



Sri Aurobindo Society

**SVARNIM
PUDUCHERRY**
TOWARDS THE GOLDEN FUTURE

AURO FOOTPRINTS

A Monthly Newsletter



Vol 2
Issue 2
Sept. 2023

SVARNIM.PUDUCHERRY@AUROSOCIETY.ORG

"True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become."
---By SRI AUROBINDO

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the ninth 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!

AHAR



Agriculture

AGRO- HOMEOPATHY FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves."- Mahatma Gandhi

National-level dissemination workshop on Agro homoeopathy

In September 2023, on 25th and 26th, Sri Aurobindo Society hosted a national-level dissemination workshop on agrohomeopathy. The workshop was attended by **85 participants**, including experts on agroecology, practitioners/homeopaths engaged in agrohomeopathy from other parts of India and farmers from various regions of India, including Puducherry, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and West Bengal.



**FOR MORE INFO
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Ministry of Education and UNICEF collaborates to
foster climate change education



The workshop focused agroecological farming in general and application of homoeopathy in farming in particular, involving laboratory and field tests held in Puducherry over the last 12 years. It addressed challenges faced by farmers, particularly with declining soil fertility and increasing costs, lack of adequate workforce and highlighted the importance of agro-homeopathy for biodiversity regeneration and farmer-driven agriculture. Speakers like Dr. Partib Basu, Prof. Pulin Bihari Chakarborty, Dr. Chitore Guha Sarkar, and Mr. Jayantha Kumar Sharma discussed the connection between food and culture.

Field Visit

As part of the workshop, the participants visited Bahour region, the rice bowl of Puducherry including the Bahour Eri (lake), on-farm research fields and held discussion with the farmers on their experiences including paddy and various vegetable fields. Later, the participants visited **Aurovanam**, where Mr. Siva who manages the environment education centre shared the various elements of AuroVanam.



FOR MORE DETAILS
[CLICK HERE](#)

