



MADURAI SEED

Catalyst for Social Change through Education

Annual Report

2013-2014







MADURAI SEED

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14

MADURAI SEED

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**By serving the best interests of children,
We serve the best interests of all humanity.**



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TELL ME AND I FORGET,
TEACH ME AND I MAY BE REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN.

Founder's Talk

We are very happy to present you the annual report comprising our activities and impacts of the year 2013-14. MADURAI SEED's formal education support, skills and personality development support encourages students from low-income areas especially first generation school and college goers for who there are no one to guide them including their schools and families.

MADURAI SEED's work is very important giving educational, emotional, and behavioral support and making them believe education can change their life style for generations to come.

Children are joyous. so, they are attracted towards joyful things. Young People tend to search. So, they are searching for a better life. Education has to become joyous and guide for search.

We wish to thank fellow trustees, volunteers, advisors, donors, Asha for Education, Friends of Madurai Seed, Kantonsschule Freudenberg for their complete support and guidance. Thank you. We thank all of you who joined hands in our mission of ensuring better lives through education.



Karthikbharathi A S

Founder, Managing Trustee

MADURAI SEED

30th March 2014, Madurai

About Us

MADURAI SEED

A Voluntary Organization to Support and Empower the Underprivileged Children and Young People



Vision

“All the Children and Young People are educated, mature, healthy and capable of leading our future world”

Our Mission

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

Major Activities

- Supplementary Education to children
- Supporting slow learners to prevent drop outs
- Educational activities through clubs, library, and journals
- Channelizing Knowledge from Experts, creating resources
- Life skills development seminars, trainings, camps, and workshops
- Career guidance and counseling
- Saving Banks
- Cultural Enhancement Activities
- Scholarships for orphan/semi-orphan, most needed, meritorious children and young people

Beneficiaries List 2013-2014

Beneficiaries	Activities through the Program	Male	Female	Total
Children	Holistic Educational Centres, Library, Magazine and Club Activities, semi orphan scholarship and other scholarship Personality Development Programs, Slow Learner Children Program in 2 schools	157	110	267
Young People	Holistic Educational Centre, Library, Magazine and Club Activities, Personality Development Programs	12	09	21
Benefited families				300
Semi Orphan Children		13	10	23
Semi Orphan Young People		04	01	05
Children & Young People	Educational Scholarship fees, Sponsoring note books, uniforms, stationeries, etc.			92
Children	Sponsoring note books, stationeries.etc.			80
Children	Providing Interest For Saving	59	58	117
Young people	Rotational Fund	10	08	18
Community				
Children	Helped for XI Admission	06	03	09
Young People	Guidance and Help for UG & PG College Admission			25
Benefited Areas				09
Schools				28
Colleges				10
Community	Providing of children Journals			500
Community	Young people Journals			500





**Education is kindling of a flame;
Not filling of a vessel**



1. Holistic Education Centers:

The education centers offer the students a proper space to do their homework and additional classes where they have the chance to study in small groups; it gives them a place to go and something to do. Children and young people of *Karumbalai*, and the nearby *S.M. Nagar*, *P.T.Colony*, *Indira Nagar*, *Mathichiyam*, *Anupanadi*, *Sinthamani*, *Tallakulam* and *Managiri* are benefiting out of the centers.

Children Centers:

There are three centers according to the age group of children. These centers are functioning three hours a day, and six days in a week. Children are getting support for their school subjects from the teaching volunteers. Unlike school, we encourage activity based learning, and try to implement different methodologies for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners.

Children List

Holistic Education Centers	Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
Vandugal Arangam	1 st std to 4 th std	34	43	78
Vergal Arangam	5 th std to 8 th std	45	46	91
Kanavugal Arangam	9 th std to 12 th std	53	21	74
Total Number of Students		132	110	242

Higher Secondary Students

Std	Maths-Computer		Science		Arts		Commerce-Accountancy		Engineering		Total		
XI	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T
	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	0	6	3	09
XII	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	4	5	0	12	05	17

Details of First Generation Higher Secondary Children

Std	Male	Female	Total
XI	05	03	08
XII	08	03	11
Total	13	06	19

Rank Holders List

Standard	Name	Total
XII	Suresh Kannan, Muthu Ganesh, Sharmila, Jensi	04
XI	Girija, Chellammal,	02
X	Vasim Khan, Manikandan, Ramar, Alagar, Vasanth, Stephan, Sakthivel	07
IX	Vinithiya, Kowsalya, VijayaLakshmi, Divya, Ramya, Suresh Kannan	06
VIII	Santhiya, Shibora, Gopinath, Muniyasamy	04
VII	Jerk, Jeeva, Rajkumar, Bhavani, Meenatchi	05
VI	Selvakamalesh, Santhosh, Rajeshwari, Hemalatha, Durga, Tamilaruvi	06
V	Viswanath, Gopika, Abinaya	03
Total Number of Students		37

Hard work pays off

MADURAI SEED has succeeded in making a huge difference to the **academic achievements** of the students in Karumbalai. We are very concerned towards "Almost all of our beneficiaries to finish secondary (10th standard) and higher secondary (12th standard) schooling successfully.

In the year 2013-14, all the children of 10th and 12th std has passes with good marks. Many of them are the first ones in their families to complete this level of education. Almost all of them went for higher studies.

10th standard Result:

In the academic year of 2012-13, 14 boys and 6 girls wrote the exams. All of them are passed.

Top three marks:

A. Ramesh with 461/500

B. Grija with 455/500

R. Vanniya Priya with 400/500

- 9 students scored between 65% to 78% and
- 8 students scored between 40%-55%.
- **11 of them are the first ones** to finish school in their family.
- The children were given guidance to join in schools, selecting academic, vocational lines.



12th standard Result:

21 students wrote 12th std final exams this year. All are passed. 100 % result.

Top three Marks:

S. Muthu Murugan – 1028/1200

M. Gowtham – 889/ 1200

Sumathi – 883/ 1200

- 4 scored above 70%
- 8 scored above 60%
- 6 scored above 50%
- **15 are the first generation students** to enter in colleges. They are doing subjects like Tamil, English, Commerce, Economics, Business Administration, Nursing, and Law in colleges.
- 2 of them joined in the volunteer team.



Vandugal Arangam



Std. I

Vergal Arangam



Std. V

Kanavugal Arangam



Std. IX



Std. II



Std. VI



Std. X



Std. III



Std. VII



Std. XI



Std. IV



Std. VIII



Std. XII

Young People Education Centers:

Thedalgai Arangam:

In the present scenario, there is a need for directing the power of young minds to constructive and meaningful exposures. We are very proud to engage with young people and channelize their passion and energy for the benefit of their society. By Working in teams their team-skills, sense of worth, responsibility and discipline are nurtured. Thedalgai Arangam offers them a space for that.

- Now, the team comprises of 21 members.
- Among 14 are the first generation colleges going young people.
- 19 are taking part in daily activities of Madurai Seed.

Young People and their studies

Studies		Male	Female	Total
PG	MBA	1	0	1
PG	M.Com	1	0	1
PG	M.Sc	1	0	1
UG	B.E	2	2	4
UG	Law	1	0	1
UG	English	1	1	1
UG	Tamil	3	2	5
UG	Commerce	1	2	3
UG	BBA	1	0	1
UG	History	0	2	2
Total		12	09	21
Graduation		Male	Female	Total
Post Graduation		03	00	03
Under Graduation		09	09	18

Details of first generation colleges going young people

Graduation	Male	Female	Total
Post Graduation	02	00	02
Under Graduation	08	05	13
Total	10	05	15

In the year 2013-14:

- 6 are finishing under-graduation
- 3 are finishing post-graduation
- Among these 9 young people, 4 are girls.
- 6 are the first persons from their family completed college education.



They don't just do the work - **they make it work.**

Young People involved in teaching Children

No	Name	Subject	Course	Year	Institute
1	Ganesh Kumar.M	Maths	M.Sc	PG II	Sowrastra College
2	Muthu pandi.K	Commerce	M.COM	PG- II	Wakf board college
3	Ramaraj	Business Administration	MBA	PG- II	MISS College
4	Astalakshmi.P	Tamil	BA	UG-III	Yadhava college
5	Murugeswari.s	History	BA	UG-III	Meenakshi college
6	Parvathi.K	Tamil	BA	UG-III	Meenakshi college
7	Priya.V	History	BA	UG-III	Meenakshi college
8	Divyabharathi.V	English	BA	UG-III	Meenakshi college
9	Ramki. P	Civil	BE	UG- II	PSNA Engineering College
10	Thilagavathi. K	ECE	BE	UG- II	Thiyagarajar Engineering College
11	Karpaga Selvi. N	Commerce	B.COM	UG- II	Meenakshi College
12	Janaki Devi.N	Commerce	B.COM	UG- II	Meenakshi College
13	Ajith Kumar. M	Business Administration	BBA	UG- II	Thiyagarajar College
14	Bala Murugan. P	Commerce	B.Com	UG- II	Wakf Board College
15	Nagoor Raja. S	Tamil	BA	UG- II	American College
16	Muthaiya. S	Tamil	BA	UG- I	American College
17	Mathan. M	Tamil	BA	UG- I	American College
18	ArunKumar. M	Law	B.L	UG-I	Trichy Law College



“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

Success Stories:

MADURAI SEED assists under-resourced young people in education, developing skills, and thereby builds a meaningful life for them and becoming a productive member of the society. We could see the proof from our former young people's job profiles and how this younger generation tastes the fruit of education.

Last year 2012-13, 9 of our young people (**2 Engineers, 5 Teachers, and 2 Post Graduates**) who have come a long way with MADURAI SEED as children and volunteers have finished their college education and found various jobs.

Name	Course	Profession
Magudapathi.M	Engineering	Lecturer in Poly technical college
Alagiri. K	Education	Teacher in Britto School, Madurai
Suganya Devi.	Education	Science teacher
Mohan. O	Education	Teacher in Tagore School, Madurai
Thangalakshmi. M	Education	Teacher in TVS School, Madurai
Karpaga Jothi.C	Teacher Education	Teacher in Velammal School, Madurai
Bhaskar Raja.R	Tourism	Working in Travel Agency
Ramachandran.N	Sociology	Working in a Agro-Product company
Saravana Kumar.P	Engineering	Working in a Construction Agency

Farewell Program:

On 25th May 2013, these successful young people and their parents took part in the farewell function, where they were congratulated for their academic achievements and their work for the case of MADURAI SEED was honoured. The young people and their parents gratefully remembered Asha, FMS, and MADURAI SEED's impacts in their today's life.



Congratulations! All the best for your future endeavors!

SEEDs became Trees

In 2013 eight volunteers of MADURAI SEED finished their college studies: Mohan, Ramachandren, Baskar, Alagiri, Saravana Kumar, Magudapathi, Karpaga Jothi and Thanga Lakshmi. On 25 May 2013 Karthik Bharathi invited these successful young people to a function where they were congratulated for their academic achievements and their work for the case of MADURAI SEED was honoured.

The function began with a recitation of a song by 9th std student Vindhya and continued with prayers during a beautiful sunset which shed its light on the faces of the guests, the honourees and their families. After these moments of silence, piece and contemplation, words of welcome were said by MADURAI SEED's trustees Karthik Bharathi and Mariammal as well as by intern Sara Imbach. Then every family stepped forward and showed their respect for each other. A family portrait was taken to preserve the happy occasion.

In the peaceful atmosphere of a summer rain, Karthik Bharathi introduced the honoured volunteers and talked about their experiences during their school time in MADURAI SEED as well as their services to this NGO they contributed during their 4-5 college years. Four of them have now become teachers, two finished their training as an engineer and two are post-graduates. Congratulations!

Two former volunteers of MADURAI SEED, who now have good jobs as a scientist and as an IT officer and who never forgot their roots, sent appreciation notes. Karthik Bharathi read these words by U. Gowthaman and G. Sureshkumar. They complimented the next generation on their achievements, told them to continue striving towards their goals, but also remembered them not to forget MADURAI SEED. Friends of MADURAI SEED, E. Annamalai and Laura Villiger also sent their greetings and the honourees were happy to receive them.

Before dinner was ready, the honourees and their families were invited to share their experiences. The parents recounted their wedding memories and how they spent their first salary and all of the families recalled some of their children's childhood adventures. They all learned something about each other and had a good laugh.

The evening came to an end with a delicious all-you-can-eat dinner from the buffet leaving no wish unfulfilled. Before going home by van, some even helped themselves to a double portion of ice cream, halwa and fruit salad for dessert.

2. Corporation School Program:

This program offers a one-to-one touch to children who don't have required basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills for their level. These children need a little extra support from teachers. They need simplifications and frameworks for better comprehensions.

- 25 students from Elango Corporation School benefited from the classes. A.S.Karthikbharathi took Tamil & English classes for these children.

3. Scholarship Program

KFR- Scholarship Fund

KFR, a school in Zurich, and MADURAI SEED have setup a scholarship program for orphan/semi orphan and most disadvantaged children and young people. The reasoning behind this program is that fees and lack of educational things shouldn't be a barrier to their education as they are from a poor economic background. Children were provided with school fees, uniforms, bags, note-books and other things.

Our Children are from various schools, and their fee structure differs. So, we fixed some amount for each class. We pay their fee partly. Further, we encourage their parents to take the responsibility and we encourage children save in our bank as much as possible.

The **criteria** for the award of scholarship are Children who don't have both father and mother, Children who don't have father **or** mother, Children studying in Govt. Schools or Govt. Aided Schools, Low income of family, First Generation Learners, Regularity in attending Madurai Seed's education centers, Meritorious or interested to study further, Saving attitude in Thenkoodu bank

Our **philosophies** are

- Helping as many children possible
- We focus on those who are in greatest need
- We don't avoid difficult cases.

