



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

AID India

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AID INDIA
Reaching the poorest. Providing the best.

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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The year began with the launch of the Eureka Walk 'n' Talk program in more than 1000 villages of Tamilnadu. The focus of this program was to build the confidence of children from the poorest villages by helping them learn to read and speak English. Today, English is not just a language. It is the big divide between the rich and the poor. The ability to speak English build self-esteem and broadens opportunities for children, and the lack of it results in disadvantages for children at every stage of their life. Through the Eureka Walk 'n' Talk program, tutors in remote villages were empowered to teach English to children in the community. Children in many of these villages learnt to ask and answer simple questions, sing songs and perform role plays that removed their inhibition to speak in front of others. English was not confined just to the classroom - children were encouraged to go from one house to the other and teach their elders the questions and sentences they had learnt. The entire village participated in their children's learning and encouraged their achievements.

The Kerala floods and the Gaja cyclone spurred the AID INDIA team into immediate relief work. The AID INDIA team and volunteers collected, sorted and dispatched a large amount of essential supplies to the affected areas. Once the need for immediate relief subsided, the Eureka Homes team worked with the people of the affected villages to identify the neediest families who had lost their homes in the disaster. With the support of generous donors, new houses were constructed for many families who did not have a place to live.

As our team worked in the poorest tribal and remote villages, we realized that small children in these villages did not have even one toy to play with. Some of our volunteers who visited these villages were struck by the deprivation and started collecting and sending toys to these villages. This prompted us to launch the Eureka Toy Joy Drive on the day of our annual Eureka Run Event. Our target is to collect and distribute one lakh toys to one lakh children, so that every child has at least one toy to play with. There has been a good response from our volunteers for this initiative and we have now distributed toys to many children in these villages.

Our technology-enabled education initiatives also grew in scale this year. Using tabs to project videos by expert teachers and resource persons, our tutors have been ensuring that Science and Math concepts reach children in Govt. schools in Ramanathapuram and other districts. We are planning to expand these tab classes in many more schools in the coming year.

We are thankful to all our donors, our dedicated team of village teachers and trainers, and our enthusiastic volunteers, for their unwavering commitment to help the poorest children and their families.



EUREKA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EUREKA VILLAGE EDUCATION CENTERS

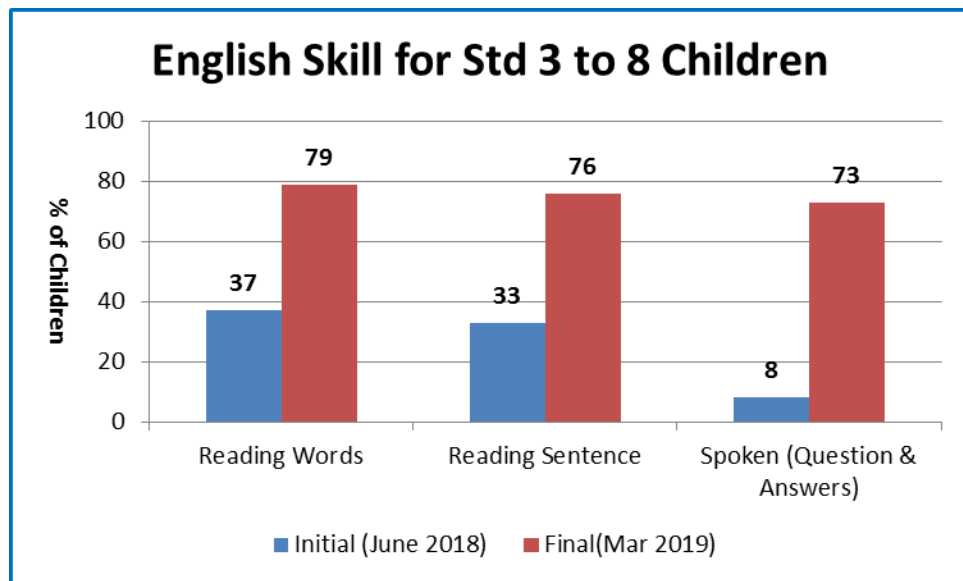
Equity in education is the basic need for a balanced society and for a secure future. Good quality education can make a huge difference in the lives of poor children and it can decisively break their cycle of poverty. However, several of our villages are way behind the expected levels in education quality. The Eureka program aims to break that divide.

