



# AIMS INDIA FOUNDATION

501(3) C approved Non-profit Organization working for Village Empowerment in India

Issue: 10, December 2007

## Saanaikal Project:

Each SSC meets once in a week. It focuses on student's extracurricular activities. Songs, Group Discussion, Games, Storytelling, drama making, Simple science experiments, Camps were the major activities in the clubs. Special activities were conducted to strengthen good relationship between the fellow beings.



In the month of July Saanaikal Teachers training camp was organized. The training was not limited to Saanaikal staffs. For the betterment of the students' community it was extended to the Vidiyel FCC staffs also. Totally 19 volunteers from FCC, Vidiyel participated in the training.



A camp for the students was also organized. The Pandavarmangalam and Therku Thittankulam Saanaikal Students Development Centers' students participated in the camp. Around 75 students from these centers attended in the camp. The staff also attended the two days camps. This camp made a larger impact on students' interpersonal relationship. The students are still in touch with each other through mails and

## In this issue:

- ❖ **Run for India Marathon**
- ❖ **Andarkulam Medical Center**
- ❖ **Vidivel AIMS India**

telephone. In the month of August the students of the four Saanaikal centers visited the neighboring post offices. The post Master explained the structure and functions of the post office.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2007, the students were taken on a visit to Pandian bank, Kovilpatti. The bank manager Mr.Arumugan appreciated the efforts. He explained the banking procedures and operations to the students. Totally 77 students visited the bank.

The Students also visited the local Police station and the court in Kovilpatti. The police officer Mrs.Rani explained the various services and activities of the police department. In the Court Mr.Subbaya explained the court's activities.

The people of the respective villages have given a warm welcome to our activities and accepted it whole heartedly. The volunteers of the village were of great help. The evening centre activities were being conducted in the community halls. The Vidial staffs Mr. Thiagu & Mr. Samuel helped us to form the centers and conduct activities.

## Andarkulam Medical Center:

On an average about 50-60 patients visits the hospital in the last few months. In the month of October 2007, total patients visited were 57. It is obvious that there was a sudden decline in the number of patients benefited by this hospital in the last few months. The reason for this, the Doctor claims that the local people do not cooperate with the smooth running of the hospital. An ambulance was bought for the Hospital by the Udhayam Trust. We are on the look out for more doctors to run the hospital more efficiently.



### **AIMS Students Development Project - KUMARI CHAPTER:**

The English Skill Developing program in G.P.S. Kaliyankadu is conducted by Mr. Azad. There is an appreciable increase in the vocabulary of the students. Two of the teaching staff members in the school were appreciated by the Headmistress for their services at the Independence Day celebration. They worked for twenty one days. The students have shown a substantial improvement in their studies. The staffs were trained to identify students' inborn and acquired skills.



In commemoration with the world peace day on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Songs, games, Science experiments and discussion about the world peace day were conducted in the centers by the staff members and volunteers. Experiments relating to the passage of light, rocket technology, Newton's law and the like were taught to the students.

### **RUN FOR INDIA – Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 2007**

All had a wonderful time on the day of the Marathon. All the runners completed 26.2 mile marathon successfully without any major injury. AIMS team is growing every year since Marathon in 2005. The volunteers were present from 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM not worrying about the cold weather. Excellent coordination and team work by

the volunteers. There were at least two volunteers at every one mile from the 19 mile mark. The time and effort put in by everyone in the last 6 months to complete this "Marathon Task" is countless. Apart from 150 runners, there were around 50 volunteers from the entire Marathon Charity Partners group present on the day of the Marathon.



All the AIMS runners were felicitated on Nov 3rd and were given a project presentation giving them a brief idea of how the funds were to be used effectively. The coaches Nick and Jay were present. Nick has been coaching for more than 10 years now and Coach Jay has run 113 marathons so far in the past 30 years.



There were 11 half marathoners and 20 full marathoners and raised around \$30000. There are already projects lined up for funding worth \$50000 for a year.

### **Free Coaching Centers – Vidiyel Project:**

Vidiyel Trust in the reporting period from 13 centers it has geared up to 23 centers and we are thankful to AIMS India (Boston Chapter) to support the centre activities. In the reporting period the range of activities executed are:

#### **1. Regular FCC Events**

The rural students after school hours come to the centers for learning (4.30 pm to 6.30 pm), the teachers for an hour taught regular school syllabus and in between they conducted ice breaking games to boost their morale towards learning. Then for half an hour they use to read and write the lessons learned in the hour. Eventually, vocabulary building exercise in English, Tamil and Hindi is done regularly.



## **2. Supply of education materials**

Teaching materials were issued to the FCC students in the month of June 2007. Books, newspapers, magazines were supplied to develop reading habits of the rural students at early ages.

## **3. Sports and Cultural Events**

FCC students at weekends were allowed to participate in the indoor and outdoor games. Folk dance, songs, competitions were conducted regularly. On Independence Day cultural program was conducted.

## **4. Competitions**

In the month of August 2007, competitions were conducted in Velidupatti, Ariyanayagipuram and Kalkumi. The winners were presented with valuable prizes.

