

Excursions, Camps and Training Programs and Workshops

Vidiyal has a regular cycle of outdoor programmes. Picnics, bicycle trips, exposure visits, trekking are important components for children's growth and these recreational activities build personality through team work and in confronting the challenges of outdoor living. Training programs and activities impart information and knowledge, promote and strengthen life skills and encourage cognitive and psychomotor functions. Workshops are held to meet the growing needs of specific age groups and gender. The workshops help children to explore their individual potential and to work together as a group, understanding differences and working with commonalities. Children are encouraged to work towards achieving their potential.

Children's Theatre

Vidiyal's children celebrate their rich heritage through the learning and performance of arts specific to Tamilnadu. Children use theatre to enact children's themes and as the medium to spread the message of child rights and social change. The theatre group provokes reaction by their thoughtful portrayal of existing



discriminatory practices and violation of child rights and sounds the clarion call for social change in the individual, family and society. Children through the fantasy of drama, reclaim their rights and their opportunities and break through their boundaries of marginalization to create new beginnings. Children have performed in over 150 forums and have received widespread appreciation.

Rehabilitation of Working Children

Vidiyal has a drop-in-centre for working children so that they have a safe and nurturing environment to regain their childhood. Children desiring to resume studies or pursue skilled vocational work are provided with information, guidance and linkages.

Computer Centre

Vidiyal's computer center enables children to learn computer skills along with their studies.

Tailoring Skills and Legal Aid

Vidiyal has tailoring classes for women and adolescent girls from the community. Developing individualistic skills enables the women to manage their household and promotes self-reliance and confidence. Every woman who completes the tailoring course is given a tailoring machine and references to readymade garment factories for employment. Free legal aid is extended to women.

Publications

Vidiyal spreads the message of Child Rights through the publication of children's theatre scripts, songs, allegorical stories, games like snake and ladder on child rights, riddles and posters. Two music albums on child rights has been produced and widely disseminated. These resource materials are used by trainers working with children. Vidiyal's resources for children have been translated into several Indian languages.

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Promoting Child Rights Awareness /Sensitization Programs

Children through theatre, street plays, and distribution of pamphlets spread the message of child rights. By participating in campaigns, processions, human chains, rallies and interaction with the media Vidiyal raises awareness on child rights. The Public are encouraged to prevent and stop child abuse.

Child protection and child participation are conscientiously promoted. Vidiyal is the founding member of the forum for Promotion of Child Participation and has served as the State Secretariat between 2010 and 2012. Vidiyal campaigns against child trafficking by creating awareness amongst the general public.

Vidiyal Child Rights Movement

Children, have come together to form their very own forum - for children, by children and to children. Children are facilitated to participate actively in child related issues and to be heard in all child related decisions. Children's council takes collective decisions to implement and evaluate their programs. This Movement is linked with other State and National child led federations.



Our Hallmarks

Over 1550 children who had run away from home were reunited with their families between 1996 and 2014.

Vidiyal's 'First Generation Learners' from socially excluded communities have completed their scholastic studies, joined college and graduated and are pursuing successful careers.

In 1999 and 2000 Vidiyal children won the Taekwondo Championship for Madurai District.

In 2003 M. Maduraiveeran from Vidiyal represented the National Movement of Working Children (NMWC) at the UN Committee on Convention on the Rights of the child and presented an alternative report.

In 2005 M. Ranjith Kumar from Vidiyal Child Rights Movement represented CR4WSF at the World Social Forum held in Brazil and advocated for Child Rights.

In 2005 M.Ranjith Kumar represented Vidiyal Child Rights Movement in the South Asia Children's conference held at Nepal.

In 2005, Vidiyal's children responded to the 2004 Tsunami battering and helped run the trauma intervention camps at Killai, Cuddalore, Colachel and Chennai.

In 2011 K. Loganayaki won the silver medal at the Indo - Malaysia Karate Tournament held in Malaysia.

