



KARUNAKARYA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021





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SALUTE TO OUR HEROES



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Remember that your vision will always keep you going  
during difficult times - Sunday Adeljo

An Irular settlement hit hard during the pandemic. Tamilnadu, 2020



## FOUNDER'S NOTE

Indeed, was this year one like none before! The sudden new situation of the COVID19 Pandemic has derailed many things globally and has brought for some tremendous challenges to deal with. Many lost their job and income and got near to (and over) the edge of existence while others were able to expand, start new companies to make even



more profit. We don't need to emphasize much to understand that the ones who suffered the most were those with instable livelihood, and that justice around the world to equalize will be challenged. The leap towards humanity from various governments was partly great, for some only on paper but left unimplemented and far from reality.

While our team was reaching out to the needy, hungry, and lonely who are connected to our projects and range of villages, with emergency relief efforts, we also needed to adjust, or redefine our method and process of work and to manage and process the huge amount of information, not all useful, but a many misleading, confusing and even depressing added another challenge. In this, it's not difficult to get into a state of confusion but hard to see through the "thick forest" manage to find a way, with company, endurance, safety, and experience purpose.

Before, we often repeat the saying to our co-workers "the one constant thing in life is "change", but no one would have meant or expected this realistic truth to be an everyday exercise to the extent we experienced it. The social worker and school team found themselves suddenly in a situation where they need to do 'contactless' social work/teaching – work that relies so much on contact and interaction to build these young lives to receive the touch they need to cope with the difficulties of their backgrounds and go forward in life!

Probably just as everyone else on this globe, we re-thought, re-structured, re-planned our methods, approach, content according to new government guidelines/restrictions/relaxations, and current needs of the community almost uncountable times. This led to develop a flexible concept which can be implemented and switch from contact to contactless any time without much disruption.



The workshops with the topics about values, creativity, innovation, how to become a catalyst and the many other trainings which we conducted for our staff in the previous year and reinforced during this year, helped them to recall what they learnt and cope with the skills which were now required to adapt to this situation.

Our team of leaders and their teams of the various departments have gone since day one of the pandemic not only one but two extra miles to be there for those who needed them now the most. They shared about their experiences in their detailed articles in the following pages.

During this time the part of organizing was more manageable while helping staff and beneficiaries through their emotional stress caused by the pandemic was even more important to address. Not less important is to understand the vision and shift to a new perspective, to keep the focus on how to bring the vision in action with a new outlook.



As a team we want to always remember that our vision will keep us going through difficult times and we want to be determined that what we do becomes a message of true hope!



***A winner is a dreamer who never gives up  
When people are determined, they can overcome anything***  
Nelson Mandela

We at Karunakarya are determined to step up the implementation of our vision in all areas of work, being a part of the big picture and leaving lasting change for the generations.


***A vision is greater than one person's life span.  
It is one more building block for the future of generations.***  
Cynthia Chellappa

## MEET OUR TEAM LEADERS



	 <b>J. ANITA</b> Accountant
<b>WHAT FULFILLS ME</b> at work	<p>I'm in the accounting team. It's responsibilities are maintaining all financial related works. We will do the payments, maintain the accounts books, budgeting and checking all the income &amp; expenses, preparing and maintaining financial reports. I am having good team. They are very responsible and very supportive to complete the work. We enjoys working with the team and others.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES</b> ME @work	<p>I feel happy to work in this team. I have interest to learned and implement to done work. Having good experience. Completing all financial work and filing on time.</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE</b> EXPERIENCE	<p>In the covid 19 lockdown we can't go to office regularly but we have to complete according to due date. That time is challenging to complete the work.</p>
<b>MY GOAL</b> @coming year	<p>When our family members affected in covid. That time is hard to work in home to finish the work. That time I learn to work in available facility.</p>



	 <b>JOSHUA BILLY GRAHAM</b> Project Co-ordinator, Child and Community Development
<b>WHAT FULFILLS ME</b> @work	<p>The teammates in office are cooperative, understanding, accommodating and friendly. It feels like home to work with this wonderful team. The field team is vibrant to work with the rural kids. As they are from the community, they reach out to the children in a better way.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES</b> ME @work	<p>The smile in the face of poor fulfills me at work and keeps me going!</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE</b> EXPERIENCE	<p>The mindset of people is not easy to change. And it challenges me at work.</p>
<b>MY GOAL</b> @coming year	<p>The Covid-19 relief work was a remarkable experience in my life. During pandemic, it was new for all of us. When most of the people were at home to protect their life, we as Karunakarya stepped out to help the people in need by providing rice and dry rations. The experience was different and first time in life and was remarkable.</p>



	<b>S. KARUNYA BEULAH</b> School Headmistress
	<p>I work with a team of 8 teachers, who has been my pillar of support and encouragement in all our new venture. Though its challenging and new we help each other to learn and adapt to the required changes. They make it easy by being transparent and address their difficulties to ensure a better quality for students.</p>
<b>WHAT FULFILS ME @work</b>	<p>Seeing a child participate with eagerness and love.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES ME @work</b>	<p>Knowledge, being updated with the current scenario and to help everyone overcome their challenge.</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Understanding the teaching &amp; learning process, and taking the time to analyze and learn new strategies and methods to improvise.</p>
<b>MY GOAL @coming year</b>	<p>A standardized procedure for a whole academic year for ensuring quality.</p>

	<b>D. PAULIAH</b> Co-ordinator for Skill Training & Community Development
<b>WHAT FULFILS ME @work</b>	<p>In the Skill Training Centre I am technically without a team but I am also part of the Community team and I am very well supported by the entire Karunakarya Staff, the Community and their leaders and elders. They are all very helpful in reaching out to the teens and youth in their respective places, pass on the information and guide them at the first level. Sometimes volunteers or interns give their hands in the programs/ activities as they come to serve or learn through our organization.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES ME @work</b>	<p>I rejoice whenever we meet many teens, youth and community who are passionate for a positive change for themselves and their community. It motivates to put more effort to contribute something for their betterment.</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Witnessing the deviated teens, youth and community who ignore the positive change by being irresponsive Still, different novel approaches and strategies should be always thought and need to be implemented continuously.</p>
<b>MY GOAL @coming year</b>	<p>It is a new situation with new set of challenges and was able to learn many new things and approaches that weren't used before or used very less. Also, was able to support some people in need with the relief materials.</p>
	<p>I would like to focus on the Career preparation of the teens and youth as well build independency in their learning. Also, would like to continue the small group meetings that are focused on Leadership development and active engagement of teens and youth in their communities.</p>

	 <b>I.G. PRISCILLA SELVAKUMARI</b> School Correspondent
<b>WHAT FULFILS ME @work</b>	<p>It has been a great year working with my team at The Ark School. I have a dedicated, hardworking and willing staff in the team who understand the needs of our students and deliver accordingly.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES ME @work</b>	<p>It is the community that the organization is committed to care for that is fulfilling and to know I am being a part of it. Working in The Ark School has been the enriching experience raising my confidence while working with the less-advantaged community that Karunakarya is involved. It has added value to my long work experience. I am grateful to God for this continued call in my life to serve these people.</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>To make the parents understand deeper into the importance of their children's education and not take the organization's approach of responsibility towards them for granted.</p>
<b>MY GOAL @coming year</b>	<p>Although the year 2020 – 21 has been a harsh and uncertain year -in spite of it all - it is through the care for each other and setting our focus on the goal, we did not allow us to be alarmed or wavered.</p>

	 <b>SHALINI MERINE GEORGE</b> HR, Admin & Facility Coordinator
<b>WHAT FULFILS ME @work</b>	<p>I have a very enthusiastic and cooperative team which works everyday for the betterment of the organization.</p>
<b>WHAT CHALLENGES ME @work</b>	<p>Working with Karunakarya gives me a fulfilment that I am associated with a mission-based organization. The working experience here has provided me the opportunities to learn and share new skills. It has also given me the opportunity to work towards a goal which impacts the community.</p>
<b>A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>The Covid situation - Adapting to the new habits, new working patterns, etc was a little challenging.</p>
<b>MY GOAL @coming year</b>	<p>Getting involved in the Christmas outreach program. We were able to reach the unreached. It also gave me the real joy of Christmas.</p>
	<p>I will be looking for opportunities to expand my responsibilities within this role to work towards my goal. Focussing more on planning, implementing activities strategically.</p>

***“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...  
A time to rend, and a time to sew” The Byrds ‘Turn, Turn, Turn’***

It has been the season to refine our perspectives, focus on equipping ourselves to inspire and be a role model to the younger ones given in our hands to create a healthy environment for them to learn and develop holistically.

## **EDUCATION DURING PANDEMIC**

It was an unexpected change of events when the news of Corona Virus Disease (COVID 19) broke out and the total lockdown implemented by the Government from end of March 2020. Schools were asked to close abruptly not knowing the way forward for students but asked to promote every student to the next class without exams.

## **OUR SCHOOL AND PANDEMIC EFFECTS**

Our school is situated in a rural area with existing challenges like limited transportation, inadequate internet service, not many learned people, and least importance for education. It became more challenging for us to reach our students for learning and teaching purpose. Parents were constantly challenged by various crisis such as the following...

- Loss of job or businesses
- Lack of access to basic needs
- Financial situation
- Lack of learned people to help
- Interpretation of the task
- Avoided school in fear of paying fees

As the government faced the problem of continuing teaching their students due to lack of technology-based teaching, their strategy of providing basic needs of groceries and food, attracted other parents of private school students to them. We had encountered losing our students as well like any other private schools in the state. We had come to know about their joining in government schools when we noticed them being removed from our online government portal for students reduced drastically from 104 to 81.





2019 - 2020			2020 -2021
GRADUATED	LEFT	UNCONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
15	15	7	67

2020 - 2021			
CONFIRMED	NEW ADMISSION	STUDENTS	PARENTS
15	15	7	67

Students involvement before identifying their enrollment in government school			
ACTIVE	NOT ACTIVE	UNCERTAIN	TOTAL
56	19	7	78

### RBM 2020-2021

#### A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY

A start of a new academic year posed uncertain amidst the lockdown with every commodity shut down, yet we had to move on with strategical plan to organize school supplies and students' resources. We began our plan with RBM and Annual operations with the perspective of regular or virtual school.

Current Scenario	
COVID ADAPTATION	Understanding & implementing the procedures
	Maintaining Social Distance
	Safety, Health & Cleanliness Protocols
	Counseling students for possible Mental health issues
Area of Concern	
IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS	Listening to the Elders
	Understanding and processing work
	Completion and Submission
TAKING CARE OF THEIR BELONGING	Handling with care
	Utilizing it Properly
Academic Development	
READING AND WRITING	To read and write fluently
	To understand the context and comprehend the content
	Able to express their thoughts and ideas

## **COPING WITH THE CHALLENGE**

It was not easy to even think about managing students outside the boundaries of a school for a period unknown. Yet, we had to strategize the plan what, how, when, and where.

## **REACHING OUT TO OUR STUDENTS**

Our Teaching team worked on the learning materials to be sent to our students' houses as the schools were shut. However, we were skeptical about how much support the student will receive from their parents. We were not in a position to ask parents to purchase mobile phones for their children since almost 30 of them lost their jobs, 10 lost their small business and face other challenges of not receiving wages.

Even if they had mobile phones, we faced challenges as follows:

- Minimal response from parents' side when activities were sent through mobile phone
- Students did not complete one kit within a week. Many students were taking more than two weeks to complete.
- We could not be there to help those students who were struggling to understand the concept. Specifically, younger students could not understand even when we explained clearly through calls.
- At times, it was difficult to evaluate the completed works of students as we were not sure if the work was done by the student or someone else.

## **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR - Academic**

### **Do It & Post It (DIPI) – Academic Activity**

As the heading goes, learning activity kits were prepared for the benefit of the students during COVID pandemic situation to 'do it' and 'post it'. It was a mode of educating students beyond the digital platform accommodating everyone without socio-economic barriers and to utilize the time equipping our staff for conceptual teaching strategy.

#### **• Purpose towards students:**

- Teaching students to be productive
- Bridging the gaps in learning, during pandemic
- Providing opportunity to learn during pandemic in a fair way

#### **• Purpose towards staff and Parents:**

- Training our staff on adapting the concept-based learning into our curriculum
- Changing the perspective of staff, parents to understand the need of the students to learn from their home
- Hands on training for staff to prepare and present a concept as well as the age-appropriate content

#### **• Concept:**

- Activity kits for the students were prepared and packed
- The kits were then taken to the villages by our representative
- Every student received the activity kit from the representative who distributed
- Finally, the completed activities kits will be collected by our representative and brought to our teachers

### • Student Activity Kits

We had distributed one Activity Kit per week.

The activity kit contained the following:-

<p>A simple instruction sheet for the parents to check student's involvement.</p> <p>A letter from teacher to the student and space for them to reply.</p>	<p>Vocabulary Practice + Writing practice</p>	<p>Activities for students will be based on the lesson content.</p> <p>To help them understand the concepts and help them participate in different learning activities.</p>
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Student Activity Kits were made with a lot of careful planning and preparation.

Activity Action Plan included a careful assessment of the responsibilities of all involved.

**Staff Responsibility**

**Parents' Responsibility**

**Students' Responsibility**

**Evaluation of the Activity**

We had reviewed the **Do It & Post It** activity after completing two kits as we had a plan to maintain the consistency of our activities, presentation, evaluation and concentrate on the quality of the content than the quantity covered. Hence, a detailed plan and structure was created to ensure the quality and to make it easy for the staff to implement it without any stress.

