

Editorial

Dear Team,

September has been a month of achievements. We launched Arumbu project, *iLEAD* Chennai, prepared the website and finalised Convention of Objectives (CoO) 2006 document.

Arumbu is a directly implemented, highly innovative project that will cover more than 10 000 children from poorer areas of Chennai focussing on their overall development. Institute for livelihood, education and development (*iLEAD*) is another directly implemented project which has been launched in Chennai and would soon become a well known name in many parts of the country. The launch of a comprehensive website would also make Aide et Action (AeA) visible and help in resource mobilisation. CoO 2006 document is also ready with a new look.

Congratulations to all of you. This is just the beginning of starting to know our potentials.

While the team is strengthened with the joining of Mr. C. Upendranadh, Ms. Shobha Naidu left us after a 6 years stint. Change is life, and I wish them all the best!

Somesh

Arumbu Chennai Project

Arumbu is an innovative project of Aide et Action in partnership with Chennai Police. The project was officially launched on 26th September 2005. The highlights of the project are

- promoting learning and recreational opportunities for boys and girls in Chennai slums
- imparting training in various trades through livelihood education
- promoting an environment that protects and respects the rights of the child
- ensuring personality development and leadership skills
- mobilizing participation of community, police department and other stakeholders

Activities conducted

- Participatory exercises such as social mapping, venn diagram, daily activity schedule, and dream mapping carried out in 5 boys clubs and feeder slums to assess the present situation and plan for future interventions
- Renovation of boys clubs and identification of buildings to start girls clubs
- Initiation of club development committees in 10 clubs
- Distribution of education and sports materials worth Rs.1,50,000
- Launch of girls clubs
- Strengthening of Youth Clubs

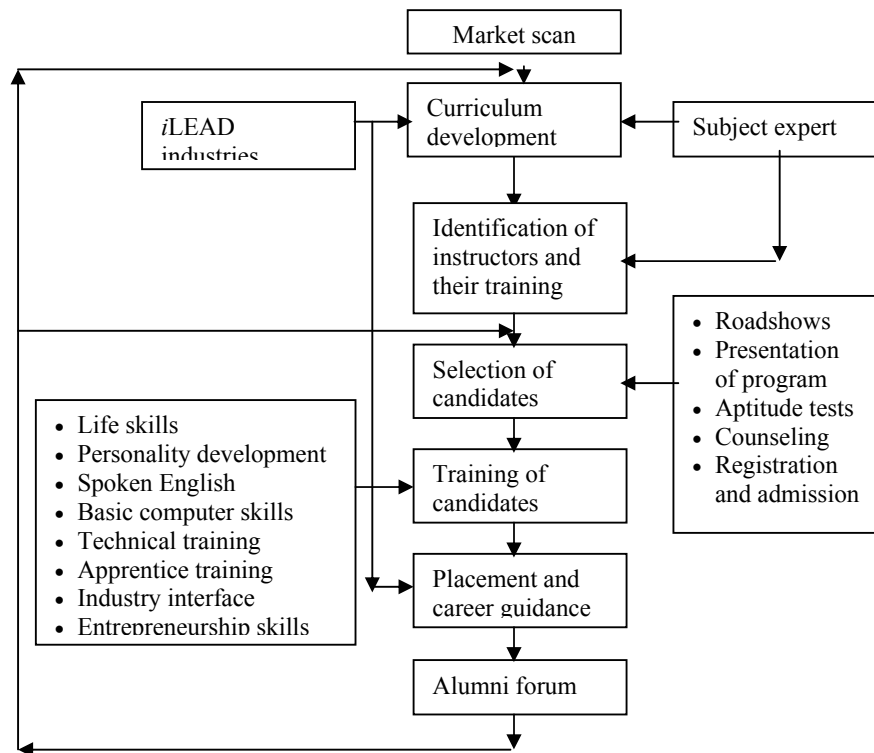
IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Editorial
Arumbu Chennai Project |
| 2 | Launch of <i>iLEAD</i> Chennai |
| 3 | Development Education in Chennai Schools |
| 4 | Special Initiative for Inclusive Education |
| 5 | EduAction Institute – Redefining Education
Finalization of CoO documents |
| 6 | Aide et Action in News
News on Staff |



