



sterlite copper



Ilam Mottukal

Stories from Sterlite Copper's holistic education project for the girl child



HUMANA
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INDIA

Introduction

Education in India is experiencing a strange paradox. Nationally, more children are being enrolled in schools but fewer are learning. Grappling with dismal learning outcomes and poor engagement levels, the problem further exacerbates where girl education is concerned. Social bias and gender disparity often leave girls on the periphery of educational benefits. Educating girls and instilling confidence and curiosity among them essentially has a cascading positive impact on the collective conscience of future generations. With gender-neutral, quality education at the helm, educated girls can expedite a nation's progress.

To support Government's girl education initiatives like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (SSA), Sterlite Copper-a Vedanta Company, as part of their CSR initiative, in association with Humana People to People India (HPPI) implements 'Ilam Mottukal' - a holistic learning enhancement programme to improve the quality of girl education in 81 Government schools of Ottapidaram & Thoothukudi Blocks of Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) district in Tamil Nadu. The project aims to improve learning outcome of about 8000 girls from grade I to VIII each year along with empowering and elevating the quality of 245 teachers in its 3-year project term.

Administering and assisting Government's efforts to provide quality education, HPPI's programme dovetails with local education system and nurtures all the critical stakeholders of the education system: the school, the teachers, the students, the community and the state government.



Ms. R. Soundara Nayagi
District Elementary Education Officer
(DEEO),
Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu

Sterlite Copper and Humana People to People India are jointly running the Ilam Mottukla project in Ottapidaram and Thoothukudi blocks of the district. Children of grade 1-8 from 86 selected schools are getting academic support through this project.

The Academic Support Centres start at 4.30PM, once the school finishes and during the first 45 minutes, tutors under the project help the students in completing their homework. During the next 45 minutes, the students solve syllabus-related tasks through the project program book.

As a part of the project, every year, Science Mela and Talent Hunt events are conducted to provide a platform for the students to express and present their inner talents. These events are a source of great inspiration for the students. More than 3,000 students from all the schools participate in these events every year. These are excellent platforms for the girl students of these rural communities.

In total, 257 tutors have been appointed under the project to provide academic support to 8,046 girl students of 86 schools.

As compared to other schools in the region, the academic performance of the girl students from these 86 schools is found to be better.

I wish Ilam Mottukal the best of luck and wish that these organisations continue such humanitarian work for the betterment of the girl child.



Mr. C. Murugeswaran

Vice President

Vedanta | Sterlite Copper

Education is an essential component in the growth of a child. Whether boy or girl the social disparities should be alleviated as matter of basic human right to education and health. Educating a girl is educating a woman and a future mother. Literacy of women can only ensure healthy successive generations.

As a responsible corporate citizen, Vedanta strives at its best to combat various social evils such as illiteracy, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment and more. Correspondingly, Sterlite Copper – A unit of Vedanta limited – in partnership with Humana People to People India, is functioning towards educating the girl children in and around Thoothukudi under the girl child education project titled “Ilam Mottukal”. This learning enhancement project aims at a holistic learning and development of the girl children. This also ensures that every girl child is provided with quality school education in an enabling environment so that she can realize her fullest potential. This girl child education support initiative emphasize on supporting the girl children with needful interventions, by conducting academic support centres that helps the girl clarify her doubts in syllabus and to complete homework on time, offering educational material support and holistic development training increases the socio-environmental learning through various workbook activities. This also enable and empower them to continue schooling by minimizing the socio-economic constraints of the family. Ilam Mottukal operates in 86 government and aided schools and benefits more than 8000 girl children in Thoothukudi district. As the transforming initiative, the project has made the children learn while they play and play when they learn. The outcome of the project is increasing learning level and decreasing school dropouts. We are able to improve their verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

An educated girl will lead her family at all stages of life and can contributes towards improving socio-economic development. Vedanta Sterlite copper continues to touch and transform the lives of these girl children through Ilam motukkal education along with HPPI-Implementing partner.

Wishing all the best for the project.