### • Feedback on Activity Kits.

<p><b>Jessy: Class II</b></p> <p>In the earlier DIPI kit, she was not able to express her thoughts and never ask doubts in subjects. But later, she came forward to express her thoughts, doubts. Often, she herself called and clarified her doubts through mobile phone. Also, she showed improvement in coloring Kit 1 and 2 which she struggled to complete and got help from her mother. Now, gradually she puts her effort on the activities kit on her own.</p>	<p><b>Joel Prasanna: Class V</b></p> <p>Earlier he used to write in cursive, but it was so shabby and not legible. In the DIPI kit, he did not use cursive, but it was readable and legible as well.</p> <p>He understood the concept very well in most of the activities as he himself tried his own sentences according to his understanding. He and his mother both are very responsible in getting and submitting the activity kit</p>	<p><b>Adline: LKG</b></p> <p>She does not hold the pencil properly but in DIPI her grip of holding the pencil has improved and her coloring activity improved as well.</p> <p><b>Jayachandran: Class IV</b></p> <p>He never submits the H.W given in the class properly on time and was so lethargic in writing and completing, but in DIPI kits he completed the activity on time and submitted properly.</p>
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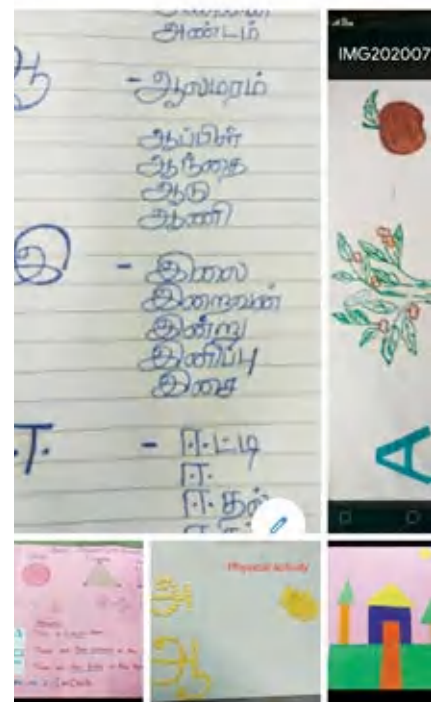
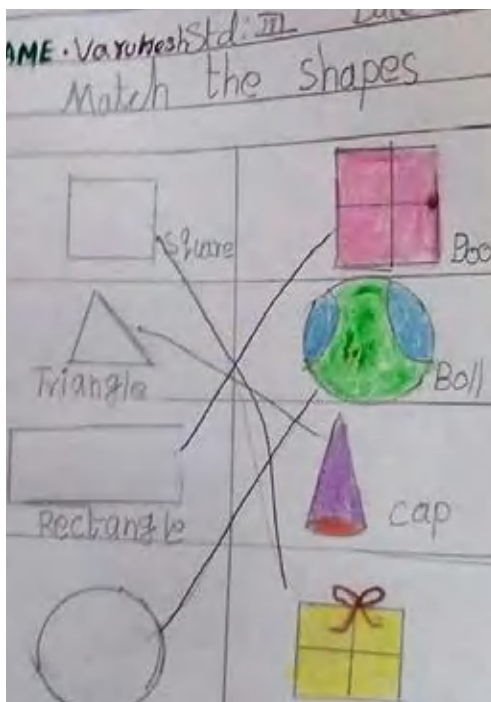
## DO IT AND POST IT ACTIVITY PROCESS



• Teachers Researching, planning and preparing for the kit



• Teachers making the kit content and putting it together in a bag



• Activities completed by the children who received the kits

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR - Non Academic

### Little Farmer and Recycled Products

These activities were environmental based to create an interest to ponder 'even I can grow plants' and 'I can reuse the waste'. Students were given an activity to grow micro-greens using seeds available in their houses and learned how to maintain the plants. Many students actively participated in the activity. As part of the environmental activity our students recycled materials for creating various products.



### Superhero Activity

Students were given another activity 'Superhero' to learn and teach their neighbors, friends and family about how to keep themselves safe from the corona virus. They learned the importance of using the mask to protect from the virus and refrain from spreading to others. They dressed like their choice of superhero and clicked pictures. It was an effective activity that students participated with much enthusiasm. This activity was initiated, prepared by Mr. Jonah Chellappa. He had prepared a Superhero Activity Guide with practical Do It Yourself activities to stimulate the interest in young students to swiftly act in protecting themselves and others.



### Know Your Students (KYS)

There had been a few students who could not participate in the activities. Hence, we decided to conduct a door-to-door survey to study the conditions of our parents and the challenges they had in involving their children in learning. The survey questions included the financial situation,



job condition, etc. We had a good response post survey, and a few parents supported their children in participating in the activity. We were able to understand the following conditions that the parents went through during the pandemic and many more.



- The type of mobile phone available with them to send appropriate data
- The impact of the pandemic in their day today life
- Any medical complication occurred in the recent past
- Level of participation and involvement of the parent to support the child with learning
- Consent of parents to meet the children in their own village
- Feedback and suggestion from parents regarding the learning activity

### STAFF SPEAK

*It gives me satisfaction to be able to teach children many strategies to continue learning in a way that does not affect their learning during this time of disaster. I want to do even better in this work that God has given me. Teaching methods are new, and it is possible to know whether or not students have been misunderstanding. Evaluation is some difficult. Providing learning in a new way of teaching is a new experience. Classes have never happened like this. I need to develop my skills. Along with that the skill of the students should be developed. - V. G. Nancy*

*I am so grateful and happy to work in this prestigious institution. We achieve our goal by working together as a team, supporting each other, without any hesitation. During this pandemic, the school management and we, the teachers made effort to reach the students, to help them with their learning process. The only challenge I felt was working from home, even then I learnt how one can reach the students, using various technologies. The present pattern of working motivated me to upgrade my skills in using these technical devices, through which I am able to help students benefit and continue their learning through the coming years. I am thankful to God and the Trust for choosing me. - Helena Ruth*

*Our team strength is each member being able to contribute ideas, suggestions, effort and work together for a successful achievement. At work, I receive great fulfillment. Teaching the children without face-to-face interaction is the biggest challenge for me. Women's day programme was the most memorable experience for me in 2021. I had the chance to speak on the theme "Choose to challenge". For the academic year, 2021-2022, I would like to equip myself well, to share my knowledge with our young buds, who are my responsibility. -Jancy Jasmine*



## STUDENTS ACTIVITES FOR 2020 - 2021

TOPIC	ACTIVITY	OUTCOME	OBJECTIVE
<b>Remedial Group</b> Teachers were instructed to design the learning content according to the group and help the students to learn	Teachers picked a theme and framed the content according to their subjects, students' pace of learning and facilitate the learning from the students' environment.	Taking advantage of the technology, we could utilize it to a level according to parent's exposure level	<b>To select a tool for teaching which can reach all the students without creating any economic barriers</b>
	Students should be able to connect to the topic and understand content	Students were able to participate but had challenges with phone and resources.	
<b>Little Farmer Eco-friendly Activity</b> In collaboration with Mr.Hafiz Khan, an environmentalist, we have sent farming activities to students	Encouraging students to get interested in gardening activities and reuse materials from their house	Students were excited to create their own garden.They came out with many creative ideas for planting	<b>To train them with gardening activities – hands in the soil and see them sprout</b>
<b>Superhero Activity</b> Karunakarya prepared an activity book for students, to do and learn about the virus, measures to take and how to be safe	Students to learn, understand and help the elders to know about the pandemic and to follow the SOPs without any excuses	Students were able to understand as they had few handwash and hygiene campaign conducted through life skills and by the interns of Karunakarya	<b>To maintain the SOP's constantly as our hygienic procedures and be aware of taking precautions against COVID</b>
<b>Activity Kit</b> Few books from our stock were issued to the students to let learning continue during the lockdown	To occupy and encourage them to participate in school activities Breaking the barriers and making it fair to all the students. Training staff with content preparation and presentation	Students were incredibly happy and involved in the book activities than the online activities	<b>To make a tangible plan to teach them will be more productive</b>

## RENEWED PERSPECTIVE

One of the challenges that organizations come across is that staff settle with conventional working style and become complacent. The pandemic situation enabled us to focus on making the 'gear shift' approach in using various strategies to embark in making learning effective and interesting for students. Staff were motivated to self-learn, research information, concept building for their lesson topics, etc. Further, staff were put through several training to enhance their skills in teaching and developing their skills in English language, communication, using technology, presentations.

## SKILL ENHANCEMENT TRAINING FOR OUR TEACHERS

TOPIC	TRAINING STRATEGY	OBJECTIVE
<b>Language Learners Group</b>	A bi-weekly online training organized for Teachers through assignments on comprehension, reading, grammar etc.	<b>To enhance the communication skill in English as it is the medium of instruction at school</b>
<b>Understanding CCE and objective</b>	Reference documents on the National standard and international concept of assessment were provided.	<b>Encourage research-based teaching, gathering information and knowing the importance of assessment in order to cover all aspects of growth and development of students.</b>
<b>School Readiness</b>	Staff made presentations based on the topics pertaining to school readiness.	<b>To increase their confidence, to make them take ownership and incorporate it in their everyday activities in school</b>
<b>SLD – Specific Learning Difficulty</b>	How to research a topic specific to students with difficulty in understanding vocabulary, concept and collecting the related content	<b>To recognize characteristics of students with learning difficulty</b>
<b>Case study</b>	Video of Mansi, aged 15 who initiated evening learning for school dropouts	<b>To understand their interpretation and expressing skills</b>
<b>Multiple Intelligence</b>	Seminar and a questionnaire were provided to find out the understanding of staff on the topic	<b>To understand the importance of extra and co-curricular activities for the students and its role in the student development</b>
<b>Conceptual learning</b>	Group discussion on topics and its related sub-topics	<b>To stimulate the interest of staff to gain knowledge on the topic</b>
<b>Concept Classification</b>	To create the list of concepts from their lessons	<b>To enhance the confidence in staff in classifying and usage of the concepts</b>
<b>Revised Bloom's Taxonomy</b>	Introduction of Inductive method and to study the methodology and share the understanding to other staff teachers through a presentation	<b>To practice various methods of teaching using their creativity</b>
<b>Knowledge dimension &amp; cognitive domain</b>	Staff to present a topic and plan the lesson content the following week	<b>To understand the purpose and learn to write objectives</b>
<b>Teaching, Learning and Evaluating</b>	Activity to brainstorm on question formation	<b>How we can incorporate all three in various activities with the children</b>
<b>Unit planning</b>	Seminar/assignment on segregating lesson plan	<b>To plan and implement the lessons effectively</b>
<b>Reading Enhancement Sessions</b>	A weekly reading session was organized to practice passages for fluency development	<b>To develop confidence in reading and linguistic skills</b>
<b>Developing regular grammar usage</b>	A weekly assignment on grammar usage	<b>To develop the language skills and utilize in classroom teaching</b>
<b>Learn to use technology</b>	Staff were given the responsibility of creating the soft copy of the kits for printing	<b>To learn to use technology for the activities of students</b>



### STAFF SPEAK

*I am grateful that I have an amazing team in this excellent school. We have mutual understanding among ourselves. A remarkable experience in 2021, I would say is Student's House visit, which has been my first experience in my teaching profession. What I would like to achieve in 2021 - 22 is to speak English fluently and to also get full involvement of students and parents.* **Kavitha. N**

*I consider my role as a teacher, in this esteemed institution, as something noble and a calling from God. The team spirit of my colleagues, who work with dedication is extraordinary. The way they support each other with true spirit is excellent. Among the many values rendered by the Trust, I am glad I imbibed humility and selfless attitude. Fulfilling the vision of the Trust, which is soul inspiring, is what would be my achievement for the year 2022. -* **Devotta Mary**

### LOOKING BACK...



It was an experience of a roller coaster through the past academic year that had sudden lockdown, a long wait for an announcement to open schools, expectations on proper implementations of plans, anxieties over necessary commodities being shut down, and many other uncertainties and fear of pandemic spread. In all of these circumstances, past year has given a memorable and meaningful experiences to understand the importance of seeing another new day, making priorities, having the urge to make use of the time we had to keep our students on track.





### WHAT WE HAD SEEN...

- We scaled the limitation of students not having an appropriate learning device when most of the private schools were conducting online classes for their students
- Students and parents were able to understand how to utilize limited time and resources
- Staff learned the importance of self and professional development to have exemplary competences
- Staff were able to plan lessons and activities through research and development using technology
- Staff understood that concept-based learning is the best source to develop students effectively and increase their scope of understanding
- Staff learned that appropriate usage of language of instruction will enhance their teaching skills and vice versa
- As an organization, we had an opportunity to reach out to people in need during pandemic

### WHAT WE LEARNED...

- An important lesson we learned in the past year was to not take things for granted such as time, resources, days, students etc.
- There is no limitation to create an atmosphere of learning to our students
- Learning can happen beyond the boundaries of the school, and it is how we provide opportunities and not limit ourselves
- Inclusive education is an important aspect to accommodate children with difficulties and constraints

### MOVING FORWARD...

- Raising the standard of our school by raising the standard of our teachers
- Our school identity to be unique
- Structuring our activities and school functioning in a more diligent way
- Framing our curriculum into conceptual learning method to ensure effective learning.
- More precise and structured evaluation for the students to benefit of their development
- Ensuring and tracking student's holistic development
- Using more relevant resources and technology in teaching
- Developing teachers into professionals who will think out of the box more creatively
- Designing various aspects of functions of our school to ensure holistic development of each student
- Be prepared to work online and offline as it may deem fit



# CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

## INTRODUCTION

One of the main focuses of Karunakarya is to develop the children in our communities as they are the future of our communities and our nation in larger context. And if the children in the communities change positively, then the entire community changes in the future. We run **Evening Learning Centres** in the communities we work where we do academic activities, special events and also Child Parliament. We have expanded to two more places this year.

