

Eureka SuperKidz News

12 Districts, 49 Blocks, 42000 Children

Celebration of achievements!



The last two months (April and May) of the academic year kept us all busy with celebration events such as the Eureka Little Creator Event and Eureka Best Tutor Award function. While the Little Creator event encouraged creative thinking in Eureka children, the Best Tutor Award function recognised teachers' achievements in improving skill levels of their children.

The end of the year also means that we analyse large amount of our year-end evaluation's skill-data to derive impact in children's learning outcomes. The findings have been presented below.

We also discuss the new ESK programme for 2016-17 which will have community learning centres with both remedial and advanced classes coupled with teacher training at government, private schools and NGOs.

EUREKA LITTLE CREATOR EVENT – STATE LEVEL

On April 10th, 2016, the State Level Eureka Little Creators event was held in Chennai where children from 12 districts across Tamil Nadu participated.

24 teams, comprising of 3 children in each team from classes 3-5 qualified for the final event after competing in 3 rounds of village level, block level and district level competitions, competing amongst 40000 children from across Tamilnadu.

Each team divided the tasks of story writing, story drawing and story telling among themselves. The topics were selected by lot method and provided to the teams the evening before the event in order to allow them to discuss and get ideas from their team members.

The event began at 10.00 am on Sunday when 24 teams wrote, illustrated and narrated their respective stories animatedly in front of judges. Top 6 shortlisted teams then narrated their stories on the stage in front of a big audience, which was enthralled and amazed at children's creativity and confidence levels.

The 1st Prize winners were from Thenpallipattu Govt School, Thiruvannamalai district. While the 2nd and 3rd prizes went to Chandravilasapuram Govt School, Thiruvallur district and Lalgudi Govt School, Trichy district, respectively.

The chief guests for the event were eminent writer Mr. Gnani and Dr. Vasanthi Devi. Mr. Gnani spoke briefly on the importance of allowing children to be creative and letting them speak freely without any conditioning.

A day prior to the event, the children were taken on a fun trip to Kishkintha theme park, accompanied by their teachers and Eureka SuperKidz field coordinators. The children had a great time on adventure rides and water sports .



EUREKA BEST TUTOR AWARD FUNCTION

Aid India team organized Eureka Best Tutor award function on May 1st.

The pillars of the Eureka program's success are the dedicated and hardworking village-level teachers of whom, more than 80% are young women, who take daily classes for these children in remote villages and schools in Tamil Nadu. Of these teachers, more than 75 tutors from our partner-NGOs and schools had performed exceptionally well and brought about significant improvement in the learning levels of children in the past academic year. As a recognition for their perseverance, hard work and dedication, they were honoured with the 'Eureka Best Tutor Award' in Chennai at a special Award Ceremony on 1st May 2016.

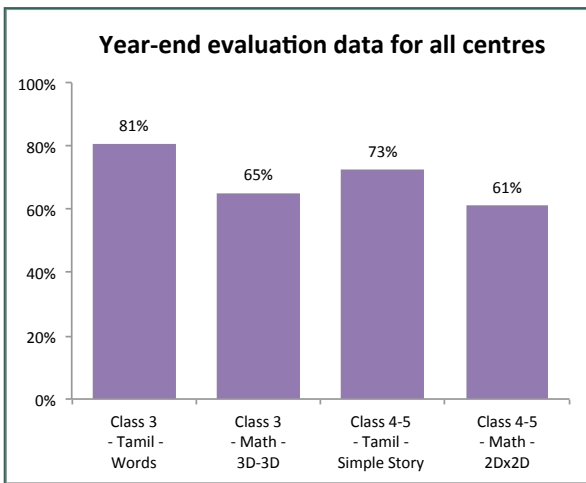
The morning session comprised of fun activities that began with a trip in a metro train and then to Express Avenue Mall where the Teachers enjoyed the games, 5D show etc., followed by the Award function in the afternoon.



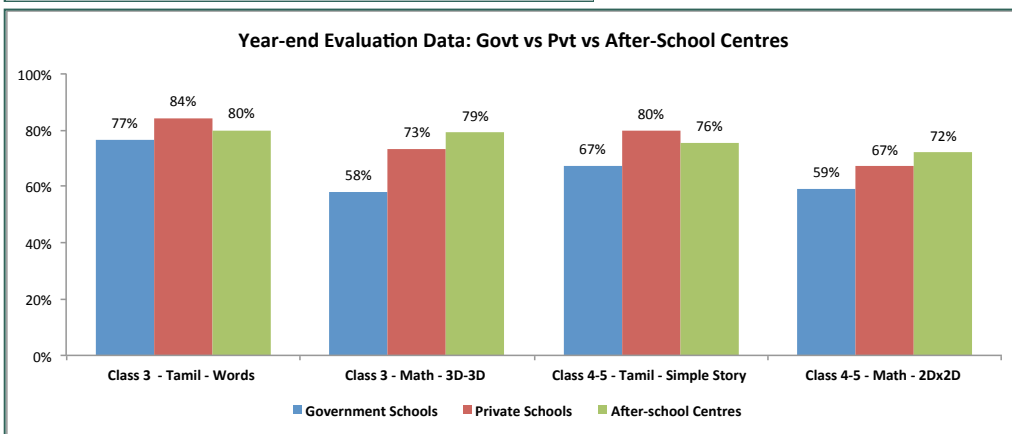
Mr. Bharathi Krishnakumar, Film Director, Mr. RJ Balaji, Dr. Kaleeswaran of Alternative Media Center were special guests for the event. Mr. Bharathi Krishnakumar enthralled the audience with his inimitable speech that lasted for 45 minutes and Dr. Kaleeswaran's team performed a form of folk music on the stage. Many tutors and coordinators thanked Eureka for organizing the function as well as Mr. Bharathi's speech.