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. The program also leverages on the local tutor's belief that every child can learn. The tutor's belief motivates children to achieve mastery in skills.

Walk' n Talk English program was introduced this academic year 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 community interaction component called Walk 'n Talk where the children converse with parents and adults in the village. Children are divided into groups of 5 and each group goes door-to-door to "teach" English to the adults. Teaching the adults is a very critical component of the program and it helps children feel special and confident about themselves. At the end of the interaction the adult gives the children a "Well Done!" sticker to appreciate their efforts.

The community interaction component has built visibility for the program as well as the tutor and also 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 80,430 children.

The Eureka team also rolled out a Mental Math component in these centers encouraging and motivating children to solve math problems with ease. A wide range of tools were designed, built and provided with training to Eureka Tutors. The content focused on fun and easy to learn techniques to solve math problems. The learning process also took place in collaboration with the community members. The community component provided the children an opportunity to exhibit their problem-solving skills in real time. Parents have expressed their joy and pride in how the new program component has increased confidence and mental math abilities of their children.



Key Initiatives

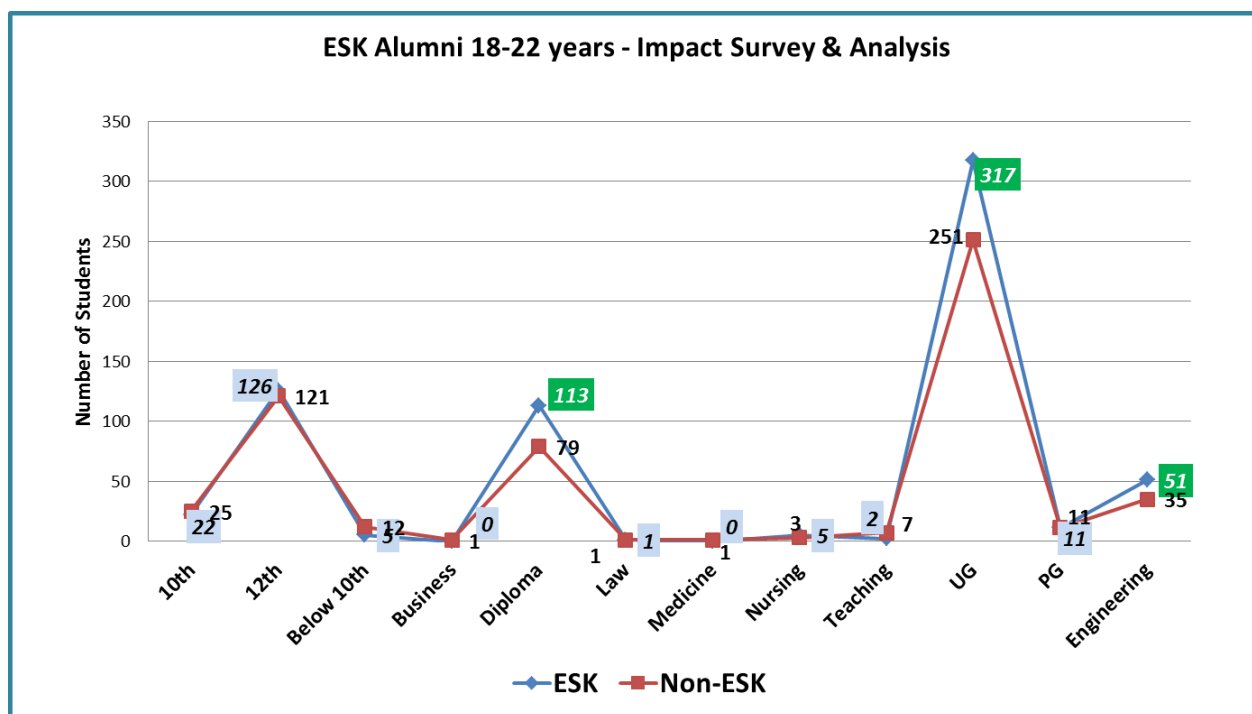
Parent Engagement: Self-sustaining Model

