

It was exactly 10 years ago, in August 1997, when we started our first education center in a slum in Taramani. We had assumed children would have problems in Algebra, English and Physics.

We were right. And yet wrong.

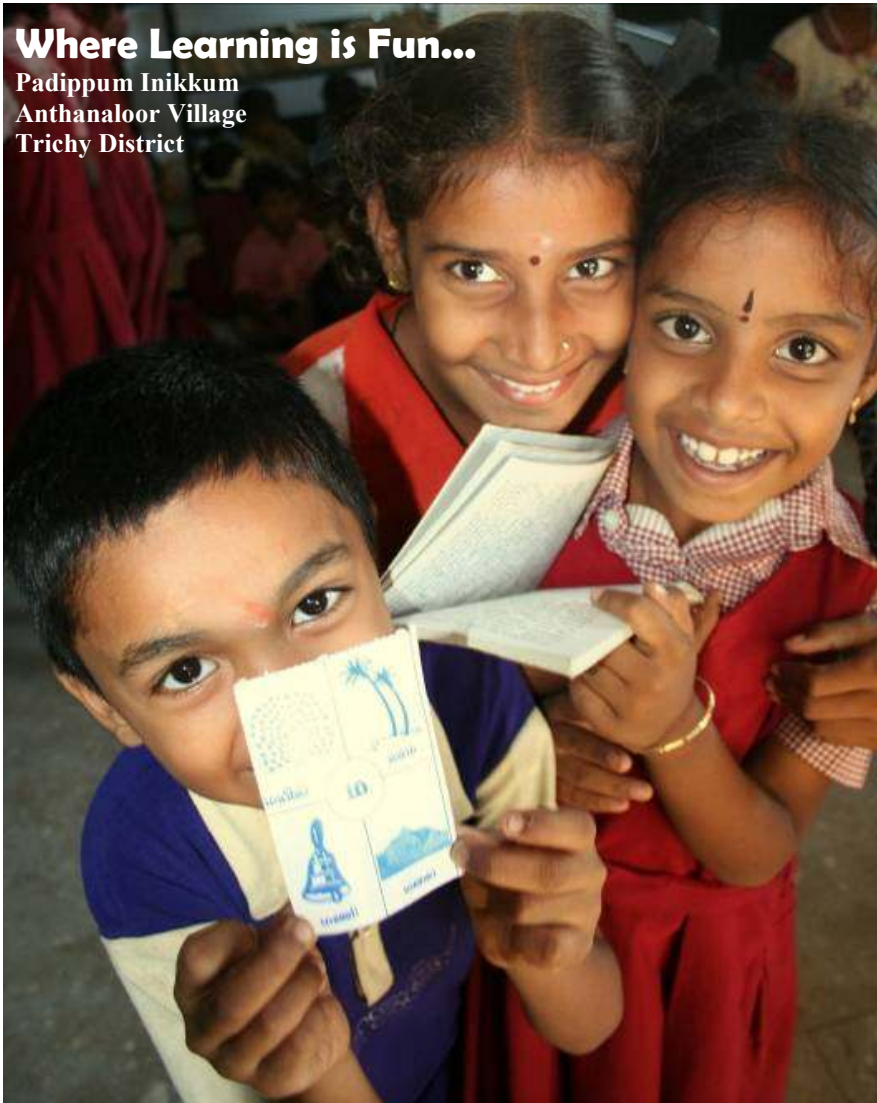
We were shocked to find that 5th Std children could not even read. Children could not subtract or multiply. We slowly began to realize that this was the situation in every village and slum in Tamilnadu.

As we continued to work on this enormous learning quality problem, we also discovered reasons for hope. We found volunteers in every village who wanted to run libraries and learning centers. We discovered motivated teachers trying hard to implement innovative ideas in their schools. We found voluntary organizations who wanted to partner with us to improve learning quality in their areas. As our programs to improve reading, math and science skills began to show results, our hopes strengthened. We began to dream big. Dream of a movement to improve learning quality across the state. A movement to reach every school and every village. A movement to put books, toys and learning materials into the hands of children. A movement to make learning fun.

Thus was born Eureka Child. To ensure every child matters. Every child learns.

Where Learning is Fun...

