



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

ARUNODHAYA

Centre for Street and Working Children

Vision

A just society in which every child enjoys childhood assured of his / her rights with dignity and happiness.

Mission

Build a social movement that will uproot all forms of exploitation and oppression of children and promote and protect the basic human rights of children enabling them to enjoy a dignified childhood. Effect policy changes and ensure social justice through research, documentation, campaign, networking and advocacy.

Philosophy

Arunodhaya believes that all children are born with an inherent right to justice, peace and freedom and deserve access to all fundamental human rights including education, health care, love, respect, security and protection. A nation's development depends on the development of its children. Hence protection and promotion of the rights of children should become an inherent component of all development activities.

Core values

- Ambition
- Commitment
- Integrity
- Creativity
- Team work and Collaboration
- Accountability/ Transparency

Objectives

- Create a protective environment for every child free from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and neglect.
- Create an environment at all levels for every child to express themselves, take decisions and participate in governance on all matters concerning them with the support of Community Based Organisations.
- Create opportunities for all children to fully develop physically, mentally, gain knowledge and develop their personality.
- Ensure the rights of all children by strengthening all community based organizations for the protection of children from all forms of violence.



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

ARUNODHAYA

Centre for Street and Working Children

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FOREWORD



We take pleasure in presenting the report for the period 2022-2023. The report will take you through our activities, the impact created, the challenges faced and our success stories. Protecting and promoting child rights has been the focus and the different activities with children and stakeholders were geared towards empowering the community to uphold child rights.

As an aftermath of Covid-19 school lockdown and the disruption in school education, an escalation in the number of Out of school children (OOSC) was observed. Emphasis was laid on enrolment of children and sustaining children in school. The emerging child protection issues of substance abuse, online addiction and behaviour problems were addressed.

The strategic plan for the five years period 2022-2027 was held with the participation of community members and the road map for the next five years has been chalked out. The external evaluation of the project 'Adolescent Awareness and Capacity Building' supported by Azim Premji Foundation provided positive feedback and constructive recommendations for way forward.

A new computer training centre was started at Korukkupet with the support of Asmae, France. This provides training in Diploma in Computer Application, Tally, spoken English and life skill and prepare for job placement.

E. Mala one of our earlier children sangam member who journeyed with Arunodhaya in the youth forum and as team member received Pudhumai Penn award from Chennai District collector.

We are happy to welcome Ms. Suganthi Priyadarshini as member of Board of Trustee. She was earlier working with Arunodhaya and has a good knowledge of the organisation. Our thanks to all the trustee who have been a source of strength. Our staff and community volunteers' energetic and active participation in all the activities is greatly appreciated. I personally get energised when I interact with the team during the monthly review. The enthusiasm with which they share their work experience and the commitment they take in the development of each and every child is very intriguing. Our special thanks to all our collaborators and volunteers who extended their support to our work by providing financial support and volunteering their time and knowledge in strengthening our intervention.



Our thanks to the Almighty for the guidance and support in carrying out our activities.

June 2023

Dr. Virgil D Sami
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS



NATURE OF PEOPLE

- Urban poor
- Coastal Communities
- Resettlement Communities
- Irula tribe

SCHOOLS

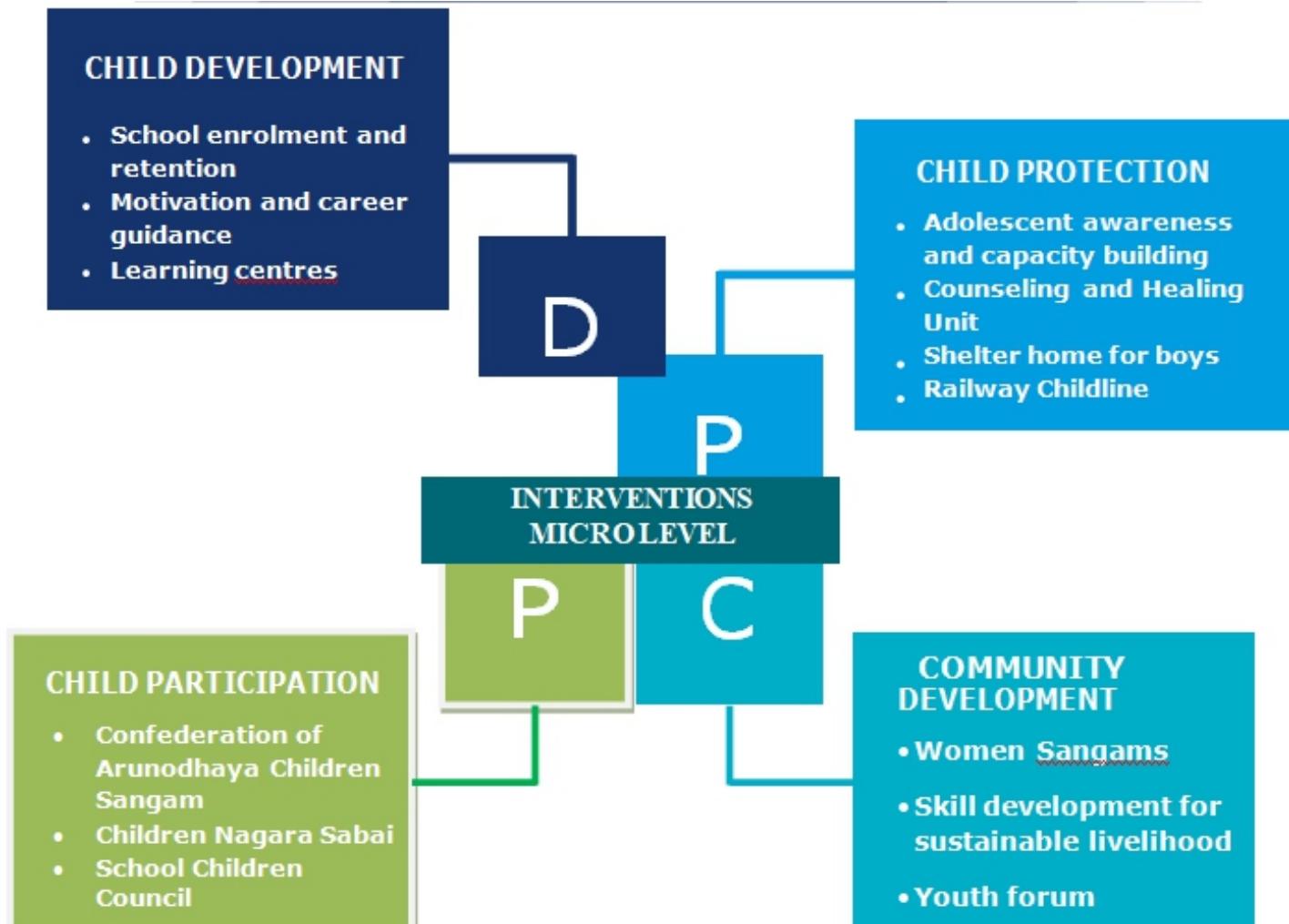
Level	Count	Details
19	Greater Chennai Corporation	
3	Government Schools	
1	Government Aided School	
1	Panchayat School	

DIRECT REACH

Category	Count
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	5000
YOUTH	800
WOMEN	1500

INDIRECT REACH

Category	Count
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	10000
YOUTH	1500
WOMEN	5000



MACRO LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

Networking, Publications, Arunodhaya Resource Team

IMPACT

Child Development

84

84 Out of school children enrolled in school

1067

1067 (530 boys and 537 girls) children attended Learning centres

80

80 Children guided in career selection

Child Protection

2820

2820 (1371 boys and 1449 girls) adolescents attended Ilanthalir sessions

1059

1059 (523 boys and 536 girls) adolescents reached through school campaign

708

708 (360 boys and 348 girls) Primary school children made aware of safe and unsafe touch

174

174 children/adolescents provided counselling

23

23 children provided care and protection through shelter home

129

129 Children (99 boys & 30 girls) rescued through Railway Child line

Child Participation

10

Children nagara sabai formed in 10 wards

2256

75 children sangam with membership of 2256 children

8

School Children Council conducted in 8 schools

7

7 short films produced by children team

IMPACT

Skill Development

- 195 195 Youth trained in DTP
- 261 261 Trained in fashion designing and garment making
- 261 261 Trained in artificial jewellery
- 156 156 youth trained in spoken english
- 689 689 placed in job

Community

- 10 10 SHG groups received credit linkage of Rs.30,00,000
- 3 3 groups received revolving fund
- 150 150 adult peer educators
- 61 61 community awareness programmes conducted

Awards and recognitions

- Virgil D Sami received Pudhumai Penn award by Tanishq
- E. Mala, received Pudhumai Penn award from Chennai Collector
- S.Santhanamary received Pudhumai Penn award from Women Commission, Diocese of Madras
- Received medals for work in Covid time



EDUCATION

Strategic objective : Create opportunities for all children to fully develop physically, mentally, gain knowledge and develop their personality.

