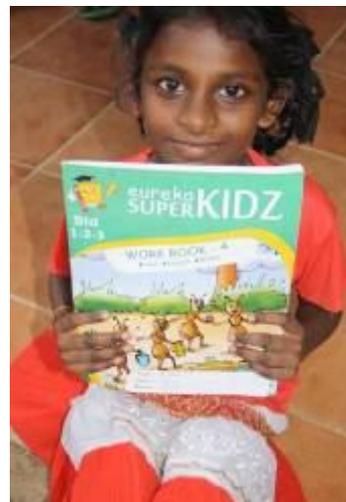


Greetings from Eureka Superkidz!



This month, we celebrated children's efforts through a unique '100% Result Challenge' event held in several villages. Eureka tutors in the village took up the challenge that 100% children in their classes will be able to do a particular skill – like reading a story or subtraction or division. Starting with Pazhankoil village in Kalasapakkam block many more villages have taken up this challenge.

We are happy to share with you that State Bank of India donated blackboards to all Eureka villages this month. Further in this report are stories of some extraordinary Eureka kids, examples of how poor parents are engaging with their children's education and stories of volunteers who are regularly visiting Eureka center and teaching children who need additional support.



Pazhankoil village make a promise to its children and keeps it!

The Eureka Teachers of Pazhankoil village took up a challenge – “By October 2nd, we will ensure that every child in Std. 5 reads stories in Tamil and does division sums correctly. We also make a promise that every child in Std. 7 will be able to do fraction sums and read paragraphs in English. This is our '100% Result Challenge'!” They committed to the community and parents that they could come in and test any child on these skills and get external people to validate this. For one month, the Eureka tutors worked hard to spend time with every child – especially the weakest ones, to ensure that every child attained these skills.



The Eureka team printed flyers to invite people to the event and distributed these to all the households in the village. Headmasters of schools in Pazhankoil and neighboring villages were also invited for the event.

The day of the event arrived. The streets of the village had a festive air. First a drawing competition was held for all the children. Govt. education officers, Block Welfare Officers, and village leaders came together to chose the 3 best pictures and give away prizes to the children.

Soon the much awaited event began. Parents gathered eagerly to see how their children were faring. School HMs, officials, educated parents and volunteers individually evaluated children's reading skills and gave them division and fraction sums. Parents' faces had huge smiles as they saw their children confidently doing the problems and asking for more. Every child did the math problems correctly and read aloud stories with confidence. School HMs were surprised to see that not even one child was left behind!



Pazhankoil was the first village to rise to the 100% challenge. Now more and more Eureka villages are delivering their promises. It shows that by setting clear and simple goals it is possible to ensure outcomes for every child.

After the event parents thanked the tutors and praised the children for their efforts. The mother of one of the children got very emotional as she said, “Our teachers did not take any interest in us when we were in school. We were asked to peel groundnuts during school time and we did not get to study anything. I eventually dropped out. I am really glad that my daughter now has such a good opportunity to learn well and be successful in life.” Excited Eureka tutors distributed sweets to all the children. Eureka Pazhankoil had delivered its 100% Result Promise!

Some Eureka Kidz who have touched our hearts...

Meet 'Collector Devi'!

Project Manager Varalakshmi met Devi (Std. 5) when she went to Ponniamman village in RK Pet Block. She says, "Devi captured my attention as soon as I went into the class. She was doing Science experiments with great interest. I called out to Devi to come and talk to me. Other children in the class told me – She will not respond if you call her 'Devi'; she only turns back if you call her 'Collector Devi'! From the time she was 6, Devi has been telling everyone that she is going to be a collector when she grows up. Devi loves to come to the Eureka center especially because she can learn to do Science experiments here. Her Eureka Teacher Thenmozhi takes special care of her and promises that she will help her achieve her ambition and become a Collector one day"



Strong Resolve: Swetha is a physically challenged child in Sethuvandai village. Since she finds it difficult to walk to school, she attends school only once or twice a week. The Eureka tutor Vidhya was very keen to teach Swetha and started the Eureka center very close to Swetha's house. Determined to study, Swetha now comes to the Eureka center every day and is learning fast. The Eureka team at Sethuvandai is now talking to the local school and to find a way to get her to attend school every day. The team is committed to ensure that Swetha's physical disability does not get in the way of achieving her goals.

News Snippets from the field

This month, Eureka tutors in Keezhkodungallur village in Vandavasi took children from their centers for a tour around Mahabalipuram and Thiruporur. Parents in the village were excited that their children, many of whom had never gone out of their own village, were getting the opportunity to see places and enjoy themselves.



SBI donates blackboards

As part of the Joy of Giving Week, The State Bank of India donated blackboards to 1000 Eureka villages. In an inaugural function in Thiruporur block, State Bank officials - Mr. Thimaiah, Circle GM, Mr. Sridharan, AGM, and Ms. Rita Simon, Manager, handed over the blackboards to Eureka Tutors. Following this, State Bank Branch Managers from local branches in around 20 blocks have visited Eureka centers and participated in village events to hand over the blackboards to Eureka centers in those blocks.

Parents take a keen interest: Sarala studies at the Eureka center in Mathur village in Vembakkam. Her mother Ponni has never gone to school. Nevertheless she takes a keen interest in Sarala's education. Ponni has been regularly visiting our Eureka center and talking to the tutor Thamizharasi about her daughter's progress.

When we visited the village, Ponni pointed out the Eureka skill chart to us and said that she would periodically count how many tick marks her daughter has got. She also gets Sarala's older brother to read Sarala's Eureka workbooks to find out how she is doing in class. Ponni is an example of how poor parents, even those who are not educated themselves, can demand education quality and enhance their child's learning.



Volunteers teach at Eureka

Brinda relocated from the US to Coimbatore a year and a half ago and has since been looking to volunteer for non-profit organizations that help children. Nandhini, was working in Infosys in Chennai and has just relocated to Coimbatore. Both Nandhini and Brinda are now regularly volunteering at our Eureka centers in villages in Thondamathur block.

They take Math and English for children in the centers and help in training the local village tutors as well. Brinda has been providing individual attention to the weaker children and is also introducing some games and activities for English learning. Nandhini says, "Although these children are very sharp, they are missing out a lot because they have no one at home to help them out. It's amazing to see how happy they are in spite of having very minimal resources. I enjoy being with them every day!"

