

AID INDIA

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2013-14



AID INDIA WORK REPORT

AID INDIA's work in Tamilnadu focuses on improving the learning outcomes for the poorest children. The details of the activities in Tamilnadu are given below. Apart from Tamilnadu, we implemented a small scale rural education project in Andhra Pradesh.

1. Eureka SuperKidz

This program has been running for the last 4 years. In each village, local tutors run classes for children from Std. 1 to Std. 8. This year, the program continued in around 500 villages, impacting around 25,000 children. In many centers, parents have got involved in their children's education, started monitoring outcomes and taking steps to ensure they achieve these outcomes. In some villages, the local schoolteachers have also started participating in outcome events and evaluations of the skill levels of children in these centers.

An external end of the year evaluation was also conducted and the improvements in skills of children were analyzed.

Events for Children- The Eureka Little Creators festival was held in October 2013 to showcase the oratory, literary and artistic skills of the Eureka SuperKidz children in 600 villages across Tamilnadu.



The Eureka Little Creators event had 3 competitions for various age groups -

Story Telling Competition for children in Stds 1-5, Story Writing competition for children in Std 6-8 and Drawing Competition for children in Std. 4-8. All children attending the Eureka after- school centres participated in any one of the competitions, according to their age group and skills at the village level.



There were 3 rounds of selections, one at the village level and one at the block level which then culminated into the State- level finals. One winner each, for Drawing, Story-telling and Story Writing were selected from each village. These village winners competed at the block level and 3 winners were selected, one each for Drawing, Story writing and Story-telling. Around 150 Block level winners participated in the State- Level finals in Chennai under each of the 3 categories. The winners of the Story writing and Drawing were combined into a team where the children had to draw illustrations that were relevant to the story written by their team member.

The Eureka Little Creators final event was held in Chennai on the 23rd and 24th of November 2013. It was a fun-filled two-day event, with leisure trips, workshops and activities for the students who were mostly from rural areas. Mr. Cheran noted Tamil director, actor and writer, Mr.Trotsky Marudu, noted artist and Mrs. Vennila noted Tamil poet and writer gave away prizes to the first 3 winners of Story Telling, Drawing and Story writing categories respectively, along with prizes for the finalists. All the children who participated in the competition were given certificates and prizes.

Event for Tutors: The pillars of the Eureka program's success are the 1500 dedicated and hardworking village-level tutors of whom, more than 80% are young women, who take daily evening classes for these children in remote villages. Of these young volunteers, more than 180 including some from our partner- NGOs have performed exceptionally well and brought about significant improvement in the learning levels of children in the past academic year.



As recognition for their perseverance, hard work and dedication, they were honoured with the 'Best Tutor Award' in Chennai at a special 2 days Award Ceremony last month. The tutors were chosen based on criteria that were announced in advance – they should ensure 80% of the tick-marks in the skill chart had been attained. And for each district and village for whom a nomination was received from the NGO or our project manager, a member from our state training and monitoring team also visited the village to validate the learning levels of children.

In all, 188 tutors were selected after the validation and attended a 2-day event in Chennai. The award event was an opportunity for these tutors to share their experiences and what made their classes effective. They received felicitations and compliments from celebrities from various fields including Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Madras High Court, Dr. V. Vasanthi Devi, former Vice-Chancellor, and Mr. Srivats Ram, CEO of Wheels India Ltd. The event was also featured in various leading English and Tamil dailies.

Community events – In the months of November and December, the Eureka tutors in the Eureka Superkidz Villages took up the **challenge** of declaring that all children in their SuperKidz center had mastered certain skills in each subject. The declaration was done in a community event in front of parents, community leaders, teachers and children. The children were selected at random and were given math problems and reading exercises as per their '**declaration**' goal, in which the children eagerly demonstrated their mastery in front of all. These events were a huge success and boosted the confidence of both the teachers and the children and also increased the active participation of the parents in their child's learning.



