

Children's Festival

Tulir Thalir Students Movement (Movement for young students and adolescents), the AREDS-initiated students movement organised Children's Festival on the 21st and 22nd of February 2009.

Facilitating the grassroots children to join the mainstream education is the prime objective of TTSM. In order to encourage children to continue their education, exhibit their latent talents and reinstating the fellowship among them, TTSM has been organizing children's festival for the past two years. Competition on sports, drawing, singing, eloquence and quiz is held for the children. Children, seeing this festival as an arena for exhibiting their talents and aspirations, enthusiastically participate in the programmes – irrespective of caste and religion.

Children studying different standards gathered from different villages on these two days. The festival started with a formal function on 21.02.2009 at AREDS training centre. The entire proceedings were conducted by the children themselves. It was an event of the children, by the children and for the children. Gayathri, a 10th standard student welcomed the gathering. Mr. Samy, the director of AREDS, presided over the meeting. The staff of Human Development Organisation (HDO) - a Sri Lanka based Non-Governmental organisation - who visited AREDS on an exposure, were the special invitees in the function. Mr. Nadarasa and Ms. Yagula Mary of HDO felicitated AREDS' role in bringing in a social change through spreading out education in Tamil Nadu. Ragunathan, a 10th standard student, gave the vote of thanks.

Ms. Christina flagged off the competitions and sports. Mr. Durairaj, a drawing teacher in a government school was the judge for the drawing competition. Eloquence was centred on the following topics: The role of EVR Periyar and the role of Ambedkhar in erasing out the caste system, Environmental preservation and My Future Aspirations. The winners were given out prizes. Drawing competition was on the themes, Clean Environment and the Dreams of Children.

AREDS strongly believes that strengthening of the fellow feeling among the people is the only way to promoting communal harmony and national integration. Therefore, AREDS, in order to strengthen the fellow feelings among the children – the future generation - in Karur district, will organise 'children's festival' every year and take steps to increase the members of TTSM in the future.

