

# **GLOVIS SANGAMAM PROJECT REPORT – NOV 2014**

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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 Nov 2014.

## Materials for the Schools

Maths Kits were purchased for all the Glovis Sangamam schools from Ramanujan Museum and Centre for Math. Since training was required to use these kits effectively, we only gave enough number of kits for our own teachers to use. Depending on the class that our teacher was teacher we gave Dienes Blocks (or Base 10 kit), 4-pin abacus, 7-pin Abacus and Fraction kit. We gave two sets of each kit needed with the idea that we will increase that number once the teachers had a clear idea what they needed in the class.

We also purchased Kathai Aruvi story cards for all the schools. These are laminated cards, each one with a small story in Tamil. We gave these to all the school libraries. Since these are all laminated, they do not go bad easily and the stories are written with the under-privileged reader in mind.

## School Visits and a Review of Maths Teaching

We have been giving training for the teachers through Ramanujan Museum and Centre for Math over the last few months. On Nov 14<sup>th</sup> (the children's day) Mrs. Meena Suresh the trainer from the centre, visited the schools to see how the teachers were using the materials that have been provided. She visited Kuppammal Chatthiram, Pattarai Perambudur, Nemiliagaram (not part of the project) and Ramancheri. Her general observation was that the teachers were very motivated and were trying well to use the kits. But there were basic problems in the way they were teaching including moving to higher concepts before children were clear with the lower concepts, not giving enough variations in real life (i.e. word) problems, not going through all the steps in moving from concrete to abstract.

I also went to some more of the schools to see how the teachers were doing on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. I visited Gandhgram and Pattarai Perambudur on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. I visited Thomur, Ammambakkam (not part of the project) and Allikuzhi on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. Katchur and Placepalayam are the only schools remaining for this round of visits.

## Teacher Training

The teachers came to Chennai for a English language training on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was conducted by Lakshmi Suryanarayanan, Asha Chennai volunteer and retired HM of Olcott Memorial School. The training was held at the Olcott Memorial

school as usual. This was attended by all the teachers from Project Sangamam as well as teacher from other Asha Chennai projects. Lakshmi did some more brush of phonics in the morning and gave them some worksheets to improve their basic grammar in the afternoon.

Some teachers (incl. 4 from Project Sangamam) came to Chennai on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov for some more training in Computers. We gave them an exercise to use Google/Internet to find out details about some topic they wouldn't know and write a page on it. Topics were famous people like Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi and Martin Luther King. We also used the opportunity to talk to the teachers about the problems they face in the schools and what can possibly be done to improve that.

### Upcoming Events

There will be continuation of the teacher training that we have started. The focus will continue to be Maths and English. We will start planning for one more training session with Mrs. Meena that will be focused on the third term lessons. This may be held in late December or early January.

We will be purchasing and distributing materials to all the Balwadis being supported as part of this project. Once the rains stop, we will start the construction of the kitchen sheds at Placepalayam and Gandhigram.

We are also in discussion with Madras Dyslexia Association to have a Dyslexia awareness camp for both the Asha and the government teachers at Thiruvallur.