



**MADURAI SEED**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2019 - 2020**





I am...  
Happy Quiet Honest  
Bright Helpful Caring Fair  
Independent Likable  
Adorable Playful cool  
Extraordinary Friendly  
Respectful Loving  
Fun Responsible Talented  
Confident Funny Smart  
Skillful Different Polite  
Nice Pretty Faithful Crazy







# MADURAI SEED

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

## Annual Report

2019-2020





**Report Prepared By**

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



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## **ABOUT US**

Started in 1999, MADURAI SEED is a grass-root level voluntary organization promoting socially economically disadvantaged children and young people through education. The drop-in centers and a range of skills and personality development activities give children and young people the opportunity to make progress educationally, personally and socially, and to work towards a vocational goal.

## **VISION**

MADURAI SEED envisages a state at which, "All the Children and Young People Are Educated, Healthy, Mature, Responsible and Capable of Leading Our Future World"

## **MISSION**

"To Provide a Supportive, Nurturing Environment for Socially, Economically Disadvantaged Children and Young People, to Discover and Develop Their Mental Abilities; Enrich Their Sense of Self-Esteem, and to Empower Them with Emotional Stability to Promote Personal and Social Responsibilities."

## **VALUES**

- Learning from each other
- Growing together
- Sharing is caring



“The Seed represents children and young people with great inner potential to grow into big trees. With right opportunities, guidance, and motivation they can achieve great heights.”







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## From the Director's desk

01 April 2020

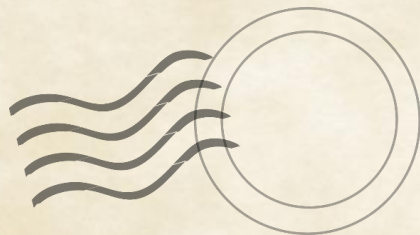
Dear Friends and Supporters,



It is an important milestone in the life of Madurai Seed as it turned 21 this year. 21 years of beautiful and purposeful journey. In 1999, when the idea of seed has emerged, no one would have dreamt including me of this long much journey. Madurai Seed has grown into a humble and resourceful organization still functioning in a grass-root level working much closely with the beneficiaries.

Children and young people from underprivileged background encounter many difficulties inside their inner self and outside the society regarding learning, resources, opportunities, expressions, inspirations, leisure, etc and these difficulties hinder their joy, growth, confidence, and success. In this situation, Madurai Seed gives them a supporting environment to find their joy, to grow with life skills, and to thrive towards a goal.

After 21 years while we are celebrating the milestones and lives being transformed, we are aware miles to walk ahead, we also know that we are not alone in this journey, we have you. We are thankful to each and every individuals and organizations who are walking with us holding hands of us. I present you this annual report of 2019-2020 and look forward to your feedbacks. Thanks for your continued support and love.



A.S.Karthikbharathi

Founder & Director





**Inside every child, a rainbow is waiting to shine**





## BENEFICIARY OVERVIEW

### Total Children Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries in holistic education centers, Karumbalai

**240**

Beneficiaries in Hostel education center

**152**

### Total Young People Beneficiaries

College going young people

**17**

Alumni

**08**

### Scholarships

Children beneficiaries

**116**

Young People beneficiaries

**17**

### Children Bank program

Benefited Children

**104**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2019-2020

Young people who have finished degree and courses have joined in various jobs.



Anand 10 years old (5<sup>th</sup> std)  
Anand 22 years old (Graphic Designer)



**Vigneswaran and Anand** who showed interest in photography and editing were guided and supported to study extra course after their graduation. Our Director Karthikbharathi recommended their names to a person who is known in the area of IT in Madurai. After the interview, they got selected. Now they are working in an IT company in Madurai as Graphic Designers.



Vigneswaran 11 years old (6<sup>th</sup> std)



Vigneswaran 22 years old (Graphic Designer)





Prem, 16 years old (11<sup>th</sup> std)

Prem, 21 years old (Private Job)



**Prem** earned his degree in Tourism & Hospitality. He worked in an amusement park in Kerala. He was not satisfied with the job and returned. During the course of his job search, he stayed in touch with Madurai Seed and did volunteering. Now he got a satisfying job as a **caretaking supervisor** in a school for special children and continue as a volunteer in Madurai Seed.



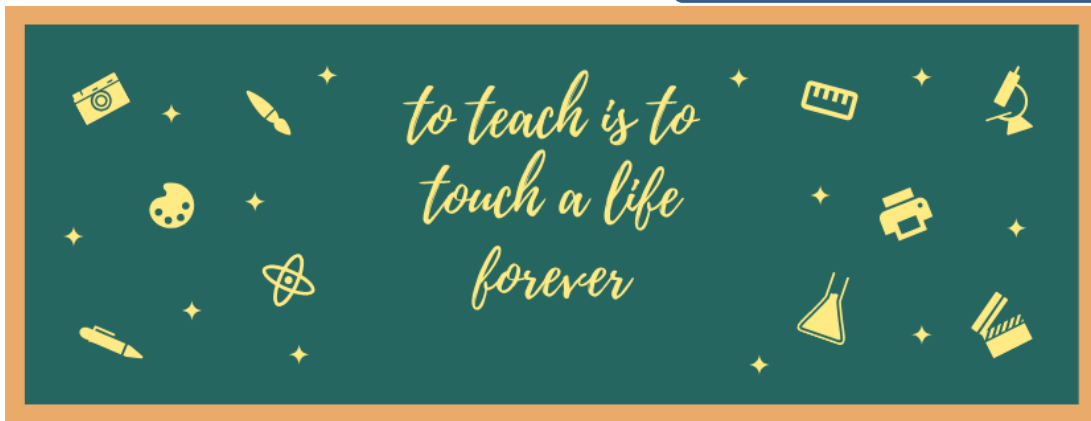
Surya, 10 years old (5<sup>th</sup> std)

Surya, 22 years old (Private Job)



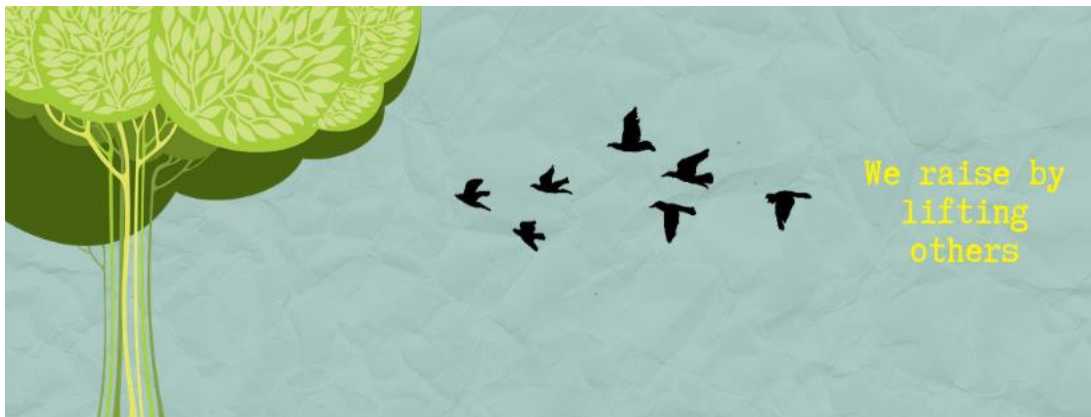
**Surya**, who finished graduation two years ago was working in various private jobs, which were not suitable for his creativity and personality. When people from Agaram-Inai foundation approached Madurai Seed for some guidance, we asked job opportunities for our young people. Surya attended their interview got selected. Now, he is working as a **district coordinator** for renowned Agaram-Inai organization.





### Two young people have chosen to study further

- **Nandhini** is studying B.Ed teacher training in Maths
- **Srinath** is doing B.Ed teacher training in Physical Education



### Alumni Support

- Ramki (Private Job), Mathan (Private Job), Muthu Ganesh (IT), Jensi (Accountant), Prem (Private Job) - these **5 people** are continuing to work as teaching volunteers in the evenings after their work. Vicky, Anand, and Surya - these **3 people** are participating in the events in holidays. This support from Alumni is very new aspect and positive.
- **21 former students** participated in the alumni meet in October 2019.





### Building a New Classroom Space:

- A quiet spacious place was needed for children. Karthikbharathi has proposed the idea of using the second floor of his house which doesn't require any rental costs and has no house owner disturbances. He has already given the ground floor for Madurai Seed. Asha and Friends of Madurai Seed helped for the construction. With very well planning, the construction was started in **June 2019** and inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> **September 2019**. Within 3 months we were able to make the room available for studying. Thus, the shortage for classroom spaces was managed effectively.



### Networks

- The partnership with **Chennai Nandavanam** is growing strong. In May 2019, we conducted theatre camp and theatre festival in the beach in Chennai. Nandavanam also conducted a potential development workshop for our young people in February 2020.
- We also worked closely with **Kaleidoscope**. Madurai Seed acted as co-organizer of Madurai Art Festival in February 2020. Apart from that, our children and young people constantly participated in the meetings and film screening.



## Volunteers

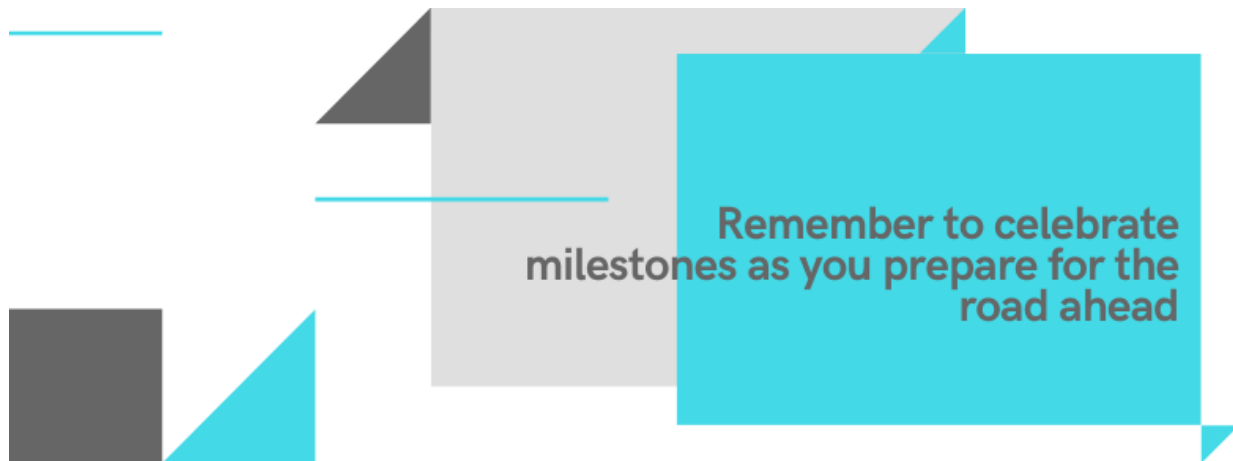


This year students from schools and colleges, supporters from India and abroad have chosen Madurai Seed to complete their internship and volunteering. They showed interest and approached us by seeing our works in the website. After the volunteering duration they are impressed and still continue to be our friends.

- Anouk, a law student from France
- Jennifer, a law student from Pune
- Sudan, a business student from Bangalore
- Eva, a school student from Netherlands
- Keith, an ELT professional from Switzerland
- Katrin, an ELT professional from Switzerland
- Urs, a computer professional from Switzerland
- Nick, an ELT professional from Switzerland



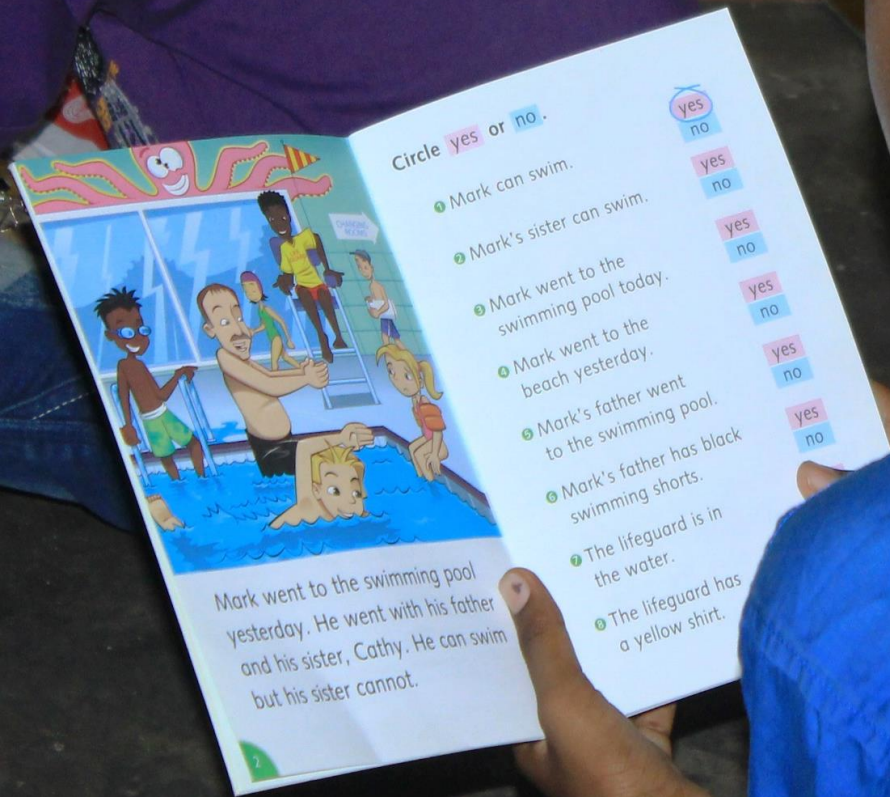




- In 2019-20 educational year, **4 young people** are finishing their under graduation (2 boys+2 girls). Among them, 2 are the first-generation graduates.
- **6 students** who couldn't continue as volunteers are finishing their under graduation. They've studied till 12<sup>th</sup> std in Madurai Seed.
- **3 first year students** joined as volunteers in June 2019.
- Among **15 children** (Karumbalai), 10 children are the first in their families finishing 10<sup>th</sup> std. 32 children are finishing 10<sup>th</sup> std in the Hostel.
- Among **10 children** (Karumbalai), 6 children are the first in their families finishing 12<sup>th</sup> std







Circle **yes** or **no**.

- 1 Mark can swim.
- 2 Mark's sister can swim.
- 3 Mark went to the swimming pool today.
- 4 Mark went to the beach yesterday.
- 5 Mark's father went to the swimming pool.
- 6 Mark's father has black swimming shorts.
- 7 The lifeguard is in the water.
- 8 The lifeguard has a yellow shirt.

**yes**  
**no**

**yes**  
**no**

**yes**  
**no**

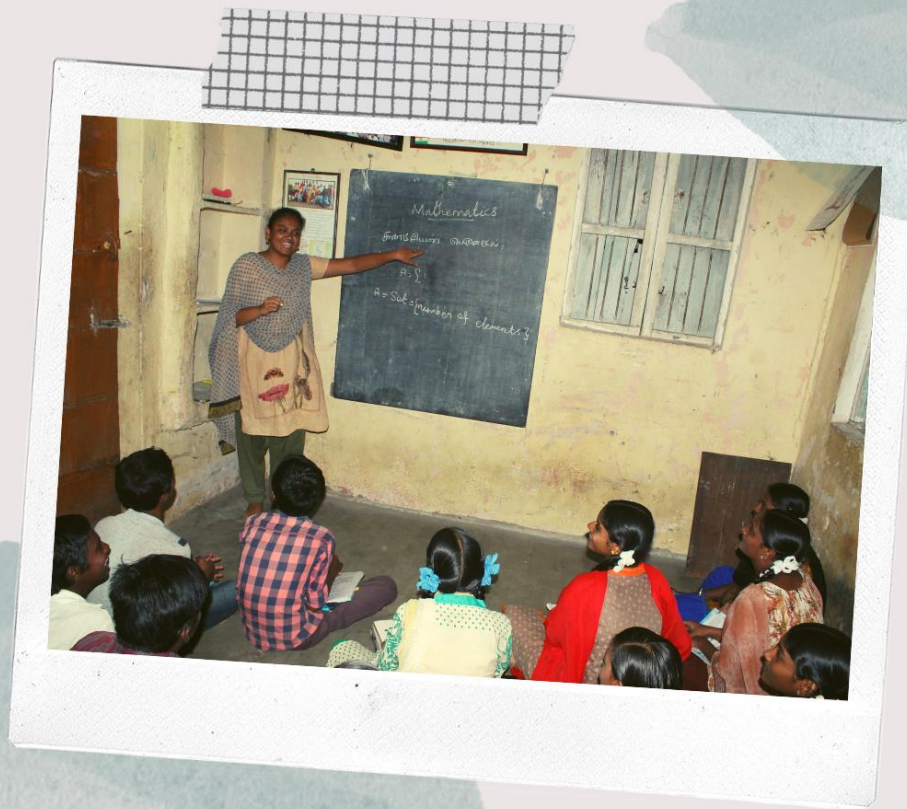
**yes**  
**no**

**yes**  
**no**

**yes**  
**no**



## Holistic education centers



Creating joyful, resourceful  
world for children and  
young people



## Holistic Education Centers

These education centers not only just support for doing school home-work and exams, but also help the creative, social and emotional development of underprivileged children who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to explore paths of education and life skills. Madurai Seed helps opening their mind to the prospect of academic success and career dreams., There is one education center for college going and working young people who are volunteers to teach and to conduct special activities.

### VANDUGAL ARANGAM

For Children from ages between 6 to 9

No.of. Beneficiaries: **83**

### VERGAL ARANGAM

For Children from ages between 10 to 13

No.of. Beneficiaries: **90**

### KANAVUGAL ARANGAM

For Children from ages between 14 to 17

No.of. Beneficiaries: **67**

### HOSTEL

For Children from ages between 5 to 10

No.of. Beneficiaries: **152**

### THEDALGAL ARANGAM

For college students, Volunteers

No.of. Beneficiaries: **25**



## VANDUGAL ARANGAM



**First Standard**



**Second Standard**



**Third Standard**



**Fourth Standard**



4 volunteers are teaching children in this center. Tamil and English language basics like identification of alphabets, sounds, and vocabularies are given more importance in this center. The volunteers do this through rhymes, pictures, stories, and drills. The students also get help in Mathematics and school home works.





## VERGAL ARANGAM



**Fifth Standard**



**Sixth Standard**



**Seventh Standard**



**Eighth Standard**

> 4 volunteers are teaching in this center. English and Math classes are given more importance because children find those subjects difficult. The volunteers do this through individual attention giving and clearing the doubts. The students also get help in school home-works and exams.





## KANAVUGAL ARANGAM



**Ninth Standard**



**Tenth Standard**



**Eleventh Standard**



**Twelfth Standard**

> 8 volunteers are teaching in this center. These adolescent children need more guidance and counselling. Individual subject wise classes are given importance because 10,11,12<sup>th</sup> std are attending board exams. Girl children are encouraged to continue studies and higher education.





## Hostel Education Center



- > 4 volunteers teach in this boy's hostel to assist the children in school subjects. The boys are from various villages and slums around Madurai and study in a public school nearby. The volunteers teach from 7.00 PM to 8.30 PM from Monday to Friday. Students who lack reading skills, are given remedial training.







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

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







**To teach is to touch a life forever**





Scholarship Program for Underprivileged  
Children and Young People



Encourage, Educate, Liberate



## Scholarship Program

Our scholarships encourage children and young people from economically weak families to continue their studies and pursue their dreams. Most parents are daily wagers, where education of their children isn't their priority, in this situation if the education demands some money beyond their affordability it becomes their least priority. The children and young people then have no way than leaving their dreams behind. Even for the government school children the school year starts with some needs, college education becomes costlier each year.

We provide partial scholarships for school children and it encourages the parents to take partial responsibility. For higher secondary, college, and professional courses we provide full scholarships for the needy.

Thanks to KFR school from Zurich, Friends of Madurai Seed (scholarship scheme) and individual donors, hundreds of dreams are coming true because of them.

### Our Values

- We are conscious about the scholarship fund reaches more students as much as possible. We share it in a way each eligible school student should get minimum support.
- We don't just encourage best mark scoring children; we also help students who are poor in studies but interested to continue schooling.
- We give importance to girl children and young people, and children from single parent families
- We don't avoid children and young people having difficult conditions.
- For college and professional courses, we try to cover the whole course years

### List of Beneficiaries

Class	Male	Female	Total
I to IV	17	10	27
V to VIII	26	19	45
IX & X	17	10	27
XI & XII	9	8	17
College	7	8	15
B.Ed	1	1	2
Total	77	55	133



### **KFR Children Fund:**



KFR school students have been supporting every child of Madurai Seed since 2008. Children who attend classes regularly at Madurai Seed, and showed interest in the savings scheme are eligible for this scholarship. We fix average amount for each class and distribute it equally to all children. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> std (6 years) to 10<sup>th</sup> std (15 years) are receiving this scholarship.

**Thanks to Laura Villiger, Martin, KFR Principal, Staff, and Children for their efforts and love.**

### **FMS Higher Education Scholarship:**



The scholarship aims to promote children through 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> std (two school years) and undergraduate programs (three-year college course). The student who avail this specific scholarship are guaranteed to receive financial support through the whole two school year or three college years. So, they can concentrate on their studies without thinking of financial burden, plus they are also giving back to the organization

through volunteering work.

### **FMS Teacher Education Scholarship:**

Teacher Education B.Ed scholarship provide financial assistance to aspiring students who finished under graduation and rendered volunteering service for three years. They are eligible for availing scholarship for two years.

**Thanks to John Potts, President and members of Friends of Madurai Seed for the conception, efforts rendered for this young people scholarship scheme.**



## Scholarship Distribution Program: 6, 7 July 2019



Scholarship money was distributed by chief guests **Muruges** anna, and **Viji** anni for class from **1 to 7**. Parents & children signed in their respective columns followed by a delightful welcome of our volunteers with screenings of videos from Madurai Seed children's activities, camps, events.



