THULIR TRUST

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Annual Report 2019-2020
This was the first complete academic year in the new school campus. Students and staff enjoyed the environmentally sustainable campus, the playground and the airy and well-lit buildings completely.

**Workshop on making science toys - by Padma Shri. Arvind Gupta**

Sri. Arvind Gupta conducted an inspiring two day workshop on making science toys and experiments from the waste and trash around us.

Our older students went along with the staff as they conducted the survey in Moola Sittilingi village. We had helped them prepare a questionnaire and we helped them tabulate the results as drawings, tables, essays, maps and graphs. Graphs and maps became connected to their life and context and were better understood. It was a great learning experience for all of us.

The teachers and students of government schools also attended the workshop on the second day.

**Practical Social Studies**

Tribal Health Initiative undertook a door to door socio-economic survey of all the villages in the valley.

**Parents Meetings**

We had many interactions with parents during the year. Apart from the two parents meetings in school, the teachers’ team visited the children's homes in the various villages.
Spinning, Origami and Kirigami workshop
Sri.Madhav and Srimathi.Neelima Sahasrabuddhe visited and conducted a workshop on spinning, origami and Kirigami! The activities were tailored for each age group and many beautiful paper artifacts were created.

Bags from Rags workshop
Ms.Tejal from Mumbai taught everyone how to recycle old clothes into bags, mats and other useful articles!

Afforestation
We planted around 100 saplings this monsoon. This is the third year we are planting trees and despite the drought and severe water shortage most of the 150 trees from the previous years have survived. The native tree saplings were a gift from The Forest Way team, Thiruvannamalai.

Bonding with other adivasi communities
The 2018 cyclone in Kerala affected the adivasi communities in Wyanad. Our students and teachers responded with a small contribution to their appeal for help. Though their contribution was small, their sister adivasi community at Wynad was touched by the gesture. They used this money to plant traditional varieties of paddy.

And when the harvest came this year, they sent a portion of it for the children in our school. Of course their love, gratitude and solidarity made the rice tastier!

Practical Biology
The teachers and students made organic vegetable beds together and grew many varieties of local vegetables.
Biology was taught practically in the garden. Even the six year olds could show the difference between a tap root and a fibrous root or between the germination of a dicot seed and a monocot seed or the parts of an insect!

Visits from students and staff of other schools

We had four groups from other schools visiting us this academic year.

In November, a group of children from Ananya school, a school for underprivileged urban children, Bangalore, visited us along with Santhosh, from Runner’s High. Students from both schools put up plays together, played cooperative games, and went on a trek in the forest.

A group of adult students and faculty of the Ecological Nurturance Programme of the Forest Way, Thiruvannamalai visited us in October and stayed for a week in the classrooms. They helped us in making ponds and bunds for rainwater harvesting.

Students and teachers from Isai Ambalam School visited us in January. They talked about the importance of herbal medicine and demonstrated the process of making some simple herbal tooth powders and preventive medicines. The Thulir team taught the visitors some local crafts and songs.

Students and teachers of Marudam School visited us for one day in March. Both groups shared songs, dances, plays and tasty food with each other!
Sports day

Sports day was held amidst great enthusiasm in August. Normally we give prizes for all participants. But this year we did not give any prize. It was decided that sports should be played for sports' sake and not for any prize or reward.

Teacher training workshops at Fig Tree Learning Centre, Bangalore.

We believe that teachers have to be constant learners if we have to motivate our students to enjoy learning. As a part of this continuous teacher education programme, our teachers attended two workshops conducted by the Fig Tree Learning Centre, Bangalore in June and December.

The workshops focussed on language teaching and bilingual language teaching and were very useful!

A show by Clowns Without Borders

At the end of December, we hosted a show by a group of four artists from Clowns Without Borders, Germany.

They are a group of clowns, acrobatic and performing artists who travel around the world on a voluntary basis to perform for the people, who otherwise wouldn’t have access to such events. They believe that laughter has no borders, language, race or divisions. Their show was a good demonstration of this and it was enjoyed by everyone!
Govt. Recognition

Our application to obtain government recognition to our school is in progress. We have got clearances from all the departments and our application is currently pending at the district educational office. We are also awaiting DTCP clearance.

Pongal celebrations

The first Pongal celebration at the new school was celebrated with the usual fervour. Traditional dances and songs were performed, kolams were drawn and sweet pongal cooked in the open air and enjoyed together.

Participation at Auroville Marathon

Sakthivel has been interacting with and training students from the Sittilingi government school. In February he took some of them to participate in the Marathon in Auroville.

Folk Dance workshop

A five day workshop on traditional Tamil folk dances was conducted by Sri. Manimaran in March. A performance for the parents and relatives at the conclusion of the workshop was planned but had to be cancelled due to the corona lockdown announced by the government!

Corona lockdown

Respecting the government orders we closed the school from March 16th. We co-operated with the local panchayat during the lockdown in maintaining physical distancing, spreading awareness in whatever ways we could, talking to the local farmers to grow more food crops and vegetables to help sustain the community in these pandemic times etc.

Wishing all of you a safe and healthy time during this pandemic and hope we all come out of this difficult time together.

Thank you for your support

Team Thulir
**Support Us!**

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

**Indian donations:**
Account no: 31799396966,
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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

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