### EVENING LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

is a hub for developmental activities and exposures, where the children from various under privileged communities come together to learn and develop their skills. At present we have seven Evening Learning Centres with twelve facilitators.

## FOCUS OF THE YEAR

This year was unpredictable for everyone, as most of us faced pandemic for the first time in life. With majority of the beneficiaries lost their job or given unpaid leave, the lockdown was a severe hit to the livelihood of the beneficiaries. Children were frustrated by being at home all the time and could not meet their friends. Many beneficiaries' children did not have access to smart phone for online classes.

We decided to contact children through their parents mobile and give activities during the rigorous lockdown. And after few restrictions were withdrawn the facilitators started visiting the children at their respective home and met them outside and taught them from modules and also other activities to increase their literacy level.

Children and parents started requesting our facilitators during the house visits to reopen ELC and they are eager to come back and learn. When restrictions were withdrawn in few places children were allowed to come to the ELC (Lockdown Activity Centre) on rotational basis with the consent of the parents and in some places they were made as small groups in the neighbourhood and taught. Also Child Parliament was initiated again in the end of the year. ELC was started at Nattarasampet and Kulangalacherry in the end of the year.

## CHALLENGES:

**Access to children during lockdown :** During the pandemic situation giving activities and meeting the children were really challenging. As we had to shut down the ELC building and changed the way of approach. Initially during the full lockdown when we taught the children through the parent's mobile phones, we could not reach to the students who did not have mobile phones at their home.

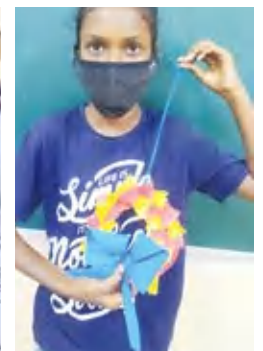
**Time Consuming Home Visits:** It was time consuming for facilitators to visit all the children at their home individually and teach assessment or give activities. In some village the distance between the houses of the students are more. Hence the frequency of their visit was less and the children missed them and also missed coming to ELC. Due to the long gap children were also finding it difficult to read and write.

**Remote & Unsafe Locations:** For instance in Arambakkam the facilitator faced challenges of snakes and dogs while visiting the children in their houses. Also there is no street light or proper road in the village. There is a wine shop near the village and people are drinking in the daylight in public places too. Hence it was not very safe for the facilitator.

**Long Time Lapse between visits:** Our Eraiyur center re-opened on 6th October 2020, only minimum students came with the consent of their parents and we faced challenges in meeting the remaining students on Saturdays, who were not permitted and regular because of Covid-19. If the facilitator visits one batch of students on Saturday, it takes long gap to meet them again, so the students faced difficulties to recollect the things which were taught by the facilitator last time. So the progress of learning from modules was very slow.

**Masking and Social Distancing:** Children found it very difficult to maintain proper social distancing and to wear face mask regularly. To ensure maintaining social distancing we segregated children into batches to come to the center once a week. Each batch is allotted a specific day but sometimes the students get confused arriving on the wrong day making it difficult to manage. Child Parliament stopped because of the pandemic, but kick started again in the end of the year. Due to the long gap, children needed to be trained from the beginning.

### CHILDREN ENGAGING IN ELC WORK DURING THE YEAR



### ELC ACTIVITIES : SOME HIGHLIGHTS

This year we started ELC (Lockdown Activity Centre) in Nattarasanpet and Kulangalacherry. Altogether we are having seven ELCs at Eraiyur, Gunduperumbedu, Navalur 1, Navalur 2, Arambakkam, Nattarasanpet and Kulangalacherry with total of 278 children of which 131 are boys and 147 are girls. This year four facilitators Kiruthika, Jayamalini, Praisi and Maithili joined newly and two facilitators Swetha and Divya left the job due to personal reasons.

One of the key objectives of the ELC is to improve the literacy and numerical skills up to their expected level according to their age. Modules were implemented to the children throughout the year. During the lockdown children were taught from Modules at home itself and after the restrictions were relaxed they were taught from Modules at the ELC (Lockdown activity centre). This schedule allowed facilitators to meet the children only once in a week or once in two weeks. Still, many students were doing their activity sincerely and even few parents actively participated along with their children.



### World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

World Day against trafficking in Persons was also observed on July. On that day the staff showed some meaningful picture about trafficking and the staff made the children to answer some of the questions related to that. It was heartening to hear from children that they will be brave enough to call the police or some will get help from the elders around them if the situation happens to them. We are happy that one of our 2nd std student was able to recollect the story of past year related to this trafficking which we shared.

### Observation of Week of Love:



Week of love was observed to develop the character of Loving the parents, friends, siblings, teachers, strangers and poor among children. It was observed during the Valentine's Day week to make the children understand true love and have a positive view on the day. The children made cards with loving quotes and gave it to their parents and siblings who were happy and overwhelmed. This improved emotional bonding between them. We created awareness on the theme, "love others as you love yourself". Children also showed their love towards nature by planting small saplings and watering them daily around their home.



### Awareness regarding Bonded Labour System

Bonded labour system still exists in some northern districts of Tamil Nadu. It is one of the worst practices through which vulnerable people are oppressed and exploited for decades. On the Day Against Bonded Labour System, the children were given awareness on this social evil. We also spoke about how to respond when we find anyone being a bonded labourer.



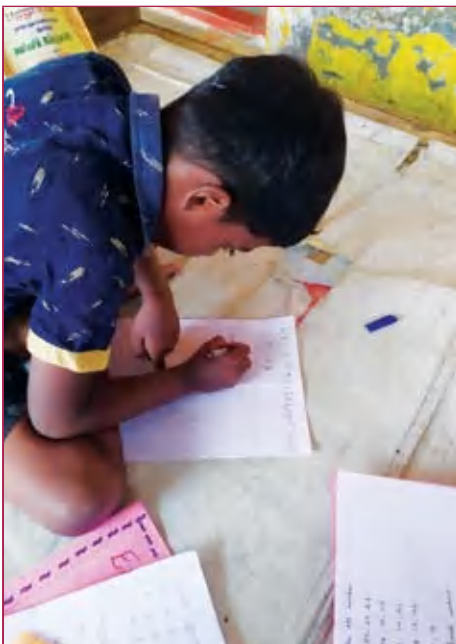
### Independence Day Contest

The home based Independence Day Contest was organised between 17.08.2020 - 19.08.2020 on the theme "Covid-19 vs India". 47 teens and 35 children between 6 years – 21 years from Eraiyur, Navalur, Arambakkam and Gunduperumbedu participated. Four

competitions conducted namely elocution, poetry, essay writing and drawing were conducted. The participants could participate in any three. Children did their work and submitted to the facilitators during house visits, elocution were video recorded and then evaluated. The competition was tough and the children expressed their view of India's response to Covid-19 well. Gifts were distributed to the winners and certificates were given to all the participants.

### Online group sessions by Social Work Trainees

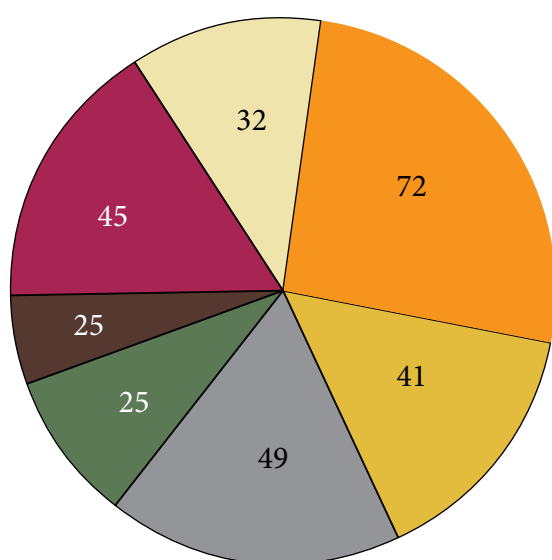
The Social Work trainees from Madras Christian College organised online sessions for the children on Effective use of time and another session on Social Media and how to use their mobile phones properly. The sessions had games and interactive activities to ensure the children are kept attentive. It was a new experience for our students and they wanted more sessions.



One of our student Natheen who was very low in his studies so his mother made him to join in our ELC at first we started teaching him we came to know that he was even struggling in basic letters also. So day by day we took special care on him and finally now he is well improved he can write basic letters on his own and his mother gave good feedback that he was better than before and also he was disobeying his mother and he used to use vulgar words to everyone, so his mom worried a lot and conveyed to our facilitator. The facilitator started taking steps to change him and gave counseling to him. Few days later when the facilitator visited his mother and asked about his behaviour his mother told that he changed and good now.

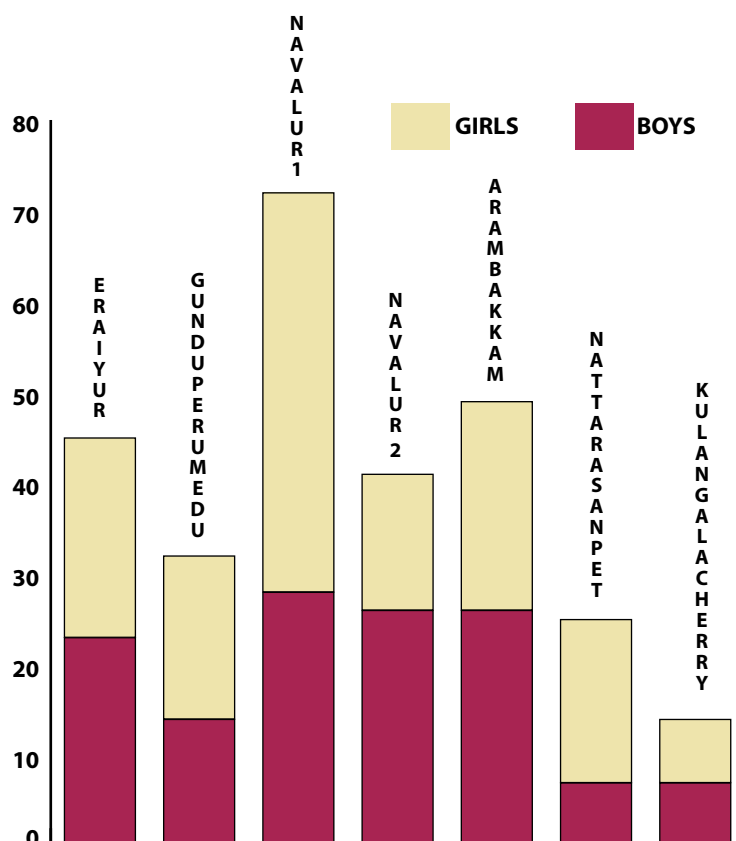
## EVENING LEARNING CENTRE STATISTICS

NAME OF ELC	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	FACILITATORS
ERAIYUR	23	22	45	JAYARANI, NANCY, SWETHA
GUNDUPERUMEDU	14	18	32	ESEKIEL, ARTHI
NAVALUR 1	28	44	72	REKHA, DIVYA
NAVALUR 2	26	15	41	SATHYA, RANI
ARAMBAKKAM	26	23	49	RAJALAKSHMI, KIRUTHIKA
NATTARASANPET	7	18	25	PRAISI, JEYAMALINI
KULANGALACHERRY	7	7	14	MAITHILINI
TOTAL	131	147	278	



**A PIE CHART SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN IN THE VARIOUS ELC CENTRES AS SEEN IN THE TABLE ABOVE**

**COMPARISON OF THE GIRLS AND BOYS MEMBERSHIPS IN THE EVENING LEARNING CENTRES**



## FULL PROGRAM LIST (CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES) WITH OBJECTIVES

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
April 2020	Craft activities (Home based)	To improve the creative art skills in the children
21.05.2020 to 01.06.2020	Summer Camp (Home based) at Eraiyur, Navalur, Gunduperumbedu, Arambakkam	To encourage children and make them happy during lockdown with home based fun activities.
9th June 2020 to 20th June 2020	Superhero activities (Home based)	To bring awareness to the children about Covid-19
June 2020	Implementation of Modules	To improve the literacy and numerical skills in children
June 2020 to March 2021	Observation of World Environment Day at Navalur	To bring awareness among children about
5th June 2020	Observation of World Day against Child Labour at Arambakkam	To bring awareness among children about child labour
12th June 2020	Observation of World Day to combat desertification and drought at Arambakkam	To bring awareness among children about saving water and growing trees
17th June 2020	Observed world doctors' day at Eraiyur	To make children to understand the sacrifices of doctor during pandemic and their importance in their society.
July 2020	Observation of world day against trafficking in persons at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among children about trafficking in persons
July 2020	Observation of World population day at Navalur 1, Navalur 2 and Arambakkam.	To bring awareness among the children about various population issues in our society.
11th July 2020	Observation of International Day of Justice at Arambakkam	To encourage children to raise voice against social injustice and to remove barriers regarding religious discrimination, gender equality.
17 July 2020	Observation of International Day of Justice at Arambakkam	To encourage children to raise voice against social injustice and to remove barriers regarding religious discrimination, gender equality.
15th August 2020	Independence Day Contest at all centers on the theme "Covid-19 vs India"	To create an opportunity for the children to improve and exhibit their talents. And to encourage the children to value the sacrifice of front-line warriors during the pandemic.
August 2020	Observation of World mosquito day at Arambakkam.	To raise awareness of the importance of mosquito control to avoid dengue, malaria, etc..
5th September 2020	Observation of Teacher's Day at Eraiyur, Gunduperumbedu	To celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Radhakrishnan and to know the important role played by the teachers in the life of students.

