

## REWARD Trust

### *A brief record of activities 2022 - 2023*

REWARD Trust with the support of ASHA for Education, many well wishers and local Philanthropists experienced a very purposeful and challenging period during this academic year. Soon after the pandemic, there were frantic requirements to appoint teachers to fill the learning gap and to cater to the increased admissions in Govt schools. Right at the beginning of the academic year, school visits were taken up to assess the ground realities. Subsequently, recruitment interviews were conducted after receiving requisition letters from schools, to select teachers at primary, middle, high and higher secondary levels. About 70 REWARD teachers engaged themselves in imparting quality education in about 55 Govt Schools within 30 km radius around Kalpakkam Township.

**Refresher courses** were conducted every month to enhance conceptual clarity, introduce teaching methodologies and enable interaction among the teachers from all the schools. Guest lectures by subject specialists were organised as part of the refresher course. In addition, teachers who had been with REWARD for long, gave demonstration classes on various topics. As the number of teachers have increased substantially, it was decided that a combined session of all the teachers will be held during the morning session and primary teachers would be separately addressed during the afternoon session, so that more focus can be incorporated to teaching methodologies appropriate to primary and higher classes. These focussed refresher sessions helped bring the newly appointed teachers to appreciate learning requirements of the under privileged children. .

**SMART tests** were restarted after the pandemic for students of classes 6,7,8 and 9th. Top 10 rankers from 27 schools, totalling about 1000 students took up SMART tests conducted during November 2022, January 2023 and February 2023. Periodic visits to the schools were made to assess the teacher performance real time, in the class room. It was heartening to notice during class room visits that the students were slowly getting into class room discipline and learning which took deep dents during the long COVID vacation.



SMART @ Neelamangalam



SMART @ Veerapuram

Intra School SMART Prize distribution is an event the students of all the schools under REWARD Trust look forward to as they get the awards for their achievements. The team of trustees visit all the schools, address the children appreciate their efforts and hand over the cash prizes and certificates. This year the Intra School SMART prize distribution was taken up in the month of February and March. It was a nice coincidence that Dr. Mamta from ASHA Florida and Mr. Narayanan from ASHA Boston could participate in the event and motivate the students.



**Dr. Mamta presenting SMART prize at Anaikattu    Mr. Narayanan with Prize winners at Nerumbur**

During this academic period, HMs of Govt High School, Neelamangalam and Govt Higher Secondary School, Vengampakkam were honoured for producing 100 % pass in class X, Board Examination. Both of them recognised the sustained support from REWARD trust

Performance and merit based incentives were given twice to the teachers who have completed at least one year with REWARD. The first one was to compensate for the pandemic period and the second one was the yearly incentive. Noted personalities were invited to address the teachers and give away the incentive.

A three day **math camp** with an option for residential or day to day basis was conducted for the primary teachers. The aim of the camp was to enrich the newly recruited primary teachers with focussed attention in various aspects of mathematics. Experts and senior teachers covered school level mathematics with theory and problem sheets.

### **Month wise activities:**

#### **June 2022 @ Paramasivam Nagar**

The first teacher training session started with the summer project presentation by the teachers. Teachers had carried out a project on flowers. The Project presentations were evaluated by a team of judges including Dr. Ravi Shankar- Retd. Scientist IGCAR, Ms. Latha- Special Educator, Mr. Sathish-Scientific Officer, IGCAR, Mr. Surendar- Scientific Officer, IGCAR, Mr. Rajan Babu- Retd. Director, BHAVINI and the trustees of REWARD Trust. Teachers had put in a lot of efforts to examine flowers with different perspectives. The presentations brought out the chemistry of flowers, mathematical sequences present in the formation of petals, medicinal aspect of some of the flowers, Economic activities around flowers and so on.