Padippum Inikkum
Anthanalloor Village
Trichy District



Haven of Freedom

Where every child is without fear
and with head held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where education is not broken up
into fragments by narrow subjects;

Where learning is fun;

Where tireless striving is born of
curiosity and not from the pressure
to get marks;

Where understanding has not been
buried under the desert sand of
examinations;

Where the mind is led forward into
ever widening thought and action;

Into that haven of freedom, my
Father let my schools awake.

- Adapted from Tagore's Poem

Padippum Inikkum

Ensuring Every
Child Can Read

Do you know?

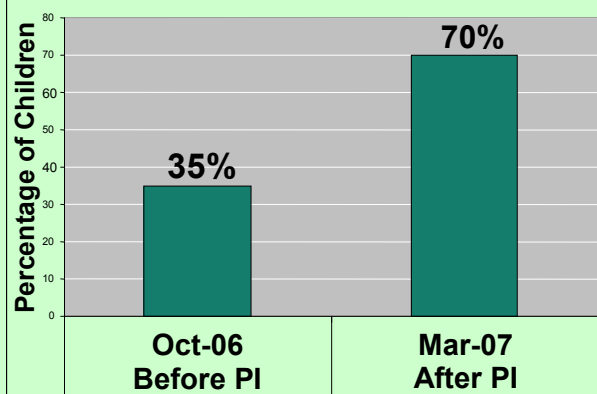
65% children in 3rd-5th std CANNOT READ a simple paragraph in Tamil!

Children unable to read even after going to school for years, is the biggest education problem in the country.



Thanks to Padippum Inikkum, thousands of children who could earlier not even identify letters can now read fluently. 450,000 children have improved their reading skills within 6 months.

Padippum Inikkum: Clear Visible Impact 450,000 children, 7300 schools, 5 Districts



PI Current Activities: May-Sep 2007

- **May-Jun:** In 10 districts, we trained SSA volunteers to run summer classes in 10,000 schools.
- **Jul-Sep:** In 5000 schools, with support from Pratham, Reuters, ILP & Kalvi the reading classes are now in full swing. Along with remedial classes for the 3rd-5th std, we have also started early reading classes for the 1st and 2nd std children to ensure they read fluently by the time they reach 3rd std.

Addressing the Reading Problem...

Padippum Inikkum is an accelerated reading program that gets children to start reading within 6 months.



Reading Evaluation
Categorizes children's reading skills into 5 levels - story, sentence, word, letter, beginner

Attractive Reading Materials
Making children WANT to read



Group Activities
Moving children from letter to word to sentences to stories – step by step.



Till every child can read fluently!

Padippum Inikkum Reach Out

Jul 02 - Oct 05: Implemented reading program in 200 villages – reading classes run by volunteers. Developed methodology and lots of materials. Field tested and fine-tuned the program design for scaling up.

Nov 05 - Mar 06: Implemented program in 182 schools in 2 blocks. Classes run by Govt teachers themselves. Huge response from teachers and children. Reading levels doubled in 3 months!

Apr 06 - Jul 06: Used the improvement data from 182 schools to convince Govt. to expand the program to 5 districts. Mobilized and trained a team of fulltime volunteers in all 75 blocks in 5 districts.

Aug 06 - Mar 07: Launched program in 7300 schools in 5 districts with Govt support. Massive reach out – to 450,000 children! Our team worked day and night – visiting schools, reaching materials, training teachers. By October almost all schools were running daily reading classes. Within weeks teachers started seeing improvements in children. **An impact evaluation in Mar 07 showed that reading levels had doubled from 35% to 70%! The State Govt announced in the Assembly that it will scale up Padippum Inikkum to the entire state!**

Future Plans: Oct-Dec 2007

On Sep 17th, the Education Minister launched a *low intensity version* of Padippum Inikkum across the state. Even as we help the Govt implement this program in all districts, we will continue our more *Intensive PI campaign* in 10 districts. Teachers and children are very excited by the dynamic materials. Each day our team is training and getting more schools to start the reading classes. By November, we hope to have the intensive reading classes running in 10000 schools.

Where there is a heart, there is a library!

People usually think of a library as a building or shelf with a lot of books. A few years ago, we decided to question this idea. Is a place really necessary to run a library?

"No! A heart that wants to reach books to children is all that is needed for a library", say our 2300 village library volunteers!

5 things make up a Eureka Library...

- A **volunteer** in each village whose heart beats for children.
- A **bag of books** kept in her hut - easy to walk around with.
- **Story-cards added each month** keeps lib fresh n growing.
- **Monthly fun activities** makes library "a happening place".
- A **register** to note the books children borrow and return.