Mr. Snorre Westgaard

Executive Director

Humana People to People India

Gender equality is being promoted as one of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is also of high priority for the Government of India. How better to achieve this than through empowering young girls through better quality of education as well as a number of activities that enhances their all round development.

Humana People to People India is proud to work in partnership with Sterlite Copper - A unit of Vedanta limited, to conduct learning enhancement classes for 8,000 girl students of the two blocks of the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu under the Ilam Mottukal project. The all-encompassing project goes much beyond the classroom, redefines the teacher-student relationship through the use of student-driven teaching methodologies and provides for active engagement between the community and the school faculty.

Under the child-centred teaching model of the project, classes are held in small groups of three students each, thereby promoting peer-to-peer learning and focussed attention from the tutors.

Beyond the regular post-school classes, annual Science Mela and Talent Hunt events are organised under the project. While the former aims to bolster the young girl students' scientific temperament and propels them towards a career in science, Talent Hunt provides a unique platform for the students to display their flair that in turn nurtures their inherent qualities.

The newly-commenced weekly online interactions with students of selected European schools is a unique element of the project which, along with promoting communication and presentation skills in the girl students, also opens a wide experience sharing platform for the young minds to understand each other.

Under the Sterlite Copper-HPPI partnership, the Ilam Mottukal project is now running in its second year, and we wish it continues to spread smiles and empower girls in the years to come.





Ms Gomati Ammal

*Headmistress, Panchayat Union Primary School,
Vedanatham, Ottapidaram*

Holistic development through Ilam Mottukal

The Ilam Mottukal project is being implemented at our school since past three years. In these three years we have seen a significant improvement in the overall personality of the students, their academic skills and their confidence levels.

The structure of the classes and the manner in which they are conducted by the Ilam Mottukal tutors is very efficient. The students are made to sit in smaller groups where they learn from each other through discussions and this assists in their accelerated learning.

The task books provided to students under the project are also very well designed, covering several important tasks of the syllabus and also a few topics beyond it.

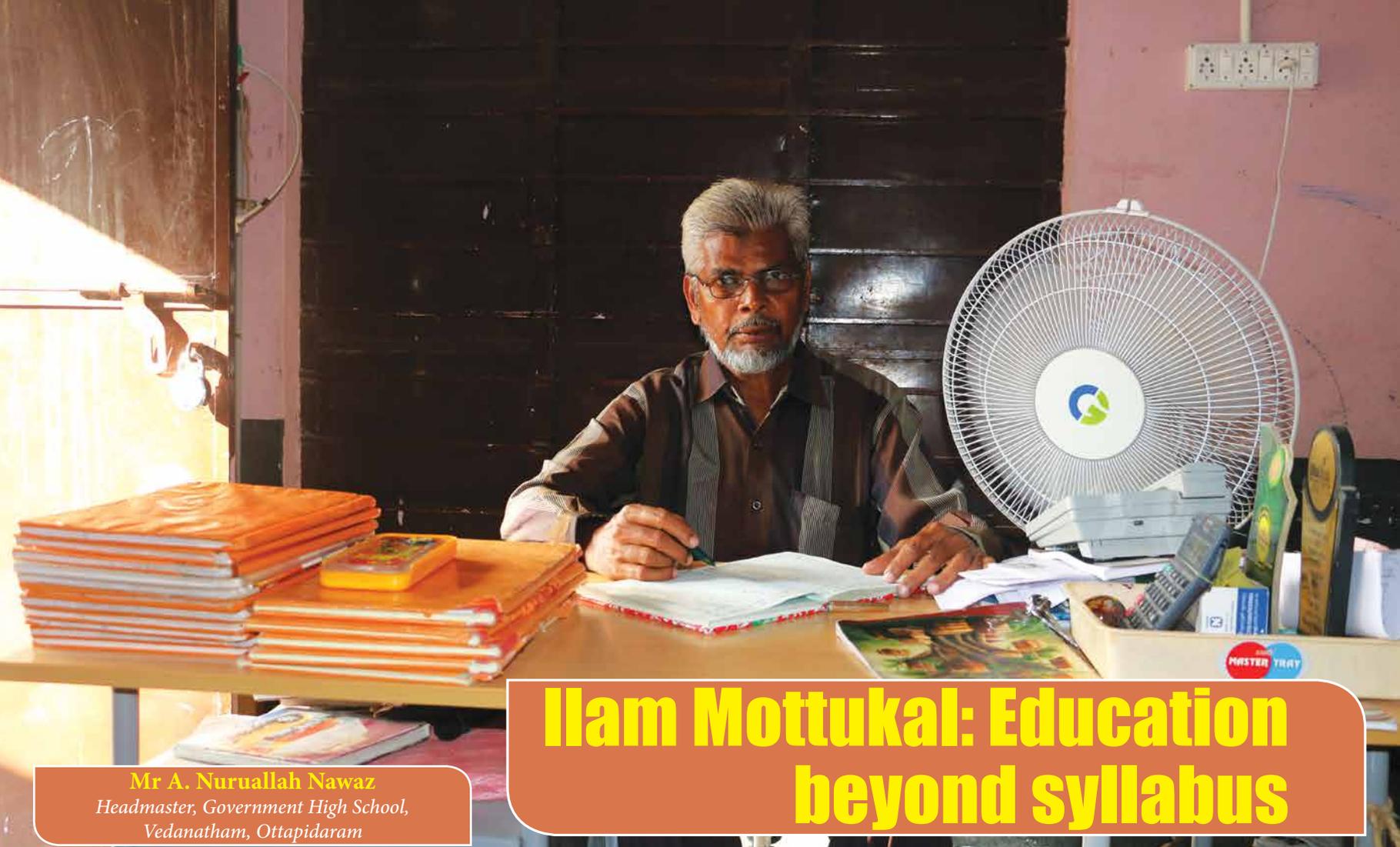
Events such as the 'Talent Hunt' and 'Science Mela' held under the project provide very significant knowledge sharing platforms for these students where they showcase their talent and learn from students of other schools. This results in an overall enhancement of their personality and goes much beyond academic improvement that we find in conventional tuition classes. I have personally witnessed the dramatic increase in their confidence levels since the students of our school joined the Ilam Mottukal project.

