

## **CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS EDUCATION (CRE) FOR CHILDREN - PROJECT REPORT ON CHILDREN'S PROFILE IN CRE CLUBS**

### **INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

Vaan Muhil Trust, registered as a non – profit making, Non-Governmental Organization based in Tirunelveli has been working for the welfare and the rights of children, rural women, working adolescent girls, rural youth, unorganized workers and migrant labourers in over 100 villages in Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar districts for the last 20 years.

Vaan Muhil has been collaborating with a few educational institutions in Southern Tamil Nadu and conducting trainings, workshops and consultations on specific thematic focus and creating awareness among students. Public education programs, formation of community support groups, running community resource centres, strengthening of workers collectives, campaigning, legal interventions, networking and collaboration are the key strategies that we adopt to materialize our objectives.

The CRE programme for children in 125 villages in 16 districts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry has taken off, in collaboration with 10 NGOs and grassroots movements across the state and we have a very good mix of villages and urban centres with fair geographic representation and the composition of the participating children in our program in communities is diverse.

There are children from Adivasi communities, arunthathiyars, dalits, fisherfolks, Muslims and Christians, Denotified communities and backward sections and of course the physically challenged. We will have very rich experiences from these children of diverse backgrounds and the cross learnings among them will be great!

Ten civil society organizations working on child protection and human rights issues at the grassroots level in different parts of the state have been approached to take up CRE programme through their child activity centers or community resource centers and adolescent girls' groups in their communities. These CSOs have identified ten communities each, to take up CRE programme from June onwards and to form CRE clubs among the children, after the training programmes for the facilitators.

Series of online consultations with the NGO partners were held by way of preparing themselves and to give them a comprehensive picture on the CRE project in communities.

## VILLAGE SURVEY AND CHILDREN PROFILES:

In order to take pandemic-related constraints into account, but at the same time address the need for Village profiles and Children profiles data on the important questions, conducted in the form of a survey as well as Google format.

Village profiles for all 125 communities have been prepared by the community-based trainers (facilitators) by way of preparing the CRE project in an effect way in their communities.

A structured format was given to the facilitators to collect basic details about the villages and the socio-economic conditions of the people so that the project team better understands the ground realities in the villages where CRE project is being carried out.

All the NGOs started preparing the details of the children through the structured format through Google format in their communities and these details were compiled by the project team before the start of the program.

A total of 2480 children's profiles in 119 community Clubs out of 125 Children's club in 16 districts has been collated by the project team. 9 Children's club yet to provide the required details.

## AALAIKUDI MAKKAL IYAKKAM

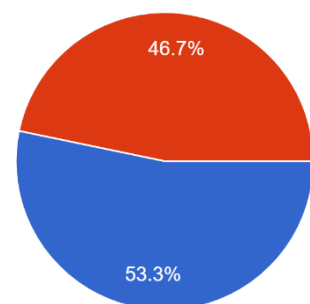
Aalaikudi Makkal Iyakkam which is based in Madurai has taken up total of 10 clubs in 7 districts mostly in southern state. Out of 10 clubs completed 8 clubs children's profile and 2 club children profiles pending and yet to send the details i.e one in Theni and one in Tirunelveli.

## NO. OF CLUBS IN THE SELECTED DISTRICTS

It is clear that Tirunelveli district has a higher percentage in forming the Children's Club as 14 % and Theni district has a coverage of 9.7% club formation and next to Tirunelveli district. Salem, Ramnad, Perambalore and Dharmapuri district all between 9.4 % to 8.7 % with a margin of .2 % difference.

