

SJC87 Initiative 2017 Newsletter

2017 was yet another fruitful year of service among children improving education and vocational training in Sri Lanka. Through educational sponsorship, 'Adopt a School' – provides needs based grants and merit based awards, revision classes, ICT training, vocational training and employment placement programs SJC87 Initiative provided much needed assistance to children in underserved regions.

1. Educational sponsorship program:

Our individual sponsorship program is made possible through sponsors who came from all over the world. Our sincere thanks go out to them.

(a) We had 120 need based students in our program, about 20 of them in Jaffna District and the rest in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannar Districts. Three students from our sponsorship program gained admission to universities based on the 2016 A/L examination performance.

(b) Our need based students fared well in the 2017 A/L exams as well. We expect about 5 students to gain admission to Universities. We also expect 7 out of our 9 merit based students to gain admission into University including a guaranteed medical seat for a student from Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam.

(c) We will be expanding our sponsorship to include University students in 2018. We will be starting this program with 12 students and expanding as deemed necessary.

2. Adopt a School program:

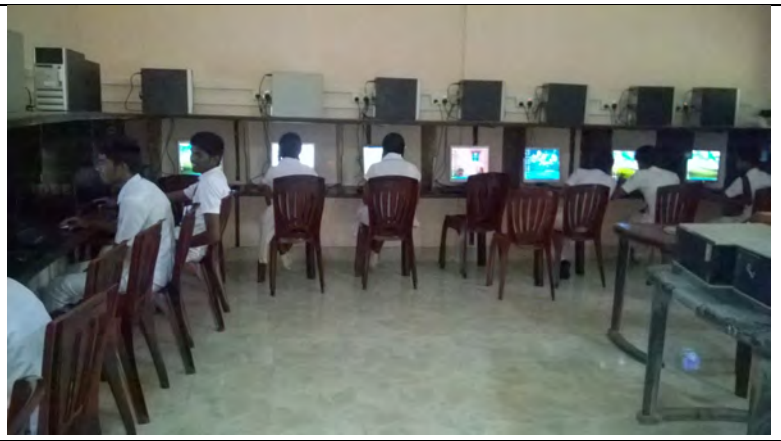
We have been working on an "Adopt a School" approach with five schools - Tharmapuram Central College, Piramanthanaaru Maha Vidyalayam, Uruthirapuram Maha Vidyalayam, Konavil Maha Vidyalayam, Vaddakkachchi Central College and their respective primary divisions. Adopt a School program typically involve the following:

- (a) Encourage competition and facilitate prize day materials to reward students for their achievements
- (b) Supply sports equipment and materials for extracurricular activities.
- (c) Supply science lab materials so that students can gain practical knowledge.
- (d) Provide funding for tube wells / well refining to make sure students get clean drinking water
- (e) School trips for students so they get to see the wider world
- (f) Address teacher shortages by providing extra help as deemed necessary
- (g) Set up computer rooms and facilitate internet connection

"Adopt a school" projects are funded by special project funding from individuals and organizations around the world. Our Annual Calendar sales also contribute to these projects.

- We have expanded our "Adopt a School" approach to the East - mainly addressing the teacher shortage in the Batticaloa West Zone. Currently Sixteen schools are benefiting from this program





3. Revision classes:

We conduct intensive revision classes for Grade 5 scholarship examination and GCE (O/L) examination in the Vanni and Madu regions. They are not just restricted to our adopted schools. In the Grade 5 scholarship examinations, 54 students from these regions qualified for scholarships from the Government, which provides an assistance of Rs 1500 per month until the students graduate high school. GCE O/L examinations were held in Dec 2017. Special thanks to Tamil Aid UK for providing funds to facilitate our annual Grade 5 revision classes.



4. ICT training workshops:

ICT workshops were held across the country in September 2017. We are working towards helping schools, teachers and students getting on better teaching and learning methods with the help of the Google platforms.

5. Vocational Training:

We provided NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) training for students who sat for the O/L exams in previous December and waiting for their results. Students who don't proceed to A/L classes benefit from this program and they learn skills that eventually lands them in gainful employment.

6. Jobs placement:

SJC87 Initiative also arranged for prospective employers from the Capital region to hire trained people from the above NVQ training program. About 20 people gained employment. We hope this will lead to even more employment and the employers to consider opening businesses in the Vanni Region.