Sri Aurobindo Society
SVARNIM PUDUCHERRY
TOWARDS THE GOLDEN FUTURE

AURO FOOTPRINTS

A Monthly Newsletter

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"To hope for a true change of human life without a change of human nature is an irrational and unspiritual proposition."
---Sri Aurobindo

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of Svarnim Puducherry's monthly newsletter. With the blessings of Sri Aurobindo and the mother, Svarnim tries to take on the roles of social and environmental responsibility in a way that reflects their vision of nature and social relations ought to be. In this endeavour, we would be very grateful to receive your feedback and reviews, as that would help us move forward together. Thank you for being with us!

ORC - OUR RESPONSBILITY TO CHILDREN

The ORC program is an innovative endeavour that focuses on the mental health of children enrolled in government schools and uses a rigorous assessment method to identify children who need assistance. As per ORC, mental health encompasses a person's capacity to cope with life's challenges and focus on various life skills like problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, effective communication, interpersonal relationships, self-awareness, empathy, and stress management.

GENERAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

For the benefit of the students, the ORC team from Svarnim Puducherry conducted three general awareness programs at various government schools in the Puducherry region. Overall, **168 government school students**, including 48 girls and 120 boys, benefited from the general awareness program comprising GHS Kothapurintham, GHS Kalmandapam, and GHS Ariyankuppam.

Individual Counseling

The orc crew provided individual counseling to **16 students from four government schools** in the Puducherry region, including GHS Mangalam, GHS Kombakkam, Jeevanandam Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School,and RBGHS Maducarai.

See https://svarnim.aurosociety.org for latest updates of our activities.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

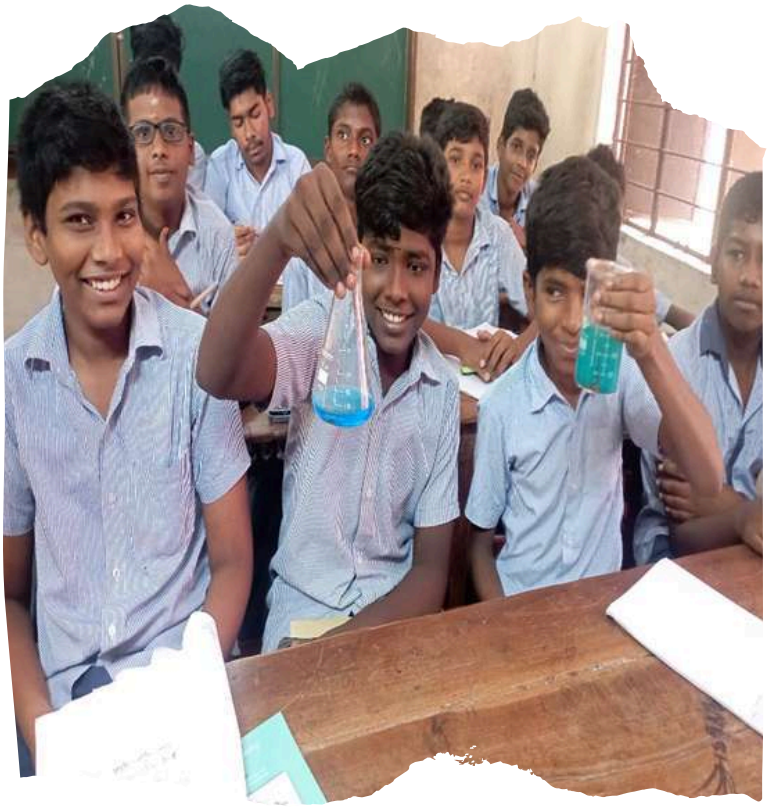
Sri Aurobindo Society educational institutions are located in Puducherry's Bahour commune. The project's main goals are to develop numeracy abilities and raise learning standards among the students. With the help of study centre volunteers, the team plans a variety of activities to give children interesting learning opportunities.

The study centre planned several activities, which included reading, writing, drawing, crafting, and math classes, in April 2024 to support the growth of students' skills. In addition to aiding language development, the Reading Story Card activity enhanced problem-solving abilities, creative thinking, and innovation. In observance of World Water Day, a drawing competition with themes related to water resources was organized. Using interactive games and short tales, 150 government students participated in a reading program in Tamil that emphasized vocabulary, creativity, communication, and reading speed.

SRI AUROBINDO STEM RESOURCE CENTRE

The STEM Resources Centre is a centre of excellence for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the arts, and the humanities. It travels to rural government schools with mobile labs to conduct experiential learning sessions. The centre's science outreach program aims to spark children's curiosity and wonder, nurturing their natural inquisitiveness about the world and motivating them to learn.

The Stem team carried out the scientific outreach program in five government schools in the Puducherry region in April 2024: TVKGHS-Arumbarthapuram, CSGHSS-Kalapet, GHS-Sellipet, Calve College GHSS-Kuruchikuppam, and MOHGGHSS-Kalapet. Svarnim Puducherry's stem crew engaged the students with the fundamental concepts of light reflection, refraction, and chemical reactions. A total of **344 government** school students benefited.