**Karthikbharathi** addressed the guests, trustees, representatives and MSCF presidents. Expressing his sincere thanks to FMS and KFR, he talked about the efforts of theirs for Madurai Seed children's education. He insisted some of the main criteria as follows -children who take part in savings activity can avail scholarship, the fund send by KFR is equally

divided for all kids, and this scholarship focus on assisting children to continue their studies. He finished his discourse with a request towards children not to miss any classroom activities or opportunities that open the doors for next level of their studies.

Muruges anna delivered his thank note to the supporters, and he highlighted how children in Madurai Seed are get noticed for their talents. He motivated children by emphasizing "Every child is unique" and he/she deserves equal opportunities to learn and it can be achieved through growing up with Madurai seed.

Viji anni has a huge circle of kids and teacher volunteers for her amiable nature. Parents and students had an extra boost by her energetic speech. She thanked FMS & KFR on behalf of Madurai Seed people.





On July 7<sup>th</sup>, Scholarship for classes **8 to 12** was distributed by trustees Tr. **Mariamammal** & **Mansur**, MSCF presidents & representatives at Vandugal Arangam.

Karthik bharathi welcomed all parents and children with a brief introduction about supporters of FMS and KFR. A good start with **speech** of Bharathi bhaskar on "How to raise a successful child" from You tube was screened and discussed with parents about behavioral problems in children due to authoritarian parenting, identifying & fulfilling child's basic needs, friendly **parent-child relationship**, constant encouragement, and preparing them to be independent in life. Videos of Madurai Seed children's recent



camp/activities were screened for parents to know about hidden skills in their children. Tr. Mariammal wished all students to get excellent results in board exams. Trustees distributed the scholarship money.

A heart full of thanks conveyed by parents and children to FMS & KFR people. Total number of children benefited by this program was **110** from **age group 6 to 17**.

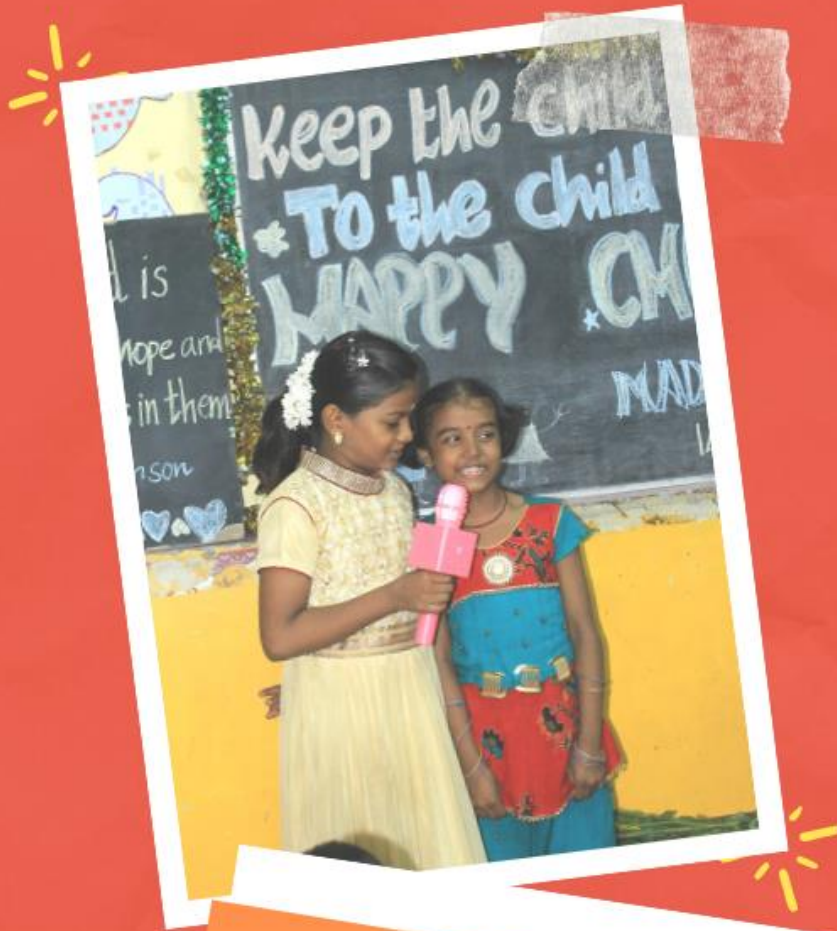
Friends of Madurai Seed members' great contribution for children through this program is a huge support, for that we don't have enough words to say beyond "Thanks". We express our deep love to all members of FMS & KFR.







## Skills and Personality Development Programs



Education is the  
product  
of the activity  
of the learners



There are more things beyond classroom teaching. The range of activities provided under this program broadens the children's and young people's exposure with the outer world. Directly these activities provide knowledge and hands on experience, and indirectly the activities fine tune their inner strength, and relationship with the society in a free, natural way of finding their interest, and shaping their skills, improving their confidence and morals.

- [Camps](#)
- [Theater Activities](#)
- [Art and Craft Activities](#)
- [Educational Guidance](#)
- [Teacher Trainings](#)
- [English Classes](#)
- [Young People Development activities](#)
- [Field Trips](#)
- [Special Days](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Participations](#)

- [Senthamizh Library](#)
- [Federations](#)
- [Thenkoodu Children Bank](#)
- [Puthuyugam Children Magazine](#)
- [Mutram Literature Club](#)
- [Galileo Science Club](#)
- [Aagayagangai Social Science Club](#)
- [Suvadugal Sports Club](#)
- [Annai Medical Club](#)
- [Vanmugil Cultural Club](#)
- [Programs for public](#)







### Day 1: 05.05.2019: Inauguration Day



The camp inauguration brought enthusiastic children together to discover themselves through new and exciting activities of Madurai Seed. Input session was carried out to analyze and understand oneself through essential "**life skills**" lessons. Participants widely followed it understanding their strengths, likes, dislikes, importance of showing positive behavior through **self-awareness** lessons and activities. In mask making activity, participants made face mask with four chambers colored according to life experiences of oneself. Everyone shared about which stage of life made them happy/sad. They spoke out it through colors like red for fear, blue for happiness, etc., Warm up exercises, games, documentaries, animated short films, and healthy fruit snack become usual in this day camp.

### Day 2: 06.05.2019 "Socialize"



Participants practiced the art of **socializing** with others from the lessons on things to do like listening to others, greeting & respecting elders, expressing emotions in a polite way, using good words, and so on. They paired up and turned given situations into short skit. Stories, children's songs, animated short films, fun games, dance, and energizers filled whole day of the camp.



### Day 3: 07.05.2019: Botanical Garden Visit



A broad variety of lifeguards standing tall, and unique place to explore where this day's Vasantham camp took place. **CCD** - Covenant Centre for Development gave us an adventurous learning of nature. Canopy of trees, pure air, surroundings full of red soil, & three beautiful peacocks stand as signature of the nature.



Mr. Saravanan, a **Botanist** and staff of CCD explained species name, medicinal values, age & origin, and many points to be noted down by camp participants. The whole educational visit to CCD provided numerous information about trees. Also, we could hear what trees conversed with the sky.

### Day 4: 08.05.2019: Role Playing

Input session on 4th day of summer camp explored the purpose of our lives, impression of what we are, & the need to leave a footprint. Related interviews of **famous personalities** like Lydian Nadaswaram, Sridhanya were screened and discussed with children & young people. Following that, 6 teams enacted role plays one as media reporter and other person as **achiever** from sports/art/story telling/ education fields



## Day 5: 09.05.2019: Heritage Walk



Understanding **Archeology** with an eminent archeologist **Dr.Vedachalam**. A Heritage trail to Othakadai, Arittapatti and Keezhavalavu. \* Started the day early in the morning to beat the heat but unfortunately could not escape the scorching sun. The trail started with Othakadai visiting the **8th century AD** Laadan temple and Narasimha temple. Dr.Vedachalam's introductory lecture was a wonderful blend of history, values of life and career options in Archeology. He also introduced Brahmi, Grantha and Vatteluthu and demonstrated the scripts by showing real **ancient inscriptions** as old as 300BCE (2300 years before). Children had many questions and he clarified them with interesting stories and analogies. Children got a feel of rural life and were excited to see the lotus pond in **Aritapatti** that was exclusively used for drinking. The trail ended at Aritapatti going around the Jain beds and monuments. Dr.Vedachalam indicated the deplorable condition of such heritage sites and stressed the need of more responsible younger generation. The purpose of the whole trip seemed to have

influenced/impressed the young minds as they had many questions about archaeology and also expressed their concern/agony in the way heritage treasures are valued/preserved.



## Day 6: 11.05.2019 Valedictory Day



There were up to **60 children** along with the volunteers and Mr. and Mrs. Karthikbharathi. The children had retrospection on the two days of field visit and three days of **indoor activities**. The children were then divided into groups on the basis of the programs they were to perform. There was a rehearsal held in an orderly manner with time management. As the evening approached, the children were all seated, excitedly waiting for the ceremony to begin. The guests of honor were Mrs. **Mariammal** ma'am and Mr. **Mansur** for the evening. The children jump started the evening with a warm up fitness activity. The programs were beautifully organized with a host and welcome speech and prayer, which were followed by children who talked about their personal experiences on each of the five days of camp. There was a mix of **storytelling, songs** and action skits incorporated in the ceremony. There also was a compiled video of all the activities completed in the five days. The volunteers had also composed a new song that talked about the five days of camp and the activities done in the light of the themes of these days. The ceremony then ended

with the guests of honor giving a few words on the yearly improvement and involvement of the children. I was asked to give a few words on my experience as well. The children were surprisingly very confident and enthusiastic in giving their performances. The children had less to no stage fright and spoke in a composed manner.



They had made their **presentations and speeches** with utmost dedication and thought. I was very impressed with the children's cooperation and hard work. Even the tiny tots were encouraged to do their part with complete involvement. I was taken aback by the **enthusiastic appreciation** the children had for one another; a skill developed in their early age itself. The older volunteers had given a few encouraging words on the progress of the children in the last year.

The entire ceremony gave the audience a short tour of the five days of camp, and left me with a little regret as I had missed the initial couple days of camp. The ceremony ended with the gift give away and **award ceremony** for the best team with the highest points. The Valedictorian Day ended on a happy note with the aim to do better and reach greater heights in the next year's camp. **Jute bags** sponsored for children by **Thilaga Rajan** sir. Lunch boxes were gifted by Madurai Seed.





## Super Fun Summer with Kaleidoscope

Written by Jennifer Intern Student



**Day 1: 28.05.2019:** All the children were excitedly assembled to be taken to Kaleidoscope. As we all reached the venue, a volunteer named Vikki engaged all of us in the art of **cap making** with paper. We all were very enthusiastic as we learned to make five different caps. The caps were that of a chef, a politician's cap, a prayer cap and a police cap. As the activity came to an end, I narrated a

story with the Title "**The nodding Tiger**". The story was about a widower who had lost her son to the ferocious tiger in the jungle and had asked the king to show justice for such a loss. The children were very attentive and patient while listening to the entire narrative. The audience comprised of the children from Madurai seed, volunteers, and a few parents and children from outside. As the story session came to an end, the children were seated to as a film was put up using a projector. The movie that was displayed was "**The pursuit of Happyness**". A movie that was heart touching as it portrayed difficulties of a small family in America and the protagonist was an intelligent father who had to fight through obstacles in pursuit of happiness.



**Day 2: 29.05.2019:** Although it was raining heavily all over Madurai many people showed up at the Kaleidoscope center. The children were very happy as well as the weather was cooler than the heat during the summer. All of us had a perfect snack – 'chai and pakoda' which put a smile on each of our faces.





The children along with my guidance performed a dance routine on the song “**HAPPY by Pharrel**”, and a few of students learned the steps along with me and the children. The dance was performed once again and a few members also joined us in order to be stress free and break loose for a few minutes. The peppy and interactive session came to an end as everyone appreciated our efforts. The children then sat down for a movie to be put up.



The movie that was displayed by Mr. Prabahar was “**Fly Away Home**”, a movie for children that conveyed values of determination. It was a story of a little girl who lives with her father and in a way adopts 12 geese who keep following her

like their mother geese. The girl’s father being an inventor, tries to build a flying mechanism which in turn helps the geese in reaching their migratory spot for the winter. This movie was a great inspiration and taught various lessons to each one of us. As the children left the centre, there were many discussions on the movie as many of us had not seen it before. Each one of us felt that this movie must be displayed once again for the many that did not turn up due to the difficult weather. The day ended on a happy note for me as I had a very energetic session with the audience as well as the children of the Seed and had watched an emotional yet inspiring movie.



### DAY 3, 30.05.2019



The evening began with Vindhya – a volunteer, narrating a story about the “**Sun and the Moon**”. All of us were engrossed in the story, as she used different voice modulations and also including the children in the entire narrative. The story was about a tiger and how it hunts down two children who are saved by God and are given the position of the Sun and the moon.

As the narrative came to an end, the children of Madurai seed set up the puppet show, the story was about the animals in the jungle. There were live vocals for the animals as well. The children narrated the puppet story in a song which was very beautiful. A movie was displayed for the children.



The movie was “**Not one Less**”, a story of a young substitute teacher who works really hard to ensure that not one student drops out of school. Her endeavors take her to great lengths when she goes searching for her student who is sent away to the city for work. She does her best in order to find him and get him back to school, her efforts reach the telecasting

members and finally find her student.

This true story spoke about the struggles of educationists in the rural areas and the hard work and dedication of a teacher. This story was a little hard to comprehend for the children as it was in Mandarin with English subtitles. The story was very emotional and everyone loved the way the movies was taken. The children left the place with happy and satisfied hearts.







## THEATRE ACTIVITIES



Theater is a form of  
knowledge. It should and can  
also be a means of  
transforming society.



## Theatre Activities



Madurai Seed organizes a lots of theater camps and theater exercises for our children and young people. Every year we produce at least a children drama. We strongly feel theater provides lots of benefits to children in building up their self. They learn to work as a team, to speak without stage fear, to speak loud and confident, creative skills through

stage, costume, and makeup designing, self-management, presentation and presence of mind. They develop great interest to come regularly to Madurai Seed, so they don't lose their academic and higher education track. After each stage, they feel a great sense of achievement and receive admiration from all. These mean a lot to childhood to build up positive, joyful environment which reflects in their skills, personality development, and educational path.

### Theatre Camp & Festival in Chennai: 27,28,29 April 2019



Nandavanam, a special school invited us to organize a theatre camp for them. Madurai Seed children joined in the plan to stage their dramas. The event was planned in as **Theatre Camp & Theater Festival**. From Madurai Seed, 17 children (among 9 are girls), 5 volunteers, 2 organizers, and 3 resource persons took part in the Chennai Neelankarai Theater Fest. Nandavanam provided food and accommodation facilities.



## Theater Camp for Nandavanam



15 Nandavanam children took part in the theater camp among 4 are special children. Teachers Rajakumar, Thilagarajan, and Radhakrishnan from Madurai joined in the camp as theater resource persons. They already directed children plays with Madurai Seed. *“Paati Paati” (Grandma...Grandma...)* is the new story, it is humorous yet has a powerful moral at the end. It emphasis on the importance of going to school and education. Rajakumar is the director, Thilagarajan is the coordinator, and Radhakrishnan managed the music.

Madurai Seed children witnessed the evolution of the new play step by step. Madurai Seed young people helped the children in dialogue delivery and stage management.



On the final day, volunteers Viki and Anand managed the whole team and played music instrument. Nandavanam staff eagerly involved themselves in applying makeup and costumes for their children. Madurai Seed children encouraged Nandavanam children a lot as this was their first kind of experience in theater.

The new play came out well. Children’s involvement and interest in the drama developed day by day. Final day their involvement is ultimate and it reflected in the first staging.



## Theater Festival in the beach:



Theater Festival was organized every evening at the beach in Neelankarai. Madurai Seed children staged their three plays. Nandavanam children played their one drama. We arrive at beach each day with makeup and costumes, and called the public to witness the drama. Public enjoyed the plays very much and appreciated the

children. It was the first experience for children and us to stage the drama in beach for public. Performance in the beach needed more stamina and voice throw, those didn't stop the children in giving out the best. The first ever staging and acting experience of Nandavanam children turned into excellent. The "Magic" happened on stage. Their first attempt became the best attempt.







**27 April 2019: Tara and Her Grandma by Madurai Seed children:** The story is about a little girl Tara and her grandma. They save the village by their wit. The drama emphasis the importance of elders in our society.

**28 April 2019: “Manudam Vendrathu” by Madurai Seed children:** The story is about how the society is destroyed by narrow, intolerant minds in the name of caste, religion, and language and calls the youth to protect the society from them.

**29 April 2019: Ithu Yaar Kombu? by Madurai Seed children:** This satirical play criticizes the inefficient education system and disastrous politics.

**“Paati Paati” by Nandavanam children:** A humorous play ends with a good message “Learn...Educate”.

**“Cat’s Marriage” shadow puppetry** a humorous Tamil children song was retold in shadow puppetry by Nandavanam teachers.





## Other Activities in Chennai



- Nandavanam staff learned shadow puppetry techniques from resource person teacher Thilagarajan. Our young people involved in the session and helped them to learn and execute a children song as puppetry.
- Also, Nandavanam staff learned some leaf folding techniques from Thilagarajan. They made crown, and some toys. Madurai Seed young people also took part and supported in this session too.
- For some Madurai Seed children, it was their first journey by train, first time to Chennai, first time seeing the sea. Our children visited **Vandalur Zoological Park: Science Park and planetarium, Neelankarai Beach, Egmore Museum** in this Chennai visit.
- Everyday, Madurai Seed children rehearsed the drama once in morning and another time in noon. At that time Nandavanam children and staff were the audience through this they learned about stage management, acting, and voice.
- Our Alumnus O.Manikandan and supporter Vinoth came on second day of the theater festival to Nandavanam and beach. They enjoyed the play and encouraged our children.
- Prasanth, a theater student from Hyderabad university came and stayed with children for a whole day. It was a big encouragement for the children.



## Theatre Camp for Young People: 17, 18, 19 May 2019

**Prasanth**, a theatre student from Hyderabad University facilitated this camp at **Pathayam in Thiruvannamalai**. Pathayam is a farm and alternative space suitable for camps and trainings. 15 volunteers took part in the camp. They involved in various physical activities, games, theatre practice, story discussion, etc. A good short satirical play with social message against superstitions was produced.



## Plays Staged: 03, 04 August 2019



**Turning Point** a local book shop conducted “**Madurai Children’s Literary Festival**” for the first year, they executed it as a big event as a melting point for parents, children, schools, story tellers, and publishers at **The American College**, Madurai. Madurai Seed children got the great chance to perform their plays in the American College auditorium consecutive for two days. They performed “Tara and her grandma” and “Whose Scepter it is”. Both plays received applause and cheers. Everyone appreciated it. After many stages, the children and young people acted these dramas effortlessly and professionally. Also, our children received certificates. We are very happy about our participation in this innovative children’s carnival.

### Chennai People's Theatre Festival: 04, 05, 06 October 2019



**10 young people** with **Professor. Prabakar** witnessed **People's Theatre Festival in Chennai** for three days. Young people who are interested in theatre and previously acted in dramas were chosen and sent to the program to explore theatre forms from various cultures

and social groups. It was a new experience for them enjoying only dramas for a whole day from short plays to long plays, from mono act to dance dramas. They tried to understand the subtle political messages, satires and theatre techniques. Professor. Prabhakar also guided them in appreciating the plays.

### Children's play production:



**6 days from 22.12.2019 to 27.12.2019** are dedicated to children's play production and costume, stage props making. **Teacher Rajkumar** facilitated this workshop. The name of the play is "**Pudhiya vilayatu**" (New Game), the play incorporated games and songs of childhood. It also had a political message as a hint, the subtle message is about how dominating powers arrive, arrest, rule, and finally defeated by people power. The play was very colorful with masks and stage props. It was staged in "Margazhi Utsav", our annual cultural festival at Gandhi Museum. **24 children** participated in the play.



### Young people's play production:



3 days from 24.12.2019 to 26.12.2019, Charles, a theatre student from Madurai Kamaraj University facilitated this camp. A short play was produced for Margazhi Utsav, our annual cultural festival. After the staging of this play at Gandhi Museum, the campus echoed claps and laughter for the performances and concept. The play "**Prasavam**" (Pregnancy) is about gender equality, the message was expressed in a very humorous yet powerful way. 22 people children and young people together took part in this play.

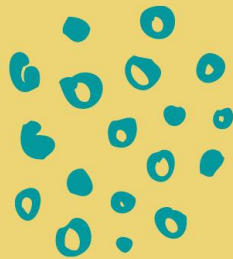








## Art & Craft Activities



Art is  
as natural as sunshine  
and as vital as nourishment





## Summer Art Camp



26.04.2019	Fun with symmetry
27.04.2019	Weaving with paper stripes
28.04.2019	Craft with balloons
29.04.2019	Leaf painting
30.04.2019	Art and craft with Thermacool
31.04.2019	Pencil sketching and shading



Madurai Seed children from ages 4 to 10 years old participated in the art and craft camp that included various activities like pencil sketching, shading, drawing symmetrical patterns, leaf painting, balloon crafts. These activities using paper, pencils, scissors were conducted to help them enhance fine motor skills and concentration. It helped them to express themselves in a creative way. It was fun when scraps of papers turned into everyday objects and toys.



## Music instruments from scrap: 19.08.2019



The musical instruments were from coconut shells, plastic water bottles, balloons, strings etc. The children and the volunteers built five music instruments **drums, maracas, rain baton, African drum and sanza**. After one hour of group work, they played their own instruments and truly enjoyed it. Intern Anouk facilitated this event with the help of volunteers for each team.

