



EUREKA SPARK

Newsletter Issue 2, Jul 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:

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.

Kaattangulathur AEEO kickstarts program

Mr. Robert Williams, the government Assistant Elementary Education Officer (AEEO) of Kaattangulathur block, Kanchipuram district, oversees about 50 schools. He kickstarted the Eureka SPARK program with a training for 30 teachers in his block. He stressed the importance of improving basic skills of students through our program. The feedback from teachers also was quite positive. Ms.B.Lavanya, from Kilambakkam village said "I like the songs used to introduce phonics sounds. The evaluation procedure is simple and easy to use, and I like the Tamil materials you have given, and will surely help to improve learning levels of weaker children."



Skill tracking at Aarvam Brother Siga Center

Recently, Mr.Jayanth and Mr.Natarajan from Wheels India visited Paakkam village, Tiruvallur where our partner NGO Aarvam (Brother Siga Animation Center) is working. Project director Srinivasan reports: "We were quite happy that skill chart has been filled accurately for all students of class 3-5. We tested students with various types of Maths problems and all students who had ticks were able to do it correctly. In fact, a couple of others were also able to solve. The tutor clearly explained that these children have learnt the skills recently and the chart would be updated after her next assessment. The team from Wheels India were impressed with Tutor Jayanthy's understanding on the methodology." It is no surprise that Ms.Jayanthy was a winner of the Eureka best tutor award this year!



Basic skills aptitude test at Arunachalam School

A.M.M Arunachalam Hr. Sec. School, an aided school in Kanyakumari district has been partnering with Eureka SPARK for the past 2 years to improve quality of education. During our intervention, the HM and school management realized that many students, even in middle schools, lack basic reading and arithmetic skills. Since it was difficult to take action in the middle of the year, they decided to start the academic year with a "basic aptitude test" for all students from classes 6 through 9. It was heartening to see the school management taking initiative on their own to assess basic skills and focus on improving them.



REAL Trust begins Eureka SPARK

REAL Trust, an NGO working in North Chennai, had kick-started Eureka SPARK program. NGO Head Mr. Lawrence not only organized the tutors training but also sat through the entire session and understood Eureka's skill evaluation process. His interest to help needy didn't stop with this, he also recently inaugurated a day-care centre to provide health-care and quality education to needy students in that area. All tutors have agreed to complete the initial evaluation within next 15 days and he personally promised us to send the skill data. It was not surprising that REAL Trust was one of the most engaged partners for us during "Ennum Ezhuthum" campaign.



Young Trainers steal the show

Srinivasan Services Trust, has been running after-school learning centers in Tiruvallur district and our resource persons trained tutors last month. At the end of the training, one tutor told they were expecting someone old to give a lecture, as is usually done in such meetings. But she was pleasantly surprised and at ease with the young trainers from Eureka who were not only friendly but also made them understand Maths concepts such as "place value" better. Now those tutors are confident of teaching students with better understanding of the subjects and in improving their skills.



RISE School replaces term test with basic skills

RISE primary school in Pollachi, Coimbatore district is a partner with Eureka SPARK. They recently conducted initial evaluation of their students in basic reading and arithmetic skills as per our methodology. When they found that the levels were lower than expected, they announced that they will replace the 1st term test with a skill assessment conducted by Eureka.



Remedial attention by Mahalakshmi, RECO

Mahalakshmi is a tutor from Jakkamanayakkanpatty Village, Theni district, with our partner NGO RECO. She is pursuing her final year under graduation in Chemistry. She has been taking classes for children studying from Std 6-8 for the last 2 years. She diagnoses the difficulty that each child has, and teaches them accordingly. After conducting evaluation this month, she found 8 students had problems in multiplication skill. She gave practice to the kids to learn multiplication tables for 5 days and after that she had allotted one hour for each child for 3 consecutive days and on the 4th day, all 8 children were able to solve multiplication problems. She is very proud and satisfied that she was able to bring about such an improvement through remedial intervention.



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