A young child, seen from behind, stands on a textured, light-brown surface. The child is wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt and light-colored, possibly white, pants. They are holding two dark, cylindrical metal cans, one in each hand, positioned on the ground. The background is a mottled, yellowish-brown texture.

ENDING Child Labour Success Stories

Dr.M.Annadurai



Kingdom of brotherhood where equality and social justice reign, Everyone's right is respected and equal opportunity is provided to all.

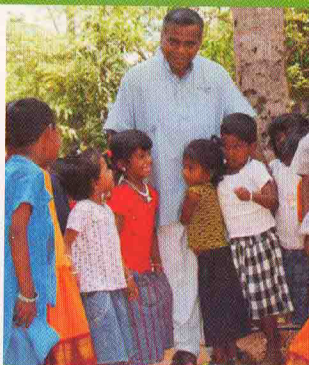
Vision

Statement

Mission

Statement

Our organization in participation with the grass root level people seeks to serve irrespective of caste creed of religion, the weaker sections of the society the women, children youth and marginalized communities and offer them the opportunities for developing their potentials leading them to have a self sustaining life.



SJDT's

Approach

SJDT's Approach is called '**MEALS**' approach

Motivating

Equipping

Accompanying

Linking &

Self Sustaining

The MEALS approach envisages the NGO as a facilitator in motivating and mobilizing the community from the outside and not as "one of the community" equipping the community through skill transfer, accompanying the community by providing relevant back up, and eventually enabling them to link with mainstream resources and services and being instrumental for policy influences .

Ending Child Labour : Success Stories

Dr. M. Annadurai

St. Joseph's Development Trust,
A Centre for Developmental Activities
Genguvarpatty – 625203, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District,
Tamil Nadu, South India

Bibliographical Data

Title of the Book	: Ending Child Labour : Success Stories
Author	: Dr. M. Annadurai
Date of Publication	: January 2012
Language	: English
No. of Pages	: II + 70
Laser type Set	: S. Shanmugaraj
Printers	: Jothy Enterprises, Chennai - 5
Publisher	: St. Joseph's Development Trust, A Centre for Developmental Activities Genguarpatty – 625203, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District, Tamil Nadu, South India
Subject	: Child Rights
Size of Book	: 11x8 size
Number of copies	: 500

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Preface

SJDT has been working with working children and street children for the past many years both in Dindigul and Madurai. Based on its experience of working with these children over the years, SJDT has realized that children were forced to stop their education and go for work at tender ages. SJDT found that there are hundreds of such children who are compelled to lose their childhood and were made to become child labourers. Those children face violence at their work places too.

In order to eradicate child labour and enable those children to continue their lost education, SJDT has initiated special programs for street and working children. Children are identified from streets and working places. They undergo a process of rehabilitation by giving counseling, shelter, food, clothing, education with needed bridge course support etc. Many of those identified children stay at SJDT homes and are given regular follow up activities. In the past 13 years, through its programs, SJDT has rehabilitated thousands of working and street children. So far, 780 street children and 1150 working children were identified. Of this, 600 street children were home placed, 800 children were re-enrolled in mainstream schools. Besides this every year gathering programmes are organized for these children. In the gathering programme, children's health is checked, different competitions are organized and prizes are distributed and on the last day of the gathering programme children are taken for a day of picnic. SJDT wanted to bring out a few of the success stories in the form of a book so that those organizations and others working

with street and working children benefit from its experience and are further encouraged to work for the deprived children with commitment.

The book is presented in 3 chapters. The first chapter gives a brief introduction to the issue and background and need for the present book. The second chapter comprises of 32 selected case studies. The original names in the case studies are changed according to the child protection policy of SJDT.

I am thankful for the opportunity given to me by Rev. Dr. Bro. I. Sebastian fsc, Executive Director of St. Joseph's Development Trust, Genguvarpatty. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Rev. Dr. Bro. I. Sebastian fsc for without his support and encouragement, this book would not have been possible. We would like to acknowledge the efforts taken by the staff team for their cooperation and support in bringing out this book.

Dr. M. Annadurai.

Rev.Dr.Bro. I. SEBASTIAN FSC.
M.A., (Rural Development), MBA, Ph.D., (Social Work)
Founder & Executive Director



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Dear Friends

Greetings and prayerful wishes to you from Rev.Dr.Bro.I.Sebastian FSC, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Development Trust, Gengupatti, Theni District.

Every time, I interact with the street and working children I realize how the children are being forgotten and hidden from the mainstream. The world boasts of India's blooming economy emerging as world's second largest economy. But at the same time India's poverty line is fixed below Rs.28/- and that 40% of India's population lives below poverty line. The scenario is even much grim if look at the statistics of children. Still large number of children are employed in factories with long hours of work, meager income, under very hazardous conditions and undergo all kinds of cruel abuses.

The worst scenario is the parasitic professionals who make luxurious life style by being child rights entrepreneurs but never lift a little finger to do anything about the child's plight. Recently we met some child rights entrepreneurs who were staying in five star hotel spending per day Rs.20,000/- to Rs.25,000/- trying to address children's right, whereas children are struggling in the workshops 10 to 12 hours per day to earn a meager income of Rs.10/- to Rs.20/- These are children whom SJDT is targeting to reach and help.

Herewith I am enclosing some case studies of these children to give you an idea of what sufferings they undergo. We do reach some children but many more are un reached. We take this opportunity to thank KNH-Germany, CCCYC-Bangalore and the Swedish Mission – Sweden for their continued support to us to reach to these children.

Thanking You

Yours Fraternally in Xt

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Introduction

It is very pitiable for us to state that Children are the future of the nation and at the same time see so many children losing their life to all kinds of atrocities at their very young age due to various factors. Though we can neglect or act as to be ignorant, none of us can deny that children in these days have become vulnerable victims of so many evils that persist in the society. Evils against children are numerous and it looks to be endless. In today's world children need to plea even for their basic rights- **Right to Existence, Right to Participation, Right to Development and Right to Protection.** None of us can wash our hands, as we all are the perpetrators for this pathetic situation. Even for the children those who have parents and able to lead financially sound life, physical and mental tortures are unavoidable these days. If it is so for the children who “have”, what about the children who “don't have” (parents, financially sound life, etc). Though environment and genetic factors play some role in bringing up the children we all have great role to play in grooming of children. Parents, family members, teachers, officials, volunteers etc are one or the other way involved in this child bringing up process. We all need to realize that some genuine interventions need to be made to

make some positive change for the wellbeing of children.

None of us can deny the increasing number of street children, trafficked children, abused children, abandoned children, destitute children, orphaned children and missing children. Every day it is increasing. There are different kinds of evils for which children become easy prey these days.

One of the unanswerable and intolerable situations that the society witnesses today is “increasing number of street children and working children leading to increase number of child labour”. On the one side children are forced to become child labours due to poverty, negligence of parents, illiteracy of the parents etc. On the other side those children who ran away from home due to the family conditions or other environmental and psychological reasons also find their last asylum on the street sides (mainly bus stops, railway stations, markets etc). And these children are abducted or canvassed by the evil perverts and used for their benefit. These children undergo unmentionable tortures in the work places. They work for more than 12 hours a day for meager income. Children are engaged in all kinds of menial and hazardous works. Many children are working under very hazardous

situation are leading very pathetic life in the hands of evil doers who torture them both physically and mentally. Grown up girl children don't have separate facilities to meet out their nature calls or to rest in their working place. No compensation is paid to the children who get injured in their working places. Steps taken by the Government is also not efficient enough to curb the situation.

St. Joseph's Development Trust, a Non-Governmental Organization founded by Rev. Dr. Bro. I. Sebastian FSC in the year 1992, has been involved in empowerment of women and children from the time of its inception. Rev. Dr. Bro. I. Sebastian, witnessing the pathetic life of children and taken up by the quote **"If not I? Who?, If Not Now? When?"** started to implement many welfare programme for the children from the time of SJDT's inception. Many children welfare programmes like homes for the poor and marginalized children, orphanages for orphan children, day care centre programme for the children below five years of age, tuition centre programme for the school going children, home based sponsorship support programme for the school going and PWDs children etc are some of the programmes implemented by SJDT for the welfare of the children.

One among the many welfare programmes that are initiated by brother and implemented by SJDT is Rehabilitation of Street and Working Children programme. This programme was officially started on 30th January 1998 in Dindigul district. Mr. A. Subramaniayn-IPS, then SP of Dindigul district, Fr. A. Joseph Sekar, then Secretary of DMSSS and Mr. Abdul Kadhar, then probation officer of Department of Social Defense were the chief delegates, under whose presence this programme was initiated for the street and working children of Dindigul and Madurai district. This programme was started with 18 identified street and working children.

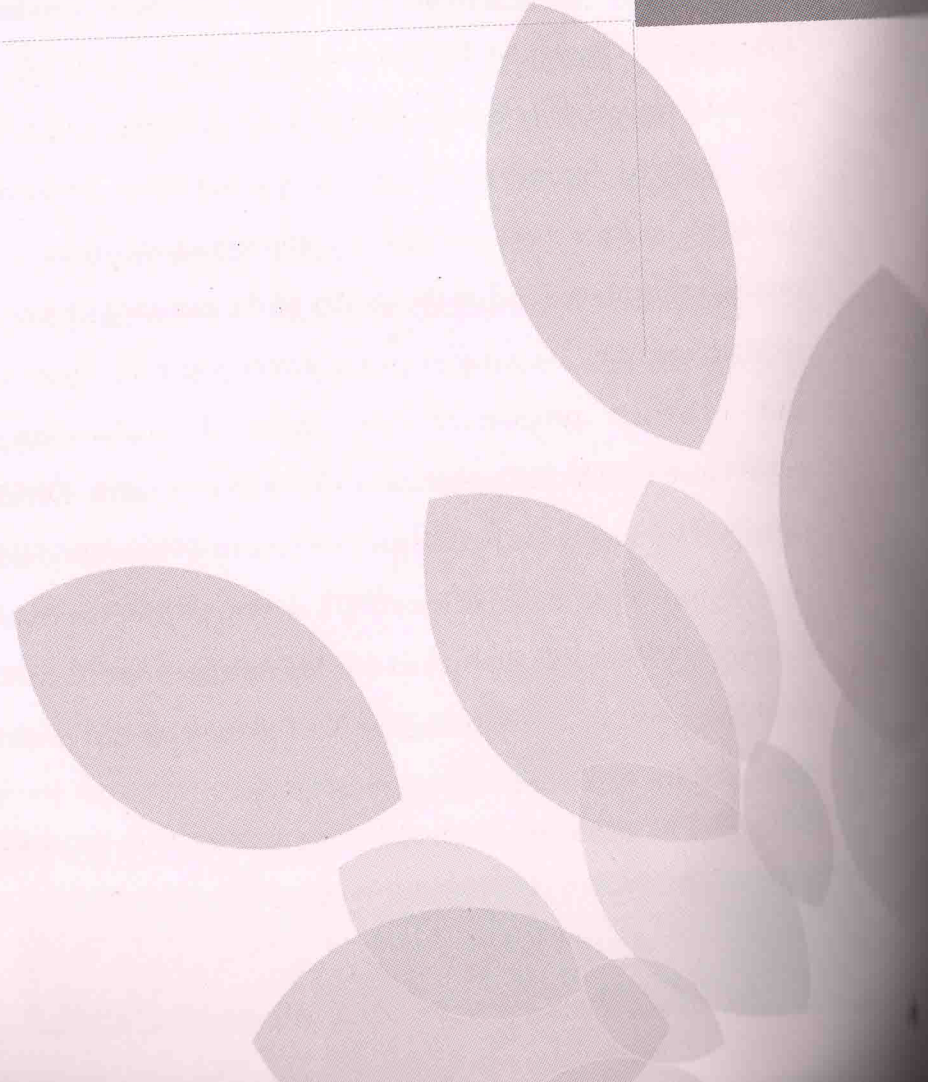
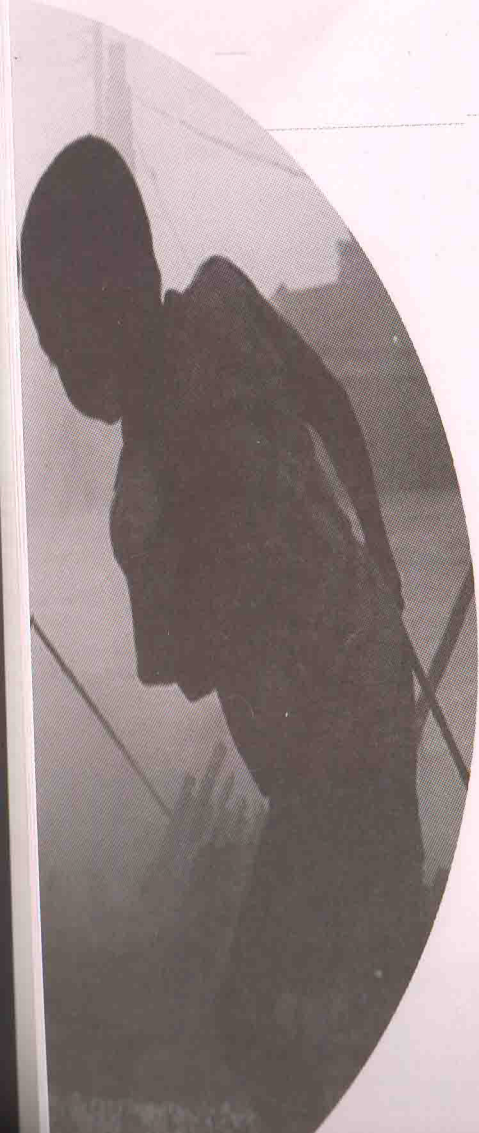
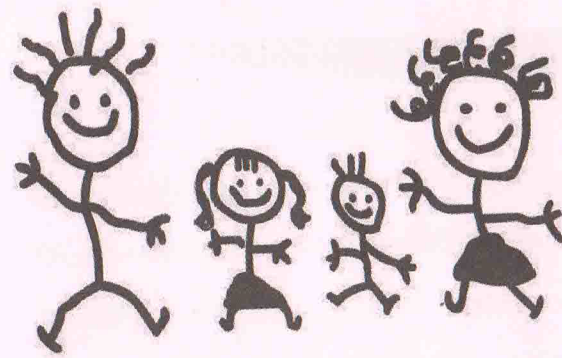
Through this rehabilitation of street and working children programme, children are identified from street and working places, they are given counseling, shelter, food, clothing, education with needed bridge course support etc. Besides that children are also given technical education and they are placed in some substantial income deriving occupations. Many identified children are home placed and regular follow up activities are carried out. In the past 13

years, SJDT has helped so many street and working children to get better life access through its rehabilitation programme. So far 780 street children and 1150 working children were identified, 600 street children were home placed, 800 children were re-enrolled in mainstream schools and 400 children are placed in better jobs with needed technical skills. Besides this every year gathering programmes are organized for these children. In the gathering programme, children's health is checked, different competitions are organized and prizes are distributed and on the last day of the gathering programme children are taken for a day of picnic. Every year rally, school visits and awareness programmes are organized emphasizing the importance of children's education and children's rights. Different strategies are adopted as per the need of time to address the children issue. By providing these facilities SJDT aims to provide the children the maximum possible support to develop their life which otherwise would be lost at their very young age itself to the evils that persist in the society for which children are the easy prey.

SJDT, by presenting this book, would like to share with the readers, some of our major achievements and impacts by presenting you

different case studies of children who were intervened by us and at the same time urge the readers to join with us to abolish child labour in our society where we live so that all the children get equal Right to Existence, Participation, Protection and Development and a lead a peaceful life.

At this moment we also gratefully acknowledge our donors for your generous and continuous support and request you to continue to help us in accomplishing this noble task.



Success stories

Siva is a 15 year old boy living in Saveriyarpalayam of Begampur area at Dindigul. He has one elder sister and elder brother. His father is physically ill and hence, could not go to work. Because of his family's abject poverty conditions, her sister could not get married. In this situation, his parents have taken a loan from a private money lender at 10 per cent interest rate, which they were unable to repay with their meagre income. As a result, Siva's mother stopped both her children from going to school and sent them to work as daily wage labourers. Siva dropped out of school at 4th standard. With the income of her 2 children, she was able to repay her loan and also looked after the medical expenses of Siva's father. His mother also went for work and with that income, she looked after her family expenses.

