"Do not belong to the past dawns, but to the noon's of future"
— Sri Aurobindo

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the eleventh 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 how nature and social relations ought to be. In this endeavor, 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!

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Education

SCIENCE EXHIBITION AT SELLIPET GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL

On November 29, with the guidance and co-ordination of the STEM experts for the students, science exhibition was conducted at Sellipet Government High School in the Puducherry region under the umbrella of Svarnim Puducherry. The exhibition featured interactive displays with distinct science concepts, demonstrating the students' understanding of various scientific concepts. The event was attended by the Puducherry Directorate of School Education Chief Education Officer, Mr. M. Thanaselvane Nehru, and judges Dr. Arun Nagalingam and Mr. Thirumazhisai.

Each group chose a topic, conducted experiments, and created visual aids. The students gained knowledge and skills to present their research in this event.

The Chief Education Officer and the judges applauded the event, which revealed the impact of the experiential way of learning science concepts that were highly beneficial for the students to showcase their communication skills overcoming the barrier of hesitation and clearly presenting their exhibits. This in turn builds up their self-confidence and creates a passion for science and learning.

SCIENCE EXHIBITION AT CALVE COLLEGE HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, KURUCHIKUPPAM

STEM education experts provided in-depth science knowledge to the Calve College higher secondary school children who participated voluntarily in the training sessions. In the whole training session, it was evident how engaged and enthusiastic they were with the subjects.

The STEM team from Svarnim Puducherry led a two-day scientific exhibition training at Calve College Higher Secondary School on November 23rd to improve students' understanding of chemistry, biology, and physics. The creative efforts of the students were evaluated by the science instructor and headmaster, and the presentation expanded their understanding of scientific ideas. The enthusiastic participation of the students fascinated the team, and Calve College Higher Secondary School expressed gratitude for the extended support.
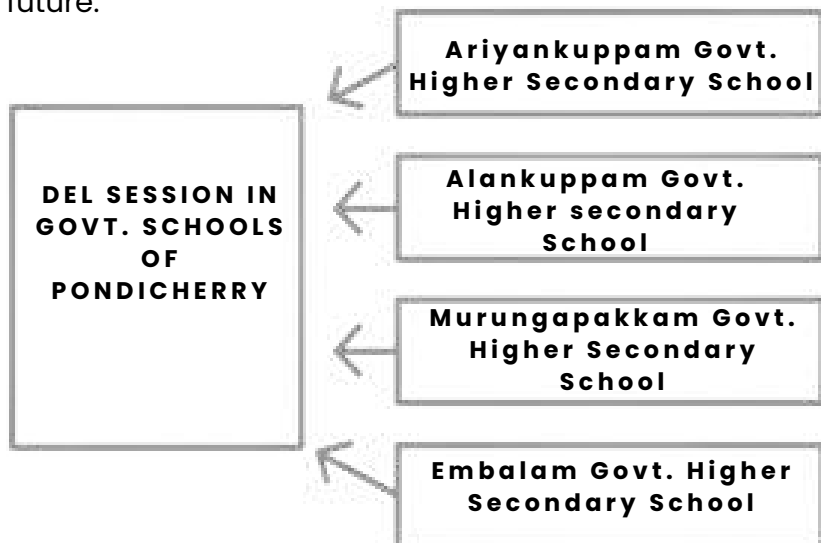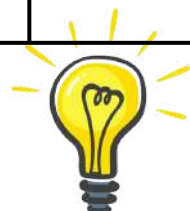

FOR MORE DETAILS

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DEL (DEVICE ENGINEERING LAB)

The DEL initiative is a three-year training program for rural middle school students in Puducherry region, focusing on product mechanisms, 3D printing basics, advanced products handling, and 3D printing technology. The goal is to equip rural government students with innovative thinking skills and technical knowledge. Four schools in the Puducherry region will implement the first-year curriculum from November to March 2024, aiming to equip students with the necessary skills for the future.