More than 25 NGO partners of Aid India participated and deserving rural tutors received the awards from the guests. At the event, we also recognised the NGO heads who had conducted Little Creators Event at their respective blocks. We also released the annual report of the Eureka SPARK program in the event as well.

Impact created by AID INDIA's Eureka education programs



As can be seen in the two adjacent graphs, we achieved our skill targets for class 3 students in Tamil. More than 80% children can read Tamil words. However, due to the floods, we could only reach 65-70% for other skill levels such as 3D subtraction for Class 3, reading simple story in Tamil for class 4-5 children and performing 2Dx2D calculations in Math. Below graph - While it was tougher for our teams to start working in private schools, towards the end of the year, those schools showed better performance than government schools - mainly because of higher..

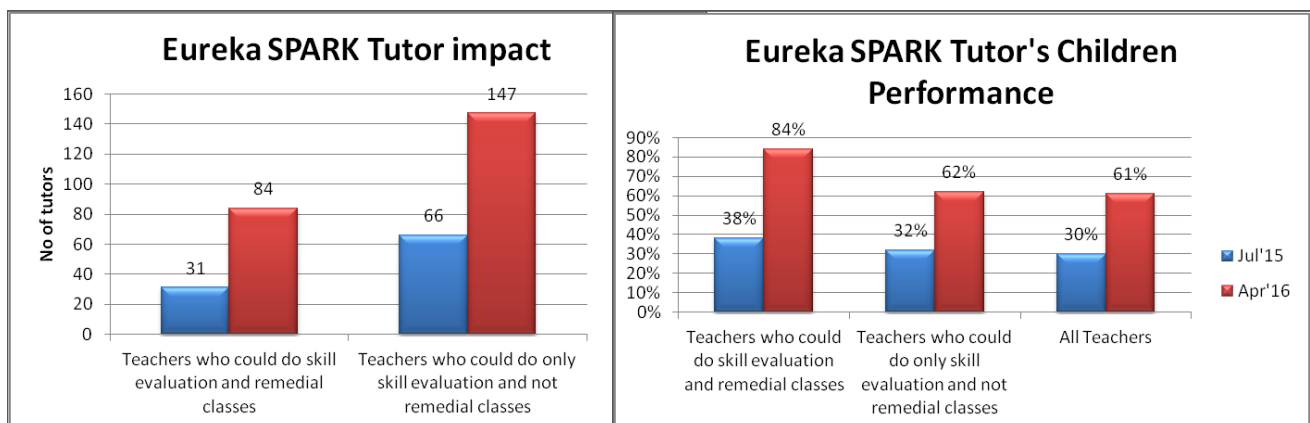


..commitment and accountability and lesser admin work. Our own after-school village centres continued to perform well better due to greater control and intensive monitoring.

The Eureka SPARK programme focused primarily on improving children's skill levels through tutor training. In the first graph, the programme's effectiveness in teacher training can be seen - the numbers of teachers who could do skill evaluation and take remedial classes grew considerably from July'15 to Apr'16 (31 to 84 teachers).

Similarly, the second graph shows that for teachers, who could do both skill evaluation and take remedial classes, their children's skill levels increased the most from 38% to 84% vis-a-vis 32% to 62% for teachers who could *only* do skill evaluation and not take remedial classes.

This shows that with focus on teacher training and accurate skill evaluation, results can be achieved.



ESK Plan for 2016-17

The **ESK programme for 2016-17** will have four components.

Eureka SuperKidz (ESK) - This will focus on running remedial classes for lagging children. The focus classes for next year are 3-5 and 6-8. There will be two designated tutors in each village for both the class groups.

Scholarship Children - This component will focus on children - *Young Teachers* - who have already achieved basic skills. Our field staff will teach advanced skills to these children. These children will also assist the tutors for classes 3-5 and 6-8. Special classes by experts will be organised for these Young Teachers on a fortnightly basis.

The above two programmes will run simultaneously at our **Community Learning Centres**.

ESK-Partnership Programme - The ESK programme will be implemented through the NGOs in their areas. We will partner with them to bring improvement in skill levels of the children by training their tutors at their education centres on how to conduct skill evaluation and take remedial classes.

Teacher Training - Interested teachers will be identified through educational institutions (govt and private schools) and trained on various teaching techniques for Tamil, Math and English as well as skill evaluation etc. They will be provided with attractive, easy-to-use teaching aids and rewarded at the end of the year for bringing significant improvement in learning levels of children.

What's Brewing in June ?

- Content preparation for next year's programme
- Identifying locations and finalising list of our Community Learning Centres
- Identifying new tutors and speaking to different stakeholders of the program

Call out for volunteers

We are looking for volunteers

- To prepare innovative content in Math and Tamil
- To help set up centres and train tutors at village level
- To conduct evaluations and analyse large data sets
- To teach Math operations and English reading at the centres

Please get in touch with Selva aid.selva@gmail.com if interested in any of the above.