KFR Scholarship Fund received children:



Top Scorers Received KFR Scholarship fund for orphan/semi-orphan children			
C. Mahalakshmi	10 th std	418/500 marks	
S. Aravind	10 th std	402/500	
K. Vanniya Priya	10 th std	400/500	03
KFR Scholarship Fund for Orphan/ Semi-Orphan Children in 8 schools			21
KFR Scholarship Fund for Karumbalai Disadvantaged Children in 17 schools			61
Total Number of Children received KFR Scholarship Fund			85

Endowment Prizes:

Teacher Mariammal Endowment Prize for the top scorers in the area of Karumbalai			
M. Divya	12 th std	1119/ 1200	
R. Uma Nandhini	12 th std	1099/1200	
L. Meenakshi	10 th std	482/500	
R. Rahul Bharath	10 th std	462/500	04
MADURAI SEED scholarship prize for the top scorers in its education centres			
S. Muthu Murugan	12 th std	1028/1200	
A. Ramesh	10 th std	461/500	
B. Grija	10 th std	455/500	03
Total Number of Children Received Endowment Prizes			07

Other Scholarships:

Studies	Male	Female	Total
11 th std	06	03	09
College Students	08	02	10
Total	14	05	19



Provided with Educational equipments

Std	Details	Male	Female	Total
College	Note Books/Uniforms/ Guides/ Stationeries	11	8	19
XII		12	5	17
XI		06	3	09
X		19	4	23
Total		48	20	68

- On 26.03.14, breakfast and examination things were provided to 10th students, on their commencement of annual exam.
- On 03.03.14, breakfast and examination things were provided to 12th students, on their commencement of annual exam.

Scholarship distribution Programs:

Date	Place	Particulars
08.06.13	Madurai Seed	Endowment prizes awarded to high mark scored students in 10 th and 12 th std
12.07.13	T.S.U.M. High School	Head Mistress. Mrs. Geetha, and our Trustee Ms. Mariammal distributed scholarships to children. Parents of the children also took part in the program.
12.07.13	Pattupoochi Elementary School	Head Mistress. Mrs. Suki and Our Trustee Ms. Mariammal distributed scholarships.
17.07.13	Madurai Seed	Scholarships for disadvantaged children distributed by financial trustee M. Mansurali



T.S.U.M. High School Children studying in our centers



Pattupoochi Elementary School Children studying in our centers



Other school students at MADURAI SEED



Endowment Prizes Received Children

Library:

Senthamizh Library has books for both children and young people in both Tamil and English. Library is being used by children in the weekends. In the coming year, we are planning to computerize the library and allow children and young people to take the books to home.

Date	Event	Details
01.09.13	Book Exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All children and young people visited Madurai Book Festival 2013.Teaching resource books, simple English story books, and important Tamil novels were purchased for our library.
03.09.13		
04.09.13		

- Tulika Books:** Asha for Education - Boston has sponsored 1610 Tulika's children story books (161 titles which include 116 Tamil books & 45 bilingual books). Children love those books very much, the short and sweet stories and colorful illustrations. The books can be used in Tamil and English language classes.
- There are reading hours conducted in Sundays and other holidays from 10 to 12 in the mornings
- Mrs. Viji and Muruges are using Tulika- Children story books, and OUP New English Files in their classes



Journals

Journals act as a platform to children and young people to illustrate their creative writings. It aims to make a joyful learning process through creative writing. There are journals for both children and young people published in regular intervals about 500 copies each.

Puduyugam- (New Era) is for Children. There are 3 children representatives and one youth in the editorial team.

26.04.13: Songs written for Vasantham Summer Camp

05.10.13: Creative writing session conducted by Divyabharathi for hand writing magazine

27.03.14: Prepared annual journal including stories, experiences of children, Madurai seed activities report

Journal Subscription Details:

Particulars	No. of. Children
Members with minimum subscription	78
Members with 100% Subscription	117
No. children received the Journal in free of cost	205



April 2013- March 2014

Pudiya Velichangal (New Lights) is for young people. Young people write their ideas, experiences in interesting ways. Copies of the pamphlet are being distributed in communal functions, festivals, colleges, and so on.

24.04.13: Distributed Pudiya Velichangal pamphlets during Chithrai Festival

27.03.14: Published articles written by young people



April 2013- March 2014

Saving Schemes:

Thenkoodu Children Bank

Madurai Seed is encouraging children to work as a team continuously. This children bank activity is one of the best examples for that. Children's awareness to save is growing year by year.

Children can save as much as possible. They can pay daily, weekly, or monthly. They are provided with a passbook to enter their savings.

Last year from June 2013 to March 2014, **242 children** have joined in the bank. 117 children (59 boys and 58 girls) have fully paid their bank membership subscription and took part in savings.

These children saved **Rs. 40, 953**, Madurai Seed is giving **20% interest** to their saving. We gave **Rs. 8072** as interest to encourage their attitude of saving.

Children got ideas and awareness to utilize this money for their educational expenses as this is their school- opening time. The main objective of this activity is taking self responsibility in educational expenses and reducing the burden of parents as they have poor economic background.

This saving attitude is included as one of the eligibility for receiving KFR Children Fund- Scholarships.



Children with highest savings

Jeevanantham	VII	Rs. 2410
Arun.M	IX	Rs. 2268
Selva Kamalesh	VI	Rs. 2065

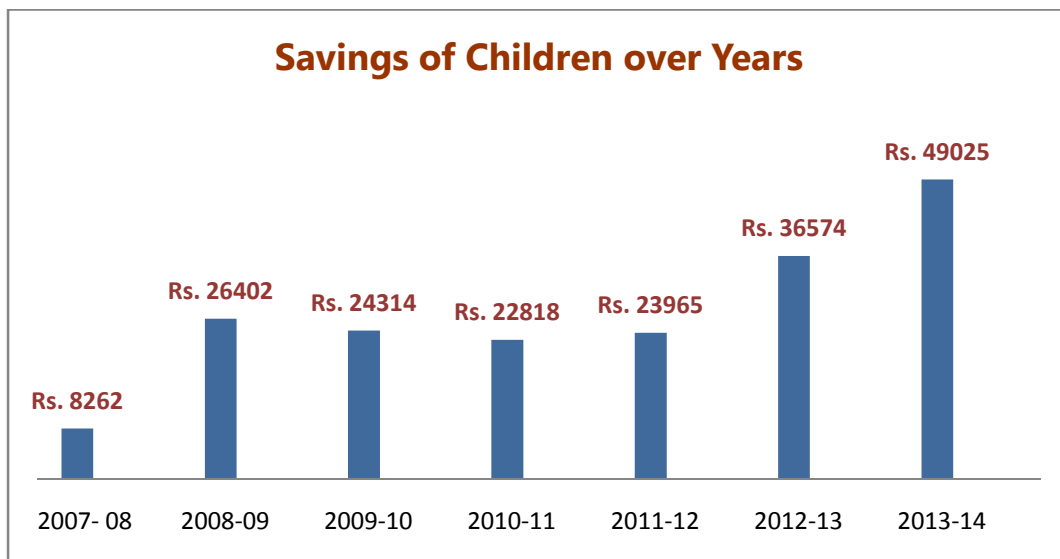


Arangam wise Savings

Vandugal Arangam (std I to IV)	Rs. 3782
Vergal Arangam (std V to VIII)	Rs. 16, 543
Kanavugal Arangam (std IX to XII)	Rs. 28, 700

Subscription Details:

Total Number of Children Joined in Thenkoodu	195
Members with 100% subscription	117
Members with Partial Subscription	78



- The children's savings of the year 2012-13, Rs. 36,398 was distributed on 17.06.2013
- From 2007 to 2014, for the last 7 years, ThenKoodu children Bank had distributed the savings Rs. 1,60,227 and Interest Rs. 31,133 totaled Rs. 1,91,360 among children.

Young People Saving Scheme

There are 21 members in 3 groups, each group comprises of 07 members. And the each group saved Rs.1000, 100 per head. Thus the three groups saved Rs.3000. They selected 1 person form each group and sponsor Rs.1000. Totally 3 members got benefited in a month. No doubt that the amount is being very helpful to the young people for their educational expenses.



Team work divides the task & multiples success

Federations

MADURAI SEED Children Federation (MSCF)

MSCF acts as a body comprises of children leaders, club Inchargers, and class representatives. They are giving their participation in planning programs. It helps to develop their leadership skills and communication skills.

Children Subscription Details

Particulars	No.of Children
Total No.of Children Joined In MSCF	242
Members With 100% Subscription	117
Members With Partial Subscription	78

Election



MSCF Election was conducted on 27.07.13. Class representatives, Arangam representatives, and leaders were elected by children and young people. 110 children voted for their representatives. Shenbagam and Jensi of 12th std elected as presidents of MSCF.

Video Conference

On 18.03.14, Madurai Seed children talked with Dr. Laura and her students of KFR School. That became an informal but informative talk. Mutually, they shared their interests, about the climate, their aims, what they study, about Madurai Seed, etc.

Children's Day



As this day gives importance to children, we never missed to celebrate. Children gave cultural performances like mime, play, speeches, and dance. All programs has the theme of childhood, child rights, education, and values. The program partly conducted in English to develop children's interest in learning the language. Nearly 140 children and 18 young people took part in the program.



MADURAI SEED Children Federation

MSCF leaders 2013-14

MADURAI SEED Young People Federation (MSYF)

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

Election



MSYF Election was conducted on 27.07.13. nearly 22 young people took part in the voting. Club Inchargers and presidents were elected. Ramaraj (final year MBA) and Parvathi (Final year B.A) were elected as presidents.

Youth Day

Youth Day was celebrated 12.01.14, young people gathered for a meeting. They shared about their college life, aims, and inspirations. It was very inspiring and fun together.

MSYF Leaders



K. Parvathi, K. Ramaraj

Saving Scheme Incharge



N. Karpagaga Selvi

Youth Journal Incharge



C. Arun Kumar



Inchargers of Various Clubs:

MADURAI SEED CHILDREN FEDERATION (MSCF)	V. Jensi Rani (XII)	Presidents
	S. Shenbaga Muthu (XII)	
	Dharani (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Bharathwaj (IV)	
	Gopinath (VIII)	Vergal Arangam
	Girija (XI)	
MADURAI SEED YOUNG PEOPLE FEDERATION (MSYF)	Vigneshwaran (XI)	Kanavugal Arangam
	Parvathi	Presidents
	Ramaraj	
Senthamizh Library	Nagoor Raja	Thedalgai Arangam
	Yoga Priya (III)	Vandugal Arangam
	Vijaya Lakshmi (VIII)	Vergal Arangam
	Manikandan (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Puduyugam Journal	Divya Bharathi	Thedalgai Arangam
	Bhavana (III)	Vandugal Arangam
	Marimuthu (VII)	Vergal Arangam
	Karthik (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Thenkoodu Children Bank	Muthu Pandi	Thedalgai Arangam
	Sundar (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Vinothini (VII)	Vergal Arangam
	Suresh Kannan (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Vanmugil Cultural Club	Priya	Thedalgai Arangam
	Bharathwaj (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Kaleeshwari (VII)	Vergal Arangam
	Surya (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Galileo Science Club	Thilagavathi	Thedalgai Arangam
	Nisha (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Kannan (VIII)	Vergal Arangam
	Muthu Ganesh (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club	Janaki	Thedalgai Arangam
	Vasanth Raj (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Tamil Aruvi (VI)	Vergal Arangam
	Manipandi (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Suvadugal Sports Club	ArunKumar	Thedalgai Arangam
	Santhosh (VI)	Vandugal Arangam
	Nageswari (VIII)	Vergal Arangam
	Vigneshwaran (XII)	Kanavugal Arangam
Annai Medical Club	Asta Lakshmi	Thedalgai Arangam
	Pandimeena (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Raj Kumar (VII)	Vergal Arangam
	Shenbaga Muthu Muniyandi	Kanavugal Arangam
Mutram Literature Club	Mathan	Thedalgai Arangam
	Dharani (IV)	Vandugal Arangam
	Jeevanantham (VII)	Vergal Arangam
	Girija (XI)	Kanavugal Arangam
Young People saving Scheme	Karpaga Selvi	Thedalgai Arangam
Pudiyai Velichangal Journal	Muthaiya	Thedalgai Arangam

Inchargers of Various Clubs

Vanmugil Cultural Club



Suvadugal Sports Club



Aagayagangai Social Science Club



ThenKoodu Children Bank



Mutram Literature Club



Annai Medical Club



Galileo Science Club



Senthamizh Library Club



Skills and Personality Development Programs for Children and young people

Trainings

Teacher Training Course for Volunteer Teachers

The teacher training program was a nice opportunity in the beginning of the educational year 2013-14. Hence, Totally 13 volunteers came forward to take the training. Two from 12th std and one representing our staff participated in the training.

The objectives of the training:

- To get training to teach basic reading, writing abilities in Tamil and English, basic Maths to 1st std to 8th std children.
- To prepare a syllabus to teach these basic skills in Madurai Seed centers from June to November.
- To prepare syllabus for Tamil, English pronunciation training, and writing without mistakes.
- Writing lesson plans, teaching methods, preparing teaching aids, learning how to use that aids.
- Class room management, to learn physical and mental growth of 5 to 14 year aged children.
- Question paper setting.
- Maintaining registers, and progress report of children.



Madurai Seed announced these will be the objectives of the training. It also told the volunteers only who take part in the training, are qualified to take classes in Madurai Seed.

The training went for 15 days. The volunteers took part in the activities eagerly. There are many input sessions about psychology.

The volunteers energetically participated in all the activities, did home works, and class room assignments. Volunteers who want to pursue B.Ed degree found that very useful. It was like an introduction to them. Resource persons lectured interestingly. We prepared some teaching aids like sight words, flash cards for English in our own. We have learned to use dictionaries and to teach according to physical and mental level of children. Black board usage became successful in all the classes after the training. Volunteer's involvement in their classes developed a lot. The course was helpful to all the volunteers.

Follow-up classes: Mrs. Kalpana Karthik and Mrs. Rama came for the teacher training follow-up classes. 4 classes were conducted.

27.09.13: Elon, a student from USA conducted **Origami class**. Children learned to make frog, and masks out of papers.

