

CT Training Day 5 - Inclusive Education - Simplifying Dyslexia
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ANNUAL REPORT

2021



"Prediction depends on events outside your control. Creation depends on events within your control. Don't guess about the future. Shape it."

Statement by the President

The year 2021 has been a very difficult year for all of us due to the strike of the second wave of Covid, that occurred in the middle of the year, disturbing all activities. Primary schools finally decided to open in the month of November, 2021 and the entire November month got wiped out due to rains. Despite all these, Madras Dyslexia Association has done very well by carrying on all its activities whenever and wherever possible.

We have done a substantial amount of assessments and have been remediating the children with needs with part time and full time remediation both online and offline. We have been able to set up new Resource Rooms in Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan group of schools, and a set of schools under the support of Cognizant Foundation. A number of our existing Resource Rooms signed up for further continuance and the work is going on successfully.

We had a very major breakthrough in our working with the Tamil Nadu State Government. We were invited to do 3 awareness programmes together targeted at 1,75,000 teachers from all over Tamil Nadu. This was closely followed by a 6 day training programme that was done online to 2500 special educators of Tamil Nadu State Government. This has moved us closer to our objectives with government school children in a larger way. We have completed our project on early intervention done under the support of Gurukrupa Foundation, USA.

We are looking forward to a year of uninterrupted activities in the year 2022.

Regards,
D.CHANDRASEKHAR
PRESIDENT

AWARENESS

Awareness is the first step towards providing support-it not only brings attention to dyslexia and the difficulties faced by a child, it also initiates the stakeholders to take action.

Madras Dyslexia Association has been an integral part of the Inclusive Education working committee with Samagra Shiksha.

As part of the process of training the government teachers, we have conducted online live sensitization programs for creating an awareness on Dyslexia, impacting 1,75,000 teachers spread across the state.



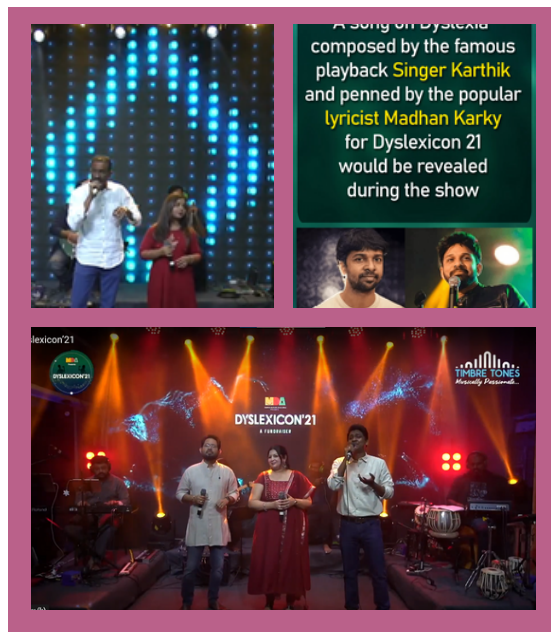
Awareness programs for school teachers

- 1.Madras Christian College School
- 2.Bentinck School
- 3.Maharishi Vidya Mandir-Tiruneermaalai
- 4.St. Marks Primary School, Adambakkam
- 5.North Madras League School, Washermenpet
- 6.Arsha Vidya Mandir, Velachery
- 7.Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar
- 8.St. Clark's School
- 9.Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec School, Estancia
- 10.Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec School, Mylapore
- 11.Government Muslim School
- 12.Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar
- 13.VidyaNiketan School, Bangalore
- 14.Sethu Bhaskara Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Ambathur
- 15.RKM, Mint, Chennai
- 16.Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Mangadu

Corporate/Institutional awareness programs

1. Ford
- 2.Savita Law College
- 3.Paypal
- 4.TI school-Parent awareness program

Dyslexicon'21, conducted on 4th April 2021 not only helped raise funds, it also disseminated information on dyslexia and remediation measures. It featured live streaming of musical performances by Pioneer Suresh, put together by 'Timber Tones,' a group of amateurs passionate about music.



Newsletter

4 issues of Newsletter were brought out in the year 2021. The central themes were

- Dyscalculia
- Traditional Games
- Dyspraxia
- SLD and family dynamics
- Help for SLD through different kinds of therapies

Parents, specialists, and schools found a lot of value-add in the different articles in these issues.



TRAINING

This is a key strategy followed by Madras Dyslexia Association to extend support to as many children struggling due to dyslexia.