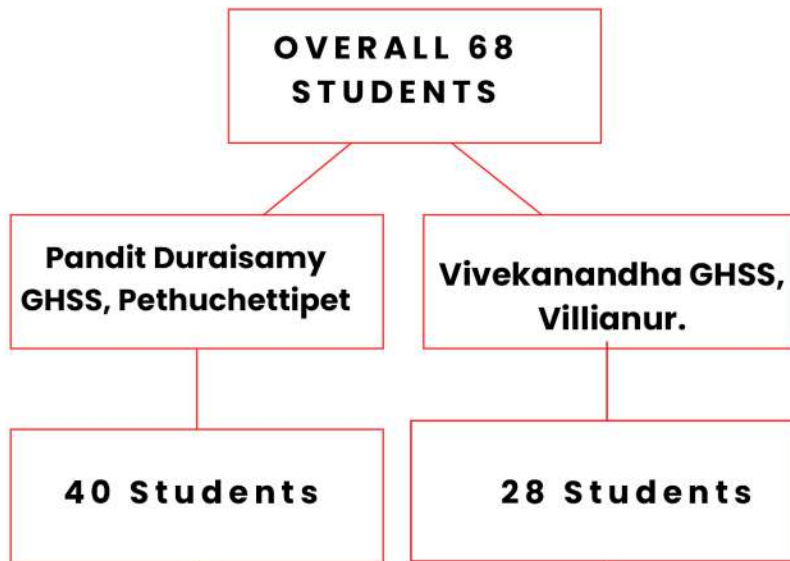




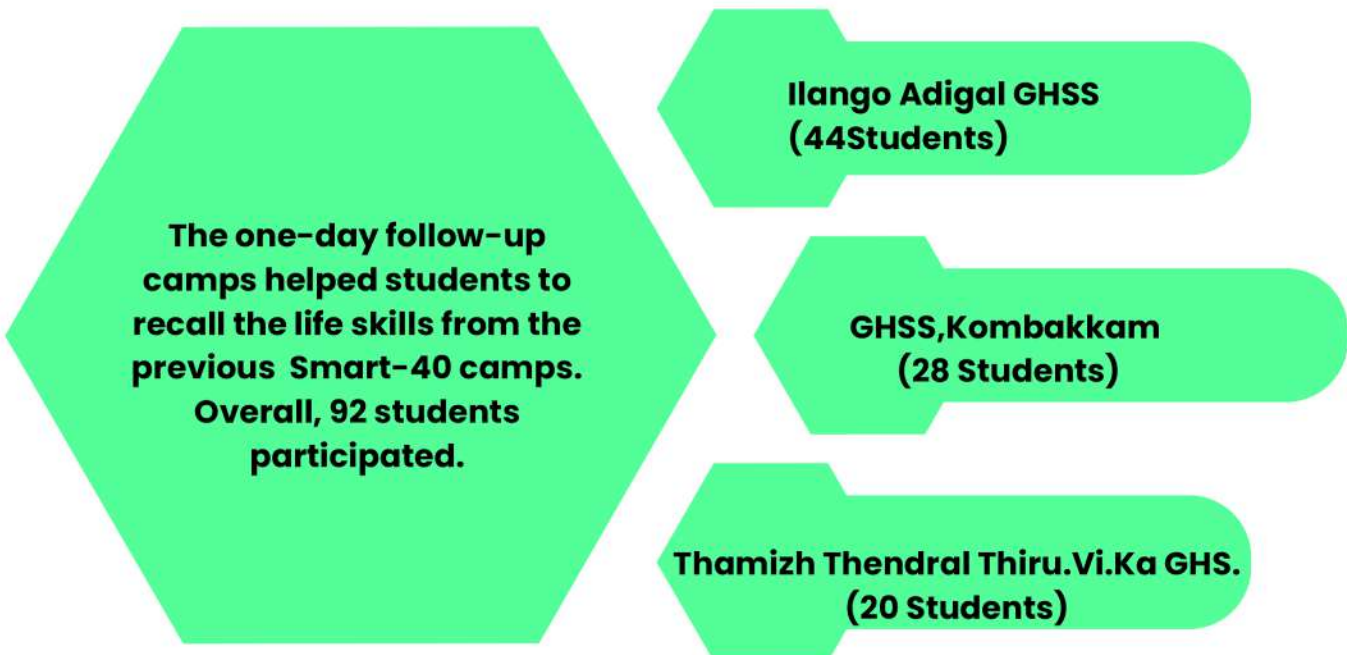
"In order to see, you have to stop being in the middle of the picture"
- Sri Aurobindo

Our Responsibility to Children is a positive mental health initiative for children to reach out to those who need psychological support and assistance. Smart-40 camps aim to promote life skills in students through group activities, focusing on self-awareness, problem-solving, critical thinking, decision-making, communication, interpersonal connections, and stress and emotion management.

SMART- 40 CAMPS



FOLLOW-UP CAMP



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

GENERAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME



A total of 144 students participated in a general awareness programme at **Vallalar GGHSS, Lawspet** held on 5th September 2023 that focused on their emotions and stress management. The programme cheered up the students and brought them outside of their inhibitions, fears and doubts.



INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

The ORC team hosted individual counselling for 16 students, including 2 boys and 14 girls, in the month of September 2023.

Kasthurba Gandhi GGHSS,
Bahour. (6 Students)

GHSS, Karayambuthur
(4 Students)

GHS, Uruvaiyar
(6 Students)



"Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship."

– Gautam Buddha

This, a component of our health and wellness initiative, is focused on the nutrition, physical fitness, and health of students in middle- to upper-level secondary government schools. One of the programme's main goals is to conscientize children and their parents on the importance of a balanced diet, healthy behaviours and the importance of physical exercise to maintain good health. These awareness-raising activities include group discussions, audio-visual as well as activities including puppet shows, presentations, role-plays as well as hands-on experiential tools including developing of kitchen gardens in schools and communities..