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
2nd October 2020	Observation of Gandhi Jayanti day at Eraiyur	To teach the children about the power of non-violence and tolerance.
7th November 2020	Awareness on careful handling of fireworks on occasion of Diwali at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among the children about safety
November 2020	Observation of National Cancer Day at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among the children about different types of cancer
14th November 2020	Observation of Children's Day at Eraiyur and Gunduperumedu	To celebrate the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru
November 2020	Greeting card contest at Eraiyur, Navalur 1 and Navalur 2	To improve the painting skill among the children
1.10.2020	Online group session on Managing Time Effectively	To make children understand the importance of effective usage of time
28.10.2020	Online group session on Media	To give awareness to the children on the effectiveness of Media and to understand its advantages and disadvantages.
November 2020	Observation of World television day at Gunduperumedu	To make the children to know the advantage and disadvantage of televisions
November 2020	Special activity regarding Energy consuming day at Navalur 1	To bring awareness among the children about the importance of saving and consuming energy.
10th December 2020	Observation of Human Rights Day at Navalur 2	To make awareness among the children about human rights
December 2020	Observation of National pollution control day at Eraiyur	To know about various kinds of pollution and its impact on air, water and soil in day-to-day lifestyles
13th January 2021	Pongal Celebration at Eraiyur ELC	To create awareness among children to value the effort of farmers and not to waste food.
05.02.2021, 11.02.2021, 23.03.2021	Children Parliament at Gunduperumedu and Navalur and Eraiyur	To find of the various problems in our society
2nd week of February 2021	Observation of Week of love at Gunduperumedu, Eraiyur, Navalur 1 and Navalur 2	To make the children to understand about the true love of family, teachers' friends and community
11th February 2021	Observation of World cancer day at Navalur 2	To create awareness among the children about cancer and people should act against the disease
19th February 2021	Awareness regarding bonded labors at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among the children about bonded laborer's
20th February 2021	Observation of International day of Social Justice at Arambakkam and Eraiyur	To raise awareness among the children about equality, justice and right for children and young people
March 2021	Observation of World Water Day at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among the children about importance of water



DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
25th March 2021	Project work at Arambakkam and project work on bird's feeders at Eraiyur	To bring awareness among the children about taking care of the other creatures in nature and to encourage children on creative skills.
26.10.2020	Facilitators training on Basic Counseling skills and Communication	To teach the facilitators about basics in counseling and communication skill
23.01.2021	Training on Child Parliament for Facilitators	To make the facilitators understand about Child Parliament and how to implement to the children



### TESTIMONIES AND EXPERIENCE SHARING...

One of our 7th std Kavitha who is studying in our ELC in Navalur was not able to identify the even a basic things at first. But after training she can able to read the book on her own and improved her knowledge too. In pandemic days we visited our student's home and gave many activities to everyone that time one of our students (Shimon) grandmother felt happy that we are coming and teaching them in pandemic days also, she encourages us to come and meet them regularly and conduct more activities for them.

Another of our 8th std students Epshibha told that by coming to ELC that she can able to learn many new things like observing important days on every month and many new craft activities and in lockdown days she forgot many things As we went and started to implement modules for them that time it is very easy for her to recollect everything that she had studied before .as a whole she feel it's a good place for her to grow in a good manner.

Eraiyur

Leema Rose, mother of Vaishnavi said that when she taught her child she didn't understand, but when the facilitator taught it, she understood it as we teach it through some activities.

Arambakkam

Thenmozhi, mother of Sugumar was concerned as her son was not even knew how to study, but now after teaching him modules, he is able to study to some extent by adding the words.

Arambakkam

Jeni 9th standard from Eraiyur was very much interested in grammer and requested the facilitator to take some more sessions, which the facilitator took. One day she came and told that in her class when his teacher was taking grammar class, no one knew the answer except her, so she got appreciation from the respective staff in the whole class. And also, she spoke about a topic in teens club, that time her speech was well and good. By seeing her others who were watching got motivated and they also gave speech on their own later.

Eraiyur

### **FACILITATOR'S TRAINING AND STAFF MEETINGS:**

Facilitators met together once in a month at Eraiyur campus to review the current month and plan for the upcoming month. This year was an unusual year due to pandemic, so we couldn't meet every month. But the facilitator attended webinars during the lockdown days and also had two trainings in campus.

#### **A training on basic counseling skills and communication:**

This training was organized for the facilitators on 26.10.2020. The first session was on basic counseling skills which was taken by Billy Coordinator. The definition, basics in counseling, who need counseling, qualities of a counselor, principles of counseling, stages of counseling with live examples were covered during the session. The next session on Communication which was earlier conducted before lockdown and the second session was taken now, by Paul, Coordinator. In the session the facilitators were motivated that they can improve their communication skills if they work on some basic things. Writing skills in a language, reading skills in a language, pronunciation were covered during the session. How to develop the ability to read and write in English was also taught.



*I learned about basics of counseling, aim of counseling and also communication how to communicate with others easily, I can apply in my work place – Rekha*

*We realised we could have spoken to the girls little better, but now we realised we will reach out to them, those who are in need better. Through communication session I got confident that even we can write. - Nancy*

#### **Training on Child Parliament and Youth club:**

The training on Child Parliament and youth club was facilitated by the Coordinators as two sessions on 23.01.2021 and 27.02.2021. The session started with a small documentary on a successful Child Parliament in a small village near Tiruvallur. Then the facilitators were asked to share their experiences from the child clubs which they were handling at their respective ELCs. Then the basic structure of Child Parliament and its functions, Child rights were explained. After

that the facilitators were explained on the district level governance's organizational structure from District Collector to VAO and Panchayat Ward member. They were also explained on the responsibilities of each officers and how the children parliament can approach these officers at different level according to their need. The facilitators shared that the day was useful that they could reflect on their activities so far and could able to identify the current issues in their community and also got an idea to plan for this year. They also share that the session on Child Parliament was informative and they learnt about hierarchy of government under district level and how they can involve child parliament to access the children's welfare from government and ensure child rights in their community.

### Our Facilitator Team



*In pandemic days I heard that some of our village members had Corona. It was scary on hearing the news. From that time we had a little fear because we were visiting each and every students house each and every day. Our main concern was that our students should not get affected because of us. So from that day we took special care and handled the students carefully. Soon our village members got cured and they returned home safely. It was difficult and hard to give activities alone, but it developed my self confidence and I was able to overcome my fears. So I feel personally it's a great success for me.*

**- Jeyarani, Facilitator, Eraiyur**



**Essekiel**

People here at Karunakarya are a comfort. I take complete pleasure in being together with all the students.



**Girija**

Working with this team is a privilege and I will give my knowledge to the disadvantage children.



**Nancy**

Working with Karunakarya satisfies me and people here are friendly. Providing learning in a new way of teaching it's new experience.



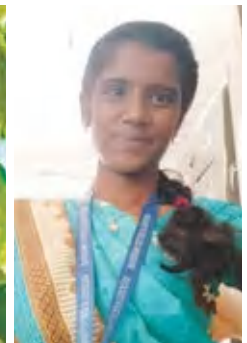
**Rajalakshmi**

My ELC teammates are very dedicated for students' life improvement in every way. They inspire me by always thinking about the next steps to improve them



**Rani**

I want to be a motivator for my ELC students. Everyday I am trying to do my level best. Our team shares knowledge & ideas. Am very proud to work in my team.



**Sathya**

During the lockdown Karunakarya was helpful to the people who were struggling for food. When I think that I was a part in this, I take it as a fulfilling job for me.

## STAFF TRAININGS AND STAFF MEETINGS 2020 – 2021

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE	PARTICIPANTS
12.05.2020	Webinar on Understanding Child Rights and Ensuring Child Rights during Pandemic	To understand Child Rights and Ensure Child Rights during Pandemic	Facilitators and Coordinator
13.05.2020	Webinar on Protecting Children from Online Vulnerabilities by Tamil Nadu Child Rights Watch	To know how to protect Children from Online Vulnerabilities	Facilitators and Coordinator
14.05.2020	Webinar on Role of Teachers and Parents in engaging children during Covid-19 Pandemic	To understand the role of Teachers and Parents in engaging children during Pandemic	Coordinator
22.05.2020	Webinar on Extending Psycho Social Support to children during Pandemic and Lock down	To know how to extend Psycho Social Support to children during Pandemic and Lock down	Coordinator
26.05.2020	Staff meeting	To train staff on the protocols to be followed during the pandemic, to plan for working in new normal	Facilitators and Coordinators
15.08.2020	Staff review meeting	To observe Independence day and review previous month's work and plan for the next month	Facilitators and Coordinators
14.09.2020	Staff review meeting	To review previous month's work and plan for the next month	Facilitators and Coordinators
02.10.2020	Webinar on India's State Freedom of Expression	To understand the current state of India's State Freedom of Expression	Coordinator
26.10.2020	Facilitators training on Basic Counseling skills and Communication	To teach the facilitators about basics in counseling and communication skill	Facilitators and Coordinator
30.11.2020	Staff review meeting	To review previous month's work and plan for the next month	Facilitators and Coordinators
05.& 08.12.2021	Education for Life sessions	To learn effective way of teaching, holistic development, how to teach simply to the students. Session felicitated by TAPS Correspondent Pricilla	ELC Facilitators Rani, Sathya, Jeba, Ezekiel, Arthi.
12.12.2020	Staff review meeting	To review previous month's work and plan for the next month	Facilitators and Coordinators
05.01.2021	Staff meeting	To start the new year freshly	Facilitators and Coordinator
19. – 22.01.2021	Education for Life Seminar	To learn effective ways of teaching & practical skills, building a healthy classroom community	Coordinator
23.01.2021	Training on Child Parliament for Facilitators	To make the facilitators understand about Child Parliament and how to implement it to the children	Facilitators and Coordinators
27.02.2021	Training on Child Parliament and youth club	To make the facilitators understand about Child Parliament and youth club	Facilitators and Coordinators





### ACHIEVEMENTS...

*The seasonal festival was observed in the theme “Helping others”. For that in Eraiyur ELC other than making greeting card, the children saved some money every day and from that they bought a bed sheet and they handed over it to one homeless man. This incident made the children so happy and this was a new experience for them. The student showed their love and care by stretching out their hand and helped the needy.*

*Kavitha a 7th std student who is studying in our ELC was was not able to even identify basic things at first. But after training she can read a book on her own. Her knowledge level has improved as well. - Navalur*

*Students are eager to study and draw now. Students who regularly studying are now improving in their reading. The parents contact the facilitators sometimes for even guiding their children on behavioural and attitude issues - Arambakkam*

### WHAT WE LEARNED...

- Concentrating on every student individually helps them learn better.
- Teaching with activities sets that topic in students mind quickly.
- Involving parents in their children studies encourages children to study good.
- Trust from parents is very valuable
- Small encouragements and gifts motivate children very much.
- Most of our students were still in stage 1 category in modules. More effort in this stage with interactive lessons help them to easily step on to level 2 category.
- Early intervention with counseling helps the children who have behavioural problems.

### MOVING FORWARD...

- Giving children as much time as possible due to the pandemic situation.
- Gathering them in small groups as learning with other children encourages them and inspires them.
- Giving more educational and behavioral activities.
- Learning new ways to teach children with some fun.
- Plan to teach them by showing videos (smart class, Eraiyur).
- Organize children Parliament in all the places.
- To empower our students with holistic education.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

## INTRODUCTION

Our vision is to develop a confident and responsible community with positive world view. For this, it is important to work with the men and women in the community other than the children and youth. We work by organizing activities to create awareness in the community and also to bring an involvement in the development of the community.

This year brought lot of challenges with many restrictions to gather people. Hence we could organize only few Community Engagement Activities this year once the restrictions were relaxed

## Pongal Celebrations with Covid-19 awareness:



Pongal is much loved festival and it was celebrated in the community at Navalur and Gunduperumbedu in which 80 people and 120 children participated.

At Gunduperumbedu it was organized on 14th January 2021 at 11 am. Pongal community celebrations included games and a kolam contest for parents and children. The Director addressed the people and also insisted about the importance of taking proper precaution for Covid-19. Outdoor sports were organized for the children categorized based on their age. Covid-19 awareness were given during the program, by distributing awareness pamphlets and explaining about wearing masks. Prizes were given to the winners and Sweet Pongal was distributed to the participants at the end.



At Navalur Pongal Celebrations were organized on 18th January 2021 at 3 pm. Children and staff from other tuition centres run by National Domestic Workers Welfare Trust also participated. Activities were the same as conducted in Navalur. The Director visited the contest and encouraged the participants and also interacted with the people. At the end Sweet Pongal and soap were distributed to the participants.





### Women's Day Celebrations:

International Women's Day was observed on 8th March at Eraiyur and 13th March at Gunduperumbedu and Navalur for the women to create an opportunity for the women to cherish the day and feel happy for being woman. The theme for this year's Women's Day Celebration is "Choose to Challenge". Altogether 156 women and 19 children, 3 men from Navalur, Gunduperumbedu and Eraiyur and 15 staff members participated in these programs.

It was designed to be a fun filled day for women - to forget all their worries and enjoy the day. We conducted individual and group games in which the women played with good team spirit. The resource persons addressed the women with a positive note, challenging them to be different and choose to challenge the exploitation and oppression they face in a daily basis. They encouraged them to pursue their dream and be a good wife, mother for their family. Prizes were distributed for winners in the end of each program. In Navalur a souvenir was given to all the participants to encourage them. Refreshments were served to all participants in the end.

### Consultation meeting with the Resident Welfare Associations at TNSCB, Navalur



Karunakarya works with the Resident Welfare Associations at TNSCB, Navalur for the development of the community. A consultation meeting with them was organized on 10th August 2020 to discuss with the community leaders about the needs and issues prevalent in TNSCB, Navalur.

