



 pudiyador times

54TH EDITION
January - June
2023

Our President's Message

Dear Pudiyaador family,

Much like you, I learn about Pudiyaador news by reading the snippets that go into making this newsletter. And each time, I am amazed and awed by what our team and our communities accomplish together.

The life of every little person, every teen, every parent, and teacher that we read about is deep, rich, complex. This edition has done a great job capturing that.

I invite you to experience the *courage* and *pride* that is palpable in these stories from our communities.

With love,
Swapnaa



'From cradle to college to community'

Pudiyador is an education-driven child and family organisation that caters to marginalised communities across 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.

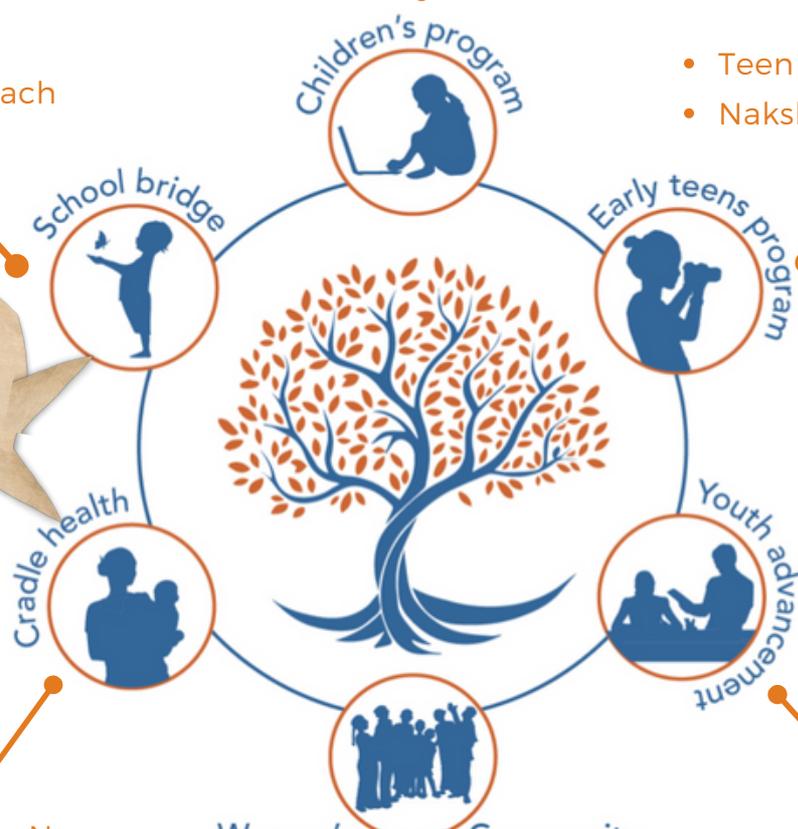
- The Farm Life
- Birds and Seas

In this edition

- Young Minds Teach

- Teen Blogger, Ishwarya
- Nakshatra Sports Event

Look out for the program icons in the following pages to learn more about each program!



- Amma Ennum Naan (As a mother)
- It's Father's Day!

Women's empowerment & Community development

- Love n Lessons
- Social-Bonds

- Gentle Parenting Workshop for Men
- Breast Cancer Awareness and Screening

HIGHLIGHTS

TEACHERS DAY

The 3rd of January marks the birthday of Savitribai Phule, an Indian social reformer who fought for women's right to education in India. At Pudiyaador, we celebrate this special day as teacher's day. All the children, teenagers, and youth at our community learning centers conducted exciting games, put up a show, and presented their teachers with handmade gifts! It was a day of celebrating the most important members of Pudiyaador.



SPORTS SPECTACLE

It was quite a sight to see the Pudiyaador Annual Sports Meet resume after a hiatus of almost two years due to the pandemic. This event holds a long-standing tradition at Pudiyaador. This event was planned and conducted in partnership with Bhumi NGO. Our children played every sport with a spirit of excellence and sportsmanship, and were encouraged with rewards such as medals and certificates. The 2023 sports meet brought a breath of fresh air to the children in all of us after almost two years of being locked up in our homes.