EDUCATION

Arunodhaya strongly believes that education is the foundation for development. The interventions aim at sustaining children in schools and motivation and guidance for higher studies and career.

Activities

- Identification of Out of school children through school visits and area visit and enrolment in school
- Learning centres
- Step to Success- Motivation sessions for children appearing for public examinations
- Amaipom Ethirkalam- Career guidance session
- Enhancing knowledge
 - Spoken English
 - Computer course
 - Reading Skill
 - General Awareness
- Joint actions with schools

1. IDENTIFICATION OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGH SCHOOL VISITS AND AREA VISIT

Arunodhaya team visits 24 schools in the intervention areas and collect information on long absentees. These children are visited and brought back to school. Out of school children are also identified through area visits.



81 Out of school children enrolled in schools. 3 children enrolled in ITI

Back to school

Deepa, 14 yrs (name changed) was studying in 6th std. During the Covid-19 first lock down her mother deserted the family. Her father works as a plumber. He stopped Deepa from school to take care of the house and her two younger sisters. During the time of area visit and Ilanthalir (Adolescent) group formation Arunodhaya team found the girl not going to school. Through regular visit and rapport with the child she was motivated to continue her education and she asked the team to enroll her in school. After that the team gave counseling to the father and he agreed to send her to school.

Arunodhaya team enrolled the child at Government Higher Secondary school, Patel Nagar, Tondiarpet. In government school every child gets one set uniform, after explaining the child's situation the school provided two sets of school uniform. Now she is studying in 8th standard and enjoying her childhood with her friends.

2. LEARNING CENTRES

Learning centres were organised to monitor the education of children in vulnerable families such as single women, dysfunctional families and children were assisted in their studies.

Table 1. Details of children in Learning Centres

Education level	No. of children		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary	147	148	295
Middle	207	196	403
9 th std	87	88	175
10 th std	30	47	77
11 th std	29	29	58
12 th std.	30	29	59
Total	530	537	1067

3. STEP TO SUCCESS - MOTIVATION SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN APPEARING FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Step to Success- is the motivation session for children preparing for board exams. School teachers and motivation speakers are invited to provide guidance on overcoming exam fear, tips on preparing for exam and time management at the exam hall.



1st May 2022,
Ennore



5th March 2023,
Koarukkupet

"This session helped lot to relax our minds and help us to get rid of the fear about exams.

Thanksto Arunodhaya and team for organizing this programme for us"

4. AMAIPPOM ETHIRKALAM - CAREER GUIDANCE SESSION

Amaippom Ethirkalam provides guidance to students on selection of career and preparing for it. It was held on 19th April 2022 at Government Higher Secondary School, Kathivakkam, Chennai. 80 students studying in 12th std. participated in the session. The trainer provided them with information on the career options available with reference to the groups taken by them and advised them on the courses that they can pursue for higher education.



5. ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE

Opportunities were provided to children to enhance their knowledge in spoken English, computer skills, reading and writing skills and general awareness.

5.1. Spoken English Classes

Spoken English classes were conducted to develop English language skill among children. This was an online course conducted in collaboration with Passion guru. The classes were held once a week from April 2022 to December 2022. 45 school children (21 boys and 24 girls) and 18 college students (11 girls and 7 boys) participated in the programme.

5.2. Computer Skill

During summer vacation a short-term computer course was organised for students at Arunodhaya computer centre. 50 students participated and enhanced their knowledge in computer application.

5.3. Reading Skill

Libraries are organised at the field office in Ennore and Korukkupet. Books related to their subjects, story books, motivational books, general knowledge, books on animals, birds etc. are maintained at the library. 100 children regularly used the library.

5.4. General Awareness

To have an exposure and develop general knowledge children were taken on visit to Anna zoological park, Planetarium and Rail Museum. Children were happy to see the animals, learn about planet and gain information on the railway system. They shared their experience with other children in their school.



6. JOINT ACTIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Arunodhaya team trained children in parai, puppet show, street play, dance and drawing for participation in Kalai vizha. Children were also supported for participation in the science exhibition.



Evening snacks was provided for 10th std students in Chennai High School, Kodugaiyur during the special class held in preparation for board exams. It was given to 240 children for 10 days. This helped them to be energetic during the special classes and prepare well for the exams.

Education materials were distributed to 110 children (50 boys and 60 girls)

Arunodhaya is a member of the District Advisory Team of Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme (ITK). Arunodhaya referred 23 women as volunteers for the ITK and visited the centres.



CHILD PROTECTION

Strategic objective: Create a protective environment for every child to be free from all forms of violence, exploitation and neglect.

CHILD PROTECTION

Right to protection is one of the basic principles of UNCRC. Every child irrespective of colour, creed, nationality has the rights to be protected from all forms of violence, neglect and denial of rights.

“ I am a 14 years old girl. I would have been married and my life spoiled. Thanks to volunteers from Arunodhaya. My marriage was stopped and now I am happily continuing my studies. ”

Voice of a child rescued from child

Activities

- Awareness & capacity building of adolescents
- Counseling and Healing Unit
- Shelter home
- Railway Childline

1. AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF ADOLESCENTS

Adolescents face a myriad of problems which arise from lack of awareness and capacity. Programmes were organised to create awareness and build the capacity of adolescents to enable them to protect themselves from exploitative and abusive situation. The following activities were organised

- Ilanthalir (adolescents) sessions
- Awareness campaign in schools
- Awareness on menstrual hygiene & reproductive health
- Life skill development
- Interface & exposure

1.1. Ilanthalir (Adolescents) Sessions

Ilanthalir groups were formed with adolescents in the age group 12- 18 years. Monthly sessions were organised for the Ilanthalir members on the following topics

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction about the organization• Adolescent stages• Roles and responsibilities of adolescents• Understanding gender• Sex education• Reproductive system & its functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love and infatuation• Sexual abuse• Child marriage• Drugs and substance abuse• Online safety• Evaluation
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In the month of June 2022, 1692 adolescents (810 boys 882 girls) completed the Ilanthalir



An evaluation was conducted to assess the learning of the members. The findings are given below.

- 99% said that they have an understanding on adolescent stages, the changes that take place, gender rights and on the aspects of POCSO act and Prohibition of Child marriage act.
- 82% revealed that they have gained information on puberty and sexuality.
- 79% said that they can now differentiate between love and infatuation
- 61% shared the information they received in Ilanthalir sessions with their friends.

“In the media we hear about sexual abuse but was not aware of the solution to this problem. Through the Ilanthalir session gained information on POCSO act and its reporting mechanism. Also came to know about the negative impact of child marriage”.

“The Ilanthalir session created an awareness on gender equality. It made me realise that everyone is born equal. Both boys and girls have same rights. I will treat my siblings equally”.

“Covid-19 put smart phones in our hands and we adolescents got addicted to certain apps. This has created unnecessary problems. Now, we know that we can report online abuse to Arunodhaya team members and we also got information on the reporting option on the Apps which we could use in case of online abuse”.



1.2. Awareness Campaign in Schools

Awareness campaign was organised in Primary schools and in Middle and High schools.



1.2.1. Awareness campaign in primary schools

Awareness to protect themselves from sexual abuse was conducted in seven primary schools reaching out to 708 children (360 boys and 348 girls). The children were made aware of safe and unsafe touch and how to respond if they are sexually abused.



Teachers shared that they were feeling hesitant to speak about child sexual abuse, safe and unsafe touch with children. “The session conducted by Arunodhaya with the children, has built confidence in us of speaking with children on this issue as well as on ways of preventing child sexual abuse”.

Mothers shared that their children spoke to them about the information provided by Arunodhaya team on safe and unsafe touch. “We are happy that our children have developed the confidence to protect themselves from sexually abusive situation”.

1.2.2. Awareness in middle and high school

Awareness on adolescent issues was organised in 15 schools reaching out to 1059 adolescents (523 boys and 36 girls) studying in 8th and 9th std. The students were oriented on the following topics

- Adolescent stages
- Roles and responsibilities of adolescents
- Child marriage
- Reproductive system
- Love and infatuation
- Goal setting
- Emotional and stress management

Ms. Charlotte Cotton and Mr. Vincent Chiu volunteers from PROPOLIS, France conducted session on sexuality and its taboos for students in Chennai higher secondary school, Patel Nagar on 9th February 2023 and for boys on 12th February 2023.



LEARNING

‘In science class the teachers will omit the part of reproductive system. Through this awareness programme I have understood the functions of reproductive organ and its importance.’

‘In this adolescent age we get into many distractions and also, we are quickly triggered to get angry. Through this programme I understood how to handle my emotions and stress.’

‘After the session came to know about the difference between love and infatuation. This is the right time to set our goal and need to be focused on our goal until we achieve it.’

