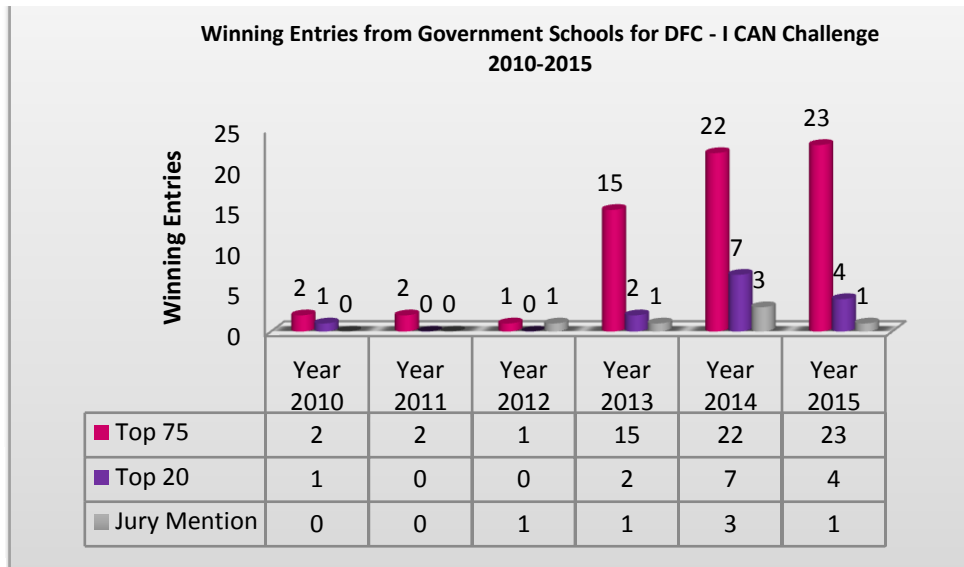


Project Based Learning

Project Based Learning captures real-world problems and provokes students' interest to acquire and apply new knowledge in problem-solving context. For the past five years there has been overwhelming response from the teachers and students in doing Project Based Learning in SSA. The PBL done by the students and teachers

have been uploaded for a National Level Contest Organized by Design for Change – a global movement driving innovative



change and impact in schools for the past five years.

From 2010 to 2014, Government schools in SSA Tamil Nadu have enthusiastically participated in the DFC I CAN School Challenge and submitted 1619 promising innovative projects of change. 57 of these projects have won a national Level Award. For the year 2015, there had been 2512 entries all over India for the DFC I CAN contest in which 1400 entries were from Government Schools of Tamil Nadu through SSA.

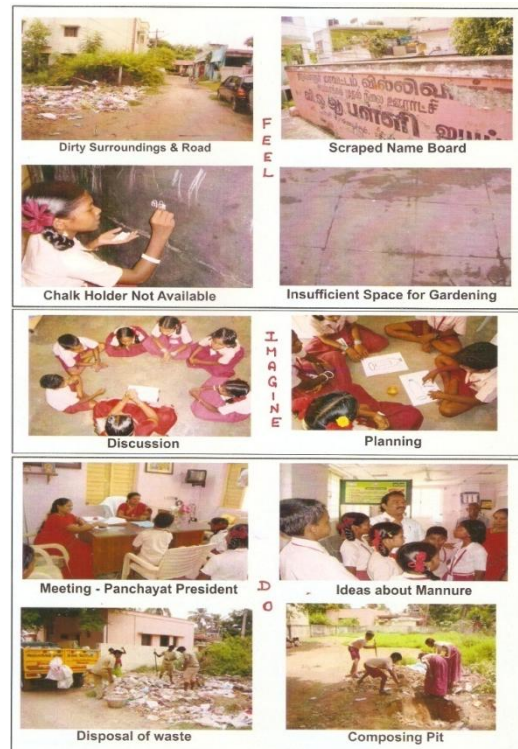


23 schools have been selected in the Top 100 of which 5 projects have been placed in the Top 20 series. Project titled “Plastic Bottles Go Wild” from Panchayat Union Primary School Ayyapa Nagar, Villivakkam Block, Thiruvallur District has bagged a place in the Top 5

which is noteworthy.

