

MADURAI SEED Updates June 2015 to January 2016

Introduction:

MADURAI SEED is giving its needful contribution along with other institutions like family, school, government, and society in bringing better future for the underprivileged children and young people with the socially committed and caring people like Asha for Education and Friends of Madurai Seed.

The need for our work is evident and increasing because of today's imbalanced economic situation, globalization, consumerism, impacts of mass media, and information technology, conflict between new and old, cultural dilemma, the gap between learning and teaching, curriculum without practicality, family setup, and simulated competitions.

To bridge the gaps in school, family, and government's efforts, Madurai Seed also plays an important role in fulfilling their educational and emotional needs through supplementary education centers, skills and personality development programs, a library, a magazine, a saving bank, extracurricular activities, educational guidance and counseling programs.

Beneficiaries List: April 2015 to January 2016

Children	Boys	Girls	Total
Karumbalai Children 3 centers	173	103	276
Sevalayam Hostel Children	165	-	165
Total	338	103	441
Young People	Male	Female	
Studying in college	20	05	25
College Completed	4	1	5
Total	24	6	30

- Among the 25 young people who is currently going to college, 19 are the first generation graduates.
- 25 people are involving in teaching activities everyday evening
- 20 people are receiving Asha's stipend.

10th std

Children who are going to write 10th std examination:

Boys 11 + Girls 22 = Total 33

- 16 are the first in their family going to complete 10th std

12th std:

Children who are going to write 12th std examination

Boys 22 + Girls 09 = Total 31

- 13 are the first in their family going to complete 12th std.

Sevalayam Hostel

- 10th std, Among 22 students, 10 are first persons in their family studying this level.
- 12th std, Among 9 students, 6 are the first persons in their family studying this level.

Graduation:

This year 5 are completing under graduation (3 engineers, 2 Tamil graduates) and one completing diploma in vocational studies.

- All the 6 people are the first graduates in their families.

Success Stories:

Thilagavathi: She had scored 85% in 10th and 12th exams. She was the first girl to get a merit seat in Thiyagarajar Engineering College in Madurai. She studied electronics and communication. She is a first graduate.

Manickaraj: He had also scored above 85% in 10th and 12th std. He studied computer engineering. He is a first graduate.

Vizhuthugal Alumni Association:

- Sadam Hussain has joined in M.Phil (Commerce)
- Karpaga Selvi, and MuthuPandi has studied a course for bank exams, and accounts maintenance related training.
- The Diwali celebration was organized completely by the donations of former beneficiaries in Gandhi Museum.
- Rs.15, 000 was collected from alumni and their friends for the flood relief activities. Napkins, biscuits, candles, were sent to Cuddalore district.
- O.Manikandan is donating Rs.1000 every month.
- Likewise, Sulthan Alautheen and Pethu Raja have donated on special occasions.

Some News from Alumni:

- Ganesh Kumar who has finished MA, MPhil, and B.Ed in Maths, has joined in Gandigram Rural University as a junior research fellow. He is a first graduate.
- ArunKumar who has finished BA and B.Ed in English is working as a web content writer in Parent Circle, a publishing enterprise. He is a first graduate.
- MuthuPandi who has finished M.Com and B.Ed in Commerce has joined as a senior accountant in a hospital. He is a first graduate.
- Priya who has finished B.A and B.Ed is teaching in a private school. She is a first graduate.
- Maheswari who finished engineering (ECE) is working now. She is a first graduate.
- BalaMurugan and NagoorRaja who finished their under graduation are also working in private sectors.
- In India, women getting education and getting married both have become a problem. Some girls who were studied as children, studied college, and worked as volunteers in Madurai Seed, working jobs are getting married this year. Amutha, Saranyadevi, Thangalakshmi, (3 teachers) and Janaki devi got married. Karpaga Jothi (teacher) is going to get married. Madurai Seed as a family saw them as children, adults, and now as family with grand joy.



Activity High Lights:

The following are the some highlights from the skills, personality, and cultural enhancement activities from May 2015 to January 2016. Details here are given briefly.

Learning isn't limited to classrooms and textbooks. Children need resources and inspirations which provides chances to express themselves, to work together with others, to share ideas, to act independently, to get hands on experience. Each activity is designed to give children and young people the chance to experience something they wouldn't normally afford at home and schools. Activities in Madurai Seed are provided through various channels like discussions, speeches, guest lectures, reading, group activities, theatre, dance, creative writing, games, art sessions, AV presentations, etc.