1.3. Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene and Reproductive Health

This programme was organised in collaboration with Eco femme. The objective of the session is to explode myths around menstruation, make the adolescents aware of menstrual cycle, remove fear and inhibitions associated with menstruation, inform them on hygienic practices, make them aware of the different menstrual products with their positive and negative aspects. 960 adolescents were reached through 15 schools and one Childcare institution. Cloth pads were distributed at the end of the session.



1.4. Life Skill Development

Life skill training focused on developing the skills of children in setting goals in life, effective communication, building relationships, emotional and stress management and time management.

Two residential trainings were organised each of two days duration. 77 adolescents participated in the training.

1.5. Interface & Exposure Visits

Interface and exposure visits were organised to widen the understanding of adolescents on legislation and protection mechanisms.



Interaction with Advocate Kanchana on the experience of advocates in handling child abuse related cases



Exposure visit to H8 Police station. Getting information on the role of child welfare officer

ADOLESCENT CONSULTATION

Consultation was organised by adolescent group on the theme “Challenges faced by adolescents and Role of Society” on 26th June 2022. The Consultation focused on the challenges faced by adolescents like bullying, online addiction, drug and substance abuse, child marriage, sexual abuse, child labour, coping with education and depression and the role of community members and existing mechanism to support and help them to overcome the challenges. The adolescents presented through exhibition and cultural events the challenges faced by them and their expectations from the society.

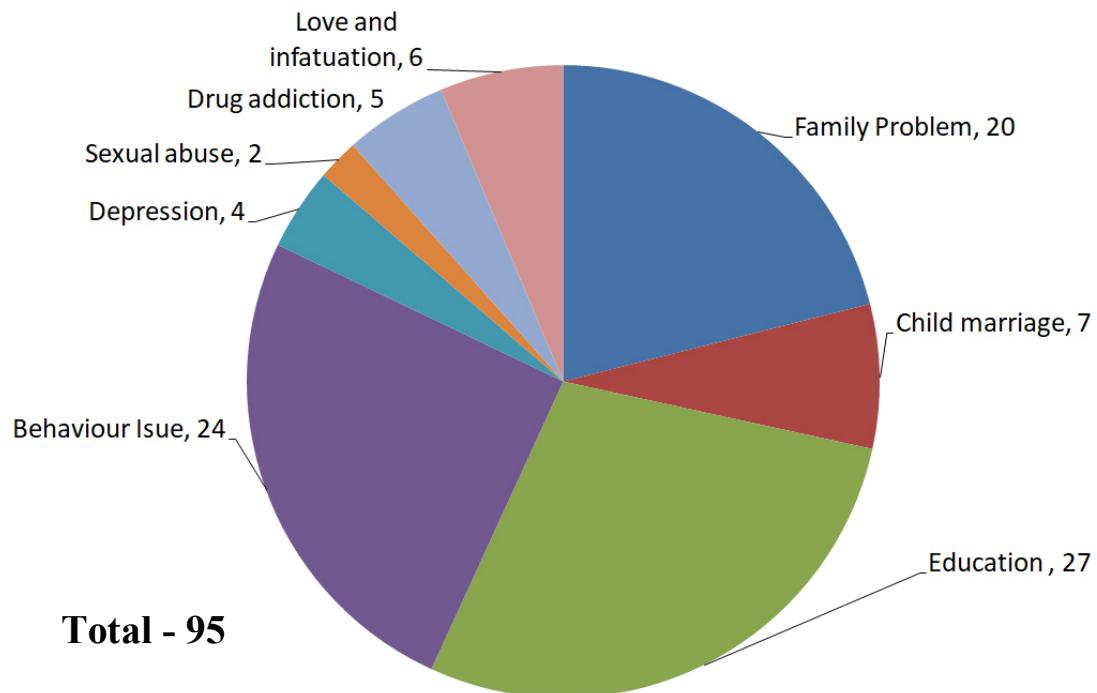


2. COUNSELING AND HEALING UNIT (CHU)

Counselling and Healing Unit provides counselling to affected adolescents and guides in accessing legal, medical and educational support where needed. Clients are identified during Ilanthalir session, school campaign and home visits. Clients are also referred by school teachers, adult peer educators, adolescents and women group members. Individual and Group counselling is conducted.

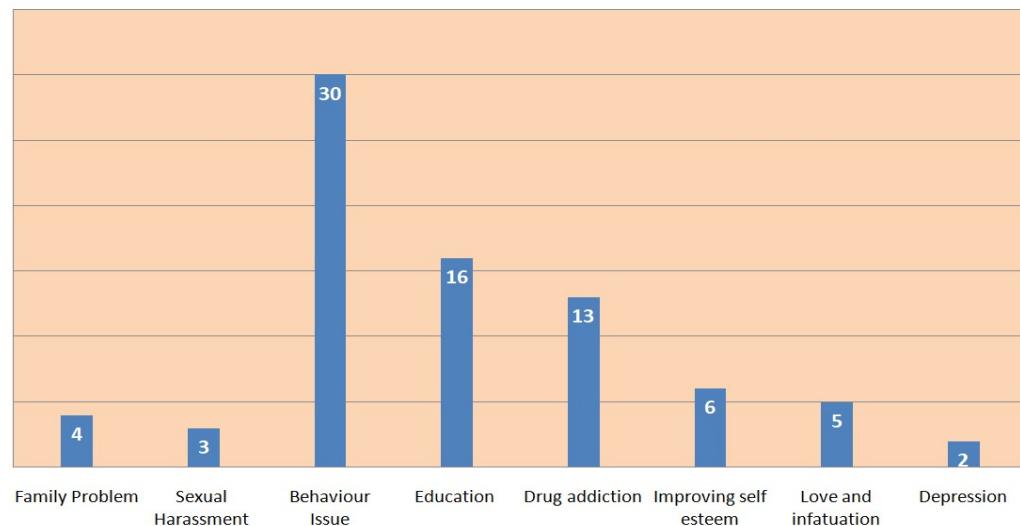
Individual Counselling was provided to 95 adolescents. Behaviour issues, education, family problem, child marriage, love and infatuation, drug addiction, depression and sexual abuse were the issues handled in counselling.

Figure 1 Details on individual counseling



Group counselling was conducted in places where certain issues were reported to be high. Counselling was provided to 79 adolescents to address issues related to family problems, sexual harassment, behaviour issue, education, drug addiction, improving self-esteem, love and infatuation, depression and 3 parents were counselled on parenting skills.

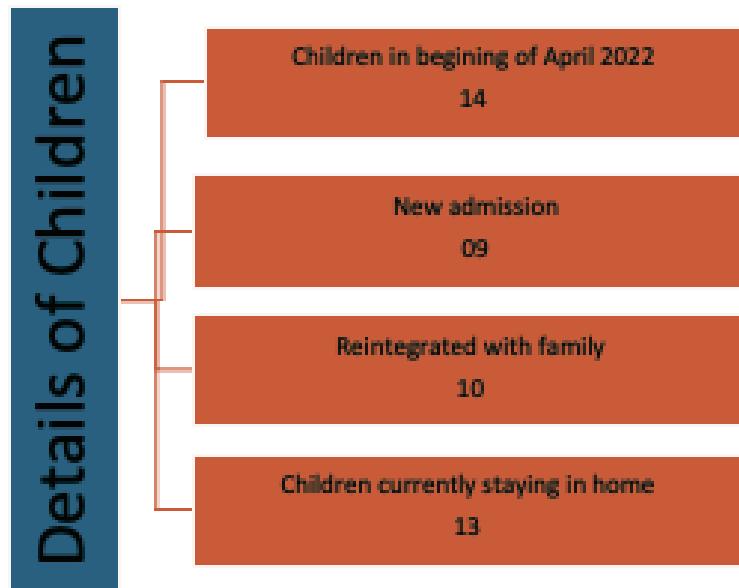
Figure 2 Group counselling



3. SHELTER HOME

The Shelter home for boys located at R.R.nagar, Kodungaiyur (opposite to Dumping yard) reaches out to children working in the dumping yard, children on the street, children from dysfunctional families and children in difficult circumstances. The shelter provides shelter, food and clothing. All the children are enrolled in school and counselling is provided to reintegrate them with their families or rehabilitate in Child care institutions.

Figure 3 Children in Shelter Home



Welcoming the new children



Accommodation



Nutrition



Exercise and Yoga



Health checkup



EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Primary level - 8
Middle school 12
High school 1
Higher secondary 2



Volunteers Ms. Lakshmi and Ms. Abirami conducted evening classes and taught all subject.