## **5. Capacity Building for Teachers**

Ten-day capacity building program was held at Vidiyel Office in Kovilpatti. The teachers were imparted training on basic science with tool kits in right direction and the methods to be adopted in imparting joyful learning without any out of focus on the education issue.

## **6. House Visits**

The teachers regularly made visits to the students' houses, who perform very badly in the examinations and they were provided guidance for their education improvement.

## **7. Parents-Teachers Meets**

Once in a quarter in each parents-teachers meets were held and in which issues that blocks the education of the children are discussed and in each meeting the Vidiyel staff were present.

1118 rural students are duly educated through the free coaching centers and the efforts rendered by 27 teachers are inexplicable. They with the earned knowledge and acquired training skills perform their best in imparting a value based education to the students. The retention rate of students in the FCCs is high and this is due to the joyful learning system and learning using available local resources further, the structural adjustments made by the teachers to the benefits of the students helped a lot in the high retention rate. The learning morale is high when the students are put into cultural events. Regular readings at the centers at an extent developed sizeable number of students and they are tuned to read the books which has become habitual for them.

## **Minutes of the Meeting:**

### **July 21st, 2007:**

- ❖ It was decided that a survey would be conducted by Joseph and Thirumurugan on the status of ALL the projects that AIMS has implemented over the past 5 years. The results will be reviewed and will be used as input to formulate a 5 year plan for AIMS as an organization. This plan will be finalized within the next 3 months.

### **August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ❖ A potluck dinner was organized for the runners and their family at our treasurer Sadasivam's house on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Around 30 members attended the meeting. Members shared their experiences and their fund raising goals.

### **September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ❖ Agreed to spend 200\$ for hall booking for post run potluck.
- ❖ It was decided that Sanaikkal staff will focus only on Sanaikkal project. Not any other project.
- ❖ Andy Giri updated his recent visit to some of the schools in Kanyakumari.

### **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- ❖ AIMS is assigned with full management for tent operations for the entire MCP group (150 runners) on the day of the race (Oct 28).
- ❖ Boston chapter had requested dispatch of \$500 for a school project (Ravichandran Somu initiative), and \$500 as the fourth installment to Vidiyel trust coaching center project. Moneys will be dispatched this week. An amount of \$589 was spent for Marathon runner's singlet t-shirts.
- ❖ Venkat's Namagiripettai Girl's high school project: 90 benches and desks delivered so far, 60 more to be delivered soon.
- ❖ Koodu project update: Partha's project submission – extension of Saanaikal project. Location: Kolapalli post, Nilgiri taluk. Project requirement is about Rs 5000 for 12 months to fund 4 teachers (Rs 1000 for each teacher plus Rs 1000 for office expenses) to provide coaching/teaching services for tribal children.
- ❖ Malapalayam school project: Srikanth presented the project for the high school in Erode district. The initial outlay is for Rs 4 lakhs for this project.
- ❖ Ramalingam school in Erode: The school has completed half of the project with about Rs 10 lakhs, and require about 6 – 7 lakh rupees of more funding to complete the construction and furnishing.
- ❖ Anganwadi gas stove project: The project is about donating gas stoves for 100 Anganwadi centers in Thoothukudi. The outlay is a total of Rs. 4 lakhs (Rs 4000 for 100 centers).

## November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007

- ❖ AIMS Tamilnadu State coordinator Joseph visited the Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and Tuticorin projects and sent a detailed report.
- ❖ Approved Tanjavur Agarpattai school project: Rs.82000
- ❖ Approved AIMS-TNF Aanganwadi LPG project: Rs.100, 000
- ❖ Approved Erode Maalalayam school project: Rs.118, 000
- ❖ For Kanyakumari Kaliyankadu School teachers we approved increasing the salary from Rs.500 to Rs.750 for two teachers and approved funding for the third teacher with salary of Rs.500. The school may continue to give Rs.250 for all the teachers.
- ❖ The group expressed concern regarding the happenings in both Andarkulam and in the Sanaikkal project. We are paying Rs.10000 for the doctor; we have potential of getting Rs.25000 revenue from the Andarkulam Medical Center. Subbu says if we get a residential doctor, we can provide a nice house for stay. Members in this yahoo group please help us find a good doctor for the Andarkulam Medical Center.

## December 3rd, 2007

- ❖ Ramalingam Middle School, Erode - Funds have been approved for completion of the remaining 20% of the New Building construction at the cost of Rs.1,50,000. Detailed Accounts to be provided to Joseph. A further Rs.70, 000 funds will be provided after successful completion of the new building. Maintenance plan for the toilet to be provided.
- ❖ Kudos to Anand Palanisamy and the entire Marathon Team for successfully completing the goal to raise \$30,779.80 towards supporting our projects in India.
- ❖ After much review and several rounds of discussions, we have determined that the Sanaikkal program has not met the expectations with which it was started, and that we cannot spend more money on it. However, an analysis of the situation clearly indicates that there were structural flaws in the program - geographical, organizational and personnel issues - that prevented the program from realizing its full potential. Therefore we are discontinuing this program from Jan 2008.
- ❖ AIMS General Body Meeting to elect the 2008-2009 two year board members will be held on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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