

Karthikbharathi A S – Fellowship Report and Proposal

Dear Asha Boston Friends and Supporters

Greetings. I am in contact with Asha Boston through Melli Annamalai from the year 2000. I am working for the upliftment of children and young people by the means of education and trainings in Karumbalai, a disadvantaged area in Madurai, Tamilnadu through Madurai Seed, a small grass root level organization. Asha Boston has continuously supported, caring me by providing this fellowship. Thanking you all.

In the year 2025-2026

I have reached **more than 500 children** through various programs and activities including Madurai Seed children in Karumbalai, nearby Hostel, TSUM Govt.Aided School, Government Hostels around Karumbalai, and Government school in Karumbalai.

I have also reached **more than 100 young people** including Madurai Seed volunteers, Karumbalai young people, young people from other NGOs, college and university students around Tamilnadu coming for internships and site visits.

- Karumbalai Children & Young People - Overall 234 children and 15 young people benefited in the year at Karumbalai education centers.
- Around 300 children benefited from nearby hostels, residential schools, government aided schools, and corporation schools.
- International visitors and resource persons: 7 people visited in this year, various activities, classes and workshops were executed according to the needs of children and young people.
- 10 interns from various colleges, universities, management schools, engineering colleges were facilitated at Madurai Seed, guided through our operations, and utilized them for the benefit of children and young people.
- More than 50 Volunteers and resource persons throughout the year, who come through social media and friends circle, were enabled to work based on their interests, skills in their free time.

- More than 30 Young people from local NGOs like Ilakku, and Snekam visited Madurai Seed, learnt about our module, operations, and interacted with our children and young people.
- Kamallesh and Jai Santhosh who scored top marks in 10th std in corporation schools, were guided to join in Tamil Nadu Government's residential model school. (Each district has only one residential model school).
- Apart from Madurai Seed volunteers, more than 10 students who finished 12th std in Karumbalai were guided through various college, departments, and application process.
- Young people especially girls, were encouraged to get two-wheeler learner's license, driving license, first time Voter ID, and saving bank accounts.
- Young people were guided through Government schemes, like Pudhumai Pen Thittam, Tamil Puthalvan Thittam, and Naan Muthalvan Thittam.
- Madurai Seed education centres were enabled with safe environment for children. Mosquito nets were set in all windows, 3 RO water machines placed for safe drinking water.
- Mime theatre festival was conducted, 4 plays were staged by children.
- Vasantham Summer Camp was conducted was 6 days in the month of May. Three children's groups were given three different thematic activities. More than 100 benefited.
- In the evening centres, all classes were given story cards for each month. They recycled the same cards, and shared between classes each month. Children were given oral practices like repeating aloud the sentences, reading aloud, and listen and write the word dictation.
- Group discussions on specific topics were conducted in age wise groups, and mixed groups to enable their critical thinking and expressing.

I have given only highlights; it is not the complete list.

My work plan for Asha Fellowship for the year 2026-2027 will be based on the following

The current generation of school and college students in Tamil Nadu faces a growing crisis of passivity, where excessive cell phone use, too much of visual media have led to a "dullness" of mind and body. This lifestyle often leads to a "mob culture", making them mere consumers and audience rather than developing a specific interest or talent. To address this, **Madurai SEED** is going to launch a dedicated initiative for the upcoming education year starting from June 2026 to help our children and youth to swim against the current" by transforming them into active creators. Our upcoming programs will focus on developing a scientific temper and a deep appreciation for literature, art, and nature through hands-on "thinking practices" and by encouraging reading, and discussions. By fostering an environment where learning and teaching are continuous, we aim to help every individual move away from the screen to discover their unique talents, express original ideas, and take ownership of their personal and intellectual growth.

1. Coordinating Education and Life Skills development programs for Madurai Seed children and young people
2. Higher secondary school admission and guidance
3. College undergraduate admission and guidance
4. Post graduate and professional courses admission and guidance
5. Guidance for various jobs for college completed young people
6. Social, Political, History classes for young people and teens
7. Financial literacy classes for young people and teens.
8. Scientific temper development classes for children
9. Tamil reading and creative writing for children
10. Teacher training for Madurai Seed volunteers
11. Intern training for students coming from various colleges and universities
12. Coordinating local and international resource persons, and volunteers for the benefit of children and young people.

I thank all Asha Boston volunteers for taking care of me. Your support is very essential. I request you all to continue my fellowship for the year 2026-27. Thank you.

Sincerely

A.S.Karthikbharathi