



# MADURAI SEED

## ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018







Children of “Tara and Grandma” drama rushing to the stage





**19 years of service**

# **MADURAI SEED**

## **Annual Report**

### **2017-2018**

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

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**Report by**

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# TFYSAL

Thanks For Your Support And Love



- Melli Annamalai
- Eveline Masilamani
- Laura Villiger
- John Potts
- Paola Pappone
- Martin
- Patricia Jegher
- Martina Frei
- Ursula Villiger
- Peter Fuchs
- Eliane Suess
- Niklaus Schatzmann
- Sylvia Fust
- Clive Oxen Den
- Susanne Grossman
- Christina Latham
- Andrea Wilson
- Keith & his friends
- Prof.Prabhakar
- Muruges & Viji
- Vinoth Kumar, Chennai
- Chithra
- Gudem Prasad
- Asha- Boston, USA
- Friends of MADURAI SEED, Zurich
- Kantonsschule Freudenberg School Students & Staff
- Dalyan Foundation
- Vizhuthugal
- Friends of MADURAI SEED, India



We are  
happy  
When we are  
growing







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Founders, Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland

**Dr. Melli Annamalai, Project Steward**  
Madirai Seed Narpanigal, Asha Boston Chapter







*From the managing trustee,*

Greetings. I am extremely happy to speak with you through this annual report. We remember with gratitude our supporting hearts, donors, advisors, volunteers for extending their immense support for the past 19 years for educating, empowering the children and young people of deprived areas like Karumbalai. We are achieving our mission, year by year our success stories are getting larger and larger.

In the year 2017-2018, We have reached approximately 3000 children via direct, indirect reach, and partnership activities. 211 children in Karumbalai centers, 107 children in Nanadanar Hostel, 81 children in Sevalayam Hostel got benefited We have reached 262 Boys and 137 girls totally 399 children through supplementary education centers in the evening.

Another important aspect of the year to look back was "Building Organizational Relationships". We utilized opportunities to interact with more children, young people, public, experts, resource persons and social activists through organizing as well as participating in many programs. Like CESCO, Kaleidoscope, Cuckoo Forest School we expanded in the number of activities and number of beneficiaries and diversities. We got immense experience and made platform for Madurai Seed children and young people to learn, explore, and express.

We extend our hearty thanks to Asha for Education Boston, Friends of Madurai Seed Switzerland, Friends of Madurai Seed India, Vizhuthugal Alumni, Volunteers, Director, fellow trustees. It was a team work, and this annual report stands as a proof for it's a nice team work.

*A.S.Karthikbharathi  
Founder- Manging Trustee*





## About Us

**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 disadvantaged children and young people are supported with adequate resources and opportunities, just as a plant 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.**



**I Learn Therefore I am**

**I Teach Therefore I am**





## **Our Goals:**



### **Short Term**

- To keep the children continue to study in schools and successfully completing school education
- To make sure everyone acquired basic level reading, writing, and arithmetic skills
- To make platforms to identify, express, and develop their skills through extra-curricular activities
- To provide a holistic approach in education for knowledge, social, and personality development



### **Long Term**

- To inspire school-completed students to pursue higher (college) education
- To motivate them to work towards a career goal
- To raise socially empathetic, righteous, committed young people



## Highlights of the year

### In 2017 - 2018

- **424 children and young people** have been benefited directly from education centers in Karumbalai, Sevalayam Hostel, and Nandanar Hostel.
- **22 college going young people** have travelled with Madurai Seed as teaching volunteers.
- Former students' turning into Volunteers is a significant of Madurai Seed. **8 young people have become volunteers this year.**
- **100% result** in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std. **21 students** of tenth standard, and **18 students** of twelfth std have passed the exams.
- **5 Young people** like Vigneshwaran, Anand, James, Muthuganesh, Manipandi have **completed their college studies.**
- **22 young people** benefit from the **Monthly Stipend Program** of Asha for Education.
- **Rs. 3,83,103** was distributed to very needy school children and college young people as **scholarship.**
- **199 children** opened Thenkoodu account this year. All children with their parents received money with 20% interest for their savings. **Rs. 24, 080** with an interest amount of **Rs. 4696** was distributed to them.



## Event Spotlights

### Inauguration of Thedalgai Arangam



### Initiative of Nandanar Hostel Centre



### Celebrating Women

10 Days – 10 Personalities



### Margazhi Urchavan

3 days – Arts Festival



### Theatre Production

Tara & Her Grandma



### Mobile Planetarium

450 students benefited



### Creative Kids

4 Sessions



### Vasantham Summer Camp

4 days- 4 guests- 4 activities



### Partnership Activities

Village Camp- Art Festival-  
Youth Camp- Seminars-  
Workshops- Trainings



*A little by little, a little becomes a lot*

## New Initiative

### Inauguration of Thedalgai Arangam - A resource center for young people -

The resource centre will act as a fertile ground where **knowledge sharing, creative activities, social interest activities, leadership development and self enhancement activities** will take place.

**Ambience of the place** is astonishing. The hall has adequate light and ventilation. The trees at the background and the bamboo stems were brilliantly incorporated into the hall which gives the place an organic tone. Every little thing about the hall from the curtains, ceiling, and painting is aesthetically superb. The quotes and the images are curated in line with the objectives of the centre.

### Number of events organized by Madurai Seed: 06

Date	Activity
25.11.2017	Creative Kids I
26.11.2017	Creative Kids II
09.10.2017	Theatre Workshop I
10.10.2017	Theatre Workshop II
09.01.2018	Training for English teachers by Keith
10.01.2018	Training for English teacher trainees by Keith
18.02.2018	Effective communication for interviews & presentations by Laura Villiger & John Potts





## Number of events organized by kaleidoscope: 10

Date	Activity
16.06.2017	Children of little Japan : <b>Documentary Screening</b>
04.08.2017	"With you, without you" Sinhala <b>film screening</b>
31.08.2017	<b>Aborigines: Yesterday and today</b> – Activist. Muthukrishnan
13.10.2017	<b>A Traveller's diary</b> : Kumar Shah
6-10.12.2017	5 days documentary and short <b>film festival</b>
10.01.2018	<b>Poetry reading</b> & Music Night : Poet.Libi Aranya
03.03.2018	<b>Music and Me</b> – Music critic and actor : Shahji
02.03.2018	"Che" <b>movie screening</b>
16.03.2018	<b>Poetry Reading</b> & Discussion : Poet. Sakthi Jothi



## Number of events organized by both Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope: 03

Date	Activity
24.06.2017	<b>Inauguration of Thedalgai Arangam</b> : Resource Center for Young People
08.07.2017	<b>Immunology research trends</b> : Dr. Gowthaman
12.10.2017	<b>Youth for Change</b> : Dialogue between activist P.V.Raja Gopal and college students
11.01.2018	<b>Art for change</b> : One day workshop for college students to appreciate various art forms
27,28.03.2018	<b>Art for change</b> : Two days residential workshop for college students

## New Initiative

### Nandhanar Hostel Evening Centre



The hostel is run by NMR Trust since. Children from **1<sup>st</sup> std to 5<sup>th</sup> std** are studying in the school which is in the same campus. They were from underprivileged families from villages around Madurai. **4 volunteers** are going from Madurai Seed to the hostel and teaching basic Tamil, English, and Arithmetic skills the children there. Our service is very much welcomed by the teachers in the school and hostel. We have included the children for our science club activity "Mobile Planetarium".





## Holistic Education Centers



**We provide them spaces for studying according to the age levels and opportunities which normally they couldn't get from their families and schools. Volunteers assist them with school works. The Special activities like library, saving bank, exposure visits, scholarships, endowment prizes, skills and personality development programs, and other co-curricular activities are there to enrich their leadership skills, creativity, aspiration, and communication, and to help molding their whole personality. The children look the center as a home away from home. The teaching volunteers are called as brothers and sisters.**



## Vandugal Arangam



### Benefited Children

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
I	10	11	21
II	13	09	22
III	11	09	20
IV	09	10	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>82</b>

Vandugal Arangam creates a joyful learning environment for the young children from 1st standard to 4th standard (**ages between 6 – 9 years**). There are four volunteers to care of the children, They emphasis on teaching Tamil, English and basic arithmetic. They teach through songs, games, and audio-visuals, flash cards, and stories.



In Vandugal Arangam, volunteers teach games and rhymes. They also become like children and teach to me. I call them Anna, and Akka (brother, sister). They tell stories every day. They help me with my school homework. One thing I like the most about Vandugal Arangam is "We play, sing, dance, and also study." **Meenakshi, 4<sup>th</sup> std**



## Vandugal Arangam – Karumbalai – Class wise photos



**Std : I**



**Std : II**



**Std : III**



**Std : IV**



## Vergal Arangam



### Benefited Children

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
<b>V</b>	10	12	22
<b>VI</b>	09	11	20
<b>VII</b>	08	07	15
<b>VIII</b>	05	03	08
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>65</b>

This center is specifically meant for the children from 5th to 8th standards **(10 o 13 years old)**. This center is named as Vergal (roots) to establish the significance of staying strong in the path of education. Slow learners are given special attention here. English and Maths are given importance. 4 volunteers are taking care of each class in rotation.



I like to come to Madurai Seed Vergal Arangam more than going to school. Because here volunteers give individual attention and teach until we understand. I can ask doubts without fear to the volunteer here. There are many Tamil medium students in my class in the center, I am an English medium student, but they teach me as well and helping me in homework. I like Thenkoodu saving bank, I started to save whatever money I got from home. I think my family will be proud of me after I received the saving amount at the end of the year.

– **Loga Nayaki, 8<sup>th</sup> std**





**Vergal Arangam- Karumbalai – Class wise photos**



**Std : V**



**Std : VI**



**Std : VII**



**Std: VIII**



## Kanavugal Arangam



### Benefited Children

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
IX	09	04	11
X	10	10	20
XI	10	03	13
XII	09	09	18
Total	38	26	64

This center is for children from 9th to 12th standards (**14 to 17 years**). This center is named as Kanavugal (dreams) to encourage setting up goals for the future. 6 volunteers teach classes here. They are given educational and vocational guidance to pursue higher education.

➡ I don't have enough space at home to study. If I sit at home, I have to do lots of house hold chores and can't study. Madurai Seed helped me in this way as a place for studying. I scored good marks in 10<sup>th</sup> std, Now I am studying 12<sup>th</sup> std. Next year I will be going to college. Madurai Seed offered me a very positive social life with lots of friends, brothers, and sisters. I am an only child at home. At home, I can't sing, dance, play but here I can do all of them. Karthik Anna already spoke to my mom about my college education, they also promised to allow me for college. So I am happily studying. – **Makkathu Nilavu, 12<sup>th</sup> std.**





## Class wise photos



IX



X



XI



XII

## Results For 2017-2018

### 12<sup>th</sup> results announced on 12.05 17

- **18** students (10 boys + 8 girls) wrote 12<sup>th</sup> std public exams from our education centers.
- **9** of them are first generation higher secondary students.
- **15** of them studied in corporation and Govt. Aided schools.
- **5** are single parenting children
- All of them passed the exam. **100% result.**
- **Top scores:** Jiniya 1110, Sathish Babu 1056, Kowsalya 914, Suresh Kannan 914. Jiniya has scored 200 out of 200 in Accountancy. Sathish Babu has scored 200/200 in Commerce.

### 10<sup>th</sup> results announced on 18.05 17

- **21** students (16 boys + 5 girls) wrote 10<sup>th</sup> std exam in our education centers.
- Among **11** are the first persons in their family to reach up to tenth standard level.
- All of them passed. **100 % result.**
- **Top three marks:** B. Bavani- 432, S. Jeevanantham – 427, S. Rajkumar – 427, A.Jerk – 392.

## Sevalayam Hostel Center



### Benefited Children

Std	Boys
VI	30
VII	21
VIII	25
IX	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

Sevalayam is a free hostel for village children **aged 11 to 17 years** (boys) from poor economic and social background. The children are from 64 villages in 8 districts of TamilNadu. All the students are studying in a nearby corporation school. 2 Volunteers are helping them in basic Tamil, English, Arithmetic skills. 2 volunteers are teaching English, and Maths.



When I first went to teach at Sevalayam Center, It was shocking that some students lack basic reading skills in both Tamil and English. We conducted a reading test for them and then started to teach letters, sounds, and simple words. I was happy to see the development of them in reading. The students are from various villages around Madurai. Education is their only way out of poverty and social stigma. They are very affectionate with me. – **V.Srinath, Volunteer.**



## Sevalayam Hostel – Class wise photos



**Std : VI**



**Std: VII**



**Std : VIII**



**Std: IX**



## Nandanar Hostel Center



### Benefited Children

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
I	03	06	09
II	08	09	17
III	19	07	26
IV	18	07	25
V	20	10	30
Total	68	39	107

Like Sevalayam, Nandanar Hostel is for elementary school children **5 to 10 years old**. run by the same management. Children are from underprivileged families from villages around Madurai. 4 volunteers are teaching them for one hour daily. They teach Tamil and English to them.

I am doing my first year B.Com. This year Madurai Seed has started this education center in Nandanar Hostel. I was given the responsibility to teach them. I was very happy that I am initiating this center. The school and hostel are in the same campus. They are not provided with adequate teachers in the school. I can see many children lack basic skills, so I am very happy teaching and supporting them during evenings. There are two more volunteers are teaching here. – **Sathish Babu, Volunteer.**



## Nandanar Hostel – Class Wise Photos



**Std: I**



**Std: II & III**



**Std : IV**



**Std : V**

## Thedalgai Arangam



### Benefited Young People

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> year	03	05	08
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	05	02	07
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	03		03
4 <sup>th</sup> year	02	02	04
Others	13	09	22

Thedalgai Arangam consists of **college-going young people**. They teach children at the education centers, and organize extra-curricular activities for them. They are the backbone of our activities. They also get benefits from specific programs for young people. Most of the volunteers are erstwhile Madurai Seed children.



I am **Vindhiya** doing my first year B.A. English. I was studied in Vandugal, Vergal, and Kanavugal Arangam during my school. I always wanted to be a volunteer in Madurai Seed during my school days. Now I am in Thedalgai Arangam. I have many responsibilities here as a teacher, as a sister, and a leader for activities. This gives me huge confidence and mature feeling. I learned a lot of things as a student here like dance, crafts, English, leadership etc. I will transform them to the children from now on. Thank you.





