

## BUILDING BRIDGES WORKSHOP III: October 10, 2012

Location: Nattankandal GTM School

Key Contact: Major L Edirisinghe (Chiraddikulam), Mr L Farhan (Kakkaiyankulam)

Age group: 9-11 (34 children)

*Chiraddikulam* – 5 girls: Yalini, Pavithra, Thibadharshini, Nirmala, Loheswari

7 boys: Vinodh, Sathurjan, Thuraichchelvan, Prasadh, Sarmeehan, Mayuran, Kumanadas

*Kakkaiyankulam* – 10 girls: Fathima, Nakira, Aska, Hassa, Rifasa, Farvin, Asna, Sabiba, Nusra, Asira

12 boys: Akkar, Hafrath, Afrin, Afkath, Fausan, Faasil, Aasir, Sahir, Ijas, Hisaam, Nusair, Hassan

### **Programme:**

Ball Relay

Team Building: Walk-Group game

*Tea break*

Emotion sculptures

Having an after-school Building Bridges session was a mistake. The children are already hyper-active from school, which is exacerbated by having to travel for another hour in the van. Also, small communication fail on the part of the Army at Chiraddikulam (or someone) in that all the children had gone home for lunch, and had to be rounded up – even though I made it clear that I would provide meals.

We wasted a lot of time waiting, and in the end the Kakkaiyankulam children got home quite late. This inconveniences the parents, so I made the decision to cancel the Monday workshop (15 October) since the previous weekend had been much more productive and this one was clearly not! Keeping the children in order also wasted a lot of time – 34 hyperactive children is quite a menagerie!

Additionally, I made a mistake with the programme – I tried to move too fast into abstract exercises, with emotion sculptures, which threw both the children and my translator for a loop! I'm only sorry that this was the only workshop a Chiraddikulam parent was able to attend (Mayuran's mother) – this workshop was unusually chaotic, and I hope she doesn't think this is the way it works every week. However, I realise that perhaps it is best that parents don't attend; she tried to help the children, and I prefer to have as little adult intervention in the activities as possible. At the same time, I am touched by her willingness to get involved and help me.

I'm keeping things simple next time. Altogether, not a particularly successful workshop, but definitely a very good learning experience.

*See pg 2 for photos*



Children play walk-stop-group



Children valiantly attempt to play emotion sculptures