

GLOVIS SANGAMAM PROJECT REPORT - FEB 2017 / MAR 2017

Glovis Sangamam project is continuing to support the 8 schools in Thiruvallur Dist. Here is a report of the various activities that took place during February and March 2017.

Assessments

Asha Chennai conducted assessments for all the supported schools in Feb/Mar 2017. The assessments at the Glovis supported 8 schools were held between 13th and 21st Feb. Written assessments were conducted in English and Maths. Since full oral assessments were already conducted in November, there were no oral assessments this time. Written assessments were given for classes 2 to 5 in Maths and classes 3 to 5 in English.

The assessments were completely conducted by Asha teachers (in particular the computer teachers). The schools extended their complete support to us in this. We were very happy with the way the assessments were conducted in all the schools.

The computer teachers also corrected the papers. Volunteers also participated in this to complete all the grading by the end of March. All the grading results have been uploaded and can be seen at our server - http://45.56.79.245/school_avgs?year=2017. The analysis and reporting just got completed and we will be giving a report to every school head-mistress before the end of April.

See photos from the assessments at <https://goo.gl/photos/nhdnCiQj3hG1o1G89>.

Excursions

Excursions were organized for all the children in the Poondi block schools on 2 days – March 18th and April 1st. This year we chose to take the children to Dakshina Chitra and to Mahabalipuram.

The children boarded the bus along with the teachers (Asha and government) from the various schools before 8:00 am and were given some juice and snacks on the way. They arrived at Dakshina Chitra around 10:45 am. They were received there by volunteers from Hyundai Glovis and Asha. They were shown all the authentic houses representing various communities and cultures within South India at Dakshina Chitra till about 12:30.

Then they had lunch at Dakshina Chitra which we arranged from Sangeetha. The first batch also got to see a puppet and magic show organized by Dakshina Chitra. Due to lack of time, we cancelled this for the April 1st excursion. Then we distributed the gifts and the T-shirts to the children and also the backpacks to the teachers.

After some photos with the children wearing the T-shirts/caps and holding their gifts, the children left for Mahabalipuram with the teachers. They visited the shore temple and the 5 Rathas. The second group also managed to see the lighthouse. Then they finally spent some time at the beach before heading back to their villages.

On the whole the children enjoyed the excursion very much. They also loved their gifts and T-shirts. The feedback from the teachers were also very positive.

See photos from the March 18th excursion at <https://goo.gl/photos/izsD4YVc5xsavucC6> and from 1st April at <https://goo.gl/photos/5cw39C6EoeAvYYsZ7>.

Teacher Training

The focus of the teacher training shifted to training the teachers for TET. The TET exams are being held in late April. Most of the Asha teachers hope to become government teachers and are keen to do well in TET. Asha would also like its teachers to do well in TET and continue as good teachers in the government schools. Therefore we have been training them in English and Maths during the weekends during the last couple of months.

Asha tests for SA3

One of the exercises that our trainers (Mrs. Meena Suresh for Maths and Mrs. Jayashree Arun for English) wanted our teachers to try was to write their own SA3 papers. The idea would be to go beyond rote learning. The questions can be easy but shouldn't be direct repeat of questions in the text book. Further these test should be conducted honestly and the students should not be coached or assisted in any way during the conduct of the test.

With these instructions the teachers developed their own SA3 tests and submitted it to the trainers for review. The feedback is progressing.

Sports Dress for the children

We have been giving bags to the children every year. Instead the Head-mistresses and we also wanted something different. We decided to give the children a sports uniform. We evaluated the options and picked on a yellow T-shirt and brown shorts / skirts. We placed the orders for these by the end of March.

Upcoming Events

The schools will conduct the summative Assessments for the third term in late April and then the schools will close for the summer. Asha teacher will also conduct the SA3 papers they have designed in their classes.

The schools will be having the annual day functions also in April. Asha will sponsor the prizes for the children and snacks for them on this day.

Asha will be distributing the reports from our assessments to all the schools in April.

The Tamilnadu education department is conducting TET (Teacher Entrance Test) in April. All our teachers will also be appearing for that.

Asha will be engaging the teachers with more teacher training during the month of May. We will be having our annual teacher training programme, RightStart from May 24th to 28th.