

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

● **Keerthana M Sundaram**

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

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

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

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



The cultural programme was held at the Sevalayam Boys Home

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

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



School students witness a short political satire

K Antony Xavier | TNN

K. Antony Xavier

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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