DEL SESSION IN GOVT. SCHOOLS OF PONDICHERRY

- Ariyankuppam Govt. Higher Secondary School
- Alankuppam Govt. Higher secondary School
- Murungapakkam Govt. Higher Secondary School
- Embalam Govt. Higher Secondary School

SL. NO	Name of the school	Bicycle Bell	Whistle
1	Alankuppam (Classes: VI, VII, VIII)	Overall, two sessions were completed for two batches. (1st Batch – 35 and 2nd Batch – 40)	Overall, two sessions were completed for two batches. (1st Batch – 35 and 2nd Batch– 40)
2	Ariyankuppam (Classes: VI, VII, VIII)	Overall, two sessions were completed for two batches. (1st Batch– 30 and 2nd Batch – 35)	Overall, one session was completed for two batches. (1st Batch – 30 and 2nd Batch – 35)

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

The training sessions were conducted using the materials suggested by IITM, purchased from local stores and Amazon. Each school had two batches with 90-minute block periods. The handouts are to be displayed as posters at the appropriate schools so students can see them more clearly and caption them. The first five sessions focused on content delivery and attentiveness of students. 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. The sessions for the remaining two schools are on the way to commence in the coming weeks.

Education

STEM – Experiential Learning of Science Concepts

The well-equipped STEM Resource Centre provides hands-on learning experiences in science concepts and engages the students in group discussion, expressing their ideas, problem-solving, creative thinking and communicating their findings. It uses mobile labs to conduct experiential learning sessions in rural government schools, fostering children's curiosity and learning motivation.

The STEM team engaged **348 students at seven government schools** on science concepts throughout the month of November 2023. According to the curriculum, nine batches of sixth through ninth-grade students attended STEM lessons at the schools, covering the fundamental disciplines of physics, chemistry, and biology.

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 Puducherry district. The aim is to introduce the children to advancements in electronics and robotics, exposing them to innovative concepts. The sessions start with basic concepts of electronics, components, and their functions, followed by breadboard-based kits and self-experimentation guided by SP trainers.

Overall,15 government school students

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

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

Education

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN (ORC)

The ORC programme is a unique effort that concentrates on the mental health of children enrolled in government schools and employs a rigorous approach to identify the children who need assistance. According to ORC, mental health includes a person's capacity to focus on various life skills, including decision-making, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, effective communication, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness, empathy, and stress management.

IKMSS TEACHERS TRAINING

Through the use of IKMSS (I Know My Student Solution) cards, the mental health sessions were provided to 13 class teachers in two government schools in the Puducherry district.

SMART-40 CAMP

The three-day Smart-40 camp is an opportunity for the ORC staff to get to know the children in a new setting, which puts them in a great position to make friends and build relationships that will last a lifetime. Throughout the camp, children will routinely engage with their peers and counselors, allowing them to hone their social skills in a welcoming environment that supports their academic, social, and emotional growth.

In the month of November 2023, three government high schools had a three-day smart-40 camp. There were 137 students chosen for this camp; 49 were males and 88 were girls, and all took an active role in the training sessions.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

The orc crew provided individual counseling to **28 students** from seven different government schools in the Puducherry region.

GENERAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The ORC team visited several government schools in the Puducherry region in November to conduct a general awareness program. A total of **313 students** from 4 government schools participated in the general awareness program on mental health.

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 with 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, the sports team offered a one-week drug awareness program at Thillaiyadi Valliammai GHS in Kathirkamam, Puducherry, and 439 students benefited from the program.

SCHOOL HEALTH ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT – SHARP   *Health*

The health and wellness program focuses on nutrition and physical health for middle- to upper-secondary government school students. It helps 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 educates children and parents on balanced diets, healthy behaviours, and physical exercise.

ONE-DAY INTERVENTION CAMP

In November 2023, the Sharp Team conducted a one-day intervention session at CRN GMS Lawspet, GMS Manapet, PKGBHSS Muthialpet, and SCSV Veerampattinam, four government schools in the Puducherry region. **A total of 618 government schools attended the one-day intervention workshop.**


KITCHEN GARDEN FOLLOW-UP

The kitchen garden follow-up was finished at four government schools in the Puducherry region, which include Kannagi GHS Villanur, SCSV GHS Veerampattinam, GHS Keezh Parikkalpattu, and TPGHSS, Ariyankuppam.