## College Admission

- Following the 100% result, **100% enrollment** for higher studies.
- Kowsalya (**Maths -1**), Vindiya and Vijyalakshmi (**English-2**), Jiniya and Sathishbabu (**Commerce-2**), Sundari, Joyal, and Kaleeshwaran (**Engineering-3**), Sivaraman, Sureshkannan, and Jeevanantham (**Economics-3**), Karthik and Sanjay (**Tamil-2**), Arun (**Management-1**), Kannan (**Tourism-1**), Ramya (**Microbiology-1**), Priyadarshini (**Physics-1**), Shajitha (**Journalism-1**).
- **9** of them are first generation college goers.
- **8** of the above members joined as teaching volunteers.



## Outgoing college young people

- **5 young people** has successfully completed their undergraduation. Vigneshwaran (Commerce), Anand (Tourism), James (English), Manipandi (Engineering), Muthuganesh (Engineering).
- **4** of the above are **first generation** degree holders.
- Manipandi and Muthuganesh, two engineering students got jobs.
- **Vigneshwaran** and **Anand** are going to join technical courses.
- James is searching for job.
- Volunteers **Sharmila**, **Muthaiya**, and **Surya** are relieved from volunteering due to jobs and marriage.

## Educational Guidance

### Education New-year: 07.06.2017: A Right Start...



Young people provided chocolates to school going children on the **first day of schools** opened after summer vacation. Young people stood at 5 entrances of Karumbalai and wished children a beautiful year ahead. In the evening, at Madurai Seed centers volunteers welcomed children with chocolates and guided them to their

respective centers.

### Educational guidance: 17.04.2017: A meet to meet the future...



The higher secondary students and parents were given guidance for their higher studies. They were given **guidance on different courses**, employment opportunities. The children were asked about their skills, favorite subject, dream job and provided advice according to that. The parents were given counseling to support their children.

### Young People Vs Parents Meeting: 11.11.2017: Fixing the gap...



A meeting between young people and their parents was conducted. Young people were on one side. Parents were on another side. Young people presented their **future plans**, their plans for higher studies, their passion, training needs, and the time frame to achieve their short and long term

**goals**. Parents spoke about their expectations and asked doubts. We explained about how young people can utilize their time, resources, and contacts in Madurai Seed to explore opportunities. We also asked parents to believe in young people's **dreams** and support them especially for women students. This practice was very useful as the young people and parents openly talked about expectations and needs of each other.



### Children - Parent Meeting: 12.11.2017: Let's go to school...



Teacher Mariammal took part in the meeting, and talked to children and parents about the importance of **schooling**. This meeting provided a chance to parents to witness various opportunities, their children get at Madurai Seed and a chance for us to

stress the importance of school, college education to their children and the **responsibility** of parents in that journey. A minimum level scholarship was distributed to children.

### Guidance: 25.02.2018: A Meet with 10th, 11th, 12th students...



Strategies, schedule planning, time managements, and writing tips rendered for the students facing board exams. **Mr. Suresh Kathan**, an experienced teacher commenced his session highlighting the duties of students and the role of schools. He briefed the do's and don'ts during exams, paper

presentations and stress relief factors. His encouraging talk **motivated** students to put continuous efforts for exams. **Muniyasamy**, former volunteer who is now an English teacher gave tips that strengthened students. Motivational videos and speeches **stimulated** to work for better score. Karthikbharathi provided guidance for further studies like subject/group selections for 10th and college/course selection for 12th, prioritizing it with their field of interests. In between the sessions, Sriman Vasim and our volunteers freshened up the minds with exam fear. The event encountered the exam needs and guidance for the students in and around Karumbalai.

*"Guiding tomorrow's dreams today"*



## Teacher Training

### Workshop for teachers: 09/01/2018



**25 English teachers** from various schools in and around Madurai took part in the workshop in **“Teaching task based skills in the classroom”** facilitated by Keith Rossborough, professor and ELT teacher trainer. The sessions focused on developing language skills like Listening, Speaking,

Reading, and Writing in classrooms. Role of teachers in developing these skills were discussed through texts, videos, and pair works.

**“Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better.”**

### Workshop for teacher trainees: 10/01/2018



**50 students** from two prominent teacher training colleges in Madurai took part in the workshop on **“Teaching task bases skills in the classroom”**. The workshop was a great learning experience for students from teacher training colleges as this was

taught by a foreigner. Everyone found the workshop very useful and determined to use various teaching methods to inculcate various language skills.



## English Classes

### Class for Young people by Elavarsi:



**20 young people** who are the teacher volunteers of Madurai seed are given regular classes from **July to December 2017** to develop their skills in communication English. It has been structured by Elavarasi to enhance their proficiency levels for their careers. Combination of audio, video lectures, quizzes, online materials and movies, it is always interesting for all the students to learn English language.

**Classes** focused on the common mistakes they all do while introducing themselves on stage or in interviews, sentence structure framing, reading and understanding it, vocabulary & phrases, & listening. **Practices** using OUP books, resource books like, podcasts from British council, through group discussions, debates sessions, **grammar** instructional videos, newspaper articles, song lyrics, and short stories in English were outlined and given throughout their classes.

Final year college goers are separated and given regular practice to **build** their confidence. The students are mixed group from elementary to intermediate level, this learning atmosphere helps them to break their shyness, and inferior complexes. These classes are not only to make their future bright but also to keep them practicing with Seed kids everyday by teaching them.

### English Classes for Young People by Keith: 5, 7, 8 January 2018



From the first day of his visit here, he took part in the classroom activities of teaching **18 volunteers**. As we planned earlier, Function of a language and skills were emphasized in the sessions through **videos and discussions**. The same titled workshop organized the next day for Education College students featured the arenas in writing, reading, listening

and speaking skills. The study sets was specifically brought for this workshop implanting more concepts related to the target language. Regipo games kit brought by **Keith** are very useful for the English learners. With dice and questions in Zig-Zag moves, students find it interesting while fun playing.

### English Classes: Chunk it: 19th to 23rd March 2018



**Mrs. Chithra** has done a five days session for **20 children** from 6th standard on **Chunk Reading**, an important reading strategy. Reading word by word is an old school method, which has many limitations like no emphasis on understanding, intonation, and syntax. But, Reading in Chunks helps both beginner and advanced

level children. Children enjoyed the classes a lot incorporated with Audio/Visual elements, flash cards, dialogues, etc. **Prof. Manohar** and **Prof. John Potts** are also a part of this study program. Mrs. Chithra and Prof. Manohar have sponsored of the 20 desks, snacks and tea to nearly 150 people for 5 days.



## Young People Development Activities



### **Linguistic Skills Enhancement:**

A workshop for young people facilitated by **Mr. Rajendran**. An informative and interactive session put forth the importance of acquainting linguistic skills through learning it with interests and concentration.

**Speech sounds** with written and vocal training were given by him. He made them aware of the facts in learning new

languages and its wide opportunities around. Young people gained knowledge on phonemes learning, linguistic skills by understanding its whole structure.



### **Workshop on Effective speaking skills for job interviews & presentations: 18.02.2018.**

This workshop was facilitated by **Prof. John Potts, Dr. Laura Villiger** at Thedagal Resource center on **25 young people** benefited from the workshop. The workshop provided practical language tools to present oneself in an interview in an organized and effective way. John Sir, and Laura amma emphasized on communication parts like **organizing, staging, & linking** by teaming the participants in 5 groups. Also they demonstrated how to use fixed expressions and key vocabulary to say about one's educational background, professional qualities, and interests in a lively way highlighting young people's volunteering experience which is needed to show a difference in interviews. Furthermore, they practiced



on **fixed expressions, vocabulary building, linking phrases** using flash cards. Laura and John modeled many conversations like an interviewer and interviewee, they motivated the young people too to come, sit, and talk in front of the group like a mock-interview.

## Scholarships

Children and young people overcome the financial obstacles with the scholarship provided by **KFR School and FMS** through Madurai Seed. KFR scholarship distribution program is being conducted to reach every child's needs. They receive scholarship money with their parents during the event. It supports each child to pay their school fee and buy notebooks.

### Number of students received scholarships

Arangam	Standard	Male	Female	Total
Vandugal Arangam	1 to 4	11	07	18
Vergal Arangam	5 to 8	10	15	25
Kanavugal Arangam	9 to 12	15	11	26
<b>Total No.of Children</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>69</b>
Thedalgal Arangam	College Young People	13	05	20
Thedalgal Arangam	Coaching Classes	00	02	02
<b>Total No.of Young People</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>22</b>





## Senthamizh Library



### **Book Launch: 01.09.2017:**

Madurai Seed children launched **15 books** of famous writers published by **Bharathi Puthagaalaya** in Gandhi Museum. Books grabbed everyone's attention through Children's sharing about the stories, characters, animated drawings, writing style and so

on. The launching ceremony gave an insight about various parts of a book to the readers. It was a big occasion as the children proved it through some quotes, songs, gist, their favorite lines from the books. Prior to this, they were given their own copy of the book to read and enjoy. Children loved and published the books enthusiastically



### **Visit: 06.09.2017 to**

**11.09.2017:** Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> std to 12<sup>th</sup> std and young people visited **Madurai Book Festival** on different days. They visited various stalls and bought books. They listened to the book release events and public speeches held in the premises.

**Other Reading Sessions:** During Saturdays, Sundays, and other holidays, children read books for an hour or two regularly. During evening classes, volunteers conduct reading activities with library books.

*“Reading gives life more life”*



## Thenkoodu Children Bank



### Thenkoodu money disbursement function: 17.07.2017: 199 children

opened Thenkoodu account this year. All children with their parents received money with **20% interest** for their savings. **Rs. 24, 080** with an interest amount of **Rs. 4696** was distributed to them. It was little lesser than the previous year (2015-2016) money saved. In the last 10 years, an amount of **Rs. 2, 65,809/-** with interest

amount of Rs. **51,791/-**, totally **3, 17,600/-** (Three lakh seventeen thousand and six hundred rupee) have been disbursed for the children. Arangam wise Makthath Nilavu(XI), Loganayagi (VII) and Sathish Kumar(IV) placed first for their highest saving compared with peers. Those who have involved in highest saving was appreciated with 100 free notebooks sponsored by Muthupansi, accountant of Madurai Seed. The program was presided over by 18<sup>th</sup> MSCF president Vindhya, volunteer Muthuganesh and Thedalgai young people. Every child was gifted and encouraged.

### Savings of children 2016-17

#### Arangam Wise Savings

Arangam	Classes	Amount
Vandugal	I to IV	4358
Vergal	V to VIII	6762
Kanavugal	IX to XII	17551
<b>Total</b>		<b>28671</b>

#### Children with the Highest Savings

Name	Class	Amount
Sathish Kumar. S	IV	2701
Loganayagi. S	VII	1925
Makath Nilavu. R	XI	2880

#### Classes with the Highest Savings

Class	Amount
IX	5588
X	4629
XII	3848

#### What is Thenkoodu?

Thenkoodu Children Bank promotes the saving habit in children from young age to take self responsibility in educational expenses, and to help their parents. Children save their pocket money in the bank for one year. Registers, and bank pass books are managed by volunteers. When the new educational year starts, the savings of children are provided to children to manage their school expenses. We provide 20% interest for their saving. It is an innovative initiative, getting a great response among children and parents year by year.



## Skills and personality development programs



**We believe learning can happen only in a fruitful, stress-free, fun-filled, resourceful environment which provides chances to express themselves, to work together with others, to share ideas, to act independently, to get hands on experience.**

**Every club has a variety of activities that the children and young people work together in both knowledge and skill areas in a broad perspective like arts, literature, crafts, science, music, dance and sports.**

**Each activity is designed to give children and young people the chance to experience something they wouldn't normally afford at home and schools.**



### ***Learning outside the classroom; Thinking outside the box***

***Children Federation***

***Youth Federation***

***Camps***

***Mutram Literature Club***

***Vanmugil Cultural Club***

***Galileo Science Club***

***Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club***

***Suvadugal Sports Club***

***Annai Medical Club***

## Vasantham Summer Camp 2018



Though financially our position wasn't great like the last years, and even though amidst the drought, water scarcity and heat waves, we didn't want to withhold the summer camp and break the tradition. For the last four years, the camp was organized as a residential one far

away from Karumbalai to give children and young people a new atmosphere to experience and explore. This year the camp was organized in Karumbalai itself for **4 days** from **02.05.2017** to **06.05.2017**. During water pumping days, children and young people couldn't come to camp, as they will be busy taking water and helping their mothers. So, the camp schedules were altered according to that. But, the camp didn't miss its soul, enthusiasm, and learning opportunities. 90 children and 20 young people took part in the camp.

### Input Sessions:

We strongly believe knowledge of history, politics, and social justice is the need of the hour because of the discriminations, intolerance, and suppression prevailing in the society. To develop a true perspective about everything reading and awareness are important. So, we have planned four input sessions about **Gandhi, Periyar, Ambedkar, and Karl Marx**. The guests made the sessions very live unlike regular classrooms.



**Natarajan (Education officer, Gandhi Museum)** spoke about **Mahatma Gandhi** and how children can extract lessons from his life. He told inspirational stories from Gandhi's biography. Children knew many new things about Gandhi.





**Vennila, Social worker** spoke about **Periyar**, great social reformer of Tamilnadu. She explained about self respect, freedom for women, Atheism, superstitions, equality and Periyar's opinions on them. Girl children raised many questions about freedom and equality. Girl students got inspired by

the guest's personality and idealism. She and her friend **Satagopan** has donated more than **70** children books as presentation to the camp participants.



**Kathir, Human rights activist** runs *Evidence*, an organization advocating Human rights exclusively Dalit issues. He spoke about **Ambedkar** and how he fought a battle against caste system. Caste discrimination is prevailing even now, even though many people are educated. He was known as a serious

personality, but among children he sarcastically spoke about many political issues. All the participants took vow to voice against caste and religious discriminations.



**Comrade Nanmaran (Ex.Member of TamilNadu Legislative Assembly):** We can't believe our eyes when we saw him. He was so simple, came by bus. He is a living example of how a politician should live. It is rare to see such a corruption free politician. We were very happy that our children and young

people got the chance to meet and converse with him. On the day he spoke, it was **200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Karl Marx**. He introduced **Karl Marx**. He taught three children songs, which was wrote by him.



These four speakers introduced those leaders. All the guests are influenced by the **ideals** of the respective leaders and walking on the **leader's trail**. We introduced books on the leaders which are already available in our library and encouraged children to read them to get a complete understanding. Children got to

know about the leaders and we are sure they'll inspired by the guests and also in taking a political stance, ideals.



### Summer Juicing:



Juices were prepared by children using the summer **seasonal fruits**. They explained the recipe and their health benefits. Finally everyone shared their making. They also shared the juices with old age people in Karumbalai.



