Suvadugal Sports Club	Jaisanthosh (IV), Sivaranjani (VIII), Sundar (IX), Prem (Volunteer)
Vanmugil Cultural Club	Sivamani (IV), Balasoundarya (V), Kathik (IX), Anand (Volunteer)
Annai Medical Club	Ajay (IV), Rekha (VIII), Nisha (IX), Kaleeshwari (Volunteer)

Representatives of various clubs and activities



Mutram Literature Club



Galileo Science Club



Aagayagangai Social Science Club



Suvadugal Sports Club



Vanmugil Cultural Club



Annai Medical Club



Senthamizh Library



Thenkoodu Children Bank



Puthuyugam Journal



MSYF Leader



Youth Rotational Fund



“From 2007 to 2016, **25 issues** came out. Last three years, we couldn’t publish the magazine.

In 2020, we would like to publish one annual magazine, 26th issue as “**Children Theatre Special Issue**” with 20 theatre scripts comprises of dramas acted by our children and young people in the past years and some dramas written by children. We believe we will succeed in bringing this issue.

Club Activities



“Club activities introduce children with diverse knowledge and practical fields like science, history, geography, arts, and other humanities. Children can take part in all the activities and choose a field of interest and develop skills in the field. We introduce knowledge not only from books but from people, places, conversations, and practice.”

- Mutram Literature Club
- Galileo Science Club
- Aagayagangai Social Science Club
- Vanmugil Cultural Club
- Suvadugal Sports Club
- Annai Medical Club

MUTRAM LITERATURE CLUB



Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity

Story Reading: 17.05.2018: Volunteer Arunkumar read **two tamil short stories**, Sokavanam by Dharman, an ecological literature and Minnal by Rajanarayanan, a story of a simple incident in a rural setting. Both stories are enjoyed by children.



Draw a story: 18.05.2018: Two teams were given a board and a handful of colour chalks and markers. They created a story and given an image to that by **drawing the characters, places**, and things related to the story. The other team tried to guess the story. At last one of the team members revealed the real story behind the scribbles. Very fun and creative evening.



Story Telling: 21.05.2018: Teacher. **Madurai Saravanan**, interacted with children and young people of Madurai Seed. **Narrated** children's stories connecting it with the current scenario of our country and it was very much enjoyed and felt by the children. They burst out into laughter for his every action for the characters in the story. It was a great evening for us. Girls honoured him with a shawl, a painting and traditional sweets.



Learning Folk Lyrics: 23.09.2018: **Let's sing:** Children practiced folk songs from various genre in groups. Thanks to the internet, **6 beautiful songs** were curated. Volunteers helped children in needful ways **synchronized singing** and pitch variations. A Tamil lullaby, Song about father's love, Song about mother's love, Fishermen song, Song about women education, Song about poor were elicited and played with traditional music instruments. Children beautifully rendered their part singing happily, and in the mood what the song required. It was a meaningful, fun-tastic morning.

GALILEO SCIENCE CLUB



The important thing is to never stop questioning

Did you know: 19.05.2018: 20 Madurai seed children and 4 young people attended the



one-day **mega science workshop** organized as Big Bang- Science - A- thon of Let's make Engineering simple. LMES provided hands on experiments to give thorough **practical knowledge** in Science. What is a molecule, how sound waves travel, why we use liquid hydrogen as rocket fuel, how rockets fly high, and so many facts are discussed with kids by Prem Anand from LMES. At the end of the workshop, a science

kit was provided for kids. Mr. **Murugesan Krishnasamy** sponsored us for entry tickets. Madurai Seed kids grabbed this opportunity to learn and see what Science is, and how to apply it. The theoretical explanations in Tamil along with practical applications of many science facts proved a great experience to all.

Periscope Making: 23.05.2018: Children experimented the laws of reflection by making



Periscope with two plain mirrors fixed at 45° degree each at right angles in a thin cardboard box with two eyepieces on its two sides. Children learnt the principle behind **submarine** ships which use periscope with lenses and mirrors. Videos explained about periscope were screened. Children and young people framed the **instrument model**, glued its sides to form a rectangular box, fixed the mirrors at correct angles, cut and pasted the eyepieces, finally observed the

objects which are away from direct line-of-sight. They made it simply but enthusiastically, and curiously. They loved doing it using the science kit given away by LMES



Concept Learning: 29.05.2018: Key concepts in Basic Science discussed by Mr. **Sivakumar**, a teacher. Understanding the fundamentals helps to see how the whole universe functions. Children gained accurate explanations for science theorems & principles, observed illustrations using simple things. They interacted and perceived phenomena related to **Physics & Math** functions through this lecture.



Experimenting Science facts: 26.08.2018: Experiments, **power point presentation**, do you know? Q & A, facts and explanations, puzzles, and science related videos screened and presented by students from I to XII std of Madurai Seed. The stage gave them new learning experiences with answers of unknown everyday science facts. The participants involved in discussing science topics from their text book, **gathered sources** to demonstrate it, and finally presented it with photos and videos. The purpose of conducting science club activities for students is to motivate, think, imagine, communicate about fundamentals science. The interaction makes them build confidence, grow their scientific knowledge, filter their shyness and fear, and so boost their interests towards Science. Various topics were discussed, demonstrated, and explained by students.



Science Seminars: 27.08.2018: Teaching volunteers of Madurai Seed gave seminars on various topics like Rocket **science**, Airplane **technology**, Water transport **system**, bicycle science, hazardous **effects** of plastics, food colouring chemicals and its effects, science in food, involuntary actions of human mind, CPU and **functions** of computer, natural disasters, video editing **basics**, photography **techniques** and functions, and some common basic science questions were presented with videos, photos series. We really appreciate the teaching volunteers of Madurai Seed for wonderful presentations.



Levitation: 08.09.2019: Mr. **Muruges** has brought a device along with him. It has a globe and electromagnet unplugged. When he passed electricity to the device, a magic happened, the globe floated. Children exclaimed when he explained that it's not a magic, it's called "Levitation". As the globe has a magnet in it, and the device has **electromagnet** in it, both generates two opposite forces resulting the globe to float in mid-air. The biggest application of it is **Maglev trains** which is under process in China, Germany. Maglev levitation's principle, uses, examples were presented by him with clear explanations. Videos on levitation principle, maglev trains were screened. It was followed by another session on future technology of development in which he discussed about 3D printing, Artificial Intelligence, Driverless Cars, IOT, Electric vehicles.



Brain games: 24.09.2018 – Morning: Workouts for brain: Children actively involved in doing puzzles, word building, word scramble, word connection, emoji connection, and lateral **thinking exercises**. They have participated in these challenges with much enthusiasm in small groups. Quick answers came from young children, when older grade children stretching their brain. Team playing yielded answers. Brain trainers and psychological experiments were really an "edujoyment" for them while playing on screen with iPad.



Sweetness of Maths: 24.09.2018 - Evening: Who dislike Mathematics? Almost 80% hands raised before the session. Volunteer **Venkatesh** facilitated this session to wire the children's mind in favour of Mathematics. He introduced many short cut methods for multiplication, finding square roots. He showed the time difference between traditional and **short cut method**. He asked children to come forward and do Maths in the blackboard. At first children hesitated to come, later there was competition between children to go forward. He also asked Maths and **lateral thinking** puzzles. Many of the puzzles were answered by children. We hope the bitterness and fear towards Mathematics will be eradicated through fun and activity-oriented learning.



Moon Watching: 20.10.2018: Galileo Science Centre, Theni organized this event at Teppakulam, Madurai on a full moon day. They set up two telescopes there, and posters about moon and its connection to earth and the sun. The program is to bring awareness about science among public. Madurai Seed children took part in the event and watched moon **through telescopes**. Elavarasi helped in setting up the telescope. Many children, men, woman from public watched moon on that day through telescope.

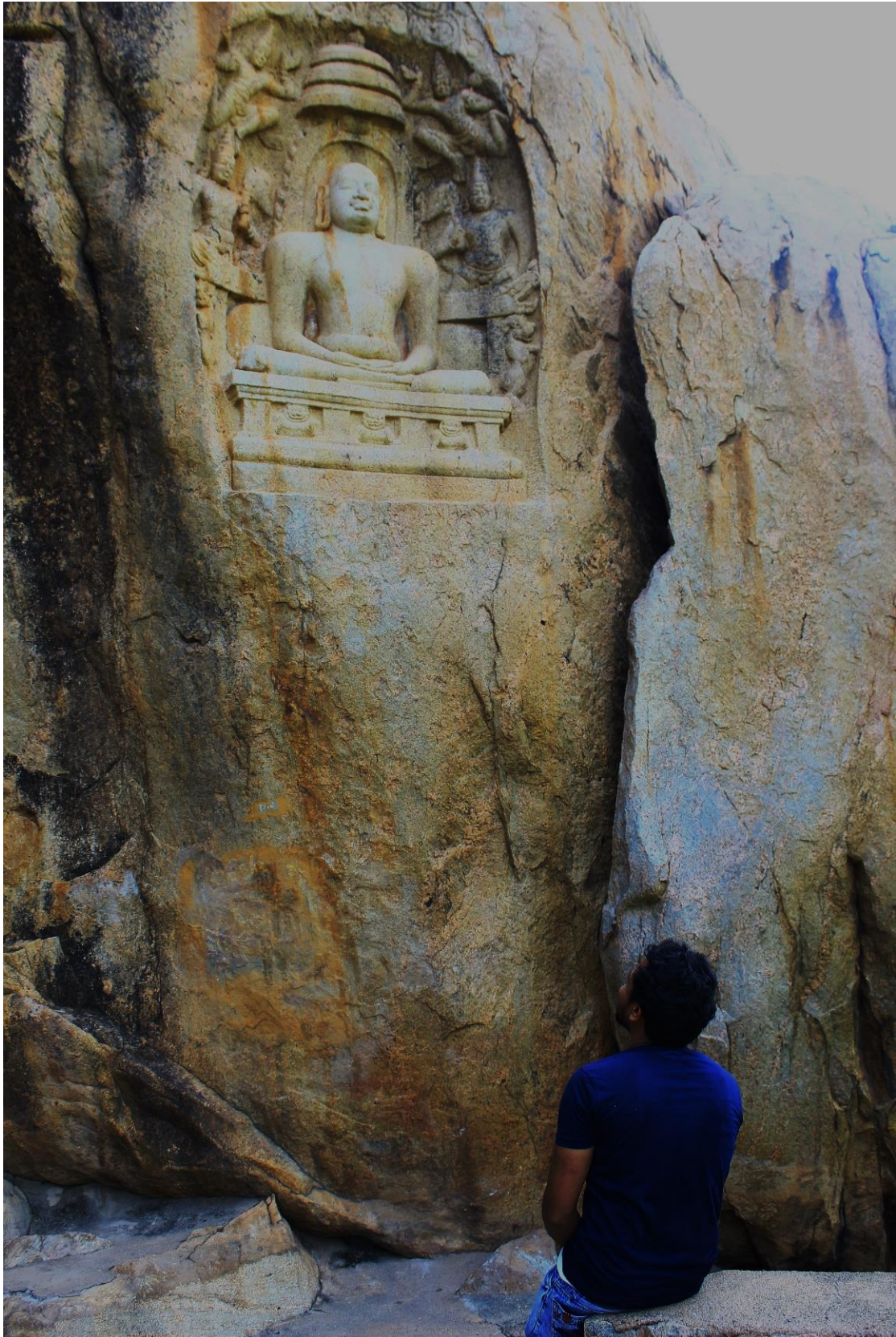


Robotics Basics: 16.11.2018: As far as we have seen robots only in movies, Galileo Science club of Madurai Seed provided answers for: what is robotics, why robotics, how robots execute different functions automatically, what are its components, its types and fields we use. Ms. **Jeyapriya from INSPA**, Chennai screened slides and videos on robotics. She started with brief note on chip, program, motors, locomotion of a robot. The applications of robot technology, types of robots were understood through videos of her. Interaction let them know about **humanoid, non-humanoid** robots, sensors in robots, and robot types based on locomotion. The functional parts like actuators, sensors, chassis, power source, controller were directly shown to children with her autonomous bot kit. A **line follower robot** was operated, distance and obstacle sensor in it driven children crazy for robotics. In the end, they assembled a humanoid robot and surprised when it moved with its big eyes, and mechanical arms.

Science Screening: 17.11.2018: Short presentations about cyclones were given by children. They enacted small **skits** about natural disasters. **Videos** explaining the recent cyclone Gaja, low atmospheric pressure, and **weather** facts were screened. News about life loses, habitat loses, and cultivation loses were explained to children. Children get to know about the facts about **natural disasters**, climate change, environmental aspects. We prayed for the quick recovery of cyclone affected areas.



Simple Experiments: 11.01.2019: Urs was assisting Elaa in the science lessons for the younger students. They were working on **maths puzzles** to train basic operations, science experiments - such as making the fire of a candle go out when deprived of oxygen - and also raised awareness of **environmental issues** (especially plastic waste) through role plays.



*The arts and humanities teach us
what we are and what we can be*

Three Fruits Day: 26.04.2018



about them. Madurai Seed kids as a family had fruits served on a large banana leaf!

Drama presentations about the origin, health benefits, cultural importance, nutritional profile, food varieties provided a wealthy information about three fruits "Mukkani" - **Mango, Jackfruit, & Banana**. Children got to know about its values and why it is considered in prayers, and serving guests. Additional details were googled by themselves. Summer season is meant to be for these fruits to share, taste with friends. **Drama** presented by three groups gave lots of facts

History and Geography about Indonesia: 22.04.2018



architecture brought the unknown facts of Indonesia to our kids. The marvellous stupas in the world's largest Buddhist temple Yogyakarta, the outstanding architecture of 224 smaller shrines in Pramanan in Java, mosques, the depiction of epics through puppetry and plays were unique to know the Hindu-Buddhist-Islamic tradition of Indonesia. The details about each part of Indonesia were not just sprinkled but instilled in the kids with knowledge about the culture, map routes, tradition, religious harmony, and environment aspects.

Murugesan -Viji shared their travel experiences about Indonesia in an educative and informative mode for kids. Their sessions created curiosity to learn history and geography. Children were introduced to loads of information about this Asian nation. Discussion went on for 90 minutes with the pictures of **Indonesia's volcanoes, salty beaches, traditions, the oldest temples, jungles**. Videos about the Green school in Bali, the house built up with bamboo sticks, drama, puppetry were screened in the session and the

Witness Festival: 26. 04.2018



and joy.

Madurai seed young people and kids of 40 numbers witnessed culture specific **Chithirai festival**. It has been celebrated annually which unites people from various parts. Children experience the traditional local festival enjoying **dance, music, songs** in the large procession. They find it interesting to hear the tales and beliefs behind this celebration. There are child-friendly spots with Ferris wheel & amusing fun areas. Also, it is the best day to eat out with friends and their teacher volunteers with more excitement

Exhibition Visit: 15.05.2018



Chithirai Government Exhibition at Tamukkam Ground showcased **stalls** of various departments like income-tax, agriculture, co-operate society, weaving, environment, and road safety. Those departments' schemes, policies, events, and activities for the public were displayed in the exhibition. Children visited there could understand the government and private sectors' major roles in people's economic and life well-being through **developmental activities**. Children and young people visited stalls, read bulleted points and observed models in the displays, understood concepts and activities of various departments. In the end, they had fun at the play area of the exhibition.

Boon or Ban: 27.05.2018



Videos on Sterlite, Neutrino researches, Methane and hydrocarbon projects in Tamil Nadu screened for children and young people to convey both the developmental, industrial, scientific aspects and **hazardous effects** to health and environment. Discussions about it carried followed with questions about the issues related to deforestation, exploitation of natural resources, land, water, and air pollution. Political and **environment awareness** was created.

Heritage Walk: 17.06.2018



Anand, Arun, Prem, Srinath, Vicky and Intern Thurcga went to Varichiyur for a **Jain circuit** visit. It is a village placed in Madurai East Block of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. Over there, they visited one of the ancient centres of Jainism dating back to 2200 years old. Firstly, we saw the rock cut temple (called also as Udayagirishwar temple), this cave temple is dated to **8th century AD**. Then the guide, showed us another temple, explained to us that these caves are considered important because they are among the earliest **stone inscriptions** in the region.

History and Geography about France: 17.06.2018



Intern Thurgga had talked about France to children and young people. Important points were mentioned are **national symbols** of France, the culture, and geography. She showed them many pictures of famous monuments in France, some videos on **important festivals** in France and also the French specialties in the field of **gastronomy**. Students spotted and shared their views, asked about education, sports, transport, people, food and culture

in the end of her session.

History and Geography about Sri Lanka: 24.06.2018



Intern Thurgga gave a seminar on Sri Lanka. She explained about the different cultures in Sri Lanka: **Tamil and Sinhalese** culture. She started with a brief introduction about the country, mentioning essential points such as the capital, the languages, the symbols, the currency. Then She showed them pictures of famous **tourist places**. As Sri Lankan Tamil culture does not really differ from Tamil Nadu culture, I decided to focus more on Sinhalese

culture. I showed them photos and videos of Sinhala specialties in terms of gastronomy, their famous traditional dance, their martial art called as Angophora, their way of dressing. The island hosts countless natural and historical treasures such as temples and fortresses.

History and Geography about Pondicherry: 30.06.2018



Continuous Seminars in June about various places nationally and internationally provided much information to the Children and young people. Thurgga from France shared her latest visit to Pondicherry for its unique beauties. Photo series of **French style** buildings, temples, churches, clean roads, beach, Bharathi Park screened with details of its structure and history by her. The **Colonialism** of French, the French education institution,

memorials, the Bastille Day celebration of French people, everything about the lifestyle of Tamils and French people was beautiful and surprising. Videos of the **Union territory** with its wide functions in fisheries, surfing, tourism, typical food were screened by Thurgga.

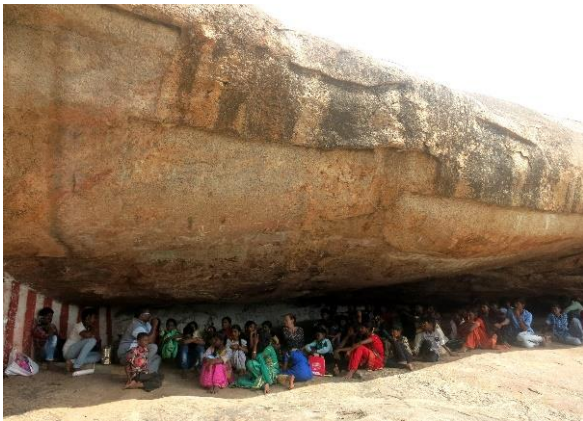
History and Geography about Vietnam: 10.07.2018: Madurai Seed encourages children



to learn about new cultures, people, and politics of various countries. Melli Annamalai introduced the **communist country** Vietnam after some motivating questions to the students. The border countries, emblem, buildings and temples, the rich and wide varieties of religions, spoken languages and script, the influence of China and India over Vietnamese people, and everything about this charming land was explained by her **United States-Vietnam war**, communism in

Vietnam and Chinese trade and support for Vietnam were added political information for the observers.

Heritage Visit: 22.07.2018: Children and young people visited **historic** important



monument, scriptures, rock cut temple, Jain beds in Kunnathur-Varichiyur, Madurai. Children climbed the **hillock** with ease and enthusiasm. Andrea Wilson, a Swiss volunteer also joined in the trip. It was partly becoming spoken English practice for children. Everybody enjoyed the fresh air and tranquillity of the place. A small pond, ruined **sculptures**, a brick wall at the top of the hill gave the place life. A small trip gave a big motivation for all. We recharged ourselves.

DAM construction: 25.08.2018: The importance of dam, its working and benefits and



disadvantages were explained with power point presentation for children and young people. The very **essential benefits** of building dams like hydroelectric generation, irrigation, flood control, recreation. The **disadvantages** include deforestation, migration of people was provided in detail with pictures. Videos on how dams are built, the history of oldest dams in India, types of dams, and every parts of dams were discussed in the session. Following that, scavenger hunt on

science facts created for five different groups to develop their sense of searching and finding results. They read questions on big screen, discuss for answers with their group, find and shout the answer aloud taking marks/stars with them.



occasion happy and peaceful. Stalin and Gowthami from Cuckoo forest school, brought a big shopper bag full of traditional candies for kids of Madurai Seed. Their "Karupatti Kadalai mittai" has rich peanut, sesame, multi grain varieties of candies specially produced to bring mother way traditional snack for children.

An interaction: 13.09.2019: Ms. **Kavitha Jagadeesan** interacted with children about their hobbies, and the importance of reading books. Also, she educated them in brief about **good touch and bad touch**, and how can we protect ourselves from abuse. She emphasised on escaping from abuse, reporting abuse, and staying safe. Wasim conducted some fun games for all which energized them to spend the



Life skills Training: September to December 2018: Thalir Thiran Thittam (TTT) of Aparajitha Foundation which imparts life skill lessons to children in various schools. Here in Madurai Seed, we organize TTT classes with the books given by them and using audio visual aids, young people provide lessons on self-awareness, communication, decision making, and **Interpersonal skills**. Positive behavior, good manners, polite talks, kind actions are important

life skill to be acquired which our teacher volunteers Vindhiya & Viji carried out. They role played, and elicited answers, discussed points on developing good manners and being polite to all in public, school, and occasions. Volunteers Kaleeswari and Makkathu Nilavu taught children the life skill lesson on **creative thinking**. They learnt various strategies and ways to implement them in their daily life. It was very interactive and insightful. Madhan and Surya took an important topic emphasizing **etiquette and time management**. Sathish and Vasanth discussed interpersonal and intra personal skills in which children performed short skits on how to communicate and maintain good relationship with elders and peer groups.



About Switzerland and India: 08.01.2019: Katrin and Urs from Switzerland talked about their country's **landscapes, festivals, culture, climate, languages, education system, famous products, cuisine** etc. They also screened pictures and explained things. They also elucidated parallel information about India, Madurai from children. It was a great comparison and interaction.

