Project Pearl - Site Visit and Educational Materials Distribution

Date: 19th and 20th October, 2009
Places went: Melamanthai, E.Velayuthapuram and Panickar Kulam
Volunteers: Sivasankar, student volunteers and well wisher Mani.
Reported by: Sivasankar

Planning the Trip:

Bhaskar and I planned to give the Educational materials to the school children for the project Pearl after the quarterly Exams. We had discussed regarding what materials exactly should be given to the Children to fulfill their needs on study materials. Mr.Chinnadurai, a government teacher, had given us a good idea of materials that would be very useful for children in ABL classrooms. So, we came up with a set of materials for those children. With that set we discussed with Our ASHA teachers who are working for the Project Pearl. As they know their students' needs very well, they gave their feedback on the list. We collected the details about the number of students in different classes and their respective needs based on the feedback from our ASHA teachers. The following are the student's list from different Schools.

Details of Children in Melamanthai School:

ASHA Teacher: Ms. Theresa

Std	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	Total
1			24
2			39
3			28
4			20
5			39
Total			151

Details of Children in Panickar Kulam School:

ASHA Teacher: Mr. Gopinath

Std	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	Total
1	7	6	13
2	5	7	12
3	15	8	23
4	7	11	18
5	8	7	15
Total			81

We identified a wholesale merchant in Thoothukudi whose prices seemed very reasonable. We informed Gopinath and Theresa (ASHA Teachers) and asked Gopinath to help for buying materials. He was willing to do this help. As I was going for Deewali Holiday to my village, we had decided to distribute on that time. Before going there, we ensured that enough materials

are available in the store. Also we asked Gopinath to come on October 19, 2009 to Thoothukudi store.

Melamanthai on October 19, 2009 (Monday)

We all celebrated the Deewali on October 17 (Saturday) 2009. I along with two of my friends, started on October 19 2009(Monday) from my village to Thoothukudi for buying the Educational materials. Gopinath also joined with us in Thoothukudi. We had packed the materials in different boxes. We kept the materials in the store itself which belongs to Panickar Kulam School, since Gopinath is going to take all the materials while coming back from Melamanthai to his native. We all started to Melamanthai about 11.30am, we reached the school about Lunch break. After having Lunch, we started interacting to the Head Master of the school, all teachers. We talked to the Children about our ASHA Organization. They are very happy with our presence (especially children once looking all the materials). Then we asked the Head Mater to start the Distribution, Then by teachers. In the mid way of distribution Siluvaikani (Currently he is managing the Library in E. Velayuthapuram), we asked him too, joining the Distribution. Once we started the children are very enthusiastic. By 3.0 o' clock pm, we finished the Distribution and discussed with Head Master regarding the involvement of ASHA and our teacher. She is very happy by having our ASHA teacher, so that she can manage and effectively concentrate on the children (since the Pupil Teachers Ratio (PTR) reduced). Then two of my friends started to home. Gopinath, Siluvaikani and I started to E.Velayuthapuram to see the feasibility of starting Library in that village. We reached there around 3.30pm, started looking the availability of room for Library. Siluvaikani showed one Room with free of rent for library. We enquired about the entire thing, like who belongs this room, currently what activities are going on with this room, in future anybody comes at us to vacate the room. He answered all the things nicely. We ensured the room had no problem with anybody and anything to start Library. Also he was willing to take the library management (separately explained regarding the Library Project). Then Gopinath and I started to Thoothukudi to take back all the remaining materials. Gopinath took all the materials along with him and he started to his native. The following are the materials distributed to the Children.

List of Materials given for 1st and 2nd Std children:

- Half quire note (2 Lines)
- Half quire note (4 Lines)
- Ball Point Pen, Pencil, Sharpener, Eraser, Ruler, (1 no for each children)
- Files
- Crayons

List of Materials given for 3rd, 4th and 5th Std children:

- Full quire note (2 Lines)
- Full quire note (4 Lines)
- Ball Point Pen, Pencil, Sharpener, Eraser, Ruler, (1 no for each children)
- Multiplication Tables
- Geometry Box (for 5th std only)

- Files (except 5th Std)
- Sketch pen set

About E. Velayuthapuram (Library):

E. Velayuthapuram (It comes under Melamanthai Panjayath Rajya) is a small village having the population of around 2000 peoples. The peoples from the listed villages below, (1) Thuvaranthai 2) Pallankulam, 3) Nedumkulam, 4) Kannimar Koottam) used to come here in Velayuthapuram to access the public transportation. So that there will be much people to come over here and also the students from various villages. Bhaskar and I discussed regarding the Library set up in Velayuthapuram. Then we decided to take up this Library project in Velayuthapuram by employing Mr. Siluvaikani as a part time Librarian. He got Degree in B.Sc. Physics in 1993 and he was the member of Arivozhi Iyakkam for his village for the period of 5 years (May, 2003 to April, 2008). Among 5 years he was also the coordinator for Villathikulam Union for 6 months (November, 2007 to till the scheme over). Also he is running youth Club named "Amutha Surappi" which is having about 85 youths from nearby villages. They are doing welfare activities in and around villages at free of cost. Currently he is doing, small kinds of work like filling the SHG (self Help Group) records and guiding the students.

Panickar Kulam on October 20, 2009 (Tuesday):

I started from my village to Panikarkulam School, reached Kayathar. Then Gopinath and I picked up an auto to ship the materials, reached the school. I had spoken to the Head Master, Teachers and children, Like Melamantahi; here also all the children were very much enthusiastic. I Explained about our ASHA Organization to the Children. Then I asked Head Mater and teachers to distribute the materials. All the children got the materials and gave us thanks. Then chatted with the children, I asked some questions to the children. Some children answered in a good manner. I asked the teachers for feedback. They also spoke to the children about Our ASHA. I requested the teachers to give the quality education to the children and asked the teachers to ask us anything which will be needed regarding education. The teachers are very happy with our presence. Also one thing I impressed was, the assistance Head Mater of that school distributed uniform to all the Children at free of cost and he had spoken long time with me and asked our organization in detail also his son is studying the same school. He only dropped me at Kayathar, reached my home about 2.00pm, then started to Chennai at night.