The aim was also to find out the possibilities of partnerships to address the issues and needs in the community by approaching the relevant authorities. Seven leaders from the two residential welfare associations and animators of Community Development Department, TNSCB participated in the consultation meeting. It was decided to do a survey about the needs in the community and also to submit a petition to relevant authority by the Resident Welfare Associations. The social workers of Karunakarya spoke to the Panchayat Secretary, Serepenenchery Panchayat and met the Village Administrative officer, Serepenenchery and discussed about the things which were raised during the consultation meeting.

### Community Outreach

A community outreach was organized for 9 deserving tribal poor families from Velathancherry, Perinjambakkam and Nalamperumbedu on 16.12.2021. The staff of Karunakarya collected money for the community outreach by having a sale for a week. Pilot visit was made to these communities to do survey and identify the felt need of the people. 9 deserving tribal poor families were chosen for the outreach and it was planned to give a kit per family which includes



one blanket, one bed sheet, cake, Tarpoline for roof, plastic sheets for floor and rope for fixing the tarpoline.

On the evening of 16th December 2020 staff went as three teams for the outreach. Each team went to one area and distributed the kits to the families. The staff had a

gentle chat with the people after giving the kits. The people were very happy to receive the kits and said that in this monsoon and winter these materials will be very useful for them. The staff members who visited the people and distributed the kits were also very pleased and shared that they feel satisfied and content by seeing the people.

Solar lanterns were given to the 20 families who don't have electricity at home on 23rd December 2020, 10th February 2021, 13th & 24th March 2021. Six families from these nine families who received outreach kits, seven families from Gunduperumedu tribal hamlet, one family from Eraiyur, and six more families from Kulanalacherry.





## TESTIMONIES, STORIES AND EXPERIENCES ....

*I lost my husband and son as well. My daughter is also married and went. From that time I'm alone and suffered a lot because of joblessness during the lockdown. Karunakarya gave grocery and provisions to me during the Covid-19 relief which was really useful for me at that tough time. With tears I want to thank Karunakarya.*

**Sumathi, Navalur**

*I participated in the women's day celebration in Navalur. In the beginning I thought that I don't have any talent, but after attending the program they made me to realise that even I have many talents inside myself. I'm very happy and I request Karunakarya to invite me in each and every program.*

**Geetha, Navalur (Mother of Bhavana Navalur ELC)**

*A person named Masilamani was staying alone in our village. On 6th August 2020 he was suffering from epilepsy and he lost his consciousness since 8 pm. After finishing my job, I had returned to my home at 6:45 pm, relatives of Masilamni did not take any actions. They were scared to take him out. He screamed with pain between 3 pm to 6 pm it seems, asking for help and finally lost his consciousness. But no one reached out to help him. But I felt that I should do something. Though my mother didn't allow me initially fearing I may get into any trouble I boldly went with my brother and I called Panchayat secretary, VAO and police. At 10 pm police reached the place. They broke the door and entered his house and found him unconscious. The police arranged for a vehicle and admitted him in Government Hospital at 11 pm. Masilamani recovered now and is back to the village and started working too!.*

**Ezekiel, ELC Facilitator, Gunduperumbedu**

*In my life I have never done anything like this before. When I visited them I was shocked to see that people are suffering like this even now. I felt very happy while distributing these kits to them. In this Corona pandemic season this is the best thing I did and I'm glad that we did this.*

**Kavitha, Account and Admin Assistance, TAPS**

*From this Community Outreach program I have found that many people are there around my village without having their daily needs. We celebrate this season with relatives every year, but this year I have got a chance to help the poor people by outreach program, so I'm thankful to Karunakarya for giving me opportunity to help the poor people.*

**Percy, Teacher, TAPS**

PROGRAM	NO OF PARTICIPANTS/FAMILIES
Consultation meeting with the Resident Welfare Associations at TNSCB, Navalur	9
Community Outreach	23 families
Pongal Celebrations with Covid-19 awareness	80 people and 120 children
Women's Day Celebrations	156 women, 19 children, 3 men

## COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT PRORAMME LIST 2020 - 2021

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
10.08.2020	Consultation meeting with the Resident Welfare Associations at TNSCB, Navalur	To discuss with the community leaders about the needs and issues prevalent in the community. And to find out the possibilities of working together to address the issues and needs in the community.
16 & 23.12.2020 10.02.2021 13 & 24.03.2021	Community Outreach in Perinjambakkam, Velathanjeri, Nallamperumbedu, Eraiyur tribal families	To reach out to the needy in the communities nearby by meeting their need during winter for shelter like tharpoline, blanket, solar lantern, plastic sheets.
14.01.2021 & 18.01.2021	Pongal Celebrations with Covid-19 awareness	To celebrate the festival and build rapport in the communities. Also to give awareness about Covid-19.
08.03.2021 & 13.03.2021	Women's Day Celebrations	To create an opportunity for the women to cherish the day and fell happy for being woman and motivate them to Choose to Challenge.



### ACHIEVEMENTS & LEARNINGS

- After attending the Pongal celebration in Eraiyur ELC some children took decision that they won't be wasting food anymore and they will encourage farmers to cultivate more crops and also they will help them with their level of kindness. After some days some students were really helping their grandparents in cultivating crops and also they planted many saplings at their homes and some student told that they are not wasting food and water anymore.
- By the awareness given by us directly and also through posters in Navalur children were wearing masks while coming out. Earlier the children and people who sit outside the apartment don't wear the mask. But now a considerable percentage of them are wearing mask.
- On the occasion of Independence Day, a contest was organized on the theme "Covid19 vs India". In which 2nd std child Pragathi spoke about Covid saftey on her own in elocution competition. Despite being so small, her progress is good. She has made wonderful use of the opportunity she got through ELC to develop her skill.

### MOVING FORWARD...

- Till now we didn't conduct program for men's day in many places. We can organize some programs for men's in all our communities.
- To give exposure to the men and women in the communities on possible livelihood initiatives and implement it on the occasion of 20th year celebration.
- To organize more awareness programs with the women SHGs and NREGA workers in our communities to reach many in our communities

## SPONSORSHIPS

Karunakarya reaches to the individual cases where the poorest of the poor is in a hopeless situation. Karunakarya gives medical, educational, other financial or material sponsorships to such deserving people and have brought hope to many such hopeless people in the past. This year we have sponsorships to three cases other than the Covid-19 relief.

### MEDICAL SPONSORSHIPS

**Re-habilitation:** Murugan, 23 years old young man is addicted to drug for the past two years. His father left the family when he was young and his mother took care of him and his two younger brothers by vending flowers at Purasaivakkam. The Covid lockdown disabled her small business and she now works as a sanitary worker at Kilpauk Medical College.

Murugan was addicted to drugs due to an incident in his college and then discontinued his education. His mother has already spent around 2 lakhs for his treatment by taking loans for high interest but his condition hasn't improved. He and his family were living in Patallam near Purasaivakkam, but often Murugan leaves the house and wanders around. Last year he left the house and reached his aunt's house at Navalur which is about 50 kms away after 12 days with wounds and torn clothes. He often gets high on drugs and is a threat to the safety of the family and neighbors.

As the family is helpless, they approached Karunakarya for helping them to admit him in a rehabilitation center. We have admitted him in a good rehabilitation centre at Chennai in the month of September 2020. For the past seven months he is admitted, and we could see some difference in him. Together with his family, we believe that soon Murugan comes out as a different man and live a good life.



**Accident Treatment:** Malliga is a widow from Navalur who lives with her daughter (school drop-out) and a bedridden son Sakthivel, 30 yrs. Sakthivel met with a bike accident in 2016 at Annanagar, Chennai. Both his hip bones and a bone in right hand were fractured. Initial treatment in traditional bone setting at Puttur, Andhra Pradesh did not work. He was then admitted him to Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Chennai where they treated him for many months.

After going through two surgeries two plates were kept in both the hips. Sakthivel had to be on bed even after surgeries and he could not sit or stand. Sadly his house in the bank of Koovam River built in encroachment land in Annanagar was destroyed by the government in post Tamil Nadu flood 2015 disaster preparedness. Hence they were allotted a house in TNSCB, Navalur. As they could not afford better treatment, Sakthivel was bedridden and stopped taking tablets since the Covid-19 lockdown. Malliga requested The Director, Karunakarya for helping her son on his treatment. Karunakarya decided to help provide treatment and admitted him at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Kattankulathur in the mid March 2021. When we admitted Sakthivel, he used to be only lying down on bed, but now he is able to sit on bed and move to wheel chair by himself.

#### **Long Term Treatment:**

Vijayanathan is a young man from Kuppam, Thiruvananthapuram affected by skin disease. He is living with his aged parents. His father is working as a security. Vetri is working with Karuna Creations thrice a week. He needs to apply lotion all over his body which costs him more. Hence Karunakarya helped him regularly to buy his medicines for skin and eyes.

Amaravathi is an old woman who was working with Karunakarya as maintenance staff. She lost her husband long back and has been taking care of her two grandchildren who lost their parents. Karunakarya helps regularly to buy her regular medicines for diabetes and BP.

#### **MATERIAL SPONSORSHIP**

Bharath 8th std and Elavarasi 7th std are siblings from Gunduperumbedu who are part of the Evening Learning Centre and the Skill Development programs of Karunakarya. Bharath's father was an alcoholic and used to always beat his mother. Whenever his father beats his mother, Bharath tries to stop it, but ends up getting beaten too. His mother is a home maker and also works in NREGA 100 days employment program by the government. Bharath's father died suddenly because of stomach pain in the end of January 2021. The sudden death of his father shattered the whole family and they are hopeless about the future. Just two days before he died his father burnt all the clothes of Bharath, Elavarasi and their mother on the night of Bhogi. Hence they are not having proper clothes too. They recently built a simple house with hollow blocks, and cement sheet roof, but it does not have a door. As of now they are using saree to hide at the entrance. Bharath's mother requested Karunakarya to help them to put a door. Karunakarya helped the family with main door. Karunakarya also collected and gave old usable cloths and necessary household things.

#### **EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP**

Vikram is a young vibrant boy pursuing his under graduation in Physics. Vikram's father is a Inverter and Solar service technician and mother is a home maker. Vikram is extending his knowledge to the 12th grade students from neighborhood. He takes free Physics tuition for them in evenings. Due to the online classes and project work, seminar he needs a Laptop. But due to his family situation they are unable to afford the same. His father approached Karunakarya for helping them to get a laptop for Vikram. Karunakarya provided a laptop for Vikram on 25th January 2021. Vikram is interested to pursue his higher education in research field.





## EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP OF COMMUNITY (STAFF CHILDREN)

Children of our staff who belong to the local community are receiving sponsorship under our organisational policy. Karunkarya identified nine staff children who study in private schools and also TAPS run by Karunakarya. Karunakarya paid fees for six students who are studying in private schools. Among which three children's fees were partially paid as per policy. Three children who are studying in TAPS were given full subsidy in school fees as per policy. Totaly nine children were benefited.



## TESTIMONIES, STORIES AND EXPERIENCES ....

*Sakthivel's mother with tears in her eyes thanked us by saying, "Thank you so much for taking so much effort for the treatment of my son. It is really painful to see my son who was walking all fine from childhood suddenly bedridden after accident four years before, and I wondered how his rest of the life is going to be. But by the help of God you have stepped in, I'm really thankful.*

*Malliga, Navalur*

*Murugan's mother with tears in her eyes thanked us by saying, "I have faced lot of challenges all my life, after my husband left us, I had to sell flowers, work hard and take care of my three sons. And because of all of them I'm facing challenges now. Especially because of Murugan all my peace, money are gone. Because of his addiction our respect in the neighbourhood, peace with them, and spent about Rs.2 lakhs for his treatment which was taken as loan from people. Thank you so much for choosing to help Murugan by admitting him in rehabilitation centre to come out from his addiction.*

*Lakshmi, Navalur*

*Always I faced abuses and problems because of my alcoholic husband when he was alive, even few days before he died, he burn all our dresses and there is nothing in our house for us to wear other than what we are wearing now, not even inners for my children. Even we don't have proper electric connection at home and also we don't have a door for the house. Thank you so much for considering us and helping us with door, old clothes, household kitchen necessities for us. It is really helpful.*

*-Parameshwari, Gunduperumbedu*

## SPONSORSHIP LIST 2020 - 2021

TYPE	NAME	PLACE	PROBLEM	SUPPORT GIVEN
MEDICAL	Murugan	Navalur	Drug Addict with no father and no proper support	Admitted in a rehabilitation center at Chennai in September 2020 and supporting him continuously for his monthly fees
	Sakthivel	Navalur	Bedridden for 7 years and economically backward.	Support for treatment (Surgery, medicines etc) and livelihood (food for him and his family)
	Vijaya-nathan	Kuppam, Thiruvananthapuram	Skin disease all over the body and struggled to buy medicines	Medicines costs are taken care. Once in three months medicines are bought.
	Amaravathi	Periyar Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram	Old woman who is having diabetes and BP unable to buy medicine.	Medicines costs are taken care. Once in two months medicines are bought.
	Bharath – Elavarasi	Gundaperumbadu	Father died being an alcoholic and no protection in home	Door provided for the home to ensure safety at night
MATERIAL	Vikram	Veppampattu	Need of Laptop for online classes and project work. Family unable to provide due to pandemic.	Provided a laptop to enable him to continue his studies in college where online classes were the only option
EDUCATIONAL	V.Abino	Eraiur	Father with 3 children working as a driver in TAPS.	Paid school fees as per policy
	V.Tamil Selvi	Eraiur	Alcoholic father, mother works as a maintenance staff in TAPS, wo children.	Paid school fees as per policy
	V.Vishal	Eraiur	Mother working as a maintenance staff in TAPS, father is alcoholic and needs to take care of two children.	Paid school fees as per policy
	J.Jonathan	Enjambakkam	Mother works with Karunakarya and needs to pay fees	Paid part of school fees as per policy
	J.Joanna Catherine	Enjambakkam	Mother works with Karunakarya and needs to pay fees	Paid part of school fees as per policy
	Yaanish Bevan G	Tambaram	Mother works with Karunakarya and needs to pay fees	Paid part of school fees as per policy
	Kamalesh K.S	Eraiur	Mother works with Karunakarya and needs to pay fees	Karunakarya gave full subsidy in school fees as per policy
	N.Monisha	Eraiur	Mother works with Karunakarya and needs to pay fees	Karunakarya gave full subsidy in school fees as per policy
	N.Perarasu	Eraiur	Mother is working with TAPS and needed to pay fees	Karunakarya gave full subsidy in school fees as per policy

## INTRODUCTION

*Everyone could be a leader* in their own arena like family, community, institution and society they are in. When everyone is inspired and guided to take initiatives by focusing on right values, there will be a positive change around them. In that sense we continued our works, though the situation during the year was different because of the pandemic.