VANMUGIL CULTURAL CLUB



*The performing arts tend to unify people
in a way nothing else does*

Thumbi Theater Festival First Day

30.01.2018 at Sevalayam Hostel



With a political awareness play, Madurai Seed children shared message making the adults aware of the current issues they come across. Staging this **play** for second time, audience applauded hugely for the script and acting of the team. The Cuckoo forest School team presented Mr. Madhiazhagan's **mono-act** to the children. His words always carry environmental message which make children to be aware of it. A story narration about a little girl's temptation for honey makes her country green resulting rain and crop yielding land. He sang **songs** letting kids think and live Eco-friendly. Madurai Seed **Oyillattam** team dancers gave a lively



performance to the audience. Children from the Nandanar Hostel, brought Zoo animals live through **Shadow Puppetry** with music and voice at the background. In the end, Vasim made everyone **dance** and sing for Move and freeze song. We thank Cuckoo Forest School Team and Sevalayam



Thumbi Theater Festival Second Day

31.07.2018 at Othakadai Government Primary School



Children of Madurai Seed staged a play called "Idhu yaar Kombu", directed by Mr.Thilak Rajan, which is about the rights of common public. The play begins telling the dictatorship of king suppressing the freedom of thoughts, speech, and act of people by using their ignorance. An awareness play for all. It left **strong message** to act bold and brave instead of having a herd mentality. The play ends when the public over rule the king. Songs, music, comical dialogues, script enthralled the audience of the school in Othakadai. Another performance by **Mr. Madhialagan** created fun and happy mood with strong environmental message about the harming results of plastics. His "Monkey and Man", set children's mind to make the surrounding with no plastics. The children of **Othakadai school** performed a short skit and a beautiful song received applause.

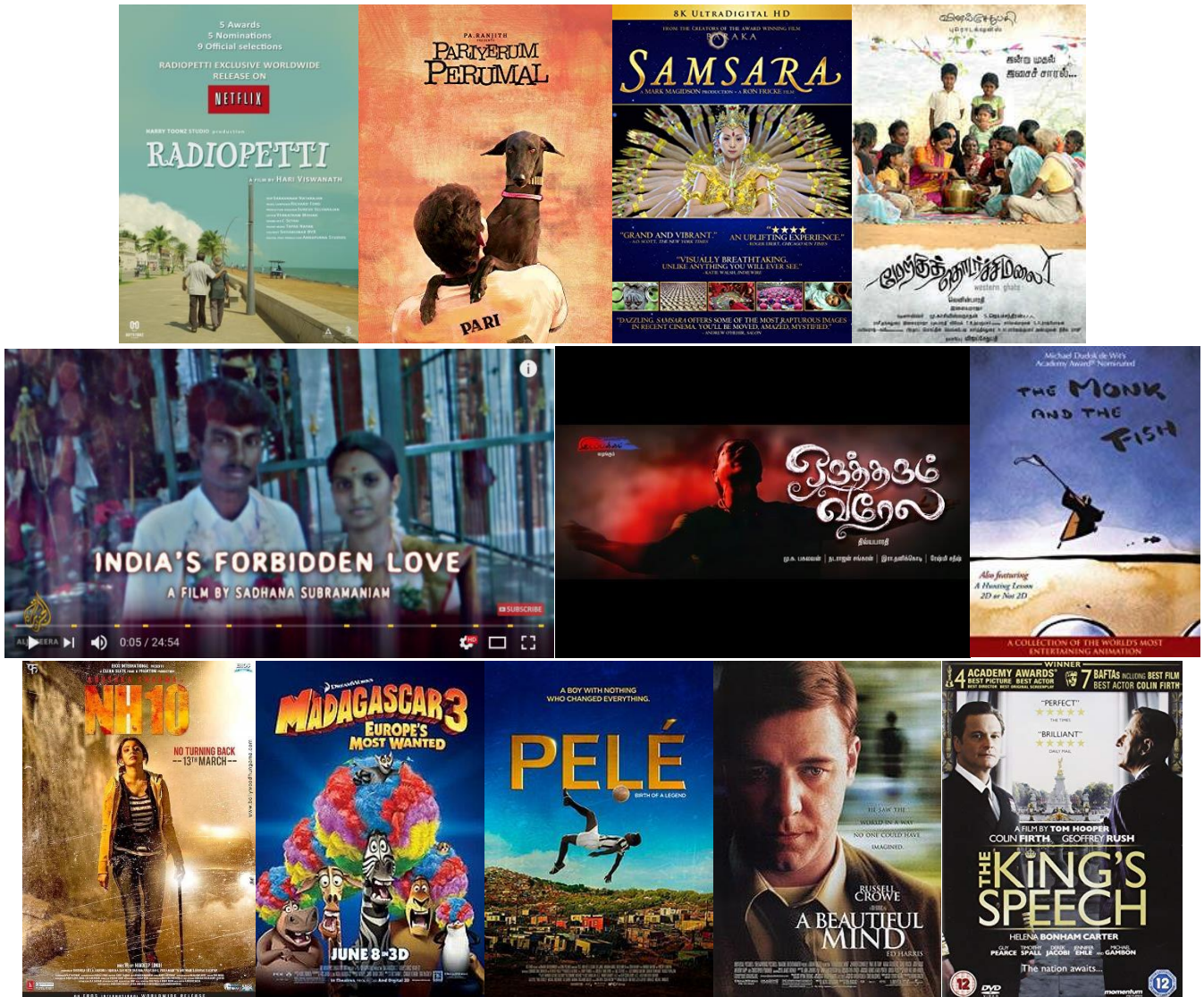
Food Festival: 01.10.2018



The important life skill that help children understand cooking is not only mothers' activity. Together children explore food, **prepare healthy dishes**, taste salt/spice proportion, cook and try their own recipe. Each one in teams takes responsibilities to collect, mix and grind, and garnish the recipe, selling it, collecting money and doing profit loss calculation in the Food festival. **15 varieties** of food, traditional beverages, and snack were cooked and sold for public in Karumbalai. The profit

from the Food festival organized by Vanmugil Cultural Club of Madurai Seed was spent for sport meet activity at nearby elementary school children hostel.

Screenings



Films provide a joyful learning, and extends one's exposure, emotions, and understanding of the world. We screen age appropriate movies and conducts a discussion after that. We show documentaries, short films, cartoons, and feature films. The movies they watch are, mostly no where they will get chance to watch.

SUVADUGAL SPORTS CLUB



*Do you know what is my favorite part of the game?
The opportunity to play*

We believe Sports help children develop physical skills, get exercise, make friends, have fun, learn to play as a member of a team, learn to play fair, and improve self-esteem.



MADURAI SEED Sports Meet

Sports Meet Indoor Games: 28.09.2018 & 30.09.2018

Sports Meet Outdoor Games: 29.09.2018 & 28.10.2018

Children were divided into **four groups** Master Blasters, Miracle Squad, Rocky Riders, and Almost Winners. There were 15 children in each group. Major group games, traditional games, fun informal games, and individual athletics were conducted. Each volunteer took incharge to a particular event. We make sure everyone is participating regardless of age and gender. The outdoor games were conducted at Chathrapatti village and Sundaram Park. The team “**Rocky Riders**” bagged the Champion’s rolling trophy.

Apart from the annual sports meet, the club organizes indoor and outdoor sports events in the nearby parks and grounds during weekends and other holidays.





Sports Meet at Children Hostel: 17.11.2018

The children are of young age studying in the hostel due to family circumstances. 4 volunteers conducted the sports meet for **half day** and provided refreshments and **snacks**. They conducted informal group **games** divided the children in age-wise groups. Children enjoyed the physical activities very much. Our children also told stories and taught songs to them.



Sports Meet in Boys Hostel: 18.11.2018

12 Madurai Seed volunteers planned and conducted the sports meet. Children were divided into groups according to their age. There were totally **3 group games** and **4 individual games** were conducted. Kabadi and Volleyball were the highlight of the program. Children were participated with eager and motivation. The team spirit was high. The senior students in the hostel said they don't experience any sports meet in the past years. They requested to conduct this type of sport meet every year. Finally, the scores were announced.

The **prizes for sport meet** participants were distributed. The hostel warden and our Director A.S.Karthikbharathi distributed the prizes. As they are hostel students, we have given them daily use things such as coconut oil, comp, bathing soap, washing soap, plastic mug, towels. They can have individual daily-use things. The idea was very much appreciated by Warden. Not only the winner, all participants were given prizes.

ANNAI MEDICAL CLUB



Medical club of Madurai Seed undertakes various healthcare activities for children. It assists children to lead a healthy lifestyle by encouraging them to do **brain gym**, and Surya Namaskars (**yoga**) during every evening. Madurai Seed promotes eating **healthy snack** while interval time in centres. We provide traditional and delicious peanut candy, millet snacks, fruits and ragi porridge during events and camps.

The food festival during semester holidays bring them knowledge nutritious food and snack items with less budget and less prep-time. Young people gave **session about** healthy mind in a healthy body, good touch bad touch, emotional wellbeing, importance of sleep and physical activities, junk foods and its effects for children. Medical club also functions as health club in the way of **sports** activities, weekly fitness and brain exercises.

The small living shelter, and parents' less caring in Karumbalai demotivate children but Madurai Seed Medical club representatives help to raise every child **emotionally** and **physically** healthy.

SUMMER CAMP



*Most of my fondest memories are during
summer camp of Madurai Seed*

Vasantham Summer Camp

"I have learned so much, exposed to learn in new atmosphere, came outside my small world to learn new things, and love doing it while enjoying a lot of life skills activities in Vasantham Mugam of Madurai Seed." - Vindhiya, a volunteer.

Madurai seed takes much pride in the commitment it has with the development of education, life skills and personality of children & young people. Apart from regular classes, Dance, drama, music, storytelling, crafts making, are some of the few skills they develop during weekend leisure hours. Summer is a long vacation for students and summer camp is another way to get away from regular chores and learn life skills.

The objective of Vasantham Summer Camp

- To spend the holidays useful
- To let them feel the togetherness
- To kindle their creative minds
- To enable them search and find their inner potentials
- To develop leadership skills
- To feel free from usual household and school works
- To be independent at all their personal works
- To build their self-esteem
- To give them exposure through resource persons
- To keep them active and participating in all activities by trashing their fear and shyness
- To provide them with a positive experience of living and learning independently.
- To yield productive youth with volunteering capabilities
- To encourage peer interactions
- To give them safe and fresh outdoor experiences

"I have been taken part in ten summer camps of Madurai Seed and every time I take camp memories which are packed with lots of fun and new learning experiences. Also, it has brought the best out of me" - Vicky

Camping place:

The 20th **Vasantham** Camp was designed for seven days. The first three days was organized in **Vandugal arangam** of Madurai Seed in Karumbalai. The next three days camp was residential in **CESCI**, and the final valedictory day was held in IGSR hall, **Gandhi Museum**.



Life at camp: Camp life is different from usual weekend learning in centers as we take children for residential stay outside Madurai. Usual days in camp make children to see the wonders a day has like early wake up, walking aisle of trees, Shradhana – physical work, exercises, breakfast under bamboo roofs, assembly, warm up activities, input sessions, life

skills learning sessions, continuing learning for the whole day with tea snack, lunch, cultural evening, dinner, songs, and days end in bed time chats before midnight



Major areas of skills focused: Summer camp focuses to recognize and enrich the hidden talents and skills of children. Schools' curriculum, family's work uploads have to be swiped out from campers' mind to let them get interests and motivated. Every camp being organized to create a spark and bring the best in them. As far as, Madurai Seed has organized

19 camps both in residential and local, where skills and personality building sessions carried out to equip the little hands.



Inaugural Day: 04.05.2019: Short films screening: Ar **Meyyammai**, a journalist and children leaders inaugurated the Vasantham Summer Camp 2018 with great enthusiasm. The chief guest spoke about values, freedom in speech and thoughts, which they can develop from student hood. Short films made by Madurai Seed children and young people were

screened. 4 fabulous original concept films and 2 re-make **short films** were directed by young people in which our children are the actors. The films were shot in Madurai Seed premises and street. They took just one day to discuss the theme, cast, script and filmed it. Also they learned the screenplay and techniques in making films. Guest appreciated them for the short films. It has been uploaded in our website.



Meyyammai appreciated and gave feedback on the films. She also told stories from her professional and educational life, which were very **interesting** and **inspiring**. The summer camp in Madurai Seed has started with much energy and enthusiasm. Karthik Bharathi, the president of Madurai Seed excited to welcome the children to the camp and to

stretch their intellect and creativity he talked about the various areas like music, dance, theatre, art, story time, games, outdoor exercises, drama, movie screening the campers going to do explore in the camp.

Second Day: Coconut Leaf Toys and Crafts : 05.05.2018



Art from palm leaves. Making art out of nature using palm fronds, transforming ordinary leaves into birds, animals, things, into works of art was enjoyable and meaningful for the campers. Creating handicrafts involve patience, concentration & takes a little more time, the happiness it gives in the end of one's own creation is limitless. It teaches them to handle it carefully, concentrating deep in doing the work, joy while doing it, understanding the measurements & science behind it, introducing novelty into it, bringing cool things from one single palm leaf, garnishing these traditional handicrafts. They made simple handmade **toy fan, bug, wrist watch, fish, humming birds, ring, bangle, man, crown, parrot, flowers**, and these play things brought real happiness in them what other kids miss it in front of gadgets. Impossible to find the joy in money bought things, they loved and enjoyed the palm leaf



crafts session given by teacher Mr. **ThilakRajan**. The importance of palm tree, and how it make useful to others by its leaves, fruits, and as wood was taught during the whole day. Lunch and snack was provided to all.

Third Day: Origami: 06.05.2018



“Five men wearing different type of hat lifted two baskets of fruits into two ships, a crane and a crow were watching it”. Just we are trying to narrate a story line with the origami arty crafts of children done in the second day of the camp. How Rocket science use origami paper folding techniques and deep understanding of modern science and engineering with origami was provided in this lecdem of Mr. **Thiagasekar**, a teacher. He is an expert in Origami, explained the patterns through step by step procedures in making hats, star boxes, crane, ships, etc., It was interesting while mastering it also they heard the story of “**Sadako and the thousand paper cranes**” from the demonstrator. Children learned joyfully and took their own creative things home. Lunch and snack was provided to all.

“A Medley of theatre and performance arts”: 07.05.2018:



The first day in CESC started blossoming fresh fragrance of the campus. “Shradhana” – Campers understand Gandhian principle by devoting themselves to make surroundings clean. The warm up exercises made them for the entire day to be active and energetic. Karthikbharathi prepared the campers with an introduction about the mixture of life skills and personality developing **activities** planned for them. He introduced them the trainers Mr.

Thilakrajan, a teacher and Mr. **Murugan**, a professional traditional dancer. They formed three teams for **Oyillattam**, children’s play and shadow puppetry with 15-20 children in each. Library, hall, and auditorium in CESC camps were allotted for teams to practice. The whole day was dedicated for learning and it engaged them with much synergy. Cultural evening with fun games, dance, music, songs, and short skits energized their mind. The feedback session let the team members share their first day in CESC. After dinner, campers went to sleep in their rooms.

08/05/2018: The day started with freeze and move active and fun exercise. Then everyone



went for a **walk-through** trees and bushes around the nearby village. After refreshing and breakfast, camp songs sung by children in teams. Oyillattam training was given by teacher and artist Murugan. Children exercised a **shadow puppet show** with only song and music. Puppets were given a final touch. Elavarasi and Thilagarajan the sessions. Children play rehearsal and correction was done by Teacher Thilaga

Rajan and Vasim. Mrs. Jill Carr interacted with children about non-violence and peace. She conducted a few games to make them understand about non-violence. Kalagalavaguppari Siva and Nool Kodai Archana visited the camp and appreciated the children.

09.05.2018: The final day of our three days stay in CESC I looked like a valedictory day.



Elavarasi, Vasim, and Anand conducted fun **games** in the early morning, the day started with more light and laughter. Shadow puppetry, Oyillattam, and Children play got final **inputs** and were shaped by children with the trainers Murugan, Thilagarajan, and Elavarasi. Children in the play and Oyillattam got their costumes. In the evening Gandhian Activist P.V.Rajagopal, Mrs. Jill Carr, Friends of Ekta Parishad and CESC I, Thanaraj Anna, Senthamizh Selvi akka and other friends

visited the camp. Children explained the **camp experiences** to them and all the activities like Short films, Origami, Leaf folding art, play, Oyillattam, Shadow puppetry were staged for them. Everyone appreciated the children's potential and the camp output. We said bye to the CESC I campus and moved. A heavy rain welcomed us in Karumbalai.



Valedictory Day: 10.05.2018



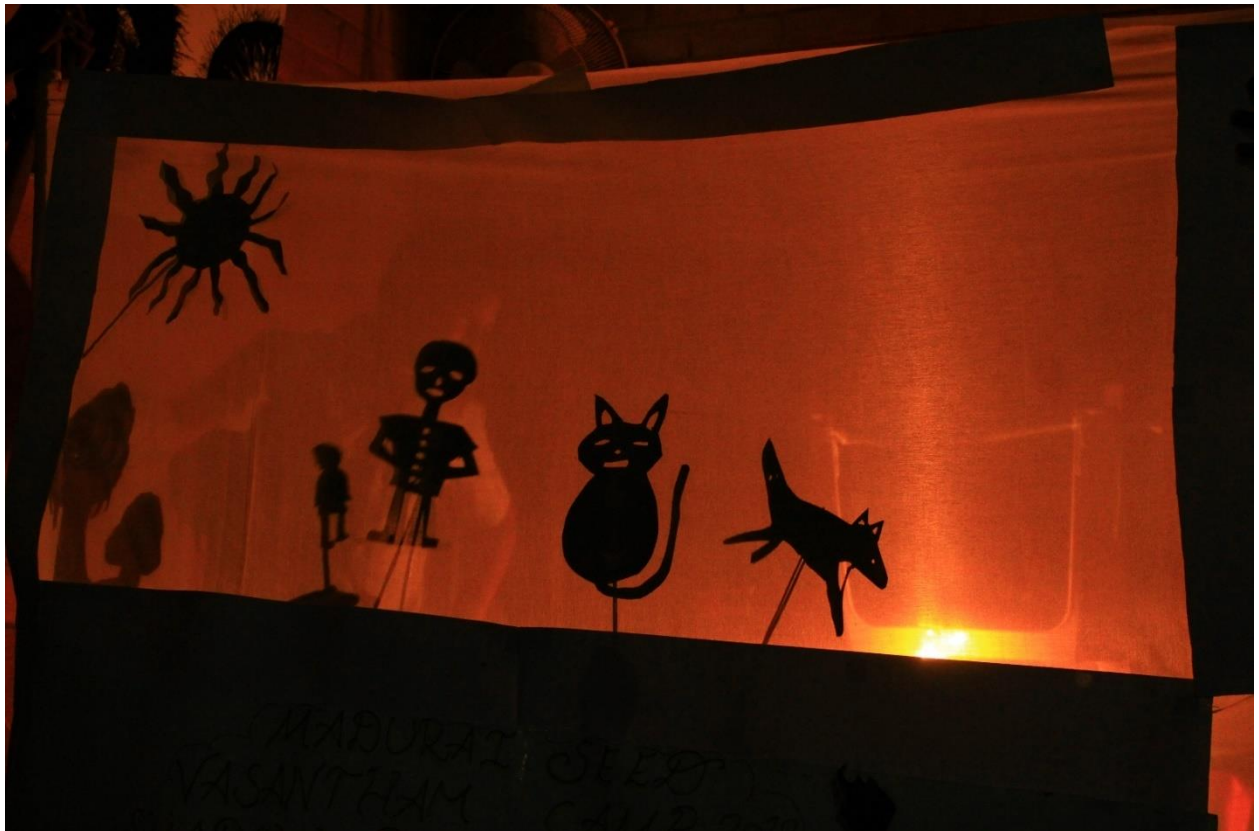
Children, their parents, guests, and some public were present in the final day of Vasantham camp organized in the IGSR Hall, **Gandhi Museum** in the evening. The whole artistic things made by children in the camp were showcased in the hall and children shared information behind creating palm leaf crafts, origami, Oyillattam, puppetry to the audience. After welcoming guests Prof. Dr. **Prabahar, Muruges & Viji**, the valedictory day events begin. Children and young people presented Oyillattam with traditional wear holding a small cloth. Their movements with the beats of oldest traditional musical instrument Mridungam caught the eyes of audience. “Idhu Yaar Kombu” – Who is our leader? – a political satire play performed by our children spreading awareness about common public’s rights, Children questioning adults through a play with dialogues, songs, message in the end received applause. The last show was shadow puppetry with white screen and spotlight behind it. Children enjoyed doing puppetry about a boy experiencing his visit to a zoo with his father. They narrated it through a song and music added flavor to it. All performers were honored by the guests with camp certificates and gifts. Trainers Mr. **Thilakrajan**, and Mr. Murugan were appreciated

& honored with gift money and shawls for bringing the best from children and youth. In the end, Karthikbharathi thanked everyone for witnessing children’s performance quoting that their presence was a big gift for them.





Creativity is intelligence having fun!



THEATRE ACTIVITIES & PLAY PRODUCTIONS



Theatre opens the door for children in every area of performing and visual arts

Play Production

Ithu Yaar Kombu? (Whose sceptor is this?)



Story Line: This is a **satirical** drama questions the unfruitful education system, corrupted politics, fake democracy, and over exploitation of natural resources. The drama incorporates games of children and story-telling method. The drama ends in a good note, the people are aware of exploitation by leaders and questions the crowd who is the good leader here? If individuals become good, everything will become good.

Direction: Thilagarajan, Tamil Teacher. Music and coordination were done by our volunteers. **13 children** acted in this drama among **6 are** girls.

Stages:

- 6th day of Vasantham Summer camp at CESC
- Valedictory day of Vasantham Summer Camp at Gandhi Museum
- Theatre Festival at Sevalayam Hostel
- Theatre Festival at Othakadai Elementary School
- Varichiyur Hill for Madurai Seed children and video shoot

Maanudam Vindrathu (Victory to humanity)



Story Line: Caste, Religious, and Language discriminations and intolerance result in the social unrest and threat to humanity. This drama has a social message of conquering the demons like caste, religion, and language **discriminations** with the help of unity and humanity. This play uses **“Traditional Koothu Theatre Form”** and songs as tools to communicate with the audience.

Direction : N.Rajakumar, Theater Teacher

Music : R.Radhakrishnan, Sports Teacher

Coordination: Thilagarajan, Tamil Teacher

18 children acted in this drama among **10 are** girl children.

Stages:

- Margazhi Utsav children carnival conducted by Madurai Seed
- S.M.Nagar, Karumbalai for public
- East Street near program office, Karumbalai for public
- Madurai Art Festival conducted by Kaleidoscope at Eco Park, Madurai

ART & CRAFTS



Being creative is not a hobby, It's a way of life



25.04.2018: Paper Building Blocks activity for the engineering minds of Madurai Seed. Newspapers cut, folded, pasted, made into triangles and square patterns, glued together forming a perfect strong base, measured and built in different styles. Making **art from waste** develops fine motor skills of kids, brings them what and how difficult is to create things through generating new ideas. Children enjoyed doing this activity, young people guided them. Happily

posing from their newly built newspaper shelter! It's a fun way to help brain experimenting Math, & Physics practically.



