



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

AID India

info@aidindia.in
www.aidindia.in

45, Pycrofts Road, 1st Street,
Royapettah, Chennai

 **AID INDIA**
Reaching the poorest. Providing the best.

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CEO NOTE

Yet another challenging year has gone by and Aid India's commitment to providing quality education to rural children remains. This year, Aid India introduced the Eureka Walk 'n' Talk program to help rural children speak and read English. One year after its introduction, the Walk 'n' Talk program is now slowly but steadily creating a revolution in the villages. The program has broken the confidence barrier children that had; it has broken the fear of a new language and is now enabling children to be more vocal and confident. It is important for children to believe in themselves and Eureka Walk 'n' Talk has played a major role in restoring that belief.

Equity in education is a concept that Aid India strongly believes in, and the organization has been striving hard to achieve this to ensure that no child is left behind. Aid India's flagship program Eureka Village Education Centers continues to deliver quality learning to children in the villages. The program is currently implemented in 1063 villages, 620 schools and is impacting 80430 children. Additional components such as Tinkering lab, Young scholar program and a health intervention were added to the Eureka SuperKidz program. Aid India is also working on using technology to play a role in transforming the learning quality issues.

As part of the Eureka Homes project, Aid India completed the construction of the 300th house this year. Many of these Eureka Homes have transformed the lives of several people who lost their homes and belongings in the 2015 floods.

Eureka Schools continue to benefit children from the villages around the schools. New interventions in extra-curricular activities like juggling and football has contributed greatly to enhance the confidence of children.

Declaration events continue to prove that the community is keenly watching the progress made by children who attend the Eureka centres and has been paving a way for us to involve parents in their children's learning. Certificates and simple gifts given for skill achievements are great motivators for children to move ahead quickly.

Learning from the lessons of this year, we continue our efforts in improving the life of economically backward children and families in villages.



EUREKA PROGRAMS

Eureka Village Education Centers:

In each village, local tutors run classes for children from Std. 3 to Std. 8. Focusing on Math, Tamil and foundation skills, these centers ensure that children who need the most support get individual attention and focus. Mainly, the local tutor's belief that every child can learn motivates children to do more and achieve skills. This year, Walk 'n' Talk English program was introduced to build confidence among children to speak English. They were taught to read and speak simple English used in common situations. One of the key components of this program is the Walk 'n' Talk conversation that children have with parents and adults in the village in the evening. Children are divided into groups of 5 and each group goes door-to-door to 'teach' English to the adults at home. One child asks a question in English to the adult, others in the group translate the question into Tamil, and then tell the adult the way to respond to the question in English. This 'teaching' helps children feel special and confident about themselves. At the end of the interaction the adult gives children a 'Well Done!' sticker to appreciate their efforts. This has built visibility and improved interaction between the parents and the Eureka tutor in the village. The program is currently implemented in 1063 villages, 620 schools and is impacting 80430 children.

Summer Camp

During May and June, children at Eureka SuperKidz centres took part in the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' summer camp. Children were given learning materials in Math and Tamil. They worked in groups to solve these puzzles and games. A 'Countdown to Zero' board was put up to each center to emphasize the goal that there must be no child in the village who does not have the targeted skill. Individuals and employees in companies in Chennai donated crayons and stationery articles as gifts for children at the end of the Summer Camp. At the end of the month and a half long campaign, all the children were given certificates and gifts.

Eureka learning materials

Apart from regular learning materials, many newly developed materials have been added this year. Each child got separate workbooks for Tamil, Math and English. A complete yearly planner was designed for Tutors with space provided to note down key points during monthly block level training. This was also a reference book for the Tutors for the activities in Eureka SuperKidz centre. A preloaded speaker for each centre has been given for English audio modules, songs and Role Plays.

Eureka Speed Math competition

This was a competition to gauge the accuracy and speed of solving as many Subtraction sums by 3rd-5th std and Division sums by 6th-8th std students in 5 minutes. 50% of children in 3rd-5th std were able to do more than 5 Subtraction sums in 5 minutes and 48% of children in 6th-8th std were able to do more than 5 Division sums in 5 minutes. Village level winners participated in inter-village competitions at the block level. It is extremely heartening to see that there are many children in 4th and 5th standard who could solve 14 subtraction sums and 6th-8th std children solve 14 division sums in 5 minutes.

Eureka Young Scholars

200 Children in 6th & 7th std were selected as Young Scholars from Eureka SuperKidz centres. Workshops on advanced skills were conducted for them in October and February. New components have been added this year like Simple Robotics, Mental Math, Critical Thinking, Tamil Comprehension, Art & Craft and Kitchen gardening etc. Educational trips to Birla Planetarium, Govt. Museum and Snake Park at Chennai were organized in April.

Eureka Library

Library books for 3rd-5th std and 6th-8th std children were given to villages. Books for each Eureka SuperKidz centre containing Tamil and English stories, Math puzzles, Science concepts and biographies were distributed.