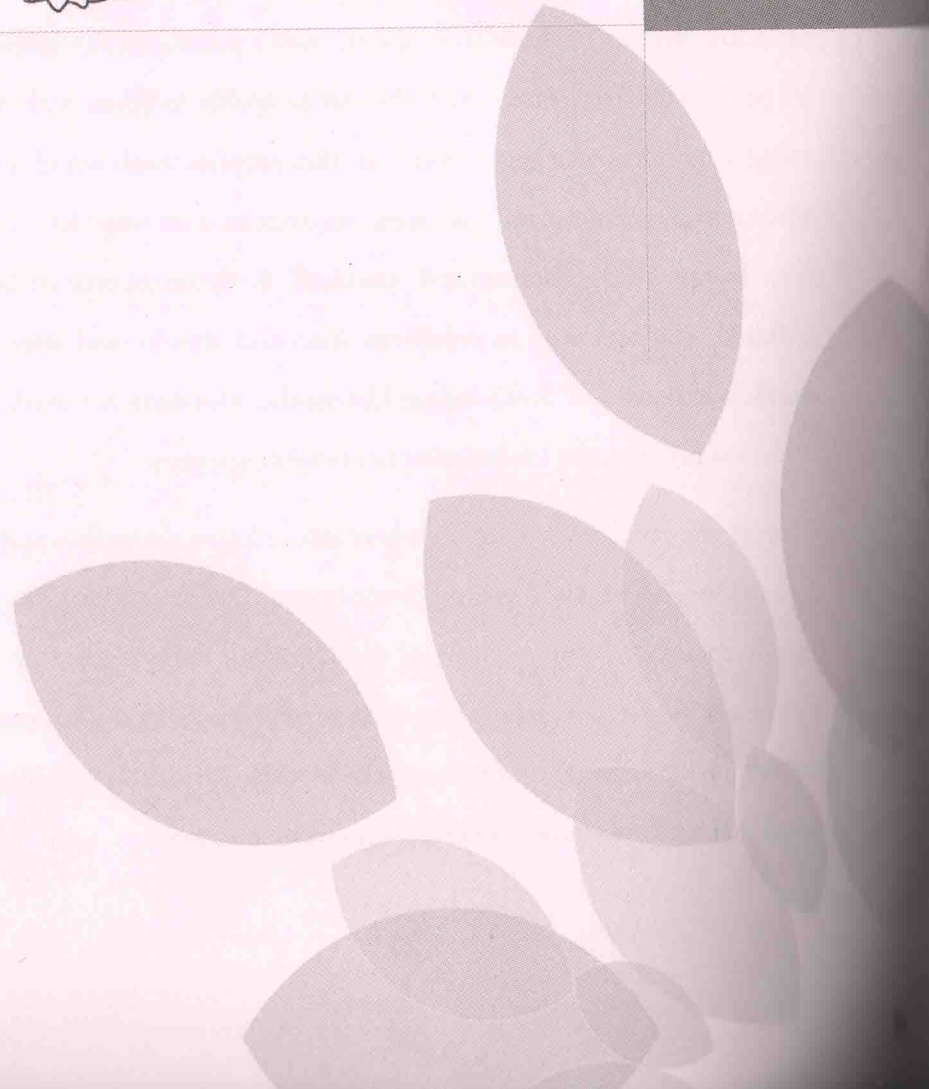
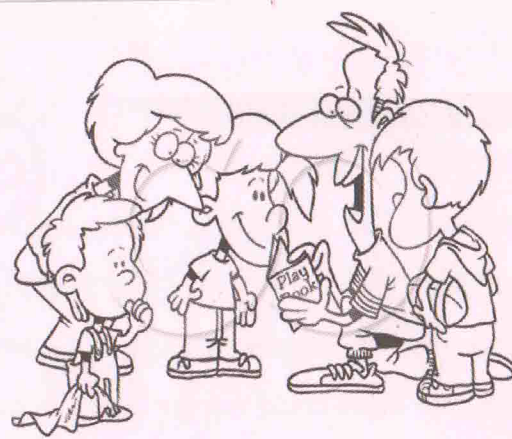
One of the volunteers of SJDT who came to know about Siva and his conditions, SJDT staff visited Siva's house. By interacting with the family members, she ascertained the facts that were shared by the volunteer. She explained the importance of continuing the education of Siva and his brother. But her parents expressed their inability to send their children to school citing the family situation.

In one of SJDT staff's visit and interaction with Siva's mother, she requested her to speak to the proprietor of the work place of Siva to increase his salary and also, not to scold him at work place. SJDT staff went to Siva's work place and explained his family situation and as a result, the proprietor increased Siva's salary by Rs. 15/- per day.

Since Siva want to study and his family situation does not allow him to continue his schooling, a Children's Club was started in his residential area. The SJDT volunteers in that area are imparting education to Siva now along with some other children. Siva actively and joyfully participates in all the gatherings, sports meets and excursions that are organized by SJDT.



Siva



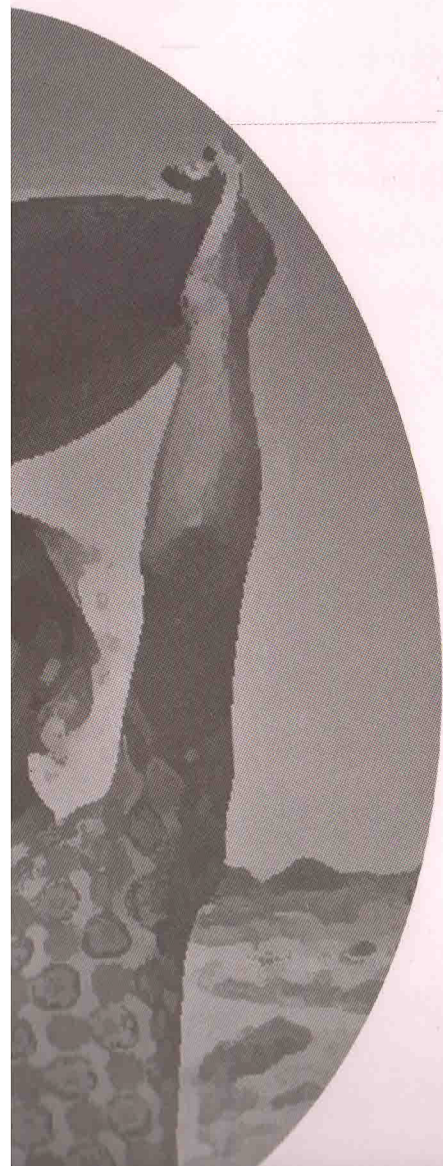
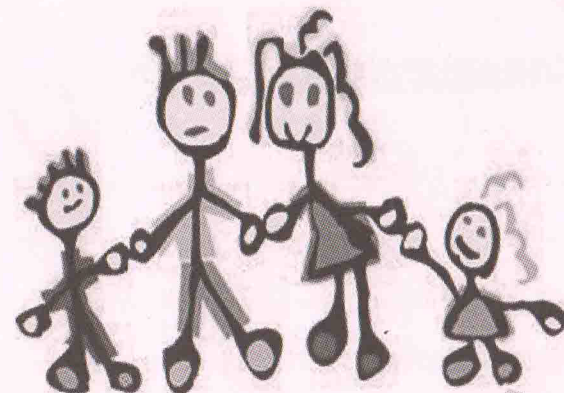
Karthik is a 15 year old boy living in Saveripalayam area of Begampur at Dindigul. He has 4 younger brothers and sisters. His father does not have a regular job and income. Her mother is a home maker. As the family is big with 6 members, they could not meet his family expenses with his father's income alone. Because of the vulnerable situation in which his family is in, he dropped out of school at 4th standard. He buys vegetables from the market and sells it in his locality.

SJDT staff member came across Karthik's situation through volunteers. She met Karthik in market and later in his residence. She interacted with Karthik and his family members. She encouraged Karthik to continue his school education as it is the only way to improve himself and his family situation. So as to enable him realize the importance of education and to continuously encourage him, Karthik was invited for the various programs organized by SJDT namely, gatherings, medical camps, summer excursions and other education related programs. Simultaneously, Karthik's parents were also motivated to send him to school.

As a result of continuous persuasion, efforts and perseverance of SJDT staff members, Karthik finally agreed to go to school from next academic year (2012-13) and asked SJDT staff members to admit him in a school. When it was shared with Karthik's parents, they also agreed to his wish and asked SJDT staff member to get admission for him in a school in the forthcoming academic year. SJDT staff members were really happy that their tireless efforts finally paid dividends and they are continuously monitoring him and interacting with him and his family members.



Karthik



Kavya is a 15 year old girl living in Thangavelpattarai area on Batlagundu Road at Dindigul. She lives with her mother and 3 sisters. Her father has married another woman in his workplace and does not live with the family. As the only bread winner of the family had gone, the family suffered economically and socially. In the meantime, Kavya's elder sister got married to a person on her own by going out of her home and without his family's consent. It affected her mother very badly and it is considered as a issue which has future repercussions for the other 2 sisters. As a consequence, Kala was forced to stop her education at 6th standard and go for work in a nearby Juice factory. She earns Rs. 70/- per day. She wants to continue her studies but because of her family situation, she doesn't have any other option except to work.

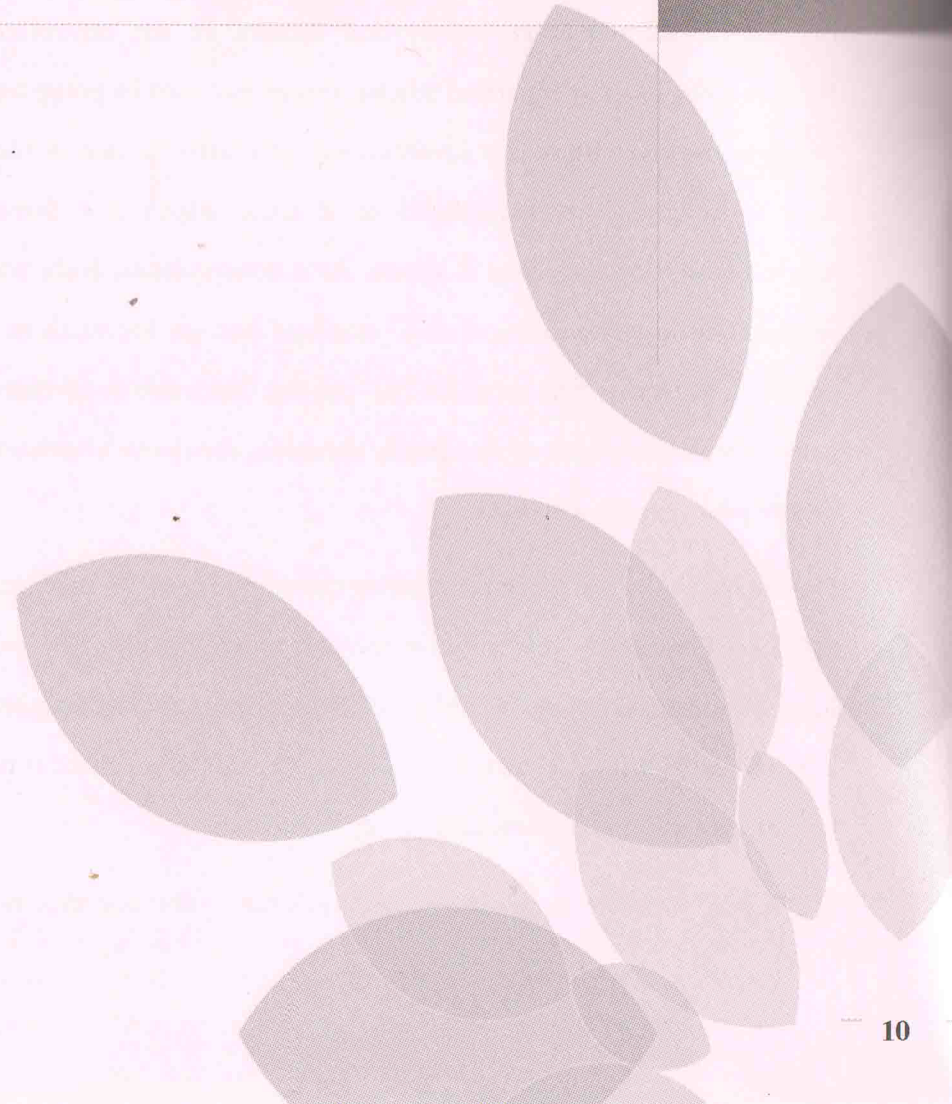
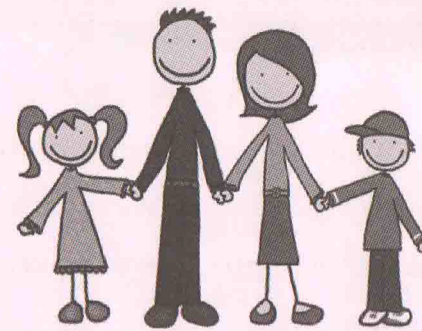
During the house visit to other working children's houses in that area, SJDT staff member came to know about Kavya's situation. She met Kavya and her mother and explained the importance of continuing her studies. Her mother also wanted Kavya to study but there is no way she can do it in the prevailing family conditions.

SJDT staff member regularly visits Kavya's house and continue her

efforts to make Kavya to continue her school education. Kavya also enthusiastically participated in the gatherings, excursions, sports meets and medical camps that were organized by SJDT. She has been given counselling so as to overcome from the sorrow of having to live without her father and an elder sister. The efforts of SJDT have really helped her a lot and she doesn't think much about her father and sister now. Her mother is also in a better condition now. As she was often scolded by her employer and other employees in the Juice factory, she has been assisting her mother in taking up cooking work outside. SJDT is continuing its efforts in making Kavya to continue her studies and hopes, it will materialize very soon.



Kavya



Jayaraj is a 15 year old boy living in West Meenakshi Naicken Patty at Dindigul. He lives with his parents and one younger sister. His mother is suffering from wheezing and the family has to spend most of his father's income for her mother's medical expenses. Because of this stress, his father drinks alcohol everyday when he comes back home from work. As a consequence, the family goes to bed with empty stomach and lives in hunger. Even though many of his relatives live nearby, nobody is coming forward to help them. Jayaraj and his sister are forced to go to work so as to take care of his family. Jayaraj works in a nearby tea shop.

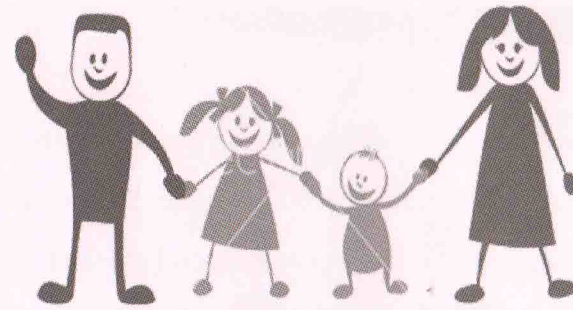
One of the SJDT staff members identified Jayaraj and his conditions. She has been giving Jayaraj, his sister and family members counselling and the importance of education. She also explained various scholarships and other schemes like free bi-cycle, free uniform, free mid-day meal, free books, scholarship, etc.

His family was assured by the tea shop owner that he will set up a separate tea shop for Jayaraj in future if he works well under him. The tea shop owner also gives them loans whenever the family is in need of

it. Hence, the family doesn't want him to go to school anymore. However, SJDT staff members are persevering with their efforts to convince Jayaraj and his family one day and make him join school again.



Jayaraj



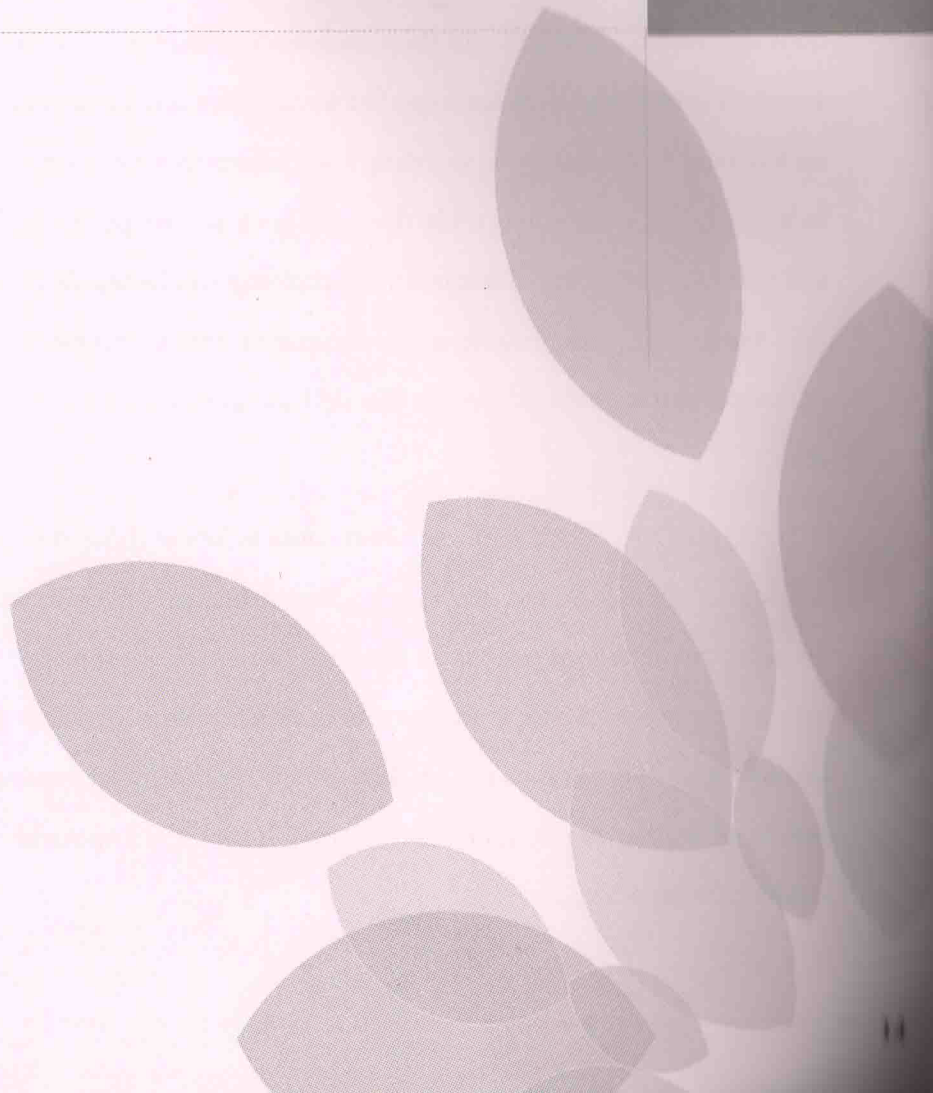
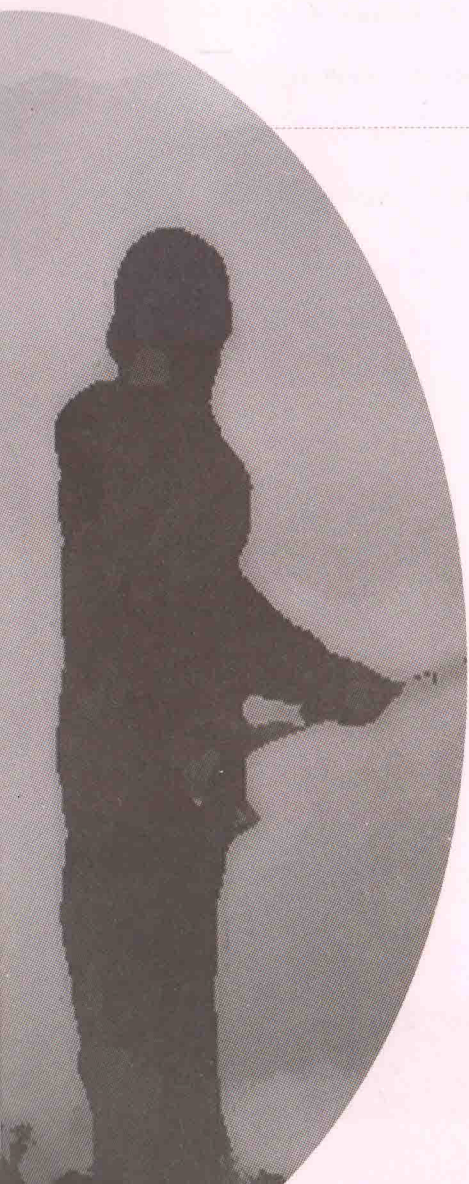
Manikandan (15 years old) lives in Kondapatty on Palani Road in Dindigul. He has parents and 4 brothers and sisters. His family lives in abject poverty. His father is a drunkard and diseased. Because of this their family does not have a regular and steady income to take care of their day-to-day expenses and their children's education. The family situation forced Manikandan to go for work at this age. He works in a sack company. He also goes as a daily wage labour in the construction industry in the nearby areas. He does not stick to one particular job and continues to change it frequently. He belongs to a Scheduled Caste (SC) family and drum beating is the occupation that everyone knows in that particular caste. So, he has this skill and goes for drum beating also.

