

It is estimated that there are 30,000 children living rough on the streets or in the slums of the city of Madurai. They survive by rag picking, scavenging in sewers, which run right past their homes, and begging. The caste system keeps these families in poverty.



*A view of the slum and sewer from one of the homes*

NewDawn India supplies the funds for Vidiyal (Tamil for a New Dawn) which works with the street and slum children and their families. Over 300 children come daily to the Vidiyal drop-in centres which operate in the Madurai slums. The centres are run by Jim Jesudoss, his wife Dr. Sharmila and their dedicated team. Here the children receive unconditional love, medical care and their emotional and material needs are met.



*Dancing at one of the drop in centres*

The children are placed in appropriate schools and colleges depending on their needs and aspirations. The drop-ins provide opportunities to complete homework, learn new skills such as dance, drama and karate and, most importantly, gain self esteem. There is a special emphasis on projects for children, healthcare, education and training, while outings and educational visits are part of the programme for all those who attend the Vidiyal drop-in centres.



*Enjoying a beach camp and an ice cream treat*

Many of the older children become volunteers and help out at the various drop-in centres, while studying for bachelor and masters degrees. Vidiyal now has many graduates and the alumni are always ready to assist in any way they can.



*Graduates outside the library which has been set up in the slum for the benefit of the community.*

NewDawn India operates a sponsorship scheme and many of the children who live in the slum are sponsored, enabling them to receive a well-rounded education. The support and encouragement that the children receive through sponsorship is invaluable to them as they battle the caste system and work to achieve academic or vocational qualifications.



*Celebrating sponsorship*

Housed in the Vidiyal centre is the nursery and kindergarten school. Parents of the slum and street children are very keen for their youngsters to have an education so demand for the places is high.



*Enjoying the garden at the Vidiyal Centre*

The support of Vidiyal and NewDawn India extends into the slum itself, offering love, care and practical help to elderly people and the families of the children from Vidiyal.



*Lunch for the elderly*

A tailoring centre has been set up for young women who would previously have earned their living panning in the sewers. On completion of the course they are presented with their own sewing machine so that they can provide for their families.



*At the tailoring centre*

Meetings with mothers are held to educate them about healthcare and to allow them to discuss any concerns. More recently the meetings for fathers

have been introduced, as well as father and child camps, aimed at improving family bonds.

The work of Vidiyal is recognised by the Indian government, the police and agencies such as UNICEF for its work on the rights of children. Due to the experience of working within the slum communities, Vidiyal is operating "Childline" Madurai, which rescues children from forced marriages, child labour, trafficking and violence.



*Enjoying an outing to the zoo*

NewDawn India was founded in 1990

NewDawn India receives no government grants or financial assistance in either the UK or India.

NewDawn India and Vidiyal have no political affiliations and merely offer Christian love and care irrespective of race, caste or creed.

NewDawn India is a locally based Christian charity run entirely by volunteers, allowing all funds to benefit the children of Madurai.

Trustees and supporters are happy to give presentations to interested groups on the work in South India. Please contact 01473 310057 or 01473 311148.

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## For the relief of Poverty in Southern India



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