Tinkering Lab

To motivate students to explore science in a practical way, Tinkering Labs have been started in some of the Eureka SuperKidz centres in tribal villages this year. Children have learned

many new things - dismantling and reassembling of bicycles, simple plumbing activity to stop leakage of water from joints of the pipes and fixing tape, simple line following robots, basic understanding on the hardware of the mobile phone, stitching & binding of textbooks and making solar panel torchlights.

Eureka Skill Fest

To measure the children's progress in the *Walk 'n' Talk* English program and to encourage them, the 'Eureka Skill Fest' was organized in the months of October and April. As external evaluators, students from different colleges and local volunteers validated the progress of children in the villages. This was also an event to showcase children's Tamil and Math skills in front of their parents in the village.

Virtual Class

Apart from regular classes, webcams with an internet connection have been set up at a few Eureka SuperKidz centres. Through these remote sessions, children get a chance to interact with experts and volunteers from various backgrounds around the world.

Eureka Science Day Celebrations

On the occasion of Science day, various events were organized in the community where children demonstrated what the children learnt in their Eureka classes. Science festivals and quizzes were held across villages, beginning with a set of rapid-fire questions and ending with science experiments. Children participated with great enthusiasm.

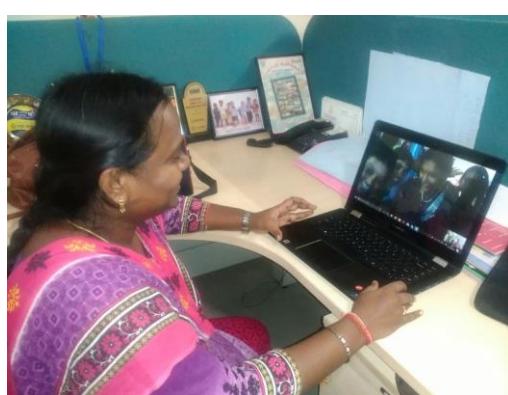
Question Bank for Math, Science & Social Science:

Question Banks from 6th, 7th and 8th std Math, Science and Social Science syllabus of Tamil Nadu State Board were developed and distributed to Eureka SuperKidz centres this year. Tutors were given training and instruction to conduct classes everyday apart from the usual remedial focus. Purpose of this activity was for better performance among children in current content at school.

Declaration events

People in villages got together to celebrate the skill achievements of the children in Eureka SuperKidz centre at the end of each term. The event was celebrated like a "*Thiruvizha*" or

community festival. The Tutors took the challenge of achieving 100% in one or more skills and announced it to everyone in the village. On the event day, the children publicly exhibited their skills and were awarded certificates by the community leaders. The event not only made the children more confident and proud of their achievements, it also brought to the limelight the enormous amount of effort the Tutor has put in to achieve these skills.



Eureka School

The 2 Eureka Schools, running in the villages of Venketrayanpettai (Vembakkam Block, Tiruvannamalai District) and Parameswaramangalam (Lathur Block, Kanchipuram District), catered to about 370 students from LKG to Class 5 this year.

Key Initiatives

- Consistent efforts by the teachers and dedicated volunteers at both schools have resulted in improvement in English comprehension and speaking skills of students, especially in Class 4 & 5. Students have started speaking confidently in English, and they don't let their tiny mistakes stop them from expressing their thoughts and ideas.
- Thanks to concerted efforts by teachers in promoting 'mental math' techniques, students in Classes 3 to 5 learned to solve simple arithmetic problems without pen or paper. We conducted a Mental Math event in Term-3, where parents were impressed with their children's ability to compute and solve problems in less than 10 seconds!
- To get children excited about skill achievement and make them want to do better and more, we introduced a Rewards system at Eureka Schools. Each student got a token for every skill achieved in English or Math. Students accumulated tokens and got to redeem them, either for fun incentives like being Class Monitor, blowing bubbles at lunchtime, getting a photograph taken with a crown, etc.; or for gifts at a 'gift shop', which was set up at school. Many kids saved up tokens that they earned to buy gifts such as soft toys and stationery kits. Teachers and students found this very exciting and want us to continue it next year.
- Students of Eureka school, their parents and teachers celebrated National Science Day with a lot of excitement. In the end, the children gave everyone a handcrafted gift - 'Seed balls' made of clay, containing seeds such as cereals, beans, etc., that they could easily plant and grow. Parents were thrilled with this innovative return gift!
- Class 5 students at Eureka School Koovathur got a unique opportunity to research unknown anecdotes/facts about Indian Cricket prior to 1950. They had a fantastic few weeks, learning about cricket from cricket legends and visited the Madras Cricket Club and M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. Their entry has been selected for the Heritage Book Project on Indian Cricket prior to 1950, an initiative by the Watering Can Foundation, based in Pune.
- We tested Skype Classes successfully at Eureka Schools! Std. 5 students enjoyed Dr. Balaji Sampath's livestream class on fractions. Technical glitches need to be resolved to get these classes running regularly from the coming year.