Simplicity

is the key to a Eureka Library. This makes children feel it's *their* library – so they borrow, read and return books whenever they want to. Some volunteers complain that children come knocking at 6 AM to borrow story cards!

Yay!
Books for me.



When we launched the library program in May 2005, we were wondering if there would be many takers. To our surprise, the demand for libraries far outstripped our supply. Apart from our direct villages, 42 NGOs are also running libraries in their areas and many more are waiting in the queue. The activities in the library are also extremely popular with the children. So every 6-8 months we have been organizing state wide learning festivals – story writing, drawing, drama festivals – that start with children participating in every library village and culminate with a state level fun event.

Today, Eureka Libraries reach over 100,000 children!

Dhoosi Village Library Volunteers in Focus



Sisters, Jagadeesari and Revathi, work hard all day to support a poor family with a disabled father. In the evenings, they run Eureka Library for 105 children in their village. They also run

reading classes for 25 children working in the Silk Looms in Kanchipuram!



*We borrowed
5608 books
in 2 years!*

15000 children in 900 villages participate in the Eureka Children's Drama Festival

For the second anniversary of the Eureka Village Libraries, in June we organized Drama Festivals in 900 of our library villages. In 2 months, 15000 new script writers, directors and actors were born! These children prepared their own scripts, directed and performed skits in their villages. We selected 200 of these children – 1 from each of our 17 library districts – for the state drama festival at Loyola College, Chennai on 4-5 Aug.

The first day was a flurry of activities from the Big Bang slide show lecture, to mathematical puzzles and games, to art and craft sessions teaching the children to make windmills and somersaulting toys, to building castles with sugar cubes, to a very funny and meaningful play on Education 'Paunu Kunju'. In the evening, children went home with our volunteers – their hosts. The hosts took these children around the city, brought them gifts and gave them a lifetime experience. The hosts also gained a deeper perspective about the lives of children in villages.

The children returned the next day to be greeted by dignitaries Dr. Uma Maheshwari, Director Elementary Education, Mr. Srinath Rajam, Director TVS Group, Dr. Vasanthi Devi, Former Vice-Chancellor of M.S. Univ and President of AID INDIA, and Father Amal Kulandaisamy, Rector of Loyola College.



Then began the feast of talent from the children - acting, singing, dancing, design and sheer passion. The kids held the audience spellbound. They not only adapted old tales like *Birbal and Magic Sticks*, *Athri Bacha* and *Ugly Duckling*, but also created new stories themselves. Our volunteers, Swati, (Asst. Director, Mozhi), and Koothalingam, (Sub Editor, *Pudiya Parvai*) judged the performances. After all the 17 teams had finished their performance, Velu Saravanan, dressed as a jester got all 200 children involved in a fantastic *collective* play about fisherman. The evening ended with the children getting medals for their performance. *We thank TVS, HCL, Akanksha, EID Parry, Loyola and the individuals who supported the drama festival. We also thank Pratham, Asha and Johanniters for supporting our libraries.*

In a world powered more and more by science and technology, understanding science is critical to survival.

Children go through 10 years of schooling without doing even one science experiment. Children see science as something unconnected to their lives – something found only in textbooks.

Ariviyal Anandam gets children to do exciting and visually stunning experiments with lots of simple materials that they use in everyday life. Children start experimenting with things around them – creating their own experiments!

Ariviyal Anandam not only gets kids to do experiments, but also helps them form a scientific mental model of the world around us. Science becomes real and children see that they now can explain and understand the world. This is a huge confidence booster!

Ariviyal Anandam reaches 100000 children in over 1000 village schools in Krishnagiri, Sivagangai, Kanchipuram, Vellore and Trichy districts. *We thank UNICEF, Vibha, MSDF, Krishnagiri Collector and Sivagangai Collector for supporting this program.*



Teachers demonstrate experiments



Children do experiments in small groups

Inside the classroom...



Children record experiments



Children present and explain what they have observed

Children's Science Exhibitions

Children in Kanchipuram, Sivagangai and Krishnagiri organized public exhibitions. Parents and elders were thrilled by the amazing confidence with which these children demonstrated experiments!



NOTHING builds
confidence like real

UNDERSTANDING...

and real understanding comes

only from **DOING.**



7th Std Student trains Teachers!



