

Asha Fellowship Update

August 2013 to January 2014

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The Problem:

In the emerging globalized society, children and young people in the low income areas, are suffering from number of disadvantages, like they are the first persons in their family studying, they lack guidance, care, and counseling in their schools, families, and in their locale.

The Solution:

- Giving basic Tamil, English, and Maths coaching
- Conducting bridging classes in schools
- School subject support to children who are attending Madurai Seed's education centers
- Conducting English training classes for children to get rid of the fear about the language, improve basic skills in English
- Teacher training to volunteers who teach at the centers
- Awareness about competitive exams, coaching classes for the exams

Channels:

- Madurai Seed's Education Centers
- Madurai Seed's Library
- Seminars, workshops, trainings and club activities
- Field trips & Exposure visits

Key Activities:

- Planning "Tutoring" classes according to the needs of children and young people
- Coordinating volunteers for the teaching to children
- Teacher training to volunteers
- Finding competent resources to conduct training programs
- Participating in School Management Committee Meetings and giving advices about the problems, needs, and solutions for the educational needs of underprivileged children
- Guidance to submit applications, conducting classes for competitive exams
- Offering information, and other helps concerning Private jobs

Key Resources:

- People are my main resources.
- Teaching volunteers at Madurai Seed, for whom Asha is giving monthly honorarium
- Visiting guests and speakers, faculties from local school and colleges, study abroad students
Ms. Sara, Mr. Elon, Dr. Laura, Prof. John, Dr. Josephine, Mr. Muruges, Mrs. Viji, Mr. Mathew, Mrs. Aarthi,

Impact:

- Children with 95% attendance at Education Centers : 140 children
- 3 slow learner students who scored 50% marks in class 12 have joined as volunteers. Two are studying Tamil, and one is studying law in colleges.
- One student who struggled to continue studies has passed class 10 and continue to study 11th.
- Two students in class 12 are getting special care. They are confident to pass 12th and interested to continue college education
- Overall, with my efforts and activities, More than 300 children contacted and benefited from seed through various programs.
- 21 children in 10th std and 17 children in 12th std are preparing for the board exams this year. School subject support, special classes, and model exams, are being conducted for them.
- 35 children from class 5 to 10 are identified as slow learners. With the help of volunteers, they are now improving their reading, writing skills. They all are coming to seed regularly. Their interest and improvement are developed immensely.
- Previously, I helped former volunteer Murugapandi to get a private job. Now he helped 4 more young people to get jobs.
- Former volunteer Muniyasamy passed in Teachers Eligibility Test.
- Arun, and Elavarasi passed in an entry level Govt. job exam
- Awareness about government exams developed a lot. There are 15 aspirants preparing for various central and state govt exams. They are applying continuously and preparing and trying their best without losing confidence.
- Volunteer's interest in teaching developed a lot. Their teaching style is enhanced with creative ways.
- Many resource persons are coming forward to help in free of cost. Many are contacting Madurai Seed via social networks.
- Children have developed interest to participate in all activities whether academic or extracurricular. Their curiosity to learn new things, skills is increasing every day.
- Children's English skills are developing. English songs and rhymes are being taught in classes 1 to 9 to improve pronunciation, and vocabulary.

Future Plan: (January to June 2014)

- Conducting ability test, Survey of reading, writing, speaking, comprehension skills of children in Madurai Seed education centers
- Reaching 100 % result in 10th and 12th classes
- Exploring resources for 4 girls to continue further studies who are finishing UG degree this year.
- Competitive exam coaching classes in a structured and effective way
- Using Audio Visual class room effectively to support students with learning disabilities
- Employing two competent teachers cum trainers to volunteers in the coming year,

Conclusion:

Supplementary education can be a solution to prevent drop outs and gender biases. We are making them understand through education you can get plenty of opportunities in life. These centers doesn't provide only school results that can be measured, but also helps these children and young people to grow in self confidence and self belief- an important step to take responsibility for your life.

References:

- Madurai Seed- Narpanigal- August- September 2013 Update
- Madurai Seed- Narpanigal- October, November, December 2013 Update