

• My creativity gains me appreciation
and thereby motivates me to do / try new
- Sivagani.



KARUNAKARYA

KARUNAKARYA ANNUAL REPORT 2017 -2018



கண்டும் கேட்கும் களிப்போம்

from with... a potent...

- Creativity helps to expose our inner talent / skill.
- If there is no creativity in what we do life or what we do will become monotonous.
- Creativity helps to learn or experin

Creativity helps to spread know

When (we) make c

Creativity

KARUNAKARYA
ANNUAL REPORT
2017 -2018



Our Vision

'TO DEVELOP A CONFIDENT
AND RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY'

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புது		30
புது	புது	20
	No. 100	20
	Small	40
புது	Small (Big)	10
புது	Big (Big)	10
	Medium	10
புது	Special	40
	Extra	40
	Silk/Don	60
	Plan/Don	20
புது	Big	40
புது	Small	40

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A LITTLE ABOUT US

Karunakarya is a charity organization based in Chennai, India, established in the year 2001. Our founders Christopher and Cynthia Chellappa felt the calling to serve the poor and they relocated with their two children Jonah and Florence to Chennai from Switzerland in the year 2000. Christopher Chellappa was born and brought up in India, Tamil Nadu and has experienced in his childhood and young adulthood the effect of poverty himself. Cynthia who was born and brought up in Switzerland had felt from an young age, a love for the people of India and knew in her heart that she was meant to go there one day. Christopher and Cynthia met in India in 1992 and married in Switzerland in 1993.

The core mission of Karunakarya is to equip the poor with soft skills and professional skills for their social and economic improvement. Due to discrimination in various forms, the underprivileged community lack soft skills, professional and creative skills – coupled with poverty this creates a lack of support from family and society. Thus an improvement in their conditions becomes an extremely difficult and uphill task. This makes the younger generation very vulnerable to frustrations leading to a vicious cycle of poverty, addiction and violence.



Karunakarya designs interventions to counteract these tendencies amongst the underprivileged communities. We provide various programs that are carefully selected and prepared to stimulate the beneficiary's thinking and learning process with a holistic approach to enhance the overall development of a person.

Karunakarya is registered with the Government of India and enjoys tax exemptions.

“The core mission of Karunakarya is to equip the poor with soft skills and professional skills for their social and economic improvement”





INTRODUCTION

Karunakarya aims to impart holistic development in the lives of youth in order to groom them as confident & responsible citizens. The year 2017-2018 witnessed a paradigm shift in our approach of reaching our beneficiaries and delivering our services. Our continuous efforts in studying the evolving needs, analyzing the root causes of issues in the community and experience in understanding the real needs of our beneficiaries has resulted in certain well thought and strategic changes in our approach and working model.

In the year 2014 -15 we spent much time re-evaluating and fine tuning our vision and mission our approaches and focus area regarding projects and locality. This resulted in re-focus of our main project locality to the rural area, in and around the village Eraiyur where our campus for "The ARK Nursery & Primary School" and as well the vocational training center "Karunakarya Community College" and income generation project "Karunakarya Creations" is situated. This led to a smooth handover of our city projects to suitable and interested organisations. It gave us the time to re-focus and plan the interventions in 2016-17 and a planned realization in the year 2017-18.

Along with the re-focus some re-structuring was required. We chose to pay special focus on staff capacity building through various workshops, seminars, training and exposures which helped



them overall to strengthen their skills, understand new opportunities and enjoy new exposures for inspiration in their work area. Though these measures brought about more quality, it was also required to increase the strength of the team's capacities by adjusting structures and adding more staff with the required skill set and experience.

With respect to our vision "to develop a confident and responsible community..." we chose to focus on building this in our staff first. Only if they have acquired the knowledge, they can pass on to others. Realizing our responsibility first as human beings living on this earth and understanding the gifts and talents, we have received are the key to what we do in our lives to build a "better world" around us.

We must know our purpose, who we are and what we are called to do before we can be people of influence and live a responsible life. Therefore, understanding this is essential first for our staff and then for our beneficiaries.

We are convinced that all humans beings have received a call to responsibility and all have received a set of skills to fulfil this and even more. This realisation enables developing interest in various things and developing more skills. Therefore, it is essential to discover our creative spots.

This is the reason why we chose "Creativity" as a main lead theme through all the capacity building events and efforts of this year to unlock skill upgradation by learning to discover one's own "Creativity" through various forms and approaches. Whatever was learnt was then also put into practice in our project's programs which gave all staff positive motivational experiences.

Another major topic was Health & Hygiene - we handled this by introducing to the beneficiaries easy and feasible practices for improving health and preventing diseases. This was applied in the campus environment as well as communicated to parents through workshops and inputs at the parent's meetings. It also helped us to involve the parents and community in our activities. Though the interest from community was initially not incredible, it was remarkable how the kids were able to inspire and motivate and even beg their parents to participate to the point that the parents could not resist anymore. Our kids from school have become important ambassadors and have become very enthusiastic learners.

“We are excited and looking forward to seeing each one's CREATIVITY unfold, unleashed and being used in a wonderful way.”

WAY FORWARD FOR 2018 -19

The topic 'Creativity' is for many in understanding restricted to art related skills and is still a bit a diffuse picture which other forms of creativity one could possess. While some of our staff started to understand and discover their creativity, others struggle having confidence and courage to explore and haven't found quite yet the right momentum. Therefore, we decided to continue with this theme for staff in the year 2018-19 also so that their so far gained learnings in this area may be strengthened and come to fuller benefit for themselves but ultimately will influence the

approach to learning for our beneficiaries as well. It has been an interesting journey with everyone together and we are excited and looking forward to seeing each one's creativity unfolded and unleashed and being used in a wonderful way.

CONCLUSION

It has been a wonderful but at the same challenging year in many different forms. Making it a successful year is credited to the many people's faithful and enormous involvement and contribution to make together a difference for others.

We are extremely grateful to all sponsors, staff, friends, volunteers, associates, family for walking the journey with us. A very big "Thank you"! to one and All! God bless you!

The following pages will lead you into the different project's focus of the year, their efforts and experiences and give you a glimpse of the Organization's happenings during the year April 2017 to March 2018.

We do hope, you'd enjoy reading. Please feel free to know more about us either by seeing our web page (www.karunakarya.org) and updates or contacting by email.



OUR FOCUS



Students

- LISTENING AND FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS
- RESPECTING EVERYONE

Teachers

- TEAMWORK
- RESPONSIBILITY
- PASSION TOWARDS TEACHING

Parent

- INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CHILDS DEVELOPMENT





THE ARK NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL, ERAIIYUR

THE ARK NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL serves children from 8 surrounding villages. 8 teachers, 4 extra curricular staff and 9 support staff serve 131 students and 109 parents.

“Our Focus for the year 2017-2018 is on all three core participants of any school program namely – Students, Teachers and Parents”

Why are we including parents as an important part ? Through our many years of experience in the field of education, we have realised the parents instead of taking responsibility of the child, they expect the school to shoulder all the responsibility.

However, the parents of our school children at Eraiyur have crossed the first hurdle - previously they considered education as an unwanted expense but now they have broken that stereotype. The next step would be to educate and involve them in their child's development.

With children we have planned to focus on cultivating the habit of listening to others and show respect to others irrespective of age. This paves the way for good attitude and creates a healthy atmosphere.

Teachers have the challenging task of playing a balancing role between students and parents. Teachers also give the first impression towards learning to the students. So teachers should possess the expected values and attitude towards children. We also give opportunity for teachers to develop themselves and deliver the best to children. As we had 80% of staff from the community as teachers we reworked on that ratio to 50% as it was challenging to break few stereotypes.