Jayakumar is from a poor village in Krishnagiri. His talent in science remained undiscovered until the AA program sparked it off. Jayakumar not only learnt all the experiments taught, he also invented several of his own! At a teachers' workshop, he trained 80 teachers in various experiments. Teachers were zapped by how he did the experiments, explained the concepts and answered questions confidently! We discovered 50 children like Jayakumar in Krishnagiri block and recently started a Young Scientist Network to further build the talents of these children.



Eureka Science Quiz 30000 children participate

The finals on 21st July 2007 at Chennai had a number of exciting quiz rounds with huge participation from the 72 finalists. Apart from the quiz, children also made paper toys and created posters on 'Objects in 2107'. Future cars with wings and medical facilities, automatic folding chairs, and many more fascinating gadgets appeared on these posters!



Padippum Inikkum - State Wide

On 17th Sept 07, the School Education Minister, Mr. Thangam Thenarasu, Ms. Kanimozhi (MP), Mr. Vijaykumar (SSA Director), Ms. Uma Maheswari (Elementary Education Director) and Mr. Madhav Chavan (Pratham) launched the PI reading program across the State. Emphasizing the importance of reading as a basic skill, they spoke about Padippum Inikkum's impressive results in getting children to read in just 6 months in 5 districts last year and the urgent need to extend this to every primary school in TN.



Village Reading, Math Classes for 1st -2nd Std Children

To improve reading and math skills of 1st and 2nd Std students, we identified volunteers in 1704 villages and started reading and math classes in their villages. The volunteers were trained on running activity classes and were given kits. Classes have started in all 1704 villages and volunteers have completed the initial evaluation of all the children. In a few months, the classes will ensure that all 1st Std children can identify letters and numbers and 2nd Std kids can read words.



Eureka Learning Festival 8-9 Sept, World Literacy Day

300 children from our Libraries and Science Clubs came together at Dhoosi and Perungattur villages in Vembakkam Block and had great fun attending workshops on story writing, drawing, songs and science experiments.

ASER 2007 Survey Launched!

Annual Status of Education Report survey was launched in TN with a state training camp on 1st Aug. This year, resource persons from 20 NGOs and 5 Universities will be conducting a sample survey of reading and math levels of children in all 30 districts across the state of Tamilnadu.



U Got Mail!

10 schools were given post boxes to encourage students and teachers to send in their science questions. We will answer their questions and feature interesting questions in our science newsletter.

Ariviyal-in-Arivoli

Tiruvallur Collector launched 200 village science clubs to be run by the Arivoli adult literacy volunteers.

Student Teacher!

Why should children always *receive* education?

In Sivagangai, we got a group of talented children to run science expt classes for other students! Their drive to run these classes was unbelievable!



Trichy Libraries

Little Georgia studying in 1st std in Canada raised money for starting 15 village libraries in Trichy!



Sun TV - Science

Every Tuesday, Balaji Sampath demonstrates our Eureka Science Expts on Sun TV from 8.40 - 8.55 AM.

Eureka Young Scientist Network

Krishnagiri Collector, Santhosh Babu, launched the Eureka Young Scientists Network on 7th July. 50 children from Krishnagiri who had innovated their own experiments demonstrated their discoveries at the inaugural. The Ariviyal Anandam science program had inspired these children to explore things around them and to develop their own experiments. Many experiments were very creative and all present were surprised that children had come up with these experiments on their own!





Eureka Schools in Koovathur and Vembakkam

Our 2 model schools are run as examples of how schools can be. These free, low cost schools reach out to 152 poorest children from remote villages – integrating **high learning quality with loads of fun!** All learning is through games, activities and fun. Every day children go out and do small projects – learning from the world around them. Every month they visit workplaces (post offices, banks etc) to learn how the world works! **Each child has a file** where she keeps a record of her work. By the 2nd std, children are able to read small stories in Tamil and English, do subtraction and simple word problems, demonstrate and explain science experiments. But the most important is their **immense self confidence** that can be seen when they experiment with different materials and think about new ideas. Thanks to the quality, the schools are very popular and there is a heavy pressure from parents to admit their children in the school! *We thank Banca Sella, Ernst & Young and the individual donors who have supported the two schools.*

Eureka Learning Centers

These high quality centers cater to talented children from 15 Govt. schools exposing them to a range of science, math and language learning tools and helping them take up innovative projects to develop their skills. *With help from Johanniters, Reuters, MSDF and Akanksha, we have been running 9 ELCs in Koovathur and Chennai.*

Computer Education Centers

To ensure all children learn basic computer skills, we are running 10 village computer centers with donated computers. We also organize computer awareness festivals in villages periodically. There is a lot of demand for our centers in schools and villages. We are collecting used computers and will be starting more centers soon.