<p>Education through National Important Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Day• Independence Day• Teacher's Day• Children's Day• Youth Day• Girl Child's Day• Republic Day	<p>During these days, children and young people get more importance and highlight. They are provided with the knowledge of their civic rights and responsibilities. Guests are invited to speak on a topic related to the day. Speeches and activities by and for the children are encouraged.</p>
<p>Education through Religious/ Cultural Important Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diwali• Ramzan• Christmas• New Year• Pongal	<p>The topic of intolerance is being discussed widely these days. We think it important to introduce children to multi-cultural, multi-religious activities, explore and experience them. Schools don't celebrate these events, they avoid speaking about religions. Families, they couldn't. In Madurai Seed religious events becomes learning. We emphasize on cultural aspects rather than rituals.</p>
<p>Education through Madurai Seed's Special Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Club activities• Library• Sports• Guest- Lectures• Cultural Events• Camps/trainings/workshops• Art and craft activities• Other club's activities• Field trips	<p>Special events provide the chance to children and young people to work closely, they learn from each other. They get to see many people who become inspirations to them. They see many places which broadens their outlook. Parents are invited to some events; some events are performed in street. So, the locals could see what Madurai Seed is doing. They learn the fruits of team work, executive skills, communication, creative thinking from these events. The special activities gives them the interest in regular school subjects.</p>



Madurai Seed Special Events: Some Highlights from June 2015 to January 2016

Promoting Saving Habit: "Thenkoodu" is designed to inculcate children the habit of savings from an early age. The children bank helps children develop money management. It fosters self-esteem too. In this financial year children saved Rs. 39817, in turn Madurai seed provided them Rs. 47,626 with an interest of Rs. 7809. From 2007 to 2015 we have repaid Rs. 2,38,986 to the children.

25th Journal Release: 25th edition of Pudhuyugam children magazine of Madurai Seed was launched by the Educationist Mr. AriAraVelan from Aparajitha foundation in the presence of Mr. Rajesh and Mrs. Meenakshi Rajesh of Muthan Printers. Journey of Pudhuyugam Magazine continues.

Accolades for Toppers: Endowment prizes and scholarship were given for the top scorers (2014-2015) in X and XII std based on Madurai Corporation level, Karumbalai level and for achievers in Madurai Seed. The awardees and their parents were honored. The toppers gave tips for today's students. Totally 11 prizes were awarded.

Scholarship Distribution: To lighten the financial burden on education, Madurai Seed with the support of KFR provides scholarship for the needed children and young people. In 2015-2016, 102 students and 22 young people have received scholarship in a function organized at Gandhi Museum.

Strategic Planning Workshop: A special meeting was organized for the teaching volunteers. They have discussed about the future activities and how to execute them in this year. They designed a framework carrying various activities for children. As there were many young new teaching volunteers have joined this year, this served as an orientation to them. Everyone is assigned with specific roles and responsibilities. They also discussed about the needs of volunteers and development activities for them too.



Women Empowerment Week: Women empowerment is vital to alleviate poverty. Madurai Seed celebrated Women Empowerment week during the Golu-Navratri days. Girls talked about various women leaders and their achievements. Vindhya from XI std gave speech about Self-decision making. The right decision is possible when girls have the access to information, resources and proper education. They understood that a real empowerment takes place through education only.

International Girl Child's Day: Dr. Melliyal Annamalai and our girl children spoke over Skype. They interacted about eve-teasing, freedom, dreams, family, and education. Additionally, International Girl Child Day was celebrated with Dhan Foundation members at Vandugal Arangam. Dance, speech, quotes of women leaders' highlighted event.

Medical Camp: A free medical health checkup camp for children was organized by Madurai Seed in association with Madurai Ladies Circle-8. One Dentist and two Pediatricians gave free physical examination to the nearby 100 children along with health tonics, cookies, toothpaste and toothbrush.

Food Festival: This year food festival turned healthy too by selling traditional foods. 15 various dishes using millets, grains, pulses, and vegetables were prepared by children and sold in the street. The profit gained from food festival was spent at a local hostel where elementary school children from various underprivileged backgrounds are staying and studying.



Quart Yearly Holiday Activities: Children and young people were provided variety of activities like reading and sharing, storytelling, cross-word puzzles, art and craft activities, book introduction, leadership development games, and sports meet.

Tower Building using Straws: Students were set into five groups with a challenge to build Eiffel Tower using straws. This activity illustrated them planning, teamwork and co-operation. They also received some engineering concepts and the history of Eiffel Tower. In the end, all the groups came up with their own Eiffel Tower structure!



Science of Sounds: Students in 25 teams had done a great job in experimenting various sounds in front of our office, Vandugal and Vergal arangam. They created sounds of different animals, birds, musical instruments using papers, cups, stones, water, thread, balloon and day today objects. Students learnt the phenomena of sound, vibration, frequency, pitch, etc. They enjoyed a lot by asking questions and engaging themselves with their teammates!