This school year has seen a lot of 'happy little changes' as stepping stones to achieving our goals. Some of them are as follows :-

●
A NEW LOGO

●
MARY MADAM
was promoted as the
Vice Principal and Head Teacher

●
CUSTOMISED NOTEBOOKS
with 80gsm paper to prevent impressions of text. New vendors for good quality text books namely Ratna Sagar and Maria Publications

●
A BRIGHT YELLOW UNIFORM

●
A QUALIFIED FULL-TIME STUDENT
COUNSELOR

●
KINESTHETIC LEARNING ACTIVITIES
●



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

When our focus was on all three core parts of the educational program - i.e. children, teachers and parents - it was only possible to achieve that by aiming at Holistic Development of the students.

We have students with different competency levels, interests, talents, backgrounds and skills. To address all children in their preferred way is quite challenging.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

⇒ **PLAY TIME** : After a rigorous hunt for a physical trainer, we wanted to encourage one of our youth Ashwin, who is from the community and the son of our staff. His passion and involvement in sports made it easy to handle children. To our surprise he handled it with ease and gave his best to train children in following instructions, keeping up with the boundaries, encouraging team work etc. Kids slowly became attuned to doing their routine without major supervision and with far less noise too.

⇒ **KARATE** : In a tie up with KyonSeg Karate Academy, a karate tutor was fixed to conduct

class weekly once. It helps to develop self defense and self control. As expected, students who were less attentive in classroom were very involved in physical activity. This helped them to channel their energy.



⇒ **CLUB ACTIVITIES** – Clubs such as Home Science teach the children about making healthy & nutritious food and also hygiene. Through all the activities the children learned that there is a need for physical cleanliness and control to accomplish their work. These activities help them to do things creatively and gives different exposure to be an entrepreneur in future.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sometimes being blessed with parents who shower the children with surplus love, pampering leads to negative effects in the children such as stubbornness, self-obsession, self-centredness, less compatibility, dominating attitude and inability to accept failures. On the other hand, students coming from abusive family backgrounds lack confidence and are plagued by inferiority complex and fear. To balance their attitude and help the children keep what is required and discard unnecessary attitudes we created the children many platforms such as the following:-

➤TALENT HUNT - instead of the word competition that develops an unhealthy environment we conducted talent hunts that make the children supportive of each other and also be inspired by each other.

“Values and skills for life were taught along with craft class.”

➤ACTIVITIES: Individual or Group activities like sports trophy, talent hunt trophy, clubs help children develop peer relationship by adjusting with each other, sharing with each other and giving chances to one another

➤LIFE SKILLS: Values and skills for life were taught along with craft class and making paper bags. Tangrams were used to teach that each of them are unique.

➤CLUB ACTIVITIES: Theatre, Dance, Choir, Karate gave them confidence to perform before everyone and helped them overcome stage fear, discover their hidden talents.

➤MUSIC: To engage students in music helps a multitude of functions such as development of vocal skills, developing confidence in pronunciation of language, memorizing words and sentence structures in a creative way, to ventilate stress for better balance, emotional expression, confidence through performing on stage, coordination and team synchronization.

➤ASSEMBLY, PROGRAMS, SPORTS:

Students were given opportunity to perform on stage to beat away their stage fear.

➤RUNNING CAMPAIGNS:

Taking responsibility for their environment is something we wanted to teach our children. They were encouraged to run campaigns for hygiene, cleanliness, garbage management, recycling from junk. We also secured 8/10 in Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar conducted by the central government.

LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENT

To excel in communicating and understanding a language they should learn it from its structure, rules and words.

➤GRAMMAR KNOWLEDGE:

Grammar books in Tamil and English were included in their syllabus.

➤VOCABULARY BUILDING - To facilitate learning words dictionaries were issued to students to understand and use it appropriately.

Teachers with less Tamil exposure were employed - that gave an opportunity to converse in English. Tone modulation was concentrated more as kids never modulated their sound during a conversation.

Literature Club helped the student experiment with performing arts :- Plays such as Elf and the Shoe maker and The Lightening Express were very sweetly enacted by children.



INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the major purposes of school is to facilitate learning and to feed them with intellectual knowledge. Being very kinesthetic we facilitated new and interesting ways of learning :-

➤ **LIBRARY CLUB** - A fun exposure for students to learn about different things happening around the world. Topics that were trending or in season were taken up for discussion and reading.

➤ **ACADEMICS** - Facilitating learning beyond their book. Students are encouraged to understand the concept and apply what they have learned. Memorization was discouraged.

➤ **PROJECT DAY** - Hands on experiments to present what they have learnt. This also created an excitement to understand what they have learnt.

➤ **CCE** - A new Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation format to study students development and find their focus area for development has been put in place.

“We facilitate learning beyond their books. Students are encouraged to understand the concept and apply what they have learned. Memorization was discouraged.”

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The children in our school who have been witness to repeated violence at home resort to loud behaviour in their everyday activities. Harming others mentally or physically is not considered as an offense by them. Having soaked up hitting and beating as a natural way of life, it becomes important for us to teach them that it is possible and important to control their emotions. We take a lot of care of the emotional well-being of children as it is crucial in their development.

➤ **STUDENT COUNSELOR** – A new student counselor was appointed to handle these issues professionally and appropriately. Those with difficulties in emotional control were given counseling towards more positivity.

➤ **INSPIRATION** – To inspire students and parents to fight against all odds, Tamilagan, a Para-Olympic player was invited as chief guest. People were very inspired to listening to his story and were astonished seeing him dance with one leg. He performs challenging routines with just one leg. This was a great inspiration to both teachers and students to see a physically challenged person being so confident and happy about himself instead of wallowing in self-pity.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The Assembly sessions in the morning with one long session every Friday as well as the Kids CLUB activities are greatly enjoyed by the children. Through these well planned activities we focus on the moral development of the children.

“We impart moral values using stories, songs, pictures, role plays, dramas, passages of poems, sayings, proverbs and motivational words, and digital media”



“Teachers do not stop learning at Karunakarya”



TO TEACHERS WITH LOVE

Teachers are very important to the school and we constantly try to get better at what we do.

- ⇒ **TRAINING:** Constant training on values, creativity, techniques and methods of teaching
- ⇒ **GUIDANCE:** Apart from training we have our team to give their guidance and support staff in all their new ventures and to execute their ideas
- ⇒ **SELF LEARNING:** grammatical classes and other technical development courses and training were organized for teachers to develop themselves.
- ⇒ **TRANSPORT:** Transport being a major concern we have arranged for a separate bus facility for our staff. This makes it easy for their travelling to and fro and maintain punctuality.
- ⇒ **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Baking, cookies baking, fellowship time, fellowship lunch and pot luck to enable them to relax.

The major challenges faced by teachers were

- difficulty in execution of plans
- finding creative or innovative ways to engage children
- participating in team dynamics conversing in English
- Time management and
- being pro active.

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Each year we are grateful to the interns and volunteers whose presence and work gives us added energy to continue our work.

- ⇒ **ESTHER & URS** – Contributed in fixing our school bell, various damaged teaching aids and Montessori materials. Also they helped with individual children who needed special attention and training in reading and writing.
- ⇒ **ANGELINA** – Contributed her time in the Montessori section, helping Selvi manage kids and guide them in their class room activities.
- ⇒ **WINFRED** – Contributed in teaching the subject “Science” in second term.
- ⇒ **ESTHER & BABLOO** – Contributed their time in dealing with students in individual intervention and group intervention. They also came up with different methods for studying students interest, innovative ideas, helped us in organizing games, activities in classroom, annual day decorations, etc.
- ⇒ **VIJAY AND BABLOO** – Students from KCC contributed in preparing question paper for the children.

CHALLENGES FACED AT THE ARK SCHOOL :

➤ **FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS OF PARENTS:** Eraiyur which was once a beautiful farming land of which less than 20% remain and the rest sold as a means of major income to the families. The development of the area as an Automobile Small Industries hub paved way for this intense selling spree. A sudden change in law regarding selling lands caused a blow and affected the income of the families in the village. We are now in a situation where there is a 40% non-payment of fee despite a scholarship of 50% of school fees. This has been a critical situation for the management to handle.

