



 **pudiyador times**

51ST EDITION
JANUARY - JUNE
2022

Our President's Message

Dear Pudiador family,

We have been busy as we were coming out from under the weight of a pandemic that defined our lives for the last two years. There's a lot of work to be done, as we adapt and grow to accommodate our new circumstances like school schedules and government regulations. We do all this with big smiles of relief and hope for what the future holds.

Here, we present you with a double issue that covers everything that happened in the first 6 months of this year. Get comfortable and get ready to get inspired by how our children and our communities are bouncing back!

With love,
Swapnaa



'From cradle to college to community'

Pudiyador is an education-driven child and family organisation that caters to marginalised communities in Chennai, India. Our goal is to equip children and their families with experiences and opportunities that will empower them and their communities to break the cycle of generational poverty.

NEWSLETTER OVERVIEW



Highlights



Celebrating one revolutionary with our own!

A trailblazer and icon in the fight for women's rights and education, Savitribhai Phule was the first woman teacher in our country. A true pioneer of her times, she fought against caste discrimination to achieve her dreams of becoming an educator. Who better to celebrate on a day such as Teacher's day? This year at Pudiyador, we celebrated January 3rd, Savitribhai Phule's birthday as Teacher's day, and learned a lot more about this revolutionary woman.

The beneficiaries at our community learning centers celebrated their teachers in their own ways - they decorated the spaces and conducted fun activities for them. We also held a teacher's day ceremony where we played videos of all the students speaking about the teachers, commemorated teachers who have been with us for more than 8 years, and took a trip to the book fair. It was a day to remember for everyone and a true celebration of Savitribhai Phule's legacy!

Learning and Unlearning History

Dalit is a name for people belonging to the lowest stratum castes in India, that have been traditionally oppressed for over 3000 years. April is celebrated as Dalit History month to remember Dalit leaders and their struggles forgotten in history, mostly using different art and media forms. At Pudiyador, we used this opportunity to teach the children and teenagers about the history of the Dalit community over 20 days in April. It started with an orientation program for all our teachers about what the word 'Dalit' means and the rest of the celebrations included learning about the legacy of Dalit leaders like Pandit Iyothee Thasar, understanding the Dalit community through different forms of media - music, rap, and cinema, and we exposed the beneficiaries to other facets of the Dalit community which are largely ignored by the mainstream. Education plays a key role in overcoming the caste barriers in society and celebrating Dalit History month is a small but sure step in helping our children break these barriers!



The teenagers set to portray a story from Dalit revolutionary B.R. Ambedkar's life

Highlights

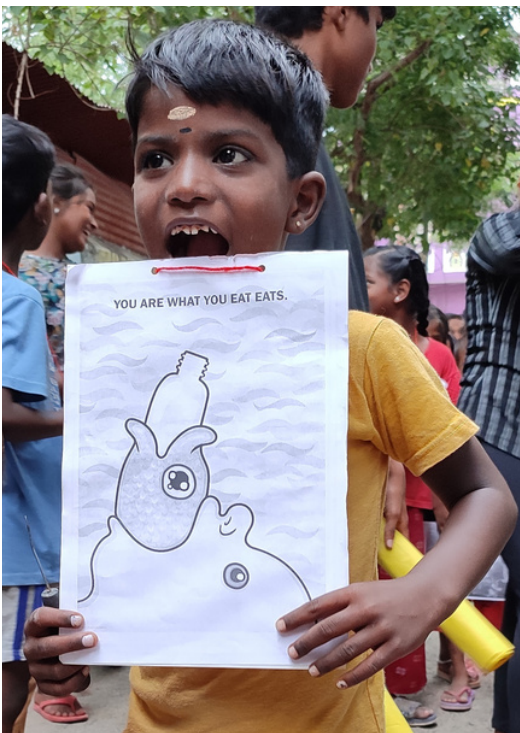
On to Newer Journeys

In the month of June, the School Bridge, Children's, and Early Teenagers programs conducted graduation ceremonies for all the children who were about to start newer learning journeys by graduating into the subsequent programs. This event was a celebration of the successful completion of one journey and a way to help the beneficiaries stay excited to begin their next programs with new peers, teachers, and experiences. All of the seniors also conducted a freshers party for the new incoming students which made the fresh graduates feel more welcomed.



Only One Earth

In the month of June, all the programs at Pudiyador celebrated Environment Day with this year's theme of 'Only One Earth'. This event served as the perfect opportunity for us to conduct a community rally and awareness campaign about the importance of saving the planet. The teenagers and youth members put up a street play in the communities to help residents understand the roles that big corporations play in polluting the environment. The children also collected the different types of plastics that we use on a daily basis and sensitized their communities about the dangers of using plastic and taught them how to identify the types of plastic. The event ended with a rally where the Pudiyador beneficiaries went around the communities and brought attention to the environmental issues at hand.



