

# EUREKA NEWS

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

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Class 5 students at Eureka School Koovathur got a chance to participate in a unique collaborative effort to bring out a Heritage Book on Indian Cricket. As part of this, children looked up old news articles and cricket books and also visited the Madras Cricket Club and M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, guided by Mr. Raghunath, co-author, Mid-wicket Tales. They also got to meet and interview cricket legends who represented India in the 1940s-'50s - such as Mr. C.D. Gopinath, Mr. V.V. Kumar, the family of former leg spinner, Mr. M.J. Gopalan, as well as Cricket Coach, Mr. Kedarnath. They gathered a lot of unusual facts and anecdotes about Indian Cricket in Chennai before 1950. Their presentation which including illustrations and a collage has been selected for the book! The visits and interviews happened, thanks to the efforts of several Eureka patrons, who connected us.

## HEALTH & NUTRITIONFOR TRIBAL CHILDREN & WOMEN



Nutritional problems affect school-age tribal children, resulting in impaired learning ability and school dropouts. We provide nutritional guidance to the mothers in all the tribal villages which have Eureka SuperKidz centres. We have been encouraging children to collect "sattu maavu" (ground pulses and cereals mixture) from the local Balwadi, our team also visited some Balwadis to ensure that children get sattu maavu and boiled eggs regularly. We showed children how to make sattu maavu and distributed it to them. We have been distributing boiled Bengal gram and bananas to the children at our centre once a week. We were thrilled with the immediate impact of 100% attendance of children at our Eureka SuperKidz centres.

## TINKERING LAB AT TRIBAL VILLAGE



The 'Learning lab' program was designed to promote vocational skills as and foster indigenous skills of the tribal community. Tinkering Labs have been set up in 10 of the 28 tribal villages supported by National Stock Exchange of India in Javvadu Hills, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts. The following vocational skills have been shortlisted for the children by engaging locally available skilled persons : Mobile phone repair, cycle repair, and wall clock repair. Mobile phone repair and cycle repair workshops were conducted. Around hundred children tried their hand at repairing them. Most children were able to successfully fix minor faults and also asked questions to the local expert. After a few sessions, the children demonstrated what their ability to repair in front of their parents and the community. In Cherukkanur village, the tribal women were taught to weave plastic baskets that can be used by them everyday. These tinkering labs have generated a lot of interest among the children and the community.



Workshop on "Reproductive health and hygiene" were conducted in 35 Irular villages in Lathur, Thiruporur, Tirutani blocks and at Javadhu hills, women of tribal villages who lacked such awareness among them. Many adolescent girls and women participated in these workshops. They raised many doubts and concerns, which were clarified by our trainers. Follow up is being done to motivate the girls to adopt the good practices that they learned about.

## CHENNAI SCHOOLS CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY !



Our team celebrated Children's Day with students of Chennai schools (Maduvinkarai, Thideer Nagar and V.P Koil street). Students displayed their creativity by painting fruits, vegetables on paper. We gave folders to every child, in which they can store their worksheets. We have started a new initiative for teachers to take audio visual English lessons in their class-rooms using a "tablet-cum-projector". Many teachers are thrilled that they can conduct tech-enabled classes for their students in their classroom itself.

## TRAINING FOR WALK'N'TALK VILLAGE TUTORS



Aid India's Walk'n'talk English program aims to impact 1,00,000 children across the state. In November our state training team conducted several training across the state. 711 tutors from 30 blocks were trained in 33 locations. The tutors enjoyed singing to the foot-tapping numbers and enacted the role plays with zest.

## REVIEW OF NGO PARTNERS



NGOs from different districts participated in the review meeting at our office on October 31st. It comprised Impact of term-1, many aspects were discussed and few problems were addressed, also solutions have been given for the same right away. The Training for the next term English, Tamil and Math were given by Eureka Trainers. The NGO coordinators shared positive aspects of the EurekaSuperKidz program. They also expressed concerns in implementation of the walk'n'talk component. Our team offered suggestions to improve the program effectiveness.

## VOLUNTEERS CONDUCT SKILL FESTS IN VILLAGES



Nearly 1000 volunteers from 30 colleges participated in a massive effort to assess children's English reading and speaking skills in 1,000 villages in Tamil Nadu. One of the volunteer Mr. Shiva, an engineering graduate had shared his experience as below. "I saw a 5th student holding a card that filled with English words. He struggled to read those words. That is when I felt the quality of education given by our country to us. At the same time, I unfolded the fact that Aid India is the reason to make other students read English words fluently. Also, I came to know that many of the student's parents are either a daily wage worker or cooley. Some of them had lost their father. By giving proper and equity in education will make their future better and improve for good, that is what Aid India has been doing. I feel this is the very first time I had done something fruitful in my life. My heartfelt appreciation for this effort taken by Aid India".

## GOVERNMENT SCHOOL CONDUCT SKILL FEST



Arni Block in Thiruvannamalai district, more than 35 government teachers from 24 schools participated in our training program. After training and handing over materials, our team has been visiting these teachers regularly and providing guidance to improve the learning levels of their students. Inspired by our support, 16 teachers from 13 schools conducted skill fest events for their students. English 3-letter word reading in English and subtraction skill in Math were achieved by more than 75% students and many volunteers actively took part in conducting these events. More than 375 students received certificates in front of their parents & the village community. This event has motivated not only teachers, but also to education officials, by demonstrating how small changes can significantly improve learning outcome. Thanks to Bala & Murugan for organizing these events effectively.