



**"GIVE ALL YOU HAVE, THIS BEGINNING. GIVE ALL YOU DO; THIS IS THE WAY.  
 GIVE ALL YOU ARE, THIS IS THE FULFILLMENT."**

**-- THE MOTHER**

**LET'S ENTER A NEW YEAR WHEREIN EVERY DAY IS A LITTLE  
 LIFE FESTIVAL! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!**

## Dear Reader,

Welcome to the twelfth 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!

### STEM – EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OF SCIENCE CONCEPTS



### Education

The STEM Resource Centre is a centre of excellence for hands-on learning experiences in a variety of fields, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the arts, and the humanities. Using mobile laboratories, the Stem resource person visited rural government schools to facilitate hands-on learning. The goal of the science outreach program is to stimulate students' natural curiosity and sense of wonder about the world, encouraging them to pursue knowledge.

The scientific outreach program was conducted in six government schools in the Puducherry region by the Stem team in December 2023. Svarnim Puducherry's stem crew engaged the students with the fundamental concepts of atoms and molecules as well as the digestive, circulatory, and respiratory systems. **A total of 370** government school students benefited.

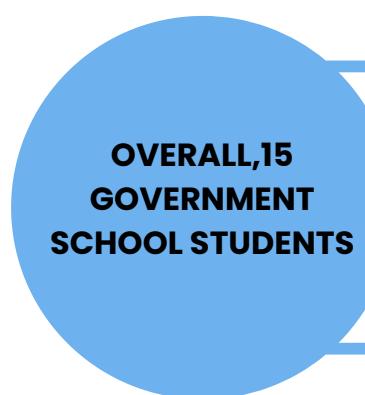


**Do you want to hold a STEM session in your school? Write to us with details of your school :**  
**[svarnim@aurosociety.org](mailto:svarnim@aurosociety.org) with Subject: STEM Education.**



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.

Under the umbrella of Svarnim Puducherry, the robotics crew hosted the sessions with basic concepts of electronic components and their functions, followed by breadboard-based kits and self-experimentation. Apart from that, the project selection and material availability for conducting a school-level robotics exhibition were being worked out in December 2023.



**Basic electronics session completed in 08 government schools**

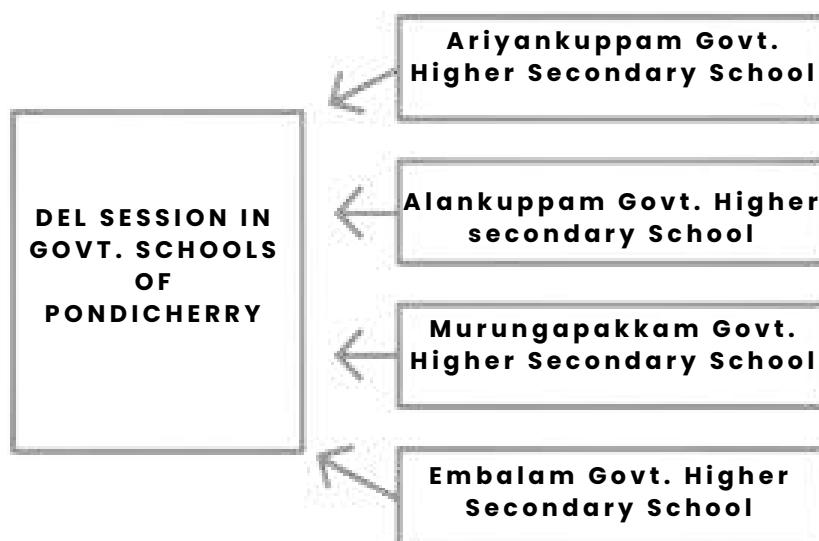
**Scratch Programming session completed in 4 government schools**

**Dynamic toys session had commenced in 03 government schools**



### 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 and to provide the children with the skills they will need for the future.



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The training sessions were conducted in four different government schools in the Puducherry region using IITM's supplied materials, under the topic of Bicycle Bells, Whistles, Loudspeaker, and Binoculars. Each school had two batches with 90-minute block periods. The handouts are to be displayed as posters at the appropriate schools so that students may see them more clearly and caption them. The first five sessions focused on content delivery and student attentiveness. Regular tests began after a recap of earlier sessions. The 3D parts were created using design files, and training updates were shared in periodic online trainer meetings. **A total of 360 government school students** benefited from the session in December 2023.



## OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN (ORC)

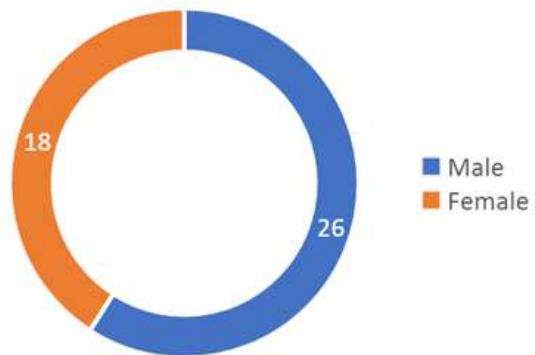
## *Education*

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.

### **SMART-40 CAMP**

The three-day Smart-40 camp allows the ORC staff to get to know the students in a fresh environment, placing students in an excellent condition for establishing friends and forming lifelong ties with others. Throughout the camp, students will regularly interact with their counsellors and classmates, giving them a chance to practice social skills in a friendly setting that fosters their academic, social, and emotional development.

A three-day smart-40 camp was held at Thiru. Vi. Ka. Government High School in Arumparthalapuram in December 2023. All 44 of the students who were selected for this camp participated actively in the training sessions; 26 of them were male students and 18 of them were female students.



## INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

In December 2023, the ORC team carried out individual counselling at several government schools in the Puducherry region. In high school, **63 students**, which included 40 boys and 23 girls participated, whereas 19 students from higher secondary school; 11 boys and 8 girls participated.



## PARENTAL COUNSELLING

The Orc team scheduled a parental counselling session for the parents of the students in a government school in Puducherry. Overall, Two parents from GHSS in Karayambuthur and Thillaiyadi Valliyammai GHS in Kathirakamam benefited from the counselling.

## GENERAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

For the benefit of the students, the ORC team from Svarnim Puducherry conducted four general awareness programs at various government schools. Overall, 565 government school students benefited from the general awareness program, which comprised GHS-Kanuvapet, Kasturba Gandhi GHSS-Bahour, Sinnatha Government Girls HSS-Muthialpet, and GHS-Thengaithittu.



Name of the school	Number of the students
GHS- Kanuvapet	Overall, 51 students, including 32 boys and 19 girls, benefited from the general awareness.
Kasturba Gandhi GHSS- Bahour	A total of 305 students benefited from the general awareness.
Sinnatha Govt. Girls HSS, Muthialpet	Overall, 177 students benefited from the general awareness.
GHS, Thengaithittu	Overall, 32 students benefited from the general awareness.



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## TEACHERS ORIENTATION PROGRAM

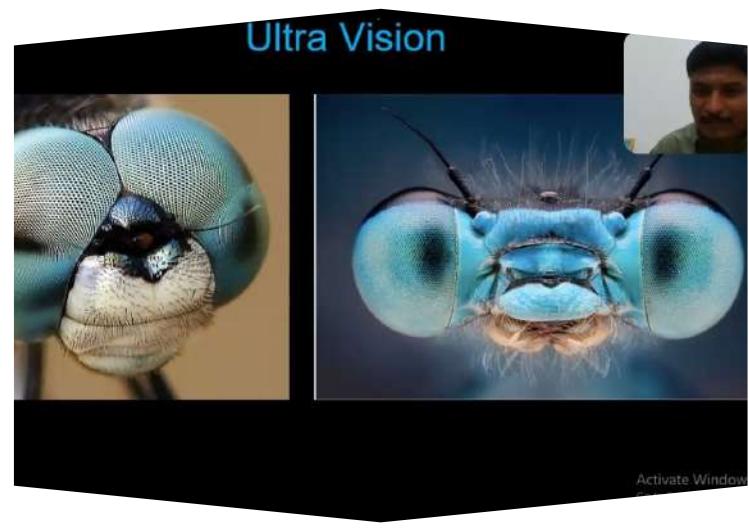
The Satya Special School in Kuyilapalayam had a teacher orientation workshop on mental health stress management in December 2023, which was organized by the ORC team. Overall, **35 staff members** gained from the orientation program.

## WINGS OVER WETLAND

### WEBINAR –DECEMBER 26, 2023

The Wings Over Our Wetland 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 of wetlands in the Puducherry Bioregion. The project will demonstrate how community commitment and action for wetland conservation can benefit both people and nature.

