

FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

From July 2019 to May 2020

A.S. Karthik Bharathi

Fellowship Update July 2019 to March 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters

I am very happy to share some of the major milestones and highlights in the last months. Apart from the highlights, I've been working regularly closely associated with young people and children of Madurai Seed, assigning tasks for the volunteers, providing guidance and counselling for children, bringing in resource persons from outside, working with other organizations, etc.

Building of New Classroom Space:

A quiet spacious place was needed for children. I've proposed the idea of using the second floor of my house which doesn't require any rental costs and there will be no house owner disturbances. I've already given the ground floor for Madurai Seed. Asha and Friends of Madurai Seed helped for the construction. With very well planning, the construction was started in June 2019 and inaugurated on 5th September 2019. Within 3 months we were able to make the room available for studying. Thus, the shortage for classroom spaces is managed effectively.

Networks

Having a nice cordial relationship with other organizations who come to work with us. We are open to guide, share ideas and help budding social workers in the area of children's education. We also put our children and young people's learning and interest as our priority.

- The partnership with **Chennai Nandavanam** is growing strong. This year our children stayed in Chennai for three days in their premises for a theatre camp cum festival in May 2019. We provided resource persons for their children's theatre production. Our children staged their three drams in the beach nearby for Nandavanam children, staff, and public. Nandavanam also conducted a potential development workshop "*Understanding Yourself*" incorporating integral education and personality

development for our young people in February 2020. We are planning more activities together.

- We also worked closely with **Kaleidoscope**, Centre for alternative education, art, culture. I acted as co-organizer of Madurai Art Festival in February 2020. The main idea behind the festival is to make public aware, and encourage arts apart from mainstream cinema. Madurai Seed provided ideas and volunteers for the festival. Additionally, our children and young people constantly participated in the literary meetings, film screenings, art & media related seminars.
- Inai, a pilot project under renowned Agaram Foundation is now working in the Government schools in Madurai. People from Agaram approached us for guidance and support. We assured to help them in possible ways.

Volunteers

This year many schools, college students, supporters from India and abroad has chosen Madurai Seed to complete their internship and volunteering. They are very much impressed seeing our works in website and showed interest. After the volunteering duration they are impressed more and continue to be our friends. We always make use of the skills of the volunteers for the benefit of our children and young people.

Anouk, a Law student from France

Jennifer, a Law student from Pune

Sudan, a business student from Bangalore

Eva, school student from Netherlands

Keith, ELT professional from Switzerland

Katrin, ELT Professional from Switzerland

Nick, ELT professional from Switzerland

The children and young people get motivated to see people from outside and inspired from their stories. I've guided them about the needs of our children and young people and scheduled classes for them.

Two young people has chosen to study further

- Nandhini is studying B.Ed teacher training in Maths
- Srinath is doing B.Ed teacher training in physical education

I've guided them for admission and college selection, also encouraged our supporters to sponsor them for the whole two years that is two years.

Young people who have finished degree and courses have joined in various jobs.

- Vicky and Anand who showed interest in photography and editing was guided and supported to study extra course after their graduation. Now they have joined in an IT company in Madurai as Graphic Designers. I recommended their names to a person who is known in the area of IT in Madurai, He conducted the interview and selected them.
- Prem worked in an amusement park in Kerala. He was not satisfied with the job and returned. During the course of his job search, he stayed in touch with Madurai Seed. Now he got a satisfying job as a caretaking supervisor in a special school
- Surya, who finished graduation before two years was working in various private jobs, nothing is fit for his creativity and personality. When people from Agaram-Inai foundation approached me for some guidance for their new project in Madurai, I've asked a job for our young people. Surya went for the interview got selected, now he is working as a district coordinator for renowned Agaram-Inai organization

Alumni Support

Muthu Ganesh (IT), Jensi (Accountant), Prem (Private Job), Ramki (Private Job) **these 4 people are continuing** to work as teaching volunteers in the evenings after their work. Vicky and Anand are participating in the events in holidays. This support from Alumni is very new aspect and positive.

