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**GIRL CHILD
SPECIAL EDITION**



**TRANSFORMATION OF UNDER PRIVILEGED GIRLS IN
SLUM CHILDREN STEDS**



THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Community group uses sports to make girls return to school

18-Yr-Old Football Player Shows Way For Others In Locality

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Twelve years ago, when she was six, J Sakthiveswari was sent to pack fish for export. Sorting raw fish, gutting and cleaning them, and breaking ice with her bare hands every day, she gave up on her dream of becoming a football player and thought she would have to follow her three sisters and get married at 16. That's when the Slum Children Sports Talent Education Development Society (SCSTEDS), a community-based organisation in Vyasarpadi, helped her realise her dream.

"My father doesn't work and my mother washes utensils in a hotel. Earned Rs 15 a day for six hours' work and then went to school. I dropped out in Class VII. SCSTEDS encouraged me to join their football club and helped me complete my education," she says. The 18-year-old, pursuing BSc Biotechnology in Ambedkar Arts College, Vyasarpadi, has played for the SCSTEDS team in district and state-level foot-

Small steps for a giant shift



J Sakthiveswari

► Unicef says 46% of Indian women are married before they are 18

► A CRY study says 15% of girls are married before 13 in rural areas. Of them 52% have their first pregnancy between 15 and 19

► 24% of girls are never enrolled in school, and of those enrolled 60% will not reach secondary school level

► 53% of girls between 5 and 9 years are illiterate

TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

ball tournaments.

SCSTEDS honorary secretary N Umaphathy says, "Most girls here run away from home and get married at 16 or 17. They are unable to cope with the domestic challenges and break up within four or five months. And they are unable to return home. I've seen a lot of suicides because of this. We encourage them to study and set other goals in life."

Most of the area's residents are autorickshaw drivers or

involved in making steel vessels or fish processing. Deputy general manager of development support in CRY P Krishnamoorthy, who works with SCSTEDS, says, "One of the major issues here is early marriage. Sensitisation of the parents and success stories like Sakti's have encouraged others to change their lifestyle."

Umaphathy says that reaching the girls was difficult initially because of social restrictions. "We use sports to encourage the girls to face the

world boldly. We sign them up in the Guides movement," he says. Now, more than 50 girls below 18 have signed up and at least 10 are pursuing higher studies. The SSLC pass percentage of the Kalyanasaram government school has also risen from 0 in 2003-04 to 24% in 2005-06 and now stands at 76%.

Girls like Sakti help in peer monitoring. "Earlier, people used to speak ill of me because I wore shorts on the field. Now they see I have a better life and five girls have asked me how they can join SCSTEDS," says Sakti, who wants to become a lawyer so she can educate the people in her community on their rights.

While National Family Health Survey 3 says that there has been a decline in the number of women aged 20-24 being married before 18 from 54.2% in 1992-93 to 44.6% in 2005-06, the country will have to fight harder to meet the goal of abolishing child marriage by 2010, set in the National Plan for Children 2005.

sports

Chennai Chronicle
TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2014



Girls who took the football tournament sponsored by Amara Entertainment.

Women power at Steds

T.N. RAJESH

Deccan Chronicle

Slum Children Sports Talent and Education Development Society (SCSTEDS) is integral to the lives of people at Vyasarpadi. Fighting for slum population's progress on all fronts is the avowed goal of Steds. Football has helped Steds to foster an interest among working class youngsters.

What sets Steds academy apart from other football schools in the city is its efforts to include girls in training. The increasing participation of girls in football is a crown in the jewel of Steds. Nearly 50 girls attend training every weekend. Their enthusiasm is infectious. The oppression of women is prevalent in the poorer section of the society. Gender bias is entrenched in the slums of

Vyasarpadi. Not long ago, girls coming to the playground were sneered at. Today thanks to the pioneering work of Steds, girls don't mind a training session. Wearing shorts is no taboo and tournaments is a breeze of breeze.

N. Umaphathy, a coach with Steds, said his organisation has always made it a point to integrate girls in all its activities. "We want to give equal opportunities to girls. We don't want them to miss out on playing the exciting game of football," he said.