## GENDER IN PARTICIPATION IN THE CLUB

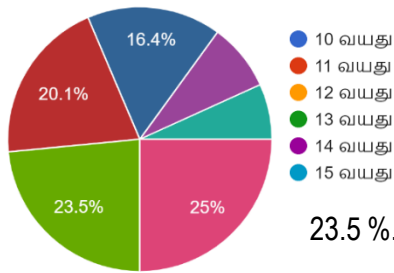
The project in all its activities will make genuine efforts to have at least 50% of total participation and beneficiaries to be girl students. The project through all its actions and programs will systematically ensure to have gender balance and promote girl child education through all its activities. Given the backdrop of the society in the above sections, it is believed that women in these communities face more violations because of society



being patriarchal. Hence, the project will be implemented to address gender concerning issues within the target communities also. The module on gender for students will help in achieving this.

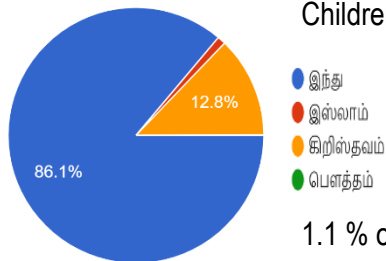
53.3 % Girls have enrolled their name and send their profiles in their respective clubs. It shows that the project aim is almost fulfilled to focus on the girl students in the beginning of the project itself. The remaining 46.7 % boys have enrolled their profiles.

### CHILDREN AGE ENROLLED IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES”



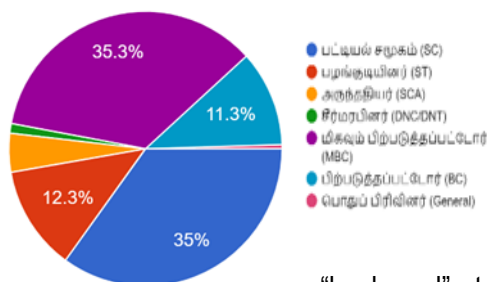
It looks that lower the age enrolment in the clubs is lower and when the age increases no. of students enrolment in the clubs is increasing. At the age of 10 years 16.4 % enrolled, 11 years of students enrolled is 20.1 % and 13 years student enrolment is 23.5%. Unfortunately, age 12, 14 and 15 years children data is not available.

### CHILDREN IN RELIGION WISE:



Children in club belongs to Hindu religion is 86.1 % which is a majority of members. Next to that Club enrolled students belong to Christian religion 12.8 %. In general, southern district the Christian population is higher compared to northern districts. The remaining 1.1 % other religion children may be Muslim religion which is not clear.

### CASTE WISE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE CLUB



In general, the reduction of disparities and inclusion within “mainstream” urban and rural society has taken place in predominantly stigmatised, exploited and oppressive ways for vast sections of SC, particularly for those located in the relatively more tradition-bound and socio- economically

“backward” states/areas. There has been a significant increase in overall literacy rates and school participation rates across the country since the early 1990s. Gender and social disparities have also.

CRE project aims to cover children from Adivasi communities, arunthathiyars, dalits, fisherfolks, Muslims and Christians, Denotified communities and backward sections and of course the physically challenged.

It is expected to gain rich experiences from these children of diverse backgrounds and the cross learnings among them will be great!

It is clear from the survey majority of children enrolled in the club activities are from the Schedule Caste which is 35 % and next to that children in most backward Community 35.3 % enrolled in the club. Children in Schedule Tribe community forms 12.3 % and children in Backward community forms 11.3 %.

## OVERVIEW ON RECENT EDUCATION STATUS IN INDIA- ASER REPORT 2021

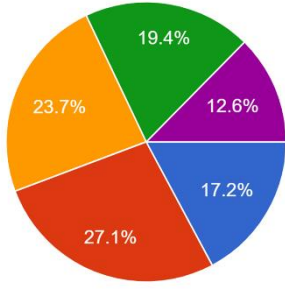
Schools shut down in India in March of 2020, and have begun to reopen only in the last few months. India is one of the countries that has had among the longest school closures in the world. According to the most recent data available from UNESCO, 18 months into the pandemic, the global average for school closures (full and partial) is just under 9 months (35 weeks), with schools being closed for over a year in countries like the US (62 weeks) and India (73 weeks) (data as of Sep30, 2021).