30.09.13: Volunteer Muthupandi gave **swimming** training to 13 boys from Kanavugal Arangam

02.10.13: Volunteer Muthupandi gave **swimming** training to 20 boys from Kanavugal Arangam

Workshops:

“Understanding Different Learning Abilities and Right Teaching Methods”- (workshop for teaching volunteers)



The workshop was designed and developed by Mrs. Aarthi, a special educator and trainer, Mrs. Viji a new volunteer at MADURAI SEED and child care specialist, Mr. Muruges, our new volunteer and an engineer. MADURAI SEED organized this workshop for its teaching volunteers, and some of the twelfth standard students who are going to be the future volunteers were

also included, 5 volunteers from CESCO, and an abroad volunteer participated. The workshop took place at CESCO.

Mrs. Aarthi emphasized on various learning abilities like visual, auditory, kinesthetic learning. It is the duty of the teacher to find which category one child belongs to. Then a teacher should use appropriate methods to make them understand the lessons. She gave a questionnaire to find which category we, the volunteers belong to. The session was very lively. The participants told about the problems they encounter in classes. She gave some tips to resolve those problems. After lunch, Mr. Muruges organized some games. The participants enjoyed that very much. Then, Mrs. Arthi explained about aggressive, passive, and sensitive type of children. Participants shared their experiences about these kinds of children in their classes. She gave some ideas to handle those children. Mrs. Viji also gave a small talk about various stages in childhood according to age groups and behaviors. Totally, this workshop created awareness to the volunteers about understanding their children. There are much responsibilities rely on teachers than children. This workshop will impact the daily routine of our centers. We are planning to do similar workshops in the future too.



“Teachers in Making”

Theatre Workshop:



In December 26th, 27th, and 28th, Madurai Seed organized a theatre workshop for children 6 to 14 year aged children. 35 children participated in the workshop. Anand, student of Post Graduate Tamil Department from The American College trained our children. He was further supported by his friends Anand and Muthuselvi. The trainers are actors from The American College "Theatre Club".

First, children got training to get rid of stage fear and shy. For that they gave given many exercises. They have conducted games to enhance their facial

expressions and voice.

Children and the trainers discussed about the script. The script was evolved with the children's participation. Finally, "Thenali Raman" a 20 minute drama has created. Children happily staged their product at the Margazhi Utsav on 28th December. The play was accompanied by "Thavil" music. The central theme of the play is fun, yet it has a message against bribing.



Workshop for English Teachers



Mr. Keith Rossborough, an ELT professional from Switzerland trained the participants. He was further assisted by **Mrs. Josephine**, ELT professional and literary scholar. The trainer introduced **Lexical-Grammar**, a new methodology to teach grammar. The workshop used interactive teaching techniques and participants were encouraged to participate from the basis of their own field experience and insights. The sessions had the good mix of inputs and opportunities for the participants to learn,

prepare activities, themselves. The trainers also taught about **pronunciation**. They elaborated on "Sounds and Simplifications". 7 teachers from various schools and 15 of Madurai Seed teaching volunteers took part in the workshop.

Seminars:

On 20.10.13, Mrs. Viji Muruges talked to our young people and older children about stages in childhood and child psychology. She touched the point that the social behavior of a child begins to evolve in the womb. Since, it is a new topic for our students. They eagerly asked many questions. It is very important to get awareness of relationships such as Parent- Child and Teacher- Child.

English Learning Program

This program aims at improving Basic English skills of the underprivileged children and young people. The program focuses on teaching English in a simple and interesting way. We make sure that the students get a friendly and informal environment so that the learning process becomes easy and fruitful.

Date	Mentor	Lessons/ Skills	Beneficiaries
May, June 2013	Sara Imbach	English Grammar, Reported Speech, Active/passive voices, degrees of comparison, etc	30 hours 35 high school children
August 2013 to March 2014	Mr. Muruges	English vocabulary building, reading and speaking skills, grammar,	70 hours 45 children from class 9,11,12
August 2013 to March 2014	Mrs. Viji	English Rhymes, introducing every-day vocabularies, storytelling, listening activities	70 hours 80 children from classes 1 to 8
October, November 2013	Mr. Elon	English songs Speaking skills	11 hours 15 children from class 8
December 2013	Dr. Laura Villiger	Listening and speaking using Oxford New English File text books for intermediate	14 hours 15 young people
December 2013	Dr. Josephine	English speaking and grammar	20 hours 20 children
December 2013	Prof. John Potts	Pronunciation, learning grammar, class room activities in a teacher's perspective	12 hours 4 teaching volunteers
February 2014	Mr. Keith	Pronunciation, and grammar	10 hours 15 teaching volunteers
February 2014	Mr. Andy	Vocabulary building and activities	10 hours 35 children
February 2014	Dr. Josephine	Pronunciation, reading practice	14 hours 40 children

Chipper SAGE- Flow of English

It is an interactive learning software tool aims to develop English at Kindergarten level. The software was installed at Madurai Seed. It is very useful to teach sounds and vocabulary. The approach and activities are effective. Mrs. Viji and Volunteers are using the tool often in their classes.

Camps:

Vasantham Summer Camp 2013



As in previous years, the Vasantham Summer Camp from 1st to 5th May 2013 gave more than 110 children from the poor Madurai area of Karumbalai the chance to develop their personality and skills. Every morning a van would pick them up and bring them to the Anupanadi Corporation High School where the days were filled with speeches, games, crafts sessions, role plays, singing and dancing. The campus offered the kids many shady places to work as well as a big canopy to hold presentations, play games and listen to speeches. And even though it wasn't far away from their homes, they enjoyed

the change of scenery and they took it over momentarily.

But Karthik Bharathi and MADURAI SEED didn't just provide for entertainment, but also looked to the physical well-being of the kids from 3rd to 12th standard. Both in the morning and in the afternoon there was a break for tea, soup, fruit and other healthy snacks the children savoured keenly. Lunch was cooked freshly and directly on campus every day and supplied the children with a well-balanced diet consisting of rice, vegetables, fish and meat.

Wednesday, 1st May 2013



As soon as all the children and volunteers had reached the Anupanadi Corporation High School, the first day of the camp started for the children with finding their respective team and creating their identity cards. These didn't just serve the purpose of being able to learn all the names quickly and to identify the team membership, but also contributed to a positive team spirit. The five teams named Kudhu galam, Kummalam, Aaravaram, Anandham, and Urchagam consisted of a senior team leader and children from both sexes and all the age groups. Being member of a team is one of the most important

lessons the children would learn in the Vasantham Summer Camp. As all of their activities and everyday actions were given marks, they quickly saw how their own behaviour influenced their whole group. Whereas being late, making noise and completing a task badly resulted in a deduction of marks, they could be earned by showing discipline and diligence.

Later in the morning the camp officially started with an opening ceremony. The headmistress of the Anupanadi Corporation High School took the chance to tell the children two stories from which they could learn that you have a choice of whom you want to become and that you should always try to become a role model to the others. Fittingly Wednesday's Thought of the Day, an element that would set the beginning of the following days, was *self-respect*. Karthik Bharathi didn't just stress its importance with examples, but also invited the children to reflect upon what he had said. After having had to sit still for quite some time, the day continued for children with an activity session about paper crafts. They all got scissors, glue, small and big sheets of coloured paper and a task to accomplish for each team. Guided by English instructions they learned how to make necklaces, silhouettes, different kinds of flowers, round dances and folded animals. What they didn't know however, was that the teams wouldn't just be judged by their results, but mainly by the extent of cooperation and team work they showed. So in the end the team won which had shared the materials and included all their team members best.



After lunch, the happy, but a bit drowsy children were reactivated by a singing session. They sang the camp song, which most of the older children knew from the last years, and many more Tamil songs that Karthik Bharathi taught them. The most enthusiasm the children naturally showed during the action songs when they made the movements eagerly and had the best time together young and old.

Later in the afternoon, the long first day was finished by a dancing session. They were all given different folk songs on cassettes and a radio and got some time to prepare. Just before the sun was going down, they showed each other the many different moves both girls and boys knew. The best and most creative groups were heavily celebrated by their clapping and whistling companions.

Thursday, 2nd May 2013



The second day started with a short role play of one of the teams. Everyday another team had the duty to prepare their interpretation of the Thought of the Day. Afterwards Karthik Bharati told some stories and made some examples what he thought the children should learn about the topic of *helping* each other.

Contrarily an extended game session followed where the focus didn't lie on helping and cooperating, but on competition. The children were eager to show their physical abilities and gave their best shot at the different task that they were assigned. Whereas some of them had

to show their speed in knotting pieces of string, others needed to concentrate on balancing a ball while their team members were cheering for them. They were all so excited that they couldn't even sit still shouting their encouragement and jumped up and down a lot. What a fun session!

In Thursday's song session after lunch the children learned more Tamil songs that Karthik Bharathi taught them, but also some small and amusing English rhymes that Swiss intern Sara Imbach sang with them. All these songs from the first two days were often and joyously repeated in the following song sessions as well as on the van ride home in the evenings.

The creative activity of the second camp day consisted of finger painting. All the team leaders could get a box of high quality poster colours and a couple of white sheets of paper. They were asked to put them together and to think of a topic for one big group finger painting picture. After more or less heavy discussion in the teams, topics such as childhood, school or population growth were chosen. The children enjoyed expressing their creativity by coming up with different methods of finger painting, including various motives in their pictures and using the colours as they were, mixed or diluted. Beautiful and inspiring works of art came into being this way! At the end of the session a chosen presenter had to explain his group's picture and got some first-hand experience in talking in front of a big crowd. There's always something to learn!



When they had gotten some time to prepare their dancing on the first day of the camp, the second day's dances, which took part after a soup break, fell under the motto of improvisation. To the music of traditional Tamil songs the children faced the challenge of dancing in a group without any preparation or agreement. The many side glances and surprised looks on the childrens' faces amused both the volunteers and their companions.

Friday, 3rd May 2013



Early on Friday morning, sheets of paper with slogans and rhymes the children had created were hung up all over the campus. After the Thought of the Day, MADURAI SEED's Arun Kumar conducted an important input session about body language. He set an example by showing how to stand in front of a big crowd of people and gave the children many tips and advices. The children were then included by one of the most famous games all over the world: charade. So they were able to learn in a very playful way about body language and its consequences.

As the children showed so much enthusiasm and pleasure in the earlier crafts session, the ones of Friday and Saturday were extended and conducted both in the morning and in the afternoon. In Friday's session, wooden ice cream sticks were used to create key holders, pictures, toy playgrounds, tables and chairs and many more objects. The children didn't just glue them, but discovered many new techniques, for example soaking them in a cup of water to make them easier to cut in any shape you might want. Additionally different materials were at their disposal to prove their inventiveness. They could include different kinds of coloured yarn, foam material, cardboard and more into their crafts works. So in the end they could proudly present very individual interpretations of the bricolages they were asked to make.

As the other days had before, Friday ended with the feedback round that one group had the task to give. As one important element of the Vasantham Summer Camp is reflexion, the children learned about how to think critically about the things they had experienced and how to put it into words. As for Karthik Bharathi, these feedbacks would of course give him evidence of what to think about changing next year and what to do the same way.

Saturday, 4th May 2013



The last four days had been very exciting for all the children, so it wasn't astonishing that Saturday began a bit slowly and sleepy. Nevertheless, they all listened to Karthik Bharathi talking about *patience* and *truth* in his speech for the Thought of the Day and had a lot of fun repeating the Tamil and English songs they had learned the days before. And even some new ones joined their repertoire. In a funny games session later that day the children could show their physical strength in competing against each other separately or in small teams.

The last crafts session there would be for this year's Vasantham Summer Camp was about daily objects you could use to beautify your home. So they got CDs, bottles, water glasses, card board, foam material and overhead projector foils to turn these materials into flower arrangements, picture frames and other works of art. And the children just couldn't get enough of all the different glitters, rhinestones, colours and sparkly pens they could use for decorating their pieces of crafts! However they also had to learn the lesson that you can't always get everything you want and that sometimes you would have to cope with the materials you have got.

Like the other crafts sessions so far, it ended with the giving of the marks. Different volunteers and Karthik Bharathi elected the best group over all, but also looked at all the crafts works separately to judge them. Let us tell you that it wasn't an easy choice! There were so many aspects you could include in your decision and all the groups had other strengths. So the judges always tried to explain their decision and let the children partake in the thinking of their judges. Saturday ended with dancing to modern songs. The children were delighted to show all the moves and steps they knew from video clips and movies.



The very last day's Thought of the Day was *self-satisfaction* and the children could learn what this expression means, why it's important and what it can teach us.

For once, this day's activity session that followed the Thought of the Day didn't consist of arts and crafts, but of role-plays the children had to come up with. They had each gotten a different topic such as "robot world", "news room" or "fashion show" and had some time to prepare a unique play. But they didn't just come up with texts and events they wanted to present on stage, but also dressed up, painted their faces and altered their garments and hairstyles to fit their needs. Accordingly the performances varied from amusing and comical to serious and informative. Marks were given referring to fluency of speech and process of the play, creativity in the interpretation of the topic, materials and costumes used, but also degree of inclusion of the smaller children in speaking and acting parts.

After another games session and a delicious lunch, the last afternoon of the Vasantham Summer Camp 2013 was all about the demonstration of the arts and crafts works the children had done, the new skills they had developed and the things they had learned. Former volunteers of MADURAI SEED as well as its trustees M. Mansurali and V. Mariammal came by to examine the children's progresses. The teams made sure to present their crafts works in the best way and hung up shawls, spelled welcome words with dry leaves, presented flowers and arranged the things they had made carefully.

When the judges walked from group to group to survey their accomplishments, they looked at their crafts works and asked a lot of questions concerning the Thoughts of the Day, the cultural sessions, the games they had played and the reflections they were invited to make during the whole camp. After adding the marks these judges gave the team to the ones that had been given them all week, the best team had been determined. In a big final ceremony the guests of honour – the two trustees of MADURAI SEED Mansurali and Mariammal as well as intern Sara Imbach – were presented gifts. Afterwards the winner team was declared and all joined in the celebrations! In the end the children got participation certificates and useful gifts they could bring home to their families such as refrigerator bottles and baskets. It has been a great week full of excitement, fun and learning at the same time! We're already looking forward to the next Vasantham Summer Camp in 2014!