## Greeting Cards Making Session

30.10.2019	Pencil Shading
31.10.2019	Curves and Lines
01.11.2019	Greeting Card drawing
02.11.2019	Greeting Card coloring

Suthan, an intern from Christ University, Bangalore facilitated these sessions for two hours in the evenings for **children from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> std**. He showed much interest to interact with children in an interesting way what else is the most apt way than playing with pencils and cryons. First two days they started with basics and evolved to draw simple symmetrical patterns, and coloring. Volunteers were there to help the children. They made beautiful cards at the end of the day. We got them printed and showed to the children.







## Guidance & Development Activities



A journey of thousand miles begins with  
one step



## Guidance & Development Activities

### Orientation to new academic year: 03.06.2019



Schools have resumed after the summer vacation. On the first day of the new educational year, children were welcomed to their respective classes with sweets. Volunteers have assigned time table and registers for the classes. Followed by a prayer, Karthikbharathi gave a motivational talk to all children to encourage them to utilize the resources at Madurai Seed. He emphasized on education as a catalyst to change life economic and social statuses. He also provided examples of people who broke the stigmas, and succeeded all odds. Thus, the new year started with energy and enthusiasm.

**Life Skills Workshop: 09.06.2019:** Aparajitha foundation's **Thalir Thiran Thittam(TTT)** conducts workshops on life skills for children in various schools. In Madurai Seed, we use their books, and audio-visual aids to build good manners, communication and confidence of children. **Senthil Kumar** from Aparajitha presented our children a set of lessons that include self-awareness, etiquette, creative thinking and positive attitude. Beyond curriculum, he provided this program to impart intrapersonal and social skills among children. He unfolded many topics and they experienced it through video lessons. Children role played on polite talks to elders and generous actions.

**Study Skills Training: 16.06.2019:** Kanavugal arangam students were given training on Study skills by **Josiah Immanuel**. He discussed strategies to plan and study for exams. Skills like note taking, and time management were focused broadly and learning tips were helpful to approach exams with ease. He presented some formats for outlining timetable, and writing styles, and techniques like summarizing, memorizing, re-reading and revising skills for exams. With volunteers' help, they created mind map, flash cards, and mnemonics from their textbook. The training provided practical knowledge on applying study skills to learn efficiently and smartly.

**Learn, Unlearn and relearn: 06.11.2019:** Learning Style Inventory workshop was



conducted for IX to XII classes by volunteer **Rajeev**. The workshop focused on basic learning styles like auditory, kinesthetic and visual. A checklist with questionnaire was given to students and they responded it to find out what their learning style was. Rajeev discussed learning strategies and tips to make lesson plans. They explored activities for

learning styles like note taking, reading out aloud, and doing hands on activities in groups. The workshop enabled them to understand aspects of learning and find out the best way to study effectively.

**Career guidance: 07.11.2019:** From classes from X to XII, information and updates about career options were given by volunteer **Rajeev**. Through discussion, he helped students to find their interests, capabilities, and aspirations. A set of ten questions was completed by them and through this test, Rajeev recommended some career choices according to their answers. They could discover their personality, strengths, and potentials and make plan to achieve their long term goal through this program. Rajeev introduced those different courses, colleges, and job opportunities and it supported them to focus on right career path.

**Exam Guidance: 01.03.2020: 10 students** from 12<sup>th</sup> std, and 10 students from 11<sup>th</sup>



std were given exam material supplies and guidance for the board exams. Followed by a prayer, they were advised on exam hall rules, food habits, study holidays plan, time management, etc. It was an important session that encouraged them to deal with exams with a free mind and yet take them as serious and focused on exam fear management.



## Moon Light Sharing: 12.11.2019



**Adolescent children** and college **young people** gathered in the roof top. The place was illuminated with Diyas. Colorful pebbles were presented there. Everyone sat closely. We listened to a soft melody and the music brought a strange silence there. We saw the moon and stars and drowned in some **meditating mood**. There was light, music, and silence. Everyone was asked to take a pebble of their favorite color and surrender to the moon like their best friend. At first, everyone was asked to talk to the moon silently in their mind. There was tenderness in everyone's eyes. One by one they came



forward and talked to the moon aloud. They shared their interests, aims, guilty, negatives, positives, mistakes, wishes, love, care for family, family suffering, traumatic experiences, expectations, disappointments, etc. Some even cried, some controlled their tears. We could see their inner beauty. Everyone was showered in the moon light and gained new energy after open sharing. The practice became kind of **soul cleansing**. Finally, everyone promised to stay together, support each other, and grow as a family.

## Workshop on Effective Communication: 16.02.2020

"Our success in a job is determined by 80% of our communication skills"



Madurai Seed conducts workshop and classes for young people to have better communication skills in English. To attend job interviews and group discussions with confidence, half-a-day workshop was presented by **Laura amma** and **John sir** for **20 teacher volunteers**. The workshop on "Interpersonal Communication Skills" supported them to overcome struggle in communicating and integrating English in workplace/college/campus placement.



There were two sessions on improving speaking which included verbal communication, listening, questioning and sentence structure. Participants were divided into **5 groups** and a resource person in each group encouraged them to **discuss** and **express** boldly.

At first, a common topic to all was projected welcoming different perspectives of it from participants. John sir let them **brain-storm**, think, generate and state points in their own words.

They exchanged views, argued at the same time respected others viewpoints, listened and expressed thoughts, and mainly they were able to expand knowledge on the topic. For discussion, John Sir gave important **fixed expressions** for agreeing, giving one's opinion, asking for opinions, disagreeing, partly agreeing, giving reasons and examples which were very supportive to speak up.

The whole workshop enhanced speaking skill, boosted confidence, benefited them to frame simple yet productive discussions in English.

New comers Madhavan, Vigneshwari and alumnus Surya actively participated along with our teacher volunteers. We sincerely thank Viji anni and Muruges anna for their presence and motivation. To John sir and Laura amma, "Many Thanks" with big love from young people and every one at Madurai Seed.



## Empowering Yourself:



"Your great constraints can turn around as your unique strengths" - from the book "Into Great Depth of your Being" written by **Mr. Arul Dev** who presented three days' workshop for Madurai Seed young people from Feb 21 to 23. He is a Radiant Universal Leader coach and **Integral Educator** has been in the field of Leadership, education and Human. Along with him, Ms. Arthi from Nandavanam, the centre for Excellence, facilitated the sessions.

**Discovering the Inner self:** The workshop used tools from integral education and development augmenting the self as a whole in **physical, mental, spiritual**, aspects. The participants were given exercises like SWOT analysis where they ponder upon their opportunities for development. The resource person also taught some breathing exercises which were simple, and relaxing. He also taught how to use the natural breathing to erase bitter experiences from the past, and how to gain energy from surroundings.

A pack of **60 cards** supported us to explore the questions we have in mind, to connect and develop to a resource within us. It enabled us to identify thoroughly deeper self, mind, vital force and body Participants connected it to the image they have about them in mind, and shared it from the cards they chose.

Participants spoke out their aspiration to follow **healthy and needy habits** for the whole year. They wanted to continue what they love like painting, reading, developing skills and subject matters. Everyone got motivated in this session and shared their hope, goal, and passion.

The major highlights of the workshop were the young people could introspect who they really are **deep inside** and skills to connect with them to be successful. The sessions focused on discovering oneself by aligning mind, energy, and actions in a true nature. The 20 hours workshop enlightened everyone to empower, and make the biggest step by shaping inner self.

# Teacher Training



By learning, you will teach;  
By teaching, you will learn



## Experiential Teaching Workshop: 6,7 April 2019



The experiential teaching workshop was carried out for Madurai Seed teacher volunteers and teacher trainee students of Thiagarajar College of Preceptors facilitated by **Nandavanam team Ms. Arthi, Ms. Jayshree** for two days provided Garner's Multiple Intelligence criteria, intensive activities and

lessons on it. Benefits of interpreting and applying Multiple Intelligence theory in classroom makes teaching easy by categorizing students according to their interests and skills. Integrating MI in classroom teaching, implementing MI strategies to find out particular strengths of a student, applying MI through skits, rhymes, & story telling for Kinesthetic learners, activities to use MI theory while teaching were introduced to participants by the resource persons. Engaging day 1 module pinpointed theoretical, practical resources on MI for the teacher participants.





The 2nd day of the 3rd module focused on Teaching Mathematics. Sessions taught us how Math can be taken in a fun and interesting way. Ms. Arthy put forth the solutions to overcome Math difficulties for children. She emphasized on tricks, shortcuts for doing Math fast. Her teaching materials gave many ideas for participants to use in classroom. Active involvement, concentration of children can be achieved through her special practice & activities.

Guests **Mr. Murugesan Krishnasamy** , **Ms. Viji**, **Ms. Arthy**, **Ms. Renuga** were honored. Participants were given certificates in the end of the workshop. We sincerely thank everyone. We thank Nandavanam team - Micky, Arthy, Jayashree for a very interactive & productive workshop. Also our sincere thanks to Dr. Prakash sir for providing us space in TCP for the workshop.









## English Classes



You can do it, Keep Going



## ENGLISH CLASSES

### Anouk's classes for elementary school children:



Anouk Kermiche, a law student from France gave English classes for children from 5 to 9 years old. during her internship in Madurai Seed. With Arun, she created games, and lessons to make English fun and interesting for learners. From **23<sup>rd</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> of August**, children had listening and speaking activities in the evenings.



Children in groups learned shapes, clothes, parts of the body, colors, hobbies, furniture, transports. In pairs, they learned introducing oneself to others, and framed short answers. Continuous classes of Anouk taught children to learn new vocabulary by guessing from pictures, making simple sentence with that new word, collecting

words from hearing definition, acting out utterances of a customer and seller, learning the comparative form, , to talk about their dreams, and professions of people through games, songs , and competitions. As Anouk is a Cellist as well as pianist, she introduced children to music and famous children songs. Three sessions of her covered about musical instruments, songs in English, popular musicians and their musical pieces. They made beats for Cup song, sang birthday songs and some rhymes together.

## Write It Right by Keith

*"Seeing that the many of the 'young people' are now entering or have entered the world of academia, as well as entering the world of a work, my input sessions focused on academic language - the kind of language that they are probably exposed to at universities in general, as well as academic and professional surroundings in general." -Keith*



A three days' workshop on **"Writing Academic English"** for Madurai Seed Young people was presented by Mr. Keith Rossborough, English Language Teacher from Switzerland. Keith introduced the term what it really means writing in Academic English and its importance while writing essays, reports for universities.



The session covered Formal Vs Informal registers, its differences, and in which contexts do we apply the two different styles. Using many examples, Keith explained the usage of right vocabulary, and grammar basics like articles, pronouns, spelling and punctuation. As the workshop was focused to cover job applications/correspondence, Keith

prepared young people to improve writing in formal English using hand-outs of cover letters. Main features of academic English, structure of text, and step-by-step worksheet from formal to informal text were imparted by Keith. The input sessions from **12th to 14th January** during evening from 6.30 to 9.00 pm was effective and useful for our young people. They gained knowledge about Standard academic English and its clear models from the workshop given by Keith Rossborough.



## Katrin & Urs Classes



When the students are given sessions to do pair work, and group discussion, they find speaking in English quite easy. It was scheduled for the young people and high school students of Madurai Seed to work on speaking English. Katrin, and Urs from Zurich presented four days classes from **28th to 31st of Jan.**



A short story about carnivals of Switzerland, Santa and Krampus was read aloud and discussed by students in Katrin's first session. It was interesting for them to get to know new characters, vocab and pronunciation. A warm up activity was fun and motivating to read and repeat words in a quote of Mahatma Gandhi. When Katrin wrote the full quote on board,

students thought it would be a lecture about the quote. Katrin rubbed words one by one from the quote and now students had to recall the words and read. It was followed by group interaction in which different topics were given to talk about. Students collected vocabulary and tried to present it concisely. In the "Guess who" activity, students were encouraged to work in pair. One of them played as the famous personality, another one interviewed him/her in front of their peers. The peer groups had to guess who the famous personality was. It let them speak instantly with some brainstorming exercises. They conversed in English during this activity and overcome hesitation. Katrin and Urs supported them to speak their minds, to come and present on stage in a lively style.

### Elavarasi's English Classes:



The classes were given throughout the year 2019-2020 for young people. The classes been structured by Elavarasi to enhance their proficiency levels for their careers. Combination of audio, video lectures, quizzes, online materials and movies, it is always interesting for all the students to learn English language.

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

### Nick-Arun Class:



Nick from Switzerland came to visit Madurai Seed from **9 to 17 March 2020**. His primary aim is to teach English classes and spend time with Madurai Seed people. With Arun, he has conducted 5 classes for children mainly on vocabulary improvement, reading with little bit of pronunciation and speaking practice. They planned the classes incorporating group works, pair works, activity, and games. He provided tips on lesson planning and classroom management. 4 volunteers who led the student groups were very supportive. One day he spent playing fun games with children, and another day they had a little excursion to the Eco park

nearby. Two days they discussed about environment pollution and ways to reduce, reuse, recycle.





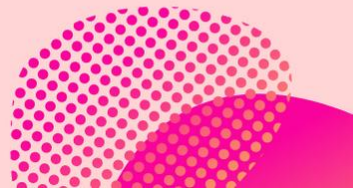




# Field Trips



It's a break in routine and an adventure  
that opens up our minds to new things





## FIELD TRIPS

### 26.04.2019: Zoological Park



Children and young people who went for Chennai Theatre Camp have visited the Vandalur Anna Zoological Park. They have seen wild animals and birds. They are very much excited and thrilled to see lion, tiger, white tiger, and rhinos. They have spent nearly one day there and filled their eyes with natural beauty.

### 28.04.2019: Science Park



Children and young people who went for Chennai Theatre Camp have visited Birla Planetarium and Periyar Science Park. They have played in the park and studied the physics rules behind the games. They also visited the science models of rockets and planes. They enjoyed the 3D show about endangered animals and solar system show at planetarium.

### 28.04.2019: Visiting the Park



Children enjoyed outside air at the children park after their exams were over. They went for toy train and frog rides. Nothing is more beautiful than the happy faces and cheers of children when playing.



**29.04.2019: Beach:** Children and young people who went for Theatre Camp in Chennai, have visited the Neelankarai beach nearby. The beach was very clean and crowd free. It was always fun for our kids to play in water since they come from water scarcity place. They have played in the shores, collected shells, and built sand castles. They didn't want to leave the place

since they had so much fun in the sands.



**30.04.2019: Museum Visit:** Children and young people who went for Theatre Camp in Chennai have visited the Egmore museum on their way back. They have visited the historical museum, bronze sculpture gallery, and modern art gallery. There were too much to see and learn. We have missed some other galleries since we were in a rush for train.



**01.05.2019: Government Expo visit:** Children and young people visited Chithirai Government Exhibition. Children enjoyed the various activities going on in the fair. They visited the stalls installed by various ministries of government. Each ministry put forth their activities and upcoming projects through photos, videos, and models as a visual treat. They also enjoyed cultural

programs.



### Reward Trust Visit: 28, 29, 30 June 2019



**3 young people** (Arun, Vigneshwaran, and Anand) had an opportunity to take part in Reward Trust's event at Kalpakkam in **Chengalpat district**. Their objectives were to visit some government schools where Reward Trust appoints teachers to bridge the adequate teacher ratio and to attend Reward teachers' **annual project work**

submission program, and to **photo and video document** the project. It was a pure educational and eye-opening experience learning about how government schools are functioning in rural areas, and how children are thriving in spite of all difficulties by visiting the schools and talking to teachers and students. Conversations with **Mr. Sridhar & Mrs. Kalavadhi** widened many perspectives on educational policies, social service, and science education.

### Up hill: 27, 28 July 2019



Young people and intern Anouk went out early in the morning to **Alagar temple** down the hill. They walked along the forest, reached to the holy water flowing on top of the hill and took a shower in it. Anouk found it as a special day to get to know more about temples, food and Tamil culture.

Young people and intern Anouk went to **Varichiyur** to admire the gorgeous landscape upon the hills during sunrise. They visited Jain beds, inscriptions, small rock cut temple, and went down the hill to see shiva temple past a lotus pond.

They had a wonderful time explaining the history, importance, festivals, and culture to the foreign student.

**Adhisayam: 06.10.2019**



**42 children and 10 young people** went on one day excursion to the **amusement park** Adhisayam in Paravai, 15 kms away from Madurai. For all children it was their first visit there and it gave them thrilling and **adventurous experience**. They had chill time in water games with non-stop fun and

excitement. Children enjoyed in amusement park. 98% of them haven't been to such park before. One child asked about how much water was wasted there, another one worried about electricity. We too have such concerns. But we thought our children should experience such things, and leave the "wow" factor behind it, they should not see these places from outside with complex. **Water sites** are always a place of much joy for our children. They enjoyed a lot there.





## Special Days



It's our day, Let's give it a special twist

## SPECIAL DAYS

Independence Day: 15.08.2019



Children assembled in front of office to welcome **Mukesh, MSCF leader** to hoist the national flag on this special day. After flag hoisting and national anthem, he gave speech with a great honor from all. Then, young people team witnessed the **police parade**, and cultural at the Reserve lane. They heard speech of district collector and

spent time watching the events till noon.

Teachers' Day: 05.09.2019



“Our volunteers can change lives with just the right mix of chalk and challenges” Madurai Seed honor them on this special day with small gift money, and big love. They help in various ways and turn as the first **model persons** for children in Karumbalai. Children talked about their favorite teacher volunteer and what they admire

in them. A biographical film of Helen Keller “The miracle worker” was screened; hence a devoted teacher **Anne Sullivan’s** life inspired them. Children gifted hand written greeting cards, candies, and bracelets to their teacher volunteers. Young people had dinner together after some fun game activities.





### Children's day: 14.11.2019:

Celebration began welcoming children with bunch of roses, candies and balloons. A black board written with powerful **positive adjectives** was placed in the entrance of Vandugal arangam. One by one children came and pointed out who she/he is from the adjectives. Hence, they identified themselves who are they in their little

world. Activities, games, songs, skit, mime and dances gave them bounteous joy. Keerthana, Monika and Meenakshi read their own **poems**, Selvapandi spoke about right of children, Vandugal kids gave a **dance** performance, and Kanavugal young people presented a **skit** and mime on "love and humanity, Effects of Mobile Phones" and a **quiz** was conducted for each class. It was one of the best days for every child in Madurai Seed.

**Young People Day: 12.01.2020:** The day brought fun and closeness among our young people. They performed cultural events like singing and dancing. Keith, our friend from abroad presented on that day and appreciated the young people for their commitment for education, Madurai Seed, and family. Everyone had a nice dinner at the end of the program.

### Republic Day: 26.01.2020



Republic Day celebrates our constitution of India which is based on the humane principles of Equal rights, secularism, Social welfare, equality, and fraternity. This day remembers the uniqueness, richness and stability of our political system carved on the basis of **integrity, solidarity, social justice** and protecting personal dignity. This national important day is celebrated in

Madurai Seed, **MSYF leader Sathish** hoisted the national flag and addressed to the participants. He read the preamble of the Indian constitution, then sweets distributed to all.

## Celebrations



Collection of happy moments



## CELEBRATIONS

03.06.2019: Ramzan



On a very special day in the holy month of Ramzan, children and young people celebrated with friends by sharing love and spreading peace. Children prayed together, wished every Islamic friend a happy Ramzan. Songs praising Allah and messages from Quran gathered them together to know the importance of the day. With tea and snacks the day ended happily.

25.10.2019: Diwali



The festival of lights celebrated with the participation of bright faces of Madurai Seed children, young people, and alumni, and guests. Every year, it was the time when former students of Madurai Seed get to gather and share their stories and show solidarity. This year the celebration reached a new height with guest lectures of young minds **Muthu Rasakumar**, a poet and journalist and **Abinaya**, a lecturer of English. They both delivered motivational talks drawing examples from their childhood, struggles, and inspirations, and guaranteed success if we work hard and tireless. Our young people added joy to the occasion with their dance program. Young flute artist **Venkat**, and key board player **Joel** mesmerized the audience with their talents. Teacher Radhakrishnan joined in the occasion with his own song. **21 Alumni** took part in the event and shared their happiness.

### Christmas: 23.12.2019



A wonderful celebration started with a rally towards our children's houses singing "**Jingle bells**" all the way. A student dressed as Santa surprised them with gifts. Vandugal Arangam was decorated with stars, and balloons and we continued celebration for another **two hours with stories** of Jesus birth, a skit by Kanavugal aranagam students, messages, quotes and carols of young people. We made Origami stars using papers following the instructions of volunteer Surya. Children cut cake and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

### New Year's Eve: 31.12.2019: Sending off 2019 with cheerful songs, and music.



Children and young people celebrated the last evening of 2019, in Vandugal Arangam. From all grades, each one came up with **folk songs, gana songs, and hip and hop** songs. Volunteers played background music for their songs. we could see how much they enjoyed singing the lyrics in their **own music beat** they know. It was the best New year's eve for us with mixed feelings of sending off the year with memories it had given and welcoming the new year with more positive expectations. In the end, for 30 minutes, we heard and sang prayer songs of all religions in chorus. Snack and sweet was provided to all. They bade bye saying the same old joke to each, "let's meet next year"



## Pongal Delights: 15.01.2020



Half scoop of coconut farm, another half scoop of **paddy field**, handful of fertile land's pure breeze were blended with palm jaggery in an earthen pot to celebrate the Tamil festival. "**Thirubuvanam**" - meticulously carved village with its unique greenery everywhere around. **50** Madurai Seed children, and young people along with a special guest Mr. **Keith** Rossborough had a lovely time on this Pongal festival. Before, early in the morning parents were gifted with **mud pots**.

30 minutes by bus took them to the village Tirubuvanam, where the next 6 hours were going to be spent amidst the **farm** with the swishing rustling sound of palm leaves.

Also a big well(gated) with overflowing pump set enthused children. The place was cleaned and arranged for children to play traditional games on one side. Another side, Pongal was cooked and set for ritual prayers and **thanksgiving** to the Sun, farmers, and agriculture.

Every boy/girl was in traditional attires together celebrated the harvest festival which was lively. The cultural given by

children and young people were seamlessly a collection of our folk and martial arts. **Vegetable rice** cooked in a big vessel was served along with **jaggery pongal** in a fresh banana leaf for all One of the most beautiful places under the sky is "Thirubuvanam" where we had a memorable day!