Discussion with Mr. Sanjeev, Udavi Matriculation School

The staff of Svarnim puducherry team received a demonstration on The Vaughn cube, Dienes Cubes, and Scratch are tools designed for children to learn basic mathematical concepts. The Vaughn cube is designed for visualization, while RTL sessions promote personal transformation and team-building. Dienes Cubes teach addition, subtraction, number sense, and place value. Scratch promotes computational thinking, problem-solving, creative teaching, self-expression, collaboration, and equity in computing. We could also explore the possibility of future collaboration.
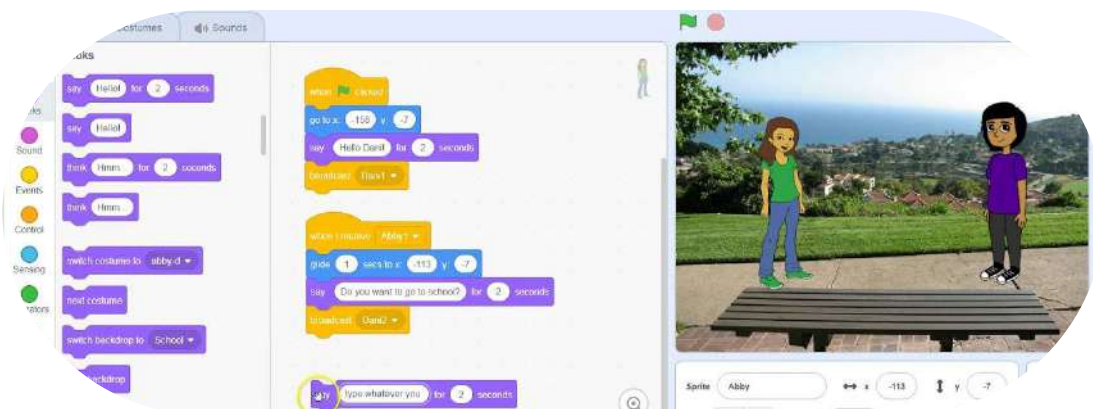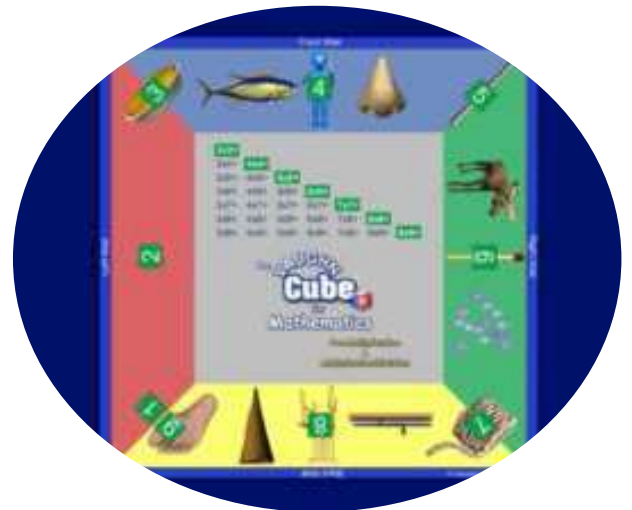
AUROVANAM

The goal of the Aurovanam project is to foster compassion for all living species and the environmental elements that keep life on Earth alive. Aurovanam stresses establishing 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 November by the Aurovanam team, who had collected fifteen varieties of traditional seeds that were becoming endangered in the modern era. Intending to protect endangered species and traditional seeds, Aurovanam finished the kitchen garden and a sapling nursery.

BRIDGE EDUCATION

"Choose a man in each village who can teach privately the children of the village reading, writing, easy calculation."

-The Mother

The bridge education centers are located in Puducherry's Bahour commune and neighboring Cuddalore. The project's primary goal is to bridge the learning gaps in children of vulnerable sections who were left out of school during the Covid pandemic. With the help of volunteers, the team plans various activities to give children exciting learning opportunities with periodical assessment as well.

In November, **150 students** were taught the Lattice Method of Multiplication and Language Fluency Development (LFD), also known as Chinese multiplication. Children used this method to develop higher-order mathematical abilities, such as the capacity to solve problems, the self-assurance to take on difficult tasks, and the expertise with algorithms. Learning different mathematical strategies that link with reasoning and logical skills also helps students succeed in science and history. Using these methods, the study center taught mathematics to the students so they could become educated in arithmetic with the assistance of the Svarnim Puducherry staff.