Playing football is a liberating experience for girls at Vyasarpadi. Given a choice to choose between going to a movie or coming to the ground,

most of them would opt for the latter.

It's to the credit of Steds coaches that football has become part of many young girls' lives.

R. Marthal, 18, is a flag-bearer of the girls' football brigade at Steds. The fierce competitor has been attending training at the academy for the last two years. "I enjoy the experience so much that I

wish I had come here much earlier. I'm able to concentrate on studies better after I started playing football. From leadership to discipline, the ground teaches me so many important qualities," she said.

Marthal, whose father is a welder, is doing her first year B.Com at Guahate Mills' College. She had scored 100% in Plus Two. Even though her academic credentials are excellent, the flag-bearer's burning ambition is to become a top-class football player. There are fewer competitors for girls in football but she isn't dis-

heartened. Marthal is confident that her dream will one day come true.

The teenager is also keen to tribute her bit to the growth of Steds that has played a crucial role in her development. "Steds is a family for me. I'm thrilled nearly 40 girls came to take part in the football tournament at Entertainment on Saturday. Sundeep, I'm sure more and more young girls will take up football show that they aren't far behind boys in this great sport," Marthal said.



R. Marthal

I enjoy the experience so much that I wish I had come here much earlier. I'm able to concentrate on studies better after I started playing football.

— R. Marthal, flag bearer

SLUM CHILDREN STEDS FOCUS INITIATIVES

Chennai, Monday, December 11, 2006

Date: 11-12-06 With The New Indian Express

City Express

Giving Vyasarpadi kids a chance to dream

By Sorena Josephine M
Chennai, December 10

THE dark and narrow lanes of Vyasarpadi was no place for nurturing dreams and talents. However, over the years, a platform for the slum children has evolved, slowly but steadily, making remarkable strides in sports bringing in fame for the North Chennai area.

With football as its focal point, the Slum Children Sports Talents and Education Development Society in Vyasarpadi has been training several boys and girls in the game. The results four boys were selected for the Chennai team, of which one has made it to the Tamil Nadu team. A girl had also played for the State level junior championship.

Selected from 150 players, the four boys - K. Ramakumar, E. Adhinam, M. Durgam and K. Ganitham, were part of the seven members team which played for the under-12 category representing Chennai in Dindigul last month. Also played against Salem, Trichy and Tiruvallur teams. We lost the scruff-ends to the Tiruvallur boys by goal. However, it was the first time we got an opportunity to play at the district level and it was indeed a learning experience," said Ramakumar.

While Ramakumar scored four goals, Durgam, who captained the team, had seven to his credit. Dillip has now found his way to the Tamil Nadu team and would play in the state-level championship. Meanwhile, two boys and four girls are participating in the selection camp for the state category. But all this did not come out of the sky and we have been looking for opportunities in spite of not having proper facilities. We have trained the children very well and they have excelled in their respective games."

Comprising of children from the surrounding areas of Vyasarpadi, the society aims at changing this generation unlike their parents who are mostly unorganised workers. As a recognition for their work, the society bagged the award for the District Best Youth Club from the Nehru Yuva Kendra-Chennai Rural of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports, Government of India, this year.



Young football players of the Slum Children Sports Talent and Education Development Society at a training session in the corporation school grounds at Vyasarpadi — Express Report, P 4

Article in City Express 11.12.2006

Chennai Thursday, September 24, 2009

The New Indian Express

World | page 14 Immortality may be only 20 years away, says scientist

Sport | page 16 Social issues, for practice, rules and discipline struggle

GIRL CHILD DAY

From fish market to having a ball

Sangeetha Neeraja | ENS
Chennai, September 23

IT was the dream of playing football that kept Shakti (17) going while she worked in the Vayasarpadi fish market, breaking ice to preserve fish.



Shakti

Shakti was forced to quit the school in seventh standard to work. She got a break when she was picked up by Slum Children Sports Talent Education Society Development Society.