When one of the SJDT staff members came to know about this boy, she approached him and his family. She motivated them to send Manikandan to school so that he can continue his education. But his mother expressed that the present income is itself insufficient for them as they had to take care of their house rent, medical expenses and other regular family expenses. So she felt that it is impossible to send him to school again.

Manikandan's mother wanted him to continue his drum beating work as it gives good income. So he continues to do drum beating work. When free, he goes for other jobs. SJDT staff continues her efforts to motivate him and the family so that he does not stop here and will continue his education at least part time in the near future. He participates in the gatherings and excursions organized by SJDT regularly and actively.



Manikandan



Muthukannan, a 15 year old boy, resides at West Meenatchi Naicken Patti in Dindigul. He lives with parents and 2 younger sisters. His father works in farms in nearby villages and mother is a house wife. His father's income alone was not sufficient for the whole family. Hence, he is sent for work in a nearby workshop, where he earns Rs. 100/- per day. Both his sisters are continuing their studies.

One of the staff members of SJDT came across Muthukannan's situation and she told him why it is important to continue his studies. Muthukannan asked her to explain this to his parents. SJDT staff met his parents and explained the importance of education for the bright future of their son. Even though they understood the importance of his education, they felt that their family situation is such that only with Muthukannan's income all the family members were able to have food for 3 times a day and hence, they still felt that it is too difficult to send him to school again.

Muthukannan's parents want to set up a workshop for his son in the next few years so that his as well as the whole family's life is secured. Still, Muthukannan wanted to continue his education at least

informally. So SJDT staff took him to all the gatherings, excursions and medical camps and continues her counselling to him and his parents. She has been visiting their house regularly and continuing her efforts.



Muthukannan



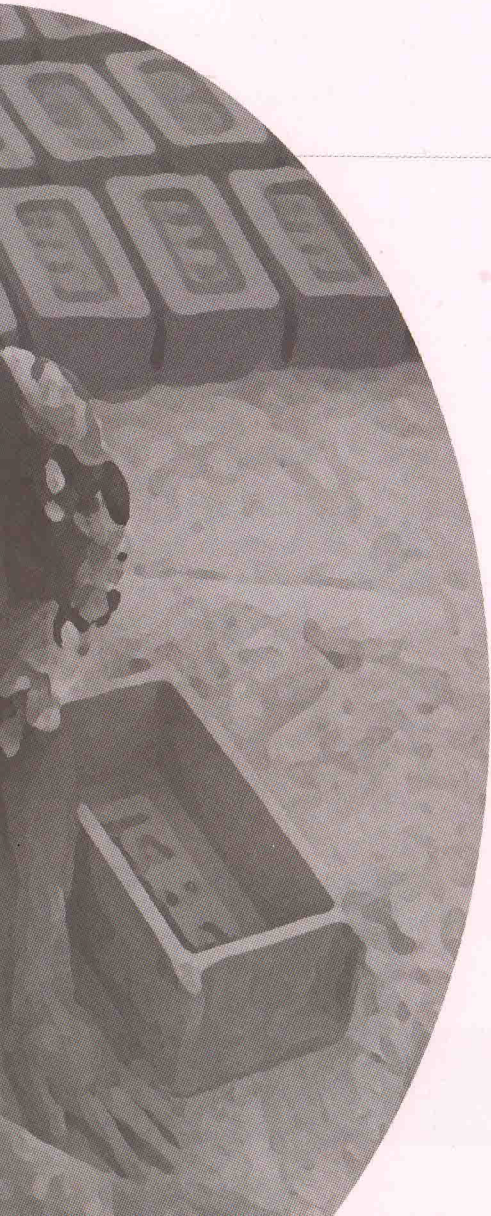
Begum is a 16 year old girl who lives with her mother, grand mother and a younger sister at Line street, Dindigul. Her father does not live with them. Her mother is a mentally retarded person. Two of her uncles are married and live separately. She lives without proper parental care and any support from any of her relatives. Because of the family circumstances, she had to drop out from school at 7th standard and Begum and her sister were compelled to go for work. Begum worked in a paper company earlier and now, she has been working in a pickle making company.

SJDT staff came to know about Begum and she met her, her sister and grand mother. She tried to understand her family situation. SJDT staff explained the benefits of going to school and ill health effects if she works at this age. She also stressed that only education will lead to development. After so much of efforts, she was able to convince both the sisters and their grand mother. SJDT staff got the transfer certificates from their previous school after so much of difficulties and got them admitted in another school. They went to school for 3 months and she was continuously monitored by the SJDT.

After 3 months, Begum and her sister stopped going to school. The concerned staff member again motivated both the sisters to go to school. She even met the head of the school and explained their family situation. She was allowed to attend school after that. But again, after 1 month, both stopped going to school and instead, started going to work because the family did not even have the money to take care of their food expenses. Because of the family compulsions, even SJDT could not make her continue her schooling beyond this point. She was earning Rs. 60/- per day in the pickle making company. SJDT got her a job in a Noodles company for a weekly salary of Rs. 600/-. Now, her family members are able to eat food 3 times a day. For her satisfaction, she has been participating in the gatherings, excursions and other programs of SJDT meant for such children.



Begum



Nithya is a 16 year old girl who lives in Kanniyapuram in Dindigul. She does not have a mother. She lives with her father. She has an elder brother who lives separately after his marriage. Her father is not well and diseased. Hence, there is no earning member in the family. Even though she is interested in her studies, she does not have an option to exercise the same. She is forced to go for work in a nearby factory.

SJDT staff member came across the situation of Nithya. She intervened by meeting the father and Nithya. She stressed on the importance of continuing her education and explained how it will help to get a better job and income in future. But her father said that they are able to have 3 times food in a day, repay their loans and meet his medical expenses only through Nithya's income. After realizing their family situation, SJDT staff suggested that she can study privately and write her 10th standard exams with her present work. Nithya and her father agreed to this idea.

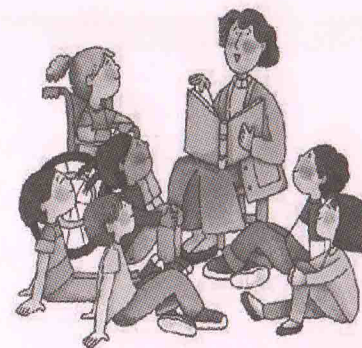
The SJDT staff member regularly visited Nithya's house. Nithya participated in SJDT's gatherings of children, summer excursions, medical camps, etc. But after a few months, the SJDT staff found that Nithya stopped going to work as well. When enquired, she was told

that Nithya is expected to attain puberty very soon and so, her relatives objected her going to work. Hence, her father stopped Nithya from going to work. She was made to quit her school at 9th standard even though she was interested in going to school and she could not go to work.

The SJDT staff put in a lot of efforts to persuade Nithya's father to realize how her daughter's life is being wasted at the hands of her relatives. She convinced him to send his daughter to work at least and write 10th standard exam privately. Finally, Nithya's father relented and has been sending her to work. He has also agreed to make Nithya write her 10th standard exam privately. SJDT has extended its help to Nithya, if she needs support in studying privately for 10th standard.



Nithya



Mary John is a 12 year old girl who is living with her parents in Thangavelpattarai, Begampur, Dindigul. Her father is a drunkard. About 5 years ago, he was hit by a truck and was badly injured in his head. As a result, he is unable to go for work. The family's economic situation has worsened because there is no other earning member in the family. So, Mary John was enforced to stop her education at 4th standard and go to work in a juice company close to her house. Since she was going to work at an early age, she has become weak physically.

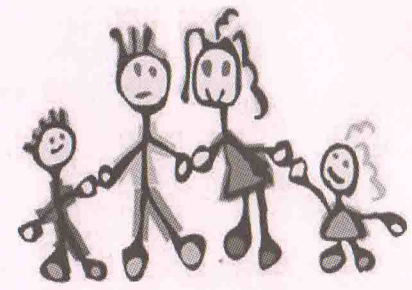
One of the SJDT staff members found out about this girl and enquired with Mary John. After understanding her family situation, the staff encouraged Mary John to participate in the gathering of working children and medical camps organized by SJDT. In her medical check-up, she was advised to go the Rajaji General Hospital, Madurai for her treatment. Since she has to go from Dindigul and to Madurai for treatment, she did not go to the hospital.

The staff of SJDT found that she did not take treatment. They spoke to the father and advised to take her to hospital for treatment. Then, they have been going for treatment to Madurai. SJDT staff members

continue their efforts to make her go to school again and it paid dividends at last. Mary John had joined school again and continue her studies now. SJDT staff continue to monitor her and her father by regularly visiting them.



Mary John



Pandian is a 12 year old boy and lives at Mottanampatty near Sirunaickenpatty in Dindigul district. He does not have mother as she died recently. His father was a dejected man at the loss of his mother. Pandian and his brother were not given proper attention and live without parental care. Since his father was not going to work regularly, their family situation worsened and they did not even have money to take food 3 times a day. It resulted in Pandian dropping out from school at 6th standard along with his brother. Pandian and his brother started going to work in a nearby poultry farm.

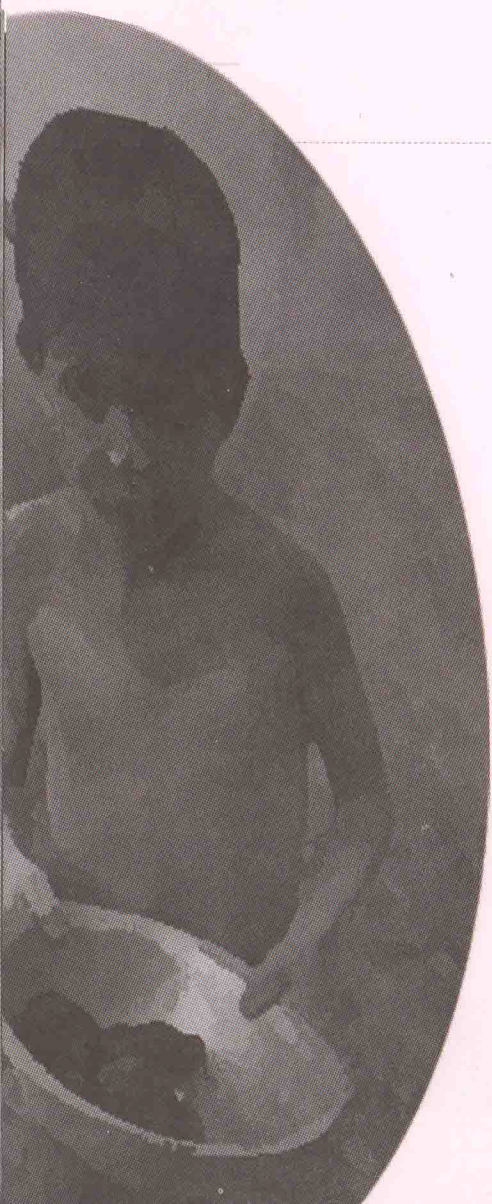
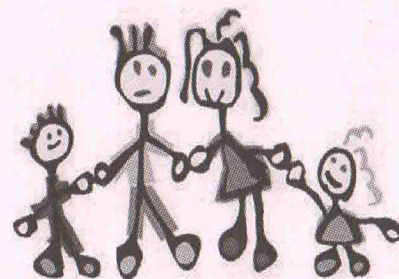
SJDT's staff member met Pandian and his father. She enlightened his father the importance of their children's education for their better future. Both Pandian and his brother started participating in SJDT's working children's gatherings and related events.

After so much of efforts, Pandian's father was convinced. He agreed that their children should not be working in poultry farm. Their right place at this age is school. So he assured SJDT staff that he will send both his children to school from the forthcoming academic year. He also sought the assistance of SJDT on that. SJDT was more than

willing to assist and have been in continuous touch with the family. It will be ensured that Pandian and his brother go back to school from next year.



Pandian



Ganeshkumar is a 11 year old boy living in Nehriji Nagar, Madurai Road, Begampur, Dindigul. He lives with his parents and 3 brothers and sisters. His mother falls ill very often. With only his father's income as a daily wage labourer, it is too difficult for them to manage their family expenses. They had to take loan frequently. With this meagre income, his father could not send all his 3 children to school as he was unable to pay fees, buy books & notebooks and meet other education related expenses. As a result, he stopped all the 3 children from going to school and instead, they started working from home by getting fruits from a juice company nearby.

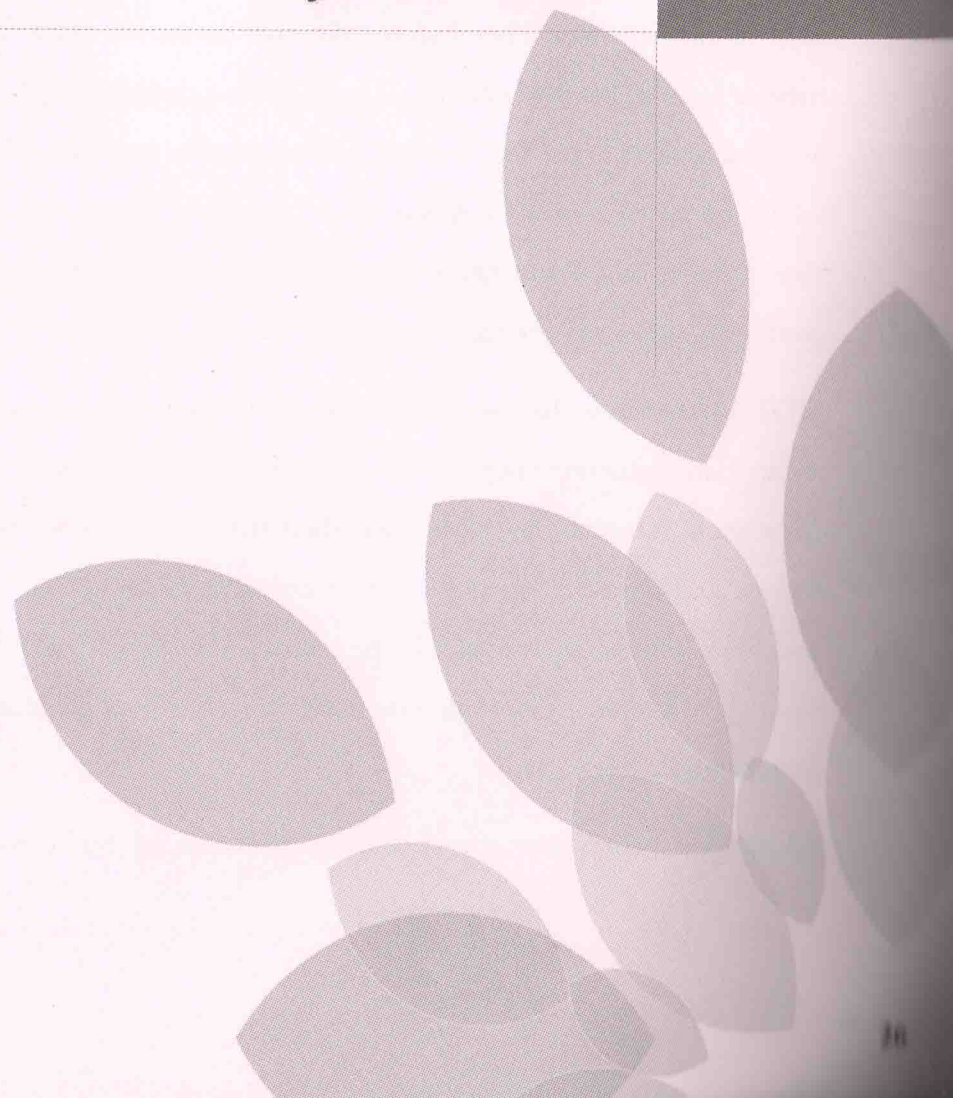
SJDT intervened in this case when its staff members came to know about Ganeshkumar. They described the significance of education for a bright future to the children and their father. To improve their morale and motivate them further to enrol them in school, she encouraged them to participate in the events organized by SJDT for working children. Ganeshkumar and his brothers regularly participated in those events.

Finally, the continuous efforts and perseverance of SJDT staff

resulted in change of hearts and success. Ganeshkumar's father agreed to send them to school again. Ganeshkumar and his brothers were admitted in school again in June 2011 and they have been regularly going to school. SJDT continues to monitor the family by regular home visits and motivation.