Eureka methodology and model have been appreciated by tutors and parents at many villages. Eureka centers are designed to self-sustain over the long term. The community is engaged and takes on responsibility of decision making for all the administrative matters at the Eureka centres. A committee constituted with community members monitors the day to day activities of the centre, enrolment, identification of new tutor and co-curricular, non-academic requirements. The community participation model was initiated earlier this year in villages where Aid India has a long term presence through its interventions. Additionally, the model has also been implemented at some of the centres in Vellore district.

Impact assessment of Eureka Super Kidz (ESK) program

Aim of the Eureka SuperKidz program is to provide quality learning to the most marginalized and neglected populations in rural Tamilnadu. The centres were established on the premise that good education can change lives and provide upward social and economic mobility. An assessment was conducted to gauge the impact of the program. The program evaluation included household surveys and interviews with alumni, tutors, parents and political leaders in the 30 Eureka SuperKidz program villages. The survey was also carried out in 5 control villages where there was no Aid India intervention.

The evaluation results indicated that children from Eureka centers enrolled in college was higher than those who have not attended Eureka centres.



Celebrating Learning Achievements

The norm is to recognize learning achievements through summative assessment scores and ranking. Done with a difference, Children at the Eureka centres receive their achievement appreciation through attractive gifts. Throughout the term they practice Spoken English by visiting families in villages and earn skill achievement tickets when they successfully complete each activity. At the end of each term, they exchange the tickets for gifts which bring them full of joy.



Stories from the Field

Poovarasam is an Eureka SuperKidz alumnus from A.G Kandigai Village, R.K.Pet Block ,Thiruvallur District. He attended the ESK centre for three years and shares his thoughts “Maths and Science were taught by Eureka such a simple way that learning was full of fun. Other subjects were also taught in a manner that I understood the concepts and remembered those forever. Eureka encouraged our creativity like story writing and drawing too. We were recognized through block, district and state level competitions and taken to Chennai. This raised my self-confidence and belief that I can achieve anything I want. Today, I am a proud medical student in one of the best medial colleges in Tamil Nadu”.



Poovarasam, an ESK alumnus and current medical student can be seen in this picture.

Best Tutor Award

An event was organized on 11th July in Chennai to celebrate the success of Eureka SuperKidz project and launch of project 'EQUIP'. On this occasion, 15 Eureka SuperKidztutors were given 'Best Teacher Award' for their outstanding performance throughout the year. Some of them shared their success stories which motivated other Eureka tutors.



KravMaga Self-Defense Training

Self-defense workshop on Israeli marshal art 'KravMaga' was conducted for Block Level Trainers and the Project Managers at every quarterly training. Eureka tutors were then trained by the block trainers at their respective blocks who passed on the techniques to children at the Eureka SuperKidz centres. The techniques that are easy to learn have developed tremendous self confidence among the children and the staff of Eureka.

Training on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Training on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse was conducted for Eureka Block Trainers, who in turn trained the tutors. Children were given informative learning materials to create awareness about sexual abuse and undesirable behaviors. A workshop for school children was organized at Chennai Corporation School at Saidapet, Chennai in December. It was heartening to see a newspaper article that demonstrated how the workshop had helped children counter abuse they experienced.

Tinkering Lab

Tinkering Lab program encourages children in ESK centres to learn trade skills. Children practice dismantling & reassembling of bicycles and also learn plumbing. Upon completion of the program, a certification event was held where children demonstrated the activity to community members in the village. Cycle mechanic and plumber from the village were the judges who validated the skills demonstrated by the children. Children who qualified received certificates in presence of proud parents in the audience.



