

# THE TIDINGS

Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children  
19/9/2, Bazaar Street, Royapuram, Chennai 600013.

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## CHILD PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE

Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam is the Child-led organisation in Arunodhaya. It has a democratic structure starting from area, zone and central level. Leadership at each level is elected through a democratic process. The Central level election was held on 9th July 2023. The process for the election was initiated by the existing CACS Executive Committee - calling for nominations, allotting symbols, campaigning, formation of Election Commission and the conduct of election. The whole process was done by the children.

The following members were elected.

R. Shashini - President  
R. Balamurugan - Vice president  
K. Vishal - Secretary  
M. Suhashini - Asst. secretary  
T. Prithiraj - Treasurer  
R. kanniappan - EC member  
K. Nishanth - EC member  
V. Sujitha - EC member  
G. Vishnu - EC member  
K. Santhanalakshmi - EC member



## IN THIS EDITION

- Child participation and Democratic structure
- Children Nagara Sabai
- Sustaining in schools
- Awareness on menstrual hygiene
- Making of young journalists
- Arunodhaya social media
- Sexual and reproductive health awareness among young women
- Textures of traditions - Cultural festival
- Eye camp
- Arunodhaya Nagar news
- News from Shelter home for boys

## CHILDREN NAGARA SABAI - CHILDREN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Children Nagara Sabai meeting was held on 14th and 15th August, 2023 in ten Wards in Zones 1, 4 and 5.

### 14th August

- Zone 5 Ward 52

### 15th August

- Zone 1 Ward 3, 6, 7 and 9
- Zone 4 Ward 37, 38, 41 and 47
- Zone 5 Ward 53



Ward Councilors, Police officials, Teachers, Self help group members participated in the Children Nagara Sabai and listened to the children. The children thanked the Councilor for the progress made on their demands raised in the previous Children Nagara Sabai meeting held on April 23, 2023. They put forth their concerns, their needs and sought the support of the Councilor and others in providing a healthy and safe place for children.

In Ward 6 in Zone 1, we were happy to see the Councilor well prepared for the meeting. Since the Councilor was out of town, he deputed his wife to attend the meeting. The meeting was held in the Councilor's office itself. Area Sabha has been formed in this ward and two members from Area Sabha also participated in the meeting. It was positive to see them having in their hand the demands presented by the children in the last Children Nagara Sabai meeting held on April 23, 2023 and they presented the action taken by them.

We are happy to say that following action has been taken based on the demands raised in previous Children Nagara Sabai meeting.

- Road facilities have been improved in Thulukkanathamman Kovil.
- Police patrol was arranged for the safety of children near the park (Ward 38)
- A separate area is reserved for playing tennis in the children's park (Ward 38)
- Net put up around the main play ground in R.R. Nagar (Ward 37)
- Teachers appointed by SMC in R. R. Nagar primary school (Ward 37)
- Street lights repaired (Ward 6)
- Canal de-silted (Ward 3)



I am S. Monoj and I have been elected by children as a Child Councilor in Ward 7 and I have been holding meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet the Ward Councilor and prepare a request to them to develop the area. I have developed my skill as a Child Councilor. I have grown confident that we too can participate in local governance.

During the Children Nagara Sabai meeting held on 15th August 2023, our primary demand was for the construction of a tunnel under the railway track to begin immediately, and we are very happy that the work has now begun. We can see that our dream of having the area we live in become more habitable is being fulfilled little by little. I am very happy to represent the children in the Children Nagara Sabai meeting and express their views. Through this I can see that some skills have developed in me, my family, my school and I express my opinions freely and boldly.



## SUSTAINING IN SCHOOLS



Intervention in education for underprivileged children does not end with enrollment in schools but calls for continuous follow up to arrest drop out. Arunodhaya community volunteers regularly visit the schools to identify absentee students and initiate action to bring them back to school.

From 23rd April 2023 to 23rd September 2023, one hundred and two school children (52 boys and 50 girls) have been brought back to school.

C Kiruba Raj, dropped out of school when he was studying in 7th standard and started working in a sofa company. He was identified by Arunodhaya volunteers during community visit and was motivated on the importance of education and continuing school. His parents were also counselled to encourage the child to go to school. After much persuasion, he accepted to leave the job and join school. Now he is studying in 9th standard at Chennai Higher Secondary School, Patel Nagar, Chennai 600081.

*"I am so happy to be back in school and I now realized that the only means of escaping from poverty is education. I got a second chance to change my life and I will study well and take care of my family."*

## AWARENESS ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Arunodhaya in partnership with Eco Femme organized an awareness program on menstrual hygiene and distributed cloth pads for 9th to 12th standard students in Chennai schools in Korukkupet, Thiruvottiyur, and Ennore. The main objective of the programme is to promote wellbeing through the menstrual cycle. 300 cloth pads were distributed to the students in the month of August 2023.



*"I attended the awareness session conducted by Arunodhaya team. They made it easy to understand how to figure out menstruation days. They exploded many myths connected with menstruation. Now I feel proud of my menstruation. There is nothing to fear about it." - Vasugi, 10th Standard.*

## MAKING OF YOUNG JOURNALISTS

Arunodhaya organized a workshop to hone the skills of Children Sangam members in Journalism. Twenty five children participated in the workshop held on 28th and 29th September 2023 at Youth Hostel, Adyar.

