

Pudiyador Times

Issue #33
Jan 2018



Individual Accomplishments

Kishore, Jeeva, Haripriya & Naresh participated in a “fancy dress” competition at their school. In the competition, Jeeva got first prize by representing farmers! Rahim performed kavadi attam at his school, and was awarded a 400 rupee cash prize – he learned kavadi attam from Pudiyador!



Gowtham won a medal for disk throw!



Rakesh got first prize in a speech competition at the Kumararajah Muthaiah school. He gave a speech about Kumararajah, who is the school’s founder!

An Experimental Approach to Children's Assessments in the Afterschool Program

First we had no assessments.

And then we had a slew of them.

For a few years now, we have had a tradition of weekly assessments for our children.
Every-single-Friday.

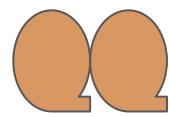
We needed to know how they were faring, whether they are responding well to our programming, where we can improve, which children needed extra help.

We spent a lot of time and money on printing question papers and going over the answers and recording the metrics.

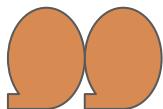
The teachers soon lost interest. And so did the children - they were either too nervous or too bored to write such papers. But we kept going, because we thought we had no other choice. Then we realized that most of the times, the teachers were actually helping the children fill the answers so that the teachers don't get questioned about the children's potentially poor performances. We spoke to our teachers about the importance of regular testing and ensured that they wouldn't help the children cheat in the evaluations anymore. We thought that was the appropriate action.



Uma playing the "clock" game with a child to test his knowledge of 5-tables



teachers & academic trainers set a small goal for **each child**



When our new director Ashwini Chidambaram observed this weekly testing routine, she wondered if we could replace them with something more effective and fun. She worked with our teacher trainer (Radha aunty) to design more regular, practical, and fun questions, but yet again, children returned unanswered sheets or teachers went back to their old habits.

Ashwini did not want the children to dread the idea of assessments. She turned to our curriculum developers, Uma & Prem, and challenged them with the task. Uma and Prem came up with new assessments giving equal weight to reading, writing, listening, speaking.



A child using a ball of string to show Prem that she knows what a right angle is

Children are now being assessed twice a quarter based on that quarters syllabus. Initial assessments are conducted to understand what levels the children are currently at and where there is work to be done. The teachers & academic trainers set a small goal for **each child** and then devise activities that will be followed for the entire quarter. During the final assessment, the child will again be assessed on the specific action plan for each child.

This is the first time, we are focusing on assessing each **individual child**, as opposed to having a cookie-cutter assessment for all children combined.

This way, we end up paying more attention to each child and ensure that each child is learning and improving consistently on *at least* one thing at a time. And it looks like this approach is working well!

I want to change the teaching system, make it more practical, include lots of activities so that children learn the concepts well. We need to appreciate the natural ability of a child to learn.
- Uma

I want to set a strong foundation for 1st to 3rd graders and give children fun activities to enhance their thinking skills. I want to improve the educational system and abolish the practice of rote learning!

- Prem



Uma and Prem, both 23, hold Masters degrees in English Literature and Botany respectively. They come from Pudiyador communities in the Besant Nagar zone: Uma from Vannandurai (a community of launderers) and Prem from Urur Kuppam (a community of fisherfolk). Hailing from humble backgrounds, they have had to overcome several challenges to put themselves through high school and further give themselves college educations. We are indeed lucky and excited to have these two bright young intellectuals on our team and we hope that in accomplishing their dreams, they will pull up everyone else around them as well!

Pudiyador is excited to announce our new....

CRADLE HEALTH program for mothers & infants

Starting in mid 2018!