Women's Day celebration

Eureka Women's day was celebrated by the tutors of Eureka SuperKidz centres in different blocks. Many young and middle-aged women participated and celebrated women's day along with the Aid India team. Many achievers shared their life story and inspired the audience. There were many sessions conducted as a part of celebration. The highlight of the celebration was when 13 Eureka tutors at K.V.Kuppam block donated blood and shared that they thought that the event was the perfect occasion to donate. This gesture inspired many young people present at the celebration.

Eureka Scholarship

Eureka scholarship program identifies children from the poorest families who need financial assistance and supports their educational needs. These children are often from single parent families and need external support to continue their education. Children in middle school are enrolled in the scholarship program and mentored till they graduate college. Since 2006, Eureka Scholarships has helped hundreds of students complete their schooling and graduate from college. This year, we have given scholarship to 20 students who are pursuing graduation.



EUREKA SCHOOLS

Eureka Schools were founded in 2006 by Aid India, with the vision of providing high quality education at an affordable cost to rural children. The two Eureka Schools, running in the villages of Venketrayanpettai (Vembakkam Block, Tiruvannamalai District) and Parameswaramangalam (Lathur Block, Kanchipuram District), catered to 380 students from LKG to Class 5 this year. The goal of Eureka Schools is to build confidence and skills in rural children and demonstrate grade-specific learning outcomes for all children enrolled in the school.

Scale - 2 Schools, 380 children in LKG to Class 5

Key Initiatives

Focus on outcomes

- 75% students across classes have achieved the critical grade-expected outcomes, thanks to focused efforts by teachers.
- Children with specific learning needs were taught using alternative approaches and techniques, to improve their learning levels. Parimala, teacher at Eureka School Koovathur conducted one-on-one classes with a few such children this year. One student who benefitted from Parimala's classes is Vijay, a Class 2 student. Vijay joined Eureka School as a shy child who always stayed aloof from the rest. He was low in confidence, muttering within himself and had trouble remembering what he learned at school. Parimala tried a variety of simple techniques and ideas to help him learn letters and words. She encouraged him to talk about his favourite things, likes and dislikes. Parimala recorded videos of Vijay trying to read and speak and played back the same to him and his parents. With each session, Vijay's confidence improved. The change was visible within a few weeks. Vijay started wishing his teachers every day and opened up to make friends. Persistent positive efforts by teachers enabled Vijay to perform very well in his Spoken English skills evaluation.

Extra-curricular Activities

- Students' confidence and prowess in flow arts (juggling) with props such as balls, spinning plates, scarves, clubs and hats has been steadily improving. They have been entertaining parents and visitors with their ability to juggle. Students from Eureka School Vembakkam also performed a juggling routine at the Independence Day celebrations in 2 Government Schools at Vembakkam.

Events to engage parents

Many events were organized this year to engage parents in their children's activities at school.

- Teachers met each parent one-on-one on Open Day each term and gave them a detailed report on their child's skills across subjects. Parents' participation in Open Day has increased this year.
- Students at Eureka School Vembakkam organized a fun activity carnival for parents. They put up about 20 stalls with a variety of activities in math, logical reasoning, art and language. Students registered their parents as participants and issued tokens to them. Parents were totally engrossed in these activities and were thrilled to get toffees as rewards!
- At the end of the year, both schools organized Eureka School Day to showcase students' work to parents. All classrooms were decorated with exhibits of children's work. Parents turned up in large numbers to see their children demonstrate the activities they had learnt at school. They were in awe of their children's confidence as they explained science experiments, math concepts and described pictures in English. They loved the creative hand-made return gifts that their children had made lovingly for them.

Productive Exchanges

- Teachers from National Public School (NPS), Singapore conducted a 2-day intensive workshop for Eureka School teachers on English and Social Science. English sessions included activities for vocabulary introduction & spelling, higher level reading comprehension and speaking. The NPS teachers also conducted demo classes with our students on topics that are usually considered mundane. They used a variety of techniques such as visual aids and hands-on activities to introduce the concept.