English - Action Research

There is a lot of demand in villages for Spoken English. Speaking English not only makes the child confident but also builds the confidence of poor parents! In 10 schools, our action research team is field testing a program to teach English to children who hear little spoken English at home.

Sec. Math - Action Research



Our Secondary Math Action Research team has been developing a lot of puzzles and games to help children in 6th-10th std learn geometry, algebra, visual data representation and measurement and estimation.

Pre-Primary Action Research



With Rotary support, we are piloting a pre-primary program in 200 Balwadis to ensure 3-5 age children develop psycho-social, motor and visual skills. This program will be scaled up soon.

EcoSchool Carpentry Unit



Our carpentry unit at Koovathur converts waste packaging wood from Vestas into wonderful toys and learning aids for children. We provide these toys to Balwadis and schools through our programs.

EUREKA BOOKS

Putting Books in Children's Hands

To ensure every child has access to high quality low cost books, we have been running Eureka Books – a publishing and distribution network. **Currently we have 188 directly published titles and 215 titles selected from other publications.**

Just Published ...

- **6 Kits:** 2 Tamil Kits, 4 Science Kits
- **10 Beginning Readers:** Butterfly, Peacock, Elephants, Desert, Spiders, Ants, Penguins, Shark, Cock and Crow and Butterflies.
- **3 Biographies:** Louis Braille, Rosa Parks, and Velu Nachiyar.
- **7 Science Publications:** Mystery of Earth's Shape, Eureka Experiments, 4 science story cards, and Elements (a science journal).
- **2 Math Puzzle Books:** Numbers, Geometry



Thank You!

We thank our volunteers – Vibha, Sricharan, Nitya, Anuradha, Lakshmi, Srinivas, Srihari, Vanniarajan, and the AID-BA Education Team – for developing these materials.

We need many more books. If you are interested in writing books for children, please contact us.

Eureka Books Distribution

Our distribution team has done a great job this quarter. We set up 20 stalls in fairs in Chennai, Neyveli, Sivakasi, Trichy, Tirupur and in many schools and companies. We also got bulk orders from Govt Libraries (1000 copies of 2 books), UNICEF (Science Kit), Akshara (4000 wooden toys) and a Malaysian organization got all our Tamil materials for teaching kids in Malaysia! This quarter we sold 2 Lakh books and kits - worth Rs. 28 Lakhs!

Eureka Books has 8 direct branches and works with 15 distributors & many NGOs. Our patrons' network also helps reach our low cost books to children. We are expanding our reach across the state and hope to reach break-even point soon - making Eureka Books self-sustaining.

People from many different walks of life volunteer in our programs. Software engineers and teachers, bank managers and home-makers, farmers and village women, college students and unemployed youth – all contribute in ways they can to ensure every child gets quality education. Here are just a few sample activities that some of our volunteers are involved in...

Toys Reach Tiny Hands



Chennai has 1000 Govt. run Balwadis with about 30 kids in each. These poor children have no access to toys and learning aids. Many of our volunteers have been collecting good used toys from their friends and colleagues and providing it to these Balwadis.

Sindhu and Priyanka collected big boxes of toys from colleagues at Citi Bank and provided it to 5 Balwadis in Nungambakkam. Volunteers from Accenture, MindTree, CTS, Sella Synergy, Scope and DgB also collected toys for Balwadis. Aditya and his classmates from PSSB collected toys from their relatives. Dekha Rao collected toys at her apartment complex.

The joy these toys bring to the little ones has to be seen to be believed.



Volunteer-on-Wheels

Sowbhagya cannot walk. "So what? I can still run reading classes for children in my village!" says this volunteer from Kalasapakkam village.

Support Classes in Slums



Muthu (Aricent Systems) runs a learning center in a slum at Koturpuram. Karthik (Matrix) and Swarnarethas (10 Miles Corp) and Prabhakar (HCL) are running spoken English classes at Lloyds Road Corporation School.

Materials for Children



Sricharan, who studies in 7th Std, volunteered with us for a month during his summer vacation, writing and editing 2 books for children!

