



SUMMER CAMP 2019

DR. AMBEDKAR CULTURAL ACADEMY

Mandela Nagar, Madurai – 625 022, Tamil Nadu, India

01. REACHING THE UNREACHED:

Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy (DACA) supports initiatives on Dalit children-focused interventions by directly reaching out to a few thousand beneficiaries across 6 southern districts of Tamilnadu through various educational programmes such as Vidivelli (Morning Star) Girls' Home, Evening Study Centers (100 Centers in remote villages), JWL programme and Summer Camp.

DACA taking its preferential commitment for the quality education to the Dalit girls who belong to economically poor families is organizing every year Summer Camp (SC) with the intention of helping them to spend summer vacation meaningfully with lots of fun and frolic and at the same time selecting new candidates for Vidivelli Girls' Home.

02. SUMMER CAMP:

The children from remote villages of Tamilnadu during summer vacation tend to spend their time in playing with friends, watching movies, visiting temples and their relatives. According to them these activities help them to forget all their mental worries created by stressful school life. DACA gives an alternate opportunity for the girl children of Dalit Community to spend their summer vacation beneficially through well planned Summer Camp. This year, the Summer Camp (SC) 2019 was organized from April 26th to May 26th at the premises of DACA.

03. AIM OF THE CAMP:

The aim of the SC 2019 was *'to provide girl children with a pleasant and positive ambience away from their villages where they could celebrate their childhood and develop their innate talents and social skills'*.

"*We have a dream*" was the unique theme of Summer Camp 2019, which inspired the participants to pick up various life skills and become creative, dynamic and productive young leaders of the society. It also instilled in them a strong faith that they are the future hope and backbone of their community.

04. TARGET GROUP:

Nearly 167 Dalit girls in the age group of 10 to 17 years (right age to mould) from different remote villages of 6 southern districts of Tamil Nadu were the beneficiaries of the camp.



THE PARTICIPANTS OF SUMMER CAMP 2019

05. THE DESIGNING OF THE CAMP:

The Camp was designed in such a manner to enhance the basic subject knowledge and improve the essential life skills required to achieve 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:

01. Child psychology and goal setting.
02. Basic subject knowledge on Maths and English
03. Life Skill Management
04. Communication skills & How to Study
05. Computer skills
06. Art and craft work

