

Pudiyador Times

Issue 7, July 2011

**We're now a
family of
four!**



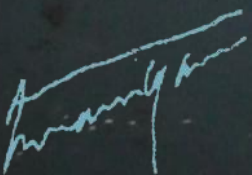
Hello, hello!

We have some wonderful news to share with you this quarter. Our long-time dream has finally come true: we have been welcomed into two new communities in Chennai, and now we're a family of four!

Introducing <drum roll> ...
Pudiyador Saligramam and
Pudiyador Olcott-Urur
Kuppam!

We have so much to share with you, and having to do that in just a few pages is hard, but we'll try anyway. Dive right in and read about the two new centers and feast your eyes on snapshots of all the things our children have been up to in the past 3 months. As always, we welcome your input and we look forward to sharing more about what our children are up to.

Hope you have a fantastic summer!





Here are the two new centers!

Pudiyador Ramapuram (PR) and Pudiyador Vannandurai (PV) are also shown below.

Pudiyador Saligramam

Supported by OPEN-India, this new Pudiyador center is located inside the premises of Cariappa Elementary School in Saligramam, Chennai. Spanning two classrooms dedicated for our use, the center hosts about 30 children who were identified as slow learners between ages 5-10. These children come from low-income urban slum communities in Saligramam. Their parents typically work as day laborers and domestic help, and are now thrilled to be part of the Pudiyador family, along with their children.

PS

Pudiyador Olcott Urur Kuppam

The indigenous fishing community of Urur Kuppam is located along the shores of the southern coast of Chennai (Elliot's beach, for those who are familiar). This new Pudiyador center is situated in the government-allocated community building at the threshold of this fisherman slum. Children from around thirty families are going to make the first batch of Pudiyador children from this community.

PR

PO

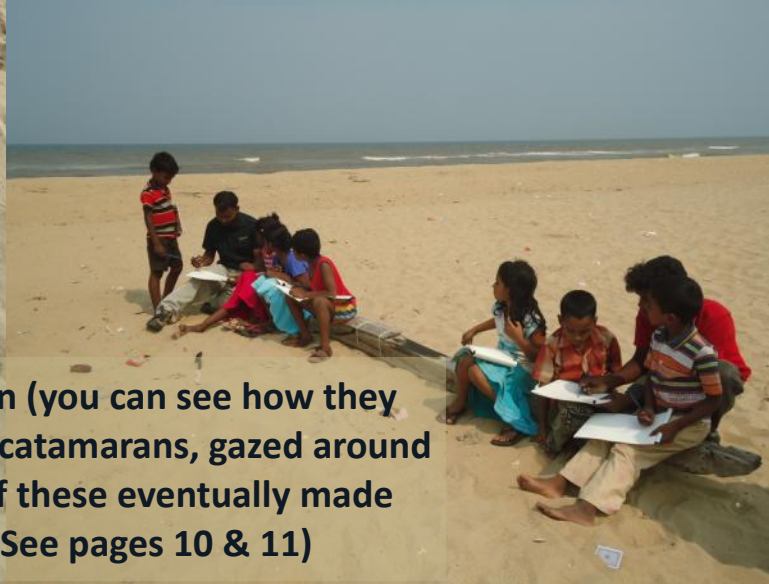
PV

Photo chronicles

There are a gazillion stories from the past 3 months that we'd love to share with you, but it will be close to impossible to do it all in one newsletter. We decided to stick to the old trick: a picture paints a thousand words. The following pages will give you glimpses of everything the children were up to, at all four centers, sometimes all at once :) Feel free to write to us at info@pudiyador.org if you want to know about anything in detail. For now, sit back, relax, and let your mouse pointer do the job!



Draw straight from the heart



The children were taken out for some fun in the sun (you can see how they don't quite mind the heat)! The little artists sat on catamarans, gazed around and drew anything that caught their fancy. Some of these eventually made their way onto the walls of our centers as murals! (See pages 10 & 11)

Get those hands dirty

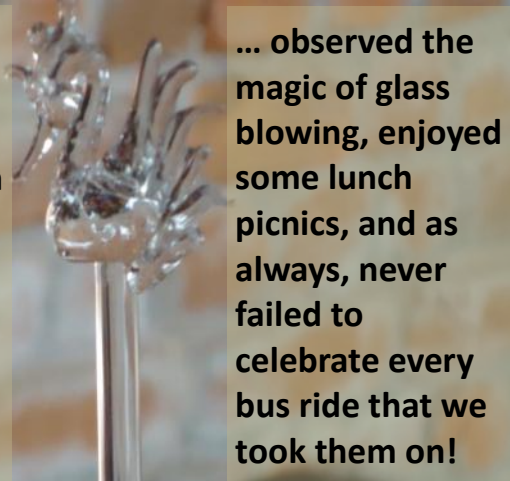


The kids had fun sinking their fingers into cool soft clay and making a variety of figurines fit to be placed in time capsules. You can see their world of babies and boats, fruits and farmers, cell phones and sea creatures, and also some strange things that are yet to come into existence.