50% Fee paid by Trust	131 children
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100% Scholarship fee paid by Trust	5 children
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100% Staff children Scholarship	7 children
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100% scholarship for government Right to Education scheme	14 children
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Outstanding status	87 children
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➤ **STAFFING:** Even after with many preparations to handle staffing issues it was a big challenge throughout the year. Some measures taken were:- extra staff for assisting teachers; long weekend holidays by clubbing public holidays and trust holidays; separate transport facility; rearrangement of timetable to accommodate free hours for preparations; giving space everyday for co-curricular activities; arranging volunteers to help. This was also one factor that affected the reputation of the school among the parents.

➤ **STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Balancing home and school was a big challenge for staff. Having an unsupportive spouse, bearing all the financial burden single-handedly makes them easily worn out and get carried away by thoughts. Fellowship, recreational activities and the bond they share with their fellow teachers helped them to handle situation.

➤ **DISCIPLINE ISSUES:** Misunderstanding of managing student's behavior without any punishment ended up children being less attentive to the given instructions, fast learners being more dominant increased commotion in classroom. Merit & Demerit chart, giving responsibility to the trouble makers gave them responsibility and changed their attitude towards each other.

“...giving responsibility to the trouble makers changed their attitude towards each other.”

➤ **PREPARATION:** Preparation time for classes or events were not utilized properly due to various reasons. Continuous coaching and positive encouragement helps teachers to cope.

➤ **TRADITIONAL TEACHING:** Traditional teaching methods were so deeply entrenched in their psyche that it takes time to grasp the alternative methods. Yet they keep trying and the remedial classes gave them confidence to try new methods.





SPECIAL PROGRAMS @ THE ARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



1. APRIL 5 – 9 2017 - BRUSHES 'N WALLS

We had two volunteers who came forward to add some colors to our kindergarten walls. They beautifully painted various illustrations of animals along with our logo theme. Kids were very thankful to Rhea, Kim, Jonah, Yanapi, Rebecca for their beautiful handwork. Now this is one of the hot spots in our campus.

2. APRIL 13 2017 - GRADUATION DAY

As it's the last month we spend with our 5th grade students. We put together a ceremony for them to feel special. The Kindergarten students who are entering 1st were also included in the celebration. We distributed dictionaries for Std.5 students and a Craft Kit for the kindergarteners. Group pictures along with parents were taken.

3. APRIL 12– 14, 2017 - PLASTIC FREE

As a reinforcement of our anniversary theme, we wanted the kids to use cloth bags. To promote this we made them design their own cotton bags. Bags were prepared by Karuna Creations and kids used block printing techniques to design their own bags. It was a fun filled experience and children were very happy to use the bag they designed themselves.



4. MAY 22–26, 2017 - TEACHERS TRAINING

This training emphasised about the "Impact of Handwriting". Karunya spoke on Handwriting and its impact, Sharon spoke on Psychological signs on handwriting and Mary spoke on - 'The correct format of writing'. Staff interacted and clarified their doubts and struggles.

5. SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 - TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION - "GO LIGHT THE WORLD"

Students surprised teachers with their beautiful art work which they prepared especially for teachers. The day was filled with wishes and gifts, students drew their wishes in small pieces

of paper; they gave their small broken toys and chocolates and expressed their real love and affection by giving those gifts. The day ended with titles for teachers by students with a beautiful sash and gift they prepared during their life skills. Students titled the teachers as "Best Story Teller", "Ms. Well-dressed", "Ms. Beautiful Smile". Students enjoyed giving titles to their teachers.



6. OCTOBER 24 - 29:

HEALTH AND HYGIENE CAMPAIGN

The campaign's objective was to implement the local Panchayat's objective of community hygiene to avoid spreading of diseases. The school had health and hygiene campaign for one week. The students were given awareness about personal hygiene, importance of cleanliness of their home and their surroundings. Each class was given an opportunity to present about cleanliness in any form. Students presented it through monologues, demonstrations, songs and skit. This involvement of students made it possible to reach the community. Students also made notice boards, placards, and flashcards around the school campus as a reminder.



7. NOVEMBER 14, 2017:

CHILDREN'S DAY

The children's day celebration started with the dance performed by teachers who were dressed as dolls. Ms. Grace showed the children some magic tricks with cups and balls as well as disappearing objects. The kids were interested to know how to do it.

Ms. Cynthia addressed the students how to be honest, how to love others, how to bounce back, how to adjust and live the life to the fullest. Students were given the fact about why Children's day is celebrated.

8. DECEMBER 8 & 9, 2017 -

GOODNESS AND GIVING

The best part of the celebration was to make the children understand the value and attitude of goodness and giving. A special session was arranged for all students to tell them how we can practice this and what do we learn from this outlook in life. On the celebration day, students performed a dance, the student choir sang carols and then students staged the play 'Elves the shoemaker'. In each performance students carried themselves well in their costumes and gave their best. Students from Eraiur Evening learning centre performed a song and a dance.

“Very importantly each student got an opportunity to be a part of the celebration that brought a whole meaning of Goodness and Giving”

To add more excitement to the event, we baked some healthy cookies with the children. We could bake around 250 cookies required for everyone attending the program with the help of women from other departments. Some cookies were kept for sale too - seeing that the parents bought the cookies gave great happiness to the children.



GOODNESS AND GIVING CELEBRATIONS



9. FEBRUARY 23, 2017 - FIELD TRIP

One day trip to Dakshinachitra was organized and around 92 students participated. It provided a good cultural heritage exposure to the students. They were very excited to see the houses, their life style, occupation and their mode of transport, language etc.

individual gifts for students were also given. Everyone got a book and a value badge appreciating their values. Three Best Outgoing student awards were given based on attitude, academic achievements and behaviour.

“Encouragement gifts for students who worked hard to improve their performance were given”



10. MARCH 23, 2017 - ANNUAL DAY LOVE OTHERS AS YOURSELF

It was planned as a full day event to have exhibition of projects in the morning followed by a cultural presentation in the evening. The theme for the day was represented by displaying the attributes of LOVE as part of the backdrop design element. Talent hunt - Rolling trophy was presented to the winner and runner up,

11. KARATE TRAINING EVERY WEDNESDAY

In this academic year, we have started a training in discipline, body movement control and physical strength for boys and girls of Class 1 - 5, divided into 3 groups according to each child's strength. Master Mr. Prashanth has introduced basic Karate training. For our Annual Day he trained the groups for a gymnastics presentation. The children enjoyed this very much and gave total co-operation displaying their skills by presenting pyramid formations, balance, flip overs, hand and head stands, kart-wheels, jumps through rings, drills with hoola hoops and many more things.



ANNUAL DAY PHOTO COLLAGE





KIDS, TEENS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Vision 2030: To develop a confident and responsible community
with positive world view.

Mission: To empower Children and Youth through holistic
education and community based approach

INTRODUCTION

We conduct our programs in such a way that Kids, Teens & Youth are strengthened in their self-esteem and get an opportunity to acquire stronger skills for their life, to learn to be responsible, to value others, and how to cope with the various challenges in life. They also learn about their "rights", to live environment-friendly, to identify problems relating to their life and finding solutions which should then lead to action to improve the quality of their community's life.

This year we spent much time in restructuring our approach and programs relating to our community development programs in and around Eraiur village, where our main campus is located.

We have successfully started 2 new Evening Learning Centers (ELCs) and Teens & Youth club Programs for building Life Skills and providing Career Guidance as well as for Talent building. The Career Guidance programs were also extended to schools of the nearby area as per their requirement. This created an added impact to our interventions.