Ganeshkumar



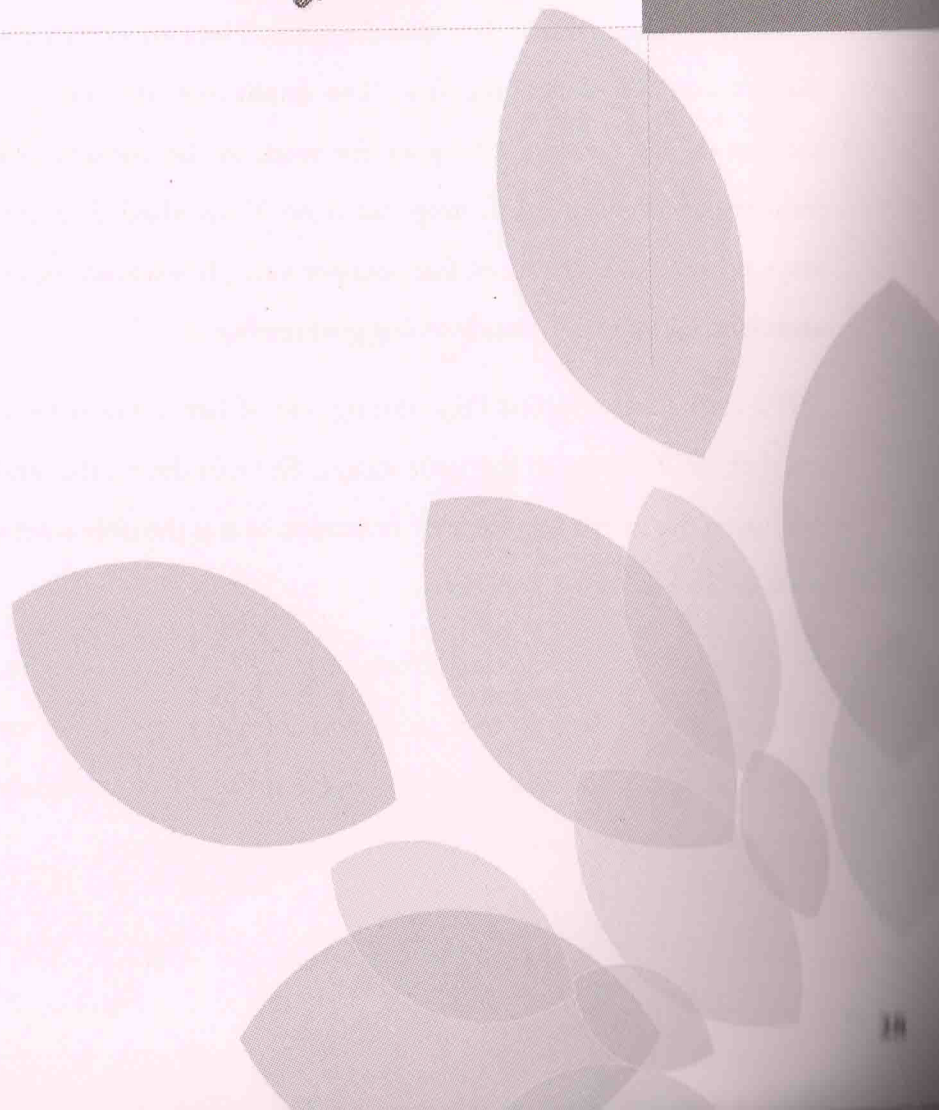
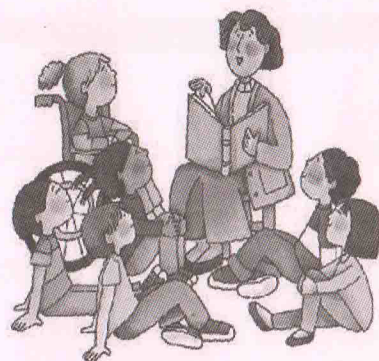
Priya is a 9 year old girl. She lives at West Meenatchinaickenpatty, Dindigul along with her parents, one elder brother and one younger sister. Her father is a drunkard. He spends all his earnings for alcohol and don't give money for meeting family expenses. It resulted in frequent quarrels within the family. Her father nowadays doesn't come to home regularly. The family survives with the income of her mother who goes for work in the construction industry. Priya is forced to drop out from 3rd standard. She now stays at home to take care of her younger sister, household chores and also look after the goats by doing goat rearing.

SJDT staff had identified Priya during one of her home visits to another child's home in the same village. She met the mother and portrayed the worth and value of education as it is the only asset a poor family to give to its children.

As a result of the unremitting efforts of the SJDT staff members, Priya as well as her mother were convinced of the need for education. SJDT enrolled Priya in 4th standard in the Govt Middle School in Meenatchinaickenpatty from this academic year.



Priya



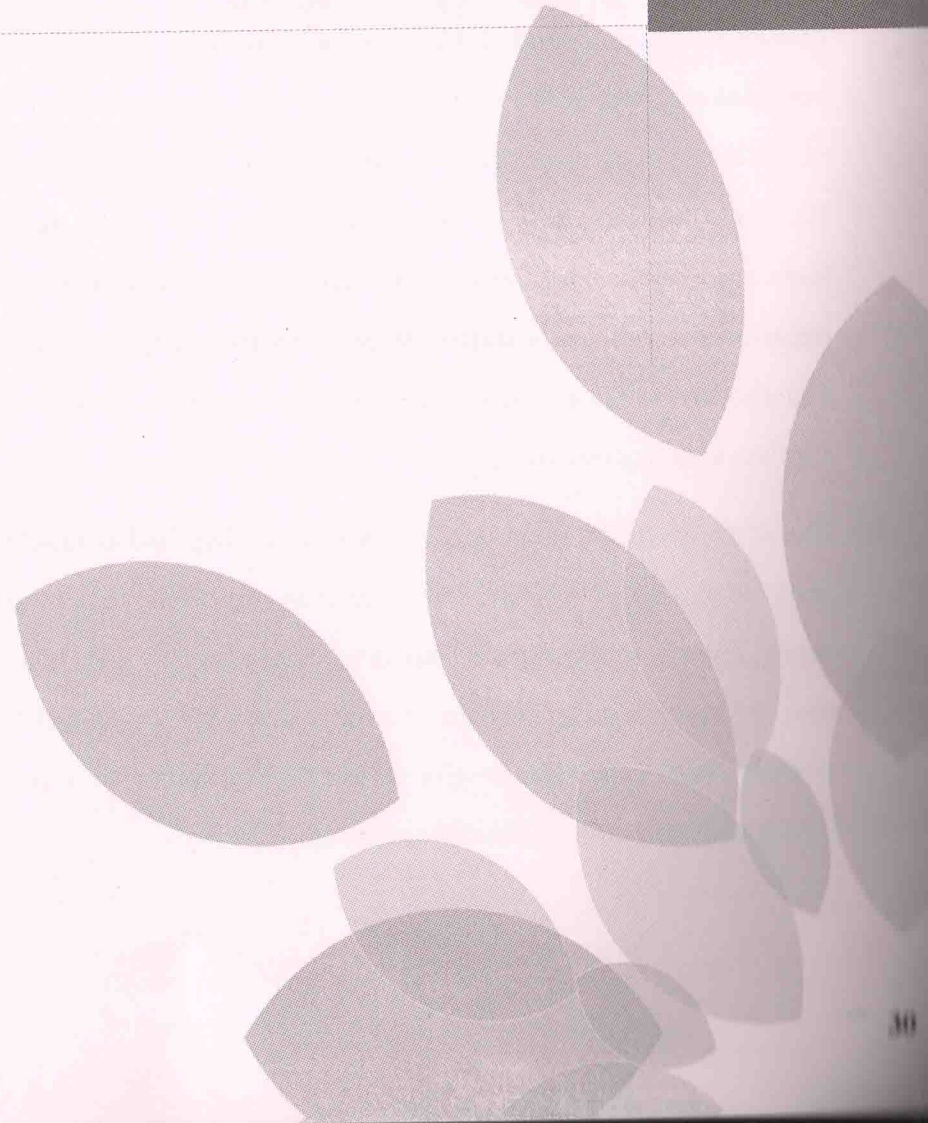
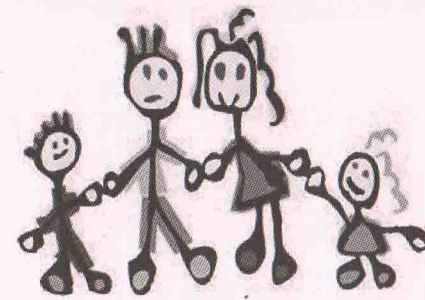
Mariya is a 13 year old girl who lives in East Meenatchinaickenpatty in Dindigul along with her mother and one sister and one brother. Her father has died in an accident about 3 years back. Her mother is also not keeping well and falls ill very often. She could not meet household expenses and children's education expenses along with her medical expenses. She did not get any compensation for the death of her husband in an accident. She lives in her mother-in-law's house. But her mother-in-law is of not any support to her and the family. Hence, she is forced to stop her children's education. Mariya dropped out after completing 5th standard. Mariya works in a pappad company. Her mother works as a daily wage labourer and the whole family survives with that income.

The staff of SJDT intervened in this case. They had counselled Mariya's mother and Mariya for more than 4 months without any break. Their constant efforts started to show results. Then, Mariya was encouraged to participate in events that were organized for working children by SJDT to give her confidence and motivation by seeing many such children in that age group.

Finally, her mother made up her mind by realizing the magnitude and meaning of educating her children. She re-enrolled Mariya in 6th standard in St. Francis Xavier School from this academic year. She is monitored regularly by SJDT staff. It is heartening to note that Mariya is studying really well.



Mariya



Babu is a 14 year old boy living with his parents, one brother and one sister at East Meenatchinaickenpatty in Dindigul. He was studying 7th standard. His family has a business of Roadside Mobile Biriyani Shop at Dindigul. His mother makes all the masala for Biriyani ready. His sister helps her mother at home in this work. His father has this mobile biriyani shop and there is no one to help him. Moreover, his father is a drunkard. After closing the shop, his father drinks and beats up his mother and children at home. When there is good business on a particular day and earned good income, he drinks with that money and does not open his shop for the next few days. Because of this habit and behaviour, none of his relatives help them. When somebody told him that this business will be very good if he does it in Coimbatore, the whole family immediately shifted there last year. The business was indeed very good and earned good income. But because of his drinking habits and violent behaviour, their house owner asked them to vacate the house. As a result, they came back to Dindigul 5 months back and started this business at Dindigul again. To help Babu's father in running the biriyani shop, his father forced him to stop his education and work along with him in the shop.

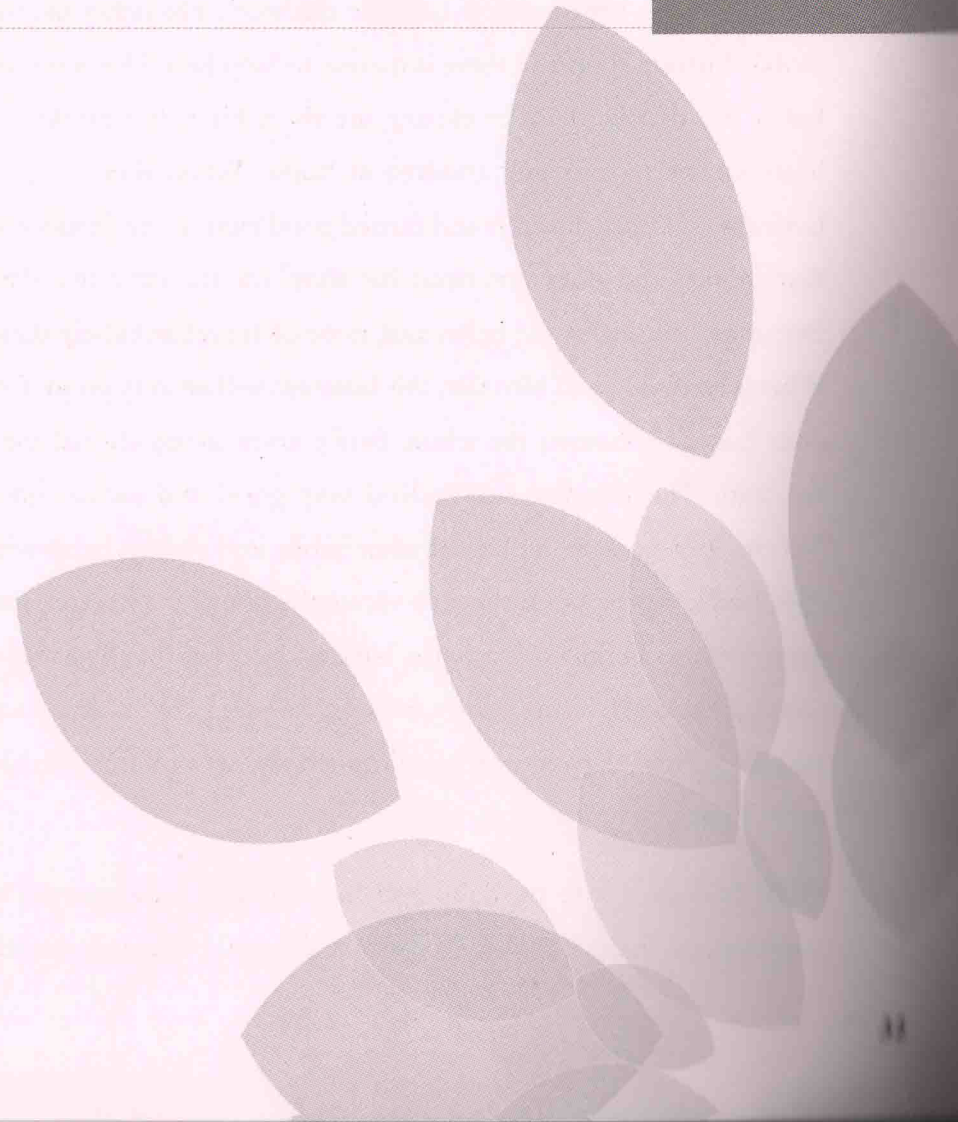
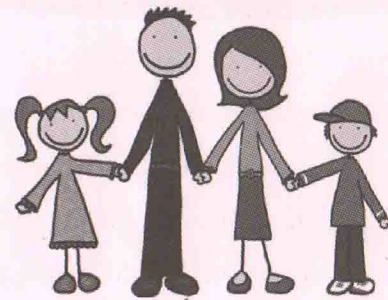
SJDT became aware of Babu and his difficulties and started its intervention. It met Babu's father and tried to make him understand

the need for his son's education. But he was initially very adamant. So, the staff met Babu's mother and tried to convince her about Babu's education. The staff tried to make them understand that if Babu continues his education, one day, he may start his own hotel business instead of doing this mobile biriyani shop. So, she pleaded Babu's mother and father to send him to school again for the sake of their family and its future.

Because of the constant appeal and advices of the SJDT staff, their parents started feeling for it and understood the value of continuing the education of Babu. So, they agreed to send him to school again. Babu was re-enrolled in 7th standard in Govt Higher Secondary School at Dindigul in this academic year. SJDT staff continues to monitor the family by regularly contacting them, counselling and motivating the family members and Babu.



Babu



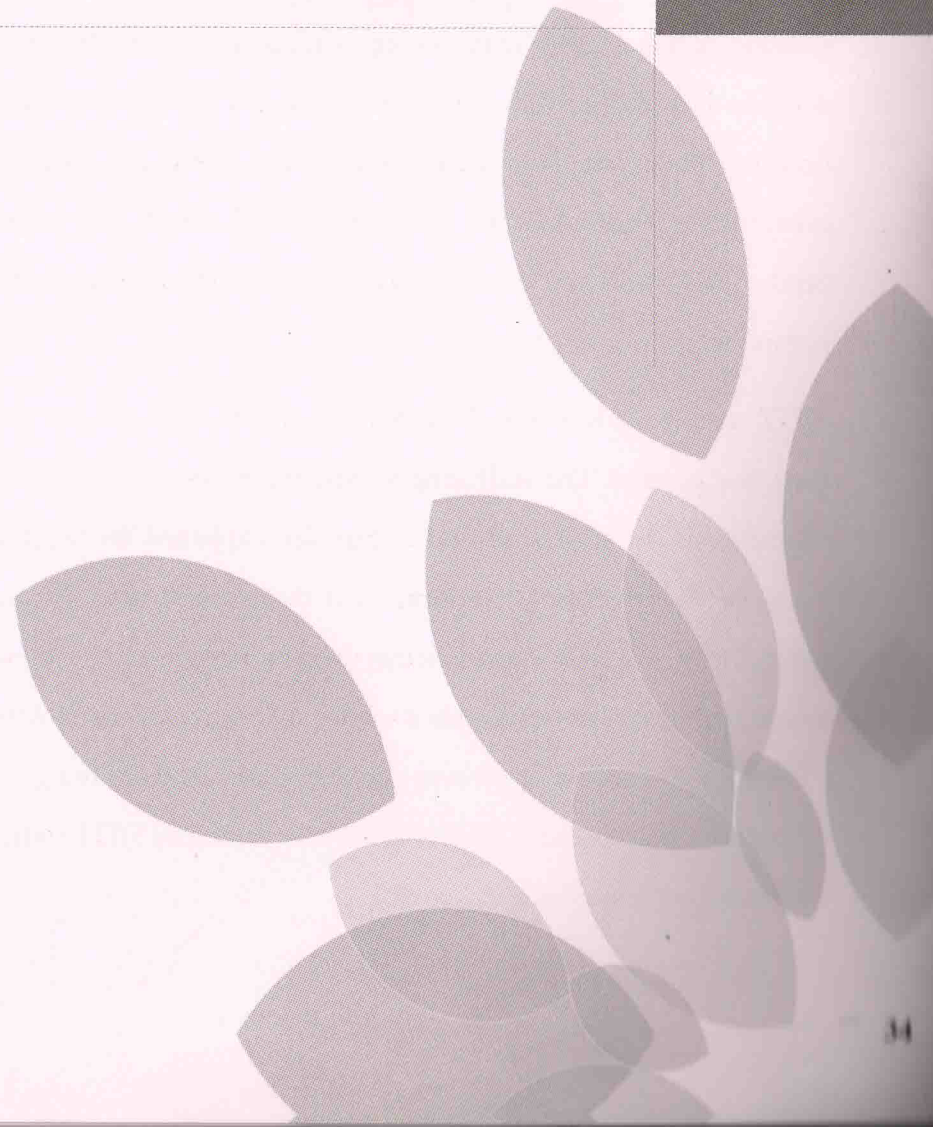
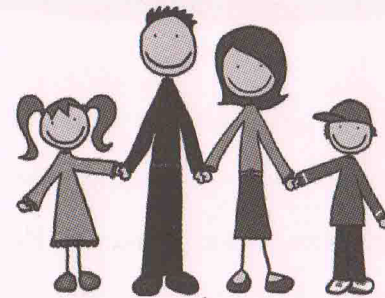
Saranya is a 12 year old girl residing at Chinna pallapatti in Dindigul district. She lives with her parents, 2 younger sisters and one younger brother. Her father works in a nearby factory. Her mother is diseased and is not keeping well. So she could not take care of his children. In addition, with her father's little income, they could not run the family sufficiently and peacefully. In order to take care of her sisters and brother and to earn some additional income, she had no other way except to stop her education at 7th standard. She took care of her brother and sisters and also did goat rearing. But she is very good in her studies.

SJDT staff came to know about Saranya and met the girl first and then, her parents. The staff emphasised the need to continue her education as she is good in studies. She also explained the fact that for poor children like her education is the greatest asset for her future. After so much of convincing, the parents agreed to send her to school. She was re-enrolled in a school at Saveriyarpalayam. After a few days of schooling, she was not well and so, she did not go to school after that. Because of the regular monitoring by SJDT staff, it was found out immediately.