Bhumi Trust

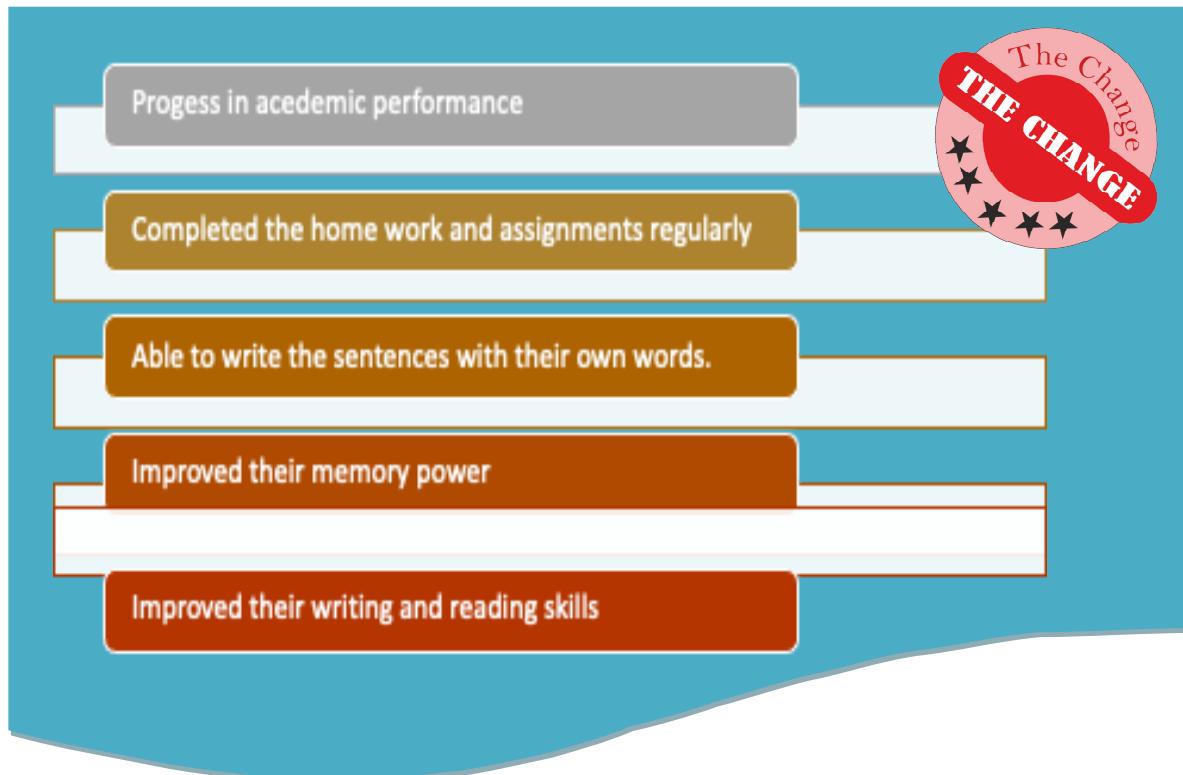
Conducted English and Maths classes twice a week. This has helped them to improve their english and maths skills.

Ladies Circle

Conducted computer classes on Saturdays. These classes helped them to gain basic knowledge on computer

Passionguru

Conducted Spoker English on Friday and Saturdays. Helped them to improve their communication skills





Online Classes



Newspaper reading activity

Appreciation and Awards received by children



Selvan. Nelson, 8 yrs old, studying in 4th stdat Chennai Primary School. R.R.Nagar got Mr. Perfect award. He got this award for good progress in academic, punctuality, regularity, discipline, good involvement in sports and cultural activities.



Gunasekar with awards received in Painting and Chess competition.

“I am very happy to get second prize in Chess competition held at school. No words to explain my happiness. In shelterhome, we used to play chess regularly; volunteer taught me the way to play game. This game helped me to improve my concentration and thinking skills”.



R.Santhosh, won second prize in the painting competition held at the school.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The emotional and social development of the children is enhanced through individual and group counseling and life skill development sessions.

Individual Counseling

- From the time of intake, the Counselor spends time with each individual child and provide them with needed counseling understanding their problems and issues. Every child is enabled to develop their goal in life and move towards it.
- Apart from this, individual counseling is provided for needy children.

Group Counseling

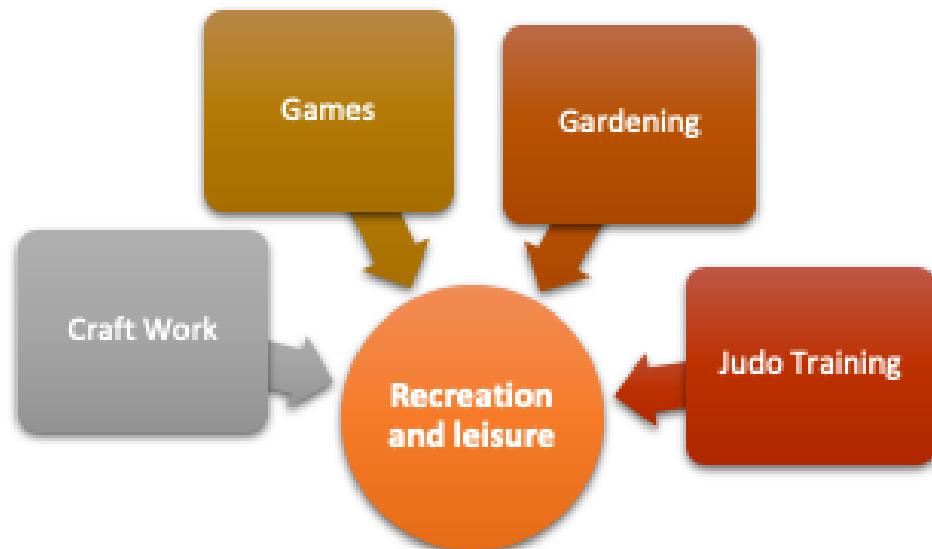
- Group counseling is arranged for groups of children having common issues and problems.

Life Skill Training

- Life skill sessions were organized on goal setting, decision making, team work, communication, interpersonal relationship, handling emotions, self-dignity and self-confidence, appreciating and respecting others, time management.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

Figure 4 Recreation and leisure activities





Craft training



Judo



Gardening



Indoor games



Chess



Exposure visits

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays, festivals, national and social leader's days and special events were celebrated at the shelter home to bring in joy, strengthen relationship and widen their knowledge on different issues



Birthdays



National Days



Festivals



Social Leaders day

Special Events



Madras Day celebration



Homeless day



Cycle Rally on Homeless day

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPTION IN SHELTER MANAGEMENT

Children's Coordination Committee is formed with the participation of children to ensure their participation rights. Four committees have been formed.

Figure 5 Children Coordination Committee



The committees meet once in a fortnight and discuss on the issues concerning the above aspects. Children prepare the food menu, take responsibility of keeping the place clean, maintain discipline and plan the education, sports and cultural activities. The daily schedule is worked in consultation with the children. This makes them feel that this is their home and take the responsibility.

Children evaluated the shelter environment, food, education, health and hygiene, recreational activities and trainings organised in last year. They also prepared plan for this year. Children in primary level drew 'the shelter they would imagine in this year and explained. This year children said that they need bench in park area, sports kits, bunker beds, separate cupboards and separate room for younger children.

ADMINISTRATION/ MANAGEMENT

Shelter Monitoring Committee

Shelter Monitoring Committee meetings are held once in a month. During the reporting period nine meetings were conducted. Representatives from the zonal office, health department, police, representative from SUH- GCC, community members, staff team and children are the part of the SMC. Issues related to the functioning of the shelter were discussed. Important issues discussed were the drainage problem, drinking water supply, replacing play items in the park and finding a new and better place for the shelter. Issues related to the drainage and water supply was resolved. But the major issue of relocating the shelter to a better place remain unresolved.



The shelter home is only a transit home providing short term care aiming at reintegration / rehabilitation. Through the process of counselling provided to children, rapport with the family and family counselling 12 children were reintegrated with their families.



FOLLOW UP

Follow up is done on children who were reintegrated or rehabilitated. A meeting was organized for these children. Children were happy to share about their developments. They have become a role model for the present children, sharing with them the change that they have gone through. Some of them come back to the shelter and interact with the children. They also join in the different celebrations.

SPONSORS

During this reporting period 99 sponsors sponsored food, snacks, dresses, stationary kits, crackers, provisions, school bags, toiletry items, games, washing machine etc. We thank all the sponsors those who take part in ensuring basic right of the underprivileged children.



To be in Right Track- Dropout to Student

Name: Suresh (name changes) Age: 8 years

Education: 4th Standard



Suresh is from Royapuram. His parents divorced, when he was five years old. His mother got second marriage and his father is addicted to alcohol. Both of them were not bothered about him and did not take care of him. He was living with his grandmother. She is a domestic worker, used to go to work early in the morning. The child was not going to school regularly, he was dropout because no one at home to take care of him. He used to roam in the street. Whenever grandmother asked him to go to school, he used to scold her with bad words. Grandmother worried about his future and she is only bread winner for the family so not able to leave her job, at the same time she wants to save him from bad habits.

