

April 2021

A.S. Karthik Bharati's Fellowship

Karthi has led the work at Seed through a very difficult pandemic year. He has done his best to keep the activities going, and keep the children engaged. Online learning has been very difficult for this community as families typically have only one smart phone and data plan and it is typically unavailable for school work if the parent takes it with them to work. The only option for children is learning on their own from textbooks distributed by the schools. Karthi and Seed have worked hard to be an educational hub in these circumstances. They have also worked hard to have a variety of interesting and engaging activities to encourage the children to continue to be in touch with the center.

Attendance is down to 40% as children and youngsters drop out and start working.

Post COVID there will be many challenges. There will be dropouts and children falling behind their grade level. Karthi's particular expertise is helping students catch up to their grade level, motivating them to keep climbing the educational ladder, and helping with guidance and counseling, and helping them find their talent and find a job. There will be an overwhelming need for these skills.

The proposal is to continue funding with a fellowship honorarium of **Rs. 25,000 per month**. The total for the year is **Rs. 300,000**.