

DACA'S SUMMER CAMP – 2022

Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy, Mandela Nagar, Madurai-22

CAMP REPORT

01. REACHING THE UNREACHED

Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy (DACA) aims at empowering Dalit children through various educational programmes such as running Vidivelli (Morning Star) Girls' Home, 100 Evening Study Centers in remote villages of 7 southern districts of Tamil Nadu, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) and Summer Camps.

DACA, holding its preferential commitment for the quality education to Dalit girls who belong to socially and economically marginalized families, every year organizes Summer Camp (SC) with the objective of helping them spend their summer vacation meaningfully with lots of fun and frolic games and in addition for selecting new candidates for Vidivelli Girls' Home.

02. SUMMER CAMP

Summer Vacation is the occasion where most of the students spend their holidays in visiting tourist places, watching movies and playing games in order to relax themselves from stressful boredom school life. DACA gives an alternate opportunity for the girls of Dalit Community to spend their Summer Vacation beneficially through well planned Summer Camp. This year, the Summer Camp (SC) 2022 was organized from May 15th to June 10th in DACA campus.



VISIT TO
AIRPORT

03. AIM OF THE CAMP

‘To provide girl children with a pleasant and positive ambience wherein they could celebrate their life and develop their innate talents and skills.

“ARIVAYUTHAM” which is translated as **knowledge is the weapon**, was the unique theme for Summer Camp 2022, which inspired girls to pick up various skills to enhance their knowledge. The participants were well motivated that only through knowledge they could become creative, dynamic and productive young leaders. It also instilled a strong hope in them that only education can make them the backbone of the society.



04. TARGET GROUP

Nearly 150 Dalit girls at the age group between 10 and 17 from various remote villages of seven southern districts of Tamil Nadu were the beneficiaries of the camp.

05. THE VIEW OF THE CAMP

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

01. Orientation and Goal setting.
02. Basic subject knowledge on Tamil, English, and Mathematics
03. Communication Skills & How to Study
04. Computer Skills
05. Art and Craft work
06. Training on pencil drawing
07. Sessions on Child protection

08. Lectures on News Snippet
09. Lectures on Cursive hand writing
10. Reading and writing skill
11. Training on Yoga and Martial arts
12. Session on Movie Review
13. Practical Training for Singing
14. Speech and Dancing Skills
15. Quiz Sessions
16. Exposure to Madurai Airport

All these programs were very much helpful to all the participants. The play-way methods of learning helped them to increase their learning level at least a step ahead through this summer. That is what DACA aims at conducting the camp. We could not materialize one event that is to have an awareness rally in a village which is close to DACA due to certain restrictions.

To see the activity, please click the link <https://youtu.be/yatBVaL9H3Y>



06. GUEST TRAINERS

S.No	NAME OF THE TRAINER	AREA OF TRAINING
01	Fr. Philip	Basic English
02	Mr. Prabu	Basic Tamil
03	Mr. Deivaraj	Child Protection Law
04	Mr. Udhayamoorthy	News Snippet
05	Sr. Sophia	Craft Making
06	Mr. Sathyamanikam	Craft Making
07	Mr. Bala	Martial Arts

07. FINAL CELEBRATION

DACA Summer Camp – ‘**ARIVAYUTHAM**’ came to an end on 10th June, 2022 with a creative and colorful valedictory function. **REV. FR. MARIANATHA, SJ**, Rector of St. Mary’s Jesuit residence, Madurai was the guest of honor. **REV. FR. XAVIER RAJ ANTONY, SJ**, Headmaster of St. Mary’s HR. SEC. School, Madurai was the chief guest. **REV. FR. GEORGE, SJ** and **REV. FR. VARGHEESH ANTHONY, SJ** were also present. The girls showed a lot of interest and enthusiasm in exhibiting their hidden talents which they identified and developed during the Summer Camp 2022. The cultural evening was filled with colorful dances, singing, speeches and sharing. Fr. Xavier, the chief guest in his address appreciated the girls for their wonderful performance. He encouraged the girls to make use of every opportunity to mould themselves. Fr. Marianathan acknowledges their hard work-in spite of a short span of time for making the day memorable. He emphasized that girls should become an inspiration to their village students to achieve greater goals in life. Fr.Vargeesh Antony SJ, the Director of DACA addressed the girls and motivated them with his powerful and thought provoking speech and asked the girls to have a time-bound and achievable dream and he gratefully remembered all the Jesuit scholastics, camp staff and volunteers for making the camp more successful and fruitful through their hard work and selfless service.

