

VIDIVELLI HOME

Dr Ambedkar Cultural Academy, Mandela Nagar, Madurai – 22, Tamil Nadu, India

Half Yearly Report

WOMEN EDUCATION:

Pope Francis in his address to the delegates from the international Catholic Conference of Guiding (ICCG) in Rome on June, 2015 said *'education is the indispensable means for enabling girls to grow into active and responsible women, proud and happy in their everyday life'*. The World Bank on July 12, 2018 during the celebration of Malala Day said *'failing to let girls finish their education could cost the world as much as \$30 trillion lost in earnings and productivity annually, yet more than 130 million girls are out of school globally'*. It is very clear and vivid that girls' education either directly or indirectly affects the growth of an individual and a society as well. Knowing the importance of education in the lives of socially marginalized and economically poor communities in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy (DACA) provides opportunities for dalit girls through various programmes such as Vidivelli Home, Evening study centers (85 centers), JWL program and Summer Camp, etc to pursue their dreams.

Vidivelli Home which is one of the educational packages of DACA has been creating for the past 20 years an excellent milieu for dalit girls who are mostly first generation learners to grow in every aspects of their life.

With deep felt gratitude to Fr. Klaus Vathroeder SJ, the Mission Procurator and his team, here I am presenting a short report on the activities of Vidivelli home in the past 6 months.

DACA DAY:

Every year the birthday of Fr. Antony Raj (January 21st), the founder of DACA is celebrated as DACA Day with a particular theme. For the academic year 2017-18, the DACA Day was focused on the theme 'YES WE CAN'. In certain extent, the theme enhanced self esteem among the girls and made them feel proud of their birth. Mr. John Pandiyan, one of the leading dalit politicians of Tamil Nadu was the chief guest

for the day. He in his address encouraged the girls to consider their poverty, oppression and other sufferings not as blocks in their lives but as stepping stones for growth. The girls appropriately made use of the day to bring out their innate cultural skills and talents through various cultural events like dancing, singing, acting etc. All those girls who achieved in the field of education, sports and culture were honoured with prizes on the DACA Day. It was a beautiful occasion for all of us in the campus to celebrate our togetherness by sharing our joy and happiness with one another.



Class 6th performing a dance in DACA DAY 2018

ANNUAL EXAMS:

After the DACA Day, our girls fully plunged into the preparation for their annual exam. 23 girls from class 10th, 17 from class 11th and 8 from class 12th wrote their annual Govt. Public exams held from February to April, 2018. The rest of them wrote their annual school exams in April. After the exams, the Vidivelli home was closed for one month annual holiday. However, during the summer vacation the campus was not empty but filled with the 149 girls who came for summer camp. The camp was conducted by the generous support of Fr. Toni Kurmann with the objective of providing children with a pleasant and positive ambience away from their villages where they can experience the joy of their childhood and develop their talents and social skills.

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC EXAMS:

All the students of classes 10th and 11th passed with good marks. Shanthi of class 10th got 429/500 (85.8%) marks and Kalpana of 11th scored 359/600 marks. All others passed exams with good percentage. With regard to the performance by our girls belonging to class 12th was not appreciable. Eight of them appeared for exam. One failed in one subject and the rest of them passed with average marks. Even though the common criticisms about the exam questions were tough and difficult, yet it is a right time for us to seriously evaluate our past and reformulates our present strategies for better future performance of our girls.

INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19:

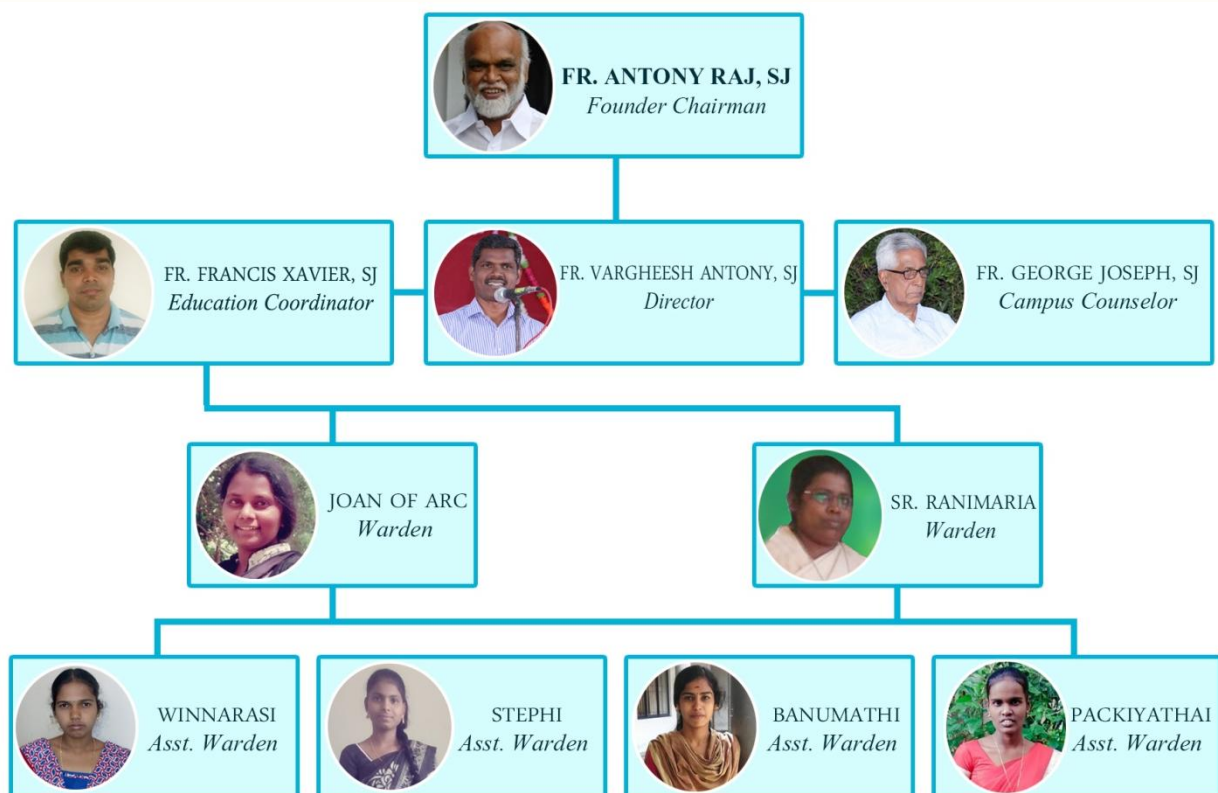
The academic year 2018-19 began in June with new hopes and aspirations to achieve greater heights in all aspects of our lives. We have accommodated for this year nearly 196 (new admission 68 & old ones 128) energetic and aspiring dalit girls from 20 different villages of 6 southern districts of Tamil Nadu. Out of 196 girls, 159 of them do their school education and 37 of them their graduation. All of them are from economically very poor families. A considerable number of them are either fully orphans or semi orphans.



ADMINISTRATION:

This year DACA with its special love and commitment for dalit children has created a good ambience in the campus for holistic formation. The girls cherish the warmth, homely and family atmosphere of Vidivelli. Fr. A. Francis Xavier, SJ (Junior) the coordinator of DACA's educational programs takes special, individual and customized care not only to provide the physical needs of the girls but also to take care of their psychological and spiritual needs. The hostel administration is mainly managed by him with the support of 6 wardens including a religious nun. They also nourish a sense of mutual understanding and moral support from each other. Day to day decisions related to students are taken collectively, which enhances the better functioning of the home.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHART:



FORMATION OF STUDENT COUNCIL & COMMITTEES:

The student council is formed to involve the students in hostel administration and to hold diverse responsibilities by themselves to run the hostel. Through a democratic election the girls elected Ms. Birunthashri (class XI) to be the leader and Ms.