Today, this one-time school dropout plays for the Tamil Nadu junior district football team. She was even selected to represent the State. However, she could not due to family problems.

She rejoined school and resumed playing. Shakti, a forward, says, "I want to play for the national team and my role model is Brazil's Ronaldo.

Now Shakti has joined a college to pursue Bsc Biotechnology. Born in a family of six siblings with a father who didn't go to work and mother who slaved in a hotel to keep the children from the pangs of hunger, life for Shakti was an uphill task.

With the 'Girl Child Day' to be celebrated worldwide on Wednesday, Shakti has a message for parents: "A girl child is not a burden, and she is the one who is going to take care of them in old age." The empowered footballer also dreams of becoming a lawyer.

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Focus on retention of girls in school

Today is 'International Day of the Girl Child'; some agree education is still a challenge



ON A JOURNEY: With many challenges facing them, a section of girls in the school-going age has to fight it out for the most basic rights. Much has to be done to ensure that all girls have equal access to education and care, say experts. A group of students on their way back from school seen in Chennai on Wednesday. — PHOTO: R. RAGU

Meera Srinivasan

CHENNAI: "I was in Class VII, then. With six children, my mother was struggling to make both ends meet. There was no other option for me but to start working," says J. Sakthi, who lives in Vyasarpadi. Soon after she dropped out of school, she went to the local fish market and started working.

From then, it had meant a lot of physical, mental and emotional stress for this young girl — till she received help from the Slum Children Sports Talent Education Development Society (SCSTEDS), a community-based organisation. A football enthusiast, she got trained in the sport to take it up at a professional level and simultaneously got back to academics. "Not all my friends were as lucky," she says.

On the eve of the International Day of the Girl Child observed on September 24, Sakthi recalls: "My childhood friend Mythili was forced to get married when she was only 16. Her mother threatened to commit suicide otherwise."

The issue of early marriage of girls is not uncommon in

Vyasarpadi, according to P. Krishnamoorthy, deputy general manager, Development Support, Child Rights and You (CRY) — Tamil Nadu. The non-governmental organisation has been partnering SCSTEDS and working with four slums in the locality.

"Most of the adults are engaged in daily wage labour. Several young girls are employed in fish processing units or as domestic help," he says.

In many homes, parents think girls reaching puberty should not go to school and instead, get them married in a few years from then. "It is often believed that early marriage or child labour is a problem in rural areas. However, the issue is very much there in cities such as Chennai and quite rampant in the neighbouring Kanchi and Tiruppur districts, too," Mr. Krishnamoorthy adds.

Government school teachers agree that it continues to be quite a challenge for girls to complete their school education. A high school teacher says: "Some help their mothers, while a few other girls, hardly 10 or 11 years old, have the responsibility of taking

care of their younger siblings." Last year, a promising Class X student discontinued as her mother got her married. In 10 months, she was bearing a child.

Intervention
Government intervention has made a difference in some areas, according to activists. Karoline Davis, adviser, Gender and Development, World Vision-India, says the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme has made a marked difference to girls. "These residential schools come as a boon to girls," she says, based on the NGO's experience in working with communities in Kallurayan Hills.

While the enrolment of girls has improved over the years, the immediate challenge is retention. According to the State's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan wing, 5,88,627 girls have enrolled in Class VIII in 2008-09, constituting 48.19 per cent of the enrolment rate. With the State government recently launching the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level, the focus is on retention of girls in school.

YOUR G SPOT

A FISH VENDOR ASPIRES TO BECOME A WORLD LEVEL FOOTBALLER

Football has never been a world level sport in India. Even the minor impact it creates is only at the time of 'World cups'. If at all this game dominates other games in two places in India — they are Kerala and West Bengal. There are very few number of spectators in other states for this game and in Tamil Nadu it is even lesser. When the future of this game in India is at the brink of extinction, a poor fish vending girl from Chennai is in the offing to become a world class footballer. 19-year old Sakthi Easwari is the girl we are focusing on and she comes from the remote area Vyasarpadi, a location falling under the backward North Chennai. The fact that she has been selected to participate in the forthcoming 'Homeless World Cup' football tournament in Argentina assures that India too has found a future football star. She is doing her second year 'Bio Technology' course in Dr. Ambedkar College, Vyasarpadi and her poverty-stricken family is unable to afford her football training cost. This situation has forced her to work in a fish market to make both ends meet. YOUR G SPOT team met her in the midst of her training schedule and her deep rooted interest in the game was truly amazing.

