

Report on Asha Impressions at Project Pearl - 20 June 2026

Report by Jyotsna D

Asha Chennai runs Asha Impressions annually bringing students from all projects across the state to Chennai for a day-long competition. A large number of students and projects are selected for this based on a rigorous evaluation. However, given the size of our projects, not all children get a chance to participate. In order to give a chance to the kids who don't make it to Chennai, we started having local Asha Impressions competition at Project Pearl the last two years.

As with all Impressions projects, these are team-based, with Asha teachers mentoring students throughout, and where the children showcase their creativity and skills to external judges. This year, we planned to hold the Asha Impressions under one category, namely Digital Literacy. This category involves fourth and fifth standard students preparing presentations using OpenOffice.

This year, Asha Impressions in Pearl was conducted on 20 June, 2026 at Nalatinputhur school. It brought 50 students across 16 Digital Literacy projects from 16 different SPRINT schools to showcase their learning, creativity, communication and application of knowledge. Four volunteers from Chennai served as judges - Rajaram, Bhaskar, Shiva and Jyotsna.

The event provided students with a platform to present on a range of topics and engage directly with judges through questions and discussions. The projects presented were on a diverse range of topics:

- Karadipath
- Solar planet
- Mulligai sedi
- Uruppu Mandalam
- Animals and their young ones
- Water
- Kotaikalum Aranmanaikalum
- Avoid Plastic
- General Knowledge
- Photo Hunter
- My Village
- Healthy and Unhealthy food
- Maavatathin sirappukal
- Missing Letters
- Parts of speech
- One minute story

As with DL projects, students were assessed through both their presentations and their interaction with the judges. The assessments were based on these main categories:

- Presentation Content
- Presentation Style
- Q&A with judges

In attendance were about 95 students, 20 Asha teachers and staff, 4 volunteers, a few government teachers and a couple of parents. The competition started at around 10 AM and got over at around 3:30 PM, with a lunch break in between. It was about five hours or so of some intense and lively presentations and kids displaying their skills and creativity. Most students were comfortable presenting in front of an audience and responding to questions from the judges. Note that these were primary school kids. As with these Impressions competitions usually, we see a lot of these students able to respond to technical or probing questions beyond what they had prepared for the presentation, which was encouraging to see.

After half-an-hour of intense deliberations by the judges, these presentations were picked as winners:

Position| Presentation| School

First Prize| One-Minute Story| Kayathar South

Second Prize| Avoid Plastics| Karadikulam Colony

Third Prize – Joint| Parts of Speech| Koovachipatti

Third Prize – Joint| Healthy and Unhealthy| Vadakilandhakulam

The prize distribution ceremony was held from 4 PM till 5 PM followed by photo sessions.

Asha Impressions at Pearl was more than a presentation event. It was an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge, creativity and confidence in a real-world setting. The event reinforced the importance of providing children with opportunities to learn by doing, communicate their understanding and gain confidence through experience.

I was very glad to be a part of this event and look forward to many more.



