

Statement from the Board of Directors, U.S.

We are pleased to see the many successes of Sudar Foundation over the last year. We are also pleased in the appointment of A. Vijayalakshmi as program director. Before coming to Sudar, she had completed a Master's Degree in Women's Studies and managed a non-profit's micro-finance program. At Sudar, she has developed the administration, hired new teachers, and enrolled more students. She balances the role of director and 'big sister,' singing songs with students on Saturdays, while ensuring a challenging academic program. We look forward to seeing Sudar grow under her leadership.

Since the U.S. has little overhead expense, the majority of contributions fund the Madurai center. We would like to thank Sudar donors for making this possible.

"Sudar helps us acquire knowledge, learn about culture, and develop discipline. It helps you choose the right path" Jothi, Sudar student

The Program in Madurai

Most Sudar students are 18 to 28 years of age, come from poor neighborhoods, and are the first women in their families to graduate from college (their mothers have studied as far as the 5th grade and their fathers, the 10th).

In Madurai, Sudar is the only organization to offer skill-based classes and scholarships to these young women. After college hours and on weekends, students walk, cycle, or take a bus to Sudar. At the center, they attend English, Teacher Training, and computer and tailoring classes with caring teachers and supportive peers.

"Prof. Lawrence--the way he teaches (English), if a student makes a mistake, he corrects her very gently." Maheswari, Sudar student

The 2004-2005 year at the Sudar program in Madurai, South India ...

- Over 40 young women attended the program.
- 35 students applied to the scholarship program and 23 applicants received scholarships.
- 6 part-time teachers joined the Sudar-Madurai staff.
- Local professors facilitated workshops on professional skills and women's health and nutrition.
- Sudar-Madurai staff began planning for a career resource center.
- Vijayalakshmi, the new director, developed Sudar-Madurai's outreach to local colleges and to young women with limited economic means.
- Sudar-Madurai staff implemented a Saturday program for students to play badminton and chess, sing songs, and enjoy healthy snacks.

"Young women need freedom, confidence, and trust. If I come to Sudar, I can take any book and read it."

Sumitha, Sudar student

Please contact us for any of our published materials:

- Sudar profiled in the Madurai section of The Hindu. <http://www.hindu.com/mp/2004/06/21/stories/2004062101500300.htm>.
- A video about Sudar's work in Madurai.

Visit us at www.sudarfoundation.org

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Income	Contributions	\$22,184.00
	Interest	\$47.00
	Total Income	\$22,231.00
Expenditure (1)	India Program Expenses	\$8103.00
	US Program Expenses	\$2172.00
	Fundraising	\$50.00
	Total Expenditure	\$10,325.00

(1) The Indian government has given permission to Sudar,USA to fund a fixed amount of \$20,000 for a three-year period. Income in excess of this amount is placed in unrestricted endowment.

"Education gives me self-confidence. My mother didn't have these opportunities. Whatever chances I have, she wants me to take them." Karparam, Sudar student



Sudar Foundation

**Supporting Women in Careers in
Madurai, South India**