



பதிவுகள் - 5

imprints

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Kalanjiyam Milestones in 2011 - 12

RICH - Right Information Community Health

One of the key goals of Kalanjiyam is to bring focus on prevention and health promotion in rural communities. Toward this we are planning to implement a mobile health care program in the upcoming year. The Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation, Chennai has donated a Tempo Traveler van to Kalanjiyam which is being specially designed and fabricated into a mobile health clinic. With this mobile clinic we plan to provide primary care, health education and counseling services to our villages in Maduranthakam Taluk and Chennai. This is a unique program that will provide communities with basic health care right at the door step and also correct and timely information about health problems. This program will continue to partner with local health care providers and other NGOs in Kancheepuram and Chennai, with an aim to reach up to 15,000 people in the upcoming year. This program is supported through funding from Share and Care Foundation, USA.



Child

healthcare

Good health is every child's right. Many children in rural villages are unable to access proper health care in a timely manner. In 2011, we have expanded our child health program to make sure that every child in our schools gets proper health care. Health camps were conducted periodically in schools and the children were given basic health examination and deworming tablets. Daily supply of vitamin supplement is set aside and given when the child comes to school. About 800 children are benefiting from this program now. This effort reinforces to teachers and parents the importance of good health for their child's education. This program is supported through grants from Share and Care Foundation, well-wishers of Kalanjiyam and partially by ASHA Central NJ Chapter.

Bringing clean drinking water for school children

A common health problem among rural children continues to be due to water-borne infections. With the support of two Pediatricians, a group of well-wishers from the US and Tamil Nadu Foundation, USA, we have introduced Akash Ganga a drinking water system which provides clean and pure drinking water by condensing the humidity from the air. Over the last school year two units were each placed in Periya Vellikadu Middle School and Zameen Endathur High school, providing an average of 1 liter of water per day per student. While we were concerned about the high level of care required for these units, both schools have taken ownership for the maintenance. With the success of this program, we have now installed one more Akash Ganga unit in Athivakkam Middle School. Over 450 children in all these schools are now getting clean drinking water daily from this drinking water system.



TNF Kalanjiyam pilot project

Kalanjiyam has been partnering with Tamil Nadu Foundation (TNF), Chennai and USA to implement a pilot project for strengthening rural education. The main aim of this project is to strengthen the village schools, improve quality of education and prevent school drop outs in the project villages and schools.

The main approaches used were to create enabling school environment, provide para teachers to improve children's learning, bring about digital literacy, provide extracurricular programs, address children's nutrition and bring proper hygiene and sanitation facilities in school. A unique aspect of the project was that these programs were implemented with the active participation of local communities for increasing the sustainability of the effort. Three years of the TNF pilot project has been completed in April 2012 and we are happy to report that project has made considerable strides in improving the village schools and strengthening children's education.



Aruna -IVth standard
Ozhavetti Primary School

“ I am studying in this school for 4 years. I used to be scared even to talk and would not reply whenever anyone poses a question to me. Now, after TNF project has come, I am confidently standing before anyone and speaking”

Ambika -Parent
Ozhavetti village

“The students in our village school never used to go to school regularly. Now after TNF project has come students are regular and punctual to school. Even my son used to frequently take leave, now he is going to school promptly. My son is now learning yoga and now I am learning how much potential he has and this makes me very happy”

Some highlights of significant achievements of the project include

- ◆ All children in the project villages are enrolled and attending school
- ◆ All schools have been provided with minimum of two computers and children are becoming digitally literate
- ◆ Four of the project schools have been provided with complete hygiene and sanitation facilities with private toilets for boys and girls, with running water
- ◆ Children are coming to school more regularly after the project, as reflected by the rising statistics; In 2009 about 30% to 45% of children were regular to school and this improved to 63% to 83% of the children coming to school regularly in 2011!
- ◆ A year end assessment in 2012 indicates that children's are learning in school and over 53% of children are scoring 70% to 100% on basic reading and arithmetic
- ◆ Children are keen to come to school and learn, they come dressed neatly, wearing slippers and with understanding of personal hygiene
- ◆ All children in project schools continue on to 6th standard and finish upper primary schooling
- ◆ Most importantly teachers and local community leaders have become more engaged with the school development activities