Police Commissioner R. Nataraj inaugurates the Arumbu project

Institute for Livelihood Education And Development (iLEAD) launched by Aide et Action promotes tailor made programs targeted at dropout youth between 18-25 years from economically weakest sections and enables them to gain access to opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and growth. The program offers demand driven skill development, micro-enterprise development and apprenticeship opportunities which are in need of efficient manpower that are developed to suit the local community and economy. It offers a flexible learning environment that facilitates both market-orientation and personal growth in an increasing global context of a market economy and positive citizenship. Beneficiaries will be helped in placement as well as provided with post-placement support. The entire process is given below as a flow chart



In the first phase, iLEAD would focus on tsunami affected youths as shown below

S. No.	iLEAD Location	Center	Status
1.	South Chennai	Neelankarai	Launched on 19 th September with 116 students
2.	North Chennai	Thiruvotiyur	To be launched on 14 th October
3.	Sri Lanka, Galle district	Hikkaduwa	To be launched 4 th week of October

Common interventions are

- automobile 2 wheeler technicians
- IT enabled services
- customer relations
- sales hospitality services
- garment sewing machine operators

Development Education in Chennai Schools

In order to spread development education and increase the visibility of AeA in the urban areas, AeA has started its interventions in certain established schools. These interventions have been in the form of imparting development education to the students of classes 7 to 9. Development education is an active learning process that establishes a link between our day to day life and the outside world. It also promotes understanding of the economic, social, political and environmental issues that shape our lives.

On 29th August 2005, AeA launched the Development Education session at Tiruvika Higher Secondary School (THSS) which gives quality education especially for the poorer sections of Chennai's population. Mr.Sivanandan, the Headmaster, has won the Tamil Nadu 'Dr.Radhakrishnan award' for the best teacher in 2003 - 2004. The school's strength is 1350.

35 children from classes VII, VIII, and IX, 3 teachers and the headmaster attended the orientation and the mapping exercise.

The following are the issues identified by the children, which they felt needed to be addressed:

- **Child-labour** and education (working children not being able to attend school)
- **Physical and mentally challenged children** have difficulties in accessing school
- **Girl child** issues (eve teasing, violence against women, dowry)
- Problems in the **family & community** (alcoholism, domestic violence, debt)
- **Health & hygiene** (garbage scattered on the roads, poor drainage, spread of diseases like typhoid and malaria)
- **Environment** protection (felling of trees, polluted water, factories dumping toxic substances in water bodies,)
- **Poor infrastructure** (bad roads, electric wires left hanging and unattended, lack of regular electric supply)
- **Water** related problems (water scarcity, part of girls' household chores, need to purchase water)
- Inadequate **public transport facilities**

Special Initiatives for Inclusive Education

Aide et Action India, through its NGO partners has been promoting the cause of education for children with disabilities through institutional approach. A recent reappraisal of the strategy of educating children with disabilities came out with the finding that the segregated and institutional approach cannot meet the needs of majority of the children with disabilities.

From AeA's perspective, inclusion is a community responsibility requiring collaboration between different sectors and extensive participation of all stakeholders. Supporting and involving families is central to this, as the family has the prime responsibility for care and education of their children.

At the community level civil society organizations and government departments need to be motivated to engage in more meaningful and take up sustainable interventions such issues as prevention, early intervention and promoting an environment for educating children and persons with disabilities.

Major objectives of Inclusive Education (IE) include

- Promoting inclusion of eligible children with disabilities in the regular schools
- Facilitating access to available services for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- Building the capacities of children/persons with disabilities to participate in the community activities
- Enhancing the participation of parents, teachers and other stakeholders thereby facilitating acceptance of their role towards inclusion
- Enhancing the mobility of persons with disabilities through sensitizing the community on disability issues and rights of persons with disability
- Reducing the incidence of disabilities through appropriate preventive measures

Focus

Inclusive education will cover all children, women and men with disabilities through early interventions. Inclusive education, special education, skill training and formation and strengthening of self help groups.

Activities conducted

- Developed guidelines for mainstreaming IE in the existing projects
- Initiated news horizon projects with 3 partners – Commitments in Meheboob Nagar of Andhra Pradesh and Arthik Anusandan Kendra Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh and MPWAB in Indore at Madhya Pradesh

EduAction Institute – Redefining Education

In tune with the program strategies and thrust areas, EduAction Institute has identified the need to evolve into a centre for excellence in the following themes:

1. Research and documentation in the areas of education policy, inclusive education, livelihoods, early childhood education and quality of education
2. Evidence based policy advocacy
3. Training and capacity building to enhance program quality
4. Action research to demonstrate innovations in education

During the month of September, strategic planning exercises were done and action plan for the year 2006 has been evolved. EduAction Institute would work on the above themes with specific focus to build niche in the area of early childhood education (ECE) both in terms of research as well as advocacy. Funding support from other agencies is being explored to enhance the programme outreach.