The target for the year was to support the mental and physical well-being of the communities around us during the spread of the pandemic, lockdown and allied problems. We also wanted to continue our youth leadership development program and do some welfare activities through the youth groups in the villages. We were not able to conduct our usual Life Skills and Communication skills classes and Career Guidance and Development Program in the Government Schools in our regular working areas of restrictions to gather. Our monthly programs for Skill Development and Personality Development were also paused because of the pandemic.



Yet we were able to plan and offer some programs for teens and youth as follows:

- 12-23 years - Lockdown Activities, Talent Contest and Career Preparatory activities
- 13-35 years - Leadership Skills

It was different and difficult this year because there was a need to invest our time and efforts in relief materials distribution and creating awareness to reduce the ill-effects of the pandemic and lockdown. Still we were able to reach out to some of the teens and youth in their locations.

Student Interns from Madras Christian College had contributed in some of the programs, for the participants to get some learning experience and different perspectives. *We never compromised our core values while planning and executing the programs and it was our guiding force. We respected everyone by accepting the differences. We were fair in reaching out to the people with our maximum capability.* We had connected with maximum villages in Padappai - Oragadam - Sriperumbudur stretch, without any partiality or discrimination.

## LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

It is very difficult to contain the teens and youth inside their homes without engaging them with activities for a long period of time. When the teens and youth are given space to utilize their talents, they learn many more new things by themselves. With this in mind, we gave them lockdown activities to do from home, week after week from April to August 2020. This helped help them to be engaged positively and use their time and talents in a constructive manner.

The objectives of Lockdown activities are

**To utilize the time, talents and treasures properly**

**To be positive and have good relationship in the family**

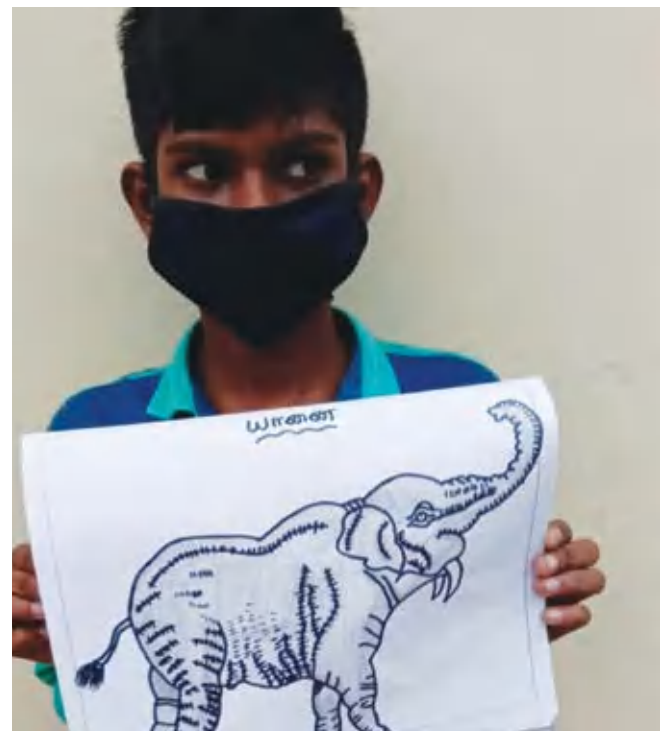
**To learn something new or relearn what is already learnt**

The following are some of the activities that were given to the beneficiaries during the Lockdown from April to August 2020.

Use what is not unused	Good practices to be safe during Lockdown
Speak to encourage others to engage	Wiping out the Gender Discrimination
Learn something from the family	Watch a 'DIY video' and make something
Cleaning	Dealing with others without losing values
Cooking	Writing Slogans/ Essay to Avoid Spreading Coronavirus
Decorating the home	Making a preventive material
Portraying a story	Speak to encourage those who are affected
Retrieving an old hobby	Drawing/ Painting on Fighting Coronavirus
Waste to Worth	Good practices to be safe after Lockdown
Reading a Book/Article/ Poetry	Differentiate the Positives and Negatives of Lockdown
Painting with natural colors	Learn something new and express it
Try out a science experiment	Identify rational and irrational beliefs
Share 'positives' about each other in the family	

Some of the activities were given to engage some others in the family for support and knowledge, which would have promoted harmony and respect towards one another. Also, when the participants were asked to submit their activities, they did with extra care and focussed on the quality.





## CAREER PREPARTORY ACTIVITIES

With much time in the hands of young people due to the Covid lockdown - we thought it would be a good time to engage them in preparing for career oriented exams. The training was planned keeping in mind various competitive exams.

The List of topics/ concepts that was covered in the Career Preparatory Activities is as follows.

SEPTEMBER 2020	Logical Reasoning & Emotional Intelligence
	Values & Situational Intelligence
OCTOBER 2020	Verbal Reasoning & Problem Solving
	Spatial Reasoning & Kinaesthetic Intelligence
DECEMBER 2020	Science and Technology
	Self-sustenance & Supporting Others

**Methodology:** We had provided the content in hardcopy as well as web pages so that they can complete it in their own place in their own time. Each topic/concept had content to work for at least 1-2 hours, a day for two weeks. The topic/ concept had subtopics or categories and each subtopic had some activities to reflect and do. In the activities or concepts the students were also encouraged to create things by themselves. The link for the web pages were sent through Whatsapp to the beneficiaries contacts in the Database.

Content was made in three levels :-

Level 1: 12-14 years

Level 2: 15-17 years

Level 3: 18years and above.

**Follow-up and Post Follow-up:** Some participants approached us over phone or while meeting in person for doubts and clarifications. After the two weeks of learning from the activity sheets on a topic/concept, some participants submitted their activity sheets for corrections or further learning.

**Certification:** A final assessment were taken by some of the participants in Jan 2021 and those who scored above 35% were certified in Feb 2021.

**Participation:** On an average 70 students did the Career preparatory students regularly. 70 hard copies of each topics were circulated and overall around 150 people had visited the web page. Though there were challenges, it was still helpful for some students to be engaged positively and learn new things.

Places where the career preparatory activities were carried out by our team :-

Arambakkam	Navalur	Vattambakkam
Panapakkam	Kannanthangal	Ottangarani
Gunduperumbedu	Valathancherry	Vallam
Kanchivakkam	Valayakaranai	Siruvanthur





## TALENT CONTEST

Talent contest was conducted to help the participants realize that everyone has the ability in them and can utilize the opportunities, to help the participants to explore, express or excel in their creativity, and to help the participants to gain confidence and try out different things to enhance their skills.

The Theme for the Talent Contest was thought as **'My Dream Village/ City'**. It was thought to help the participants to think about some development or betterment of values and infrastructure in their locality. The mobilization notice with the different contests and the criteria of evaluation with some instructions was provided in it.



About 45 Teens and Youth of 12-18 years of age from from different villages such as Eraiyur, Navalur, Vattambakkam, Vaipur, Karanaithangal, ARambakkam, Thathanur, and Gunduperumbedu had participated.



The Talent Contest was conducted as follows:-  
Group 1 comprised of 12-14 years,  
Group 2 comprised of 15-17 years,  
and Group 3 comprised of 18 years and above.

The participants had chances to participate in Essay/ Poem Writing; Drawing/ Pencil Art; Speech/ Singing. They were given choices to submit/ present it online through Whatsapp/ Mail and offline. Some participated online and some offline. About 15 of them had participated in 2 or more contests and showcased their talents. All the participants were given certificates and best performances were rewarded separately.



### **YOUTH GROUPS (ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION)**

Young people are the change makers in the future society. Active small groups who think and work for the welfare of the people can make a big difference in the community. The Youth Leadership Training Program is a platform for the youth to develop themselves holistically and to influence others around them through the leadership qualities and responsibilities. The targeted age group is from primarily 13 years to 23 years who were divided into sub groups of 13-17 years and 18-23 years, based on the number of people and need. An ideal group is around 8-12 members.





### Purpose of the Youth Groups

- Youth to become confident and responsible, by involving in the community through the utilization of time and talents.
- Youth to critically think and collaborate with one another for a positive change through innovations and problem solving.

### Youth Group Activities

A training session for the youth groups in a scheduled time, monthly once, in the Leadership Development theme is conducted. Youth groups meet weekly once or two weeks once to plan and prepare for the activities with a life skill or value based topic lead by one of them in rotation for 10-15 minutes to develop their public speaking skills.

### Progression and Present Scenario

We started the teens and youth meeting in various places as follows:-

23/9/2020 Kannanthangal  
25/9/2020 Ottangaranai  
8/3/2021 Eraiyur (girls)  
16/3/2021 Navalur (girls)  
21/3/2021 Gunduperumbedu  
22/3/2021 Eraiyur (boys)  
23/3/2021 Navalur (boys)



### Women's day program in Ottangaranai. 21st March, 2021

*The women's day reminded and helped to do something and we are assured that we can do certain things. It also made us to think that everyday should be a special day for women by actively engaging themselves in their interests.*

**Kavitha, A participant**

*It was the first time that our village celebrates Women's day program and it is more surprising that it was done through the teens and youth in our community with the guidance and support of Karunakarya. Even before the program, Karunakarya support during the lockdown by providing relief materials to the entire village is unforgettable. We are very much grateful to them.*

**Shankar, Village leader**

*Initially we are very much doubtful and hesitant about ourselves to conduct the women's day program in the community and keep on changing the ideas and dates, but finally we were so much encouraged and supported to do a program and now we feel confident. Especially, I would even boldly speak to everyone publicly about anything. We continue to do the best things in our community.*

**Sripriya, B.B.A, III year, Youth Club Member**

## YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
April to August 2020	Lockdown Activities	Activities such as Wiping out the Gender discrimination were very much helpful for the boys to think about doing certain things that weren't recommended to do, because of the cultural practices and dominance of men. It had made the people, especially the teens and youth to think about certain things that they haven't thought before, also to do something that they already do but in a better way.
July 2020	Need Assessment Survey	This was initiated in the areas where we actively work to help in identifying the employment opportunities for the community people. The people in need were regularly updated with the opportunities that we came across.
August to November 2020	Virtual Field Work	Ten B.S.W III year student interns from MCC Department of Social work had participated in the Virtual social work volunteering program and Virtual Field work in our organization. We gave them orientation about the organization and also arranged Group work and Case Works for them to do virtually. Around 20 participants from Navalur and Gunduperumbedu were part of the group work and case work. They also did some data collection works and content preparation for the activities for their learning and for our programs.
September 2020 November 2020 January 2021	Career Preparatory course and Talent Contest	Helped some of the beneficiaries to learn new things and actively engage themselves that prepares them for their future.
13.2.2021	Valentines Day Awareness	Awareness on showing genuine love towards one another- for Valentine's Day by distributing pamphlet to all the teens and youth and community contacts. Also the Teens and youth group in Ottangaranai distributed that to the friends and neighbours. Also, the regularly meeting and brainstorming with the teens and youth in Ottangaranai helped us to impart some leadership skills to them and they started thinking about the community and even conducted a women's day program for their community people on 21/3/2021.
2.3.2021	Presentation about our Organisation to the students of Kodaikanal Community college	We did a presentation about our organization and application of social work principles, to around 19 students and 3 staff, and most of them had shared positive feedback and got inspired to do some good for others.
		Masks were produced for the deserving people and our beneficiaries and their families as well as all our staff and their families. Around 12 women were involved in it as volunteers. It was also an employment opportunity to 6 women in the crisis of lockdown.



