



 pudiyador times

56TH EDITION  
OCT-DEC  
2023

# Our President's Message

Dear Pudiyador family,

As we bid farewell to 2023, I am filled with a sense of pride and admiration for our collective resilience in the face of adversity. Despite the challenges posed by Cyclone Michuang and other trials, our community has stood tall, united in our mission to create positive change.

Within the pages of this edition, you'll find glimpses of our evolving programs, tailored to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. Each story and image shared here speaks volumes about the transformative power of our work.

May the stories of empowerment and progress ignite hope and inspiration within you as we embark on a new year together.

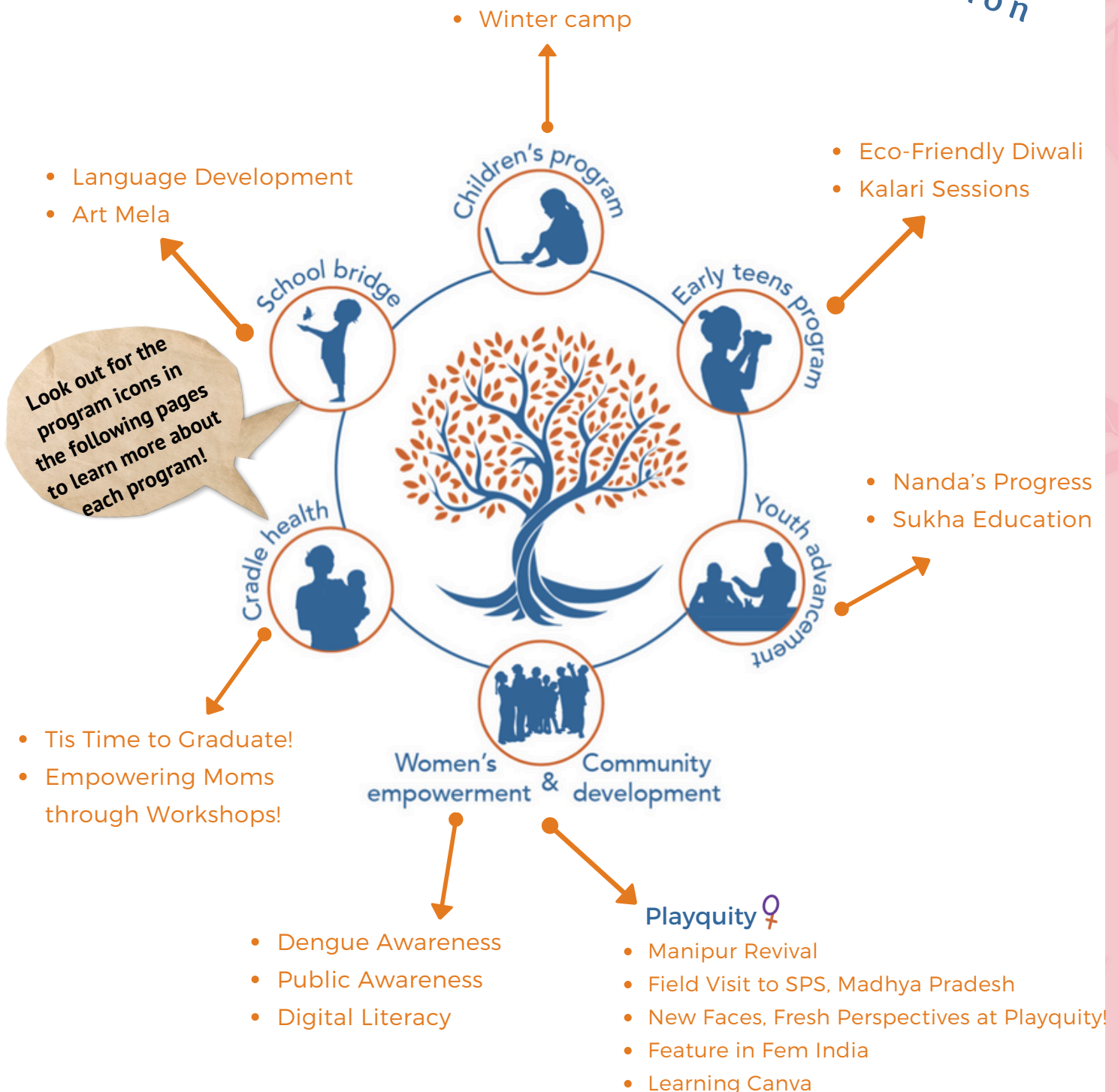
With love,  
Swapnaa



# '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.

*In this edition*





# HIGHLIGHTS

## CHILDREN'S DAY

We make sure to capitalize on every celebration that is "child-centered" and that was the case, this Children's day as well. Children's day was celebrated across all our centers in the month of November. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the fun activities and special snacks that were arranged for them. Words and Pictures fail to capture the loud noises, the never-ending laughter and friendly banter that marks days such as this one.



## HELPING HANDS

**Siruthuli Peruvellam** (*Little drops of water make the mighty ocean*), is a by-product of the Early Teen Program's **Child Parliament** project. Over the course of two months, children collected 25 kg's of rice for an old age home. Recently, they visited Maria's Old Age Home in Chennai donating rice, performing a drama, and bonding with the elderly. Our teenagers empathized with the elderly, prayed over their ailments and even offered to visit them from time to time in order to give them company. The whole encounter melted all of our hearts.



## TEACHERS BOND

Our teachers' annual excursion brought us to Palaverkadu, a mere 60km from Chennai. From lively travels to heartfelt moments on the river, singing, and collecting seashells, to sharing meals and shopping for fish, this trip was unforgettable. It's these memories that bond us as a team that takes actions for others and the society.



## CYCLONE MICHUANG



Condition of the homes where the beneficiaries live and the broken wall of one of our learning centers.

Relief kit provided to beneficiaries

