Glovis Sangamam Project Report – July 2014

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 the month of July 2014.

Bags and School Materials

This activity carried over from June. Glovis and Asha coordinated with Maruthi Industries to make 650 bags for all the children at the 8 supported schools. We got 300 small bags for 1st to 3rd std. children and 350 bags for 4th, 5th and higher class (only at Ramancheri) children. Further educational materials (chart paper, normal paper, chalk pieces, crayons, sketch pens, mats etc.), and sports materials (ring, football, etc.) were also purchased.

On July 2nd we had distribution of these at all the schools. Divya and Kaushal from Hyundai Glovis and Rajaram from Asha went to all the 8 schools and distributed the bags to the children, talked a little bit to them and also gave the materials to the school HMs. The black boards and scribble areas were also painted freshly to make this a good new beginning of the year for the schools.

Teacher Placement

There was a minor change from last month. Asha teacher Santha Sophya used to work at Pattarai Perambudur. She had taken maternity leave and came back to join us in June 2014. In the meantime we had hired Tamilselvi to work at Pattarai Perambudur. We posted Santha Sophya at Nemiliagaram (not part of Glovis Sangamam project) in June 2014. But with a small child she was finding it difficicult to travel up to Nemiliagaram, a remote village and wished to be posted back to Pattarai Perambudur. We have made that change. Santha Sophya now works at Pattarai Perambudur and Tamil Selvi has been moved to Nemiliagaram.

Teacher Evaluation and Training

We had our monthly teacher training session on July 19th at Olcott Memorial School premises at Besant Nagar Chennai. 12 teachers from Project Sangamam (10 of whom are from Glovis Sangamam), 2 teachers from FTC Seeyapoondi and 3 teachers from Olcott Memorial school participated in the session. From the previous meeting, we had asked the teachers to master the Maths concepts in the 4th standard Maths text books. On July 19th we started with a small test on 4th standard Maths. Note the questions were typically the most complex questions possible within the parameters of the concepts introduced in the 4th standard Maths. Couple of questions went beyond these as well. The teachers continue to have difficulties in many basic areas of Maths.

Then we introduced the teachers to the quizzes available at the website esl.about.com. Since the Sangamam teachers will shortly get their internet connection, this would enable to improve their ability to construct sentences.

In the afternoon, after lunch, we had requested the teachers to present how they would teach the first and second standard portions for the first term in various subjects. We got only the time to cover English and Maths for the first standard. Nirmala, Asha and Jayashree presented how they would teach English. Hepsiba presented how she would teach Maths. While everyone’s effort was creditable, Hepsiba in particular did an excellent job. There was a good amount of feedback and interaction from the other teachers as well. Lakshmi Suryanarayanan also participated and gave good feedback to the teachers.

We have requested the teachers to continue looking into 5th standard Maths. We will continue to look at how they teach and continue to improve that as well in the subsequent training sessions.

Excursion to Hyundai Glovis Facilities

Divya and others from Hyundai Glovis made the planning to host the 4th and 5th standard children from all the schools of Project Sangamam at their facilities for a day. We assisted her in planning the same. This was split into two parts. Children from 4 schools, Kuppammal Chatthiram, Pattarai Perambudur, Ramancheri and Thomur were to visit on the 26th of July and the children from the remaining schools will visit on a Saturday in August. The trip was also enthusiastically supported by the AEO for the block and the government teachers.

On 26th July the events were very successfully organized. Two busses were sent to the four schools to pick up the children. Eight government teachers also came with the children. At Hyundai Glovis the children were given an orientation about the work being done by Hyundai Glovis. They were then taken to Sathyam Grand where several games were organized for them. They were given an excellent lunch as well as a gift to take back. Couple of Asha volunteers also attended the function and were all praises for how the event was organized by the employees of Hyundai Glovis.

Upcoming Events

In August the Asha teachers will be given Uniform sarees/blouses/bag and also an Atlas/Dictionary for their use. We will be painting the Balwadi black boards during the month. There will be continuation of the teacher training that we have started. On August 15th all the schools will be having a small function in the morning to celebrate the Independence Day. Asha teachers and volunteers will also participate in these. The remaining four school will have their excursion trip to Glovis or other place as planned by Hyundai Glovis on one of the Saturdays.