



 pudiyador times





The President's Message

Dear Pudiyador family,

What do the words "summer holidays" evoke? Visits to see cousins and grandparents? Endless days of play broken only by meals and naps? Enjoying the bounty of nature with one delicious fruit after the other coming "in season"? As you reminisce, we invite you to delve into Pudiyador summer.

Our summer plans are not just focussed on the children, but on all the people who enrich their lives as well. Like their siblings, mothers, teachers, and the larger community!

Read about our toddlers making tie-dye tees, children rescuing sea turtle hatchlings, teens going on their first forest hike, and our youth offering their skills at a summer camp outside Pudiyador! Our community women created their own women's parliament and our teachers got to take a break and share their time, meals, and love with each other and get rejuvenated for the next year. Finally, you'll get to read all about how our Playquity women from across India are crushing language and caste barriers.

We'd love to hear what your favorite summer activities were. Do write to us and inspire us to steal some ideas from your lives!

With love,
Swapnaa



ABOUT PUDIYADOR

Pudiyador ("anew" in Tamil) is a community-based educational organization that caters to marginalised communities across India. Our goal is to enable all children, women and communities to act as engines of their own empowerment through access to relevant education, quality healthcare, and meaningful employment. Through our six programs, we operate using a cradle-to-college-to-community approach, supporting individuals at every stage of their development.

CRADLE → COLLEGE → COMMUNITY

IN THIS EDITION



WATCH FOR
PROGRAM ICONS
TO DISCOVER
WHAT HAPPENED
IN EACH
PROGRAM.

PUDIYADOR-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

DALIT HISTORY MONTH

April brings with it stories often left untold, Dalit History Month is our space to bring them to light. Many of our children come from oppressed communities but grow up unaware of their histories, especially in urban settings. Through the month-long celebration, we help them understand their identity and history. This year's theme, *Dalit and Education*, guided conversations through film screenings, storytelling, discussions, and performances, with a special focus on how caste-based discrimination continues to affect students in schools. Children and women participated actively, learning, preparing, engaging, and performing through various mediums during the final celebration. The closing ceremony featured two eminent activists, G.Selva, Geo Damin and Jeyarani whose inspiring speeches emphasized that education and awareness are essential tools for resistance and change.



SUMMER CAMP

In May, all Pudiyador programs come alive with Summer Camp, a joyful time for children and women to learn, have fun, and explore in new ways. For our youngest group, the Cradle Program, the camp was full of hands-on fun with a nature scavenger hunt, bracelet making, and a no-fire cooking session where the children made tasty choco balls. The week's highlight was a field trip to Guindy National Park, sparking wonder and curiosity about the animals and trees around them.



PUDIYADOR-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER CAMP

Kids from the Children's Program enjoyed puppet making, cyanotype printing, acting games, and shadow drawing. A Halloween party added spooky fun, and the trip to Guindy National Park gave them time to play and connect outdoors.



Thirty teens from the Early Teens Program took a trek to Gudiyam Caves in Thiruvallur many for their first forest trek! The caves, once home to our ancestors 200,000 years ago, still hold stone tool remnants. It was an adventurous, educational experience that sparked curiosity.



Our women also enjoyed a 5-day summer camp learning mehndi, mat weaving, and saree pleating, led by women volunteers from the community. A total of 10 beneficiaries participated, coming together to learn new skills and have fun.



Such off-academic programs unlock hidden talents, build confidence, and deepen the children's and women's connection to their environment and heritage, laying the foundation for empowered, engaged community members.

PUDIYADOR-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

GRADUATION DAY

Starting a new year at Pudiyaador is filled with hope but also harsh realities. Too many children drop out of school, not because they want to, but because their families face constant upheaval moving homes, losing jobs, or struggling to make ends meet. When survival is at stake, education often becomes the last priority. That's why moments like these matter deeply to us.



In the pictures: Kids from the School Bridge Program graduating into the Children's Program.



This year, 24 children across our two zones of operation in Chennai, Tamil Nadu successfully graduated to the next stage of their learning. In a simple ceremony, we honored their hard work with mentions and gifts. Seeing parents proud of their children's progress reminds us why this work is so crucial. Every day, we put in our best effort to support each child to stay in school, even when it's tough.



In the pictures: These young minds are graduating from the Children's Program and moving into the Early Teen's and Youth programs.

CRADLE HEALTH

A program for expectant/new mothers and their infants



POSTPARTUM CARE

In April, we partnered with Andhra Hospital and Andhra Medical College students to conduct an awareness session focused on postpartum physical and mental health. The collaboration was further enhanced by the involvement of health professionals like Nurse Deepa, Dr. Meera, and Shalini from Andhra Hospital, who provided expert guidance and support to our mothers.



MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Maternal mental health is crucial for the well-being of both mothers and their children. The women that we work with often don't have the chance to understand or talk about their emotional well-being. To mark Maternal Mental Health Week in May, 15 mothers joined a Cradle Health session to talk about their feelings and answer 21 well-being questions. Everyone was in a safe range, and we flagged a few early signs to watch and individual follow-ups were planned to ensure continued care and support where needed.

POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AWARENESS

In June, a session on postpartum depression was held by a Anganwadi (government-sponsored child care and mother care initiative in India) staff to help new mothers understand this common condition. Many young mothers have never been exposed to information about mental health after childbirth. Through the session they learned to spot signs like sadness, anxiety, or trouble bonding with their baby. The session covered causes, treatment options, and coping tips like self-care and support networks. It offered a safe space for mothers to talk and learn about mental health after childbirth.



SCHOOL BRIDGE

For our toddlers between ages 3-5 years



COMMUNITY VISIT

We visited parents of 3–5-year-old children in the Ururkuppam community with a set of questions aimed at understanding how children respond emotionally in different situations. The conversations were eye-opening, offering deep insights into how parents from the community perceive and handle their children's emotional needs. It was a meaningful exchange that helped us better connect with family experiences and support emotional development.

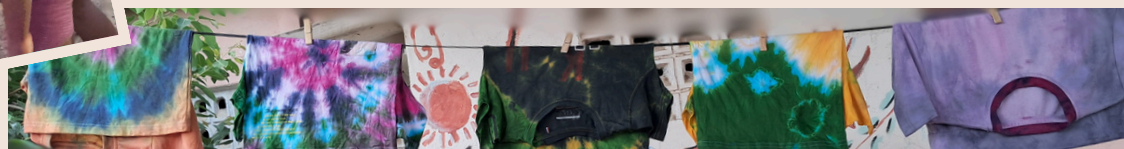
SESSION ON MANAGING TANTRUMS

We hosted a parenting session focused on managing tantrums in toddlers and young children. Two parents participated and openly shared their experiences, offering honest insights into how they handle challenging moments with their children. It was a session that helped us better understand the everyday struggles parents face and how we can support them more effectively.



TIE & DYE

Our toddlers got hands-on with a fun tie-dye activity, watching colors mix and patterns take shape. It was a simple yet exciting way for them to explore creativity and try something new. Activities like this help build fine motor skills while making learning enjoyable.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For children between 5-10 years



SEA TURTLE STORIES

As part of our annual tradition, the children visited Besant Nagar beach in April to see Olive Ridley sea turtle hatchlings. Volunteers from the Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN) led a short session on sea turtle conservation. Through simple storytelling, the children learned how turtles nest, hatch, and return to the sea. Soon after, they began discussing among themselves how mother turtles nest and even acted it out. As the hatchlings entered the sea, the children shouted "bye!" and continued talking about how the turtles grow and return to lay eggs. A simple session — but one that clearly left a lasting impression.



YOUNG VOLUNTEER TALES

In May, Saina, one of our young volunteers from Australia, returned to India for her summer break along with her sister, Krisha. Rather than simply spending time off, they chose to use their talents to give back in a beautiful way. The duo led an engaging storytelling and dance session with our children. It was touching to see how they connected with the children, even without sharing the same language. Saina also shared how deeply Pudiyador has influenced her personal journey, especially in shaping her commitment to advocacy and community service. Her story is a testament to how giving back often gives us even more in return.



EARLY TEENS PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 11-14 years



FRESHERS DAY

At the start of each new academic year in June, Freshers Day is a special tradition at the Early Teens Program (ETP) to welcome new teenagers both those graduating from the Children's Program and new admissions. This year's event was both fun and engaging. As usual, the older teenagers took charge of planning the day, they surprised us with thoughtful games and activities, which they executed well for their juniors. It was a great way to build connections and welcome new members warmly.

ENVIRONMENT DAY

Every year, Early Teens Program marks World Environment Day to raise awareness among teenagers about environmental issues. This year's UN theme was "Plastic Pollution," and we focused specifically on microplastics and their impact on humans and biodiversity. The teachers took the lead in organizing this year's celebration, planning the session with engaging activities and informative videos to help teenagers understand the seriousness of the issue. The teenagers were noticeably impacted by the session, with some even suggesting ways to reduce plastic use in their daily lives.



YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



YOUNG VOICES, BOLD STAGES



Our youth have embarked on an inspiring journey of expression and activism through theater and street plays, using their voices to raise awareness on critical social issues. It began with the impactful debut of *The Modern Ekalaivan* (a retelling of a mythological figure, silenced by injustice) at the Dalit History Month celebrations. The play that explores Dalit education and discrimination. Guided by mentors Isai and Maanasi, our young performers connected deeply with the themes, grounding their performance in real-life experiences and thoughtful questions.



Following this, PudiyaDor youth brought *The Modern Ekalaivan* to Kattur during the inaugural summer camp organized by Zenith Learning Center and AGAI – Theater of Voices. The camp, offering English, arts, theater, and life skills, aims to open new doors for children in this long-marginalized community. Our youth were proud to be part of this meaningful start, continuing their journey of storytelling and empowerment.

YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



On Labour Day, the youth stepped onto the stage once again at an event by Peechangai Study Circle, performing a drama focused on labor rights and the urgent need for unions. Alongside workers from diverse sectors, they used their voices to stand in solidarity with workers' struggles and hopes, highlighting the importance of justice and equality.



Pudiyador's youth also took the stage at the Chennai Street Play Festival 2025 with *Neeraadhipathiyam* (Water imperialism), a powerful street play addressing Dalit oppression related to land and water rights. Performing alongside seven other inspiring teams, our young artists continued to push boundaries and provoke conversation through bold, grassroots storytelling. We are deeply grateful to kaeltheatre for creating this platform for such meaningful art.



Through their art, our youth are proving that storytelling is a powerful tool for change, giving voice to the unheard and inspiring a movement toward justice.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Our women empowerment program



WOMEN PARLIAMENT

For the first time, we hosted a mock parliament at our Ramapuram learning center giving women from the community a space to imagine themselves in leadership. The session sparked lively discussions as women shared the issues they face. Chief Guest Paul Pradeep, a fitness coach and community motivator, spoke about the power of participation. We hope to build on this momentum and help more women understand their political responsibility to dialogue and vote.



BUILDING DIGITAL CONFIDENCE

Through our Women's Program, we run small, steady initiatives to help women stand on their own — and learning digital skills is one important step. From overcoming fear to slowly navigating phones, apps, and computers, it's a journey. This time, we're grateful to Anuradha Narayanan, a tech professional who now volunteers with us, patiently guiding the women and helping make the digital world feel just a little more welcoming.



PLAYQUITY

Building equity through play by inverting gender roles



SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASSES

The digital world, too, can be a powerful tool for equity because it isn't just built on play, but on every skill shared and every barrier broken. Navya, a Pudiyaador volunteer for the past two years, began by teaching Canva and digital tools virtually to our Coaches-in-Training. Today, she's leading spoken English sessions, helping young women step into confidence and clearer communication. It's the passion and consistency of volunteers like Navya that sustain our programs and amplify the voices of young women rising as leaders in their communities and beyond.

A COACH'S COURAGE

Coach Kavitha has been championing Playquity's vision for over three years in her village, Arasampattu, Tamil Nadu, and the neighbouring village, Kottupakkam, where she leads two cohorts of 20 girls each. In these two communities, where caste barriers often prevent girls from different backgrounds from even meeting, her sessions have quietly but powerfully brought them together. This summer, on her own initiative, she organized a girls' tournament between the two villages planning the event, promoting it, managing the matches, and even preparing certificates for the participants. Who would have thought a frisbee could bridge deep-rooted divides and open doors for young girls!



HEALTH CHECK-UP

At Playquity, building leadership through play is just one part of our mission. Many of the girls we work with face neglect and limited care and that's why we focus on caring for the whole girl. This year, with support from our partners across five states, we organized health check-ups for over 300 girls. These check-ups were conducted by coordinating with village medical officers, helping us identify if any girl needs special medical attention, medication, or improved nutrition. We're happy to report that most of the girls were found to be fit and healthy, showing that our health and nutrition initiatives are making a real difference.



TEACHER TRAINING

Our training program for teachers from all programs



TEACHERS, LEARN!

Every year, our teachers come together for a training camp a space to learn, reflect, and grow as a team. This time, for the Children's Program, we explored storytelling and voice modulation, planned the Tamil and Math curriculum for the next quarter, and discussed how children learn best. We also looked at alternatives to punishment, always aiming to teach with care and empathy. These camps help teachers better support the dynamic, ever-evolving needs of children and in the process, discover more about themselves as educators and individuals.



END-OF-YEAR STAFF GATHERING

To mark the end of the academic year, we brought together all Pudiyaador staff for a simple get-together, a moment to pause, connect, and celebrate. Teachers and team members were divided into teams to cook a meal together, ghee rice, paneer butter masala, and jelly custard. Sharing food and laughter, the day ended with a movie screening and light-hearted fun, reminding us how community care helps us reset before the break.



Pudhiyadhur Charitable Trust

Projected Budget - 2025

Projected Budget for 2025 - 78.00 Lakh INR / 88,497 USD



Quarter 2 : Apr-Jun

Projected amount to be raised:

18.00 Lakh INR / 20,435 USD

As of June 30, 2025

Total amount raised:

4.56 Lakh INR / 5,185 USD



Quarter 2 deficit

13.43 Lakh INR / 15,250 USD



Quarter 3: Jul-Sep

Projected amount to be raised:

20.00 Lakh INR / 22,706 USD

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE



From one story to many – help us write the next chapter

DONATE



Your contributions keep Pudiyaador's work going—whether it's rations for families, salaries for community teachers, or programs for kids, youth, and women.

<https://www.pudiyaador.org/donate>

VOLUNTEER



Share your time and skills with our children—teach, mentor, or just connect. In-person or online, your presence makes a difference!

www.pudiyaador.org/volunteer

FOLLOW



www.pudiyaador.org

CONNECT



Know an NGO, company, or institution that shares our vision? Introduce us—we'd love to collaborate and grow together.

info@pudiyaador.org