Basic Science Experiments: Students demonstrated various basic principles of Archimedes, Newton, Pascal. They also illustrated Lissajous figure and phenomena related to light. One of the teams showed some diagrams of human organ and the blood cell under microscope.

Skype Science Classes: On Sundays, Hariharan Mani an engineer from USA conducted science classes through skype. He took concepts from text books and elaborated them with adequate examples, pragmatic aspect of the concept, and cleared the children's doubts.



Toy Workshop: Madurai Seed students made toys from trash. They participated in the toy making workshop organized by Yellow Bag at Gandhi Museum and they made toys using waste materials. They taught the same to other children in Madurai Seed. Children enjoyed learning those toy making techniques. Their interests and involvement came out into toys.

Origami: In the activity session our students created Origami models. They made 14 different models like crane, horse, dog, crown, cup, frog, twirling bird, peacock by paper folding techniques. They were given Origami paper and instruction sheets. It was fun and interesting.

Wire Crafts: Creativity starts by exploring. Here our students and volunteers made some wire bicycles and wire cars by exploring the book "Jojo's Wire Car" presented by Eveline Amma and Nola. Students explored the book , created their own wire cars, bicycles.



Art Training: Art is a part of Survival". MS students learnt and practiced the fundamentals in ART through Canvas-Art class conducted by Raine Foundation at MC school. They understood the water color landscapes and different patterns of drawing and coloring!

Amazing Nature: Our Madurai seed students participated in the interschool program - "Amazing Nature" at Lady Doak College. They showed their potential on doing Art from waste, Rangoli on sangam landscapes, Pencil sketch, essay writing, etc., They acquired some knowledge on Bio-technology through lab visits in the college.

Magazhi Utsav: It is a tribute to performing arts. The theme of this year was arts for education and social change. Children of Madurai Seed Vanmugil Cultural Club enthralled the audience with their "No Bribe" and "Science or Destruction" mimes, traditional and folk dances.. It was followed by "Thangameengal" a short play by our kids directed by Kaleidoscope Center. CESC organization's students enacted a "Anti-Liquor" drama. "Oyil Attam" by professional artists were really a visual treat for the spectators.

PechaKucha: 20 PPT presentations were given by 20 people including young people and children on various topics like Architectures of Madurai, Vaigai River, Famous places in Madurai, 20 popular people from Madurai, My childhood, My Karumbalai, My School, My College, My role model and also global issues like water management, superstitions and so on.



Workshop on Creative Self-Expression: This workshop stimulated the thoughts about mass-media, stereotypes, hobbies, taste for literature, appreciation of music, and the importance of expressing opinions and emotions. The camp utilized various means like mask making, icebreaking games, theatre activities, seminar, discussion, and reading session which made it very live. Prof. Prabhakar Vedamanickam and Kaleidoscope center team facilitated the workshop.

Workshop on Learning Difficulties, Kitchen Gardening: The facilitator Mr. Andreas Gross from Switzerland emphasized the role of a teaching volunteer in handling kids with learning difficulties. Many child-centric approaches were discussed. Role plays were enacted to understand the teaching and learning process. He also taught about organic farming and kitchen gardening methods. A brainstorming session was conducted on how we can encourage kitchen gardening in Karumbalai.



Theatre Activities: To bring out the skills of children, Madurai Seed organizes Theatre Activities. Mr. Anand from Kaleidoscope teaches the basics of Drama for children from 10 to 14 years. Their learning came out into a play called "Thangameengal" on Margazhi Utsav.

Young People Development Classes:

By Elavarasi Karthik: This class aims to improve young people's communication and overall personality. She prepares them to express themselves whenever they get opportunities. She uses functional ways to develop their English language skills. Teaching and learning happens through activities. The classes incorporate worksheets, audio-video clips, stories, short films, group discussions, and games to enhance their communication skills, creativity, and values.

By Mirjam Baechli: This internship student gave English classes for our Young People from July 11 to Sep 4. She taught them English grammar, vocabulary building through activities.

By Volunteer Prabhu : He is the computer instructor for the young people. He imparts our young people the basic computer operating skills, MS-Office, and Internet

Field Trips and Tours:

- Visited cultural and historic important hills in and around Madurai associated with Jainism, Pandya Kingdom, cave paintings, and sculptures.
- Visited archaeological excavation site reveals Pandya-era village under earth.
- Visited book festival, cultural important festivals of Madurai, and Rameshwaram are the high lights.

