



Dept of Community Health
CMC Vellore

Jawadhi Hills Summer Camp 2023

6 days **990 children** **6 sites**





About the project

OVERVIEW

The Department of Community Health focuses on promoting health and well-being through community-based interventions and programmes.

As part of its outreach activities in the Jawadhi Hills close to Vellore, every year, the department conducts summer camps for children enrolled in the evening study centres. This activity is in collaboration with the Don Bosco Tribal Development Society in the hills.

The Summer Camp is the culmination of the year-round 'Night School' programme. Every weekday, in 50 villages, children between the ages of six and 14 years sit together in the homes of volunteers, under trees or in the temple courtyard. The young Night School Volunteers guide each child with reading, writing, homework and more.

The network of 50 Night Schools comes together for the Annual Summer Camp.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Sessions included:

- **four types of folk dances**
- **three martial art forms**
- **child rights and forest rights**
- **first aid**
- **how to identify common birds and snakes in Jawadhi**
- **appropriate use of cell phones and dangers of overusage**
- **nutrition and personal hygiene**



A healthy child is a happy child

All children enrolled in night schools are screened medically when they attend the summer camps. The medical team consists of at least three doctors - one of whom is a pediatrician, two nurses, two optometrists and a social worker. Children who need further evaluation are referred to the department's Community Health and Development (CHAD) Hospital and CMC.

Sam, occupational therapist from CHAD, took a session in each of the six centres on basic first aid. Nurses from CHAD educated the children everyday about the importance of adequate and healthy nutrition for growing children and about personal hygiene.



Learning is fun



The Jawadhi health workers trained and employed by CHAD carried out health education programmes. The topic they chose, based on the need they identified, was appropriate use of mobile phones and dangers of overuse. The education was by means of street theatre and by a song they wrote themselves, enacted and danced to.





Mr. Sam, occupational therapist from CHAD, took a session in each of the six centres on basic first aid. The children learnt about what to do when they sustain injuries, sprains animal or insect bites etc. They also had hands-on experience in making splints, log rolling an injured person, carrying an injured patient and so on.

The right to self-reliance

The right to be protected

Ms. Karyunya, advocate from CMC Vellore, spoke to the children about child rights laid out in the constitution and the rights of tribal people living in forests. The sessions were interactive, with children talking about migrant labour, age of marriage, grazing cattle in the forest, hunting, birth certificates and land ownership rights.



Aiming above the mark to hit the mark...

Archery is a popular camp activity. Mr. Vijayakumar, the government-certified trainer & member of The Archery Association of Tamil Nadu, feels a programme here will likely produce state or national champions.



The best part of the Summer Camp was the treasure hunt. Each of the groups - yellow, green, red and blue - had to follow clues and find the treasure hidden in our village,” says 10-year-old Archana. Archana learnt Wushu at Camp, one of the martial arts taught to the children.

Dancing to the stories of my village



The dance steps for the folk dances are passed down from generation to generation. They are usually accompanied by songs about the village, sung by its elders.





Mr. Justus, transfusion technologist from CMC Vellore, taught the children how to identify birds common in Jawadhi hills. Justus also taught them about the interdependence of various species and humans in Nature.

We borrow the earth from our children

An impromptu session about Nature at Camp during the morning break for biscuits and juice.





Friendships without borders

96-yr-old Parbatham paatti (paatti means grandmother) - though not a tribal woman - has made Jawadhi her home, and lives alone in a small shack.

A retired government servant who was in charge of the local temple, she is highly respected in the community. Her friends, among the CMC staff, make sure to take their own friends for a quick visit to the wise and loving paatti, even in the midst of the hectic summer camp schedule.





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