

Visit by Melli Annamalai, Asha-Boston/MIT

July 21 and 22, 2015

Karthi and 2 others came to receive me as I arrived by the overnight bus from Mysore. I went to my place of stay, and after refreshing myself was picked up again by the team and taken to Karumbalai. I spent more time than usual on this visit, and it gave me the opportunity to have several conversations with Karthi on his current work and future plans.

Clearly Seed Narpanigal is doing well. Karthi, with the help of Mansur, his wife Elavarasi, many, many volunteers and others in the community has brought the organization from the beginning to its stable state now. For details on Seed Narpanigal, which is a large part of Karthi's work, please refer to site visit and other reports [here](#).

Karthi's other work as part of his fellowship has focused on students who are behind grade level (the so-called "slow learners") in Sevalayam. Sevalayam is a government hostel for rural children. They come from the villages in the area, stay there and go to government schools in Madurai. They come from extremely poor families and struggle against great odds to be succeed in schools and afterwards. The poor quality of government school means that there are often many gaps in their learning, and they are behind what they should know when they come to high school, and take the class X examination.

Karthi, with his unique methodology (see [Fellowship report](#) for details and success stories) has made great progress with these so-called "slow learners." He helps them pass the class X exam, giving them confidence and opening the door and increased access to opportunities that will help them and their families economically.

His work at Sevalayam needs the support of volunteers who can work with him in this. He cannot do this single-handedly, volunteers from Seed Narpanigal have helped him (the fellowship does not include support for additional folks). It is entirely up to the volunteers whether they choose to work in Sevalayam, and in the next year there might not be enough volunteers to help him. Just some thoughts on what we have discussed for next year. I do feel his unique talent in helping the so-called "slow learners" should be utilized.

We are thinking of plans for the fellowship next year

Some thoughts:

- Continue with Sevalayam (if we get volunteers)
- Citywide camps for students in corporation schools in art, music, etc.?
- Monthly note on various education related events (for example, a note on the well-functioning corporation elementary school, or a note on the Ramnad district collector's work that has led to good results)
- Camps for rural children through CESC