Thalir Thiran Thittam Camp:

'Thalir Thiran Thittam' supports students with life skills and attitudes, which are important, but not covered by the school curriculum. The program employs active participatory learning methodology using a visual-audio learning kit. The lessons are developed by the **Aparajitha Foundation**. 5 classes were conducted in April 2014. Students of 11th and 12th std benefited from the classes.

Date	Title	Facilitator
01.04.13	Managing Money	P.SaravanaKumar
02.04.13	Understanding Media	C.ArunKumar
03.04.13	Time Management	A.S.Karthikbharathi
04.04.13	Respect Nature	C.ArunKumar
05.04.13	Cell-Phone etiquette	A.S.Karthikbharathi



Educational Guidance/ Career Guidance/ Counseling

For Children

- 13.03.14 to 20.03.14, Model annual exams were conducted to children from 6th to 8th std. Volunteers taught children how to prepare for the examinations. They corrected the papers, and taught about presenting expected answers in a neat manner.
- Special coaching and model exams were conducted to 10th and 12th std children in the months of February and March 2014.
- On 26.03.14, Elavarasi encouraged 10th std children on their commencement of annual exam, talked about "over-coming stress, paper presentations, etc".
- 16 Children are supported in getting admissions for 11th std. Awareness created about branches in higher secondary education. Children joined in various groups like Bio-Maths, Engineering, Accountancy, and Computer science.

For Young People

Competitive Exam Coaching for Government Jobs:

There is so much awareness created about competitive exams for government jobs among our young people and others in Karumbalai. There are many aspirants who are preparing for various exams.

- A.S.Karthikbharathi conducted 14 hours of Tamil class during Sundays of July, and August 2013 for **Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission exams**. He taught Tamil grammar, and literary history. M. Mansurali taught 12 hours of Maths and Aptitude class in the weekends. Mr. Mathew Anand took 4 hours of class on history and scientific inventions. Model tests were conducted. 15 young people applied for Group 4 exam through our online facility.

MADURAI SEED and Karumbalai have become the space of many qualified teachers. 9 people including some former and present volunteers have written **Teachers Eligibility Test** on

- 20 young people applied for Staff Selection Commission's MTS exam. During February 2014, 4 classes taught by Elavarasi on General English. 2 classes taught by Mansurali on Maths and Aptitude



Field Trips and Tours

Date	Place	Purpose
11.08.13	Chatrapatti village- Water way	To enjoy rural atmosphere, to conduct sports meet
22.09.13	Rajaji Children Park	A jolly visit after exams
11.12.13	Kodaikanal Field trip	Took part in Volunteer Ramki's brother marriage as Seed family members, Visited tourist interest places
01.01.14	Indian Circus	A fun day in the very beginning of the new year. For many of the children, it is their first experience witnessing a circus.
19.01.14	Exhibition	The exhibition focused on animal kingdom. Children saw many giant models of animals.
16.02.14	Teppakulam	Children visited Teppakulam with abroad volunteers Keith and Andy. They explained about the history of the place. Keith and Andy conducted some English games. They also visited an old temple and played cricket.
30.03.14	Athisayam- Theme Park	A fun trip for 12 th std students after final exams

At ChatraPatti Channel



At Circus



Visiting Exhibition



At Teppakulam



Club Activities for Children and Young People

Club activities gave knowledge in variety of fields which broaden their experiences and skills. There are clubs for literature, Social Science, Science, Sports, Performing Arts, and Medicine. There are 3 children representatives and 1 youth representative for each clubs.

Vanmugil Cultural Club

Through art, children and young people learn to value their uniqueness, appreciate their individuality and express themselves. Vanmugil Cultural Club is doing the same.

Food Festival 2013



Food Festival was planned on 22.09.2013 the last date of the examinations. Children were very enthusiastic about the upcoming holidays. 1 to 12th std students, volunteers, and staff had decided on the dish, price, and preparation works. There were 14 delicious items proposed by all. All the classes were given groceries, and other items for preparation. The preparation was started at 4.00 PM. Notices and boards displayed the

food items, prices to the public. At 6.00 all items were ready. There were places accommodated to every dish. The east street was crowded with public and children. There was so much fun and flavors came together. Each class was supported with one volunteer. Mansurali the financial trustee tasted all foods and gave marks for taste, presentation, and profit. The very aim of food festival is to make awareness about gender equality. Cooking isn't the area of only women. Men also should cook. This activity is enriching team spirit, problem solving, organizing skills, creativity, and more. Ultimately, Children are going to spend the profit for a social cause like helping old age homes, patients. In this way, their helping tendency and empathizing tendency is nurtured. Children sold the food items for Rs. 2000.



Food is happiness; Make everyone happy.



Crafts Expo:

On 29.08.13, A craft expo was organized for the parents and people of Karumbalai. Children displayed their handmade crafts and paintings that they did in the Vasantham Camp. Parents appreciated their children's skills very much.

Margazhi Utsav, 28.12.2013



It is the annual gathering of Madurai Seed, where children gets chance to meet our supporters, alumnae, and public. This year the day was celebrated at Gandhi Museum. Photographs illustrating Madurai Seed's activities were placed in the campus. The young people read the annual report. Madurai Seed children staged their drama "Thenali Raman. Children from CESC center staged their drama " Paramartha Guru". 140 children 20 young people participated in the program. Former students, volunteers, and public witnessed children's performances. Dr. Laura, Prof. John, Dr. Josephine, Prof. Prabhakar, Prof. Evanjeline Manoharan, Prof. Haribabu took part as special guests.

Children from CESC center staged their drama " Paramartha Guru". 140 children 20 young people participated in the program. Former students, volunteers, and public witnessed children's performances. Dr. Laura, Prof. John, Dr. Josephine, Prof. Prabhakar, Prof. Evanjeline Manoharan, Prof. Haribabu took part as special guests.

Cultural Performance at Sivanandha Ashram:



11.01.2014, Children gave cultural performances at Sivanandha Ashram in Madurai. Children performed two plays, "Thenali Raman" and "naveena Ramayanam", folk dances like Kummi and Kollattam, and spiritual songs. All People admired the performances of children filled with fun and messages.



CESCI's Theatre Fest for Non-Violence and Peace

(07.03.14 to 10.03.14): 45 Children witnessed 4 dramas at CESC. The dramas were unified in the concept of non – violence and peaceful life. Everyday children travelled from Karumbalai to CESC. There were two children plays, one play about Gandhi, and a traditional Koothu performed.

Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club

21.09.13- Children visited Tallakulam **Mariamman Temple** festival to witness the culture specific Kummi- dance. The festival is being celebrated once in 5 years.

01.02.13: Volunteer Ramaraj talked about **"Gandhi, a great soul to follow"**. He came with examples from Gandhi's life.

14.10.13: **Meenakshi temple** - Witnessed culture specific Kolu- toys showcase - Learned stories, myths, and values. Morals in Hinduism - 30 children and 5 young people

31.03.13: Children Visited **Railway expo** at Madurai Junction. History of railway department, types of trains were depicted through photographs and models.



Galileo Science Club



On 24.09.13, each class from 5 to 12th standard was given a topic about **famous mathematicians** like Aryabhatta, Pythagoras, Archimedes, Ramanujam, Galileo, Pascal, etc. Volunteers introduced the mathematicians using books. Later, the children gave presentation about the personalities before other children.

On 27.09.13, Volunteer Ganesh Kumar emphasized on **How mathematics act as a mother-subject for all other science subjects**. He took the life of Ramanujam, and Galileo to explain their interest in Maths. This was organized in order to fire up curiosity on Mathematics among children.

On 16.10.13, Dr. V.Maruthanayagam, Marine Biologist spoke **about Indian Traditional Science** and Technology. He also gave awareness about studies related to bio-technology and career opportunities.



On 28.02.13, Elavarasi talked about the history of **National Science Day**. She explained about Scientist CV Raman's contribution to the department of physical sciences.



On 10.08.13, 40 children with volunteers went to witness the **Science Express**, a special train for making awareness about Biodiversity and resources at Madurai Koodal Nagar Junction. There were models, pictures on birds and animals. Children also visited the hands on lab.

Annai Medical Club



Mrs. Chellathal is basically a Nurse and currently working in CESC center's children projects. On 31.08.13, She gave a seminar in **First Aid – Do's and Don'ts**. Children came with their doubts and experiences about various injuries.

She also demonstrated some of the first aid methods.

On 25.11.13, Dr. Vidya and her associates from Madurai Ladies Circle gave awareness speech about **dental hygiene**. Children asked their doubts regarding dental care. 110 children were provided with tooth brush and paste.



Mutram Literature Club



Dr. Bala Murugan who did his research on journals, and news papers where **Bharathiyar** worked in his life time. We know about Bharathi contribution in freedom struggle. But, he introduced Bharathi from a different angle as a journalist on 23.09.13.

Drama at American College	On 30.08.13, 11 th and 12 th standard children with some volunteers went to American College to witness a Tamil modern drama.
Drama at American College	On 26.10.13, 65 children and 10 young people witnessed three modern dramas adopted from famous Tamil short stories.
Gandhi Museum	On 02.10.13, Paid tribute to Gandhi on his birthday, Listened a speech about Gandhian thoughts

Suvadugal Sports Club

Sports Meet 2013 was conducted from 23rd to 28th of September. Children were divided into four groups Master Blasters, Miracle Squad, Rocky Riders, and Almost Winners. There were 20 children in each group. Major group games were conducted in every afternoon. The last day of sports mees held in Chatrapatti. Children took refreshing bath in the water-way after games.

23.09.13	Kabadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In MADURAI SEED's sports meet equal participation is being given to all children regardless of age, gender. The team- Rocky Riders won the overall winner's trophy. The runner team master blasters were awarded with gifts.
24.09.13	Volley Ball	
25.09.13	Cricket	
26.09.13	Funny Games	
27.09.13	Individual Games	
28.09.13	Kho-Kho, Tug of war	
30.09.13	Games for Volunteers	
01.10.13	Results Announced	



Act, Compete, Train, Plan, Instruct, Win, Participate, Improve, Work, Excel "Play a Sport"

Special Days/ Celebrations



Ramadan: The day became a colorful, musical on 09.09.13; all children came in Islamic costumes. Each class came with songs and skits which explains Islamic traditions and principles. Mr. Nathar from the local mosque gave the Ramadan message. The next day, volunteer Nagoor Raja provided Briyani to children, the signature dish for Ramadan. Children came to center with their lunch from the houses. As Ramadan is a festival of love and sharing. Children shared their food with all others.

Independence Day: On 15.08.2013, in the morning Volunteer Ramaraj hoisted the national flag and gave the Independence Day message. Children were provided with snack. In the evening, MSCF conducted a group discussion on various topics like challenges that India faces, Responsibilities and Rights of people, Freedom and Democracy. Volunteers Muruges, Viji, and Mathew Anand took part in the program as special guests.



Teachers Day: On 05.09.2013, A Student from each class talked about their favorite teaching volunteers. The volunteers were given prizes. Volunteers also talked about How much they love to teach at MADURAI SEED.

Sarawathi Pooja: On 13.10.2013, hence this Hindu special day gives importance to education (brain) and work (Physical), we tend to transform the value of equality and respect.

Bakrid: On 16.10.2013 knowing the history, facts, values behind this Islamic special day



Diwali: On 31.10.2013, Diwali is being celebrated by all religions. Classes from 1 to 12 and volunteers gave cultural performances. Children and young people greeted by a special guest. Former volunteers took part in the event.

Hanukkah: On 27.11.2013, It is a Jewish celebration. Elon, volunteer from USA conducted this program. Children enjoyed the new concepts, prayers, games involving with this function.



Christmas: On 24.12.2013, Conducted at CESC center in a rural ambiance. The program was partly conducted in English, singing English songs, dance to English lyrics. Dr. Laura Villiger, Dr. Josephine, Prof. John Potts took part in the event as special guests.

New Years Eve: On 31.12.2013, Games were conducted to Class 1 to 12 and volunteers, the perfect way to embrace the New Year with laughter and joy.



New Years Day: On 01.01.2014, Prof. Hari Babu Lecturer of Tamil from The American College delivered the New Year message. He talked on "how to become a hero in our life." He illustrated many examples and a famous Tamil short story supporting his views.

Pongal: On 04.01.2014, In this Tamil culture specific festival, children and young people came in traditional costumes. Gifts were distributed to participants and winners of Rangoli Competition.



Republic Day: On 26.01.2014, Jensi Rani, president of Madurai Seed Children Federation hoisted the national flag. Sweets distributed the children and people of Karumbalai



MADURAI SEED Institution Day: On 01.02.2014, the function celebrated before the program office for the people of Karumbalai. People witnessed "Thenali Raman" children play. Engineer Vinoth Mathaiyan from Coimbatore took part as special guest.

Public Service:



Every year, MADURAI SEED provides drinking water and butter-milk during Chithrai Festival in Madurai. On 24.04.13, and 25.04.13, MADURAI SEED provided butter-milk and water Tallakulam and Anna Nagar. Nearly 3000 people were benefited by that service.

"Madurai Seed's secularism doesn't separate itself from religion, but instead literally celebrates all religions in a way which exposes children to all religions without forcing ideals upon them. MS thereby encourages the children to form an individual religious identity, which allows them to hold on their tradition while exploring those of others. If the government adopted this stance, they could encourage unity between all religions rather than separating themselves from religion, especially in schools for young children.- *from Elon's project about Madurai Seed's Secularism entitled "Don't discriminate: Celebrate !"*

Participations / Networking

Participation of children & Young People

Organization	Details	Participants
CESCI “Dreams Camp” 17 th to 22 nd May 2013	Took part in Dreams Summer Camp conducted by CESCO at Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Pollachi	4 children
CESCI 06.11.13	Award giving function to social activists, social entrepreneurs	30 children 5 young people
Evidence 16.11.13	Seminar on honor killings and voices of the victims	20 children 5 young people
Evidence	Seminar on Violence against Tribes and voices of the victims	15 children 4 young people

Participation of Trustees & Staff

CESCI “Dreams Camp” 17 th to 22 nd May 2013	Managing Trustee A.S.Karthik Bharathi conducted Dreams Summer Camp for 60 children at Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Pollachi
Dasra’s Strategy for Scaling Workshop 8 th to 13 th January 2014	Managing Trustee A.S.Karthikbharathi took part in Dasra organization’s “Strategy for Scaling Workshop” for NGOs at Mumbai. The workshop focused on how to present your organization, how to make future plans, and professional working styles.
TamilNadu FORCES Organization 26.01.14	MuthuPandi and ArunKumar took part in the election awareness meeting conducted by FORCES organization.