The staff member continued to motivate Saranya and her parents to go to school and continue her studies. She was admitted in 7th standard again and she is going to school regularly and studying really well.



Saranya



Kanchana is a 14 year old girl living with her parents, one elder brother and two elder sisters. She resides at Muthazhugupatty in Dindigul district. Both her parents are daily wage labourers. The family lives in abject poverty because of its poor income levels. Kanchana passed her 5th standard and instead of continuing her education, she herself dropped out of school because of her bad friendship. She lost the interest in studies. She used to go to flower market in the morning and with that earning, she used to roam around Dindigul along with her parents. Her parents also insisted on her studies but Kanchana did not listen to their advice.

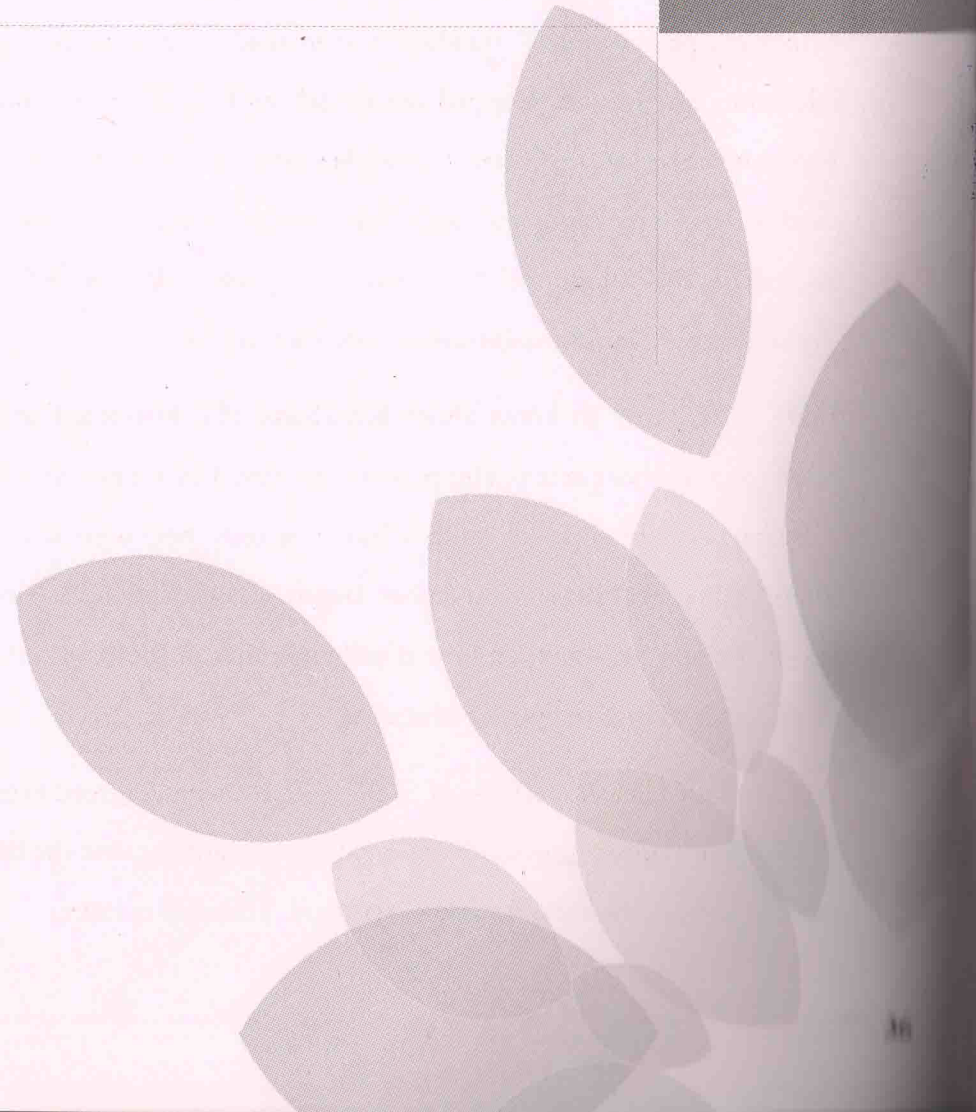
SJDT staff came to know about Kanchana. She interacted with Kanchana and her parents. Her parents said that they are not against Kanchana continuing her studies but it is only her, who is not interested in it. The staff member began counselling Kanchana about the present situation, how it will affect her in future and the significance of continuing her education.

As a result of relentless efforts of SJDT staff, Kanchana agreed to go to school provided she gets admission in 8th standard because she felt that for her age, she should study 8th standard. The staff member

continued her counselling to Kanchana and also met the head of St. Francis Xavier Higher Secondary School at Muthazhugupatty and got admission for Kanchana. Kanchana started going to school regularly. The staff member who regularly visited her home, enquired about her difficulties in studies. Kanchana wanted some extra coaching in English, Maths and Science subjects. The staff member arranged extra coaching through their volunteers in that area itself. Kanchana is continuing her studies.



Kanchana



Satya is a 14 year old boy and resides at Vellodu in Dindigul district. He lives with his parents and two younger brothers. He is the eldest in the family. He was going to school regularly. One day, his father fell down from a tree and he died on his way to the hospital. His grand father and grand mother were also living with the family after his father's accidental death. But the grand parents were both aged, were not keeping well and mostly bed ridden. These sudden and unexpected events have affected him very badly and as a result, he stopped from going to school. He stayed at home. He doesn't speak to anyone and even if others come and speak to him, he does not speak. His mother does not go outside for work. They had a small piece of land. Satya and his mother worked in their own land for their livelihood. They had also taken loans.

SJDT staff member came to know about this boy through volunteers. When she tried to speak with Satya, he did not speak anything to her. She spoke to Satya's mother and tried to convince her to send him to school. She continued her efforts for 3 months with Satya's mother. After 3 months, Satya opened up and spoke with SJDT staff member. But he did not want to school.

SJDT staff member never gave up her efforts. She regularly visited Satya's home at least twice in a week. She continued her efforts with Satya's mother. She also spoke with Satya that “you don't want to go to school because of your father's death. But if you are like this, your future will become a question mark. It is one of the sad incidents in anyone's life but if you don't go to school, your family's future will also be bleak. If you study well, it will help your family to develop in the future”. Three months of persistent efforts by SJDT staff member, Satya was ready to go to school and his mother agreed to send him to school. He has re-enrolled himself in a nearby school and is regularly going to school now.



Satya



Raja is a 12 year old boy who resides in Mettu Street, Samiyar Thottam near Vijay theatre in Dindigul. He lives with his parents and one younger sister. His father works as a watchman in TVS Parcel Service company at Dindigul. He is a drunkard. Raja was studying in 6th standard. He used to engage in quarrel with his sister frequently, a feature very common among children. But his parents always found Raja at fault and usually beaten up by his father and mother. Unable to bear this indifference, he ran away from his home at least twice earlier. He ran away for the third time.

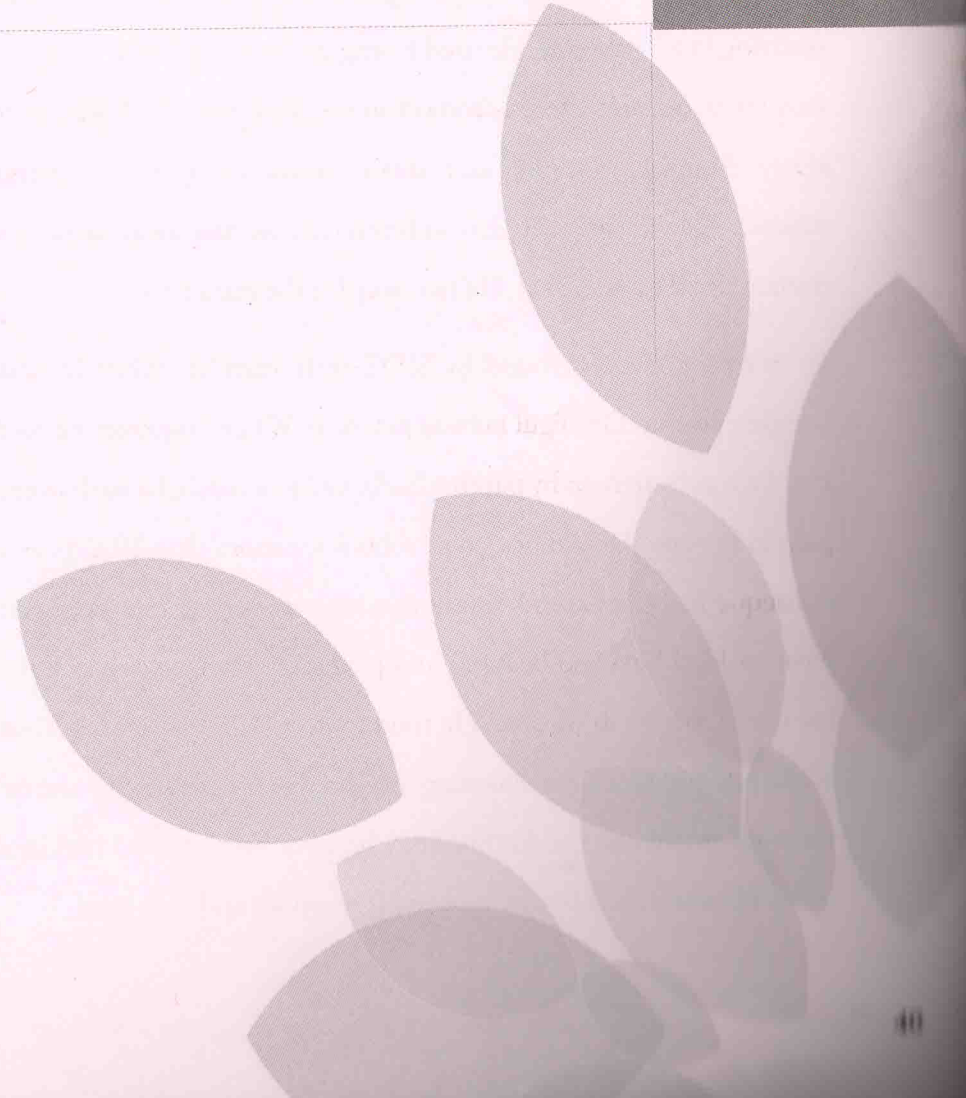
At this time, he was found by SJDT staff member when he was hanging around Dindigul railway junction. When enquired, he told that he was beaten up by parents badly and as a result, he had severe pain in his ears. He did not go to school for more than 10 days as a consequence. His parents found that he is not going to school and have scolded Raja and beaten him up again. So he decided to leave his home for the third time. He tried to go to Chennai by train but could not and so he was roaming around. He was found by one of the staff members. On finding him, he gave break fast to him in a hotel. He was joined by one more staff member and they gave

counselling to him by taking him to office. He was given a puzzle set and he made a television out of that. Raja found that the atmosphere in SJDT office was friendly. After giving him more counselling, he was motivated to go back home. Raja was taken to their home and the parents were also given counselling on child care.

Raja attends school regularly and he is studying well. His parents were also happy and thankful to SJDT. Raja got very much interested in the work on street children of SJDT, he voluntarily came forward to help it by identifying street children at Dindigul railway junction area.



Raja



Satish is a 11 year old boy and was studying in 5th standard. He resides in Mettupatty, Dindigul along with his uncle. His mother died when he was so young. Because of poverty, his father also ran away from home leaving Satish an orphan without any parental care. He lived with his uncle. He ran away from uncle's home 2 years back. He was found by an orphanage and came back to his uncle's house. This is the 2nd time he came out of his house. This time, he was found by one of the staff members of SJDT.

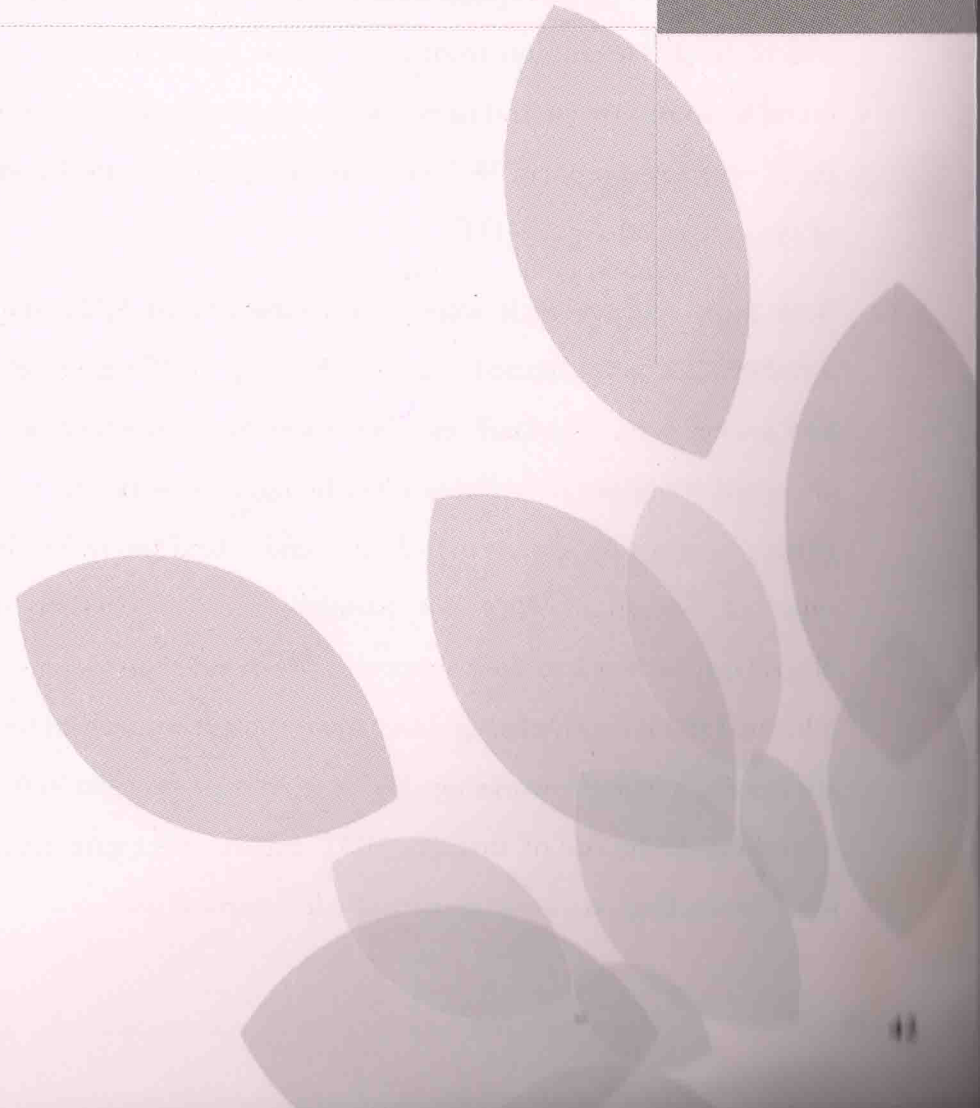
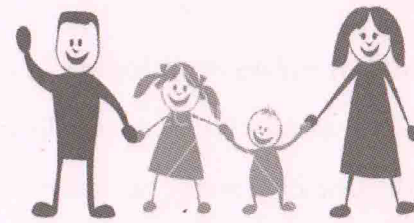
Both Satish and his uncle were given counselling by SJDT staff members. But Satish refused to go to school. So SJDT tried to give him a long rope. The staff member asked Satish whether he is interested in working somewhere. When he agreed to work, they tried to use this as an opportunity to make him understand and realize the value of education. They got permission in a workshop in Nagalnagar for Satish to work temporarily. The workshop owner was informed about Satish's background and the intent with which they are sending him to the workshop. He went for work for a day in that workshop. At the end of first day, SJDT staff member gave Satish more counselling on the significance of education and the

difficulties in working at this young age. Because of the continuous efforts of SJDT staff, he agreed to go to school.

SJDT staff member discussed his case with the head of a school in Saveriyarpalayam and the head agreed to admit him in 5th standard. Unfortunately, Satish had lost his 5th standard certificate, he could not get admission in 5th standard. So SJDT staff took him to Philomina school at Mettupatty where Satish studied till 3rd standard. But he could get admission only in 3rd standard. Satish is now studying 3rd standard again. He is being extended all the other assistances in his studies by SJDT. The staff members are happy that Satish is studying well now.



Satish



Kumar is a 13 year old boy residing in Mariamman koil street in Karur. He does not have any brother or sister. His mother has committed suicide a few years back. His father is suffering from cancer. As a consequence, he lives with her aunt. He has completed 8th standard. One day, he was scolded by his aunt and because of that, he ran away from home.

One of the SJDT staff members found Kumar in Dindigul bus stand. He looked suspicious as he was blinking and did not go anywhere because he had no money in his hands. So the staff member enquired him. Immediately, he started crying. On finding the reason, the staff asked Kumar if money is given, what will he do?. Kumar responded that he will go home with her aunt. The staff member asked for her aunt's phone number. He called her and informed about Kumar.