During the area visit, Grandmother told about her situation and asked the staff to enroll him to shelter home. He was enrolled in Shelter home on 14.03.2022. Suresh was mentally disturbed due to his parent's behaviour, no confidence, short tempered, and used bad language. He was regularly counseled to come out from his past life, develop self-confidence, and to identify his individual talents. He was enrolled in 4th standard. Now he is going to school regularly.

Suresh told his ambition is to become a Police. After regular counseling, he came out from his pathetic situation. Now he is actively participating in various activities like drawing, painting, singing and dance. His confidence level increased and not using any bad words. He is very friendly with other and teaching them to keep the shelter clean.

4. RAILWAY CHILDLINE

“My son (12) had runaway from home for sightseeing. Iam a painter, I don’t want my child to struggle like me in his life. So I did everything that made him happy. But he does not listen to me, not going to school regularly and wandering with his friends in the area. One day he went missing and I was very much pained. But luckily I received a call from Childline saying that my child is received by Childline. The counselors advised my son as well as counseled me on how to bring up my child. I am happy to say that he is behaving well and going to school regularly. Thanks to RCL for saving my child”.

Father of a rescued child

Child help desk (CHD) at Egmore railway station rescued 129 children (99 boys and 30 girls). They were rescued from the station premises with the support of GRP, RPF, Railway officials, Sahayaks, Cleaning staff, Auto and Taxi drivers and passengers. CHD team members are present at the station 24*7 visiting the station premises and trains to identify children in need of care and protection. The rescued children were received at the Child help desk and provided food and refreshments. Information was obtained from them about their situation and their need is assessed. Memo is obtained from GRP and the child was produced before the Child Welfare Committee for rehabilitation/reintegration. 75% of the children were reunited with their families and 25% of children were placed at Child care institutions

4.1. Sensitization and Awareness programmes

Sensitization programmes through individual contact, group meetings were held for RPF, TTE, TTR, Krystal staff, SSE workers, Sahayaks, Prepaid Auto and Taxi drivers, Carrier and Wagon staff, and Shop owners. Seventy programmes were conducted creating awareness on identifying children in need of care and protection, role of different stakeholders, childline functioning. These programmes helped in building a rapport with the stakeholders, developing an understanding on childline and enlisting their support and cooperation in the rescue of children. They also extended their support during mass awareness campaigns.

Mass awareness programmes were conducted on special days such as Anti child labour day (30th April), International day against child labour (12th June), International day against child trafficking (30th July), Childline se dosti week (14th November-20th November). These programmes were organised in collaboration with Railway officials, GRP and RPF. Street play, signature campaign, rally, oath taking, Raksha bandhan were organised to create awareness among the passengers on their role in identifying and rescuing children in need of care and protection during their travel in the train or in the railway station premises. They were informed on the activities of childline and child help desk at the station premises.



4.2. Child Help Group Meeting

Child help group meeting was held every month convened by the Station director. Railway officials and representatives from GRP, RPF, Apollo clinic, Krystal team participated in the meeting along with CHDK representatives. Convening the Child help group meeting proved to be a good practice. This enabled in building a rapport between childline, primary and secondary stakeholders in the station premises and mobilising their support and cooperation in the protection of children in need of care and protection. The decisions taken at the Child help group meeting facilitated the conduct of training, awareness programmes, train visit and coordinated action between the different primary stakeholders.

4.3. Open house

Open house was conducted in Dr. Ambedkar government higher secondary school in Egmore. Five sessions were organised on substance abuse and online addiction. Through games, exercises and videos children were led to understand the impact of substance abuse and drug addiction and guided on protecting themselves from these addictions.

Freed from child labour

Karthik, Jai (Name changed) 17 years old were rescued by Child help desk members from 5th platform. The children were about to board Kachiguda express to travel to Andhra to work in a bakery. The children are from Tiruvarur and had studied upto 11th std. They were sent by their parents to work in Andhra.



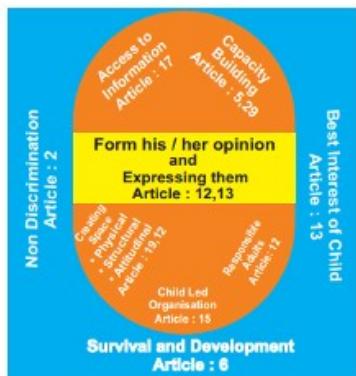
After receiving the memo the children were produced before CWC and the parents were informed. The parents came to Egmore station the next day. They were counselled on the impact of child labour and the importance of educating the children. They were also advised to obtain support from the District child protection unit or NGOs in their district. They agreed to educate their children. Through CWC the children were united with their parents. In follow up it is found that both the children have been enrolled in ITI Diploma course in Mechanical engineering and the children expressed happiness in continuing their studies.



CHILD PARTICIPATION

Strategic objective: Create an environment at all levels for every child to express themselves, take decisions and participate in governance in all matters concerning them.

CHILD PARTICIPATION



Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. (UNCRC Art. 12)

Activities

- Child led Organisations
- Learning and experiencing democratic elections
- Capacity building
- Engaging with adults
- Campaign on child rights

1. CHILD LED ORGANISATIONS

Child-led organisations have been formed at different level for mainstreaming child participation.

- Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam (CACS) – Area level
- School Children Council - Schools
- Children Nagar Sabai - participation in governance

Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam



No.of Children Sangams

-75

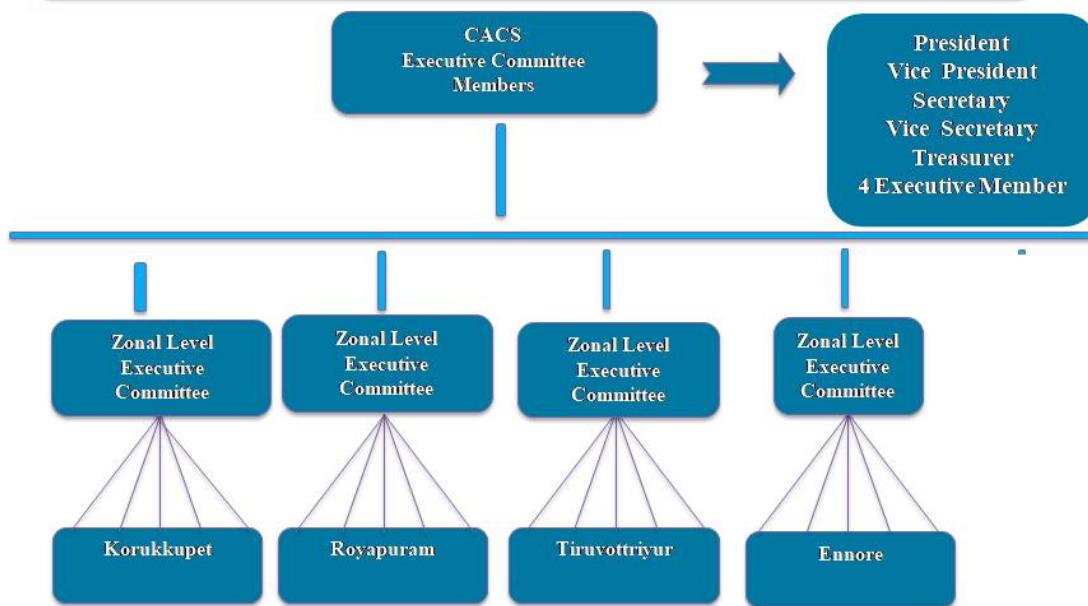
Membership

- Boys – 1101, Girls- 1155 , Total - 2256

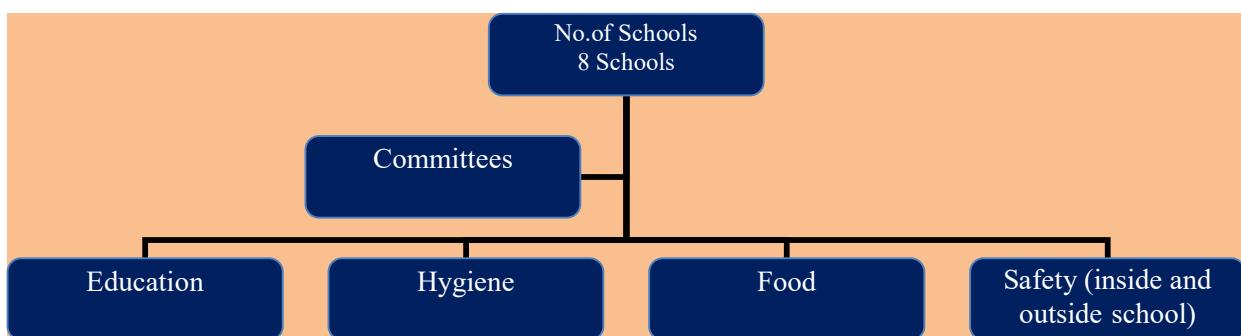


Structure

Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam (CACS)