26.09.2018: Children and young people explored hand painting series of Italian **artist "Mario Mariotti"** from his book **Hanimals**. They painted their hands with colors and with a perfect hand gesture it looked like an animal like elephant, giraffe, crocodile, rooster, zebra, snake, owl, etc. Before painting they practiced the hand postures and matched with the shadows for perfect hand and finger position. A photoshoot was conducted by volunteer Vicky and Anand at the end of the session.



28.09.2018: Children learned black board line drawings. Volunteer **Vigneshwaran** facilitated this session. They tried different face reactions, hair styles, faces, professions, animals, and things in **line drawing**. Though it seemed simple, it requires some practice and more creativity. They also tried to draw 2D images in paper. From 6 years to 17 years, everyone participated in this session, enjoyed and learned the basics.

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE



They need guidance more than instruction...

Orientation for new educational year: Dream, Believe and Achieve



On 04.06.2018, The first day of this **academic year** began with the motivational speech of **Siva Raj** from the Cuckoo Forest School. When we hear the speech of people who made remarkable changes in society, we feel the positive vibration and hope. Life turned meaningful for him when he was encouraged by his teacher. He shared the **success**

stories of people who defied the odds and achieved in spite of physical and economical challenges. He wished and actuated the children and young people for a successful year with his team members.

Guidance meeting for children and parents:



On 07.07.2018, children with their parents received their educational scholarship, before an elaborate meeting was conducted by Trustees **Mariammal** and **Karthikbharathi**. In the meeting, they encouraged parents to support their children's dream and advised not to stress and demotivate children by marks and exams. Children were advised on

various college and **educational opportunities**.

12th, 11th, and 10th class exam guidance



On 27.02.2019, On 04.03.2019, On 12.03.2019, on three different days for 3 classes before the commencement of annual exams, guidance was given to the students. Volunteers talked about how to plan and make use of study holidays effectively, answer sheet presentation, **study habits** and tips. They are provided with **exam kits**.

TEACHER TRAINING



By learning you will teach... By teaching you will learn

Training on phonemic awareness: September 2018



Rajendran, a Linguist and has years of experiences as an English teacher has trained our young people in teaching English **alphabets** and **phonemes** to children. He is trying to create a module which will help children who can't identify alphabets, sounds and support in their reading skills. Young people got their introductory class, dos and don'ts while teaching the material, and tips. The training will further develop week by week and the follow-ups will be monitored. He took **06 hours** of training to **young people** and **04**

hours of classes to **children** in the months of September 2018.

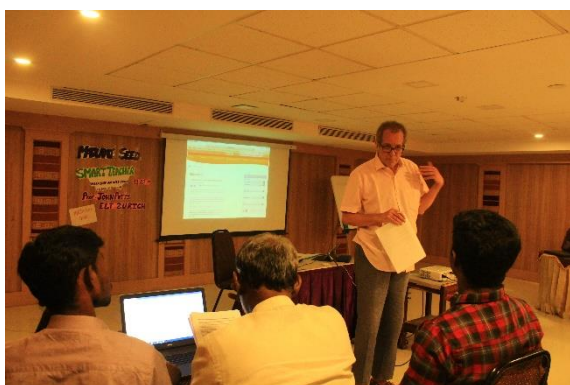
Strategies for teaching English: 22.01.2019



This workshop focused on implementing writing skills, checking grammar using concept questions and meanings, and spoken communication and fluency needed for an English classroom. **Keith & Nick**, English teachers from Zurich piloted this one-day workshop for teacher trainee from **Thiagaraja College of Preceptors** and Madurai seed young people. Method of correcting students' test papers using symbols, writing skills lessons to produce exact vocabulary, lessons on checking the understanding

of pupils, **teaching tenses** using timelines were illustrated by Keith Rossborough & Nick. Workshop enabled participants to explore methodologies and competencies in teaching English. Active involvement of students was the highlight of this workshop, where they were provided with online resources, and strategies for teaching English

Workshop on Web Tools for teaching English: 13.02.2019



SMART teacher workshop presented by Prof. **John Potts**; an ELT from Zurich focused on bringing technology into classroom. No teachers come out from classroom with dust of chalk piece on hands once they start using web tools, as it has plenty of resources for teaching English. The participants are teachers, students from various schools, and colleges. They were given hands on experience in utilizing **internet** for students. Guided to log in web tool links, created study sets, clarified doubts while using it, and on the spot,

they started to explore tools like **quizlet**, **EVP**, **google file**, and so on. All resources were reliable, free and some pay for and practicable for teachers to use. The whole day workshop insisted Explore-Learn-Teach using web tools for a smart teacher who updates her/his knowledge to innovate new methodology in classroom.

EXPERIENTIAL TEACHING AND LEARNING

Trainers: Ms. Arthy, Ms. Kala, Ms. Shruthi, Ms. Jayashree from **Nandavanam**, Chennai

Trainee: Teacher volunteers of **Madurai Seed** & Students of **Thiagaraja college of Preceptors**



Madurai Seed has a mixed group of children with slow bloomers more in numbers than others. Our teacher volunteers help in all way to achieve reading, writing and arithmetic ability of every child. Supporting them for making lesson plans, materials, study sets through resource persons ensure quality teaching and learning process. Experiential Teaching workshop was organized for **25 members** from Madurai Seed and Thiagarajar College of Preceptors college under three modules for six days in Kaleidoscope and TCP college. The **six-day module** is all about understanding and experiencing the processes involved in learning.

1st Module: 8th – 9th, December 2018

- Introduction to the training program.
- Understanding child development.
- Role of physical movement in learning.
- Understanding of learning various learning styles and its uses in teaching.
- Role of memory and attention, it application.

2nd Module: 23rd– 24th, February 2019

- Understanding the difference between skill, content and knowledge.
- How to develop reading skills.
- How to develop writing skills.
- How to develop study skills.

Some of the teaching strategies discussed in the workshop.

- Teaching **Mathematics** in a fun and interesting way for children. Ms. Arthy put forth the solutions to overcome Math difficulties and she emphasized on tricks, shortcuts for doing Math fast.
- Integrating **Multiple Intelligence** in classroom teaching, implementing MI strategies to find out particular strengths of a student, applying MI through skits, rhymes, & story telling for Kinesthetic learners, activities to use MI theory while teaching were introduced to participants by the resource persons.
- The module on **Language skills** and study sets carried out by Ms. Sathya, provided strategies for breaking complex lessons into simpler using different teaching methodologies like fish-bone method, web, pictorial, venn diagram & linear methods.
- The role of **memory**- short term, active working and long term and attention & its applications were illustrated by her with examples. Participants were displayed with information on **VAKT** - Visual, Auditory, Tactile and Kinaesthetic which connects all sensory of a child.
- Mrs. Kala, elucidated the **child's development** phases and teacher's role in it & gave a presentation about child's 7 life processes.
- **Life curve** about the impacts of experiences in early life and its consequences in later adulthood, generalization concept for quick leaning, importance of play and exercises, movements in learning, were presented by Mrs. Shruthi. Ms. Arthi presented interactive teaching sets under linking, stimulating and organizing. Participants learned about categorization, organization, classification and connection. Also, she discussed solution for difficulties in learning English.



The whole workshop was a power packed module full of **strategies, activities, exercises** for teaching children who needs special care for their studies. It was very useful and productive in understanding various learning styles and its uses in teaching. Enormous energy, loads of interesting lessons, fun filled activities

provided the participants a huge confidence in teaching process. Certificates were provided for everyone at the end of the workshop thanking Mr. **Micky**, Dr. **Prakash**, Ms. **Arthi**, Mr. **Muruges-Viji**.

ENGLISH CLASSES



We should teach in a way a child can learn...



children's English skills with worksheets.

Thurgga English Classes: Thurgga, a law student from France volunteered in Madurai Seed during the whole June. She focused on **communication English** for children from 6th to 8th grade. Her classes involved children actively to participate in Verbal communication games and activities. She surrounded them with English songs, and lessons. Students read aloud, listened audio lessons, learned new words, kept practicing talking in short sentences. Before the last day, she evaluated



“Sindhbad’s Voyages”. She guided children to practice reading, and understanding the whole story of Sindhbad. Page by page she encouraged children to read along and discuss. They could find words’ meaning, spelling, pronunciation, and paraphrasing through her classroom activities.

Andrea English Classes: Andrea Wilson, an ELT from Zurich interacted with young people through English classes, workshops and during events taken Madurai Seed. On 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th Children from 5th to 8th grade stay tuned with Andrea since they are fond of listening and speaking to each other. Teaching English through stories fascinates children. Her classes provided a wonderful chance for children to read along



speaking & writing skills. Keith and Nick designed a workshop along with volunteers during the 2 hrs class on 19th Jan 2019.

Keith and Nick Classes: Keith Rossborough and Nick Bell, English Language Teachers from Zurich presented a class on **“How to improve vocabulary”**. This was a prior warm-up lesson for the next day’s workshop on the same topic. Keith and Nick evaluated every teacher volunteer’s skills in listening, speaking and writing by interacting with him/her on familiar topics. The teacher volunteers need more vocabulary to improve



Elavarasi English Classes: She teaches English and science to higher secondary students of Madurai Seed. Three evenings a week she gives English classes for **teaching volunteers**. Her lesson plans consist of English for interviews, English for classroom, English for competitive examination and spoken English activities and exercises. Oxford University Press books, Raymund Murphy's & online resources like One Stop English are used in classes for young people. Usage of gadgets, apps and BBC, British council's videos and activities in classes is interesting and encouraging to them. They are evaluated with set of comprehension, and speaking tests regularly.

Arun English Classes: He teaches English classes for children from **5th to 8th grade children** of Vergal Arangam. Most of the activities in classroom are intended to develop their spoken English. Reading and listening to short stories, grammar lessons, and exercises. Worksheets from online resources helps children to learn English language with interest. He used storyweaver.in.org in classes and used read along stories and other stories for reading practice. Also, from July to November 2018, Arun volunteered as English Teacher in Corporation



Boys High School at Sellur. He handled English classes to 6,7,8 classes. He taught English to students who can't read.

Spell Bee Competition: 26.09.2018: Spell Bee competition was conducted for 5 groups in



5 rounds. The groups had a mixture of age group from 6 to 18. Participants were given broad range of vocabulary from **two letter words** to **unfamiliar words**. The difficulty level was increased in each round. They were asked questions from random pages in book, newspaper, magazines, etc. A little time was given to learn, and then the questions were asked for children. Volunteers also eagerly took part in the session. This activity creates interest in

learning English and breaks fear and hesitation among the children. They take part actively spelling words aloud and correct.



Keep Training and Keep Learning ...



YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



Building our youth for the future . . .

French for Beginners: Basics of French was introduced by our intern Thircga from France.



learning it.

15 young people took part in her class. It was conducted one hour in the noon up to 15 hours. Greetings, General expressions, most common vocabularies, and question answers were taught. They had **little conversations** with Thircga and showed much interest in learning a beautiful language. Also, they watched a French movie and discussed. Thircga evaluated them by audio exercises and suggested online apps to continue

Writing a winning resume: 03.06.2018: Madurai Seed addresses the **career guidance** for



young people which they lack in schools and colleges. As Arunkumar has experiences in creating and designing resume, our volunteers got specific ideas, and rules in writing it. With some **resume formats**, he showed them how to write an attractive resume & what employers expect and get impressed from the resume. Guidelines to update resume, suggestions to highlight job skills in the resume, and tips on creating a resume with good vocabularies & neat presentation were discussed by Arun during the session.

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Writing a great resume: 01.07.2018: After finishing studies, the very important part is to



know writing a resume in one's own. **Murugesan** anna provided a wonderful workshop on writing a great resume. As the first impression it makes about the interviewer, step by step pattern, essentials to include in reverse chronological order, additional information to be highlighted, the functional and combinational writing style, ordering one's information, font sizes, introductions, what should and should not be included, etc., were explained through the presentation of Mr. Muruges. He also provided **tips on interview skills**. It was very useful for the young people.

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Effective communication for Job Interviews and Presentations Workshop:



On 29.07.2018, To gain confident, to overcome nervousness, to prepare and practice well and to face interview procedures, Madurai Seed trains young people through various resource persons. **Andrea**, an ELT from Switzerland conducted workshop on "Effective communication for Job Interviews and Presentations", in which she discussed important characteristics with key notes in the beginning of session, following that group

discussions on describing about current job, personal qualities, personal weakness, how to overcome a difficult situation, describing ambitions and achievements was done by her eliciting ideas from the participants. She elaborated what makes a **successful interview**, the use of functional language and vocabulary, and at last **role play** by the participants in groups provided abundance of information for interviews. Young people in groups had role play involving one as interviewee, another one as note taker, two as interviewers with set of questions. They experienced this mock interview useful and got feedback and appreciation from Andrea.

Workshop on writing stories and poetry: 13.01.2019



Katrin, an ELT facilitated the workshop with **Urs**, an IT professional from Zurich for Madurai Seed young people. Urs introduced the contents of the workshop and Katrin begun **Story writing** session by reading out a fable explaining what and how a story has to be written. She warmed minds up by showing a picture from Kerala flood, the participants were asked not to write real **story behind the picture**, but words in their own. And in few minutes, four stories for one picture came out

from participant writers. Again, teams got shuffled picture stories, arranged it in order, discussed with peers, framed the beginning, middle and end part of the pictures in sequence, wrote down a story and read it for all. By this way, they understood their **imagination** can be put into words and creativity can be carved in papers.

The part 2 of workshop was interesting, as it gave a very new experience for all. **Haiku poems**, rules and structure to write it, was delivered with examples by Katrin and Arun. Both read poems from Japanese and famous poets of English. It seemed a long thought process went on in the minds of participants as they recalled moments, grabbed vocabulary, wrote poetically, broke it into three-line haiku and finally they articulated it for peers. Everyone turned into a haiku poet in the end.

Workshop on Group Discussion: 10.02.19



The teacher volunteers of Madurai Seed were motivated to participate, and engage in group discussion through the workshop facilitated by Prof. **John Potts**, an ELT from Zurich. As they enter next level after studies for jobs, the workshop was structured to make them communicate in **interviews** and open **discussions**. It was also focused on areas like articulating

one's view, enabling one's thoughts to speak out, developing vocabulary list to discuss, and expressing structured and valuable points.



Useful **fixed expressions**, and content for communication were added to be well versed for GD. John sir began the workshop with **speaking activities** using a board game with quick topics to discuss about oneself which helped them in developing fluency. "What's the connection?" a game in which they had to find relation between the facilitator and the

facts given in a sheet of paper. This activity developed speculating and asking questions. Continuous two warm-up activity let each participant to ask for opinions, agreeing and dis-agreeing, giving comments/opinions in the **"paired up" discussion** session with A/B topics given.

The teams were provided with different A/B/C/D topics to discuss in group discussion session. Participants practiced standard form of expressions to use in GD and involved in final GD, observed and added points to remember for GD. The workshop strengthened our young people's skills for an effective GD. Little by little, the participants were brought to learn and practice language needed for a GD.

FIELD TRIPS



Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind

Palace Visit: 17.06.18



Children and young people around 14 members went to the Thirumalai Nayak Place in Madurai. It was a **sound and light show** in English. This show was established in 1981 and it tells the story of the King Thirumalai Nayak, his victories over the enemies, his sense of devotion to Goddess Meenakshi, his love for art. It is a such beautiful place, with great **architecture** blended with Italian style. We enjoyed a lot and we really liked the lights colours effects.

Jain Hills Visit: 24.06.2018



Madurai Seed young people had a refreshment bike trip to Samanar hills in Keelakuyilkudi village in the early morning. These hills are associated to **Jainism** with **Tamil Brahmi inscriptions**. They climbed the hills and explored the areas nearby. They were amazed by the beautiful view from the top. The Mahavira cave nearby the hills where they meditated, heard about the religion and their lifestyle, spent time walking, clicking nature's photos, synchronized mind and body

for a while in peace and love. It was not just for refreshing but also for knowing the heritage sites in Madurai and its values.

Theatre Experience: Children had edutainment in the **7D theatre** at the Mall, where they got amusing experiences in the motion seats and virtual creation with adventurous effects like Flying, skiing, and so on. It transported them to another world. The same evening they enjoyed playing in the fresh air at the **Bharathiyar park** nearby.



Chathirapatti Water Channel: 29.09.2018



Under the Tamarind tree, Surrounded by Paddy field, water channel lined with teak trees Refreshing dip in the water, Delicious Briyani, Energetic sports, Friends, fun, what else do you need?

It was first disappointing to see the place trashed with plastics, and broken glass bottles. Children and young people **collected the garbage**, cleaned the place. They played Kabadi, Cricket, Kho Kho, and Tug of war. There are so much to

look around paddy field, lots of trees, plants, and insects. They enjoyed a **refreshing bath** in the water way. Water is always a fascinating thing for our children. We thought how much we are blessed having lots of **natural bliss** around us. But we fail to enjoy them without destroying it. On the way back saw tress are being cut for the Natham new road way. What to say? We will surely miss the cash free happiness that the nature provides, and will go for happiness buying out of money and will be running after money to buy happiness. Sad scene.

Jain Hill Visit: 23.12.2018



Children and young people visited Jain Monument and **rock cut sculptures** in Keela Kuyizh Kudi. The place was once a Jain School. Children got to know about the relationship of Jainism to Madurai and their contribution to Tamil literature. Children climbed the hillock and watched a bird eye view of Madurai city.

Munnar Visit: 26, 27.01.2019



A refreshing two days trip to Munnar for Madurai Seed teacher volunteers became a memorable trip for the young people. Lost in the **enchanting beauty** of rolling hills with lush green tea plantations of the heavenly state Kerala.



*Every happy memory created for a child is another treasure
of a life time.*



SPECIAL DAYS



I have reasons to smile ...



15.08.2018: Independence Day: Madurai Seed children federation (MSCF) leader S. **Jeevananthan** (12th std) hoisted the national flag and delivered the Independence Day address. The **72nd** Independence Day was commemorated with a **message** from Jeeva about that everyone can be a part of nation building by empowering oneself educationally. Young people and Jeeva paid tribute to the national leaders with a poem.



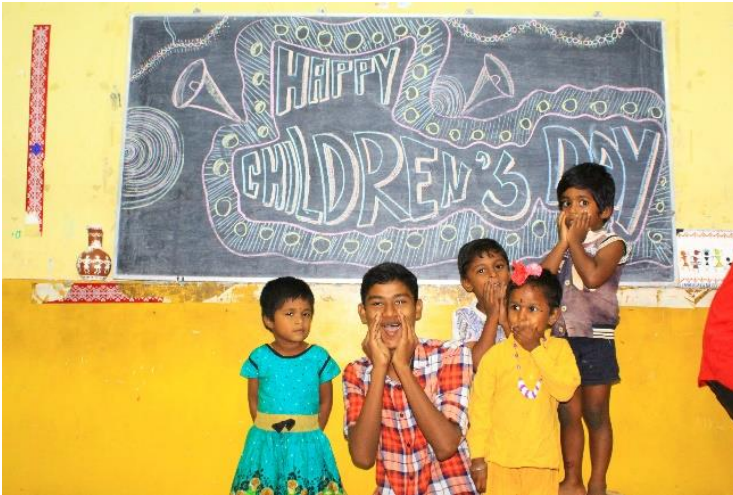
05.09.2018: Teachers' Day: The day was gifted with joy, fun, greets to the young active helping enthusiastic creative teacher volunteers of Madurai Seed, Students wrote poems, read and sang for their teachers. A video about **Abraham Lincoln's letter to his son's teacher** was screened. A beautiful video made by Madurai Seed was dedicated to the young people who do service to others through teaching & volunteering self-less. We wished and appreciated them for working towards a change.



World Tourism Day: 27.09.2018: Children and young people visited "WoW" **photo expo**. Photographs reflected various natural and cultural faces of Tamil Nadu. The photos were dynamic, and astonishing. Thanks to the eyes of photographers, they have captured perfectly what we miss when looking at things. Children took photos in front of their favourite photographs. They also visited the **Sangam Tamil Gallery** nearby, known the literary

and historic pride of Tamilnadu depicted through paintings. A nice opportunity to learn some photography tools like light exposure, frame, angle, and colour contrasts.

14.11.2018: Children's Day



sweets and gifts were provided to all buddies.

"Every child is a different kind of flower and all together makes a beautiful garland". Madurai Seed was decorated with lovely smileys of children on this day.

Fun activities, poems, stories, jokes and songs of volunteers gave them a delightful evening. They always participate but on this Children's day they enjoy watching shows specially arranged for them. They need love, affection and care and so they find Madurai Seed a second home. Snack,

12.01.2019: National Youth Day



enjoyed this staging at Karumbalai, SM nagar.

Madurai Seed celebrates this day along with children for the dedication and **active role** of our Thedalgai Arangam young people. They grow up, learn, also in their career they volunteer for the development of needy children. Young people of Madurai Seed are the real stars of this society. To make the day **memorable** children presented drama, puppetry show. Young people joined them in Oyilattam dance, monoact, a skit. Public





26.01.2019: Republic Day: Srinath, the President of Madurai Seed Youth Federation (**MSYF**) hoisted the flag followed by a march and delivered the **republic day address** with a message, that, youth can be a part of nation's development by supporting children in poverty-stricken areas like Karumbalai. The **70th** republic day was becoming memorable with activities for classes from 5th to 9th std. India themed activities like

collage making, colouring and quiz, puzzles about states/languages/capitals/clothing were conducted in the morning. Sweets were distributed to all.



01.02.2019: Institution Day: Madurai Seed steps in its **21st year** envisioning young people's and children's development by nurturing them through education and personality development programs. With the support of Madurai Seed there are many **first-generation** graduates, engineers and teachers emerging from this indigent background. Teacher volunteers, and children from all classes marked the occasion by giving a

brief talk about the role of Madurai Seed for their progress. Karthikbharathi shared about past years' achievement, strengthening factors, supporting great hearts, like-minded and inspiring people of Madurai Seed and thanked everyone. Cultural activities, picturesque of supporters & friends and video screenings of recent events occupied the whole evening of the Institution day celebrations.