Our Managing Trustee at Dasra’s Strategy for Scaling Workshop

Developments

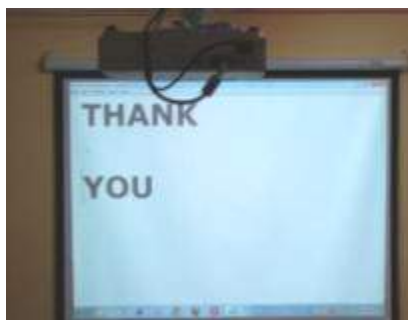
Racks

As our library is expanding year by year, teaching resources, art and craft materials are enormous. New racks were bought and placed in the Vandugal Arangam.

Black Boards

Since the old blackboards are expired, new, quality blackboards are set up for all the classes. The boards are movable, we could use accordingly for the needs.

AV Classroom



An Audio/ Visual Class room was set up in Vandugal Arangam (the Kids Center) where they need more visual aids for learning. The class room will be used adaptable according to the needs. Thanks to Ralph Huber & Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland for helping this development.

- To conduct language classes (Tamil, English) using AV materials to build vocabulary, pronunciation, and conversational skills.

The ChipperSAGE- Flow of English lessons is being taught through AV class room.

- Maths and science through visual media will impact the comprehension greatly.
- Children and Young people are functioning together through various clubs for literature, science, social science, sports, arts, medical club, and journal club. These club activities can be done through AV materials.
- To teach rhymes, songs.
- To screen classic movies for children, to teach film appreciation and mass-media awareness
- Facilitating various seminars, trainings with audio-visual systems

Digital-Board

This concept was developed by Vinoth Mathaiyan, an engineer. He was introduced by our alumnus O.Manikandan. He visited Madurai Seed during our institution day. Video Conferencing can be a solution in connecting children with experts who are miles away. Vinoth, his friends Arun and Ramji visited Madurai Seed and conducted a run-through session of the class. The class will be effectively come into action in the new academic year 2014-15.

Fixed Deposits

The Madurai Seed board proposed the fixed deposit idea to the board of Friends of Madurai Seed. They appreciated and welcomed that idea. The concept is depositing some fund and getting regular interest amount. The interest amount can be used for project activities such as scholarships and personality development programs. Rs. 4, 00,000/ (four lakh) were deposited in the month of February 2014. The utilization of interest amount out of the deposit will be used for the direct benefit of underprivileged children and young people.

Vizhuthugal

Vizhuthugal is a forum for "Former Beneficiaries of Madurai Seed". It is an effort to connect all the former beneficiaries under one roof. The objectives of this forum are

- To act as an alumni association continuously involving with Madurai Seed's activities whenever, wherever possible
- To extend financial support in whatever little means possible
- To meet, to share, to engage in social enhancement activities

Activities 2013-14:

- Currently, the team has 21 members. The members are contributing Rs. 100/year as subscription. This subscription will be used directly for the benefit of children in endorse of the association.
- M. Pethuraja has contributed Rs. 2000 for the New Year Celebration.
- C. KarpagaJothi donated Rs. 2000
- MurugaPandi got guidance for a job at "My Rain" company. He has helped four other former students to get jobs at the same company.
- O. Manikandan introduced Madurai Seed to his friend Vinoth Mathaiyan. Vinoth has joined in Friends of Madurai Seed, India chapter and helps us.
- ThangaLakshmi, and KarpagaJothi took part in Diwali Celebration program and encouraged the kids.
- Mohan, Magudapathi, Pandiyarajan, Karpagam took part in Margazhi Utsav Program.
- Muniyasamy, Amutha, and Saranya participated in the Workshop for English Teachers

Donations Received : Rs. 4000

Subscription Received : Rs. 2540

We expect more members will join in the coming years. We are looking forward to a grand alumni meeting. Vizhuthugal means aerial roots which gives support to big trees. Even our former students are with several branches of life, their roots are here.



Former volunteer's presence in various occasions

Friends of Madurai Seed, India

The team "Friends of Madurai Seed- India" is intended for the supporting hearts of Madurai Seed. Some of them are having long time relationship with us, some once helped, some are helping at the moment, some are going to support in the future. But all are the genuine inspirations, moral supporters in the 15 years of Madurai Seed's educational and empowerment initiatives

- **Jaya Prakash** helped A.S.Karthikbharathi in the initial works of founding Madurai Seed in 1999. Last year he has sponsored Rs.20000 for two teacher training students. Thanks JP.
- **Prof.Prabhakar** is being in touch with us for the last 15 years. He helps and guiding us in our children theatre art oriented efforts. This year he helped to organize a theatre workshop for our children. "Thenali Raman" play was produced. Thanks Sir.
- **Suresh Kumar** is being in touch with us for the last 15 years. He is visiting MS often and encouraging our volunteers, giving guidance in competitive exams. Thanks Suresh
- **Dr. Gowthaman** is being in touch with us for the last 15 years. He is very caring and helpful. He continued to support and guide. Thanks Gowtham.
- **Parri Ganesan** financially supported Madurai Seed with Rs. 1000 a month for the last 7 years. For the year 2013-14, from April to August he has donated Rs. 5000. Thanks and appreciations to Parri. Lots of thanks.
- **Arul Thangaraj** is also supporting by donating Rs.1000 a month for the last 7 years. In the year 2013-14, he has donated Rs.12000. Our heartfelt thanks to him. Thanks so much.
- **Sabarinathan** is supporting our cultural enhancement activities by donating Rs.750 a month. In the year 2013-14, he has donated Rs.6500. Thanks to him, we wish him all success.
- **Biju Anna** and CESC, Madurai has an important role in the development of Madurai Seed. This year, a teacher's workshop and Christmas event were conducted at CESC. CESC children theatre group performed a play in our Margazhi Utsav program. Karthikbharathi conducted "Dreams Summer Camp" for CESC children. Our children witnessed Theatre Festival for Democracy and Non Violence conducted by CESC. Thanks to him.
- **Ari Ara Velan Anna** is very fond in our development. He supported the implementation of Thair Thiran Thittam in our centers. He sponsored CDs for children AV library. Thanks Anna.
- **Muruges Anna and Viji Anni's** commitment to Madurai Seed is immense. They have been taking classes 4 hours a week from 1st std to 12th std. They are teaching English, and Value education classes through activities, audio video based classes. They have sponsored snacks on children's day and New Year's Day. They have introduced Mrs. Aarthi, a special educator to Madurai Seed. They have also sponsored education loan of Rs.30 000 to a teacher training aspirant. They are also very supportive in works like teacher training, counseling to children, giving hospitality to our visitors, and so on. Lots of thanks to them.
- **Mrs. Aarthi** was introduced by Muruges and Viji couple. She has conducted a one day teacher training workshop for our volunteers. Thanks.
- **Mr. Mathew Anand** conducted competitive exam classes and science classes. Thanks sir.
- **Vinoth Mathaiyan** was introduced by our alumnus O.Manikandan. He visited Madurai Seed and donated Rs.2000 this year. He is developing a digital class concept for our children. Thanks Vinoth.
- **Rohit**, an engineering graduate is teaching physical sciences and math to our elder children four hours a week.
- **Muthu Prabhakar** is a teacher. He has celebrated his achievement (To get a government job) with our children sponsored sweets. Thanks Prabha.

- **Kathir Anna** is encouraging by inviting us to seminars, conferences of Evidence. Our young people are continuously participating in them and get awareness on social justice, equality, human rights. Lot of thanks to Anna.
- **M. Kannan** helped to put a small piece of Granite in the construction of Vandugal Arangam. Thanks Kanna.

People supported, helped, volunteered, during various time and in various projects from 1999 to till

- Lakshmi Suryanarayanan, Vallabha, Ram, Bhaskar, Sanjay, Ravi (Asha People)
- Heena Akka
- Senthil Elangovan
- Prof. Sam George, Prof. Uthaman, Prof. Kumarasamy, Prof. Madhavan, Babu Charles,
- John Browney, Ganesh Kumar (Volunteers)
- Anis (Film Director)
- Mari Rajan, Dhanraj (social activists)
- Muthukumar (Snegam Trust)
- Arun, Dr. Bala Murugan (Volunteers)
- Suresh Nivas, Siva Sankar, Anbalagan, Chella pandi, Ganesh, Nallakamu (Volunteers)
- Chandra Mohan Dr. Nagarajan
- Er. Palani (Karkai Foundation)
- Dr. Raja lakshmi

Donations received from members of Friends of Madurai Seed- India for the year 2013-14

Parri Ganesan : Rs. 5000 towards maintenance expenses of education centers

Arul Thangaraj : Rs. 12 000 towards maintenance expenses of education centers

Sabari Nathan : Rs. 6500 towards cultural enhancement activities

Vinoth Mathaiyan : Rs. 2000 towards children theatre activity

Jaya Prakash : Rs. 20 000 towards B.Ed studies scholarship for 2 young people

Total Donations : Rs. 45 500

Muruges-Viji availed an educational loan of Rs. 30 000 to one girl for B.Ed studies

We are very grateful to all joined with us. We hope to work with you all very closely for the benefit of underprivileged children and young people in the coming years. Thanks Everyone.

Volunteering & Internships

Many people choose to help us, not financially, but by volunteering their time. They choose an activity of interest suitable for them and help out as much as possible. There are no time obligations and since we don't have any hierarchy, nobody will 'boss' anybody around. It's a friendly group. Opportunities for internship are always available for those who have the interest to work with children and young people. Skills and talents of interns are always linked to needs of children and young people in the field. Many people are contacting Madurai Seed for volunteering options through our website and social media.

New Volunteers in the year 2013-14

- **Mr. Muruges** and **Mrs. Viji** couple is coming to MADURAI SEED regularly to teach children two days a week. Mr. Muruges is an engineering graduate, but has passion towards teaching and service to the society. Mrs. Viji is a child care specialist, experienced as a teacher in many primary schools. Both were very inspired about MADURAI SEED's activities in their very first visit. Mr. Muruges is teaching English and personality development classes to 9th, 11th, and 12th std children. Mrs. Viji is taking care of vocabulary building, reading skills for 1st standard to 7th std children. Both are using songs, power point presentations, charts, flash cards to create new, enthusiastic learning atmosphere. Both have taught 70 hours in the last year. They took part as special guests in Independence Day, Teachers Day, Christmas celebrations. The workshop for teaching volunteers was conducted in their initiative, and efforts.
- **Mr. Mathew Anand** is a science teacher. He had conducted classes on history and science for competitive exam aspirants. He also conducted three science classes for 9th std children. He promised to come to teach classes when ever is possible.
- **Rohit** is an engineering graduate based in Madurai. His areas of interest are physical sciences and mathematics. He is very interested to teach the subjects to our children. He taught classes four hours a week from March 2014. 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th std students got benefited.



Internship:

- **Ms. Sara Imbach**, a graduate of international affairs worked with Madurai Seed as an intern for the period of 2 ½ months from April to June. This was arranged by Dalyan and Gateway to India of Swiss. She came up with activities to do in Vasantham Summer Camp. She eagerly took part in arrangement of events. She had taught English classes to children. She did some writing tasks like event reports, emails, brochure making.



- **Mr. Elon** is a student of religion studies. He came from South India Term Abroad program. He conducted English classes for children. He eagerly took part in our special programs. He conducted an origami class and games sessions. He celebrated Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday with our children. He also did a project on How Madurai Seed celebrates Multi-religious functions and incorporate free thinking, and secularism



Visitors:

Date	Name	Notes
02.04.2013	Mr. Senthil Kumar	To conduct Aparajitha- Thalir Thiran Thittam- Life Skills Class
14.05.2013	Mrs. Vidhya, Mrs. Kalpana, Mrs. Rama from CM Center	Orientation speech about Teacher Training Program
01.05.2013	Mrs. Prema, Head Mistress Anupanadi Corporation School	Guest Speaker: Inauguration and Valedictory function of Vasantham Summer Camp 2013
05.05.2013		
05.07.2013	Mrs. Kalpana, Mrs. Rama From CM Center	Teacher Training follow-up class
23.07.2013	Mr. Mathew, Science Teacher	Volunteer interest meeting
31.07.2013	Mrs. Muruges and Mrs. Viji	Volunteer interest meeting
03.08.2013	Mr. John Browney, Maths teacher, former volunteer	Friendly visit
09.08.13	Mr. Nathar, Karumbalai Mosque	Guest Speaker: Ramadan celebration
31.08.13	Mrs. Chellathal, from CESCO	Resource Speaker: Medical club activity
23.09.2013	Dr. Balamurugan, Tamil Research Scholar, Former volunteer	Resource Speaker: Literature club activity
26.09.2013	Elon,	Volunteer interest meeting
29.09.2013	Mrs. Aarthi, Special Educator	Resource Person: workshop for volunteer teachers
30.09.2013	Couples from Portugal	Volunteer interest meeting
16.10.2013	Dr. Maruthanayagam, Research Scholar, former volunteer	Resource Speaker: Science Club seminar
31.10.2013	Dhanam Aachi	
20.11.2013	Dr. Vidhya and associates from Madurai Ladies Circle	Resource Speaker: Medical Club activity
23.12.2013	Dr. Laura Villiger Prof. John Potts Dr. Josephine	English classes for young people and children, Site visit
27.12.13	Mr. Anand, Mr. Muthupandi, Ms. Selvi, Actors of American College	To Conduct Theatre Workshop for children
	Theatre Club	
28.12.13	Prof. Prabhakar, Prof. Evanjeline Manoharan, Prof. Haribabu	Spectators at Margazhi Utsav, Children Play Arangetram
01.01.14	Prof. Haribabu	Guest Speaker: New Year's Day
18.01.14	Mr. Suresh, Former Volunteer, Customs Officer	Planning of competitive exams coaching classes
01.02.14	Mr. Vinoth Mathaiyan. Engineer	Volunteering interest, Planning Meeting
09.02.14	Mr. Keith, Mr. Andy, Dr. Josephine	English classes of children and young people
12.03.14	Mr. Rohit, Engineer	Volunteering interest meeting

Stem Cell Research Centre for animals planned

A first-of-its-kind 'Stem Cell Research Centre' for animals will be set up in the State, Chief Minister Jeyarajithaa announced in the Assembly on Monday **Page 4**

Closure appeal from children

A group of children from coastal hamlets submitted a petition to Collector C. Samayamorthy, appealing to him to close down the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project **Page 4**

Newly wed girl falls victim to honour killing

When 24-year-old Punitha's head was slammed against the wall by her father in their house, it was another case of honour killing **Page 5**

Underprivileged children learn new skills at summer camp

Participation lowers school dropout rate, organisers claim

M. Vandhana

forms such as sattaikutchiatam, silambattam and oyalattam, besides western dance. I was popular in college because of my dance skills and I owe it all to what I learnt at the summer camps", says V. Sasikumar, a final year English literature student from the American College, who is now a volunteer at the camp. K. Manjula, a Standard XII student from Thideer Nagar, is a regular at the summer camps. "I have been attending the camp for 12 years. Every year I wait for the summer vacation so that I can have 10 full days of fun at the camp. This will be my last year as a student and from next year I will attend as a volunteer. I want to be a part of the camp every year in the future too", she says.