## Film Making



Children and young people together tried to shoot a short film **using a smart phone**. Within a short time period, they came with amazing films touching many genres from horror, social, comic, and fantasy. They used free Apps for editing. With a simple guidance, and a great freedom they are able to produce amazing results. You can enjoy one of the films in this URL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt7ebNYTau4>



**Songs, Games, Cultural Events:** Social awareness songs were taught. Indoor and outdoor games in street were played. Volunteers Vikki and Anand conducted "Connection" a Tamil **vocabulary game** using digital tools. It was innovative. During **cultural evenings**, children danced to awareness songs, folk songs, and instrumental music. Former volunteer

Muniyasamy took part in the camp and encouraged the children. He talked about summer camps he attended in those days at Seed.



## Theatre

### One Day Theater Workshop: Learn While You "PLAY": 03.12.2017



Our Young People **Vasim and Surya** facilitated the theater workshop for children aged from 10 to 13 years. The workshop started with breathing exercises followed by **voice training** in low, medium, and high pitches. The day went on in a constructive approach mixed with games, discussions, and inputs from the trainers. Children learned things like **expressing emotions**, using the space, body movements, and voice intonation which are essential for actors. Later the day, they discussed a story, the trainers gave just the byline of the story and it evolved with ideas from the children. They started to divide scenes, write dialogues, and select the characters. Some scenes were put into action.



### Two day Theatre Workshop: 9,10 December 2017: 30 Madurai Seed children

took part in the workshop facilitated by **Vadivel** from Kaleidoscope. The sessions comprised of theatre games, and acting exercises to eliminate their stage fear. The activities motivated them in learning **dramatic body movements**, making eye contact, speaking with intonation,

memorizing a dialogue, using the stage space, etc. The workshop was planned as an ice breaking session, and preliminary learning phase for the upcoming Madurai Seed's children play production.



## Play production

### Tara & Grandma



**tale** is transformed into a children play with songs, and games by Madurai Seed children and young people.

A series of theatre classes were organized for children and young people facilitated by Vadivel, a theatre artist cum theatre research student. Two children play scripts were found, in which one script was fine-tuned very much by our young people and Vadivel. One play "**Mazhai Kaalaan**" (Rainy Day Mushroom) was practiced by a group of children, which later enacted during the final day of Margazhi Utsav. Another play "**Tara and Her Grandma**" became a complete children play for any stage with a mixed crew of children and young people. The play was directed by **Vadivel**, and the script rewrite, lyrics for songs, and improvisation

were done by our young people with the help of Vadivel and **Prof. Prabakar**. The play was staged three times so far Margazhi Utsav, Children Carnival, and Madurai art festival. Each time the play receives immense appreciation from the audience. The play is about a young girl Tara who lives with her

grandma in a village. Considered useless, the elders in the village are expelled during a famine. But Tara hides her grandma and care for her. When a misfortune comes to the village, Tara is able to save the village with the help of her grandma's wit and experience. The story reveals the importance of elders in our society. This **Japanese folk**

## Art and Craft



### **Creative Kids I - 19.11.17:**

#### **Think, create, and learn:**

Handicrafts using wire, collage art using color/news papers, face art using oil paints came out from the creative kids. Vandugal Arangam kids did **collage art** of houses, boats, human face, etc, Vergal Arangam finely created **art on faces**, and Kanavugal Arangam

children **stretched out wires** to bring dancing dolls, musical instruments, flowers, fish, etc., Thedalgal Arangam young people helped them. It was both educational and entertaining for them. Expanding their ideas with creativity and team work was the main goal which also projected out their talents. The artworks are hanging on the wall at Seed centers giving them much pride and happiness.



### **Creative Kids II - 25.11.17:**

New perspectives and new skills in drawing and painting in the workshop organized by Madurai Seed at Kaleidoscope helped the kids to explore their creativity. **Prof. Prabakar** took sessions on the **fundamentals in drawing and coloring** using oil pastels. A new atmosphere away from Karumbalai

let the kids with mindful of pleasure in learning drawing. Begun with drawing exercises, kids discovered the art of connecting imagination and reality, created a new relationship between thinking and drawing, then continued by breaking the blocks of hesitations. The whole day workshop was packed with interesting learning aspects for kids from primary to secondary classes.



### Creative Kids III - 26.11.17



Workshop begun on the second day with a **song** of kid Meenakshi about the happiness in flying like a bird. In a fun and expressive way, children read thulika **book** stories and shared it with peers. Their sounds for the characters (animals and birds) in the story "Thottathile oru Puyal" synchronised with the narration of kid **story** teller Keerthana. They played some energetic games after tea and snack. In the noon, kids were given tutorial by Prof. Prabahar Vedamanickam on **drawing different patterns** and coloring using oil pastels. More creations from the children showed their potential and interest beyond classroom and textbooks. It was displayed for their view and appreciation. The workshop for two days taught the kids with loads of basics and contemporary parts of drawing and coloring.

### Creative Kids IV - 02/12/2017:



Two sessions held at Vandugal Arangam and Vergal Arangam led by Volunteer **sharmila and Arunkumar**. Children engaged in creating **simple designs, origami, frames** using old news papers. They were encouraged to do such activities during their leisure time and at home. Finally, They decorated their classrooms with their

creations. It was such a relaxed and happy evening for all.

## Club Activities

### Vanmugil Cultural Club



#### World Photography Day:

**19.08.2017:** Arunkumar gave a presentation on Time Magazine's curation of **100 most Influential Photos** and the interesting stories behind them. He explained about how to appreciate photography and where photos turn into an art. Also, children and young

people got to know about various types of photography.



**Food Festival: 23.09.2017:** The theme for this year was "**Rainy Season Foods**". Children prepared various foods with vegetables, grains, dough, herbs etc. Since, we had some rain in that week, the idea was much welcomed by the children, youth, and people of Karumbalai. Some of them told it kindled their nostalgic memory of their parents cooked these

items for them. 13 stalls sold various food items in the streets.



**Visit to Meenakshi Temple: 25.09.2017:** Kanavugal Arangam children went to witness **Bharathanatyam** performances happened in the temple. They enjoyed around 5 performances. There were also solo performances. Developing a taste for art, dance, music were inculcated in children.





**Save Water Play: 02.10.2017:** Actions of Children "**speak louder**" An issue based play by CESCO children was presented at Karumbalai East Street in front of Madurai Seed office. We know but we never react



for **water resources** depletion by us, through illegal sand mining, building constructions, and pollution through chemicals, garbage waste, etc., Creative props, dialogue tone, content, visualizing the script gave a big applause to the play

on "**Save Water**". The performances of children caught the public by letting them aware of the importance of life saving elixir!! The children are mixed group of ages going to school at the same time improvising their personality through these plays, theatrics and cultural.

### **Three King's Day at Madurai Seed: 06.01.2018:**



**Keith Rossborough**, our children and young people celebrated "Three Kings Day" a **Swiss culture specific** day in Madurai Seed. This was very fun and interesting for kids to play with Keith. We could see the happiest Kings in

every child when they found their King/Queen toy in the hot bun. Not only for the King but for all, the day was very special to remember every year.

## Children Carnvial at Sevalayam: 07.01.2018:



Madurai Seed has conducted a children carnival along with **Thumbi Children Magazine**, Sevalayam Hostel, and other likeminded organizations. Nearly **200 children** participated in the event. A **drama against plastics** by Thamirabarani Cultural Team was emotionally moving and taught a great lesson. One could understand how powerful the art is as a mean to mobilize social messages. Madurai Seed children presented their drama **“Tara and Her Grandma”**, They have done it very well as a complete theatre packed with songs, humor, social message, and satire on contemporary society. Everyone applauded at their performance. Friends from Cuckoo, taught kid how to make a paper crane which symbolizes peace, nature, hope, and happy childhood. Also, Keith conducted the **“Three Kings Day”** game for

Sevalayam Hostel Children. As a whole, the day was dedicated to restoring a happy child in everyone.



## Screenings



Films provide a platform to refresh and inform oneself in various dimensions beyond boundaries. They spend their Sundays and public holidays by watching world movies. All they watch reconstructs and recreates them in a few hours at Madurai Seed. Science fictions, drama movies, documentaries, rebellious movies of women directors, girls' empowerment in movies are screened every weekend to fill the mind with rich experiences. Here are the posters of some movies we've seen.



## Galileo Science Club

**Unfolding research concepts: 08.07.2017: Dr. Gowthaman** from the Yale



University presented topics which include Immunology and the environment we live. He shared about the basic **immunology**, his experiences during research works and his field of work in **allergy** department. The difference in the **research field** of India and America, the various phases in finding out new medicines, allergy and tuberculosis

sciences, the drawbacks which make the **medicinal research** works to stagnate were discussed by him. Students of higher secondary classes, young people keenly observed and cleared their doubts. It was a two-way interaction by Dr. Gowthaman with our young people, American college professors and Kamaraj University professors. The art of interacting to share the knowledge we have is important in teaching-learning process.

**Know your Blood type: 22.07.2017:** An activity oriented learning of Blood, its



function, its composition and its types.

**Sudha and Muthulakshmi**, volunteers of Madurai Seed currently doing pharmaceuticals, with deep and wide explanations took seminar cum practical for the students from VI to XII students. A video presentation, legible explanations on board, medical terms related to blood

grouping and **practical screening** of blood groups loaded much knowledge about the thick fluid circulating in us. Students learned the terms like **coagulation, RH factors** and so on. With the medical kit, they learned how to find and mark their blood group. They got to know the importance of blood transfusions, and blood donations.



## Mobile Planetarium: Exploring the space: 12.02.2018



The **domed theatres** with dark inside and showering stars above took the children to the outer space. Children from Ilango school, Sengundhar School, NMR elementary school, Sevalyam hostel and from Karumbalai were invited to experience beyond classroom learning. The event from **10 am to 9 pm** **benefited 456 children** and young people. The space and celestial objects in it, was projected at 360 degree angle in the domed theatres. With **3D glasses** children enjoyed learning about the moon, lunar eclipse, the big bang theory, the **evolution** of sun and stars, asteroids, meteors, formation of land and rivers, the ice age, extinction of dinosaurs, black holes in the sun, aliens, volcanoes and everything about gravity, and revolution of planets. Discussions with them before and after the video sessions lined up doubts and clarifications for it. The enthusiastic children and young people entered the dome, watched the video with sound effects, observed the explanation about it, realized what the vast space has and in the end they came out of the dome as if like the astronauts returning from space.



## National Science Day: Sky Watch:

**28.02.2018:** Wow! Stars closer, the moon bigger!" excited Keerthana watched the sky through the **Telescope**. Madurai Seed inputs practical knowledge to let them explore directly. After the Mobile planetarium experience, we thought to continue it. The new "Galileo Telescope"

of Madurai Seed set upon the terrace in our educational center let them understand what happens in the sky.

## Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club

### Meeting the water man: 23.04.2017



Our young people had a chance to hear **Mr. Rajendra Singh**. His speech is eye opening. He described the process of rain, rain water harvesting, constructing check dams, and **ground water recharge** from his

experience. In Rajasthan where average rain fall is minimum, he restored many rivers, ground water level, and succeeded drought. He explained about **blue heat** (heat from water bodies), **green heat** (heat from forests) , **yellow heat** (heat from agriculture lands) , and **red heat** (heat from cities). For rain fall, blue heat and green heat are important. But the red heat from cities is useless. Unfortunately these days we produce only red heat. That was the reason for drought. The young people took a vow to protect their local water bodies, reviving them, plant trees to escape the drought in coming years.

### Vaigai River Restoration Meeting: 29.05.2017



Water man **Mr. Rajender Singh** addressed a meeting at **Vaigai river**. Our children, young people and many social activists took part in the meeting. He explained about raising the ground water levels, protecting the river from pollution, and sand mining. As citizens of Madurai, it is our duty to mobilize awareness, and participate in such activities.





### **Interaction With An Architect:**

**30.05.2017:** Our children and young people interacted with **Ms. Shamini, Architect** who restored a public park. The park is now green, colorful, thematic, attractive, and became functional

for public use. Our children and young people asked many questions about her inspiration, her struggle in this mission, art, designs, her future plans, etc.



**Bharathiyar Park:** Children went to Bharathiyar Park, a great place to sit and relax amidst busy city. We met **Shamini and Vignesh**, the architects designed and renovated the park. Children had a photo shoot there. But children are busy

playing and having fun.



### **Film Appreciation Meeting:**

**02.12.2017:** 20 young people took part in the dialogue with Tamil film **Director Gopi Nainar** about his movie Aram. This event was organized by Lens Meida Center, Madurai.

## Suvadugal Sports Club



### Sports

### Meet:

**01.10.2017:** Madurai

Seed Sports meet was conducted today. Since the children don't have enough space in Karumbalai and nearby

places to play freely, the meet was conducted in nearby ESIC road, slightly broad road with very less vehicle movements. The aisle of trees provided perfect shade from the hot weather. Usually the road will be quiet, but



today it was filled with children's cheer and chats. Children were divided into **four teams**. Outdoor Individual games like **athletics, fun games, group games** like cricket, Kho kho, Kabadi were conducted for children from **6 years to 16 years**. The level of enjoyment and competition were understood by their tanned skin and sweat. Snacks were provided in between. Kudos to the volunteers who turned the sports meet into a successful event.

**"Sports is an essential element of education"**





## Annai Medical Club

**Beware of the bite: 10.08.2017:** Manoj and Dinesh, two **MSW students from**



**Madurai Social Science College** gave a presentation about about **Dengue**. The session was very useful and our children got to know about lots of things about mosquito control measures, tips to escape mosquito bites, natural mosquito repellents. They brought examples of common

mosquito breeding sites around home and how to reduce them. Children also asked many questions related to Dengue **prevention** and treatment. In Karumbalai we get drinking water once in 4 days. People pump a lot of water and save for daily use. The chance of mosquito breeding is high if we don't store them properly.

**Prevention is the cure: 20.08.2017:** Kannadasan from **The Spinal Foundation**



interacted with the children and young people about spinal cord injuries, its damaging effect in a person's daily life, the risks of spinal cord **injury and prevention**. Children and young people got much information about the injury in the Q&A session. It was

such an important knowledge and awareness he gave, since road accidents are major cause of it, and age group of 17 to 25 are more prone it. He emphasized on wearing helmet (talked around some of the prevailing myths around helmet), speed limit, road rules, vehicle maintenance, etc.

## Field Trips

**Kanyakumari Visit: 25,26.08.2017:** 7 Girl volunteers and 3 boy volunteers went



to Kanniyakumari. This trip was organized to encourage the girl volunteers. They visited the Vivekananda Rock, went in a ferri, played in the shore, and went to temples. It is the first experience to all of them seeing Kanyakumari. As this was

planned as **“girl’s day out”** everyone enjoyed the trip very much and it will stay in their memory forever.