There is a healthy cooperation between the Ilam Mottukal tutors and the schools teachers. Since they have been working with each other for a few years now, I can see that the school teachers have been immensely influenced by the Ilam Mottukal tutors, and vice versa. They both learn from each other and help each other in conducting the classes more efficiently.

The other significant improvement that has been observed is that the students attending the programme become fearless in expressing their opinions and their voice opens up. This is a very good indication of an increase in the confidence levels of the students and reflects a holistic personality development.

Teaching and Learning Materials used under the programme are developed from readily available local materials. This further helps accelerated learning among students as they are effortlessly able to relate to these objects.





Mr A. Nuruallah Nawaz
*Headmaster, Government High School,
Vedanatham, Ottapidaram*

Ilam Mottukal: Education beyond syllabus

The Ilam Mottukal project is being implemented at our school since past 3 years. Poverty is rampant in this part of the district, and due to lack of resources, parents are not able to afford regular tuition classes for their children. This makes the Ilam Mottukal classes very crucial for the girl students of this region.

In our school 49 girl students from classes 6th-8th participate in these classes, held everyday from 4-5.30 PM.

The tutors regularly assist the students with homework. Under the project the students have received task books, school bags and various stationery that encourages them to attend the school regularly. The task book

is a very good instrument for learning various subjects, and English in particular. The pictures in the task book have proven to be very helpful for learning the language.

Further, there has been substantial behavioral change in the students since they joined Ilam Mottukal classes. Their confidence level has gone up and after the launch of English classes under the project, their spoken English has improved significantly. Most of my students attending these classes can speak fluent English now.

Beyond regular syllabus, there is substantial focus on grooming, spreading social and environmental responsibility and personal hygiene in these classes. These are important life skills that will help students throughout their life.

We have observed, that since such events started the students have lost stage fright. They are confident of their presentations and speak publicly with without hesitation.

Ilam Mottukal tutors cover the syllabus by conducting events such as quiz competitions, cultural programmes, and teach using informative teaching-learning materials. These methods keep students engaged and they don't miss a single class. This has had a very positive impact on the attendance of students in the school.

