



Report for Orupaanai

## **August 2010 Visit to North Sri Lanka by Dr. Nirmala Subanandan**

I visited Jaffna after many years in August /September this year. Most schools were closed at the time as it was during school holidays and as result I was unable to see how the feeding programme was working on site.

However Miss Anusha Devi, our representative in Jaffna, who is doing a lot of hard work on the ground, organised a meeting with 5 school principals whose schools were in our programme.

All of them were highly enthusiastic about our project. I was highly impressed by how dedicated these principals were to their duties and how proud they were of their schools and pupils. They told me how well their children were doing, both in studies and sports, since introduction of this programme despite the fact that the students came from very underprivileged communities.

The principals also complained about the lack of equipment and poor coordination in the delivery of teaching materials. Often they were sent educational CDs by the Department of Education when the school did not have computers, printers or CD players. I had to explain to them our charity's present priority is to provide mid day meals and we were unable to meet the wider educational needs at present.

The meeting ended on a cordial note, with me promising to visit them again the next time I visited Jaffna.

***Nirmala Subanandan***

London