HIGHLIGHTS



CELEBRATING DALIT HISTORY

At Pudiyaador we celebrate Dalit History in the month of April reflecting on the struggles and triumphs of the Dalit community. Our children enacted the inspiring stories of Meenambal Sivaraj and Rettaimalai Srinivasan, and shed light on the lives of manual scavengers through a powerful drama 'Manjal' (Yellow). They explored the themes of the book 'Soozhalum Saathiyum' (Environment and Caste)and the movies 'Witness' and 'Kuppaikaran' (Garbage Man), and participated in a gallery walk in the lanes of Chintadripet(a locality in Chennai). The closing ceremony was graced by two notable chief guests and activists: T. M. Krishna, an artist, and Umanathselvan, an author of children's books.

THE SUMMER SPIRIT

The Summer Camp at Pudiyaador is a week-long program that focuses on diverse skill development for children. Activities such as mandala art sketching, making of simple drinks like buttermilk and lemon juice and basic literacy and numeracy were taught. The younger children focused on activities like Parai (a traditional Tamil drum) and OyilAttam (a folk dance), Block Printing, Eco printing, Clay Modelling, Nature games, Songs, Story telling, Sketching and Puppetry. The Early teens program was packed with 18 different sessions and included three field visits.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony at Pudiyaador is an annual event that celebrates the progress of students and their journey through the academic year. The ceremony marks the graduation of Children from one program to the next. The youngest students (1-3 years olds) graduated from the Cradle Health Program, and the oldest students (16-19 year olds) graduated from the Youth Advancement Program. The ceremony is a special moment not just for the children but also for parents and teachers who walk alongside them on this learning journey.

CRADLE HEALTH

For our expectant/new mothers and their infants



Amma Ennum Naan (As a mother)

The Cradle Health program celebrates mothers and their experiences. This year, the program conducted a session on the perils of glorifying motherhood and constraining women to be identified only by the role of a mother. The program encouraged mothers to share parenting responsibilities with their partners and empowered them to articulate and narrate their stories. As part of this, mothers were encouraged to write about their experiences as a mother under the title **"Amma Ennum Naan"**. The stories shared highlighted the layers of being a mother, the ups and downs, and the in-betweens.

It's Father's Day!

On June 18th, Father's Day was celebrated by inviting fathers to share their experiences and gain support and involvement in parenting. Two fathers shared their experiences on balancing their job and supporting their wives, and both cried. This session provided insight into fathers' thoughts on parenting and helped the program understand the mindsets of fathers in the community. The session received both negative and positive reactions, with most fathers being supportive. Mothers also had the opportunity to cherish parenting experiences with their spouses.



SCHOOL BRIDGE

For our toddlers between ages 3-5 years



Young Minds Teach

Mounisha, who joined the School Bridge program in Pudiyador at the age of 3, is now sharing her knowledge with her younger brother Yuvanesh, who is also enrolled in the program. Recently, they began learning Tamil Alphabets, and Mounisha took it upon herself to teach her brother. What's remarkable is the way in which children teach their peers or younger siblings. Mounisha demonstrated remarkable patience and creativity in her teaching approach. She wrote the letters on one side of a note and left space for Yuvanesh to practice writing on the other side. He eagerly took to the task and practiced writing the letters. It is heartening to see the spirit of learning and sharing among siblings, and the positive impact of the School Bridge program on young minds.



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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For children between 5-10 years



The Farm Life

A group of students between the ages of 6 and 10 visited an integrated farm in Anoor, Chengalpattu. During their visit, they witnessed firsthand the care and management of cows and goats, and learned about sustainable cooking methods. The farm was home to a variety of fowl, including ducks, hens, turkeys, and more. This unique and enriching experience allowed the students to immerse themselves in the wonders of farm life and sustainable agriculture

Birds and Seas

Youth Advancement Program students, Saranya and Sanjula conducted a sea shore walk for the younger children in their community. The walk was aimed at educating the children about the importance of marine life and the need to protect it. The students learnt about the different types of shells found on the beach and how they are formed. In addition to the seashore walk, another youth member, Gowtham conducted bird watching session where the students were taught how to identify different birds by their calls and physical characteristics.



