

Participatory Evaluation of our Children's Homes by our Children

For the Academic Year 2022 - 2023

"Our Orphanage is about Putting Children First"

Introduction:

The initiative to assess our children's programme conceived by SJDT is a welcome step to look into the reality of our children's lives. The children have enumerated this evaluation as they experienced their lives as inmates. It is a valuable initiative facilitated by Mr. Augustine Selvaraj and it is a welcome step to make course corrections and make qualitative changes in its planning for future implementation.

The main thrust of the children's home programmes is to provide a supportive and conducive environment for children's overall development. The children's home programme has played a crucial role in addressing various challenges faced by children such as inaccessibility of schools, lack of resources, and limited access to educational opportunities. By offering a secure and structured living arrangement, the children's home programme enables the children to focus on their studies engaging extracurricular activities, and develop valuable life skills. Moreover, the children's home programme promotes discipline, responsibility, and independence among children as they learn to manage their daily routine and chores, and personal needs.

Additionally, the programme facilitates academic support with dedicated staff providing love, care, guidance, tutoring, and mentorship to ensure children's academic success. Furthermore, the children's home programme encourages holistic development by offering opportunities for sports, arts, and other extracurricular activities. This well-rounded approach enables children to explore their interests, develop innate talents, and build essential life skills like teamwork, leadership, and time

management. By providing a nurturing and enriching environment the programme equips children with the tools they need to succeed academically and in their personal lives.

Methodology:

We used a Participatory Evaluation Method adopted for this study. In this participatory evaluation study, we employed an external team of childcare specialists. They visited each and every orphanage and held a group discussion, explaining the purpose of this study.

Based on the group discussion an individual questionnaire was administered to the senior girls who can read and write. And they were asked to respond to the questionnaire.

For the children below ten years of age, a personal interview through which responses to the questions were collected. Then all the collected informations were combined and translated into English by an expert team. Here is a kind of questionnaire that was used to collect the information is as below:

1. The positive points that children appreciate in the Children’s Home.
2. The points that children do not like in our Children’s Home.
3. The points that children appreciate with regard to the Childcare givers.
4. The points that children don’t appreciate with regard to the Childcare givers.

The objective of the study:

To get a feedback from the children regarding the functioning of our various orphanages.



PUTHU PUNAL CHILDREN'S HOME FOR GIRLS

RESOURCE PERSON – Mr. AGUSTINE SELVARAJ, Ex-Member, District Child Welfare Committee.

The number of children who participated in the evaluation: 230

The Outcome of the Study from Pudhu Punal Children's Home for Girls

A. Positive Points that children appreciate in the Pudhu Punal Children's Home:

S.NO	Positive points that were appreciated by children's home children	Number of children
1	Happy to have spent a good time in the Hostel	60
2	Food items served in the Hostel, liked	35
3	Campus hygiene and tidiness	42
4	The favorable atmosphere for academic studies	48
5	Maintenance of greeneries and garden	32
6	Safety of Personal belongings and box	22
7	Care of Br. Sebastian- provision of snacks and fruits for kids	76
8	Training and practices are given for cultural events and participation	54
9	Medical care, special attention received, and hospital visits	33
10	Christmas and special festivals like dinner and celebration	48
11	Special attention received for weaker students in academic studies	24
12	Support and care given by staff	58
13	Guiding and training children in public etiquette practices	26



B. Points that children don't like in our Pudhu Punal children's Home:

S.NO	Points that children don't like in our Children's Home	Number of children
1	Bullying and ridiculed by fellow students	8
2	Ridiculing the weak students in studies by fellow students	12
3	Stealing habits	6
4	Using abusive and slang words	15
5	Water shortage and scarcity	12
6	Scolding in public	21



C. Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.No	Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Taking care of children with love and concern	31
2	Special attention received for weaker children in studies	19
3	Close and individual attention received during study time	28
4	Medical attention received during the time of sickness	35
5	Maintaining silence and decorum during study hours	17
6	Language training of English and vernacular	26



D. Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.No	Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Showing partiality to particular children	16
2	Ridiculing children who are not their favorite	21

E. Suggestions were given by children to improve our Pudhu Punal Children's Home:

S.No	Suggestions were given by children to improve our Pudhu Punal children's home	Number of children
1	Listening to the voice of children with respect and concern	14
2	Daily compulsory bathing is suggested	14
3	Understanding the mind and behavior of children	11
4	Give sufficient time for learning and studies	21



PUDHU VASANTHAM CHILDREN'S HOME FOR GIRLS

RESOURCE PERSON – Mr. AGUSTINE SELVARAJ, Ex-Member, District Child Welfare Committee.

