

We are pleased to be able to report on the continual growth of the work of Vidiyal.

Developments at Vidiyal

Owing to new government legislation in India, there has had to be some reorganisation of the use of Vidiyal's existing buildings. The aim of this has been to ensure that the nursery school is based in a building that is not shared with other aspects of the work, and which meets the required standards for registration. Renovations to the building have therefore also been carried out.



Nursery children enjoying a special event

Some extra land has been purchased next to the nursery school and adjacent to the other Muthupatti buildings. The plan is to build a school on this land as and when funds permit. Some of you may recall that a Vidiyal school was being built about 10 years ago until the government claimed the land for airport expansion (which has not yet taken place). We are still waiting for the compensation to be agreed, as this will determine whether we can even consider helping to fund a new school build.

The "untouchable" dalit children that we support often have difficult times at school because of their caste, although Jim and the staff do all they can to stop any beatings and cruelty. However, it has always been Jim's dream to have a school of his own where the children can flourish and grow without prejudice. If you know of any companies or organisations that might be interested in getting involved in a big project like this, please let us know. It is certainly something that we cannot fund on our own.

Many young people continue to benefit from the work of Vidiyal and the education and experiences that they receive. We frequently hear news as the young people grow into adulthood and start to build their own families.

There have been three weddings this year and two new babies.



Wedding of a former Vidiyal girl, seen with Jim, his wife Sharmila and right-hand-man Arockiam



Two of our Vidiyal alumni recently had their first child, a son.

Facebook may have its faults but through it we recently renewed contact with one of our Vidiyal alumni who has moved away from Madurai. She is now an assistant professor in nursing, teaching nursing students, at a famous Indian government institution. Her husband also studied through Vidiyal and is a basketball coach.

First Aid Training

Jim says:

First Aid Training was held for staff and volunteers at Vidiyal on 04.03.18. This was done in the light of our Child Policy to equip our staff to handle emergencies. Two senior personnel from the Scouts Movement facilitated the training.



Equipping our staff and volunteers is crucial in safeguarding children and their rights. Thank you so much for your support. I am sure you all know that we provide training to our staff and volunteers in every quarter. They do incorporate and implement the learnings of the training in handling children.

Feast for the Elders

Jim says:

7 Grandpas and 74 Grandmas participated in the feast for the elderly living in the slums. They all enquired about you and thanked NewDawn and Vidiyal for inviting them for the half yearly get together for so many years. They were so happy about the brand new bed sheet given to them on that day. They were encouraged to share their stories with us and a few ladies danced for folk songs.



We do thank New Dawn for this support as it gives them a status in the community and care for elderly has been enhanced in the families. Our children do take care of their grandparents as Vidiyal role models this to them.

Ambethkar Nagar

Of all the slums in Madurai, Ambethkar Nagar is one of the poorer and most troubled ones.



Here it is difficult to keep the children attending school beyond 13 years of age and gang culture is prevalent. A staff member, rather than a volunteer, looks after the drop-in centre, to maintain discipline. The children who attend are delightful but become very influenced by their surroundings. No-one from this slum has ever reached higher education to become a real role model for the children.

Jim and the team are showing great perseverance in this slum, holding meetings with the parents to try to impress on them the difference an education could make to their children.

Those of you who sponsor children who live in Ambethkar Nagar, please write regularly to your child with encouragement and praise.

Rescue

Jim says:

We received a call in our Childline office that a 9 month old baby was being used in begging by a 35 year old man. We rescued the child with the help of the police.

Now the child is placed in a home for children below 5 years while we proceed with the legal course of action. Involving children in begging is a menace in Madurai and we suspect this child could have been abducted. We are only able to get involved in reaching out to children in distress and difficulties because of the support provided by NewDawn. Thanks a lot.



Roller skating on the rooftop



Swinging on a banyan tree



Day of Humour

Jolly Camp 2018 even made the newspaper

VALUE-BASED EDUCATION

Underprivileged kids get a taste of joy in NGO's summer camp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madurai

OVER 250 underprivileged students got a taste of value-based education when Sakthi-Vidiyal, an NGO, organised a 10-day summer camp for children from eight slums in Madurai.

The camp, touching upon various moral values and their real-life implications, started on May 1. The children were grouped under five categories - beginners, primary, juniors, intermediate and seniors - based on their age and were given age-appropriate activities.

Though the camp was named 'jolly camp', the NGO ensured that it was replete with learning activities. "There were inspirational sessions on great person-

alities, especially those who started from scratch and made it big. Students were also taught crafts, folk dance, skating and gymnastics among other activities," said Executive Director of Vidiyal, Jim Jesudoss.

People seem to mistake children from slums as criminals. The camp will show that they too have talent

Jim Jesudoss,
NGO official

The children raised money from the stalls and eateries they ran during the camp and managed to save ₹9,500. The money was donated to other underprivileged children, said Jim. Every year, children are made to visit homes for orphans, mentally-ill, differently-abled and elderly people, he said. "People seem to mistake children from slums as criminals due to their family background. The camp will show such people that these children too have talent and potential to achieve," he added.



Balance Pyramid



Silambam native martial art



Acting a story for morning assembly



Eatery on the Day of Giving



Singing session

Exam results

We are pleased to report on recent exam successes for the Vidiyal children.

6 young people have succeeded in their 12th standard exams (equivalent to A-level). 2 others did not pass in all their subjects so Jim is encouraging them to re-take shortly. We await news of the college destinations of those continuing with further education.

12 children entered the 10th standard exams (GCSE standard) and everyone is delighted that there was 100% pass rate.

It is the inclusion and acceptance in the Vidiyal community which motivate the youngsters to move forward. The support and encouragement from sponsors play an important part as the children are from socially excluded dalit communities.

If you feel that you could help a child through sponsorship and regular communication (postcards are sufficient), please contact Sandra on 01473 311148 or s.e.davies10@gmail.com

We always have children looking for sponsors.

NewDawn news

Privacy Policy

We wish to inform you that we have a new Privacy Policy to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into force on 25th May 2018. A copy of the policy can be found on the NewDawn India website www.newdawnindia.org

You can find out more by contacting us at NewDawn India, 8 Long Perry, Capel St. Mary, Ipswich IP9 2XD or by emailing info@newdawnindia.org

Please let us know if you do not want to receive more news and information in the future.

If you have an email address that you are happy for us to use and have not yet passed it on to us, please let us know on s.e.davies10@gmail.com so that we can save on postage costs.

Ordering from Amazon?

If you are ordering items from Amazon please consider selecting NewDawn India as your charity so that we may benefit from 0.5% of the purchase price. It is quick and easy to do:

- 1) Go to smile.amazon.co.uk
- 2) Select NewDawn India
- 3) Order in the usual way

Annual Curry Evening

This will take place on Saturday 13th October. It is always a popular event so it is best to book early. Contact Brenda Sturgeon on 01473 310125 or email her using sturgeons71@gmail.com

Cake and Plant Sale

Our recent cake and plant sale and coffee morning raised £857. Thank you to all who contributed and attended.