Intensive Teacher Training Program

We conducted our flagship program twice this year. This course prepared not only teachers of schools who setup Resource room, but also individuals who wished to take up special education as a career.

ITTC-Tamil

The first Tamil Intensive Teacher Training Program was conducted for Special educators of 4 schools participating in the Cognizant Foundation sponsored project.

Basic 6-day program

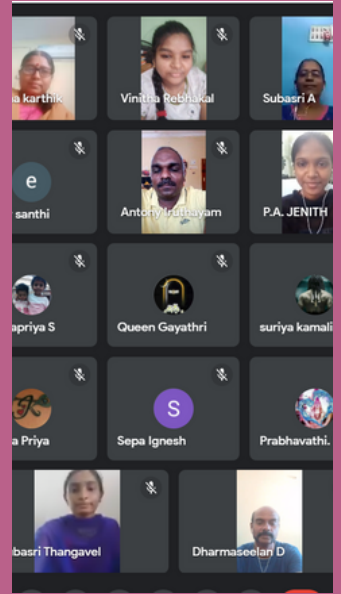
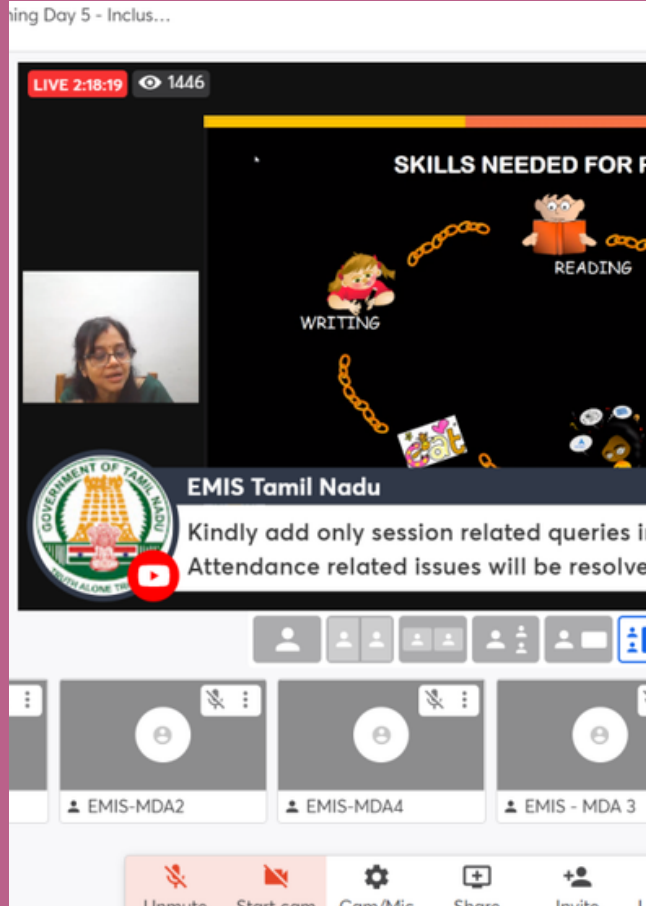
A primary school teacher in a mainstream school is the ideal first-line-of-support for this child. A child's teacher can not only spot difficulties faced by a child but also gently provide academic support and keep up the self-confidence of the child.

We started the year with online classes and moved to conduct many in-class programs too.

Programs were conducted in:

- 1.Shankara Vidyashram
- 2.St Christopher's Academy
- 3.Unity Public School
- 4.TI Matriculation Hr Sec School
- 5.Madras Christian College Higher Sec School
- 6.PSBB group of schools
- 7.OMEIAT
- 8.Volunteers of ACT-an NGO
- 9.B.Ed students of St. Christopher College of Education
- 10.Government Muslim School
- 11.Samjuben Kapurchand Parekh Vivekananda Vidyalaya
- 12.Muslim Higher Sec School, Triplicane
- 13.Shree Niketan Patasala, Tiruvallur
- 14.Arsha Vidya Mandir
- 15.GRT Mahalakshmi matriculation school, Chennai
- 16.Smt Gangadevi Bajranglal Chokhani Vivekananda Vidyalaya Hr. Sec. School, Chennai
- 17.Smt.Gangadevi Bhajaranglal Chikhani Vivekananda Vidyalaya Hr. Sec. School, Chennai
- 18.SBOA, Chennai
- 19.Sethu Bhaskara Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Ambattur

An online synchronous program was also conducted for interested individuals.