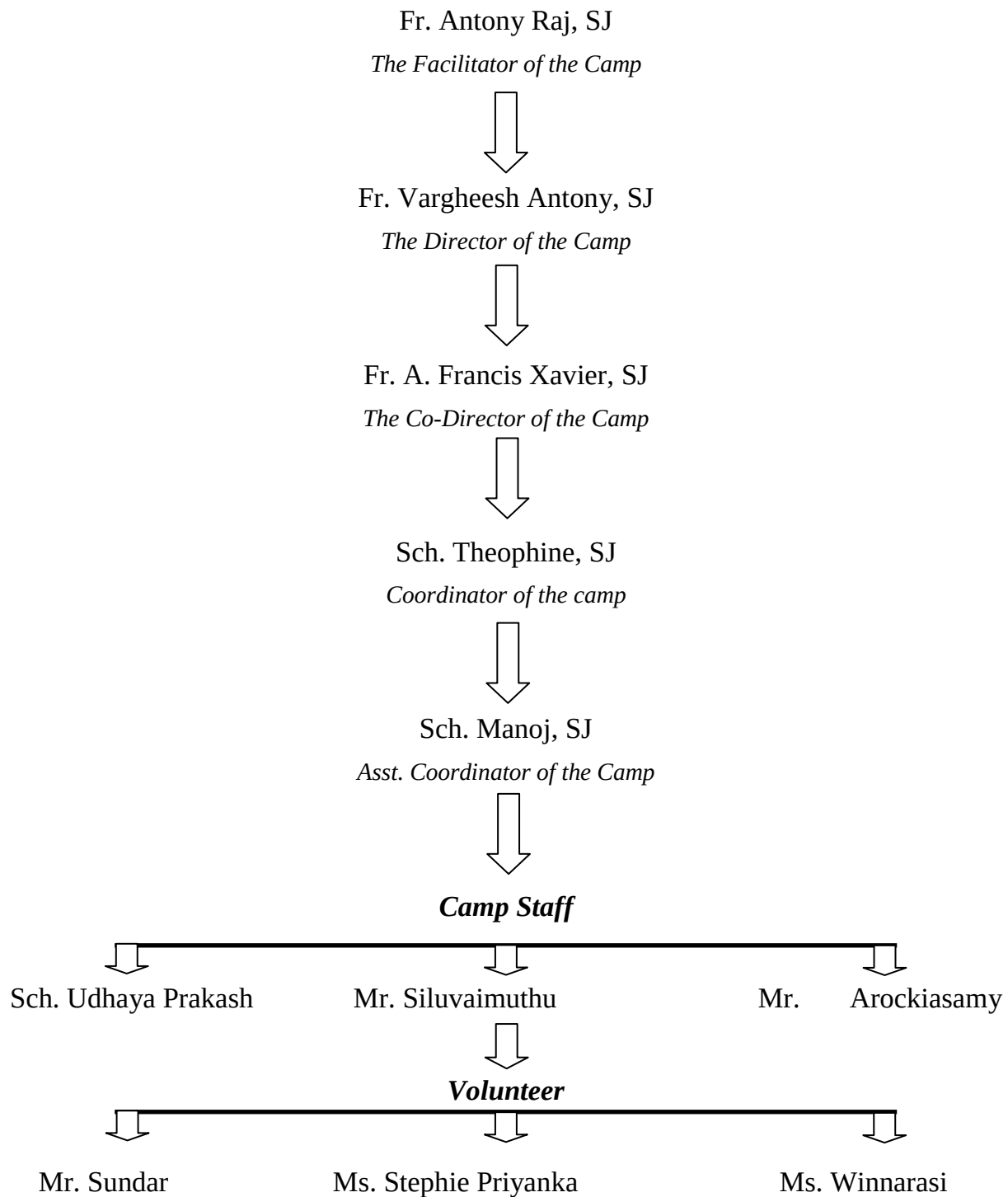
07. Training on pencil drawing
08. Sessions on social analysis & Fundamentalism
09. Reading and writing skills
10. Lectures on improving handwriting.
11. Lectures on drafting petitions to Govt. Officials.
12. Training on Yoga and martial arts
13. Quiz sessions
14. Preparing of magazines
15. Drama and Dancing skills
16. Exposure to Madurai airport and other places
17. Basic Journalism
18. Awareness on Traffic Rules & safe driving
19. Ecological Concern



CREATIVE PERFORMANCE BY THE PARTICIPANTS

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

06. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:



07. GUEST TRAINERS:

S.NO.	NAME OF THE TRAINER	AREA OF TRAINING
01	MR. BASKAREN	Petition Writing
02	MR. DEVARAJ	Education for Dalit Liberation
03	MR. POONDIRAJAN	Handwriting skills
04	MR. MICHEAL ANTONY	Basic English
05	MS. PARAMASIVAM	Yoga and Good Manners
06	MR. AMALA DHINAKARAN	Pencil Drawing
07	MR. AADHAVAN	Pencil Drawing
08	MR. BALA	Martial Art
09	DR. SANGARA NARAYANAN	First Aid & Hygienic food habit
10	MR. DEIVA RAJ	Journalism
11	MR. SAKTHIVEL (Police)	Traffic rules and safe Driving
12	FR. RICHARD	Child psychology & goal setting

08. SHARINGS BY THE GIRLS

I enjoyed my stay at DACA and learnt many things during the Camp. We had ample opportunity to watch several motivating short films on various themes. The movie on the importance of education clearly articulated that we are respected if only we are educated. I learnt the art of drawing in the Camp. I was very happy to learn and use the computer first time in my life. I thank all the staff for loving me and taking care of me throughout the camp as their own child. I never felt lonely. I wish to continue my studies here at DACA.

- **T. PLESY**, Class VIth

I love DACA campus which is covered with lots of trees and plants. I had a very pleasant stay. I was very proud to know the history of DACA whose objective is to empower the Dalits through the power of knowledge. I got a chance to exhibit my talents, like Dance, singing and drama. I enjoyed the trip

to the Airport. It was an unforgettable experience. I learnt the basics of Karate and I would like to thank the master.

- **T.KARUNYA**, Class VIIth



VISIT TO MADURAI AIRPORT

I was longing to come for the camp, because I have heard of DACA from my friends. I have got many friends in the camp who could love me and take care of me. I learnt to write Tamil and English words without mistakes. I learnt drawing, Pranayama and Yoga. We were given good food and necessary materials to study. I learnt answers for 300 GK Questions and I loved to participate in the Quiz competition both in Tamil and English.