While natural calamities wreak havoc, they have always created opportunities for people to stand together. The livelihood of Pudiyaador's beneficiaries were affected due to the Cyclone Michuung that hit Chennai, the first week of December. We decided to provide them with a relief kit containing basic provisions. Harini Balasubramaniam, a well wisher & donor and the Acsen foundation, Coimbatore came forward to sponsor these kits for 300 families. We are indebted to their support, that came in as a timely answer to the existing crisis.

## WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT SESSION



Women's Parliament session was conducted for Pudiyaador's women by Saravanan, who is a member of the Ground team. This session was organised to make the women politically aware and to highlight the importance of an individual's role in the election of a government. The women participated with interest and were keen to know about the functioning of our government.



# CRADLE HEALTH

For our expectant/new mothers and their infants



## Tis Time to Graduate!

This quarter's graduation ceremony was attended by spouses of the women who are part of our Cradle program. The men cheered their wives who were appreciated for their participation and attendance. They also shared feedback on how the Cradle Program has been useful in educating their wives and were happy about the impact of this program on infants and their families.



## Empowering Moms through Workshops!



This quarter, we held workshops covering various topics: the significance of mother groups, infant development milestones and concerns, understanding infant skin color, infant care, maternal mental health, and awareness sessions on dengue, typhoid, PCOD, thyroid issues, and infant seizures. These workshops aimed to raise awareness, facilitate important discussions, and empower mothers to make informed health decisions.



# SCHOOL BRIDGE

For our toddlers between ages 3-5 years



## Language Development

Language development plays a crucial role in the early years of a child's education. In our School Bridge program, Teacher Meena employs a variety of engaging activities aimed at fostering language development. These activities include letter recognition, exploring letter sounds, and interactive word enactment. The children enjoy learning both their native language and a second language. The highlight of these activities is that Meena utilizes readily available materials found within the children's environment.