09.03.2019: Women's Day: Smiling with their favourite women personalities of Madurai Seed by making their own **greeting card** of poem, drawings and wish. Sharing, recognizing, and appreciating womanhood with brief talks about the role of woman in their life Sending a message on this day what they wish and how they are going to amaze this society. Boys and girls all paid tribute to the great **women personalities** who admire,

strengthen, and act as a catalyst in building up a successful society.

CELEBRATIONS



Good times + Great Friends = Amazing Memories



15.06.2018: Ramzan: For this occasion, we decided to cook for Madurai Seed and their children a typical **Moroccan food**: a poulet aux olives. Indeed, as they are many Muslims in France, when there celebrate Ramzan, the “poulet aux olives”, is one of the famous dishes: Chicken mixed with spices like curcuma, chili powder, pepper, safran, also ginger, garlic, coriander. It is served with potatoes and olives. We also prepared Rava Kheer, it is an authentic **Indian sweet** that

is prepared during festivals and specials occasions. The children sat in group, shared the food and loved it. Thank you all for making this special day a very beautiful one.



04.11.2018: Diwali: The biggest festival we celebrate is Diwali by lighting the clay lamps, sharing sweets and firing crackers in new dress. Festivals may be religious for elder people but for our children it is for to unplug from usual duties at school and family. Diwali was also **Alumni Meet** for us. We cherished the evening together dancing, and singing with everyone’s participation on stage. Children were excited during games, and fun-filled Diwali activities. XI, XII students presented a

slide share on Diwali celebration in other parts of India, significance of it and a Diwali safety skit for the audience.



23.01.2019: Christmas: Here comes the Santa with his bag full of candies for kids. A procession of them singing **Jingle bells** in Tamil & English was the nicest entertainment for public that evening. Some verses from the Bible, a play about a boy who wants the best Christmas gift, a skit on “**The Christmas story**”, Christmas dance and songs, messages and merry Christmas wishes had spread love, & happiness in togetherness. Children cut the cake and shared with

everyone.

01.01.2019: New Year



The New year spot for us is Vandagal Arangam - Madurai Seed where we hold hands tight for the next journey with a simple prayer confessing our needs to have a great year in education and career. Inspirational message from Karthikbharathi, and from friends begun the new calendar. Then, kids and young people joined in all fun activities like “Wishing board”, “Time travel”, “Resolution notes”.

14.01.2019: Pongal



Surrounding mountains, shadowing trees, refreshing air, one way mud lane, white and blue colour strokes of the sky, blooming flowers against fence, streaming water on small saplings, budding peas on the land, twittering distant birds, hay bundle carrying woman with her child on one hand, hardworking land lord, and the very quiet nature with greenery at every step made our Pongal festival. Children and young people

spent this year's Pongal in **Thethampatti village** with loaded joy, and fun. Katrin, Urs from Zurich too joined us celebrating Tamil culture learning the values in our festivals. Suresh Kathan Sir took us to this small part of heaven on earth to experience real meaning of Pongal festival. We cooked jaggery pongal, thanked the nature, spread love, shared joy, returned with memories of conversation of us with the trees, sky, land and air. we sincerely thank Suresh sir for taking us to the village.

PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC



Together Everyone Achieves More...



Thanner Panthal: 19, 20 April 2019



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.

Volunteering in Kaleidoscope-Madurai Seed Thedalgal Resource Centre:



We have organized **4 events** at the centre for Madurai seed young people and teacher trainee students from a nearby college. We also organized **3 discussions** one with an author, another with children activist, and another one with a French student for public. Apart from this **25+ activities** like discussions, screenings, trainings were conducted by Kaleidoscope and other friendly groups at

Thedalgal Young People Resource Centre. Our children and young people took part in many such events as beneficiaries. Our young people have provided arrangement, cleaning, hospitality related volunteering works.



Cultural Program in the street: 24.01.2019

Children performed **Silambattam, Oyilattam, and a children drama** at the East Street, Karumbalai for public. Many public and parents witnessed the kid's talents. The play dealt with a social message about how caste and religion haunts togetherness and happiness and the importance of young people to protect our society from those demons.

Religious Harmony- Barriers and Solutions:

11.07.18 at IGSR Hall, Gandhi Museum

No. of participants: 86 young people from The American College, Fatima College, Thiagarajar college of Preceptors, St. Justin's college, Sri Meenakshi college and Madurai Seed.



There is love and affection between religions of India, and so ours is called as a **secular country**. Also, there lies some **barriers** to encourage religious **harmony**. The barriers prevail because of the strong religious faith of one's own religion and unwilling to learn other religion concepts oneself.

It is indeed an important **duty of young people** to grow peace and harmony in everything they see. Madurai Seed organized this event for young people to think about the barriers and solutions for religious harmony. In this event, scholars delivered **speeches on Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism**.

Prof. Dr. E. Annamalai from the Chicago University stated the formation of religions only to shape civilization, moral codes and social structure. He highlighted that religion evolves according to the human culture and religions have beliefs in common to attain peace.

Swamiji. Sadha Sivananda, from the "TamilNadu Thuraviyar Peravari" shared his strict beliefs in Hinduism and also questioned the religion conversion practices. Writer Mrs. Dr. Nageshwari from USA, shared her experiences about how she made her views wide by not following organized religion as the sole. Social Activist **Mr. Abdul Razaq**, talked about Islamic religion, asked the young people to understand thoroughly about one's own religion and next to learn other religious concepts. **Mr. Murugan**, a scholar from the American College expressed his views about Buddhism where Dhamma was practiced and taught. An MSW student from the Fatima college, Ms. Jothi's sharp note about Christianity and the reasons she adheres to it. **Mr. Rabeek Raja** played the role of moderator of this event, his speech stimulated the speakers to think and answer more. He kept the speakers' content relevant to the topic. It was live and organized discussion with the stamina of Rabeek.

Young people from various colleges clarified their religious perspectives right through encountering questions to the scholars. The barriers and solutions were discussed with the young generation.

Celebrating Women:

From 11.10.2018 to 19.10.2018

The nine auspicious days of Navratri festival are dedicated to the Goddesses Kaali, Durga and Saraswathi. The woman rising up now are the real incarnation of those Goddesses. In Madurai Seed, we signify Navratri as the celebration of womanhood. Nine topics on woman empowerment were presented by Seed volunteer girls and guests every evening during the nine days of the festival.

- Elavarasi presented “**Women’s Leadership**” – a session about women leaders in various fields. How they lead, and inspire their team as a coach, CEO, manager, headmistress, etc., and how to develop leadership potential were discussed.
- Vindhiya, one of the teacher volunteers gave a speech about “**Challenges for women in India**”. She also delivered what should be done to overcome these challenges.
- Viji, our volunteer presented “**Indian laws and provisions for women**” in which articles, schemes & government acts for women were detailly highlighted.
- Ms. Mariammal teacher was invited to share “**An independent woman in Indian context**”. Interesting to know from her experiences as a single woman.
- Nandhini, a girl volunteer of Madurai Seed discussed about “**Women in Digital India**” in which the significant role of technology in women’s life and also impacts of digital media on women were discussed.
- Meenakshi gave a wonderful talk about **women poets, writers, film directors**, and journalists. Their books/movies, awards they won, and their fame were presented by her.
- Mrs. Gowthami motivated Madurai Seed girls through her **self-employment** experiences. She runs a small business while being a part of Cuckoo children movement school. Short films and documentaries celebrating womanhood were screened on that evening.
- Nilavu and Bhavani from Madurai Seed talked about “**The First woman**”. A list of first women in space, teaching, science, medicine, navy, military and transport was screened and explained by them.
- The history would remain as it is if there were no women joined in any reforms towards a change. “**Women in History**”, was presented by Gopika from 10th grade. She collected points from her textbook and talked about the role of women in history.

Every evening parents with their children witnessed the event with nine specific topics about women. It came to an end with colourful dance, and songs.

MARGAZHI UTSAV –Children’s Carnival – Theatre Festival

26,27,28,29,30 December 2018 at Gandhi Museum

Margazhi Utsav, part of Madurai Seed anniversary celebrations took place in Gandhi Museum that gave delightful experiences through fine art and performing art mediums over the course of **5 days**. A visual and aural treat to mark the **20th anniversary** of Madurai Seed manifold ecstasy of arts, dance and theatre lovers of Madurai. Margazhi Utsav staged performances of dramatists and story tellers came from various parts of Tamil Nadu. Events took place in such a way engaging child in arty-crafty activities from **4.30 to 6.00 PM**, and, performance of professional thespians took place from **6.00 to 8.00 PM**. Here are some of the highlights from Margazhi Utsav.



- The priceless joy begun with songs of children in **chorus** with Mr. Radha Krishnan from TVS school, and team building **games** of Vasim Khan from Madurai Seed
- Madurai Seed young people presented elegant style of folk called **Oyillatam** to the public.
- Performance of Azhi Venkatesan from Kalaiveli, chennai. Kids enjoyed and had a good time watching his 30 minutes solo performance on **Sindbad’s voyages**
- Activities for children like **painting** on clothes, traditional games, palm-leaf origami, hand painting, five types of hat making with newspapers, and shadow puppetry making with paper cut outs were carried out.
- **Story teller** Mrs. Akila Shankar from Magic Carpet, Bangalore beautifully presented two stories, sign actions and its meanings, and fun games Madurai Seed children staged “Maanudam Vendradhu”, a play directed by Mr. Rajkumar that spoke about the strong roots of caste, religion in our society.





- **Shadow Puppetry** “Annai Mozhi” presented by Madurai Seed children articulated in puppetry language about reverence, discipline, good habits.
- Children bursted out in laughter for the humorous “Komaaliyin Kudhirai” a **one-act performance** of Mr. Vijayakumar, Udhiri Nadaka Nilam, Tanjore.
- Story teller Madhiyazhagn from Thamirabarani drama troop came up on stage expressing sorrow of crow. **Songs** and another fairy tale echoed children’s clap
- Five different activities colour powder splashing, clay model & collage making, paper clothing carried out for children gave them matchless joy and learning
- Audience were caught up at the moment by VasimKhan(Theatre artist of Madurai Seed) **solo performance** on “Vaanga Vandavaalangalai saapiduvom” directed by Bakrudeen from ThinaNila vaasigal
- Young artists of Madurai Seed Kamalesh & Jai performed **Silambattam**, Martial arts.
- Teacher Thilagarajan, Singer Ms. Vaanavil, cheered up children through their songs.
- Pottery making, Colouring, Photo frame making, Drama practicing & Parai dancing all portrayed nuances in every creation of children.
- A **skit** of Madurai Seed young people “Vannangal Atra Oviyam” directed by Prashanth from Vavunya received big applauses.
- **Solo performance** of Ms. Stella in “Meen Vaangalayo Meen” directed by Gopi of Yaazh IsaiKuzhu, Pudhucherry and Bharathatyam dancer, Ms. Pragnya brought a serene mood

Margazhi Utsav has been designed to recognize the skills of children by providing them a big stage. Hence it happened in front of huge audience who were surprised to notice the special talents staged by Madurai Seed children from Karumbalai.



Programs conducted at Thedalgai Resource Center

S.No	Date	Event	Organizer
1	05.04.2018	Book Review by Research Student Arumugam	Kaleidoscope
2	07.04.2018	Pink Movie Screening	Kaleidoscope
3	14.04.2018	Author's Meet: Gopi Shankar, LGBTQ activist	Kaleidoscope
4	20.04.2018	Theatre Performance: Ki Ra Kulambu by Perch, Chennai	Kaleidoscope
5	21.04.2018	Meeting with Poet Samraj	Kaleidoscope
6	03.05.2018 to 18.05.2018	16 days summer art camp for kids	Pencil Box & Kaleidoscope
7	09.06.2018	Viceroy's House movie screening	Kaleidoscope
8	22.06.2018	Education In France: Talk with Thurgca	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
9	26.06.2018	Kaala Movie Criticism	Kaleidoscope
10	09.07.2018	Pope Francis-Book introduction by Nageshwari Annamalai	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
11	13.07.2018	Meeting with Poet Esthar	Kaleidoscope
12	29.07.2018	Madurai Film Association Inauguration	Tamil Studio
13	31.07.2018	Meeting with Sivaraj, children activist	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
14	22.08.2018	Short Story to Screen Play with Martin Refka	Kaleidoscope
15	18.09.2018	Meeting with Poet Manushi	Kaleidoscope
16	27.10.2018	Monoact by Transgender Revathi	Kaleidoscope
17	24.11.2018	Workshop for Photo and videography	Tamil Studio
18	07.12.2018 to 10.12.2018	Documentary Film Festival	Marupakkam
19	03.01.2019	Appreciating Carnatic Music, Palladam Ravi	Kaleidoscope
20	05.01.2019	Manto movie screening	Kaleidoscope
21	09.01.2019 to 11.01.2019	Training for actors	Theatre Team
22	17.01.2019	Rohit Vemula documentary screening	Kaleidoscope
23	27.01.2019	Short Stories – Discussion	VasagaSalai
24	03.02.2019	Madurai Art Fest Volunteer meeting	Kaleidoscope
25	10.02.2019	Kaluthai Santhai Theatre Rehearsals	Theatre Team
26	11.02.2019	Prasadham Play Rehearsal	Theatre Team
27	01.03.2019	Madurai Art Fest success meet	Kaleidoscope
28	06.03.2019	Thadayam Movie screening and talk with Poet Thamayanthi	Kaleidoscope
29	10.03.2018	Film Appreciation: Kammattipadam	VasagaSalai
30	15.03.2019	Discussion with director Ram	Kaleidoscope
31	18.03.2019	Discussion with director Mari Selvaraj	Kaleidoscope

PARTICIPATIONS



*We shall participate, we shall contribute
And in so doing, we will be the gainer*



Participation in conference: On 23.06.2018, **Evidence**, an NGO organized a meeting to protect and promote the rights of women and children, especially the rights of Dalits. 10 people from Madurai Seed participated in a meeting conference on Dalit women organized by Evidence. Among the guests; lawyers, writers and even professors were present. Mr. Kathir, Evidence begun with the objectives and need of this conference in which we noted many about the violence on **Dalit women &**

Evidence's helping hands for those affected people. Social worker Ms. Kowsalya spoke about the harassment & problems take place against women, Writer Ms. Shalin's kindling discourse of the role of democratic woman & her leadership. It was a very rewarding conference that made us think.



Witnessing Theatre Performance: On 15.09.2018, IV Wall Theatre's "**The Duchess of Malfi**" by Prof. Dr. Elango Natesan took audience to an immersive environment for 90 minutes at The American College auditorium. Characters' 100% performance, stagecraft, entire set, music - all creative aspects existed drew us into the play. The plot can be related to the toxic masculinity in this world today. 40 children and 15 young people of

Madurai Seed got this wonderful opportunity to feel the theatrical presentation.



Witnessing Dance Drama: On 19.09.2018, Invigorating music, striking dance drama of nonverbal gestures - **two souls unearthing the dominance of caste and economic powers**" Fusion of action with dance staged by Manalmagudi team Agila and Chandren was very distinctive. The anti-authoritarianism portrayed with courageous performance, show them as a catalyst for social change. Contemporary dance styles with their

backbone's changing poses & hand towels as indicators gave the performance space an effective view. It is a big step to bring such issues to young people through dance drama.



Participation in Gandhi Jeyanthi:

On 02.10.2018, Children visited Gandhi Museum and paid tribute to the father of our nation. They also took part in the meeting and listened to the guests. The **special lecture** was about Gandhian principals for today, and discussed about how we

can follow them in today's world in schools, families, government, institutions, etc. Children also enjoyed folk cultural events. Madurai Seed also received **Gandhi 150** Digital Multimedia Kit from the District Collector.



Participation in film festival:

On 25.11.2018, **Tamil Studio**, a film appreciation institute organized film festival and discussion at Theological College, Madurai. Madurai Seed young people took part in the program and witnessed **short films** and feature films, they

participated in the film discussions. They listened to the seminar on film appreciation art.



Witnessing musical drama:

On 06.12.2018, children and young people witnessed a musical drama about **Dr.Venkatasamy**, founder of Aravind Eye Hospitals at Lakshmi Sundaram Hall. He dedicated his life for eliminating needless blindness and built a chain of hospitals and

management model in service basis. This musical drama was directed by **Professor Prabhakar**. It was a different experience watching this kind of play. Everyone was moved by the life principles and service of the doctor.



Witnessing modern Tamil play: On 05.02.2019, young people witnessed a new kind of play at The Lady Doak College, the play was mostly sounding and music. The drama emerges from **traditional practices and rituals**. The language of the drama is full of archetypes. The properties, music, set, language all looked like, as if we landed in a primitive land. The play was interesting and provoking, made the audience to think and

reflect. It is a very new experience for all of us.

Madurai Art Festival, 16, 17 February 2019



“Madurai Seed, an NGO that works with less privileged children, brought together a group of street children and students of TVS Matriculation Higher Secondary School for powerful inclusive plays. “

The Hindu highlighted our children’s play in Madurai Art festival that united arts of different forms at one place. The festival for two days from Dec 26th to 29th was organized in such a manner providing **new artistic experiences** for Madurai people. Perch theatre group’s vibrant performance based on the folktale of legend Ki.ra, Light music of Sanil, Thappaattam, silambatam, karagattam, & oyillatam of local artistes, Manudam vellum -children’s play of Madurai Seed, Assamese dance, and many events gave us a break from this hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Our young people Anand and Vigneshwaran displayed their **photography** in their photo expo section. Madurai Seed volunteers were involved in planning, designing, organizing and documenting this mega event. Madurai Seed children received applauses on the same stage where so many professionals staged their performances. Also, it was such an honour for their parents to see their kids on stage performing in front of huge audience at the Eco Park.

Participations of trustees and staff

Workshop Participation:

On 21.09.2018, Director. A.S.Karthikbharathi along with volunteers Vigneshwaran, Anand, and Srinath took part in the **teacher enhancement workshop** conducted by Qrius learning initiative in Coimbatore. They learnt about long story method and how to incorporate them in teaching languages.



Meeting the future teachers:



On 20.12.2018, Director. A.S.Karthikbharathi interacted with the teacher training students of **Thiagarajar College of Preceptors** in the title "**The role of teachers in NGOs**". The skilful teachers can focus on rural area children, can make leisure time productive, can provide contribution for rural children development, can frame weekend learners/readers club for kids, can implement their ideas to enhance and accomplish a

better society by joining hands with NGOs as it will mutually promote them and their surroundings. They were interested in knowing what is an NGO, its establishment and support for underprivileged, volunteering, management theory, financial aspects, success stories, hurdles/crisis it faces, problem area of working, and finally the role of MADURAI SEED in bringing up children of Karumbalai in the past 19 years. Confident teacher students of TCP perceived their role in supporting children who lack education and care in their village/area/town they live.



Madurai Art Festival February 2019:

Director.A.S. Karthikbharathi served in the **organizing committee** of Madurai Art Festival with Kaleidoscope and Professor.Prabhakar. He took care of organizing labours, volunteers, stalls, and amenities. The program became a mega event with public participation.



The supreme art of the teacher is to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge



VOLUNTEERING & INTERNSHIPS

Thurcga, is a Srilankan Tamil, **law student** from France volunteered from the whole June. She gave French classes for our young people and English classes for 8th grade children and involved in other activities of Madurai Seed. She conducted "Geography" seminars on France, Sirlanka, and Pondichery. She was bid farewell by all with dance, music, cake and dinner on 02.07.2018. Children gave gifts to her and shared their learning from her sessions and classes.



Andrea Wilson visited Madurai Seed carrying the same cheerful smile like her first time. She collects funds from her weekly market stall in Zurich. Her customers support us by buying marmalade, chutney from her stall. Via FMS, she strengthens young people's education and career life. During her stay in Madurai from 19th July to 1st of August, children found pleasure in reading **English stories** in her classes, loved conversing with her in the trekking to a hillock where she witnessed their drama rehearsals. Both in the classroom and during outing children had a wonderful and quality time with her. She appreciated children acted in the drama festival at Sevalayam hostel & corporation schools. She conducted a **workshop** on "Effective communication for Job Interviews and Presentations" for our young people at Kaleidoscope. Temple & two heritage site visits of her with young people are memorable forever.



Keith Rossborough and Nick, English Language **Teachers** from Zurich visited Madurai Seed during January of every new-year. This time he introduced us Nick bell, a retired English teacher from Zurich. They gave classes & workshop for young people during their stay from Jan 17th to 24th. Workshop for Madurai Seed and trainee teachers on “**Strategies for teaching English**” conducted by them was very productive and useful. “**Toolbox for English Teachers**” workshop to our young people provided knowledge about online teaching resources. On the day of sending them off, our children performed in Drama and Cultural Fest in Karumbalai Street. We had a lovely time with them during the visit to temple, Theppa thiruvizha (temple float festival) and Jain beds.



Katrin Blatter and Urs, from Switzerland become a member of Madurai Seed family from 6th Jan 2019. They were welcomed by children in Madurai Seed centres with love. Urs handled Science & Math classes for children from 5th to 8th grade children. Katrin gave **Reading classes** for young people to improve their listening and vocabulary skill. An interesting topic “**Express yourself**”, a workshop on writing stories and poetry was facilitated by them. Young people came up with haiku poems and short stories in the end of the workshop. They had a wonderful time learning our culture in a village Pongal festival. A **power point presentation** on "Zurich" with pictures and information on famous places and people was screened by them. They witnessed special performance of theatre, drama, dance, of our children on National young people day. Samanar hills, palace, Gandhi museum & temple visit saved memories for our lifetime. It was a very productive volunteering of Katrin and Urs from 7th to 17th of Jan. In a nice evening, we sent them off to home with a thank note & love.



SITE VISITS

Melli Annamalai from Asha for Education, July 2018



Dr. Melliyal Annamali made a visit to Madurai Seed in July that provided us an opportunity to present our work and project's impact on young people and children. She invested her time visiting centers and discussing about education support, finances, teaching methods, skill development programs, achievements of young people, and future needs. Also, during her session for children, she shared her experiences from her recent visit to Vietnam. Her father Dr. Annamalai and mother Mrs.

Nageshwari partaken in the symposium on "Religious harmony – barriers and solutions" organized by Madurai Seed for young people. In the meeting at the Thedalgai resource center at Kaleidoscope, Melli's mother discussed about her new book "Nambikaiyin Pudhiya parinamam" about Pope Francis. She had direct interactive questions and responses with young people about their education and career wishes. We as a team functioning with the support of ASHA for education gives us hope and motivation by her site visit. From July 9th to 11th, we had very quality time together with Melli akka.

