



**THULIR TRUST**

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**Annual Report 2016-2017**



### **The New School Campus**

Work began on the foundations of the classrooms in October. The five classrooms are almost ready. Roofing has been completed on three of them, and the walls have been finished in the other two. Finishing and flooring of all five are yet to commence.



We want our buildings to be:

- aesthetically pleasing
- cost effective
- environment and child friendly
- adhering to government norms
- built by local artisans
- making use of renewable energy as far as possible

### **Well**

In November and December, the Thulir Alumni dug a well in the new school land and struck water at 12 feet. The severe water shortage in the summer forced us to deepen the well in May.



### **Tree planting**

Govinda and Leela from Marudam School organised a tree planting weekend in the new school land. Teachers and students from Marudam brought tree saplings and joined with our teachers and students for this event.

In spite of poor rains in the month since, the planted saplings have been doing well so far.

### **Basic Technology Group**

This year's Basic Technology group comprised of Raghu, Sriram, Mohan, Perumal, Karthi, Prabhu and Annamalai. They did some courses on plumbing, electricity and construction. However, many of their families faced financial hardships due to demonetisation and severe drought over the past few years. Several of them left as a result to seek jobs outside the valley, and three of them joined the construction group on the new school site.

### **New Staff**

Kumar from Naikuthi village joined the Thulir team and has been helping us with site supervision at the new campus.

Ram and Archana have left lucrative careers in Bangalore and shifted to Sittilingi to work at Thulir.

### **Visitors/ Volunteers**

A number of resource persons have visited Thulir or volunteered with us for short periods over the course of this year. A few of those who worked with us for longer periods of time are mentioned below.

Vidya, a young B.Ed student from Dindigul, volunteered in the school for 2 months.

Sunder, a BA graduate from Delhi, volunteered with us for almost a year, taking English classes for the children.

Jaishankar & Madan, students of architecture, from Adhiyaaman college of Engineering interned at Thulir for three months and worked on the construction of the new school campus.

Muthu Chellappan, a young architect, visited us to learn about sustainable building technology and has stayed on to help us in site supervision at the new school construction site.

### **Teacher Training Workshops**

- Chitra, Sinthamani and Sasikala from Thulir attended a teacher training workshop at Marudam from October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>
- At the beginning of the academic year, Poornima from Thiruvannamalai conducted a two day workshop for teachers at Thulir.
- Jessica from Marudam Farm School visited Thulir and conducted a workshop on Pedagogy through movement and games.
- Nikita from Marudam initiated a craft workshop for teachers when she visited Thulir with Ram.
- Four of our teachers are attending a two day yoga workshop every month. This is being conducted at THI by teachers and therapists from Yoga Vahini. This school of yoga is based on the Krishnamachari tradition.



## Project based learning

In our project based approach to learning, every month we choose a theme and explore it through different disciplines. For example, in the project about plants, children wrote about different plants, read stories about plants, did a play on plants, conducted practical experiments on how plants grow and what they need to grow and recorded their growth graphically.



Their science, math, language and arts and craft are all based on the month's theme. Over the year, children did projects on colour, food, plants, the five senses and water.

## Water Awareness Rally

During the month with the theme of water, we conducted a small awareness rally through the village stressing the importance of water conservation. We wrote placards, created and shouted slogans and with the help of Sakthivel fixed the leaking community taps on our way.



## Public Drama Performance

As part of the theme of plants, our students performed a play on the importance of trees during the annual meeting of the Sittilingi Organic Farmers Association (SOFA).

Although it was the childrens' first time performing for a large audience of around 500 members, it was well received.



### **Participation in Running events**

Sakthivel and the BT students group participated in the Auroville marathon in February.

On October 16th, Sakthivel, Prabhu, Annamalai, Mohan, Perumal, Raghu, Sriram and Karthi participated in the Bengaluru Marathan 5K run.

### **The Sittilingi Run**

A long-distance running event in Sittilingi has been planned for many years and finally took place on January 22<sup>nd</sup> this year.

It was organised by the youth from Thulir and THI. Around a hundred men, women and children ran 10 Km and 5 Km runs. Santhosh and friends from Runner's High arrived and participated to provide encouragement and support.



### **Participation in the Craft Week at Marudam**

Sakthivel was a resource person for the Marudam craft week and guided students in bamboo craft work. The BT course students also participated in the craft week and learned various crafts.



## **School trips**

Our children come from six villages in the valley – Thanda, Sittilingi, Moola Sittilingi, Velanur, S.Dadampatti and Rettakuttai. We decided to organise exposure trips to all of these different parts of the valley.

The first trip was to Thanda. Melthanda and A.K Thanda are Lambadi hamlets in the valley. The Porgai artisans who create handmade embroidery are from here. We visited students' homes and also a small power loom plant. We observed how a loom works and how weaving is done.



In another trip, outside the valley, fifteen children along with four teachers visited Marudam Farm school, Thiruvannamalai.

Our children attended some of the sessions in the school. In the evening we visited the big temple and the Ramanashramam.

We spent the second day in the Park developed by The Forest Way Trust.