## Art Mela

An Art Mela was organized at Pudiyaador, creating a space for children aged 3 and 5 to make art. The vibrant hues of creativity filled the atmosphere as children from Ramapuram and Besant Nagar eagerly participated in this event. What made this occasion truly special was our invitation to parents to actively engage in teaching and helping their children. Enthusiastic parents shared the joy of doing artwork with their little ones.





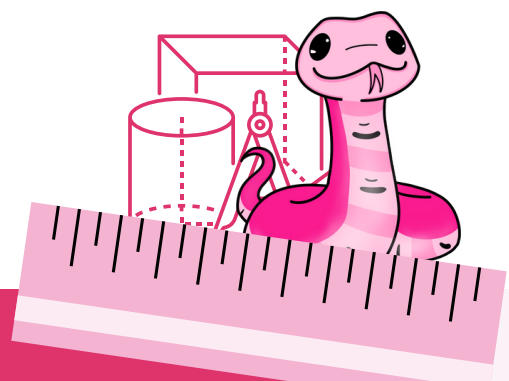
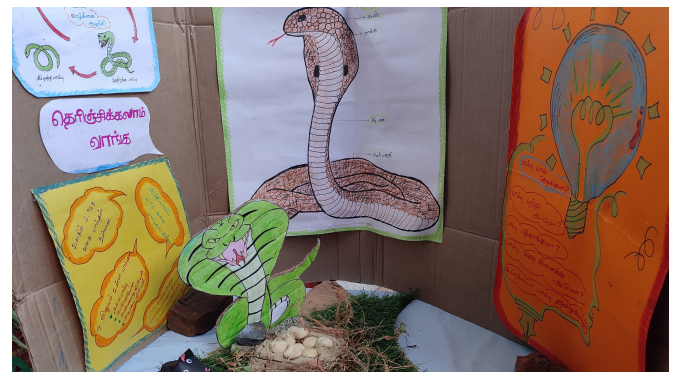
# CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For children between 5-10 years



## Winter camp

In December, a winter camp was organized for the children. During this camp, children learnt and practiced Oyilattam (folk dance) and drama, preparing for their performances leading up to the upcoming community fest and Pongal (a harvest festival celebrated by the Tamil community) celebration in January. Additionally, the children were encouraged to showcase their projects on snakes and math during the event.





# EARLY TEENS PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 11-14 years



## Eco-Friendly Diwali

In November, a session was held where children explored the 'Diwali we know' ( Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, usually celebrated by people gathering together to burst crackers) versus 'Diwali we don't know' (The harmful impact of the production and usage of crackers on the environment) through photo displays. Discussions covered air pollution, the impact of crackers on the environment and health, and the livelihoods of people in Sivakasi (which is known as the firecracker hub of India, as it produces over 90% of the country's fireworks). The children openly shared their thoughts on avoiding crackers this Diwali. Some plan to continue, while others aim to gradually reduce or stop altogether, reflecting a growing awareness and commitment to environmental conservation.

## Kalari Sessions

Nithish, a former teacher, conducted a Kalari (an Indian martial art) session during our Summer Camp 2023. Encouraged by teen interest, he's now conducting regular Saturday sessions which started in October, training teenagers from the Besant Nagar community. This initiative aims to enhance physical growth through professional art forms or sports.





# YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



## Nanda's Progress

Nanda's journey is nothing short of inspiring. He started with us at Pudiyador when he was just a little kid. Born into a modest family, Nanda's aspirations soared beyond his circumstances. Thara, a Pudiyador Volunteer, saw his potential and took him under her wing. She helped him study for three whole months to ace the Freshworks STS Software Academy (FSSA) entrance exam, on the completion of which he became an intern there. After 2 years of internship with FSSA, he landed a job at a software company in Coimbatore and is currently working there! Nanda's journey is proof that no dream is too big when you've got people cheering you on.



## Sukha Education

To bring in a formal method of Spoken English to the youth, we partnered with Sukha Education Foundation, a non-profit that aims to teach communicative English through creative ways and bridge the gap between education and employability. Thanks to this partnership with Sukha, Pudiyador's youth have formal training in Spoken English. Through this avenue, the youth are prepared for opportunities in the outside world.





