The poor winter rains during November and December have brought in an early and hot summer. Despite de-silting of the village ponds, and removal of excessive weeds and waste, many ponds have dried up. The photographs above show one of the village ponds last September and now, with all the lovely lotus plants dried up.

Tankers are supplying water to houses for their essential needs. However the villagers remain hopeful about some late summer showers, and work on de-silting and deepening of the ponds continues.
Integrated child development services (ICDS) were initiated by the government in 1975 in most villages, as a scheme to counter infant and maternal mortality rates, with regular health monitoring and improvement of nutrition.

As part of ICDS, a weekly timetable for wholesome meals is planned by the government health department, and is provided to children at Anganwadis all over India. It is supervised by an anganwadi worker, who is selected from the same area and has a minimum qualification of matriculation. Preference is given to widows.

A typical anganwadi is a part of the public health care system, providing basic health care in Indian villages, including supplementary nutrition, non-formal preschool education, nutrition cum health education for pregnant women, immunization and referral services provided by trained nurses if needed.

The centers also store oral rehydration salts and contraceptives.

Due to shortage of skilled professionals, anganwadis try to meet the basic health needs of the populations of rural areas.

The children at the anganwadis are often brought to the doctor at our Subcentres, which are conveniently sited close to the anganwadis.
Sharan Update...........

In our Kuyil of Oct 2012, we had written about 1-year old Sharan, who was diagnosed with ASD (Atrial Septal Defect) with PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus). His mother needed to visit Jipmer hospital often for his frequent respiratory infections. Surgical repair was delayed due to his undernutrition. A donor kindly provided nutritional supplements, while Sharan visited Jipmer and our SubCentre for regular follow ups.

Happily, he was successfully operated on 18 th March 2017 at Padmavathy Hospital, Pondicherry. Sharan is now able to attend school regularly. His mother and he look so pleased.

Latest treatment for superficial burns.....

A few days ago, a patient came with superficial burns caused by spilling hot liquid on his forearm. The wound was cleaned with saline and Dr Sathish used Collagen dressing.
Collagen is prepared from animal sources and supports the earlier development of new cells in the affected area, leading to early healing with minimal scarring.

Health Centre staff and health workers tour to Thenmala......

The Health centre staff had their annual tour to Thenmala, the first ecotourism area in India started by the Kerala government. Set in the foothills of the Western Ghats, it has numerous activities including adventure sports like trekking, shooting, zip-line, balancing-on-planks, and boat pedaling on the lake. The staff participated with enthusiasm.