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Relief Projects India Annual Report for 2023 to 2024

Mountain View School

A fresh start and renewed hope ushered in the beginning of the academic year, brimming with new opportunities and exhilarating challenges. New classrooms meant that our 5th standard students could move up to 6th standard at our school, instead of leaving for other schools as had happened with our first two batches of 5th standard graduates. Additionally, the introduction of a Pre-KG class marked a significant expansion, bringing our total enrolment to 319 students.

This academic term introduced several exciting additions to our faculty, including an enthusiastic PT Master who is also adept in yoga, and a dynamic Art teacher who has captivated and challenged students with innovative ideas. Moreover, students eagerly embraced extracurricular activities such as Silambam and Taekwondo, held twice monthly on Saturday mornings, resulting in impressive accolades including medals from regional competitions: 15 of our students won medals at a Taekwondo sport meet for schools in Madurai district; our students won a throw ball competition competing with considerably older students from a local private school; 4 of our students were selected as finalists in public speaking contest held in Hyderabad and organised by Bryt Digital Learning systems, and one secured 2nd prize in her age group.

On August 18, 2023, our school proudly hosted a zonal-level throw ball and tennikoit competition, attracting participants from 15 schools.

New this year also was our affiliation with Bryt Learning Technologies a school curriculum and education partner which we introduced for the Primary grades. This digital education system provides workbooks and daily lesson plans for all major subjects, using activity and skill-based learning which encourages creativity, good English communication skills, collaboration and confidence. They also provide teacher-training and assessment which has greatly improved the quality of teaching and helped our teachers, (who all hail from local villages) hone their skills.

In our kindergarten section, inspired by Susanna Turcotte's expertise in early-learning techniques, teachers have been trained in methods from the Institute for the Development of Human Potential. . Learning should be a joyous experience for our young learners, who receive lots of positive encouragement from our teachers. Building the children's confidence and self-esteem is as important as introducing academic skills.

Training sessions were also given by Mrs.Bhavani from SBOA school, Nagamalai, giving training on effective class room management, and by Mr.Bala from Extra Marks giving training on modern technology in teaching. Teachers attended a book exhibition held in Madurai and each one bought a book of their choosing to encourage them to develop good reading habits and to improve their English language skills.

Recognizing the impact of the pandemic on students' learning, special emphasis was placed this year on remedial classes and foundational skills in mathematics, Tamil, and English, resulting in significant progress among students.

Celebrations: The School celebrated Father's day, International Yoga Day, Bakrid, Plastic Free Day, Education Day, Independence day, Founders day, Childrens day, Diwali, and Republic Day. 'Orange Day' was a fun day themed on the colour orange for KG students.

We also organised free dental checks for all of our students by dentists from Sai Dental Clinic.

Highlights of the year were the Sports Day, held on 6th January, and Annual Day held on 16th February. The children and teachers worked very hard to make both days a resounding success.

SHE Program

Our full-time social worker remains active in the local community and many useful awareness programs were conducted, some in collaboration with local government departments. Here are some of the programs we conducted or assisted in this year:

25/3/23 Meeting with women's self-help group leaders. The following topics were addressed: Women against violence into the society, problems faced in the community especially domestic violence, gender discrimination, female infanticide, child marriages, trafficking, etc.

29/3/23 Leprosy Awareness Program at Usilampatti Govt hospital. Dr .k.Vijayan (Deputy Director for leprosy department)and his subordinates arranged the camp and requested the participation of Relief Projects India.

29/4/23 Helped organise a General Medical check-up camp tie up with Apollo Hospital and Vasan Eye care Hospital Madurai .The camp was held at E. Pudupatti village from 10.am to 2.00 pm. 156 cases benefited through this camp.

26/6/23 Conducted a Nutritional awareness program, partnering with ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) department and Govt high school Dottappanayakkanoor around 100 students participated.

28/6/23 Participated in the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking.

An awareness rally on the importance of female-child education was organized at Dhottappanayakkanur Govt.Hr.Sec.School. All of the school children participated and created awareness among villagers.

People affected by leprosy were given basic health awareness, free medicine and food.

TB and HIV awareness camp was organized in our school.

3/12/23 Awareness on health and personality development for adolescent girls.

9/2/24 Anti-human trafficking awareness program for students at Solai College.

This year we have started free evening tuition centres in Malaipatti, Muthupandipatti, Poochipatti, so, all together we have 6 tuition centres are there in our area, , furthering our commitment to educational accessibility and community enrichment.