

## Visit by Murugesan Krishnasamy on the occasion of the release of the special issue of Puduyugam magazine

Date: November 18, 2016

It was a very different and spectacular evening yesterday at Madurai Seed. The kids gave us a rousing welcome and this warmth makes us emotionally charged every time we visit them. Karthik had come out with the emphasis/theme of 'empowering the girl child' for this year's edition of 'Puduyugam' (magazine produced by them with articles by children). It was a fitting tribute to the movement of women's empowerment happening not just in India but around the world for a few decades. The guests of honor were enthusiastic, energetic, and vibrant.

Ms. Indu, a student reporter of Vikatan (a leading Tamil magazine) was the first to speak. She struck a bond with the audience and shared her experiences in her journey in taking up journalism. Then spoke Prof. Sumedha who articulated the life of a typical Indian women with her own experiences. Her interaction was simple, humorous, but very influential. Her message left a strong impact on the girl students of Seed. She ended with a very inspiring story. Prof. Ponmalar was the next to speak. She wonderfully talked about the practical difficulties women face especially when traveling alone/staying away from home. She was followed by Dr. Usha, who stole our hearts and minds. Next was Viji's turn and she went to emphasize man's role in this whole Movement.... True....a clap is heard only when both hands come together. Elavarasi followed her with her experiences in life and went on to dedicate her success to Karthik. Mariammal teacher recollected her association with her students and wished them success. Indu's mother gave a crisp and focused talk. She is a great orator and it was heartening to know from her about 'Gender Sensitization' being implemented in corporation schools in Tamil Nadu.

Karthik's consistency with conceptualizing and organizing events in such a meticulous manner amazes me. His team spirit and motivational force are the driving factors behind such achievements. They do wonders to expose Seed students to various things outside Karumbalai and outside the standard school curriculum. Elavarasi (Karthik's wife) has been playing a phenomenal role in the activities of Seed. I came to understand that it was Elavarasi's effort to bring such a wonderful line of guests for this event. The students at a Seed all had a wonderful time. I wish Karthik and Elavarasi and the 'Team Madurai Seed' all the best and pray God that they all be blessed.