School Children Council



Children Nagara Sabai



Children Nagara Sabai	Number of Wards - 10
10 Counselors (5 Girls and 5 Boys) elected by Children	

2. LEARNING AND EXPERIENCING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

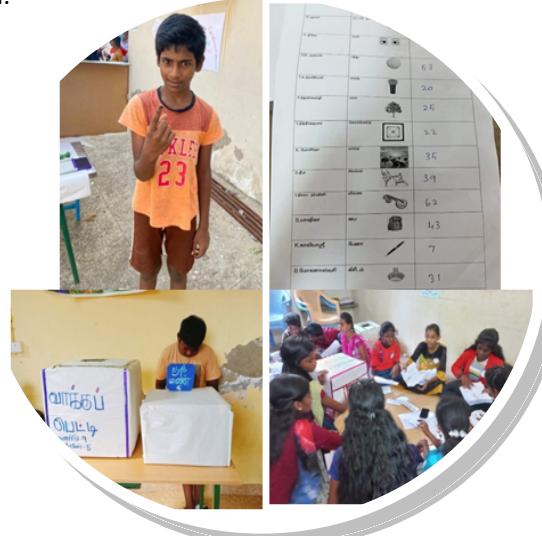
The leaders of the different child led organisations are elected through a process of democratic election. Area level and zonal level elections were held through voting. At the confederation level an election commission was formed with the children, nominations were called for and voting was held on 8th September 2022.

Children nagara sabai elections were held in 10 wards on 31st July 2022.



CACS Executive Committee

In the CACS network election and Children nagar sabai election, children had a hand on experience on conducting election. Election commission was formed with the children and they took the responsibility of preparing the electoral list, calling for nomination, allotting symbols, setting dates for election process, monitoring campaign, preparing the ballot sheet, setting election booth, counting the ballot papers and announcing the winners. It was a great experience for the election commission members and children who participated in the election.



3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Training programmes were organised to develop the capacity of children in identifying issues, gaining information, forming opinion, engaging with adults and develop skills in expressing themselves through various means.



Area level annual planning camp

Young facilitators training

Area Level planning camp

“ I had the opportunity to participate in the young facilitators training. There were 35 of us. At the end of the training 15 members were selected as young facilitator. I was happy to get selected. I conducted area level planning camp and felt happy to speak I trained the children about children nagara sabai and helped them in making plan for the year. It was a great experience for me. After this I play an active role in CACS participating, facilitation discussion among children. This has also helped me in taking leadership in school.”

Thanuja, 15 years

4. ENGAGING WITH ADULTS

Space and opportunities are created for the child led organisations to engage with adults, voice their opinion, present their demands and enlist their response.

4.1. Interacting with Ward councilors and officials through Children nagara sabai

Children nagara sabai is the space where children interact with the Ward Councilors, local leaders, teachers, police and other stakeholders. They present their demands.

Election of child councilors was held on 31/7 2022. In the first week of August investiture ceremony with oath taking by child councilors was held at zonal level.

Mr. U. Ganesen, 38th ward Counsellor and Chairman

Mr. U Ganesan, the City Council Chairman, congratulated the children for democratically conducting the elections. He also congratulated the elected representatives and motivated them to do their best along with the support of the counsellors and staff.

Children nagara sabai has been formed in the following Wards with ten child councilors in each ward.

ZONE 1

Tiruvottiyur

Wards
3,6,7,9

ZONE 4

Tondiarpet

Wards
37,38,41,47

ZONE 5

Royapuram

Wards
52,53



Children nagara sabai meetings were held in August 2022, November 2022 and January 23.



Highlights of the fulfillment of the demands

Teachers appointed in R.R. nagar school through SMC

Fencing of play ground in R.R.nagar

Library set up in Minambal nagar

Road laid in Muthumariamman nagar

Park in J.J. nagar

Storm water drainage, desilting of Buckingham canal



I am very happy to be a child Councillor in Ward. I attended the training on Children nagara sabai and got information on the functioning of Chennai Corporation. There is the need for children also to participate. So, I gave my nomination and stood for the election. It was a great experience of campaigning and standing for the election. I was so elated when my name was announced as the winner. I am so happy to be a child councillor. Saravanan. 16 years, Child councillor.

4.2. Interaction with State Education Policy Committee members

Tamilnadu government constituted a Committee to draft the State education policy. Children were informed of the National Education Policy and about the formation of the State education policy committee. Zonal level meetings were held in the month of September and consolidated their demands at the Confederation level meetings held on 24th September 2022. Children developed their demands and presented to the State Education Policy at the interaction held at Korukkupet field office on 3rd October 2022. Four members of the committee Mr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Mr. R. Srinivasan, Ms. Aruna Rathinam and Ms. Jayashree participated and listened to the children views and noted it for inclusion in their recommendations.



Children were introduced to the Universal Periodic Review Process-4 so that they gain knowledge and information on how children issues are discussed at the UN level. They also came to know of the presentation by the government on the status of children in India, and the commitment made by the government in response to the recommendations. Along with FCMRP they received training on UPR and were part of the process of preparing children report for UPR-4

4.3. World Children's day

World Children's day was celebrated on the theme 'Violence Free Society and Happy World for Children'. In the morning games such as snake and ladder, boxes, ring ball, frisbee etc. were held. Through these games children conveyed message on child rights and how to protect themselves from violent situations. In the afternoon cultural programmes were held in which through dance, songs, drama, debate children expressed their views on a Happy World for children. During the celebration Selvi S.Sandhya, captain, Team India, who played in the Street children Football World cup match was felicitated.



4.4. Networking

Children were provided with opportunities to interact with other children groups at State, national and south Asian level. CACS members have representation in Federation of Children Movement for Right to Participation (FCMRP). Two CACS members Selvan S. Santhosh and Kaaviya are the members of the Executive Committee and Santhosh was elected as Vice secretary in the FCMRP election. A National Children's Consultation was held on 24th and 25th November 2022 at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha on the theme of preventing sexual violence among young children. 62 children from 12 states participated in the Consultation. Selvi Haripriya and Selvan Jeeva represented CACS. On the final day of the Consultation stakeholders meeting was held. Jeeva had the opportunity to present the demands on behalf of Tamilnadu.

SAIEVAC online consultation on Child labour was held on 15th December 2022. This consultation was held at South Asian level. Selvan Jeeva participated. Jeeva presented about the child labour issues and how at CACS they are addressing it.

CACS representatives participated in the State level knowledge sharing workshop on empowering the next generation- Youth leadership in building climate resilience and reducing carbon foot print. It was organised by Children believe partners on 25th February 2023 in Chennai. The children gained new knowledge on climate change. They also shared about their experience in preventing use of plastics. As a follow up of this it was decided to have an exposure visit to the mini forest developed by children group of IRCDS, Tiruvallur.



4.5. Media advocacy

Children presented to media their view points on issues concerning them with journalists from TOI and Dinathanthi. They presented their view points on education what kind of school they like and what kind of education. What are their needs in the area they live in.

5. DEVELOPING TALENTS

Frisbee game, Silambam training were organised. Silambam team participated in Chennai level competition held on 27th November 2022 and won medals. The teacher won best teacher award.

Video documentary training was organized to develop skills in producing video and using social media in a positive and constructive way.

6. CAMPAIGNS ON CHILD RIGHTS

Children organised programmes at zonal level to commemorate special days

- National girl child day
- International day against child labour Anti tobacco day
- International girl child day
- Anti trafficking day

Children drew the plan at zonal level and organised programmes such as rally, human chain, streetplay. Through this they created awareness among the community on the importance of protection of children and presented their view points on issues related to child labour, child trafficking, importance of girl child.





COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Strategic objective : Ensure the rights of all children by strengthening all community based organizations and institutions meant for the protection of children from all forms of violations.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Child protection is the responsibility of the community. All the stakeholders in the community need to be empowered to protect children. Arunodhaya adopts a multifaceted approach to strengthen and empower the different stakeholders.

Activities

- Enhancing the economic & social condition of families
- Stakeholders training
- Adult peer educators
- Community Child Rights Monitoring Committees
- Awareness programmes
- Youth Forum

1. ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF FAMILIES

Self-help group & income generation activities

Skill development for sustainable livelihood

Instilling the joy of giving

Disaster relief & rehabilitation

Health camp & health awareness

1.1. Self-Help Groups and Income Generation Activities

Self-help groups have been formed into federation and linked with National Urban Literacy Mission (NULM). They received trainings, referred for credit linkages and avail of employment opportunities. 10 groups received credit of Rs. 30,00,000/- Internal loan was taken and income generation activities initiated by SHG groups. Three groups received revolving fund. Women's day programmes were held in the month of March. The SHG federation took the responsibility of organising the programme.



