

Fellowship Report 2022- 2023

First of thanks to Asha for Education, Boston friends for your continued support and love. During covid years, and during my medical emergency (operation) you have shown immense support. Many thanks. I am a lot better now, there are some physical difficulties. But I continued to work with Karumbalai children and young people through Madurai Seed, and extended my support to other people through various people, organizations, and programs.

Karumbalai	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classes
Children & Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extacurricular Activities• Linking volunteers & Resource Persons
Hostel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linking volunteers & Resource Persons
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classes & Activities
College students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interns, field visits, projects, research• Working with Kaleidoscope
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing Assistance• Working with Dr.Taj Amma

Working In Karumbalai

There are 3 children education centres, and 1 young people education centre that are functioning every evening 6 pm to 9 pm from Monday to Saturday. Some other extracurricular activities are conducted during Sundays too.

In the year 2022-2023, **225 children have registered** at Madurai Seed from 5 years to 17 years. 115 boys + 107 Girls

Among **120 children are coming to centres regularly**. 65 boys + 55 girls. According to our room spaces, this is a maximum capacity we can hold.

15 children are going to write 10th std board exam

10 are going to write 11th board exam

15 are going to write 12th board exam

In these 35 children in 10th, 11th, and 12th 57% are first generation in their families to finish this level of education.

17 young people are volunteering at Madurai Seed, among 15 are studying in colleges. 2 volunteers who have finished under graduation are now preparing for government and bank exams.

Post-Graduation	2
Teacher Education (M.P.Ed)	1
Teacher Education (B.Ed)	1
Finished UG, preparing for exams	2
Final year under graduation	4
Second year under graduation	3
First year under graduation	4
Total	15

Among **17 college goers**, **12 are women** and 3 are men. **9 are first graduates**.

Children are having evening classes from Monday to Saturday from 6pm to 9pm.

- I am taking care of the overall management of **evening classes**.
- Also, I have planned and conducted various **extracurricular activities** during special occasions and holidays.
- We organized many **group reading** sessions with the help of volunteers, books, and projector
- I planned them to participate in other organization's events, **public events**, and other educational and cultural programs.
- **Guidance and counselling** is provided to needful children and young people in terms of educational choice, vocational choice, family problems, and difficult situations.
- Conducted **summer camp** for 16 days in the month of May 2022, after two years Covid gap.

Working with Sevalayam Hostel:

This hostel for boys aged from 10 to 17 years is run by Tamilnadu Harijan Seva Sangh, and has a long history and tradition. Currently, **78 students** are staying here and studying in a nearby government school. Madurai Seed works hand in hand with this hostel in the previous years also. During Covid and After around 2 years, we haven't been in touch with them.

In this year 2022-23, we have done more programs for them.

- One of our volunteers is **teaching Maths** to the 10th std students here on Sundays
- Madurai Seed has sponsored **Audio/Sound systems** to the newly built hall in the hostel.
- On **children's day**, we organized three resource persons to conduct three different programs
- Took part in **Pongal** celebration at Sevalayam
- Conducted **reading session** and provided the small book on freedom fighter V.O.Chidambaram to all children
- Conducted **song-singing session** by Vidya, an NRI volunteer.
- Madurai Seed's alumni meet and Diwali program was conducted in Sevalayam premises.



Working with Interns/ Students:

People are coming to learn from me, and Madurai Seed.

- **12 students from English Department, Thiagarajar College, Madurai** have approached for internship at Madurai Seed. We designed it as a learning internship for students. For 15 days, various resource persons came directly and through online to teach, guide the students in many areas related to their studies, interests, teaching, and skills and personality development.
- **10 students from Sociology Department, Lady Doak College** came to learn about NGOs, community development, problems in Karumbalai, etc. We assisted them for a field study and project, conversations with children and young people.
- **1 research scholar from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad** came for inputs regarding water management, community participation, and government roles in providing water, protecting water bodies etc. She interviewed me for nearly 5 hours regarding my experience with working with the locals, Madurai's water resources, water scarcity etc.
- **10 primary school students from Kodai International School** has come for a field study. They wanted to learn about the locality, children's lifestyle, and education. It was kind of cultural exchange program. They learnt from seed children, our children learnt from them.
- **5 students from Madurai Agriculture College** came to learn about organizational aspects as a part of their rural sociology studies.



Working with Volunteers:

People are coming from Madurai, around India, and abroad are coming to volunteer, teach classes, share skills etc.

