



## THULIR TRUST

Project Office:

Sittilingi Village, Theerthamalai PO, Dharmapuri Dt., TN 636906

Regd office:

Post Box No.20, Gudalur. The Nilgiris. Tamil Nadu 643212

website: [www.thulir.org](http://www.thulir.org)

email: [thulir@gmail.com](mailto:thulir@gmail.com)

## Annual Report 2014-2015



## Evening Classes

Evening classes for government school students were conducted on all weekdays and Saturdays. The number of children reduced this year as they were being kept for longer hours in the schools. Academic classes too could not be conducted on many days since children were quite exhausted by the time they came here as more tests and exams were being conducted in the government schools now. The evening classes were also temporarily stopped from March as the renovation and alteration work on the Thulir classrooms started.

**Total number of students attended: 153**

**Average attendance: 21**

## Weekend camps

Since Saturdays are usually an uninterrupted day with the kids, we decided to make the most of them and do more interesting things to create/sustain interest in activities other than academics. We had treks into the forest, visits to a nearby waterfall, where we got to observe many life forms in the wild,



clay modelling , craft workshop, sports day and film screenings.

## Trek to Chettikuttai

Chettikuttai is a small hamlet, about 6 km away, in the middle of the forest off the Sittilingi – Kottapatti forest road. We trekked there along with 40 children one Saturday.

## Sports Day

An important part of any child's development is the often overlooked, much under played, sports. Relating to each other, team work, handling success and failure etc. are all learned during play. This year we held three "Sports Day" events, one in June , the next in December 2014 and the last in March 2015. Some of the games organised for these events were running, long jump, relay, kho kho, kabaddi, dodge ball, frog jump, hurdle race and *nondi* ( a game of hopping and catching).



### **Participation in the Ananda Yana Run, Bangalore**

The running group consisting of seven students went to Bangalore accompanied by Senthil and Sakthivel for the Ananda Yana (in Kannada, that means "Journey of Joy") Marathon in June. They were all registered for the 10 km run. They stayed at Ananya school, an alternative school in Bangalore. The run is organized by Runner's High, a group which brings different socio economic communities and their concerns together through running.

### **Auroville Marathon**

Thirteen people from Thulir, 9 young boys and 4 teachers went to Auroville in early February to take part in the Auroville Marathon. Children from many schools across India had come. Our boys, aged from 10-14, ran the 10 km run, and the teachers

ran the 21km run. Some of them got to see the beach for the first time! There was activity time before the marathon where all the participants from all schools worked together on art projects.

### **Cycling to Sathanur Dam**

Senthil, Sakthivel, Mohan, Perumal, Annamalai, Solomon Raj and Nikhil went on a cycling trip to Sathanur Dam, around 50 kms from Thulir. At the dam, they visited the mini zoo. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

### **New life skills students at Thulir**

The pressure on schools to achieve 100 percent pass results is leading to dropping out of academically weak students from class 9. Two such students, Mohan and Perumal, have joined Thulir. They still remain quite diffident and hesitant, but this is slowly changing.

### **Computer Programming Workshop for school children-**

We had two interesting visitors Aftab and Max from the UK, PhD student and Post-Doc at the University of Cambridge, from the Madanyu Education Programme (<http://www.madanyu.org>) to travel to remote villages in India to provide computer skill training at education centres via the Raspberry Pi. This is a low power, fully functional computer that will fit into a shirt pocket; basically a CPU with in-built ports to connect a monitor, keyboard, mouse, Ethernet cable and a memory card, which is the main data storage of the Pi.

We had a three day workshop on how to use this computer and Python, a powerful programming language that is increasingly



being used in the computing world. The children and teachers had a class on turtle graphics, a program much like the original DOS version LOGO, except more advanced and colourful.



### **A New Teacher**

Another new arrival is Ravi, a B.Ed. graduate who had been working at a government school in a neighbouring village until he quit it to join Thulir. He has been taking some of the evening classes since. We welcome his arrival.

### **Organic Farming**

The monsoon rains failed for the third consecutive year. Water in our open well dried up completely in July. We had to borrow water from a neighbour to tide over the situation. The Panchayat dug a borewell in our boundary and installed a water tank just outside for the use of the neighbours and the

students. But even that had very little water.

In spite of the grim situation we planted and harvested coriander, lentils and vegetables in the winter months. The community kitchen where students and the staff eat did not buy vegetables from outside for almost a month.



### **Discussions on Thulir**

We feel it is important to keep discussing, from time to time, the philosophy and ethics of Thulir with each other. These meetings have always been very helpful in understanding each other and the pitfalls of our own teaching methods. Such meetings bring all of us working here closer together and will continue to happen regularly.