Pre-Assessment Survey

The SHARP team conducted a pre-assessment survey for **407 students** from ten schools, focused knowledge, aptitude, practice related to overall diet, nutrition and health following standard ethical consent from the sample being studied.



Teacher Orientation Program

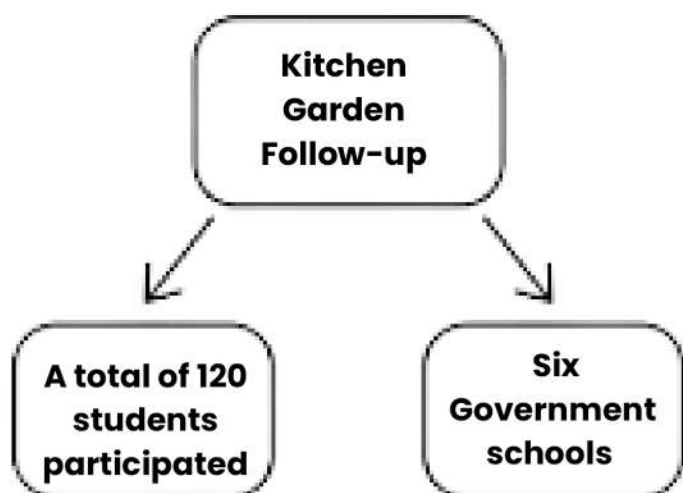
The Sharp team conducted an Orientation workshop for **50 teachers** from **ten government schools**, including MAGHSS Embalam, GHS, Kalmandapam, PKBGHSS, Muthialpet, SGHS, and Govt High School, Thattanchavady.



Read More



Kitchen Garden Follow-up



SRI AUROBINDO STEM RESOURCE CENTRE



Education

"There's real poetry in the real world. Science is the poetry of reality."

– Richard Dawkins

The STEM Resource Centre is a centre of excellence for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, arts, and humanities. Resource persons It travelled 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.



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BRIDGE EDUCATION

The bridge education centres are located in Puducherry's Bahour commune as well as neighbouring Cuddalore. The project's main goals are 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 a variety of activities to give children interesting learning opportunities with periodical assessment as well.



In September 2023, an educational programme aimed at improving the reading skills of **170 children at 12 teaching** centers was conducted. Reading story-cards exercise promoted creativity, imagination, language development, and problem-solving skills.

PROJECT SPORTA



"TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS INTO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS"

"The most important thing in coaching is communication. It's not what you say as much as what they absorb." --- Red Auerbach

In Project SPORTA, a part of the school health initiative, the students are encouraged to participate in sports and games, and the Svarnim Puducherry team sends professional trainers to the participating government schools to find out the inbuilt talents among the students.



The team organised various sports, including football, cricket, handball, athletics, volleyball, kabaddi, badminton, and kho kho training sessions among ten government schools in Puducherry. A total of **509 students** took part in the sessions.



[svarnimpuducherry](https://www.instagram.com/svarnimpuducherry)

Robotics/Dynamic Toys project

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH BASIC ELECTRONICS DYNAMIC TOYS

The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Dept of Science & Technology, Government of India, has supported an initiative for introduction of basic electronics and robotics in 15 government schools in intending to expose students to modern concepts.

In September 2023, the robotics team trained **675 students** in experiential learning.



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.

AURO VANAM

NATURE - BASED EDUCATION

"Materially you are nothing, spiritually you are everything."
- Sri Aurobindo

Aurovanam is an initiative that aims to spread empathy towards all life forms and elements of nature which support life on Earth. Aurovanam is an attempt to bring children closer to nature and its interconnectedness and make them appreciate it through experiential learning.



The participants from the national agrohomeopathy workshop visited the aurovanam to learn more about the traditional seeds, plants, medicinal herbs, and TDEF plants. The participants gained the opportunity to acquire exclusive information regarding "Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems" (DEWATS) that AuroVanam has implemented.

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