## ACHIEVEMENTS...

*All the programs and activities were beneficial to the teens and youth who participated. The feedbacks and knowledge sharing by the beneficiaries are marvelous and it is the crown for all our works in the communities we are connected. The things that are created or done by some of the participants in the activities, contests and courses are mind-blowing and they had given their best out of them. Also, some of the participants started taking responsibility and initiatives for the welfare of their community, which is marvelous and if it is continued, the dream for the self-sustaining community is in the near future. We were also able to think creatively and constructively despite all the challenges and difficulties. Also, we had become much flexible and adaptable to the situation, by moving out of the walls for regularly being connected with our beneficiaries though it might be risky and challenging.*

*Initially, due to the network issues, though we gave the activities, there are many contacts who could not open it and make the submissions though they had done something. Also, one to one guidance or clarifications couldn't be done properly due to the limited direct communication.*

*Sometimes the content was heavy and some of the things couldn't be understood by the participants which needs to be taken care of in the future.*

*The Career preparatory course is a unique activity that we had created and we shall make some changes in it to make it little lighter and more approachable to the teens and youth. We shall continue to use it as a distant learning program for the teens and youth. Also, we may have it as a short term course for the teens and youth once things become normal after the pandemic.*

*The personal contact with the teens and youth in their villages, at least once or twice in a month to guide them and do some good towards their community through them should be continued.*

*More mentors and persons to guide the teens and youth as volunteers should be found out from the communities for making the things more efficient and self-sustaining.*

## MOVING FORWARD...

- We will pursue the Skill development, Talent building and Career development activities and programs in a more relevant and approachable manner
- We will encourage and support the teens and youth groups in the villages to think about the trainings that they need in their interested fields and try to learn it by some means
- We will support and guide the teens and youth to take initiatives and be efficient leaders for the people around them.
- We look at our Teens and Youth as,
  - Skilled, confident and responsible personalities with right values
  - Initiators of positive change by taking up opportunities
  - Contributors to the society by giving their best
  - Creators of solutions as good leaders

# COVID-19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES

## NEED AND REASONS FOR RELIEF

Millions of poor people in India are affected by lockdown than by Covid-19 since government announced full lockdown from 24th March 2020. After one month of complete lockdown, the government further extended the lockdown as the Covid19 cases were increasing in India and in Tamil Nadu. The government's welfare was not sufficient to some of the poor people to meet their needs for such a long period. In some places government's welfare were slowing reaching the people and some of them who don't have proper documents like Ration cards weren't able to get it.



We were able to identify more than 500 migrant workers in Eraiyur village and Local Government referred 100's of migrant workers in Vaipoor village, most of migrants were from North and Northeast India. Most of them were not able to go to work during the lockdown as well to their native places. And most of them were not able to get their salary as they were only contract workers. Sometimes the supervisors used to provide some things, but it wasn't sufficient. Even, they don't have ration cards and the supplies that are announced by the government did not reach them. We also identified some deserving tribal communities who are usually treated as least fortunate in the society belonging to schedule tribes, called Irulars. We visited about 28 families who had settled in Kundrathur and Panapakkam for more than 10 years. Most of them are daily wage laborers or contract workers and were not able to go to work because of the Lockdown. Most of them were not able to get their wages. Also, some from those community came from surrounding villages like Varanasi to cut trees in the outskirts of villages like Eraiyur and Gunduperumbedu. Because there was no public transport, most of them were stuck there itself and as they did not have ration cards in the local address, so they cannot get the materials provided by Government through ration cards. They are daily wage labourers who is paid based on the weight of wood they cut and were not able work because of the Lockdown, as the vehicles that carry the cut wood couldn't come. Though the supervisor for them supports them a bit, it was not that much sufficient for them.

In addition to all that some of the families in Padappai-Oragadam-Stretch who were without proper employment were struggling for proper food and livelihood. So, there was a need for



support for them to get proper nutritious food.

Initially, during the spread of the pandemic, people were not aware of the symptoms and the precaution measures, but slowly with the effect of media, many people got aware of Covid-19 and Corona virus

As the Covid-19 cases were still increasing in India and at the same time for supporting the livelihood of the people, government had relaxed the lockdown. But Government made it mandatory for the people to wear masks when they go out, for their safety. But not all the people were able to buy good masks.

## OUR RESPONSE

**Identification:** We identified the deserving families in the communities that we regularly work with. And we helped some individual families from villages such as Gunduperumbedu, Perinjambakkam, Nallamperumbedu, Valathanchery, Eraiyur, Arambakkam and Navalur from April 2020 to August 2021 by distributing relief packages which contains rice, grains and groceries would support their food needs for 2 - 3 weeks. Some of the children, teens and youth from three families are directly part of our Teens & Youth programs and Community programs. We carefully did the case study with the reference and support of community leaders and staff in the larger communities and provided the relief materials distributions.



**Migrant Reach Out:** needs of the Migrants in Eraiyur and Vaipoor through the local revenue department authorities, our local staff and by talking to the migrants, and decided to provide some rice and provisions that would be helpful for them along with the Revenue Inspector and her team. Local Panchayat requested us to provide some relief materials to the sanitary workers in Eraiyur, who had done a tremendous job during the Lockdown to clean and put disinfectant throughout the village to prevent the spreading of Coronavirus. They worked on an honorary basis and the remuneration for them is very low. Thereby we decided to provide the relief materials for them that would be helpful for some days.

**Reach Out to the unreachable:** Though the supplies from Government ration shops reach some of the deserving tribal communities who had settled in villages for long time, like Panapakkam and Kundrathur, they were deserving people who are in need of the other provisions. Also, there was a village called Ottangaranai in which the whole village is quarantined as there was a Covid-19 suspect and they were not able to move out of the village to get things. Thereby we decided to provide some rice and provisions that would be helpful for them for some time. Also we had found out and supported some deserving Tribal communities who didn't receive any of the welfare as they had come for cutting trees in the outskirts of Eraiyur and Gunduperumbedu.

**Reach Out to Urban Slums:** Through Kumar Gold, a Vice Principal of a Chennai Catering College, who is associated with us since a long time by serving earlier as a member of the advisory board of Karunakarya Community College, as an advisor and consultant from time to time for our programs and activities, we came to know about the dire need for help in Chennai slums. The need was brought about slum dwellers of in and around Purasaiwakkam, Chennai who were suffering from lockdown and containment-zone prevention measures in their areas. There was an dire need for daily provisions for some of the slum residents and therefore we decided to provide rice and provisions to 100 of the most deserving families in these slums. The distribution of relief packages was done in Otteri Community center on 17.-19.07.2021.

**Financial Assistance:** Karunakarya decided to give financial assistance to the consultants who come to the organization occasionally and work like daily wages laborers, like carpenter, electrician, and painter and also our ELC facilitators who are from deserving. Most of them were unable to work during lockdown. Karunakarya helped their families through financial relief from April to June when the lockdown was little bit severe.

**Home activity for school goers:** Because there was the need for the students while schools and colleges were not working properly, we distributed activity kits home wise to The Ark Nursery and Primary School children to help the children to learn without any hindrance. To help the children to use the leisure time productively during the lockdown by reading books and doing activities in activity sheets. We distributed learning materials to 228 children from 20 villages around Karunakarya.

**Struggling College Student Support:** We also came to know about a deserving student who was struggling to attend his online BSc in Physics classes during lockdown and also unable meet his education expectations due to the unavailability of technological facility that was expected by his department. Vikram is a brilliant and very enthusiastic student and has great potential for his future. Hence, we decided to provide him with a laptop. These study supports are mentioned and recorded in detail in the ELC report.



**Awareness Efforts:** In the initial stages of Covid-19 pandemic we decided to provide the awareness posters and booklets in the villages around. We gave the posters in the shops and offices and booklets to the leaders and stakeholders in the community to give to the children there and sometimes directly to the children. The booklet was appropriate for the children from 8-13 years and it was well designed colorfully with interactive activities in the theme, “**You Can Be a Superhero**”.



### You can be a Superhero - book distribution and activities:



**Making and Distribution of Masks:** We also decided to make the cloth masks (that can be reused) through Karuna Creations and distribute to all the families of the students who are part of The Ark Nursery and Primary School, Evening Learning Centers and Teens & Youth programs. We also distributed the masks in Gunduperumbedu and Eraiyur Tribal communities, Sanitary workers in Eraiyur and Navalur. We also provided the masks to our Karunakarya staff, Consultants and their family. Each member of the family was given two masks. The masks were packed hygienically with Standard Operating Procedures and were distributed from May 2020 to January 2021. This was helpful for many of them to keep themselves safe in this pandemic period.



## COVID 19 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

DATE	PROGRAM	OBJECTIVE
Preventive, Awareness & Lockdown Activities		
June - July 2020	Corona virus Awareness Posters Distribution	To spread awareness about Corona virus among the Community people and educate them about the necessary precautions to be taken
June - July 2020	Corona virus Awareness Booklets Distribution	To spread awareness about Corona virus among Children and educate them about the necessary precautions to be taken
May 2020 to March 2021	Masks Production and Distribution	To help the needy people, our staff and our beneficiaries to take precautions during the time of pandemic
Study and Learning Support		
November 2020 – March 2021	Activity Kits	To help the children to do the activities given by The Ark Nursery and Primary School without any hindrance by using this kit
June - July 2020	Activity & Learning Material Distribution	To help the children to use the leisure time productively during the lockdown by reading books and doing activities in activity sheets
December 2020	Provided a Laptop for Support for continuation of studies for poor student Vikram	To support the deserving student's education by making possible for him to attend online classes during lockdown
Relief & Financial Assistance due to Lockdown related livelihood issues		
April - August 2020	Relief Material (Rice & Provisions) distribution	To support the deserving people in the communities to fight hunger and starvation
5th August 2020	Relief Material (Trolley)	To support a elderly visually and physically challenged man, to move easily to restroom
March - July 2020	Financial Relief for families without livelihood	To support our consultants and part time staff who are struggling to run the life during pandemic, and help them meet their daily needs



### THE 22 ITEMS IN OUR RELIEF PACKAGE

Rice	10kg	Mustard seed	100g
Toor Dhal	2kg	Cumin seeds	100g
Chickpeas	500g	Tumeric powder	100g
Rava	1kg	Asafetida	50g
Oil, Sunflower	1ltr	Wheat flour	1kg
Tamarind	500g	Hand & Body Soap	big
Garlic	500g	Toothpaste	125g
Salt	500g	Detergent soap	2
Sugar	500g	Dishwash bar	2
Chilli powder	250g	Shampoo	100ml
Pepper	50g	Cloth mask	2



### Relief Material (Rice & Provisions) distribution

Date	Village Name	No of Families/ Groups received 1 packet each	Total No of people benefited
16.07.2020	Gunduperumbedu	2	8
17.07.2020	Navalur	2	8
20.04.2020	Kundrathur	155	620
20.04.2020	Gunduperumbedu	1	4
20.04.2020	Navalur	1	4
21.04.2020	Eraiur (Migrants)	19	76
23.04.2020	Eraiur and Vaipur (Migrants)	124	496
30.04.2020	Eraiur (Deserving Community)	6	24
02.05.2020	Valathanchery	3	12
02.05.2020	Perinjambakkam (also gave Trolley to one family on 05.08.2020)	5	20
02.05.2020	Nallamperumbedu	4	16
04.05.2020	Panapakkam	29	116
07.05.2020	Eraiur (Sanitary workers)	25	100
07.05.2020	Gunduperumbedu	7	28
07.05.2020	Navalur	10	40
11.05.2020	Gunduperumbedu (Tribal Community)	9	36
11.05.2020	Gunduperumbedu (Visually impaired)	1	4
11.05.2020	Thathanoor (Migrants)	2	8
15.05.2020	Navalur	1	4
23.05.2020	Navalur	1	4
27.05.2020	Ottangaranai	88	352
06.06.2020	Perinjambakkam	6	16
15.06.2020	Navalur	6	12
15.06.2020	Perinjambakkam	7	12
17.07.2020 - 19.07.2020	People from Chennai Slums (Purasaiwakkam, Otteri, Nammalwarpet, Vepery, Perambur, Kosapet, Manali, Kellys, Korukkupettai, Kolathur, Kilpauk, Ayanavaram, Kodambakkam, Vanagaram, Thiruverkadu, Retteri, Saligrammam, Palavanthangal, Ramapuram, Sikkarayapuram, Anna nagar, Ambattur, Budur, Vadapalani, Periyar Nagar, Choolai, Kosapet)	100	400
05.08.2020	Arambakkam	2	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>616</b>	<b>2464</b>



## MASK DISTRIBUTION

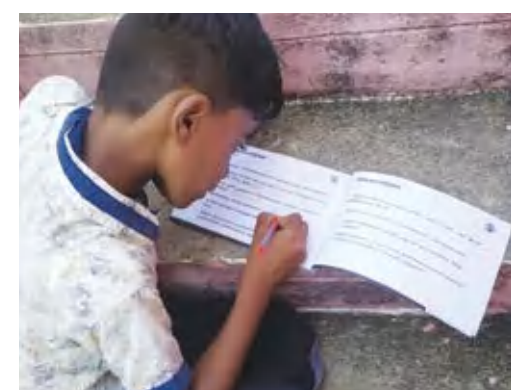
Date	Beneficiary	No of Families	Total No of Masks given
18.05.2020	Tribal Community, Gunduperumbedu	12	24
21.05.2020	Tribal Community, Eraiyur	1	4
15.07.2020	Navalur Sanitary workers (30 workers)		60
17.07.2020	Teens & Youth associated to KK Skill Development Center activities, and their Families, Thathanur	10	40
17.07.2020	Students from Evening Learning Center, Arambakkam and their families	10	40
05.-06.08.2020	Students from The Ark Nursery and Primary School and their families (Eraiyur, Temple Green, Vaipur, Navalur, Mathur, Chennakuppam, Karanithangal, Nallamperumbedu, Thaththanur, Alagoor, Vallakottai, Mettupalayam, Kandigai, Pereenjampakkam, Vallam, Valathanchery	72	661
06.08.2020	Students from Evening Learning Center and their families, Eraiyur	9	90
19.-20.08.2020	Students from Evening Learning Center, Navalur and their families. Teens & Youth associated to KK Skill Development Center activities and their families, Navalur	63	502
Aug-Sept 2020	Teens & Youth associated to KK Skill Development Center activities, and their Families (Thathanur, Eraiyur, Kannanthangal, Gunduperumbedu, Navalur, Kannanthangal, Kanchivakkam)	40	160
May 2020 - March 2021	Karunakarya Staff and families & Consultants	35	400
May 2020 - March 2021	Families associated to Evening Learning Centre& Karunakarya Skill Training of various areas (left out families) Families associated to Evening Learning Centre& Karunakarya Skill Training of various areas (left out families)	300	1,200
<b>Annual</b>	<b>Total number of families (= beneficiaries aver. 3 in each family, each 2 masks) 567 families approx. 1,620 beneficiaries 567 families approx. 1,620 beneficiaries</b>		<b>3,240</b>