#### **July 2022@ Vayalore Govt. Higher Secondary School**

#### **Motivation Program and Inter School SMART Prize Distribution**

A function to motivate the teachers and appreciate their efforts even during pandemic was held at Govt Higher Secondary School Vayalore. Dr. L. Jawahar Nesan, Former Vice Chancellor, Saveetha University presented the motivational lecture and disbursed the incentive to the teachers.. Ms. Subashree Rajagopalan who from ASHA had supported REWARD in its early years graced the occasion and addressed the teachers. The group which got the best accolades for the project on

flowers presented their report to the guests. Inter School SMART Prizes for the year 2019-20 were also distributed. A student who received National Merit cum Means Scholarship from Irumbulicheri Govt Middle School was also honoured. The HM of the school accompanied that student and expressed happiness telling that the achievement has brought focus to the school at the District level.



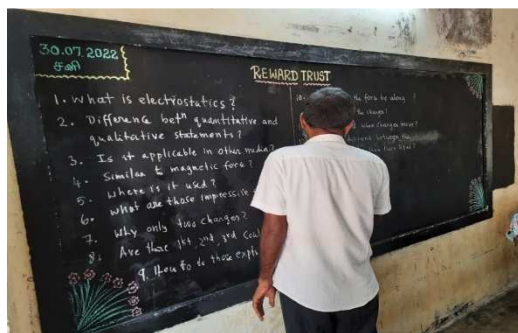
**Ms. Subashree addressing the teachers**



**Presentation of the Project on Flowers**

### **Teacher training session @ Govt High School Neelamangalam**

Dr. SatyaNarayana, one of the trustees and also an excellent professor introduced enquiry method of learning. Teachers were asked to raise questions about charges and current and following that he went on explaining the history of electrostatics and gradually got into answering all the questions. This was followed by a session on Geometry by Mr. Sathish, Engineer, IGCAR, Kalpakkam. Teacher Divya demonstrated math teaching at the middle school level.



**Prof. Satya Narayana- Enquiry way of learning**



**A joyful session...**

### **August @ Govt Middle School, Karumarapakkam**

An excellent presentation by Teacher Sasirekha on pressure and the associated demonstrations were the most interesting events of the training session. She showed by burning papers in a conical flask how a boiled egg can be sucked in due to the pressure reduction. This brought out how with simple things available locally a concept could be explained. It was heartening to see that many of the newly recruited teachers interacted so that they can demonstrate in their respective schools. Subsequently Mr. Surendrakumar, from IGCAR gave a class on Geometry.



## September

### @ Govt Higher Secondary School Pandur

Applying concepts in solving problems was succinctly demonstrated by Prof. Sengadir, HOD, Dept. of Math, Central University, Thiruvavur. This was followed by an elaborate class on Reform Movements in India during 19th Century, by REWARD teacher Mr. Vadivel.



**Prof. Sengadir- Problem solving session**



**Teacher Vadivel- Reform movements 19th Century**



**Teacher Sathish- introducing Fractions**



**Trustee Ms Megala - Digestive system**

The afternoon sessions for primary teachers had methodology session by Teacher Sathish where he demonstrated how to introduce 'Fractions'. Ms. Megala Rajan Babu, Trustee, REWARD Trust presented a detailed class on 'Digestive system'

## October

### @ Govt Middle School Mullikulathur

During this session Dr. Sengadir presented an introduction to polynomial expressions and arithmetic operations on polynomials. Dr Satya Narayana traced the historical development of the concept of pressure starting from 1642, described the works of Torricelli, Pascal, Otto von Guericke and brought it up to Sadi Carnot and the link between heat and work. Further, Teacher Sasirekha's experiments added real time demonstration of how a physics class should enthuse students. Dr. Kalavathi spoke on the poetic components in a Sangam literature (Nalvazhi) verse by Avvaiyar. Teacher Suresh shared his experience of teaching "reported speech" in the grammar class. During the afternoon

session, primary teachers were given a methodology class on respiratory system by Ms. Megala and teachers shared their teaching aids for "Symmetry"



**Teacher Sasirekha Demo on Height and Pressure**



**Primary teachers- Aids to teach Symmetry**

**November**

**@ Govt Adi Dravida Welfare Higher Secondary School, Nerumbur**



The training session this time had a special guest Ms. Uma Seshadri, a Retd. Chemical Engineer from DAE who was the first woman Engineer to be appointed at Kalpakkam.