(I) Plastic Bottles Go Wild - A Project in Top 5 – Thiruvallur District

The heap of plastics surrounding the neighbourhood of PUPS Iyyappa Nagar was a major issue posing environmental threat. The children wanted to create awareness to the general public about the hazards of plastics. A big team was formed by the children and they collected plastic waste segregated and made best use of the plastic bottles by making chalk stand, pen and pencil stand, writing table, hanging gardens and other decorative items and teaching aids for SABL class. This project was ranked 4th place and was awarded a cash prize of rupees 50,000/- by Design for Change along with certificates.



The problems Identified:

Dirty surroundings due to public garbage, Scraped name board, Insufficient space for gardening, needed things in ABL rooms, Attractive classrooms for children.

Highlights in the project

- Cleaning the common garbage in the school surroundings with the help of Panchayat President.
- Separation of Wastes in to biodegradable and non-biodegradable.
- Disposal of biodegradable wastes in a composed pit.
- Prepared manure for hanging garden in the school.



- Growing vegetables in sacks.
- Usage of non-biodegradable plastic bottles to make hanging garden, Pencil stand, chalk piece stand, Tables, Teaching learning materials for MATHS, Cellphone stand , Letter box etc.

(II) “Say No to Alcohol” - Cuddalore District



Community plays a great role in the development of a society. But to the shock of the teacher, Mr. Vasanthan, the parents were essentially the cause for the backwardness in that village. The parents were the prime cause for dropouts, long absenteeism & psychological fear in children. The teacher actually felt that the parents should be counseled. Any step

taken towards parent counseling was in vain. This was just because all the elders were addicted to alcohol. The teacher made a case study of every individual student. He could understand that each and every child was sad because they wanted their parents to be normal non-addicted parents. This case study helped him to guide the children to make their parents realize how alcohol ruins lives. The teacher made the children post letters using post cards to their own parents regularly in this regard. Further the school teachers along with the SMC members are counselling the parents every week. *This initiative of the teacher through Project based Learning has paved way for a great change in the lives of the parents in the village thereby allowing peace in the life of their next generation.*



(III) “Clean Water, Clean Smile” – Salem District



In the school few students were active, and the other students were passive in class room activities. Those students had shy and inferiority complex and had

troubles in discussing & conversing with others. It was because, many of them had dark brown stains in their tooth. It was a constraint for them to feel free and have a happy smile while talking to others.

“Clean water – Clear smile!”

The students and the teacher met a dentist **Mrs.D.Thendralarasi, B.D.S**,to know the reason for the cause. It was learnt that the optimum level of fluoride salt in drinking



water must be 1.5 mg/liter and that it was around 3.0 mg/liter in their locality. So we needed de-fluoridation methods. Further, with the help of officials in TWAD office, they received a water testing kit and came to know that adding river water in 1:1 ratio with the water in their locality reduces salt level.

Making them smile again



Adding river water to the water in their locality was the solution to the problem. Further, the affected children were guided to use river water in their home or at least mix

the river water in their intake to avoid further damage. This was successfully shared during the parent teachers meetings &also with the SMC. Guidance and counselling

was provided to those who had permanent damage to overcome their inferiority complex.

Service to the society

The solution to the problem of **dental fluorosis** causing joint pain & bone weakness in adults lit the light in many of the lives in their community. Door to door canvas, hand - made notices, SMS services(more than 300),social media(whatsapp messages – more than 400), and awareness to the nearby school PUPSKorathupatti reached more than 700 persons. The students and teachers of that school were very happy about the change they were able to make and witness and are still working on other plans to continue their journey.



Our story – one in a 100!

This project was selected one among the top 100 inspiring stories in the national level DFC I CAN Challenge and was widely appreciated and won prizes.



*Mr.R.Elavarasan B.T, and M. Elayaraja
a student of Class VIII from PUMS–
Vedapatti, Ayothiyapattanam Block,
Salem District – Proud winners –
Honoured at Ahmedabad*