KIDS: GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Karunakarya provides programs for around 500 children from the centers as well from villages through summer camps and other events. The children in ELC's as well as others from the villages. The children learn through performing skits, songs or dances, through drawing, painting, craft work and stories about contemporary themes and receive moral support. Through active participation in these programs, children from villages slums develop self-confidence and learn, amongst other things, to recognize their rights as children. They developed an awareness of their responsibility towards the environment too.

SUMMER - HOLIDAY CAMPS

In Summer 2017, from 1st to 4th May, camp activities were conducted in two places that was in Alagoor and Vattampakkam.

The teachers used a program road map that was designed with the help of volunteers. The theme selected was "Being true and courageous" which was communicated through stories, songs, games and crafts. In each area about 25 - 35 children participated on each day. The days always went past fast with much joy and

enthusiasm with a refreshment at the end of the sessions.

KIDS - EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - EVENING LEARNING CENTERS (ELC)

At present we have established ELCs in Eraiyur, Gunduperumbedu, Navalur Slum Clearance Board. A total of 110 children from government school attend our ELCs regularly.

These are hubs of learning we establish in villages to work with children for their Holistic Development. Beneficiaries of this project are children from Government schools in Primary and middle school level. Reading, writing, comprehension and numeracy skills are given a special focus through carefully developed in-house learning modules.

“Evening learning centers aim to create interest and enthusiasm for learning, thus enabling children to self-learn and groom them as critical thinkers”

As many homes face serious threats due to domestic violence, we also focus on improvement of family relations, understanding and acceptance, anger management, self esteem, etc. The parents realise the importance of education and care for their own children.

We support poor and deserving students for their school and higher studies in order to promote higher status of education. Higher education gives them a better opportunity for their future and encourages them to be responsible members of their community and larger society.



FEATURES OF EVENING LEARNING CENTRES :

In our ELCs the facilitators integrate the following areas of development and topics into the monthly program:

- Coaching classes which help them to cope with school work according to their class
- Sessions to enhance creative expression, such as drawing, painting, singing, dancing, drama, writing, cooking, etc.
- Sessions to enhance their physical development like games, sport, health & Hygiene, health care and personal awareness, prevention of diseases and addiction, etc.
- Awareness programs on issues like children's rights information, etc.
- Exposures to various services such as post office, banks, rail way station, etc.
- Sessions on moral and ethical learning for improvement of social skills
- Counselling for students facing difficulties
- Competitions in various arts and science topics
- Students work Exhibitions
- Rewards for good performance, Gifts for all on cultural occasions
- Excursions for science subjects, such as visit to Zoo, botanical garden, science parks, Library, etc.
- Outstation weekend camp, Summer camps
- Sponsorship of poor students
- Parents Seminars for enhancing their understanding for their children's needs and gaining knowledge for child rearing.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

One of the salient features of our evening learning centers is that we recruit local resources as ELC Facilitators. Facilitators are trained and closely guided to deliver optimum performance.

“We identify individuals in the community who are passionate for children's growth and who already show interest in community development and offer this as a platform to thrive in this area of interest.”

TEACHERS TRAINING

The ELC facilitators meet monthly for training and planning. On 24th February a special meeting and workshop was conducted, including the facilitators for the new ELCs. This was to help them understand the organization's objectives, concepts and methods of teaching as well how to connect to parents and community.

TWO NEW ELC CENTERS

The new ELCs in Navalur in the Slum Clearance Housing Board was inaugurated on the 5th March 2018 and another new ELC in Gunduperumbedu was inaugurated on 2nd March 2018. The children were gathered with their parents and a small introduction about the centre and its function was explained on that day. Since then the classes are held daily for two hours. The events listed in the table were conducted in the ELC centres.



**CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EVENING LEARNING CENTERS (ELC)
PROGRAMS DETAILS**

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
May 2nd & 3rd 2017	Summer Camp in Alagoor	To expose some skills and concepts to the children in the villages so that they could utilize the same during holidays
May 4th & 5th 2017	Summer Camp in Vattambakkam	
August 15th 2017	Remembering our Independence Day, Eraiyur	Children learn about the great leaders of the country and the importance of good governance of our own resources
September 5th 2017	Essay writing competition on Teacher's Day, Eraiyur	The children express their gratitude for teachers in their life who help them learn good things for their future through essay writing competition which also enhances their thinking as well writing skills
November 14th 2017	Children's day Celebration, Eraiyur	To cherish childhood and learn good habits
December 8th 2017	Half Yearly Program, Eraiyur	Children practice songs and dance for performance at TAPS Half Yearly program
January 12th 2017	Remembering our Harvest Festival Pongal, Eraiyur	Children were reminded to be thankful for harvest
January 26th 2018	Remembering our Republic day, Eraiyur	Children learn about their country and leaders and how to show their love for their country
February 24th 2018	Teacher's Meeting & Training - Eraiyur, Navalur & Gunduperumbedu	Common meeting of existing center in Eraiyur and new of proposed new centers to communicate expectation of running a center for Karunakarya
March 5th 2018	Inauguration of Evening Learning Centre in housing board colony in Navalur	To help Children with their school work and facilitate overall healthy development by involving them in various scholastic and extra curricular activities
March 6th 2018	Inauguration of Evening Learning Centre in Gunduperumbedu	
March 20th 2018	Parents Meeting - Eraiyur	To keep in touch with parents about their children's development, help them understand children's needs and how to support them for their studies before concluding with annual academic year examination

When children are supported to grow in self esteem and confidence, receive encouragement and room for real learning, they will do better in school, dropout rates will decline and their chances will increase. With emotional support and moral teaching they can overcome unhealthy barriers, change behavior and become responsible people. These two components together provides them an opportunity to break the cycle of social barriers and poverty.

CROSS DEPARTMENT - OPPORTUNITIES

The children, teens & youth of all areas and all departments are invited and motivated to participate in different programs offered by Karunakarya in other projects/departments.

“this platform provides an opportunity for participants to meet with youth from other villages thus helping them overcome social barriers such as caste, religion, economic status, educational backgrounds, gender, etc., and build healthy relationships”

Apart from learning from sessions, it also helps participants interact with facilitators of the program who are staff of Karunakarya and volunteers who are professionals from various disciplines. Opportunities are provided for participants to make presentations, conduct group discussions etc. to build their self-confidence and for mutual learning.

CHALLENGES & LEARNING

VENUE: ELC venue in Navalur is a great challenge. At present the classes are conducted in corridors of residential blocks as we are not assigned with a comfortable space. Our request to the slum clearance board for a proper space is a long pending demand.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT: Though we have good number of participation by youth in our community programs their readiness to contribute back to the society by being part of Youth Clubs and taking up responsibilities is just beginning. Support from community leaders in understanding our vision for the community will be our focus area of work. This involvement will enable them to stand up for themselves in future.

FOLLOW-UP: Regularity in follow-up and constant relations in between programs

are something we need to improve maintaining with our youth beneficiaries.

CONSISTENCY in participation is lacking though the overall average number in participation is constant. We do not have regular participants for every program. There is a percentage of drop of old participants and entry of new participants for each program.

WHAT IS NEXT?

NEW ELC CENTERS

As there are 20 blocks in Navalur which at present houses about 1,000 families relocated from city slums (a total of 8000 residents expected in the coming months) - there is plenty of need and opportunity to establish more ELCs, one in each block. We are evaluating the availability of facilitators in the blocks and are planning to establish another 2 centers within the next academic year 2018-19.

TEENS & YOUTH VILLAGE-CLUBS

Youth Village-Clubs aim to develop youth as responsible citizens in the society by addressing civic issues in their communities, provide support for people in need, understand social problems their community undergoes and positively contribute towards development of their villages. A formal structure to plan and execute club activities is proposed. Activities of club may include, youth running a small community library, conducting evening learning centers, conducting awareness campaigns in their villages, conducting cleaning/sanitation activities, protection of water resources etc.