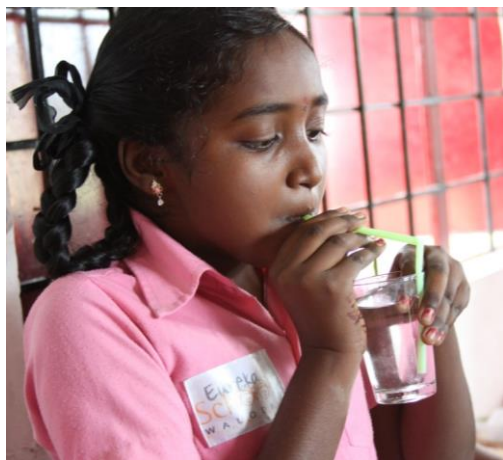
- 27 teachers from 3 Government schools in Chennai Corporation visited Eureka School Koovathur to get an understanding of the teaching methods used here. They shared that they found the English & Math hands-on activities done by kindergarten children very interesting. The teachers appreciated students' confidence in speaking English.
- A group of 24 educators from TJFBG, an institution that provides professional education and counseling services to schools in Berlin, Germany visited Eureka School Koovathur as part of their 'India educational exchange' program. The group spent 2 hours visiting classrooms and interacting with children & teachers. "We could see that you offer a high quality of education. The staff is highly motivated. It seemed that every child is being seen according to their individual learning background and development. The process of learning is very attractive for both, staff and kids, through the colourful environment, the design of the class and activity rooms, and through the attractive and easy to understand material you develop and offer to the kids", quoting what the visitors had to mention about Eureka School
- Besides these, Eureka Schools also shared their teaching methodology ideas with several other groups such as Tech Mahindra Foundation, LAIA Foundation, ISDL, McAfee, BancaSella and other schools in neighboring districts.

Infrastructure improvement – New classroom block at Eureka School Vembakkam

With the steady increase in student strength at Eureka School Vembakkam, we needed additional classrooms for students in LKG to Class 5. New block of xxx classrooms was constructed.



One of our Eureka Super Stars!



Lavanya demonstrating a Science experiment as a Class 5 student at Eureka School



Lavanya comperes our Eureka School Alumni Annual Day program in May 2017

T. Lavanya joined Eureka School in 2006 as a Class 1 student. Her parents, Thirumurugan and Sowndari run a medical shop at Kathankadai, a village near Kalpakkam. Lavanya's siblings studied in Eureka School. Her older sister, Charulatha, is currently doing Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) in a college in Kelambakkam and her younger sister, Rajashree is studying in Class 9. Eureka School teachers recall Lavanya as a very bold and enthusiastic child, always eager to learn. She kept telling them, "I want to be a doctor when I grow up." After Lavanya passed out of Eureka School in Class 5, she continued her school education at Infant Jesus Matriculation School in Kalpakkam. She continued to keep in touch with Eureka School teachers and participated in our alumni workshops.

Lavanya secured distinction in Class 10 and an aggregate of 70% in Class 12. Keen on helping their daughter pursue her dream of becoming a doctor, Lavanya's parents decided to sell their only piece of farmland to finance her education. Thanks to their efforts and Lavanya's determination, she joined Yerevan Hay Busak University in Armenia, Russia, opting for a degree in General Medicine. She is currently in her second year of the course. Lavanya's grit and persistence in pursuing her dream would make her go places. We are glad that Eureka School was able to provide Lavanya a strong foundation in primary school concepts.