For several regions with entrenched poverty, projects such as Ilam Mottukal are very important in improving the quality of education for the girl child and in helping them with a brighter future.





A. Sopana

Class 7th

Government High School, Vedanatham, Tuticorin

Fuelling dreams into realizations

“I want to grow up to be a botanist.”

It's not everyday that you hear a 12-year-old talk about her future with such vehemence, precision and articulation.

As the gravity of the specialization she aims to achieve sinks in, the first thing one notices about A. Sopana is her clear, articulate speech.

“Plants and trees provide us with fruits and vegetables. It is important to learn about them and look after them,” says the 7th standard student at Government High School, Vedanatham, Tuticorin.

Sopana has been attending Ilam Mottukal classes being implemented at the school since past three years. She attributes growth in her interest in science and botany to a large extent to the interesting activities conducted under the project.

“Events such as Science Mela and Talent Hunt organized under the Ilam Mottukal project are very encouraging. This year one of my classmates participated in the Talent Hunt event. She wrote an essay on ‘Importance of Obeying traffic Rules’ and won the third prize. Now I have decided to participate in next year’s Science Mela and present a model of plant growth,” says an excited Sopana.

“The one and a half hour spent in Ilam Mottukal classes are very helpful. Here we finish our daily homework and learn new things through the task book,” she says.

“We sit in small groups and work on the activities mentioned in the task book. In spoken English classes, we frame questions and put them to each other in English. If we make a mistake, the tutor corrects us.”

And what does she plan to do after graduating as a botanist?

“Well, apple is my favorite fruit, but it does not grow in our state. I think I will research ways of successfully growing here,” says Sopana, thoughtfully.

And just like her, the Ilam Motukal project is helping several girls of the region march on towards realizing their dreams.





K. Ponkarthika

Class 8th

TNDTA Middle School, Madathur, Tuticorin

Socially conscious with Ilam Mottukal

Amidst the usual din of learning at the Academic Support Centre (ASC) at TNDTA school, an animated young student is busy feverishly explaining and engaging members of her class group in a discussion on the functions of different body parts. Her bright eyes and animated gestures can be seen eliciting affirmative responses from her group members.

K. Ponkarthika is an 8th grade student, and one of the 60 girls attending Ilam Mottukal classes at the school.

“Of course!” comes an emphatic reply when asked if she likes coming to the school.

“This is the best part of the day.”

Ponkarthika has always been a very smart student and an academic high-achiever in her school. However, after joining the Ilam Mottukal classes — being implemented by Humana People to People India with support from Sterlite Copper — a new avenue of more comprehensive learning has opened for her.

“The tutors at the ASCs are very engaging. They use examples from our daily life to help us understand concepts mentioned in our books. This makes learning very easy and interesting,” she says.

For most of the school students in this part of rural Tuticorin, tuition classes are not very readily available. And when they are, the financial costs involved deter many parents from sending their children to such classes after school hours.

For such students, ASCs run under the Ilam Mottukal project provide a fresh impetus for achieving their goals.

“The best part of the classes is the spoken English classes. It has been only a few months since these classes focused on English have started, but I can already feel that my English is slowly becoming as good as some of my friends who go to private schools with much higher fees,” says an excited Ponkarthika.