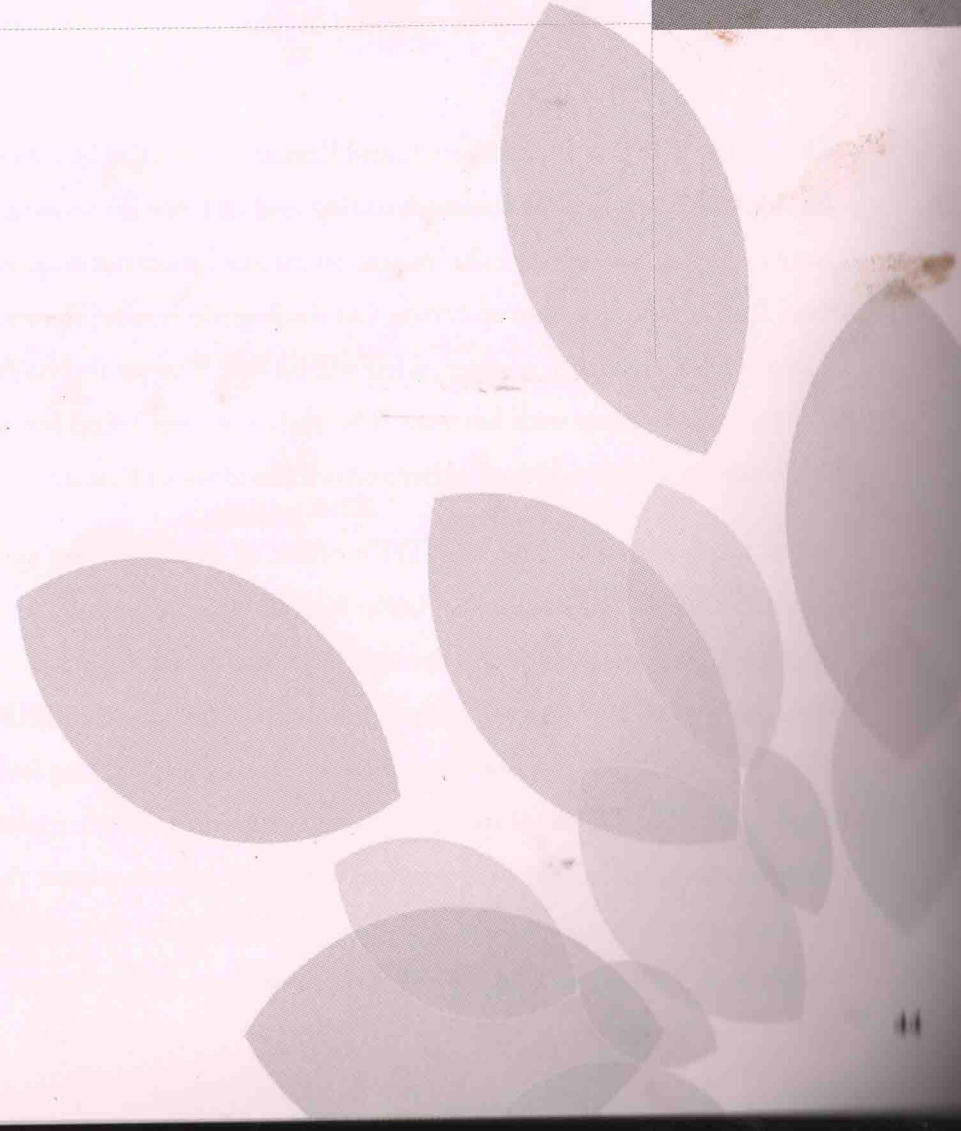
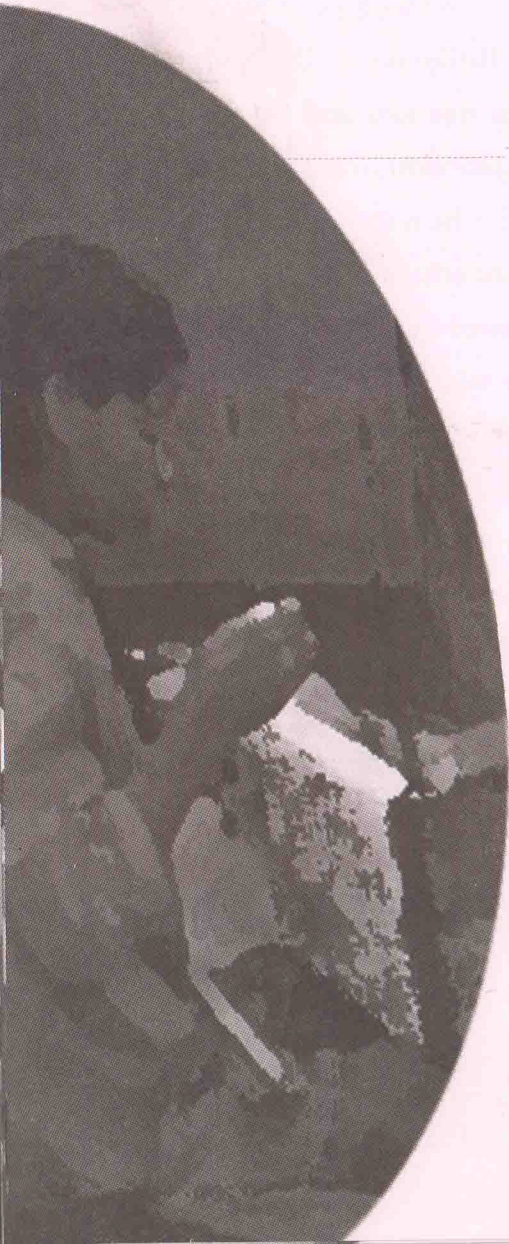
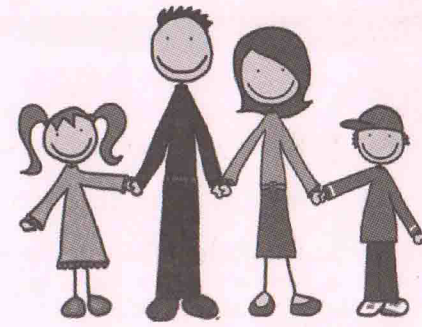
Once Kumar's aunt came to SJDT's office at Dindigul, the staff members gave counselling to both Kumar and his aunt. After discussing with his aunt, it was decided to enrol Kumar in a school at Boys Town near Batlagundu. He was admitted in the hostel in SJDT. But within a few days, on one fine morning, Kumar was missing from the hostel. SJDT Dindigul staff got the information and they rushed there immediately. They also informed Kumar's aunty about this incident. Within a few hours, a tea shop owner from Parasurama puram found Kumar in front of his shop and informed SJDT hostel

about him. He was taken to SJDT office. On inquiry, he informed that he missed his aunty and that's why, he ran away from hostel.

So we decided to change his school from Batlagundy to Dindigul after consulting his aunty. She also agreed to this idea and Kumar was admitted in a school in Dindigul. SJDT staff went to the hostel in the evening on the first day to find out whether he is there or not. To our surprise, when the staff went in front of the school hostel, Kumar was coming out of the hostel. The staff enquired with him the reason for coming out of the hostel so often. He said that he could not live without his aunt and her siblings. He wanted to study in Karur itself by staying with aunt and her family. After consulting with his aunt and the family, we agreed to send him to Karur and to continue his studies there. The family was give counselling about child care. SJDT continues to monitor Kumar by making phone calls to his family regularly and by visiting his home once in 2 months. He is now studying.



Kumar



Chitra is a 15 year old girl residing at Harvipatty in Madurai along with her parents and one younger brother. They live in a rented house. Her father works in a nearby factory. Her mother used to work as a daily wage labourer but stopped going to work now. Her parents sent her to school. But Chitra is not interested in studies and she did not want to go to school. Because of this her parents had to change her school at least 3 times in the last few years. But in spite of all the efforts taken by her parents, she was not interested in continuing her school education. She dropped out on her own and she started doing some small ornamental work along with her friends.

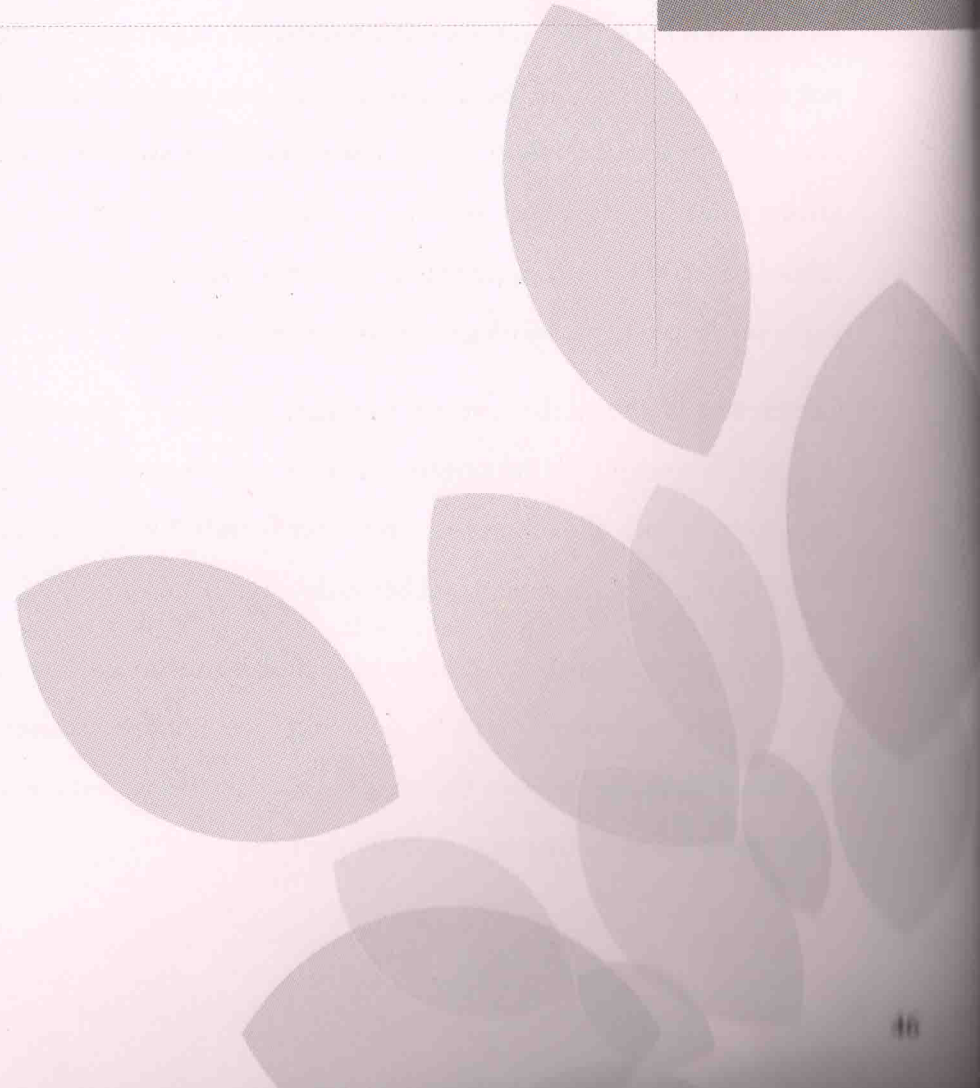
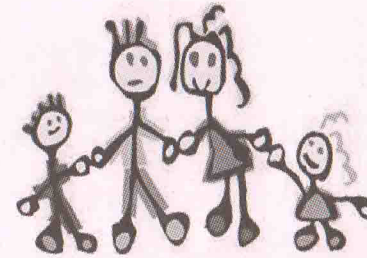
Chitra was identified by one of the staff members. When she inquired the reasons for her no interest in schools, Chitra shared that she was frequently the subject of fun for her friends. They made fun of her height. All these reasons led her to drop out from school.

SJDT tried to motivate her to continue her studies and its significance in her life. So she was taken to the gatherings for working children. She was encouraged to join the children's street theatre on social issues and educational issues. Gradually, she had a

change of heart and shown glimpses of interest in going to school again. SJDT staff regularly visits their home and gives counselling. The atmosphere is positive now and SJDT staff has been trying to get admission for Chitra in a nearby school. She will join schools very soon.



Chitra



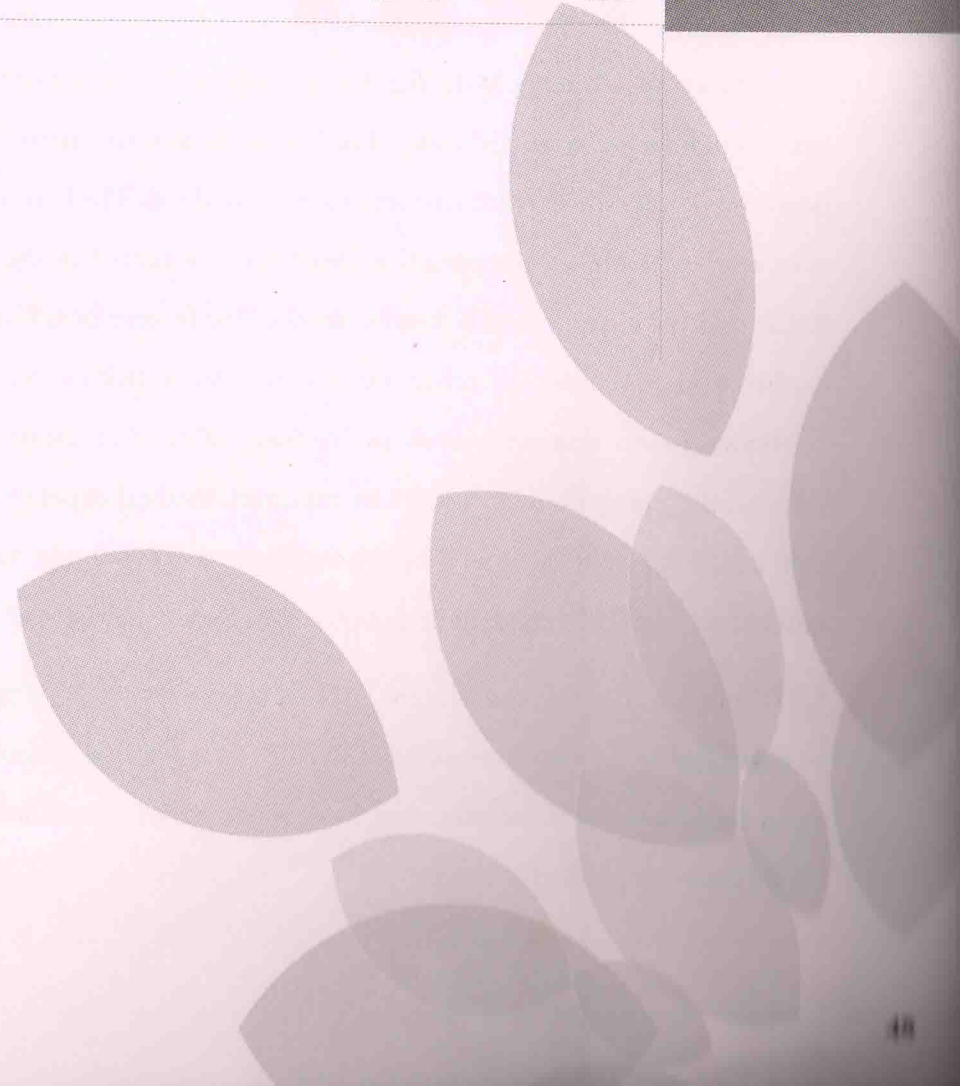
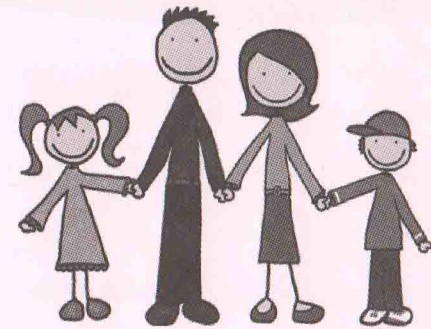
Rajan is a 15 year old boy who lives with his mother and one younger sister. When his father was alive, the whole family migrated to Mumbai 8 years ago and were doing murukku business. His father was a drunkard. Because of that he became diseased and died. After that, his mother stayed back in Mumbai doing domestic work for another 2 years. With that income, she could not afford her children's education in Mumbai. Further, her health also started deteriorating. So she decided to come back to Madurai. The family now resides at Mela Anuppanadi in Madurai in a rented house. Rajan and his sister joined a nearby school. He is very good in studies and interested in other extra curricular activities. She continues to do domestic work in Madurai. With that measly income, the family could not meet its expenses, medical expenses and education expenses. So Rajan was stopped from going to school and joined a pappad making company as a daily wage labour.

SJDT intervened in this case and the staff member gave counselling to Rajan and his mother. It resulted in Rajan joining another school again. But due to the family situation, he dropped out of school and joined again the pappad company.

Now, SJDT is continuing its efforts to realize and convince the family the need to go to school. In order to motivate Rajan, SJDT has made him to participate in its gatherings for working children, street theatres on raising awareness on the need for education, etc. There are signs of positive changes in him and his mother. SJDT hopes that Rajan will join school again from the forthcoming academic year.



Rajan

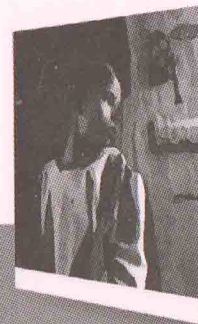


Durga is a 14 year old girl resides at Theerthakadu in Vandiyur area of Madurai. She lives with her mother and one younger brother. Her father has gone away from the family with another woman. Her mother works in a bottle company and sometimes, she goes for work in construction industry. Durga was studying in 6th standard. She is really good in studies and interested in drawings. The area in which they live is a camp area that does not have even electricity. They live in a hut in government land, which is not their own house but don't have to pay rent as well. They live in dismal poverty. As a consequence, Durga had to drop out of 5th standard and she went to work in a nearby masala company.

