



Ananda Social and Educational Trust

Shanti Children Project

Newsletter ~ January 2011

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Shanti Children Project for this still young new year, we hope you all had a good start into 2011. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the achievements of the year 2010, and the plans for this year.

Many underprivileged children from all around Tiruvannamalai come to the Shanti tuition centre for after school educational help and extracurricular activities. As classes consist of 80-90 children to 1 teacher in school,



students do not have the opportunity for individual guidance. What Shanti tuition centre aims to do is provide these keen learners with more personal attention, as well as providing financial support to children who are in a less advantaged position.

This year Shanti Children Project is helping 60 children pay for their school fees, books, and other classroom materials. Moreover, we also fund the children's medical needs, as well as providing the children with food, fruits, snacks, and milk during activities.

Among four young adults who are attending college, Chandra is in her final year studying for a Diploma in nursing. She is very grateful to have this opportunity at a good education that will set her up for a bright future.

On 10/10/10, Shanti Children Project organized a massive walk consisting of 1,200 children from different schools and organizations, to encourage awareness of climate change and the environment. Participating children were above the age of eleven, they painted their faces and carried banners with environmental slogans that they had written themselves. Along the way, they sung and performed simple skits of environmental protection. One example is of tribal people who were protecting a tree from being cut down by developers. The children showed much enthusiasm when it came to learning about nature, global warming, and the planet. The walk represents a joyful celebration for the children, as it signifies that they are taking a stand for their future, and for the future of our earth.

For more information and colorful photos please visit: <https://arunachalchildrenswalk1010.wordpress.com/>



10.10.10 Arunachala Children walk

On a more local level, all the girls of grade 10 successfully completed their basic computer education course, which enables them to use the internet, write e-mails, and produce word documents and slide shows. On the weekends the girls come into the Shanti centre to use the computer facilities to further develop their skills.



Since the summer, Shanti tuition centre is holding regular Indian classical and modern, dance and music classes for the children. During yearly celebrations and festivals, the children perform on stage dances and dramas for audiences. This helps to develop their more creative sides as well as improving their confidence.



One particular event was Christmas, where the children wore their best outfits and performed dances for everyone. It was wonderful to see how well they had organized the scripts and choreography. Coming to the end of this joyful celebration, "Uncle Heinz" as Father Christmas from Austria gave gifts to more than 200 children! Other children who had come to watch received school stationery, and for the tuition children (also teachers and friends), gifts were pre-planned, individually wrapped and labeled by the hard working group at Shanti. This was a very energetic and jubilant event, the children thoroughly enjoyed the program very much.

As usual we celebrated the other festivals of the year. For Deepam in November, the children painted oil lamps and gave them to friends as gifts. When Diwali came the children set off fire-crackers, and received sweets and food. During Saraswathi pooja the children partook in another colorful evening where they danced, painted Mandalas and were thankful for good education, as Saraswathi is the Goddess of learning and the arts.

In the coming summer vacation, Shanti tuition centre is planning on taking the children out on two different excursions to Javadu Hills, and Kodikanal in the summer. During these trips we hope to promote ecological awareness among the children, as well as encourage them to get to know each other better.



Thank you all for your generous and continuous support which makes this all possible. We would like to extend our special thanks to a group around "Uncle Heinz" from Upper Austria and AWD Stiftung Kinderhilfe. On behalf of Shanti Children Project, for the still young new year we wish you all the best!

With Love,
Kumar, teachers and all the Shanti Children