Participations:

Madurai Seed children and young people are participating in educational activities, cultural events, awareness programs, art sessions conducted in Madurai as spectators and sometimes participants according to the nature of the event. To name a few organizations lion's club, ladies circle, Dhan Foundation, Green Walk, Evidence, Kaleidoscope, Sangamam, Lady Doak College, Gandhi Museum and CESC. The invitations are coming from the respective organizations, sometimes it is decided by seeing city's events in the newspaper.

Madurai Seed in flood relief activities:

- As a first phase contributions from our young people, children, and parents water bottles, biscuits, and good quality used cloths were sent to Chennai.
- Second Phase, with the donation from our Alumni Manikandan and his friend Vinoth sanitary napkins, candles, and biscuits were sent to Cuddalore.
- Third phase, our children and young people made thousands of mosquito egg and larvae killers. They are a small ball of tree dust and oil covered with cloths. When it is thrown in stagnant water, the oil in the ball gets released and kills the mosquito.



Internships:

Yogalakshmi from social work student from the nearby college worked as an intern during the summer camp. She conducted life skills sessions in the camp.

Mirijam from Switzerland engaged with the activities for Madurai Seed kids and volunteers from 10th of July to 6th of September. She involved in teaching English for volunteers and students of classes 8th and 9th. She exchanged various views about India and her country, interacted through short films, movies, visited historical places with volunteers. She assisted Administrative works and learnt more about Madurai Seed. She analyzed students from VIII and IX std with activities, stories, newspaper cuttings, tests. Her internship helped her to learn about NGO administration and also our young people to learn English.

Visits:

Dr.Melliya Annamalai: Melli Akka's visit is a great encouragement. She took part in the library club event. Students Vasim Khan, Vindhiya shared about their favorite books to other children. She discussed about sports and quota in education. Later, she spent with the volunteers discussed about activities in Madurai Seed, roles and responsibilities of volunteers, etc.

Ms. Nakamura Mari: She is a Japanese researcher interacted with our MS team. They exchanged their views on the Social Development and Poverty alleviation in India and Japan. Also, this brief meet gave our volunteers a wide knowledge about the active spirit of Japanese people which is behind Japan's tremendous growth.

Eveline & Nola: Their visit was an informative one for our kids. They shared their thoughts on practical learning by presenting us a book called "Jojo's Wire Car". Motivated by the book, our kid Santhosh from VI std and Volunteer Nagarjun made wire car and wire bicycle. They met the teaching volunteers, visited the library, and education centers, interacted with children.

Friends of Madurai Seed, India:

It is group of Madurai Seed's friends and supporters. They are encouraging our children and young people through participating in events, giving lectures or trainings, and also by being role models. To name a few of them

- VinothKumar is donating Rs.1000 every month.
- Viji, Muruges are visiting on special occasions and encourages children and young people.
- Prof.Prabhakar gave a guest lecture on New Year and conducted a workshop later.
- Prof.Evanjelin gave one speech for the children
- Social workers like Biju and Dhanraj, social welfare officer Karunakaran visited Madurai Seed and gave lectures.



Survey on Basic Reading and Arithmetic:

A survey has been conducted for two weeks in the area of Karumbalai and surrounding Indira Nagar, S.M.Nagar and Sevalayam Hostel students to find their basic reading and arithmetic skills among children from 3rd std to 8th std. Total number of children covered in the survey is 309 including children who are coming to seed and other children in these areas. The results are shocking.

At Karumbalai, S.M.Nagar, and Indira Nagar

Classes	Total Number of Children Given the test	Difficulty Reading a Paragraph From 2 nd std book
3 rd , 4 th , 5 th std	111	55
6 th , 7 th , 8 th std	102	33
School Dropout	6	6

Classes	Total Number of Children Given the test	Difficulty doing basic arithmetic From 2 nd std book
3 rd , 4 th , 5 th std	111	57
6 th , 7 th , 8 th std	102	40
School Dropout	6	6

At Sevalayam Hostel

Total Children	Classes	From 2 nd std book
90	6 th , 7 th , 8 th	14 couldn't read 29 couldn't do arithmetic

This survey was conducted as a part of Lakhon mein Ek campaign by Pratham and ASER. This shows a need of severe interventions in helping children at the same time preventive measures.

Conclusion:

We thank Asha for Education for your continuous care and support. Madurai Seed prevents school-dropouts, directly and indirectly fosters the importance of getting education among children, young people, and parents. Further it helps the children and young people to identify their skills, to enrich their personality, and to choose a career of their interest. We pledge our commitment to do the same with further strategies and impacts in the next year. **Thank you.**