According to R. Muthukumar, managing trustee of Drop-In centre (an NGO), summer camps for underprivileged children are conducted every year to lower the dropout rate in schools. "We have around 275 children, from five to 18-year-olds, drawn from eight slums in Madurai who are attending the camp. We have created a child-friendly atmosphere", says C. Jim Jesudoss, Executive Director of Vidyal, an NGO working for the rehabilitation and reintegration of street children and child labourers. Vidyal has been organising these summer camps for underprivileged children for the past 16 years. Most of the volunteers who educate the students at the camp have attended the camp in their school days.

"The summer camps organised by Vidyal were my favourite during my school days. The camps taught us many forgotten Tamil dance

"Working in close proximity with the children from the slums we know what will keep them interested in attending school. The summer camps are intended to integrate education and fun", he told The Hindu. He organised a camp at Uchuparamedu last week, where more than 80 school students drawn from slum settlements participated.

More than 110 children from seven slums in and around Karumbalai here were a part of Madurai Seed's (an NGO) summer camp called 'Vasantham' at Villapuram, according to A.S. Karthik Bharathi, Managing Trustee of the organisation.

"The kids show immense interest in the activities and the song sessions. The kids are eager to display their talent in dancing and they even taught me some folk dances", says Sara Imbach, an international affairs student from Switzerland, who is a volunteer at the camp.

teen at the camp in Villapuram.

"The 'Vasantham' camp taught me how to paint and gave me innovative ideas. It helped me imbibe leadership skills. Today, I am glad to give back to the camp by participating in it again as a volunteer", says M. Manickaraja, a first year student at P.S.N.A. Engineering College. 'Vasantham' camp has been around for the past 15 years, says Mr Bharathi.

"Last year, I learnt glass painting in the camp. This year, I am learning finger impression painting. I eagerly await the summer camp every year because we get to learn a lot in a fun filled atmosphere. The best part is that all the children are treated alike in the camp", says R. Gayathri, a X standard student of T.S.U.M. Higher Secondary School here.

Unlike in classrooms where the rank holders are given special attention, the camp gives equal opportunities for all the students, she adds. According to the organisers, it took a lot of convincing before they sent their children to the camps. Almost all the children who attended the camp in their early years are now in colleges and have jobs. Now the parents want their children to attend the camps and spend their vacation in a meaningful way. They want their children to come up in life", says Mr Jesudoss. The camps last from five to ten days, and the students are divided into five different categories based on their age. For every 20 students, there is a volunteer.

Story telling, art and craft, activity-based learning, traditional dance, martial arts, skating and field games are conducted through the day at the camps.

Transportation is arranged for the children to and from the camps.

MADURAI SEED



LEARNING IS FUN: Deprived children engrossed in play at the summer camp. — PHOTO: G. MOORTHY, Aaravaram Team, Vasantham Camp 2013

Dinamalar 11.05.13

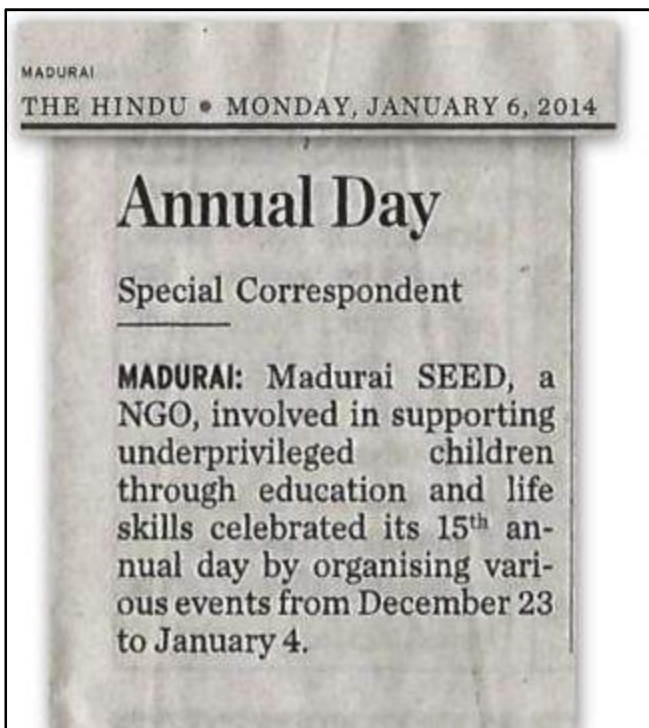


The Hindu (Tamil) 31.12.13



Dinamani

The Hindu 06.06.14



Conclusion:

We are making children, young people, and parents understand “through education you can get plenty of opportunities in life.” These centers doesn’t just provide school results that can be measured, but also helps these children and young people to grow in self-confidence and self-belief – an important step to take responsibility for your life.

We could see the impact of our intervention among our alumnae, their job profiles and how this younger generation tastes the fruit of education. They are also coming back and involve themselves in giving the “MADURAI SEED” experience to the young ones.



Report Prepared by Ms. Sara Imbach on Madurai Seed's programs

Introduction: This report describes the workings of MADURAI SEED, an organization committed to foster socially and economically disadvantaged children and young people in the poor area Karumbalai in the city of Madurai. It was founded in 1999 by Karthik Bharathi (M. A., M. Phil. and B. Ed. in Tamil Literature) and is still managed by him. At first I will give a detailed overview of the activities and the current situation of MADURAI SEED. The following chapter then contains my thoughts about the replicability of this project. For this purpose, a SWOT analysis is conducted and strategies to improve its situation are proposed. A last chapter then describes what tasks I carried out during my stay from 15th April 2013 to 1st July 2013 in Madurai.

Current situation of MADURAI SEED

Activities: MADURAI SEED offers children and teenagers from Madurai's poor area of Karumbalai various activities to improve their performance in school as well as to develop their personality so that they will become confident and responsible people. The most important of these offers are the daily open **drop-in centers**. Every evening from 6 pm to 9 pm volunteers of MADURAI SEED support the kids in completing their school homework, help them prepare for their exams or teach additional aspects of their school subjects. The classes are formed as they are in normal school and range from 1st to 12th standard. There are about 10 students in a class. This not only the most standardized and routinely conducted of MADURAI SEED's offers, but it also has the biggest importance to its goal. Only when the children complete their schooling successfully and proceed to a vocational education, they will be able to escape poverty. And even though the number of attendees was lower in the summer holidays than throughout the rest of the year, I observed that the classes were held assiduously every day.

MADURAI SEED also has a small **library** in one of their roofed drop-in centers. It consists of seven shelves full of both Tamil and English books. There are many school materials of every subject, but also a lot of different novels. However, it has to be said that it's no lending library due to bad experiences. According to Karthik, books had been scribbled in and treated badly in the past. When they wanted to talk to the respective students about it, they never showed up in MADURAI SEED again. New program coordinator Elavarasi added that little there was unfortunately little interest in reading books unrelated to school exams. So far they have tried in vain to raise the interest in reading as a hobby, for example by conducting reading sessions. So even though quite some money had been invested in establishing the library, it is used little at the moment. In my opinion this is truly a pity considering that for example the English book section has a good selection ranging from Oxford University Press easily written beginner's novels to English literature classics from Shakespeare to Jane Austen.

Apart from the essential drop-in centers with its library, many other activities are conducted which fall in the category of empowerment and promoting **personality development**. They include various interest clubs, which invite speakers and make excursions, a children's and young people's federation to train themselves in politics, the writing of journals to discover creative skills and more. MADURAI SEED also celebrates many Christian, Muslim and Hindu festivities for the joy of the children and takes them to the festivals in the city. During my stay, which fell mostly under the time of the summer holidays, I couldn't see much of these activities. As far as I can tell they are of subordinate priority and are conducted on a rather irregular basis. However, the annual report shows the overall still quite big extent of these activities over the year and I think that they represent an important reason for the kids to come to MADURAI SEED. At the beginning of the summer holidays, a five days **summer camp** is conducted. Between 70 and 110 students from 1st to 12th standard take part every year. As there's no place big enough to house so many children in Karumbalai, it is held in another location and therefore offers the children one of the few chances they have to get out of their home area for some days. The program is entirely conducted by Karthik, the program coordinators and the volunteers. It consists of speeches and life lessons, games, arts and crafts activities as well as singing, dancing and acting sessions.

During the day the kids receive two snacks – one in the morning and one in the afternoon – as well as a healthy and nutritious lunch. Like all of MADURAI SEED's offers it is entirely for free for the children. Compared to the other activities of MADURAI SEED, the organization and realization of a camp like this has relatively high expenses: meals and snacks for more than 100 people, the materials for the arts and crafts sessions, gifts for all the students at the end and so on. Even though Karthik told me this summer camp is essential for the motivation and winning over the students, in my opinion it should be considered asking the children to pay a small amount to participate.

Another branch of MADURAI SEED's offers consists of various **financial aids** they give to students to come up for their schooling expenses. These include on one hand direct scholarships for both schooling fees (for 85 students in 2011-12) and expenses for notebooks and stationary (for 90 students in 2011-12). On the other hand there's a savings bank which teaches the children the responsibility and benefits of saving money. It pays a 20% interest exactly at the beginning of the new school year and therefore supports them in the many schooling expenses that accumulate this time of the year.

Finances and Funding

MADURAI SEED is currently financed by **two organizations**: the Swiss association Friends of Madurai Seed and Asha for Education. In addition, they receive sporadic donations from third parties as well as from former beneficiaries (and volunteers) of MADURAI SEED. According to an employee of the nearby CESC Centre for Socio-Cultural Interaction more than 500 NGOs operate in the city of Madurai and its surroundings. Therefore the local fundraising situation is very competitive and it is almost impossible to find local funding. This problem is aggravated by the fact that most people seem to be quite narrow-minded and suspicious of the work of local NGOs.

While it can be said that MADURAI SEED's general funding situation is relatively stable, it should be mentioned that Karthik's family's private situation poses a problem. Having two small children now, he needs to get a well paid job and won't be able to devote all his time to MADURAI SEED in the future. His and trustee Mansurali's plan is however to get a government job and keep their project running with their part time work. This would hopefully also give them more money to invest in it.

At the moment, MADURAI SEED has one designated class room at their disposal by lease, which located in Karthik's brother's house. The other three drop-in centers as well as the small office are currently rented. Of these three other drop-in centers, thanks to Friends of Madurai Seed two have a roof now and can also be used during a rainy evening. Even though this helped improve the situation a lot, MADURAI SEED's trustees and program coordinators still dream about their own building, where all the four drop-in centers could be located in one place. As the availability of buildings big enough for this purpose is very small and rent would be too costly, it's not very likely that this will be possible in the near future.

Staff

Founder and **trustee Karthik Bharathi** is the leading character of MADURAI SEED. He is a charismatic personality who isn't just brimming with ideas but also succeeds in infecting children and young people with his enthusiasm. He seems to find a connection to the students and is able to talk to them about their school performance. This is something that many of their parents probably can't or won't do. My guess is that exactly because of his manifest commitment to MADURAI SEED and his ability to motivate children and young people, there's barely a danger of the organization not finding enough volunteers to continue its work. For many of the elder students it is clear that they will become a volunteer when they start their college studies. I've also seen Karthik showing his networking qualities when talking to an arts teacher in a shop where we bought materials for the summer camp. He makes new contacts very quickly and apparently succeeds in raising strangers' interest in his work. Overall I can say that Karthik is a hard-working person who is constantly thinking about MADURAI SEED and how to improve its offers. I was impressed by all the ideas he develops and the simple way he puts them into action. In June for example he organized movable blackboards for all the classes, which I thought was a very good idea and a big help to the volunteers.

Apart from making the main decisions together with Karthik and therefore shaping the organization, **trustee Mansurali** is responsible for MADURAI SEED's book-keeping. He too seems to be very committed to its case. Recently he got a government job and won't be able to manage the accounts any longer. He will however supervise the former volunteer who is studying business administration now and will take over the job. The last of the three trustees Mariammal I only saw at functions. She seems to have more of a consulting role in the background.

The team further consists of two **program coordinators** Arun (B.A. in English Literature) and Elavarasi (B.Sc. and B.Ed.), Karthik's wife. They support Karthik in his work in the office such as the website or the annual report for which Karthik's command of English isn't good enough. But they also help with the organization of events, the handling of the volunteers and teach at the drop-in centers. As Karthik wouldn't be able to do everything on his own, they are indispensable.

At the moment, 18 **volunteers** work at MADURAI SEED. They consist of its former beneficiaries, finished their schooling successfully and are now studying at the college. Their main task is to teach at the drop-in centers every evening, but they are also a part of the many other activities MADURAI SEED conducts. Last but not least, they are supposed to act as role models and show the students what they can achieve if they finish their schooling. These volunteers are in fact the essential factor for MADURAI SEED's project. It needs committed volunteers who come reliably every evening to teach.

