

## SJC87 Initiative Newsletter 2016

Another year has come to an end, and the SJC87 Initiative is striving forward in working for the children in Sri Lanka in holistic educational development. We bring this report with pride and gratitude highlighting our activities and thanking our donors, well-wishers, and volunteers.

SJC 87 Initiative sponsored 108 children in 25 different schools in the Killinochi and Jaffna districts through the sponsorships of donors from the UK, Australia, Canada and the USA. These educational sponsorships cover educational costs, room, and board (for boarded students at certain schools), and other incidental expenses.

Shortage of teachers has been a severe challenge in rural Vanni area schools. SJC87 has taken a multipronged approach to overcome this hurdle by placing temporary teachers at two Vanni area schools, by giving revision classes for GCE O/L students, and Grade 5 scholarship exam takers taught by qualified volunteer teachers from Jaffna district. Tamil Engineers Australia and Tamil Aid UK have sponsored these efforts respectively. One of the recipient at Grade 5 scholarship exam scored 186 out of 200 in Killinochi district.

Remote English language lessons via Skype were conducted bi-weekly by youths from Australia at Sivan Arul Illam and Karuna Nilayam in Killinochi.

Tesla Science scholarships were awarded to 10 high-achieving students from Vanni area to pursue GCE A/L biology and mathematics stream studies through the sponsorship of Luckman Foundation, and Tamil Engineers from Australia.

A new initiative of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) workshops were conducted in the North, East, and the hill country regions through the collaboration and support of like-minded educators, the Department of Education, sponsorships, and,



coordination from Australia.

The SJC87 Initiative has taken a strategic move to mainly focus on four needy Vanni area schools in response to the rapidly changing environment and educational developments taking place locally. The Adopt A School program covers Tharmapuram Central College (TCC), Konavil Maha Vidiyalayam (MV), Urithirapuram MV, and Pirapandanaru MV.

Elementary school children were taken on excursion trips to other parts of the country for the first time their lives from TCC and Pirapandanaru MV. Various other efforts are done to help develop the Science practical knowledge, English language, reading skills, esthetics (dance and arts), and school infrastructure. 2017 Calendars are published with the winning entries of artworks from an art competition held at the four schools mentioned above.



The SJC87 Initiative once again wants to express our appreciation for our donors, well-wishers, and volunteers for their continued support.

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