CONCLUSION

Detailed job descriptions for 2 positions have been prepared to recruit suitable candidates to coordinate the Evening Learning Centers and Navalur Slum Clearance Board Projects. The year 2017-2018 was very fulfilling and we are hopeful of addressing the real needs of our beneficiaries more meaningfully. We constantly conduct reviews of our activities and keenly create new benchmarks that push us towards our goal of reaching out to the children and young people.



It gives me an opportunity to explore new things
- Steffi TAPS.

CREATIVITY Confessions

Karunakarya celebrated creativity throughout the year and questions on creativity were answered by staff, children and beneficiaries.



- Creativity helps to expose our inner talent/skill.
- If there is no creativity in what we do, life or what we do will become monotonous.
- Creativity helps to learn or experiment new things.
- [I teach lesson/concept through story based]

- Creativity will show your willingness to improvise and grow.
 - Creativity make you think and do beyond the usual.
 - I challenge myself to experiment new methods to teach Mathematics.
- Percy.





KARUNAKARYA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (KCC)

Our community college is a skill development centre aiming to support youth who are ignorant of opportunities and may not have financial support or proper guidance about careers. Through our various programs we hope to transform them into confident and responsible individuals with skills that would enrich their personal and work life. We present some highlights of our year long activities at Karunakarya Community College.

FIT FOR LIFE : FIT FOR JOB

The batch of Computer Application Diploma students of batch 11 (August 2016 - July 2017) have completed their TNOU accredited course in August 2017. The content includes Life Coping Skills, English & Tamil Communication and Language skills, typewriting skills, MS Office package with Windows & Internet, Word, Excel, Power Point and Access. In the Community College much weight is given for Life Skills and Application skills to fulfill the motto "Fit for Life and Fit for Job"! One of the important activity components is also the awareness sessions about various community and youth issues, as well as preparation for working in teams and being able to cope with different environments with the right attitude. Volunteering opportunities given from Karunakarya strengthens their confidence and self-esteem and builds a magnitude of skills to face their future positively.

LIFE SKILL WORKSHOP - APRIL 19&26 Power of Perception

Program on LCS was conducted by our Guest faculty Mr. Joe Rajadhas on April 19th and April 26th respectively. On 19th April Joe lectured

on the topic "Power of Perception" during the morning session and in the afternoon session they were given a psychometric test based on self-esteem. And on 26th April various activities like balloon tower, pick a pocket, leadership qualities were conducted.



TALLY & INTERNSHIP

In April 2017, they have come to the end of their training. The last portion of DCAS course content was concluded with a one-month course in basic Accounting and Accounting software Tally in the month of April. This was followed by preparations for their internship in May that they were ready to start their hands-on experience in a one-month Internship at various companies from May 10th - June 6th, 2017.

FAREWELL & DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

As an ending of the academic year for the students 2016-2017, farewell was organized with a small farewell program held on the 5th August 2017, refreshing our memories of the year and encouraging for a new step. Ms. Sharon facilitated an activity by making each student write one good thing about the other student on the paper pasted at the back of them. After the activity it was read loud and it was interesting to know how others saw good in others. Mr. Newbin encouraged the students by sharing illustrations on egg and coffee bean and how they should live their lives. Then all other staff wished them success and spoke few words of wisdom.



The students have now secured jobs. After all examination, documentation and TNOU procedures, we organized the distribution of course certificates on 20.12.2017 with a small function, together with all outgoing students, college staff and management. The students were able to share their present status and their learning experience in Karunakarya Community College. This event helped the students to look back what they have achieved and look forward into their future.



CAREER GUIDANCE WORKSHOP

Career Guidance workshop was conducted on April 22nd as the inaugural Program. The students learnt about their uniqueness, value of their skills and need for contribution to society. Activities helped to reinforce the various inputs given. One of the important activities was an aptitude test to help the youth understand their tendencies, interest and skills and know better how to choose their further education. For most of the 90 participants, this was something they heard the first time and it proved to be very informative and helpful for them.

YOUTH CLUB INAUGURATION

On 30th September 2017 we celebrated a grand event for the Inauguration of Youth Club Activities.



The morning session was held as a workshop with the theme **"RIGHT TURN"** through which the participants learnt to understand themselves better and restructure their life positively. They learnt about holistic development, about the concept of self - through videos and were also introduced to understand their temperaments through a simple activity and test. One of the activities, using circular cardboards, helped them to understand that things can be changed by supporting one another though there are difficulties. Another activity was about learning that sometimes patience is much needed in order to reach a goal.

The afternoon session of the Inauguration event was packed with activities and competition related to food and cooking in teams as an inspiration for making the world together. The youth were separated in pairs from each group



to make four food items per group using the given ingredients.

The youth learnt team dynamics, identification of available resources, using available knowledge & strengths of team members, adaptability to changes, decision making over utilization of resources for desired task etc. It was a hectic, but indeed a very enjoyable day, loaded with a lot of meaningful experiences, for participants as well as for our Karunakarya team.

RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

On 28th October 2017, we used another opportunity to connect to 30 youth through our monthly program. The theme "Respect Yourself and Others" was chosen to help the participants to learn about dignity and how important good interpersonal skills are in life. The session included points such as how worthy and unique everyone is, that loving and caring the self is essential. There was a small activity to know how a person could gain dignity and what would be reasons for losing dignity. The sessions were communicated through explanation, activities, songs and videos.

YOUTH CLUB ANNUAL PROGRAM Problem-Solving & Decision-Making Skills

On 2nd December 2017, 87 youth participants came from 7 villages for the Annual Day Celebration at our campus. The theme of this day was 'Problem-Solving

and Decision-Making skills.' The youth were given activities in which they had to identify problems from newspapers and magazines. By working with charts and paper cuttings, they also needed to write down their perspective of what the problem is and how it could be solved by discussing in their respective groups, illustrating it on the charts and then presenting it to other groups. Most of the participants mingled with one another without any hesitation, exchanged their ideas and worked together though they were from different places.

“The activities were really provoking them to involve as teams and with much interest, they were also able to think and do things differently and creatively.”

After lunch, the participants were divided into groups to prepare a "on the spot" talent show, with little time to decide upon the performance and little time to practice. All groups then presented their performance in the talent show and most of them participated in different ways such as singing, dancing, acting and speaking



to express themselves and were patient, trying their best to keep up to the instructions.

The day concluded with a short film 'Parisu' and the chief guest Mr. Prason's speech. It was another very fulfilling event - packed with meaningful content and experiences along with and enthusiasm and energy of the youth. Many of them shared afterwards that they had learnt about loving others as themselves and how to solve a problem, and others expressed that they learnt how take decisions and helping others.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Starting with the first program of the year on 13th January 2018, we officially started to offer program separately for teens and youth. On this day, the 55 participants worked in their groups through brainstorming and other activities on the topic "Time Management" through which they learnt about the importance of time, to be aware of how they are spending time, evaluate the value of activities they do and understand about the time they spend productively and unproductively. They also learnt how to identify and decide about utilizing their time positively and effectively.

OUTREACH CAREER GUIDANCE

The Career guidance program conducted in Padappai Girls School on 9th January 2018 for about 400 students of class 9 and 11, was one of the many such programs we held in different schools in the surrounding area during the last few months. The two hour program is designed carefully, focused to help students to be aware about different career choices available, about the importance of skills to acquire during their schooling and how to prepare themselves for their next step after school.





LIFE SKILLS TRAINING & CAREER GUIDANCE FOR TEENS & YOUTH

As an organization, we found it very important, not just to stick to our objectives and run an institution for conducting formal skill training but also to consider the changes or needs of the young generation of this area and the target community environment. This led us to a rather courageous decision to take a break for at least one year from conducting formal skill training courses. We shifted our attention towards addressing the needs identified and build up from the grass-root level to lead children and youth through life skills, talent building and career guidance. This would help them to achieve develop their aspirations and find their way for their future.

