

EVENING STUDY CENTERS

DR. AMBEDKAR CULTURAL ACADEMY

Mandela Nagar, Madurai-22, TN, India

1. PLANNING FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023:

We had the academic planning meeting for 2022-2023 with the 5 zonal coordinators of the Evening Study Centres (ESCs) on 29th June, 2022. Sch Praveen, the State coordinator of ESCs moderated the meeting where the various goals and plans for the year were elaborately discussed. On 7th August, 2022, we had one day Orientation Programme for both Zonal Coordinators and Animators of ESCs. We had deliberations on three important topics namely preparing children for the school level Competitive Exams, participation in Community Development and successful conduction of Children Parliament. Apart from discussing these topics, we came out with some concrete action plans.

2. ACTION PLANS:

1. Establishment of Children's Parliament in all 100 Centers.
2. Initiating Clean and Green schemes in 80 villages at least.
3. Motivating nearly 80 children to appear for NMMS Exams.
4. Inspiring many more children to receive Fr. Marianathan and Fr. Francis P. Xavier awards.
5. Encouraging nearly 500 children to participate in the Science Exhibition 2022.
6. Motivating 1500 children to take part in the Quiz Contest 2023.
7. Teaching our children a Social Awareness Song in every month.
8. Stimulating 100 centres to present petitions to government officials for the basic needs of the village.
9. Publishing two editions of *Thalirgali Purachikathir* in 2022-23.
10. Planting 2000 tree saplings in the common places of our villages.
11. Helping 3000 Children to learn their subjects in a suitable ambience.

3. THREE DIMENSIONAL OBJECTIVES:

All the activities of our centers have been inspired by three objectives namely Educational Development (ED), Personality Development (PD) and Community Development (CD). In other words, all our activities are classified under these three objectives.

4. GENERALIA:

We are operating in five zones namely Madurai, Muthukulathur, Sathur, Kovilpatti and Tirunelveli. Each zone takes care of 20 centers in 20 different villages. Zonal level activities are regularly monitored by Zonal Coordinators and Center level activities by Animators. For the academic year 2022-2023, there were 2700 children enrolled in our centers. Every day our centers functioned for about two hours and offered various opportunities for our Children to grow in the three directional objectives. Here we would like to illustrate major activities carried out in the year 2022-2023 under the above mentioned objectives.



THE AWARDEES OF THE YEAR 2022-2023

5. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ED):

Under educational development, apart from regular classes and trainings, we did activities such as Science Exhibition, Quiz Contest, Fr. Francis Xavier Award and Fr. Marianathan Award.

5.A. SCIENCE EXHIBITION:

The Science Exhibition was conducted in the name of Science Festival in the month of September and October 2022 on different dates. This event had truly created a space for our Children to bring out their scientific thinking in the form of concrete projects and to exhibit them in front of the public. There were around 546 students from 98 villages actively participated in this event. This year the students used many electronic and motorized type of equipments in their projects. Many projects were indeed creative and beyond their capacity that struck the attention of the audience.

NAME OF THE ZONE	NO. OF ESCs	NO. OF STUDENTS	DATE	PRIZE WINNERS
MADURAI	20	125	18.09.2022	1st- Keezhakottai 2nd- Manthiriodai -2 3rd- Kusavankundu -1
MUDUKULATUR	20	112	18.09.2022	1st- Karumal 2nd- Maruthagam 3rd- Kumarakurichi
SATTUR	17	100	02.10.2022	1st- Kiliyampatti 2nd- Anna Nagar -1 3rd- Kunnur
KOVILPATTI	20	100	02.10.2022	1st- Keezhneelethanallur, 2nd- Pazhayaappaneri 3rd- Keezhakalangal
THIRUNELVELI	21	109	04.09.2022	1st- Unnakulam, 2nd- Kadambankulam 3rd- Nochikulam
Total	98	546		



THE CHILDREN EXHIBITING THE SCIENCE PROJECTS AT MADURAI ZONE

5.B. KNOWLEDGE FEST:

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, DACA conducted the Knowledge Fest only at the zonal levels. But this year, it conducted the event in both Zonal and State levels. In preparation for the event, we distributed 700 questions to our children. All the questions were purposefully taken and compiled from their text books in view of preparing them for the competitive exams. The questions were from the field of Tamil (Poetry, Prose and Grammar), Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), Social Science (History, Civics and Geography) and the biography of Ambedkar. Two full months were given for the preparation before the actual event.

