

# Dear Reader,

Greetings! With the profound blessings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, this Newsletter for the month of August 2022, the latest issue, brings out the progression of ongoing project initiatives along with new project initiatives. We will be glad to receive your feedback and reviews that shall help us improve ourselves to address social issues and increase our outreach as well as the quality of our work. Thank you for being with us!

## ORC - OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN

This is a positive mental health program aiming to transform children to be future-ready and having life skills for the 21st century. It is being implemented in 50 government schools.

## Education

### IKMS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

As the first step of Project implementation, common problems faced by the student would be noted down by the respective class teacher through the tool - IKMS (I Know My Student) -Solution Card for which all the class teachers are being trained on how to fill up the same.

IKMS-Solution Card training was carried out from 20th August 2022 to 29th August 2022. Out of the 25 new schools, 11 have completed the training in which 120 class teachers have participated. About 4000 IKMS-Solution Cards were issued to the schools which will later be filled up by the teachers in the days to come..



The focus of the training was equipping the teachers to identify common psycho-social problems that children come across and record them using the IKMS tool.

The session also looked at psychological first aid and how solutions could be devised through a focused approach.

It was underlined that a child's problem does not happen in isolation.

Therefore, communication and interpersonal relationship among family and his/her immediate surrounding is equally important while planning any intervention to bring desired results.



## One day follow up camp

The ORC team has already completed 6 one day follow-up camps which were continued with follow-up camps from 05th August to 22nd August 2022 in four government schools as listed below.

1. Thillaiyadi Valliammai Government High School – Kathirkamam,
2. MTV. Subbaiya GHS, – Reddiarpalayam,
3. Kavignar Bharathidasan GHS, Kuruvintham and
4. T.V. K Govt. High. School – Arumparthapuram in Puducherry.



## Feedback from a Teacher

"We have been watching these students from their 6th standard, and we are also helping and supporting them. Due to their bringing up and bad habits, In some situations they disrespect us. But after this program they are ready to understand their life situation. Importance of their parents, value of their life, meaning of real friendship, how to understand others' situations, and some skills for their life especially overcoming negative influences. Thanks to ORC team members and Sri Aurobindo Society".



Sri. Nadasabapathy, Dy. Dir, Women's Edn, speaking at the Orientation Workshop



In each of the above schools, a maximum 40-45 students attended the one day follow up camps. The one day camp included a lot of energizer activities followed by team-building tasks in groups encompassing topics of gender, time management, self confidence, leadership qualities, self awareness, concentration, decision making, creative thinking etc.

## SMART 40 WORKSHOP

Three days' Smart 40 workshop was held at Pandit Duraisamy GHS, Pethuchettipet, Lawspet from 1st August to 3rd August. Activities included various life-skill oriented activities which transformed even passive, mute-speactator-children in to actively communicating and opening up by the end of the workshop.



An orientation programme for the Head of the Schools and Nodal Teachers of the 50 schools was organized on 18th August 2022 at SAS. The programme started with "Tamizh Thai Vazhthu" followed by welcome speech by Mrs. Bhuwaneswari, HR, Sri Aurobindo Society. Mr. Raghunath, Director of Svarnim Puducherry, while addressing the gathering, gave a brief outline of the activities of SAS.



Smt V.G. Sivagami, Joint Director, Directorate of School Education, gave the inaugural address followed by felicitations by Mr. Nadanasabapathy, DDW & Mr. Ramakrishnan, ADPC, Samagra Shiksha.



Smt. V. Sivagami, Jt Dir (Edn) inaugurating the workshop.

## BRIDGE EDUCATION LEARNING CENTERS



These were initially bridge-education centers that were started during the COVID lockdowns, to help rural school children who were falling critically behind in their literacy levels. Post lockdown, these centers are continuing to fill the gap between what the student has learnt versus expected learning.

The month of August continued to be an interesting one for all the children associated with our centres. A training session was organised for the volunteers-in-charge on sensitizing the importance of developing reading habit among the children. As a follow up, the well-known Children's magazine 'Thumbi' was distributed to all the centres which will be part of a mini-library of each of the centres. Children got engrossed themselves in the colorful magazine.



