



eureka SuperKidz

Reaching the poorest. Providing the Best.

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Welcome to the Eureka SuperKidz family!

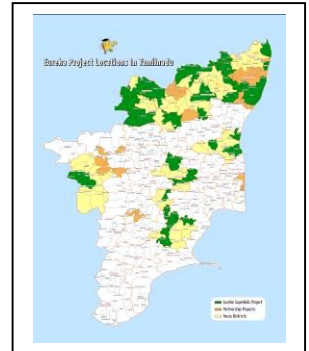
Thanks to the overwhelming support for the Eureka Village Adoption Campaign, **we exceeded our target of 250 villages and now have got 375 villages adopted!** This fantastic support from you has energized our team. We are now geared up to reach out to children in many more villages. This 1st newsletter in the New Year brings you stories from your adopted villages – stories of hope, resilience, and change.

Our team & all the **25,000 SuperKidz** wish you a very **Happy 2011!**

10 Districts

55 Blocks

626 villages



Ashok goes back to school...

Ashok's parents are quarry workers who migrated to Delhi as they were unable to make ends meet. Ashok was left behind to work – rearing sheep for a wealthy family in their village.

When his aunt visited his village, she was shocked to see his plight and took him with her to Andapattu village near Tiruvannamalai and tried enrolling him in the local school. The school asked for a transfer certificate, which he didn't have. So she enrolled him in our Eureka center. Ashok is very keen to study and has been coming to the Eureka center every day. Our Project Manager Sivakumar argued with the school that the RTE act has made it illegal to demand a transfer certificate. So finally this month, we got Ashok admitted into school!



Ashok is a cheerful boy with a special love for animals. Last week, he brought a calf inside the school! "It was raining and all of us ran inside. But the calf was getting wet outside. So I brought it in too", he said.

Enrolled in school and attending the Eureka SuperKidz center, we hope this New Year will be a turning point for Ashok to overcome his past ordeals and progress towards a happier, secure future.

Udayamalini – Our Youngest Teacher!

As you enter Nerkunampattu village in Latur block, you will find a young teacher, Udayamalini, enthusiastically teaching a group of small kids to read. Udayamalini is not the Village Eureka Teacher - she is a Std. 6 student! This bright kid is enrolled in our Eureka center and loves to teach. She wants to "first become a teacher and then become a district collector"!

As soon as she comes to the center, she quickly completes all the activities and runs to the Std. 1-3 center to teach the younger kids. She loves teaching so much that she calls a group of children to her house, even on Sundays, and helps them with their homework!



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

Jayram Visits Konnakkudi and Koogoor Villages

Years ago, as a Masters student at Cincinnati, Jayram used to help undergrads. Later, as Analytics Manager at Standard Chartered, he developed mathematical models. 3 years ago, Jayram fused his passion for teaching and math by quitting his corporate career to become the Eureka Math Coordinator.

Visiting Konnakkudi and Koogoor villages near Lalgudi, Jayram says, "The center in **Konnakkudi** was running in the Eureka Teacher Gowri's house. As soon as the children saw me, they ran up to me and asked in English, "How old are you?" I realized that they had just completed the 'Rapid Fire Q&A' activity in English!



The Eureka Teacher had stuck the monthly goals in each subject on the wall. The Math goal was 'fractions'. I sat with 4 children and drew rectangles in their notebooks. I asked them to show me $4/10$ and $2/5$. They divided the rectangle and shaded the boxes correctly.

I learnt that Eureka Teacher Gowri's father had died early. Initially she and her mother had lived in her uncle's house. But after a few years, her uncle refused to look after them. Gowri's mother now works as a cook in a local mess. Gowri studies in college and runs her Eureka center in the evenings. She said that she uses the honorarium she gets from the Eureka center to pay her college fees."



Jayram continues: I then went to **Koogoor** – a very remote village about 25 kms from Trichy. The Eureka center runs in a small space outside the temple. Although it was raining heavily, 20 children were present. I tested children's Math levels. A few Std 1 children still did not know to recognize numbers, but all the Std 2 and Std 3 children were able to easily add 2-digit numbers. Eureka Teacher Sarada showed me how children could now read small words in English and demonstrated the rhyming words activity.

Our Project Manager Rajapandi told me that this was a very poor and backward Dalit colony and was affected by a deep caste divide. Initially, when he started the center in the 'main village', the Dalit children could not come. So he had shifted the center to the Dalit colony.

I was moved when Rajapandi told me, "When I first visited this village, I thought it would be very tough for us to work here. But now I feel this is one of our best villages. I can see a lot of improvement among the children here. If we are able to impact this village, I will be confident that we can make a change anywhere."

Simple acts of generosity, spirit ...

- Vasanthi is a Govt. schoolteacher in Indur village near Nallampalli. Her son attends our Eureka center. Near Vasanthi's house live 2 kids - Sanjeevan and Selvi. Their father is an alcoholic, and their mother works as a cleaner in a hotel. Seeing that no one was taking care of these kids, Vasanthi has enrolled both kids in the Eureka SuperKidz center and is paying their fees. She has also motivated another schoolteacher to do the same for 2 other children!
- Guna stays with his grandparents and studies in the 6th Std. in Kalingavaram village near Soolagiri. His parents are laborers and stay in a village 15 km away. Seeing that Guna was keen to join the Eureka center, the local councilor's wife Kavitha has enrolled him and is sponsoring his fee.

... and creative thinking

- Ravikumar is the Eureka Teacher at Yerandapalli village in Krishnagiri district. To get kids interested in Math, he hired a laptop for 2 days and used it to teach Math concepts to children in his class!
- Most people in Ammayarkuppam village in RK Pet Block are weavers, who depend on electricity to work their looms. It is very difficult to get people to come out of their homes except when there is no electricity. Recently Eureka SuperKidz parents got together to organize games, speech and drama competitions for children during one such power cut!