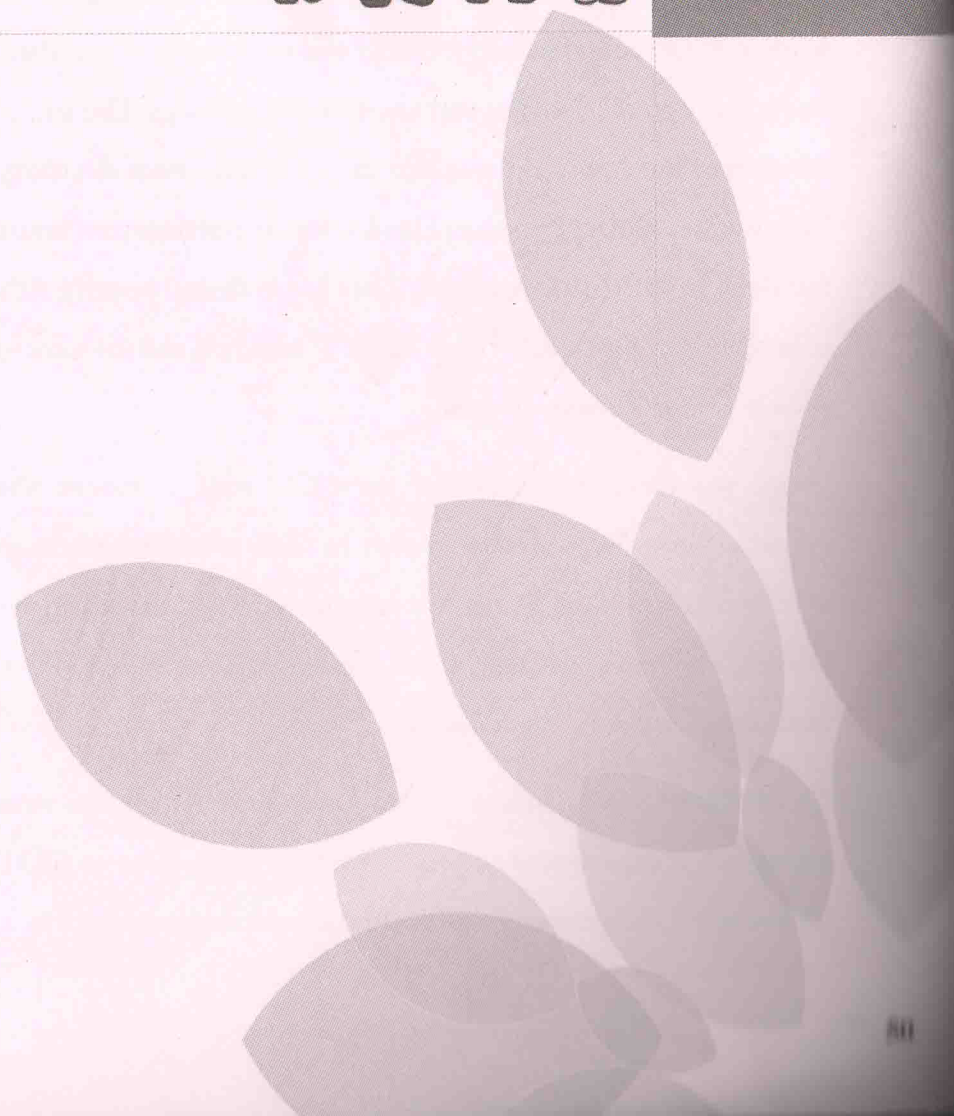
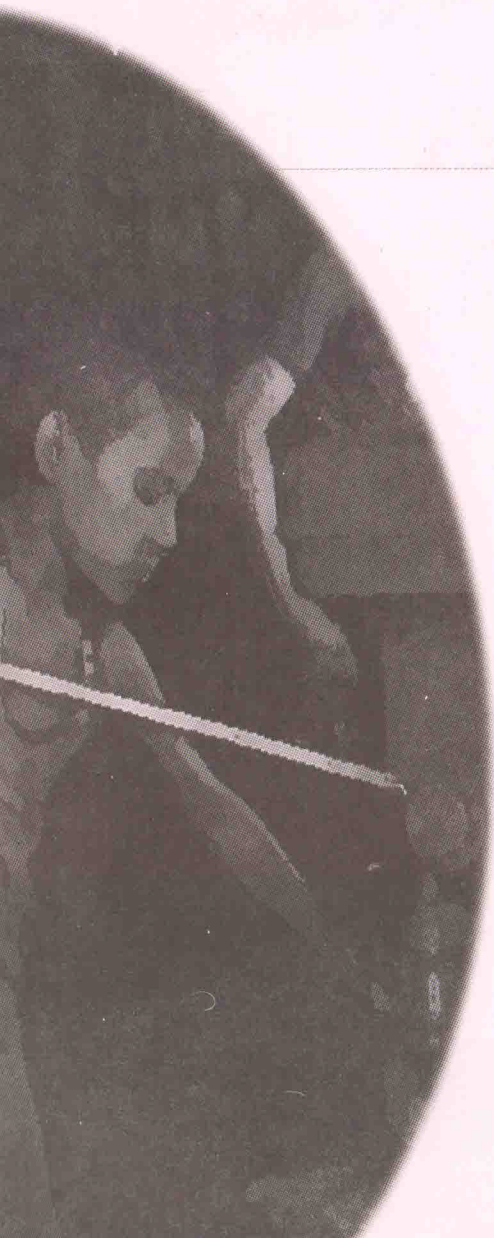
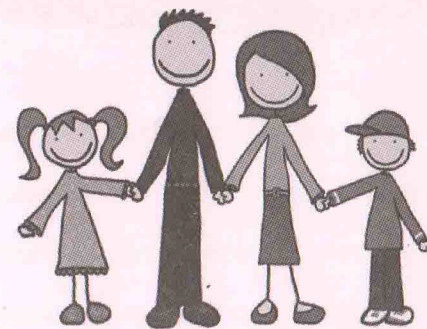
Durga was identified by one of the SJDT staff members. She interacted with Durga and her mother. In order to motivate them to send Durga to school, Durga was encouraged to participate in the working children gatherings, street theatres and other events that were organized by the organization.

As a result of our relentless efforts, Durga and her mother were convinced. Durga agreed to join the school again. Due to SJDT staff's efforts, Durga was re-enrolled in Gopalakrishnan school in

Siruthur near Madurai. She is studying 6th standard now and is really studying well with lot of interest.



Durga



Raman is a 15 year old boy. His father is a van driver, who goes for work only in the night. He sleeps during the day time. His mother is vendor, who goes around the city to sell her products. As a result, Raman did not have parental care at home. He dropped out of school in 8th standard and went for work as a daily wage labour in construction industry. But her parents want him to study.

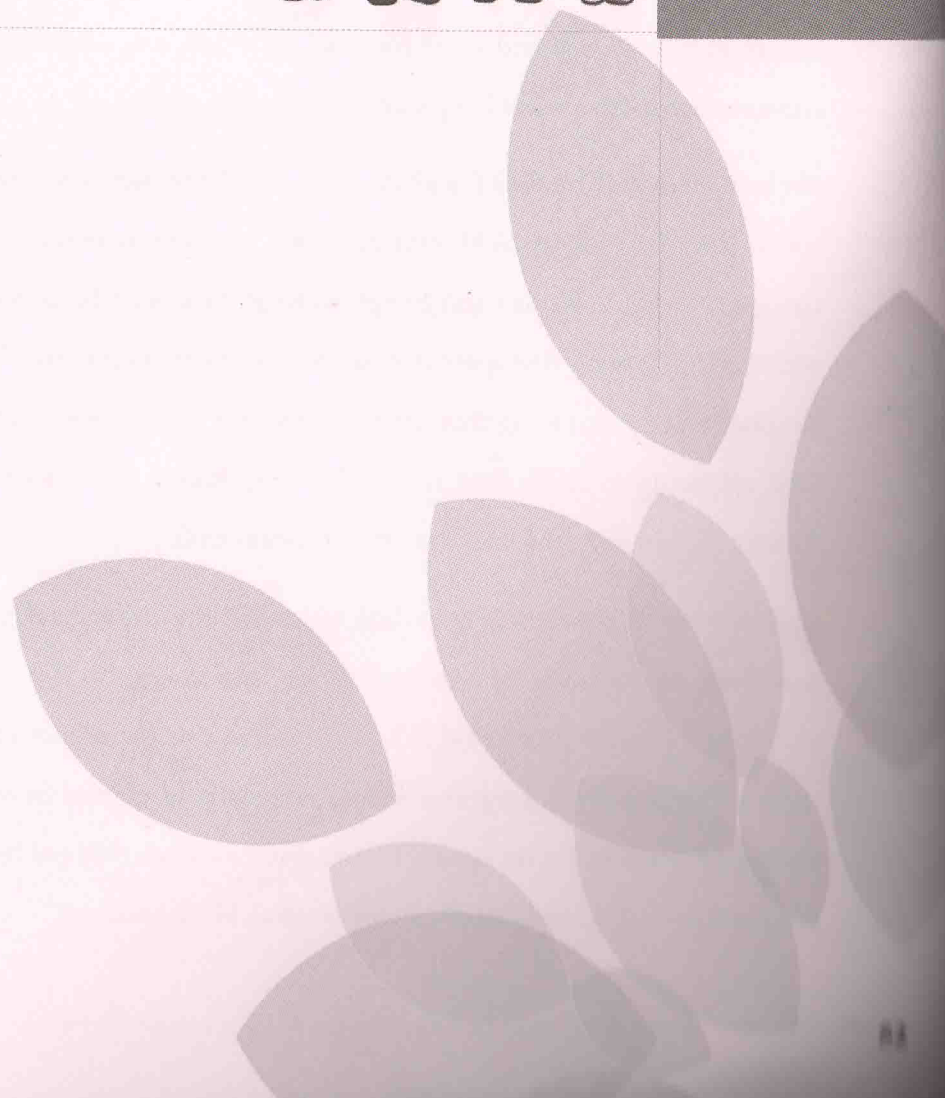
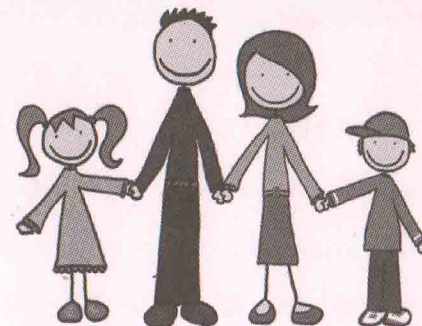
He was identified by SJDT and its staff members had given him counselling for more than 10 months in the last year. It resulted in change of heart in Raman and he agreed to go to school. So he was admitted in Jayaraj Annapackiam school in Arapalayam. But he dropped out again saying that the food was not good there. SJDT took efforts again and he was admitted in Gopalakrishnan school in Siruthur but he dropped out from that school as well.

Raman needed constant counselling to make him understand the need and importance of continuing his education. So he was convinced to participate in SJDT's working children gatherings and other children related programs. He was regularly motivated by our staff member. Finally, he agreed to join a school again. We got him admitted in UCS school near Periyar bus stand. He studies in 8th

standard now. He is going to school regularly. His parents are thankful to SJDT because without its efforts, their son would not have continued his education.



Raman



Prabakaran is a 14 year old boy residing at Muniyandipuram in Madurai with his parents. His father is working in construction industry as a daily wage labour. His mother works as a daily wage labour in the nearby agricultural fields. His parents send him to school and after that, they go to work. But Prabakaran used to go to a temple in Pasumalai without going to school. He sleeps in the temple the whole day. One of the villagers saw this and he informed his parents. After that, he dropped out of school and he also started working in the construction industry.

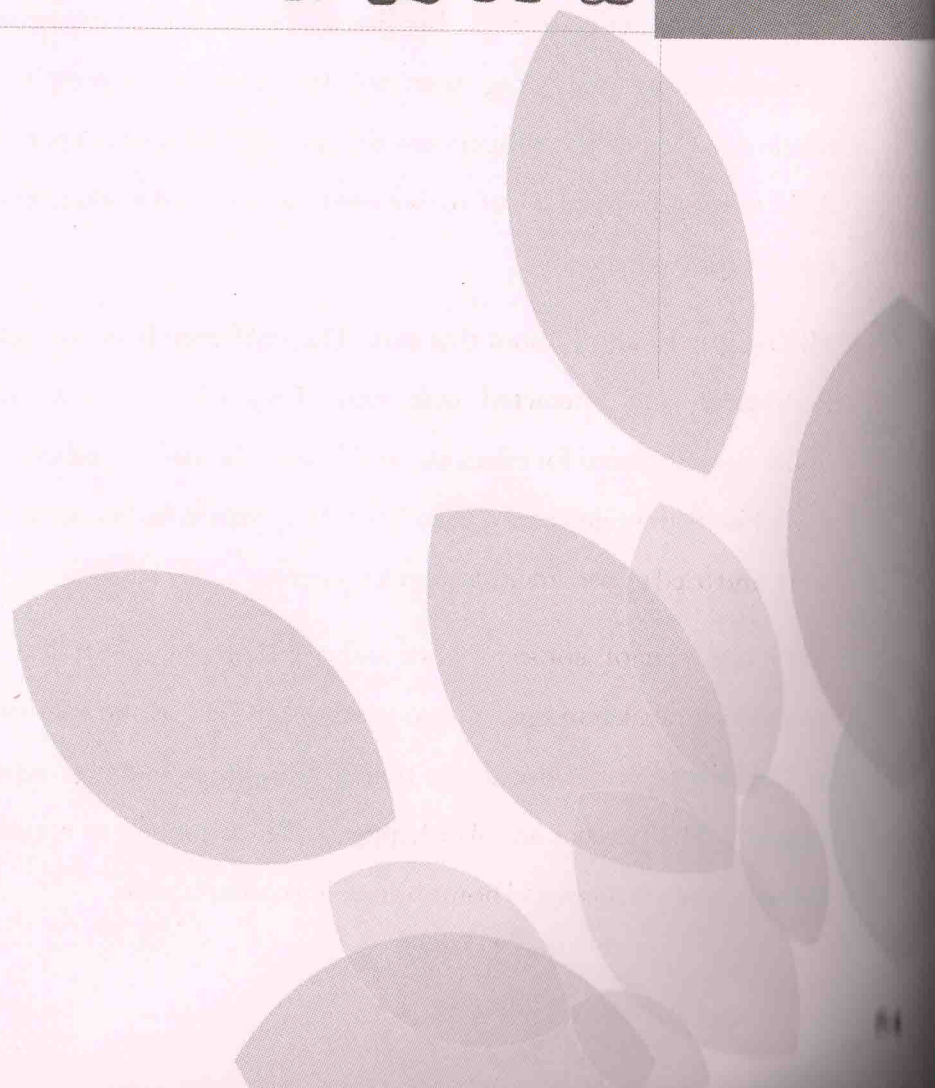
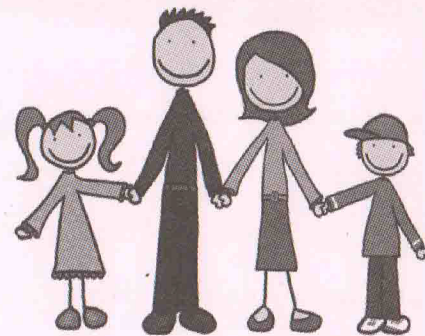
SJDT came to know about this case. The staff members contacted Prabakaran and interacted with him. They tried to make him understand the need for education at this age. The staff members had given him counselling on a regular basis. They visited his house twice a week and tried to convince him and his parents.

After one year of constant work and perseverance of SJDT staff members, Prabakaran agreed to go to school. SJDT got him admission in CSI school very close to his house. Now, he is going to school regularly. His parents are also happy. SJDT continues to regularly monitor him at school and home by making constant visits.

He has been participating in various children's programs organized by SJDT.



Prabakaran



Surya is a 15 year old boy and resides at Muniyandipuram in Madurai along with his parents. His father has a bullock card, which he goes for hiring. His mother does goat rearing. Both father and mother leave for their work very early in the morning. It became easy for Surya to bunk school and stay at home. His parents did not know this earlier and came to know about it only later. So they asked Surya to take care of their goats. Her mother started going to work as daily wage labour.

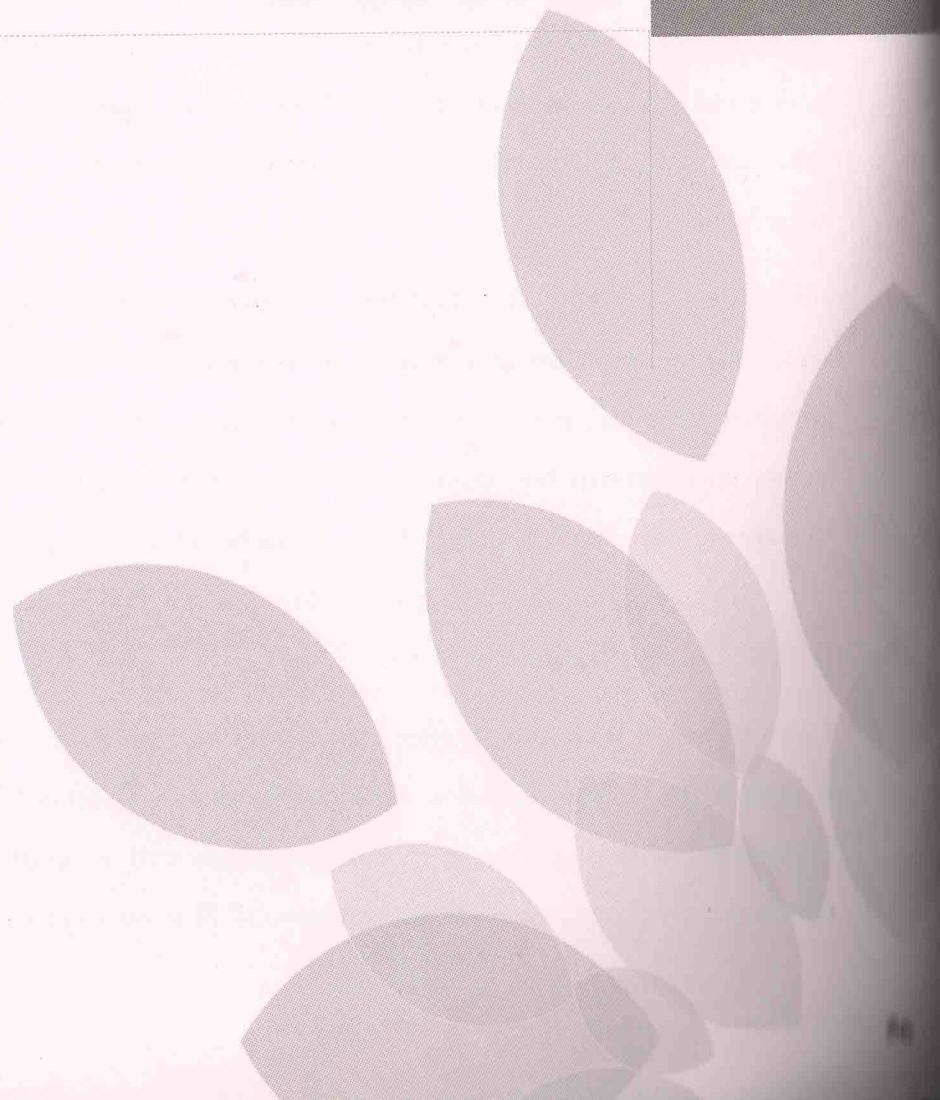
SJDT staff members identified Surya as part of their working children program. They discussed about continuing his education with Surya and his parents. His parents want him to go to school but he was not interested. So it was decided to send him to various events that are organized by SJDT for children so that he gets motivated and inspired by seeing and interacting with fellow children. It led to some positive attitudinal changes in Surya.

Surya agreed to go to school after persistent efforts by SJDT staff members. SJDT got admission in 7th standard in CSI school at Pasumalai. He has been going to school regularly without getting absent for more than a couple of months now. SJDT continues to

monitor his progress. He informed SJDT staff during their regular home visits that he likes his school and school friends.