John Potts from Friends of Madurai Seed, February 2019



The support of Friends of Madurai Seed makes a positive transformation on education and career of the young people. Prof. John Potts, the President of FMS visited Madurai Seed to meet children and give productive time for young people. The whole period of his stay from 6th to 15th was filled with classes, workshops for young people of Madurai Seed. He visited the centres the first day followed by a presentation about updates from Madurai Seed. He provided training to use online resources

effectively in the workshop on "Web Tools for teaching English" for school teachers, post graduate students & Madurai Seed volunteers. We find his visit benefit in many ways for young people and also to discuss the future plans of Madurai Seed. Dream of buying own land to have study centers under one roof & necessity of supporting college students for their studies were put forth to FMS in the meeting with him. Ideas for scholarship brochures & postcard making, success stories and the needs of Madurai Seed were discussed with Prof. John. A follow up of last year's Effective Interview Skills workshop presented by Dr. Laura Villiger and Prof. John was held in the workshop on "Group Discussion" for Madurai Seed young people in which the strategies to learn the various phases of interview was elucidated by Prof. John on Feb 10th. On a very nice evening, we bade bye to John with everyone's love and hellos to Laura.

OUR SUPPORT

Friends of Madurai Seed, Zurich

Friends of Madurai Seed (FMS), Zurich is founded by **Dr. Laura Villiger** with like-minded friends in 2008 to provide essential financial support to Madurai Seed to build up the organization at least a partial self-sufficient in the longer term. The annual funding for FMS is used for the following: Learning centers, scholarships, skills and personality development programs, and teaching volunteer enhancement, and English language teaching programs.

www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org

Asha for Education, Boston

Asha Boston Chapter is a chapter of Asha for Education, a non-profit organization. They are a completely volunteer driven organization, comprising of dedicated individuals based in the Area, striving to make a difference in society. Asha Boston provides Madurai Seed rent and electricity for education centres, and stipend for volunteers.

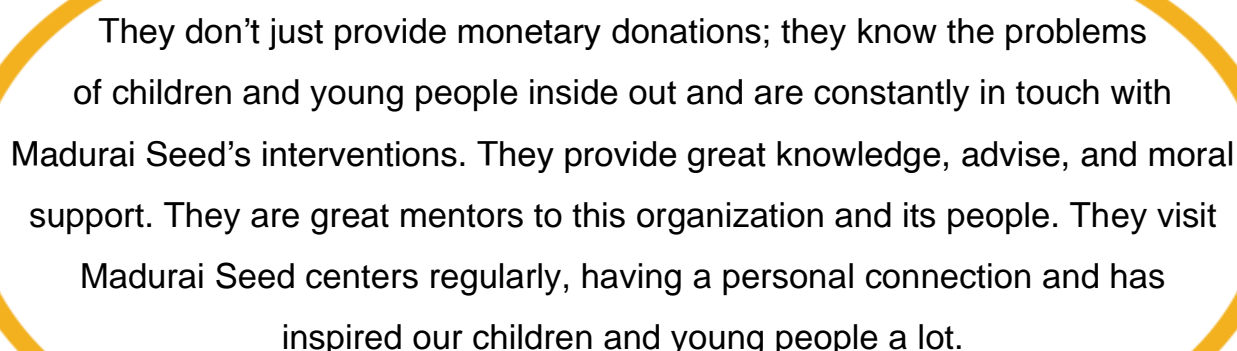
<https://boston.ashanet.org/>

Vizhuthugal Alumni Association

It is the alumni association functions for former students, and volunteers of Madurai Seed. Some of the alumni provides regular donations.

Friends of Madurai Seed, India

This group envisions an effective community through like-minded people as potential donors from India.



They don't just provide monetary donations; they know the problems of children and young people inside out and are constantly in touch with Madurai Seed's interventions. They provide great knowledge, advise, and moral support. They are great mentors to this organization and its people. They visit Madurai Seed centers regularly, having a personal connection and has inspired our children and young people a lot.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

● **Keerthana M Sundaram**

Madurai Seed, a city-based NGO, and *Thumbi*, a bilingual children's magazine organised a cultural programme to exhibit the talent of children of all ages on Monday at the Sevalayam Boys Home in Shenoy Nagar.

Karthik Bharathi, president of Madurai Seed welcomed all the guests and said, "Cultural programmes and stage plays can be categorised into two types — the ones performed by adults for children, and the ones performed by children for children. This is the second type. These gatherings help children develop stage skills apart from conveying important social messages to the viewers."

The inaugural act was done by Madhi Azhagan from Thamirabharani Kalai Koodam. He took to the stage as a clown and pulled out a laugh riot. He also initiated a game in which the kids he picked had to name a flower each. When they failed to name a new flower, they had to get up and organise the game by running along with him.

A group of students then went on to entertain the crowd with their shadow puppetry skills. They depicted a scene from the



The cultural programme was held at the Sevalayam Boys Home

forest; the minimal lights and background singing by the kids added to the excitement. Oyilatam, a folk dance with its origin in southern Tamil Nadu was also performed by students between classes 3 and 5.

The crowning moment of the day was when a set of students performed a play under the title 'IdhuYaaru Kombu.' Directed by Thilagarajan, the skit earned immense appreciation from the audience. The play that was staged for almost twenty minutes questioned the existent issues in the government in a humourous and innovative way. The event concluded with a 'Freeze and Move' dance tradition.

The New Indian Express | 03.08.2018 | About Theatre Festival



School students witness a short political satire

K Antony Xavier | TNN

K. Antony Xavier

Madurai: Political awareness through art is a time tested phenomenon. From graffiti art on walls to street plays to mainstream cinema, art as a vehicle for social and political awareness is not uncommon. A government school in Madurai too went the art way to instill awareness among its students.

On Tuesday, students of the Madurai east panchayat union primary school in Y Othakadai witnessed a short political satire enacted by children of Madurai SEED, a voluntary organisation for underprivileged children and young people. The 20-minute play dealt with land and agriculture rights of people and negligence of politicians and the need for a good leadership.

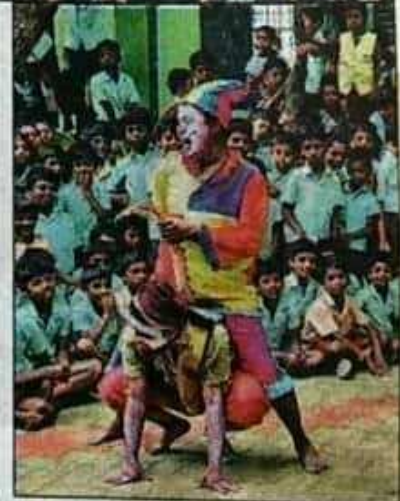
The head master of the school had no doubts over the influence such plays shall have on young students. "Even Gandhiji's life changed after he watched the play 'Harichandra'. We can teach lessons through play because acting develops student's emotion, body language, language skill, and confidence. It is a



Students of the Madurai east panchayat union primary school in Y Othakadai witnessed a short political satire enacted by children of Madurai SEED (right) activist Madiyalagan and his colleague Marimuthu enacting a play titled 'Monkey and the man' on Tuesday

different method of education to improve students' creativity and imagination," said M Thennavan, head master of Y Othakadai government primary school.

Another play titled 'Monkey and the man' was enacted by children activist Madiyalagan and his colleague Marimuthu. The play dealt with environmental issues especially the usage of plastics that is harmful to animals not only in the



wild but also in cities. "This is not only a play. It is a method of easy learning. It would be great if teachers follow this method in every school," said Mathialagan.

The school also felicitated the guests with books instead of the ubiquitous shawls that are presented in any event.

ஒத்தக்கடையில் நாடக விழா



ஒத்தக்கடை, ஆக.1

ஒத்தக்கடை தொடக்கப்பள்ளியில் தும்பி சிறார் நாடகத் திருவிழா தலைமையாசிரியர் தென்னவன் தலைமையில் நடைபெற்றது. குக்கா காட்டுப்பள்ளி சிவராஜ், மதுரை சீடு இயக்குநர் இளவரசி, கார்த்திக், ஆண்ட்ரியா, தாமிரபரணி கலைக்குழு மதியழகன் ஆகியோர் முன்னிலை வகித்தனர். ஆசிரியர் மோசஸ் வரவேற்றார். சிறப்பு விருந்தினர்களுக்கு குழந்தைகள் அருண்பிரகாஷ், ரூபா, யோகேஷ், நிலபர் நிஷா ஆகியோர் புத்தகங்களை பரிசாக வழங்கினர். மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளின் யார் தலைவர்? நாடகம் ஒத்தக்கடை தொடக்கப்பள்ளி குழந்தைகளின் அம்மா மகள் நாடகம் நடைபெற்றது. தாமிரபரணி கலைக்குழு மதியழகன் சமூக விழிப்புணர்வு பாடல்களைப் பாடி நெகிழி ஒழிப்பு பற்றிய சமூக விழிப்புணர்வு நாடகத்தை நடத்தினார்.

அரசுப் பள்ளியில் விழிப்புணர்வு நாடகம்

மதுரை, ஆக. 1: மதுரையை அடுத்த ஒத்தக்கடை அரசு தொடக்கப் பள்ளியில் 'தும்பி சிறார்' என்னும் நாடகத் திருவிழா நேற்று நடைபெற்றது. தலைமையாசிரியர் தென்னவன் தலைமை வகித்தார்.

'குக்கா' காட்டுப்பள்ளி சிவராஜ், மதுரை 'சீடு' இயக்குநர் இளவரசி, தாமிரபரணி கலைக்குழு மதியழகன் ஆகியோர் முன்னிலை வகித்தனர். ஆசிரியர் மோசஸ் வரவேற்றார். சிறப்பு விருந்தினர்களுக்கு மாணவர்கள் புத்தகங்களை பரிசாக வழங்கினர்.

மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளின் 'யார் தலைவர்?' என்னும் தலைப்பில் நாடகம், ஒத்தக்கடை அரசு தொடக்கப்பள்ளி மாணவர்களின் 'அம்மா மகள் நாடகம்' ஆகிய நாடகம் நடைபெற்றன.



மதுரை ஒத்தக்கடை ஊராட்சி ஒன்றிய தொடக்கப்பள்ளியில் நடந்த விழிப்புணர்வு நாடகம்.

தாமிரபரணி கலைக்குழு மதியழகன் நெகிழி (பாலித்தீன்) ஒழிப்பு குறித்த பாடல்களை பாடி விழிப்புணர்வு நாடகத்தை நடத்தினார்.

தலைமையாசிரியர் கூறுகையில் 'நாடகங்கள் உணர்வுகளை நேரடியாக தொடுகின்றன. இதன் மூலம் குழந்தைகள் கற்றுக் கொள்கின்றனர்' என்றார். இதற்கான ஏற்பாடுகளை மதுரை 'சீடு' தன்னார்வலர்கள், ஆசிரியைகள் உமாராணி பானு, விஜயலட்சுமி செய்திருந்தனர். ஆசிரியை மாலா நன்றி கூறினார்.



Children enroll in interactive sessions and skill training

Grassroot education to equip a child for life

• Keerthana M Sundaram

School is not the only knowledge powerhouse, a sincere student can start learning at every effective locus. Madurai Seed is one such habitat where children from disadvantaged backgrounds are given an opportunity to empower themselves. Started in 1999, this non-profit organisation works at the grassroot level to educate young minds by setting up free education centres. We talk to its president Karthik Bharathi about setting up of the organisation and what it envisions to accomplish in the near future.

As a child, Karthik, a resident of Karumbalai volunteered to help the needy and destitutes. He was a part of the City Corporation's Adult Literacy Programme and was an active member of the National Service Scheme. "With the help of likeminded volunteers, I started the Madurai Seed in 1999. The primary aim of Seed was to uplift the lives of children who grew up in the slums around Karumbalai. Twenty years ago, a majority of the population in the area was uneducated. Even the school-going children were unable to read or write properly. I felt the necessity to create an alternative education centre," he says.

“Twenty years ago, a majority of the population in the area was uneducated. Even the school-going children were unable to read or write properly. I felt the necessity to create an alternative education centre”

—Karthik Bharathi, Madurai Seed

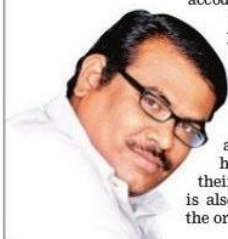
Soon, Seed became that one stop where kids gathered after school. From reading, writing, speaking to life skills, they were taught everything that a normal school does. Students from the near-by localities are enrolled at the beginning of an academic year. A majority of these kids belong to disadvantaged backgrounds. Impressed by the Seed's intent and work, Asha For Education, Boston, USA and Friends of Madurai SEED, Zurich, Switzerland are supporting them with regular funds.

On weekdays, regular classes are conducted between 6 pm and 9.15 pm. The different classes at Seed are: Vaandugal Arangam (Classes 1-4); Vergal Arangam (Classes 5-8) and Kanavugal Arangam (Classes 9-12).

They also organise a free summer camp every year, where guests conduct interactive sessions with the kids. Skill classes are also held during the month of April and May. They have a library that houses around 5,000 books.

Madurai Seed releases a yearly magazine, *Pudhu Yugam*, and they also focus on imparting the habit of saving money by creating internal saving accounts called the *Thenkoodu*.

"Seed has a legacy of producing students, who are highly qualified and are doing well in society. At present, most of the volunteers who are taking care of Seed are its former students," he says. *Vizhuthugal* is their alumni association that is also involved in supporting the organisation.



A children's fest that focused on dramas



Margazhi Utsav Children's Festival was organised at the Gandhi Museum

Activities

During the fest, cloth painting, Pottery, and painting on glass were taught to the kids. They also learned colour splash art, collage-making and clay modelling.

Express Features

As part of city-based NGO Madurai Seed's 20th anniversary celebrations, Margazhi Utsav Children's Fest was organised at the Gandhi Museum. The five-day festival, which ended on December 31, focused on dramas with a message.

Karthik Bharathi, president of the NGO said, "Stage plays are instrumental in grooming a kid's confidence at a young age. We understand its significance and thus indulge kids in staging such plays every year during half-yearly holidays, in the streets of the city. Since we are completing 20 years as an organisation this year, we decided to take it to the next level by celebrating it as a Children's fest that is open to all." The fest saw drama performances from both Seed's children and outsiders.

“We wanted to focus on some of our traditional art forms. Our children staged Ollakkam and the audience loved it.”

—Karthik Bharathi, president, Madurai Seed

The highlight of day one of the fest was a monologue by Anshu Venkatesan from Chennai. He narrated and performed some scenes from *Strawhat the Soldier*. Karthik B, one of the kids who watched the play said, "I had a great time watching Venkatesan sir's storytelling-own-drama session. He made us laugh with his expressions and squeaky voice modulations. I cannot wait to come back for the other sessions."

On day two, 15 children from Seed performed a skit titled 'Mazhaikam Vennudhurai'. Selva Pandi S, who was part of the team said, "We had been practicing for about two weeks to stage this play directed by Raj Kumar sir from TVS School. Since caste and religion-related issues are still prevalent in society we selected this theme for our drama."

Story teller Akula Shankar from Magie Carpet, Bengalore, also conducted a narrative session on the same day. On the third day, Vijayakumar from Udhiroi Nadakam Nilayam, Thanjavur, presented a humorous monodrama titled 'Kamudaiyil Kudhinal'. On day four, Madhuvachagan from Tiruvalluram Progam, Tiruvallur, gave inputs to children on ways to make storytelling sessions interactive. The play performed by Freeman Wasim Khan, a volunteer-own teacher at the Madurai Seed, stole the spotlight.

On the final day, Children from the NGO staged a drama titled 'Namangal Atru Orugam', and the session concluded with the screening of the movie *The Little Match Girl*.



MEET

A 'seed' transforms lives of children at Karumbalai

V. Elavarasi opens the doors to the first floor of Madurai Seed's office in Karumbalai in Madurai and is greeted with a friendly 'hello anni' (hello sister in-law) from all volunteers. The president and Managing Trustee of an organisation aiming to provide quality supplementary education to girls and boys of Karumbalai, Ms. Elavarasi tells **Sanjana Ganesh** in an interaction that she is family to almost every adolescent and child in the area.

Ms. Elavarasi completed her undergraduate degree in Physics in 2007 - the same year her father passed away. "I am from Tiruvannamalai and I planned to study further. However, my father's death forced me to work. After that, my marriage was fixed in 2009," she says. Madurai Seed's founder and Elavarasi's husband B. Karthik would passionately talk about the children in Karumbalai and their extraordinary potential for hours before their marriage, she recalls.

Once she moved to Madurai, she plunged into service and began teaching students. While she pursued her masters in Physics and



V. Elavarasi, Managing Trustee, Madurai Seed.

* G. MOORTHY

completed a teacher training course, Ms. Elavarasi would teach science and English to the students of Karumbalai. "Very few girls were part of Madurai Seed then. Even today it is common to see girls washing dishes, cleaning house, watching TV and scrolling the phone at the age of 16 and 18. It has been a struggle to convince the girls and their mothers to begin sending them back to school and the after-school centre. After extensive counselling and assurance, things are finally looking up," she says.

Seed provides special education for students post school hours. The Managing Trustee has inculcated the habit of extensively reading on the weekends. She also

form and understand science experiments during their weekend at the Galileo Science Club, a wing of Madurai Seed. She conducts personality development initiatives and invites speakers from across the world to help students understand English better and help them with interviews.

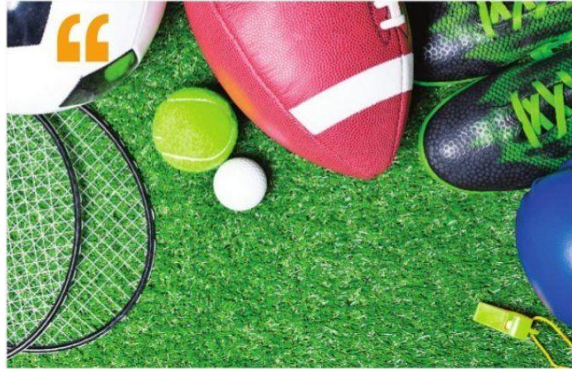
Ms. Elavarasi says the extra-curricular activities have helped in instilling confidence and even created a safe space for children. Many come to the office every day to study as the environment is conducive for learning. They are given the space to discuss issues of importance to adolescent health, including sex education.

Six of the 10 students from the total 250 are girls but Ms. Elavarasi wants the number to rise. "Today, there are girls from Madurai Seed who are engineers, doctors, nurses and professors. This is only because the organisation is constantly encouraged to increase the number of women and empower them," she says. She hopes to have an egalitarian society where men and women have equal access to opportunities and



'SPORTS DESERVES ATTENTION'

Children from Madurai Seed, a city-based NGO, discuss what government needs to do to improve sports infrastructure, and to popularise sports other than cricket



I don't think India gives as much importance to individual sports or athletics compared to games like cricket, hockey or football. They should bring up tournaments that boost the popularity of individual sports.

—Jeevanandhan



The government and the schools should not only provide opportunities to those talents in sports but also should promote physical fitness among all children. This is one way to make people realise sports is important.

—Keerthana

The number of play grounds and park should be increased. Previously we used to play in grounds that were next to Medical College and MSSWakf Board College, but now they are all occupied. We don't find enough space to play outdoor sports.

—Deepak



More courses in physical education, sports science and sports management should be promoted by the government. Colleges should launch degrees in physical education along with mainstream courses. This will improve job opportunities as well.

—Bhavana

We ought to give importance to sports as much as academics. Then only our country in the next decade or two can explore games like throw ball, football, carrom board and athletics in which I feel there are plenty of talents.

—Jeeva Ganesh



The government should increase the number physical education trainers appointed in a school. Caste and religion should not play a role during selection.

—Nandhini



I think the government can use sports celebrities like Sachin Tendulkar or Sania Mirza to promote the lesser-known sports. More commercial campaigns have to be done to achieve this.

—Santhosh



There is a disparity in the opportunities provided to children from villages compared to cities. A kid from rural area has to travel a lot to reach the sports facilities made in cities. This scenario needs to change.

—Selva Pandi

We need to move on to better technology and facilities in other sports too. The government should take a sincere effort in training the sports coaches so that they can train the upcoming talents.

—Meenakshi



19/20

MEANINGFUL DIWALI

● **Keerthana M Sundaram**

Come Tuesday, we will all be dressed in our best attires and forget diet for that one day as it is Diwali. Some of the NGOs in the city are also gearing up to lighten up the day for the underprivileged and the disadvantaged. They tell *City Express* how they plan to celebrate the festival.

Started by S Malaisamy and M Kishore Kumar in 2012, NGO Padikkattugal has volunteers across the state. In 2012, they started visiting orphanages and old age homes to identify the problems faced by residents there.

Malaisamy says, "On Diwali, Ramzan and Christmas, we plan celebrations for the needy and the disadvantaged. For the past four years, prior to Diwali, we have been setting up a stall at the entrance of Pothys to collect dresses for kids in different orphanages. Around 300 dresses have been collected so far this year." They also have a list of kids affected by HIV, from the Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. They took them to Pothys in the second week of October to buy them dresses of their choice. "Some told us that they had never been to a store to purchase dresses; so, we organised this. We are also planning to celebrate Diwali with cultural programmes and sweet distribution," he adds.

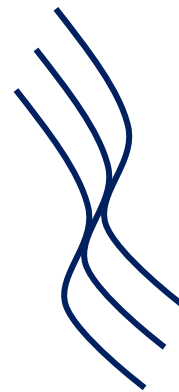
Madurai Seed is a non-profit organisation that has been working at the grass-root levels to up-skill young children through its education centers. Karthik Bharathi, president, says, "Every year before Diwali, we gather all our students and volunteers to celebrate the festival. This year on November 4, our students will take part in cultural events like dancing and singing. Vizhudugal, our alumni association, will be present to share their inspiring stories with the kids."

Sakthi-Vidiyal, which has also been working towards child empowerment in the city, will host two different celebrations.

C Jim Jesudoss, executive director says, "The first leg of celebration is on the day before Diwali at our Child Resource Centre in Rathinapuram. We have encouraged kids to organise the evening. They have planned a number of events from cultural programmes to sweet distribution. The next one is on the day of Diwali at our shelter homes in Muthupatti. We like to create a home-like Diwali environment for kids there."