## FINANCIAL RELIEF TO COMMUNITY FACILITATORS & ASSOCIATES OF KARUNAKARYA

Date	Beneficiary	Total Amount INR
25.04.2020	Mr. Ganesan	5,000
29.04.2020	Community Facilitators, each Rs. 3,000/- (Rajalakshmi, Divya, Rani, Rekha, Sathya, Jayarani, Swetha, Ezekiel, Arthi)	27,000
29.04.2020	Mr. Gunasekaran	3,000
01.06.2020	Mr. Joseph	5,000
13.07.2020	Mr. Gunasekaran	5,000
12.10.2020	Moorthi	6,000
04.03.2021	Moorthi	6,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63,000</b>

## Coronavirus Awareness Posters & Awareness Booklets Distribution

Date	Village	No of Posters	No of people reached	Kids-Teens received Booklets
16.06.2020	Eraiur	28	500	155
16.06.2020	Vaipur	5	200	50
16.06.2020	Perinjambakkam	10	300	100
16.06.2020	Valathanchery	10	200	75
17.06.2020	Oragadam	90	1,000	75
17.06.2020	Mathur	30	500	75
17.06.2020	Vallakottai	20	400	50
17.06.2020	Navalur	80	4,000	250
17.06.2020	Arambakkam	20	300	100
18.06.2020	Alagoor	5	100	75
18.06.2020	Nallamperubedu	5	100	50
19.06.2020	Thathanur	10	200	75
19.06.2020	Theresapuram	10	200	30
19.06.2020	Vallam	15	200	75
19.06.2020	Vadagal	10	100	75
23.06.2020	Panapakkam	10	200	75
23.06.2020	Vattambakkam	5	200	50
23.06.2020	Umayalparanachery	10	200	50
24.06.2020	Gunduperumbedu	30	300	150
24.06.2020	Ottangaranai	5	100	70
24.06.2020	Kannanthangal	5	100	75
25.06.2020	Mettupalayam	5	100	50
25.06.2020	Panruti	40	300	50
25.06.2020	Kandigai	15	100	50
25.06.2020	Palnallur	5	100	50
25.06.2020	Eochur	5	100	30
25.06.2020	Sirumangadu	5	100	30
25.06.2020	Thilemedu	5	100	35
25.06.2020	Ezhichur	5	100	30
26.06.2020	Araneri	5	100	50
26.06.2020	Pondur	30	300	75
29.06.2020	Chennakuppam	10	200	75
01.07.2020	Kaduvanchery	5	100	50
01.07.2020	Pillaipakkam	10	100	50
01.07.2020	Sriperumbudur	40	1,000	10
01.07.2020	Serpenenchery	10	100	50
01.07.2020	Vanchuvanchery	10	100	20
01.07.2020	Karanaiithangal	5	100	10
01.07.2020	Appur	5	100	50
02.07.2020	Sunguvarchatram	30	1,000	30
02.07.2020	Mambakkam	5	100	50
03.07.2020	Koolangalachery	5	100	75
03.07.2020	Salamangalam	5	100	50
03.07.2020	Orathur	5	100	50
03.07.2020	Vadamelpakkam	5	100	50
03.07.2020	Siruvanchur	5	100	50
06.07.2020	Nattarasampattu	5	100	50
06.07.2020	Valayakaranai	5	100	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>3,000</b>





## STUDY & LEARNING SUPPORT - ACTIVITY & ART MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

Date	Beneficiaries	No of Villages	No of Children reached
August 2020	Most deserving Children from around the locality in the age group from Class 1 -8	20	228
November 2020 – March 2021	Activity Kits for The Ark Nursery and Primary School children	8	72
17th December 2020	Laptop for a deserving student	1	1



### TESTIMONIES, STORIES AND EXPERIENCES ....

*I was just planning to make a poster and print it, for the customers to follow the safe practices during the pandemic. It was great that you provided it as a gift. Thanks for sharing and the poster will be surely helpful for everyone.*

**A Provisional store owner in Vallakottai while receiving the Coronavirus awareness poster**

*The booklet on Coronavirus will be surely helpful for the children to know and be aware about it. I will surely pass on to the children under my care.*

**Mr. Abraham, A leader in a village named Mettupalayam, while distributing the Coronavirus Awareness booklet distribution**

*I had lot of fear, hearing about Coronavirus and how it would affect the people with less immunity. Also had a fear of how to manage the family without much income because of the lockdown. But we got the salary and relief fund from Karunakarya and it was really very useful.*

**Rani, Navalur, Our ELC Facilitator**

*I'm very impressed because Karunakarya had helped some poor people in my village during the lockdown.*

**Ezekiel, Gunduperumbedu, Our ELC Facilitator**

*If Karunakarya hadn't provided the rice and provisions package, we would have starved today as there is nothing in the home. Thanks a lot with tears.*

**Sharing from a family in Navalur while provision the Relief package with rice and provisions**

*No matter how many times I tell my customers, people didn't maintain social distance, but after displaying the poster given by Karunakarya, now people are maintaining social distance and I'm relived now.*

**- A shopkeeper, Gunduperumbedu**



## STATISTICS OVERVIEW IN BRIEF - COVID19 RELATED ACTIVITIES

Date	Program	No of Families/ Groups/ Villages	No of item	Particulars	Total No of people benefited
April - Aug 2020	Provision Packages (Dry food items and hygiene items)	616 families	607	Packages	2,464
May 2020 -March' 21	Masks Distribution	567 families	3,240	Masks	1,620
March - July 2020	Financial Relief for families without livelihood	12 families	13	Money	48
June - July 2020	Coronavirus Awareness Posters Distribution	48 villages	698	Posters	14,400
June - July 2020	Coronavirus Awareness Booklets Distribution	48 villages	3,000	Booklets	3,000
June - July 2020	Activity & Learning Material Distribution	20 villages	228	Booklets activity sets	228
Nov 2020 – March'21	Activity Kits for The Ark Nursery and Primary School children	72 school children	72	Activity kits	72
August 2020	Trolley to deserving old man	Individual	1	Trolley for mobility	1
December 2020	Laptop to deserving brilliant student	Individual	1	Laptop	1
<b>Total number of items and number of Persons benefitted direct and indirect from our support</b>			<b>7,860</b>		<b>21,834</b>



## LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

- *The relief work during the crisis of lockdown helped us to get to know about some of the least privileged people in the community whom we rarely thought of. We met many new people who are much deserving and supported them. It created pathways to work with them in the future for their development and sustenance.*
- *Mask making activity by ourselves through Karuna Creations was achieved though it was a very new product. The beautiful masks made by us were utilized by our own staff, beneficiaries and the deserving people in the communities we work with. By being flexible and adaptable to the different situations we were able to be beneficial to the people around.*
- *Only when we moved and reached so many villages for the Coronavirus Awareness Posters and Booklets distribution we realised the great scope and the need in many villages for the development of Children, Youth and Communities. Though the Posters and Booklets it was really possible to make some difference and give light to those who are in complete ignorance. We plan to continue to make awareness posters and booklets on topics such as De-addiction, Using Media Effectively and safely, Importance of Education, Creativity, etc. to create awareness and exposure at a larger scale.*
- *Values like respect for all, integrity, fairness and equality will continue to build us effectively and serve the people around us meaningfully.*

# SOCIAL WORK STUDENT'S INTERNSHIP

We Karunakarya, always welcome the volunteers and interns who wish to learn and practice social work. When the MCC Department of Social work approached us for helping their 9 students to practice social work principles and concepts as well as gain the necessary skills and knowledge practically through virtual social work practice in August (24 hours) and virtual field work from September to November (120 hours), we welcomed them.

Madras Christian College (MCC) is a liberal arts and sciences college in Chennai, India. Founded in 1837, MCC is one of Asia's oldest extant colleges. The college is affiliated to the University of Madras but functions as an autonomous institution from its main campus in Tambaram, Chennai. The Department of Social Work congruent with the Mission of Madras Christian College offers Human Rights and Value based Professional Social work education as a vocation of service through building of character, experiencing transformational development and acquiring critical consciousness in order to empower people to promote an egalitarian and just society.

On 30/9/20, the MCC students started their group work virtually via Google meet with our ELC students from Navalur and Gunduperumbedu, in which about 14 students participated. It was continued till December 2020. The sessions were conducted on 28/10/20, 6/11/20 and 3/12/2020. Overall around 20 participants got benefited through the group work.

This tabular column summaries the sessions:

TITLE	DURATION	SESSION	OBJECTIVES
Group Work	1.5 hour	Managing Time effectively	To help the participants to use their time constructively during Lockdown
Group Work	1.5 hour	Personality Development	To make the participants to take measures for enhancing their confidence
Group Work	1.5 hour	Book Club	To enhance the reading skills for increasing the knowledge
Group Work	1.5 hour	Utilizing the Media Effectively	To prevent addiction towards Media and use it effectively
Case Work	2-3 hour	Effects of Lockdown	To understand how a teen or youth feel in the Lockdown and help them to utilize their time productively

## OUTCOME FOR THE STUDENTS INTERNS:

During the internship period, the students

1. Understood the Purpose, functioning, Vision & Mission of the Organization
2. Interacted with Project managers, Staff, Community, and Other stakeholders for practical exposure

3. Conducted online group work and case study with the Teens and Youth from 12 year to 21 year
4. Involved in Content Preparation, Content translation and Identifying Resources/ Services in our work location and kanchipuram as a research work
5. Tried to identify the Job opportunities in the Padappai- Oragadam- Sriperumbudur stretch.
6. Learnt the Computer skills and people oriented skills through the virtual field work.



### FEEDBACK FROM THE INTERNS...

*Learned presentation, engaging children effectively virtually, I missed doing case work. Ashwin*

*I couldn't adapt to virtual field work immediately. Applied principles in work. Cooperation of children was good and encouraging, their care and affection. Virtual field work is new for all of us, so this itself is good outcome I need to improve in communication like updating.*

*Ken Patrick*

*I need to improve in Communication skill. Need to think well before taking decision*

*Need to have a backup plan always. Need to know the procedure fully.*

*The interest and participation of children was very good. All the team members were worked hard very much. We wish we could have worked directly at least once. Pradikshaa R S*

*Initially I felt I'm technically handicapped, but I picked up The organisation was good and the children were active and cooperative. We didn't thought virtual will work. Prema Priyadarshini*

*We thought this will not work out virtually at first. I learnt new things in case work. Editing video, making new character. Was very interested in organising the session because of the children. Rasshmika H*

*The children were very interested. Thank you for the opportunity. Reyaaz R*

*This was a different experience, directly it's easy. But virtually it's difficult to manage. But we need to improve. Sahithya GS*

*First of all I would like to thank you sir for giving such a wonderful platform and accepting us. I am taking many learnings from Karunakarya including how to do research work, create career preparatory question sheet and etc. And the children in Karunakarya wooww they are so excited and like us. They gave full energy throughout the session. Of course we will improve and correct our mistakes next session like involve all the children to participate, interactive. I am also thankful to Miss. Sathya for helping us in case study work. Shalini Bai*

*I thought children will not turn up, but they all did Learnt doing the animation video  
Team members cooperated . Vivek*



Karunakarya Creations is a unique project which supports women and acts as a catalyst which trains women in the community to become self-employed, and to help them become financially independent. The project also provides a place for rehabilitation and a safe working environment for people with mental and physical disabilities, and people who come from abusive domestic environments.

## Objectives

- Providing a safe training and work environment, as well as rehabilitation for those people who require it.
- Creating a platform for training for people to discover and develop their potential. Trainees are given a source of income as compensation and a contribution towards their financial independence, teaching entrepreneurship and self-sustainability.
- Develop the community by strengthening the potential of integrated beneficiaries through various projects.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

In the year 2020 to 2021 the project was interrupted by the COVID19 pandemic which led into a lockdown and complete shut down of productive activities. In April - May 2020 Mrs. Chellappa has responded to the pandemic situation by developing 4 suitable face mask models to cater to the urgent need for protective of the disease. This brought an opportunity for women of the nearby communities to join the urgent need and help to sustain their families during the lockdown period.

After a week of training of 6 ladies, the unit of Karuna Creations was given free of cost for the purpose of training, preparation, work distribution & collection, packing and distribution. This activity was permitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The total of Masks produced were 3800 which got distributed free of cost to all beneficiaries of Karunakarya and their families, sanitary workers of several villages and other deserving groups of beneficiaries which were met during the relief work efforts.

The project was functioning from May to December 2020 under the Karunakarya Relief-Projects. Further details are recorded in the respective report.



## OUR BEAD ARTIST ATELIER

During the last couple of years **Vetrivel**, who is associated with us for more than 12 years, has developed a special skill for bead art and has tried many different patterns. He specializes in twisting wires and assembling beads to create beautiful and colorful butterflies of various designs, sizes and decorations.

While dealing with the drawbacks of a genetical disease, he has become an artist, though sometimes not believing in his skill, he always overcomes challenges to create something new and beautiful!

His eyes will shine with joy when we like his designs. During the year 2020 he made many little butterfly-gifts which literally flew into the whole world to bring a small reflection of Karunakarya to sponsors and well-wishers of the organization.



## CONCLUSION

During the time of restrictions due to the pandemic, the projects of Karunakarya Creation offered opportunities for people from the community to sustain during this difficult time. In future, whenever the situation of pandemic allows it again, we would be looking at enhancing opportunities according to our objectives to empower people from the community.







