



EUREKA SPARK

Newsletter Issue 3, Aug 2015

An Aid India Initiative

Number of Partner NGOs : 25
Partner Education Officials : 5

Number of districts : 14
Number of teachers: 600

Number of schools: 100
Number of children: 12000

Eureka SPARK (Skill Progress through Assessment and Remediation for Kids) is an Aid India initiative to provide technical inputs like training and educational resources to like-minded institutions working in education. The goal of the program is to ensure teachers from NGOs, Aided or Government schools become proficient in tracking and improving skill levels of children.

Class-room management training by Eureka school teachers

Ms. Parimala and Ms. Manimegalai, Eureka school teachers from Koovathur, conducted a class-room management training for LAIA tutors. Gowri reports that tutors were divided into 2 groups to enact skits on a good class-room manager and not so-good class-room manager. Entire session was on discussion mode and all the tutors actively participated and enacted well. Tutors were also taught few tips on how Eureka school classes are managed and how students are encouraged for disciplined behaviour in the class. Overall, it was a great learning experience not only for those tutors but also for the Eureka school teachers. Tutors gave a very positive feedback on the training and requested for more such trainings in future as well. Eureka school teachers were very happy as well.



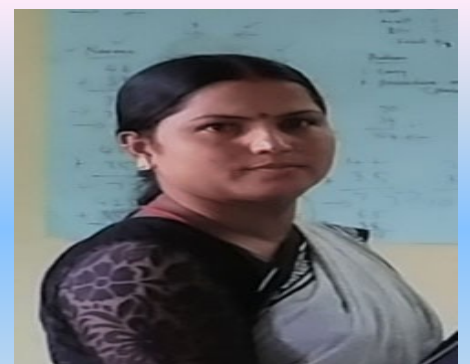
Devika using tablet app for higher order skills

Eureka Tutor, Ms.Devika, has been teaching Std 6-8 children at the Kulathangarai after-school centre at Uthiramerur. Through her enthusiastic engagement, she was able to improve the basic skill levels of all the 15 children in her class. Already, she started taking efforts to enhance secondary Maths skills such as fractions, decimals, integers etc for her students. On top of this, she is diagnosing student's secondary maths skills using an app from a tablet. She says that her students are super-excited to use the tablet and learning higher skills easily. It is not a surprise that she has won the Eureka Best Tutors award for 2 consecutive years.



Educating students at Real Value Promoters site

Eureka has partnered with Rural Development Trust who provides education to children of construction workers in Chennai. Ms. Ifthisa, a tutor from Orissa, has been teaching students at Real Value construction site at Old Mahabalipuram Road, Chennai. She is very diligent and had completed the skill evaluation for all her students. She said that with this type of evaluation, she could clearly understand her student's skill levels and able to focus on remedial coaching for lagging students. We wish her the very best.



AEEO Gunasekaran organizes SPARK training

AEEO Mr. Gunasekaran at Peranamallur block in Tiruvannamalai district showed lot of interest in eureka's program. He organized a training for 45 Govt school teachers with just 2 days notice. He convinced additional AEEO in the same block to implement eureka's program for lagging children. Also, he was present throughout the training session in spite of his hectic schedule. Thothadri reports that the AEEO explained very clearly to his teachers and HMs about the SPARK program. He also has set a deadline to his teachers that before Children's day (Nov), all the students should get basic arithmetic and language skills. Very ambitious goal indeed. The training was also covered by a local Tamil daily "Dhina karan".



Viji – An Ideal Teacher

Leethiyal Viji, eureka tutor of NGO SRMT at Vallivilai village in Tiruchendur district is taking classes for Std 6-8 students. Shankar says that by tracking the skills regularly, she could see considerable improvement in her students during the last one year. Asst HM at a nearby school also says that all the students of eureka centre are showing good interest in their studies and appreciated Viji's efforts. Initially, few students of Std 6-8 were hesitant when Viji was teaching them basic addition and subtraction skills. Later, when they started learning the concepts better, their interest level has increased and are eager to do more maths problems now.



Harish – A quick learner at Gold Heart

Eureka has partnered recently with Gold Heart Foundation to train their tutors in North Chennai. Harish who attended just one training last month was able to understand skill evaluation and remedial coaching very well. He completed evaluating Tamil, Maths and English skills for all his students and already started taking remedial classes for lagging students. He is already a pioneer and a great role model for other tutors at Gold Heart Foundation now.



Remedial improvement by a Govt school teacher

Sumathi, a Govt Primary school teacher at Kattangulathur block, attended just one training last month. But she grasped the skill evaluation idea and had completed the evaluation for all her students. She in fact told us about 5 students who improved on Maths addition skills within a week's time of remedial attention. We validated those students and indeed they have improved. She also said that worksheets provided by eureka helped a lot in understanding where her students are making mistakes etc.



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