



BATTICALOA UNDERPRIVILEGED DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (BUDS)

www.budsuk.org

A Registered Charity in England and Wales, Registration No. 1081305

Newsletter - 2020

BUDSUK are very pleased to publish our Newsletter for 2020.

BUDS is a non-governmental, non-religious and non-profitable organisation working for more than 30 years, committed to actively enhancing the dignity and quality of the lives of individuals, families and communities. This is achieved by eliminating barriers to opportunity and helping people in need to reach their fullest potential through the power of work and education.

Our vision is to build via the current high standards of our "care for life" programmes respecting the individuals, families and communities we serve to improve their independent lifestyle and we are trying to constantly strive to bring about change and continuous improvement.

Education is the heart of our mission and is the number one strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty that holds families in their grip for generations.

Through BUDS we are able to support children in Batticaloa and the surrounding areas for the long haul through their school career.

Although 2020 has been somewhat sombre due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud to say that we are continuing with our projects, following the applicable government guidelines. We have even started on a few new projects as well.

“BUDS HAVE ALWAYS HELD THE BELIEF THAT LIFE’S SUCCESS STARTS WITH GOOD EDUCATION BUT RECOGNISE THAT ACCESS IS NOT ALWAYS CREATED EQUALLY FOR ALL”.

Many children do not receive education which is necessary for their internal and external development. Unemployment, a low level of health, sickness and a lack of interest from the parents are common factors that increase the probability of non-schooling.

Hence, BUDS have started a few projects focusing mainly on the education of children, who are deprived from a proper education in the surrounding villages of Batticaloa due to poverty and other associated factors.

BUDS have categorised these projects into three groups: Long Term, Intermediary and Emergency Projects to respond to urgent requests.

BUDS ON-GOING PROJECTS:

As the whole world is in an uncertain situation, we BUDSUK are not an exception.

However, even in this strange situation, BUDSUK are carrying on with their work alongside the interruptions caused by COVID-19.

As you all are aware BUDSUK started a few major projects namely, Periyaneelavanai Education Development and Foster Care (both Long Term Projects), Supporting underprivileged IT students (an Intermediary project) and the Disaster Relief and Income Generating project (both Emergency Projects).

Long Term Projects

We started the Periyaneelavanai Education Development (PN), a long term project in 2018, where we have educated approximately 165 children by way of after school classes from years 1–5. This was then increased to years 1–6 in 2019 and subsequently years 1–7 in 2020. We are proud to say that last year (2019), 6 children received a scholarship out of 20 children. In 2020, despite disturbances caused by COVID-19, 3 children again received scholarships.

Starting up the classrooms at the PN Project



Periyaneelavanai Education Centre



PN evening school in action



We also provided counselling to parents of these children to aid in their development to become more independent and stronger individuals.

Parents at Counselling Session



This school was running normally despite the disruptions caused by COVID19, following the applicable advice from the health professionals in the area. The children attended school until the end of September and the eligible children sat the year 5 Scholarship Exams.

Children are working with the question papers provided by BUDS at their home environment.



Cleaning and sanitising the school (PN) by the Parents following guidelines from the Govt.



BUDS Foster Care Project associated with AEDU (Association for the Educational Development of the Underprivileged)

BUDS started another long term project in 2006, caring for 100's of underprivileged children at the homes of their own relatives. It is titled BUDS Foster Care Project and is developed as a better alternative to caring for these children at orphanages. The children would be free of the stigma associated with the title "orphans" and would grow up with their uncles, aunts and cousins and would enjoy the warmth of their families and grandparents. Sponsors make standing order contributions into a separate BUDS Foster Care Account.

Some of the AEDU beneficiaries



These three children entered different universities



Intermediary Projects – Supporting underprivileged IT students

The Hindu College was chosen for this project due to its specialist IT facilities. This project provides food and accommodation for Advance Level (A/L) IT underprivileged students from very remote villages. We started this project in 2019 with 16 students for the academic year 2019/20/21. 5 students sat the A/L exams this year and 9 will be sitting the exam in 2021. We are in the process of recruiting new students for the academic year 2021/22. Once again, this project is also running subject to government restrictions with regards to COVID19.

Inauguration of the above project



The students of the project with the warden



BUDSBatti Secretary - Exams progress meeting with the students and parents of the project



Emergency Projects

1. In December 2018, BUDS arranged to distribute dry rations to families affected by the floods in Kilinochi through GA, Kilinochi.



2. In May 2019, along with 8 other organisations in the UK representing the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, BUDS held a Memorial Vigil to pay tribute to the victims of the Easter Sunday Massacre. On this day, BUDS raised £1502.20 through a bucket collection, donations from other associations, and a personal collection of £280.00 from Mr. Anpu and his family and friends. In total the £4068.00 collected (Rs 950,000/=) was distributed to 38 children for their education (each person got Rs.25.000/=). BUDS UK contributed the rest of the amount to make up the total. The 38 children were the survivors/family members of the victims of the Zion Church Attack in Batticaloa. Beneficiaries were identified through diligent work conducted by BUDS Batticaloa Branch with the assistance of the Zonal Director and GA.