While there are so many popular games, what made you to choose football?

Vyasarpadi is a crime prone area and hence has secured a bad image. Two masters (coaches) in our area by names Umapathy and Thangaraj initiated to bring a change in this scenario and with this noble intention started 'Slum Children Sports & Education Development Society' in 2000. A women football team represented by local girls came into existence as part of this society and I am its product. These two personalities are the real force behind my interest and performance in this game.

Is it not exasperating for you to involve in fish market responsibilities together with education and sport?

What else I can do? My poor family cannot afford and I have no other options. I involve in coming and cleaning of fishes in the market and this earning along with the support extended by my master Umapathy towards my education and sport help me to proceed. As for education I spend time in the college itself to study and only at the time of examinations I resort to studying at home also. Indeed the Sports Authority of India takes care of my sporting expenditure for matches at State and National level but for opportunities abroad, my family has to bear the brunt and my fish market earnings reduce my family burden a little.

YOUR G SPOT

Can you share your experiences on your first match?

When I was doing my seventh standard, IV Division league matches were conducted in the Y.M.C.A grounds at Royapettah and our 'Sesets' team won its first match. This first victory is ever fresh in my memory.

Are you interested in any game other than football?

I am very much interested in athletic meets and I use to participate in 1500 M and 5000 M races. I am a member of my college's Rugby team and I have played Rugby matches at University level.

You told about your running of races. Is it helpful to you in your involvement in football?

Yes indeed. It increases my stamina and energy level too. These are the basic requirements for every sports person. Undoubtedly running is the base for every sport.

Can you name some of your favourite footballers?

My trainer Umapathy is my first favourite and in International level my choice is Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Tell us about your training schedules?

It will be tough when bigger tournaments come by and it will be an exhausting three and a half hours session in the morning and two hours in the evening. Talent in juggling the ball is a must for every footballer and it is no easy task to master. Various factors like practice, patience, balance and above all concentration skill are all involved in it and once it is mastered our game is elevated to the higher realms. Practice in Dribbling is

also essential and it is nothing but travelling with the ball. The chest, knees and head as well as the feet are in use for dribbling and good dribbling is a fundamental discipline of football. Since I am a right forward I use to spend more time on practicing perfect 'heading'. At times I practise on the sandy surface of the sea shore too.

Football is a tough game and great level of physical strength is involved in playing it. Being a girl how is it you got into it?

You are right. Excepting football, women involve in all other games on par with men. My intention is to tell the world that women can shine in this game too and I am on my way to achieve my mission.

Is there any target for you?

Definitely yes. My foremost aim is to find place in the national team to play 'Women's World Cup' and I also want to become a world fame woman footballer.

Interview: Susila • Photos: Krishna

SLUM CHILDREN STEDS FOCUS INITIATIVES

COLOURS OF CHENNAI

THE HINDU • MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013

Where football creates level playing fields

Asha Sridhar and Serena Josephine M. find out that it's more than just a game in north Chennai

When J. Shaikhaswami dropped out in class VII and started working at the Vyasarpadi toy market, she had little hope of studying again. Until she took to football.

Several years since, her journey like the ball she kicks, has often veered and gathered dust, but she has not taken her eyes off the ball or her books.

"I went back to school because of the football coach. Today, I am in a 10th grade. This is true of many children in Vyasarpadi," said Shaikhaswami, who has noticed a blue jersey and was busy recording the "five-a-side" club match on a camera.

It is a Sunday morning. The Corporation playground near the Madhav Nagar bus stop is busy with young girls and boys dribbling and tackling the ball, and names such as Messi and Ronaldo and Cristiano and Bayern Munich ring all kinds of horridities.

