Puvidham Narumanam







At puvidham the activities are dictated by the seasons. When the rains finally came on 28th September and all our water bodies were full by 10th of October! The children enjoyed swimming in murky water and the teachers prepared neem decoction and adathoda decoction to be taken as a preventive for fever and common cold.

On 12th October a group of 40 youngsters from Chennai and Pondicherry came to puvidham. They call themselves **weekend farmers** and they came at a very good time. We had dug pits for planting 700 trees and were planning to do planting of fruit trees in our new land which we procured for the construction of the hostel.

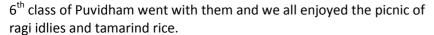
We also wanted to initiate our permaculture plot. So all in all they helped us to plant 1000 trees within 5 hours. After a simple lunch of khambu khichidi (bajra mixed with sprouts and some vegetables) we all sat down to share our concerns. That was really a good experience for us to plant in a large amount with in a day. Thanks to the week end farmers group. They left for **Co-forest** which is an initiative by Piyush Manush around 11kms from Puvidham at 5.00 pm.



Around 40 children and 5 teachers did a three day visit of puvidham from the TIMBAKTU COLLECTIVE. It was a busy two days sharing cultural activities, songs and dances. The teachers of Puvidham and Timbaktu shared their teaching methodologies and histories. It was a very difficult time for the



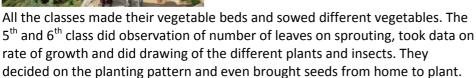
children to learn to use the composting toilets and minimise the use of water as that was the time when we had just received the rain and the water had not yet percolated into the wells! We took them to the forest at Hogenekkal for a silent walk which turned out to be not so silent. The 5th and





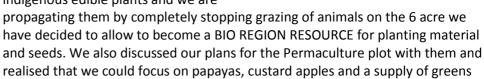


The 3rd and 4th children went to Mr. Babu's farm at Krishnagiri for three days. They trekked on the fort of Tipusultan and walked up the nearby hill to see water transporting by suction. The food and accommodation expenses were sponsored by Mr. Babu and we are very grateful to him for the same. They also did a lot of drawings of nature and wrote short poems on their own.





Harisha and Sutapa who work at ATREE came to visit the Puvidham forest and we are working on a proposal for a food forest with ATREE. Harisha helped identify many indigenous edible plants and we are



throughout the year. We have set up a drip irrigation system for this plot and hope to sustain it perennially.



The 7th and the 8th class went on their cultural exchange to IMILI MAHUA School in Chhattisgarh for 10 days. This was a wonderful experience of a tribal village and their way of life without electricity. So



wonderful that they came back and wrote a script for a drama on the ill effects of total dependence on



electricity which they plan to perform for our annual day function on 18th Jan. Before they went they spent time learning Hindi basics and the alphabet. Prayagji, who started the school in BALINGAPARA village took the children to the forest to see the trees and help them prepare a

herbarium of the vegetation around. They went on long cycle rides and swam in the village pond. Some who had not learnt swimming learnt it there. It is going to be and experience etched in their minds for their life time.

From there they went to Living Vlkasa Vidya Vanam at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Parimiji and Nandu who live on the farm shared ideas and held discussions and taught them book binding. They also took them to see the fort Kondaraju konda. All in all they had a





At home we have just procured a new piece of land next to the Puvidham land owing to the problem with the hostel registration. Now we are busy trying to construct the hostel in the limited funds that we have. Local stone, adobe and lime concrete are the new options we would like to try

out in the new construction. We will have a very small carbon foot print indeed! Almost all



the material is local and all the children and teachers are pitching in to make this building happen. While we are doing the work we also experiment with various stabilisers and then test the bricks for compressive and tensile stress. The math involved is very challenging for the 7th and 8th graders, while the lower classes learn about the kind of soil needed to



make bricks! The boy's room in the hostel will double up as an auditorium, as

visible in the picture! We have just finished the belt concrete and will soon be putting the termite resistant course with lime mortar! Our paddy fields and our Permaculture garden are also green and have begun giving vegetables!







We thank all our donors and friends for their continued support!

Do look us up at <u>www.puvidham.in</u> or come to Puvidham. **If you would like to foster one or more children or contribute to any of the activities, do contact us at <u>puvidham@gmail.com</u>**

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