As part of our continuing IEC efforts, this year, we created materials for children's development

Vilaydi Membadu

A play and learn tool was developed by our team based on the traditional snake and ladder or paramapadam. The tool was developed with the goal to make the class room a fun environment and impart positive values and healthy attitudes for children. The traditional game is transposed on a large flexi board with positive and negative actions represented by ladders and snakes respectively. We have used this in our classrooms among primary school children and it's become a hit with both children and teachers! The tool is also available in English and is being used among Indian children growing up in the US as well. An article on this tool has also been printed in Teacher Plus magazine February 2012 issue.



Karkka Kasadara

A Learning Child, (in Tamil) An Educational Video

An educational DVD focusing called Karkka Kasadara, A Learning Child was developed and made available on 14th November 2011 on the occasion of children's day. This DVD presents the issue of children's learning by Mrs. Lakshmi Radhakrishnan, Special Educator and former Chairperson Academics Madras Dyslexia Association. The focus is for parents and educators to recognize that every child is unique and learns in its own special way! The DVD covers how children learn and how to deal with various types of learning challenges. Articles about the release of this production were printed in leading print media, which have helped to increase the reach of this material. More than 1500 copies of this material have been distributed all over India.



World AIDS day

In continuing our advocacy efforts on HIV related stigma and discrimination, following Ellorukkum Solvom (2010), we produced 6 short awareness clips / advertisements entitled 'Anbudam Aravanaippom' (Accept with compassion) in 2011, and had six different TV actors / personalities speak against the stigma and discrimination! With these clippings we conducted a media campaign on December 1st 2011, World AIDS Day, on four leading Television Channels. These clippings were also used for effectively sensitizing college and high school students in Kancheepuram district on the issue of HIV/ AIDS!



List of Available IEC Materials in Tamil

Awareness documentaries:

- 1) **Thaimei** - on Motherhood - Volume 1 & 2
- 2) **Penmai** - to be a woman
- 3) **Vindhai** - the Miracle Brain
- 4) **Karkka Kasadara** - A learning Child

Audio Materials:

- Papparamittai** - Volume 1 & 2
- on children's creativity

Awareness campaign clippings:

- 1) **A Time to think now** - Vitamin A
- 2) **Ellorukkum Solvom** - HIV/ AIDS
- 3) **Anbudan Aravanippom** - HIV/ AIDS

Print materials:

- 1) **Anbulla Ammavukku**
- Book on child health
- 2) **Reproductive health charts**
- 3) **Vilayadi Membadu**
'Play and develop' (game boards)

Brining Computer Education / Digital literacy for rural children

Since 2007, Kalanjiyam has provided computers in our adopted schools and appointed a young woman to teach the children about the basics of computer operations. Computer education program has made the most an impact on the students, parents and local community, a significant contributing factor for increasing children's interest in coming to school and learning.

In 2010, Kalanjiyam partnered with Rotary International District 3230 and introduced Digital Literacy software in 17 of our adopted schools in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts. This software has accelerated the children's learning and use of computers. Children are able to learn at their own pace, practice the content repeatedly and test themselves with minimum assistance from a teacher. The children are now well versed in basic operations and commonly used application packages such as MS WORD, MS EXCEL and MS PowerPoint. Nearly 1200 children are benefiting from this program in these Panchayat schools.

In 2011, we received donation of computers provided by Cognizant Foundation / Outreach Program through NASCOM Foundation. These computers were provided to a school computer lab, local Panchayat schools and deserving students from our villages!

