



# THULIR TRUST

## A Centre for Learning

### Brief report of activities undertaken in 2008-2009

Thulir Trust is a charitable organisation established with an objective of providing adivasi children living in remote areas a conducive learning atmosphere in their village itself. The Trust does this by giving an opportunity for these children to access rich educational resources and exposure to varied learning situations.

It is the belief of Thulir Trust that children in rural areas will be able to excel in learning, if they are given suitable opportunities and access to good quality educational materials. Thulir Trust will identify needy communities living in remote areas and provide the educational support required by the children of that region. This will be done by establishing Learning Centres of Excellence, with inputs from high quality professionals and mobilising rich educational resources.

The first such Centre for Learning has been established in Sittilingi valley in Dharmapuri district. Thanks to the activities of Thulir Trust, adivasi Children in sittilingi valley deprived of any good quality educational resources now have the option of accessing library facilities, computers, art and craft workshops and interactions with inspiring adults. Ms.Anuradha and Mr.Krishna, two social workers (Architects by profession) had moved into this remote village and were volunteering as part of another project for about two years before. They had been staying in this remote village and were supporting school going children needing additional inputs and the drop-out children.

About 50 adivasi children participate in the learning activities in Thulir centre and they regularly access the educational materials, which otherwise they could not even dream of in this remote village. These materials are used to teach Mathematics, Science and Language skills. Apart from this, general exposure is given to the students on different subjects.

Workshops are conducted regularly with the help of visiting resource persons on a wide range of subjects like Art, Craft, Music, Electronics, Machine maintenance, plumbing, etc. Till now, over 400 adivasi students from this remote region have used the facilities in the Thulir Centre and have benefited by interaction with resource persons.

The next section gives a brief description of activities undertaken by Thulir Trust during the first nine months of the year 2008-2009.

### *Training on Solar Power Systems*

In April, we began by organising a training on Solar power systems installation and maintenance for high school drop-out children. A system was being installed for the Tribal Hospital at Sittilingi village of Dharmapuri district with the help of Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Chennai.



*Photo voltaic panels being tested before installation by students in Thulir Centre*

This provided a very good opportunity for us to conduct a training for the students at Thulir.

### *Supplementary Classes for school children*

With the beginning of the new academic year, Thulir Learning Centre restarted the evening supplementary classes for tribal children of Sittilingi area. Classes in Mathematics and Language were held regularly.



*A Mathematics class under progress*

Children could use various learning materials available at the Centre during these evening sessions. Various innovative teaching materials are used to teach difficult concepts in Maths and to teach Language skills.



*Material for learning English*



*Material for learning Mathematics*

### *Science Camp at Thulir*

In August, we held a weekend Science Camp in Thulir. Theme of this camp was “Science Experiments”. 18 children took part in the Camp that started on a Saturday morning and went on till Sunday evening with the participants staying overnight.

A range of experiments were carried out in this camp :

- Testing solubility, conductivity and inflammability of different materials and recording the outcomes
- Making of scaled working models of pumps. This is based on the pumps made by Arvind Gupta [[www.arvindguptatoys.com](http://www.arvindguptatoys.com)]. It was a great hit among the students and everybody had a lot of fun.



*Working model of a Water Pump*

- Various experiments to understand Bernoulli's principles, air and water pressure, nature of sound and light etc.
- Observing parts of plants and flowers; transpiration in plants.



*Students who participated in the Science camp*

We were lucky to have the Scientists, Dr.Sridhar and Sriranjani, visiting us during the Science Camp. They took sessions on Chemistry and Singing to the students.

### Basic Electronics Training

Workshops are conducted on Basic Electronics to the students at Thulir Centre. The simple torches made by the students in Thulir Centre is in great demand from the visitors to the Learning Centre.



*An electronics class in progress*



*LED torch made in Thulir*

### Arts Workshop

Workshops are conducted to teach Arts and Crafts for the children in Thulir Centre. Variety of skills are imparted to the children in the Crafts classes. These sessions are conducted on weekends and on holidays, so that school going children can attend these workshops.



*An art and craft class under progress*



*Greeting Cards produced by children in Thulir*



*Bamboo Craft items made by children in Thulir*



*Handicraft designs made by children in Thulir*

## Nutrition Support



Children attending the learning sessions in Thulir are provided nutritious food in the Centre. Besides providing motivation to the children and parents to attend the classes, this also improves the health of the children.

## Conclusion

The first Learning Centre set up by Thulir Trust in Sittilingi village of Dharmapuri district has made significant contribution to the learning atmosphere of adivasi children living in this remote region. With the support of friends and well-wishers, we hope to continue the work by mobilising rich educational resources for the children of the sittilingi valley.