**Village Backpack: 29.10.2017:** Young people went to **Ammapatti**, a village surrounded by Eastern Ghat hills. The place where we camped is surrounded by mango, coconut, banana trees and various herbs, and plants. The air and water was pristine and fresh. We cooked the noon meal there and had lunch under the shades of trees. Our young people are from town. Living a village life is a romantic dream for many. We were happy, played, and shared together



**Chathirapati Visit: 18.11.2017:** Young people went to Chathirapati water channel. We **cleaned plastics** and broken bottles in the surrounding, cooked lunch, visited the fields, and had bath in the channel. Spending time in this kind of environment **refreshes** the body and mind. Wherever we are, having a break like this kind and connecting to nature is the learning of this

trip.



### Kovalam: 15.01.2018: "Beautiful, mysterious, wild and free"



**35 young people** spent a day in the Arabian Sea shore in Kovalam, Kerala. The high waves set them free to enjoy, play, and have fun. For most of them, it was the **first time** visiting Kerala. The curve shaped & palm backed beaches and silky sand exposed the hidden kid in everyone. New experience

in seeing the foreign tourists spending on hot sun reading books, and lying on sand. A serene beauty of **back waters** in Poovar, Trivandrum filled our mind. Especially the girls found it as a paradise & cherished every minute. They visited the rock cut temple, elephant rock, estuary point, light house, mangrove forest, Mary church, Poovar island.

### Thenmala Eco-Tour: 29, 30.04.2018: "Cuddle up with nature":



A travel into the lush green forest of Western Ghats, a walk through the hills of Thenmala, a stay with the winding nature for two days elevated the souls refreshing and amusing. **14 young people** of Madurai Seed get dipped in nature enjoying



trekking, mountain climbing, nature trails, elevated walkway, pedal boating, commando net walking, snorkeling, valley crossing, water roller, net walk, balancing planks, wall climbing, rope car, aerial skating in the **adventure zone** of Thenmala **Ecotourism**. In the leisure zone where we walked by parambar river side, visited the sculpture garden, ended the zone with thrilling walking experience over the suspension bridge. The night stay at Thenmala was a visual entreat through **Musical Dancing Fountain**. The **deer rehabilitation center** with spotted deer and sambar deer spoke to us with its beautiful big eyes. We had a short trek over there. The children park amused us by bringing the kid in everyone. We viewed the serene beauty of Kerala from the **Thenmala Dam** which was a unique experience. This educational trip to the Thenmala ecotourism let the young people team to play some moderate adventure sports and to learn biodiversity.

**Sirumalai: 04.02.2018:** 7 Young people went to Sirumalai hills and witnessed the natural beauty of the place. They also **photo-documented** the daily life of the village, flora, birds, and people.



## MADURAI SEED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE FEDERATIONS

**Elections: 09.08.2017:** On the day before the voting day, the candidates go for election **campaign** to the four centers of Madurai Seed. The voting polls, booth slip and seal and some roles of **voting** officials are taken by the young people. Students are introduced to why and how the election is being held and get to know what the foremost duties of a citizen are. They observe, decide and elect who should be their **leader**. They will reflect their responsibility in future. Here is the list of candidate elected as representatives:

Name of the students	Class	Representative for
Niranjan & Meenakshi	IV	Vandugal arangam
Sudalai Mani & Nisha	VIII	Vergal Arangam
Parasuram	X	Kanavugal arangam



The MSCF election again provided an active participating crew of young people.

Surya, XII	The <b>president</b> of MSCF
Bhavani, XI	The <b>Secretary</b> of MSCF
Jeevanandham, XI	The <b>Treasurer</b> of MSCF

**MSYF election:** Likewise every year, the youth federation has its own responsibility to conduct election to elect their MSYF leader. Muthuganesh, Vigneshwaran and Anand were the candidates nominated. All the young people voted for their favorite. **Muthuganesh** won the election and become the MSYF leader for 2017-18. He conveyed this was his proudest moment also he recalls him when he was the MSCF president for more than twice.

## Special Days

**15.08.2017: Independence Day:** A silent prayer was done for the shocking



negligence of government hospital which resulted in the death of 63 children. The 19<sup>th</sup> MSCF President, **Surya of 12<sup>th</sup> std** was welcomed with marching by students and then he hoisted the national flag. He gave a message on this day about the power of unity. Our MSCF secretary **Bhavani** provided sweets to all. The flag

hoisting ceremony ended with a message that we can cherish our history and culture at the same time we should be aware of our drawbacks and potholes in our society.

**05.09.2017: Teachers Day:** There are **22 young people** teaching at Madurai Seed



centers now. Children gave their wishes. The volunteers gave individual events like singing, dancing, storytelling, poetry reading for children. Director Elavarasi and Trustee Karthikbharathi appreciated and thanked the volunteers for their commitment with seed.

**14.11.2018: Children's Day:** Cakes were distributed in Madurai Seed, Nandhanar



Hostel, and Sevalayam Hostel centers. **Murugesan Krishnasamy and Mrs. Viji.** Muruges took part in children's day at Karumbalai, and distributed chocolates. Their visit after a long time brought immense cheers among children. Before songs were taught to children, It was a sweet, beautiful,

happy evening with lots of joy, laughter, and fun.



**26.01.2018: Republic Day:** Madurai Seed Young People Federation leader **S. Muthuganesh** hoisted the national flag and delivered the address.



**01.02.2018: Institution Day:**

Children and young people remembered all the supporting hearts, former volunteers, and the history of Madurai Seed. **Prabendran**, a budding children theatre activist played "Dijiridoo" a tribal musical instrument. **Stalin and Arun**, self sustaining entrepreneurs gave sweets to children.



**08.03.2018: Women's Day: Celebrate Her:**

The need of talking about gender equality and gender sensitivity has raised in today's world. On International Women's Day, the history of this day was remembered. A **question-answer** session about gender inequalities at home was conducted. The **stories** depicted in the Google Doodle on that day were screened. A photo slide-show on the topic "Happy Women" was screened. Fun games were conducted between girl children and girl volunteers.



The special days celebrated at Madurai Seed is entirely different from how these days celebrated in schools. Every year these days take new dimensions with interesting and educational elements added to it. Even though guests are coming for some programs, children are treated as heros and we get importance. I really like teacher's day, when the teaching volunteers sing, dance, play, read for us. During Independence day and Republic day children and youth leaders hoist the national flag which is very prestigious.

**B. Keerthana, VII**

## Celebrations



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

**27.06.2017: Ramzan** was celebrated at Vandugal Arangam. Muslim students studying in our centres became the centre of attraction. The tradition of Ramzan and significance of fasting was explained to the students. Together we cooked **Biriyani** and **shared** it after the



**16.10.2017: Diwali** was celebrated at Madurai Seed. Young people wore same color dress to show our **togetherness** as a family. Sweets and savories were provided to all. We welcomed Diwali with lots of joy and sense of togetherness. On 18<sup>th</sup> Morning children and youth gathered for Diwali prayer. They brought sweets from their homes and shared.



**24.12.2018: Christmas:** All the kids from I std to XII std take part in all programs on this Christmas Eve. Vandugal Arangam welcomed everyone with their beautiful movements. Young people from IX to XII std gave two fast and furious dances to all. A **skit** by kids giving message through Santa was thought provoking. Also a science fiction skit by young people of XI std exhibited their talents. Three songs for Christmas with

**music** was played and sung by all with loaded happiness. Young people shared about the Christmas traditions around the world was informative and read out aloud the Holy **Bible** verses; Everyone greeted each other Merry Christmas and shared their love. Jeeva dressed as **Santa** made everyone laugh and clap. On the whole it was both educative and joyful for every kid and young people.



### 31.12.2018: New Year Eve Fun Games



Our children and young people welcomed the New Year with so much **joy and laughter**. Fun games were conducted for all classes and young people. In this way New Year was invited with lots of positivity and happiness. Everyone shared their new year resolutions.

### 14.01.2018: Pongal Celebration:



Pongal, the Tamil's culture specific festival was celebrated in the street. Children and young people participated with **traditional** attires. They enjoyed cooking together. The season's fresh vegetables were used for cooking. The participants of Kolam competition were provided with gifts. We are

lunch together as a family.

Celebrations at Madurai Seed during religious and culture important days add more memories and colors to those days. We celebrate these events as a big family, we share the chores, responsibilities, and work as a big team. That togetherness strengthens the bond between us and Madurai Seed. In schools, we don't celebrate religious functions, in Families we celebrate the days of our own religion, but here every Religion gets importance. During Ramzan, we all feel as a muslims, the Same for Christmas as Christians. These programs don't end as fun events. There is a learning in everything direct or indirectly. I like Pongal celebration The most, on that day children and young people come in traditional wears. We cook Pongal in a big vessel like a grand feast. Games will be conducted In streets. That day we feel much joy.

▪ **Hari Bala, VIII**

## Programs for public



**Community service:** 9, 10.05.2011: **Together as a family:** During Chithirai festival, which is a grand festival in Madurai, thousands of people gather in a place. In Tallakulam area, we have provided **water** and **buttermilk** to people. On , In Annanagar, Water, and butter-milk

provided 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.



**Domestic Workers Meeting:** 03.09.2017: A meeting was conducted at Vandugal Arangam for women domestic workers. Sister Clara, Banumathi, and Mercy from Tamilnadu Domestic Workers **Association** facilitated

the meeting. They gave **awareness** about minimum wages, rights, laws, unorganized sector welfare association, and benefits.

*All social change  
begins with  
a conversation*



**NavaRathri : 21.09.2017 to 30.09.2017**

**Celebrating Womanhood**

**10 Days**

**10 Guests**

Parents are important component, playing a major role in children and young people's life. Comparing to men, women in Karumbalai are hard workers, committed towards family. This week was celebrated in Madurai Seed not as a spiritual or religious thing, but we have **connected** mothers of children and young people at one place and made them listen to the **stories of women** from various areas of society. It is organized to give them awareness about parent's part in children's education, goals, and for their own development like taking care of their health, entrepreneurship, mental health, etc.



### Guest's Profile:

Alagupponnu	<b>Folk singer.</b> She can't read and write, still she can sing more than 100 traditional songs from memory. She also creates her own songs. Once she went to USA representing Tamil folklore.
Leelavathi	A <b>tribal women</b> from Coorg, Amidst all disadvantages she managed to study Masters in Social Work. Her parents are tribal community leaders. With them she fights for tribal rights and environment protection. She married a social worker from Tamilnadu.
Sumathi	She is a <b>mental health counselor.</b> She advocates naturopathy, traditional medical practices, yoga and pranayama.
Sridevi	She is a <b>personal trainer.</b> She trains women in forming self help groups, getting loans, and becoming entrepreneurs.
Kavitha	She is an <b>entrepreneur.</b> She manages an organic farm, and running a shop to sell organic products. She trains people in kitchen and roof top gardening.
Sister Clara	She is a <b>social activist</b> , state level leader of Women Domestic Workers Association and advocates rights for unorganized sector workers especially women.
Nallini	She is a <b>school head mistress</b> of a women higher secondary school, known to be very kind, caring, and advocating women education, has stopped many child marriages by her interventions.
Kanmani	She is a <b>lecturer</b> in social work department in a local college.

**Film:** Parents along with their daughters went to a movie "**Magalair Mattum**" movie. The movie revolves around four women, their friendship, and family. I speaks about independent life, privacy, self respect for women. Parents have enjoyed the theatre experience more than the movie. For many parents, they went o theatre after a long time like 10 years, and 5 years.





### Some Quotes from the quests:

"Parents, Speak to your kids. Be interested to learn from them. Model them great values. Children learn from examples. Don't expect and push anything to your kids. Just be keen about they are growing with good values. Dear Children, speak to your parents. Teach them what you've learned in school, and from seed." **Vinitha, Tribal Rights Activist**

"Traditional Folk Songs are losing their place in people's lives now. Atleast in villages we try to keep it during festival times. These songs are like umbilical connection to our culture, tradition, and daily life. I don't remember even my mobile number. But I can sing 100 songs. I learnt them from elders in the village. We all have the responsibility to pass them to next generation"- **Alagu Pillai, Folk singer**

" We, women do a lot of work for family, but fail to take care of our own health. We don't eat on time, we take too much stress. We should watch what we eat, we should watch our breathing. Simple breathing exercises can help a lot to improve appetite, sleep, and retain energy." – **Sumathi, Counselor**

" We should think of ourselves too, we should engage in activities that strengthen ourselves. Nobody will remember you for the household works you do at home. You should come out of the circle. You can make small team of women in the neighbourhood, and start thinking of enegaging in small entrepreneurur acivities, and start making some money, that you can save for yourselves and for family.- **Sridevi**

"Our food has become poison, of pesticides, and processing. Organic has become a trend. We can grow our own vegetables and have them. It is a healthy process, and healthy hobby too. Our children will learn to love nature. Even a small area is enough to grow some vegetables of our daily use. You can use plastic canes, bags, roof tops. – **Mrs. Kavitha**

" Together women can achieve many things. We should advocate our rights in family and work place. Already the world suppress women, if we don't speak for our rights we won't get any. It is not for you only, if you speak the successors, women around you will also benefit. Especailly, women who are working you shouldn't let others exploit you, know your rights and advocate it"- **Sis.Clara**

" Women are capable of many things, but the sad part is they don't realize their power in many situations. Education and a job makes them independent, self reliant, and they won't lose the self respect. Parents, encourage your girl children to study a lot and they will achieve great heights."- **Mrs. Nallini**

"We all should become financially settled, and come out of poverty. The education you give to your children will help you achieve this. Growing with values is as important as that. Children learn from models. As they spend more time in family, we should model them good habits and values." – **Prof. Kanmani**

## Margazhi Utsav, December 2017

### Three Days Cultural Festival

#### Day 1: Karumbalai Fair: 28/12/2018

Normally a fair is organized in villages, but for a change we did it in Karumbalai to give the kids a new learning. The whole Karumbalai was become a busy and colorful area that evening. The fair includes an organic food/snack stall, a book stall, storytelling, mono acting and Seeds' orchestra.

**Organic Snack stall:** Mr. Kalimuthu, an organic farmer from a nearby village



came up with snack items made from millets/sirudhanyam. Healthy **traditional snacks** which are the power house of calcium, fibres, and irons are presented to the public. Children visited the stalls with their parents. The exciting part of the fair was children themselves got involved in selling and distributing items. It is vital for them to be

aware of investing, money management, basic strategies in trading and group presenting. **Mr. Kalimuthu** explained that millets are better alternatives for rice and wheat as it has various health benefits. Herbal soup was provided to all the kids visiting the fair.

**Book stall:** The fair included books stall brought by **Mr. Sadagopan**. It was



designed for promoting children the habit of **reading**. Curious children rushed up and within half an hour most of the books were selected and purchased. They read the topic and colorful presentations of the book and selected. Books like short stories, fairy tales, science fiction, drawing and coloring and some auto biographies of leaders attracted

the kids. As they are in holidays, they will make use of their leisure hours for reading.



