

**MONITORING REPORT OF
ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY
ON SSA FOR
TAMILNADU
FOR THE PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2006 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

DISTRICTS COVERED

**PUDUKKOTAI
THANJAVUR
TIRUVARUR**



1. THIRUMAYAM BLOCK RESOURCE CENTRE:

Under this BRC, there are 9 cluster Resource centres of which 3 primary schools and 6 upper primary schools are functioning. The highlight of this centre is well equipped IED (Inclusive Education for Disabled). In the schools, 0.04% students are physically / visually / audibly challenged in each class. The special educators are Mr.P. Sivakumar & Miss. R. Arputha Arulmary. They give training to the teachers in the case of MR and physically challenged pupils, on how to treat them. In case of overcrowded classroom or inadequate number of teachers, educators give training to the peer group also. The method is,

Training → Observation → Feedback → Review Meeting

A number of teaching / training aids for special children also are available here. They are 1) car push 2) speech trainer 3) Group hearing aid 4) Rechargeable hearing aids (individual) 5) Supenator Pronator 6) Ankle exerciser 7) Braille Slides 8) Tread Mill 9) Physio ball.

Fatima Primary School, Tirumayam

Fatima Primary School, of Tirumayam Block was visited by the team to observe Activity Based Learning, for first and second standard children. This ABL is adopted for all subjects. The number of teachers is 1 + 4. the school received Rs. 2500 for TLM only. This Activity Based Learning is assessed through Evaluation cards.

Panchayat Union Primary School, Yenapatti

Next, the team visited a cluster Resources Center in Yenapatti. This school was established in 1962. it has two teachers, Mr.Prameshwaran, the Headmaster, Ms. S. Malathy. It has a multi-grade classroom.

I Std → 6 + 3 (B +G)

II Std → 5 + 3

III Std → 2 + 0

IV Std → 2 + 0

V Std → 2 + 0

In this school, there is “School Maintenance Center” (2005 – 06). The contribution of the villagers, particularly Mr.Durai and Mr. Rasu is noteworthy. The school is completely surrounded with greenery, by the efforts of the Headmaster. They also celebrate functions like pongal. This centre also runs Pre-primary child care center for 25 children. (13+2, (G, B). Play materials are plenty in number. Ms.S. Deivanai, is the only caretaker for these children.

Ranee’s Government Hr.Sec.School for Girls, Pudukottai.

This school was established in 1970. A 3 classroom building under construction for the academic year 2005 – 06, was supervised by the team . An in-service programme PG teachers in English was going on.

Block Resource Center, Pudukottai

In this center, the team watched the Training Programme for upper primary school teachers through EDUSAT. The subject was mathematics.

Manamelkudi – BRC

In Manamelkudi Block more number of dropouts at upper primary level among Muslim girls was the problem identified. There is a demand for separate schools for Muslim girls with women teachers where the density of Muslim population is more.

Aranthangi Block Resource Center

Under this BRC, there are 16 Cluster Resource Centers. The Supervisor is Mr.A. Mundaiyan, M.A., B.Sc., B.T. In this BRC also EDUSAT facility is available. Total trained educators are 1 + 7. this center lacks 2 teacher educators for science. this BRC arranged the following programmes for the past academic year (2005 – 06)

- 1) ABL Training
- 2) Content Enrichment Training
- 3) Vocational development training for Girls.
- 4) Training for ECCE workers
- 5) Training programme for VEC members.
- 6) Historical visit for VIII standard SC students.
- 7) Training in Physical Education, Yoga and Health Education.
- 8) Meeting of Headmasters
- 9) Camp for Inclusive Education for Disabled
- 10) Training for IED Children
- 11) Departmental exhibition at Union Office

- 12) School Total Health Programme Training
- 13) Meeting on civil works
- 14) Alternative Innovative Education Programme
- 15) BRC level sports and Multiple Intelligence Context
- 16) Life skill training for SC students
- 17) Life skill training for AIE students
- 18) Summer camp (Training in singing, Arts, Yoga , drawing etc.)
- 19) Programme on road safety

Municipal Primary School, Aranthangi

It is also a Cluster Resource Center. It has a multi-grade classroom with 125 children. There are three teachers. It has also a Computer Aided Learning Center. This center has a computer system and 63 content based CDs. The students have computer education for 2 days per week. The students are excellent in computer operation. In this school, we met two special children, (i) Vigneshwar [Mentally retarded child studying in II std], (ii) Riyasudin [Ortho child studying in IV std]. They have shown tremendous improvement after joining the school.

