



REWARD Trust

Site Visit Report - November 2011

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Project Name: REWARD Trust

URL: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=590>

Site Visit Date: November 23, 2011

Site Visit by: Sowmya Karthikeyan, Asha Princeton Volunteer,
Chapter Treasurer & Central Treasury Team 2010-12

Mr. Karthikeyan (Sowmya's father)

Overview:

The trust adds teachers to 19 government schools, trains them and pays for their salaries.



We first visited Vayalur Higher Secondary School. In the photo are five REWARD teachers, the school headmaster, three REWARD Trustees, and one visitor.



சாலை	காலம்	மாணவர் பெயர்	தொகை / மதிப்பெண் / 500
01	2005-2006	P.சுஜித்குமார்	352
02	2006-2007	சேசிக் குமார்	411
03	2007-2008	P.அஸ்வினி	461
04	2008-2009	S.பிரசாந்த்	432
05	2009-2010	R.திவ்யபாரதி	455
06	2010-11	M.சுவேதா	467

Vayalur school headmaster showing off his students' success in S.S.L.C. board exams. The pass-rate has increased from 16% in 2005-2006 to 75% in 2010-2011. The top scores are listed by year in his office.



REWARD teacher in a Chemistry class showing students how to test for starch content. The school does not have lab facilities, so the impact of teaching methods and material provided by REWARD is huge.



Next, we visited Koovathur Primary School (Adi-Dravidar Welfare Board). Activity-Based Learning (ABL) is followed here.



Each student follows the ladder system at their own pace, and picks up the box of picture-coded learning material from a shelf. They can go to the next level after the teacher checks that they have learnt the contents of this one.



The students sit on the ground in groups of same level, and go through the learning cards. The teacher moves around making sure to interact with everyone.



REWARD Trustee, Anandi, is very experienced in ABL training and regularly visits the primary schools to interact with the teachers and students to enhance their learning experience.



More photos from Koovathur Primary School



Three REWARD teachers from Pandur High School came to Koovathur to meet us during lunch time.



Next, we visited Perambakkam Primary School (Adi-Dravidar Welfare Board), This school has 3 teachers for classes 1-5, and two cooks for mid-day meals.



The classes here are smaller in size, and the teacher is also focussed on class discipline. For example, every student has honed their writing and spelling skills, the ABL shelf is more organized, there is less chaos in the classroom.



The REWARD teacher is extremely passionate about her students' learning outcomes and tries hard that they impress the REWARD trustees during their spontaneous visits and quizzing.



REWARD Trustees interact with the students, use puzzles and other techniques to get students to overcome learning by-rote.



We interacted with the students from REWARD schools and they were all excited about coming to school, learning, and were very fond of their teachers rather than being scared of them.



Next we went to Nerumbur High School, which also has primary classes (Adi-Dravidar Welfare Board). Here, primary classes are taught using classroom method because of unavailability of enough ABL material.



Two classes were conducted simultaneously in the same room, making it a bit difficult for students to pay attention.



This REWARD teacher brought her own teaching material to demonstrate simple experiments to show oxygen content in air. The students asking very interesting questions and learnt from the teacher's responses and visual cues.



This REWARD teacher made a model of a town and roads, and brought various traffic signs for the students to place appropriately. They also used a TV/VCR to show educational material - for example learning English.



This was another class in Nerumbur school. We saw how interested and active and competitive the students were even in late afternoon. A short game kept the whole class engaged and eager to participate.



An eight grade math class going on. From class 6, the students sit on benches and have desks.



New classrooms are sponsored by Atomic Research Centre's employee donations - support towards infrastructure improvements, but not teachers salaries. The headmaster is also responsible to manage the construction.



Just one day in various REWARD teacher's classrooms is enough to understand the passion, sincerity, and hard work that REWARD Trustees and their teachers put into their work. The smiles on the students' faces are real!