EQUIP- EDUCATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

Ramanathapuram is an aspirational district identified by NITI Aayog. NSE Foundation has partnered with Aid India to improve the quality of learning for rural students. This project has reached 3,688 students across 40 primary schools, 10 middle schools in 40 villages of Mandapam block with approvals from the State education department. More than 200 Government school teachers were trained in three phases, on child-centric pedagogies and skill based evaluation techniques by the Aid India team. 40 local tutors and 17 eureka expert teachers were retrained in innovative pedagogy and low cost teacher learning materials on a monthly basis. Eureka expert teachers visited the schools twice a week and conducted English and Math classes in the afternoon. For high schools, Aid India provided Science kits using which students could carry out practical science experiments with ease. For schools and after-school centres in villages, attractive learning materials and children's workbooks were distributed every term. Skill festivals, to celebrate the achievement of children's learning outcome, were conducted in more than 25 schools and efforts to maximize participation from parents and local community yielded great results. By end of March 2019, many students' confidence had increased tremendously and they were able to speak in English without any fear or hesitation. Their reading skills and arithmetic skills had also improved notably. This year students were also taught to solve arithmetic problems mentally and many students improved their mental math problem-solving skills too.

Key Initiatives

Ooranis at Ramnad

Oorani (percolation pond) is an important water body at Ramnad and almost all villages in Mandapam block have these Ooranis that were built long ago. Ramnad is a draught-prone district and attracts very less rain where Ooranis have played a major role for centuries. Aid India team partnered with high school students and surveyed village elders and panchayat leaders on the Oorani structure, current capacity, usage and its history. More than 100 students participated in this initiative and learnt about their own local resources.

Projector Based Classes

Science topics such as Air pressure and heat were taught to students using videos that were played offline using a projector. Students learnt the process of doing an experiment through these classes and tried Science experiments on their own. Videos by Dr. BalajiSampath on solving fraction problems were played to high school students through projectors as well and this enhanced their fraction skill remarkably.



Spoken English Initiative for teachers

Aid India state team recognized the need for increasing teachers' confidence in speaking English so that they can confidently face students at school, teachers and higher education officials. Aid India used multiple approaches to train the teachers. 4 workshops on Spoken English for teachers were organized through the year. Series of questions were posed to teachers regularly to strengthen their speaking skills and simple English stories were provided to improve their reading and comprehension skills. Aid India's English experts also conducted live virtual classes.

Training on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Eureka Expert teachers and local tutors attended the training on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The state team trained everyone on various forms of abuse that students and women encounter in their lives and means to deal with the same. Pamphlets were also distributed to schools and teachers providing guidance on reactive measures and actions to be taken in such situations.

DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Aid India has been at the forefront of relief and rehabilitation efforts in times of natural calamities. Through Aid India's vast network of dedicated volunteers, immediate assistance is provided to people who need it the most. Aid India believes that immediate relief must be followed by long-term rehabilitation efforts. This belief gave rise to the Eureka Homes program in 2016, to identify the most vulnerable and needy families and give them a dignified living. In many villages, there are old people and families that live under plastic sheets or in a dilapidated house. Eureka Homes provide the much-needed shelter for these poorest families to live with dignity. As part of its Eureka Homes initiative, Aid India has constructed 367 homes for the poorest families so far. The whole village is involved in the decision of identifying the families. The family participates actively in the planning and construction of their home. In addition to the existing problems, the floods of 2015 and cyclone Vardah threw their life out of normalcy. Unabated rains gave rise to floods. The lake overflowed bringing in powerful currents of water. They were taken to relief shelters. This cyclone, most severe in two decades had turned their life into a nightmare. They did not get work for several days. Compensation was declared by the Govt did not reach them as it was distributed among the dominant castes. They continue to live in the damaged house by pulling a plastic sheet over their roof.



Vasantha who is aged 65 and Ganeshan who is aged 70 is from Pallancheri street in Adanur village. They belong to the Pallar community. It's a small hamlet which houses this backward community and the streets are named after them. They live with their son, daughter-in-law and their 2-year-old grandson. They work for daily wages and perform unskilled and semi-skilled work. There is a small lake behind their house, which overflows and floods their hut even during moderate showers. During monsoon, they leave the hamlet and come back only after the rains stop. Each year they are forced to undertake repair work of their house due to rains.

Kerala Floods

In August 2018, Kerala was subjected to incessant heavy rains leading to floods. Aid India along with grass root organizations and volunteers have been working hard to bring immediate relief to many flood affected families from all socio-economic backgrounds.

