

An Enthusiastic Teacher of Indian Culture



Can you believe that one Teacher can teach 5,710 students Indian culture every week ? It s o u n d s incredible until you meet **Brni. Mahalakshmi of Tirupur** in Tamil Nadu and listen to her statistics.

Brni. Mahalakshmi has been a student of **Swami Sudeerananda** of Coimbatore since 1994. She has studied chanting, Sanskrit, Bhagawad Gita, Upanisads and introductory texts on Vedanta from him. She has received mantra diksha from **Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati** in 1998.

Her special talent lies in teaching school children. In the **11 schools** she teaches, the students from different classes from standard I to standard XII assemble eagerly in the auditorium for those 45 minutes that she spends with them. The school management decides which classes participate in the classes.

In schools, she teaches **daily prayers**, Sanskrit and Tamil **sloka chanting with meaning**. She tells inspiring **stories** from Ramayana, Mahabharata, life of Nayanmars and Always from Tamil Nadu, life of Maharastrian Saints, life of Sri Adi Sankara, Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Smt Sarada

Devi and Sri Vivekananda. The students eagerly look forward to her classes.

She teaches in the following schools in and around Tirupur: Century Matric Hr Secondary School, Century Nursery & Primary School, KCS CBSE School, Kid Club Matriculation School, Kids Club International School, Gurukulam International School, Sathya Sai Matric Hr Secondary Schools Tirupur & Chithode, MGV Global Academy, Palaniappa Matric Hr Secondary School and Nachammal Vidya Vani CBSE School. In all these schools put together, **she teaches 4,860 children**.

She also **teaches 700 women workers** of SCM Garments & SCM Mills near Tirupur for an hour every week. They learn Tamil sloka chanting and stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata.

In addition, she teaches home makers of Tirupur in 5 locations, through classes of 2 hours each. Totally, she **teaches 150 home makers**. She teaches them chanting and meaning of Bhagawad Gita, Vishnu Sahasranama, Lalitha Sahasranama, Soundarya Lahari and Narayaneeyam.

If we have more such energetic, enterprising and dedicated teachers like Brni. Mahalakshmi, and Schools committed to teaching Indian culture, the whole of our future generation will be blessed with the knowledge of their precious culture.

Report by N. Avinashilingam

Photo by Uga Tomoko