- Vidya, an NRI from Netherlands taught singing/song classes. She learns Carnatic music from childhood.
- Krithika, a home-schooled student from Chennai organized a drawing session for kids. She is an artist.
- Miruthula, a school student from Australia came and talked about reading, story writing for teenage children.
- Murugesan, and Viji our local friends and supporters have come during many occasions, and being an inspiration for our students.
- Keith, an abroad volunteer from Switzerland who is an English lecturer taught classes for our children and young people. He conducted cover letter and resume writing workshop for college students.
- Katrin and Urs, from Switzerland taught classes for children from 7th to 10th std.
- John Potts, from Switzerland who is one of our main supporters taught classes from 11th, 12th students and college volunteers about interview skills and general language practice. He also conducted an workshop on interview skills.



Working with Resource Persons

I have been linking resource persons with children and young people in possible occasions. Resource persons from various walks of life and profession came directly and through online throughout the year. If you see the list, and their profile they are the great role models and inspiration. There are lots of things to learn from them.

1	Karthikeyan	Environment Activist, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
2	Renuka	Nutritionist, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
3	Radhika	Yoga Teacher, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
4	Marian Britto	Illustrator, Pondicherry	Vasantham Summer Camp
5	Ramya	Designer, Chennai	Vasantham Summer Camp
6	Madhavan	Research Scholar, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
7	Vadivel	Theatre Artisit, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
8	Vishwa	Environment Activist, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
9	Poonkodi	Story Teller, Coimbatore	Vasantham Summer Camp
10	Palani	Farmer, Madurai	Vasantham Summer Camp
11	Sathya	Education Activist, Theni	Vasantham Summer Camp
12	Ariaravelan	Life skill curriculum developer, Madurai	Internship
13	A.Ramasamy	Tamil scholar, Professor	Internship
14	Vinodh Baluchamy	Photographer, Artist	Internship
15	Ponmani	Entrepreneur	Club Activity
16	Divya, Shalini	Transgender Activists	Club Activity
17	Aribabu	Tamil Professor	Children's Day
18	Vidya	Carnatic Singer	Club Activity
19	Krithika	Artist	Club Activity
20	John Potts	ELT professional	English Class
21	Keith	English Lecturer	English Class
22	Katrin	English Teacher	English Class
23	Urs	Mathematician	English Class
24	Murugesan	Engineer	Club Activity
25	Mariammal	Teacher	Club Activity

Working with Taj Amma

- Ever since, Dr.Taj (88 years old), has returned to stay in Madurai, I am working closely with her. She is one of the pioneer doctors, social workers in Madurai. She contacts whenever she needs to provide something to the poor, homeless, disadvantaged students, government schools like cloths, food, books, stationaries etc.

Working with Kaleidoscope:

- It is a centre for alternative arts, culture, and education run by my professor Prabakar for young people, teachers, social workers, and artists. The building of rooftop, and some equipment were sponsored by Madurai Seed. Whenever possible, Madurai Seed children and youth are using this space for our programs. I have worked to organize some programs with Prof.Prabakar for college students of Madurai.

Working for Housing Assistance:

In March 2022, Infoview an IT company based in Chennai has offered a CSR fund to Madurai Seed to do community development activities in Karumbalai. I have identified there are lack of awareness, misguidance and financial problem in getting plot approval documentation from Tamilnadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB).

I have given **moral support and guidance** to **3 families** to get documentation for their plots. **3 families** were given **financial assistance** to get their plots registered.

8 families have applied for **269 Sq.Ft house in TNUHDB apartment** scheme at Rajakoor which is 12 kms away from Karumbalai. Among **4 people** got their house. Financial assistance was given by Madurai Seed.

Housing and its documentation are a major need for Karumbalai people. In many cases lack of this awareness leads to other problems, insecurities and disputes. In the year 2022-23, 10 families have benefited from this community work.

Conclusion

From the age of 14, I have been in the service field through various schemes, organizations, people like Arivoli Iyakkam, Uruthunai, Dr. Taj, NSS program of American College, Dr. Adams, Seed Education Centres, Madurai Seed Narpanigal, etc.

I have grown Madurai Seed Narpanigal into a successful organization from its reestablishment in 2007 as a registered organization. It is a great grassroot model. Children growing up as volunteers, and teaching the children from their same locale. Lots of children and young people found hope through education.

I request Asha for Education, Boston to extend my fellowship. Grateful to all of you.

Lots of love

Karthikbharathi