The next training program was on developing writing skills. Since the children were exposed to the 'Thumbi' Magazine, we planned to make them write their own stories. Children were encouraged to write very simple stories. They tried well. We hope that their writing skill will also get improved eventually.



Along with the reading and writing activities we continued with the regular activities – maths, crafts, especially practice in doing fraction activities. part and whole concepts and identification of simple fractions etc. We have planned to go further with this topic in the upcoming months.



## SHARP – SCHOOL HEALTH ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

# Health

“Aadi Perukku or Aadi Pattam” is one of the auspicious day in August month for the farmers, in which the Kitchen Garden sowing was done in all the 15 schools of health project. The motto of the kitchen garden is to create awareness among children on organic farming, the importance of nutrition to build their immunity and to give relevant knowledge about sowing, planting, germination, assessing the growth process, and harvesting.



Anthropometric measurements provide a valuable assessment of nutritional status in children, and this process was initiated in the schools. This is essential to evaluate the general health status, nutritional adequacy, and the growth and developmental pattern of the child. The height, weight and body mass index were noted from class 5 to class 8, for all the students.





TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SENSITIZED : 200 (AUGUST 2022)

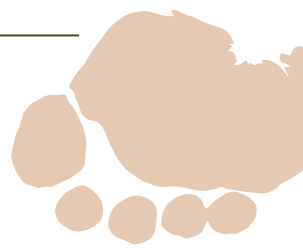
ORIENTATION CUM FELICITATION FOR TEACHERS: 24 AUGUST 2022



Shri M. Nadanasabhapathy, Deputy Director of Women Education, Directorate of School Education in his speech shared about the Health ambassador programme by the teacher for every school to create health awareness which is in line up.

A half day orientation cum felicitaton workshop for all the 15 schools were held at the DIET campus on the 24th Aug 2022. Sh. M. Nadanasabapathy,, Deputy Director (Women Education), Sh. Ramakrishnan, Additional Director of Project Co-ordinator and Sh. Shivarama Reddy, Director of DIET graced the dais. The nodal teachers and physical education teachers of the respective 15 schools were invited for this program. The objective addressal was given by Sh. Raghunath, Director of Svarnim Puducherry, expressing the importance of physical activity interlinked to one's health during this current pandemic situation, which was not only to the school children but also to the adults helping them to overcome non-communicable diseases.

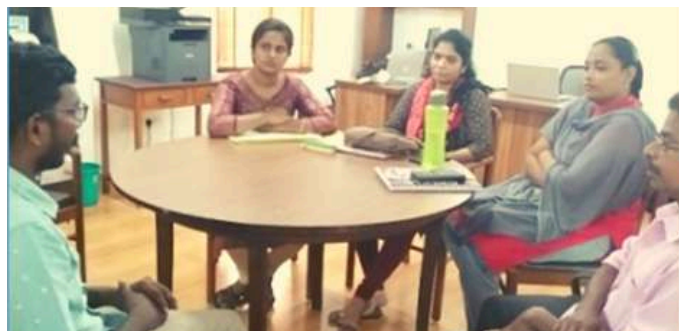
In the felicitation ceremony, the chief guests felicitated the teachers and heads of institutions recognizing the commendable contribution by the educationalists in this project initiative during the last academic year.



## SVARNIM ADDS A NEW CHAPTER

## STEM Resource Centre

Sri Aurobindo STEM Resource Centre, would be a Centre of excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics as well as Arts & Humanities and would cater to all the schools from middle, high and higher secondary level of students. Along with hands on learning of academic lessons, focus will be given in cultivating human values, social and environmental responsibility, and leadership qualities in the children. The main objective is to relook at science learning in a more hands-on and experiential manner where children can “explore and discover for themselves the science concepts and not merely as concepts learnt by-heart. We welcome Ms. Kayalvizhi, Ms. Preethi and Ms. Reshma for joining the Svarnim Puducherry team in the STEM Resource Centre Project. Online interactive sessions were carried out as part of capacity building of the team by Ms. Anshumala Gupta as a precursor to an upcoming training workshop at New Delhi in the month of September 2022 where the team will further be trained on experiential learning sessions.