Go out and see the world



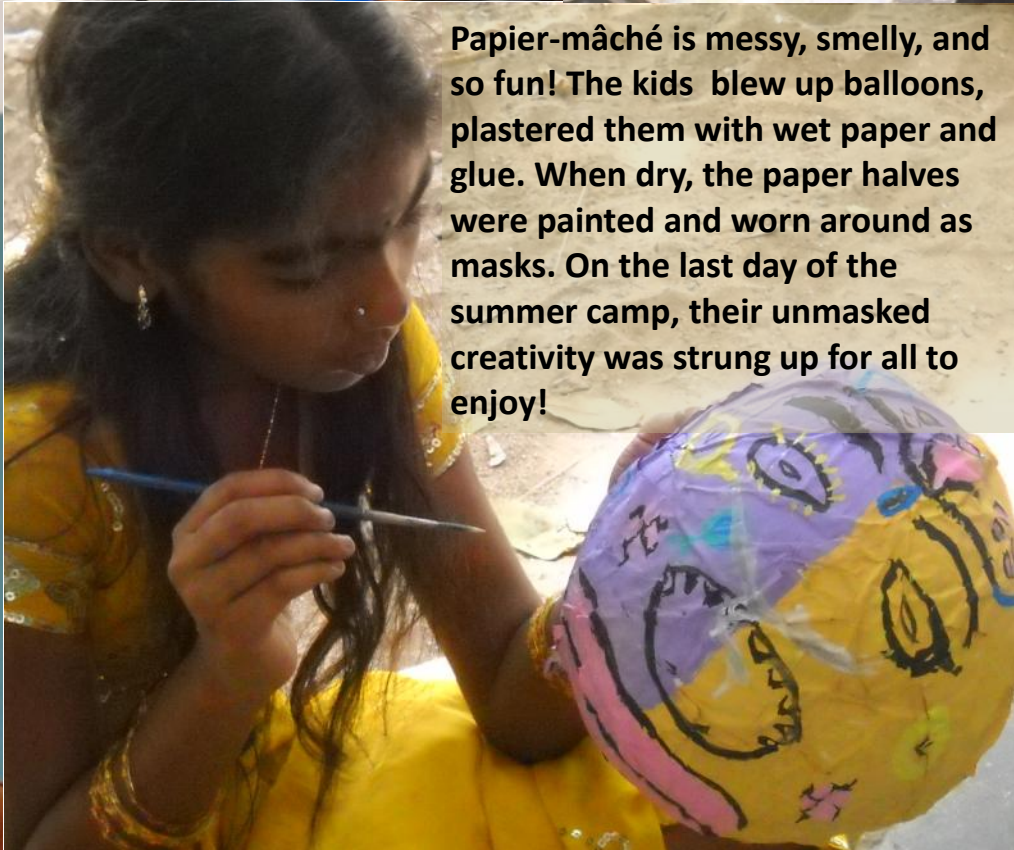
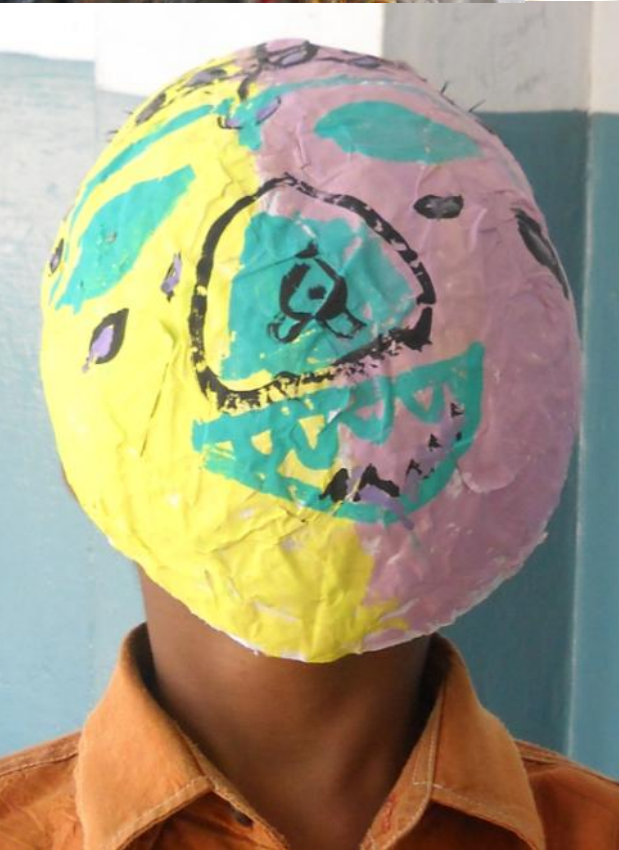
This summer was filled with learning and fun on the road! The kids hiked through a forest, visited some cool animals at the zoo, watched a shadow puppet show, tried their hand at a potter's wheel...