- **PAVITHRA**, Class IXth

When I came to DACA on the first day, I thought that we would be allowed to play throughout the camp. But it was not so. I learnt many things in the camp like Computer, Basic English, Maths, Hand writing, Dance, Drama and Drawing. I enjoyed learning them all. I had a satisfaction of spending my summer vacation meaningfully. We were given a several chances to exhibit all our talents. First time in my life I had an opportunity to perform drama.

- **S.DHARSHINI**, Class VIIIth

This is the first time I have acted in a play on the final day function. The Doctor's sessions on First Aid and Hygienic food habit are very good and useful. We were taught to write petitions to the officials for our various rights and needs. I am sure that it would be of great help in the future. Talks on Media & women was an eye-opening. It was explained in details, how women are exploited and projected in movies and advertisement. First time I have realized that I could write poem, joke and story in Tamil. We were taught basic maths and the teaching was very simple that I could pick-up easily. We were taught hand-writing skill, both in English and Tamil. I liked the camp very much.

- **LOGESHWARI**, Class VIIth



09. FINAL CELEBRATION:

‘*THENIKKALIN SANGAMAM*’, the gathering of Bees come to an end with a colourful, grand and creative valedictory function on 26th May, 2019. **REV.FR.MARIANATHAN, SJ**, Rector of *St. Mary's Jesuit residence, Madurai* was the chief guest. **MR.IMMANUEL PAUL RAJ**, Pilot, *Indigo Airlines* was the guest of honour. The Girls showed a lot of interest and enthusiasm in exhibiting their hidden talents which they identified and developed during the Summer Camp 2019. The cultural evening was filled with colourful dance, skit, singing and acclamation in

Tamil and English. Their thoughts, dreams and aspirations were expressed in way of drawings, writings and it was published in the form a small booklet titled 'We Have a Dream'. The booklet was published by REV.FR.GEORGE JOSEPH, SJ and its first copies were received by the Chief Guest, Guest of honour, Co-ordinator of the camp, a staff volunteer and a girl representative. Fr. Marianathan, the Chief Guest in his address, stressed that we need to make use of all the opportunities to come up 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. Mr. Immanuel Paulraj in his speech touched upon his life struggle and how he could face all the hurdles and achieved his dream of becoming a pilot. He has also motivated the girls and made them to fix their dream and walk forward with confidence.

To sum up, the Summer Camp 2019 was a mile stone for 163 girls to open up their true personality for meaningful and purposeful life.



CULTURAL PERFORMACE BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF SC 2019

10. FRUITS GATHERED:

- ✓ Most of the girls felt at home and even ready to be here for some more days.
- ✓ Many came out of their stage fear and learnt to express their ideas in public and in small groups.
- ✓ Totally 176 registered their name for the camp, 163 remained till the end of the camp.
- ✓ Majority of the girls learnt the basics of Maths and English.
- ✓ 7 girls who learnt Karate in the camp participated in the national level competition and won Silver and Bronze medal.



OUR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN MARTIAL ARTS

- ✓ Most of the girls learnt the Basic Tamil letters and able to write without any mistakes.
- ✓ Many of them improved their hand-writing skills.
- ✓ We could identify many young artists in the group.
- ✓ Girls could publish their own magazine.
- ✓ Most of the girls learnt the skill of writing story on their own.

- ✓ All of them got a chance to use and learnt some basics of Computer. For some of them it is a first experience.
- ✓ All most all of them know answers for 350 GK questions and 250 English words.
- ✓ 10th & 11th students learnt the Basics of English Grammar and cultivated the interest to learn further.
- ✓ Some of them developed Leadership quality.
- ✓ Some of them could identify their hidden talent of organizing programs. E.g.: the final day function was organized by the camp girls.



YOUNG BUDDING ARTISTS

11. WORDS OF GRATITUDE:

On behalf of DACA family and in particular 163 beneficiaries of Summer Camp 2019, I would like to thank **STIFTUNG JESUITEN WELTWEIT, FR. TONI KURMANN** and his **TEAM** for their continued support to DACA to conduct summer camps in the past years. It is their encouragement and contributions made the camp more meaningful and productive.

I 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 SC. It is their efforts made 163 Dalit girls move out of the camp with the sense of satisfaction and the strong feeling of spending the summer vacation more meaningfully.

Report by

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Clicks from SC 2019