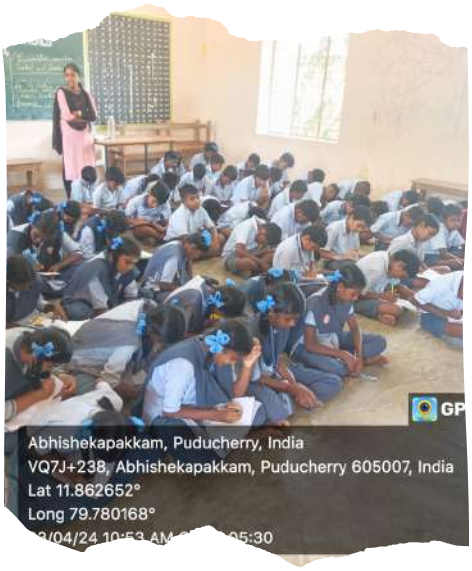


Do you want to hold a STEM session in your school? Write to us with details of your school : svarnim@aurosociety.org with Subject: STEM Education.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH BASIC ELECTRONICS/DYNAMIC TOYS

The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) in India has supported a project on robotics and dynamic toys in **15 government schools** in the Puducherry district. The aim is to introduce the children to advancements in electronics and robotics, exposing them to innovative concepts.

In April 2024, the robotics team presented course completion certificates to government students at Ariyankuppam Government Higher Secondary School, Sulthanpet Government School, Murungapakkam GGHSS, TN Palayam Government School, and Muthrapalayam GHSS in the Puducherry region. Additionally, the robotics team completed the post-assessment survey for 14 government schools under the guidance of Svarnim Puducherry. The group also conducted orientation sessions regarding the forthcoming activities.

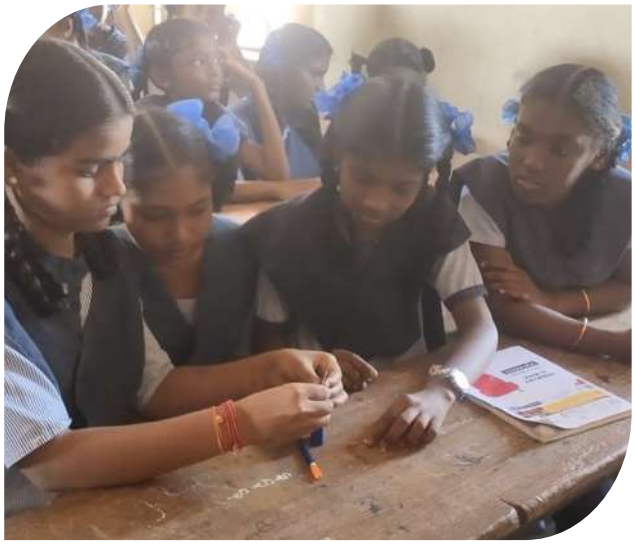


DEL (DEVICE ENGINEERING LAB)

The DEL initiative is a three-year training program for rural middle school students in the Puducherry region, focusing on product mechanisms, 3D printing basics, advanced product handling, and 3D printing technology. The goal is to equip rural government students with innovative thinking skills and technical knowledge. In April 2024, the team carried out the orientation session at four government schools in the Puducherry region.

Del session in Govt. school of the Puducherry region

- GHSS- Ariyankuppam
- GGHSS- Murungapakkam
- GHSS- Alankuppam
- GHSS- Embalam



AURO VANAM

The Aurovanam program aims to promote compassion for all living beings, including Earth's natural elements, and strengthen children's bond with the environment through experiential learning.

Through practical learning, students from the Ashram school in the Puducherry region learned about traditional plants and medicinal herbs during their visit to Aurovanan in April 2024. In all, **eighteen students** gathered at the Aurovanam and gained knowledge about the environment.

ECOLOGY OF BAHOUR REGION

The ecology of the Bahour region is a new initiative under the direction of Svarnim Puducherry. This new initiative aims to address the community's commitment to environmental awareness and biodiversity conservation in wetlands in the Puducherry Bioregion. The project will demonstrate how community commitment and action for ecology conservation can benefit both people and nature.

Butterfly Survey in Bahour lake

The butterfly survey aimed to assess the abundance and distribution of butterfly species in the Bahour region. The survey utilized standardized protocols for butterfly identification and recording. The data collected included species diversity, population densities, and habitat preferences. Preliminary analysis suggests a diverse butterfly community in Bahour. Detailed findings and analysis will help generate baseline data for Bahour Lake.

Perception Survey on desilted ponds in Manapattu Village

Svarnim Puducherry organized Waterfest 2024 to rejuvenate water bodies, particularly ponds, in Manapattu village. A perception survey was conducted among the residents to gauge their opinions, attitudes, and experiences regarding the desilting of twenty ponds. The survey employed structured questionnaires and interviews to gather qualitative and quantitative data. Key areas of inquiry included the perceived impact of ponds, water availability, agricultural practices, biodiversity, and community well-being. Initial responses indicated a negative perception among residents towards the initiative, with many failing to recognize the names of the ponds in their locality. Their access to ponds for irrigation and domestic use has drastically declined with the emergence of borewells. A detailed analysis of survey responses will be carried out to identify themes, trends, and areas for improvement.

Perceptional Survey on Disuse of Open Wells in Bahour Region

The disuse of open wells in the Bahour region was investigated through a perceptional survey to understand the factors contributing to their abandonment and the potential implications for water management and community livelihoods. The survey involved interviews and focus group discussions with residents, farmers, and other stakeholders. Key issues explored included groundwater depletion, water quality concerns, socio-economic changes, and alternative water sources. Preliminary findings suggest that the disuse of open wells is multifaceted and influenced by factors such as urbanization, changing agricultural practices, and perceptions of groundwater availability and quality. Further analysis will be conducted to elucidate patterns and drivers behind the disuse of open wells and to inform future interventions for sustainable water management.