Intensive training - Intensive residential training programs were organized for all field teams and coordinators. A state level training program for the first quarter of the academic year was held in 2 locations – Coimbatore and Krishnagiri. Close to 50 participants attended each of the trainings. The highlight of the training session in Coimbatore was a highly motivating and thought provoking talk by Dr. Balaji Sampath. He talked about how children have dreams of a bright tomorrow, and as an organization working for the welfare of children, how we have the critical responsibility of nurturing their dreams and building them into confident individuals. This year, along with our Eureka expert tutors, we had many NGO representatives attending the training.



2. Eureka Schools:

The 2 Eureka schools, running in 2 villages of Venkatrayanpettai and Parmeswaramangalam cater to around 300 village children.



Eureka School, Vembakkam got an upgrade with a new classroom block consisting of 4 airy and spacious classrooms and a new toilet block with separate toilets and wash basins for girls and boys. At both schools, we installed animal-shaped blackboards to enhance the child-friendly atmosphere.



This year, we changed the colour and the pattern of the Eureka School uniform worn by students. The new uniforms are frocks for kindergarten girls, kurtas (tunics) with pants for girls in Classes 1 to 5 and collared shirts with shorts for boys.

We also got new sports uniforms, T-shirts and shorts/pants in 4 different colours (yellow, green, red and blue) – for all students.



The regular school activities such as term wise assessments, updating students' progress on skill charts, term wise teacher training programs and celebration of events such as Sports Day, Annual Day, Republic Day, Independence Day, Pongal and other functions were conducted periodically, as per our plan. In addition, this year, we introduced the following new initiatives:

- Teacher training – This May, we conducted a 5-day training program for teachers to enhance their English speaking skills, grammar, computer usage and internet browsing. These sessions were conducted by 5 interns from Canada, Germany, America and India. Teachers found the grammar & computer sessions very useful.
- Distant English classes– We got interested English-speaking volunteers to have half hour conversations (completely in English) over phone 5 days a week with our teachers. Teachers found these remote classes quite interesting and useful to enhance their comprehension.
- Gift Exchange program - Eureka School students celebrated the Joy of Giving week by gifting hand-made gifts to children from other schools and spending a day with them. Class 4 & 5 students from Eureka School, Koovathur visited ChettinadHari Shree Vidyalayam, Chennai and learned art & craft, dhandiya dance, team sports, music, science and English from their hosts. Students from Eureka School, Vembakkam visited Aikiyam and Isai Ambalam Schools in Auroville and had an interactive day.
- Kindergarten Day – Eureka School Koovathur celebrated Kindergarten Day to keep parents abreast of children's achievements at the end of Term-1 with specific regard to English skills. All students in LKG and UKG sang English rhymes and songs, as well as phonics songs. They also asked simple questions in English and responded to them.
- ABC Nee Vaasi - With the increased focus on English, we conducted "ABC Nee Vaasi!", a unique game show to improve and showcase the students' English reading skills of students in Classes 1 to 5, in Chennai. Every child got to play 3 games in a quiz format in line with their reading goal. Everyone was astounded by the confidence and speed with which the children read English words, sentences and stories.
- Science Day celebration - Eureka School Koovathur celebrated the National Science Day on Feb. 28, 2014. Every student from LKG to Class 5 participated in show & tell, experiment demonstration& explanation, model display and other activities. About 40 parents turned up to witness our students' prowess in science.
- Genki English – We implemented Genki English, a DVD-based set of modules to increase children's skills in basic English comprehension and speaking. Children enjoyed these classes since they involve a lot of songs and activities.
- Revamp -We undertook infrastructure improvement and set up some good practices at Eureka School Koovathur, in order to provide a boost to students & teachers to enjoy and respect their school environment. Some of these included the provision of attendance charts with star stickers, birthday charts to felicitate birthdays of the month, colourful display boards to put up students' work and motivational posters throughout the campus.

3. Scholarships:

Scholarships were provided to around 200 children. Books, notebooks and learning materials were distributed.

4. After-school centers in Chennai slums

After-school centers for children from slums in Chennai are also being run. Around 150 children benefit from these centers. Volunteers in Chennai are also conducting Spoken English and Math sessions for these children. We have also started computer education for older children.