## SENTHAMIZH LIBRARY



The more you read,  
the more things you  
will know, the more  
you know, the more  
places you will go

## SENTHAMIZH LIBRARY

**Book Release Event: 04.09.2019:** Madurai Seed young people witnessed **Prof.**



**Prabhakar's book** launch event in the hotel North gate. His book **"The Tamil mass music and unconstitutional music"**- the title itself interestingly ironic for the readers. Our young people met artists, writers, musicians, professors and heard their speech on music and books. Beyond the dichotomous elements of Carnatic music- folk music, Ilayaraja-Rahman, it was possible to predict music as an

important factor in culture, and politics from the book launch event. . Two songs on classic one and rock one made the event. Prof. Prabhakar's speech gave us an opportunity to know, understand, access, feel, celebrate, and converse music in an educative way.

**Book Festival Visit: 06, 07.09.2019:** Books are a uniquely portable Magic.



Madurai Seed children and young people of **60 visited** the book festival in tamukkam ground. This visit helps them to construct their reading habit by collecting books. The row of books in every stall grabbed their attention to look at variety of book genres. They bought books happily from children's section and played few minutes in the park before snack and returning home.

**World literacy day: 08.09.2019**

**Volunteer MuthuGanesh** talked about the topic **"Ennum Ezhuthum Kan ena thagum"** –an oldest saying of a female poet Avvaiyar which means number and letter are as important as eyes. Inspired from these lines, he started from basic number system, helped students doing math in mind, did reading activities, following it he conducted spell bee contests. They discussed how an increase in literacy rate will bring big hope to see a better society.



**Author Felicitation: 19.10.2019:** Young people attended the literary meeting organized by the Tamil Department of the American College. The meeting discussed the short stories and novella written by modern Tamil **writer Yuvan Chandra Sekar**. They discussed the author's whole literary contribution by means of their novelty, themes, portrait of characters, etc. **Writer Jeyamohan** gave the valedictory address explaining why the author's name can't be avoided in the history of Modern Tamil literature tradition.



**Poetry Reading by Poet: 20.10.2019:** Young people took part in the literary meeting held at Kaleidoscope organized by Vasaga Salai. **Poet Muthurasa Kumar** talked about his inspirations for his debut poetry book. He also read some of his favorite. People talked about the poems they liked and the landscapes and mental images they arrived.

**Book release by Prof. Dharmaraj 04.01.2020:** Young people and higher secondary school children participated in the book release event of Prof. Dharmaraj. Dharmaraj is a scholar of folklore and philosophy. His book about **“AyothiDasa”** shed lights on the dark corners of Tamil alternative history corresponding to Buddhism and Dalit research. AyothiDasa is a pioneer scholar from Dalit community wrote about how Dalits were suppressed and their history and literature is modified and discriminated. Our young people and children listened to the chief guests addresses from perspectives of history, literature, and politics. They also enjoyed brief chat with **writer Jeyamohan** at the occasion.



## FEDERATIONS



You  
are braver than you believe,  
stronger than you seem, and  
smarter than you think



## Madurai Seed Children Federation (MSCF) &

## Madurai Seed Young People Federation (MSYF)



Madurai Seed students and young people elected their representatives through MSCF election. The day prior to the election, students formed an election committee that laid rules & regulations to follow & procedures to vote, candidates came up with campaign slogans, and finally the election date announced. Proper campaign, voting, counting and announcement of election results announced in three centers of

Madurai Seed on July 3rd. Six representatives from three arangam (centers) and two presidents were chosen by students from class 1 to 12.

Students learned to elect their representative by analyzing candidates' leadership qualities, friendliness, organizational and team working skill. Importantly they are taught to find their leader who can define and represent them to others. MSCF election provides them a positive attitude towards voting & electing, values of democracy, and knowledge about electoral process. Also, it gives them power to drive change and enable them to choose their leader. Madurai Seed wished all the eight candidates who won in MSCF election.

### Representatives

<b>Vandugal Arangam</b>	Sasidharan & Monika – IV
<b>Vergal Arangam</b>	Keerthana & Kesav – VIII
<b>Kanavugal Arangam</b>	Rasic & Pavithra – XI
<b>MSCF Presidents</b>	Mahalakshmi & Mukesh – XII
<b>MSYF Presidents</b>	Sathish & Vindhuya (3rd year college)

## Club Representatives



**Madurai Seed Children Federation**



**Thenkoodu Children Bank**



**Vanmugil Cultural Club**



**Puthuyugam Journal Club**

## Club Representatives



**Madurai Seed Young People Federation**



**Mutram Literature Club**



**Senthamizh Library Club**



**Annai Medical Club**



## **Club Representatives**



**Galileo Science Club**



**Suvadugal Sports Club**



**Aagaya Gangai Social Science Club**



**Young People Saving Scheme**



A PENNY SAVED IS  
A PENNY EARNED



## Thenkoodu Children Bank

Children of Madurai Seed are smarter as they commit to saving. As the name Thenkoodu – Beehive itself implies, they start with small penny and see it grows bigger every day. Students taking part in this savings activity finds it helpful to fulfill their small necessities.



**Savings Distribution: 18.06.2019:** Children bank savings money distribution took place at Vandugal Arangam. Total money saved by **104 students** (2018-2019) was **Rs. 38,716**, & we distributed it with **Rs. 6,275 interest**. Brindha, a 7 years old kid saved Rs. 4674. A sparkling smile came on Brinda's face while

she was receiving her own savings money. Everyone who took part in savings was gifted with notebooks, water bottle, pencil boxes, and plates. Volunteers Jeeva, Vicky, Nandhini, Bhavani & Jensi distributed gifts and savings money to kids.

### Savings of Children 2019-2020

Vandugal Arangam	Rs. 21978
Vergal Arangam	Rs. 16873
Kanavugal Arangam	Rs. 15504
Total	Rs. 54355

### Classes with highest saving 2019-2020

3 <sup>rd</sup> Standard	Rs. 8204
2 <sup>nd</sup> Standard	Rs. 7419
8 <sup>th</sup> Standard	Rs. 7148

### Children with the highest saving 2019-2020

Brintha (3 <sup>rd</sup> std)	Rs. 5594
Viswa (2 <sup>nd</sup> Std)	Rs. 3336
Mugashini (2 <sup>nd</sup> Std)	Rs. 2772



The savings of 2019-2020 will be distributed to children in June 2020

Puthuyugam  
Children  
Magazine



Writing is the painting  
of the voice



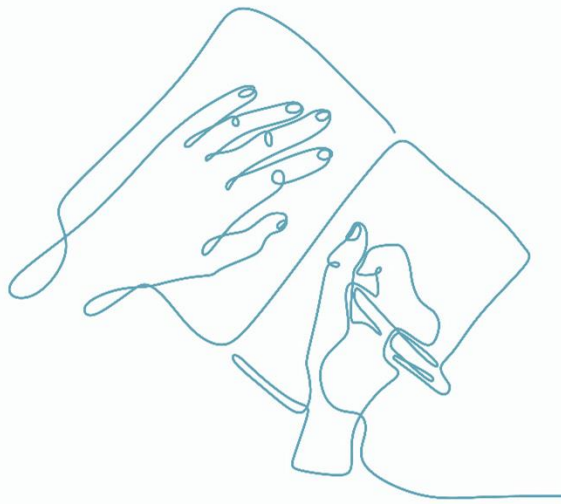
## Puthuyugam – Children Magazine

### Creative writing: 09.06.2019

A journal activity carried out for children and young people to sharpen their creativity and imagination. Karthik Bharathi handed out them papers and pen with set of topics on “**Writing a short story, writing a poem, writing an essay**”. Before that, he introduced them to creative writing tools and techniques. Children understood expressing meaningful expressions, artistic writing, effective language, writing prompts and developing character and plot. Individually, they experimented novel writing articles for simple topics given. In groups, they shared their writings as poems and essays. Children were encouraged to develop creative writing and publish it among peers.

### A discussion about Tamil Children’s Magazines: 25.08.2019

Karthik Bharathi and team of volunteers chose some **popular Tamil magazines** like Chutti Vikatan, Thumbi, Kutti Aagayam, Minmini, and delighted children with its fascinating story pages. They explored varieties of stories, games, contests, fun facts, puzzles, creative drawings, poems, and different sections of magazines. Karthik encouraged them to develop deeper appreciation for magazines like Chutti vikatan and Thumbi which we have subscribed monthly. The session opened doors to know about traditional and digital magazine, designing, and publishing of a magazine.



## Mutram Literature Club



Read...Appreciate...Create



## MUTRAM LITERATURE CLUB

### Story Telling: 14.05.2019



“It’s not magic that takes us to another world, its story telling”. Children narrated stories creatively that entertained everyone around. They used supplementary text books and **library books** for it. Short stories from bilingual books, moral stories, and folk tales were interesting when

students from I to V narrated in their own style with gestures. VI to IX std students played music and mimicked the characters in their stories. The stories created by them had good beginning, interesting theme, and a message. On stage they performed the art of storytelling lively.

### Public Speaking: 16.06.2019



To become a popular star in school/college, one must execute his/her speaking skill with huge confidence. Karthikbharathi, director of Madurai Seed discussed in detail about public speaking skill and the ways to improve it. He trained the participants through exercises to

**prepare** a topic, plan important points, **express** clearly, use right **gestures**, make eye contact, and speak normally without fear or nervousness. His session provided everyone about essential lessons and tips to become a powerful presenter on stage.

### Story Telling, Dance & Drama: 25, 26, 27 May 2019



Jennifer, intern student conducted these sessions every evening for two hours for three days. She told stories to children, demonstrated some **story telling techniques**. Drama games and theatre skill activities motivated them to tell the stories they known and their own stories. They also together in groups tried to enact the stories as small skits. They took

active participation in learning dance for three western music. She also screened some story telling **videos and animations** from YouTube. It was aimed to build up their confidence and to reinforce their communication, imagination, and concentration

### Pioneer writers of Children's literature:14.07.2019



Karthik Bharathi gave children an introduction to the **Tamil writers** of children's literature world. From A to Z, the authors who admired children through fairy tales, fiction and non-fiction, and comic books were discussed with their **popular stories** as hand out to children individually. Children listened to his talk on current Tamil writers, their biographies and significant contribution to children's literature.

### Talk about: 01.09.2019

The club representatives announced Kanavugal Arangam – VIII to XII std young people to present topics using power point. The topics were “**Future classroom, land and waste management, new medical breakthrough, literature** for children and so on”. Two students from each class presented topic using beamer for all classes. Volunteers supported them to prepare lessons using their lap top. Without any stage fear each one came up and explained with pictures. They learned collecting datum from textbook, reference books, internet and found easy and interesting to use power point tools for the first time.



### Story Telling: 15.05.2019



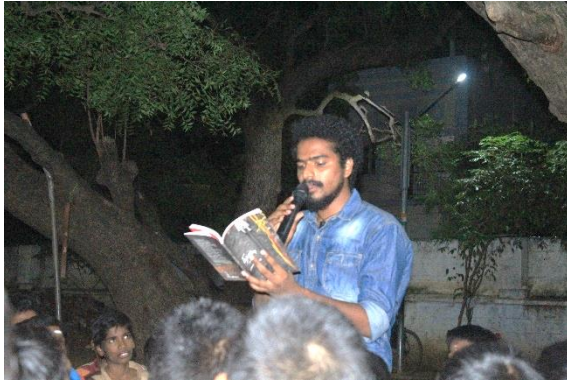
Bava Chelladurai a renowned modern Tamil writer stopped at The American College for his story telling tour. He narrated a novel “Idakkai” by fellow writer **S.Ramakrishnan** about enquiring humanity and emotions through history during the time of Aurangzeb. For audience it was a roller coaster ride amalgamation of humor, sympathy, and wit. Bava narrated the story effortless with his local dialect and contemporary touches. 25 children and 15 young people from Madurai Seed listened to the story telling session. Interest in reading the novel was on the rise when we listened to his language.

### Madurai Children’s Literary Festival: 3, 4 August 2019



Madurai Seed children and young people participated in **Oru Oorla - Children Literature Festival** organized by Turning point in the American College. There was storytelling by professionals, drama and theatre show of various school students, and some more events designed especially for children. The proudest moment was when our young people staged “Tara and her grandma” and our children presented “Idhu Yaaru Kombu” play to the widely spread spectators like writers, teachers, story tellers, etc. Both drama conveyed social messages with dance, humor, satire. Children received certificates and gifts from **MCLF** on stage with huge applause. Also, they listened to stories, watched other dramas, bought books and had quality time together in the campus.

## Celebrate with Poems: 24.10.2019



Diwali was celebrated at Sevalayam hostel in a different manner. **Poet Muthurasakumar** met Sevalayam hostel students for a poetry reading session organized by Madurai Seed. He shared about his student-hood and his work as a journalist and passion as a poet. As he was also from a humble background, his stories inspired the students close to their life. He

encouraged the students to study well to pursue their dreams by portraying stories from his life. Some students read aloud poems from his book “**Pidimann**”. Some felt that they have seen and experienced his poetry in their childhood in village. The celebration ended with lighting ceremony and sweets.





## GALILEO SCIENCE CLUB



Science is a way of  
thinking. The essence  
of science is  
independent thinking  
and hard work

## GALILEO SCIENCE CLUB

### Robotics Practical Session: 21.04.2019



After basics, a practical session on Robotics was conducted for Madurai Seed children. Ms. **Jeyapriya**, & Ms. **Jeyachitra** from **JJ robotics**, Chennai trained children on building robot kits. They introduced robot types based on structure, control, locomotion. Components in the robot kit were assembled by children in 5 teams with the

instructions of trainers, fascinated children built up an autonomous kiddy-bot. It was educational, fun, interesting for children when they saw their robot model working. **Quiz & games** provided much information, dragged their attention & interests towards robotics. Trainers awarded children for their active role in the workshop. We sincerely thank Ms. Jeyapriya & Ms. Jeyachitra for an amazing workshop.

### Robotics workshop 2.0:

**Trainee;** Ms. Jeya Priya from Je Je Robotics, Chennai.

Madurai Seed conducted workshop on “Happy Robotting” in which practical and hands on experiments with robot kits was held in five sessions each for 3 hrs. Beyond textbooks, we focus on bringing awareness and updates about recent developments to children. **Trainee Jeyapriya** took lessons on Robotics, in Vandugal Arangam which looked like a busy robotics labs with kids assembling , building and operating robot kits. **60 children and 20 young people** took part in this workshop.

Date	Topic
25.09.2019	Awareness on Real time Robots & Robo Race game
28.09.2019	Making of Line follower Robot
29.09.2019	Making of Obstacle Avoider Robot & Light follower Robot
30.09.2019	Robot Soccer game & Building Pit avoider robot
01.10.2019	Fun with robots, & Quiz on Robotics



From the workshop, children could learn **theoretically** about:

- **Robot types** and concepts like humanoid & non – humanoid
- Real time robots that **benefit** industry, hospitals, hotels
- Robots **operating system**, control path, motion, manufacture, purpose of programming
- **Working principle** of line follower robot, obstacle, pit avoider robot
- **Circuit** diagram, design and control
- White & black line **sensors**, line trackers
- **Laws** of robotics, functions of various parts like controller board, chassis, sensors, wheels, motors, battery



**6 robotics kits** were given for children in 6 teams (named after robots) to assemble and operate. In **practical session**,

- Children mounted components and checked robot's high intelligence
- They learned to reassemble, construct, and operate line follower robot.
- Each team came forward explaining hardware, components, circuit & working.
- They experimented pit avoider robot by changing terminals, sensors, and connections of obstacle avoider robot
- Identified different types of sensors, LEDs, resistors, controller board, capacitor, transistor, IF and basic electronic components.
- They could assemble parts, build all 5 types of robots within given time.

Set of question in the last session was given and everyone got pencils, chocolates as gifts directly from a Robot that looked like small Ganesh. Video lessons and instructions of trainer were helpful in understanding robot from basics to complex. The whole five days' workshop sparked interest for Robotics in young minds.

### **Solar eclipse: 26.12.2019**



Children watched solar eclipse safely with **solar filter glasses**. Representatives of Galileo Science Club discussed the "**Ring of Fire**" occurred. A presentation on why, how and when solar eclipse is visible was given by them the previous day. Along with their parents, they watched phases of solar eclipse from Vergal Arangam

terrace. We presented solar filter glasses to every child in Karumbalai to not miss this occurrence.

### **Fun with multiplication: 28.01.2020**



Urs, volunteer from Switzerland demonstrated the lever principle for students from **5 to 9th std.** He introduced, explained about Chinese fishing nets. The small wooden rod with measurements on it was useful for students to learn multiplication tables with fun.

**Blood Grouping:** A seminar on blood types and groups was given by Elavarasi for students above 12 years. Terms like immune system, Rh factors, RBC, antigens, plasma antibodies, ABO blood types were elaborately explained by her with pictures and videos. With a testing kit, students were showed how to find out one's blood group. In the end, blood transfusion and importance of blood donation were discussed.



## AAGAYA GANGAI SOCIAL SCIENCE CLUB



Somewhere  
something  
incredible is  
waiting to be  
known

## Aagayagangai Social Science Club

### Seminar on Law: 02.06.2019



Children and young people took part in the law session conducted by **Jenifer**, an intern from Pune. She touched on various topics ranging from the introduction of **constitution**, court structure, and to how pursuing law as a career would benefit students. She shared some interesting facts about the constitution assembly of India. There was an open discussion on the **duties and the rights** conferred by the Constitution. Then she covered various fields of law and the

implications of these in our daily life. Then, they discussed the major reasons or the benefits of choosing law as a career in India. As the session came to an end, the children and volunteers asked questions in relation to filing of cases and about the judges in various courts. Then she completed the presentation with a small run through about the various pathways one can choose to learn law as a Under Graduate course as well as pursue law not only as a lawyer, but as a judge as well.

### Around the World 05.06.19



Madurai Seed children not only dream of visiting countries what they see in map but also explore it through discussions, seminars and reviews with friends/volunteers/interns. Ms. Caron **Jennifer**, a law student from Pune Symbiosis University, presented a seminar on "**United Arab Emirates**" since she grew up from Dubai. She began the session with questions that let students compare people, politics, and education policies of India and

UAE. She explained what the colors in the flag of UAE depicts, followed by it she detailed about monarchy rule and UAE leaders, highlighted about populous city Dubai with its rich attractive places like palm islands, skyscrapers, big frame, miracle garden, and so on. Students raised questions about gender equality, clothing, weather, monarchy rule, law & crime rate in UAE & also travel time from India to Dubai.



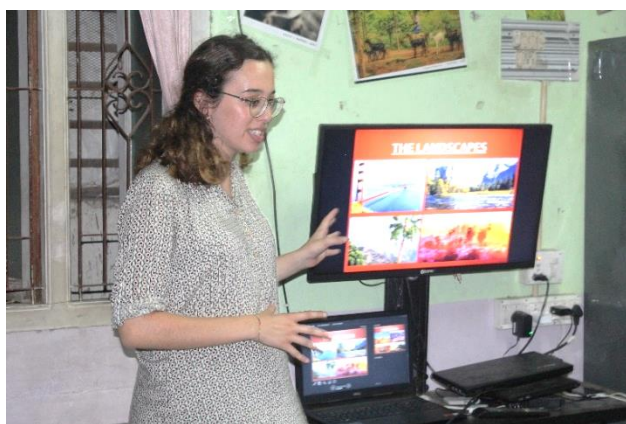
## Virtual Tour: 28.07.2019



country differ from other countries. A

Intern **Anouk** gave presentation of two countries – the **United Kingdom** and **Italy**. Children listened to the geography, origin, monuments, famous places, culture, music and sport of each country. They interacted with her about its national festivals, typical food, people, language, professions, and politics. Naturally, they compared and, discussed how is their knowledge about Italy and UK.

## Presentation on USA and Brazil: 02.08.2019:



Intern **Anouk** gave presentation about **United States** (west coast) and **Brazil**. For both countries, the presentation focused on main points: geography, the landscapes, the food and what the countries are famous for. The children could discover the **geography** of the United States, the landscapes of the cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles and the most famous national parks through pictures and videos. They saw other pictures of the typical food in the United States that they already knew, and found out why the United States are famous for **Halloween**, Disney movies, universities or hip-hop dance. Concerning Brazil, the children heard that even though Brasilia was the political capital, Rio de Janeiro is the cultural capital for some monuments like the Corcovado, the modern Cathedral built by Oscar Niemeyer or Copacabana beach. They watched a video of the biggest waterfalls in the world, Iguazu Falls, located at the frontier between Brazil and Argentina. They saw some pictures of the Brazilian jungle and the animals living in it and the typical Brazilian food. Finally, they watched a video on the **Rio Carnival**, which happens each year in February and another one on the famous Brazilian dance: the samba. The whole presentation created curiousness among children to learn more about many parts of the world.

### Meeting a writer: 17.08.2019



Mrs. **Nageshwari Annamalai** from USA, interacts with young people about her new books during her every visit to Madurai. Through her books “Pope Francis,” “Story of five generation Nadar Women”, she discussed her travel experiences, inspirational causes, anthropology, social justice and global issues. On 17.8.2019, she talked about her book

which she has been writing about the Cuban nation before and after its independence. It was both informative and surprising to know many background information from hearing her writings about **Cuba’s history**, Cuban people’s freedom thirst, their sublime life, Spanish colonial domination, American political concerns, US – Cuba relationship, Cuba’s free education and healthcare, communist party, Che Guevara, Fidel and their predecessors, current Cuban problems, and their needs. Mixed age groups of 40 numbers listened to her speech in the meeting organized in Thedal Arangam, Kaleidoscope.