In January 2012 Kalanjiyam received a donation of computers with the Digital Literacy software from Ford Company. Kalanjiyam team did an assessment of Panchayat schools in Lattur block to identify schools having infrastructural requirements (electrification and tables); after a process of screening, twenty four schools were provided with computers, and of these 15 were getting a computer in their for the first time. About 500+ students will benefit from these computers.



Key Highlights of 2011-12

Drop outs survey in Periya Vellikkadu – A survey was conducted among students from Periya Vellikkadu Village to assess changes in high school drop outs. The survey found that the number of students continuing to 8th standard had tripled and drop outs in high school declined from 41% to 30% between 2007 and 2011, when Kalanjiyam strengthening programs were in place.

Exposure program for urban school students – Kalanjiyam trained a group of school students from Chennai on surveys following which these students came to Kalanjiyam villages and supported our staff to conduct household enumeration surveys in Periya Vellikkadu Village.

Program in DEEO Office - In June, new computers provided by TNF were given to the six TNF Pilot project schools, at the premises of Kancheepuram District Elementary Education Officer, Mr. Ganesan. Six students from local villages were also given education aid, supported by Lakshmi Ammal Educational and Charitable Trust.

Education Scholarship for 10th standard students – In July, 68 students, from Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts who had scored over 80% marks in 10th board exam were provided scholarship, supported by Anbu Alumni of MIT. We are continuing to see an increased number of students from our villages scoring high marks in 10th exams.

Program in Madurai / Virudhunagar district – 2011-12



It has been two years since Kalanjiyam initiated effort for replication of strengthening rural education in Virudhunagar district. Krishnapuram Panchayat Union Primary School was adopted as the fourth Kalanjiyam supported school in this district.

Highlights of programs in 2011 include:

- A special program in the beginning of academic year 2011-2012 was organized and directed by Kalanjiyam committee members, where all 200+ students from all adopted schools were provided complete set of notebooks required for the school year.
- A community based program was organized for SHG group members from project villages where they were informed about maternal/ child issues and provided copies of Anbulla Ammavukku and other Kalanjiyam IEC materials.
- Tamil-English-Tamil dictionaries and other educational aides were provided for children in all adopted schools.
- Six 10th standard students who scored over 80% marks in the board exams were provided the Kalanjiyam scholarship (supported by Anbu Alumni of MIT) to encourage them in their studies.
- Educational aid was provided to 6 students through a Paramasivam and Shakthi Mala Scholarship Fund. 50+ girls from the adopted schools were provided with teak saplings, so that they may prepare for their future.
- Two sets of computers have been provided in the 4 schools with digital literacy software and computer teacher has been appointed.
- Two local women were appointed for cleaning and maintaining hygiene facility in 2 adopted schools.
- Clean drinking water through Reverse Osmosis (by Aqua Majestic Technologies) filtration system was provided for one school; following which the community was mobilized to take initiative to provide one unit for another school.

Significant changes are being observed in these project schools:

- Increased number of activities such as competitions and special programs are being conducted for encouraging children
- Children are becoming literate in using computers
- Increased efforts are being made to improve hygiene and sanitation facilities in the schools
- There is increasing initiative and involvement of school teachers and local community in improving education, in terms of time and mobilizing resources

Key Highlights of 2011-12

Education AID – A total of 37 students were identified deserving education aid by Kalanjiyam student screening committee. These students were provided education aid, for continuing in school and / or pursuing college education. This program is supported through funding from Maithri Educational and Charitable Trust.

Independence Day 2011 - was celebrated by investing in our girl children. 200 girls from TNF project adopted Panchayat schools and in Virudhunagar were provided with a Teak sapling, which were planted in each girl students' home after providing them training on its care and maintenance, to provide financial security for their future life!

Support for elderly - In addition to our annual program for honoring senior citizens in our adopted villages, in 2011, we also partnered with DGSEA to provide clothing for 30+ elderly in a home, situated near Maduranthakam.