3. In June 2019, BUDS also funded a new project to help 33 postgraduate students in Kaluwanchikudy to prepare for the SLAS, SLEAS, LLV, RDO and MA exams. Rs. 200,000.00 was raised to support this project.



4. In December 2019, BUDS arranged to distribute dry rations to families in the areas worst hit by the floods in Uthayamoolai and Chiththandy and also provided exercise books and other educational materials to approximately 650 children from these areas. During this time, BUDS also provided dry rations to 20 widows from Vaalvakam and Villavedduvan to celebrate Thaipongal.



Pongal Celebration



5. One of our committee members, Mr V K Paheerathan brought in a donor to buy a couple of cows to donate to a family in Batticaloa as a stream of income generation for them. This donation coincides with one of BUDSUK's aim to support income generating projects.



Covid 19 - Appeal
கொரனா வைரஸ் உதவிக்கரம்

Appeal to Corona Disaster funds - Eastern Province, Srilanka

எமது உறவுகளுக்கு உதவ உங்களிடம் உதவிக்கரம் நீட்டுகிறோம், தாராள மனதுடன் உதவுங்கள்.

தொடர்புகளுக்கு Contact:..

BUDS
07983673881
07737391102
07946020798

Bank Details:
Batticaloa Underprivileged Development Society
60-11-18, A/C 04583728

Please Help generously

உங்கள் உதவி அன்றாடம் தொழில் புரியும் குடும்பங்களுக்கு அரசாங்க அதிபர், மாநகர் முதல்வர் மூலம் பங்களித்து கொடுக்கப்படும்.

6. COVID-19 relief assistance – we provided dry food rations to families well under the poverty line in Periyaneelavanai and also in Batticaloa, home to the children we educate and their families. We also helped another 200 families in a village in Batticaloa, we spent approximately SL.Rs. 775,000.00 on this project. We received donations from individuals and also from the Ex.Cecilians OGA UK Branch



We are again grateful to our donors, well-wishers, friends and families for their continuous support to enable BUDS to carry out these mammoth tasks.

BATTICALOA UNDERPRIVILEGED DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
BUDS UK
COVID-19 RELIEF



மட்டக்களப்பு நலிவுற்றோர் அபிவிருத்தி சங்கத்தினால் மட்டக்களப்பு அரசு அதிபர் ஊடாக மூன்று இலட்சம் ரூபா பெறுமதியான உணவுப் பொருட்கள் அன்பளிப்பு

மட்டக்களப்பு நலிவுற்றோர் அபிவிருத்தி சங்கத்தினால் 474,000 ரூபா பெறுமதியான உலர் உணவுப் பொருட்கள் பெரியநலாவனை தொடர்மாத குடியிருப்பு மக்களுக்கு (474 குடும்பங்களுக்கு 1,000 ரூபா)



மட்டக்களப்பு இந்துக்கல்லூரியில் நடைபெறும் வறுமைக்கோட்டின் கீழ் கற்கும் 16 விடுதி மாணவர்களுக்கு தலா 1,000 ரூபா பெறுமதியான உலர் உணவுப் பொருட்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

இதுவரை மட்டக்களப்பு, அம்பாறை மாவட்டங்களில் உள்ள 774 குடும்பங்களுக்கு தலா 1,000 ரூபா வீதம் 774,000 ரூபா பெறுமதியான உலர் உணவுப் பொருட்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.



PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS 2021 AND FORWARD

1. We are currently in discussion with another Charity Organisation called “Care for Education” www.careforedu.org
A brief description about this organisation: they are a group of senior professionals in Texas, USA specialising in the education of our children in computer coding as technology is going to be the next big thing in their generation. They have already started work in the Mullaiteevu district providing computers and teaching resources to 12 schools. Mr Devarajan Chelliah is the President of this charity. BUDS Exco met with him back in March 2020 and had the opportunity to find out about their work. They are really pleased to be working with BUDS. They also said that BUDS can use their platform to assist children with computer programming, mainly coding.

BUDS Exco Meeting Care for Education



2. We are also joining hands with another charity organisation called “E-Kalvi” www.ekalvi.org which is a registered Charity in Australia. They are working with schools to improve students in their O/L and A/L. The reason they started this

project was because they realise that University entrance amongst our children is diminishing. In 2017, it shows that students in the Eastern and Northern provinces taking STEM subjects, i.e. Maths, Science, Technology, etc. are going down.

Once again, BUDS are pleased to work alongside them to provide a better education for our children. BUDS will be able to use their platform to gain access in order to help our children in the remote villages of the Eastern province.