Svarnim Puducherry arranged a webinar entitled Wings Over Wetland, which was an introductory session to the Water Fest 2024. The goal of the webinar, which took place on December 26, 2023, was to familiarize participants with the interesting world of dragonflies and damselflies, including their morphology, differences, evolutionary background, ecological value, and current citizen science programs. The webinar was hosted by assistant professor Dr. Pankaj Khoparde of MIT-WPU, Pune.



The purpose of the Wings Over Wetland webinar was to educate and excite participants on the significance of odonates in wetland ecosystems. To get a deeper knowledge of dragonflies and damselflies in their natural habitat, participants were urged to participate in this practical activity. **A total of 43 people** took part in the webinar enthusiastically. Additionally, the participants registered for the upcoming immersive field workshop at Bahour in the Puducherry region.

## AUROVANAM

The goal of the Audivanam project is to foster compassion for all living species as well as the environmental elements that keep life on Earth alive. Audivanam stresses the establishment of a stronger bond between children and the environment by highlighting their interconnectedness via experiential learning. A total of 25 varieties of traditional plants were planted in the kitchen garden in December by the Audivanam team, who had collected more than fifteen varieties of traditional seeds that were becoming endangered in the modern era. To protect endangered species and traditional seeds, Audivanam finished the kitchen garden and a sapling nursery.



The health and wellness program focuses on nutrition and physical health for middle- to upper-secondary government school students. It helps to identify potential health issues based on BMI, promoting balanced diets, healthy behaviours, and physical exercise through group discussions, audio-visuals, and hands-on activities. The initiative also includes a one-day intervention camp for 6th-8th grade STD students, educating them on general health, hygiene, sanitation, food, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health. The program aims to educate children and parents on balanced diets, healthy behaviours, and physical exercise.

### ONE-DAY INTERVENTION CAMP

The primary aim of the intervention camp was to educate 6th and 8th-grade students, through activity-based learning, about sexual and reproductive health (including puberty changes, dispelling myths and misconceptions, menstrual hygiene, and promoting a positive gender perspective), personal hygiene practices, digital detox, and general health through a holistic approach. In December 2023, the Sharp Team conducted a one-day intervention session at CRN GMS Lawspet, PKGBHSS Muthialpet, two government schools in the Puducherry region. **A total of 213** government schools attended the one-day intervention workshop.



Name of the school	Number of students
CRN GMS Lawspet school	<b>A total of 75 students, including 30 boys and 45 girls, attended the one-day intervention session.</b>
PKGBHSS Muthialpet	<b>A total of 138 students attended the one-day intervention session.</b>



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## KITCHEN GARDEN FOLLOW-UP

The kitchen garden follow-up was finished at four government schools in the Puducherry region, which include Kannagi GHS Villanur, GHS, Kalmandapam, and Maraimalai Adigal GHSS, Embalam.



## PROJECT SPORTA

### **“TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS INTO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS”**

As part of the school health initiative Project SPORTA, students are encouraged to participate in sports and activities. The Svarnim team heads to enrolled government schools with trainers to identify students who possess natural talent. The objective of sports training is to improve physical fitness and health-related to athletic talents, such as strength, speed, coordination, endurance, and flexibility. It also imparts life values including teamwork, embracing failure, and the unique quality known as sportsmanship.

The team conducted training sessions for 10 Puducherry government schools in various sports, including football, cricket, handball, athletics, volleyball, kabaddi, badminton, and kho kho. **A total of 509 students participated** in the sessions. Apart from that, Ms. Subiksha from Indira Gandhi Government High Secondary School, Katterikuppam has selected Khelo India Women Wushu League South Zone at KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology, coimbatore.



## **BRIDGE EDUCATION**

The bridge education centres are situated in the neighbouring Cuddalore and the Bahour commune of Puducherry. The primary objective of the initiative is to close the learning gaps for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who were not enrolled in school during the COVID-19 epidemic. The Svarnim Puducherry staff arranges a range of events with the assistance of volunteers to provide students with engaging learning experiences and regular evaluations.



In December 2023, under the umbrella of Svarnim Puducherry, the Bridge Education volunteer staff assisted the students with their academic exam preparation, which concentrated on curriculum knowledge. Furthermore, Karthika, a student from Manapet's bridge education program, took part in the national-level competition as a part of the Odisha State-based National Education Project. In addition, the Svarnim Puducherry team arranged a training workshop on wings over our wetland's idea, which was attended by both the students and the volunteer staff from the Bridge Education Centre. The staff members of Svarnim Puducherry provided an orientation on Bahour Lake to students and teachers as an attempt to introduce them to the field of ecological wetlands. **A total of 124 students** benefited from the orientation program.

