



# Pudiyador Times

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# YAP & ASP Arts Festival



This month, children from the Young Adult Program of Pudiyaodor were able to creatively express their love of dancing in a public showcase. The idea was to have 2 events in a year where all Pudiyaodor centers participate together. Using all they had learned, the children put on an event starring street play, miming, fusion, singing, and dance. The children performed folk, classical, and hip hop dancing in front of huge crowds!







Children of the Young Adult Program put on a colorful show on traditional Indian folk dances. Wearing colorful clothing, the children performed a spectacular show, paying tribute to culture. The children learn lot of skills throughout the year, and this festival was an opportunity to showcase all those talents.

Traditional Indian folk dance, such as the one the children performed, is marked by its characteristics of vitality and energy, done normally during events of great importance. Appropriate attire is expected and represents original Indian clothing.







In addition to performing traditional Indian dances, the Young Adult Program also participated in modern dance and hip-hop. They performed based on Western and American styles. The After School Program gave their performance of hip-hop dance.



Hip hop originated in New York in the 1970s, and included breakdancing and highly energetic dance numbers. The children utilized all their energy into delivering a stellar show! Pudiador also invited parents, teachers, and volunteers to spectate!





Parai was also done by many of the Young Adult Program participants. Parai utilizes traditional Indian drums that must be heated over a fire. These drums are later used in the performance. Parai drums are some of the oldest in the history of Tamil Nadu.



Parai drums, in olden times, were used to convey messages of danger provide and communication. Parai is normally performed at important events such as weddings and temple festivals.





A few of the children of the After School Program also performed the Tamil art of Koothu. Koothu originated as far back as 200 BCE, and has been a traditional Tamil art for thousands of years. It is based on traditional, ancient Indian epics, such as the Ramayana and Mahabharatha.

Koothu is performed with no dialogue – they only sing!

The children sang with an energetic air and gave a fantastic performance for the audience.





Pudiyador would like to expand this event and encourage more community-based festivals. In the future, the goal would be to introduce a sort of "Olympics" for the children, with families and volunteers participating to make this event more memorable and fun.

Overall, the children had a superb time and Pudiyador looks forward to hosting another arts-inspired festival soon again!

# Quarter Highlights



One of our regular volunteers, Suma, started a pen pal project with 20 children from Pudiyador matched with children from the US. The children have been sharing letters regularly and are fast becoming thick friends!

We created a new role in Pudiyador: teacher trainer. The trainer helps our teachers brush up on their subject knowledge, pick up strategies to handle difficult situations, and learn teaching techniques that directly benefit our children.



Mhary, from The Good Earth school in Naduveerapattu, spent a month with us. It was a wonderful experience for all involved. She taught English lessons for both the children as well as the staff.

At the End of the Mid Term Camp we all went to Naduveerapattu in return! It was a field trip and performance for the villagers rolled into one.