There was no doubt that the pandemic was going to impact learning adversely – children’s learning levels suffer even after regular, scheduled summer vacations. However, with the pandemic affecting livelihoods, especially of low- income, casual and migrant workers, there was an additional fear that family budgets getting squeezed would also lead to an increase in drop-outs, especially among older children and girls.

The shift to government schools is not limited to particular grades or groups of children (Table 1). For instance, it has always been the case that more girls are enrolled in government schools as compared to boys. While this continues to be true in 2021, the proportion of boys enrolled in government schools has also increased from 63% in 2018 to 72% in 2021, narrowing the gender gap.

**Table 1: % Children enrolled in government schools by sex & grade (All India figures)**

Std	ASER 2018			ASER 2020		
	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All
Std I-II	57.9	65.1	61.1	66.7	72.0	74.1
Std III-V	62.7	71.2	65.6	73.3	70.9	77.1
Std VI-VIII	65.8	73.3	68.3	77.0	73.4	79.2
Std IX & above	64.6	68.9	69.7	72.7	71.2	74.3
All	62.8	70.0	66.4	73.0	71.9	76.5



- ஐந்தாம் வகுப்பு
- ஆறாம் வகுப்பு
- ஏழாம் வகுப்பு
- எட்டாம் வகுப்பு
- ஒன்பதாம் வகுப்பு

On the positive side, ASER 2021 report shows that families have not lost their faith in education. Despite COVID-19, school enrollments have not suffered much although enrollment patterns have shifted. Even today, only 4.6% children in the age group 6-14 years are not currently enrolled. And among enrolled children, across all school grades, almost 92% of children have textbooks for their current grade. This was always a noteworthy accomplishment in a country the size of ours; but for this to be the case after a year and a half of enormous disruptions is even more remarkable. It is worth recalling that even a year ago, ASER 2020 noted that most children had textbooks. At the time, this proportion was substantially higher for children in government schools than for their counterparts in private schools. As schools reopen in 2021, the proportion of children who have textbooks for their current grade is very high across both government and private schools.

It is clearly shows that there is a shift in enrollment from private to government schools

**% CHILDREN AGED 6-14 ENROLLED IN GOVT. SCHOOL. ALL INDIA, TN STATE AND SEX. 2018, 2020 AND 2021\***

State	ASER 2018			ASER 2020			ASER 2021		
	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All	Boys	Girls	All
All India	60.7	68.0	64.3	62.6	69.4	65.8	67.9	73.0	70.3
Tamil Nadu	63.3	70.0	66.7	58.7	71.1	64.6	73.7	78.8	76.3

**CHILDREN IN THE CLUBS LAST STUDIED CLASS WISE:**

Children in 5<sup>th</sup> Std last studied forms 17.2 % and in class followed by 6<sup>th</sup> Std. children last studied forms 27.1%. Then in class 7<sup>th</sup> Std. Children last studied forms 23.7% followed by 8<sup>th</sup> Std. children last studied forms 19.4% and finally 9<sup>th</sup> Std. children forms 12.6%. It is very clear from the percentage of children last studied when the higher classes goes upward the percentage of children enrolment is decreasing which is a concern for all of us. Even as schools reopen, we have an uphill battle ahead of us.

**PERSONS OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN ENROLMENT IN THE CLUBS:**

According to the 76<sup>th</sup> round of the NSO survey conducted between July and December 2018, a higher percentage of men had disabilities compared to women in India. Specifically in Tamil Nadu, two percent of men had multiple disabilities, while this was at 1.9 percent among females.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the statistical wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), mainly responsible for laying down standards for statistical analysis, data collection, and implementation.

Number of Differently Abled Persons as per 2011 Census in Tamil Nadu 13,35,219. Here in this Children's profile survey it is clearly reflected that majority of the children forms 98.4 % who are normal and only 1.6% forms differently abled children which the project need to focus on this special children

**Annexures:**

Copy of the Children's profile google format

Copy of the Village profile