The first phase of the quiz competition in the Zonal level was held in the month of November and December 2022 on various dates. Nearly 747 students from 96 villages took part in the Zonal event. The centers which won the zonal contest in the first two places were called out for the State level contest. The State level contest was held on 08th Jan, 2023 and in which 81 students from 10 centers participated. For the State contest, the questions were displayed through projector. The quiz rounds were creative, innovative and mind blowing. The winners were awarded with Medals, certificate and prizes. The rest of the participants were awarded with colorful consolation prizes.

ZONE	NO. CENTERS PARTICIPATED	CHILDREN PARTICIPATED	DATE	THE LIST OF WINNERS
MADURAI	20	143	04.12.2022	1st- Kuthiraikuthi, 2nd- Manthiriyodai-1, 3rd- Kariyapatti
MUDUKULATHUR	19	157	20.11.2022	1st- Kathaiyan, 2nd- Maruthagam, 3rd- Gandhi Nagar
SATTUR	17	147	04.12.2022	1st- Kiliyampatti, 2nd- Anna Nagar-1, 3rd- Thiruvalluvar Nagar
KOVILPATTI	19	153	27.11.2022	1st- Thittankulam 2nd- Pazhayaappaneri, 3rd- Azhakaneri
THIRUNELVELI	21	147	27.11.2022	1st- Nochikulam, 2nd- Kadambankulam, 3rd- Unnakulam
Total	96	747		



THE INAUGURATION OF STATE LEVEL QUIZ CONTEST 2023

5.C. AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLANCE:

To inspire and motivate our children to stand academically first in their respective schools, we have introduced Fr. Francis P. Xavier Award to the top three rank scorers of various classes in both quarterly and half-yearly exams and Fr. Marianathan Award to those

Students score above 80 percent of Marks in the Government Public Exams. As you know well that Fr. Francis P. Xavier is a renowned Jesuit Scientist from Dalit Community of Tamil Nadu. Today he is an inspirational icon for Dalit Students. Fr. Marianathan, SJ is a Dalit Jesuit who always motivates Dalits to be successful in life through education. This year nearly 383 Children were honoured with Fr. Francis Xavier Award and 4 Students with Fr. Marianathan Award. We are happy to inform that nearly 29 students have been qualified for Fr. Marianathan Award for 2023-2024.

6. PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT (PD):

On this area of Personality Development, many activities are planned and executed. Children Magazine – *Thalirgalin Purachikathir*, Annual Days and Observance of importance days were some of the events conducted under this area.

6.A. CHILDREN MAGAZINE:

For the academic year 2022-23, we have brought out two editions of Children Magazine in the name of *Thalirgalin Purachikathir* (Revolution of young buds). These magazines serve as a platform for our children to express their writing and drawing skills. They also hone their critical and creative thinking.

6.B. ANNUAL DAYS:

The 2nd Annual Day of ESCs was successfully celebrated this year. This event gave a platform to our children to exhibit whatever they learned from our study centers throughout the academic year 2022-2023. It was conducted at zonal level on different dates in the month of March and April, 2023. Nearly 889 children and a few thousand people from 87 villages participated in the event. Children made the Annual Days colorful and remarkable by their creative and stunning performances. There were dances, debates, quotes telling, folk dances, awareness dramas and martial arts, etc.



THE CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES AT ANNUAL DAY 2023

6.C. OBSERVANCE OF IMPORTANT DAYS:

The important days in the context of both Tamil Nadu and India, such as Diwali, Pongal, New Year, Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, Children's Day, International Women's Day and etc were some of the days celebrated in our centers. As part of celebration, Children staged various performances like skits, dances, speeches, songs, etc. It indeed helped them to overcome stage fear and low self-esteem and to inculcate a strong feeling of 'we are second to none'.

7. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CD):

This year our children gave a special focus on Community Development. In the previous years, the eradication of plastics, cleaning of common places in the villages were a few predominant events carried out under this category. Whereas, this year our children made concrete contributions towards greening the villages and building the village communities. We are happy to mention that for the year 2022-2023, our children planted nearly 2059 tree saplings in 65 villages. Now the trees have been regularly watered and monitored very well by them. Similarly they had also given petitions to local govt. officers, demanding basic facilities for their villages. So far, with the efforts of our Children and Animators nearly one crore worth of developmental schemes have been implemented in our villages. These activities indeed helped our Children to grow in social concern and effective leadership.

8. WITH GRATITUDE:

On behalf of the Children, Staff and Jesuits of DACA and ESCs, I express my sincere gratitude to the loving members of STIFTUNG JESUITEN WELTWEIT and LEOPOLD BACHMANN STIFTUNG for their continued love, support and guidance. It is because of your generosity, we are able to provide suitable ambiance for our children to grow holistically and to impact their lives meaningfully. Once again I wish and pray that together we continue to make foundational changes in the lives of our children and the people and inspire them to become the agents of change in the wounded world.

Reported by

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