Banupriya to be the assistant of the council. Committees such as Education, Library, Cultural, Sports, Discipline, Cleanliness, Food, Farming, Health, Garden, Electricity and Notice board have also been formed to develop their full potentials and to make them responsible. Each committee is comprised of a Coordinator, an assistant and also a number of volunteers. Once in a month, the Coordinators of the committees come together in the presence of Fr. A. Francis Xavier, SJ to evaluate their activities in the previous month and plan actions for coming month. Seeing their commitment and involvement in the planning and execution. I am sure that the future of dalit community is very bright and colourful. Kudos to student's council and coordinators of various committees as they have been exhibiting commendable teamwork.



Girls are playing after the school

Garden Committee is at work

Food Committee is busy in the kitchen

FACILITIES:

Vidivelli Hostel provides a serene atmosphere, clean and green surroundings to the girls for their study and stay. A water filtration system is fixed separately for college girls, whereas school girls have already one. Once again this year, a television set is fixed in the hostel for girls to update their general knowledge and being informed of what happens around them. The computer lab of DACA is being revived to teach basic computer language to girls. Through collaboration with JWL, our girls also learn english. Every day, evening from 3pm to 4pm the college going girls attend JWL English class taken by Fr. Francis Xavier, SJ. In the near future, we have a plan to extend it to school girls as well.



Class 7th is learning computer under the guidance of Ms. Pauline

PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS CONTESTS:

Our girls participated in the following events which helped them to increase their self-esteem, confidence and discipline.

S.no.	Name of the event	Date	Participants	Result
01	District level Taekwondo	08.07.18	32 girls	Overall Champions
02	Zonal Level Kabadi	03.08.18	4 girls	Winner
03	District level Kabadi	27.08.18	4 girls	Runner
04	District level Drawing	26.08.18	6 girls	Participation



Our girls are awarded with Taekwondo Championship 2018

WHAT THEY FEEL:

Here is the sharing of experience by some of our girls about the hostel.

My name is **R. SASIKALA**. I am 11 years old and doing 6th class. DACA has provided different platforms to exhibit my skills and talents. I also learned here the values of sharing, caring, hard work and discipline.



I am **K. PUNITHA**, aged 12 and doing 7th class. I am coming from a poor family of 3 daughters. As a small girl, I missed several times at home three full meals due to the poor economical condition prevailed in our family. But DACA has been feeding us all with fresh and healthy food. My simple aim is to become a Govt. employee, so that I could feed my family comfortably.

I am **A. JANANI EVANJALEN**, doing 9th class. I am gifted to stay and do my studies in DACA, because DACA is giving us a lot of opportunities to develop various skills like dancing, singing, sports, drawing, writing, and reading, etc. It also creates an opening for us to appear for public competitions to identify our true abilities.



Hi, I am **M. DHATSHALINI** of class 10th. I am very proud to be one of the daughters of DACA. It has a peaceful and green environment which is very conducive for our studies. All our needs relating to studies are fulfilled immediately; it shows DACA truly giving importance to the education of the poor. Whenever we raise doubts in our subjects, they are clarified by our wardens. Sometimes teachers are invited from outside to help us. Apart from our subject knowledge, we also acquire general knowledge through various special talks. DACA has one of the best libraries in our locality.

GRATITUDE:

On behalf of DACA family, I take this opportunity to thank and express my deep-felt gratitude to Fr. Klaus Vathroeder SJ, the Mission Procurator, Nuremberg, Germany and his team for extending a generous support to provide basic facilities to our girls for better formation in all walks of their life. I would also like to thank Fr. Toni Kurmann, Ms. Manuela Balett and all the members of Stiftung Jesuiten weltweit, Hirschengraben, Zurich and Bachmann Foundation, Säumerstrasse, Rüschtikon for their wholehearted support in all our endeavors towards the holistic development of our girls.



Report by

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