

# VIDIVELLI GIRLS' HOME

## DR AMBEDKAR CULTURAL ACADEMY

Mandela Nagar, Madurai -22, TN, India



GIRLS OTHER THAN 11 & 12 CLASS IN GROUP PHOTO

### 1. MOTTO

The motto of DACA is “Knowledge is Power”. Dr Ambedkar insisted on the education of the oppressed in order to liberate themselves from the clutches of oppression in terms of their caste and creed. **DR ANTONY RAJ, SJ** the founder of DACA, focused on the education of girls. As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence.” What it implies is the freedom of women in society is a real freedom. DACA’s Vidivielli Girls’ Home is working hard to achieve and actualize its motto through the service and education given to Dalit girls who are accommodated in our hostel.

### 2. VISION

We are trying our best to offer them holistic education. Besides helping them excel in their academics, we are striving to mould them with values and transform them as social agents of change. Apart from education, girls need skills for their life. Skill-based education is a key to the empowerment of girls who could become socially and economically independent in their life. The dream of DACA is to empower women with social consciousness and become independent thinkers who could stand on their own in the society. The empowerment of our girl children has the following three objectives.

- To enable the children deprived and downtrodden to live a dignified life,
- To instil in them a hope of a bright future and
- To empower them to work for a just social order.

### 3. FIVE-DIMENSIONAL FOCUS

Dalit girls were given a five-dimensional focus this year 2022 - 2023. Our objectives are not only education but also holistic formation.

1. Academic Excellence
2. Building up Character
3. Personality Development
4. Enhancement of Life-oriented Skills
5. Holistic Formation with Virtues.

### 4. STRENGTH

The strength of our hostel declined due to Covid-19. Some dropped out of school and many preferred nearby schools due to the fear caused by the Covid Pandemic. We took the initiative to make the girls and their parents to understand the importance of women education and invited them to avail the opportunities at DACA. We hope to have good strength in the following years.

S.NO.	CLASS WISE	NO. OF GIRLS	DISTRICT WISE	NO. OF GIRLS
1	VI	8	MADURAI	23
2	VII	16	RAMNADU	25
3	VIII	14	VIRUDHUNAGER	28
4	IX	16	TUTICORIN	03
5	X	10	DINDIGUL	14
6	XI	18	SIVAGANGAI	09
7	XII	25	PUDUKOTTAI	10
8	COLLEGE	18	TENKASI	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>

### 5. INAUGURATION

Vidivelli Girls' home was officially inaugurated on July 7, 2023, with Fr Marianathan as the chief guest and Fr George Joseph as the guest of honour. Fr Vargheesh Antony, the Director of DACA,

delivered the inaugural address. Fr. Arul, the Director of the hostel, Fr George, the councillor and Sch Praveen were present. It was also an occasion to welcome the freshers. Students staged marvellous programmes both entertaining as well as reflective. They made use of the occasion to exhibit their inborn talents.



**GIRLS PERFORMING A CULTURAL FOLK DANCE**

## **6. EDUCATION**

Education is the weapon of the poor to fight against poverty. We provide first and foremost importance to the education of girls here. After intermittent breaks from academic life owing to Covid-19, students found it difficult to cope with their studies. Though some of the students excelled in their studies in the past, they were not able to perform better. Ramya of Class XI said, *“I did not study for two years. All-pass was an agenda that made me lethargic. Pass was assured even if I did not perform well in the exams. Hence, I was very much relaxed but now it is difficult for me even to sit for an hour and study with concentration.”* She represents the feelings of many students. Therefore, taking into consideration the reality of students, we helped students to study well by way of conducting the following programmes.

1. Division of Groups: Every class was divided into three groups based on their capability and academic strength: 1. Bright, 2. Average 3. Last Winners. It helped us understand and concentrate on every student.
2. Study Skills: we periodically conducted programmes of study methodology and skill development that helped students retain their study skills.
3. Self-esteem: Low self-esteem is one of the factors that put down students, especially our students hailing from backward villages, from higher achievements.

4. Periodic Tests: Apart from the tests conducted at school, we conducted daily and weekly tests. We regularly monitored every student's academic performance.
5. Reinforcement: The passing mark at school is 35 but we fixed it to 40. This is a kind of positive reinforcement to increase their scoring capacity. Students were given away prizes for scoring good marks in the exams.