The banner and celebration in many slum schools in north Chennai during the football world cup is well known. But the love for the game and the purpose it serves stands much beyond the normal form.

J. Shaikhaswami, who runs the Vyasarpadi Sports Club in Vyasarpadi, and has been training young boys for several years, said:



In the city's northern neighbourhoods, football clubs have encouraged children to study, taken them around the world to compete and nurtured the dreams of the young — by D. S. Srinivasan

there are around 40 football clubs in north Chennai. "Most of my students have got jobs because of the game. Earlier, only a handful would pass class X but today, 30 out of 50 go to colleges," he said.

Though the programme might have had a kickstart from Vyasarpadi's local football clubs, it has made its way to townships such as The Park 2000, the new World Cup and 2012 Golden World Youth Cup in Chennai.

K. Kishan, Director of Sakthi Varthini Nagar, who is an ardent fan of Borussia's Carsten Frenck, recently took part in the study on football development held in Pune in May as part of the Tamil Nadu tour.

The class X student, who has been playing for five years, has reported by chance what she was playing with her ball. In a local coach who lived nearby, "I love the game and it has given me a lot of

confidence. I have participated in games held in Punjab and Goa as well, and the experience has been great," he said.

N. Umapathy, secretary, Slum Children Sports Talent (SCST) Development Society, said that society used football as a tool for social change. "Football is popular in north Chennai because it is a hassle-free sport and 60 per cent of the players are from slum areas and low-income families. Though not all may lead up to the national sports scene, we look at it as a way of creating social change as we work with the children over a period of time in many fronts," he said. An 18-year-old P. Sankar's friend K. Sankar said eagerly for the final match of the five-day tournament for which the interest had qualified. Shaikhaswami, talked about how she was encouraging girls to play. "I see lots of interest to play the game. Girls

have been part of the club for some years now. "Change starts from the school and it has to be motivated by someone from the community who understands the condition," she said.

Many of these girls are members of the school of the game. P. Jayashree and her team were happy with the three goals they scored during the club match in Sunday. Jayashree has been playing football for the last six years and loves to be the goalkeeper.

The sport, said, Umapathy, was also a means of forming a peer group, which plays and studies together. The newest member is Uma Maheswari K., a class IV student. She is yet to make up her mind about whether she wants to become a doctor, a politician or a doctor.

"We hit only two goals that time. But I am learning fast. Next time we'll win," she said with a resolution that defies her age.

It's a new ball game

Vyasarpadi girls take up football to improve their area



The girls football team at Vyasarpadi during the training session on Sunday morning. Pic: R. Ravindran

By Serena Josephine M
Chennai, July 30

It is Sunday morning. While the city awakes to a new day, young girls dressed in yellow jerseys and black trousers walk into the nearby Corporation school grounds with footballs in hand. Passing the balls with precision, their faces light up as they see it enter the goalpost.

Meet the girls football team of Vyasarpadi, an area known for its high crime rates and slum ten-

ements. Aiming high and filled with dreams, these girls are in need of opportunities to showcase their skills of the game.

The Sunday sport is a two-year old ritual for these girls. The team which includes even an eight-year-old girl is growing into a strong bond aimed at improving their area. They play football not only for the love of it but also use it as a tool for environmental reformation. As N. Umapathy, their coach says, "There are 45 girls in our team and they undergo regular training. The area is a

hub for anti-social activities and many a times girls become the prey. They are married at an early age and the number of suicidal attempts is more here.

To give a new face to their childhood, a society called Slum Children Sports Talent Education Development Society was established for boys and girls.

Though playing football is caught in societal stigma and gender discrimination for many girls, they have come out with confidence learnt from the game.

But why football and not crick-

et? For eight-year-old Umeega, several of her friends joined the team kindling the interest in her too. And for most of them, it is the love for the game that brought them to the team.

They all share a few similarities - that of belonging to the same economic status and face similar problems. They are from areas in and around Vyasarpadi including Kalyanapuram, Mullai Nagar, Sahyavarthi Nagar and Gandhi Nagar. As 14-year-old Sakthiiswari says, "I force my way out even while my mother scolds me for playing football."