*Hari's message to the community -
You are what you eat eats!*



CRADLE HEALTH

For our expectant/new mothers and their infants



Tech for good!

At the beginning of the year, a WhatsApp group was created with over 60 Cradle Health beneficiaries from all our communities. This group also included resource people like a gynecologist and lactation specialist who are available to answer any questions from the pregnant and new mothers. We hope that technology will help us overcome the challenging lack of access to health facilities and personnel for our Cradle mothers.

Navigating the 9 months!

The Cradle Health program started out with weekly sessions for new mothers and their infants. With the initial success of these sessions, more programs for pregnant women have been initiated. Nowadays, the weekly sessions feature external resource persons that educate expecting women on various aspects of their pregnancy. The program also saw 100 percent attendance in the mental health and yoga sessions that highlighted the dire need for such programming amongst expecting mothers. The Cradle Health program is gradually expanding to include more women from our communities and is achieving its mission of empowering young women and expecting mothers to make sound decisions for themselves and their children.

SCHOOL BRIDGE

For our toddlers between ages 3-5 years



Educating our parents



The engagement with the parents has become a regular affair in the School Bridge program, based on the approach of the parent's involvement being key in a child's development. The teachers of the program led the meeting where they discussed how any sort of conflict between parents at home negatively impacted the children. The parents were also guided by the teachers on identifying good schools that they can send their children to, which is an important goal of the program. The parents who were regular to the meetings received gifts from the School Bridge team.

Parent-Child's Play!

The involvement of parents in a child's education has proven to be significant in the child's overall development and well-being. The School Bridge program's summer camp focused on achieving this goal. The 5-day camp included activities based on art, craft, and storytelling to help boost the child's creativity and the parents were invited to be a part of the sessions and work with their child. It was great to see children thriving and parents putting in the effort to step out of their comfort zone and create a unique learning ecosystem.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For children between 5-10 years



Artsy Summers



The summer camp conducted for the children's program featured themes about the environment around us, rooted in nature-based learning, during which the children were able to learn and express their artistic abilities as well. The camp activities included a moon-gazing session and another workshop to observe and identify different shapes around their space. Several resource people were brought in for the camp to engage the children in a variety of creative pursuits such as portrait making, block printing, eco printing, upcycling from trash, and clay modeling. The children also learned to play the "parai", a traditional drum, during the camp, which helped them understand the

aspects of rhythm and beats. The camp included a field trip to an organic farm in Anoor, Chengalpattu where the children observed how a farm functions and even took part in making "kootanchoru" (a large meal cooked together by a group). The parents were invited to the closing ceremony to learn about their children's activities and learnings at Pudiyaador's summer camp!

All about the Olive Ridleys!

The months of March and April usually mark the nesting period of the turtles along the beach and the children at our centers visited the Besant Nagar beach to learn more about the turtles. The children were given an orientation about the nesting season and the conservation work that several volunteers were carrying out, and to top it all off, they also got to see the newly hatched Olive Ridley turtles being released into the sea!



EARLY TEENS PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 11-14 years



Small wins!



In the month of February, three teenagers at the Ramapuram center attended all the sessions throughout the month. What may seem like a small thing is a big win for the teachers and the program itself! The three teenagers - Vishwa, Mercy, and Parameshwari - were felicitated by the teachers with crowns made of leaves as a small gesture of appreciation. Such everyday successes at our centers energize our teachers and staff to continue our mission to offer a wholesome education to our community teens.

Summertime Learning

The summer camp for the early teenagers' program was a set of varying experiences aimed to open their minds to new things. The teenagers engaged in different types of art like "saattai kuchi aatam" - a traditional folk dance performed using a long stick, palm crafts making, mime, and design education. They also participated in a life skills session that helped them understand empathy; and a scientific-thinking session where they learned simple scientific concepts and applied them to make a battery-operated car. The teenagers were also taken on two field visits as a part of their summer camp - they visited Nadukuppam Forest School, a model eco-friendly school; they also visited the Theosophical Society in Besant Nagar and observed different species of birds, animals, insects, and trees on the campus.



TEACHER TRAINING

Our training program for teachers from all of our child-centric programs



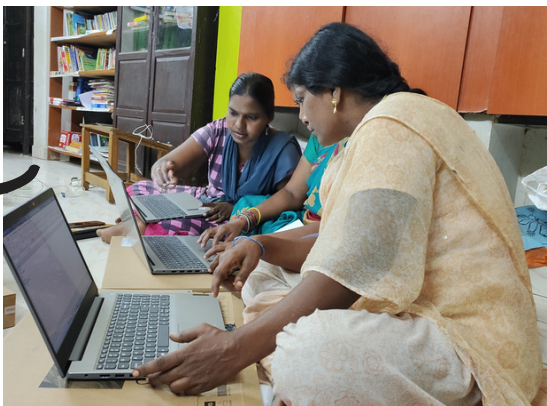
We hire our teachers from within the communities to teach our children. A rigorous training program for the teachers ensures high quality of care and education and a steady source of employment.

