



Eureka SuperKidz

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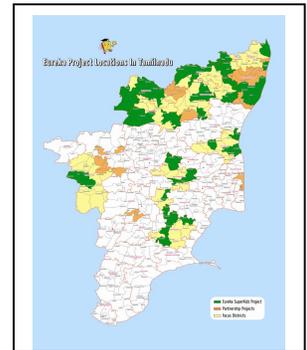


Greetings from Eureka Superkidz! This month, the Eureka team created a group of expert teachers who visited weaker villages to directly teach children and train Eureka teachers on specific content areas. They stayed in each village for a week and worked with children who were lagging behind, especially in Math. This yielded very good results and helped improve the quality of the classes – children who could not identify numbers earlier, now learnt to do subtraction problems. It was good learning for our State team as well, which figured out solutions to several hardspots that teachers faced. We will now incorporate these learnings in our regular training sessions.

10 Districts

55 Blocks

626 villages



Bright Sparks excel at the Eureka Centers

“Teacher, why does the laser light’s path appear brighter when I try out the experiment at night rather than in the day?” asks 9-year old **Avinashi** studying in the Eureka center in Melagaikuppam village in Sholinghur.



Varalakshmi, her Eureka Teacher is stumped by this girl every time she introduces a Science experiment! She says, “Avinashi is very different from other children in my class. She does not speak much, but listens very keenly. She is extremely interested in Science and Math.”

Avinashi has an older brother who quit school and helps his father out in their grocery store. Avinashi, however wants to study and be a collector one day. She is very good in Math as well. Give her any multiplication or fraction problems, and she comes back with the answer immediately. She says she comes to the Eureka Center because *“I like to use the number cards and do sums. I love to use the Science Experiments kit and try out new experiments on my own. I have also learnt to speak some English words after joining this center.”* We hope that this bright child continues to explore and learn new things as she pursues her dreams.

Kalaivani (Std. 4) attends the Eureka center at Periya Sengunthar Theru, Uthiramerur. Kalaivani’s father is no more. Her mother works for daily wages in a weaver’s house. When asked “Which school do you go to?” in English, she proudly replies “I go to the Panchayat Union Primary School, 9th ward”.

She solves fraction problems easily and reads Tamil fluently. As she does Science experiments, she narrates what’s happening and why in her own words instead of parroting what is written in the book. At one Science session, she took a piece of paper, kept it near her mouth, and blew over it.



As the paper flew upwards, she said, “See? I blew away the air on top of the paper, and now there is less air here. So now the air below the paper says ‘Go up! Go up!’ and pushes the paper up”!

District	Blocks	Villages
Coimbatore	4	45
Cuddalore	4	47
Dharmapuri	4	40
Kanchipuram	6	61
Krishnagiri	6	48
Sivagangai	6	60
Tiruvallur	4	60
Tiruvannamalai	7	68
Trichy	6	71
Vellore	8	126
Total	55	626

Visit to Annanagar village in Pallipattu

Radha, from the Eureka State Content team, reports on her visit to Annanagar village in Pallipattu block - "Annanagar Eureka center has 21 children in classes 1-3. As we entered the center, we were greeted with smiling faces and a loud "Good morning" by the children. The **Eureka Teacher Jyothi**, is a young enthusiastic girl from a very poor family. Her father is no more and her mother's earnings barely make ends meet. Jyothi wants to study and train to be a nurse. Jyothi's dedication and effort has brought about a huge change in the learning levels of children in the village.



We checked the skill chart and saw many tick marks on the Math and Tamil skills. We tested the children on multiplication, and much to our delight each one did every problem easily and correctly. It was such a great moment! The children were also very enthusiastic about demonstrating their skills. Damu was surrounded by a group of little ones pestering him to give them more Math problems! It was wonderful to see Jyothi's Eureka center having such a good impact.

I was especially impressed with 8 year old **Durairaj**. He is a very smart boy who has his skill chart complete with 'tick marks' in all skills in Tamil & Math. His skill levels were way higher than what children at this age typically have. When I asked him what his ambition is, he gave a shy smile and said "Engineer". We found that the attendance of children and fee collection were also excellent at the village. The visit to the center really brightened our day. I hope we find many more such "Jyothis" who can change the way children learn in our villages."

Radha, a BITS Pilani alumnus completed her Masters in Engineering from San Jose State University, and worked for several years at Cypress Semiconductor. On her return to India in 2007, she volunteered with us for a year before joining full-time as Content Director. Radha coordinates curriculum planning, design and production of materials for the Eureka Superkidz program.



Small Steps ... Big Changes

Last month there was a local festival in **Santhampatti village of Bargur block**, and around 100 people in the village were involved in fasting and religious ceremonies. As part of this, devotional songs were being played loudly in the village. The music was so loud that it did not allow the children to study in our Eureka centers.

The Eureka Teachers approached the village head and discussed the problem with him. A village meeting was held where the issue was explained. From that day onwards, the village decided that music would not be played between 5pm to 8pm so that the children could study in peace!

Kadinayanapalli village in Krishnagiri has had caste tensions for many years. When we started our Eureka center in one section of the village, we found that children belonging to the other caste would not attend it. Our Project Manager Nagaraj and team had numerous meetings with the parents of children, but it did not help solve the problem. Nagaraj was quite at a loss what to do next.

Finally, last month, Nagaraj told the parents that we would shift the Eureka centre to another village if this problem persisted. After this parents met separately and they decided to come to a common understanding and send their children the Eureka centre, irrespective of where it is located. The problem has finally been solved and children of both sections are attending the Eureka center regularly!