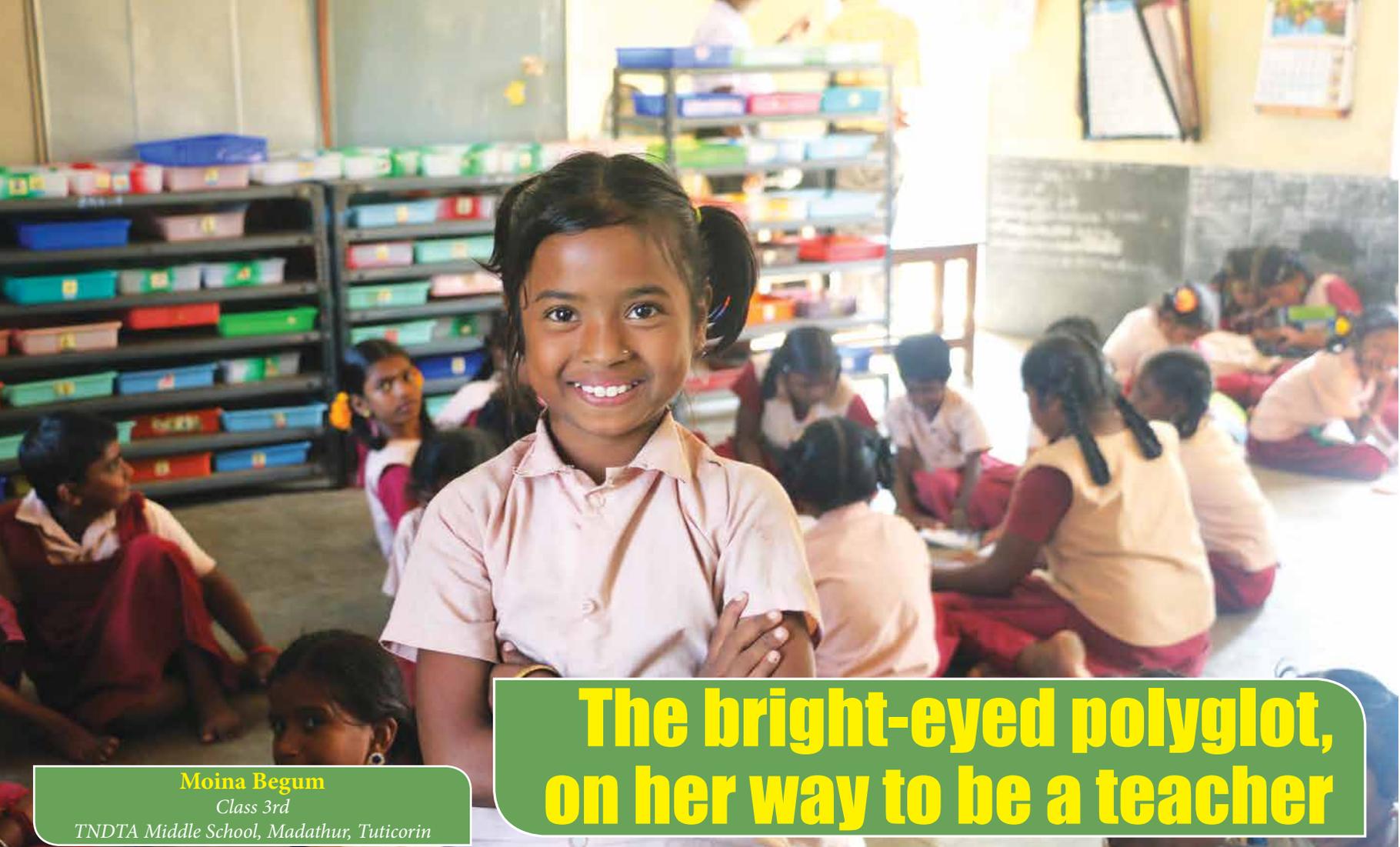
And when asked about her future goals, she is equally vehement.

“I will grow up to be an IAS officer. It is important to provide poor people clean drinking water and accessibility to roads,” she says.

With lack of drinking water being one of the most pestering concerns for the citizens of this area, it is clearly evident that this socially conscious Ilam Mottukal girl is well on her way to achieve her dreams.



“ The tutors at the ASCs are very engaging. They use examples from our daily life to help us understand concepts mentioned in our books. This makes learning very easy and interesting. ”



Moina Begum

Class 3rd

TNDTA Middle School, Madathur, Tuticorin

The bright-eyed polyglot, on her way to be a teacher

As we enter one of the Academic Support Centres (ASCs) in the TNDTA Middle School, Madathur, an engrossed 8-year-old Moina Begum, is huddled together with two other members of her group trying to successfully match verbs with the relevant images in her workbook.

