

KALANJIYAM



பதிவுகள்-7
Imprints **2014**

Bringing health care to rural India: Right Information Community Health Program (RICH)

The RICH mobile clinic covers over 100 villages in Kanchipuram district since beginning its work in the year 2012. It has provided free primary care and free medicines to the remote villages and have very poor access to a health center and trained medical providers.

- Since August 2012, **206 health camps have been conducted in over 107 villages in the Lattur and Maduranthakam Blocks.**
- A total of 13,714 individuals (33% male and 67% female) have been provided primary health care and medicines.
- The major beneficiaries are children and elderly; 2415 children ages 0 to 10 years, and 3918 elderly have been treated with free health care.

Reaching remote villages

Vakakku Vayaloor village, with a population of 600 is 12 kilometers from any medical facilities. Transportation access to the town is poor, with just one bus that goes through the town each day to the closest town. The families in this village are regularly served by the RICH program and are greatly benefiting from free health care at their door step.

School health programs: Children get annual health checks and Health Education

During every school year the RICH mobile clinic provides free health care check, deworming tablets and vitamin supplements to over 800 children. The RICH nurses and the outreach workers conduct health education classes in all adopted schools that focus on personal hygiene, first aid, nutrition and communicable diseases. Over 1000 students in 1st to 12th standard are benefiting from this program.

Increasing awareness among Adolescents:

Arming adolescents with knowledge and awareness about their bodies and reproductive health issues is very critical as most girls are married at an early age and have their first child before they are 21. Every month awareness programs are conducted at Kalanjyam to reach 250 adolescents from local villages. Topics include gender values, life skills, reproductive health concerns, communicable diseases, first aid and future planning.

Audit and feedback

During the village health camps, surveys on the RICH services are conducted from five percent of the beneficiaries. In the last audit, over 75% rated the program highly by giving scores between 7 to 10. The RICH program is supported by Share and Care Foundation, USA, LMS India and other local donors.



Small group discussion



Rich Van



Rich Mobile Clinic



Program for SHG groups

Highlights of 2013- 2014 education programs

Education scholarship program -

- 128 students were provided scholarships or aid with support from Maithri Educational Charitable Trust and Lakshmi Ammal Education Trust.
- Of these 73 students that scored over 80% in 10th board exams received scholarship through support of Anbu Alumni group.
- 15 girls from Kalanjiyam adopted villages were provided support from The Rajammal Nagarajan Educational Endowment fund.



Provision of bicycles

Rural students need an impetus to travel the long distances to school. Kalanjiyam started the program to help the students commute to school on bicycles. This increases their confidence, and ensures that they do not drop out of school before completing high school.

AASAI continued to support the provision of bicycles; in month of 2013, 20 students from Zameen Endathur High School and 16 students from Periya Vellikadu, in 6th to 9th classes were provided TI Hercules cycles.

Bicycles for 8th class students at Athivakkam school

15 students who are passing out of 8th standard in Athivakkam Middle School were provided bicycles with support from an individual donor.

Provision of computers to schools:

Improving digital literacy has been a sustaining effort. 15 schools in Lattur and Madurantakam were provided computers, with support from Ford.

Visit to Vilvarayanallur NGO- to honour senior citizens

Kalanjiyam field team spent a day with the senior citizens of Villvarayanallur home for elderly set up by DGSEA. Our staff interacted with the seniors, gave them much needed attention and provided them with snacks and refreshments.



Education Programs supported by Asha for Education and Global Giving

With Support from Asha for Education, Central New Jersey and Stanford chapters, Kalanjyam is strengthening education of children in rural panchayat schools. Four primary schools, two middle schools, one high school and one higher secondary school are supported by this program.

The program is extremely successful:

- 100% of the children are going from primary school to 6th standard
- School regularity is very good, averaging over 90%
- High percentage of the children have age appropriate learning levels
- Digital literacy is good and regular tests in computer theory and practical exam are indicators of this trend.



Monitoring children's progress in primary schools:

Kalanjyam has created monitoring tools for tracking children's progress. Para teachers use a monitoring card to score the children based on 10 indicators, at the end of each month, independent of school grades. The tool tracks children's regularity to school, level of activity, understanding, communication, progress in studies, pronunciation, handwriting etc. Children are assessed against benchmarks set for each class. The tool helps our para teachers review progress on a monthly basis and help the children grow.



How our para teachers help primary school children:

Lokesh a student in 3rd standard was very silent and did not talk to anyone in class. He was not interested in studies. His speech was not good, pronunciation was poor. He was afraid to speak up and did not want to talk to anyone. The para-teacher gave him special attention during school and evening tuition. She made him a leader during tuition class, spoke to him a lot and made him play with others. She said 'I used to place him first to take the lead in many activities. I encouraged him to speak up and not be shy. When he did well, I bought him small gifts, pens or pencils to encourage him. He is doing better now and is talking to others. There is some improvement in his attention and studies. He has a circle of friends now. He has improved from average to good in most indicators.