In 2012 Vidiyal children raised relief materials and conducted psycho social support camps for children affected by Thane cyclone at Cuddalore and Pondicherry.

Vidiyal is a founding member of state and nation wide networks - The National Movement for Working Children [NMWC], Child Rights for World Social Forum [CR4WSF] and Forum for Promotion of Child Participation [FPCP].

YOU CAN HELP



YOU can breathe LIFE into these children who are deprived of opportunities and choices by deciding to contribute towards the basic needs of the child - food, clothing, supplementary meals, educational and games material and medical expenses. YOU can include our children in your celebration of special days and festivals!

Street children, working children, mentally challenged children and children facing problems in their environment can be referred to us by YOU.

VOLUNTEERS from reputed organizations and institutions are welcome to offer tutorials, organize coaching in English, teach arts and crafts and facilitate workshops.

YOU and WE together

Can make our lives and theirs meaningful

By leaving behind a legacy of hope and love

Creating avenues of possibilities

For our children to fulfil their destiny!

We have ONE LIFE let us use it meaningfully so that Our Children attain their potential!

SAKTHI -VIDIYAL

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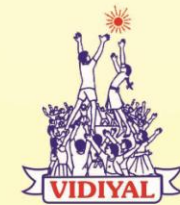


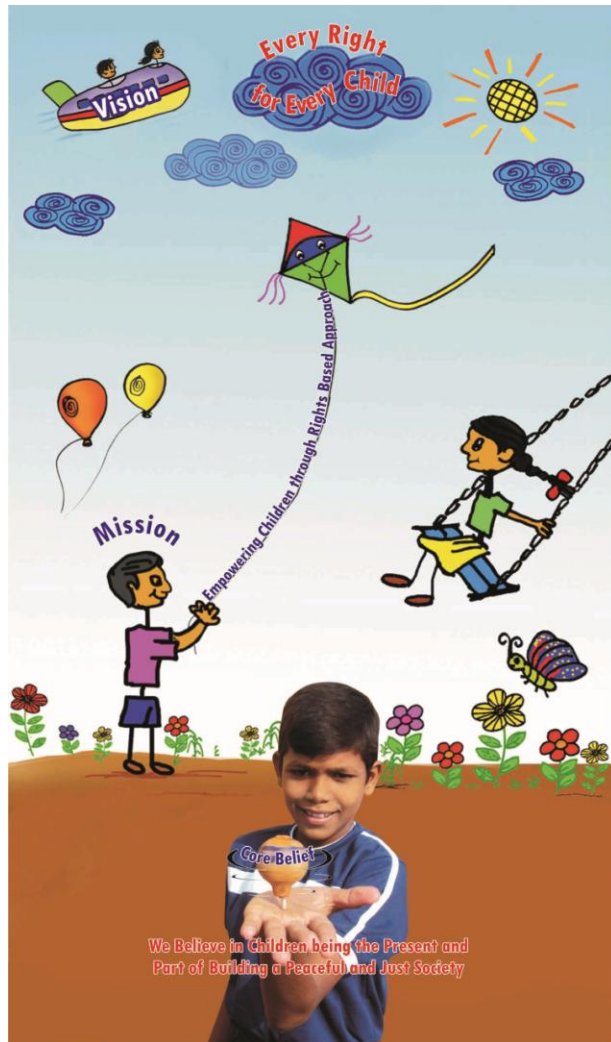
Vidiyal Madurai

SAKTHI

VIDIYAL

Championing For Child Rights





Our Objectives

- To create a congenial environment for integrated holistic development of children
- To provide a caring and safe environment to street and working children
- To rescue affected children and ensure rehabilitation
- To provide basic needs to children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- To ensure development of socially excluded children through prioritizing their rights
- To restore childhood to all children
- To ensure opportunities to children for education and vocational training
- To teach life skills and values
- To encourage children to celebrate our diversified culture
- To prevent children becoming child labourers
- To ensure children's rights in the society through providing child rights education to all stakeholders
- To monitor various social structures including the family and school and ensure protection of children from abuse, exploitation and discrimination
- To ensure children's right to participation and enable children to build their own movement to enable their voice being heard in various platforms
- To plan along with the children and ensure their participation in all decisions concerning their rights
- To facilitate children becoming agents of social change
- To network with likeminded organizations to address various issues affecting children
- To lobby and advocate with the government to bring changes in child related policies in favour of children.

