

## **Karthi's report on his fellowship for the year 2015-16**

*(Summarized and translated into English, with some additional notes from phone conversations. By Melli)*

I am very happy to share with Asha Boston my fellowship update.

I am the only full time worker, so I do the planning, administering, and managing work for Seed Narpanigal.

- For the fellowship, I coordinate with the student volunteers to improve the competency of the students.
- Help the students of Sevalayam (a hostel for rural students, all go to corporation schools) to pass the government examinations.
- Help those who finish X to select subjects in XI, and those who finish XII to select subjects in colleges.
- Minimize dropouts and encourage them to higher studies, and guide them when they have family problems.
- Encourage them to develop multiple skills and manage life's problems.

### *Methodology*

**Conversation:** Know the family background and school environment

**Interaction:** Look at monthly exam scores and talk to the teachers

**Observation:** Identify and encourage individual skills

**Encouragement:** Encourage participation in personality development and skill development organized by SEED. Identify specific skills students have and encourage them. Identify those who have leadership skills, helping attitude and group attitude and help them become teachers themselves.

**Motivation:**

**Preparation for success:** How to face exams, manage competitions, how to meet with negative environment at home. Advice for teenage problems, health and mental issues. Counseling for selection of college and courses.

**Management of failures**

**Working in a group**

### *Economic background of students*

(Parents' profession): 12 students: Daily wage workers, housework, tricycle pullers, cleaners, construction, painting, gardening, auto driving.

(Family background): 22 students: 4 don't have fathers, all of them live in small houses with no environment for studying.

(Educational background): None of the parents have finished high school. For nine students a sister or sister-in-law has finished XII. 13 of them have finished class XII in first generation.

(Caste background): (X + XII)

	Boys	Girls	Total
SC	8	6	14
MBC	2	0	2
BCM	2	1	3
BC	9	3	12
DNC	3	0	3
	24	10	34

### **Karumbalai + Sevalayam XII results**

*12th standard results have been published. 12th students of Madurai Seed have passed in all subjects showing 100% results. Here are the toppers list from the 17th batch of Madurai Seed.*

- *Muthulakshmi has scored 991 out of 1200*
- *KavinKumar has scored 951 out of 1200*
- *Sudha has scored 942 out of 1200*
  
- *3 students have secured 991 to 942 marks*
- *9 students have secured 894 to 817 marks*
- *11 students have secured 776 to 706 marks*
- *7 students have secured 676 to 607 marks*

*Total no. of Students: 30*

*30/30 X100= 100% Results*

### **Karumbalai + Sevalayam X results**

*Tamil Nadu Board Exam results of 10th std have been published. Here are the toppers list of Madurai Seed for the academic year 2015-2016.*

<i>Name of the student</i>	<i>Total Marks out of 500</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A.YuvaVickram (Sevalayam Centre)</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>92%</i>
<i>R.MadhanKumar(SevalayamCentre)</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>85.8%</i>

<i>K.DhavaKrishnan(Sevalayam Centre)</i>	429	85.8%
<i>S. Gopinath (Karumbalai Centre)</i>	425	85%
<i>S.Vijayalakshmi (Karumbalai Centre)</i>	413	82.6%
<i>M.S.Aadhavan (Karumbalai Centre)</i>	408	81.6%
<i>N.Ganeshmurthy(Sevalayam Centre)</i>	406	81.2%
<i>S.Karthick(Sevalayam Centre)</i>	403	80.3%

34 students wrote the 10th exam. All of them have passed in all subjects showing 100% results.  
 $34/34 \times 100 = 100\%$ .

1. *A.Yuvavickram has secured 100/100 in Social Science and 99/100 in Science.*
2. *S.Karthick has secured 96/100 in Tamil.*

- 1 student has secured 91% to 100%
- 7 students have secured 81% to 90%
- 7 students have secured 71% to 80%
- 11 students have secured 61% to 70%
- 8 students have secured 51% to 60%

*We congratulated the students and volunteers for this grand success. We are giving them guidance to continue their Higher Secondary first year(11th std).*

#### **Schools SEED center children in Karumbalai attend**

	Boys	Girls	Total
Corporation schools	0	0	0
Government-aided schools	5	5	10
Private schools	2	0	2
	7	5	12

#### **Sevalayam students**

Parents are far away, no father in many cases. Come from small villages from poor farming families. Students in the hostel study in corporation schools. 5 volunteers help with tuition, two come once in two weeks to help teach. For X and XII students they work to inculcate dreams of higher education, address mental and health problems. Tips for exams: write clearly, write without fear, memorization and remembering, answering model questions.