CHALLENGES & NEEDS

- Lack of awareness and misplaced priorities has resulted in less youth opting formal skilling programs and higher educational opportunities
- School drop out students find taking up temporary jobs in factories more attractive as it gives them immediate income though there are no clear career paths
- Pressing financial liabilities of the family makes parents direct their children towards these income opportunities rather than higher studies or formal skills training which they see as just another financial burden
- Many industries do not recognize skilled and better educated candidates. They do not offer them higher order jobs as they only prefer cheap labor for plant operations, hence it discourages youth/families to pursue educational opportunities
- Due to lack of exposure to relevant professional, behavioral and language skill many graduated youth are unemployed or unemployable.

OUR STRATEGY

Karunakarya after understanding these problems has decided to focus the interventions on these core issues and root causes to help students, dropouts and other youth

- to have better perspectives
- to know their purpose and
- to equip them with skills

so that they will excel in all areas of life.

In order to facilitate this development, we have redesigned the skill development and life coping programs of our community college to outreach and connect with youngsters.

It was also decided to temporarily suspend the 1-Year formal Diploma training programs and do short term courses as per need.

This approach will be continued until we see positive changes in mindset of youth in areas that need improvement.

In the following report we share the programs undertaken to achieve the above.

TEEN AND YOUTH CLUB MEETINGS

These meetings were conducted every month, usually twice, on every second and forth Saturday. On an average 50 - 70 teen and youth participate, for special events 90 - 120 youth regularly gathers from neighboring villages in Karunakarya premises for a time of learning and fellowship.

Each month we focused on topics like

- Positive attitude
- Time management
- Stress management
- Responsibility
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Self Esteem and Values

These topics kindle the minds of the youth - talks, discussions, inspirational videos, movies and activities were used to convey appropriate messages. Apart from learning from these sessions, this platform provides an opportunity for participants to meet with youth from other villages helping them overcome social barriers such as caste, religion, economic status, educational backgrounds, gender, etc., and build healthy relationships.

Teens from 6th Grade to 8th Grade are handled separately on the same topic. The idea of engaging students from 6th grade is to sow the seeds right from the tender age so that they will grow up with better perspectives and be productive as youth in later years.



We offer transport facility for youth to attend these programs as public transport facilities are limited in villages. Snacks and lunch are provided during these events.

CAREER GUIDANCE

One reason we identified for young people being less aspirational is due lack of awareness and ideas on career choices available and absence of guidance. To counter this, we have developed a comprehensive orientation program to help students have a better perspective about life, understand career choices available and to know about skills they need to build to pursue their interests.

“...helping students have a better perspective about life, career choices and skills needed to pursue their interests.”

Content of this program can be delivered for 2 hours in a half day session or a part of it can be delivered in 45 minutes based on availability of time slot. We have conducted these sessions in 6 government schools covering 1150 students in High School and Higher Secondary Level.

BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

We also facilitate programs in 2 government Schools to follow-up students and provide continuous input progressively in behavioral and life coping skills. Present we conduct this in Mathur Government Higher Secondary School, in neighboring village and Sennakuppam Adi Dravidar High School. Both these schools have majority students from poor economic and socially secluded communities. Sessions are facilitated fortnightly. An average of 250 students have regularly benefitted through these sessions.





CREAZONE DISCOVER YOUR TALENT

Karunakarya has excellent facility and ambiance for learning and we desire children and youth make best use of our available resources. Considering school and work schedule of teens and youth, we are conducting Evening Classes, presently on Thursdays from 5 to 7 pm. Through this we offer a variety of skill and talent building programs which would benefit our students. Presently we offer Computer Basics, Fundamentals of Music and Art Skill-Workshops regularly on Thursday evenings. These classes are also used to impart simple English language inputs to participants. Values and discipline are taught. A group of students from Government schools, about 15 - 25 teens, regularly participate and benefit from this. Transport facility is offered, and refreshments are provided for participants.

We chose the name "CreaZone" with the tag line "Discover your Talent" for these activities, because it should be a place where we offer space to inspire, provide exposure, give room for new ideas and experiments that youth can discover their talent and interest, keep being curious learners and find aspiration.

CROSS DEPARTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The children, teens & youth of all areas and all departments are invited and motivated to participate in the programs offered by Karunakarya in another project/department from theirs such as Children's programs, camps, Talent & Skill programs, Excursions, exposures, Life Skill & Career guidance, personal career coaching, avail sponsorships, become a student in out campus primary school or community college for skill training, volunteering, part time or full time work, etc.

Apart from learning from sessions, this platform provides an opportunity for participants to meet with youth from other villages thus helping them overcome social barriers such as caste, religion, economic status, educational backgrounds, gender, etc., and build healthy relationships.

It also helps participants interact with facilitators of the program who are staff of Karunakarya and volunteers who are professionals from various disciplines. Opportunities are provided for participants to make presentations, conduct group discussions etc. to build their self-confidence and for mutual learning.

CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The progress we made and achievements we accomplished are not without hurdles and constraints. In fact, these challenges we faced helped us to come up with creative solutions.

- Cooperation with faculties from government schools for the sessions need to be improved.
- Content we developed for our sessions to be brought down and simplified further for better reach.
- Regularity in follow-up and constant relations in between programs are something we need to improve maintaining with our youth beneficiaries.
- Consistency in participation is lacking though the overall average number in participation is constant, same participants are not attending regularly.

WAY FORWARD

- YOUTH VILLAGE CLUBS : The idea is to form small groups in villages totally self-governed

by youth to engage productively in their own communities. This will be platform for members of such groups to give back the society and enhance their leadership abilities. Mentors from Karunakarya will provide overall framework and guide the members in functioning Youth Village-Clubs.

- CONTENT IMPROVEMENT: We will be improving content we have already developed keeping certain aspects in mind such as age group, level of understanding, duration of session, topics, category etc.

- CAREER FAIR: This is flagship program conceptualized by Karunakarya to be conducted in near future. What we experienced and understood in the process of engaging with students and youth is they need connections with better role models and get exposed to myriad opportunities available around them to make use and flourish in life.



The year 2017-2018 was very fulfilling with a lot of new initiatives and dimensions in our journey to achieve our vision. We could see a good progress and are hopeful of addressing the real needs of our beneficiaries more meaningfully. We do careful review of our activities and are keen to create new bench marks in quality of delivery of our services and assess the impact. We are committed in our calling to reach young people in our scope of work and address their real needs.

...knows her purpose
& believes in herself.



AISWARYA'S STORY OF COURAGE

Her father has the problem of alcoholism like many others in the village. This caused misunderstandings and arguments with her mother. One day, life took a drastic turn when her mother set herself ablaze after an argument in the night. She least expected this as she had slept off talking to her mother beside her that the argument wasn't as bad as the other days. She heard her mother screaming and went out to see her mother on fire and Aiswarya froze. She couldn't move, and she thought she was shouting but nobody seemed to hear. After a little while, her uncle came to the rescue and he put off the fire. Police and crowds followed flooding her with questions but all she could respond was cry. She said that after this incident, Life has been even more difficult for herself and her family.

However, this incident has changed her as a person – to be stronger, probably stronger than any of her peers in the village – she has become more responsible and ambitious. People around her told that she is of marriageable age, but she asserted her different priorities.

She wants to be in a profession like social work, where she could help others in trouble and distress. She also wants to work as she studies to support her family financially. She hopes to take her father to a de-addiction centre, help her sister to study better and be a support to her mother and brother. She knows her purpose and believes in herself that she would be able to fulfil her dreams about herself and her family.