**Storytelling:** Fairs are not only meant for sellers and buyers but also for creative



hungers. As a learning space, storytelling event was organized in the fair. **Mrs. Akila** from Bangalore, focused on telling and connecting children with the stories she told. She embellished stories further by **rhythms** and **actions**. The warm up session through games and two stories with sharp messages enthralled the audience. Her storytelling

entertained and instilled moral values in the children. She visited the fair with her family.

**SEEDS' Orchestra:** Songs practiced by kids and young people for more than 3



weeks along with the notes of Electric Keyboard player **Mr. Balamurugan**. Balamurugan tuned the ears with his musical **Keyboard**. Christmas songs, SEED songs, and some motivational songs were sung by children and young people in the concert. It was a spectacular evening as kids enjoyed singing and playing music. Chances to become a singer begin from this

participation they give in the Margazhi Utsav of Madurai Seed.

**Mono acting:** A Volunteer teacher at Madurai Seed "**Surya**" performed the



iconic story of Asokamitran "Pulikalignan". He performed the feelings of an artist who loses hope. **Vasim** who teaches brought us different characters in his **one act play**. His own creation was about poor community people who come forward though there were hurdles. Mono act of our young people received applause from the crowd where their

parents also appreciated. Our Trustee Ms. Mariammal, Story teller Akila and her family, Linguist Rajendran, Teacher Nagasiva took part as guests and appreciated such initiative in the street for children, parents, and public.

## Second Day: A Day for Fine arts: 29/12/2018

The second day of the Margazhi Utsav was well planned to **exhibit** the efforts of artists, designers, crafts makers and photographers of Madurai Seed. Prof. Prabahar Vedamanickam and Enya, Linguist Rajendran, Architect Shamini and friends, Social workers Sankar Aakam, Yogesh Karthik and Sathish took part as guests. An art exhibition being presented for the public for the first time showed them the **artistic** sensibility of our Kids and young people. Blended with **creativity, imagination** and own style, children made beautiful arts and handicrafts of more than hundred. They took more than a week to bring them **visually** for the audience. Working on fine arts gave them a highly refined view on their own skills. Drawings, crafts, photographs, using pencil and oil pastels, paintings on canvas, chart, glasses and sticks, minimalist art painting, crafts using waste materials like cloth, bangles, bottles, and CDs, handicrafts like paper lanterns, wall hangings, collages, warli art, jewels from quillings and embroidery were kept in an array for the view of all. A **photo carnival** showing a gallery of candid photography, landscape photography, day-night photography, architectural photography and some still life photography which delivered the extraordinary skill of our young people Vicky, Anand Kumar and Arun Chandren. Astonished audience asked for the price of the photographs. Guests appreciated the hands which made these **fine arts**. Kids got the face painting and mehendi drawing done by Vicky and Sundari. Kolam competition was conducted for public. Many parents took part in the competition with interest. Karumbalai people enjoyed the art expo, spent lot of time around expo.





### Third Day: A day for performing arts: 30/12/2018



It was a splendid evening filled with various cultural events like drama, dance, singing by Madurai Seed children and young people. The preparation for the event was started many weeks before.

**Theater workshops** were conducted continuously by Vadi Vel, and our young people Sriman Vasim and Surya. **Music classes** were conducted by Balamurugan from BSW department of Mannar College.

The Palm trees separated the road from the stage. The uneven, rustic, trashy area was turned into a beautiful place for the celebration. The event started around 4.30 in the evening. Children sang many songs like children songs, folk songs, Carnatic song accompanied by **classical Thavil** and modern **electric keyboard**.

Girls from 9th and 10th std danced for two songs. "**Dora and her grandma**" a Japanese folk tale was enacted by our children and young people. It was a beautiful drama ended with a good message. It was directed by Vadi Vel. Another drama was "**Mazhai Kaalaan**" - a children story directed by Vadi Vel.

Both dramas have many children theater elements like songs, sounds, humor, and playfulness. Prof. Prabahar Vedamanickam, Rajendran M Jaya, Mansur Ali, teacher Mariammal, former student Sahitha took part as guests. The last event of our Margazhi Urchavam ended very happily and proudly as many children and young people took part in the cultural programs and showed their skills before others.





**“Horlicks” distribution: January 2018:** We have received **1700 bottles** of



a supplement nutritional product to distribute among people from deprived areas. We have distributed the bottles in our evening centers in Karumbalai, Nandanar Hostel, Sevalayam Hostel, and distributed to **4 schools** nearby, and to Karumbalai

people, old and homeless people. 1700 bottles have reached 1700 people included children, young people, senior citizens, patients and homeless people.



## Working with other organizations

### With CESC

Madurai Seed is working closely with CESC (Center for experiencing socio cultural interaction), an organization working for rural development, and rights for indigenous people, cultural **exchange**, and peace. A.S.Karthikbharathi, our managing trustee is participating in their staff and volunteer meetings and helped brainstorming ideas, and event management. Madurai Seed children and young people are being given chances to **participate** in their seminars and workshops. Our young people are from urban background, when they **interact** and work with rural atmosphere, they get new experiences. Madurai Seed young people has provided their physical work **support**, and helped in other organizing tasks of these programs as well.



Activity	Participated Children	Participated Youth	Public/Others/Guests Resource person /visitors
Capacity Building Workshop at Coorg		40	15
Village Camp in 6 Villages	300	50	15
Village Camp Valedictory Day	400	100	75
Mini-Yatra	400	50	150
Village Festival	600	200	1000

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



The young people from Madurai had a different variety of spending their summer vacation in learning tribal people through the camp organized by CESC. A new cultural experience with the tribal people at COORG in Karnataka state gave an absolute adventurous state of mind.

**For whom:** CESC organized the camp for the young people of forty numbers from Villages & urban slum of Madurai. It was held for three days from 29<sup>th</sup> of April to 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2017. A visual treat for the eyesight, surrounded by greenery and the falling temperature dragged everyone away from the hot summer to a pleasant & lively atmosphere at the Yadhygapadi village in Coorg, Karnataka. 21 young people from 10 villages near CESC, **17 young people from Madurai Seed** in Karumbalai & 2 from Erode took part in the camp. Among 40, there were equal number of boys and girls.



**The camp comprised of:** Camps are not only meant for refreshment but also for earning values. The young people grow stronger with positivity thoughts about their self-confidence through self awareness related programs. The forty young people around 15 to 22 age group get enthralled by means of various learning tools in the campsite. The main thing focused in the camp was to develop

the youth to lead a powerful role in enhancing their village children and people.



## Facilitators

- **Mr. Muthappa**, the tribal leader bestowed the training with his session on "Tribal people's Culture and Lifestyle"
- **Mr. Bharath** Chandra Devaiya, a young man from Thadiyandamol village illuminated the young people to environmentally aware of "Plants, Birds, animals, water resources."
- **Mr. Chellapandi**, a child rights activist, gave training on Leadership qualities, role of youngsters in the development of villages, and about teaching traditional games to children.
- **Mr. Bakhrudeen**, a dramatist, gave session on the arts, culture, custom of tribal and the ways to revive them.
- **Mr. Thanraj**, co-ordinator of Tamil Nadu Ekta Parishad, tribal activist gave session on : tribal's lifestyle influenced by the nature, their traditional food, preservations and protections of local natural resources.
- **Mr. KarthikBharathi**, the president of Madurai Seed, gave session on Planning for Children's progress and developing skills of children, collecting likeminded young people and partners to preserve local resources
- **Mrs. Chellathal**, a staff from CESCO, gave training on the basic strategies for creating self-actualized centers for the children in villages and urban slum.



**Camp premise:** Varieties of trees, a spacious premise in front of the house of Mr. Muthappa, where the youngsters were among the colorful flowers bloomed ensured that this kind of learning as an independent and special one to them. In the vast tribal culture speaking land, our young people had exercises, yoga, games, input sessions and

cultural night. Morning sessions and evening cultural were carried on in the public hall of the mountainous village. It was a new and refreshing experience for the youngsters who swirl with the water scarcity problem under the hot sun in towns. Also there were new life lessons to be learnt for the young people from the tribal.

**Culture & Language:** Merging with the community of tribal people become possible through this camp. They caught the steps and music in the tribal dance "Urutikottu". No partiality was shown while beating for the tunes. Synchronising with the tribal people let the youth to learn their arts, culture and tradition followed from long long years ago. The language they speak was "Kudava", which is a mixture of south Indian languages, so the communication was bit easier.

**Food:** Green tea in the morning and evening, steamed rice flour, and pork are the typical food of the tribal. Eating pork wasn't allowed in many people's family. But the participants broke the taboo. Spontaneously it was the delightful intake of our youngsters during the camp.

**Living hand in hand with nature:** Meadows and voluminous trees on the hills attracted the campers for trekking led by Mr. Bharath, a villager. Drunken waterfall in one sip, they surrendered themselves in the colorful sites of the mountain.

**Learning from the camp:** Through their participation in the training, the youngsters have decided to conduct a camp for the village children. For that, they designed a platform for the children in the villages to identify the vital resources in their locals, to engage in preserving those resources, and to stay aware of what they are surrounded by apart from chaos and confusions in the society.

**The follow up of this camp:**

- Creating a map consisting of the local water resources
- Coming up with working strategies to preserve those resources
- At last, the forty young people designed a plan to lead the children by conducting camps in their own villages. 40 youngsters will therefore conduct a camp for 300 children in 6 different villages.





## VILLAGE CAMPS

**6 Villages 300 children 50 young people 15 resource persons**

India lives in seven hundred thousand villages, said Mahatma Gandhi. The future of India also lives here proved children and young people from 6 small villages around CESC. 6 camps were conducted from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in these 6 villages and more than **300 children** were benefited. I played a role in designing and planning this camp. **SEED young people** also played a role in arrangement and planning of this camp. This was greatly admired by CESC staff, young people, children, and **P.V.RajaGopal**.

SEED volunteers were engaged in duties like purchasing, guest hospitality, arrangements, communications, commute, planning, camp things, documentation, photography and ensured the camp is going without interruption.

**V.Elavarasi** from SEED as a guest inaugurated one of the camps in village and congratulated all children and youth who are part of it. **C.Arunkumar** from SEED gave an input session on "Let our minds be strong" emphasized on ways to improve mental health, confidence, anger and stress management.

The camp emphasized on **traditional** living and **sustainable** living. The progress of our life is not determined by money but by the happiness index. Understanding nature, natural resources, traditional medicine, traditional foods, traditional games, identifying the local water bodies, drawing the resource map of the village, tree planting, cleaning the plastics were the major activities.

In this globalized era, digital enables us to get everything handy, we are continuously informed about everything happening around us, and treating everyone as consumers. Yet, many people fail to look things which are nearby. This camp facilitated children and young people in gaining knowledge about their local trees, local birds, local water bodies, local problems, and local people.



**07.10.2017: Mini Yathra:** Over 400 children and 100 young people took out a rally to



celebrate the silver Jubilee of CESC, flagged off at Kadavur by m Mrs. Jill Carr, Executive member. Madurai Seed children and young people took part in the rally. The rally passed through aisle of trees in the yellow evening and ended in CESC. Shri. Rajagopal, activist and the president of EKTA Parishad led the **rally spreading peace and love**. You could

see every child carrying one of the main elements of their village like soil, water, seeds to grow, plant saplings, lamps, mud pots, flowers and so on. They urged the importance of it as it is the main resource of their village and the need to be preserved. Also they raised slogans on peace, justice, and carried placards and banners.

**15.10.2017 : Namma Oor Thiruvizha:** To mark CESC's 25 years of service for villages, a



village festival was organized in **Thethampatti** village. Karthikbharathi was one of the members in the **organizing** committee of this festival. The objectives of the festival are connecting people, restoring tradition, keeping up the best practices in the tradition, happiness in togetherness, felicitating village leaders and youth leaders, encouraging children and young people to

love their villages, appreciating **folk music and dance**, etc. Madurai Seed young people gave their commitment in organizing, cleaning, decoration works. They also gave two dance performances. Madurai Seed children took part in the festival and gave two dance performances. There were many stalls and events dedicated to traditional tools and vessels, medicinal plants, clay modeling, traditional games, folk songs, **Oyilattam** (a folk dance), **silambattam** (a martial art), touring talkies, village visit. Many events were given by the village folks themselves. The village people were very cooperative, and energetic. Visitors from foreign and many states of India took part in the festival. P.V. Rajagopal of Ekta Parishad spent the whole in the village. The festival was a great success. There were many things to learn from the villagers, respect for nature, God, and elders, simplicity, hospitality, interest in learning local art forms, protecting local resources, sense of proud about the tradition, unity, etc. It was a great experience as a whole.



## With Kaleidoscope:

Kaleidoscope is an alternative center for arts, education, and culture. **Professor. Prabhakar** instituted this organization. People from Kaleidoscope center gave theatre training to our children. Mr. Vadivel from the center gave training for our **theatre** productions this year. Plus, **Thedalgai Young People Resource Center** was constructed in the upstairs of Kaleidoscope center. The resource center is being used by both Madurai Seed and Kaleidoscope.



**12.10.2017: Youth For Change:** Shri. **Rajagopal**, the president of **Ekta Parishad**



interacted with young people from the Lady Doak College, American College, and Madurai Seed. The meet was organized to connect the young minds with a great leader like Shri. Rajagopal at the Thedalgai resource center-Kaleidoscope. Raja-ji begun the session with "**Jai Jaghat**" song

and he taught us five important things to make non-violence our way of life. To ridicule violence and glorify non-violence one must follow the **art of dialogue**, test one's level of **non-violence** and to adopt it. The students asked Raja-ji's views on the higher orders of non-violence. They raised their support for his walk from Delhi to Geneva to spread Peace and Justice. On the whole, it was an useful interaction that might have sparked a little or much in the minds of those young people about the importance of Non-violence through Raja-ji's speech.

### Participation in Film Festival: 6 to 10 December 2017:



The 19th Madurai International **Documentary and Short Film** Festival 2017 organized by Maruppakkam fetched films on various genres. The films were screened at Madurai Seed **Thedalgai Arangam** at Kaleidoscope Center. Prof. Prabahar Vedamanickam gave hint to each film's director, cinematography,

music, and screenplay. Interaction with film makers and discussion led the viewers to get more ideas about award – winning short films and documentaries. **50 children** and young people from Madurai Seed witnessed the film festival. Most of the movies are based on social themes which helped the participants to have a better outlook about the power of visual media in mass awareness.