The number of children who participated in the evaluation: 78

The Outcome of the Study from Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home for Girls

A. Positive Points that children appreciate in the Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home:

S.No	Positive points that were appreciated by Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home children	Number of children
1	Daily prayer and involvement in cultural events	38
2	Christmas, Pongal, New Year, festivals, and birthday celebrations	45
3	Care of Br. Sebastian- provision of snacks and fruits for kids	32
4	Fruits and snacks are given by Devi Bala Amma	32
5	Special studies and coaching are given by Br. Alfred	36
6	Fellow children and their friends in Hostel	35
7	Building and Natural surrounding	39
8	Early wake up and studies	26
9	Daily food items served	31
10	Maintaining garden and house cleaning	42
11	Redressal of children's concerns after school hours	29
12	Birthday celebrations	33



B. Points that children don't like in our Pudhu Vasantham children's Home:

S.No	Points that children don't like in our Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home	Number of children
1	Not sufficient time is given for daily studies	27
2	Lack of care by Warden	29
3	Toilets are not hygienic and clean	17
4	Sufficient water not available for bathing	33
5	The food served is not satisfactory	19



C. Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.No	Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Taking care of children with love and concern	39
2	Medical attention received during treatment of sickness	24
3	Being available with children in the early hours for studies	19
4	Night reflection and storytelling before bed	37
5	Correction of behaviors on the spot	29



D. Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.No	Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Scolding in Public	18
2	Partiality in the Handling of Children	22
3	Scolding and blaming for not committing mistakes	17
4	Exhibiting excess anger	20
5	Using mobile many hours during study time	19
6	Being not available with children during study hours	8
7	Treating like slaves and demanding work	16
8	High-handed treatment instead of love and care	23

E. Suggestions were given by children to improve our Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home:

S.No	Suggestions were given by children to improve our Pudhu Vasantham children's home	Number of children
1	Treating everyone equally and caring	19
2	Br. Director should visit the hostel more often	38
3	Facilities to be provided when meeting parents during weekends	18
4	More time to be provided for studies and games	34
5	More time to be provided for night recreation	29



PUDHU IRUDHAYAM CHILDREN'S HOME FOR GIRLS

RESOURCE PERSON – Mr. AGUSTINE SELVARAJ, Ex-Member, District Child Welfare Committee.

The number of children who participated in the evaluation: 65

The Outcome of the Study from the Pudhu Irudhayam Children's Home for Girl

A. Positive Points that children appreciate in the Pudhu Irudhayam Children's Home:

S.No	Positive points that were appreciated by Pudhu Irudhayam Children's Home children	Number of children
1	I like it very much the hostel life and its programme	48
2	I am appreciative of the staff who take care of me	32
3	I enjoy my time with the overseas donors when they visit us	17
4	Christmas, Pongal, New Year, festival, and birthday celebrations	21
5	I like the food and snacks served	38
6	I take a special interest in studies	12
7	Cultivation of Discipline and moral character	27
8	Opportunities for spiritual practices	33
9	I cherish the moments of Br. Director and his visit	47
10	Maintenance of greeneries and garden	54
11	Festivals, celebrations and receiving new dresses	50



B. Points that children don't like in our Pudhu Irudhayam children's Home:

S.No	Points that children don't like in our Pudhu Irudhayam Children's Home	Number of children
1	The toilet facilities provided	37
2	The morning breakfast served Pongal (cooked rice)	11
3	The morning breakfast served Kanji (porridge)	16
4	Excessive physical work demanded	18



C. Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.NO	Points that children appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Formation of good qualities and moral character	26
2	Explaining difficult and unfamiliar subject matters	14
3	Punitive correction of behaviors	18
4	The staff are extremely loving	19
5	The Motherly Approach to Caring	16
6	The medical care attention given	36
7	The good intention to make us academically oriented	18
8	The motive to keep me alive and happy	12
9	Treating all of us equally and fair	18
10	Building moral character through storytelling before Bed	18



D. Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers:

S.No	Points that children don't appreciate with regard to the childcare workers	Number of children
1	Partiality showed towards children	27
2	Scolding in Public	42
3	Exhibiting excessive anger shown when mistakes made	33
4	Finding faults even when good behaviors are demonstrated	19
5	Punishing all for the mistakes made by one person	21

E. Suggestions were given by children to improve our Pudhu Irudhayam Children's Home:

S.No	Suggestions were given by children to improve our children's home	Number of children
1	Kindness and gentleness are expected from the staff	18
2	To increase the total strength of fellow children	26
3	The toilet facilities are to be located near the gate	37



CONCLUSION:

The children's home programme has promoted discipline, responsibility and independence among children as they have learnt to manage their chores and personal needs. It also has cultivated a sense of cultural appreciation and tolerance, as children from different families came together and learnt each others' experiences. Additionally, the programs have facilitated academic support with dedicated staff providing love, care guidance, tutoring and mentorship to ensure children to become a good citizen of our nation.



Participant Children's Homes in the Evaluation