Ask them their favourite football team and the answer comes in chorus. Brazil followed by France and also India. Ronaldo, David Beckham and Thierry Henry are their favourite players.

But lack of financial support serves as a drawback. Most of them play barefoot and borrow shoes for matches. Yet, their spirits remain undeterred.

Devi and Rathna, both district level players say that opportunities are galore but not for them. The label of hailing from a slum hinders their growth. "All we want to do is to erase the negative attitude that people have about slums. We want to improve our area in all aspects," Devi says.

Their aim, is to represent the Indian football team, which they are confident of achieving. And before this, they want to convert their area into a respectable one.

THE STRUGGLE OF A GIRL CHILD

“Girl Child”- Slum Children STEDS Focus Initiative The struggle of a girl child begins even before the day she is conceived. In India, female feticide is a worrying practice, as cheap abortion technology allows households to exercise their preference for sons over daughters. She is ‘lucky’ if she is allowed to be born.

Even after birth, the girl child faces discrimination and oppression. She is not provided with proper nutrition compared to her male siblings, her education is not given much importance and in many cases, parents prefer that their sons continue schooling, and want their daughters to stay at home and do household work. After marriage, the trials faced by women do not end as she continues to face oppression and even violence in her marital home. Even when girls are encouraged to continue their education, they face major challenges that make it difficult for them to attend regularly, sometimes receiving an unequal share of the household tasks due to customary practices in many regions of the world.

Girls go to school, help with housework, work in factories, make friends, care for elder and younger family members and prepare themselves to take on the responsibilities of adulthood. Girls play multiple roles in the household, society and the economy.

Though life for the girl child is steadily improving, many are still subjected to horrific practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference - often resulting in female infanticide - as well as child marriage, sexual exploitation and abuse. Girls are also more likely to experience discrimination in food allocation and healthcare, and are often outpaced and outranked by boys in all spheres of life. The issue of girl child rights and protection in India is a very serious concern. Freedom from all forms of discrimination against the girl child remains only partly fulfilled, and governments and societies must galvanize efforts if true freedom is to be won.

Child marriage denies children their basic rights to good health, nutrition, education, and freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation. All children have a right to care and protection; to develop and grow to his/her full potential, regardless of their social and economic situation. Child marriage is a blatant violation of all these rights. Underage marriages often lead to early motherhood and high risk health problems. This not only affects the mother, but even the infant born is malnourished and prone to being ill. In almost all cases, education comes to a complete halt. Child brides often have to give up on education as they are expected to take up household responsibilities.

The need of the hour is to make a change in the mindset of the society and destroy the prejudices that damage the future of the Girl Child.

GIRLS PLAY MULTIPLE ROLES





SLUM CHILDREN STEDS

Focus Initiatives On Girl Child Over Two Decades

1. Education that helps create attitudinal shifts that emphasize the rights of a girl child in addition to attitudinal shifts towards gender bias and activities to spread awareness
2. Building girl and women leaders from the community through sensitization programmers that help them understand their rights and ensure it for girls and women like them.
3. Capacity building sessions in slums on child marriage and its ill effect on health & family
4. Meeting parents and guardian with the help of children collective group to discuss on delaying the marriage
5. Capacity building of children's collectives to ensure that they spread awareness to their peers and take a role in discouraging child marriage amongst them.

By celebrating, protecting and educating The girl child, Slum Children STEDS empower girls of slums Vyasarpadi. By empowering our daughters, we empower the slum dwellers communities which mean empowering the Society! Due to this initiative, Slum Children STEDS prevented 200 Child Marriages and transformed more than 2000 lives of Girl Child under categories detailed below through Education and Sports.

1. STEDS through Children collective gets to know that a child is depressed due to family issues at home and is about to commit any untoward incident. Then, STEDS volunteers approach the child and get him or her enrolled in the collective group and through football or education initiatives the child's attitude is diverted for a change and hence child suicide is prevented. Till date, around 200 child suicides have been averted.