A grade 3 student, Moina is one of the 60 girl students regularly attending one of the two ASCs running at the school under the Sterlite Copper's Ilam Mottukal initiative.

“It is very interesting attending these classes. The tutors teach through games and different materials, and help us

complete our homework,” says an excited Moina.

“Unlike regular school classes, here we sit in small groups and find solution to problems through discussions. If we get stuck, the tutor madam helps us.”

Like many other school students in this rural part of Tuticorin, Moina comes from the economically weaker section of the society. A native of Assam, Moina is born and raised in Tuticorin and both her parents work in the long-established fishing industry of the region.

“Our tutors mostly teach through games and special flash cards. We also have several quiz competitions as a part of the classes, which is very exciting,” says Moina.

Though, as is always the case, the real gifts of a child are always hidden beneath the surface.

“At home we talk in Hindi and Assamese. All my friends are Tamil so I am comfortable talking in that language. And now, since the Ilam Mottukal classes started in our school, we have a special English workbook and regular spoken English classes. It has now become one of my favourite subjects,” she says.

And among with developing expertise in four languages, this 8-year-old polyglot has her future plans firmly in place as well.

“I will grow up to be a teacher. I like the teachers in our school and I want to become like them,” she says with a bright smile etched on her face.

The Ilam Mottukal ASCs are helping several girls like Moina in inching closer to their goals, slowly and surely.



“ Unlike regular school classes, here we sit in small groups and find solution to problems through discussions. If we get stuck, the tutor madam helps us. ”



Jabraj Manohar J.

*School Headmaster, TNDTA Middle School
Madathur, Tuticorin*

Ilam Mottukal: For holistic development of the girl child

The Ilam Mottukal project has been running in our school since past four years. In all we have 114 students, of whom 60 girls attend Ilam Mottukal classes everyday. The classes are arranged in two batches of 30 students each.

There is an urgent need for such interventions in regions such as ours. Over the years, I have observed that this project is very helpful for the village students. Many of the parents in these rural areas are very poor and they

are not able to provide any kind of educational support for their children after school hours and are not able to afford any tuition classes.

Also, for many students, the home environment is not conducive to complete their daily homework. In some cases parents are not really interested in studies. Whenever we visit their homes, in almost all the houses we find some or the other TV programme running which disturbs the students and they can't finish their assigned homework. It is either the television or the students are found to be busy in some household chores. Classes conducted under the Ilam Mottukal project from 4-5.30 help them finish their homework with their classmates.

Under the project, spoken English classes have started recently and students are taking a lot of interest in them. As children advance in their grades, we find there is an increasing competition based on excellence in written and spoken English, particularly when they advance to the under-graduate level studies in universities and colleges of the cities. Spoken English classes under Ilam Mottukal programme has enhanced the confidence levels of the participating students remarkably. I myself conduct English classes here, and I've observed that since the launch of the Ilam Mottukal programme, the participating students' pronunciation has become much better than what it was earlier.

The society here is more equitable and almost all the families treat boys and girls alike. However, we can see that with interventions such as Ilam Mottukal, girls become more confident as members of society and participate in social activities in a more engaging way. So this programme provides a holistic development of the girl child.





J. Berlin of TNDTA Middle School,
with her parents

Aiming confidently towards future with Ilam Mottukal

“**H**er name itself is a lesson in geography, says Kavitha Mary, mother of nine-year old J. Berlin, as the room burst into a riot of laughter.

As the racket subsides, the young girl is quick to enlighten us all present in the small, single-bedroom house located at the end of a narrow pathway in Madathur village of Tuticorin.

“Berlin is the capital of Germany, which is in Europe,” says the 4th grader, an Ilam Mottukal student at the TNDTA Middle School in Tuticorin, in clear, articulate English.

“Earlier she would talk only in Tamil. Since the Ilam Mottukal classes started, she has started speaking in English. I have been able to observe the change in a very short span of time,” says Kavitha.

“In the beginning she had trouble writing even the basic alphabets. Today she can spell the words correctly and write full sentences. Also, the tuition classes have helped improve her academics performance at the school,” she adds.