Surya



Annam is a 8 year old girl and she resides at 2nd street in Muniyandipuram in Madurai. She lives with her parents and brother and sisters. Both her parents are working in a stone work company nearby. Since both father and mother goes for work, Annam started roaming around without going to school.

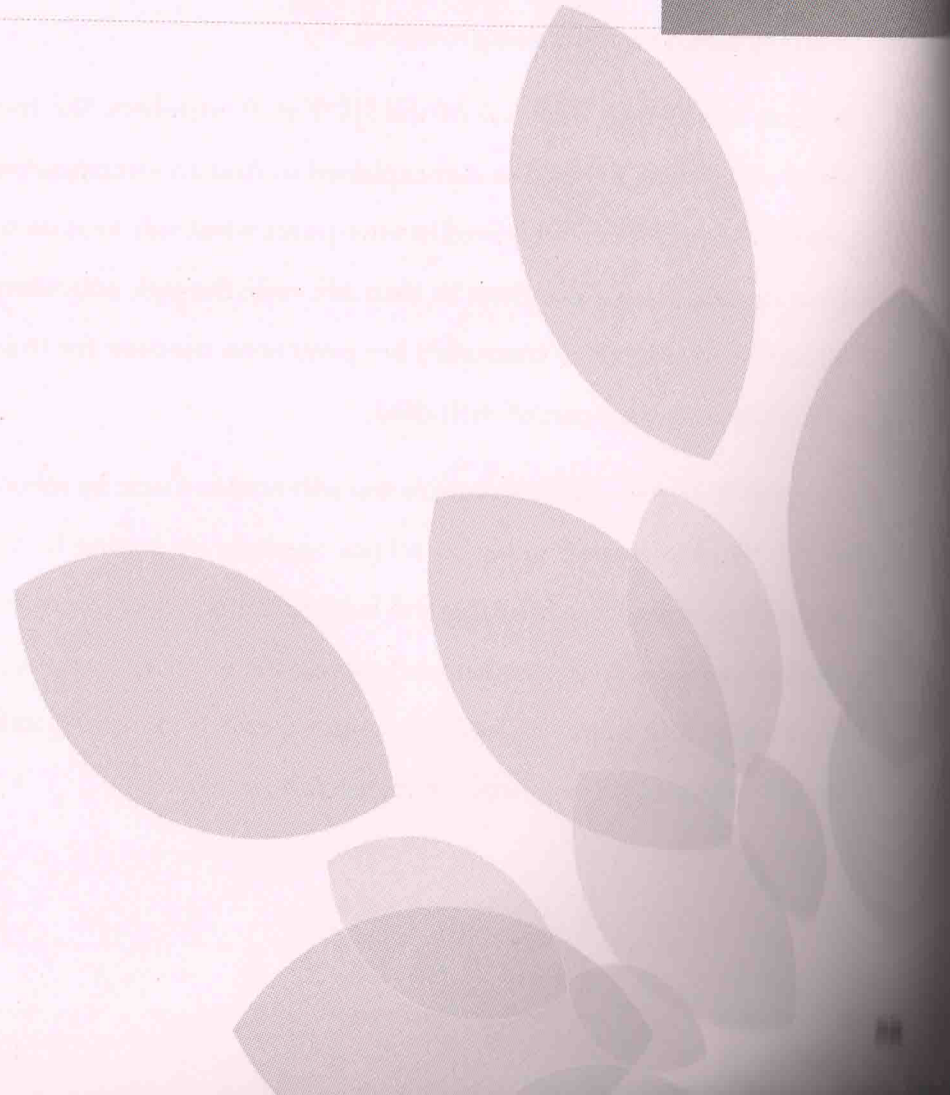
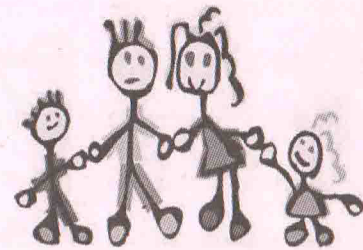
Annam was identified by one of the SJDT staff members. She had given counselling to her. She also explained to Annam some positive stories about children who lived in utter poverty but still went on to become respectable positions in their life only through education. The staff member also counselled her parents on the need for child care and how to take care of their child.

As a result of these efforts, Annam was admitted in a near by school again. She has started going to school regularly by staying in the school hostel with free boarding and lodging through SJDT's efforts. But her parents brought her back to home saying that they are missing their child very much. It took the untiring efforts of SJDT staff members to make their parents understand the need and

importance of their child's education. After convincing them, Annam was sent to the hostel again. She continues her schooling again.



Annam



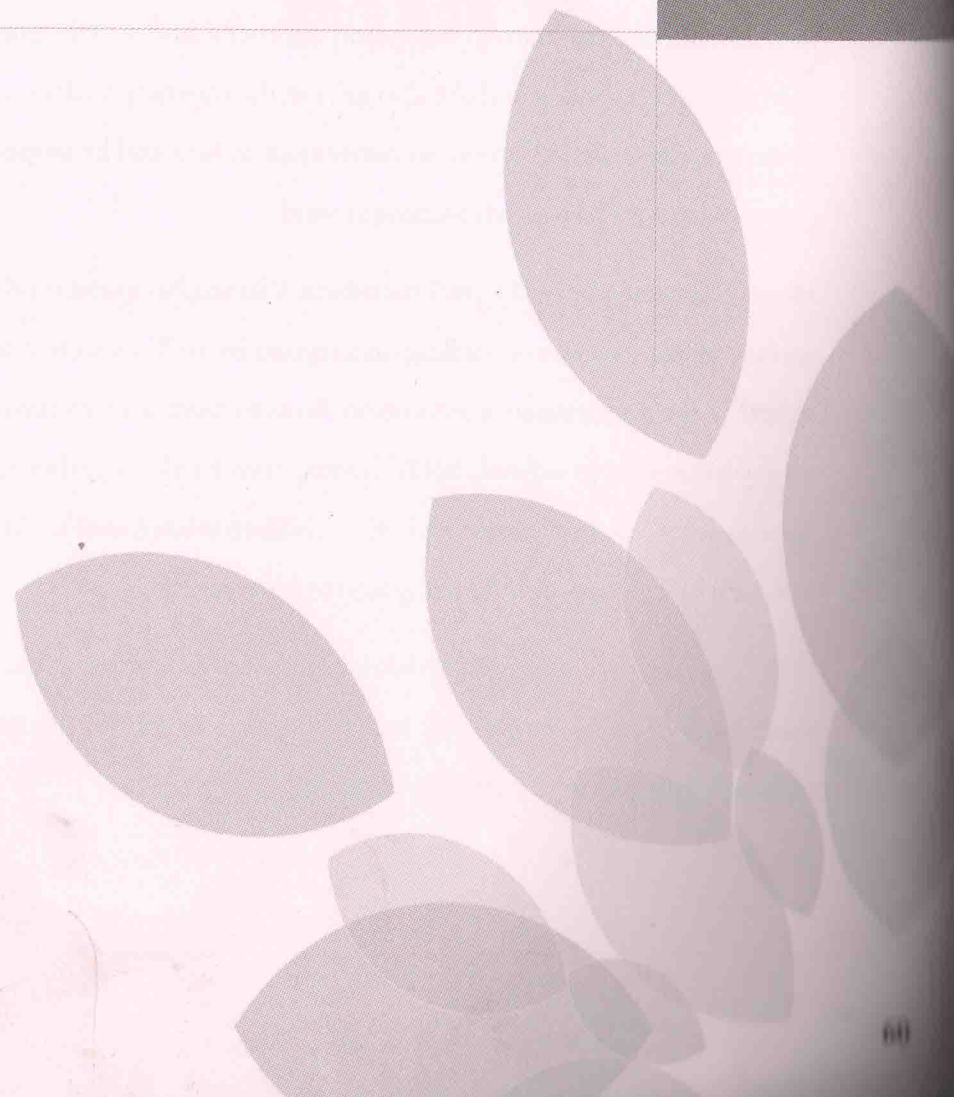
Vikram is a 13 year old boy and resides at Muthuramalingapuram. He does not have a mother. He lives with his father, who is a daily wage labour. He does not have anyone to take care of him at home. So he started going around the village without going to school. On seeing this, his father sent him to his grand mother's house. His grand mother is a fish vendor and she also goes in the morning and returns in the evening only. It became so convenient to him and he stopped going to school and started roaming around.

He was identified by SJDT staff members. Vikram, his grand mother and father were given counselling on a regular basis. They were made to realize the importance of education. So as to motivate him further to get interested in school, SJDT invited him to all its gatherings, sports meets, medical camps and other children related events. After so much of persuasion, Vikram agreed to go to school.

SJDT got him admitted in Gopalakrishnan school in Siruthur and he was admitted in the hostel. He has been going to school regularly without getting absent even for a single day.



Vikram



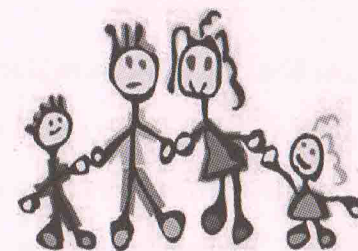
Uma is a 8 year old girl. She lives in Bicara in Madurai. Her father died in an accident. She lived with her mother for 3 months. Her mother got re-married and Uma was sent to her aunty's house. Her aunty has 1 daughters and 2 sons. Aunty's husband works in construction industry. With one person's income, they were finding it too difficult to manage their large family. With the arrival of Uma, their burden has increased further. So they could not send Uma to school and she stayed at home.

SJDT identified this child. They discussed with Uma's aunty and uncle. They shared that they could not send her to school only because of their poor income but they indeed want her to study. Uma was also interested in going to school.

SJDT offered free schooling with free boarding and lodging in a school, Uma and her aunty and uncle were very happy that they are getting such support from SJDT. They happily agreed. Uma was admitted in a school with hostel facility. She is studying really very well.



Uma



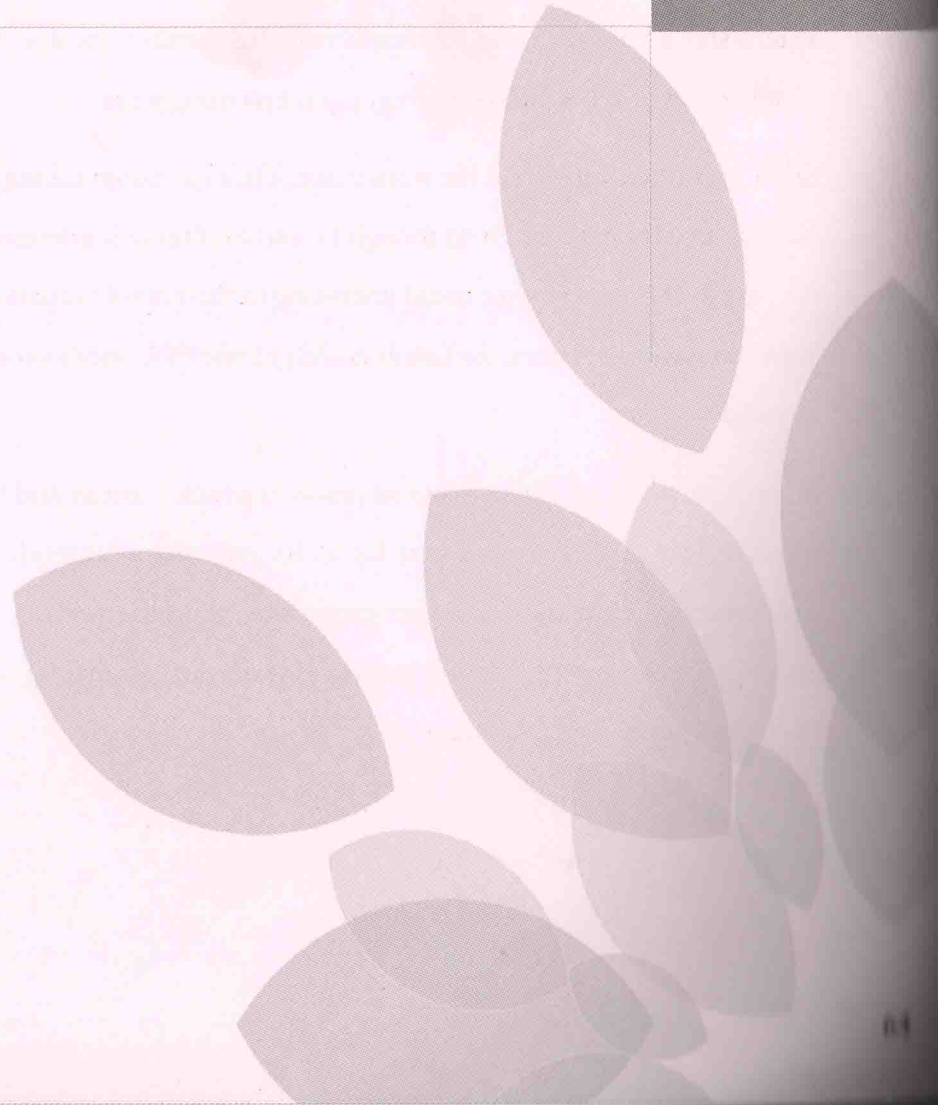
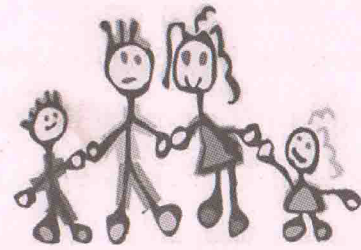
Ganesh is a 15 year old boy. He lives in Keezh Madurai along with his parents and 3 sisters. His father rides his tri-cycle for hiring. His mother is diseased, is bed ridden and unable to go for work. He is the only son. All her sisters have not studied much and all the three sisters stay at home. So as to supplement his family's income, he dropped out of school and started going for painting work.

SJDT identified Ganesh at his work place. They gave counselling to Ganesh and his parents. Even though he and his family is interested in Ganesh's education, they could not owing to their family situation. With his income support, the family could get one of Ganesh's sister married.

After understanding the helpless situation in which Ganesh and his family is in, SJDT is inviting him for all its gatherings for working children, medical camps, summer excursions and other events, in which he has been actively participating. He has learnt so many good habits and improved his awareness.



Ganesh



Tamilselvi is a 15 year old girl residing at Chinthamani in Madurai. She does not have her mother. She lives with her father and 3 other sisters. Her father works in a pappad company and does not earn too well. Moreover, he is a drunkard and his income does not serve its family fully. Because of this, all the four sisters have dropped out of school including Tamilselvi and they work in the same pappad company. They had also taken loan from moneylenders.

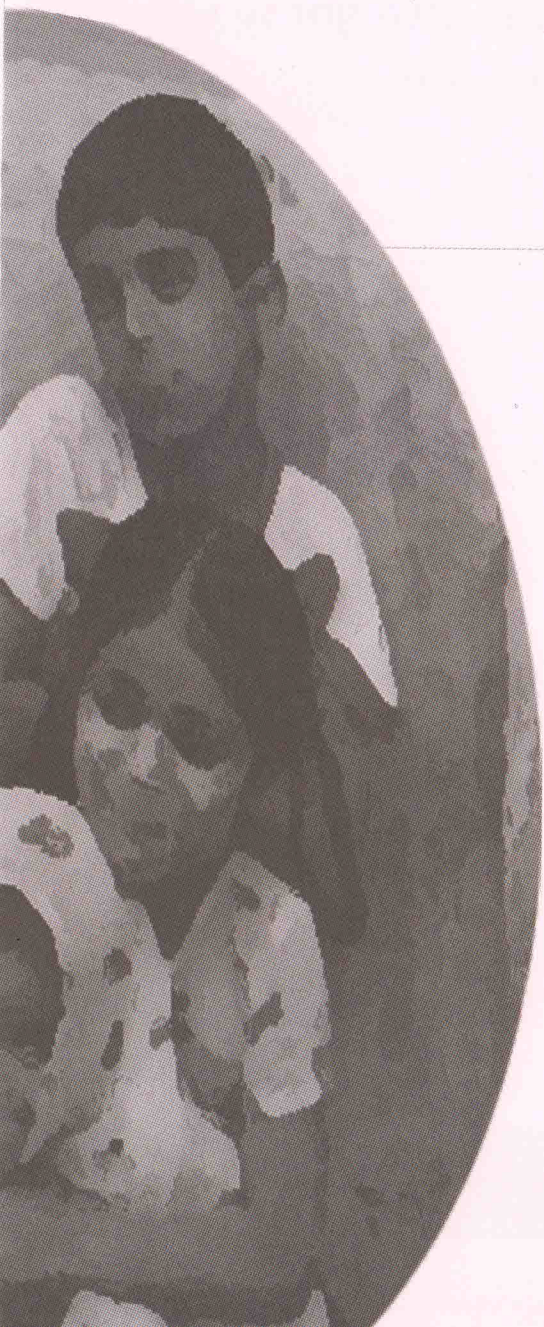
SJDT came across this case through one of its volunteers. The staff members interacted with his father and other sisters. The staff member asked them to send Tamilselvi to school. Even though she is interested, the family situation did not permit her to do so. At that time, the family arranged marriage for Tamilselvi's elder sister but the marriage did not materialize due to some reason. Tamilselvi participated in various events organized by SJDT for children.

During this situation, Tamilselvi and his family agreed to send her to school. Tamilselvi was admitted in a nearby school. When marriage was fixed for her elder sister, she stopped going to school and went to pappad company again. She works for a weekly salary to repay the

loan that was taken for her sister's marriage. But SJDT has been continuing its efforts to make her go to school again.



Tamilselvi

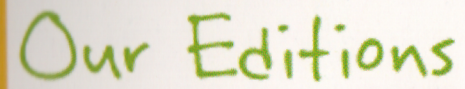


Ravi is a 15 year old boy lives at Keezh Madurai. He lives with his parents and one brother. His mother is bed ridden due to ill health. His father has a tri-cycle that he rides for hire. He spends most of his income only for drinking alcohol. The family lives in poor conditions even unable to take enough food three times a day. It forced both Ravi and his brother to drop out of school and go for work as daily wage labourers. With their income, they take care of their family expenses and medical expenses of their mother.

SJDT identified Ravi's case through its volunteers. Ravi was motivated to participate in the gatherings for working children and other children related events. He has learnt some good habits. Even though, they were not in a situation to go to school again, their participation in various events helped them personally. They shared that they benefited from SJDT's assistance to a great extent.



Ravi



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