#### **Sevalayam X and XII students**

## **Students lagging behind in schools**

Students lagging behind came to the center and were evaluated for reading, writing, arithmetic and practical skills (to do things). Students didn't have basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Two volunteers focused on addressing the gaps. Two for arithmetic, two for reading and writing. Special, intensive pedagogical interventions. Karthi creates the time table for this.

Some pedagogical techniques: Take dictation, look and write, repeat what you say, write on the blackboard, traditional games like thayam, palanguli. Use match sticks, choli (shells), and pebbles for teaching. For teaching English they use Chipper Sage software.

Without the interventions these students will likely have dropped out. They will go to jobs like tricycle drivers (for moving things), singing at mourning, hotel cleaners, assistants clothes shops etc. Rs. 3000 – 4000 per month. They become involved nefarious activities such as drugs, rowdies bothering girls, etc. The SEED center is important to take care of them and put them on a different path. SEED students haven't gotten involved in those activities so far. They become more responsible and take care of their family.

From the beginning Karthi has had successes in helping "slow learners." Anita could barely read and write and then completed BA Tamil. Many of the early students did not know Maths at all. Aman was poor in Maths and English, and today works as a surveyor for the government. Just took a little care and some confidence. Two students in the government school where he worked came back and thanked him, one is now working in HR at a company, came back and thanked him.

## **Conclusions**

Over the years out of 58 students who were behind in their learning who came to the center in Karumbalai, 30 have done well. Two passed class X this year. Next year 6 are expected to pass. In Sevalayam, with similar techniques, 3 people have passed X.

## **Personal Stories (names changed for privacy)**

### **Geeta**

She joined SEED in class IV in 2004. Father cycle mechanic, mother housewife, has one younger sister. Parents dropped out of school. They saw SEED students go as teachers, engineers and nurses and sent both daughters to SEED. She was an average student. With SEED's help she got 91% in class X, 84% in XII. Did not make the engineering cut-off, and is now studying English. Parents and relatives arranged for her marriage. He advised them of the importance of education, but the girl could not do much. He spoke to the groom and now she is studying BA English in a college near her husband's place.

Younger sister wants to become a Maths teacher. Both of them studied in Tamil medium, in corporation schools.

### **Mani**

He was an ordinary student. With SEED's help he scored 57% in class X, 72% in class XII. He has no mother, father's support was not great. His aunt is unmarried and is raising him. He got BCom. Then he had blood cancer, stopped college for two years, financially supported by SEED volunteers, got government support and his health is better now. Going to apply for college again.

### **Ravi**

Had low self-esteem. Father is quarry worker. Mother is housewife. Brother is handicapped. Ravi himself has some bone problem on his waist. We have raised his confidence. He is migrating to another place, so it will be difficult to guide him.

### **Ramamani**

Joined SEED while studying 7<sup>th</sup>. Father is electrician. Mother is housewife. Has an elder brother. She studied in OCPM, with the support of SEED scored 90% in class X, 77% in class XII. Got a merit seat in engineering college, in Thiagarajar school. Second person (after Malati) to get engineering merit seat. Has completed ECE, with a bank loan. Has got a job with an IT company in Chennai. She came and showed them the appointment letter

### **Manu**

Improved his knowledge of English, first graduate in family. Father has grocery store, so he was able to pay the college fee (has enough family income). Studied in Thiagarajar school (private) but still got help from SEED. 93% in X and 92 in XII. Finished engineering in Dindigul.

### **Siva**

Was weak in Maths and English, he came to SEED in class XI. Was an enthusiastic student, got 71% in X, 71% in XII, wants to study law. SEED helped to apply to law college, etc. He teaches basic Tamil and basic Maths to SEED students.

### **Sukumari**

One brother and one sister. Ordinary student. With SEED she excelled in dance, drama, singing. 72% in X, 80% in XII. Studying in Lady Doak college.

Conducted four teacher workshops for teacher volunteers. One camp for SEED, one camp for CECSI, one for SEED youth on creative self-expression.