## Plans to start a new school – Discussions with the community

The good work done by Thulir in the field of education has been acknowledged and recognised by the tribal community in the valley. They have been constantly pressurising Thulir to help them start their own school which will give importance to tribal values and culture, agriculture and environment while drawing in and equipping children with all the best of modern education outside.

This year a number of meetings were held to discuss and brainstorm what kind of school one should start. The staff of the hospital and Thulir were present. Discussions were also held with the farmers' groups and women's groups in the valley.



## Teachers workshop

Poornima from Marudam School, Tiruvannamalai, conducted two weekend workshops this year for the Thulir teachers. We used this opportunity to look at different age groups and how they learn. The teachers gained much from the experience.

## Marudam craft week

The Thulir teachers also traveled to Marudam for their craft week this year.

They got to participate in *kalamkaari*, palm leaf weaving, ear ring making, *silambaattam*, wood carving, stone carving and making masks and paper jewelry.

Jayabal and Dhanabal went for a week as resource persons to teach Bamboo craft to the Marudham school students. Ravi went for a week to observe and learn teaching methods from the Marudham teachers. Ambika, Lakshmi and Sasikala went to observe the Kindergarten classes there.

## Puvidham visit

As part of the initiative to start the school, we decided that exposure trips for our team of teachers to different schools would be good. The first of these trips was to Puvidham School



in the village of Nagarkoodal, 20 kilometers from Dharmapuri.



It is an alternative school catering to rural and dalit children. The Thulir team interacted with the Puvidham teachers and students in order to learn about their functioning and curriculum.

### **Anand Niketan School, Sevagram**

Our next set of exposure trips were to Sita School in Silvepura, rural Bengaluru and to Anand Niketan School in Sevagram (Gandhi ashram at Wardha, Maharashtra).



At Anand Niketan, we got to see all the children work on the charka as well as engage in a variety of activities including dance, music, craft, gardening, embroidery, cooking, vegetable cutting, cleaning in addition to academic lessons.

### **Visit to Sita School**

This is a school that Thulir shares a close relationship with. We've had more than a few exchange programs for students but this time, the entire teacher team visited the school. The teachers from Thulir got to observe the functioning of the school and the materials that they used for teaching and learning. Inspired by what we saw, we are now eager to try out these new techniques with the children.

### **Pongal Celebrations**



The harvest festival of Pongal is traditionally the most important festival in the valley. Respecting the local culture is an important aspect of the work in Thulir. So Pongal and the Art of Kolam is always celebrated in Thulir. This year too the Pongal and the kolam festival was a great occasion for cheer, creativity and goodwill.

### *Receipts and Payments 2014-15*

RECEIPTS	Rs	PAYMENTS	Rs
Opening Balance	1,09,962	Administrative Expenses	3,09,667
		Resource Person Expenses	36,241
Bank Interest	5,821	Nutrition Programme	39,210
Donation Received	7,40,800	Children's Camp	5,145
Donation Received - Corpus	1,00,000	Student Stipends	79,100
Interest on Fixed Deposit	1,01,296	Sports Expenses	650
Fixed Deposit Maturity	6,69,703	Campus Maintenance	63,490
		Teaching Materials	7,965
Receipts - Earmarked Funds		Exposure Tours	40,005
Bank Interest	9,764	Staff Meals	50,150
Contribution received	9,59,435	Students Meals	81,806
		Vehicle, Equip, Comp Maintenance	36,240
		TDS	14,229
		Fixed Assets -Additions	32,999
		Fixed Deposit	1343246
		Expenses - Earmarked Funds- Revenue	3,33,635
		Closing Balances:	2,23,003
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,96,781</b>		<b>26,96,781</b>

### *Liabilities and Assets*

LIABILITIES	Rs	ASSETS	Rs
CAPITAL FUND	16,45,165	FIXED ASSETS	9,27,012
CORPUS FUND	4,66,332	ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS	
		Telephone -Deposit	500
GENERAL RESERVE FUND	19,703	TDS	14,229
		Fixed Deposit	12,35,231
BUILDING FUND	4,64,035	Fixed Deposit (Corpus Fund)	5,27,718
BANK INTEREST FUND	36,566	CLOSING BALANCES	2,23,003
GENERAL EDUCATION FUND	2,95,893		
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,27,693</b>		<b>29,27,693</b>

**Many individual donors, friends and organisations supported us this year.**

***Thank you all***  
*for your continued support*

### **Support Us!**

Donations can be transferred directly to Thulir's State Bank of India accounts.

Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

#### Indian donations :

Account no: 31799396966,  
State Bank of India, Kottapatti Branch  
[ Kottapatti, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu 636906 India]  
IFSC code: SBIN0006244

For donations from foreign countries, please mail us for details.

Please visit our website <http://www.thulir.org> for more details of our programmes.

**Regular updates of our activities are also made in the blog site <http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/>**

***We welcome your Comments; Please mail us at [thulir@gmail.com](mailto:thulir@gmail.com)***