

This summer saw a visit to India by five NewDawn supporters. As always it was an amazing experience with bonds that have been built up during the years becoming even closer. We found ourselves feeling part of Vidiyal rather than just visitors, with the volunteers even insisting on including us in their dance on the final evening. I don't think we quite carried it off as well as they did but we did our best!

It was good to be able to meet up again with these young men and women who, in spite of undertaking college degrees, are prepared to give up large chunks of their time to help the younger children at Vidiyal.

We were able to show them our appreciation by giving them a meal in the roof-top restaurant of our hotel. Far from being a strained time coping with the difficulties of language, it was time of fun, laughter and interesting conversations.



Childline

This last year has seen a lot of developments. Vidiyal has been given charge of the newly developed Childline Madurai and works in the city to rescue children who are at risk— providing a helpline for disadvantaged children in a huge variety of difficult situations all over Madurai. With the support of the police, the street teams of Childline have the authority to rescue these children and work is underway to raise awareness in schools, on the streets and in other institutions, meaning that anyone can make a call if they suspect a child is being mistreated or that their fundamental rights are being denied.

Through Childline, Vidiyal's reach has spread across the city and more and more children are being saved from situations of brutality, sexual abuse, gangs and child marriages. Childline promotes 4 main rights that the children should have: The Right to Life, The Right to Development, The Right to Protection and The Right to Participation.



Jim outside the Childline building

Reception Home

Thanks to its respected social standing and Jim's authority as head of child protection in Madurai, Vidiyal is able to provide an immediate home for the children rescued through Childline in the form of its Reception Home. It is here that a process of rehabilitation takes place for each child after their basic needs are seen to and counselling given. Since Vidiyal is now able to help more and more children, the Reception home has become the main focus when it comes to providing a home for children in need. NewDawn has helped with the purchase of a piece of land next to the present Reception Home so that the home can be extended to meet the present needs.

Formerly, Vidiyal has been able to provide long term care for a limited number of children in its Shelter Home. When a child was admitted to the Shelter home, Vidiyal became committed to their care until they reached the age of 18, giving them a place to stay for the entirety of their childhood. With the vast numbers of children now being taken into the Reception home, Vidiyal is ultimately unable to provide a permanent place of residence in the form of the Shelter home to any more children. However, the Reception home admits a growing number of rescued children, offering help, love and temporary shelter to more young people than ever before and the Shelter home continues to provide a home for the children already in residency there.

The Street Children



Working with Childline in the city has greatly helped Jim and his team in the work with the street children. Jim and Sharmila know the law and receive full co-operation from the police and officials in Madurai and this can be used to benefit the street children as well as those rescued through Childline. As far as Jim and Sharmila are concerned their work with the children in the slums is at the centre of all they do and will always remain the root of their work. That is why it is so important for us to keep supporting them in this. We have seen first-hand how much the sponsorship programme means to the children and their families. We have experienced the warmth of the welcome as we have visited the slums and individual homes within the slum. Some of the fathers even took time off work to ensure that they were there to meet us.



We have so many stories to tell you of our visit to Madurai and the beach camp with the children in Kovalam, so please try to come along to the Curry Evening to hear more.

Annual Curry Evening

At Days Road Church
On Saturday 16th November

Reserve your place by contacting Neville on
01473 310574 or nev@longperry.freemove.co.uk



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

India is often looked on as a rich country
BUT
47% of children are malnourished
And
28% are severely malnourished.

**THANKYOU FOR THE SUPPORT YOU GIVE
US TO TRY TO CHANGE THIS**