Residential School, Konnakadu, Pudukkottai

This Residential camp was established in 15.7.2006. there are Educational volunteers and 2 cooks. There are 56 children. The entire system is different from the regular one. Here, no regular textbooks are used. They use condensed textbooks. There are 5 levels of children.

Level I	→	1 & 2 Std.	:	3 children
Level II	→	3 & 4 Std.	:	13 ”
Level III	→	5 Std.	:	16 ”
Level IV	→	6 & 7 Std.	:	21 ”
Level V	→	8 Std.	:	3 ”

After completing the VIII standard the children are mainstreamed. The children, who are studying here, were once street children dropped out from schools, child labourers etc. they are being provided free education along with food, blanket, mat, stationeries, plates, tumblers, bags etc. these items are supplied free of cost. A television set is also available. Sports materials are also provided. Rs. 15 will be given for each child per day. Even in this RC, there is 10% drop out.

Panchayat Union Middle School – Arantangi Block

Menakkadu, Vettivayal – Newly upgraded.

This is a newly upgraded middle school. 3 classroom building construction is going on. 80 students are studying in this school. There are 3 teachers, Mr.T. Nedunchezhiyan is the Headmaster. I, II & II standards are combined into 1 class, IV & V , a separate class and VI std a separate one. In the newly upgraded VI standard, the number of students are 11 + 5. even though, this school is located in a remote village a computer system is available, through community mobilization. Self-help group is the main source of community mobilization. Commitment and contribution of the village people to the development of the school is superb. There are 300 members in the SHG.

They need a centre for early child care education for about 150 children. Our professors planted saplings in the school campus. Balwadi is to be established.

**Panchayat Union Middle School, Mangudi, Poovatrakudi (Po),
Keeramangalam (via)**

THE MANGUDI PUMS MODEL

The visiting team from Alagappa University visited Panchayat Union Middle School, Mangudi on 9.11.2006. The school was established in 1952 in the Aranthangi block of Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu. The Panchayat Union Middle School at Mangudi is located 7 kilometres away from Aranthangi in Peravoorani road. This school is situated in the entrance point of the village, which makes it very special. The village has a population of 1581. The enrollment rate of the school is 100% and dropout rate is 0% as revealed by as Cohort chart displayed in the Headmaster's room.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

This school is an excellent example of resource mobilisation. Facilities, equipment and other provisions worth Rs.10,00,000/- have been generated by the sustained interest of the head of the institution. Through active participation by Village Education Committee and liberal donation by "Tamil Nadu Endowment Trust" constituting Tamilians living abroad and other local donors, the school has generated facilities such as compound wall, main gate, children's garden, school garden, furniture, tape recorders, VCD Player, Public address system, television sets, tiled floors, which stand as witness to the untiring efforts of the Headmaster and his team.

The merging of the Government's Total Sanitation Scheme with SSA has made the school possible to have clean toilets. There are separate toilets for men and women and for boys and girls. The noon meal centre is having a pucca spacious building which is seen nowhere in other Blocks.

OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES

Building, furniture, drinking water, toilet and electrical facilities are adequate for the school, which has a strength of 270 children. For smooth administration the school records and registers are sorted out into old and current ones.

This may be probably the only middle school with provision for **Internet facility**. The Headmaster's room has cable connection facility to facilitate **monitoring of televisions** kept in all the eight classrooms.

Computer education is provided on a daily basis to children. The office work is shared by children who work with the computers. Developing of general knowledge is given special care through **reading room facility**, which has child-friendly moulded chairs numbering 25.

There are separate rooms to store teaching – learning materials, gardening equipment and other appliances.

Bathrooms for children are a special feature and those who cannot take bath in their homes can do so in the school; this promotes hygiene and health awareness indeed among children.

Ninety nine percent of the children have learnt **cycling** through the facility provided in the school. **Awareness about small-scale income – generating industries** is given through training of girls in producing incense sticks, candle, phenol and bread.

Probably this is the only Panchayat Union Middle School which has separate **pits for bio-degradable and bio-nondegradable wastes**. The pits are constructed at the cost of Rs.10,000/- . This shows how the school is very environment – friendly.