- Eureka School Koovathur brimmed with colour and creativity as the children put up their art & craft exhibition on the 'colour' theme, guided by student volunteers from APL Global, Chennai. Our students got to explore colour theory using a variety of fun techniques including 'marbling' using shaving foam! Parents were awestruck by their children's artwork and enjoyed trying out these techniques at the do-it-yourself stalls, guided by our students.
- Extra-curricular - Our Eureka School Vembakkam Girls' football team got to play their first 'practice match' with a team of girls from private schools in Chennai. They enjoyed the experience and got to learn new techniques and understand the nuances of the game. Our ace 'flow art' experts from Eureka School Vembakkam got to showcase their prowess in juggling various props at events in Chennai, as well as on special invitation, at the premises of Latent View, Chennai.
- Alumni workshops - This year, we conducted fortnightly workshops for our alumni students and involved them in a variety of activities to build their confidence and skills - such as football, silambam, science projects, art & craft techniques, Spoken English and folk dance. Students exhibited their talents at an Alumni Annual Day at both Eureka Schools. We plan to increase our engagement with them in the coming year.



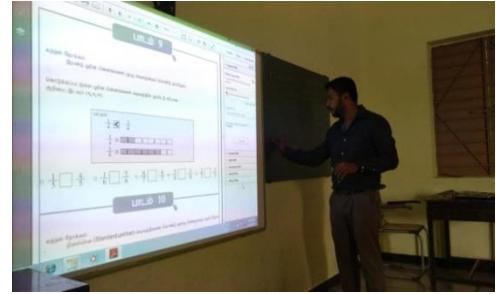


Eureka Teacher Training Program

The Eureka Teacher Training program has been working with both Government and Private school teachers. This year, we had trained 155 teachers across Tiruvannamalai, Trichy, and Salem districts. We had conducted 36 skill fest events to celebrate the student's learning achievement in these schools. In all these locations, we had good support from education officers in implementing this program. Teachers could see the impact of skill improvement especially in reading words in English, in reading Tamil stories and in solving basic arithmetic problems by their students. Our team also had given Spoken English training based on the Eureka's Walk n Talk methodology to teachers for two terms. In Salem, we trained Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) school teachers in 13 blocks of Salem. These KGBV schools focus on providing schooling for girl children who have dropped out from mainstream schools. In Arni block, we conducted a certification program at the end of the academic year to recognize all teachers who implemented the program well.

COIMBATORE Math Skills IMPROVEMENT Project

A Math skills improvement program is being implemented in 4 Govt. schools in Coimbatore, with support from Larsen and Toubro. Apart from training the teachers in the schools, additional Eureka tutors are appointed to take classes in each school. Hands-on practical activities as well as worksheets are provided to all the tutors.



Declaration Event

- ▶ The Skills Declaration Event was conducted during October and March across all the schools.
- ▶ 70% of the children achieved the targeted skill. Stickers and gifts were given to them.
- ▶ Children enjoyed the measurement component in their event. They were asked to measure and weigh the required object. This was a huge hit among children and volunteers.
- ▶ CSR managers and volunteers from L&T participated in the event and assessed children and their levels.



EUREKA HOMES

After the 2015 floods, Aid India began to build homes for the most vulnerable people in the village who lost their homes or did not even have a small hut to live. Through the Eureka Homes project, Aid India has been building low-cost homes for the poorest families in Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Tiruvallur, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts. This year, Aid India completed its 300th Eureka Home. Apart from these, Aid India has also built more than 35 community and individual toilets. In villages where there is no power or a shortage of power, Aid India has provided solar panels.



EUREKA RUN

The Eureka Run is an annual event conducted by AID INDIA to support quality education for underprivileged children. The 8th edition of the Eureka Run, supported by Canfin Homes was held on Sunday 11th February 2018 at Elliot's beach, Besant Nagar. More than 1000 volunteers registered and participated in the Eureka Run this year. It was heartening to see students from St. Louis College for the Deaf participating enthusiastically in the run. The Eureka Run also had an unprecedented turnout of more than 100 volunteers from SRR, Jeppiaar, Panimalar, IIT Colleges who helped us organize the entire event.

VOLUNTEERS FELICITATION

More than 1200 students from 31 colleges took part in the Eureka Learning Festival held in 1000 villages. All these volunteers visited the villages, tested children's skills gave them certificates and small gifts. To felicitate these volunteers, an event was held in Chennai. Volunteers were appreciated for their efforts and given medals and certificates. Aid India volunteer chapters were also launched in a few colleges. A badge was given to the Student Secretary and the Student President of the chapter. A volunteer journal was given to all volunteers in the chapter. More than 10 other institutions have expressed interest to start Aid India chapters in their colleges. We hope to grow this initiative in the coming years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Particulars	March 31 st , 2018	March 31 st , 2017
Liability	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Corpus Fund	12,82,044	12,82,044
Reserves and Surplus	1533,51,408	1573,47,036
Staff Reserve & Project Sustainability Fund	24,19,659	26,96,187
Eureka Education Research Center Fund	291,96,049	291,96,049
Current Liabilities	37,99,000	37,99,000
Total	1900,48,160	1943,20,316
Assets		
Fixed Assets	362,58,387	362,58,387
Cash and Bank	768,97,417	948,33,117
Deposits	675,04,336	566,12,783
Project & Office Advances	93,88,020	66,16,029
Total	1900,48,160	1943,20,316