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Dear Mr Sandhu,

I hope this letter finds you well. Please find enclosed a 6-month report for our Engal Kural project in India. Your generous donation has really helped the lives of children in our projects, and we wanted you to see the changes for yourself.

I have also enclosed a letter from Nina Purdy, the Supporter Care Manager here at EveryChild. The letter is confirming your on-going support as a Guardian, as your sponsorship has come to a close. I know that Ellenor Baron spoke with you about this before she left, but if you have any questions or concerns, please do let me know.

Once again, thank you for your generous support that has helped the children in our Engal Kural project look forward to a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Sharp

Key Supporter Manager

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The Sandhu Charitable Foundation – 6 month report

Project title	Protecting marginalised children in India – through education and empowerment in Tamil Nadu, Southern India
Project summary	<p>In our Engal Kural project (meaning 'Our Voice' in Tamil), EveryChild supports children who are marginalised by Indian society. They are part of the Arunthathiyar community and are considered to be the 'untouchable of the untouchables' within the caste system. The Arunthathiyar community face on-going discrimination which has meant they have been unable to make the same progress as other lower castes. Only 2% of Arunthathiyars are literate and under 1% have completed higher education. Many children in Tamil Nadu are growing up without adequate parental care and some are even forced to work as agricultural labourers for little money.</p> <p>We work with our local partner, READ (Rights, Education and Development) towards protecting these children and helping them develop through our child activity centres and educating the community around child rights.</p>
Reporting period	April 2014 – October 2014
Funding provided	£15,000

Education is an important tool for the empowerment of the communities, and in particular the children in our project areas. Below are some of the achievements we have had over the past six months, thanks to your support.

Child activity centres

Our child activity centres provide psychosocial care and life skills education to help children tackle issues and enable them to cope better with daily challenges.

We have worked in 65 villages throughout the state of Tamil Nadu, operating 70 child activity centres. This has meant that 2069 children (1088 boys and 981 girls) have been able to attend the child activity centres and benefit from our programme. During their time at the centre, children are given the space to play and enjoy their childhood, whilst also being trained on life skills.

Psychosocial care

We offer children a safe space in our child activity centres to be able to learn, to develop their life skills and also a place for them to address any psychosocial issues they may have with a trained professional. Our coordinators have been specially trained and have worked with 2069 children in our centres. We also included student support and family 'enrichment' which means helping children with any family issues they may have. These were held by our motivators and take place twice a week: on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Over the past six months, 400 girls have been part of a specific programme revolving around health, and in particular reproductive health. 97 girls were involved in life skills training, 151 girls were involved in reproductive health classes and 152 girls had psychosocial support. Many participants found they were anaemic and needed tablets to support them. 33 children had access to social protection schemes. 151 children had health care training.

Education

During their time at the centre, children are able to focus on developing their education skills, particularly reading and writing. In the past six months, because of this support in education, 33 children were able to be admitted to courses they otherwise wouldn't have been able to. 12 enrolled in science, 6 children were taught engineering, 13 joined the industrial training course, 2 for nursing and most of them are happy and continuing with their studies.

In addition, 15 girls received monetary educational assistance for them to be able to continue their education. With this initial help to pay their tuition fees, the girls will be able to pursue their studies.

Case study: Rani's story

Rani is seven years old and lives with her mother. Rani's father sadly died when she was five, which meant her mother had to move in with Rani's grandparents and extended family.

When Rani started school, she found it extremely difficult because she had hearing problems and was unable to keep up with the lessons. On top of this, she was bullied by other children and when she was at home, she was bullied by her neighbours. Her mother was extremely unhappy with her situation but did not know what to do. Rani also missed her father and had become unsettled.



Our partner discovered Rani and diagnosed her as profoundly deaf and mute. We then helped her to start seeing a counsellor, and helped her mother apply for the doctor's certificate to confirm her diagnosis. Her counsellor also helped her apply for funds to help her disabilities and she was able to receive 400 rupees a month (approximately £4 GB). They also supported her to apply for a hearing aid from the welfare department and she has since received an appropriate hearing aid. In addition, she was able to attend our child activity centre and was given counselling at our child activity centre, and was taught how to cope with the death of her father and with her differences from other children.

With EveryChild's support, Rani can now understand what is happening in her classes at school and is able to interact with other children better. She is in the second grade and with the support received from our partner; she can now look forward to a brighter future. Rani says 'now no-one bullies me' and that loves to be able to hear properly. Her mother says "I thought there was no hope for my daughter, but now Rani is like normal and you have made a difference in her life".

Thank you for your generation donation, which you can see is making a difference in the lives of the children living in Tamil Nadu, and particularly in the Arindathiyar community.

Thanks to your support, the children in our Engal Kural project are able to learn essential life skills, have a safe place to play, and are supported to stay with their families. Every child is supported to be the best they can be, and can look forward to a brighter future. Thank you!