Arvind Srivaths, Mangala, Aarthi, Raj Sundar and Madhusudan have been helping our math team develop materials. Mamta Sundar, Srinivas Chakravarthy and Anuradha have been helping develop science booklets.



Vibha, a software engineer and a long time volunteer, recently had a baby. The new mom discovered a latent talent for churning out 5 cool books in 2 months!

Koothalingam, a journalist at Puthiya Parvai, not only gets us press coverage for our programs, but also writes witty stories for our library children. Namrata, a 12th Std student at the KFI school has been drawing illustrations for some of our books.



Nithya and Daniel, interns from Canada, helped edit many story books and also documented the Eureka Village Libraries program.

Educational Tour



31 volunteers from CTS, Infosys, Frost and Sullivan and CSS took 80 children on a Museum and Planetarium Tour.

Eureka Scholarships



406 children from poorest families in Banavaram, Kovathur, Nemeli, Vembakkam, Vandavasi, Sulagiri and Chennai received scholarship support this quarter. 60 Individuals, CSS Foundation and Bala Gangadhar Trust supported the scholarships. Smile supported 7 students to go to college.

Udayan works at MRF and Baskar at TVS factory at Banavaram. They have been running libraries in their villages and training children on enacting plays.

Baskar's work in his consultancy firm keeps him busy. But he still finds time to visit Banavaram every other week to help our library and village education programs there.



Dr. Nalini has been freely treating all our scholarship kids in Vandavasi.

Niranjan weds Smitha and AID INDIA gets gifts!

Niranjan & Smitha got wedding invitees to donate to AID INDIA instead of giving them presents!

Jayakumar, a San Diego physicist, visited and documented all our programs and also built up our Coimbatore team – all within just 3 months!

Eureka Mentorship Program

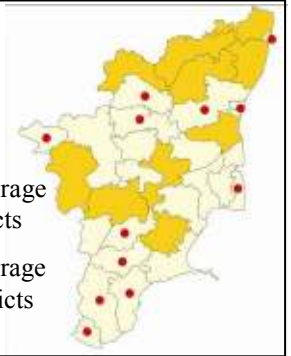
Our mentorship program gets volunteers in Chennai to support and mentor poor children in villages. On 7th July, we got 53 children and their mentors together for a fun day filled with paper crafts, cartoon drawings and clay pottery! After an exciting day, the kids went home with their mentors. The event was a wonderful beginning to a life long interaction between the children and their mentors.



Your support CHANGES the lives of 1 Million Children.

Where We Work

- 10 Full Coverage
Focus Districts
- 12 Part Coverage
Project Districts



A year ago, if you had walked into the government school in Periyakuppum village with a book in hand, a frightened Sivakami would have run away from you. Today, she is the first to run confidently towards visitors to show off her new reading skills!

When we started our reading program in her school, 10-year-old Sivakami could not read. Her parents cannot read and so she had no help at home. Our reading program got Sivakami excited with its attractive reading materials and activities. Within weeks, her reading skills improved – Sivakami moved up from words, to sentences and to small stories. We gave her an “I can Read” certificate which she displays proudly.

Helping children like Sivakami in every school learn to read – this is just one of the important things your support ensures.

We Need Your Help!

- ☐ With Rs. 2000 you can support the scholarship of 1 child for one year.
- ☐ With Rs. 4000 you can support reading and library programs in 1 village and school for one year.
- ☐ With Rs. 6000 you can support reading, library, math and science programs in 1 village and school for one year.
- ☐ With Rs. 100,000 you can support the reading and library programs in one full block (100 schools).

Every donation makes a difference.

To donate, please write a cheque in favour of AID INDIA and mail it to:

AID INDIA
New No 34, Rathnam Street, Gopalapuram, Chennai 600086, India
+91-44-42106493, 28350403, aid.info@gmail.com

www.eurekachild.org

You can also donate online through direct bank transfer. You can also set up an automatic ECS bank to bank monthly donation system with your bank. If you would like to donate online or through ECS, please send us an email to aid.info@gmail.com.

All donations to AID INDIA are tax-exempt in India under section 80G of Income Tax Act. AID INDIA's IT exemption number is DIT(E) 2(164) 98-99.

Volunteer with us...

We need volunteers who can:

- Mentor a child
- Teach Children
- Take kids out on tours.
- Collect toys for Balwadis
- Develop Books and Learning Aids

You can also
Join a AID Chapter near you
or
Start a new AID Chapter

To volunteer please contact:

aidindia.news@gmail.com

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