To sum up, the Summer Camp 2022 was a mile stone for 150 girls to open up their true personality for meaningful and purposeful life.



08. FRUITS GATHERED

1. After the lockdown most of the girls felt that they spent their vacation in a meaningful way.
2. Most girls learnt the basic measuring units of day today life.
3. Majority of the girls overcame their shyness and stage fear.
4. Many of the students picked up the singing skill
5. A good number of girls felt that they have learnt the art of discipline.
6. Most of the girls learnt the basic Tamil letters and were able to write without mistakes.
7. Many of them improved their hand-writing skills.
8. We could identify many young artists in the group.
9. All of them got a chance to use computer. For some of them it is a first experience.
10. Most of the girls learnt the skill of writing poem on their own.
11. Almost all of them know answers for 100 general knowledge questions and 250 English words.
12. Some of them developed leadership quality.
13. Some of them could identify their hidden talent of organizing programs, for example the final day function was organized by the camp girls.

09. SHARING BY THE GIRLS



VISHNU PRIYA

DACA was a wonderful place for me to spend my vacation in a meaningful way. Everyday Morning, we had the basics of yoga that helped me to overcome my emotional imbalance. Due to Covid-19, schools were closed for many months that affected my studies. Whereas, the Summer Camp in DACA helped me learn many things. I have learnt the rudiments of Tamil grammar which helped to improve my speech. Of course, I was fortunate to have earned new friends through this camp. Play-way method made me understand the basics of Tamil, English and Mathematics.

The greenish atmosphere of DACA gave me a wonderful experience. I was very lazy at my home, but after reaching DACA I became very enthusiastic and responsible. This is the first time in my career, I was appointed as a group leader by which I developed leadership quality. I was very responsible in guiding my group to get first place in all the group activities. Prayer before meals teaches me to experience the love of God. Games like Kabadi, Ko-Ko and Ring ball helped to have a healthy body. The Staff took care of me well when I fell sick. I felt motherly concern in their approach. I felt at home. Thanks to DACA.



VARSHANA



I like DACA very much. I felt very happy after reaching DACA. This is the first time that I had a chance to use computer. I gained some basic knowledge in Mathematics. I have learned five awareness songs in the camp. The *Silambam* (Stick based martial art) and *Karate* were exciting for me to learn. We were given tasty food every day and taken care of well by the staff. All the staff of the Camp related with us as our own elder sisters and brothers.

I like DACA very much for providing a lot of opportunity to develop my basic knowledge. I had a healthy food during the Camp. Here I learnt a lot of basic good manners like getting up early, standing in line, not wasting food, respecting my friends, and helping others. I have learnt martial arts which would help me to defend myself in a critical situation. I have also learnt the art of drawing.



DACA is the place where I grew in discipline. It taught me to keep my place neat and tidy. I had learnt a lot of new skills like craft making, *silambam*, *karate*, news-snippet and dance. It was very helpful to improve my skills. The quiz competition was very exciting. Through this event, I have learnt answers for 300 basic questions on fruits, vegetables, and Dr. Ambedkar.

10. WORDS OF GRATITUDE

On behalf of the DACA family as well as 150 beneficiaries of Summer Camp 2022, we would like to thank **STIFTUNG JESUITEN WELTWEIT** and its loving members for their continued support to DACA to conduct Summer Camps in the past years. It is your encouragement and contributions made the camp more meaningful and productive.

We also gratefully remember the committed service rendered by the staff of Jesuit Schools and our own volunteers who have really made a difference in the lives of the participants of the camp. It is their efforts made 150 Dalit girls go with the sense of satisfaction and the strong feeling of spending the summer vacation more meaningfully.

Report by

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