

GUDALUR STUDY MISSION

PROVISION OF SCHOOL BAGS TO TRIBAL CHILDREN

Ms Natasha from the Palm Island Trust, Gudalur requested us to provide school bags for 171 under privileged tribal children residing in 11 villages of Gudalur Taluk. We purchased school bags to promote education and highlight its importance among young school students in the tribal villages.

To support our initiative one of our staff Mr .M. Suresh Kumar sponsored stationery items and snacks to all the tribal children, ensuring they have basic educational materials to support their learning.

On February 2nd, the Students from Grade 11 A, departed from school at 6:30 AM. During the journey, a stop was made for breakfast and tea. Mr. Yesudasan, the Program Manager of the Trust, joined our team at Gudalur and provided an overview of the day.

FIRST VILLAGE: KOTTAYIMATTAM (BETTAKURUMBA)

We were warmly welcomed by the tribal children and local leaders in the first village. The interaction began with a vibrant dance performance by the children with our students, followed by a dance by the tribal children. School bags were distributed to the 19 tribal children in the presence of a local woman leader. As a token of gratitude, the tribal women sang a song and performed a dance, expressing their appreciation for the initiative.

SECOND VILLAGE: ATHIPALLIVAYAL (PANIYA)

In the second village, 17 school bags were handed over to children. A motivational speech was delivered to encourage the children to continue their education and pursue their dreams.

THIRD VILLAGE: PURAMANAVAYAL (PANIYA)

In the third village, we faced some initial resistance, as the children were hesitant to come out and meet us. After some effort and persuasion, we were able to interact with the children.

A total of 20 children were provided with school bags. We encouraged them to stay committed to their studies and assured them of our continued support because the drop out rate more in that village.

FOURTH VILLAGE: KOZHILKOLLI (KURUMBA)

Post- lunch, we visited fourth tribal village and met tribal children in ICDS Anganwadi. The tribal children performed songs and dances for us, showcasing their vibrant culture. Our students also performed in return, creating a memorable exchange of traditions and cultures.

In addition to 33 school bags, woolen caps were distributed to the children to ensure they stay warm during the colder months.

LEISURE TIME

After the distribution and performances, we enjoyed some recreational time at a nearby river, engaging in fun activities and bonding with the tribal children and community members.

The remaining villages' tribal children got their school bags in the following days from Mr Yesudasan. These are the pictures sent by him.

CONCLUSION

The visit to the tribal villages was a meaningful and rewarding experience. The children's smiles, the community's hospitality, and the sense of joy in helping these underprivileged children were the highlights of the day.