Our Beginning

Sakthi is a registered nonprofit secular organization registered under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 27 of 1975 Old S.No.50 of 1993, New S.No.185 of 2006. Vidiyal was founded in 1996 as a program of **Sakthi** in the city of Madurai to provide safety and support to children in need especially -street children, runaway children, abandoned children, working children and children facing difficulties. Vidiyal provided the children with opportunities to work through their problems and offered support and guidance. **Vidiyal** focuses on the social inclusion of children, child rights and child participation.

Background

Urban poverty in Tamilnadu in 93 -94 was reportedly at 80.4 Lakh. Children from marginalized, discriminated, migratory and disadvantaged communities living in congested unhygienic tenements are the worst affected by poverty. Inadequate schooling, verbal and corporal abuse in schools resulted in school dropouts. Children roaming in the streets are a common sight in the city of Madurai. Children, work as rag pickers, scavengers, polish shoes and do menial chores for low wages and are treated despicably as cheap labor in roadside shops and small eateries. **Vidiyal** was established to challenge the existing discriminatory practices faced by children in the family, society and in schools. **Vidiyal** enables these children who are at the bottom rung to avail opportunities for holistic growth through child resource centres and education. **Vidiyal** works to endorse and establish Child Rights.

Vidiyal Home

Runaway children, abandoned children and children facing problems find a sanctuary in **Vidiyal**. The Government of Tamilnadu, Department of Social Defence has certified the Vidiyal Home as a 'place of safety' for children. The home is situated amidst a garden with play facilities and has separate accommodation for boys and girls. Vidiyal provides a healthy environment, nutritionally balanced diet and psychosocial attention to the children.



The Government Reception Home

The Department of Social Defence of the Tamilnadu Government since 2004 March has entrusted to **Vidiyal** the Government Reception Home for Madurai district under the auspices of the Child Welfare Committee. The Home has been established under the Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Act 2000 to provide rehabilitation and restoration to children in need of care and protection.

CHILDLINE

Childline 1098 is a national, 24 hour, toll free emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection. It is a project of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, for which **Sakthi - Vidiyal** is the collaborative organization in Madurai. This initiative of Childline services and intervention reach thousands of children living in vulnerable situations. **Sakthi - Vidiyal** works with the Madurai district administration and other allied departments of the government in effective rescue and rehabilitation.



Child Resource Centres

Vidiyal seeks to enable children to achieve their potential and has established 5 child resource centres in our working area -Melavasal, Thideer Nagar, Heera Nagar, Alavudeen Thoppu, Ambedkarnagar, Muthupatti, Rathinapuram and Mahaboobpalayam. The centres serve as a place where children do their school work, learn child rights, perform dance, play games and sports. The children are taught martial arts, experiment with art classes and folk dances and participate in traditional games. Children have access to the children's library and participate in forums to develop public speaking skills, debate and discussion groups to increase participation, decision making and thinking skills. 325 children are presently partnering with Vidiyal at the Child Resource Centres. Children are encouraged and supported to pursue their higher studies after school. Our children studying in colleges voluntarily lead the activities of the child resource centres.



Health and Nutrition

Vidiyal aims to provide a nurturing environment for growth and has established a range of health services for children, thereby giving access to quality medical facilities. Vidiyal addresses malnutrition by providing supplementary meals at all child resource centres and at the Home. The psycho social development of children is given importance. Age and gender appropriate care and counseling services are intertwined in the program. Every quarter a medical checkup is organized in one of the child resource centres to monitor children's health.