Staff training on development

Children in the rural areas have considerable learning challenges. This year we provided additional training to our para teachers to strengthen their understanding of children's developmental problems and delays. Dr.Lalitha Sridar, a child development specialist, conducted a training that was tailored to the needs and level of understanding of para-teachers. Prior to attending the workshop the para teachers completed a pre-assessment based on which the workshop was designed. A full day workshop was conducted on January 25th 2014 and they were taught the principles of child development and learning challenge in children, on how to identify them, and about how to handle these in the class room.

Extracurricular program: arts and crafts program for students

Crafts: Craft making sessions were held during after school tuition program. The children learned to make arts and crafts using paper, clay and other locally available materials. Various items such as baskets, toys, boxes, cups, hanging displays, caps and fans were made by the children. These were displayed in the school and students were awarded prizes for best crafts in school.

Multiplication tables: Annual table competition was held for classes 3, 4 and 5. The students were told to recite tables 1 to 16. 40 students who recited the tables without any mistakes were given prizes.

Thirukkural competition: Students in 3rd to 5th had to recite 50 thirukkural. 43 students were awarded prizes for reciting kurals clearly, boldly and without any mistakes.



C-4 program

Faculty from IIT Madras partnered with Kalanjyam to implement a teaching program for students in two of our adopted middle schools. Twelve students of 7th and 8th classes were intensively trained at IIT Madras during a 4 day residential training in August 2013.

Experienced teachers and educators trained the students in the principles of teaching, preparing and imparting lessons, and dealing confidently and boldly with fellow students.

The trained students taught the fourth class students in their school and also children in the nearby primary schools under the guidance of para teacher and school teachers. Students who taught, benefitted from improving their learning and confidence level; class 4 students benefitted as they learnt better from engaging better with the peers who taught them.



Madurai Project

Five schools are supported by Kalanjiyam in Virudhunagar district; 3 primary schools and 2 middle schools. Totally 350 children are benefitted through the efforts. In the last year the project conducted various activities: supporting note books, atlas, dictionaries; scholarships for education support, and setting up of clean drinking water and hygiene and sanitation workers for the schools.

Many students who were given teak wood samplings in 2010 are successfully growing the trees for their future.

How our adopted schools are faring:

Two of Kalanjiyam adopted schools have been recognized at the block level; Chinna Venennai primary school has been recognized as a top three schools in Maduranthakam block; and Periya vellikadu middle school continues to be recognized as a leading school in Lattur Block.

Science laboratory in Periya Vellikkadu Middle School:

Strengthening Periya Vellikkadu middle school has been a top priority; A science laboratory was set up to help improve upper primary class student's learning in Science. Basic and advanced laboratory materials in biology, chemistry and physics were bought and a dedicated room in the school was set up with the charts, displays, models and experiment materials purchased. The science lab is now fully functional and will be used from beginning of 2014 school year.



Special subject teachers help to increase pass percentages in higher classes

School subject teachers appointed in Zameen Endathur and Thiruvadhoor schools for 10th and 12th standard classes have made a huge impact. The teachers were appointed to teach science and social studies in Zameen Endathur High School and to teach Accounting, Tamil, Biology and English in Thiruvadhoor Higher secondary school. Both school students have done well in 2014 board exams.

- ♣ For the first time in the history of Zameen Endathur High School, 100% of 10th standard students passed
- ♣ Similarly, record high pass percentages were scored in 10th (77%) and 12th (73%) board exams in Thiruvadhoor Higher Secondary School.

Expanding program to additional Rural Schools:

Panchayat primary schools in Nesapakkam and Nemandham are now part of the growing list of Kalanjiyam adopted school. Early in 2014, short tables for seating arrangement and Tamil-English and Tamil dictionaries were provided.

Kitchen garden helps improve children's nutrition



With support from Kalanjiyam we have a kitchen garden in our school premises. Students in 5th 6th and 8th classes have been separated into groups, and each group maintains a certain section of the garden and plant vegetables of their choice. The children are growing all kinds of vegetables, and they are responsible for all tasks for cultivating the vegetables. The required seeds and other cost of maintenance is provided by the school. The children work in the garden, daily from 3:30 pm with the support of the teachers. Waste-water from the hygiene facility has been diverted and channelled to the kitchen garden. Every day the children provide at least one vegetable from the kitchen garden for the noon meals. Our children are very eager and happy to maintain the kitchen garden; and we teachers are very happy that our children are getting better nutrition! We thank Asha for education for helping us set up this kitchen garden.