SHG stall in Trade fair - Chennai



Stall at Madras day



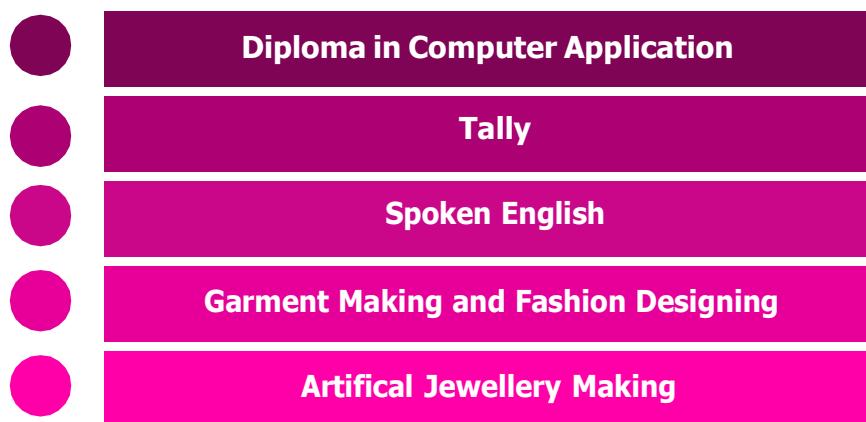
Women's day programme

- All the members children continue their education
- Give preference to girl children for their education
- No child marriage
- Practice gender equality
- Advocates for protection and promotion of child rights



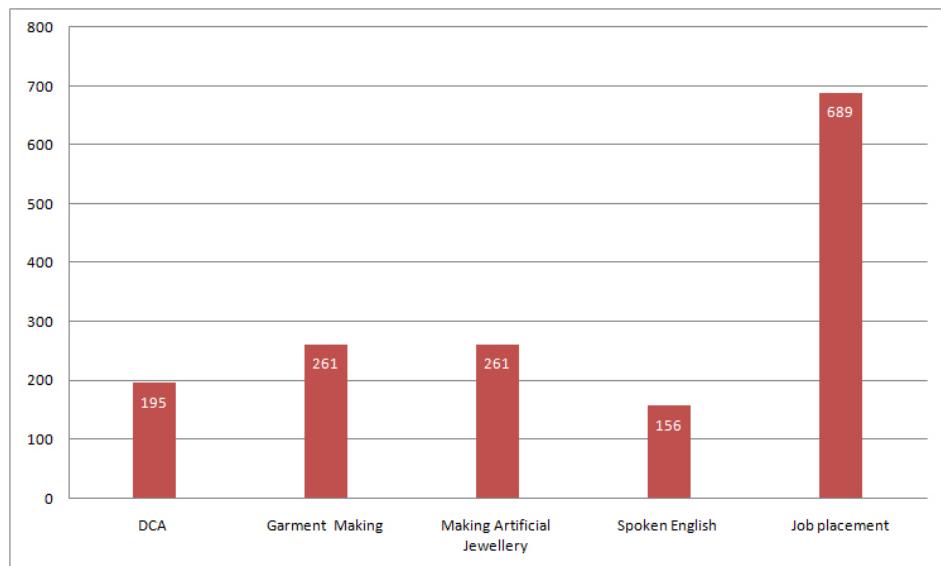
1.2. Skill Development for Sustainable Livelihood

The following courses were organised to develop the skills of youth and improve their employment opportunities.



DCA 195
Garment Making 261
Making Artificial
Jewellery 261
Spoken English 156
Job placement 689

Figure 6 Skill Development



42 companies have been contacted.

19 women were referred for driving course through Tamil Nādu Urban Habitat Development Board



Sandhya from Chinnakuppam has been placed in a garment unit in Redhills. She is earning a salary of Rs. 11,000/- She thanks Arunodhaya and DP World for providing the training which has helped her in getting the job. Her husband is a fisherman and the income was very meagre. "She feels happy that she is able to take care of her children with her income".

Mohanapriya, Female, (20 yrs.) is a B.com graduate. From being a dejected a helpless girl the DCA course has transformed her into a confident and positive girl. She is now happily employed with Mohan Ads, Nandanam as Accounts trainee on a salary of Rs. 12,000/- p.m. She says' this training is the turning point in my life. Though I completed B.Com, I could not find a job as I had no knowledge of computer and Tally. Through this course I developed the skill and now I have found a job. I hope to move further in my life'.



1.3. Relief and Rehabilitation

During the heavy rains in December some of the areas were flooded. Due to the training provided to the community volunteers on disaster preparedness, arrangements were made for shifting to safer places, organised for distribution of food and relief in collaboration with the Chennai corporation officials. Arunodhaya provided relief materials to the most affected.



1.4. Health Camp and Health Awareness

Health awareness sessions were conducted in women groups to make them aware of health and hygiene and protect themselves from diseases. Health camps were organised when needed.



1.5. Instilling the Joy of Giving

Joy of Giving week celebrated throughout the country (2nd to 8th October) is taken as an occasion to imbibe the habit of sharing and reaching out to others. Women, children and youth celebrate the Joy of giving by identifying the neediest in their community and tried to bring joy in their life. Aged couples were taken for a movie and provided with sumptuous meal. They enjoyed the day and felt very happy.

The team in Tiruvottiyur visited an old age home and provided food to them. Children sat and spoke with the residents. It was a very meaningful moment for both the senior citizens and the children. The children said that they will take care of the old people in their homes, will respect them and spend time with them. Royapuram team provided rice and provision to the shelter home and spent time with the children.



2. STAKEHOLDERS TRAINING

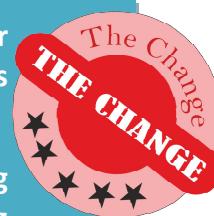
Trainings were organised for the stakeholders to provide information on child protection, empower them with skill to address issues of violence, adolescent stages, sexual abuse, POCSO Act, Importance of education, drugs and substance abuse among adolescents, Child labour, child marriage and online abuse.

Parent Teachers Association members	744
Women groups	1326
Teachers	80

After the meetings parents took an initiative to enquire about their children's education. The meeting helped to understand the problems faced by children and the protection mechanism.

In these meetings we learnt about the importance of education, handling adolescents. We used to scold our children all the time. After the meeting started to think from children's perspective and stopped scolding them unnecessarily. Learnt about the myths about menstrual hygiene. The training on coping with stress guided us to overcome our stress. As housewives we go through lots of issues in our mind if we are not stable then the family will not be stable so it is important to take our mental health and to do what we love.

Training provided with lots of information how after few years of service we fail to use teaching methods because of work pressure and issues at home but this session reminded us on the importance of using unique methods to teach and also learnt to handle children to identify their unique talent.





PTA Meeting



Women Group Meeting



Teachers' Training

3. ADULT PEER EDUCATORS

150 adult peer educators were trained in child rights and its reporting mechanisms. They are supportive in conducting Ilanthalir sessions and women group meetings and also helps in identifying the child abuse and child marriage in communities. Two Adult peer educators trained in basic counseling techniques.

4. AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

4.1 Raising Awareness on specific Issues

Community level awareness programmes were organised based on the issues identified during interaction with people. During this period the major issues identified were Online addiction, substance abuse and suicidal tendency. Arunodhaya cultural team prepared street play and puppet show on the above issues and conducted 25 awareness programmes in the communities.



Street play



Puppet Show

4.2 Observing Important Days

Important days such as National girl child day, international day against child labour, International girl child day, No tobacco day, Anti trafficking day, Constitution day, Menstrual hygiene day were observed in all the areas. Rally, poster campaign, public meetings, signature campaign were organised to spread awareness on the importance of girl child, prevent child labour, prevent the use of tobacco and appreciate the importance of Constitution provisions.



International girl child day



International day against child labour



Menstrual hygiene day



Oath taking on Constitution day



Anti tobacco day

5. YOUTH FORUM- ARUNODHAYA PUDHUMAI ILAINGAR IYAKKAM (APII)

Arunodhaya Pudhumai Ilaingal Iyakkam (APII) is a platform for youth in the age group 18-25years. Members of Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam who complete 18 years become members of APII. Youth are guided in their higher education and job placement. They volunteer their services in Children sangam, education activities and in Arunodhaya's interventions. Training of Trainers (Tot) was organised for youth on preventing substance abuse and online addiction. 50 youth were trained and they created awareness among other youth in their community. Youth participated in the Chennai run marathon to create awareness on cancer.



6. COMMUNITY CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING COMMITTEE (CCRMC)

Community Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CCRMC) monitors child rights status in their area and initiate action to prevent and protect children. CCRMCs are active in ten areas. Meetings were held once in three months. CCRMC members interacted with MLAs, MCs. presenting the problems.. They support in the activities of children sangam and youthforum.