5. Toy Joy Project:

This project aims at collecting used toys from apartment complexes and companies and distributing them to Govt. balwadis, children's hospitals, schools and village centers. This project continued this year to collect toys from several corporate firms and send them to village centers, schools and kindergarten centers.

6. Agriculture and Rural Development:

We have been working with farmers and training them on the System of Rice Intensification to improve the paddy yield. Apart from this, we are also working on training people on the benefits of Vermicomposting.

7. Community Education Centers:

In order to provide children with a safe and convenient space to study in the evenings, we have built village education centers on community land at low cost. Once these centers are built, they are handed over to the community. The centers are being used to run classes for children in the evenings and for training programs on weekends.

8. Health Awareness:

Health education in the form of classes for adolescent girls and training was implemented in villages in Vellore, Cuddalore and Kanchipuram. School teachers were also trained so that they are better equipped to handle the queries many young girls have. The girls in each of these villages have formed committees that would engage actively in imparting awareness about adolescent health and also act as a platform for discussion among the young girls.

We also conducted a health camp at Siruthavur village, Thirupurur block. About 47 adults and 125 children got their health checked up through the camp.

The Dr. Agarwal Eye Hospital team checked them for eye problems. There was also a drawing competition conducted for classes 1 to 5 by the volunteers along with a session for older girls on their health.



Annexure 1

AID INDIA – Office Bearers

AID INDIA is governed by a 15 member Executive Committee. The members are:

Dr. Vasanthi Devi (President), Former Vice-Chancellor MS University, Former TN Chairperson, State Women's Commission

Dr. Balaji Sampath (Secretary & Director), PhD, University of Maryland

Ms. Chandra Anil (Treasurer), BITS Pilani Alumnus.

Dr. Ravishankar (Jt Secretary), IIT Alumnus, PhD CMU, Adjunct Faculty IIT Madras

Dr. R. Ramanujam, Chairman NCERT Math Committee

Dr. Ravi Kuchimanchi, PhD, University of Maryland

Mr. K. S. Ramamoorthy, Former Diplomat UN, Founder, SODEWS

Ms. Smitha Kalyani, BITS Pilani Alumnus

Mr. Damodharan, MA, MPhil, Anthropology, Madras University

Mr. T. Shankar, BCom, MCA, Madras University

Ms. K. Abirami, BCom, formerly with Oxford University Press, Chennai

Ms. Vasughi Adityan, MA, Broadcast & Film Communication, University of Alabama

Ms. V. Samundeeswari, BCom, Diploma in Nutrition & Health Education, IGNOU

Ms. D. Bharathi, BCom, Diploma in Computer Applications

Ms. P. S. Gowri, B. Sc. Physics, MBA Smt. Indira Gandhi College

AID INDIA Financial Report

Financial Year 2013-14

Consolidated Income Expense Account for the year ending March 31,2014

Expenses	Amount(Rs.)
By Project Expenses	
Education Project Expenses	42,780,796
Rural Development Expenses	964,031
Relief and Rehabilitation	3,301,833
Health and Women's Empowerment Project	86,333
Administrative Expenses	3,320,926
Total	50,453,919
Income	Amount(Rs.)
To Project Grants	
Projects Grants Received	6,272,412
General Donations Received	1,172,587
Total Grants	7,444,999
To Others	
Transferred from Current Liabilities (Long Term integrated projects)	6,000,000
Interest from Bank and Investments	8,824,527
Miscellaneous Income	149,783
Total	14,974,310
Excess of Expenditure over Income	28,034,610

Consolidated Balance Sheet for the year ending March 31, 2014

Particulars	March 31st,2014	March 31st,2013
Liability	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Corpus Fund	1,282,044	1,282,044
Reserves and Surplus	103,176,988	131,211,598
Staff Reserve & Project Sustainability Fund	4,863,157	5,492,360
Eureka Education Research Center Fund	29,196,049	29,196,049
Current Liabilities	9,799,000	1,5799,000
Total	148,317,238	182,981,051
Assets	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Fixed Assets	36,258,387	35,758,387
Cash and Bank	38,893,256	30,142,363
Deposits	71,501,416	113,296,731
Project & Office Advances	1,664,179	3,783,570
Total	148,317,238	182,981,051