The efforts were focused in six areas - Wayanad, Idukki, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kochi, Thrissur. 10 trucks with 38 tons of relief material worth 72 lakhs were distributed to 10,500 families, 450 volunteers from various institutions and corporates actively participated in the relief work, and many individuals contributed material and funds. Aid India initiated Eureka Homes Project in Kerala after the relief and rehabilitation. We also renovated schools in the districts of Idukki and Trissur.



Latha staying in Kuzhoor block of Kakkullisseryvillage . Her husband had passed away due to illness. She have two daughters studying in government school. She hasn't got any contacts with her relatives. For her daily expense she does some housekeeping work. She could only raise her children with this money. Due to Kerala flood her house was fully demolished and Aid India approached her and helped to live a happy life.

Gaja Cyclone

In Nov 2018, Cyclone Gaja hit the coastal areas of Tamilnadu, leading to massive uprooting of electricity poles and trees, destroying livelihoods of many people. Aid India's relief efforts were focused in Nagapatinam, Tanjore, Trichy, Pudukottai, Sivagangai and Tiruvarur and we have sent 13 relief trucks containing 5500 Family Kits with material worth 26 lakhs. We had more than 200 volunteers from various institutions, participating in Gaja relief work. Aid India initiated Eureka Homes Project in the affected areas after the relief and rehabilitation. We also renovated schools in the districts of Idukki and Trissur.

EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

EUREKA RUN



Eureka Run is an annual flagship event organized by Aid India, to express solidarity and help the rural children get quality education. This year, Eureka Run 2019 was sponsored by CanFin Homes and was a grand success. Every year, the run is organized for a cause and this time around, it was to collect 1 lakh toys for 1 lakh underprivileged children. More than 1500 people from 17 Institutions participated and supported the cause. Two toy pools were set up to showcase the toys contributed by various schools in Chennai. Eureka Toy Joy campaign was launched at the event. The Eureka run was flagged off by Canara Bank Chairman Padma Shri T.N. Manoharan ,CanFin Homes Managing Director Mr.S.K. Hota , Madras High Court Justice Mr. Chandru (Rtd.), MLA Mylapore, Chennai& DGP (Rtd.) Dr.R.Natraj IPS, Educationist Dr.Vasanthi Devi, Youth Officer ,NSS Regional Directorate Mr.ThirumalaiRajkumar

EUREKA TOY JOY

Eureka Toy Joy is an on-going drive to collect and gather gently used toys and new ones for the underprivileged children across Tamilnadu. The drive was initiated when a volunteer from Singapore had visited one of the tribal villages in Tirutani named Cherukkanur, where a 1-yr old kid was playing with a pet rat as a pull-along toy; the children in the neighboring village too were playing with frog etc. This incident made Aid India start the drive and collect toys for the underprivileged. Our target is to collect 1 lakh toys for 1 lakh children. People who are interested can donate your gently used toys by contacting us. Those who are interested to donate but are not in Chennai or India can donate through online.

The toys donated by your respective organisation and other organisations was sent to 1000 children in 45 tribal villages in the districts of Tiruttani, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, and Kancheepuram in the month of September 2018. In the month of March, we have distributed toys along with 50 volunteers to 1088 kids in 17 locations (Orphanages, Slums, Differently abled children's homes, HIV infected kids, Balwadietc) in Chennai



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Particulars	March 31st,2019 (18-19)	March 31st,2018 (17-18)
Liability	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Corpus Fund	1,282,044	1,282,044
Reserves and Surplus	142,592,844	153,351,408
Staff Reserve & Project Sustainability Fund	2,100,795	2,419,659
Eureka Education Research Center Fund	29,196,049	29,196,049
Current Liabilities	3,799,000	3,799,000
Total	178,970,732	190,048,160
Assets		
Fixed Assets	41,686,787	36,258,387
Cash and Bank	47,228,130	76,897,417
Deposits	75,652,385	67,504,336
Project & Office Advances	14,403,430	9,388,020
Total	178,970,732	190,048,160