I always look forward for Thursdays because that class makes me think do new(stuff) things.
- Tanayachitra, J

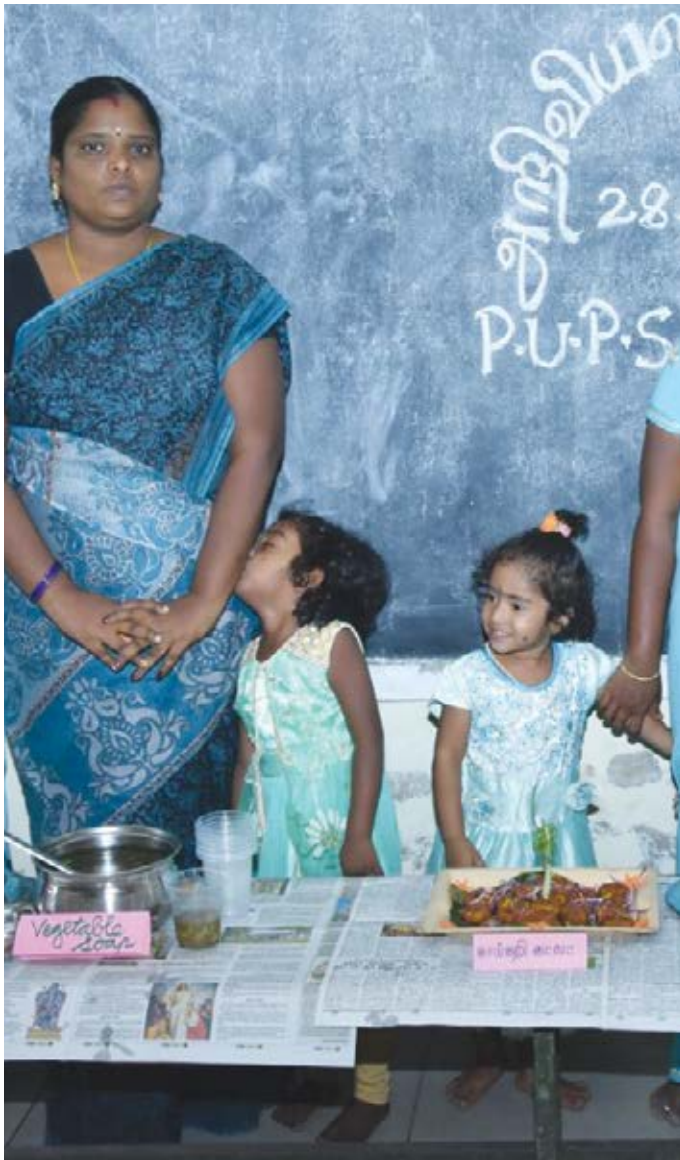
CREATIVITY " calls for thinking differently
Sharon





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Most of the projects and activities of this year were started new. This involved various processes prior to launching the project including need analysis, studying resource availability, tapping community support, etc. In this context Karunakarya has made extensive visits in villages in proximity to Eraiyur and made contacts with people of influence such as village leaders, teachers, head masters, other NGOs, youth groups, etc.



MEDICAL CAMP

On 22nd July 2017, a Medical camp was organized with SRM medical college hospital and Research centre for all children, youth and parents relating to our projects from the villages. This camp was hosted by Karunakarya and included children and parents of The ARK Nursery & Primary School, Eraiyur Village, Vattambakkam, Perijimbakkam, Mathur, Vallakottai, Vallam, Pandrutti and others. Consultants were available from various departments and specialisations such as ENT, dermatology, opthamology, dentistry, orthopedics and gynecology. Pressure check-up, blood grouping was also available alongwith a dispensary. Participants were given awareness on 'Self- Hygiene'. 210 people were benefitted.



TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD PROJECT @ NAVALUR

More than 1,000 families have been displaced from Chennai city slums and have resettled by government in a village called Navalur near Eraiyur. Karunakarya has pitched in to support residents of this new community as they faced hardships in the process of resettlement. Since the housing scheme is located away from medical, employment, educational and recreational facilities - we found the need for assistance during this transition phase until permanent arrangements are made by the government.

Karunakarya has extended medical services through the annual medical camp we conduct for our beneficiaries. We have deputed 2 of our student interns to regularly visit the community and study the need. As a result of this, we could establish contact with government officials of

Slum Board and teachers of the Government Primary School which serves exclusively the children from Navalur TNSCB.



To evaluate how we can help the community in this time of transition, it seemed to be most urgent to look after the following critical areas :-

- new livelihood opportunities
- childrens education and training facilities and
- health and hygiene matters

Our two Social Worker Interns were given the responsibility to initiate a socio economic study about the needs and possible interventions. As an outcome of this, one of the interns, Babloo arranged a **MINI-JOB-FAIR** for the residents of Navalur who are in urgent need of jobs and interested in the offers. This was done in association with another agency. In this 80 adults



participated and were able to sign up with the agency for placements and 10 participants got the job on the spot.

With regard to health and hygiene matters, a series of programs to create awareness for better health, prevention of diseases and better care of

sanitation facilities for community, children and women was conducted, through street theatre, magic show and awareness program.

Karunakarya is in close touch with Community Development wing of Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board and has submitted a comprehensive proposal with details and plans of all activities we intend to conduct in Navalur and awaiting their consent.

GOODWILL GESTURE - SCIENCE EXHIBITION INAUGURATION

On 28th March 2018 we were invited by Navalur Government school to inaugurate a Science Exhibition conducted in the school. As a good will act, Karunakarya sponsored an Electric School Bell during the occasion. These visits and contacts are necessary to pass our vision and consolidate likeminded people's support and goodwill.



WOMENS HEALTH

In the month of March, we also conducted womens health awareness program at Navalur. Health and hygiene during menstruation was discussed. Awareness on cancer as a disease dispelling unnecessary fears and creating a positive outlook on life was insisted upon.

COUNSELLING

Many families in the community of the surrounding villages as well as in slums go through various forms of stress in their homes due to lack of coping mechanisms, family disputes and broken family relations, irresponsible behaviour, alcoholism, sickness, and many suffer from the impact of abuse or domestic violence. Counselling sessions help the affected to ventilate emotional stress which then can lead to finding solutions to problems, develop coping mechanisms and find strength.

These sessions are offered on a regular basis by professionals for adults in the community, parents and to children in our campus school. Sometimes legal awareness and assistance, psychiatric, medical or other interventions are



required in order to improve their emotional state and towards betterment of family relations. Home visits are done to observe the home situation from the outsiders perspective and to connect to all members of the family.

“Counselling sessions help the affected to ventilate emotional stress”



SPONSORSHIPS

Most people from underprivileged background are always in financial distress and do not have sufficient resources for the educational needs of their children and young adults, for medical aid or other related urgent facilities and therefore are compromising on any or both of these basic needs.

Similarly, crisis situations such as disastrous accidents, natural calamities, sickness and death can affect families so severely that it brings them to the border of existence.

At Karunakarya, we offer sponsorship support following a method that seeks to ensure eligibility and encourages good utilisation of the support offered. A set of eligibility criteria is evaluated by a professional social worker through a case study and home visit. Those who are identified must adhere with certain rules, such as submitting progress reports, bills and official reports as supporting documents and come for the follow-up sessions and meetings.

1. EDUCATION FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In order that children attend and complete school, have a chance to acquire skill or professional training we offer for school children who attend

our programs material relief for their necessities and/or contribute or pay fees for the children of higher classes or for vocational training or college. In this sense, we helped this year 14 children and young adults of families from the community in need of schooling or training with material such as note and school books, stationary, uniforms, school bags, school/training fees, transport, etc.

2. MEDICAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Where needed, Karunakarya bears the partial cost of medicines, aids and medical treatment of beneficiaries who attend our programs in the area of our projects, based on their income and dependent upon their actual health problem. We support people with chronic diseases as best we can. This kind of help was in this year extended to 3 adults suffering from chronic and genetic diseases.

Further, we conduct atleast one free medical camp of a bigger sort for general or specific issues. The medicines given on such events are also free and in case of discovery of an issue; follow-ups are usually done in the nearby hospitals or where referred to.