Effective Learning Program

Dyslexia is a lifelong condition. Support in the primary school mitigates the struggle, however, in the middle school, the child may need additional strategies to help retain, recall and express his understanding of the concepts taught in the class.

We conducted this program for the middle school teachers of the following schools:

1. JM Public School
2. AMT Jain School
3. OMEIAT

Tamil Vazhi Payirchi

This program was conducted in the live online mode for the teachers of Bentinck School, Vepery. In this school, resource room has been setup as a part of the Cognizant Foundation project.

Pre-Primary

OMEIAT

DAV Gurushikshanam-Guest Faculty

For the fourth consecutive year we were invited to conduct sessions to empower the teacher trainees enrolled in this program to understand dyslexia and provide support within the classroom.

A specially designed course was also conducted for teachers from Mayiladumdurai.

Other programs

1. Program on Teaching Mathematics in a remedial session- Vidya Niketan Schools
2. Introduction to Remedial Strategies- Kendriya Vidyalaya



RESOURCE ROOM

Children sometimes need support in addition to that given within the classroom. A Resource Room is a facility setup within the school facilitating remedial support. The team effort by the special educator, school teachers and parents strives to provide the essential and timely intervention to the child within the familiar ambience of the school. Resource rooms have been set up in the following schools:

- TI School, Ambattur
- Unity public school, Kotturpuram
- TNPL Matric school, Karur
- Shree Niketan Patasala, Tiruvallur
- Arsha Vidya Mandir, Chennai
- RKM National school, Kondithope

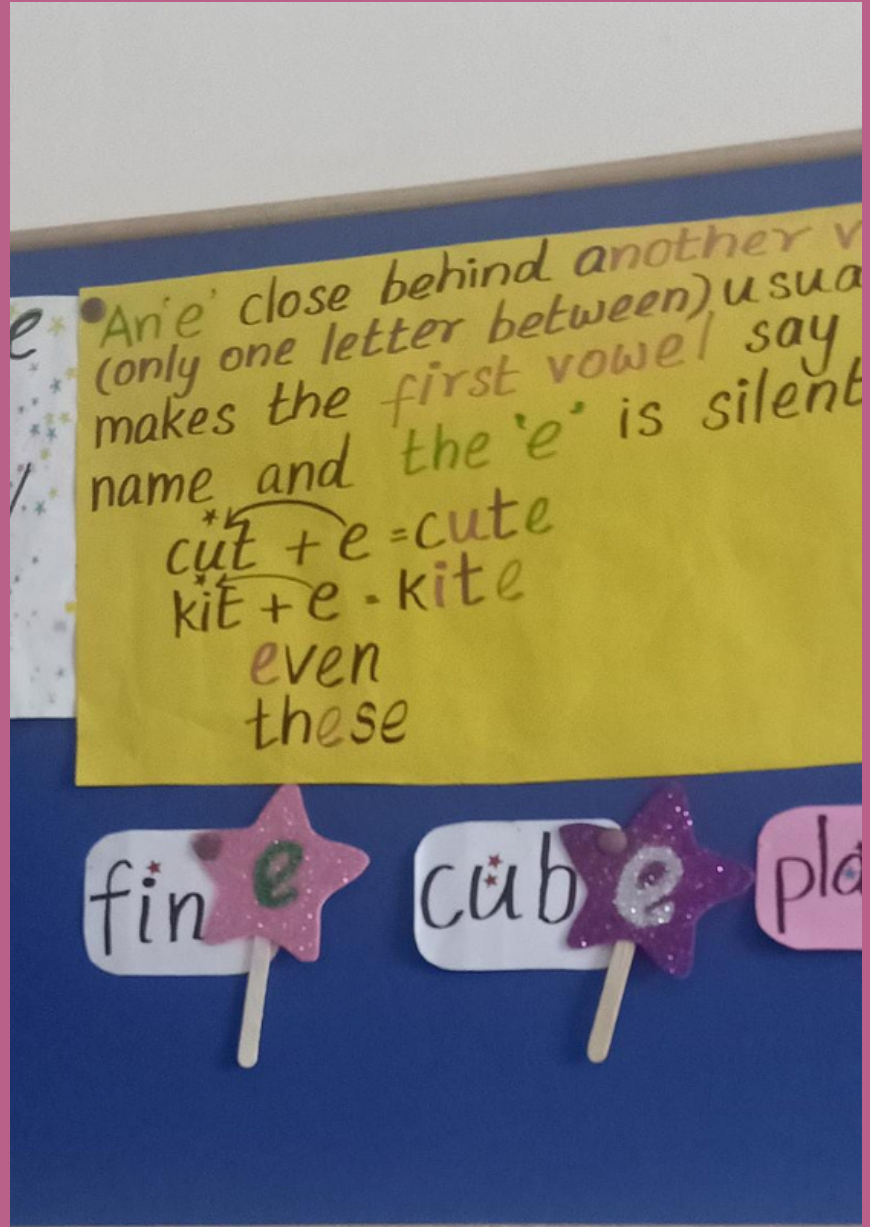
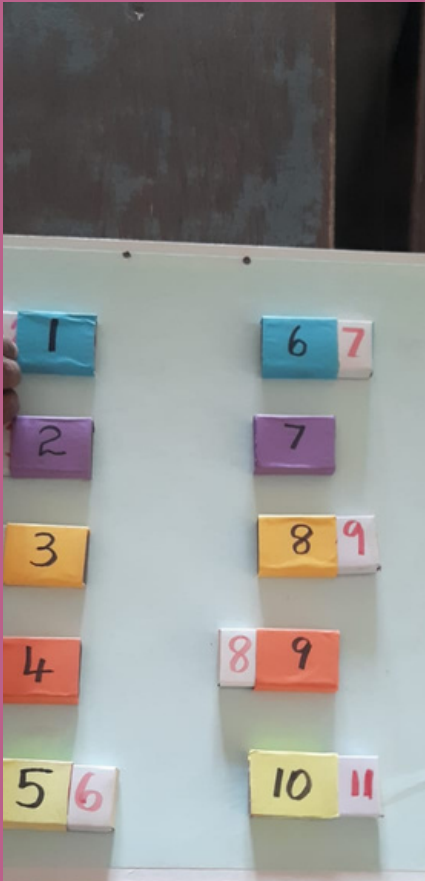
The following Resource Rooms have been setup as a part of the project funded by Cognizant Foundation.