Provision of dictionaries – All students from 5th standard through 10th standard in Kalanjiyam adopted schools were provided with Tamil English Tamil dictionaries.

Competitions – Special competitions were conducted in February and March 2012 for children in Kalanjiyam adopted schools, including for Thirukkural recitation, drawing and yoga. All participants were provided certificates and the best prizes were given for the top three students for each competition category.



PRASAD Program

Kalanjiyam started a new advocacy against plastic in 2011 called Protecting our Rural Agriculture and Soil Against Damage (PRASAD). Over the last few years we have found that the disposal of plastic in public areas has vast negative environmental consequences. We wanted to take up this issue and decided that children would be the best champions for this cause, who could help to mobilize others as well. We conducted an awareness rally 'Plastikkaimarruppom, maan valam karppom' where 800+ children from 15 Kalanjiyam adopted villages and schools, adolescent girls, young men, local SHG women and other community members took part.



Throughout the year, we have been taking up the issue in various forums, community outreach meetings, conducting school competitions for children and engaging with the local leaders for cleaning up our villages and encouraging the community against the use of plastic bags. We are continuing this effort with the active participation of our village children!



Nutrition Program

Poor nutrition status is a major factor affecting children's physical and cognitive development. For this reason, our school strengthening program has included nutrition supplementation.



We have been monitoring the nutritional status of children in our adopted schools and find that 40% are undernourished and over half the children are below the 25th percentile for age appropriate weight. This adversely affects their development and therefore their ability to learn.

In last six years we have provided different forms of nutritional supplementation, such as nutritious mixture, fruits and vegetables, mostly purchasing them externally. From the second year we started to cultivate bananas in our field office and in the last year, we have significantly expanded this program to cultivate different types of vegetables such as brinjal, ladyfinger, beans varieties, spinach, chillies, radish and others. We are engaging local community workers and our own staff in this process and have been able to achieve yields more than 15 kg of vegetables per week, which are provided to our project schools, to be included in the noon meal. Besides this we have also initiated and supported some of our adopted schools to set up kitchen gardens successfully.



Mobilization of Youth

We have been working with youth in our adopted villages and realized that uniting the scattered groups of youth can bring new energy for the development of our villages. In 2011 we started to bring together youth, by forming local sport teams, specifically cricket teams. This was a great success and we were able to form 25 teams comprising of over 250 youth and gave each team complete set of cricket equipment, sponsored by Giridharan and friends from Chennai. Once formed, the youth were involved in their respective village schools for cleaning up and safe-guarding the school environment and in our advocacy efforts against plastic. Through this program we are able to engage with the youth more effectively and support to build their skills.



Thanks to Press

Kalanjiyam wishes to thank all the press and media for helping to bring visibility of our Kalanjiyam materials, which has enabled to us to reach wide audiences across India and abroad.

Improving Hygiene & Sanitation in rural schools

Kalanjiyam has taken up creating proper hygiene facilities, and providing running and drinking water supply in our adopted schools. Lack of proper hygiene and sanitation facilities in schools is a main reason for school drop outs, especially among girls. Before we started our efforts children in many adopted schools were going to the fields for toileting, as there were no toilets or lack of running water in the school. The schools were also forced to depend on the Panchayat for water supply, which was irregular and not always hygienic.

After assessment of the situation, we began supporting some adopted schools by construction or renovation of existing school toilets, with urinals and private latrines, and separate facilities for boys and girls. A sustainable water source is also provided usually through a bore-well, motor, a tank and pipe lines for bringing water supply inside the toilets. Kalanjiyam also takes up the maintenance of these hygiene facilities by appointing a local woman for daily cleaning and upkeep, to ensure that toilets are used and children are habituated to use a clean toilet.

