

LEARNING to TEACH; TEACHING to LEARN

It is often said that “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” and so was it for the 16PGE students of The American College, Madurai. A single step of initiation to reach out to the students of the **ArulmiguSundarasar High School, Azhagarkovil** on 15 February 2018, paved the way for a symbiotic process of learning and teaching that amounts to mutual benefits. This is an initiative of the **Dr. J. Paul Jayakar and Mr. Daniel Rubaraj**. Though, it was thought to be single step initially, it turned out to be a giant leap as it was a package of blessing bestowed on both the students of Azhagarkovil and the American College. The following are course description and objectives:

Preamble:

This training provides the theoretical input and the practice-teaching required for prospective teachers of English in the present context. It enables the students to learn theoretical concepts which serve as a back drop for teaching English, get trained in the methodology of teaching English as a second language, and in the material preparation, and also gain opportunities to teach in classroom situations in the college.

Objectives:

The training aims at enabling the students to

- i. trace an overview of the field of second language teaching and learning,
- ii. identify the major trends and issues in ESL teaching
- iii. illustrate the major trends and issues and find ways to incorporate them into the students' own teaching practice
- iv. acquire the basic skills and knowledge to teach ESL students, and
- v. get trained in teaching in real classroom environment

Description about the Program:

The day commenced with a morning assembly filled with the day's inspirational thought shared by Ms. Jerusha and Ms. Sharon Shinolini, the introductory reflections fromby Dr. J. Paul Jayakar and a song by the 16PGE.

The class of 39 members handled classes on English grammar and literary pieces for students of standards VI, VII, VIII and IX. Students of AMC took their sincere efforts to reach out to students by involving them in games and activities. Classes were interactive and interesting with vibrant activities. As the saying goes, "A good teacher teaches from the heart and not from the book," the 16PGE budding teachers made a difference by touching the hearts and lives of these children. Those few hours proved sufficient to establish a bond with them.

Feedback:

This small step in making a difference was an enriching experience as it was a time of reaching, reflecting and reminiscing for the students of 16PGE. A step that was initiated as part of the curriculum proved to be a united effort that could be offered as an extended program in the final semester for postgraduate students. The fruit of learning could be tasted in such initiatives.

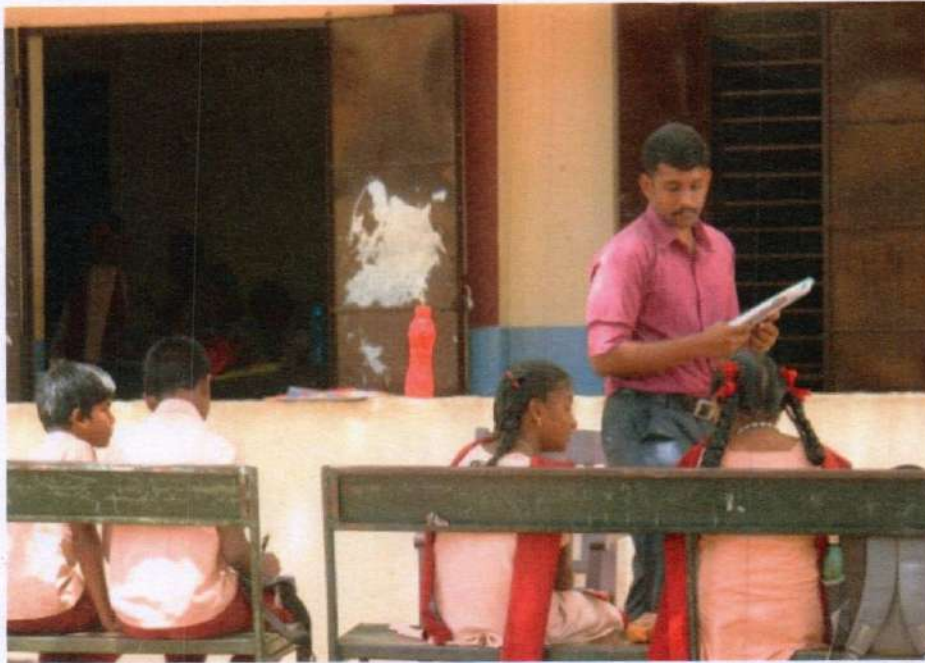
Future Perspectives:

Mr. Selvaraj, an alumnus of the American College, has been rendering his support, encouragement and motivation for the uplift and well-being of these students. He expressed his gratitude and felt that this was truly an enriching experience that is otherwise a distant dream for them. He wished that if time permitted, such sessions could be extended further for the greater benefit of these students. He ensured that we all had a comfortable stay at the campus.

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"Teachers, who love teaching, teach children to love learning"

[illegible]

American College students teach students ArulmiguSundarasar High School, Azhagarkovil

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Feedback from the Beneficiaries:



Class IX Students of Arulmigu Sundarasar High School, Azhagarkovil

These learners from the whole bunch of inquisitive minds shared their feedback. M. Abinaya, of VI, second from right, felt this as a wonderful experience as she understood the lessons in a much better way. She says, the activities and the games made the learning lively and interactive. A heartfelt thanks to all the brothers and sisters of American College, for giving this wonderful experience which is otherwise a distant reality to us, says D. Gayathri of VIII, the third from right side. A. Karthika standing second from the left feels this as the greatest opportunity she has ever had in her life. She earnestly expresses her love for English and also says she never had the opportunity to learn this as she had received from the students of the American College. Hema Devi, of VIII, standing in the left corner, says that the love she had earned from these brothers and sisters is the greatest gift that she ever had in her life. This was truly an experience of great use as it paved way for learning new concepts and ideas and above all you were a blessing to us on this day, says M. Subhashini of IX, standing in the right corner. We, the students of the American College, register our sincere thanks to Dr. M. Davamani Christo for permitting us to undergo this felt-experience.