- MCC Hr.Sec School, Chetpet
- St. Marks Primary School, Adambakkam
- North Madras league School, Washermenpet
- Nethaji Middle school, Nethaji nagar
- Bentinck Girls hr.sec School, Vepery
- Government Muslim School, Padupakkam, Triplicane

The following schools renewed their association with us:

- 10 VES Schools
- MWA
- AVM
- Sankara School, Adyar
- Ramana Vidyalaya
- Shreeniketan Patasala, Mannivakkam

During the academic year, many schools with resource rooms were encouraged to hold online remedial sessions for the students enrolled in this program, to ensure that the children received continuous support.



ANANYA LEARNING AND RESEARCH CENTER

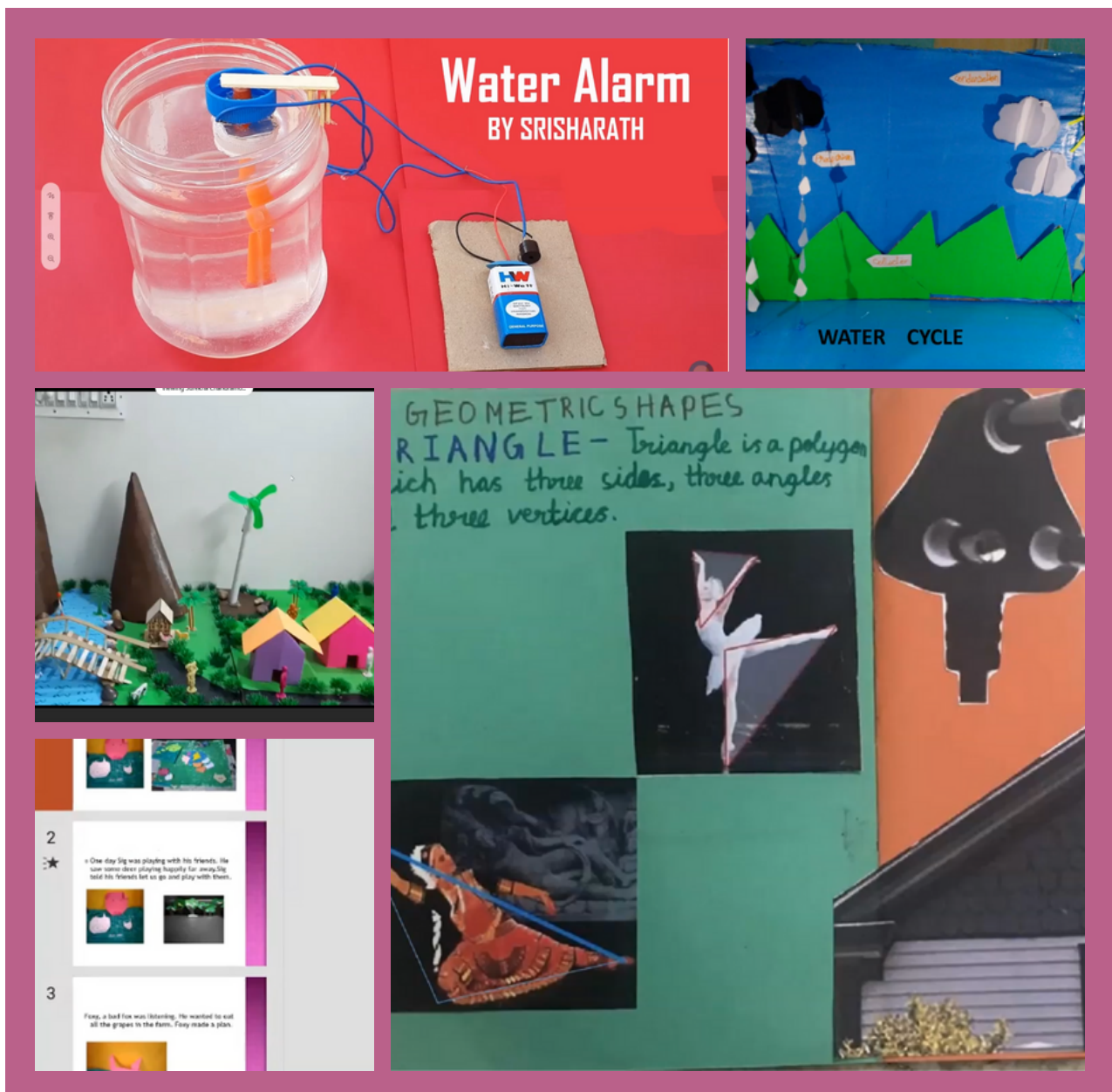
Pandemic posed many challenges. It also offered many opportunities to learn new methodologies and successful integration of technology into the teaching-learning process. The children and the teachers were elated to get back to physical classes.

In this academic year, activities conducted by the Multiple Intelligence group-Hydra have been seamlessly integrated into Individualised Education Plan.

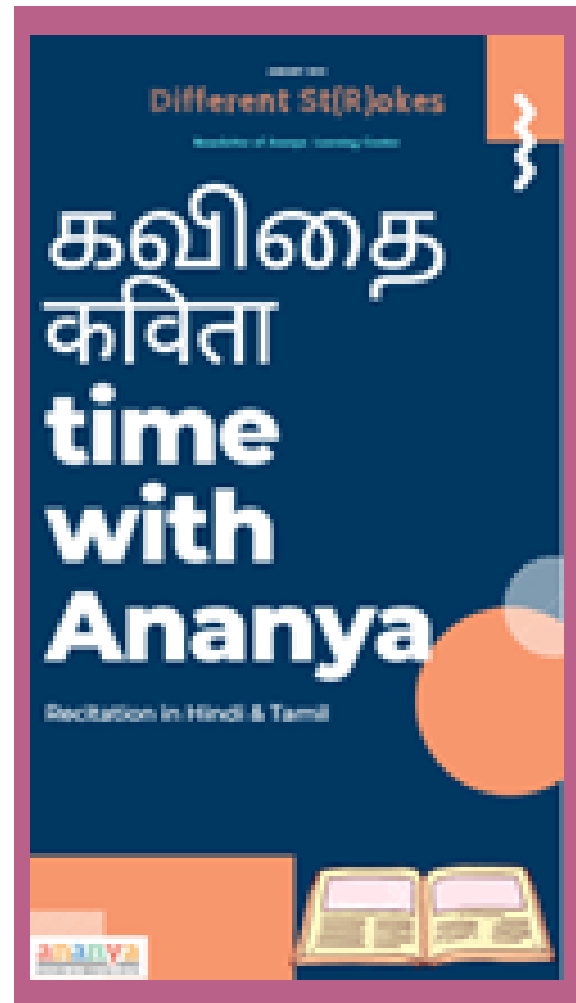
Most students of the previous academic year have been successfully enabled to join mainstream schools.