Thanks to

Asha for Education, CNJ Chapter, for putting up a proposal and successfully raising support for five new rural schools.

Ford Project Light House

In July 2013, Kalanjiam started to implement Project Light House in Chennai, with support from FORD. The focus is to strengthen and empower girl students for successful completion of school and continue their education. The project works in two urban schools: Mylai Karpagavalli Middle School and Kannagi Nagar Higher Secondary School; Total number of students served is 313 girls in 6th to 12th classes. The project is unique in that it also works with the parents, teachers and community, to strengthen them, so that they in turn can support the girls.

The project has selected 55 girl students in both schools combined, to work intensively with them. These girls are supported with educational support and their family is also supported to improve their livelihoods, and the students are mentored by Ford Volunteers.

- The project is increasing awareness and exposure among the girls in both schools, on a wide variety of issues related to education, health and wellness and also self-defense.
- Fifty five girl students have been provided with intensive program, and provided with a school kit, with school bag, water bottle, lunch box and bag etc, and daily newspaper to encourage them in their studies
- Regular after school tuition classes are conducted for students in Kannagi Nagar School. One hundred and five girls in 10th and 12th classes have been provided with after school tuition daily
- Ford Employees are engaged in the project as volunteers; these volunteers interact with selected students on a regular basis, to mentor them and encourage them to do well in school and continue their education.
- Mothers of the selected students were encouraged to take up skill training or a small business. Guidance was provided on different choices and to develop a plan and budget. Monthly meetings with mothers are conducted to increase awareness about the importance of girls' education, how to care for the girl child's health, how to encourage and motivate them to continue education.
- Twenty four mothers have been provided livelihood training and or support for setting up small business from both project schools. Many of the mothers are beginning to feel more confident about their future and their ability to support their families and their children to continue in school. The project is tracking the mothers on how well they are doing in their business and continues to support them.



Livelihood support

In the last year Kalanjiam supported 10 young people to get their driving license.





Improving Hygiene and Sanitation in schools

Kalanjiyam is implementing school hygiene and sanitation programs since 2008-09. Over the years, the project has increased its coverage to 16 schools in Kancheepuram and Virudhunagar districts. The project works with the schools to identify the hygiene and sanitation needs and then sets out to improve the situation and increase ownership of the teachers and students to maintain their sanitation facilities. Permanent water source is first ensured followed by renovation of hygiene facilities. Clean drinking water is provided through reverse osmosis or other filtration systems and availability of water in the class room. Every school supported is provided a sanitation worker to help cleaning and upkeep of hygiene facility and general sanitation in the school premises. In the last year, four schools were provided with drinking water systems and seven sanitation workers were appointed by the project.

Two paediatricians from USA are the main champions of this project, they mobilize funding and provide guidance for running the project successfully. With their support the project has set up a School Hygiene Endowment Fund, to help take care of the requirements for annual maintenance of the hygiene facilities.

A student from a project supported school reports

'When I was in third grade I had to clean our school toilet daily in the morning. It was such a difficult task, as we had to bring water by bucket from a distance. After the students used the toilet, there would be a bad smell and it was hard for us to use it again. So we went to the fields again. Now everything has changed! Our toilet has been made new and now we have a motor and water facility inside the toilet. We also got a sanitation worker and she cleans the toilet every-day, so now we don't have to worry cleaning the toilet. The children in our school are much happier to use the toilet. Our school is also clean since this sanitation worker also cleans our whole school. Now my friend and I only have to study daily when we come to school....'

Tamil IEC materials available with us

Awareness documentaries (DVD)

- 1) Thaimei, Motherhood Volume 1 and 2; by Dr. Kamala Selvaraj and Latha Mangeshwari
- 2) Penmai, to be a woman; by Dr. Gita Arjun
- 3) Vindhai, the Miracle Brain by Dr. Prithika Chary
- 4) Karkka Kasadara, A learning Child by Mrs. Lakshmi Radhakrishnan

Awareness campaign clippings:

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

Audio Materials:

Print materials:

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

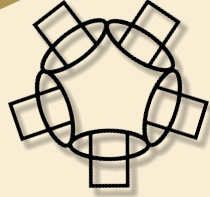
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P.K.Maayan, Chennai



Kalanjiyam

Registered Office:

No 11 Avatar Apartments,
27 Balakrishnan Road, Valmikinagar,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai 600 041, India.

Email: kalanjiyam@gmail.com

Website: www.kalanjiyam.org

Field Office :

Kalpat Village, Maduranthakam,
Kancheepuram Dt.

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