A characteristic of working with a team of volunteers who are former beneficiaries is that MADURAI SEED will always have a **high turnover rate**. Most volunteers work for the organization for three to four years. As soon as they have finished their studies and get a job, they usually leave it. Yet some still attend functions or even make donations afterwards. Even though these volunteers don't stay for too long, it is nevertheless important to invest in them and their teaching skills as they are MADURAI SEED's backbone. However, this high turnover rate is one of the reason MADURAI SEED is in need of a syllabus and teaching materials. This way the contents and ways of their teaching could be made steady, which would benefit the students, and the volunteers would get the needed help in preparing the classes.

Achievements

Over the years, MADURAI SEED has succeeded in making a huge difference to the **academic achievements** of the students in Karumbalai. They helped almost all of their beneficiaries to finish secondary (10th standard) and higher secondary (12th standard) schooling successfully. From 2007-13 these were 142 respectively 90 students. Many of these have been the first ones in their families to complete this level of education.

In the past 6 years, MADURAI SEED also raised 43 certificate holders (e.g. mechanics, nurses and so on), 2 technical diploma holders, 37 under graduates, 10 teachers (who finished under graduate studies and then completed a year of teacher training) and 6 post graduates. 5 people even got a government job, which is very hard to get for people from the poorer areas of the city. But apart from these academic achievements and the corresponding obvious benefits of giving the students a proper space to do their homework and additional classes where they have the chance to study in small groups, MADURAI SEED's work offers the children so many other things that can't be measured. It gives them a place to go and something to do in their leisure time. In an area like Karumbalai where many parents don't have much time to spend with their children, this gives them **self-esteem** and brings joy to their lives. I think this is obvious for everyone who visits MADURAI SEED.

Last year 2011-12 a total number of 487 children and young people benefited from MADURAI SEED. They came to its drop-in centers, received scholarships or were taught by Karthik in his fellowship program supported by ASHA. In 2013 all of MADURAI SEED's **12th standard students** passed their exams. Even though this is as such a good result, the trustees and volunteers are not completely happy: only one student scored more than a 1000 out of 1200 marks (more than 80%) as compared to 4 students the year before. Most of them proceed to college and received guidance and help in filling out their applications from Karthik. Two joined the group of volunteers.

The mixed picture of the results is also shown by the results of MADURAI SEED's **10th standard students**. All of the 20 students who had written the exam passed. 11 of them are even the first ones to finish school in their family. However, 8 scored only between 40%-55% and showed therefore poor results.

Even though you could feel some disappointment in MADURAI SEED's staff, it must still be stressed that a passing quota of 100% is overall a very good result. For students in such a poor area who mostly attend low quality schools this can't be taken for granted.

Replicability of MADURAI SEED

In order to decide whether a project such as MADURAI SEED can be established in other Indian cities, I conducted a SWOT analysis considering strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats based on my experiences and observations. At the end, this chapter also includes possible strategies that could help to improve MADURAI SEED's offers.

Strengths	Weakness
Program helps the students directly with their school work	Narrow funding basis consisting of only two agencies
Apparently stable funding sources	Unsteady academic quality and commitment of volunteers
Continuity of new volunteers	Lack of syllabi, teaching materials, and text books
Relatively low cost of the core business (i.e. drop in centers)	Relatively high cost of secondary activities (i.e. Personality Development Programs)
Leadership and networking quality of Karthik Bharathi	
Lease of a well equipped class room	
Connections to former beneficiaries and volunteers	
Opportunities	Threats
Investment in a teacher training program for the volunteers by friends of Madurai Seed	Very competitive local fund raising situation
Development of a syllabus and teaching materials with the CM centre	Narrow minded attitude of locals toward NGOs
Helping Karthik to improve his leadership skills and extending his network with the Dasra Social Impact	Primary monetary interest of some volunteers
	Somewhat unreliable banking system

The current fundraising situation presents itself as both weakness and strength. Even though the basis consisting of only two funding agencies is narrow, it appears to be stable and ought to guarantee the continuity of MADURAI SEED. From my point of view it would nevertheless be beneficial to try to expand it. One strategy, as it was already proposed by Dr. Laura Villiger from Friends of Madurai Seed, would be to establish an **alumni association**. MADURAI SEED does already receive donations from its former beneficiaries and volunteers. With a formal alumni association these could be standardized and the bond could be strengthened. Additionally a mentoring program could be developed and vocationally successful alumni could advise current students on how to get there or even help them to get in touch with the right people.

Like the fundraising situation, also the **cost situation** can be shown as both strength and weakness. Its strength lies in relatively low costs of the drop-in centers, which are the core business of MADURAI SEED. All a similar organization would need to provide in a first step is a (preferably roofed) room with lamps and maybe a blackboard. MADURAI SEED additionally pays its volunteers an honorarium of INR 1000. As Karthik told me it is however not yet clear whether they'll be able to continue to do this. If they are forced to stop paying the honoraria, there's however the threat that they won't find enough volunteers. It has happened before that some of them bailed out when MADURAI SEED couldn't pay their scholarships anymore.

As already insinuated in the context of the annual summer camp, what I see as a weakness is the relatively high cost of secondary activities. Even though they are of lower priority, they cost about the same amount as the drop-in centers. Therefore it might be a good idea to think about a different **pricing strategy** regarding these kinds of activities. In my opinion it is essential that the drop-in centers remain free of cost. For the rather fun events such as excursions and camps it could yet be possible to ask for a small participation fee. When Karthik organized a 5-day guided tour of the city and its surroundings for me and about 15 kids, they were all asked to bring INR 10 a day. This shows that it is generally possible for them to come up with small amounts occasionally.

I'm however not too sure if the amount you could ask them to bring were big enough to make a difference to MADURAI SEED's financial situation and could improve its offers in a relevant extent. MADURAI SEED operates among very price-sensitive people and it is fundamental that it doesn't lose the support of the children's parents. There's a significant risk that some of them could turn their backs on an organization that's not entirely free of costs.

Another weakness that needs to be thought about is the unsteady **academic quality of the volunteers**. Even though they usually don't work for MADURAI SEED for more than 3 to 5 years, this makes investing in a teacher training and the development of a syllabus as well as teaching materials a reasonable idea. It could help the volunteers to prepare their classes in a much more professional way and give them a structure they now miss. The challenge is however to tailor a program like this exactly to the needs of MADURAI SEED and its beneficiaries. A first effort was made this year with the CM Centre. Unfortunately I'm rather pessimistic about the outcome of this particular program. The resentment seems to be too cemented to take the chance to develop something together.

My task catalogue

In the 11 weeks of my stay in Madurai, the most importance was given to the **English classes** for 10th to 12th standard students in the evenings from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. During the summer holidays from mid-April to mid-June, I taught lessons out of the book "New English File – Beginner" as well as other things I considered essential for four to six evenings a week. Karthik's wife and new program coordinator Elavarasi was always present and translated when necessary or beneficial. After the beginning of school on 10th June 2013, I was told that the classes had to be strictly text book related and so I switched to teaching them grammar exactly as they will need it in their exams.

In the mornings I usually spent two or three hours in the office. For the first two weeks I prepared and conducted **English lessons** with grammar and exercises for Karthik. But even though he didn't lack in motivation, I soon noticed that this probably wasn't the best way to improve his English. So we switched over to just talking. While he told me about things I read in the newspapers or questions I had about the south Indian culture, I corrected his mistakes and sometimes showed him some grammar parts in detail – for example how to ask questions correctly.

For the remaining time Karthik mostly gave me **minor writing tasks**: I wrote reports about functions and events of MADURAI SEED I had attended, I issued certificates, I proofread the annual report, I typed the handwritten records of the financial transactions and I helped Karthik writing English e-mails. Further I revised their brochure and created a new and considerably shorter one for the hurried reader. Together with Elavarasi I also developed an assessment report the volunteers are supposed to fill out every evening about the classes they held.

Report on Teacher Training Course prepared by CM Center

Title of the course: Teacher Education course for Peer Educators in Non-formal setting

Level of the course: Elementary level Certificate course

Duration of the course: 45 hours of teaching and 45 hours of practicum

Dates: 20th May 2013 to 5th June 2013

Class and practicum hours: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM with two 15 minutes tea breaks and 45 minutes lunch break.

Syllabus Content:

1. Acquisition of teaching skills, attitude and training in teaching methods: 18 hours Taught by Karthik Somasekar and V.A.Vidya
2. Basics of Educational psychology, theories of intelligence, and training the left and right hemisphere of brain. 18 hours V.A.Vidya, Karthik Somasekar and Dr.Harishankar
3. Language acquisition, listening, speaking, reading and writing: 18 hours R.Rama, Karthik Somasekar and V.A.Vidya
4. Mathematics: Learning and teaching mathematics, practicum for training the left and right hemisphere of the brain 18 hours Manimekalai and V.A.Vidya
5. Lesson plans, teaching aids, simulation activities and "Tare Zameen Par" a movie about dyslexic child: 18 hours. Karthik Somasekar and V.A.Vidya

Course Requirements: Participation in the class, completion of all Practicum assignments, discussion and creating teaching aids and using them.

Grade criteria: Participation, attitude and team work: 25%/ Practicum : 25% / Teaching aids: 25%/ Take home assignment: 25%

Participants Assessment:

Learning level: All the participants were above 16 and have completed their higher secondary education. Except five students, all the others fell short of the expected level of comprehension. Almost all of them were unable to recall their elementary level mathematics, language, and science learning and needed lot of prompts to make them recall. All the five teacher trainers had to simplify the content and break down the input in to smaller modules. Throughout the course, we could not upgrade their level of learning. At the most they could take a lecture session for 8 to 10 minutes. Therefore the teaching team had to meet at the end of the day to rework the following day's input to suit their level. Another difficulty was the retention aspect. Their habitual short term memory lasts only for the day. Except five to six students, retention of what they learnt the previous day was very low and we could not move forward without a recap of everything. This habit did not improve throughout the course. However their enthusiasm and cooperation have to be commended and they are all very bright.

Acquisition of teaching skills, attitude, teaching methods: All the Madurai SEED students are very committed to teaching their juniors. They have great attitude. But majority had much difficulty in understanding the various teaching methods that would match the ability of the students. They are obviously familiar with the rote method package that assures good grades. Five to six students learnt about the creative teaching methods, and also customizing the homework practice materials for their students.

Basics of Educational psychology: These classes had mixed results. They all understood the importance of learning the basics and the relationship between lesson plans, modules, and teaching methods. The group received the input on behavioral theories better than the cognitive theories. We gave them a rounded orientation about the interactive influences of language, perception and culture and their impact on the learning styles.

Language acquisition, listening, speaking, reading and writing: This is an area where tremendous improvement needs to happen. Their thinking ability as well as communication skills is stunted and all of them use a weird mixture of English and Tamil Grammar is often missing. Sentences with no grammar and vocabulary usage out of context are habitual both in their verbal communication as well as written work. All of them, except four students need to work on their English and Tamil vocabulary, reading, pronunciation, grammar and writing.

Mathematics: This perhaps was the most successful class since they were learning the junior high level mathematics, and the results were confidence boosting. The CMC team is completely convinced that the Peer teachers would be able to handle the mathematics classes for their students. Nearly 75 per cent of the participants admitted that they never liked mathematics and did not do well at school. But their performance in the course was uniformly good, and extremely productive.

Lesson plans, teaching aids, simulation activities: The CMC teacher trainers gave intensive input about curriculum, syllabus, lesson plans, and teacher notes. This is an area where the students had difficulty in grasping the idea. But they did better in copying the teaching aid models, and some were also creative. There were many simulation activities that were meant to explain the purpose of teaching aids. The participants fared reasonably in understanding these exercises. But the areas of lesson plans, class control (self control) and time management will take some more time to develop with intensive training.

Participation and Performance in the class: Very participatory in all the activities. They are playful, understand an activity or a game for learning and play them quite well. However, they get impatient and reluctant to listen to anything new, or difficult. Many just shun away from lecture in English language.

Attitude and team work: Excellent. They are very supportive of each other, respect one another and treat all the female students very respectfully. The gender dynamics is quite good.

Recommendations:

1. The Peer Teachers should improve their reading, and writing skills. They should use their e-mail IDs to communicate with the CM Centre teacher trainers to develop their learning and teaching skills.
2. The CM Centre teacher trainers should meet with the Peer Teachers twice a month and review their work
3. The Peer teachers should maintain the Assessment record of their students, as per the instructions given. This will help the CMC Teacher trainers to decide about intervention/improvement methods
4. CM Centre teacher trainers would also review the progress report of the junior students.

Report on Madurai Seed activities by Muruges and Viji, Special Volunteers

(A broad perspective based on our 6 months experience)

A small introduction about us: I am an engineering graduate with long years of industrial experiences. My wife, Viji, has masters in Child care and Education. She worked with a leading international play school in Coimbatore for almost four years until we migrated to Madurai on account of my job in 2008. For the past 2 years, I work as a freelance technical consultant. Viji stays back at home and we continue to live in Madurai.

How we landed in Madurai Seed: It was a sheer coincidence when Viji stumbled upon Madurai Seed website. She grew interest and persuaded me to visit and find out what was happening here. That was because we both had time and wanted to do something in this line but did not know how to go about it. It was a hot afternoon in the beginning of August 2013, when we found our way to MS. Karthik was warm and enthusiastic as he welcomed us and briefed about the history and motive of his after-school learning centre.

What made us associate with Madurai Seed: Initially, as it happens in any new venture, we were apprehensive about the whole idea. But, on the contrary, in just a couple of visits, we started feeling more comfortable. This was basically because we could observe and understand the following-Karthik's principles and ideologies for MS and his efforts in implementing them.-Systems and integrity followed in the functioning of MS as a whole. - Good support team with true dedication (esp.Mr.Mansoor, Mr.Arun and Mr.MuthuPandi)-innovative activities (conceptual activities, summer camps, savings bank etc)-Karthik's respect for guests visiting MS and his hospitality. To crown it all, last but not the least, it was the kids' love, affection and enthusiasm that were the driving force behind our continuous involvement in MS.