Some of the activities conducted during this year are:

1.Virtual Project Day conducted as a fitting finale for ending the academic year.



2. In yet another virtual gathering, children recited/sang patriotic poems and songs in Tamil and Hindi poems. They had also made illustrations related to their poems. A newsletter- Different St(R)okes - centered around this event was also published.



A sample of the spontaneous artwork done by one of the children



AFTER SCHOOL REMEDIAL

Even though the classes have been completely online, the special educators have been going the extra mile to build and strengthen peer group association through a variety of virtual group activities. The children were extremely enthusiastic and participated with great vigour.

1. Independence day celebrations- Children dressed as freedom fighters, spoke on the significance of Independence Day and on the contributions of different freedom fighters.

2. Teacher's day celebrations-the children enacted an adaptation of the play "The Wizard of Oz."

3. Diwali was celebrated with a lot of gusto. It included activities like decorating diyas.

4. Children's day was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm.



PRE-PRIMARY

The Pre-Primary team completed an in-depth study of the children (in pre-primary age group) at-risk. This project was funded by Guru Krupa Foundation Inc. from USA.

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

The pandemic period has been exceptionally difficult for children struggling with academics. Screening and assessment are essential first step to understand the difficulty faced by the child and identify any underlying deficits. It helps to plan the interventions, accommodations and concessions that a child may require.

We conducted 137 assessments in-person.

DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT

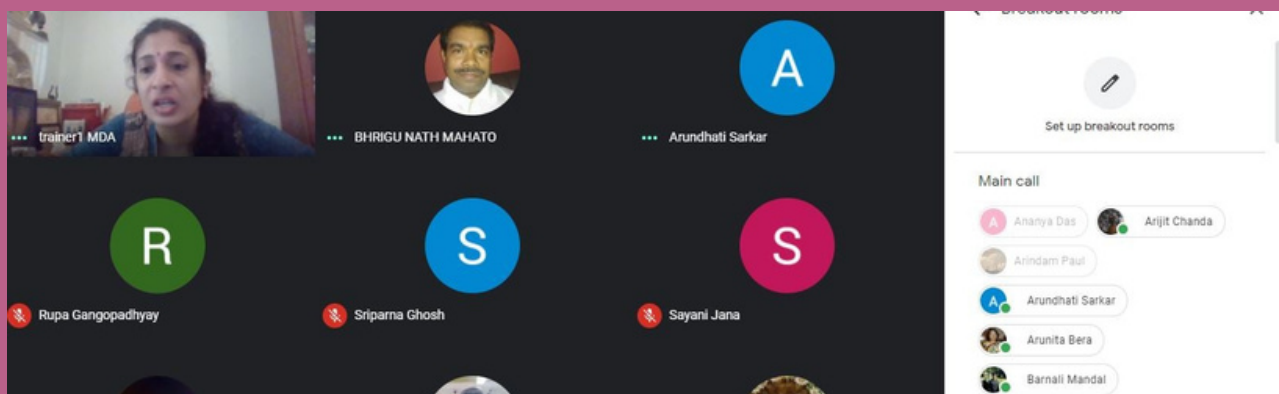
1. Animated case studies were developed for use in the digitised distribution of Tamil Vazhi Payirchi. This was supported by a grant from DAP- Australian Consulate General Chennai.



2. Intensive Teacher Training program is being adapted to go online.
3. Detailed manual for identifying at-risk children in the pre-primary age group. This project was supported by Gurukripa

WEBINARS AND CONFERENCES

1. Participation in the Annual Conference conducted by DAS.
2. Webinar on Traditional Games was held for the teachers of the Government School, SSA West Bengal. This was organised by Manochetna, Kolkatta. All participants were issued certificates of participation.
3. Department of MA Media Management, MOP Vaishnav College for Women conducted "We are DisABLED", a public relations campaign. Madras Dyslexia Association featured in the 2-part discussion session.



A collage of three promotional posters. The left poster is for a resource person, Mrs. Harini Mohan, with contact details for DR. Dhanya N. Ashfa Joseph. The middle poster is for a webinar on 'LEARNING STYLES AND SUITABLE STRATEGIES' organized by the Madras Dyslexia Association in association with St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, on March 1st & 2nd, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The right poster is for a webinar on 'A WEBINAR ON TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAMES AND ITS IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD.' presented on November 1st, Sunday, 12 Noon, featuring a large stylized letter 'M' and a cross-shaped grid.