### Listening to History: 12.10.2019



**80 children** and young people attended the meeting on Keezhadi – Vaigai River Civilization which was interesting to know about the successful five phases of excavations done in the archeological site, Keezhadi. Listening to the speeches of **archeologist Sandha Lingam**,

MP Venkatesan and actor Sasikumar, we studied 2600 years old ancient sangam period’s settlement. Model of Keezhadi built in the entrance of venue informed us about findings and **facts of Keezhadi** and efforts carried out for this excavation. We interacted a few minutes with archeologists and it was very helpful for our next day’s visit to the site.



**Exploring the greatest civilization: 13.10.2019:** We went on a half-a-day tour to



the historic period which existed 2600 years ago Keezhadi - archaeological site with astonishing facts about ancient Tamil culture. Around 8.30 am we left Karumbalai with **60 children and young people** in a bus. As soon as we reached, children started reading state government's report in e-book format about the site in teams with volunteers in each. While discussions were going on, **Muruges anna and Viji anni** joined us. We entered the Keeladi excavation site with lots to know about 6th BCE. Children viewed the surface under their feet where there one of the biggest settlements along Vaigai river was once happened. Many number of pits, channels excavated shown how a culture flourished and lived with great construction

expertise. Ceramic pots with **Tamil - Brahmi** words engraved evidently proved their literacy. Artifacts, skeletal fragments, and ring wells were interesting for us to observe. The whole site visit gave us different experiences. Under coconut trees shade, Muruges anna shared his experiences, knowledge and comparisons of Indus valley and Keeladi's urban civilization. His interaction was very much informative. He cleared children's doubts on the spot.

**Keezhadi Expo Visit: 10.11.2019:** The unearthed artefacts kept in the exhibition



include different types of potteries with Tamil Brahmi graffiti on them. Oven, shell bangles, ivory, iron and gold objects, gamesmen, spindle whorls, and terracotta toys are also part of the display. All these artefacts are dated to be between the **6th-century BC to 2nd-century AD**. Children and young people enjoyed visiting their history through these expos. They also experienced the **Virtual Reality** through the excavation and 360-degree

view of artefacts In touch screen.



I shall participate,  
I shall contribute,  
the joy of participation  
is more important.



## SUVADUGAL SPORTS CLUB

**Practice Yoga and Meditation: 21,22, 23 June 2019:** The session started on international yoga day. The yoga and meditation practice session that held for children and young people was to help stress reduction during exams and to promote healthy and calm mind. Simple **breathing exercises**, **Surya namaskar** poses, and **meditation** were taught. Sports teacher Mr. Radhakrishnan, Volunteers Jeeva and Jerk instructed them the steps to do different movements. They guided children for doing simple meditation at home and before exams. Benefits of these exercises like reducing memory loss, promoting active body-mind and so on were discussed during every morning and evening sessions for three days. 33 children benefited from the sessions.

**Trekking: 30.06.2019:** A crew of **28 people** including young people and higher secondary class children from went on trekking to **Kadavur**. The team had an exciting trekking experience on the hills. They explored and enjoyed this refreshing trip. With friends they took pictures in the beautiful scenery. It was like a mini yatra for them to climb on it singing and having lots of fun. The sports club representatives took care of planning, and organizing this trekking.



**Indoor Games Sports Meet: 26.09.2019:** Children played chess, carom board, chinese checkers, and Pallankuli with so much eager and enthusiasm. So much team spirit and cheer ups flowed in the room. Each student was encouraged to participate compulsory in at least two games. Young people organized the competitions in a very well manner.

### **Outdoor Games Sports Meet: 17,18 January 2020**

Children and young people played in the sunshine. One day, it was conducted at Vandiyur Park and another day, it was conducted at Palmyra ground in Karumbalai entrance. They played Shotput, Kabadi, Cricket, Kho Kho, running, etc. For small kids, fun games were conducted.

## Annai Medical Club



The greatest wealth is health



## ANNAI MEDICAL CLUB

### Herbal Festival, 14, 15, 16 April 2019



Madurai Seed children and young people witnessed the herbal festival and conference organized by Covenant Center for Development (CCD). Children from different classes visited the festival on different days. Young

people provided volunteering support for the conference. There were many **seminars** related to sustainability, herbal medications, and forestation. There were also **stalls** related to medicines, hand crafts, gardening, snacks, etc. They also enjoyed **cultural programs** every evening. Children and young people learned about coexisting life with nature.

### Nutrition and Health: 23.06.2019

With a **diet chart**, volunteers explained the nutritious values in spinach, green vegetables, fruits, and egg. They arranged dishes like peas, millets, and traditional snack and discussed the benefits of healthy eating. Children listened to their advice on avoiding junk food and agreed to stop craving for it. Video was played about the advantages of drinking water often, and intake of milk. When they learn it as a child, they grow healthily through good **eating habits**. It was informative for them to know about the importance of having nutritious food and its impact on healthy lifestyle. They were provided with fruit and snack in the end of the session.

### Let's save: 18.08.2019

Classes from 6 to 12 were educated about **life-saving** skills in which they learned basic first aid. Volunteers delivered the importance of first aid and demonstrated the key concepts of doing it. How to put bandage on cut, how to stop nose-bleeding, what to do if we fall off from bike or one gets electric shock, what immediately we should do if we burn accidentally, and some **emergency solutions** for injuries or illness were illustrated by young people. Mainly encountering the situation without panic was advised by them. The types of first aid, initial support to treat, and right methods of applying it were discussed in the Medical Club.



Art changes people and  
people change the world



## VANMUGIL CULTURAL CLUB

### Appreciating Music: 02.09.2019



It was a classic evening for us with **Shaji Chen**, a writer, film actor as well as music critic. In the meeting “Sollil Adangadha Isai”, organized at Thedalgai Resource center, **Kaleidoscope**, Shaji began with a musical piece of Madhan Mohan, and introduced us to many legends’ musical pieces. His interaction with young people exhibited traditional or conventional way of learning music is not important to reach the peak of music industry. We from Madurai Seed got better understanding, proximate knowledge of music from meeting him. He highlighted “In the search of what you seek, you will surely be it”, also he shared his life experiences as a critic. The session gave us a chance to learn and define our sensibility and delicacy in music.



**Madura Gaana** is a musical treat describing the historical and cultural specialties of the city. The song was composed by teacher Radhakrishnan, the **choreography** was done by our volunteer Mathan and Prem. Our volunteers Vicky and Anand did the **videography**. Our young people danced to the tunes also. The video was released

in YouTube in January 2020, so far having 2982 views.

## Children Movie Fest



On **17.11.2019**, Madurai Seed screened different genre films like fantasy, animation, and adventure in the 16<sup>th</sup> Madurai International Children Film Festival. At Vandugal Arangam, they honored and interacted with film activist **Yadhartha Rajan** and Ram pichai from MICFF. Movies screened whole day were entertaining and thoughtful.

**Let's sing:** On **03.11.2019**, Volunteer **Vindhiya** taught traditional folk songs for children. She talked about importance of learning those songs to know about its origin and practices in rural areas. Children learned elements of **folk music** and practiced songs of native singers and famous lyricists in three groups. Also, they enjoyed singing on stage.

## Movie Fest at Kaleidoscope: 7,8,9 December 2019



available only on big international festivals.

Young people took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> Madurai International Short Film and Documentary **Film Festival** facilitated by Marupakkam. **Kaleidoscope** was one of the hosts for the event. For three days from **6.30 to 8.30** in the evenings, short films and documentary films were screened followed by the discussion with movie makers and critics. It was a boon for people getting opportunity to enjoy such movies for free which are



## PARTICIPATIONS



**18.05.2019:** Madurai Seed Young people attended the workshop on **Honor Crimes** in Tamil Nadu; Understanding Experiences and Challenges through the Testimonies of Victims and Survivors organized by "**Evidence**" organization at the Lady Doak college.

**18.10.2019:** A.S.Karthikbharathi and Arunkumar took part in the **book release event** organized by Cuckoo Children Movement at Gandhi Gram Rural Institute, Dindigul. They had a delighting opportunity to see and listen to Gandhian & Pioneer Social Activist **Krishnammal Jeganathan**. They also listened to writer Jeyamohan's speech about what Gandhi has taught to India. It was a book about 10 eminent leaders who walked in the path of Gandhi and shed light in their respective fields.



**22.10.2019:** Director. A.S.Karthikbharathi interacted with **PG students from the American college** in the training workshop organized by Prof. Prabakar at CESCO. He presented them through his experiences and **life journey** as a former student of the American college about learning outside classroom, continuous learning and implementing, and doing socially useful

services. Young people curiously spoke to him about Madurai Seed and its activities.



## Programs for Public



Fostering social inclusion





## PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC

Thanner Panthal: 18, 19 April 2019



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

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

## 24.09.2019 FOOD FESTIVAL



Children from all classes unite together to organize, and execute food festival of Madurai Seed. With money given for each team to buy ingredients, in teams they prepared **new recipes**. Volunteers helped them to present food deliciously in stalls. The street was glowing with lights, decorations and the public could not stop buying savory snack,

soup, thirteen more varieties of food. The Food festival investment was Rs. 2600, food items sold for **RS. 3010** and the profit **Rs. 410** was used for some good purposes. **Teachers Charlette, Sheela** and Vinesh -reporter of Times of India, former seed students and volunteers visited surprisingly and it was the most delightful evening

## CELEBRATING WOMEN: 29.09.2019 to 07.10.2019

Navarathri (**Nine Nights**) festival is dedicated to women personalities. Guests came each day from outside and Karumabalai and delivered speeches. Parents also participated in the events.



**Keerthana, a journalist** shared about her studies and career choice. Stories from real life inspire the budding students a lot. She also quoted education is very important especially for girls and they should aim for high aspiration.

**Jeya Priya, Engineer & Entrepreneur** participated with her mother. She expressed her views about following the dream. She is interested in robotics and teaching. Even though she gets jobs in the field of software, she follows the dream of teaching robotics to children with her own company JJ Robotics. Her mother is also supporting in her field of interest.

**Pushpa Valli and Amutha, Women self help group leaders** from Karumbalai are honored. They shared about their self-help group activities and the benefits of women unity and leadership.

One day was dedicated to **parents of our children and young people**, they were honored and fun games were organized between parents and their children.





**Thavamani Ammal, 90 years old** lady from Karumbalai took part in the event, and shared about her struggles. She suffered a lot in her life, though she doesn't lose the hope and hard work. She earns her daily bread from doing lots of physical work, She reads, travels to temples, and leading a healthy happy life of her own.

**Krishna Ammal, 80 years old lady**, from Karumbalai shared about how she finished her SSLC in her family and her life journey before and after marriage. She also sang beautiful devotional songs from her memory.

**Our Trustee V. Mariammal, Our supporter Viji Murugesan** also joined in the women fest on the valedictory day and shared their best wishes and prayers for all women folks.

In this meaningful beautiful week, our children, young people, and their parents participated and listened to the life stories of elderly people, young professionals, and leaders from their locale. A **healthy snack** was distributed each day. Also games, songs, and dance made the days colorful.



## MARGAZHI UTSAV - A MAGIC

Annual day of Madurai Seed is celebrated during the Tamil month Margazhi to promote arts, theatre, crafts and unique skills of children and young people. This **21st annual day** was fully associated with visual and performance arts. Events were designed integrating arts, theatre, dance, music, songs of Madurai seed children, young people to the public.



The main aspect of Margazhi Utsav are to provide introduction to various **fine and performing art forms**, to promote art appreciation, learn and express arts, and ultimately to bring children into limelight by unveiling their distinctive talents.

The festivity started before **ten days** itself for the festival with a well planning schedule for

1. Children's play workshop- 3 days
2. Young people's theatre workshop - 3 days
3. Stage props and costumes preparation for plays - 3 days
4. Stage and campus decorating crafts - 3 days
5. Invitations, posters making - 1 day
6. Distributing invitations for public in Karumbalai – 1 day







Children and young people showed great participation in these programs. With team spirit and whole dedication, we executed Margazhi Utsav in a moonlight sky with dazzling stars at **Gandhi Museum**.



Iconic backdrop designed by **Prof. Prabhakar** was charming and delightful for the spectators. **Crafts** and decorations done by children and young people, Kolam (**Rangoli**) done by our parents, Presentations of quotes and photographs around the campus added beauty, diversity and vibration to event.

KarthikBharathi, director of Madurai Seed welcomed everyone who were present in the event, following that, trustees lit the lamp along with children federation leaders. Beginning with **songs** XI, XII students sang beautifully about love and peace to the audience



The campus echoed claps and laughter for the performances of our young people in the play "**Prasavam**" (Pregnancy) which also had a social message.

Next to that, a mesmerizing **classical dance** was performed by our Guest. Ms. Aandal Priyadharshani (IX std).

**Dance** performances of our young people for the song "Madura Gaana" made audience to tap feet for the music.

The voice that make us crazy to listen again and again – Guest. Mr. Sanil Joseph's live **music** program stole the show.

Finally, here comes our children's play "**Pudhiya vilayatu**" (New Game), the play incorporated games and songs of childhood. It also had a political message as a hint, the subtle message is about how dominating powers arrive, arrest, rule, and finally defeated finally by people's power. The play was very colorful.

KarthikBharathi thanked children, young people, parents, guests, and spectators for their presence and encouragement. **Dinner** was provided to all. The Margazhi Utsav spelt a magic with its colorful events.

## Madurai Art Festival 2020



The Madurai Art Festival was held on **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020** at Gandhi Museum open auditorium conducted by Kaleidoscope. This is the third-year festival. Prof. Prabhakar, director of this festival said the aim was to take Madurai's art scene to other platforms through alternative arts and alternative thinking. The audience was a variety of people including of all ages and backgrounds. Everyone who came, probably all of them, did not fail to be photographed in the dim glow of masks illuminated by vinyl boards lined up from the entrance of the Gandhi Museum to the stadium. Paintings of four Madurai artists were on display and for sale at the Madurai Art Festival. There was a painting competition for kids too. There were food stalls and other stalls for public.



Madurai Seed played an important role in this festival as a **co-organizer**. Our volunteers have rendered service for on-stage, off-stage, and campus settings, and decorations. Volunteer Arun Kumar has managed the social media promotions. Volunteers Anand, Vigneswaran, and Muthu Ganesh has captured the soul of performances and audience with their camera. Artist Ravi Palette has made their photographs into digital drawings. Director A.S. Karthikbharathi involved himself in festival organization and sponsor collection. Madurai Seed trustees Mariamml, Elavarasi and friends like Muruges, Katrin also contributed financially to the festival. Our alumni Nagarjun set up the light settings in the entrance. Our children and young people participated in the festival as audience and enjoyed the ambience and performances of the festival.





**01.02.2020, Saturday**, on behalf of the Glass Bangles Band, Singer and Musician Rajasekar started the first day evening. Conversing with the audience and knowing their mood, the performance cheered everyone. We hope that listening to pop songs in Tamil in Madurai will probably be through him. The second event is a one-man play by a transgender Revathi. She performed the pain of

transgender people and the way they are treated in the community in a solo performance with beautiful songs and beautiful lighting systems. The third event was the mixed dance presented by the Trichy Kalaikkaviri group. The design of the elegant dresses and the movements all made the first day evening a feast for the eyes.



**On Sunday, 02.02.2020**, Singer Sunil started the second day of the event with his daughter Sarah. She sang the song like a quill without any fuss. Next up was Randee's dance. This is a prayer dance with music in silence. We consider this as a new thing for Madurai. We think playing without music is the same as drawing without a brush. But, Randy did it wonderfully.

Next up is a trio of Learners dance troupe. Fast dance infused quick jumps and played with different, movements. Finally, Indira Parthasarathy's Aurangzeb play. The war between the emperor Shahjahan and his son Aurangzeb is all brilliantly intertwined with conversations. His eldest son Tara Sufi is pro-Hindu and supports Hinduism and its principles. Aurangzeb opposes them. Shah Jahan is unable to build his dream majestic mansion between his daughters and religions. Very exciting play. The play puts before our eyes in detail how Aurangzeb, who upholds the principle of one country, one language, one religion, then falls by the same policy and heads for the fall. The amazing lighting system, beautiful music and simple stage setting took the play to another level.

The festival was a huge success because of the creativity of Prof. Prabakar of Kaleidoscope and likeminded volunteers and organizations.

## Some Photographs from the festival

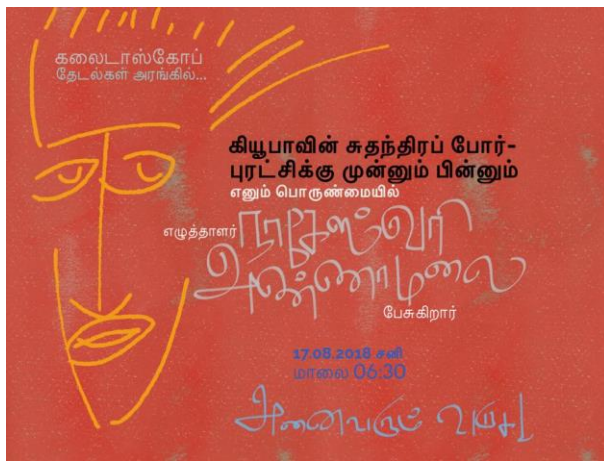
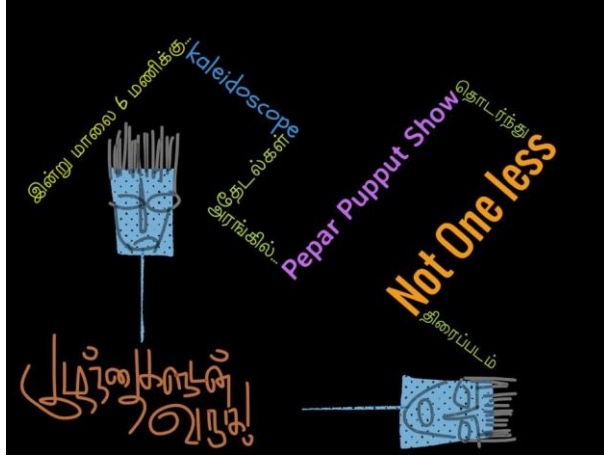




### Programs conducted at Thedalgai Young People Resource Center

S.No	Date	Event	Organizer
1	12.05.2019	Film Review – Jani Tamil film	Vasaga Salai
2	28.05.2019	Summer Celebration, Film Screening	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
3	29.05.2019	Summer Celebration, Film Screening	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
4	30.05.2019	Summer Celebration, Film Screening	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
5	14.06.2019	Felicitation to writer Pathinathan	Kaleidoscope
6	21.07.2019	Film Review – Thalapathy Tamil Film	Vasaga Salai
7	17.08.2019	Writer Nageshwari Annamalai discussed her upcoming book on Cuba	Madurai Seed & Kaleidoscope
8	29.08.2019	How to listen music – Shaji (Actor, Writer)	Kaleidoscope
9	06.08.2019	Library in internet era - Nedunkilli	Kaleidoscope
10	20.10.2019	Poet Muturasakumar's book "Pidiman" discussion with author	Vasagasalai
11	6.12.2019	21 <sup>st</sup> Madurai International Short Film and Documentary Film Festival 2019 ( 5 Days)	Marupakkam & Kaleidoscope
12	7.12.2019		
13	8.12.2019		
14	9.12.2019		
15	10.12.2019		
16	25.12.2019	Madurai Seed children's play rehearsal	Madurai Seed
17	29.12.2019	Film Review – Mullum Malarum (Tamil)	Vasaga Salai
18	26.01.2020	Novel Discussion – Kadal Purathil	Vasagasalai

Some Posters of Events held at Thedalgai Arangam at Kaleidoscope





## INTERSHIPS

**Caron Jennifer: 08.05.2019 to 05.06.2019**



Caron Jennifer, a law student from Pune School of Law has many creative skills to transfer to children. It was such a pleasure for having her as our teacher, story teller, and dancer. During her volunteering, she was asked to provide kids the skills she was talented in. We found her **narration of stories** dragging children into a magical world. She gave seminars on Law as a

career in India and Presentation about UAE through power point presentations. From the first day she involved in Vasantham summer camp activities and Super Fun Summer with Kaleidoscope. Also she gave three story telling sessions at Kaleidoscope. "Happy Dance" taught by her energized and delighted children and young people. Also, she assisted in updating social media. She was always enthusiastic.

**Anouk Kermiche: 22.07.2019 to 24.08.2019**



Anouk, a law student from France did her one-month internship here. She became a part of the Seed family. Her classes for children from 4 to 8 years old provided new learning experiences through stories, music, and **classroom activities**. She taught new vocabularies every day from A to Z and encouraged children to make simple sentences. Her seminars on different nations

with photos and videos enthused children. **Music instruments** made out of trash is one superb activity she conducted. She learned about NGOs, and Management. She wants to begin NGO career after her law studies and thus she finds useful volunteering in here. We had celebrations together on Independence Day, Ramzan, book discussions, local temple festival and our Young people cherished countless moments during the outings with her. She dedicated her time for volunteering and we have a lot of memories to treasure.

### Suthan: 30.10.2019 to 03.11.2019



He is a bachelor of business administration student from Christ University, Bengaluru. He did **5 days internship** work here. We know from his talk, that he is skilled in drawing and painting. He conducted greeting card making classes for three days, conducted reading class for one day, and facilitated ice breaking games another day. He is very young, motivated and committed. He bonded with children quick and nice. He also received details about

financial management, and NGO related government registrations. The hand painted greeting cards were scanned and printed which came very well.

### Eva Bloemhof: 24.02.2019 to 26.02.2019



Eva, High school student from Netherlands visited Madurai Seed and taught some classes. She taught two classes at **Kondabethan Governement Middle School** for 9<sup>th</sup> std for students for her same age. The students talked about Netherlands and India

comparatively regarding foods, transports, school system, etc. It was like getting to know about each other. They shared information about their interests and aims. In Madurai Seed, Eva gave a presentation about Netherlands by showing beautiful pictures.