### Workshop for college students: 11/01/2018



**Prof. Prabahar** facilitated this workshop for college students. **55 young people** participated in the workshop. Students were introduced to introductory level tools to understand and explore **art forms** like photography, film, and music. Theater games were conducted by, which made the workshop very enthusiastic and

participatory. Importance of making "art a part of our lifestyle" and having an alternative view on art were emphasized by Prof. Prabahar. The young people enjoyed the different kind of learning experience, and we hope they gained lots of perspectives to understand, appreciate, and act with arts. Madurai Seed with Kaleidoscope center facilitated this workshop.



## Participation in Madurai Art Festival: 27,28/01/2018



Madurai Art Festival was conducted by Kaleidoscope Center and **Austrian Cultural Forum** for days for public in Madurai. The festival comprised of folk and modern art forms in dance, music, and drama. Madurai Seed children and young people took part in the festival and **witnessed** all the performances. Our young people have done enormous **volunteering work** before and during the festival. Madurai Seed's children play **"Tara and Her Grandma"** was staged on the first day.

The performance was welcomed with great cheer and applause. Many people gave feedback that our play was the highlight of the day. Children and young people witnessed performances such as Odyssey classical dance, Rock music, Silambaatam, Leather puppet show, Mono-acts, and musical dramas. The festival helped everyone to develop a taste for performing arts apart from cinema and television and introduced a wide range of genres in performing arts.

## Residential workshop for college students: 3 & 4.03.2018



Kaleidoscope & Madurai Seed have organized a two day residential workshop **"Art for Change"** for students from **Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore**. **9 Engineering students and 1 staff** took part in the workshop. This workshop aimed to introduce the nuances of the art forms and analyze how it can be used as a tool for changing one's self and society. **Professor Prabahar** facilitated the sessions on Photography, Cinema, Painting, and Music. **Professor Dharmaraj** facilitated a session on stories. Madurai Seed volunteer **Vasim Khan** conducted "theatre games" for the participants. The students enjoyed the home-like accommodation, creative environment, non-formal classes, unique learning experiences, etc. From their feedback, we could understand. a generation is raised as consumers rather than creators and there is a need to guide students in appreciating and exploring art forms.





## Participation of Children & Young people



conducted this.

**Art sessions: 14 & 15.05.2017:**

**6 children** and **2 young people** from SEED participated with students from Fine Arts College, and CESC children involved in some drawing works in the CESC campus. The painted warli art, leaves painting, art from waste, etc. Teacher Siva of Kalagalavaguparai



**Nature- Science-Art Camp:**

**20 & 21.05.2017:** Learning at every chance. Other than the camps at Madurai Seed, encouraging children and young people to other sites/camps creates them a learning atmosphere about different facts. Here, we thank Mrs. Parvatha Varthini, Mr. Yokesh, Mr. Ravindhran, Mr. Aakkam Sankar for

giving us a chance to learn from the summer camp organized at Keezhakuyilkudi near Samanar hills., where they exposed to Science facts, making handicrafts, trekking over hill rocks. **Two days camp** refreshed both mind and body of the children and young people.



**Participation: 01, 02.07.2017:** 5 young people took part in the **"Understanding Foucault"** workshop facilitated by Kaleidoscope centre. Professors from various fields like literature, folklore, philosophy gave the lectures on Foucault's concepts of history, research,

archeology, power, sexuality, panopticism, his contemporary relevance, etc. Participants were introduced to the taste of reading and understanding philosophies.



### **Participation: 16.07.2017:**

Kanavugal Arangam children and volunteers went to Thirunagar Mother Centre to listen a speech on **"Knowing oneself"**. The speech was little spiritual. It also shed some light on how to concentrate our thoughts, how to live stress free, benefits of meditation, mindfulness. Since the participants were adults it was very useful for them.



### **Theatre Camp: 08-14.10.2017:**

Madurai Seed young people **Surya** and **Vasim Khan** took part in the theatre workshop conducted by CESC and **Nigazh** Theatre Group. They got opportunities to listen seminars given by various theatre personalities and professors on theatre for social change. They get

chance to involve with students and artists from various parts of India. A political drama dealing with GST was produced and performed in the village festival.

**Art Camp: 08-14.10.2017:** Madurai Seed young people **Muthaiya** and **Mathan** gave their contribution in the art sculpting works in the CESC campus with Barbara, an artist from Switzerland.



### **Maja Award Program:**

**14.10.2017:** Young people got opportunity to listen great Gandhian leaders like **Subba Rao**, and **Rajagopal**. People from various fields like journalism, community development, arts were felicitated in the program. Young

people got inputs on the significance of nonviolent practices. They also enjoyed a **"Therukoothu"** on Mahabharatha, an ancient Tamil theatre form.



### Train Journey: 23.01.2018

20 children were selected and sent to the train journey from Madurai to Sengottai conducted by **Thumbi** children magazine. The train journey consisted of storytelling, songs, and games for children. This was the **first train journey** experience to all the 20 children.



### Basic Photography Workshop: Learn to click: 23 & 24.12.2018



Our volunteers **Vigneshwaran** and **Anand** participated in the two days residential photography workshop conducted at **Thiruvannamalai**. They have learned about a lot about lighting and framing. Post the workshop, on **26/02/2018** they explained about what they have learnt to all the volunteers. They explained pinhole camera, manual settings in DSLR camera. And showed stunning pictures they took at Thiruvannamalai.

## Participation of Staff & Trustees

### Participation in Friends of CESC Meet: 12.10.2017:



**Karthikbharathi, Elavarasi** and **Arunkumar** took part in the meeting regarding the silver jubilee of CESC. We are proud and happy to be in solidarity with an organization like this working for rural development and peace promotion. Friends from many local organizations took part in the meeting and shared their connection with CESC. Karthikbharathi has done one of the key roles in organizing this meeting.



### Participation in Kaleidoscope events:

Managing Trustee **A.S.Karthikbharathi**, Director **Elavarasi**, and Coordinator **Arunkumar** has participated in events organized by Kaleidoscope like film screening, music events, poetry reading, book reviews, and guest speeches. We had an opportunity to meet people who are teachers, activists, artists, and students from those events.



### Visit to Cuckoo Forest School: 4 & 5.11.2018:



Madurai Seed team visited Cuckoo Forest School in Krishnagiri district. The objective of this visits are to create a bond between likeminded people working in various areas concerning

children and young people. The place is a ground for people who seek self-realization, sustainable living, ethical entrepreneurship, **Gandhian values**, **organic** and healthy lifestyle, following the passion, **artistic life**, and social commitment. They are trying to establish an **alternative school**, and already doing activities like **publishing** story books, hand weaving, and tailoring, farming activities for children. We visited the place to get to know new people, learning new concepts, and utilizing the people and place for our children and young people. We conversed with the people there and soon there will be a thoughtful activity together with Cuckoo team.

### Artists and Activitists Meeting: 27 & 28.01.2018:



Director **Elavarasi**, and Coordinator **Arun** represented Madurai Seed in the event "Dialogue Between Artisits and Activitists" at CESCO. Artists from around the world talked with activists from various fields based in Madurai. Director Elavarasi gave a **presentation** about Madurai Seed which grabbed the attention and appreciation of all. Along with Madurai Seed, organizations

like Evidence, Ektaparishad, Green Walk and Cuckoo participated in the event. Madurai Seed played a key role in arranging this meeting.

## Volunteering & Internships

### Mannar Thirumalai Naickar College Students

Nandhababu, Marimuthu, Krishnamoorthy, Bala Murugan **four students** from Bachelor of **Social Work Department**, Mannar Thirumalai Naickar College. The students taught evening classes, participated in other activities, studied organization structure and management. They have given their **participation** and support in events like food festival, sports meet, Margazhi Urchavam, and women empowering week.



### Keith Rossburrough



Keith Rossborough, a friendly supporter of Madurai Seed was first introduced by John Potts sir. Keith encourages every individual of Madurai Seed through his visit. This **January 2018** he came with handful of lesson plans, games and ideas for teaching workshops. We welcomed him happily, had fun through Three Kings' day celebration, & Regipo games. 20 Young people learned through study sets & videos in his **English class** every evening. In the New Thedalgai Resource center developed by his friends and him through FMS, he gave a **two day workshop** on "teaching task based skills in the classroom" for school teachers and teacher education students. The continuous support and of Keith is one of the motivating factors in bringing knowledge and new learning atmosphere for young people and children of Madurai Seed.



## Site Visits

### Laura Villiger & John Potts



Madurai Seed where the underprivileged children find happiness, get education completed with scholarship, go for higher studies, learn through summer camps & weekend activities, and feel a caring family is possible only through the continuous

support of Laura amma and John Sir. They play a **major role** in bringing up the first graduates from a weaker part of the society. John Potts, the President of **Friends of Madurai Seed, Zurich** extends the skill and potential of Young people here, by providing workshops with Laura amma during their visit to Madurai Seed. Learnt many things and got inspired by them through their teaching workshops, many young people are emerging as English teachers from Madurai Seed. During **February 2018**, they gave a workshop for young people. In the morning they discussed with Karthik bharathi about the recent activities and the future plans of Seed for the development of children. They visited Seed centers, interacted with kids and young people in the evenings. Every time they come to Madurai Seed, we feel energized and stay focused in giving our role to the society.



## Visitors & Resource Persons

**21.07. 2017: Visitor, Avantika**, an NRI student from USA visited Madurai Seed centers.



She is talented in public speech, theatrics and dramatics. She was surprised to know our young people's Macbeth production. They interacted by exchanging ideas on various **tools in theatrics**. Answered for every question of us about her studies, future plans, and her achievements, Avantika was sent off happily and she expressed her willingness to volunteer here in future.

**06.08.2017: Interaction means a lot: Jonas Mago**, a Psychology student from Germany visited Madurai Seed.



His studies, his interests in music, his cultural aspects on both **Germany and Madurai**, and thus his interaction with the young people and children made it actually a lot to know the unknowns like famous German musicians, songs, musical instruments, education system, life style and so on.



**A vibrant interaction: 16.12.2017:**

**Anais and Aris**, students from **KFR School** - Switzerland visited Madurai Seed. Discussion with them about their **education, travel, and country** was a great learning experience for our children and young people. They sang songs, played and danced with the children. The young people were very curious in knowing about their favorites, studies, future and lifestyle. It was great

to interact with these two young people of 19 years who have been to 15 to 20 countries so far.



## Vizhuthugal

**It is the alumni association functions for former students, and volunteers of Madurai Seed. The alumni can render monetary support, knowledge support, or moral support.**

- **Pethuraja** has celebrated his son's birthday with our children, he presented many toys, stationeries and chocolates when returned from Dubai.
- **O.Manikandan** is donation Rs. 1000 every month for our activities. He donated Rs. 12000 for the year.
- **Saranyadevi** is supporting every year by donating Rs. 5000 from her first month salary of the year. This year also she did that.
- Every year, **Sulthan Alautheen** is donating Rs. 1000 during Ramzan celebration. This year also he continued that.
- Members **Mathan, Muthaiya, Surya** provided their service as teaching volunteers in the year 2017-2018.
- **Arunkumar** as young people coordinator, **Muthupandi** as accountant are supporting administrative tasks of Madurai Seed.
- Members **Sulthan Alautheen, KarpagaSelvi, O.Manikandan, Sharmila** were got married this year. Best wishes for them.
- Members **Murugapandi, Muniyasamy, Ramki, Balamurugan, Nagoor Raja, Ajithkumar, Ganeshkumar** showed interest in visiting the centers, and participating in activities.
- 

## Friends of Madurai Seed, India

**This group envisions an effective community through like-minded people as resource persons, advisors, moral supporters, and donors from India.**

- O.Manikandan's friend **Vinoth Kumar** is donating Rs. 1000 each month. He has donated Rs. 12000 for the year.
- Social activist Evidence Kathir, Professor Prabakar, Tribal activist Thanraj, Biju, Murugesan and Viji, Principal of Thiagarajar College of preceptors Mr. Prakash are extending their **moral support** for Madurai Seed activities and providing chances for our children and young people to take part in their programs.

## Finance Report 2017-2018

### MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2018

	Schedule	Year ended March 31, 2018 Rs.
<b>Income</b>		
Foreign Contribution Received		2,280,878
Donation Received		39,781
<b>Interest Income</b>	7	
S B Interest		14,548
FD Interest		40,091
		<u>54,639</u>
		<u><b>2,375,298</b></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Programme Cost</b>		
Children Education Centre	8	629,358
Children's and Young People Skill & Personality Development Programme	9	303,100
Library for children & Young People	10	53,732
Scholarship Support for Children & Young people	11	383,103
Young People Education Centre	12	66,005
Administration Expenses	13	654,090
Depreciation	2	25,117
		<u>2,114,505</u>
<b>Excess of Income Over Expenditure</b>		<b>260,793</b>

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

**For Arockiasamy & Charles**

Firm Registration Number : 018079S

Chartered Accountants

*P. Arockiasamy*  
P. Arockiasamy

Partner

Membership No.018348



*ASW*

Managing Trustee

Place : Madurai

Date : 13.06.2018



**MADURAI SEED, KARUMPALAI, MADURAI**

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



**P. Arockiasamy**  
**Partner**  
**Membership No.**

Place : Madurai  
Date : 13.06.2018

Managing Trustee





Crafts by children and young people exhibited during 28.12.2017



## Conclusion:

We have successfully completed the financial year 2017-2018. **Lots of thanks** to our donors, advisors, and friends. We have organized many big events for children, youth, and public this year starting from the summer camp in May 2017. We are sure these events leave a strong educational, personal, social impact in the minds of children and young people. Young people had got lots of exposures while preparing, organizing, and executing these activities. Though we are mainly working for children and young people in Karumbalai and nearby slums this year we have spread out our activities in terms of beneficiaries, we have included children from many corporation schools, government schools, college students and village children around Madurai, parents and public. We are very much looking forward to the next year filled with more achievements, and progress. **THANKS TO ALL.**





News about Vaigai River Restoration Meeting and Movement in Times of India (30.05.2017) and Tamil The Hindu (30.05.2017), Our children are in the photos





# பழங்குடிகளைப் படித்த மாணவர்கள்!

• குள சண்முகன்தரம் •

**கோ**

டை விடுமுறையை நீங்கள் எப்படிச் செலவிடுகிறீர்கள்? ஊருக்குச் சென்றிருப்பீர்கள், அல்லது ஏதாவது கோடைக் கால முகாமிக்குப் போய்க்கொண்டிருப்பீர்கள். ஆனால், மதுரையைச் சேர்ந்த சில பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் கர்நாடகாவில் குடகு மலை பகுதியில் வாழும் பழங்குடியின மக்களோடு பழகிப் பழமையான அனுபவத்தோடு ஊர் திரும்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். மாணவர்கள் குடகுக்குச் செல்ல மதுரையில் உள்ள 'செசி' மற்றும் 'சி' தொண்டு நிறுவனங்கள் ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொடுத்தன.