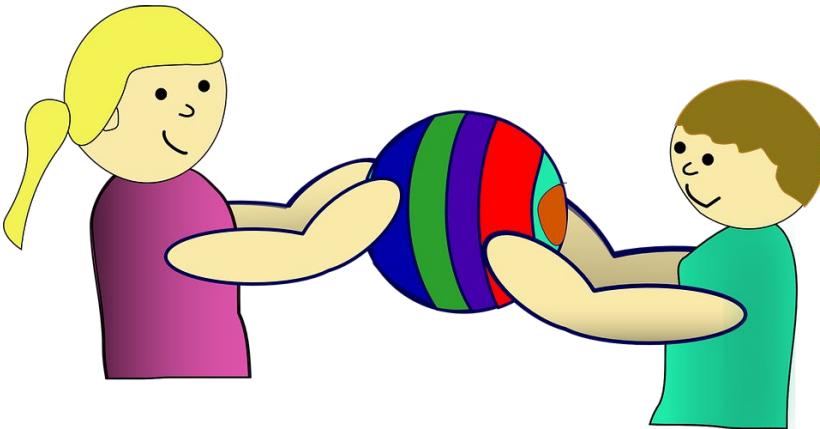


DEDICATED TO:

- Giving young parents a strong understanding of child development and the skills to raise happy, healthy babies
- Presenting an 8-10 week long program for expectant and new mothers twice a year covering basic hygiene, health, nutrition, first aid, communication with babies

A Pudiyador program dedicated to expectant/new mothers and their infants.
Starting early matters!

Quarter Highlights



We organized a day camp where children played frisbee together and did t-shirt painting. It was a fun camp all kids enjoyed. They learned about gender equality and team bonding concepts.

Avvai home, Olcott & Arringnar Anna schools conducted science experiments taught in Pudiyador PUK YAP centre. Bhuvana got 2nd prize for her science experiment, where she made a project based on pollution, volcano and water density.



We conducted a YAP event at ASP centres. 12 parents attended. The same day, a yoga celebration happened at the beach!

Our kids learned how to create different crafts from a book. We also circulated the book which the "book making" team created. Parents read it and put their signature at the back, sharing their feedback about the book one-by-one.



You can join our efforts

Teach online!



Connect with our children during weekday /evenings and weekends

Choose from helping with academics to reading stories to demonstrating science experiments. Sky's the limit!

Donations welcome!



PayPal, direct deposit, or in kind

All donations are tax-exempt

501(c)(3) in the US

80-G and FCRA in India

Spread the word!



Partner us with other NGOs
Ask your employer about CSR
And about matching donations!

Our specific needs for the next quarter

1. Doctors

- Need doctors to volunteer once a month for health check-ups in our communities. Any kind doctors you know of who would be willing to help?
- Need a child psychologist who speaks Tamil. Know any?

2. Used computers/laptops

- Our young adult programs need them on a daily basis for their project-based learning (currently, 6-8 children share one computer)
- We plan on conducting computer classes for all children in our after-school program
- We are trying to make one laptop available in each center for teachers to use

3. Induction stove

- To make evening snacks for children
- We try to make healthy snacks at our centers instead of buying them outside.

5. Sponsor a field trip for one quarter

- Van charges for field trips cost Rs.4000 (\$65) for 20 children

6. Sponsor stationery for one quarter

- For all 4 centers, the total amount spent on stationery is Rs. 8000 (\$130) per quarter.

6. Others

- Computer tables, plastic chairs, storage cupboards/bureaus

Contact our team

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Making sense of our dollars in 2018

2018 budget

This year, in addition to our regular programming, we are adding a new Cradle Health program and a new teenager's program!

- 4 children's program (20-25 children each)
- 3 teenagers' programs** (20-25 children each)
- 4 community engagement (130 families)
- 4 teacher training initiatives (35 teachers)
- 1 cradle health program** (125 women)

Our teachers, in addition to teaching, are also part of the community engagement in which they routinely visit the homes of the children, interact with the community elders, and hold community events. We have added 2 new staff for the cradle health program. In addition, we have one resource person per children's/teenagers' programs to teach special skills ranging from music to computer use. We have 6 ground team administrators consisting of the director, center heads, program coordinators and academic trainers.

Funding sources

The Pudiyador family and friends (that is you!) have really come through by contributing to more than a third of our budget! With company matches, that's 60%. We are indeed grateful for your support and we hope that our work continues to meet your expectations.

Please write to us if you know of other ways to support us to continue providing programming for the children and women from Pudiyador's communities.