# 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.**

## Unveiling Snake Secrets

In our recent Environmental Education training, teachers embarked on a snake walk led by Kaali and the Irula cooperative. Exploring the habits of Yellow rat snakes, Wolf Snakes, and Common Bronzeback Tree Snakes, teachers gained firsthand insights. Kaali's expertise debunked myths, empowering teachers with accurate knowledge. It was an enlightening session, reinforcing our commitment to environmental education.



## Better Clicks

A photography workshop was conducted for all our teachers by CPB (Chennai Photo Biennale) Prism, an initiative to empower communities by teaching photography skills. The aim of this workshop was to up skill the teachers to take good photographs. The special focus of the training was on - How to tell strong visual stories through photographs. The engaging workshop equipped the teachers to click better.

## Farm Visit

The teachers visited Epic Farm (an initiative to promote sustainable agriculture, livelihood and lifestyles. It was conceptualized by Santha Sheela Nair, IAS, former Secretary to the Government of India) in Padur. It was an enlightening experience of gaining knowledge, understanding how to live sustainably with Eco-friendly practices and to make productive use of nature's resources.





# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Our women empowerment program



## Dengue Awareness

A Dengue awareness program was conducted by a government doctor Ms Kalyani. The program was extremely useful for all women and they participated by creating awareness program charts. The women learnt about the dangers of dengue, its implications and preventive measures.



## Public Awareness

Mr. Mohan, the resource person from FEMA organization, conducted a workshop on government schemes explaining various government schemes. Eager women clarified their queries by asking thoughtful questions. Programs such as these empower our women with knowledge which then enables them to take guided decisions.



## Digital Literacy

Women from our Ramapuram program site expressed interest in taking up digital literacy classes. And with Raksha, a Pudiador volunteer leading the way, we've 7 women who have started taking up these classes regularly. This is a highlight because digital accessibility continues to elude many communities.





# PLAYQUITY

Building equity through play by  
inverting gender roles



## Manipur Revival

In May 2023, ethnic violence shook Manipur, leaving behind devastation. The teams that the Playquity team had worked with for a year, were displaced and had to relocate. Despite the challenges, Playquity's partner organizations, including Centre for Women and Girls (CWG), Inside-NE, and MANEDA, stood strong. Through activities like spirit circles and team-building exercises, the organizations strive to heal and uplift communities, especially women and children affected by violence. We hope that the communities heal and grow together soon.



## Field Visit to SPS, Madhya Pradesh

To break into new community sites and to discover hidden potential, especially in young women forms a major part of the work done at Playquity. Recently, Aashritha and Jyoti, from the Playquity team visited Samaj Pragati Sahyog (SPS), our partner NGO in Madhya Pradesh. While monitoring and evaluation of this community site, formed one aspect of their visit. The other important purpose was to empower the new additions in the team.





# PLAYQUITY

Building equity through play by  
inverting gender roles



## New Faces, Fresh Perspectives at Playquity!

We're delighted to welcome Tushika and Aashritha to the Playquity family, joining our team alongside Jyoti. Tushika, our Director of Operations since August 2023, brings valuable non-profit expertise to drive impactful change. Aashritha joined us in October 2023 as an AIF (American India Fellowship) Fellow, contributing her skills through our partnership with the AIF Banyan Impacted Fellowship.



Tushika



Aashritha

## We got featured

Grateful to have our work featured on Feminism in India, a digital intersectional feminist media organization. Through this article, we got a chance to share how the Playquity project functions and empowers young girls using Ultimate Frisbee.