3. Maantheevu Ecological Project: A group of people in Batticaloa called Science Navigators, have joined together to make use of the Island of Maantheevu to make it an Ecological Centre. The plan is to develop the land without disturbing its natural resources as the grounds are an excellent place for wildlife habitats, composting, organic and wildlife gardening. The Centre can run educational visits for schools as well as events for adults, families and children, or volunteer days and much more.

Again, a group of Batticaloa people in the UK joined together to form “Science Navigators UK”, to support this project. BUDS have been invited to join this group and BUDS have given their consent to join and support them in developing the site.

4. Again one of our committee members Mr V K Paheerathan donated SL.Rs. 65,000 to buy a computer for a school in Echchantheevu. This school was in a severe need for a computer and this need was fulfilled through BUDS.

-----Local Activity of BUDS-----



In July 2019, with the cooperation of the Tamil Welfare Association of Coventry, BUDS organized and carried out a one-day welfare service camp in Coventry.

Fund Raising Events

Fund Raising 2019

1. In **September** 2019, we had our annual Dinner & Dance (BUDS Night 2019) and raised around £7000.00 in profit,

including the sale of the annual raffle tickets. Thank you all for your support in this event.



2. On **29th October** 2019, we hosted our first ever Sponsored Walk (6K) at the Bushey Park to raise funds to continue with our projects. BUDS Exco members along with other members, friends and families participated in this walk. BUDS set up a “Go Fund Me” page and raised over £7000.00. Mrs. Myuran, who is not a member but walked

the distance, made her employer double the amount and raised £1447.50. A special thanks goes to the non-committee members, who also dedicated the time to complete the Sponsored Walk.

3. Our heartfelt thanks also goes out to one of our Exco members, Mr Roshan Rajaratnam for his generous donation of £1000 to help towards our projects.



Fund Raising 2020

Our major fund raising breakthrough this year was a group of God-sent people who did a charity walk for approximately 47 miles, starting from Waltham Abbey and finishing at Kings College, Cambridge. This three day walk raised more than £8000.00. This was an amazing gesture from this group of people and BUDS was fortunate enough to become their Charity of choice.



Message from Mohavishna, Leader, "Walk Out to Help Out".

BUDS is a small grassroots charity, run by volunteers in the UK. It was started 32 years ago by a small group of people who came to the UK from Sri Lanka and wanted to give something back to help people back home, many of whom are living on less than \$5 a day. The charity works to help underprivileged children in Sri Lanka to overcome barriers and realise their full potential. It provides educational support, health clinics and financial assistance to orphanages and supports families fostering orphans.

Like many charities, due to the pandemic it hasn't been able to hold its regular fundraising events. For a small charity with a very low annual turnover – less than £20,000 a year, losing any amount of income threatens not only its work but its very survival.

Together with a few friends we have decided to "Walk Out to Help Out".

From Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 October, we will be undertaking a 47-mile “Walk out to help out” from Waltham Abbey to King’s College Cambridge to raise awareness and funds for BUDS.

We chose King's College as a symbol of education and excellence, reflective of the hope BUDS gives young children through education and support.



Using the “Give as You Live” and “Smile Amazon” Online Website to raise funds for BUDS

BUDS have also identified a new way of raising funds in this very uncertain time using “Give as you Live” and “Smile Amazon”

You can help BUDS to raise funds via these websites, using the following step-by-step methods. ***You will need to use BUDS’ charity number for both websites, which is 1081305 or type in ‘Batticaloa’ to find Batticaloa Underprivileged Development Society (BUDS).***

Give As You Live

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/how-it-works/on-desktop>

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/how-it-works/on-the-go>

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/how-it-works>

It couldn't be easier to raise free funds on your desktop or laptop via Give as you Live Online. Simply [log in](#) or [sign up for free](#) on your device, then search for the store you want to shop with using the search facility.

Once you've found the store you want to shop with click on the "Shop & raise" button. You'll be redirected to the stores website where you can shop as normal.

Once you've made a purchase the store will confirm your transaction with us. We'll then send you an email confirming how much you have raised for your chosen charity. It's that simple! Without you realising you are helping a Charity, isn't it great!

Smile.Amazon.co.uk

Another way of raising funds is logging into “SmileAmazon” instead of “Amazon”, using the same log-in details. On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk, you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make through SmileAmazon will result in a small donation to BUDS, provided you select BUDS as your chosen charity. SmileAmazon will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the programme.

Together we are making a difference!



To: Our Sponsors, Well Wishers, Donors, Helpers, Friends and Families

None of the work above would have been possible without your support. We thank you for your continued support of our mission, which is deeply gratifying to us and we hope it is the same for you. We are honoured to see that you are continually supporting BUDS. Your gift has already started to make an impact to our children.

With the deepest gratitude and warmest wishes,



BUDS

November 2020