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
Email: thulir@gmail.com

Annual Report 2018-2019
New School Campus

This was a very memorable year for Thulir! Construction of six classrooms and an office building finished this year and an inauguration function for the new campus was held on January 23rd 2019. Parents, children, visitors, funders and others were invited to the function. A large tree was drawn on one of the blackboards and all those who had contributed to Thulir in any way were invited to draw a leaf on the tree!

Parents Meetings

Our first parents meeting this academic year was held in the beginning of the academic year and started with an informal interaction between the new and old parents about the school. Parents spoke about the school and its philosophy. Bringing children to school has always been a problem for parents from the distant villages since we don’t have a school van.

We had 53 children from 7 villages this year. Five students completed class five this year and left in June to pursue their sixth grade in other schools.

A group of parents from Dhadhampatti village took the initiative and got one of the parents to bring many of the children to school in his private car. The logistics are being handled entirely by the group of parents.
A second parents meeting was held on 21st September 2018. Parents responded positively to the influence the school had on their children.

A third parents meeting was held in April 2019. Parents discussed ways in which they could help with the running of the school. The importance of activities like singing and dancing was also discussed. Plans were made for the cultural festival on the 14th of April (see below).

Formation of parents teacher association

Over the years, we have discussed the need to have a team of people comprising of both teachers and parents to handle issues that affect both the school and the family.

This year, the parents took the initiative to create a parent teacher association and form an executive committee.

It was decided that the executive committee would have two parents from each village and two teachers. The executive committee members have already started helping with some of the school work.

Foldscope

The Foldscope is a low cost, simple microscope made up of a lens mounted on a sheet of paper folded in a particular way.

The Department of Biotechnology is trying out the Foldscopes on an experimental basis in a few schools in India. As part of this, our friend Dr. Varuni from IIMSc, Chennai, arrived in Thulir at the end of July with a dozen Foldscopes. We used them successfully to examine pollen, tiny creatures and blood cells.
Government recognition

The process of getting the government approval for the new school is on. We have got the structural stability certificate, the fire safety certificate, health and sanitation certificate from the respective departments and the public building license from the tahsildhar.

The Block education officer (B.E.O) has inspected the school twice and given a positive report and forwarded our application to the D.E.O. We are waiting for the visits of the D.E.O and C.E.O and their approvals for the process to be completed.

Story Telling Workshop

In October, a workshop for the teachers on using local stories as a resource for language and literacy across all subjects of the curriculum was conducted.

The teachers made two books based on the life and folklore of Sittilingi.

Participation in Marathons

Sakthivel and 7 Thulir alumni students participated in the Bangalore marathon in July. 12 runners from Thulir participated in the Hyderabad marathon in August.

Marudam Craft Week

Seventeen children and three adults attended the Craft Week at Marudam and stayed in Tiruvannamalai for the entire week.

They learnt a wide variety of crafts and exhibited them on their return.

Articles about Thulir

Ms. Salai selvam, an educator, activist and a columnist in Tamil Hindu wrote a series of articles on alternative schools and learning spaces in Tamilnadu. Thulir was also featured in this series. >> Link to the article

Ms.Priti David wrote an article about the BT course in Thulir for People’s Archive of Rural India. >> Link to the article
Pongal Festival in Thulir

The Pongal festival was observed in Thulir this year too, and celebrated with the usual cooking of new rice, traditional dances and decoration of walls with murals by children and staff.

Bengaluru Summer Camp

Sakthivel took Sribal, Kadiravan, Raina, Chandru and Kumaresan to participate in the week long Warm and Free summer camp for children of diverse backgrounds at Spastic Society of Karnataka.

Visit from Helixx School

About 20 children and 2 teachers from Helixx open school, Salem visited us in July. Helixx school caters to children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

Network Meeting

The 26th annual educational network meeting of individuals deeply engaging with questions in education was held in Thulir in February. Around 35 individuals from various schools and initiatives attended. The theme for this year’s discussions was ‘The creative process’.
**Dance workshop**

Sri. Mohan from Tiruvannamalai conducted a dance workshop with the children this year. The highlight was the paraiyattam, where the dancers dance to music they create with traditional hide drums they carry. The eight and nine year olds performed this amazingly!

**Mock election in Thulir**

A mock election was held in Thulir this year (coinciding with the Lok Sabha elections), as a learning exercise to help children and teachers better understand the election process in our country.

The older children formed three parties, complete with party manifestos, symbols, flags etc. The whole school was divided into five constituencies spread over five districts in various states. Everything from pamphlets to ballot paper was handmade. Voting was held for the five constituencies, results were declared and a five-member parliament was formed, including electing a prime minister.
April 14th – Cultural Festival - Fifteen years of Thulir!

A cultural festival was held on April 14th to mark Tamil New Year’s Day as well as the 15th birthday of Thulir.

The parents were invited and participated in a variety of craft work in different classes. This was followed by a performance where the children demonstrated the new dances they had learned. Parents and other visitors also joined in some of the dances.

We thank each and every one of you for being with us through all our efforts these fifteen years.

**

The Thulir Team.
Support Us!

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, Tamil Nadu 636906 India]  
IFSC code: SBIN0006244

Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.  
**For donations from foreign countries, please mail us for details.**

Please visit our website [http://www.thulir.org](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/](http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/)**

**We welcome your comments; Please mail us at thulir@gmail.com**