

Site Visit Report for SEED Project - Primary School, High School and College Support

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Society for the Educational and Economic Development (SEED) is serving the needs of children of life prisoners, terminally ill patients like leprosy, murder victims and single mothers. SEED has been making changes in the lives of these children and helps in preventing them from turning against society as well as giving comfort to the families that their children are safe and well provided. Asha Saint Louis chapter has been supporting SEED for the last 20 plus years. The following information is obtained by the virtual site visit and talking with Mr.Palanisamy and the staff.

SEED trust in TamilNadu is mainly located at Sriperumpudur and two of its neighboring villages. The first location is a Primary school in the Sriperumpudur township. It is a gated center for the boys and girls aged 5 to 10. Currently there are 32 students with 22 boys and 10 girls. They attend the school in the compound and being residential school the food and boarding are provided. The school headmaster salary is paid by the government but the rest of the staff and vocational training is supported by Asha Saint Louis. We provided funding for tailoring, knitting and gardening. The kids help in gardening and some cleaning. The kids seem happy and enthusiastic.

The next location of SEED is a Mahatama Gandhi High School at Uttukottai. A village around Sriperumpudur. There were around 40 boys attending the high school classes and vocational training inside the campus. This like the primary school is a residential school. Asha Saint Louis provides for the subject teacher preping the students for the high school final examinations. Besides the regular academic classes the students engage in vocational training like carpentry, electronics,tailoring and crafts making. They are also engaged in sports like Cricket and traditional martial arts like Bo Staff (Kolattam).

The kids that pass out of Mahatama Gandhi High School at Uttukottai are supported for their college and other academic pursuits. Currently there are 10 kids 3 girls and 7 boys supported by the Asha Saint Louis. Some of the last year kids exceed their academic achievement and they got admission via counseling to medical colleges. But due to lack of funds two kids have to choose less expensive academics. To overcome this issue and encourage others we are planning to start NEET/JEE preparation for these kids and kids around the village. There were some donars who were willing to sponsor this via Asha Saint Louis. We are expecting more funding for this effort soon.

Then there is Dr. JC Kumarappa Industrial training center at Irungattukottai, outside the town of Sriperumpudur which caters to around 80 boys in their pursuit of ITI . This facility is mainly funded by Asha Houston.

Sri. A.R. Palanisamy who is the main trustee is coordinating all activities efficiently. There is about 10 board members and appointed a manager to take care of the financial and other administration of the facilities, He is a selfless and very polite and has taken over a huge responsibility to run this trust effectively and helping many children. As I spoke to him today he was with some staff visiting the prisons and leprosy colonies to shore up kids who can be protected and supported. I recommend for continuing to provide SEED the required assistance for continuing their activities.