

BUILDING BRIDGES WORKSHOP I: September 29, 2012

Location: Kakkaiyankulam Muslim Maha Vidyalaya

Key Contact: Major Lalith Edirisinghe, Mr L. Farhan

Age group: 9-11 (33 children)

Chiraddikulam – 7 girls: Thihalnila, Thibadharshini, Yalini, Loheswari, Vanoja, Pavithra, Nirmala

7 boys: Thihalvannan, Thuraichelvan, Sarmeehan, Sathurjan, Prasadh, Mayuran, Vinodh

Kakkaiyankulam – 9 girls: Nusra, Sabiba, Asna, Aska, Fathima, Farvin, Hassa, Nakira, Asira

10 boys: Aasir, Faasil, Fausan, Sahir, Afkath, Hassan, Nusair, Afrin, Hafrath, Akkar

Programme:

Introductions + Name Pass

Team Building I: Ball Relay

Attentiveness: Fruit Bowl

Tea break

Drama Game: Group shapes

Team Building II: Dog and the Bone

Took the A9 instead of Mannar Road to get to workshop – conditions are better, if travelling to Ch'kulam. Children from Ch'kulam were ready on time and army was there to hand them over to me. The children were divided into two teams, 'Neelam' and 'Sivappu'; Name Pass, Ball Relay, and Dog and the Bone were conducted in these two teams. Team spirit was high – to the extent that children from the same village but on opposite teams quite heatedly called each other out for cheating! Teams cheered equally enthusiastically for team members from both villages.

This workshop focused on being an icebreaker, and apart from some initial awkwardness, the children very quickly became comfortable. No new games were introduced (K'kulam kids had not played Fruit Bowl before, but it's an easy game and incredibly popular).

Group shapes was quite successful, although it was a bit difficult to control/keep an eye on 6 groups of 5-6 kids to give them suggestions! The kids worked well together in their smaller teams, too. Fathima, in particular, is a born leader.

All in all, a very successful workshop. It ended slightly late, and although I informed the army that we would be a little late, the message was not passed to the villagers, one of whom (Thavaneswari) called Ameena to ask when I would be bringing the children back. I got Thavaneswari's number and will call her in future when I am bringing the kids back.

See pages 2 and 3 or photos



Chraddikulam children are taken to Kakkaiyankulam, all smiles



Riotous game of Fruit Bowl



Making shapes: an aeroplane



Group photo