

GLOVIS SANGAMAM PROJECT REPORT - JUNE 2015

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 June 2015.

Schools Reopen

The schools once again reopened on June 1st. Because of the grading work Asha teachers joined back in full strength at the schools only on June 8th. The government teachers were busy with the enrollment. Most of the schools have seen an increase in the enrollment. One of the main reasons for this is that government has introduced English medium education at all the schools! Given the lack of English knowledge among the teachers, this makes Asha's support even more critical. Some of the materials we are providing to these schools to improve the English education also becomes important in this light.

Asha Annual Assessments

The grading of the papers by the teachers continued. They completed these for most part in the first week of June when most of the teachers participated in the grading work. The remaining schools' papers were wrapped up by the two computer teachers and the Balwadi teacher. Note the Balwadi teacher could not go to the Balwadi since we are still awaiting the permission from the appropriate government official (CDPO - Community Development Project Officer). The analysis of the scores is being done in Chennai by the volunteers. Since the grading of some of the other schools is not yet completed, this has been pending. We expect to complete that in July.

Annual Teacher Evaluations

To determine the pay raises and also to give us a good idea of the skill levels of the teachers, we have been conducting teacher evaluation test. We conducted the same on June 20th at Olcott Memorial School. All the teachers from Project Sangamam also participated in the test. I am happy to report that there has been a significant improvement in the performance of the teachers in Maths. While the average score was about 5 out of 30 last year, this year it has improved to about 15 out of 40. The highest score in the tests was scored by Ms. Jennifer Joshi, a new teacher we have hired

for Allikuzhi. She was also given a token bonus of Rs 1000 for this achievement.

Libraries

The remaining books were purchased. The biggest single source of the books was Tulike Publishers which published very good quality English and regional language books for children with an Indian story line. They also have several English-Tamil bilingual books. All the books were sorted and we marked the books as donated by Hyundai Glovis and Asha. We also purchased 5 bureaus for the 5 schools. These were finally donated to the schools and the libraries declared open on the 7th of July.

Teacher Training

The teacher training continued this year as well. On July 20th, after the test I spent time with the teachers explaining to them about the test as well as teaching them about computers and what our plans are using the computers in the classroom this year. The teachers also met on their own to continue their learning on the 13th of July.

Laptops for Teachers

We provided laptops for two more teachers in June. These were Shailaja (computer teacher) and Vanitha (Ammambakkam). The computer teachers (Shailaja and Santha Sophya) are also helping with the mapping of contents. They did the mapping of the Khan Academy contents for use with our software.

Upcoming Events

The statistical analysis of the assessment papers is expected to be completed in July. We will share these reports with Hyundai Glovis once they are complete.

We hope to start making the initial purchase and distribution of materials for the schools and students in July. Some of the initial work with the schools like Black board repainting will also be taken up during this time.

The computers repair effort will continue and the expectations will be for the initial set of 5 teachers to start using their computer effectively. We will giving laptops to 4 more teachers in July.