... observed the magic of glass blowing, enjoyed some lunch picnics, and as always, never failed to celebrate every bus ride that we took them on!



Don't mask the madness



Papier-mâché is messy, smelly, and so fun! The kids blew up balloons, plastered them with wet paper and glue. When dry, the paper halves were painted and worn around as masks. On the last day of the summer camp, their unmasked creativity was strung up for all to enjoy!

Dance like no one's watching



Professional dancers taught our children folk dances like Oyilattam and Thappattam, as well as the classical Bharatanatyam.

On the last days of summer camp, the kids didn't miss a beat to show off their own styles as well: everything from "filmy" to "disco" to "crazy".

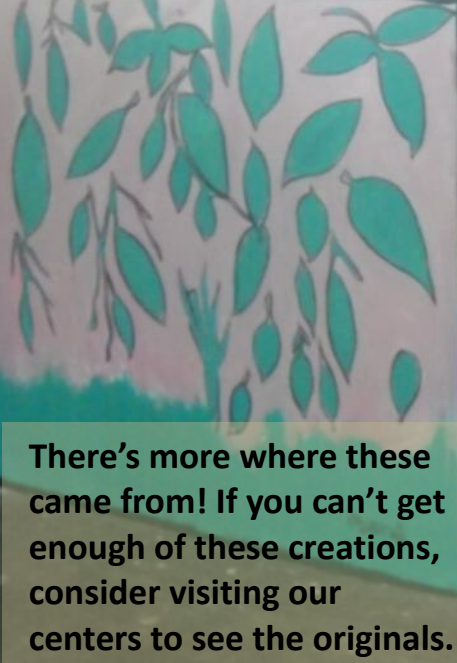
Live life in full color



We white-washed the walls. They drew with pencils, filled in acrylic colors, and transformed the centers into their own vibrant abode of color and fun. The beauty of wall-ownership has done wonders for their sense of responsibility and self-confidence.

New home, sweet home!

These barren walls were transformed into an art gallery in just a few days.



There's more where these came from! If you can't get enough of these creations, consider visiting our centers to see the originals.

Have you been wondering what *you* can do to help?



Volunteer!

Daily, weekly, monthly, one in a lifetime, any time!

- Help with school work
- Take kids on a field trip
- Hold sports/art/cultural events
- Teach them spoken English
- Interact with parents



We welcome donations

([PayPal](#), Cash, or Cheque)

- One-time or monthly
- We're a 501(c)(3) organization
- We also have FCRA clearance
- **All donations are tax-exempt**



Spread the word

- Partner us with other NGOs
- Ask your employer about CSR
- How about matching donations?

How can you help?

Here are our current & specific needs

1. Projector and speakers

- Skype classes are clearer on the big screen
- We also screen educational/fun movies

2. Reading material

- Books in English for ages 3-10
- Illustrated books for non-readers

3. Educational material

- Picture cards for innovative story telling
- Dictionaries (English and/or Tamil)
- Children's puzzles and activity books

4. Music and sports equipment

- We urgently need *veenas* and guitars
- Any other musical instrument
- Bats/balls/frisbee for group sports

5. Cameras and Camcorders

- Digital cameras to record activities and share between centers
- Camcorders for curriculum development and documentation

Contact our Program Manager

Ms. Saranya Rajendran
info@pudiyador.org
+91.99410.59312



We would love your feedback!

Our newsletter team would love to hear from you—after all, you are the reason our team exists! Please let us know what we can do to make this newsletter more informative and enjoyable. Or just drop a line to say hello :)

newsletter@pudiyador.org