“We have a list of kids' names and their age, so that visitors could choose a child for whom they could buy a dress”

— S Malaisamy, co-founder of Padikkattugal



The New Indian Express | 01.11.2018 |
A para about Diwali Celebration



நிலாவலு பாட்டி வடை கட்ட கதையையே எத்தனை நாள்குத்தான் கேட்டுக்கிட்டு இருக்கிறது? புதுசா கலர் கலரா கதைகள், கலைகள் எனத் தெரிஞ்சுக்க வேணாமா?

“அதுக்கு நிலாவுக்குப் போக வேணாம்காதுகளையும் கண்களையும் அகல விரிச்சுட்டு இங்கே வந்தாலே போதும்” என அழைத்தனர், “மதுரை சீடு” அமைப்பினர்.

“மார்கழி உற்சவம் 2018” என்கிற பெயரில் மதுரை காந்தி மியூசியத்தில், 5 நாள் கள் உற்சாகத் திருவிழாவை நடத்தினர். கோமாளி நாடகம், நிழல் பொம்மலாட்டம், ஓரிகாமி, களிமண் பொம்மைகள் என ஒவ்வொரு நாளின் நிகழ்வும் குழந்தைகளின் பல்வேறு திறமைகளை வெளிக்கொண்டு வந்தது.

ஆட்டம், பாட்டம், விழா வளாகத்தை கட்டிகளின் கற்பனைத் திறமையிலே அலங்கரிப்பது என முதல் நாள் நிகழ்வின் தொடக்கமே அற்புதமாக அமைந்தது.

“தோசையம்மா தோசை... இது அம்மா கட்ட தோசை... ராகி தோசை, அடை தோசை, நெய் தோசை” என கானா இசையில் தொடங்க, கட்டம்ஸ் குஷியாகி, சேர்ந்து பாட ஆரம்பித்தார்கள்.

நாடகக் கலைஞர் ஆழி வெங்கடேசன் நிகழ்த்திய ‘சிந்துபாத் கடல் பயணம்’, அனைவரையும் கட்டுக்குள்ளே அழைத்துச் சென்றது. ராகி ஒழிப்புப் பற்றி சமூக விழிப்பு உணர்வு நாடகத்திலும் நடிக் அசத்திட்டாங்க.

“சமுதாயம் படும் பாட்டை சபைதனில் பாரீரோ!” அழுதுக்கொண்டே நடித்த கிர்த்தனா என்ற கட்டி ஒட்டுமே அரங்கையும் ஆர்ப்பரிக்கச் செய்தார்.

பனையோலையில் கிரீடம் உட்பட பல்வேறு பொம்மைகள் செய்து மகிழ்ந்தனர். இதற்கான பயிற்சியை அளித்த லக்ஷ்மீ ஜென்.

இதேபோல தொடர்ந்து ஐந்து நாள் களும் : சொல்லல், ஓயிலாட்டம், கோமாளிக் கதை பொம்மலாட்டம், காகிதத்திலே ஆடைகள் செய்து நாடகம் என குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா கட்டியது.

பறையிலே சிலம், மற்ற் நடனம், ஒவ்வொரு நிகழ்வினும் குழந்தைகள் போட்டி போட்டு கலக்கினார்கள்.

கொழுக்கட்டை, தேன்மிட்டாய், கடலைமிட்ட நெல்லிக்காய் என அங்கே கிடைத்த தின்பண்டங்கள் அந்த நிகழ்ச்சிகள் போலவே அத்தனை சுவை இருந்தன.



“மதுரை சீடு” அமைப்பின் இயக்குநரான கார்த்திக் பாரதி, “இது 20 வருடங்களாகக் குழந்தைகளுக்காக இயங்கிவரும் தன்னார்வ அமைப்பு. ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் மார்கழி மாதத்தில் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவை நடத்தி, அவர்களின் கலைத் திறமைகளை வெளிக்கொண்டு வருகிறோம்” என்றார்.

அமைப்பின் அறங்காவலர் இளவரசி, “படிப்பு மட்டுமே பிள்ளைகளுக்கு வாழ்கையில்லை. இன்றைய பெற்றோர்களில் பலர் அதையே பிரதானமா நினைக்கிறாங்க. இதனால், குழந்தைகளின் கற்பனைத்திறன் வெளிப்படாமலே போகுது. அந்த நிலையை மாற்றணும்.

மதுரையின் கரும்பாலை பகுதி, மிகவும் பின்தங்கிய பகுதி. இங்கே வாழும் மக்களின் பெரும்பாலானோர் தினக்கூலிகள். இவர்களின் பிள்ளைகளுக்காக விளையாட்டு, டிப்யூஷன், மியூசிக் டிராஸ், உணவியல் ஆலோசனைகள் வழங்கி வருகிறோம்” என்றார் உற்சாகமாக.

நிகழ்ச்சியின் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக வந்திருந்த குழந்தைகள் ஆர்வலர் ராஜன், “நான் இந்த நிகழ்வுக்குத் தோட்டா என்று ஐந்து நாளும் வந்துட்டிருக்கேன். குழந்தைகளுடன்



கார்த்திக் பாரதி

குழந்தையா சேர்ந்து பயணிக்கும்போது, நம்மையே புதுசா உணர்வேம். குழந்தை வளர்ப்பில், கதைகளின் பங்கு முக்கியமானது. அதற்கு இதுபோன்ற நிகழ்ச்சிகள் மிகவும் முக்கியம். இந்த மாநகர நிகழ்வுகளுக்கு குழந்தைகளை ஊக்கப்படுத்திக் கூட்டிட்டு வரணும்” என்றார்.

எல்லாரும் பேசிட்டாங்க... நிகழ்ச்சியின் முக்கியமான விஷயிகளே குழந்தைகள்தானே... அவர்களிடம் கேட்காவிட்டால் எப்படி?

துறுதுறு என ஓடிய மீனாட்சியைப் பிடிச்ச நிறுத்தினோம். “நான் சின்ன வயசிலிருந்தே இந்த அமைப்பின் உதவியில்தான் படிக்கிறேன். முன்னாடி நான் மத்தவங்களுோடு பேசவே கூச்சப்படுவேன். இப்போ, எல்லாருக்கும் முன்னாடி கதை, பாட்டுன்னு தைரியமா கலந்துக்கிறேன்.

எங்களுக்கு ‘தேன் கூடு’ என்கிற பெயரில் சேமிப்புப் பழக்கத்தை வளர்க்கும் திட்டத்தையும் சொல்லிக் கொடுத்தாங்க. அதிலிருந்து நான்களே எங்க பள்ளிக்கூட கட்டணத்தை கட்டிட்டுருக்கோம். இன்னிக்குத்தான் மார்கழி திருவிழாவின் வாலட்டே ஆனா, இதே மாநகர தினமும் இருந்தா நல்லா இருக்கும்” எனச் சிரித்தார்.



Chutti Vikatan | Tamil Children Magazine
16.01.2019 | About 5 days children theatre festival



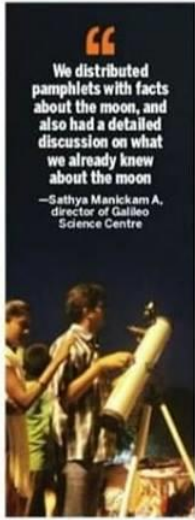
● **Keerthana M Sundaram**

MOON NIGHT

“ We distributed pamphlets with facts about the moon, and also had a detailed discussion on what we already knew about the moon.”

—Sathya Manickam A
director of Galileo
Science Centre

Sathya also added that the government needs to promote similar activities in schools and colleges to raise awareness about space science among the next generation.



The New Indian Express |
12.04.2018



of the creative revolutionary culture among people.

As director of the Kaleidoscope Centre for Alternate Education, Art & Culture, Prabhar's success has been getting a good number of unfamiliar artists and their creations to one place. His aim, he says, is to expose you to development. "All arts are good. There should be no barriers segmenting them into different venues, from temples to *sabhar*," he says. "When we integrate, critical art always raises consciousness and this is what provided the atmosphere for meaningful conversations."

Madural Seed, an NGO that works with less privileged children, brought together a group of street children and students of TVS Matriculation Higher Secondary School for a powerful and unusual play. The former made the need for communal harmony in a play titled *Manusandeham*. *Yellum* (Unity) with



Art for Unity Performers at the Madurai Art Fest-2019

times. Ten-year-old Tanya who played the drums wearing *pottu pavada* was an instant favourite.

Sanil Joseph doled out 10 unplugged versions of popular cine songs from films *Panchavarna Kilil*, *Achham Ennai*, *bathu Madamaiyedo*, *Bharathi* to much applause. "Singing songs about Tamil pride, love and unity in the open air for the general public was a different experience," he says.

Singing and dancing in the street theatre format, it was an eclectic blend of art and entertainment. After quick self-introductions, the performer asked the audience about various story beginnings and morphed into several characters. From the love story of the sky and the earth to the birth of sun and moon, how birds got their wings to the self-important Garuda, the team created a cocktail of fantasy, mythology and Nature and had the audience in splits.

"To get such a spontaneous and attentive crowd in open air for a live performance is not easy," says Maya, Madurai girl, now a part of Kollywood.

while the school students put up a fantasy story of animals travelling to the moon, *Nilavukku pokirom*.

Pursey from thappattam danced by several local artists and groups performing the skilled sport *mallam kottam*, *sikharattam*, the high-energy *kargattam* and *chattanam kavadi*. This year, social entrepreneurs and art enthusiasts took space at the festival. Several local artists and photographers mounted their exhibits and installations. NGOs such as the Yellow Bag, Yogi Gan, Garam Madurai, Padakkattam Aram, Cuckoo, Vaggaikkalai, Kalakka Vagupuram, Green Walk put up stalls for healthy food, eco-friendly plastic, organic alternatives to plastics, and children's and Tamil books.

The festival had Madurai's popular singers who sang about unity

[illegible]

FINANCIALS

**MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2019**

[illegible]

For Arockiasamy & Charles
Firm Registration Number : 018079S

Chartered Accountants

P. Arockiasamy

Partner

Membership No.018348

UDIN :19018348AAAAGC9845

Place : Madurai

Date : 16.09.2019

V. Elavaraj
Managing Trustee

MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2019

	Schedule	Year ended March 31, 2019 Rs.
Income		
Foreign Contribution Received		2,767,801
Donation Received		57,033
Interest Income	7	
S B Interest		20,069
FD Interest		5,737
		<u>25,806</u>
		<u>2,850,640</u>
Expenditure		
Programme Cost		
Children Education Centre	9	698,761
Children's and Young People Skill & Personality Development Programme	10	674,707
Library for children & Young People	11	46,658
Scholarship Support for Children & Young people	12	388,507
Young People Education Centre	13	12,931
Administration Expenses	14	777,482
Depreciation	2	20,592
		<u>2,619,638</u>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		231,002

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 :19018348AAAAGC9845


Managing Trustee

Place : Madurai

Date : 16.09.2019

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.

- We are in need of a comfortable, spacious studying space. Within the few months of the next new educational year, a new study place will be found in Karumbalai to provide a good class room atmosphere for children.
- Haven't published the annual magazine for two years, the 26th magazine will be published as "Children Theatre Edition" with theatre scripts of Madurai Seed's play productions.
- A creative writing workshop for children and the outcome being published in online or print platforms.
- Other club activities will go on usually with more focused learning outcomes.
- Evening classes will reach more beneficiaries than the last year with stable regular attendance of children.

In an area like Karumbalai, there are many distractions for children and young people. Dropping out from school was not a rare scene. In this situation, 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. We thank you all for being with us and believe in us. We are looking towards exciting times ahead. Thanks and Best wishes.



ADDED READINGS



Following are the reports from interns, volunteers, and supporters



Internship Report By: Thurgga Thiven, Law Student, France

Acknowledgment:

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of my internship. First of all, I extend my thanks and my gratitude to MADURAI SEED in particular to the president A.S. Kartickbarathi Anna (brother), to the director Elavarasi KARTHIK and to the coordinator C. Arun Kumar for giving me the opportunity to do my internship within their organization. I thank them for their trust, their availability and their patience.

I especially thank my internship tutor A.S Kartickbarathi Anna who was kind enough to answer my questions and provide the necessary explanations.

Finally, I wanted to thank all the volunteers and children of MADURAI SEED. Their smile, their generosity, their good humor made this internship an unforgettable and exceptional experience.

Introduction

Before going into the thick of the subject, I will specify that because of a visa problem, I did a one-month internship in India, then a second internship in a law firm in Paris.

Following a one-year exchange at the University of Geneva in Switzerland and a Master's degree in International Law from Paris-Nanterre University, I decided to do a Master II degree in Law, Political Science and international relations within the University of Clermont Auvergne.

During my studies, I had the opportunity not only to do internships in law firms, but I also had the opportunity to participate in various volunteer missions with UNICEF. My year spent in Geneva, as well as the different volunteering experiences have increased my desire to work in an international context and have especially strengthened my desire to work in the field of human rights.

In order to obtain the Master II, we have to do a professional internship related to our studies. Having never done internships in NGOs, my choice was quite fast. I wanted to have an experience in an NGO, to make more concrete my career orientation and confirm my desire to specialize in human rights.

So I wanted to focus on a specific geographical area: Asia have a very special interest for Asia, since I come from this continent. Indeed, of Sri Lankan Tamil origin, but born in the Philippines, I acquired and deepened for a long time my knowledge on this region. In addition, I decided to target only NGOs fighting for the protection of children's rights in Asia. In fact, millions of children in Asia have their rights violated, including the deprivation of social, educational and cultural rights. They are denied access to school, health care and social benefits, are inappropriately separated from their families and affected by exploitation, abuse and violence in their homes and communities. Everywhere, groups of children are left behind, victims of prejudice and discrimination. Among the most vulnerable are children born in poverty, children from ethnic minorities or children with disabilities.

After careful study of the missions of each NGO fighting for the protection of children's rights, I sent many applications to every corner of Asia, particularly in India, Malaysia, or the Philippines.

Of all the applications sent, an NGO named MADURAI SEED, located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu State, was the first to give me a positive response. It is a local NGO that focuses mainly on educating children and young people from a disadvantaged environment. We will come back to this in more detail about the roles and missions of this organization.

One of the main reasons for my application to MADURAI SEED was of course its field of action: education. In addition, the idea of working closely and interacting with other local organizations but also with young people, proved to be a great opportunity for me to have real field experience. Finally, the language spoken in Madurai is Tamil, language that I speak perfectly.

As I mentioned above, because of a visa problem, my internship was shortened to 1 month, so I had to look for another internship in France. I decided to direct my research to law firms. An internship in an NGO then at a law firm can be seen as contradictory.

However my previous experience was not in the field of Human rights, so I wanted to move towards a small law firm exercising in Human rights and anti-terrorism as the cabinet Axel METZKER, to familiarize myself with this type of structure and discover the many facets of the profession of lawyer practicing in the field of Human rights and to a lesser extent, contribute to the life of the firm. I will present in the first part my internship done in India.

Inequalities in the education system in India

India is the world's largest democracy and, according to UN estimates, its population is expected to surpass China's in 2028 to become the world's most populous nation.

As a growing economic power and a nuclear-weapon State, India has become an important regional power. But it also tackles enormous social, economic and environmental problems. For example, education is a major challenge in India especially for children and students from poor families. Everyone's right to education is one of the Human rights. This right has been enshrined in several fundamental texts such as Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

«Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children »

But this right is found in other texts such as in: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966 (Articles 2, 13 and 141), in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (articles 1, 2 and 52), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Articles 1 and 10 3), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (articles 2, 9, 28 and 29 4), the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 2 of the First Additional Protocol), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 24).

In addition, lack of education is a fundamental problem in India and the situation of Indian public schools is a clear illustration of this. Education is a constitutional right in India, but its provision is far below an adequate standard. Yet the Indian government is well aware of the problems of the Indian education system, but has been slow to respond. For example, the school infrastructure is in poor condition and many teachers are not properly qualified, with a quarter of them having no degree. Schools are also without electricity. Half of the country does not even have access to adequate education and only a small part can go to private university because of a considerable lack of good quality education for the poor or because the limited places in private universities, resulting in a very intense competition between students; most go to public universities, which are mostly free and offer little benefit.

There are also sociological factors, including the caste system, which is a serious problem, and the extreme pressure exerted by parents or society on the use of education for financial security. There is very little incentive to take risks and follow your own interests or encourage creativity.

These circumstances create a difficult situation for socio-economically disadvantaged groups who cannot afford a private school to educate their child. These failures of the Indian education system push people to work in low-paid and unsafe jobs, which in most cases do not correspond to their level of education and where they are exploited and imprisoned in a state of deprivation. A vicious circle is created between generations.

States have an obligation to provide education to their citizens and, unfortunately, in India this obligation is not fulfilled. The field of education is therefore intrinsically complex in India. However, better than ministries or even private schools, NGOs can adopt new methodologies and experiment easily in the field. A large number of NGOs offer brilliant projects and sometimes develop them if they are successfully piloted.

Madurai SEED, NGO focused on the welfare and education of children and young people of Karumbalai intervenes in this context.

Presentation of the founder of MADURAI SEED

A.S Karthikbharati is the 6th child of a poor family whose parents have not attended school. In his words, poverty has haunted him during school days. He held several part-time jobs to finance his high school and university studies. Karumbalai, this poor slum of Madurai lacked economic well-being, opportunities and advice. From his childhood he joined many social service forums. Indeed, he wanted to do something to the children of his region so that they could know the benefits of education. So he created a space for children where they could come to read books, and then this space was extended to evening centers where teaching volunteers shared with the youngest the virtues of education.

From 1990 to 1999, he participated in many projects where he served for people living not only in Karumbalai, but also around Madurai. He then created SEED and worked in disadvantaged areas such as Karumbalai, Sambakudi and Thatthaneri until 2006.

It was in 2007 that A. Karthikbarathi reinstated MADURAI SEED as a non-profit organization under the Indian Trust Act of 2007. What is important to mention is that A.S.Karthik Bharathi grew up and lived in Karumbalai and therefore knows the situation and the problems that the children and young people of Karumbalai are facing.

Despite the difficulties, he obtained a master's degree in Tamil literature and received a state and university award for the best volunteer of the national service program. He is a member of the ASHA for Education (Boston, USA) from 2003. Over the last 13 years, he has managed to make MADURAI SEED a very popular and successful organization

Presentation of MADURAI SEED

MADURAI SEED is a non-profit organization founded in 1999, whose objective is to promote the education of disadvantaged children and young people. "Seed" refers to their belief that every child has great potential, when underprivileged children and youth are supported by adequate resources and opportunities, just like a plant, they can grow and reach great heights.

The team consists first of President Karthick Barathi and his wife Elavarasi Karthik director of Madurai SEED. Then there is the financial administrator and secretary, Mr. Mansurali and Mr. Muthupandi who also grew up in Karumbalai. As my tutor of internship, they know the situation there. Mansurali holds degrees in Computer Science and Sociology and Muthupandi in Accounting. These are important elements of the team because they are in charge of budget management and manage the bureaucratic aspects of the organization.

Then comes Ms. V. Mammammal who is a director and board member who has worked as a English & Social Sciences teacher in a high school. She was very knowledgeable about the social and economic environment of the children of Karumbalai. Today she is a retired teacher and gives English lessons to the older ones.

Arun Kumar, the coordinator studied English literature. It is one of the reasons for the fulfillment of MADURAI SEED in the administration.

Then the organization relies heavily on the many student volunteers, who help the development of children including giving complementary classes in the evening from 6 to 8pm.

Finally there are many advisers and volunteers who help in the financing of Madurai SEED. Sponsors such as Asha Boston, or sponsor teams in Switzerland are very used in the financing of educational projects, school materials, etc. However, among the volunteers there are many friends, colleagues and other local organizations involved in supporting and helping children to achieve their dreams.

The role and missions of Madurai Seed

Karumbalai is a region of Madurai, a slum located behind the city centre of Madurai. For a very long time, the term "slum" has been associated with a dirty habitat and occupied by a miserable and criminal population. In French, the word "slum" was used for the first time about Morocco to literally refer to "houses in cans", a set of houses built with recycled materials.

Today, there are certain characteristics to take into account to qualify a slum, especially overcrowding, poor quality housing located in most cases on the outskirts of city centers. There is also a lack of access to drinking water etc.

This is the case of Karumbalai, where many children and young students live.

India, as a nation, has taken measures in relation to education by adopting measures such as free compulsory education for every child up to the age of 14, and so on. However, the real problem may not be the issue of access to education, but rather the quality of the education provided and the lack of employment opportunities at the end of the course.

In India, there are 3 types of schools: state-owned schools and private schools but also government aided schools. Private schools deemed expensive and offering quality education can not be paid by parents for lack of income. Children and students have to be content with public schools and universities that are of little benefit to them.

The main mission of Madurai Seed is "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 Empower Them with Emotional Stability to Promote Personal and Social Responsibilities."

In general, children attending the centers come from disadvantaged areas of the city. For the majority of the children and students I spoke to, their fathers work as farmers, house painter or auto driver, and their mothers also earn a bit as housekeepers in most cases, to satisfy their basic needs. Illiteracy and alcohol dependence of parents can lead to poor and stagnant child development. And the goal of Madurai Seed is precisely to prevent this and offer them a peaceful and joyful learning environment.

Children in urban slums therefore receive very little support from their families and the government. As they go to public schools nearby, their exposure to the outside world is impossible. They live in small houses without facilities to study and have no space to have fun with their friends.

As a result, Madurai Seed has created small centers for children and students. They ensure that each child discovers their needs, stimulates their potential and motivates them to strive for success and to support them morally and financially. Depending on their age, Madurai Seed operates in four centers to give them additional education in the evening.

Students attending university become volunteers and teach children in return for a monthly stipend. Special events such as library days, savings system, exhibition visits, scholarships, endowments, skills and personality development programs and other extracurricular activities are there to enrich their leadership skills, their creativity, their aspiration and their communication.

The importance of Madurai Seed for the young people of Karumbalai

I had the opportunity to interview three young students from Karumbalai who gave me their point of view on Madurai SEED and in particular the importance of this organization.

Living in Karumbalai since birth, Srinath, a 3rd year English student, joined Madurai SEED because of personal problems. He was 7 years old when he joined the NGO. Today he is now a volunteer and teaches Tamil to the younger ones.

According to him, without Madurai Seed he would not have become what he is today. This NGO has strengthened its skills as teamwork, solidarity, autonomy but also communication, skills that do not develop enough in school according to him. He also says he has learned and enriched his knowledge in many areas during cultural sessions. Finally, A. Karthikbarathi whom he calls "anna" (brother), is a leader for him and for all young people.

