



SJC87 INITIATIVE 2019 NEWSLETTER

Sponsorships

At the end of 2019, we had 250 students under our sponsorship in all five districts in the Northern Province, these are assistance to under privileged students so that they can stay in school as opposed to not attending school due to family hardships. Here is the breakdown district wise:

	No of Schools	No of Students
Kilinochchi	26	150
Jaffna	14	48
Mullaitivu	4	18
Vavuniya	3	3
Mannaar	2	3
University	9	28

Every year, in addition to our regular sponsorships, we take in about 20 students in the Kilinochchi district who are enrolled in Mathematics, Biology or Technology stream at the GCE A/L. This is to promote Science and Technology education, which has better employment opportunities.

We have had our share of challenges with the sponsorship program as well. Five of our students dropped out of school this year mostly because of poor performance and this could be fundamentally tied to family situation or the environment that they grow up. As much as we would like our sponsored students to excel at school, our main focus will remain to be making them stay in school until the end of high school. This would prevent early marriages and students getting into bad habits if we leave them on the street.

University Entrance

Out of the 24 sponsored students who sat for the GCE A/L exams in August 2018, so far, ten have gained admission to various programs at Universities within the island. That's better than 40% success ratio while the National average is still below 20%.

Assistantship

SJC87 continues to support the KEDT University Student loan program. We started with 113 students at the beginning of the year. As KEDT is gradually incorporating the SJC87 model of finding sponsors for each student as opposed to funding the program with a pool of funds, SJC87's commitment is down to 25 students. (KEDT=Kilinochchi Education Development Trust)

ICT Projects

SJC87 supports Education4Everyone, an ICT initiative, which facilitated full-day workshops and boot camps in Seven Universities and six ICT Resource centres and schools in Sri Lanka. It is a collaborative effort of Academics, IT professionals and Department of Education officers. The workshops aim to empower educators to use G Suite for Education effectively for teaching and learning and extending the learning beyond the classroom walls. It also helps students to connect, collaborate and create beyond language, culture and religion.

School Projects

Teacher Assistance

SJC87 tries to address the teacher shortages at schools by providing temporary assistance to fill the teacher positions via volunteer teachers. 20 Schools in Batticaloa West Zone, Two schools in Vadamaraachi Zone and Six schools Kilinochchi Zone benefited from this program and the total assistance amount exceeded LKR 1 Million for 2019.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Sports

We promote all sorts of extra-curricular activities among students as we believe leadership skills are created through these activities. Assistance for Sports meets, Jerseys, Sports Equipment and trip to the National Championships were provided to five specific schools and Kilinochchi Zone.

Extra – Curricular – Music / Drama / Dance

Music instruments, dance costumes, Jewelry were provided to four schools while assistance for cultural festivals were provided for two schools.

Educational Tours

We believe students should get out of the school environment and see the outside world, which would increase their interactive thinking and face the ever-changing universe. Three schools got assistance for out of province trips and Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam got assistance for Math Olympiad in South Africa.

Prize Day

Prize days are big encouragement in a student's life to do better each year. SJC87 provided assistance to buy awards to 11 schools in Kilinochchi Zone and 1 school in Mullaitivu Zone.

Infrastructure

Better facilities make student learning a better experience. SJC87 did the following in 2019:

Smart Class room at Tharmapuram No 1 GTMS
Solar system at Vaddakkachchi Central College
Science Lab Materials at Kilinochchi Hindu College
Furniture Maintenance at St Theresa Girls College
Motor Pump and Water Filter at Tharmapuram Central College
Basketball court night lights at Vaddakkachchi Central College
Part set up of Mahalaham / Photocopier at Konavil Maha Vidyalayam
Water Filter at Kalaveddithidal Nageswara Vidyalayam

Health and Environment

First Aid kits to 50 school in Kilinochchi were distributed and training was provided to teachers. 100 teak trees were planted at Konavil Gandhi Primary, these would provide long term environment benefits. Both of these initiatives were supported by IMHO Canada

English Language Proficiency

We held a teacher training conference for more than 100 teachers, conducted by Prof Suresh Canagarajah of University of Pennsylvania GCE O/L pass ratio for English still hovers below 20%. We are working with Assistant Directors of Education – English & Primary at Five Education Zones – Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Thunukkaai, Mannaar and Madhu to address this situation in the long run.

Grade 5 Scholarship Revision Classes

Classes were held for 94 Kilinochchi schools, 51 Mullaitivu schools, 44 Thunukkaai schools and 45 Mannaar schools with the support from Tamil Aid UK. Total of 760 students (vs 648 in 2018) got above cut off marks while 500 fewer students sat for the exams (6200 in 2019 vs 6700 in 2018)

GCE O/L Revision Classes

Percentage of eligible students proceeding to A/L based on their O/L performance is still below 60% in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannaar Districts. While we are working on giving a better foundation at early grades, we did the following in 2019:

Printing and Distribution of Science Practice Booklets- 2500 copies were distributed to all the students in Kilinochchi Zone with the support from IMHO USA.

Students who stay below 40th percentile in their Mathematics term exams were given extra classes by the Zonal "In Service Advisors".

Experts from NIE (National Institute of Education – the people who set the curriculum and exam papers) had a total of 12-hour session for 200 O/L students in Kandawalai Division of Kilinochchi Zone.

25 Kilinochchi schools were given extra assistance to conduct classes as deemed necessary for each subject. Similarly, 23 Thunukkaai Zone schools were given assistance for an awareness program.

Special Needs Education

Kilinochchi Zone has 21 special education units with more than 200 students with special needs. SJC87 sponsored Five Autism experts from South Asian Autism Awareness Centre (SAAAC) in Toronto, Canada to do an initial assessment and to come up with a comprehensive plan for special needs education. The next step would be to implement the recommendations set by SAAAC.

SJC87 provided teaching assistants to Special needs education classes where the student/teacher ratio is high. Also provided trip assistance to special needs students to attend the National Sports Championship.

Audited Financial Statement for 2019 will be available before the end of March 2020.