21 former students participated in the alumni meet in October 2019.

Resource Persons & Guests

My best skill is bringing people together, and connecting them in any aspect of Madurai Seed. I encourage young people from various fields of career to come interact with children more than going after renowned big shots.

Muthu (young poet)

Abinaya (young professor)

Jeyapriya (Robotics trainer)

Prashanth (Theatre director)

Dr. Vedhachalam (Archeologist)

Arul Dev (Author & coach)

Arthi (Educational Therapist)

Rajasekar (Theatre director)

Participations

Our young people are introduced to young writers, and educators through wide variety of events that happen in Madurai. I enable them to participate, listen their speech about books, movie, literature, music, countries, politics, caste and religion. They interacted with many renowned personalities from various fields.

Jeyamohan (Writer & literary critic)

Dr. Dharmaraj (Writer and professor)

Dr. Prabahar (Professor)

Yuvan Chandra sekar (Writer)

Shaji Chen (Music Critic)

Dr. Nageshwari Annamalai (Writer)

Bava Chella Durai (Writer & Story teller)

Su. Venkatesan (Writer & Politician)

Kathir (Social activist)

Site visit

Dr. Melliya Annamalai is the project steward of Madurai Seed Narpanigal in Asha for Education, Boston Chapter. For us she is our beloved Akka, nurturing woman, inspiration for girl children, etc. She visited our centers on 20.08.2019. She went around each classes and shared greetings with the volunteers. She also visited the newly built classroom with children utilizing them. She interacted with our volunteers about their classes and college studies and discussed with Karthikbharathi about the improvements of classes and needs. Her mother already gave a seminar about Cuba, the country her next book is based on, our young people interestingly took part in the discussion at Kaleidoscope. It was a nice meeting with Melli Akka, her arrival brought lots of joy and encouragement as always.

More News:

I feel proud to announce Madurai Seed has begun 21st year in working for underprivileged children and young people

The friendship of **Melli Akka and Madurai Seed** has been continuing for 13 years, her love for our children and young people is huge.

Over the past years, **ASHA** has brought light, hope and enlightenment in the lives of hundreds of children.

- **239 children in Karumbalai** enrolled get benefit through education centers and skills and personality development programs. 25 young people teach them and additionally **152 children in a hostel** nearby are provided classes by them.
- Madurai Seed is located as 3 education centers for children, 2 centers for youth, 1 library, and 1 office
- Among 2 centers for youth, one functions in Karumbalai and another in Kaleidoscope Thedalgai resource center.
- **Among 15** in 10th std, **10 students are first** in their families finishing 10th std
- **Among 12** in 12th std, **6 students are first** in their families finishing 12th std.
- Among four young people who will be writing final semester in April 2020, two are first in their families finishing UG.
- Scholarship program reached **115 children and 17 young people**
- In conjunction with Chennai Nandavanam Center for excellence, I designed and organized 3 days workshop for our young people with resource persons Arthi and Arul Dev.
- Major theatre productions “Pudhiya vilayattu” by children and young people’s “Prasavam” and “Now” caught attention by the public.
- Annual events like Vasantham Mugaam, Margazhi Utsav, and Theatre productions went well with my ideas, design and teamwork.
- Young people who grew up in Madurai Seed, when they settled in teaching and school-oriented jobs makes myself involved with them and their works. I provide guidance and ideas for them. I feel like my work is reaching many children in this way.

Welfare Works during Covid Lockdown:

During April, May and June 2020, I involved in finding some ways to help poor families in this pandemic outbreak. With the support of Madurai Seed friends, I collected funds and distributed **Rs. 1,34,000/- for 134 families**.

I have distributed **savings Rs. 68876 to children** from their Thenkoodu Children Bank accounts to support their families in this outbreak.

Though there's lockdown, I'm planning and working on how to conduct classes and activities for children and ways to connect them with resource persons and young people.

Conclusion:

I sincerely thank ASHA for education, Boston chapter Friends, Melli akka, Friends of Madurai Seed for continuous support and encouragement. I look forward to the coming year with very much hope for further success stories.