## VOLUNTEERING

**Keith Rossborough: 12.01.2020 to 15.01.2020**



Though it was a very short stay, Keith had managed to conduct **6 hours** of classes for our young people. In 3 evenings, he taught basics of **academic writing**. He emphasized on grammar structure, paraphrasing, punctuation, and arranging the content in order. He involved with children and young people on the Pongal occasion

playing and cooking in a village farm. In August 2019, he visited Madurai Seed with his family, introduced them to our children and young people and spent four nice days involved in activities. Welcome again Keith, best wishes.

**Katrin- Urs: 27.01.2020 to 05.02.2020**



Katrin is a English teacher trainer, Urs is a computer professional. This couple from Switzerland visited Madurai Seed for second time. They enjoy taking classes for children, and the welcoming atmosphere here at Seed. They conducted **English classes** for young people by reading, group discussion, and playing fun games. They actively

involved in other activities with children and young people. Urs brought a homemade apparatus – a simple wooden rod with measurements that teaches multiplication in a fun way. They enjoyed Madurai Art Festival with our children and young people. Young people are happy around them talking and explaining things. We would like to have you again soon. Thanks for your efforts.

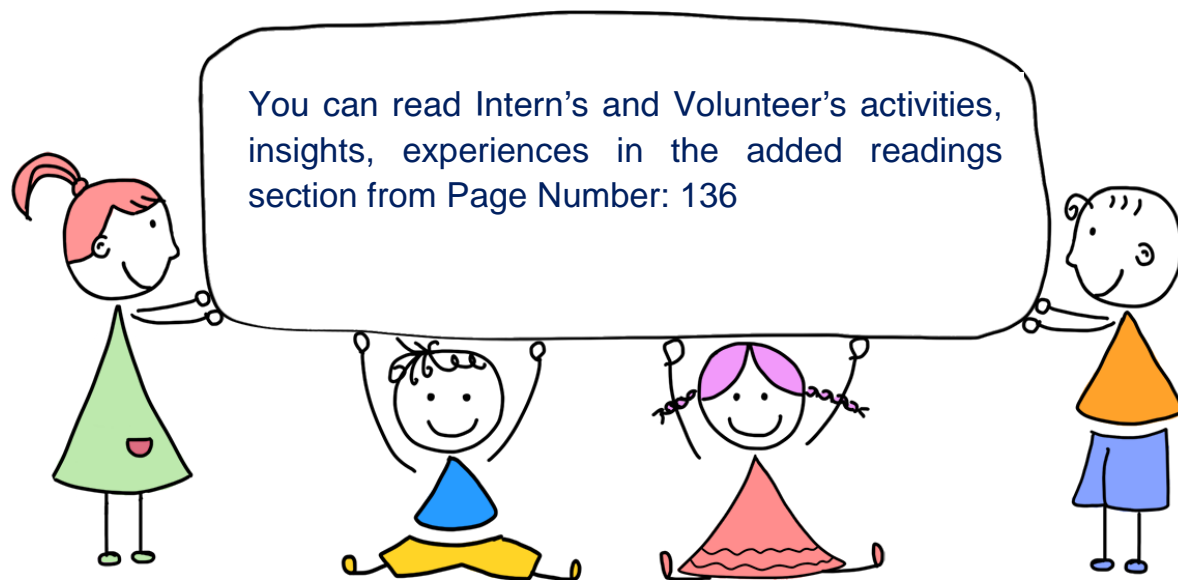
**Nick Bell: 09.03.2020 to 18.03.2020**



Nick Bell from Switzerland has arrived for second time to Madurai Seed. In his words “Madurai Seed is full of energy and love; and attracts me to come again and again. I haven’t seen such places anywhere else in the world”. His primary aim is to teach English classes and spend time with Madurai Seed people.

He taught classes for middle school children with Arun on reading, vocabulary, simple speaking activities on specific topics, pronunciation practice, etc with pair and group works. He also joined with children for fun activities and casual talking.

In the morning, he spent at Madurai Seed office encouraging Karthik Bharathi to speak about his life stories and encouraged to pen the stories as a way of English language practice. The 10 days we spent together were productive and joyful. Thanks Nick, hope to see you soon.





## SITE VISITS



**Melli Annamalai:** She is the project steward of Madurai Seed Narpanigal in Asha for Education, Boston Chapter. For us she is our beloved Akka, nurturing woman, inspiration for girl children. She visited our centers on **20.08.2019**. She went around each classes and shared greetings with the volunteers. She also visited the newly built classroom with children utilizing

them. She talked to volunteers about their classes and college studies and talked with Karthikbharathi about the improvements of classes and needs. Her mother already gave a seminar about Cuba, the country her next book is based on, our young people interestingly took part in the discussion at Kaleidoscope. It was a nice meeting with Melli Akka, her arrival brought lots of joy and encouragement as always.



**John Potts – Laura Villiger:** Laura Villiger, Founder of Friends of Madurai Seed, Switzerland and John Potts, President of FMS visited Madurai Seed in **February 2020**. It was a very special visit since Laura Amma has been visiting us after two years. It was a very productive week with discussions and classes. They never miss to impart their teaching and language skills. John has

given a half-day workshop on using online tools for English teaching at Fatima Collage. Prof. John Potts and Dr. Laura Villiger together taught “Interpersonal communication skills” a half-day workshop for Madurai Seed young people. They have given individual classes on Cambridge, TKT exams for Elaa Arun and Madhavan. Besides, we have discussed a lot about Madurai Seed’s programs, developments, financial needs, future plans, and life in general. They also gave visits to the classes and interacted with children and volunteers. We are very much motivated by their visit.

## MEDIA

**Josh Talks** is a media platform, collects and curates the most inspiring stories of India Speakers from diverse backgrounds are invited to share their stories, highlighting the challenges they overcame, on their journey to success and realizing their true calling. Josh Talk Tamil team approached Madurai Seed interested to shoot some of our young people's stories. They are fascinated knowing about Madurai Seed and its works. **A.S.Karthikbharathi** motivated our alumni O.Manikandan and Volunteer Vasim to talk. Their talks were featured in **YouTube**. It was heartwarming to read the comments for the video. Following are the story brief and video link from JoshTalks.



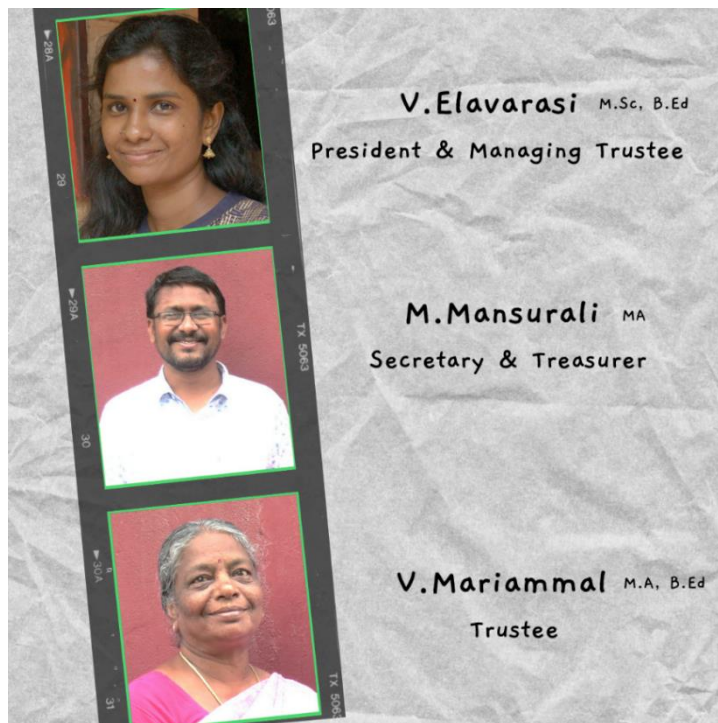
The Journey was not easy for an underprivileged Student and a first-generation graduate to achieve success in life. **Manikandan** was born and brought up at a semi-urban area named Karumbalai at Madurai. He was born to a poor family. In order to have a mid-day meal, Manikandan started going to school. As he was from a poor background and is coming from a backward caste, he faced many issues starting from the place where his father worked till the place where he studied. Being treated differently made him realize that he needs some voice to speak back. He showed his anger in Education and his career with the help of Karthik who is the Founder of Madurai Seed. Things began to change when he got a job and his pay scale increased drastically over time. His life has become motivational for the young generation living not only in Karumbalai but also the rural students who face issues the way he faced. <https://youtu.be/JIAiWtwODVE>



**Vasim Khan** was born and brought up in Madurai. He grew his passion for drama and equipped himself to become a drama artist. Initially, he struggled a lot and went through many hard situations that remained as obstacles to achieve his dream. He came across an NGO called Madurai Seed which motivated him to pursue his dream without giving up. He began to put out all his effort to give his best in the art field. After longer run looking for opportunities, he made up his own way of creating his own opportunity to teach and equip the younger generation to take up acting as a career. In this video, he shares his experiences of overcoming obstacles to become an actor / Drama Artist. He shares his inspirational story of how he also shares his story and inspiring many youngsters. Change should always begin with the one who expects to change anything. His motivational talk on his life story on believing in dreaming big and to stay focused on the higher goal that one day it will be achieved. His success story on Look at your challenges as opportunities will surely impact people from all the fields [https://youtu.be/A\\_5STWNpICl](https://youtu.be/A_5STWNpICl)



## Our Team



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



## Our Partners

### Friends of Madurai Seed



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

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

### Asha for Education, Boston



Asha Boston Chapter is a chapter of Asha for Education, a non-profit organization. They are a completely volunteer driven organization. Asha Boston Chapter works towards promoting the education of underprivileged children in India by providing financial assistance and support to the NGOs focused on education projects. Volunteers of Asha work closely with the project partners in India, while locally organizing fundraisers and community awareness events. Asha Boston provides monthly

running expenses for Madurai Seed such as rents, telephone, electricity for education centres, and monthly stipend for volunteers. Melli Annamalai is the project steward. <https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=809>.



## Together We Make A Difference



Laura Villiger

John Potts

Eveline Masilamani

Martin Anderhalden

Eliane Suess

Patricia Jegher

Sarah Giles

Andrea Wilson

Clive Oxenden

Valeria Gemelli

Kantonsschule

Freudenberg

“Seeds for tomorrow”



Melliyal Annamalai

Keith Rossborough

Nick Bell

Katrin Blatter

Urs Wagner

Kasper Baechi

Lenail Veronique

Boukje Grashuis

Ann Anderson

Prof.Prabakar

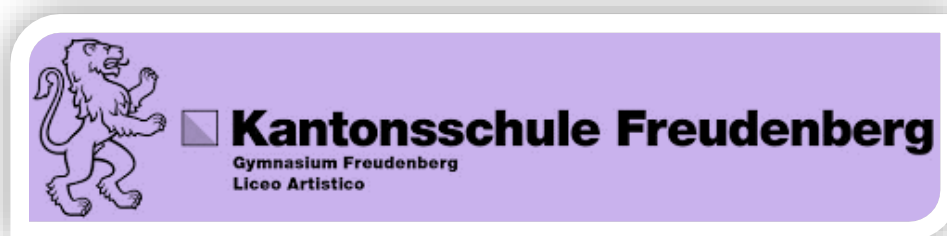
Muruges-Viji

Manikandan.O

Vinothkumar.R

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

## Partner in Spotlight: A journey of 10 years



A student team of this school in Zurich is continuously involving themselves in fund-raising activities for Madurai Seed. The fund has been used for providing scholarships for children. We fondly remember Mr. **Nicklaus** Schatzman, former principal for his encouragement and love. We extend our thanks to the current principal **Valeria Gemelli**, staff, and students especially Dr. **Laura Villiger** and **Martin** of KFR.

We never missed to tell our children and parents the story of where the fund for their scholarship come from. It is an inspiring story of students supporting students.

The educational project “**Cloths Make the school**” has been successfully worked, the name of the project now changed into “**Seeds for tomorrow**”. We remember during the inauguration of Cloths Make School, KFR and Madurai Seed had a video conference 10 years ago.

The students involving themselves in selling cards, cakes, and cloths. We appreciate the students for their great efforts and values. The actions which led us to a thought of doing the same, the proceeds from the food festival organized by Madurai Seed children and young people have been spent to other children homes or old age homes so far.

We extend our best wishes for KFR for their **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. You have been serving to the student community for so many years with commitment and compassion.

We would like to have a long-term relationship and collaborated programs.

**Thanks for your continued support and love.**





## Get Involved

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

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

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

## Connect With us

We encourage you to get involved with us. Get in touch, and always know what's going on. Together Everyone Achieves more.

Our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/maduraiseed1999/>

Our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/maduraiseed/>

Our Blog [www.maduraiseed.blogspot.com](http://www.maduraiseed.blogspot.com)

Our Website [www.maduraiseed.org](http://www.maduraiseed.org)

Our Email [maduraiseed1999@gmail.com](mailto:maduraiseed1999@gmail.com)



## Links for some videos 2019-2020

Vasantham Summer Camp 2019 <https://youtu.be/Vp2hVSA0mVw>

Chennai Theatre camp & Festival <https://youtu.be/2tWOFFQIn1w>

Activities August to December 2019 <https://youtu.be/ZEIJYErxmMc>

Margazhi Utsav 2019 <https://youtu.be/DWJTSAPy7eI>



## CONCLUSION

Madurai Seed's style of working is successful and yielded much fruitful experiences so far. There is no single solution since there is no single problem for all the children and young people in an urban low-income family. From outside, everything seems to be alright and going well. But in family level, school level, inner self level they need more support. Madurai Seed was able to bring some changes within because of our close, friendly, family-oriented approach. In Madurai Seed family, we dream together, we try to achieve the dream together.

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

**Thanks for your continued support and love.**





## Added Readings

- Internship Reports
- Volunteer's Reports





## ADDED READINGS

### REPORT ON MADURAI SEED by Caron Jennifer

#### INTRODUCTION

This report is the final incorporation of the observations and analysis conducted on the management and functioning as well as my personal experience in Madurai Seed, East Karumbalai Street, Madurai, Tamil Nadu over the course of four weeks in May 2019. There is a categorised analysis along with personal experiences mentioned in the report. Few references and my testimonial are attached as well for a broader understanding of the administration at the Non- Governmental Organisation (Madurai Seed).

#### MY PURPOSE



I am Caron Jennifer Rajasekaran an Under Graduate student studying at Symbiosis law school at Pune in Maharashtra for the course of B.B.A L.LB (Hons). I found out about Madurai Seed through their website on the Internet and Social Media namely Facebook. I did my internship at the end of my first year in my semester break. I started my work from the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 to 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2019; The

major purpose for choosing this NGO was to be able to interact and learn about the grass-root educational struggles and obstacles faced by the smallest NGO's.

#### VISION AND MISSION OF MADURAI SEED

Madurai Seed envisions a future where, "All the Children and Young People Are Educated, Healthy, Mature, Responsible and Capable of Leading Our Future World"

They aim to "To Provide a Supportive, Nurturing Environment for Socially, Economically Disadvantaged Children and Young People to Discover and Develop Their Mental Abilities; Enrich Their Sense of Self-Esteem, and Empower Them with Emotional Stability to Promote Personal and Social Responsibilities."

The major reason for beginning this NGO was to enhance the livelihood of the children and provide them with skill orientation, scholarship, moral education and monetary help in anyway. The inbuilt system they follow helps develop the children's morale and soft skills. Madurai Seed aims to help as many children as possible and help push children to achieve their goals by guiding their parents as well. They aim to give the children an edge and perform better in their classrooms. All the extra classes and activities are done after the school hours and aims to keep the children preoccupied and indulge in developmental activities.

### **LOCALITY**

Madurai Seed is located at Karumbalai, Rajakoor in Madurai a city of Tamil Nadu. Karumbalai is a slum in a major part of Madurai. The families that live in the slum are mostly people who do household work and other small Koolie work. There are families who live in kutchra houses with very small areas with not many facilities such a refrigerator, television or even a mixer. The average house comprises of a hall used as a bedroom with a small kitchen. There are some houses without washroom facilities as well. The families usually consist of the grandparent(s), father and mother along with 3 to 4 children which makes it really hard to pay school fees or payments for higher education. Hence, the role of Madurai Seed at such a location proves to be the most beneficial. The Seed is able to raise the standard of living of the people of Karumbalai by educating the children and youth.

### **ADMINISTRATION**



The NGO is majorly run by four trustees namely Mr Karthikbharathi, Mrs V. Elavarasi, Mr Mansurali and Mrs Maariammal. The major Administrative functions such as creating syllabus, camp and centre activities and other development based activities are followed by Mr Karthik Bharathi- the founder and Director of

Madurai Seed. Mr Mansurali who was a volunteer earlier takes care of the financial aspects of Madurai Seed whereas Mrs Mariammal is like the backbone of the team and functions as a board member only. Another important member is Mrs Ellavarasi Karthik Bharathi who takes classes in English, Physics and Tamil for the Higher Secondary grades. Mr Arun Chandren also a member who helps in the major English to Tamil translation as well as is the current Program Coordinator. Other staff for the maintenance of Accounts and Audit include K. Muthupandi who was a student who grew up from the Seed's endeavours.



## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The infrastructure base of Madurai Seed comprises of few centres that are rented. The main office is the place where major admin meetings and office work takes place. There are four centres and a library above the office room that is used as the study room. The library has reference books which can be used by the volunteers and the children.



The centre called “Vaandugal Arangam” (translated- Joyful children’s centre) which is a self-owned property by Madurai Seed which has a whiteboard and small blackboards. It is for children of ages 6 to 9, where classes take place. The next centre is the “Vergal Arangam” (translated- Roots Centre) is for the children of 10 to 13 years. “Kanavugal Arangam” (translated- Dreams/Goals Centre) is for 14 years to 17 years old children. “Thedalgai Arangam” (translated- Pursuing Centre) is for college going young people. There exist a well-organised music system and a projector with a screen in the “Vaandugal Arangam”. All these centres have electricity and fans with proper ventilation. These rooms are mainly used for the classes and for activities that are provided for in the evening. The office room consists of a whiteboard that has the vision and mission displayed along with important notices. It consists of a computer system with an Internet connection and two laptops for on the go uses. There is a WiFi connecting device used for connecting to the internet. Although the rooms are small, it is adequate for the current strength of children.

## **CHILDREN**

Madurai Seed aims at reaching all the age groups of children in Karumbalai. The main target groups are students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 who mostly attend government schools in the same locality. The NGO provides important classes/tuitions to these children. The children who finish their class 12<sup>th</sup> also join the Seed as volunteers, if they wish to. The evening classes take place at the various venues down the same street and are not far away from the other. The evening classes are given from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for children from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, where they are asked to complete their homework and are given poems to repeat loudly, as well as other activities based on a yearly pre-determined syllabus. Classes for the higher secondary is from 6:00 pm to 9:15 pm with a break from 8:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The class continues from the break until 9:15 pm. The classes for the higher secondary aims at preparing them for the Public exams and focuses on students who need extra care as well.

## **VOLUNTEERS**



The volunteer team of the Seed is the backbone of the organisation as their aid to the organisation is the most fruitful. The volunteers usually are students who have learned and completed high school and have benefitted from the Seed. The regular volunteers are paid for the hours, activities and efforts that they take part in. The volunteers take classes for the students and also facilitate

the Director and other staff during programmes and functions.

The outgoing visitors such as interns like myself are a part of the volunteering team as well. A few of the volunteer's education and higher studies is also taken care of, by the scholarships provided in the name of the Seed. The volunteers are given full control over the way the children are treated and disciplined. The Seed provides training for the volunteers from time to time but not on a regular basis.

## **EVENTS**

Activities play an important role in the functioning of the Madurai Seed. There are activities incorporated in the daily syllabus as well as the weekend one. On Sundays, an event is planned in a way that engages children of every age group. Apart from the normal school days, there are activity-filled days in the summer break. Madurai Seed implements Residential Camps along with small workshops which is beneficial to the children and keeps them engaged throughout the weeks.

These activities are pre-planned as well on the spot. Mr Karthik Bharathi usually heads these activities and is aided by the volunteers completely. The activities are conducted with equal opportunities to all the children. The local camp is conducted in the Vaandugal Arangam, which is usually filled with all the children and volunteers. The events comprise of skill development based activities such as speaking, narrating, listening and leadership events. There have been movie marathons in which the children are exposed to films of various lifestyles and issues in the world



## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

One of the major facets of the organisation is the use of Social Media as a platform to invite sponsors and to encourage maximum participation from the public as well. There have been many instances where interns such as myself have learned and opted to volunteer using the information provided on platforms such as their Facebook Page and their website. Their Facebook page Madurai Seed and the account of Mr Karthik Bharathi have been used to portray the various activities and the talents of the Seed. These have been continuously updated by Mrs Elavarsi on a daily basis. During my internship periods, the daily reports I have done would be included as well.

## **AIDS PROVIDED BY THE NGO**



The NGO mainly focuses on children's educational and monetary deficiencies. The endeavours such as Volunteer programme, Scholarship and Regular class's initiative benefit the children in every way possible. They even have a Savings Initiative that promotes the idea of investment and saving money for the future.

Scholarship: This is an initiative that aids the students who are willing to pursue higher education and for those joining colleges. The parents of the children usually are unable to provide for the admission fees and the amount provided in scholarship ensures that they don't miss out on any course of their choice. Therefore this acts as a fail-safe for the poverty-stricken population in the Karumbalai locale.

Camps: In the summer, there are regular camps that are very popular among the children that include movie marathons, theatre camps, art and craft activities and computer classes. Seminars on various topics are also conducted.

Special Events: Days such as the end of the half-yearly camps, important guests are invited and programmes are performed in front of them.

## **MY OVERVIEW TESTIMONIAL**

I interned at Madurai Seed for four weeks and with the work that I was given the observations I have noted will be provided below.

### **CHILDREN**

The days I spent at the NGO was completely filled with spending time with the children and the volunteers. The children were initially a bit shy while I interacted with them, but later interacted and communicated well. All the families of the children were from a very weaker class of the community and were often not given the opportunity to prioritise studies over work. Their living quarters were mostly small and packed kutcha houses which were situated in the same locale. Over the days that I spent with them, I learnt a lot about their lifestyle and their learning patterns. I also understood the opportunities that the NGO created for them. There were so many talented individuals among the group such as Vindhya- who was great at dancing and interested in Literature. Prem and Suriya who had musical talents.

