



### **1. Title:**

Children's Sangam

### **2. Location**

Pondicherry (plans to extend to Villupuram and Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu)

### **3. Sector of intervention**

Children's Empowerment

### **4. Description of the project**

Children being the flag bearers of the future, have a potent role to play in creating a better society and nation. However, not all children have access to quality mentorship that can motivate them to take on the role of leaders of the future. The '**Sangam**' project was created in order to inculcate qualities like leadership, team building, and conscientiousness among disadvantaged children, who have the potential to be the leaders of tomorrow. This project aims at the formation of children's groups through our existing linkages with the women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Pondicherry.

Formation of Children's Groups in the community provides an opportunity for the children to voice their ideas and thoughts, so that their concerns and opinions can be heard and included in our social and political landscape. The purpose of this program is to empower children through education about human rights and societal problems. The program participants learn through a variety of methods, including presentations, dance, drama, and games. The youth also learn about democratic methods by taking their own attendance, electing their own leaders, and helping each other out should problems arise. The goal is to create a renewed sense of youth unity centred on moving towards positive changes in society.

The program is co-ordinated by Prime Trust staff i.e. four Outreach staff members and one Coordinator. The staff members meet all the groups on a regular basis and are responsible for training and mentoring the groups in a variety of aspects e.g. educating the children about their rights and responsibilities as citizens; cultivating leadership qualities; nurturing their talents. Our staff are also responsible for planning, organising and co-ordinating the Quarterly Meetings of the Children's Sangam and taking care of the logistics/costs associated with supporting the Children's Sangam Group (e.g. stationary; transportation; venue costs (if any)) .

### **5. Beneficiaries**

Children aged 3 to 17 years coming from poor backgrounds and slums in Pondicherry. The plan is to extend this program to Villupuram and Cuddalore districts in Tamil Nadu. We currently have 70 groups with 1400 children (i.e. 20 children per group) and the goal is to increase it to 300 group's i.e. total outreach to 6000 children from disadvantaged background. Beneficiaries are identified from amongst the existing network of Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) that Prime Trust works with. It is open to all children in the SHG community and the child does not need to have his/her mother in the SHG.

### **6. Duration**

The project started on the year 2012.

### **7. Partner(s)**

Elite Mentors Consortium (EMC). They carry out creative workshops and activities with the children's groups free of charge during the Quarterly Meetings.

## 8. Expected sustainability of the project

Prime Trust is already working with many Self Help Groups (SHGs) for women. These women can motivate their children and the friends of their children to join the Sangam groups. It is an easy way to tell the children to come and join the groups. They will pay a very nominal fee to join i.e. Rs 5 each to join and Rs 2 each, every month thereafter. These children's groups can be held anywhere. This is an important factor contributing to the sustainability of the project, because there will always be room for the groups. We expect the Sangam project to become self sustaining in the future, provide we get the necessary funds to increase the number of groups. We will teach the elder children how to run the group by themselves. Every group will have some elder children and when they become 18, too old for the Children's Sangam, younger children will continue the leadership. So there won't be staff necessary all the time. So in a few years the groups will be self-sustainable.

## 9. Total budget

**Total budget (Support needed for a period one year to support 100 groups with 2000 children)**

### A. Non-Recurring

Name of the Expenditure	Amount (In USD)
Office furniture (3 Tables / 3 Chairs / Cup Board / Computer / Printer / Internet	700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700</b>

### B. Recurring (For 12 months)

Name of the Expenditure	Amount
Wages for TWO staff members @ Rs.6,000/- x 2 x 12	144,000.00
Travel Rs.3,000/- per month @ 12	36,000.00
Telephone Rs.1000/- x 12	12,000.00
Quarterly Program Rs.5,000/- x 3	15,000.00
Printing and Stationary	12,000.00
<b>FOR ONE YEAR (12 MONTHS)</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>
	<b>USD 2,920</b>

### Grand Total (A+B)

No	Item	In Rupees
A	Non Recurring	50,000.00
B	Recurring	219,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>269,000.00</b>
		<b>USD 4400</b>

## 10. Funding sources

Prime Trust tries to meet the expenditure but unable to cover most of the costs and looking for external support to make the program better.