2. STEDS through children of different groups comprising from football, KYAN learning, scouts, badminton, Digital training centre get to know that a marriage of girl child is about to happen and volunteers from STEDS approach parent or guardian of the child and counsel them to further promote the child for studies thereby delaying immediate marriage. Till date, over 200 Girl child marriages have been stopped.

3. STEDS volunteers on visit to areas for follow up of children activities come to know if any child is involved in child labor within family occupation or else through other and once child is identified he or shies enrolled for sports activities namely football, chess, carom, badminton and education. In addition the parent or the guardian is counseled on evil effects of child labor and hence child labor is arrested. Till date, over 500 children have been stopped from doing labor.

4. STEDS volunteers from scouts provide information on school dropouts and volunteers identify the child, counsel the child as well as parent or guardian and with support of the teacher associated with school, the child is enrolled for compulsory education and further provided special coaching for weak subjects at Digital Training centre and made to appear and pass in respective grades. Hence child drop out is prevented. Till date, over 700 children have been re enrolled in schools for continuing school education.

5. STEDS through practice and competition in sports identifies the hidden talent of the child in a particular game and motivates the child to excel in particular area through which child talent identification process gets attended and till date more than 1000 children have been identified of their talents and with proper nutrition, coaching and training they have excelled in respective sports.

6. STEDS volunteers inculcate the qualities namely speaking good, caring, self-discipline, good mannerism, obedience, honesty, being in group, togetherness, thoughtfulness, self-motivated, fearlessness, selfless service etc. to name a few among children. All these help and aid in skill development, leadership and characters of goodness and wellness among children.

In a conservative society where a girl wearing shorts and playing sport is considered taboo, STEDS through their in-depth and persistent efforts have broken all kinds of barriers enforced upon girls and have used right opportunities' to bring them all to forefront and limelight, indeed paved way for Girl child development which even government agencies have struggled.

RANDOM SAMPLING DETAILS OF "GIRL CHILD" TRANSFORMATION BY SLUM CHILDREN STEDS

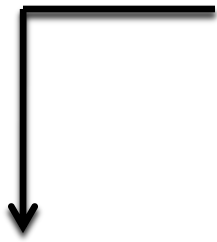
| SN | Girl Child | STEDS Initiated Transformation | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | Earlier(Then) | At present(Now) |
| 1 | Liza Vanilla | School dropout-re enrolled | Software Programmer& First TN Referee |
| 2 | Marthal | School dropout- re enrolled | Accounts Officer in IT& University player |
| 3 | Saktheeswari | Child Labour- re enrolled | Lawyer& International Football player |
| 4 | Aswini | School dropout- re enrolled | Accounts Officer (NGO)& Football player |
| 5 | Sangeetha | School dropout- re enrolled | Works for MNC& Patrol leader Guides |
| 6 | Jayasudha | School dropout- re enrolled | Works for MNC& Chennai league player |
| 7 | Ramya | School dropout- re enrolled | Teacher& Chennai league player |
| 8 | Beemabai | School dropout- re enrolled | MathsTutor Asoka Youth Venture India |
| 9 | Priyanka | School dropout- re enrolled | Works for MNC& Patrol leader Guides |
| 10 | Narmada | Child labour- re enrolled | Paramedic& Girl Child Activist |
| 11 | Pavithra | School dropout- re enrolled | Pharmacy Manager |
| 12 | Hemavathy | School dropout- re enrolled | IT Employee |
| 13 | Omega Anjali | School dropout- re enrolled | Software Programmer/University Chess |
| 14 | Amala | Child Labour- re enrolled | House Keeper/TN Carom player |
| 15 | Ammu | Child Labour- re enrolled | Works in Private Company/TN Carom |
| 16 | Shanmugapriya | School dropout- re enrolled | College/Guide Ranger |
| 17 | Archana | School dropout- re enrolled | College |
| 18 | Tina | Child labour- re enrolled | College/ Football Zone player |
| 19 | Divya | School dropout- re enrolled | College/ Football Zone player |
| 20 | Bavadharani | School dropout- re enrolled | College/ National Football player |
| 21 | Yamini | Child labour- re enrolled | School/Badminton National player |
| 22 | Swathi | Child labour- re enrolled | School/ Badminton National player |

| | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 23 | Priyadharshini | Talent Identification | Badminton Player |
| 24 | Puvishka | Talent Identification | Badminton Player |
| 25 | Christina | Talent Identification | Badminton Player |
| 26 | Sanjitha | Talent Identification | Badminton Player |
| 27 | Janani | School dropout- re enrolled | School/Football Zone player |
| 28 | Haripriya | Talent Identification | Art and Craft |
| 29 | Swetha | School dropout- re enrolled | School/ Football Zone player |
| 30 | VedhaDelma | Talent Identification | Computer studies |
| 31 | Sivaranjani | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Degree Holder/Children collective |
| 32 | Sivarani | Child Marriage-re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 33 | Sowmya | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School |
| 34 | Sandhya | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School/National player |
| 35 | Pavithra | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School |
| 36 | Kavitha | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School |
| 37 | Suguna | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 38 | Kalpana | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 39 | Rajamani | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 40 | Anitha | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 41 | Indhumathi | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School/Football player |
| 42 | Selvi | Suicide Attempter re enrolled | Degree Holder |
| 43 | Valli | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School/Football player |
| 44 | Parameshwari | Child Marriage- re enrolled | Completed School |
| 45 | Ramya | Suicide Attempter- re enrolled | Degree Holder |

SLUM CHILDREN STEDS UNDER PRIVILEGED GIRL FOOTBALL PLAYERS



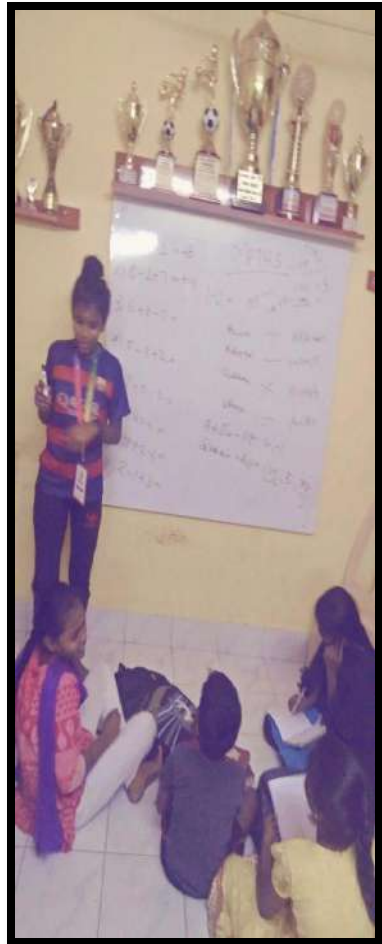
SLUM CHILDREN STEDS WOMEN FOOTBALL TEAM



SLUM CHILDREN STEDS GIRL FOOTBALL TEAM



SLUM CHILDREN STEDS DIGITAL TRAINING CENTER - FOR GIRLS



SLUM CHILDREN STEDS GIRL SCOUT AND GUIDES



CHILDREN (GIRL) DAY CELEBRATION



JHANSI RANI



PHOOLAN DEVI



KIRAN BEDI



MODEL DRESS COMPETITION



GIRL CHILD DAY PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

ART & CRAFTS TRAINING FOR GIRLS



SLUM CHILDREN STEDS GIRLS AND WOMEN EVENTS



SLUM CHILDREN STEDS FOUNDERS



- ❖ **Mr.N.Thangaraj (Founder & Director)**
- ❖ **Mr.N.Umapathy (Founder and Chief Coach)**
- ❖ **Mr.C.Suresh Kumar (President)**
- ❖ **Ms.G.Renuga (Secretary)**

Our Partners in Social Development Initiatives:

- Greater Chennai Corporation
- Sports Development Authority Of TamilNadu
- Slum Clearance Board
- Nehru Yuva Kendra
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Child Rights and You
- Asia Initiative
- RR Donnelley
- CAMS
- VANTAGE
- Amrutanjan &
- Maruti Suzuki.

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