## **Camping at school**

As most of the children have never spent a night away from their parents so far, we planned for all of the 6 and 7 year old children to spend one night at the school. The night was filled with various activities. Everyone participated in cooking dinner using firewood and a star gazing session followed.

## **Music and Dance workshops**

We invited Mr. Mohan from Polur for a week in March to conduct an intensive folk dance workshop. Teachers too participated in learning these traditional Tamil dances and songs.

Shirly, Baby and Shanti, the founders of Kanavu Gurukula at Wynad conducted a song and dance workshop in Thulir from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Workshop for Village children

A one-week dance workshop was conducted for the government and private school children during the summer vacation. Students learned to do *Paraiyattam*, *Oyilattam*, *Kummi* and other folk dances.



### Street Performance

At the end of the dance workshop, the students put up a cultural show in the middle of Sittilingi village in the evening of May 14<sup>th</sup>. Almost the whole village turned up to watch and helped in the organising, even though they had very short notice of the program.

### Scratch

Sreyarth took classes on using the computer programming tool Scratch for our older children during the months of June-July and later again in December. Scratch is a free programming language, which can be used to create interactive stories, games, and animations.

With Sreyarth's help, children created multiple programs in scratch and tried their hands in simple animation scripts.

### Pongal Celebrations

Pongal is a Tamil rural cultural and harvest festival that falls in January, and is celebrated every year in the Thulir campus. The children painted on the walls of Thulir. Pongal was cooked and the women danced the traditional folk dances. Colourful rangolis from the children and staff were drawn on the floors.





## Annual Day

The Annual Day function was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. A simple stage was put up on the Thulir ground and the audience included parents, relatives and others from the villages.

The students all participated and performed for almost two hours. The teachers also joined in and danced for a couple of songs.



## Parents Meeting

We encouraged parents to visit the school and observe their children's progress during time set aside for the purpose in November/December. We staggered the timings of their visits across these months. They each attended their child's classes and then discussed their child's progress with us privately.

We also had three group meetings with parents during the year, in June, September and in March.

Many parents actively participated in these meetings and individually interacted with the teachers about their child's academic performance.

In an open discussion, most of the parents expressed immense satisfaction with the school and with their child's progress.



The meetings each concluded with a performance by the children.

Thank you all for supporting us through all this.



**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - THULIR TRUST, 2016-17**

RECEIPTS		Rs.P	PAYMENTS		Rs.P
To	<b>Opening Balance</b>		By	Administrative Expenses	1,14,796.00
		1,54,047.25	By	Resource Person Honorarium	39,600.00
			By	Staff Welfare	18,000.00
			By	Two Wheeler Maintenance	11,655.05
			By	Sports and Cultural Expenses	7,090.00
			By	Campus Maintenance	21,376.00
To	Savings Bank Interest	6,601.00	By	Teaching Materials	12,852.00
To	Donation Received	6,15,500.00	By	Equipment Maintenance	19,100.00
To	Building Fund Donations	1,36,000.00	By	Staff Meals	62,855.00
To	Interest on Fixed Deposit	20,779.00	By	Students Meals & Snacks	28,513.00
To	Two Wheeler -maintenance donation	1,004.00	By	Students Exposures travel	2,067.00
To	Fixed Deposit Maturity	3,08,363.00	By	Other Maintenance	585.00
To	<b>Receipts - Earmarked Funds</b>		By	Guest Meals	18,675.00
	Bank Interest	12,049.00	By	Staff Exposure Travel	1,525.00
	Fixed Deposit Interest	1,22,274.00	By	Trust Expenses	1,72,078.00
	Contribution received	12,67,262.00	By	Fixed Deposit	5,00,000.00
	Building fund Donations	16,83,899.37	By	School Building	94,740.50
	Fixed Deposit matured	14,16,732.00	By	<b>Expenses - Earmarked Funds- Revenue</b>	10,37,981.50
			By	<b>Expenses - Earmarked Funds- Capital</b>	33,53,827.35
			By	<b>Closing Balances:</b>	2,27,194.22
		<b>57,44,510.62</b>			<b>57,44,510.62</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2016**

LIABILITIES		Rs.P	ASSETS		Rs.P
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		45,05,258.78	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		39,97,325.93
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		18,18,854.36	<b>ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS</b>		
<b>BANK INTEREST FUND</b>		2,42,755.90	Telephone -Deposit		500.00
<b>GENERAL EDUCATION FUND</b>		3,62,423.11	TDS		14,229.00
			Fixed Deposit		26,90,043.00
			<b>CLOSING BALANCES</b>		2,27,194.22
		<b>69,29,292.15</b>			<b>69,29,292.15</b>

## Support Us!

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

Thank you all

for your continued support.

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

### Indian donations:

Account No: 31799396966,  
State Bank of India, Kottapatti Branch  
[Kottapatti, Dharmapuri District, Tamilnadu, India PIN: 636906]  
IFSC Code: SBIN0006244

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

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

Please visit our website [www.thulir.org](http://www.thulir.org) for more details about our programmes.

Regular updates of our activities are also made in the blog site [www.thulir.org/wp/blog](http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog)

We welcome your comments; Please mail us at

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