### **MY WORK**



Initially, as an intern I accompanied the children for the Vasantham Camp at the beginning of the month of May. I had to write a detailed report on the days of the camp as well as assist in the work given by Mr Karthik Bharathi. Then as the camp days were completed, I had the opportunity of sharing my interests with the children by conducting a dance workshop and story-telling workshop. I had also given a detailed presentation on various topics to the children at the Seed. There was a three-day visit to Kaleidoscope with movie displays as well. I had to narrate stories to the public as well. The daily reports I had completed also were used as updates for Facebook posts. The various interactions with the children was a learning experience for me as well. I spent most of my mornings from 10 am to 12 or 1 pm writing articles and planning ahead on what activities to conduct. The evenings from 5 pm to 8 or 9 pm was spent conducting the workshops or playing some fun games. I had aided in the starting of an Instagram account recently, as it may help in acquiring a larger base of viewers and following. The Instagram page Madurai Seed would hopefully give a better outlook and might increase the prospective developments of Madurai Seed.



My work was not very restrictive in nature but was flexible with timings schedules. It also revolved around the events and the schedule of the NGO. There were instances where I had to accompany the children for certain events outside the NGO premises such as story recitals and performance camps at other neighbouring NGO's. My work was supervised at all times either by Mr Karthikbharathi or by Mrs Elavarasi. All my doubts and work-related inquiries were covered and taken care of by both of them at all times. I had also a question-answer session where I learned about the founding of the NGO and the developments that led to what it is now. Mr Karthik Bharathi also introduced me to the NGO'S in association with the Madurai Seed like Kaleidoscope and CESC NGO.

### **WEEKLY REPORT:**

#### **WEEK 1 – (08/05/2019 – 14/05/2019)**



The first day of my internship was the first day of the summer camp of the NGO. Where I had tagged along with the children to visit the Convent Centre for Development at Kariapetti in Tamil Nadu. The founder of the centre Mr Sarvanan addressed the children in regard to the importance of planting trees and the benefits derived in planting and protecting trees. He explained the methods our ancestors

had taken up in order to protect certain species of trees and about all the plant species that existed in the reserve. In the following days, there were indoor activities such as understanding the footprint we leave behind in the world. The summer camp was divided into groups and marks for discipline, involvement and participation was maintained every day. There was another day where the students practised on how to communicate efficiently. Every morning, I would work in the office and write articles about the events of the previous day and in the evening I would assist involve myself in the day's plan. The summer camp eventually came to an end with the Valedictorian day. There were special guests and retrospection of all the events that had taken place the previous days. There were different talents portrayed and the children were enthusiastic to participate. I had to overlook the speech for the day and assisted in coaching and training a child on how to deliver a speech on the field visits. The camp ended very well with prize distribution. The following day on 13th May, I had accompanied the students to a Novel Recital at American College. It was conducted by a renowned South Indian face named Bava Chelladurai who was a well-known author of novels and short stories like "Yella Naalum Karthikai". The novel he had recited was "IDAKAI" (translated – left hand). The experience was really good and I was able to help a few children who were with me to understand certain portions of his novel recital.

The next day I was introduced to a friendly associate of Mr Karthikbharathi,, the associate also headed another NGO named Kaleidoscope.

I was invited to narrate a story to the children of CECI short Centre for Experiencing Socio-Cultural Interaction in Madurai. It was a centre, where the children from a nearby tribal community had resided as a part of their residential camp from another NGO. This gave me an insight to their lifestyle and activities. I met with the children's volunteers and they shared their strategies and initiatives. I had the opportunity to share a part of my hobby-narrating stories as a learning activity for the children in CECI. These tribal children answered questions after the two stories that I had narrated in Tamil which helped me to gauge and understand their vocabulary as well. In the evening of the same day, I reiterated the same story to the children of Madurai Seed who were engrossed in the narrative.

#### WEEK 2: – (15/05/2019 – 22/05/2019)



This in return helped me create a workshop where I could share my story narration and creating techniques. This week the students and I had different activities planned out, where I was able to freely impart what I knew about narration. There were activities, where the children had to make impromptu stories with small hints. The children were asked to pick a chit from the lots to find a prompt given in the form of a phrase. The phrases were “Me, boat, Sea”, “Flying shoes and my grandfather”, “Tree and the Squirrel”, “Four friends and an Angel”. The children picked up their prompts and were given 10 minutes to create a story. The stories that were created were ones that were logical and had a moral at the end of it. There were magical creatures such as “The flying elephant” and “The Speaking Parrot”.

The next day I narrated another story and explained the need for characterization and the flow of a story along with adding a moral to it. Then Mr Karthikbharathi read a story on the next and talked about the different parts of a story, and had asked for my input on the same. The next day, all the stories created by the children was narrated to the other volunteers and students who made their own interpretations of the same through art and craft, where I accompanied and overlooked their work.

Every morning I was asked to schedule the activities and games for the day as well as complete the articles concerning the activities done the previous day.



On 18th I had attended a seminar on Honour Killing in Lady Doak College in Madurai along with some senior students and volunteers, the guest speakers talked about its impact on the society and it was a mind-opening session for all of us.

Week 3: – (22/05/2019 – 29/05/2019)



This week, all our activities revolved around fitness and dancing. The children and volunteers were the most enthusiastic about this activity. By the use of basic Aerobic and dance techniques, I was able to choreograph and teach the children 2 routines with peppy and rhythmic music. It was a three-day practice session followed by a day where the children performed it through their Madurai Seed Facebook live. It was a perfect relief for all the volunteers and children as it helped us bond as a team and helped us be active during the summer. On the 28th, Madurai Seed was invited for a three day camp at Kaleidoscope- an NGO that works for children's welfare as well. The first day of the camp was interesting as I was able to narrate a story to the children as

well as the public audience present there. We conducted simple and fun interactive games and had a movie screening as well. On the second day of the camp, the public audience joined the children of Madurai Seed and me, to practice and learn some steps from the Aerobic / Dance routine. It was an ice-breaking session as well as a fun way to bring fitness into the children at the camp. On the third day, the children of Madurai Seed practiced and performed a shadow puppet show about the animals in the jungle followed by a story narration by a volunteer.

WEEK 4: – (30/05/2019 – 05/06/2019)



The camp came to an end with learning more about the locality and the ways that anyone can help the children there. I interacted with the families (public audience) who also encouraged and supported such activities and were ready to pitch in whenever necessary. Then the following day I learned about the history and the core management of the NGO and the way in which

donations were handled. The Director along with the other trustees held an interactive question-answer session with me, talking about the programs and the various administrative functions they carry out along with the real reason for starting the NGO in this specific locale. We discussed the legal problems that one of the NGO's property faced, there was a question of easement rights involved.

I gave a few of my opinions on the matter as I was a law student. On the 2nd of June, I conducted a presentation and discussion on the topic of Law as a Career. I touched on various topics ranging from the Introduction and Creation of the Constitution as the supreme law of the land to how pursuing law as a career would benefit each person. Then, we discussed the major reasons or the benefits of choosing law as a career in India. Then, I completed the presentation with a small run through about the various pathways one can choose to learn law as an Under Graduate course as well as pursue law not only as a lawyer but as a judge as well. The following day I discussed the country UAE and its culture as I was born and brought up there, the children were eager to know more about it. It was a very fruitful and interactive session as we discussed law and its functions in both countries and it was very surprising to the children as they found out UAE is a monarchy. The next day I spent some time with the children, doing some activities as well as finishing all the Report and Article Writing work. On the 3rd, summer vacation came to an end and the regular school had begun. I accompanied the volunteers and assisted in conducting classes for students in the 2nd grade. It was an eye-opening session as I was able to understand the level of education and the various barriers in learning the children faced. There was a farewell conducted on the 5th of June as well as a small retrospective program where I had to say a few words and the children performed their version of the Dance routine together with me.



## **LEARNING OUTCOME**

I was able to give back whatever I could as an Individual and that was the most valuable thing I would take back from this experience. I was able to truly understand the children and the struggles they face on a daily basis. I was able to understand how poverty cycle can be broken through education. Another eye opening truth was the need for more initiatives like the one taken by Madurai Seed. Social and Economic issues start at home and affects the children the most, therefore working to overcome this is not an easy task, but Madurai Seed does so easily.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall my experience with Madurai Seed was really good, but the restriction to just 4 weeks of work time was a downside. Since I joined in May, it was summer holidays for the children and there were only fewer members than the usual number and my interaction was limited to just with them. The internship revolved around workshops and camps rather than regular classes. I was able to discover the disparities in their daily life and in relation to education as well. The major aim of Madurai Seed is to divert the youth to education and growth rather than dwelling into bad habits or criminal activities. The work conducted by them is accurate and fruitful as many of the students who have graduated through the guidance of the NGO are first-generation graduates. Many of them are able to lead a life far better than their parents and have achieved their goals and dreams. The association with other institutions provides better opportunity and exposure to the student, which eventually makes them shine in their classrooms and otherwise.



## Report from Anouk, Law Student from France



As a French student in bachelor of law, I decided to make an internship in Madurai Seed from July 22nd to August 23rd 2019. Indeed, since my first year in College, I have been aspiring to work in a non-governmental organization (NGO). I chose Madurai Seed because I was looking for a local NGO and not a company proposing solidarity tourism. I knew Madurai Seed thanks to a friend of mine that I met in a lawyer office one year before, Thurgga, who told me about her experience in the association.

### Madurai Seed - Presentation

Madurai Seed is a non-profit organization created by Karthik Bharathi in 1999, and which aims to promote education of children in Karumbalai, an under-developed area in Madurai. The association is composed of the members of the board (the Director Karthik Bharathi; the President V. Elavarasi; the Program Coordinator Arun Kumar; the financial Trustee, Secretary and treasurer M. Mansurali and the accountant K. Muthupandi) and a team of around 25 college students, working as volunteers. Most of the members of the team were former students in Madurai Seed. Actually, because of the good coordination between the members of the board, the length of time they know each other and the enthusiasm the volunteers show to spend time with the children, Madurai Seed looks more like a big family than a strict NGO.

### How Madurai Seed promotes education

The NGO carries out its purpose to promote education by many ways. Firstly, Madurai Seed provides an academic support to the children: every evening after school, the children go to Madurai Seed in order to do their homework or attend classes taught by the volunteers, in all subjects (physics, mathematics, Tamil or English). These sessions are very important for the children, insofar as most of them attend classes in governmental school, where the teachers can't individually and personally take care of all children. By these evening classes, each volunteer leads a small group of around 10 children and ask them questions, reviews the topic they did not understand in class and help them to do their homework. The volunteers are extremely patient and listening to the needs of the children, and this is certainly one major reason of Madurai Seed success. Secondly, more than only focusing on their academic skills, Madurai Seed affords the possibility to the children to develop their creative skills through many activities like painting, playing dramas, cooking on weekend.



Moreover, Madurai Seed often plans movie sessions or conferences that the children and the volunteers may attend. Finally, during the Summer Camp, 2 Madurai Seed sometimes arrange some travels to many places (hills, mountains, beach, temples), which is a very beautiful opportunity for the children who can't travel by themselves or with their family. Through these extracurricular activities, the children may enhance their personal culture and discover new things that they don't learn at school. Thirdly, giving responsibilities to the children is another aim of Madurai Seed. With this in mind, some elections of children representatives are organized each year. These representatives express the views of the children and allow their opinion to be taken into account for the important activities. The representatives play also an important role during special events. For instance, for the Independence Day on August 15th, Karthik charged one representative to raise the Indian flag on Madurai Seed's building and give a speech for this day, related to people's freedom.



Besides, the children are furthermore empowered with Madurai Seed children bank: they regularly give a little amount of money and receive the final amount at the end of the year. The purpose of this action is for the children to learn how to manage their money and reduce the financial burden of their family. Fourthly, Madurai Seed affords guidance to the children during and after their studies. During their studies, the members of the board help the

children for submitting an application or going to an interview. Also, the Program Coordinator may decide to provide a scholarship to a child, according to his/her attendance and skills. After the studies, Madurai Seed can help the student to get a job, especially through some opportunities provided by Asha Boston for education, a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of basic education in India. In a nutshell, Madurai Seed affords to the children what the governmental school cannot provide for education, that means an individual support and guidance for the children, personal culture and responsibilities.

**How Madurai Seed fights against the main problems in the educational system in India:** According to UNESCO, in 2015, the alphabetization rate in India was around 70% for the people of 15 years old and more. The free and mandatory school for pupils from 6 to 14 years old since 2010 can explain this high rate. Nevertheless, the educational system in India meets three main problems. The first problem is the lack of resources in governmental school: the teachers are often missing because they have to do another profession besides, the classes are overcrowded and for this reason, the teachers cannot take care personally and individually of each child.

Only the parents who have sufficient resources may register their children in private school, where the results are more successful than in governmental schools. The second problem is the gender discrimination in education.



Although the amount of alphabetization of 70% looks relatively high, there is a huge difference between men and women in India. Indeed, whereas 80% of men are educated, the amount represents only 60% for women. This difference can be explained by the pressure exercised on the daughters to get married quickly and the disinterest of their parents towards education. Indeed, some families may consider that the

women have to do the domestic work and, in that sense, education could appear as an economic waste of time. 3 The third problem is the persistent discrimination according to the cast in education. While the Indian Constitution grants equality between all Indian people, regardless to the casts, the tradition sometimes remains important, especially in small villages. The lower classes have less access to education or may be subject to discriminations. For instance, Karthik's friend, Manikandan, explained in the TV show "Josh talks" the issues he had to face up as a student coming from a poor background and a backward cast. Even though some means of positive discrimination have been taken, like the imposition of 20% of pupils from lower classes in private schools, the gap of the success in education between the lower and upper casts remains still important and people from lower classes, when they succeed in education, can be confronted to discriminations in their professions. Madurai Seed fights again these three systemic problems by welcoming all children, without any selection regarding their casts, the financial resources of their families or their academic level: equality for all is the motto of the association. The volunteers take care of a little group of children to assert that they are able to follow the subjects and this allows them to fill their academic gaps. To ensure gender equality, the girl students are represented as well as the boys and the children are not split according to their gender during the sessions, as they are in governmental schools. Above all, the members of Madurai Seed encourage the girls to continue their studies, which is the only way for them to get personal blossoming, the profession they want and avoid them to become housewives. Education is the only way for people to accept equality for all, regardless to the cast or the gender and this is the purpose of Madurai Seed.



## Evening Classes with the 1st – 5th Standards



From July 22nd to August 23rd, the children attended English classes. We made many activities together. Usually, the children were split in two groups according to their level. On the one hand, the youngest learnt the elementary of English, especially the shapes, the clothes, the family through a genealogic tree, the parts of the body, the animals, the colors, the transports, the fruits, the hobbies, the furniture we can find in a

classroom and the basic questions to introduce themselves (What is your name?; How old are you?; How are you?; Where do you live?; What is your favorite color/food/sport?).

Most of the time, to learn a new word, the children had to guess it after seeing a picture or after one of their classmates drew or acted it. On the other hand, the eldest discovered everyday ten words starting with a new letter of the alphabet after seeing a picture and had to make an easy sentence with this new word. Afterwards, they often had to guess a word after hearing the definition (for the furniture that we can find in a classroom, the animals), acted discussions between a customer and a seller or a waiter, answered right or wrong to some questions and corrected the sentences when it was false, learnt the opposite and the comparative form (for instance, “the rabbit is faster than the turtle”) or told a usual day in their week. We also made some activities altogether. For example, to discover the professions, one child acted a job given on a picture, while the others had to guess it. In order to develop their creativity, twice at the end of the class, the children drew their dream (for most of them, it was to become a doctor, police, to see an elephant or a rainbow) and their favourite place (the mountains, the beach, the park or temples). Also, we played game altogether (Simon says, the detective or “guess the animal”), sang rhymes (“If you are happy and you know it clap your hands”, “Head, shoulders knees and toes”) and organized a competition, in which the class was divided in two teams, the Lions and the Tigers, 4 and each team had to answer to questions as quickly as possible to win as many points as possible. Besides, three sessions were dedicated to the learning of music.

For the first music class, the children discovered six music instruments (keyboard, violin, cello, xylophone, clarinet, flute), filed in three families (wind, percussions and string instruments). Then, they heard the music pieces from Camille Saint Saens “The Carnival of animals”. Because each music represents the sound of an animal (lion, fish, swan, kangaroo, fossils), the children tried to guess the instruments and the animal it corresponds to. At the end, the children learnt the notes of music. In a second session, the children listened to the “cup song” of Anna Kendrick and made the same beats with their hands.



In the last music class, the children sang “Neenda neenda kalam” for the birthday of Manni’s daughter and other songs like the alphabet and “Twinkle Twinkle little star” while I accompanied them on the keyboard. Finally, to conclude the music sessions, on the Independence day, the children and the volunteers built five music instruments (drums, maracas, rain baton, African drum and sanza) with coconut shell and plastic

bottles. After one hour, because they had almost all finished, they played their own instruments and truly enjoyed it. This day was a very beautiful one and this session is one of my best memories of the internship. Whether during English or music classes, the children were always very active and learnt very quickly. It has been an absolute pleasure to see them being interested in all activities and showing their will to learn more and more. They seemed to especially appreciate the competition in two teams, the first music class and drawing. I truly loved every moment spent with them.

### **Special Events and Outings**

- Saturday 27th July, Alagar temple: early in the morning, with Arun and four volunteers (Vasanth, Nandhini, Vindthia and Sathish), we went to Alagar temple by bus, by crossing 5 wonderful landscapes of hills, sugar cane fields and the forest to reach the temple. In the temple, we took a shower with holy water (something I had never tried before) and ate food for free. This first outing allowed me to meet the volunteers and to enjoy the Indian biodiversity (the countless butterflies or the plants “touch me not”).
- Sunday 28th July, Varichiyur cave: with Elaa, Arun, Muthupandi, Vindthia and Surya, we went to Varichiyur cave to see Jain and Shiva (very recent) temples. It was very funny to visit Shiva temple because we had to be crouched. On the hill, we could admire the beautiful landscapes, a water point with lotus leafs and were very lucky to see a peacock, the Indian national bird. Down the hills, there was another Shiva temple with Shiva’s messenger (a bull), charged to transmit the wishes of people to Shiva. We spent very beautiful moments altogether.
- Sunday 28th July (evening), Presentation of the United Kingdom and Italy: the children and the volunteers listened to a presentation of two countries I have ever visited (the United Kingdom and Italy), which focused on main points for each country: geography, food, monuments, famous places, culture, sport. They enjoyed watching the parade of Buckingham Palace’s guards in London or hearing the bells of the Big Ben.





Friday 2nd August, Presentation of the United States (West Coast) and Brazil: the children attended a second presentation of two other countries I have ever visited (the United States and Brazil). Concerning the United States, the children could discover the geography, the landscapes of the cities (San Francisco, Los Angeles) and the most famous national parks (Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Death

Valley) through pictures and videos. They saw other pictures of the typical food in the United States (fast food) that they already knew and found out why the United States are famous for (Halloween, Disney movies, universities, hip-hop dance). Concerning Brazil, the children watched pictures and videos of monuments (Corcovado, the modern Cathedral built by Oscar Niemeyer), Copacabana Beach, Iguazu falls (the biggest in the world) and the Rio Carnival, which stands each year in February. It has been a real pleasure to see the interest of the children and I hope that they could travel a little bit through these presentations.

- Saturday 3rd August – Sunday 4th August, Literary festival: the Literary Festival is a book festival, which takes place once a year in the American College for two days. It is designed for the children: they can play dramas, meet book authors and listen to stories told by professional speakers. On Saturday, the children and the volunteers played the drama “Tara and her grandma” that they prepared for a year and which tells the story of a young girl, living in a village with her grandmother. Because of the famine suffered in the village, the elders are expelled but Tara decided to hide her grandmother and finally succeeds to save the village with her help. The aim of the drama is to put the emphasis on the importance of the old people in villages. On Sunday, the children played the drama “Idu Yaru Kombu”. It tells the story of a King whose orders are followed blindly by his people: only one person contradicts what the King says, but she is blamed by the other people in the village for being against him. Another scene is located in a classroom and the teachers are ministers that all the students follow. Once again, only one student is against what they say and is consequently blamed by the other students. But at one moment, when the King enters in the classroom, the students suddenly become aware that what the King and the ministers say are wrong and they realized that they have been cheated during all this time. I definitely loved this second drama, because of its political and moral scope: we should not accept everything from the authority, follow blindly the majority, and above all, education is the only way to get knowledge.

The children and the volunteers were very involved in both dramas, they acted and danced very well, disclosing a real talent for the theatre. This kind of activities is very important for them, insofar as it develops their creativity and their self-confidence.

- Friday 9th August, Mulaipari Festival: this day was a special fay for the celebration of Goddess, during which women had to bring and throw plants that germinated in special rooms for nine days into the river. Karumbalai was animated, with music on the streets, jasmine, incense, candles and colours everywhere. I was so lucky to be there for this event: the scene was just amazing.

- Saturday 10th August – Sunday 11th August, trip in Kodaikanal: with Karthik, Arun and six volunteers (Marimuthu, Jeeva, Vindthia, Surya, Satish and Moukesh), we were lucky to go to Kodaikanal, a famous hill station built in 1845 by British bureaucrats and missionaries. The landscapes of the mountains were wonderful. We visited there many places like La Saleth Church (a French Tamil Church), Bryant Park (botanic garden), strolled along the Coaker's walk, rode by bike all along Kodai Lake and had a lot of fun with Vindthia on a two-seats bike. We could enjoy the incredible sceneries of Silent Valley, the Pillar rocks, the Pine Forest, Sambar Falls (from which I still have a sweet memory on my left hand), Green Valley (Suicide Point) and Berijam Lake from the Fire tower.

