

## Sandhya Gurukulam Teachers Training Camp at the Anaikatti Gurukulam

Sandhya gurukulam is a project initiated by Pujya Swamiji to reach out to school going children in villages. The educated in the villages are encouraged to become Sandhya Gurukulam teachers who undergo a six day training program where they are taught about our dharma, culture, universal values apart from slokas, bhajans, games, yoga and meditation. Thereafter the trained teachers start Sandhya Gurukulams in their villages with 20 to 25 children and take classes for two hours a day, six days in a week.

A Sandhya Gurukulam Teachers Training camp was held at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Inaugurating the program on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Pujya Sri Swamiji explained the need for Sandhya Gurukulams in villages – to provide academic reinforcement to school going children as well as cultural validation. Addressing the seventy six trainees from different villages in Tamilnadu, Pujya Swamiji said teaching is not a profession but seva. Citing the example of the thief who entered the hut of a sadhu and donned his

clothes to escape from the soldiers, Swamiji said the thief was completely transformed when the king himself bowed down to him, mistaking him for the sadhu. If clothes themselves got such respect, how much more respect would a sadhu get, thought the thief who decided to become a sadhu. A change takes place instantly when there is clear cognition of what one sees. Pujya Swamiji wished that the teachers should bring about such cognitive change in the minds of children so that there is more cultural awareness among them



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Swami Sakshatkritananda concluded the training session with his blessings and gave away the training kit to the teachers. He said Sandhya Gurukulam was a very successful program, impacting the children's lives in a very positive manner and bringing about better environment in the homes and villages.



There are 350 plus Sandhya Gurukulams in different villages around Anaikatti, Cuddalore, Erode, Mohanur, Marudur, Pazhaverkadu. Theni, Tiruppattur, Tirukkoviloor, Tirucherai, Tirunaraiyur, Kanchipuram, Peraiyur, Vadipatti, and TN Palayam and more than 9000 children benefit from this program

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