Action research project to enhance quality of education through systematic interventions at the district level in the Ranga Reddy district of AP is being finalized. This involves partnership with Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) of the district and intervention at different levels including in-school processes, education administration and community involvement. This is an outcome of our field visits as well as interactions with the district SSA.

EduAction Institute is engaged in documentation of early childhood care and development interventions of technical resource agencies within India. This documentation would be a precursor to a proposed policy workshop on ECE in the month of November.

Finalization of Convention of Objectives documents

All members of Operations, Sectors and Finance and Administration worked on the analysis of documents which was done within a span of 20 days. The process was highly participative and work was accomplished in the following stages

- Uniform documents were prepared for all NGO partners and DIPs
- Field visits were conducted to orient and assist partners in preparation of budgets
- Project documents were prepared by partners and sent to AeA and were distributed among the AeA team for improvement and critical analysis
- The analysed documents were returned to partners to address the gaps
- On receipt of the documents the team worked on them and two sets of documents were prepared according to the AeA Paris format and AeA India format
- The departments and sectors also submitted their respective plans

Police boy's clubs get play kits, reading materials

Materials worth Rs.1.5 lakh contributed by French NGO

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Greater Chennai Police Commissioner R. Nataraj distributed play kits and reading material to the City Police Boy's Clubs on Monday.

The play kits, sponsored by Aide et Action, a French non-governmental organisation, included a carrom board, chessboard, cricket paraphernalia, volleyball, football and skipping rope.

The reading materials included a Tamil-English-Tamil dictionary and storybooks among other things. The kits were distributed to the Club members under the joint project "Arumbu," launched by Mr. Nataraj. Materials worth Rs. 1.50 lakhs was distributed to 26 Police Boy's Clubs.

Mr. Nataraj said the Police Boy's Clubs were revived two years ago mainly in slum areas. The children were provided sports materials and books to channelise their energy and encourage talent. He made it clear that only those



GIFTS FOR BOYS: Police Commissioner R.Nataraj distributes play equipment to the members of a Police Boy's Club in Chennai on Monday.

attending school would be allowed to use the facilities in the Club.

Somesh Kumar, regional director, Aide et Action, South Asia, said the organisation would function in co-ordina-

tion with the City Police.

The NGO, which operated in 12 States and three Union Territories, was involved in implementing education and development projects in partnership with 28 NGOs.

The Hindu – 27.09.05

Aide et Action in News

...The play kits, sponsored by Aide et Action, a French non governmental organisation, included a carrom board, chess board, cricket paraphernalia, volley ball, football and skipping rope.

The reading materials included a Tamil – English – Tamil dictionary and story books among other things. The kits were distributed to the club members under the joint project "Arumbu" launched by Mr. Nataraj. Materials worth Rs.1.50 lakhs was distributed to 26 Police Boys Clubs...

...Somesh Kumar, Regional Director, Aide et Action, South Asia, said the organisation would function in coordination with the City Police.

The NGO which operated in 12 States and three Union Territories was involved in implementing education and development projects in partnership with 28 NGOs...

News on Staff

A Warm Welcome to our new staff!



C. Upendranadh

Upendranadh joined AeA in September 2005 as Head – policy research and education resource center and is based in Chennai. He has over 12 years of experience in the development sector in various fields with specific focus on policy research and advocacy, technical support in program implementation and management functions. His most recent position was as Manager – Research and Innovations with CARE India, where his responsibilities included implementation of research and innovation fund of micro finance programme that support frontier research and innovation ideas.

Upendranadh holds a Master's in Mathematics and an M. Phil. in Applied Economics. He has to his credit extensive analytical and empirical based writing in the areas of education, health, micro credit and related aspects.

Goodbye Ms. Shobha Naidu



Shobha Naidu

After a stint of 6 years with AeA India in various positions head of sponsorship and head of communications. Subsequent to her resignation Shobha was relieved from AeA on 1st October 2005. We wish her the best in her future endeavours and look forward to her continued association.