**My experience with Pudhiyador**

I had a interesting learning experience after visiting activities of pudhiyathor.

As the meaning of pudhiyador says creating something new. My visit also created so much of new experiences which are valuable for shaping up young generation.

I was contacted by Pudhiyador organisers for addressing a session on teen health related challenges which the facilitators and the educators face when they happened to address teenage children.

First of all I was so overwhelmed by the initiative of the organisation having taken to address such an issue which most of the organisations put under the carpet and won't be prepared talk about.

We had a series of interactions with the activity centre in-charge as well as the team facilitators. The interactions proved the involvement and commitment the staff have on the Welfare of the children.

The Main workshop

With the inputs from the team we have consented to organise two full day workshops for educators of all the centres. It was really shocking to see the educators travel for long distance, with the prepared lunch and participate in such a workshop . Without creating issues on the workshop or its content, all the educators actively participated and openly shared their reservations, confusions, introspections and willingness to guide the children.

Other than the technicalities of the session we could see an organic relationship that all the educators and the activity centre facilitators maintain in the organisation. Especially the combined lunch interactions a more lively than the sessions.

Visit to centres

Followed by the workshop for educators, the centre in-charge had invited me to address the children on few specific issues like boy girl attractions and relationship management challenges.

So I visited Besant Nagar and Ramapuram centre and interacted with the children on the psycho, social and physical development of adolescent. The age related changes and challenges. Also few skills to handle those challenges. The session was articulated through an interactive case study and discussion

The session and its methodology

This case study made children to discuss on the pros and cons of taking decisions in that age. Handling relationships in their life. There was lot of debates and discussion on the road taken and not taken on the particular age . All triggered on the characters that presented on the case study.

We kept a question box and distributed blank sheets for children to write down their doubts related to the content.

Children had many questions. some asked directly some wrote down their queries. Confidence was built to the children in both the centres . Assurance was given to the children that they can openly discuss all these challenges with the facilitators in the centre and the educators at the centre to get proper guidance .

Activity centre and my experience

Truly speaking activity centres methodology is so lively and so practical in approach.

I've heard and witnessed lot of activity based learning where there will be some activity in the learning environment . But in pudhiyador they have a methodology where the learning process happens through group activity and practical tasks. children involve in various activity and take learning from those activity most of these activities are physical projects, craft works and team tasks.

 When I saw the solar system hanging in one of the activity centre, which was made by one of the team, I really loved it. This was not there in so called mainstream schools of education system.

Similarly in Besant Nagar centre I was so happy and surprised when I saw the pinhole camera made by the children. All these activities are supported by many volunteers who support pudhiyador.

I was so impressed to see diet and nutrition program which is also associated with daily activities scheduled for the children. Healthy snacks where distributed on the day when I was part of the student interaction.

The entire pudhiyador team has lot of potential and vision to conduct many innovative projects for children. All such ideas can be replicated in many parts of the world.

I am motivated and eager to continue my association with Pudhiyador in future.

The report was done by R Jayachandran (<https://www.facebook.com/jayachandran.ramachandran.52>). He was previously part of the [Heroes project in India](https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/commitments/heroes-project). He is also a local media personality and is actively involved with the [Agaram foundation](http://www.agaram.in/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) in a similar capacity.

His contact info is:

Jayachandran Ramachandran

Email: jayachandranemail@gmail.com

Phone: +91 98409 09754

Visit timeframe: Oct 2019

Pudiyador contact person on the ground:

Ashwini Chidambaram

Email: ashwinii@pudiyador.org

Phone: +91 90032 32598