She narrated her experiences in balancing work and home and also her involvement with society. Her positive presentation was received with lot of enthusiasm by the teachers. The interaction session with her was lively with so many questions from the teachers. Following this , SMART test paper analysis was carried out in detail.

## December

### @ Govt High School Sooradimangalam

As a special event the Middle, high and higher secondary teachers were asked to present exhibits from their subject on this refresher program. The primary teachers were asked to observe the exhibits and interact with the senior teachers to clarify their doubts. Later the primary teachers were asked to appear for a viva voce to ascertain their appreciation of the exhibits.

Ms. Shrithika Logeshwaran from ASHA UC Berkeley Chapter visited on that day and interacted with the teachers. Apart from her, Mr. S. Seshan, Vice Principal AECS Anupuram, Mr. M. Rajan Babu, Retd. Technical Director from BHAVINI, DAE, Mr. R. Baskaran, Retd. Scientist, DAE Mr. N. Muthukrishnan, A specialist in water treatment, Ms. S. Saradha from State Bank, Mr. H. Rajeswaran (Trustee) from INFOSYS, Mr. K. Avinash from Merck Millipore, Ms. Sarika Gada from INFOSYS, Ms. A. Deepa Microbiologist visited the exhibits and evaluated. Mr. Muthukrishnan gave a lecture on "Water Pollution". Ms Shrithika addressed the teachers. A few typical pictures will demonstrate the spirit and enthusiasm.



Teacher Kamakshi- Parts of Speech



Teacher Kannan- Acid Base Indicators



Teacher Punithavathi - Satellite Communication



Teacher Saravanan- Banking System in India

## January

### @ SriVchithrakala, Irumbulicheri

The second part of water treatment talk was presented at this session by Mr. Muthukrishnan with a lot of data and methodologies on waste water purification. Following that Mr. Baskar, Retd. Scientist



from IGCAR talked on the concept of Atom. Ms. Ananthi, Ms. Megala, Dr. Sengadir Tchr. Kannan and Tchr. Sasirekha discussed the SMART (January) question paper in detail.

## February

### @Anaikattu Govt Higher Secondary School

A motivational program for the teachers was held at Govt Higher Secondary School, Anaikattu on 25th February. Noted artist and Kalai Mamani Awardee Mr. Trotsky Maruthu addressed the gathering and distributed the incentive to the teachers. He described how painting strokes can better express a thing than spoken words. Encouraging students to express themselves can indeed enhance their academic involvement are his words to the teachers.

SMART inter prizes for 2019-20 were also distributed. ***A Student named Monisha of class VIII (then), Govt. Middle School Kalkulam secured the first prize among all the 20 schools under REWARD Trust participating in SMART Test. She also bagged interschool first prize in Physics, Chemistry and Biology and the prestige prize on all the three subjects for scoring above the set barrier.*** Cultural events by students and teachers added colour to the occasion.



Releasing of REWARD Brochure



Musical treat by Teacher Geetha

## March

### @ Govt. Adi Dravida Welfare Higher Secondary School, Manamai

The refresher class for teachers for the month of March was held at Adi Dravida Welfare Higher Secondary School, Manamai. Teachers Bharathi Dasan and Suresh made their presentation on History of the English Language and on the various types of English poetry respectively. Though it was slightly at a higher level, the teachers actively participated by questioning and clarifying their doubts. This was followed by a quick revision on calculating time at different longitudes by trustee Ms. Ananthi. A work sheet to firm up the concept was also solved during the session.



**Teacher Bharathi Dasan -History of English**



**Ms Ananthi - On time line**

## **April**

### **@ Govt. Higher Secondary School Vengampakkam**

April is the time for examination and REWARD teachers too took up their year-end SMART examination. This year all the higher secondary teachers wrote a full paper on their subject of specialisation and all the others wrote a common examination covering syllabus up to class X.



### **Time to examine the year's efforts**

Teachers were assigned summer project titles. Revisiting the constitution benefits not only the social teachers but all the citizen. Hence the projects were based on Indian Constitution relevant to Child rights and Education.

"We have miles to go before we sleep"