குடகின் மிக உயரமான சிகரம் தடியன்மோல். இங்குள்ள யவஹபாடி கிராமம் இந்தக் கோடையில் குளிக்கிறது. குளுக்கிப் போட்ட சோழிகளைப் போல அங்கொன்றும் போட்கொன்றும் மயங்கித் தெரிகிறது இங்கு வசிக்கும் மலைகுடியா பழங்குடிகளின் குடல்கள்.



யவஹபாடியில் ஆழ்துறை கிணறுகள் இல்லை. மலையிலிருந்து இயற்கையாகத் தன்போக்கில் வழிந்தோடி வரும் நீர் ஆங்காங்கே தேக்கி வைத்துச் சிக்குமாகப் பயன்படுத்திறார்கள். பயன்பாட்டின் போது சிறும் தண்ணீரையும் குட்டை போல ஓரிடத்தில் தேக்கிவைத்து, அதில் மின் வளர்க்கிறார்கள். லெனியிலிருந்து வந்த உணவு தானியத்தையும் கொண்டுபோகாமல், அந்த மலையில் உள்ள விவையுமே அதை மட்டுமே உண்டு வாழ்கிறார்கள். கடுகளவசுட இவர்கள் இயற்கையைச் சீண்டுவிட்டலை. அந்த ஊருக்குச் சென்று வந்த மாணவர்களில் ஒருவரான சூர்யா சொல்வதைக் கேளுங்கள்.

**வாழ்ந்து பாருங்கள்.**

"முகாம் நடக்கும் 3 நாட்களும் உங்களின் வழக்கமான நகர வாழ்க்கையை மறந்துவிட வேண்டும். இங்கிருக்கும் பழங்குடி மக்களின் உணவைச் சாப்பிட்டு, அவர்களின் குடிசைகளிலேயே தங்கி, அவர்களில் ஒருவராக வாழ்ந்து பாருங்கள்.

வித்தியாசமான அனுபவத்துடன் ஊருக்குத் திரும்புவீர்கள்" என முன்கூட்டியே இந்தப் பயணம் பற்றி முன்னுரை கொடுத்திருந்தார் முகாம் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளரான வழக்கஞ்ர தனராஜ்.

அவர் சொன்னபடியே மே 1-ம் தேதி முகாம் முடித்து ஊருக்குத் திரும்புகையில் மாணவர்களுக்குள் புது அனுபவம் குடியேறி இருந்தது.



• தனராஜ்



• சூர்யா

பாம்புபரிய நடனம், பாட்டு, கலைகள் பாம்புபரிய உணவு என நிறைய விஷயங்களை நாங்கள் உள்வாங்கிக்கொண்டோம். இதை எல்லாம் எங்கள் நண்பர்களுக்கும் அகம்மக்கத்திலும் உள்ள குழந்தைகளுக்கும் சொல்லித் தரப்போகிறோம்" என்று உற்சாகமாகச் சொன்னார் மாணவி சரணியா.

கொண்டார்கள். பழங்குடிகளின் பாம்புபரிய நடனம், பாட்டு, கலைகள் பாம்புபரிய உணவு என நிறைய விஷயங்களை நாங்கள் உள்வாங்கிக்கொண்டோம். இதை எல்லாம் எங்கள் நண்பர்களுக்கும் அகம்மக்கத்திலும் உள்ள குழந்தைகளுக்கும் சொல்லித் தரப்போகிறோம்" என்று உற்சாகமாகச் சொன்னார் மாணவி சரணியா.

**அடுத்த பயணம்**

மகிழ்ச்சியையும் துக்கத்தையும் சமமாகப் பாலிக்கும் மலைகுடியா பழங்குடி மக்கள், இரண்டுக்குமே துடி என்ற கருவியை

அடுத்ததாக இந்த மாணவர்கள் மதுரையை அடுத்தள்ள வேம்பாளி, சிந்தூட்டி, சீகுட்டி, கொடுகம்பட்டி, கடவுர் மாகாணம், ரேதங்கம் ஆகிய கிராமங்களில் மே 17 தொடங்கி நான்கு நாட்கள் சிறப்பு முகாம்வை நடத்த உள்ளார்கள். நிழல்கலைகளைப் பாதுகாப்பது, இயற்கை விவசாயத்தைப் போதிப்பது, காரின் பழமையைப் போற்றுவது இவை இரண்டுதான் இந்த முகாமின் முக்கிய நோக்கம். இந்த முகாமின் பங்கேற்க வாய்ப்புக்களைச் சேர்ந்த 60 இளைஞர்கள் வளிருக்கிறார்கள். அயல்களோடு உள்ளூர் இளைஞர்களுடைய ஒருங்கிணைப்பு நிறுவனத்தை தூர்வாய் போகிறார்கள்.

இதைத்தபடி உருட்டுக்கொட்டு என்ற நடனத்தை ஆடுகிறார்கள். முகாமில் மதுரை பிள்ளைகளும் இந்த நடனத்தை ஆடினார்கள். பழங்குடி மக்களின் வாழ்க்கையைப் பாடப் படித்து விட்டு வந்த இந்த மாணவர்கள், அந்த மக்கள் இயற்கையை அவர்கள் எப்படிப் போற்றுகிறார்கள் என்பதை வகுப்பார் போவோர்போல் சொல்லி விடக்கூடியார்கள்.

"இருட்டு இருட்டாத்தான் இருக்கணும்; இருட்டையும் ரசிக்கப் பழகிக்கணும். ஆனால், விளக்குகளின் ஒளியில் இருட்டைத் தொலைத்துவிட்டால், நகரங்கள் எப்போதும் பகலாகவே தெரிகின்றன. இதனால், இயற்கை எல்லாவளவு சிறித்கிறது தெரியுமா?" பழங்குடியினத் தலைவர் குடியார முத்தப்பாவின் இந்த ஆதங்கம் முகாமில் கலந்துகொண்ட மாணவர்களுக்குள் ஆழமான தாக்கத்தை உண்டாக்கியிருப்பது அவர்களின் பேச்சில் உணரமுடிகிறது.



• சரணியா

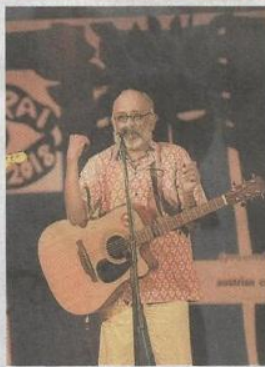


News about Potential Development Workshop for youth in Coorg. Madurai Seed young people has participated along with CESC youth. Our volunteer Surya and other youth in the pictures published in Tamil The Hindu (10.05.2017)



# From folk to rock

Madurai Art Fest' 2018 brought together various forms of performing arts on a single stage



By A SHRIKUMAR

Glowing cane baskets hung atop the branches of a tall neem tree resembled lanterns descending from the dusky sky, while the makeshift stage in the foreground was lit with colourful lights. Even as the stage was being set for Madurai Art Fest' 2018, a small enthusiastic crowd cheered along. The breezy evening last Saturday treated a section of the city's denizens to a variety show of dance, music and theatre at the Gandhi Museum Grounds.

With a spectacular show of Silambam, followed by electrifying folk song concerts, Bharatnatyam dance sequences, a children's play and theatre adaptations of folk and classical literatures, the two-day festival brought together different kinds of art on a single platform. Coordinated by Kaleidoscope Madurai and sponsored by

BASE, a research centre for artistic research and arts-based philosophy, Kodaikanal, in association with Austrian Culture Forum, the event was one of its kind in the city.

"The idea was to do away with the ideological and political barriers in art. Today, even art is segmented in a city like Madurai, where folk performances are confined to temple festivals and streets while classical music and dance and sabha-dramas are restricted only to the creamy layer of the society. We wanted to organise a festival where there's no difference as art is a universal language," says Prabhar of Kaleidoscope.

Austrian couple Susanne Valerie Granzer and Arno Böhler, founders of BASE, Kodaikanal, wanted to start an event in Madurai that would initiate an awakening in arts in the city. As a Profes-

sor of Philosophy in the University of Vienna and having completed his Ph.D., on Aurobindo, Arno has taken a liking to Indian philosophy. He along with his wife Susanne, who is a Professor of Acting at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, has come up with a concept/format 'Philosophy on Stage'. "It's like a visual depiction of philosophical ideals on the stage and we have been doing this successfully at Art festivals in Vienna. At BASE, we offer a three-month residential programme for a select six artistes from Austria and India in artistic research. This year, we were visited by the director of Austrian Culture Forum, based in Delhi and together we all wanted to initiate an art festival in South India. That's how the event came about," says Arno.

Susanne, who staged 'Girl and the Lion', a Gujarati folk song on

stage in the form of a musical, says her aim as an artiste is to make space for all creative forces to come together. "Our focus is to develop and nurture a democratic and accommodative space/platform wherever we go, so that all kinds of arts can flourish. It's a kind of Utopian need in a way especially in the current times when life is dominated by money and power," says Susanne.

In other words, it's the question of ethics in aesthetics, says Arno. The team's next stop is in Pondicherry where they collaborate with Adishakti and Auroville."

"We aim to make the event an annual feature, as Madurai though a centre for art and philosophy in the olden days, today lacks space for art. Through the initiative, we want to engage the public and students in art appreciation and development," says Prabhar.

**News about Madurai Art Festival in The Hindu (01.02.2018), Our children play "Tara and her Grandma" found a place and the last picture is from our drama.**



# Three cheers to these talented artistes



The talented group of young artistes entertain the audience at the fest

**L**ike they say, art is undeniably conducive to our happiness enabling to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. The two-day art fest organised by Kaleidoscope Madurai, a centre for alternate and education, BASE, a research centre for artistic research and art-based philosophy and the Austrian Cultural Forum, New Delhi in Gandhi Museum last weekend, was one such soulful treat for the audience.

With aesthetically lit hanging lanterns and glowing floor lights, the place looked picturesque. The stage was all set for artistes of different kinds to exhibit their skills. From Silambam and plays to Bharatanatyam to monologues and singing, the evening offered a plethora of entertaining programmes for viewers, most of whom stayed till the performances ended.

The first day saw performers from the Austrian Cultural Forum in New Delhi taking part. On the second day, actor Tamil actor Anand Sami was invited to perform a monologue based on a Tamil novel. Several scintillating acts in the form of dancing and singing that were done were appreciated by the audience with loud cheers. The second day saw a comparative rise in the number of people who came to watch it.

This two-day art fest is a result of collective efforts. Prabhakar from Kaleidoscope said, "In India, people interested in any kinds of art forms are always segmented. The audience for Carnatic music is different from audience for street play and folk dance. Again the audience for free-style music and dance concerts is different. We wanted to bring them all together; that is the reason we set up a stage for multiple art forms. We wanted to present them an unforgettable evening."

Kaleidoscope has been working towards developing alternative art forms for the past few years. "Art isn't art if it doesn't inspire someone to be a better person. It should reflect in a person's personality. Kaleidoscope aims to facilitate college students with different workshops and interactive sessions that will provide them realistic skills. Students must have an inter-disciplinary thinking and by associating with them, we are trying to incline them towards a better way of learning," he added.

BASE, a research centre for art and arts-based



philosophy also associated itself with Kaleidoscope to host the art fest. Susanne Valerie Granzer and Arno Bohler, an Austrian couple who were interested in artistic research and arts-based philosophy came up with the centre in Kodaikanal and trained very limited candidates through an annual residential programme. "Susanne and Arno picked candidates to join BASE from different countries. We have worked with them for few workshops and talk sessions previously. For a long time, they wanted to organise an art fest for the public, so they joined hands with Kaleidoscope in doing it," he added.

With the success of the event, Kaleidoscope might plan similar art fests in different parts of the city. "With the funding of the Austrian Cultural Forum, we made sure an aesthetic background was setup for the event," he said.

Close to 500 people attended this art fest that was held last weekend. "As people dropped in good numbers, we look forward to organising something similar in the upcoming days," he concluded.

—KMS

**News about Madurai Art Festival in The New Indian Express (02.02.2018), our children drama "Tara and her grandma" finds a place with picture on top.**

## A peek into outer space

SANJANA GANESH  
MADURAI

About 400 students from four Corporation schools and two hostels for underprivileged students watched stars come alive here on Monday.

Madurai Seed, a non-governmental organisation stationed a specially-designed mobile planetarium at Sevalayam hostel and exposed them to outer space.

The students sat inside an igloo-like dome and watched the evolution of earth, death of stars, blackholes and the sky from earth in a 360-degree environment.

Each batch of 30 students were briefed about outer space before they entered the dome. The students cleared their doubts after the viewing.

The experience was curated by Spacetrek, a company that promotes immersive learning.



**Edutainment:** Students inside a mobile planetarium in Madurai on Monday. ■ PHOTO: G. MOORTHY

V. Elavarasi, Director of Madurai Seed, said students from Galileo Science Club, an after school initiative of the organisation, formulated this plan. "The recent talk of a red moon, blue moon and telescopes excited the students immensely. Soon, they began discussing outer space. We thought this was the best way to educate

them," she said.

Ms. Elavarasi said that given the family background of students from these schools, they could hardly think about the wide world outside and outer space. Special programmes such as this and interactions with experts would kindle an interest in spheres outside their every day life.

**About mobile planetarium event published in The Hindu (13.02.2018)**



**News 18 Tamilnadu, a TV channel has telecasted about Madurai Seed Education Centers in one of their programs. Video Here**  
<https://youtu.be/2JH6zFrgjBI>



## Added Readings

### Site Visit Report by K. Murugesan

#### Visit to Madurai seed on Children's day 14-11-2017

It was quite a long break from our regular visits to MS(Madurai seed abbreviated). We wanted to start visiting MS once again and there can be no better day than **"Children's day"** to begin again. We felt rejuvenated to meet the kids and volunteers after a very long time. The celebration was short and sweet since children had their monthly exams. They rendered a few Tamil children songs with Karthik himself leading the choir. A few songs were action packed too. Everyone in the hall turned into kids and thereafter it was just fun. Cakes and chocolates were distributed to all the kids and volunteers.

#### Visit to MS on 16-11-2017(as requested by Dr.Melli , Asha for Education)

This day, we visited again to assess and understand the activities that happened in the last one year. **Viji** was happy to join the Vandugal arangam (being her favorite) as I sat down with Karthik and Arun for discussions.



Arun briefed me for half an hour about all the activities that happened in the **last one year**. I was shown a slide show of all the activities and many of them

were very impressive. Then I was taken around all the **four Arangams**. Vandugal Arangam was budding with fun and frolic (as always) whereas the rest of the Arangams were seriously learning. I spent a few minutes watching the classes and interacted with the volunteers.

