

## BUILDING BRIDGES WORKSHOP V: October 20, 2012

Location: Nattankandal GTM School

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

Age group: 9-11 (29 children)

*Chiraddikulam* – 6 girls: Vanoja, Thibadharshini, Loheswari, Nirmala, Pavithra, Yalini

3 boys: Anosanth. Vinodh, Sathurjan

*Kakkaiyankulam* – 8 girls: Asira, Nakira, Rifasa, Sabiba, Fathima, Aska, Nusra, Farvin

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

### **Programme:**

Relay Races

Dog and the Bone

Walk-stop-clap

*Tea break*

Assigning roles

Read-through of plays

Fruit Bowl

Dog and the Bone

Today Farvin's mother joined us on the trip to Nattankandal; I'm glad she got to see the workshops but sorry she didn't actually get to visit Chiraddikulam proper.

I realised that my original plan to have the children devise their own piece (when I originally intended the workshops to be for an older age group) wouldn't work for this younger group, so during the week I turned two simple Sybil Wettasinghe stories (Muththata Pol Kiri and Abdul Soyamu) into two short scripts, which were then translated by two friends, Abhi Ananth and Vaishnavi Velraj. The workshop consisted mostly of assigning parts and then reading through the scripts for the first time; the children find the plays funny, which is a good thing!

The workshop was successful in that the children have clearly gotten past their original hesitancy to put on a show, and many (especially Fausan, Fathima, and Aasir) are both expressive and enthusiastic in their parts – except that Fausan briefly thought that the best way to portray an old man was to speak in a high-pitched squeak! There is a wildly varying amount of illiteracy in the group though – there are some from both villages who are confidently literate, while there are others who have incredible difficulty with the written word. Unfortunately, some roles had to be re-assigned for this reason.

The games listed in the programme were with the Kakkaiyankulam children as we waited for the Chiraddikulam children to be picked up and dropped back to the village.

*See pg 2 for photos*



First read-through



First read-through