In 2009 we constructed hygiene facility in Zameen Endathur Primary School, in 2010 girls hygiene facility in Zameen Endathur High School; and in 2011-12 for boys in Zameen Endathur High school, for girls and boys in Periya Vellikkadu and Athivakkam Middle schools and helped renovate hygiene facilities in Melakaandai and Kizhaandai Primary Schools. These have been supported generously by LMS-Emmeskay, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Foundation (TNF), Chennai and USA and a group of pediatricians and well-wishers from US!



Outreach on Health & Tuberculosis

An outreach program was launched by Kalanjiyam in 2011 for increasing awareness on health issues with a special focus on Tuberculosis (TB) at the community level. This project has been implemented in partnership with REACH-Axshaya and Lakshmi Ammal Educational and Charitable Trust.

This program focuses on identification of TB suspects, screening and testing in a timely manner and creating linkage to services at the district level. At the outset Kalanjiyam team members were sent for training organized by REACH-Axshaya on TB. Monthly three meetings are conducted to spread awareness on TB and other health issues, such as child health, nutrition, anemia, etc. Participants are women, men and young people who in turn help spread the key messages and identify others who have TB symptoms in their villages.

TB cases are referred to Kalanjiyam team, who coordinate with these persons and ensure TB testing at local PHC by accompanying them in Kalanjiyam Van. Follow-up is done to ensure TB patients do not default on treatment. This program has helped to build outreach champions in local villages and develop good rapport and partnership with local PHC officials. There is increasing sensitivity to TB testing and treatment in local villages. About 30 villages and 600 people have been reached through this program.

Strengthening Higher Secondary education



Kalanjiyam first started its work with primary schools, moved on to upper primary and high school and this year we started to support Thiruvadhoor higher secondary school, the largest government higher secondary school serving our villages –with 1400 students from over 40 villages. We first took up to renovate five class room buildings, taking up electrification, painting, providing fans and lighting and tables and benches for proper seating, which have been supported by LMS-Emmeskay Solutions, Chennai. With support of Asha for education, Stanford Chapter, we are also implementing a strengthening program by appointing additional subject teachers, providing educational aides and supporting computer education for increasing pass percentages, especially in 10th standard.



Kalanjiyam **Advisor** Kavita Krishna, California, USA

Our relationship with Kalanjiyam and it's founders is very strong and we are very impressed with their achievements so far and excited about their current as well as future plans. We've been fortunate to see it take roots in 2006 and watched it grow from a handful of individuals to a very committed staff and community members for whom Kalanjiyam is a family. The last year or so, Kalanjiyam has made great strides and tremendous achievements towards their goals. Some of these include:

- Securing an FRCA status to encourage overseas donors to contribute funds
- Partnering with other NGOs such as TNF, Maitri Educational and Charitable Trust, AASAI, Asha for education, Share and Care Foundation etc. to grow, and expand their model
- Executing their vision of a mobile clinic (RICH) and building a guest house to host volunteers
- Building a strong sense of community empowerment with initiatives taken by community members such as tuition centers, building toilets & clean drinking water facilities in schools.
- Developing and implementing creative methods and tools for primary school education in both paper as well as digital formats

We are especially drawn to the unique communities that they have built instilling in individuals a sense of ownership, passion, and drive to "take care" of their people, develop goals for their children to succeed, and make their dreams come true.

Partners

American Association for the Social Advancement of India (AASAI), USA

Anbu Friends - Alumni of MIT

Asha for education, Central NJ Chapter, USA

Asha for education, Stanford Chapter, USA

Cognizant Foundation, Chennai

Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation, Chennai

Ford, Chennai

Kanchi Kamakoti Seva Foundation, USA

Lakshmi Ammal Educational and Charitable Trust, Coimbatore

LMS-Emmeskay Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Chennai

Maithri Educational and Charitable Trust, Chennai

REACH - Axshaya, Chennai

Share and Care Foundation, USA

Suchel Enterprises, Coimbatore

Tamil Nadu Foundation, Chennai and USA

Teacher Plus, Hyderabad

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Kalanjiyam

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