What we are trying to do in Madurai Seed: We were conversant in English and hence preferred to teach English to the children. We scheduled our visits on Mondays and Thursdays every week. Viji handled Vandugal and Vargal Arangam. She introduced play-way method of learning the language (with rhymes, actions and games). She also blended teaching with practicing values and good manners. This is one grey area that we really wished to make a change. The children (and many times even volunteers) either feel shy or lack attitude in expressing minimum levels of courtesies (like wishing or thanking for something they have received etc.). If we can cultivate good manners in the younger minds, it will certainly yield remarkable results as the kids' blossom and they will experience a smooth sail in the main streamline as they grow.

I started teaching the 9th class in one session and 11th and 12th (put together) in another. Though, teaching was absolutely new for me, I quickly settled down with teaching grammar close to their school syllabus. Thanks to our ELT teachers, (Mrs.&Mr Potts, Ms.Kenworthy and Mr.Rossborough) we were introduced to newer teaching methods which we earnestly tried to adopt in our classes. As we experienced teaching in MS, we realized that there exists a larger scope with the younger ones and by spending more time with them, they could have a better future. Therefore, in coming days, I plan to share work with Viji in Vargal Arangam so as to give an extra thrust to the learning process. Viji's cousin, Mrs.Arthi Srinivasan, a special educator in Chennai visited us in September 2013. She readily accepted our request to do a workshop for the 'teacher-volunteers' of MS. Karthik responded with a well arranged one day seminar at CECSI campus on 'Understanding different learning abilities and right teaching methods'. Come December, it was an 'English Christmas' for the first time in MS. Viji and I taught the kids many Christmas carols / skits and they readily delivered them with great passion and enthusiasm to the absolute delight of the guests from Switzerland.

A word about: Karthik- He is a wonderful organizer, great orator and a man of patience. He has extensive experiences and has proved his undisputed leadership qualities steering MS for so many years to what it is today. I only wish and pray he continues to receive physical, moral and most important-economical support to carry forward this noble work.

Arun- He is the backbone of all MS operations. He has amazing writing skills in English, but keeps a low profile. He could be in demand in the 'employment market', but needs to put efforts in finding greener pastures. If he does, I am sure he will go places.

Elavarasi - 'Ela' (as fondly christened by our ELT teachers) is basically a science graduate but has a good blend of English too. She is very unassuming and dedicated and has experiences teaching in leading schools in Madurai. Her talent has been well harnessed by MS, as she has been aptly assigned to teach the higher classes (10th, +1 and the +2).

Volunteers- The 'teacher-volunteers' are supposed to be the 'brain' in the whole system. To begin with, Viji and I were greatly impressed with the concept of the MS children returning back as volunteers. We interacted with almost all the volunteers and many of them were very committed and since - especially the girls. But ironically, the ground reality (at the class room level) looked astoundingly different. Given their age and the background that they carry over with them, the 'teacher-volunteers' lack the necessary maturity in handling children; neither do the children look upon them as teachers owing to their mutual familiarity. This kind of situation results in conflicts and we fear it may not yield expected results. It is our humble observation and we profusely apologize if we have offended someone in conveying our views. Karthik has been trying to do his best whatever he could in this context, but there is still a long way to go.

What needs to be done-

Short term goals

-MS has a wonderful collection of books; our hearts go out to its sponsors. It will be nice if the books are indexed and categorized into a well organized library.

-A few selective books can be assigned to 'lending library' and the children can be encouraged to borrow books for themselves. I used to tell children that howsoever and whatsoever we may teach, learning is complete only if they cultivate reading habit.

-It will be good if Veral Arangam is also equipped with basic audio-visual facilities (may be a TV) as it can cater to meet the requirement of young visual learners.

Medium term goals

-to look into resolving the issues related to 'teacher-volunteers'. Viji and I come for 2 days in a week. If it could be possible for MS to allure a few more special volunteers, they can fill the gap and their presence will be felt by children as well as 'teacher-volunteers' throughout the week. This way, we can fine tune the system to a certain extent.

-Alternatively, MS can look into the possibilities of employing paid-teachers serving as team leaders thus bringing a more professional touch to the whole show.

-MS needs to look into making the learning centre more attractive so as to retain the already enrolled children as well as bring in fresh enrolment.

Long term wish

MS should have an integrated building with 5 floors-one for each of the 4 arangams and the fifth should house a staff room, library and a mini-conference hall. I think there is nothing harm in wishing, as wishes may be granted and someday it could happen to be true. After all, who can refute the famous adage 'where there is a will, there is a way'.

We are in regular touch with the project over the phone and email. We attempted the Skype video interaction to have more interactions with the entire team. It was successful and gave me a sense of a "virtual visit." March is exam month, so many students; particularly students from class X and XII (board exam students) were very busy. Still the students in class IX and class X took the time to participate in the Skype video call. I interacted with about 6 girls and 8 boys from classes IX and X, and about 10 volunteers (college students who teach the school students).

Students: It was a Sunday, so I asked the students what they typically did on a Sunday. Everybody comes to the centers on Sundays also. Class IX has a library hour (they have 3000 books in the library, however they are all story books, they don't seem to have reference books, books on History, Science, etc, I will look into this on my next physical visit.) Then they play games (carom, chess, I told them about our chapter's carom competition) and then watch a movie. The last movie they had watched was 'English Vinglish'. This was very interesting to me, as I really like that movie and the way it makes a statement about women empowering themselves. We discussed that movie for a short while. The main thing the children had taken away from the movie was that one can learn English if one wanted to, if one put their mind to it, and if one worked hard. To me the movie was about women's empowerment, and learning English was an example used in the movie. But the students had taken away learning English as the key thing from the movie. I brought up the women empowerment issue again and again, but they went back to talking about learning English. It had been inspiring to them that people can English if they work hard. To me this illustrates the deep desire to learn English. This is such an important issue for them, and they see it something essential but very hard to do. Compared to everything else in the movie, this was what they took away. We took some time to discuss their English learning classes. They use Oxford University material (OUP material known to have good English teaching material), Tulika books, and Chipper sage CDs. They also have pronunciation focused classes. For English, Tamil and Maths they have two streams of classes – "School" classes and regular classes. For example, "School Maths" and regular Maths (mental calculations, fun math problems, problems from the Young World section of The Hindu), "School English" and regular English. "School" class means they are focused on the syllabus, and the regular classes are aimed at learning the basics, ensuring that there are no gaps, etc. I think this is a great idea, to have two types of classes. Exams demand thorough knowledge of a specific syllabus, while not being that conducive for learning concepts. Exams are important, but one has to learn concepts too. So having both ensures that one is not sacrificed for the other. We went over the detailed timetable they follow each week for these classes. At a recent Science discussion event on the occasion of C.V. Raman's birthday Elavarasi (Karthi's wife, a volunteer) talked about why the sky is blue. Since I had forgotten my high school lesson on this I asked them to explain it to me, which they did enthusiastically. I asked why from among the VIBGYOR colors it was the blue which was dispersed over all other colors and they explained that it was because of the VIB position in the VIBGYOR spectrum (blue is scattered more because it was shorter wavelength).

Volunteers: Undergraduate students teach middle school students (class V – VII) post-graduate students teach high school and higher secondary school students. Volunteers were studying BA Tamil, M.Com, BCA, MBA, BA Maths, BE Civil engineering, etc. (I did not recognize the name of many of the colleges they were studying in, this might mean they are newer colleges.). Mr. Muruges and Viji have been volunteering for the last several months and they have been a big help to the project. They stumbled on to the project when they found the website, and they have brought expertise (Viji has a masters in child care and education) and structure to the teaching activities.

Building: Karthik has temporarily donated his home for use by Seed Narpanigal. It has been painted, renovated a bit, and AV equipment (donated by the Swiss group) installed. They took the camera they were using for Skype around the room to show me. It is a 20x20 room. They raised funds for this from the community and contributed labor for the building and painting. We had funded a temporary roof on a terrace for two classes. It has been used by younger classes, but they have been moved to an inside room and older children use the terrace space, as that worked better for the younger children.

Short Report about Dasra's Strategy for scaling workshop: by A.S.Karthikbharathi

I can say Dasra's workshop is essential for already well established NGOs, budding NGOs and its chief functionaries. The workshop makes a platform to discover major problems in the society, innovative ways which answers the problem, awareness about the problem and solution, exact operating systems to implement the plans. In this globalized, information age, it is indispensable that NGOs needs to renovate themselves in organizational, functional, commercial, and professional means.

Things I liked are

- Well designed hospitality
- Preparation materials sent before the workshop
- Content of the workshop and implementation
- Elevator pitch speech
- Business Canvas model
- Business logic model
- Presentation
- Gallery Walk

The workshop content is completely new to me even the vocabulary. Studies like Social work, sociology, commerce, and business administration are related to them, but it is 100% new experience to me having a Tamil literature background. Dasra people helped me a lot especially in the last four days. To be particular I can't forget the helps of Kavneet and Sonvi. I am the only one having the least knowledge in English. I suffered a lot to understand, and responding. But there are some people came forward to help me like Sudha and Latha from Bangalore and Angnas from Mumbai. Totally 34 took part in the workshop. Over 20 were motivated me to talk, participate. The game activities and Gallery walk session were useful to know about other participants, their organization, vision, mission and impacts.

Equal number of the participants wanted to function in a commercial way, half the people wanted to work as non-profits. One participant Vasutha from Tamilnadu argued "Business is thinking, and functioning by what your brain says, but in charity your brain and heart should together". I understand this as "a charitable organization should avoid commercial activities, marketable reports and presentations, commercial fund raising activities. I liked the democracy and openness in every session like presentation, selection of participants. Guest speaker's lecture and knowing from the leaders helped me to learn new things from others. I realized there are many more things to learn outside. The Dasra team comprised of young, spirited, helpful people. They've carried out the workshop successfully and encouraged me a lot. There is one staff behind every participant to help. I am not sure, in my knowledge, 75% of the NGOs are implementing large level projects having a huge financial supports. 25% are small, budding, having minimum level finance support. All participants are committed, eager to learn.

Conclusion:

When I was 15, I have started to work in social service projects, I am 35 now. This workshop was very helpful in evaluating myself what I have done in the past, learnt, what impacts I've given through my works. I am in the thinking process of planning the future works, style of Madurai Seed. It is the first time I went outside Tamil Nadu for learning purpose. I can't understand all aspects taught in the workshop since my English isn't adequate and I can say my experience isn't enough to evaluate the substance of the workshop. My heartfelt thanks to Dalyan for choose me and Madurai Seed for the training. This workshop gave me an aspiration to think globally, and think BIG. Personally, I have to admit it is necessary and urgent for me to learn and speak in English and then only this whole process of professional growth of Madurai Seed will be fulfilled. I thank Dalyan, Friends of Madurai Seed, Laura, John, Martin, Josephine, Susanne, Lisa, Sara, Joelle, Melli Akka, Dasra team, Arun, Mansur, Mariammal, Elavarasi, Muruges, Viji, and all people behind my participation in the workshop. Whatever little I have learned in the workshop, I am sure the learning will come in my mind before my each plan and each action. Madurai Seed will find a new style in the near future.



 Thank You



Former Volunteer G.Suresh Kumar's appreciation to our young people

Dear all

Though physically not present in the seed centre I am there amidst you guys, seeing you all entering a new phase in your life. let me congratulate you, Mohan, Ramachandren, Baskar, Alagiri, Saravana Kumar, Magudapathi, Karpaga Jothi, and Thanga Lakshmi. My best wishes for your future endeavors. Your job is your identity until now people around you were taking care of you, from now onwards it's your turn to take good care of them. It's nice to hear from karthik anna that some of you have teaching jobs in Velammal, TVS Lakshmi and Polytechnic, hearty congratulations to you. I personally consider doctors and teachers are the most blessed in the society. Their service is indispensable. You are becoming teachers, and it brings with it added responsibility.

With god's blessings and Karthik Anna's guidance you come so far in life. But this is not the limit strive hard try to reach better positions. Let me remind you again don't forget that it's your payback time to seed centre. Do your duty with at most sincerity. And thank you very much for being with karthik anna during hard times. I thank karthik anna for giving me this opportunity. Wishing you all a grand success,

Ever yours, Suresh Anna

Former Volunteer Dr. Gowthaman's appreciation to our young people on their successes:

My Dear Seed Students

I am proud and consider fortunate to have interacted with all the kids (Mohan, Ramachandren, Baskar, Alagiri, Saravana Kumar, Magudapathi, Karpaga Jothi, Thanga Lakshmi) during the times spend at seed as a regular volunteer, and later as an irregular one!!

I always have very fond memories of these kids. When I came in as a volunteer I was a 2nd year BSc student at the American college. These "young people" were just small kids then. I don't know how much I was able to teach them or inspire them. But for sure, I learned a lot from these kids and they are truly heroes (applies for both male and female in their own right. They were all from very humble backgrounds.... and yet had very big hearts... each one of them. That was a very big eye –opener, revelation of sorts, for me. Believe it or not believe it, I think they played as much of a vital part in shaping my life and career as I modestly did to theirs. Indeed every kid at seed is a winner a great inspiration for anybody. We can always learn how to be a fighter when odds are staked against you. I fondly remember my science classes, camps, kootanchoru and other lighter activities with them. Baskar, Karpaga Jothi, Thangam all did very well at the science camps. If my memories serve me well, Thangalakshmi came very close to winning a the first prize. She was just in her 5th or 6th class I think. Boy.. she gave Arun a run for his money!!

Well, the hard and sad fact of life is that it keeps everybody moving to different places all the time. I always miss the good old days at seed, with the Kids, Karthi anna and also Suresh (who was, in fact, as much of an inspiration to me as the kids are). I sure Mohan, Ramachandren, Baskar, Alagiri, Saravana Kumar, Magudapathi, Karpaga Jothi, Thanga Lakshmi will miss Seed too. But that's life. Keep moving on.

We love you and we are very proud of you. Good luck and
Best regards Gowthaman Anna



Both **Suresh Kumar** and **Gowthaman** have started their volunteering at the same time during their undergraduate studies and continued to serve during their post graduation too. After 5 years of teaching at Madurai Seed, ever since they are being in touch with us giving advices, moral supports. **Thanks to both for being with us.**





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