Another student, Prem who is currently in 3rd year of tourism studies, and also living in Karumbalai, joined Madurai SEED 4 years ago because he wanted to enroll in tutoring to pass his high school degree (final exam in 12). He thinks it was thanks to this tutoring, to the advice and encouragement of the team, that he was able to have very good grades.

Moreover, according to him, the NGO pushes young people enormously to do what they want to do.

Prem, for example, has a particular interest in dance. When the NGO prepares projects of activities like dance, it is to him that one calls upon to prepare a choreography.

However, there is little opportunity in universities to practice activities. He said that without Madurai Seed, he would stay with boys his age on the street doing nothing. Today, he thinks he is responsible, autonomous and has grown up in maturity. Prem who did not speak English, today communicates more easily in this language thanks to the teachings given by Madurai SEED. Indeed, in public universities, English is not taught properly or not at all, it requires for that go to private universities.

Finally I met Vindya, a young student in the 2nd year of English. Since the age of 8 she is in Madurai Seed. According to her, being at SEED is a way to open up and learn new skills, to find each other's talents and to showcase them. Since she is in Madurai Seed she has confidence in her and manages to speak without any sign of stress in front of a crowd. What she likes is the different cultural outings that can awaken the intellectual curiosity.

In addition, she shares with me one important thing about girls' education. In her own words she said to me the following: "If I had not been to Madurai Seed, I would probably have stopped the classes or I would have continued but returning in the evening, instead of studying, I would have cooked, cleaned and ironed. "

Indeed, education is a basic human right that should be fully exercised in all countries, but for many girls in India, attending school is not an option. One of the main reasons for the lack of girls education in India is that India remains a patriarchal society, a male dominated society. Although the country is progressing, the belief that women belong to the home is still widespread. Poverty, is an important factor, but it is not the only thing that disrupts the fundamental right to education.

There is a common belief in rural villages that girls must stop attending school after puberty, as they are most often teased by boys for the duration of their walk from home to school.

India has the largest number of married children in Asia, and there is inevitably this dogma that surrounds girls: educating them is a waste of time and money because they are born only to be married and to manage the house.

The 3 students eventually concluded that changes should be made in public schools, especially on the quality of teaching. They add that there is a lot of favoritism within the classrooms. In addition, they told me that studying in a public school is not as valuable as studying in a private school, the opportunities are not the same in the end.

Conference given on the French education system

A local organization partner to Madurai SEED offered me to give a conference on the French education system to teachers, students, writers and even journalists. The challenge was to present the organization of our system from kindergarten to higher education so that the public can then compare with their educational system.

For 45 minutes I explained in Tamil how our educational system worked. Then for 1 hour, questions were asked by students interested in studying in Europe. In most universities in Madurai, there is no school exchange system, which is a big mistake I think.

Moreover, I exchanged a lot about this distinction between private and public schools. Indeed, as I have already mentioned above, in India there are different types of schools: state-owned schools and private schools. Public schools do indeed a commendable job in making education accessible to a larger number of people and normally do so for free. They are a great help to people in urban and rural areas for whom it is impossible to bring their children to the most expensive private schools. However, some problems persist.

Public schools are not deemed to offer students the educational and hospitality standards that are available to them. One of the main consequences of this phenomenon is perhaps the scarcity of jobs for young school children in India, especially in rural areas. After all, why would one want to be an engineering student and then stay at home without a job? Because yes, many students who have studied in public universities do not find a job. They must be content with lower-level jobs even after having been educated, and having a bachelor or master degree.

I take for example the case of a girl that I met, she is passionate about design and fashion. However, there is no sector in this area in Madurai. For lack of a means, she simply studied engineering at a public university and whose registration fees are free, although she knows that her diploma will have no value because she will not find any employment in this field.

So, I asked why study engineering if ultimately a job in this area is almost impossible to find. I have been told that one the fees are free and two having a degree in engineering is well seen by the society. When I asked her what she was going to do after graduation, she said that she would find a teaching position at a public elementary school, a more accessible job for people who had studied at public universities. She also told me that being a teacher in a public school is not the same as being a teacher in a private school, the salary being better.

Education in such a situation becomes a way to waste time and this is a worrying aspect. For this reason, even low-income families try to send by all means even the worst, their children in a private institute for a better future. This distinction between public and private schools is then a point of comparison with France. There are private and public schools in France, but everyone can claim a quality education in each of its schools and have a good job at the end without distinction.

Also, some were particularly shocked about the many help given to us by the French state to finance our studies and for our needs. Indeed, in France, Student with scholarship can be exempted from tuition fees, and receive an allowance every month. In addition, some students also receive housing allowances. In India, on the other hand, parents are ruining themselves to pay for children's higher education.

The education of Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu

In the past decade, more than two million children have been killed in conflict, and another six million have been injured and more than one million orphans can be found.

Sri Lanka is one of the regions in the world where human ethnic conflict has persisted for decades. Many Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka have taken refuge in the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India. These refugees have been rehabilitated in camps on the east coast of Tamil Nadu for more than two decades. Madurai Seed's team prepared a cultural trip to a Sri Lankan refugee camp. We went to one of the Sri Lankan refugee camps in Madurai to learn more about the living conditions of children and students, including their situation regard to studies.

With Camera and notepad, my mission was to go through the whole camp to ask the parents about their living conditions and especially in relation to studies. I had therefore prepared a lot of questions in order to question the inhabitants of this camp. As a Sri Lankan of Tamil origin, I had to see for myself the conditions in which my compatriots lived.

Whatever the reasons for these forced movements and migrations, new challenges are faced in these camps, including how individuals (children and adults), families and communities can exercise their human rights, including the right to protection, education and dignity.

Women, men, boys and girls of all ages, refugees, asylum -seekers, stateless persons, returnees or internally displaced persons have the right to education.

However, it should be noted that refugee children are five times more likely than their national peers to be out of school. The lack of educational opportunities for refugees fuels ongoing migration, xenophobia and despair.

A good education is therefore fundamental to enable a promising future for refugees. There is also ample evidence that migrant, refugee and asylum seeker students in many countries are at a much higher risk of marginalization in educational systems and opportunities compared to native students.

For example, because of their unclear legal status and lack of uniform documentation, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have limited access to essential services and almost no means of subsistence.

While some refugees have been able to generate income by working in the private sector, many of them, particularly vulnerable women and even men, are forced to rely on income from small jobs as an unsustainable livelihood option that often exposes them to exploitation.

Because yes, although not officially allowed to work in India, refugees work in the informal sector to supplement their incomes: in most cases, they are often students with a Bachelor or a Master Degree.

From what I have seen and heard; Tamil refugees are increasingly seeking to go abroad for livelihood opportunities. Indeed, if you are a refugee you can only apply for a job if it is in private sectors like for example, housekeeper or mason. There is this label stuck on their forehead and it deprive them of a good job despite a diploma in their pocket.

A writer by the name of Pathinathan, a Sri Lankan Tamil who had accompanied us, told in an interview, that companies are reluctant to employ qualified people from the Sri Lankan refugee community. That is why many decide to go abroad.

I met a young Sri Lankan refugee couple, one of whom graduated from an engineering school and the other from a master's degree in mathematics. The wife is a housewife mom and gives tutoring classes in the camp, while the husband is a house painter in the private sector.

As much as an Indian person coming from a poor family, and with a Bachelor or Master degree can find somehow a job even if it is not the good field, a refugee student is sure not to find some because of his legal status, which is totally different from refugees in France who study and find the same job as a French citizen, and can also apply to be naturalized.

On the other hand, refugee status within the meaning of the Geneva Convention does not exist in India. If no law is passed on the status of refugees in India, the future of the next generations, especially with regard to education and employment, is compromised.

Conclusion:

In India, the choice to live outside the failing grid of government services is usually reserved for the rich or the middle class, who can afford private housing, private hospitals and private schools. However, an increasing number of poor parents in India are now raising funds to send their children to low-cost private schools in hopes of helping them escape poverty.

Education in India is a system that therefore requires considerable improvement especially for people from poor families and this must come from a change in policy. For example, it is necessary to make private schools more accessible by taking into account the resources of poor families, or to improve public universities, in particular by improving the quality of education.

In this sense, Madurai Seed's commitment to strengthening and supporting disadvantaged children is visible. Madurai SEED has changed the lives of many children and youth in Karumbalai, coming from a slum, going to school, continuing to study at school, going to university, having a job through to education is a big change to them.

Many parents in Karumbalai began to think that education was a step in getting out of poverty. Even if people end up with low-paying and insecure jobs, which in most cases do not correspond to their level of education, some children in Madurai today despite the difficulties have been able to leave the slum thanks to the education, have found a job with a correct salary and today are sponsors and financially support Madurai Seed. Beyond this, Madurai Seed hopes in the future to expand her territory and build larger buildings to welcome children in better conditions.

It was an incredible experience even it was short; I would like to thank them again for their kindness, their generosity, their smile and their good mood. THANK YOU





Site visit by Melli Annamalai, Asha Boston, July 9-10, 2018

On this visit I spent time with some of the youth volunteers who are eager to do social work. Arun a product of the Seed centres was working in Bangalore and has come to Madurai to take up some projects with Seed. Karthi's wife Elavarasi has blossomed into an excellent social worker. The three of them form such a good team. Arun posted on Facebook that they are available to teach at local government schools, and four schools responded taking them up on their offer!

Arun has embarked on this work and believes he can work with students who have fallen behind in the government schools and help them learn better.

Then there are Vicky and Anand, such excellent photographers. I wish I could give all them fellowships and have a whole team of youth in Madurai working for social change. Alas, Asha's resources are limited.

This time I went with a concrete plan of discussing a topic, and I chose Vietnam, a place I had visited recently. We had a lively discussion around Vietnam, and how in eleven short years after sending the US troops back home Vietnam had pivoted to capitalism. The entire war was for nothing. I also talked about the connection, far back in time, between India and Vietnam.

We also held an event at the Thedalgai center for young people, built in collaboration with Kaliedoscope. Asha's support includes a small stipend for maintaining the place. It has been built on the terrace of a house, and is such a pleasant place to be. Even in hot Madurai, this space was pleasant. All kudos to Kaliedoscope founder Prof. Prabhakar. The space is used for book readings, art events, and so on. Again, I appreciated that Seed had been creating these relationships with other non-profits in Madurai.





Report from Andrea Wilson, English Tutor, Switzerland

In the summer of 2018, I visited Madurai Seed as a volunteer. It was my second visit, and returning after 2 years, I was keen to see old faces again and hear the stories of the students' progress. I was not disappointed.

I was very warmly welcomed and spent much of my two weeks in English evening classes with a group of mixed level students. We read and did various activities and games around a story and our lessons were

fascinating and great fun. For me this was a first teaching non-adults, and I was met each evening by eager faces, students who seemed to enjoy and value learning, and who had a wonderful sense of fun. It was a great pleasure over these two weeks to see so many young people engaged and absorbed by the classes and activities on offer at the evening school, and especially to see so many young girls actively involved in education and building their futures and future choices.

During my stay, Madurai Seed were to perform and film a drama they had written themselves during one of their camps. Two days after I arrived, the whole school travelled out to a hill outside the city to rehearse and film the production in preparation for the performances at various schools and hostels over several dates.. I saw here what I saw on numerous other occasions with the organisation; a very joyful group of volunteers and students of all ages and sizes working together as a team; the home-grown actors, directors, cameramen, make-up artists here, there the costume makers, bringers of breakfast, prompters, carers, translators (for my benefit) all pulling together to make their unique film. For me this was a very apt picture of what Madurai Seed achieves in its work in Karumbalai.

There are many things I admire about Madurai Seed: the fact that it is truly a grass roots organisation; that the team care so passionately about the education of children, who are the future; that there is a significant place for joy and creativity in education; that learning is not just a matter of maths, physics, languages and bookish study, but also a place for learning life skills such as saving money, co-operation, mutual respect, acceptance of others and self-esteem; that these endeavours really do change the course of people's lives.

I am firmly convinced that the experiences children make with Madurai Seed are character building and powerfully enduring. However, one of the most inspiring things for me is the dedication that Madurai Seed seems to inspire in a number of people who pass through its doors, with each generation of students producing a team of future volunteers, mentors and role models, and so many happy memories. Long may they continue.



Our days with Madurai Seed Family

written by Katrin & Urs, Switzerland

It was our first visit to India and since we did not know what to expect we were overwhelmed by the hearty and warm welcome of Karthik, Elaa and Arun at Madurai airport. After a first night's rest at the hotel, we went to the "headquarters" and heart of Madurai Seed – Karumbalai - and already gained some insight into its magic when we were welcomed by very curious, lively and excited children and highly motivated volunteers, who clearly have found a second home through this project.

In the first week the plan was to get to know Madurai in the mornings and to teach some lessons at Madurai Seed in the evenings. Elaa and Arun very kindly introduced us to the realm of Hindu religion in the impressive Meenakshe Temple, to India's struggle of independence in the Gandhi museum and we thereby learned a lot about Indian culture and its people.

In the evenings, Katrin, as a trained English teacher, together with Arun, started working with the volunteers to improve their English. In their lessons, they focused on short stories, related vocabulary and pronunciation. The eager and highly motivated volunteers made these lessons a pleasure and success.

Having only very little experience in teaching, Urs was assisting Elaa in the science lessons for the younger students of MS. They were working on maths puzzles to train basic operations, science experiments - such as making the fire of a candle go out when deprived of oxygen - and also raised awareness of environmental issues (especially plastic waste) through role plays.

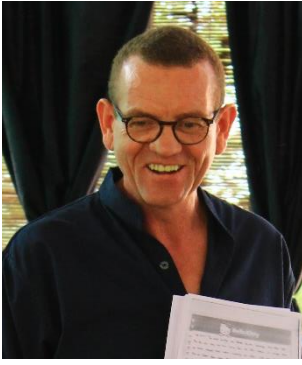
On the last day of this week, we organised a small workshop for the volunteers, which focused on story-writing and Haikus. They were writing their first poems about a particular moment that they remembered well, and the resulting haikus were impressive, capturing vividly intimate moments in their lives. However, educating those young people with more holistic approaches (in contrast to the rather frontal methods that they experience at the public schools) is by no means the only achievement of Madurai Seed. This project goes way beyond the provision of education to young and underprivileged students.

This became particularly clear during the second week of our visit, which was fully dedicated to Pongal, a four-day harvest festival. Instead of letting MS activities rest, Karthik, Arun and Elaa organised an excursion to a farmer's field outside of Madurai, to thank and honour the farmers' hardship and work. To witness these colourful ceremonies and the children's excitement and joy about spending a day outside of Karumbalai is something we will certainly never forget and keep in our hearts.

Yet, not only does Madurai Seed take these young people of Karumbalai outside of their everyday environment to see something different in the world, but they also put much effort into nurturing and unearthing the creativity and talents slumbering in these youngsters. We were able to enjoy the fruits of these endeavours during the evening of National Youth's Day, when the children and volunteers performed in plays, traditional dances, and other acts in the streets of Karambulai. The performances did not have a mere entertaining aspect, though. Social and political topics were very present, as for example in the stunning production depicting the struggle of Indian society with caste, religion and language. It was also nice to see that this event was not only from and for Madurai Seed members but attracted the attention of the whole quarter.

All in all, we were very much impressed and touched by the effort that Karthik, Elaa, Arun and the other trustees put into Madurai Seed. The same holds for the volunteers without whom the project in this form would not work. Although Madurai Seed is a comparatively small project, we were able to witness how great an impact such passionate devotion can achieve. While the "Seed" in Madurai Seed refers to initial support that wants to be given to the children in this project, we consider the project a plant which has to be taken care of and is, without doubt, worth supporting and we hope to see its roots becoming even stronger.





Report from Keith Rossborough, English Professor, Switzerland

I returned to Madurai Seed (MS) in Karumbalai with a colleague Nick Bell in January 2019. Our time was mostly spent with Madurai Seed's young people. We also gave a teacher-training workshop to a group of young teachers in training at Thedagal Resource Centre.

The input sessions with the young people consisted of various activities including, vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, and job interview skills. For instance, the young people were encouraged to bring their own newspaper articles to class with which various tasks were carried out. As usual, the young people were very proactive, motivated, and participated in the various tasks with enthusiasm, while collectively achieving the desired task outcomes.

During the one-day trainee-teacher workshop, which was also attended by some of MS's young people, we introduced Concept Questions and Time Lines (Workman 2008). This input was enthusiastically received by the participants who repeatedly commented on how useful these activities were to teach aspect of time, using concept questions to check student understanding. We also used this input at MS with the young people a second time, as they wanted to learn more about incorporating these kinds of activities into their teaching.

What really struck me about this visit was seeing how far the young people have developed professionally, as some of whom are now working in exciting fields including graphic design and teaching. This is extremely motivating for me to see and just confirms the wonderful work being done at Madurai Seed. We were sent off with a theater production depicting the three aspects that divide Indian society: language, caste and religion. A powerful performance given by the children of MS, this reassured me that given the opportunity, it's possible to will-out talent, as was displayed by the young children.





Report from Nick Bell, English Teacher, Switzerland

I want to say what struck me about Madurai Seed during the short visit Keith and I made in January 2019. I studied education in England and it was so refreshing to see ideas that had inspired me then implemented with so much heart and intelligence. I would say that the Madurai Seed model deserves to be used throughout the world, with the provision that the work has to come from the grass roots (rather than imposed from above) and be implemented with love. This is the case at Madurai Seed, due to the warmth, energy and dedication shown by Karthik, Ela, Arun and the other key players, the wonderful young people and the kids themselves.

What particularly impressed me was the progressive orientation of the curriculum, with plenty of scope for individual creativity and expression. The Madurai Seed emphasis is truly on education in the best sense of bringing out each individual's talents. A good example of this was the performance in the street in front of the Madurai Seed office on our last evening, showing the enemies of society being defeated by the people.

I was apprehensive before visiting India for the first time, but the way Keith and I were welcomed, looked after throughout our visit, and celebrated on the last evening was extraordinary: we were made to feel at home in so many ways. The classes and workshop we gave were challenging but enjoyable and our students were always attentive and fully engaged. After this outstanding experience I intend to return to Karambalai, bringing my wife Maggi with me next time.





Report in Tamil from Prasanth, Theatre Student, University of Hyderabad. He is a Srilankan Tamil student worked as a volunteer for 4 days during our Margazhi Utsav- Children Carnival and Theatre Festival.

மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா

அண்மையில் முகப்புத்தகத்தில் மார்கழி உற்சவம் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவிடக்கான அழைப்பிதழை பார்த்தபோது தமிழ் நாடகங்கள் என்ற உடனே மனதுக்குள் ஒரு விதமான பூரிப்பு. காரணம் ஹைதராபாத்தில் தமிழ் நாடகங்கள் பார்ப்பதென்பது மிகவும் அரிதான விடயம் அது மட்டுமில்லாமல் குழந்தைகள் நாடகத்திருவிழா என்றதும் பல வகையான எண்ணங்கள் எனக்குள் அசைபோட்டன. இதனை எப்படியாவது பார்த்தாக வேண்டும் என்ற ஆசையில் இருந்த போது அதனை செயற்படுத்தி தந்தவர்கள் தினேஷ் அண்ணா மற்றும் யாழ்கலை மையம் புதுச்சேரி கோபி அண்ணா அவர்கள். இவ்வாறு மார்கழி உற்சவத்தினை ஒருவழியாக சென்றடைந்தபோது ஆரம்பமே நான் கற்பனை செய்ததிலிருந்து சற்று மாறாகவே அமைந்திருந்தது மார்கழி உற்சவம். பார்வையாளர்களை வரவேற்பதிலிருந்து அங்கு ஓடியாடி வேலை செய்பவர்கள் எல்லோருமே சிறியவர்கள் மற்றும் இளையவர்கள். அவர்களுடைய சுறுசுறுப்பும், அயராத உழைப்பும் இவர்களுடையெல்லாம் சரியான வழியில் நெறிப்படுத்திக் கொண்டு இருக்கும் மதுரை சீடு அமைப்பினுடைய இயக்குனர்கள் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா மற்றும் இளவரசி அக்கா இவர்கள் எல்லோருடைய சங்கமமே இந்த மார்கழி உற்சவத்தின் வெற்றியென அங்கு போன ஓரிரு நாட்களிலேயே என்னால் உணரக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது.

முதல் இருநாட்கள் புதிய இடம், புதிய மனிதர்கள் என அவர்களோடு இணைவதில் சற்று தயக்கங்கள் இருந்தாலும் அவர்கள் அனைவரும் என்னோடு பழகிய விதமும், உபசரித்த விதமும் என்னை அவர்களிலிருந்து பிரித்துப்பார்க்க இயலவில்லை, நாழிகைகள் நகர நகர அது என்னுடைய நிகழ்வு என்ற மனநிலை என்னை தொற்றிக் கொண்டது. கிட்டத்தட்ட ஆறு நாட்கள் அவர்களுடனேயே சேர்ந்து தங்கி அவர்களின் பயணத்தின் ஒரு சிறு துரும்பாக இருந்ததன் விளைவாக என்னால் பல விடயங்களில் நல்லதொரு அனுபவத்தினை பெறக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது.

ஒரு குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா எடுத்து நடத்துவதன் பொறுப்புக்களையும், அதன் சிரமங்களையும், அவற்றை அவர்கள் செவ்வனே கையாண்ட முறையினையும் என்னால் கண்ணாடாக பார்க்கக் கூடியதாக இருந்தது. மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளையும், இளைஞர்களையும் வைத்துக் கொண்டு ஐந்து நாள் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவினை அவர்கள் பல்வேறு கோணங்களில் ஒவ்வொரு நாட்களும் ஒன்றோடு ஒன்று தொடர்புபடாத வகையில் வடிவமைத்திருந்தார்கள்.

ஒவ்வொரு நாட்களும் மாலை 4.30 மணிக்கு ஆரம்பமாகும் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா இரவு 7.30 மணிவரை நடைபெற்றது. சில இடங்களில் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா என்பார்கள் அங்கு குழந்தைகள் பார்வையாளர்களாக மட்டுமே இருப்பார்கள். ஆனால் இங்கு குழந்தைகள் பார்வையாளர்களாக மட்டுமல்லாமல் ஆற்றுகையாளர்களாகவும், செயற்பாட்டாளர்களாகவும் சில நேரங்களில் ஆசிரியர்களாகவும் கூட செயற்பட்டார்கள். குழந்தைகளிடம் இருந்து கற்றுக் கொள்வதற்கு நிறைய விடயங்கள் இருக்கு என்ற உண்மையினை மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகள் மூலம் நான் அடிக்கடி உணர்ந்து கொள்ளக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது.