3. RELIEF FOR URGENCIES OR DISASTERS

We are glad that we didn't have any disasterous incident in this year in any of our areas. In some years we helped people who were affected by some natural calamity such as fire accidents in slums, or natural disaster such as cyclone, flood and tsunami. Funds were allocated to reconstruct their house so that they were able to pick up from there on their own. Similar situations are caused by sudden sickness or death when families sometimes need support for some time.



(clockwise from the top)
Mrs. Amaravathi
Ms. Agathika
Mr. Vetrivel
Mrs. Sivagami

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS	
NAME	PARTICULARS
Akash	Book fees
Jonathan	School fees
Joanna Catherine	School fees
Blessy Jemima	School fees
Yabesh	School fees
Kamalesh	School fees
Alwin Thomas	School fees
Abishek	School fees
Vishal	School fees
Vishnu	School fees
Kishore	School fees
Rithish	School fees
Monisha	School fees
Agathika	College Fees
Total Amount INR	1,10,400

MEDICAL SPONSORSHIPS	
NAME	PARTICULARS
Vetrivel	Consultation & Medicines
Amaravathi	Consultation & Medicines
Sivakami	Consultation & Medicines
Total Amount INR	25,490

OTHER FINANCIAL HELP	
NAME	PARTICULARS
Government Primary School, Navalur	School bell and Electrical fittings
Total Amount INR	1,344



KARUNAKARYA CREATIONS



This is a project of Karunakarya - it is for women who come from difficult family situations such as domestic abuse and alcoholic husbands. We are a handicrafts production and training project of Karunakarya.

The women are trained by us in the production of various textile handicrafts which in return gives them a source of income to support their families with. Many of these women are the sole-provider for their families. Through this project, we can reach out to these families and aim towards the greater goal of total community development.

TRAINING

Training facilitated by Karunakarya Creations comes under the wings of the Karunakarya Community College. The training is focused on basic skills through short term courses, after which ladies who desire to learn more can join the unit environment. In the unit set-up, the ladies are trained in production of real products by real orders of customers. Through this concept the tailors learn the importance of quality-time efficiency and the need to learn to upgrade their skills and speed constantly to reach the expected output as market standards. Products sold give them an income.

However, poor response for the formal and informal courses, we have decided to pause

them for this year and focus on strengthening the skills and system with the 5 ladies that have already joined in the production training environment.

OUR EXPERIMENT

One of the important factors to make any business model successful is to have enough regular customers. This is a challenging part of the work and needs close attention whereas training and execution of work and quality inside the unit is also very critical. Though we employed a Project Manager this remained a challenge.

Complete unit management needs a hands-on approach to the staff social and emotional needs, design decisions, quality control, purchase of material and marketing too. This job requires multi talent and multi tasking which is difficult to find. Our solution was employ two individuals, one for each task - we decided to give it a try even though it was a financial strain.

Mr. Sam was employed as a Project Manager in August 2017 to look after administration, purchase and marketing. This would make the Designer and Trainer free to focus on the units internal affairs.

This continued to be a challenge as the vacancy



for Design and Training was open until February 2018 when Ms. Mercy Joy joined our team. Meanwhile Mr. Sam, who was not familiar with the internal affairs and tailoring managed everything and juggled between all things and kept up everything while purchasing of material and finding customers and executing all administrative jobs. In the process, he discovered

and learnt a new skill of taking care of the tailor's social needs.

A NEW CHALLENGE !

Karunakarya Creations used to export products to Europe, where the products were sold at seasonal local markets, for bulk orders for interior decoration items, and for events like weddings and parties. In July 2017 the Government of India has made a change in the Tax law by which NGOs with income generation project experienced a severe setback. This affected the sales turn over which resulted in a chain reaction to production, number of tailors and general operations.

RESTRUCTURING SOLUTION

This forced us to re-evaluate the purpose of the project. It was decided on one hand to shift the sales of products made during training to a company model "Karuna Creations" but on the other hand to keep up the project concept and structure for training purpose, remaining as project of Karunakarya run under the Community College Project.

This step was done by December 2017 and all assets of the unit were sold to the company Karuna Creations. The company's owner is Mrs. Cynthia Chellappa who is also a co-founder of Karunakarya and the initiator of Karunakarya Creation project. It was and is her passion to help women from difficult backgrounds. A step by step process to empower the ladies to become entrepreneurs and eventually receive orders from their own customers or as well an outsourced order from Karuna Creations was the project envisaged through the Karunakarya Creations project.

Now, the new concept is also well thought through and promises success but it will need time to grow and evolve as it will be a major task to prepare the ladies for this significant step in their lives.



Karuna Creations products
sold at an exhibition
in Chennai city



EXHIBITION LEARNINGS

Throughout the year we were looking out for opportunities for presence at a suitable exhibition spot. The application with "By Hand from the Heart" for February 2018 was rejected, however would also have been a little financial constraint. The Exhibition sale "Stylus" in Adyar on 9 & 10 of March 2018 gave us an opportunity to participate at the sale of products made during our training with the new arrangement by the company Karuna Creations. Though the exhibition turned out to be a flop, it was a new exposure for the ladies who have hardly been to city for interaction which had offered them an opportunity to learn through this new experience.

CONCLUSION

This year was surely very rich in valuable experiences and in many ways one of the most challenging years in the history of this project. However, through the tireless effort of the staff and trainees involved, we were able to sustain and remain focused and had found solutions with the new concept to the challenging situations. The implementation surely still needs much investment in terms of perseverance and effort to meet with success. We are hopeful and looking forward for the new opportunities that this project may bring up.



- When I create it helps me and also others around me.
 - My creativity helps me to excel in particular products.
 - My creativity gains me appreciation and thereby motivates me to do/try more
- Sivagani



STAFF EVENTS



KARUNAKARYA FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2016-17

All amounts mentioned in INR only

PARTICULARS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
THE ARK NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL		
Income from Fees	17,24,842.00	
Income from Donation & Bank Interest	35,28,727.37	
Total Running cost & Asset		47,05,855.00
Total	52,53,569.37	47,05,855.00
KARUNAKARYA COMMUNITY COLLEGE		
Income from Fees	11,663.00	
Income from Donation & Bank Interest	10,16,515.53	
Total Running cost & Asset		9,69,409.10
Total	10,28,178.53	9,69,409.10
EVENING ACTIVITY CENTERS & SPONSORSHIPS		
Income of Donations & Bank Interest	2,00,874.40	
Expenses of Educational, Medical, Relief		2,12,615.00
Total	2,00,874.40	2,12,615.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Income of Donations & Bank Interest	3,08,496.28	
Youth, Women & Gypsy Programs		24,388.00
Total	3,08,496.28	24,388.00
GENERAL EXPENSES		
Income from Donation & Bank Interest	28,71,391.17	
Salary, Allowances & Staff expenses		14,68,552.23
Rent		3,29,974.00
Vehicle Maintenance & Insurance		1,00,436.49
Administration Expenses (Printing, Stationary, Telephone, Mailing, Internet Charges, Auditor Fees, Travel, Computer Consumables and Maintenance)		4,02,509.54
Total	26,29,423.45	28,20,631.71
KARUNA CREATIONS		
Income from sales of products	2,27,161.18	
Salary, Allowances and Staff expenses	6,51,252.00	
Material purchase for production	27,880.46	
Staff Expenses		4,78,883.05
Administration Expenses (Printing, Stationary, Mailing, Repair & Maintenance)		65,497.07
Total	9,06,293.64	5,44,380.12
Grand Total	1,05,68,803.39	87,58,119.48

For the sake of the readers better understanding this statement is a simplified version of the certified audited "Income and Expenditures" sheets of all accounts combined. Balances and project deficits carried forward to the financial year 2018 - 2019.

With Best Regards
From the Chief Functionary
Mr. C. Chellappa



KARUNAKARYA

www.karunakarya.org