## 7. LIST OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

SN	PROGRAMMES	RESOURCE PERSON
1	Study methodology	Fr Arul SJ
2	Personality Development	Fr Jesu Raj SJ
3	Motivational	Sch Praveen SJ
4	Study Skills	Fr Arul SJ
5	Health and Hygiene	Sr Dhana Mary
6	Career Guidance	Mr Inba Raj
7	How to Prepare for Exams	Mr Krishnamoorthy
8	Health Care	Sr Prabha
9	Film Analysis	Fr Arul SJ
10	Moral Education	Ms Anitha
11	Life Oriented Skills	Dn. Velankanni
12	Time Management	Mr Karthik
13	Art and Craft Works	Fr Arul SJ
14	Quiz and General Knowledge	Sch Praveen SJ

## 8. PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Our pivotal vision is to form students with values. Education provides knowledge but formation moulds them with holistic enhancement. Formation of character paves way for the development of personality.

1. Counselling: Students of today undergo stress and depression. Fr Arul gave them guidance and motivated them with positive vibrations to face academic life and excel in their studies.
2. Health and Hygiene: Cleanliness is next to godliness. Hence, we conducted programmes on health and hygiene. Students understood the significance of hygiene.
3. Prayer Life: In view of forming students in a spiritual atmosphere, we have formulated prayer before studies as well as meals. Prayers helped them become spiritually strengthened.

4. Yoga: Apart from regular prayers, students were taught some basic *yoga* especially those that are helpful for peace of mind. Every Sunday they had a meditation hour with a specially prepared audio for about 45 minutes. Students found it very useful.



## OUR GIRLS ATTENDING A MOTIVATIONAL SESSION

### 9. LIFE-ORIENTED SKILLS

Many life-oriented skills were given much importance this year. We would like to highlight a few here.

#### **Children's Parliament:**

Students are the future leaders. Therefore, we formed leadership qualities among students. Children's Parliament is a huge success this year. All the activities of the hostel and DACA were completely run by the Children. Students learnt how to organize meetings among themselves.

**Small Savings:** Saving is important in life. Students need to save from childhood onwards. As these girls would be in charge of accounting for the family in future, we gave them the taste of saving and becoming economic in spending. Hence, we started small savings. Students had to save themselves for the whole week and on Sunday they submitted the saved amount to the in charge. At the end of the year, they had saved altogether 28,735. The first three top savers were Ramya (1470), Sharmila (1380), and Pechiyammal (1320). They were given away special prizes.



**THE LEADERS OF CHILDREN PARLIAMENT ADDRESSING THE GIRLS' GATHERING**

## **10. DACA DAY**

DACA Day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 on a grand scale. The significant feature of the celebration was that the whole show was completely run by the students themselves under our guidance. The Children's Parliament was in full swing. The Chief Minister and other ministers of different ministries shared the responsibilities. It was a golden opportunity for them to grow in leadership. Different committees were formed well in advance and ministers of the respective committees took the lead in terms of preparation as well as conduct of the DACA day.



**OUR GIRLS ORGANIZING DACA DAY 2023**

## 11. IMPACTS OF ACTIVITIES



**JESICA** of Class VII: “Only this year I came to DACA. DACA has provided me with a lot of opportunities in various endeavours. I was an average student till my fifth standard at my village. After coming to DACA, I tried to excel in my studies. I am really happy here. The atmosphere and the food are very good here.”



**ROJA** of Class IX: “I have been staying here for the past four years but this year somewhat seems to be different. I am good at studies but I never was a topper in class. This year I stood first in class. I realized I can do well in studies. Thanks to DACA for all the opportunities.”



**THIYAKUTTY** of Class VIII: “I am Thiya and studying VIII standard. DACA is a beautiful place. We enjoy the friendship here. The food is very good. We study well. We play games. There are many opportunities here. I am at home; I would miss all these. I am grateful to DACA.”

## 12. WITH GRATEFUL HEART

I extend my sincere thanks to **FR. KLAUS VÄTHRÖDER, SJ** and all the loving members of JESUITENMISSION Office, Nürnberg, Germany, for your continued support and financial assistance to **VIDIVELLI GIRLS' HOME**. Indeed, it is your support that makes our service more effective and meaningful. Because of your continuous love and support, our Dalit girls are able to get their education in a dignified ambience. We are ever grateful to you for rendering your great service to our mission at DACA. We humbly request you to continue your service in the coming years as well and be part of us in empowering the future generation of downtrodden community.



**OUR GIRLS WITH SOME OF THEIR PARENTS**

*Report by*

**FR. G. ARUL, SJ**

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