



NIZHAL Annual Report 2012-13

It has been another wonderful year for Nizhal filled with people, plants, and experiential learning. In the last 365 days, our organization has reached out to many communities, extending the joy and love for trees and nature. Nizhal has reached where it has today with the unfailing support of many volunteers across the city - students, schools, institutions, companies, professionals in various fields, media and the government. Here is a brief summary of our activities....

Madhavaram

Madhavaram Tree Park, as most of you know, has been one of Nizhal's important and challenging tree parks, with over 200 saplings. It has gone through so many ups and downs that we are neither able to celebrate the ups nor be upset by the downs.

During the year, Madhavaram threw up several challenges.

- site being far away, therefore was very difficult to monitor
- Fencing was repeatedly vandalized
- Aavin being a cattle prone area, animals would break fence and graze.
- Saplings were small and they couldn't survive the harsh conditions.

Because of lack of effective supervision, efforts that were being put in by volunteers were coming undone. Plants withered due to lack of consistent watering and grazing. Repeated replanting happened

Volunteers led by Krithiga of Beroe took it upon themselves to get this project going. Week after week they sent volunteers to undertake various tasks - repair of fence, de-weeding, creating tree guards and watering. In addition, volunteers from HCL and Dell also chipped in in a very big way, coordinating among themselves to see the project succeed.

We are working to identify a dedicated group of local volunteers who can provide good supervision. We also need to work on stronger fencing and providing a reliable water source.

KTP

There has been a steady flow of enthusiasts wanting to take a walk through the park and very soon KTP will be a "must visit" place in Chennai

Many of the native species have been attracting bees and moths- Arjuna tree had a huge tussar silk moth - as an example how bio-diversity can be brought back if we carefully choose the species that we plant .

Several Tree walks have taken place here.



We had a session with Poochi Venkat who took participants around KTP to show different kinds of insects that inhabit our park in our program called "Trees and insects".

Then we had "Flowering trees" tree walk when many of our trees were blooming this summer.

Volunteers from AGS planted saplings and employees of Reverse Infomatics, Park Hyatt and Paypal came for tree walk. Students of GTAVM, HIET, Vidya sagar, Sahrdaya foundation, Children's space library and Madras day walk was held here too.

Students from KV CLRI regularly come and water the saplings.

Right now we have 3 people working everyday de-weeding and watering the saplings.

FKTP has sponsored payment to garden staff.

Compound wall on river bank side is coming up.

Green Schools Program

This year a chance meeting / while addressing employees of Chennai Corporation at Ripon building, Nizhal was asked to take the awareness campaign to all corporation schools numbering 213 in 13 zones. across Chennai.

Work started in earnest - A list of 5 schools was provided by Ms Vasanthi AEO to Nizhal to kick-start our program. All the 13 zones were given a Tamil trees poster to one representative school

Tree posters put together by our volunteers has been a great hit wherever they have been given. The information reaches and touches the teachers and students alike.

Presentations were made to the students and the response has been overwhelming. We have schools coming back to us wanting Nizhal to recommend indigenous species for planting in their institution.

Many schools have evinced interest in having a garden patch to grow their vegetables and composting. Since some of these corporation schools have lots of open space, Principals have also shown interest in greening schools. Dr Babu has coined a name "Palliyil Nizhal" for this project.

The idea is to get students interested in tree care so that they will green their neighbourhood too after their experience with greening their institution..

The schools in this "Palliyil Nizhal" prog are

Corp High School Kottur

Corp High School, Tiruvanmiyur

Corp High School, Ashok Nagar,

Corp Boys High School, Nungambakkam



Corp Middle School, Gandhigramam
Corp Middle School, NS Garden R A Puram

(We will be making presentation to these schools soon)

Corp High School Arumbakkam,
Corp High School Adyar
Corp High School Saidapet
Corp high School, Kodungayur
Corp high School, Pulla Avenue
Corp Middle School, Tiruvalluvar pettai.

Tiruvanmiyur School has been adopted by Nizhal to for a yearlong association where the students will be taken on tree walks, participate in tree quizzes and will grow their own vegetable taking care of their garden patch. Nizhal volunteers will periodically monitor this school. This project is being sponsored by Rotary.

Exhibitions

"Youth Health Mela" helped us connect with many young people who were tree lovers or got converted into tree lovers.

Mannvasaani a 1 day long exhibition also took across the message of environment friendliness

Science city exhibition helped us connect with many schools and school children.

NIZHAL plans to focus on children and get them to care for trees as well as teach them how they can prevent tree abuse.

Exhibitions help us to reach out to a large number of people in a short span of time.



