



Greetings from Eureka SuperKidz!

As the Eureka program reaches out and impacts the lives of hundreds of children, we acknowledge the fact that without committed and enthusiastic parents and tutors, this effort would have not been possible.

In this newsletter, we would like to focus on a few parents and their hopes and dreams for their children's future. We also present to you what children, tutors and parents feel about the learning materials and activities done in our Eureka class

Read on!



Engaged parents raise the bar in the demand for quality education...

As we run Eureka classes in villages, we interact frequently with parents of our children. We find that all parents have similar aspirations for their children. They all want their children to have a better life than their own. And they all unanimously agree that education is the best way to make that future come true for their children. Meet some enthusiastic parents who are keenly engaged in their children's education...

Sumathy is a tailor in Pazhankoil village. She did not study further after Class 10. She says that though she had the choice to study, her lack of interest and comprehension of her subjects made her discontinue her education. She wants to ensure that this does not happen to her son Naveen, now in Class 8. She is happy that the Eureka centre engages children in learning activities after school and motivates them to do better. She specifically appreciates the attitude of the Eureka tutors who believe in children's abilities and don't give up on weaker children. Naveen shows her the worksheets he completes at the Eureka center every day.



Sumathy frequently visits the Eureka center and speaks to his tutors about his progress.

Her strong focus on ensuring her children learn well has encouraged her daughter Soundarya, Class 11, to excel in her class. Soundarya aspires to be a computer engineer in future. Sumathy is a great example of how an engaged parent can make a difference to her children's education.

Kumari is a daily wage labourer and works in a farm in Mummuni village, Vandavasi. She struggles to make ends meet, but wants to ensure that she sends her three children to the Eureka centre regularly. She is happy that her children do not waste time in the evenings by watching TV, but instead attend classes at the Eureka centre and study well. She is keen that her children learn English. "I have a lot of confidence in the Eureka tutor. I see that she gives special attention to children who are not doing well. I will ensure that my children attend these classes regularly and do well in their studies", she says.



We see, through numerous examples that engaged parents are able to motivate their children to do well, offer them the right kind of support to achieve their objectives and give them a good environment to reach their full potential. In the Eureka program we have tried to ensure that we involve parents at every stage in their child's education. Collecting a small monthly fee from parents ensures that they are committed to sending their children regularly and also monitor basic running of the classes.

Last month, we prepared a half-yearly report card for each child, based on the skills acquired by them so far. Our team held parents meetings, and also went house-to-house in some villages to explain to parents about their child's progress. After this, we have found that many parents now visit their Eureka center to check the skill chart from time to time, and also question the Eureka tutor, if their children do not have as many tick marks in the skill chart as they should. We hope that we will be able to constantly raise the level of parental involvement so that there is a clear demand for quality education for all children.

Learning with cards and calendars...

Last quarter, we supplied a big box of learning materials to each village. This month our State team visited several villages and met with Eureka Tutors, parents and children, to get their feedback on how the materials were being used.

In their voices...

Vimala, Eureka Tutor, Veraiyur village: *"The materials at our centers are particularly important for younger children (Std. 1-3) since they are attractive and colourful. These young children look forward to come to the centre to read and use the cards and materials."*

Dinesh Kumar, Eureka Tutor, Tiruvannamalai: *"I particularly liked the 'geo board' (The geo board is a visual tool to teach angles and measurement) When we learnt math, we just learnt a series of steps and rote procedures. Now children in my class are able to 'see and experience' what they are learning, so they understand better."*

Ashwini, Class 4: *"Materials like the word calendars and flashcards have helped me read Tamil better. Now I also use them to teach my younger brother so that he can do better in school!"*

Vindhya, Class 5: *"I used to be scared of Maths. But after using the cards, I now understand and do addition, subtraction and fractions"*

Bhumika, Class 4, T. Valavetti village: *"I find the Tamil story cards very interesting. I am doing much better at school also and my teachers are very happy with my performance."*

Malar, mother of Jayasudha and Jagan of Class 6: *"The English flash cards are good! My children are learning new English words."*



ASER 2012 Released!

The 8th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) was released in Chennai in February. Mr. Siddharth Varadarajan, Editor, The Hindu, released the ASER Tamil Nadu results and Education Activist Dr. S.S. Rajagopalan received it. The event was attended by educationists, corporate volunteers, media persons and members of the civil society. Dr. Vasanthi Devi, President of AID INDIA, presented the ASER2012 results. Overall the status of reading and math level of children in Tamilnadu did not see much change from the previous years. The learning levels in India as a whole has slightly dipped since last year. The results left no doubt that a lot has to be done to ensure that every child is guaranteed at least the basic skills in reading and math.



Please renew your support to your adopted villages!

Thanks to your support, we reached close to 40,000 children in 700 villages last year. We would like to ensure continued support to these children to enable them to realize their full potential. To renew your contribution, either online or through cheque, please visit the link: <http://eureka.aidindia.in/donate.php>

Please write to us if you have any queries. Your support means a lot to us!