ARUNODHAYA RESOURCE CENTRE

ARUNODHAYA RESOURCECENTRE

1. CROSS LEARNING & EXCAHNGE PROGRAMS

Resource centre welcomed people from other organisations who interacted with Arunodhaya staff team, children/adolescents and other stakeholders to learn about the different activities and programmes

On 2nd March 2023 we had the pleasure of having Annesophie, the volunteer who worked with Arunodhaya in 2005-2006 in developing the concept document on Arunodhaya Children sangam. She came nearly after 18 years along with her 15 years old daughter Alice. She interacted with former children sangam members, with the staff, visited tailoring centre, computer centre and shelter home. She was very happy to meet with the former children sangam members and see their development.



22-23 April 2022 a team from MAARGA, Bangalore came on a Learning visit. They interacted with Arunodhaya team, stakeholders, adolescents, witnessed Ilanthalir meetings and Children sangam meeting to gain information on the programmes with adolescents.



19th December 2022 Ms. Judith Ravin, Consul General United States of America and Mariners visited the field office in Korukkupet and distributed toys and stationary items to children.



2. RESOURCE PERSONS

- Arunodhaya team members participated in TV discussions on Discussion on adolescent issues and on drug abuse
- Lecture on Child protection for socialwork students on child rights organized by CCRD
- Lecture on Role of NGOS inHuman rights for students of Women Christian Colleg, Chennia
- Flag hoisting and speech on Independence day at Phoenix mall
- Sharing on Arunodhaya's experience in child participation in the International conference- intercountry workinggroup discussion onYouth as agents of changes organised by Asmae, France
- Training on child rights for Teach for India Team
- Presentation on Children and SDG at the SDG watch- T.N. 6thannual convention, Chennai
- Talk on Women empowerment on International women's day at Police Museum for students.
- Lecture on 'Women development is social development' at the Women's day programme organized by Diocesan women commission



Orientation for Teach for India

CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAFF

Trainings, refresher courses and reviews were organised for Arunodhaya team members to widen their knowledge, develop their skills and enable them to work effectively.



- Trained in conducting session for adolescents in the community and in schools.
- Oriented on the concept of Children nagara sabai and the programmes related to it and guided in forming children nagara sabai
- Oriented on the functioning of School children council
- Oriented on the importance of training parents and care givers on parenting skills
- RCL team developed an understanding on the Standard Operating Procedure related to Railway Childline.
- Self actualisation training enabled in identifying their strength and weakness and gained insights on developing themselves
- Develop their hidden talents and potentials
- Community counsellors were trained on basic counselling techniques. Four members have been trained as community counsellors.



NETWORKING AND

ADVOCACY



NETWORKING

NETWORKS AND FORUMS

Arunodhaya works in collaboration with other civil society organisations, government organisations and academics for the cause of protection of child rights.

Member of Voluntary Advisory Committee of Gender lab -Greater Chennai Corporation. Contributed to the discussion on safe space for children and facilitated interaction with children and women with the members of Gender lab.

Working Committee member of Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) Tamilnadu adPuducherry, SDG watch-Tamilnadu, Forum for Promotion of Child Participatio (FPCP), Tamilnadu Child Rights Watch (TNCRW) and member of National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children- India (NACG-EVAC), Joint Forum for Universal Periodic Review (JF4UPR)

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Arunodhaya offered field work and internship for Students of social work and other disciplines.

VOLUNTEERING

Arunodhaya collaborated with ivolunteer, Chennai volunteer and mobilised volunteer ladies circle, hotel Taj, conducting online and offline sessions in spoken English, career guidance, culturalprogrammes.

WORKSHOP CONFERENCE

Participated in different workshop and conferences and made presentations





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PUDHUMAI PEN AWARDS

This year three members from Arunodhaya received Pudhumai Pen award.

E.Mala , former children sangam member received PudhumaiPenn award from Chennai collector on 3rd March 23. This isin recognition of her work with child domestic workers. Malawas identified by Arunodhaya as a child domestic worker when she was eight years old. Since then she continues her contact with Arunodhyaa as chidren sangam members, as staff and now as member of Vidhai nel group (a group of former children sangam members) She continues to contribute in training and being a role model for children.



Ms. S. Santhanamary, coordinator received Pudhumai Penn award from women commission, Diocesan of Madras.



Dr. Virgil D Sami, Executive Director received PudhumaiPenn award from Tanishq on 9th April 2022.



During celebration of Madras day, Staff members and volunteers from Arunodhaya were given certificates and awards by Councilars for their participation in Covid-19 prevention and rehabilitation programmes.



External evaluation

External evaluation of Azim Premji Foundation supported project 'Adolescent Awareness and Capacity Building' was conducted by Ms. Elamathi.

Excerpts from the evaluation report

"The study finds that the AACBP project has transformed many lives of the children and adolescents in a multifaceted way. Many children have been equipped with life skills, a lot of career choices have been opened up, the children have been elevated as better social leaders who can promote values for their own society, children have been equipped with sports skills and gained various sports recognitions. Child participation and leadership has been ensured by establishing three children institutions at various levels – the Children Nagar Sabha, Confederation of Children Sangam, School Children council. "

"The Organization management is quite strong and vision oriented. The organization provides necessary capacity building trainings and professional upliftment which help the staff to excel in their own community interventions."



Annexure - I

COLLABORATORS

- **Asmae**
- **Azim Premji Foundation**
- **Childline India Foundation**
- **Chennai Volunteers**
- **DP World- Chennai Container Terminal Private Ltd.Ecofemme**
- **Greater Chennai Corporation**
- **Hotel Taj**
- **Ladies Circle**
- **Mahadev social welfare trust**
- **Nasscom foundation**
- **Online Giving foundation**
- **Praise Foundation**
- **UK online giving**



Annexure - II

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AACEP	Adolescent Awareness, Counseling and Empowerment project
APPI	Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative
CACL	Campaign Against Child Labour
CACS	Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam
CCRMC	Community Child Rights Monitoring Committee
ECC	Early Childhood Care Centre
CHDK	Child Help Desk
CHG	Child Help Group
CHU	Counseling and Healing Unit
CWO	Child Welfare Officer
FCMRP	Federation of Children Movement for Right to Participation
FPCP	Forum for Promotion of Child Participation
NEP	New Education Policy
RCL	Railway Childline
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	Self Help group
TNCRW	Tamilnadu Child Rights Watch
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

Target Areas

CHENNAI DISTRICT

Kodungaiyur

1. MGR nagar
2. Ezhilnagar
3. Kanangi nagar
4. R.R Nagar
5. Annai Sathya Nagar

Korukkupet

6. Dr.Ambedkar Nagar
7. Bharathi Nagar
8. Jeeva nagar
9. Kamaraj Nagar
10. Meenammal Nagar
11. Sikkirindapalayam
12. Karumariamman Nagar
13. Moopanar Nagar
14. Rajiv Gandhi Nagar
15. JJ Nagar
16. Anna Nagar
17. Stanley Nagar
18. Canal Street
19. Nehru Nagar
20. Chandrasekar Nagar
21. Govindasami Nagar
22. Railway Nagar
23. Thiruvallur Nagar
24. Periyar Nagar
25. Gopal Nagar
26. Coronation Nagar
27. Muthumariyamman koil street

Royapuram

28. Model line
29. Chetty thottam

Tondiarpet

30. Tamilan Nagar
31. Rajasekar Nagar
32. Patel Nagar
33. Naval Nagar
34. Kumaran Nagar
35. Indhiragandhi Nagar
36. Vinoba Nagar
37. Nethaji Nagar
38. Parameswaran Nagar
39. Sasthri Nagar

THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

Thiruvotriyur

40. Rajaji Nagar
41. Balakrishna Nagar
42. Kargilnagar
43. Annamalai Nagar
44. Kamarajar Nagar
45. Natarajar Thottam
46. Vetri vinayagar Nagar
47. Raja Shanmuganagar
48. Ambedkar Nagar
49. Poonga Nagar
50. Gomatha Nagar
51. K.R Ramaswamy Nagar

Ennore:

52. Mastan koil
53. Ondikuppam
54. Kannikovil
55. AIR site
56. Kasikoilkuppam
57. Sivanpadaiveedhi
58. Kattukuppam
59. NTO Kuppam.
60. Thiruchinnakuppam
61. Valluvar Nagar
62. RS Road
63. Indhira Gandhi kuppam
64. Pattinathar Kovil
65. JJ Nagar- Near Kasikoilkuppam
66. JJ Nagar – Near Kattukuppam
67. Appar Nagar
68. Thulukathammankoil
69. Chinnakuppam
70. Periyakuppam
71. Annaisivagami Nagar
72. T K P Nagar
73. Ellaiammankoil- Kattukuppam
74. Vadaku Bharathi Nagar
75. Sathyavani Muthu Nagar
76. Sadayankuppam
77. Athipet



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