At this point, I need to mention something I felt proud and elated. Almost all the volunteers we met this day were kids themselves in our classes a few years back. I was amazed with their confidence in **performing as teachers**. Suggested them to think about how they can take up teaching to next level especially in identifying students with learning disabilities. Volunteers in Vandugal Arangam mentioned about using the '**Tulika books**' and this should definitely make Ms.Melli very happy.

As I understand from Karthik/Arun, the enrolment statistics in MS this academic year goes like this-

	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>
<b>Madurai seed centre</b>	1st to 12th	85	80	16
<b>Sevalayam hostel</b>	6th,7th&9th	81		4
<b>Nandanar hostel</b>	1st to 5th	68	39	4
<b>Total</b>				24

I was glad to know that 9 volunteers (out of 24) are females and this is a step forward for MS towards women's empowerment.

There are 2 sessions for Vandugal arangam and 3 sessions for the rest of the boys and girls (it was the same when we taught too). Ela teaches **English** exclusively for the volunteers in the 3rd hour. This is a good effort by Ela. Viji and I did this earlier, as enhancing the language/communication skills of the volunteers would in turn have a better impact/effect on the kids.



Since last year, MS has been supporting **Sevalayam Hostel**, a hostel that houses boys studying in nearby corporation high schools. This year too, MS is continuing this wonderful service and has assigned **4 volunteers** to teach the

boys, 2 hours in the evening. I was very glad to learn that MS has added another hostel to its list of rendering support starting this year.



**Nandhanar Hostel** situated near Karumbalai is a home for boys and girls studying from 1st standard to fifth standard. **4 volunteers** have been designated to teach the kids in the evening for 2 hours as done in Sevalayam hostel. Viji and I propose to visit these hostels and see how we can help them too. Coming back to the activities that happened in the last one year, I quote the ones that caught my attention in no chronological order.

- Vasantham **Summer Camp**- Eminent personalities like Mr.Kathir from Evidence Human rights Organization and Mr.Nanmaaran, Ex-MLA have been invited to talk about great leaders. It should have been a unique interaction for the kids with such personalities.
- The state president of the '**Domestic Workers Association**' had addressed the parents of Karumbalai. This is an eye-opener as many woman folks in Karumbalai work as servant maids. Karthik informed me that he is involved in setting up a dedicated chapter for this association in Karumbalai area.
- Dusheraa (10 days event) was adorned by **10 wonderful female chief guests** from different fields, one each day. They had shared their own life experiences and I am sure this would have inspired the children especially the girl students.
- MS's '**Thedalgai** Resource Centre for Young People' has been fabricated in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Kaleidoscope, a centre for alternative arts, culture and education run by Prof.Prabhakar. (Karthik's teacher at American college) - thanks to Mr. Keith for his cloud-funding efforts from Switzerland. Viji and I missed the inauguration event but attended the Young scientist interaction session with Dr.Gowtham from Yale University. Kudos to MS and **Kaleidoscope** team-the centre looks awesome and perfectly apt for arts and culture shows. In another activity here, about 60 students from different colleges in Madurai (and also from MS) had attended a guest lecture by Mr.Rajagopal of Ekta Parishad.
- Karthik had increased association with **CESCI** this year. MS young people have played an active role in participating/organising children camps in 6 different villages near CESCO during last summer. Recently, Karthik has organised an exclusive village festival focussing on traditional food, games, culture and art. Local media and newspaper have covered these camps and festival and it is another feather in the cap for Karthik's leadership/organising skills.

- **Career guidance**- Karthik has presided over this meeting. I enquired with Karthik if MS can take some professional help for career guidance next year as it may have a larger scope for the students to understand prospective career opportunities and plan/get inspired.
- **Parents-Youth meeting**- A novel debate activity introduced by Karthik and his team this year where-in the youth and parents had an open direct interaction. This forum would help the students to convey/share their aspirations/difficulties with their parents which they would have otherwise found it difficult to express. This needs to be an annual event starting from now.
- Madurai **book exhibition** had a different story this year. I read in newspaper about the books releasing event for books authored by children. The event was organised by children and the guests of honour to receive the books were children themselves. I was happy to learn from Arun and Karthik that MS kids took part and played a major role in this event.

Other things worth mentioning are

- MS participated in the meetings of Mr.Rajendra Singh, popularly known as "waterman of India" and winner of Stockholm water prize. **Water conservation** is the need of the hour. I am sure participating in such great activists would kindle the interest in our kids in protecting our environment.
- **Food festival**, an annual event. This year the concept was 'food for rainy season'.
- **Thenkoodu**, an innovative savings program that has always fascinated me. What a way to inculcate a savings habit in the young minds. This year children have saved Rs.24080 and MS had contributed Rs.4696 as interest(close to 20% returns) .
- Visit to **Cuckoo Forest School** by MS team (The place looks quite mystical in the photos posted in Karthik's FB pages).
- Scholarship distribution to 94 students and volunteers.

And there ends my report. This day when I visited the centre, Karthik was with a big smile and bright face. He informed me that MS has received Asha's sanction for the funds that morning. What a nice coincidence one can ask for. Wishing MS a great journey in the years to come.



## My visit to Madurai Seed, January 2018

By **Keith Rossborough** Lecturer in English for Life Sciences, Zurich University of Applied Sciences



The **Thedalgai Resource Centre** for Young People opened its doors in September 2017 as an extension of Madurai Seed, and aims to provide ongoing **cultural, media** and **educational** opportunities for young people/artists living in-and-around Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The centre shares its location with Kaleidoscope, another cultural centre offering a range of **contemporary artistic events** and headed by Professor Prabahar.

I personally experienced Thedalgai in operation in January 2018 when I gave two full-day **teacher workshops**, as well as attending various cultural events. The first teacher workshop was given to English teachers working in schools and colleges in Madurai. The running theme of this workshop was to offer ways to promote *task-based learning* (TBL) in an **ELT classroom**. A task-based approach offers an alternative for language teachers. In a task-based lesson the teacher doesn't pre-determine what language will be studied, the lesson is based around the completion of a central task and the language studied is determined by what happens as the students complete it. This approach also builds on the premise that learning becomes more internal when learners are involved in a task. They are taken through stages of the task, which enables learners to facilitate their **own learning** and understanding of the task with help of their peers. The teacher acts as a facilitator of the learning scenario.



Day two was aimed at trainee-English language teachers from two teacher-training colleges in Madurai. The attendees, in their first year of their education were introduced to various **teaching aspects** such as: classroom management, giving and checking instructions, which included asking concept questions to check understanding.

Work on **writing discourse**, reading and lexis, and speaking and pronunciation were also introduced. The young female teachers in training were very enthusiastic to try out some new concepts to enhance their teacher-training education.



The cultural events held at the centre during the same week were presented in conjunction with Madurai Seed and Kaleidoscope. The first **Art for Change**, another full-day workshop presenting media studies such as photography, cinema and film. This workshop was given by **Professor Prabahar**, who introduced various concepts of photography and

film-making including cinematography. Again, the young people in attendance were enthusiastically involved in the subject matter.



A further **cultural event** involved local musicians, *Madura*, and a poet enthralling a captivated audience with their own materials and renditions of popular Indian and non-Indian works. Again, another very successful event offered by Madurai Seed and Kaleidoscope.

Witnessing and taking part first-hand in these various events confirmed the wonderful work being done by small nonprofit organizations such as Madurai Seed. Madurai Seed is now able to offer and collaborate in more **cultural and educational events** from Thedalgai, offering new and exciting possibilities for the young people of Madurai. I would like to finish by acknowledging Karthik Bharathi and his team on his ongoing **efforts** to provide children and young people of Madurai with these many **opportunities**, which possibly would not be extended to them without the team's determination, continuous support and dedication to the children and young peoples' development. It is people such as Karthik, who indeed inspire me in the support work I do for Madurai Seed.



Madurai Seed children has released 25 children books published by Bharathi Puthagalayam. Kalagala Vagupparai Siva, a teacher admired our children's creativity and oration skills in a Facebook post. It is given in Tamil below.

**மதுரை சீடு குழந்தைகள் பங்கேற்ற பாரதி புத்தகாலயத்தின்  
புத்தக வெளியீட்டு விழா, காந்திமியூசியம், 01.09.2017.  
கலகலவகுப்பறை சிவா அவர்களின் பதிவு**

குழந்தைகளுக்கான 50 புத்தகங்களை ஒரே நேரத்தில் வெளியிடுவது என்று முடிவு செய்த பின் மனதுக்குள் ஒரே படபடப்பு. கடைசినேரம் வரை புத்தங்கள் வந்துகொண்டே இருந்தன. மதுரை சீடு. ஒத்தக்கடை அரசு தொடக்கப்பள்ளி, டாக்டர். திருஞானம் துவக்கப்பள்ளி மற்றும் எங்கள் பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு புத்தகங்களைப் பிரித்துக் கொடுத்தோம்.

புத்தகங்கள், வெளியிடுவோர், பெறுவோர் எனக் குறிக்க ஒரு பட்டியலையும் தயாரித்தேன். பட்டியலை நிரப்ப முயன்றேன். வெளியிடுவோர் பெயர் பாதி கிடைத்தது. பெறுவோர் யாரென்று சீடு கார்த்திக்கிடம் கேட்டேன். அதை அவங்க பாத்துக்குவாங்க சார் என்றார். விழா தொடங்கியது.

பாய் விரித்து புத்தகம் வாசித்தபடியே உட்கார்ந்தனர். சிலர் நின்றன்கொண்டு வாசித்தனர் சிலர். படுத்துக்கொண்டு வாசித்தனர் சிலர். ஒவ்வொருவராக முன்னே வந்து தான் வாசித்த புத்தகத்தின் செய்தியைச் சொல்லி வெளியிடுகிறேன் என்ற சொன்னதும் ஒருவர் வந்து வாங்கிக்கொள்ள வெளியீடு தொடர்ந்தது.

ஓரமாக நின்றன்கொண்டேன். பெயர்ப்பட்டியலை பைக்குள் வைத்துவிட்டேன். குழந்தைகள் , அவர்களுக்கான விழாவை அவர்களே நடத்திக்கொண்டனர். வெளியீடன்று பலநாட்களுக்குப்பின் மதுரையில் கடுமையான மழை. வந்திருந்தோர் பேறுபெற்றோர். குழந்தைகளுக்குச் சற்றே வழி காட்டிவிட்டு ஒதுங்கி நின்று கொண்டால் போதும். அவர்களது வேலைகளை நம்மைவிடத் திறமையாகவும் எளிதாகவும் செய்துமுடிப்பார்கள் என்ற பாடத்தை அனைவரும் கற்றோம்.



Madurai Seed is releasing a children journal "Puthuyugam", last year we couldn't publish it due to financial constrains. But we stood solidarity with "Thumbi" a monthly magazine for children. To commemorate the magazine's annual day a theater festival was organized. Sivaraj, the editor of Thumbi magazine wrote a facebook post about our children drama and Madurai Seed's commitment for children and young people. The Tamil post was given below.

**நாடகவிழா, சேவாலயம், 07.01.2018, குக்க சிவராஜ்-அவர்களின் பதிவு**

தும்பியின் நாடகவிழா கோவையில் உற்சாகமாய் துவங்கியது. சென்னையின் மிக நெருக்கடியான வாழ்வியல் சூழ்நிலையிலும் இன்னும் அன்பு இழை அறுந்துபோயிடாத மானிடர்க்கூட்டத்தின் நடுவே அன்புபோர்த்திய உடல்கள் குழந்தைகளுக்காக நாடகம் நடிக்கவில்லை, வாழ்ந்தே காட்டியது என்பதுதான் உண்மை . மதுரையோ இன்னும் சிறப்பு தான்.

சீடு கார்த்தி அண்ணனின் அன்பும் அரவணைப்பும் தான் இந்த குழந்தைகள் நாடக விழாவின் மூலதனம். குழந்தைகளையும், இளைஞர்களையும் ஒருசேர கைப்பிடித்துச் செல்லும் அண்ணனின் பொறுப்பு அளப்பரியது .அதற்கு உற்ற துணையாய் மனைவி,மக்கள், நண்பர்கள் என அமைந்து இருப்பதையும், அவர்கள் அனைவரின் இன்முகமும் உண்மையில் காணக்கிடைக்காதது.

நிழல்பூத்த அந்த பெருமரத்தின் உள்ளே அமைந்த மாணவர் விடுதி, உற்சாகக் களைகட்டிய பிள்ளைகள் முகத்தில் அத்தனை ஆர்வம். தும்பி புத்தகம் பற்றிய அறிமுகத்திற்கு பின் கோமாளி பாடலுடன் நிகழ்வை ஆரம்பிக்க, கேலியும் கிண்டலுமாய் கூடவே நல்ல விசயங்கள் பாடலின் வழி பிள்ளைகள் உள்ளே செல்ல... மத்தளக்காரரின் சப்தத்தைக் கேட்டு பிள்ளைகள் கூட்டம் மேலும் கூடியது.

அதற்கு முந்தைய நாள் கலந்து கொண்ட இரயில் பயண சினேகிதர்கள் வந்து சேர்... எங்கோ இருந்து ஒரு குரங்கு ஒன்று குதித்து ஓடும் சப்தம் கேட்டு குழந்தைகளின் ஒட்டு மொத்த கவனமும் அங்கே செல்ல , உண்மையில் அது குரங்கு வேடமிடப்பட்ட 'நாடகக்காரன்'. பிளாஸ்டிக் காகிதத்தை மென்று தின்னும் குரங்கினை கண் முன்னேயே நிகழ்த்தி காட்டியவுடனேயே, பிள்ளைகள் முகத்தில் அத்தனை கவலை. அந்த குரங்கை காப்பாற்ற அவர்கள் மனம் துடிதுடித்ததைக் கண்டு பெரியவர்கள் கலங்கிப் போனார்கள்.

பின்பு குழந்தைகள் பாடலுடன் நிகழ்த்திக் காட்டிய நாடகம் அத்தனை அற்புதம். பாட்டிக்கும் பேத்திக்கு நடக்கும் அந்த நெகிழ்வான உரையாடலை மெய்மறந்து தலையசைத்து கேட்டு கொண்டு இருந்த ஒரு நிஜ பாட்டியின் முகத்தில் அத்தனை நளினம் . சொடுக்கு போட்டு, கைதட்டி சப்தம் எழுப்பி அனைவரும் அங்கு சிறுபிள்ளைகளானார்கள்...





[MADURAI SEED, Arjun Shanmuga Illam, 439/1,  
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Young people and participants with John and Laura during a workshop in February 2008



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