Training the Trainers



Staff trip to Tada falls!

Digital literacy



Unwinding through art

Summer is a time of rejuvenation for the next year and for our teachers that included a training camp where they were able to equip themselves with skills before the following year. This year's teacher training camp included a digital literacy training module that would allow them to plan for their classes and work on laptops, while also using technology as a tool for education. We would like to extend our thanks to the Rotary club of Thiruvannamiyur and Rotary Reykjavik (Iceland) for contributing towards Pudiador's digital literacy education by donating laptops and tablets for all of our centres. Stay tuned for more updates about this endeavor in our next edition!

The teachers also participated in a training session that would help in dealing with children's emotions and another that covered environmental education. As a part of the annual teachers' trip, the Pudiador team visited nearby Tada Waterfalls and it was a great day of bonding for the entire team.

YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



Upskilling our Communication

In India, communicating fluently in English is considered an important skill in the workplace, and the youth beneficiaries of Pudiyador have also expressed interest in developing their English language skills. For the last six months, the youth have been taking virtual lessons using Talking Yak - a gamified Tamil-to-English app that teaches grammar, vocabulary, and conversational English. The youth have also been getting together every week when they converse with each other and improve their spoken English. Consistent efforts and motivation from the youth have been key factors in transforming them into confident, young individuals with the ability to understand and communicate in English.

To greater bonds

As many of the youth beneficiaries are at crucial crossroads in their lives with respect to making career decisions, the main aim of the youth summer camp was to give them exposure to and spark their interest in different fields. The youth interacted with a historian while on a history walk, they spoke to an entrepreneur about the basics of business, they learned the fundamentals of design thinking from a designer; they also earned the principles of



journalism and participated in a "toxic tour" studying the negative environmental impact in areas around the city of Chennai. As part of developing self-awareness, the summer camp offered a mentoring session along with a stress-management session.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Our women's empowerment program



Each one Teach one

The theme of the Women's program summer camp was a larger underlying philosophy that Pudiyaador has observed for years - 'Each one Teach one'. The 3-day summer camp saw women from the communities teaching each other skills such as "mehendi" design, hair styling, and basket weaving. Such sharing of skills and knowledge is an important step towards community empowerment.

Upskilling our Women

Upskilling the women in our communities has been at the core of our programming, and in keeping with that, the latest skill that our women have acquired is Aari embroidery! Aari is a style of intricate embroidery - resource people were brought in to help the women learn and complete a short course for this skill. The women created several fine pieces of clothing, especially saree blouses, while learning and bonding with each other. After the initial success at the Ramapuram zone, the women in the Besant Nagar communities also expressed their interest to learn the skill, which was a big win for the program!

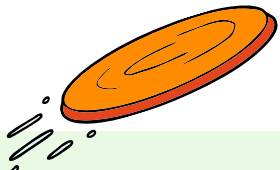
The end product!





SNEAK PEEK

What's new at Pudiador?



We created the Playquity Method two years ago, inspired by the lived experiences of young women who struggle for a semblance of equality. Playquity brings sports to girls first, helping them build strength and skill, subsequently empowering them to lead mixed-gender teams, and ultimately to be leaders in their communities.

A lot has been happening in our Playquity communities and we are so excited to tell you all about that in our special edition next month!

Play + Equity = Playquity

Pudiyador Charitable Trust Projected Budget - 2022

Projected Budget for 2022 - 68.18 Lakh INR / 84,456 USD



Quarter 1 & 2 : Jan-Jun

Projected amount to be raised:
34.09 Lakh INR / 42,210 USD

As of June 30, 2022

Total Amount raised:
31.27 Lakh INR / 38,718 USD



Quarter 3 : Jul-Sep

Projected amount to be raised:
17.25 Lakh INR / 21,359 USD

Total amount to be raised including
previous quarter deficit:
20.07 Lakh INR / 24,850 USD



Quarter 1 & 2 deficit
2.82 Lakh INR / 3,492 USD

Here's how YOU can help!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Dedicate a few hours of your week to help teach our children in-person or remotely. They would love interacting with you!

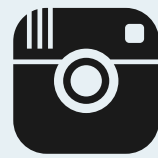


FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the logos to head to our social media!



Pudiyador



@pudiyador.india



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DONATE AND EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITIES!

Your contributions ensure that Pudiyador's operations continue to empower communities – from providing rations to families in need, to supporting community teachers, maintain ongoing programming for children, youth, women and other members of the community.



CONNECT US WITH ORGANISATIONS YOU KNOW

Help us partner with organisations you know so we can conduct events and start new projects!



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