The school garden has both ornamental and medicinal plants with provision for easy watering. The school has over 50 trees like 'Pungan' and 'Neem', which, apart from giving cool shade, also provide healthy air. Many trees bear thought provoking slogans like **“Read Newspapers Daily”**, **“Wash your hands before you eat”**, etc.

Under the **Small Saving Scheme** children deposit Rs.25/ every month with the assistance of parents. In the morning assembly important news items are read. To promote oratory skills, special training is given thrice a week in which interested students can participate. Additional training in drawing and dance (bharatha natyam and folk dances) is also given to children. **Special coaching** is given by teachers for backward learners every day between 1.30 p.m. and 1.50 p.m.

Flag hoisting is done daily; the school has an electric bell. Personal hygiene of the children is given special attention in this school. This shows that both children and teachers have realized the fact that **“Prevention is better than cure”**. When some schools encourage children to write essays on such topics, here is an example where children learn through practical experience and application.

Every Friday at 3.00 p.m. **literary association** activities are conducted where children convert lesson units into cultural activities which promote their creative expression.

May be this is the only Middle School which has a **Science laboratory** facility having instruments worth Rs.50,000/- with separate sections for Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The school has an **open-air auditorium** with the school emblem painted on the wall; this stands as a proof for efficient use of space which is emphasized in every

management theory. The emblem bears, ‘education’ ‘hard work’ and ‘progress’ as its motto.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MIRACLE

A shy ever-smiling, never sitting in front of officials, humble, unassuming, one **Mr.Jothimani, M.A.,M.Ed.,M.Phil.,Ph.D** is the Headmaster, - the Kingpin of the whole apparatus of the Panchayat Union Middle School at Mangudi. The entire campus of the school stands a witness to the miracle that when there is a commitment, a will to implement novel ideas, to think in different lines, to work always for the cause of the school and the children, anything under the sun can be achieved. He was appointed by mistake - initially to the Primary School thinking that he was a lady because his name is a gender - free one! Yes, Jothimani – which means “a precious stone emanating bright light”! True to the name this gentleman radiates life energy and noble thoughts in the entire campus.

Mr. Jothimani has 20 years of experience, of which he served as a teacher educator for 6 years (5 years in DPEP and 1year in SSA); he has undergone 200 training programmes and a special 60-day training course at RIE, Mysore. Whatever he has gathered through his training and rich experience have been implemented in his ‘dream school’.

The school management experts should visit this school and interact with the head, teachers and children to learn how theory evolves from sincere, sensible, committed practice. This excellent administrator deserves every encouragement and this wonderful school deserves every support.

The Headmaster though resides about 15 kilometers away from the school, has owned it and hence has implemented all these innovations. If this school without

proper road access can achieve so much, why not those situated in places with better road access is available?

CONCLUSION

Even without knowing that this school reflects the concept of “SMART SCHOOL” introduced on an experimental basis by the Government of India, the Headmaster of this institution has been practicing the same. If this shining example is adopted with adaptations all over the country, the goal of “**Education for All**” can be achieved positively within a very short period. **To achieve this goal the University Departments and Colleges of Education may adopt atleast one primary and one upper primary school, which show symptoms of severe academic malnutrition.** This is exactly the **paradigm shift** required to lead India to self- reliance minimizing the gap between the **reached and unreached**.

Thanks to Schemes like **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan** which have made really dreams come true; the children, parents, the community, the teachers and head are blessed indeed! Let this bliss be enjoyed by all children by adopting the inspiring model of this school.

Meeting with CRC Trainers at Arantangi Block:

In this meeting, the CRC trainers come out with their problems such as, role confusion, more work load, inability to concentrate on regular children, inadequate time for school visit, additional responsibilities in regular schools, conducting achievement test without any allowance, not providing TA / DA for school visit, and so on. Meetings for CRC coordinators are conducted monthly thrice. They are treated as Non-vacation staff.

Village Education Committee in Kollanvayal Primary School

Then the team came to know about the achievement of VEC in Kollanvayal Panchayat Union Primary School. The head of the VEC is Mr. Kannaiya, a National Awardee is the major donor for this school. Mr.M. Meyyar B.Litt., is the headmaster. This school implemented joyful learning for the first time. The school has a computer accessible to children. This is the only school where communal harmony is imbibed among the young minds through drawing a decorated chariot on the day of admission where sweet Pongal is distributed which is prepared out of rice brought by children. This is the only primary school having tiled toilet, which is kept very clean. In spite of the facilities and quality education provided here, the strength is poor.