For many disadvantaged girl students like Berlin, whose father is a lorry driver and mother a homemaker, Sterlite Copper’s Ilam Mottukal project is a much needed blessing. Being implemented by Humana People to People India, Berlin’s school is one of the 86 schools where Academic Support Centres are providing remedial classes to the girl students under the project.

“Since the Ilam Muttukal classes started, she is so keen on going to school that she doesn’t even want to skip a day for family functions,” adds Kavitha with a smile.

When asked about her future plans, the young girl is still unsure about becoming an Administrative Officer or the Chief Minister.

We are doing our bit as parents and we are thankful to the Ilam Mottukal project team for their efforts. With such quality education, we’re confident that whatever course she chooses in the future, she will be very successful, says her proud mother.





Ushasam M.
Head Mistress
VPSG Primary School, Veppalodai

Ilam Mottukal: For parity in Education

The Ilam Mottukal project has been running at our school for the past five years. We have 186 enrolled students in the school, of whom 103 are girls.

Usually, in these rural parts, parents do not lay much emphasis on the girl child's education. Since the Ilam Mottukal project started here, we can see that this mindset has changed. The tutors encourage parents to send their children to the classes and the impact has been evident in their grades and also in their overall personality.

In the beginning, the biggest draw for the students and the parents alike was the school bags and the study

kits that the participating students received. Gradually the parents have been able to observe a more significant progress in their daughters, and hence they've become genuinely interested in sending their child to the classes.

We conduct regular Parent-Teachers meetings, wherein the parents are informed about equal rights for girls and boys. I repeatedly drive home the point for them, that when the boys study, it benefits the family, and when the girls study, it benefits the entire society.

Before the project started, we would have one or two cases of girl students dropping out in a year. Since the Ilam Mottukal project started, this has completely ceased. Further, absenteeism among the girl students has also reduced significantly since the launch of the project.

The spoken English classes have been the biggest draw for the students attending the classes. Interest in studies has also witnessed a marked spike. Today, the girls are performing much better than the boys in our school. Earlier they were almost the same in their academic performance.

Under the project, all the students have received quality products such as school bags, education kits, dictionaries, water bottles etc. These are big incentives for the students to generate interest in studies and in coming to the school regularly.

The tutors conduct classes through activities. It is has been observed that with such a teaching methodology, students can learn concepts and ideas that are generally taught to students of higher classes.



“ When the boys study, it benefits the family, and when the girls study, it benefits the entire society. ”



G. Packiam
Ilam Mottukal Tutor
VPSG Primary School

Learning, that goes beyond the classroom

The Ilam Mottukal project is a valuable gift for the girl students of this region. Almost for all the students of this rural region, learning English is a very high priority as the knowledge of the language is crucial when they go to colleges and universities in the cities after completing school. Through this project, they are learning much beyond English.

Everyday, we begin with the classes with attendance and then go on to help students understand and complete their homework. The class is arranged such that the students sit in small groups. They discuss and learn from

each other and complete their tasks. This way, tutors only act as facilitators in the entire learning process.

In the first 45 minutes of the class, the focus is on completing the homework, while in the second half the students perform tasks from their Ilam Mottukal workbooks through different kinds of classroom activities.

Under the project, we also have constant contact with the parents. Their feedback is a vital indicator of improvement in the child. So far we have received very encouraging feedback from the parents. In one case, a mother told me that earlier her daughter would only talk in Tamil. But since last few months she has been practicing her English at home by naming different fruits and vegetables in English. So much so, that even the mother has now memorised the English names of certain fruits and vegetables. Such feedback is a constant source of encouragement for me as a tutor as well.

There was another case where a mother told me that her husband has been a smoker and a heavy drinker for a long time. One day, after coming back from attending her Ilam Muttukal class, their daughter told the father that she had learnt about the ill-effects of smoking and drinking in the class that day and that he should stop these bad habits. His intake of these substances has significantly reduced now and this has had an overall positive impact on their family life.

We have seen that students who were earlier shy and sat at the end of the class have found a new voice and a burst of confidence. Some of the girls from my class who hardly spoke in the school, today actively participate in all the activities and functions conducted under the project.



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