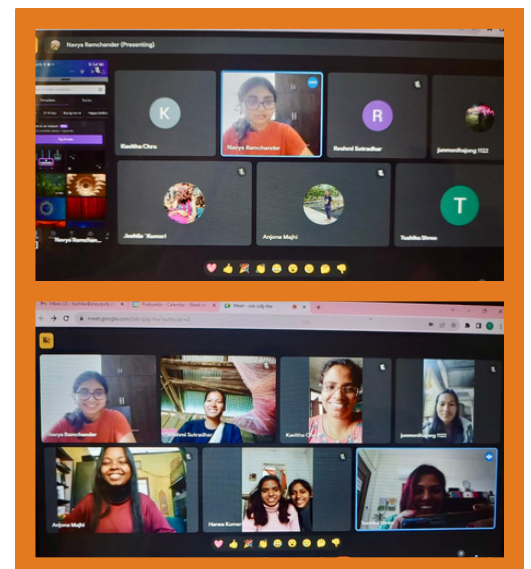
Read the article here:

[https://feminisminindia.com/2023/12/11/gender-equity-through-play-pudiyadors-playquity-empowered-by-aifs-banyan-impact-fellowship/?utm\\_source=canva&utm\\_medium=iframe](https://feminisminindia.com/2023/12/11/gender-equity-through-play-pudiyadors-playquity-empowered-by-aifs-banyan-impact-fellowship/?utm_source=canva&utm_medium=iframe)



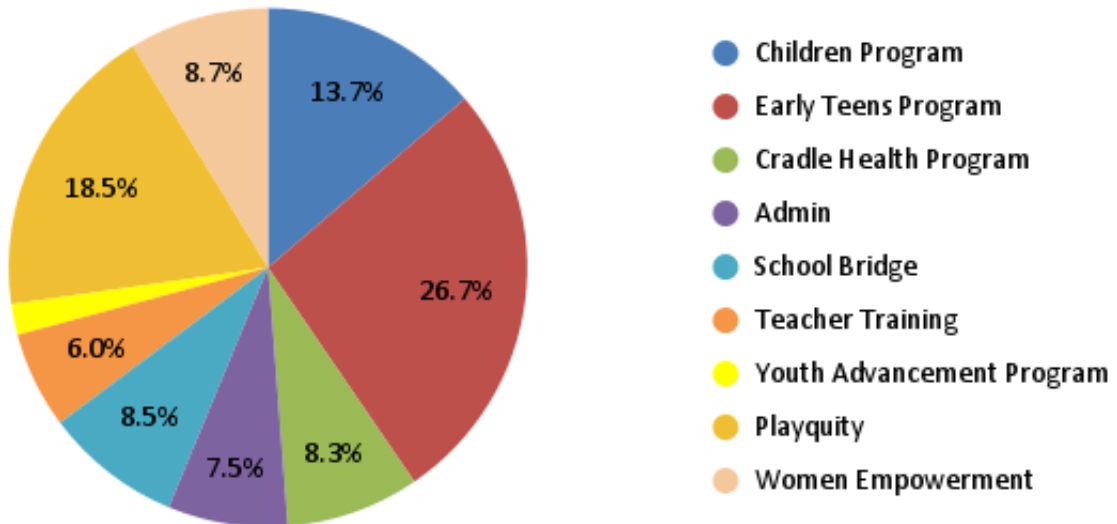
## Learning Canva

Navya, a 17 year old teenager from Chennai, India, has been teaching our Coaches-in-training (CIT's) Canva, once a week. She is helping them learn photo/video editing and poster making. We are excited to see the girls put their newly acquired skills into use. Going forward the CITs will also learn MS Excel and MS Word.



# FINANCIALS

## Reported Budget for 2023 - Programwise expenses from Jan'23 to Dec'23



**Projected Budget for 2024** - 78.00 Lakh INR / 93690 USD



### Quarter 1: Jan-Mar 2024

Projected amount to be raised:

**20.00 Lakh INR / 24023 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



Playquity



@playquitysocial



Playquity

## 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!



For more information, contact us at:

**Phone** +91-8807607041

**Website** <https://pudiyador.org>

**Email** [info@pudiyador.org](mailto:info@pudiyador.org)