நேரமுகாமைத்துவம், ஒருவருக்கு ஒருவர் விட்டுக் கொடுத்தல், உதவிசெய்தல், சுறுசுறுப்பு, நல்ல விடயங்களை மற்றவருக்கு சொல்லிக் கொடுத்தல், வெளிப்படையான பேச்சு என இன்னும் பல விடயங்களை சொல்லிக் கொண்டே செல்லலாம் ஆரம்பத்தில் மதுரை சீடு என்பது ஆதரவற்ற குழந்தைகள் பராமரிப்பு அமைப்பென எண்ணிய போது அங்கு சென்றதன் பிற்பாடுதான் அது ஒரு அறிவோடு கூடிய ஆக்கத்திறன் செயற்பாட்டு மையம் என விளங்கியது. அமைப்பை சுற்றியுள்ள பிரதேசங்களில் வாழ்கின்ற பாடசாலை மற்றும் கல்லூரியில் கல்வி பயில்கின்ற மாணவர்களை கல்லூரி மற்றும் பாடசாலை முடிந்ததன் பிற்பாடு மாலை முதல் இரவுவரை தினசரி அவர்களது வீட்டுப்பாடங்களைக்கவனித்தல், பாடங்களைச்சொல்லிக்கொடுத்தல், ஆக்கத்திறன் சார்ந்த இணை பாடவிதானங்களில் ஈடுபடவைத்தல் என அவர்களை நாளைய பொறுப்புமிக்க சமூகமாக நல்வழிப்படுத்துகின்ற நற்பணிமையம் என என்னால் புரிந்து கொள்ளமுடிந்தது.

இதில் அங்கு கல்வி கற்று நன்நிலை அடைந்த மாணவர்கள் அங்கேயே தொண்டராசிரியர்களாக இருப்பது சிறப்பிற்குரிய விடயமாகும். மாணவர்களுக்கென நூலகம், தரங்களுக்கு ஏற்ப வகுப்பறைகள் என அவர்களுக்கு பலவகையான வசதிகளையும் ஏற்படுத்தி கொடுத்துள்ளார்கள். மதுரை சீடு அமைப்பினரின் இந்த தொடர் பயணம் கார்த்திக் அண்ணாவின் அயராத உழைப்பிலும் முழுமூச்சிலும் இருபது ஆண்டுகளைக் கடந்து வந்திருக்கின்றது. அதன் விளைவே இந்த மார்கழி உற்சவம் 2018 குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா. இதற்கு முன்பாக பல நிகழ்வுகள், நாடகங்கள், பயிற்சிப்பட்டறைகள் எனப் பலவற்றை செய்து இருந்தாலும் ஐந்து நாட்கள் கொண்ட நாடக விழா செய்வது இதுவே முதல்முறை.

குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவிற்கு ஏற்றாற்போல காந்தி மியூசியத்தில் உள்ள குமரப்பா குடிலினை ஒவ்வொரு நாட்களும் வித்தியாசமான முறையில் கிடைப்பவற்றைக் கொண்டு மாற்றியமைத்த விதம் அவர்களுக்குள் இருக்கும் கற்பனை வளத்தினை பறைசாற்றிய ஓர் அம்சமாகும். இவை மட்டுமல்லாது புத்தகக்கடைகள், தீன்பண்டக்கடைகள் என குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா பார்வையாளர்கள் மனதில் வேறொரு தளத்திற்கு சென்றிருக்கும் என்பதில் எவ்வித ஐயப்பாடுகளும் இல்லை. வழமையான நிகழ்வுகள் போல் தலைமை உரை, சிறப்புரை போன்ற ஆரவாரங்கள் எதுவும் இல்லாமல் விளையாட்டு, இராதாகிருஷ்ணனின் குழந்தைகள் பாடல் போன்றவற்றுடன் ஆரம்பமான திருவிழாவின் முதல் நாளில் சென்னை, கனவு வெளியினை சேர்ந்த ஆழி வெங்கடேசன் அவர்களுடைய சிந்துபாத் கடல்பயணம் என்ற ஓராள் நாடகம் ஆற்றுகை செய்யப்பட்டது.

இரண்டாவது நாளினை சிறப்பிக்கும் முகமாக மூன்று ஆற்றுகைகள் கண்களுக்கு விருந்தளிக்கக் காத்திருந்தன. மாலை 4.30 மணி தொடக்கம் 5.30 மணிவரை சிறார்களின் ஆக்கத்திறன் சார்ந்த செயற்பாடுகள் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டன. பின்பு கதையும் விளையாட்டும் எனும் தலைப்பினுள் ஆற்றுகை ஒன்றினை நிகழ்த்தியிருந்தார் பெங்களூர், மேஜிக் கார்பெட்டை சேர்ந்த திருமதி.அகிலா அவர்கள். அதனைத் தொடர்ந்து மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளின் அன்னை மொழி நிழல் பொம்மலாட்டம் இடம் பெற்றது. இதனைத் நெறிப்படுத்தியிருந்தார் திரு.திலகராஜன் (ஆசிரியர்: மதுரை) அவர்கள். அடுத்த நிகழ்வாக அரங்கேறியது மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளுடைய மானுடம் வென்றது என்ற நாடகம் இதனை இயக்கியிருந்தார் திரு.ராஜ்குமார் (ஆசிரியர் : மதுரை)

இதில் மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளினால் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட ஆற்றுகைகள் பெரும் வரவேற்பைப் பெற்றிருந்தது என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்க விடயமாகும். இரண்டாம் நாளின் இறுதி நிகழ்வாக கலைஞர்களைக் கௌரவிக்கும் நிகழ்வு நடைபெற்றது. ஒவ்வொரு நாளின் இறுதியிலும் அடுத்த நாள் நிகழ்வுகளுக்கு யார்? யார்? பொறுப்பெடுத்துக் கொள்வது என்பதில் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா மிகவும் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்துவார். அந்தவகையில் மூன்றாவது நாள் கை வண்ணங்கள், தூரிகை வண்ணங்கள், காகிதத்தொப்பிகள் என குழந்தைகளுக்கு வண்ணமயமான நாளாக அமைந்திருந்தது. இதில் எனக்கு சில விளையாட்டுக்களை

சொல்லிக்கொடுத்து அவர்களுடன் சேர்ந்து விளையாடுவதற்கான வாய்ப்பினை வழங்கியிருந்தார் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா. அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல் மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகள் தங்களுக்குத் தாங்களே வழிகாட்டியாக மாறி பெரியவர் சிறியவர் என்ற பாகுபாடில்லாமல் காகிதங்களில் பலவகையான தொப்பிகளை தாங்களே செய்து மற்றவர்களுக்கு வழங்கியது என்பது அவர்களது தலைமைத்துவ, ஆளுமையினை உணர்த்துகின்ற ஓர் விடயமாக அமைந்திருந்தது.

மூன்றாவது நாளின் முதல் ஆற்றுகையாக அமைந்தது மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகளின் ஓயிலாட்டம். இதனைத் தொடர்ந்து இரண்டாவது ஆற்றுகையாக தஞ்சை உதிரி நாடக நிலத்தைச் சேர்ந்த திரு.விஜயகுமார் அவர்களது கோமாளியின் குதிரை என்கின்ற ஓராள் நாடகமானது அரங்கினை அலங்கரித்திருந்தது. பின்பு கலைஞர் கௌரவிப்பு, இரவு போசணம் என இனிதே நிறைவு பெற்றது மூன்றாவது நாள் குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா.

நான்காவது நாள் திருவிழாவானது இன்னும் மெருகூட்டப்பட்ட முறையில் மாறுபட்ட பல நிகழ்வுகளுடன் களைகட்டியது. தென்னோலை மற்றும் பனையோலைகளுடன் கூடிய கை வேலைப்பாட்டினால் ஆன தலைக்கவசம், கிளி, காற்றாடி என இன்னும் பலவகையான வடிவங்களினை நான்கு மணித்தியாலங்களிற்கு மேலாக தொடர்ச்சியாக இருந்த இடம் விட்டு அகலாது அதனை சிறப்பாக செய்து பிள்ளைகளுக்கு வழங்கியிருந்தார் திரு.திலகராஜன் அவர்கள். அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல் காகிதங்களைக் கொண்டு உடைகளை உருவாக்கும் பொறுப்பானது எனக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டது. நான் சிறுவர்களுக்கு உதாரணமாக ஒரு உடையினை மட்டும் செய்து காட்டத் தொடங்கிய போது அவர்கள் தாங்களாகவே தங்களுக்கென பிடித்த உடைகளை தெரிவு செய்து கொண்டு என்னுடைய எந்த உதவியும் இல்லாமல், தன்னிச்சையாக என்னைவிட சிறப்பாக செய்திருந்தார்கள்.

இந்த செயற்பாடு நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டிருந்த அதே தருணத்தில் வேறொரு இடத்தில் வண்ணம் தீட்டல், ஒட்டுச்சித்திரம், களிமண் கைவண்ணம் என்பன சிறார்களுக்காக ஒழுங்கமைக்கப்பட்டு வெகுசிறப்பாக நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டிருந்தன. இவ்வாறான கோலாகலங்களின் மத்தியில் ஆற்றுகைகள் ஆரம்பமாகக் காத்திருந்தன. முதல் ஆற்றுகையான மதுரை சீடன் இரண்டு குட்டி ஜாம்பவான்களின் சிலம்பாட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இது பார்த்தவர்கள் அனைவரையும் பிரமிப்பில் தள்ளிய ஆற்றுகையாக அமைந்தது.

அடுத்ததாக கல்வியின் திணிப்பால் பிள்ளைகள் படும் அவஸ்தைகளை அருமையான மெட்டில் பாடி அசத்தியிருந்தார் தங்கை வானவில் அவர்கள். இதனைத் தொடர்ந்து அரங்கு கண்டது நெல்லை தாமிரபரணி கலைக்குழுவினை சேர்ந்த திரு.மதியழகன் அவர்களின் கதை சொல்லும் கலை.

இவரது ஆற்றுகையினைத் தொடர்ந்து அரங்கேறியது சென்னை, திணைநிலவாசிகள், திரு.பக்ருதின் அவருடைய நெறியாள்கையில் மதுரை சீடு ஆசிரியத்தொண்டர் ஸ்ரீமான் வாசிம்கான் அவர்களின் நடிப்பில் உருவான வாருங்கள் வண்டவாளங்களை சாப்பிடுவோம் என்னும் ஓராள் நாடகம். இவ்வாறான சிறப்பான ஆற்றுகைகளுடன் இனிதே கழிந்தது நான்காம் நாள்.

அன்றைய நாளின் இரவுப் பொழுதில் அடுத்த நாளிற்கான நிகழ்ச்சிநிரல் பற்றி கலந்துரையாடப்பட்ட போது கார்த்திக் அண்ணா என்னிடம் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார். பத்து நிமிட நாடகம் ஒன்றை மதுரை சீடு பிள்ளைகளை வைத்து உருவாக்கித் தரமுடியுமா? என்று. இதை நான் சற்றும் எதிர்பார்க்கவில்லை. இருப்பினும் அவரது அன்பான வேண்டுகோளுக்கு மறுப்புத் தெரிவிக்க முடியாதவனாய் சந்தோசமாக சம்மதித்துக் கொண்டேன். இது எனக்கு கிடைத்த வாய்ப்பாகக் கருதிக்கொண்டு அதற்கான வேலையில் தீவிரம் காட்டத் தொடங்கினேன். மறுநாள் ஐந்தாவதும் இறுதியுமான மார்கழி உற்சவ குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா குடுபிடிக்க ஆரம்பித்தது.

மாலை 4.30 மணியளவில் ஆரம்பமான நிகழ்வுகளில் மட்பாண்டத்தின் கைவினை வேலைப்பாடுகள் சிறுவர்களுக்கு சொல்லிக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் அவர்களுடன்

சிறுவர்களும் கைவினையாளர்களாக மாறிப் பல கைவினை வேலைப்பாடுகளை உருவாக்கியிருந்தார்கள் என்பது ஒரு தனித்துவமான செயற்பாடாக இருந்தது. பறையிசை முழங்க ஆடல், பாடல் என சிறார்களுடைய மனங்கள் வானத்தில் இறக்கை கட்டி பறந்துகொண்டிருக்க மதுரை சீடு பிள்ளைகளின் பூரண ஒத்துழைப்பிலும், அர்ப்பணிப்பிலும் உருவான வண்ணங்களற்ற ஓவியம் என்ற குறுநாடகம் என்னால் நெறியாள்கை செய்யப்பட்டு மேடையேறியது.

நாடகத்தினைத் தொடர்ந்து அடுத்த நிகழ்வாக பரதநாட்டிய ஆற்றுகை இடம்பெற்றது. பிரக்ஞா அவர்களின் நடனஆற்றுகை அரங்கேறியது. இதன் பின்பு மார்கழி உற்சவத்தின் இறுதி நிகழ்வாக புதுச்சேரி, யாழ்கலை மையத்தினை சேர்ந்த திரு.கோபி அவர்களின் நெறியாள்கையில் திருமதி.ஆரோக்கிய மேரி ஸ்டெல்லா அவர்களின் நடிப்பில் மீன் வாங்கலையோ மீன் என்ற ஓராள நாடகமானது கண்களுக்கு விருந்தளித்திருந்தது. ஐந்தாம் நாள் நாடக விழா பேராசிரியர் மு.ராமசாமி, பேராசிரியர் சுந்தர்காளி, யதார்த்தராஜன், ராஜ்குமார், திலகராஜன் என பல்வேறுபட்ட ஆளுமைகளின் சங்கமமாக அமைந்திருந்தது. இதில் மு.ராமசாமி ஐயா அவர்கள் மதுரையில் தான் இருக்கின்றார்கள் என்பது எனக்கு முதலில் தெரியாது. தெரிந்தவுடன் அவரைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும் என்ற ஆவல் என்னைத் தூண்டியது. அப்பொழுது அதனை நிறைவேற்றித் தந்தவர்கள் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா, எழுத்தாளர் பத்திநாதன் மற்றும் வாசிம்கான் போன்றோர். ராமசாமி ஐயாவிடம் நிறைய விடயங்களை கேட்டறியும் ஆவலுடன் பேசிக்கொண்டு இருக்கின்ற போதே அவர் எல்லோரிடமும் பாகுபாடில்லாமல் பழகக்கூடிய எளிமையான மனிதர் என்பதனை என்னால் உணரக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது. அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல் என் அன்பான வேண்டுகோளுக்கிணங்க அவர் எழுதிய நூலை அவரது கையெழுத்துடன் எனக்காக அளித்திருந்தார்.

குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவில் இருந்த ஆறுநாட்கள் ஆழி வெங்கடேசன், அகிலா, திலகராஜன், விஜயகுமார், மதியழகன், கோபி, மு.ராமசாமி, பிரபாகர், பத்திநாதன், ஆரோக்கிய மேரி ஸ்டெல்லா, யதார்த்தராஜன், வடிவேல், மனோகரன், பூபதிராஜ் என விரல்விட்டு எண்ணமுடியாத பல்வேறு ஆளுமைகளுடன் ஊடாடுவதற்கான களத்தினை ஏற்படுத்தித்தந்திருந்தார் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா அவர்கள். அவருக்கு எவ்வளவு நன்றிகள் சொன்னாலும் ஈடாகாது.

அங்கு இருக்கின்ற நேரங்களில் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா என்னிடம் அதிகமாகக் கேட்கின்ற கேள்வி சாப்பிட்டீர்களா? இவரை சந்தித்து பேசினீர்களா? என இவை இரண்டுமாகத்தான் இருந்தன. இந்த அன்பிற்கும் அக்கறைக்கும் என்றும் நான் கடமைப்பட்டவனாகவே இருக்கின்றேன்.

மார்கழி உற்சவத்தில் பத்திற்கு மேற்பட்ட ஆற்றுகைகளைப் பார்ப்பதற்கான வாய்ப்பு கிடைத்தது. ஓராள நாடகம், நாடகம், கூத்து, நிழல் பொம்மலாட்டம், கதை சொல்லும் கலை, பறையிசை, ஓயிலாட்டம், சிலம்பாட்டம், பரதம், பாடல் என ஒவ்வொரு ஆற்றுகைகளும் எனக்குள் வித்தியாசமான அனுபவத்தினை ஏற்படுத்தின. எவ்வாறு குழந்தைகளைக் கவரும்படி கதை சொல்வது, எப்படி நாடகத்திற்குள் அவர்களையும் ஓர் ஆற்றுகையாளராக மாற்றுவது, குழந்தைகளை மையப்படுத்தி ஆற்றுகைகளை செய்கின்ற போது எவ்வாறான விடயங்களை தவிர்ப்பது போன்ற பன்முகத்தன்மையான கேள்விகளையும், அதற்கான வழிவகைகளையும் இந்த ஆற்றுகைகளும் இந்த குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவும் எனக்கு வழங்கியிருந்தன.

இவற்றோடு ஒரு குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவினை கையிலெடுத்து நடத்துகின்ற போது எவ்வளவு பொறுப்புக்களை நாங்கள் சுமக்க வேண்டியுள்ளது, எவ்வளவு விடயங்களை கவனிக்கவேண்டியுள்ளது, எப்படி தன்னோடு சேர்ந்து வேலை செய்பவர்களை வழிப்படுத்தல் வேண்டும் என பல அம்சங்களை இந்த மார்கழி உற்சவம் எனக்கு கற்றுக் கொடுத்தது. இதற்கு முன்னுதாரணமாக நின்று செயற்பட்டவர் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா அவர்கள்.

வந்த கலைஞர்கள், பார்வையாளர்கள், நலன் விரும்பிகள் என அனைவரையும் கவனிப்பது கலைஞர்களைக் கௌரவிப்பது, அவர்களுக்கு தேநீர், உணவு உபசரிப்பு, ஒவ்வொரு நாள் ஆற்றுகைக்குப் பின்னான புறச்சூழல் சுத்தம், மறுநாள் ஆற்றுகை பற்றிய திட்டமிடல், மார்கழி உற்சவத்தில் பயன்படுத்திய பொருட்களைப் பக்குவப்படுத்தல், இருக்கின்ற மனித வலுவின்னையும் வசதியின்னையும் பயன்படுத்தி எவ்வாறு வேலைகளை துரித கதியில் சிறப்பாக செய்து முடித்தல் போன்ற பல்வேறு விடயங்களை வேலைப்பழுக்களுக்கு மத்தியிலும் கனகச்சிதமாக மதுரை சீடு அமைப்பினர் செய்திருந்தமை எனக்குள் ஆச்சரியத்தை ஏற்படுத்தியிருந்தது. இந்த குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவில் கவலைக்குரிய விடயம் என்னவென்றால் ஒரே நாளில் பார்வையாளர்களின் வருகையும், வரவேற்பும் கூடுதலாக இருந்தன. ஆனால் ஒட்டுமொத்தமாக பார்க்கின்ற போது மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகள் அந்த விழாவில் இட்ட உழைப்பினைப் பார்க்கவோ, ரசிக்கவோ, உற்சாகப்படுத்தவோ நல்ல மனங்களின் போதாமையினை உணரக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது.

இதில் சில நிகழ்வுகளில் மட்டும் அவர்களின் பிள்ளைகளை முன்வரிசையில் அமர்த்தி அதில் அந்த பிள்ளை பயனை அடையும் வரை காத்திருந்து பின் வந்த வேலை முடிந்தவுடன் மற்ற நிகழ்வுகளைப் பார்க்காமல் குழந்தைகளை அழைத்துச் சென்றவர்களும் உண்டு.

இலவசமாக நடைபெற்ற இந்த குழந்தைகள் திருவிழாவினை பிள்ளைகளுடன் உள்ளே அமர்ந்து பாராமல் வீதியில் நின்று வேடிக்கை பார்த்தவர்களும் உண்டு. இவ்வாறானவர்களை எவ்வாறான பார்வையாளர்கள் என்றே பிரித்துப்பார்க்கத் தெரியவில்லை. இயந்திரம் போல ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் மனித வாழ்க்கையில் சில மக்களது இது போன்ற செயற்பாடுகள், கலைகள் மீதான அவர்களது மதிப்பீட்டினை கேள்விக்குள்ளாக்குகின்றது. இவ்வாறு திரும்பும் பக்கங்களில் எல்லாம் பல அனுபவங்களை அள்ளிக் கொட்டியது இந்த மார்கழி உற்சவம் 2018 குழந்தைகள் திருவிழா.

இங்கு இருந்த குறுகிய காலப்பகுதியில் எனக்கான அனைத்து வசதிகளையும் எந்தக் குறையும் இல்லாமல் முகம் சுழிக்காமல் செய்து தந்திருந்தார் கார்த்திக் அண்ணா, அவரோடு அருண் அண்ணா, விக்கி, ஆனந்த், பிரேம், தீபக் என இன்னும் பல தோழமைகளுக்கும் நன்றி கூற கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளேன்.

நல்ல விதைகள் எப்போதும் தானாக உருவாகுவதில்லை நல்ல உரங்கள் இடுகின்ற போதுதான் அவை விருட்சங்களாய் உருமாறுகின்றன. அந்தவகையில் அவ்வாறான ஒரு வேலையினை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கின்ற மதுரை சீடு அமைப்பிற்கு நன்றிகளையும் வாழ்த்துக்களையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன். இது போன்ற செயற்பாடுகள் தொடர்ந்து நடக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வமைப்பு இன்னும் பல ஆண்டுகளில் வெற்றியோடு காலடி எடுத்து வைக்க வேண்டும். அதற்கு மக்கள், நலன்விரும்பிகள் என எல்லோருடைய பூரண ஒத்துழைப்பு மேலும் கிடைக்கும் என்ற நம்பிக்கையுடன் உங்களோடு தொடர்ந்தும் சேர்ந்து பயணிக்க காத்திருக்கும். நன்றிகளுடன் பிரஷாந்த்.



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April, May, June 2018 Activities

https://youtu.be/wXO0O_SuJDU

Ithu Yaar Kombu? Children play

<https://youtu.be/RvoAd2ADVVs>

Manudam Vendrathu- Children play

<https://youtu.be/xKu9YGdI4Yg>

Oyilattam – Folk dance

<https://youtu.be/zMevFBQpnQE>

Margazhi Utsav – Children Carnival

<https://youtu.be/3dDeLH6AITs>



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