



Pudiyador Times

Issue #27
Jul. 2016

Expert Findings of a Pedagogy Consultant

Pudiyador strives to the highest standard in providing a safe and fun learning environment. To that end, we recently hired Maitreyi Anant, a pedagogy consultant, in order to get an outsider's perspective about what goes on at each of the centers on a day-to-day basis. Anant, an experienced adviser, aided Pudiyador by observing and providing feedback. She provided input on the activities at each location, the children's response, and much more.

Our goal was to learn about things that are going well at Pudiyador and, more importantly, identify areas of improvement. Anant's detailed observations focused on Pudiyador's overall mission: providing a fun, safe learning environment for underserved children to foster their intellectual, social and cultural development. Anant's feedback allowed Pudiyador to plan and eventually implement new activities and programs for our children as well as our teaching staff.



Maitreyi Anant is a pedagogy consultant (focused on children and "delivery of teaching") who aided Pudiyador's facilities in the spring of 2016. Having worked for numerous other organizations, her expertise provided Pudiyador with a unique perspective on conditions at the centers.

An Expert, Outsider Opinion

Anant documented her findings in four major segments for each of our 5 centers: general observations and notes, best practices, specific observations about the teachers and the students, and photographs of everyday events. Having worked in organizations similar to Pudiyador, she knew what to look for, and how to document her observations in such a way that they can be used to create future content. At the end of her term, she presented us with a detailed document complete with observations and photographs from all centers in an impressive 100-page journal.



Pudiyador's Thriving, Academic Environment

Overall, Anant found that Pudiyador was successful in its mission of providing fun, academic environments for these children. She remarks that every child seemed to have a voice, and was heard by their peers and teachers when speaking their mind or ideas. They also had a deep sense of teamwork, always helping each other when one struggled. There was a general environment of learning, and many of the children were thriving when participating in group activities.



When?

- April – June 2016
- 4 ½ hours every evening (typically 4:00 to 8:30)

Where?

- Urur Kuppam (PUK)
- Ramapuram 1 (PR1)
- Ramapuram 2 (PR2)
- Saligramam (PSA)
- Kakkan colony (PKA)



Classes and Pudiyaador's Best Practices

Anant also noted that classes typically got loud which led to distractions and chaos but thankfully these bouts only lasted for periods of time, after which order was generally restored by the nearby teachers. According to Anant, all the centers are kept neat and organized, and class materials are utilized often.



Children work well together in centers, helping each other when they struggle.

Although classes may louden, order is quickly brought by teachers.

Pudiyaador is doing an excellent job in providing a safe learning environment.

Children feel "heard" when talking in front of the class.

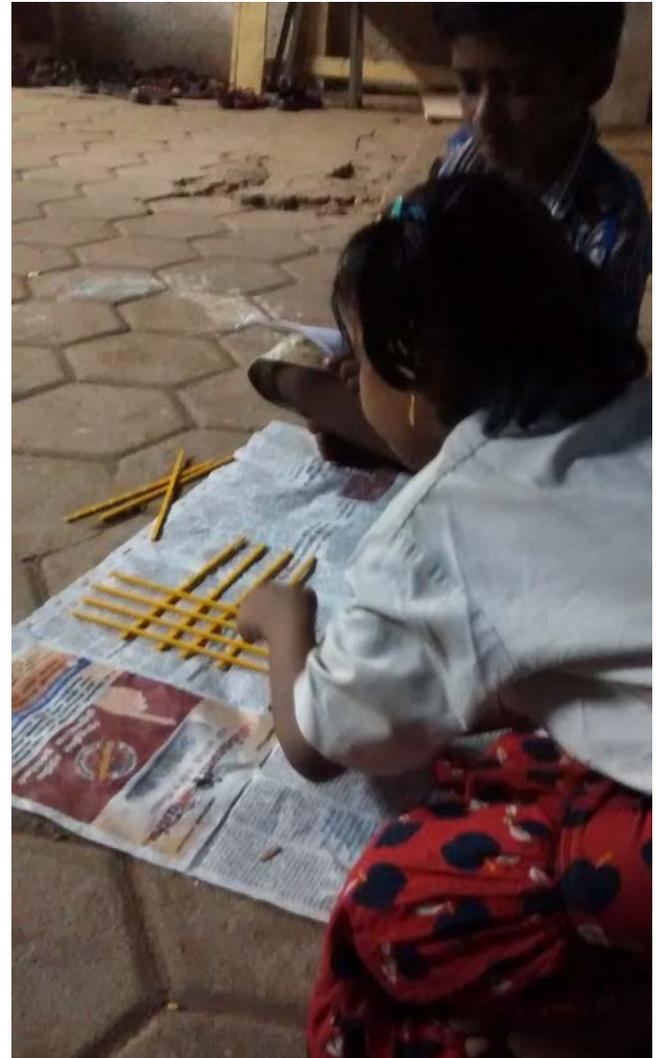
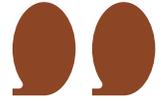
Teachers emphasize academics and testing to ensure progress.



Anant believed one of the best practices at Pudiyaador was topic discussions. Children spoke based on prompts such as 'what does respect mean to you?' that greatly improved thoughtful conversation and consequent behaviors.



The children are happy and get along well with each other and know all the other children pretty well. When working in groups, the older children are aware of their peers' capabilities and are sensitive when they are learning.



Teachers in the center get along well with each other and have a common understanding amongst them. They're willing to discuss issues/concerns with each other with ease and make decisions quickly.





Observations on Teaching Practices

The teachers in all 5 centers work well as teams. They play equal roles at the center and look out for one another. They are invested in our children, take time to ask about their families, and help with issues (if needed) outside of center timings.

Teachers typically do not get angry easily nor do they raise their voice. When an issue occurs, they step in and sort it out then and there, and take help if needed. Although teachers in Pudiyador never hit our children, there have been instances when



they threatened to do so, or threatened to send them back home, and children seem to respond with fear and subsequent obedience. We will be working on training programs that address these situations and eventually will figure out how we can deal with them using better ways in the future.



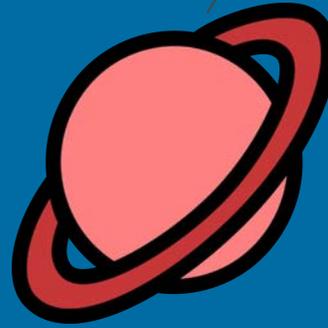
Overall, there is much to be reflected on from Maitreyi Anant's observations. We will be spending the following months working on fostering our existing good practices as well as incorporating new ones that Anant recommends. We will also be creating new training programs that are tailored to the abilities and interests of the teachers and that focus on improving their impact on our children.

We believe that we can continue providing a nurturing learning environment to our children by inspiring our staff to do so in a fun and loving manner.



Quarter Highlights

May



Volunteers (Vijay & Sushmitha) organized an exhibition at Spaces for the (after school program) PUK centre children. They has filed everything which the children made during Visual Art session for the past two years and have put it up in the Spaces for Exhibition.

June

An organization known as "Bhumi" has collaborated with Pudiador and agreed to send volunteers to take English through fun activities during weekends for one year.



July

The Art Performing Festival was organised at Pudiador Saligramam Centre. Many children participated in the event, and parents who attended the program felt very happy after watching the performances of the children.