EARLY TEENS PROGRAM



For our teenagers between 11-14 years



Teen Blogger, Ishwarya

Ishwarya, a teenager from Ramapuram community, has been showing a keen interest in reading books and writing about women and women's rights. To encourage her passion for books and writing, a blog has been created to record the stories that she writes. She has committed to writing one story a month and has even set up a separate notebook for this purpose. Her first story, "Oru Pennin Ariviyal Kanavu," (A woman's dream about science) has been published on her blog titled "Anbazhagiezhuthali." (Anbazhagi, an author) (Scan the QR code to have a peek at her blog)

Nakshatra Sports Event

Our partner NGO, Bhumi organized the Nakshatra Sports Event, and Pudiyaador children participated in various categories such as track and field, indoor and outdoor games. It is worth highlighting that we utilized the resources within the community to train the children. Our children won prizes in Carrom and track events.



YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



Love n Lessons

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love and affection, and in Pudiyaador, young adults are encouraged to understand the meanings of the words "love" and "crush". The youth are encouraged to share their own meanings for each of the words, and a discussion is held about why knowing the difference between them is important. This module is designed to help young adults understand feelings and love, and to encourage them to think about the different ways in which they experience these emotions. By exploring the meanings of these words and discussing their own experiences, the youth can gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their relationships with others.



Social-Bonds

Palluyir Trust, the nature-based educational organisation kickstarted the Youth Climate Fellowship for beneficiaries at Pudiyaador at the start of this year. The 10-month fellowship will focus on sensitizing the youth about their communities' ecology and educating them about building sustainable environments. Our youth took part in a snake walk and a shore walk as a part of the fellowship and learnt more about natural spaces near their communities.



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.



Train the Teachers

At the end of every school academic year, the teachers at our organization participate in a teacher training camp. This is a time for teachers to come together and share their experiences, ideas, and learn new lessons and methodologies. The training camp is a great opportunity for teachers to learn from one another and grow as professionals. Some of the teachers have created lesson plans and lead the sessions, which allow them to share their expertise with their colleagues. At the end of the camp, the staff of Pudiyaador had a get-together. It was a great opportunity for everyone to bond and get to know each other better.

Book Reading

This year, as part of our teacher training programme, we introduced two new books: "Soozhalum Sathiyum" (Environment and Caste), a book on the effects of casteism on the environment and "Indiavin Jaathigal", which gives an understanding on the caste system in India. Both books were received well by the teachers, and the discussions that evolved from reading them were interesting and thought-provoking



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Our women empowerment program

Gentle Parenting Workshop for Men

Women who are a part of the Pudiyaador programs are familiar with the concepts of gentle parenting but they find it hard to implement, since spouses are not sensitized . This need inspired us to conduct a gentle parenting workshop for husbands. We were pleasantly surprised to receive a positive response from them, and feel encouraged to continue this series.



Women Take Control

In a society where women are often restricted from riding a two-wheeler, three women from our Ramapuram community have broken through this barrier. These women, who come from humble backgrounds, have shown great determination and perseverance in learning to ride a two-wheeler. This is a significant achievement, as it will allow them to travel more freely and independently.

Breast Cancer Awareness and Screening

A cancer awareness program was launched on May 2nd to create awareness about Breast, Cervical and Oral cancer. The session was handled by Dr. Premila from the Adyar Cancer Research Institute. She spoke about the symptoms of cancer and the importance of screening. About 26 women from the community participated in the program and registered for the screening.



Pudiyador Charitable Trust Projected Budget - 2023

Projected Budget for 2023 - 78.00 Lakh INR / 93,696 USD



Quarter 1 & 2: Jan-Jun

Projected amount to be raised:
40.00 Lakh INR / 48,049 USD

As of June 30, 2023

Total amount raised:
36.05 Lakh INR / 43,344 USD

Quarter 3: Jul-Sep

Projected amount to be raised:
18.00 Lakh INR / 21,622 USD

Total amount to be raised including
previous quarter deficit:
21.95 Lakh INR / 26,367 USD



Quarter 1 & 2 deficit
3.95 Lakh INR / 4744 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



Pudiyador



@pudiyador

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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