We also bought homemade chocolate in the shopping place because it is a speciality of



Kodaikanal (and I owned chocolate to Vindthia). I am so thankful for this amazing weekend, during which everything was perfect, whether the food or the funny moments shared together. It is one of my favourite memories of the month.

- Monday 11th August, Presentation of Kodaikanal: to share our trip in Kodaikanal, the volunteers and some children heard a presentation of the hill station, focusing on the geography, the history (the Paliyan Tribe as the first inhabitants of the station in the 14th century, the building of the station in 1845 by the British as a refuge and the scandal of mercury poisoning in 2001), the landscapes (Silent Valley, Kodai Lake, Pillar Rock, Dolphin nose, Pine forest, Pambar Falls), the biodiversity (wood pigeons, bulls, monkeys, tigers and a 500-years-old tree) and what the place is famous for (La Saleth Church, homemade chocolate, the solar observatory, the international school).



- Wednesday 13th August, Jain's hill: in the morning, with Karthik and Prem, we went to Jain's hills, located around 10 kilometres from Karumbalai. We visited the temple and climbed the hills, on top of which there were statues of Jain's figures and a lamp on which people use to put oil. This place afforded us a wonderful view of the four hills (Muruga hills, cow hills, elephant hills and snake hills). We climbed other hills to reach Jain's cave, on which ancient Tamil letters were written and where we saw another sculpture of Jain's figure praying, above which three umbrellas stood. Once again, I loved this outing: I could meet Prem, enjoy the wonderful landscapes and Jain's heritage.



(gymnastic, dance or mallakhamb). We spent awesome moments with the members of the board and all the volunteers.

- Friday 16th August, Meenakshi temple: early in the morning, with Arun and Elaa, we went to Meenakshi temple for seeing the morning ceremony. It was very beautiful, especially because of the incense diffused in the temple, the beauty of the place or the thavil and the nadhaswaram played by the monks to wake up the Gods. Going there early to enjoy the view of the temple in the dark setting was worth it.

- Saturday 17th August, Conference on Cuba by Melli's mother: after having met Melli, a member of the international organisation Asha for education in Boston in the morning, all the volunteers and the members of the board were reunited in Prahbar's collective place to attend Melli's mother Conference on Cuba, where she travelled for a couple of days. The Conference focused on the history of Cuba, marked by its strained relationships with the United States mainly at the origin of the independence of the country nowadays, and the political sphere, that means the communist party in power since 1965. The Conference was very interesting and allowed us to learn many things about Cuba (I want to thank my personal translator Elaa).

• Sunday 18th August, Theatre “Nerkonda Paarvai”: it was the first time I went to the theatre in India and I can assure that it was a single experience. Fortunately, I already saw the Hindi version of the movie in English (Pink, on Arun’s advice), so I could understand it. The mood in the theatre was unique, especially when the spectators applauded at the sight of their favourite actor or because of the Tamil style (especially the fights of the lawyer similar as in a Tarantino movie). I truly enjoyed this movie and have recommended it to my friends.



• Monday 19th August, Opening Ceremony of the new building: after the classes in the evening, an opening ceremony has been organized for the new building. The ceremony was solemn, with the red tape cutting, the gold candles, the peacock in kolam, the songs, the prayers and the opening of the curtain disclosing the poster greeting the donations. I was very moved to see my name as a guest. This opening

ceremony was very successful and we shared beautiful moments altogether.

• Tuesday 20th August – Thursday 22nd August, Pondicherry: Karthik and I went to Pondicherry by night-bus on Tuesday evening and reached the destination on Wednesday early in the morning. The first day, we visited Manakula Vinayagar temple (Ganesh temple) which was wonderful with the countless colours, walked all along the beach, rode by boat to another fantastic beach (Paradise Beach), ate in the Mother Centre Dining Hall and drank a beer in a bar. This day was a very beautiful one, full of sweet memories. On Thursday, we visited Auroville, an utopic city built by Mother Mirra in 1968, which was aimed to be the place of life of universal community, where people live in a peaceful way in a perfect harmony, regardless to all beliefs, political opinions and nationalities. We could admire the Matrimandir (Golden Globe) where people go for meditation and special events, like Mother 9 Mirra’s birthday for instance. This visit was interesting but sometimes looked like a “colonialist place” because of the majority of people settling there were European or the fact that the documentation in the shop did not exist in Tamil, although this city is located in Tamil Nadu.

These two days were just amazing and I am so grateful to Karthik for making me discover Pondicherry and Auroville. I really want to thank the members of the board for organizing all these outings, during which I could get closer with the volunteers and discover the most gorgeous places of Madurai and around.



## How the Internship Has Been Useful for My Future



How can I explain in a few lines how this internship has been a revelation for me? Since my first year of law studies, I am interested in the subjects of international law and international relations. At the end of my first year of studies, I tried to make an internship in a NGO, but I finally realized that the NGO I had found was a private company asking for money, more than volunteering. So, I made an internship

in a lawyer office specialized in foreign law, which supported some French NGOs. After my second year of law, I carried out an internship in a lawyer office specialized in Human Rights, because French NGOs dismissed my application. I met there another intern, Thurgga, with whom I talked a lot and she explained me that one month before, she made an internship in a local NGO in India. Because she saw that I was interested, she gave me the name of Madurai Seed and I am so grateful to her. In Madurai Seed, I learnt many things concerning the NGO, like the formalities to create it, the structure, the functioning (financial functioning and beyond the financial functioning, like the coordination with other NGOs, the updating on social networks and the website), how to raise funds and how to give an academic support to children from an under-developed area. Furthermore, this was my first real experience with children. I always wanted to work in a NGO but this internship has confirmed my will and made me even more determined for that purpose. Above all, I am now sure that I want to work later with children and young people, in India if possible. During this internship, I met amazing people, whether the members of the board, with whom we shared amazing and funny moments (especially by talking about movies, music and Tamil or French culture), the volunteers that I could get closer during the outings, and the children, who have shown by their wit and their motivation that they will succeed in their professional lives. Once again, I want to thank Karthik, Elaa and Arun, not only for your daily kindness and caring, but mostly for welcoming me. Indeed, you allowed me to spend the most beautiful and rewarding month of my life in Madurai Seed, and I hope that I was able to bring you and Madurai Seed as much as you brought me: much more than a simple experience, a second family.

## Site visit by Melli Annamalai, Asha-Boston

**Date: August 18 & 21, 2019**

Arun and Vicky (Vigneswaran) and Anand had visited REWARD Trust a month and a half earlier, and they were very enthusiastic about the work there. I was happy to see them energized by this. Their visit report is [here](#).

Vicky and Anand have joined a local IT company as graphics design workers. This was enabled by a course they took (run by a private company). Their starting pay is Rs. 10K/month, not a big amount, but they are happy to be employed and employed in a field they like. Vicky's family situation was very difficult and the financial hardship was great. His father was an alcoholic and his mother somehow made ends meet working as domestic help. Under Seed's guidance he has blossomed into a responsible young man who can now help take care of his family doing work he enjoys. The stipend supported by Asha Boston (to help volunteers teaching at the centers) made a big difference in helping Vicky achieve his goals.

In Vicky's words (condensed version from the annual report): "I came to Seed when I was 10 years old. With the exposure I got from Seed, I became very much interested in studying visual communication in college. But I couldn't afford it. Seed gave me opportunities to take photos and videos at the organization's events. I liked capturing photos of people and their emotions. Seed, with the big support of Ms. Andrea Wilson and FMS sponsored me to pursue Graphic designing and video editing course. I am now qualified to work as video editor/graphic designer. I would like to extend my thanks to the sponsorship program of Seed which helps many young people to study and fulfil their dreams of what they wish to me."





also met with a couple of other volunteers who came from difficult family situations but the nurturing family-like environment of SEED Narpanigal has helped them get past that. Surya was given the responsibility of working with the small savings account of students, and he has become such a sincere coordinator. He has moved from being about to be arrested by the police for a fight to being a responsible young man in the community. Mukesh Kumar has become a student leader.

We also had our usual Kaleidoscope meeting with a book reading by my mother on her upcoming book.



Youth women volunteers telling my mother that they are inspired by her, that she continues to learn about various issues and write as even as she gets old.



The center Asha Boston helped them lease is functional now. It was inaugurated during my visit

## Report by Intern Suthan, Social Responsibility Project, Christ University

Day-1: 29-10-2019:

Morning-10:30-12

This was the first time in the NGO, which is situated in Karumbalayam, which is an economically backward area where many houses do struggle for fulfilling their basic needs. There I met Mr. Karthik Bharathi, the director of Madurai SEED and Mr. Arun Kumar, the program coordinator. They asked me few questions about myself and my bio data so to see that what activities they can plan for me to work upon. My first task was to study the website of the NGO which would make me understand more about the organisation.

Evening-6:30-7:45



This evening the Director instructed his program coordinator to guide for a tour around the organisation so that I can observe the types of children coming around the campus for learning and doing their daily tasks given in their schools. There were 4 divisions, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> standard, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard and the last one for the college students. The children were enjoying doing their daily tasks and being guided by the volunteers who are

the college going students in the same community. this was the end of day 1

Day-2: 30-10-2019

Morning-10:30-12:15

This morning was the session of question and answer to clarify doubts about the organisation. I came to know more about the organisation as I was able to raise a lot of doubts specially about the children bank, parent's support for their children, source of funds, and support from people outside. Here I came to know about the origin of the organisation, its reach around Madurai, foreign supporters towards the organisation, the activities conducted and a lot more. This session gave me a clear idea about the organisation and also it would help plan my tasks accordingly.



Evening-6:40-8:45



This evening I was supposed to teach pencil shading to the children and also to entertain them with games. At first I was feeling nervous as I do not know how would the children react towards me. The volunteers helped me to gather children and I was able to guide the children step by step and also the volunteers also were following so that the children would better understand what I was to deliver for the day. After an hour, the children completed their drawings which were amazing as their interest

towards learning made me to complete my task with full satisfaction. Next was the games session where we played the game of hangman in which the children should guess the letters so to reveal the word hidden. Both children and volunteers were actively participating in the game which I was able to give out some new words which would enrich their vocabulary. This was the end of day-2 in the organisation.

Day-3: 31-10-2019

Morning-11:00-12:45

It was day 3 in the NGO and at this time I was given a plan of greeting card using constructive paper by the program coordinator and for the second session I have to teach basic English question and answer session for the children. Meanwhile I was doing a report on my daily tasks and my learning outcomes on each day. After finishing the report of past two days I was searching on google for designs to draw on the constructive paper and was thinking about how to make the class more interactive than the previous day.

Evening-6:40-8:30

This evening, there were more kids than yesterday, and the enthusiasm in the kids were also more than yesterday which made me happier and gave more confidence in me. The volunteers distributed the constructive paper and I started to teach how to draw a teddy bear step by step. The kids seems to able to draw easily than what I thought so after some time I drew the full figure and the children also did the same. The director then called me and told that he was expecting more from me and he was a bit disappointed on my work and then he told to teach English for the kids.

I went back to the kids and then collected the papers and wrote simple questions with answers and made them pronounce each of the question and the answer so that they can answer to the questions asked appropriately.

It was a bit difficult to control the children but somehow I managed to teach them effectively.

Since only teaching would make them boring , for the last twenty minutes we had an interactive session about their daily activities they do in home, school, and at the NGO. This went very interesting as children were very enthusiastically answering to the questions asked and they also asked about my activities and so on. The plan was given for the next day as to prepare greeting cards for the children so that they can colour upon them and have them for their future uses. This was the end of day 3 in the NGO.

Day-4: 01.11.2019

Evening-6:20-8:40



Before coming to the NGO, I was preparing greeting cards for the children in the morning so that they can colour and exhibit them beautifully. It took around three hours for preparing the greeting card in my home. After making them I brought all those cards and started distributing to the children according to their standards so that they can easily cope up with the colours. It was a tiring task for both myself and the volunteers as we have

to define each and everybody the sketching and colours that they had to use. It took two hours for the children to finish their colouring tasks so that it looks good and better than before. After the task, we had a usual discussion session with the kids about what they have done today in school and also gave tips upon food and health especially when it comes to eating breakfast as many do not eat their morning food and go to schools directly. This was the day 3 in the NGO and this day went better than the previous two days.



Day-5: 02.11.2019

Morning-10:30-12:30

Finally, it's the last morning at the NGO where the director told about the formal tasks such as certificate and the report to be submitted after the evening tasks being completed. This time the evening tasks were planned to play and entertain the children with games and activities and so on. But since there was a power cut in the area so I was writing the previous day's report and submitted to the program coordinator. After that I was thinking of activities to be conducted during the last eve of the program.

Evening-6:40-8:50

Here comes the last evening with the children!! Since it was Saturday, there were a lot of children than the previous days at the NGO. First I bought puffs for all the children, volunteers, staffs etc.... for helping me to successfully complete my duty for the organization and the project work. Then all children sat in a circle and played the ball game in which the players must describe about the person towards each other. This game would allow us to know about each other in an organization. This game is often played in college and at workplaces too.



Second, we played a game in which each of them would say three statements about themselves in which other children must find the false statement in the three. This game went more interesting as the children seemed to know about their friends each other and the volunteers also made the game even more interesting by cracking jokes and appreciating each other. This went until post 8 as it took participation from all members.

After that the children went for a small break meanwhile my certificate was ready with the coordinator. Then we had our usual discussion about our school lives and had a group photo to cherish our memories....

Last, but not the least I thank Mr Karthik Bharathi, director-MADURAI SEED, Mr Arun, program coordinator, all the volunteers and the children for giving me a chance to utilise my opportunity for the good and also help and cooperated to finish with the SRP project which would be impossible without their consent.

## Report by Keith Rossborough



My most recent visit to Madurai Seed coincided with the festival of Pongal, in January 2020. This was a truly wonderful time to be in Madurai and to be presented with the opportunity to celebrate the festival with the children, young people and staff of Madurai Seed. What especially captivated me during this visit was seeing how open, comfortable and assertive the young people have become with me,

especially the girls, who had previously been somewhat shy and reserved - perhaps my visits over the past seven years have helped them to gain my confidence, and is probably their way of showing their appreciation for the small contributions I make to their personal and social development.

Seeing that the many of the 'young people' are now entering or have entered the world of academia, as well as entering the world of a work, my input sessions focused on academic language - the kind of language that they are probably exposed to at universities in general, as well as academic and professional surroundings in general.

The input sessions mainly covered formality in speech, the various conventions used in various domains, but also included attending job interviews and writing job applications. This of course also gave me an insight into how these conventions are different in India than in the West, which also made it very educational for me too. The young people seemed to embrace and appreciate this kind of input, as they can probably already see and are experiencing how language (and behaviour) is used and differs in various domains in life.

Observing the children's and young people's continuous development at Madurai Seed continues to motivate me personally, and instils in me the importance of their continual social and personal development. I'm already looking forward to my visit in 2021. Keep up the wonderful work Madurai Seed.



## Report by Katrin and Urs



In winter 2020 we visited Madurai Seed for the second time. We were very excited to see some familiar faces again and to learn more about new developments. It was so nice to be back and after a very warm welcome, we felt immediately comfortable again. The latest news in Karumbalai was that the premises had been extended by a spacious, new classroom on top of a building. Although construction was not yet completely finished, this new

classroom was already in use and allows for even more youngsters benefitting from Madurai Seed's programme.

During our visit, we took the opportunity to work with the volunteers and children. Urs prepared an experiment to explain the lever principle to the younger children. A video of the Chinese fishing nets in Kochi taken last year was thereby used as a motivational example. At the same time, Katrin worked on volunteers' speaking and reading skills by introducing them to two Swiss traditions: the carnival in central Switzerland and Santa Claus. We further organized a small workshop for the volunteers and older students with a focus on fluency as we wanted to make them feel more comfortable about speaking in English. We were proud to see that after a range of warm-up activities and some role-plays students became more confident about using the language. Their enthusiasm, eagerness and creativity while working on these tasks was impressive and made these classes a great pleasure.

During our stay in Madurai, we had the opportunity to take part in the daily life and gain a deeper insight into the regional culture. One highlight was the Madurai Art Fest and to see how Madurai Seed is involved in other local projects. It was great to experience how such collaborations offer the children and volunteers from Madurai Seed the opportunity to witness local art and to broaden their horizon. It was once again wonderful to see how Karumbalai profits enormously from the efforts of the Madurai Seed project and we are looking forward to seeing it flourishing further.

## Short Reflection on my internship: Eva



My name is Eva Bloemhof and I am 15 years old. I went to India for my IWEF. And international work experience for my school. I am from the Netherlands and here I do an IB English program at my school.

I had an amazing time at Madurai Seed. My internship was only for four days but I learnt more than I could have ever imagined. During my time here I taught English. I love the language and when children can speak English, I think they have more chances of a healthy future.

In the first two days I taught English in a village near Madurai at a village school. The children were very enthusiastic. I tried to focus on speaking and listening. It was a lot of fun!

I also taught at Madurai Seed. The children already knew quite a bit of English so there were some conversations! The other volunteers helped with preparing lessons and we had some interesting conversations. It is incredible what this organisation does for the neighbourhood and the people that work there are amazing. Thank you so much for this experience!



## Impressions of my visit to Madurai Seed, 9-18 March 2020 by Nick Bell



I was once again fortunate this year to spend some valuable time at Madurai Seed, staying a ten-minute walk away at the Treebo Trip Balini Hotel, so that I was able to go on morning guided walks with Arun - at 7 or sometimes earlier - and come to Karumbalai in the mornings and evenings.

It was decided with Karthik that I would speak English with him on some mornings, so that he could get some practice, and help Arun and the volunteers teach the younger children English in the evenings.

We also planned a holiday in my last week, with a visit to Tiruvannamalai and Pondicherry together with Karthik, Jiva and Surya. Unfortunately, I had to cancel this due to the Coronavirus and fears of not being able to get back to Switzerland, so that I left after 10 instead of 20 days. This also meant, unfortunately, that I was not able to give a continuation of John and Laura's workshop on communication skills.

The morning walks and outings with Arun and sometimes Elaa were a highlight of my stay and are still providing me with many enjoyable memories. With Arun I walked to the Eco Park, the Lakeview Park and to the wonderful Madurai Market. Twice we went to the Meenakshi Temple, once to the house where Ramana Maharshi was enlightened at the age of sixteen, to the Catholic Cathedral, the Thirumalai Nayak Palace and, on one special morning, to the Alagar Kovil Temple in a village outside Madurai, after which Elaa, Arun and I walked up the hill behind it and visited other sacred sites, including one where Arun underwent ceremonial cleansing. Thanks too to our driver, Nagarjun, an ex-Madurai Seed pupil who also ferried me to the airport when I left.

I also enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked by Elaa's mother at the family's new flat. Aadhavan and Aravindhan are lucky to have such a secure and loving home, with parents who are there for them one hundred percent. On my last evening at Madurai Seed, we watched some videos showing the fantastic temples in Madurai and Tiruvannamalai, Ramana Maharshi, and Sri Aurobindo and Mirra Alfassa, whose photos hang in the office and classroom. I appreciate Karthik and Elaa catering for my interest in all things spiritual, and am grateful for the power of Elaa's prayers for my safe and comfortable return!

Talking to Karthik was another highlight of my stay: I gained a great deal of insight into Madurai Seed and Karthik's history: how he overcame obstacles and discouragement to create opportunities for happiness and fulfilment for many children. I asked him whether it was possible for anyone to do what he has done, as I see Madurai Seed as a model for other projects in the developing world. This was a difficult question to answer, but it is clear that Karthik has the ability to guide people to find fulfilment in their lives according to their individual talents and inclinations, and that this would be an essential quality for any leader who wants to initiate a grassroots project like Madurai Seed.


I was also particularly impressed by Arun's connection to the younger children and his ability to inspire them, in collaboration with the volunteers. One lesson he planned was on the topic of sustainability, and we especially enjoyed singing a song he found on YouTube - 'I love the mountains. Arun introduced the children to the concepts of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and illustrated the need to preserve our environment with some striking photos he had found. I could see from their level of concentration that the children took this lesson to heart. As important as the formal lessons, in which the volunteers play a vital role in coaching the small groups, are the play and games sessions. I was present at one in the classroom and another in Eco Park and the level of enjoyment is inspiring, even if you are only an observer! 'Without play and fun, no learning' was an idea that was drilled into me in my primary teacher training, and I was happy to see this idea put into practice with such heart at Madurai Seed.

I understand how people fall in love with India in general and Madurai Seed in particular, and keep wanting to come back: the life, noise, and friendliness - and of course the food and tea - are definitely addictive. However, Arun rightly cautioned me against romanticizing when I said I would prefer to be reborn here than in the rich area of London where I came into my present incarnation. Indian people have many problems, one of which is the constant struggle to make ends meet. Nevertheless, I personally feel that any donations I make - of money, time and teaching expertise - are inadequate compensation for what is basically an unfair economic system, both in India and worldwide. This is not to say that we 'Westerners' should stop visiting, giving and teaching, as our contributions do provide vital support to Madurai Seed, but that we should be ready in a spirit of humility to take and learn as much as we give and teach. With this in mind, a big thank you also goes to Laura, John and Friends of Madurai Seed for introducing me to this unique program. When I returned to Switzerland and an uncanny level of quietness, I was reminded of a statement I made to Elaa: 'We have the money and you have the love'. Another romanticizing, I know, but anything I have given has been repaid many times on my two visits there by the warmth and love all at Madurai Seed have shown me.







A group of five young girls are standing outdoors at night, holding a large chalkboard. The girls are dressed in traditional Indian attire, including sarees and a colorful striped top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The chalkboard has a message written in white chalk, and a decorative leafy branch is drawn at the bottom.

If you make  
the world better  
for KIDS,  
You make it  
better for EVERYONE







**MADURAI SEED**  
 Arjun Shanmuga Illam, 439/1, East Street  
 Karumbalai, Madurai – 625020  
 0452-2537670, +91 94425 37670  
 maduraiseed1999@gmail.com, www.maduraiseed.org