ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 14

SRIRAMACHARAN CHARITABLE TRUST

IN AID OF

CHENNAI CORPORATION SCHOOLS

We are happy to inform you that the various projects undertaken by Sriramacharan Charitable Trust are continuing with full energy and satisfaction.

To give you a brief account of the same:

**PROJECT UNDER COGNIZANT FOUNDATION**

We are happy to inform you that the 12 environments newly taken up under the sponsorship of Cognizant Foundation is doing well and the children are progressing into higher activities.

There were some administrative problems in the Washermanpet School where we have supplied two sets of Montessori materials under the Cognizant Project. Therefore we decided to shift out of this school, with the permission of the Chennai Corporation and the Cognizant Foundation.

After due diligence, we identified Chennai Middle School, Thideer Nagar, where the project has been shifted smoothly since.

We are very happy to inform you one of our teachers Ms.Jamuna, the coordinator in the Royapettah School was chosen to receive THE BEST TEACHER AWARD instituted by the Tamil Nadu Teacher’s Association. We have to specifically mention here that her name was recommended by the HM Ms. Mehboob of the Royapettah School. As you may be aware, this school caters predominantly to the local Muslim population and the HM initially made it quite clear her displeasure to our Trust working in her school. Now we are extremely happy to say that the HM and the KG teachers of the Corporation extend their full support to us.

Over and above the funding we received from Cognizant for establishing and maintaining the 12 Montessori environments, we have incurred expenses to the tune of Rs.1.25 lakhs in respect of budget overshoot in procuring material.

In terms of teachers’s salaries, there has been an expenditure for the Trust to the tune of Rs72,000/ so far. This is because in two schools viz MGR Nagar and Rangarajapuram, the Corporation has not appointed a teacher for every classroom. Therefore apart from the coordinator under the CF funding SRCT has appointed one more teacher in these two schools and a helper in MGR Nagar, in order to effectively conduct the Montessori environments.

**NEW INITIATIVE UNDER Child Vikas International**

We are very happy to inform you that CVI has come forward to support more Montessori environments in Chennai Corporation Schools. Under their funding we have supplied one set of material for the School in TH Road, Washermanpet where our former teacher has been absorbed by the Corporation.

Similarly for the school in Puliyur, near Kodambakkam, we have supplied two sets of materials and appointed a teacher, an assistant teacher and a helper under the CVI sponsorship.

A very encouraging feature has happened in the TH Road Washermanpet School. The teachers of higher classes visit the KG sections regularly and see the children quietly engaged in Montessori activities with utmost concentration. They eagerly await the current KG children to come to their class rooms as they feel their dog days of ‘disciplining’ their classes will be over.

**ENVIRONMENTS WITH SRCT DIRECT FUNDING**

While working with the support of Cognizant Foundation, we realized that in the MGR Nagar School and Rangarajapuram School, the number of children were far more than the class rooms allocated. Though we supplied 3 sets of materials and one set of material respectively to MGR Nagar and Rangarajapuram under the Cognizant sponsorship, these schools needed one more environment to fully accommodate all the children.

Therefore we decided to provide funds from our resources itself in order to make the schools complete in their requirements.

Thus SRCT has funded one set of materials each to MGR Nagar School and Rangarajapuram School apart from appointing an additional teacher and helper in the MGR Nagar School.

**This is apart from our part funding of the 11 environments in the Saidapet Corporation School.**

**REMEDIAL CLASS**

As is well known many students in corporation schools who are from broken homes and marginalized sections of the community are woefully lagging behind in studies. This is due to many reasons like Domestic disharmony, Relocation, Medical reasons and Lack of awareness towards continued education. Such children need individual attention and we are providing tuition to these children through the Montessori method. We are keen to bring them on par with the other students.

The Remedial classes in the Chennai Corporation Middle School, Saidapet started in the second week of August 2013.

As you may be aware the focus of our remedial class is to basically make the children literate; that they should be able to read and write fluently both Tamil and English when they reach high school; and that they should know to recognize numbers, and be able to perform addition and subtraction.

With that goal to reach, our teachers started the remedial classes from the second week of August. We are happy to inform you that several children **started performing well enough so that their class teachers do not see the need to send them to tuition anymore. These children therefore are making good with regular classes.**

But there are some whose progress is not up to the desired level. The reasons attributed by our teachers for this is lack of regular attendance and possible learning problems.

In a bid to encourage regular attendance among the poorly performing children, we have started collecting the address and phone numbers of their parents / guardians. It is not out of place to mention here that these are also the children whose mothers / guardians are working as house maids and are rarely seen in the school even by their class teachers.

Our attempts to contact some of the parents over the phone have not succeeded. We are planning to take the help of volunteers / social service students to visit their homes and find out reasons for irregular attendance and instill the importance of regular attendance to school.

As regards children who are unable to retain, or have difficulty in recognizing alphabets even when they are able to write well, and those who do not show much interest in studies, we are planning to assess the children for possible learning disorders like dyslexia.

Towards this we have approached ANANYA an organization that works with Dyslexic children and have requested them to conduct a workshop for our teachers. This would enable our teachers to recognize learning disabilities and also learn the correct approach and methodology to teach such children.

The workshop is likely to be in July, just before the remedial classes start for the next academic year.

**SPONSORSHIP OF MONTESSORI TRAINING TO OUR ASSISTANT TEACHERS**

This academic year we have sponsored the Montessori training of six of our assistant teachers working in Saidapet School and MGR Nagar School.

We will keep you posted of further developments. We will be grateful for your continued support to all our efforts to bring better education to our children.

Radhika Sasankh