## Water Literacy

Water literacy, is aimed at creating awareness on water among children with growing importance for sustainable water management and social water equity. One of the activities carried out in schools is water audit. The importance of water audit is explained to the students. They were given guidance to measure, draw the building blocks with identified sources of water inlet and outlets.

This shall enable the students to know about the effective usage of rain water harvesting, waste water management. Conversation on Circular water by Er.UN Ravikumar, Mysore was organized by Svarnim Puducherry, Sri Aurobindo Society on 27 Aug 2022 as part of the World Water Week 2022 in collaboration with Alliance for Good Governance (AGG). The meeting was attended by academics, water user association-representatives and also AGG partners. The presentation by Er.UN Ravikumar gave an interesting focus on water and its mis-management and also at potential solutions that can be tried out. The conversation also resulted in the decision to carry out a Monsoon festival in Puducherry where many of the solutions/studies can be carried out in schools and communities.



## AHAR- AGROHOMEOPATHY FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This is an innovative agricultural research program conducted by Svarnim Puducherry to ascertain whether physiological plant activity can be triggered to sustainably improve productivity without affecting the ecosystem.

Sri Aurobindo Society has been doing the field research in three farmer's fields at Bahour as the continuation of our field research done in Matrikunj for the last seven years. Currently the third season of paddy is being cultivated using agro homeopathy. The research design being followed is randomized block design with eight treatments and three replications. From each treatment plots 15 plants are selected as samples and hence 360 plants are tagged as samples (8 treatments \* 3 replication = 24 Plots).

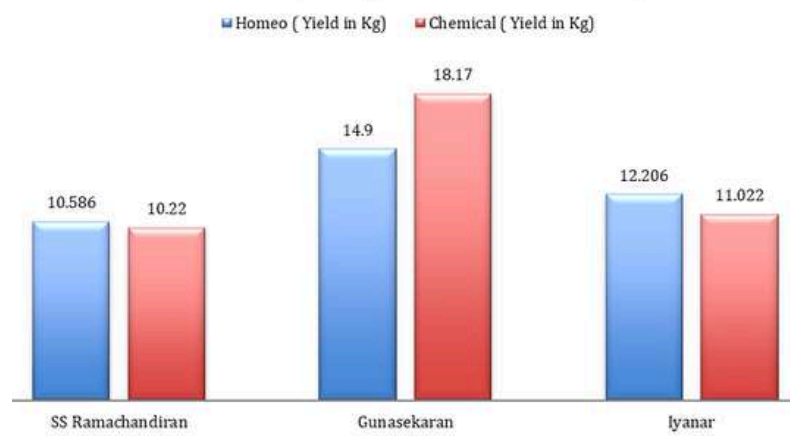
As suggested by agriculture research experts, we take note of all the growth and yield parameters of Paddy to study which treatment is performing better. As part of measuring the growth parameters on 16th August, 2022 a team of researchers from Svarnim Puducherry team visited Mr. Arjunan and Mr. Saravan's field in Bahour and measured the height and number of panicles in each of the tagged plants.

The best performing treatment has been given to 15 farmers in Bahour region to try it in their field in 7 X 7 sq.meter land along with their conventional farming to study the difference in the yield for Homeo treatment and Chemical fertiliser based farming.

While doing the harvest we take the yield of 5X5 meter in Homeo treatment and 5X5 meter in Chemical fertiliser based farming to compare the yield. In the month of August the harvest is done in three farmer's field in Bahour.



**AHAR trial plots ( yield data of 3 farmers)**



a nature-based education camp in-the-making



AuroVanam is a child- centric initiative designed to nurture environmental sensitivity and social responsibility in children. It will educate children about Nature in a hands-on and experiential manner. Students will develop a wider, richer, and more empathetic understanding of our ecology..

These insights are expected to allow children to think critically about the connection between man and the environment and recognize the elements of a healthy planet. Aurovanam is located within Matrikunj, having Oustery in its neighbourhood and itself having a cascade of water bodies and thematic gardens for children to explore and learn from.

While conducting nature education programs, this will be helpful for students to develop a better understanding of nature and its complex interconnectivity.

The constructional activities such as construction of walls, roofing, flooring, fixing doors and windows, tiles laying, etc. for the interpretation centre, toilets and pathway are in process in Aurovanam.