Mr. M. Mohan, Director, Vaalu TV, Dr.D.Jayasakthivel, Professor, Department of Journalism, University of Madras and Mr.R.Muthukumar from University of Madras facilitated the workshop and trained the children to prepare their journal.



## ARUNODHAYA SOCIAL MEDIA



Arunodhaya trained adolescents in Video documentation. The trained team has come together to form the 'Arunodhaya Social Media Team'. The team has volunteered to prepare visual documentation of events and programmes at Arunodhaya and post it on social media. The inauguration of the team was held on 8th July 2023.



## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG WOMEN

Arunodhaya started a new initiative - 'Sexual and reproductive health awareness among young women' in partnership with CSR initiative of Omega Health Care Private Ltd. The programme aims at educating and empowering 200 deserving women



The community facilitators training was held from 22nd August to 26th August 2023. Twenty women associated with Arunodhaya participated in the training. Ms. Sunanda Rangarajan, Head of CSR Omega Health Care inaugurated the training on 22nd August 2023. During the five days training, the participants were led through a process of discussion, presentation, games and exercises to appreciate their womanhood, feel comfortable on speaking about sexual and reproductive issues, explode myths connected to menstruation, gain understanding on menstrual hygiene, sexual health and how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases. At the end of the training, the participants received the training manual and certificate. The participants are now skilled and armed with information to conduct awareness session with young women. The target is to reach the message on sexual and reproductive health among 200 women and bring a behavior change.



### CREW'S VIEW POINT

*"I am happy to be selected as Community facilitator for the Sexual and reproductive health awareness programme. During the training I gained lot of information and knowledge on gender, reproductive system, menstrual health, sexually transmitted diseases. I was literally zero in the topic of breast cancer and sexual diseases like HIV,*

*AIDS, STD, but after the session I got clarity Personally I feel empowered and confident of conducting awareness session for women in the community."* – J. Loganayagi

### OUR SUCCESS

The first session was conducted in 10 communities. Participants eagerly took part to learn something new about the personal life. Their involvement and our facilitators approach were very friendly. Though it is our initial stage, but people gave us massive response. Our facilitators are very comfortable working with in the field. We see this as a first success and we'll reach out as a massive one.

## TEXTURES OF TRADITIONS - CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Women from Arunodhaya had the opportunity to exhibit their embroidery items and artificial jewellery at the 'Textures of traditions- culture festival on 17th September 2023 held at Kraft Retail Dining, Nandanam, Chennai. Embroidered handkerchiefs, pillow covers, table cloth and artificial jewellery made by our tailoring trainees were displayed. The review for our stall was so positive and encouraging!



Other stalls highlighted health care products, Rajasthani bangles, palm materials, artificial jewellery and different varieties of pots. Every stall gave us an idea to create new things. There we met and got support from Ms. Swarnamalya and the CFO of Omega Health Care Mr. Kannan Sugantharaman and Mrs. Sunanda Rangarajan, Head of CSR, Omega Health Care and many other IT employees.





## EYE CAMP

Arunodhaya conducted an eye camp at Sadayankuppam (Irula community) on 22nd July 2023 in collaboration with India Vision Institute.

Fifty nine members benefited from the camp. 11 members have been prescribed spectacles and 4 members referred for cataract surgery.

Thanks to Bloom Trust for their support in organising the programme. The spectacles were distributed on 31st August 2023.



## ARUNODHAYA NAGAR NEWS

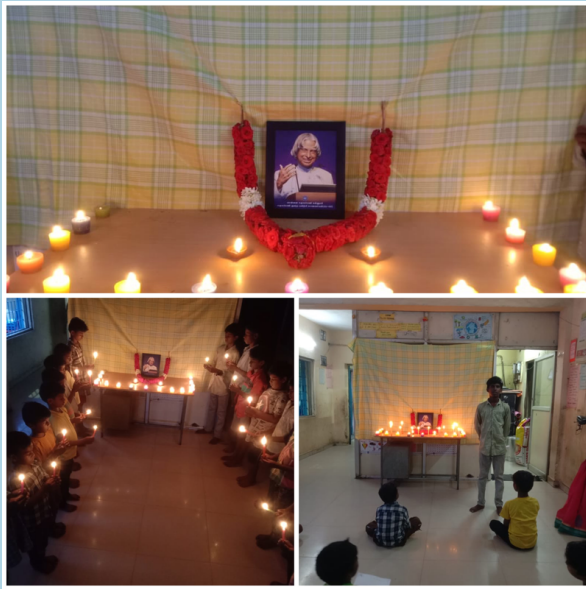
Another progressive step in Arunodhaya Nagar. Bhoomi Pooja was conducted for construction of 48 houses for Irula families. Tiruvallur district Collector issued the work order. Arunodhaya gifted the land to the Government for construction of the houses.





### MADRAS DAY

Children from Arunodhaya shelter home celebrated 'Madras Day' on 22nd October 2023.



### DR KALAM'S ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Abdul Kalam's anniversary was observed in Arunodhaya shelter home on 27th July 2023.

Children shared details about the life history of Dr. Kalam and his greatness.

### THIRU KAMARAJAR'S BIRTHDAY

The great leader Thiru Kamarajar's birthday was celebrated at the shelter home on 15th July 2023.

A programme was conducted to create awareness about the achievements of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