Posters

While we see a great deal of trees around us in Chennai of different species, most of us are unaware of even their names, and their value, even lesser. In order to sensitize the public particularly the younger generation, Nizhal came out with posters, to start with of 10 native trees. These posters highlight their common and botanical names, and provide simple to understand information on their uses and uniqueness. These were in Tamil as well as in English. These are displayed prominently at various programs conducted by Nizhal. In order to connect with the younger generation, they are being given to Government and private schools where we do our outreach programs for display in their premises.

This has significantly improved knowledge and understanding of trees, as borne out during our subsequent visits to these schools. Nizhal believes that this would help in children carrying the message of tree care and nurture to their neighborhoods.

Green Prisons

The ongoing Green Prisons project is seeing good times after a lot of struggle to get the prison authorities work sincerely towards making it a success. There are still some hiccups but finally they are seeing some value..

- Madurai prison has about 1000kgs of compost ready to be sold at prison bazaar.
- At Palayankottai our organic experts are helping with vermi composting(Mr gomathi nayagam and Ms Kanthimati)
- At Coimbatore too compost is ready for prison bazaar. Second pit will also be ready soon.
- Vellore is also ready with compost for selling in prison bazaar.

Nizhal has given them feedback forms to write to us about progress as well as difficulty faced at any stage of greening

ADGP Mr Tripathi's support and encouragement and belief in this project is helping us cross many hurdles.

Awards

Nizhal also recd the best NGO award in the environmental category. and also a cash gift of Rs 2000 from Govt of Tamil Nadu. It was received by Shobha Menon on 23rd April, World Forestry Day



Tree walks

This is the fourth consecutive year we have been invited by madras week committee.

We had several tree walks at various locations.

A special musical tree walk was held at Kalakshetra on 18th Aug as a part of Madras week celebrations. which drew large crowds.



List of tree walks held this year:

21-Oct	NANDAMBAKKAM	WOODCREEK COUNTY	RESIDENTS
27-Oct	ANNA NAGAR	TOWER PARK	students of bhavans rajaji vidyashram
2-Dec	VALMIKI NAGAR	SING ALONG GROUP	STUDENTS OF KRISHNA IYER
22-Dec	Valmiki Nagar	Margazhi walks	Public walk
23-Dec	RK mutt road	margazhi walks	Public walk
29-Dec	Gandhi Nagar	margazhi walks	Public walk
30-Dec	Taylor's road	margazhi walks	Public walk
5-Jan	MRC Nagar	margazhi walks	public walk
6-Jan	Kothari rd	margazhi walks	public walk
23-Jan	Kottivakkam	Al Qamar Academy	school
3-Feb	Kottur puram tree park	Vikas	Family from sowcarpet
22-Feb	Kottivakkam	Al Qamar Academy	"Spark" science club
28-Feb	Kottur puram tree park	Swabhimaan spl school	Students
3-Mar	NANMANGALAM	Mixed group	
6-Mar	Kottur puram tree park	HIET	Students
7-Apr	Nageshwar Rao park	Children's space, Alwarpet	students
7-May	IIT campus	IIT Tech Kids	
18-May	Kottur puram tree park	tree enthusiasts	mixed group
9-Jun	Kottur puram tree park	Reverse infomatics	employees
16-jun	Kottur puram tree park	Reverse infomatics	employees
20-jun	Vadapalani	Corporation school	students
23-jun	Koyambedu	Yoga guru students	residents
6-July	Kottur puram tree park	Ags c Network	employees
7-Jul	Kottur puram tree park	Children's space, Alwarpet	students
1-Aug	velachery	navadisha	teachers
4-Aug	ECR	Prakrithi foundation	IX , X students



16-Aug	KTP	Madras Day Walks	public
17-Aug	Nageswara Rao Park	Madras Day Walks	public
18-Aug	Kalakshetra	Madras Day Walks	public
18-Aug	Anna Nagar	Madras Day Walks	public
23-Aug	Panagal park	Madras Day Walks	public
24-Aug	semmozhi poonga	Madras Day Walks	public
25-Aug	Nanmangalam	Madras Day Walks	public
25-Aug	Sivan park	Madras Day Walks	Public
18-Sep	Kottur puram tree park	H I T S	Students



2014 Calendar

Nizhal has come out with desk calendar for the second consecutive year. It has been completely designed and put together by Nizhal volunteers. Despite busy work schedules, volunteers have given their precious time to photograph, write footnotes and bring it to a great form. We will need more volunteering efforts in marketing them too! I am sure many nature lovers would love to own this.

T-Shirts

Nizhal has come out with T-shirts in 4 different sizes (small, medium, large and XL) with collar and without collared. All sizes are priced at Rs 250. I am sure you would want to own one and wear them to all events representing Nizhal. Indirectly you would be supporting Nizhal's activities by this contribution as well as spreading word about this organisation. Be the Nizhal ambassador - wear the Nizhal T shirt!
