

THE REPORT OF SUMMER CAMP 2018

REACHING THE UNREACHED:

Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy supports initiatives on dalit children-focused interventions, directly reaching out to over a few thousand beneficiaries across 6 southern districts of Tamilnadu through various educational programmes namely Vidivelli Home (Morning star), Evening study Centers (No.50), JWL programme and Summer Camp.

Taking its preferential commitment for the quality education and the growth of economically poor dalit girls, DACA is organizing every year Summer Camp (SC) for them with the intention of helping them spend summer vacation meaningfully and to select candidates for Vidivelli Home.

SUMMER CAMP:

Summer is an occasion for children to take time off from their regular task of going to school and getting down to the curriculum. So, the summer camp in the premises of DACA during holidays is in another way an opportunity for them to horn certain life skills with values and morals while having fun and frolic.



*Skill
developing
session*

AIM OF THE CAMP:

The aim of the camp was 'to provide children with a pleasant and positive ambience away from their villages where they can experience the joy of their childhood and develop their talents and social skills'.

"You are the future" was the unique theme of Summer Camp 2018, which inspired girls to pick up various skills to shape their life and future and become creative, dynamic and productive leaders of future. It also instilled in them a strong faith that they are the future hope and backbone of their community.

TARGET GROUP:

Nearly 149 dalit Girls in the age group of 10 to 20 years (right stage to mould) from different villages of six southern districts of Tamil Nadu were the beneficiaries of the camp.



*Summer
Camp 2018
Participants*

THE DESIGNING OF THE CAMP:

The Camp was designed in such a manner to enhance the basic subject knowledge and improve the life skills required achieving greater heights in life. Apart from these, the girls were also provided with ample of opportunities in the camp to discover their innate talents and unfold the same. The core ingredients of the camp were as follows:

1. Personality Development
2. Basic subject knowledge on Maths and English
3. Life Skill Management
4. Communication skills
5. Computer skills
6. Art and craft work
7. Training on pencil drawing
8. Sessions on social awareness
9. Reading and writing skills
10. Lectures on improving handwriting.
11. Lectures on drafting petitions to Govt. Officials.
12. Training on Yoga and martial arts
13. Quiz sessions
14. Preparing of magazines
15. Drama and Dancing skills
16. Exposure to Madurai airport and other places

All these programs were given to girls by adopting innovative and creative methods. These play-way methods of learning helped them to increase their learning level at least by one step during this summer.



*Play-way
method
session*

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Fr. Antony Raj, SJ	- The Facilitator of the Camp
Fr. Vargheesh Antony, SJ	- The Director of the Camp
Sch. Zenith, SJ	- Coordinator of the camp
Sch. Livingston, SJ	- Asst. Coordinator of the Camp
Mr. Siluvaimuthu	- Camp staff
Mr. Arockiasamy	- Camp Staff
Mr. David Livingston	- Volunteer
Ms. Jone of Arch	- Volunteer
Ms. Winnarasi	- Volunteer

GUEST TRAINERS:

Mr. Baskaren	- Petition Writing
Mr. Devaraj	- Personality Development
Mr. Poondirajan	- Handwriting skills
Mr. Alex	- Computer training
Ms. Deepa	- Basic English



Visit to
Madurai
Airport

FINAL CELEBRATION:

The valedictory function of the camp was held on 26th May, 2018 in a grand manner. **FR. S. MARIANATHA, SJ**, the Rector of our neighbouring Jesuit Community - St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, was the chief guest of the function. The event was a best platform for the girls to exhibit their skills and talents identified and developed during the Summer Camp 2018. The girls unfolded their cultural talents through colourful skits, dances and singing. Their thought provoking writings and creative drawings were published in the form of a small booklet titled *Velicham* (Brightness) which was released by the chief guest and its first copies were received by the girls. Frs. Antony Raj, George Joseph and Mr. Devaraj, one of the lay dalit teachers motivated the girls through their felicitations. Fr. Vargheesh gratefully remembered the contributions made by Jesuit scholastics, lay staff and volunteers to make the camp more meaningful and successful through their hard-work and commitment. Fr. S. Marianathan, the chief guest enthused and encouraged the girls to uphold the importance of discipline and education as core values of life. The whole event was well planned and organized by the camp children.

To sum up, the Summer Camp 2018 was a mile stone for 149 girls to open up their true personality for meaningful and purposeful life.



Girls
perform
dance

FRUITS GATHERED:

- ✓ Majority of the girls came out of their low self-esteem and stage fear.
- ✓ All of them felt at home in the campus.
- ✓ Only six girls left the camp in-between, other 149 remained till the end.
- ✓ Majority of the girls learnt the basics in Maths and English.
- ✓ Dhatshalini and Janani who learnt martial arts in the camp participated in the national games and won gold medals.
- ✓ Most of them learnt to write local language (tamil) without mistakes.
- ✓ Several of them improved their hand writing skills.
- ✓ Publishing a magazine by the girls.
- ✓ Almost all of them know answers for 500 GK questions.
- ✓ Some of the developed leadership qualities.
- ✓ Children developed organizing skills, eg. Conducting final program.



Release of
Velicham
Magazine

WORDS OF GRATITUDE:

On behalf of DACA family and in particular 149 beneficiaries of Summer Camp 2018, I would like to thank **STIFTUNG JESUITEN WELTWEIT, FR. TONI KURMANN** and his **TEAM** for their continued support to DACA to conduct summer camps. It is their encouragement and contributions made the camp more meaningful and productive.

Dear Fr. Toni, thank you so much. You have made a real difference in the lives of the girls we serve. Tanks to you, 149 girls went out of the camp with the sense of satisfaction and the strong feeling of spending the summer vacation more meaningfully.



*Budding
artist
Priya*

Report by

FR. VARGHEESH ANTONY, SJ

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SUMMER CAMP 2018
at
DACA

thanks to
Stiftung Jesuiten Weltweit

