



**THULIR TRUST**

5/971, Kaliyankottai village,  
Velanur PO, Sittilingi Panchayat,  
Theerthamalai SPO, Harur Taluk,  
Dharmapuri Dt., TN  
636906

Phone :+91 96554 82919

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

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

**Annual Report 2023-2024**



## Twenty years of Thulir



It has now been twenty years that Thulir has been working with the tribal children of Sittilingi valley! To commemorate this an Alumni Meet was held on April 14th. It was attended by 120 alumni from various places and various walks of life. Former students of Thulir school, the evening Learning Centre and the Basic Technology Course.

It was very touching to hear from them how Thulir has played a role in each of their lives. Whether small or big, Thulir has impacted them in important ways that they still remember and cherish.

## Running and hosting marathons



Running is something that children as well as some teachers truly enjoy. The children participated in the Anandayana run, Wipro Marathon and the Sittilingi run this year.

In the spirit of extending the joy of running to the larger community, the “Sittilingi Run 2023” was hosted with much gusto. People from nearby villages and cities had come to participate along with all the children and teachers at Thulir.



## Government Recognition for the primary School

We are very happy and relieved to announce that we have received the certificate of recognition from the Tamil Nadu Government! We are now officially a recognized school.

## Frisbee camp



A ten day frisbee camp was organised by “One All” group from Gudalur. It was attended by students from Thulir, as well as students from Palakuttai and tribal hospital. The celebratory and inclusive nature of the sport led to almost 200 people gathering in the centre of the village to play together.

## Workshop on Alternative Construction



A 3-day workshop on “Mud and Alternative Construction” was held along with the team from Mrinmayee. It hosted a diverse set of people from across the country. The workshop was a revelation as to the need to find spaces where those who want to follow an unconventional path can find like-minded people and gain strength from each other to take the unconventional path.



## Food Project



A theme-based project on “food” was undertaken. It looked at nutrition, the food-cycle, recipes, songs and stories surrounding food. It culminated in a grand feast with a wide variety of dishes cooked by the children entirely on firewood.

## Parents’ meeting

We had two very good parents’ meeting this term. They were very open and interactive.

## Teachers’ Trip



An annual teachers’ trip was held, visiting Gudalur and Ooty over four days. It was filled with visits to Ashwini Adivasi Hospital, Vidyodaya School, Keystone Foundation, The Real Elephant Collective and the Ultimate Frisbee collective One-All.

But it was also interspersed with moments to unwind at Anu’s family house in Ooty, the Ooty Botanical Gardens, drives through Mudumalai to spot animals in the wild and shopping for tea, coffee and clothes.



### **Nature Walks and Ecology Classes**



Vinod, an ecologist from Marudam, has been instrumental in opening our eyes to the little wonders around us through weekly nature walks that he conducts. Some longer walks are also organised along with older children to allow them to explore the forests more deeply.

### **Book Fair**

Teachers and students visited the book fair at Salem. Books were bought for the library and also to give as gifts to out-going students.

### **Participation in Marudam craft week.**



Students and teachers stayed at Marudam for ten days during their craft week and participated in a range of arts and crafts. They came back with many artifacts that they had crafted with their own hands. They had also taken with them products they made here like soaps, keychains, friendship bands, greeting cards etc. to distribute at the craft week.

### **Thulir Alumni Meet**

Another Alumni meet was held in December for the alumni of the school, who are now studying in different schools, to give them support and guidance.

### **Turtle-Walk in Chennai**



The oldest group of children participated in the turtle walk organized by the Student Sea Turtle Conservation Network, Chennai. It was quite a feat for 10 year olds to stay awake and walk along the beach for hours through the night in the hope of spotting the Olive Ridleys. Seeing the hatchlings walk into the sea was a beautiful sight for all.

We also travelled on the Chennai Metro and visited the Snake Park, Anna Centenary Library and the Birla Planetarium as part of the trip.

### **Election at Thulir**



To demonstrate the workings of the national election, a mock election was conducted in Thulir. It was very much like a real election except with friendship in place of animosity. The energy was electric from the declaration of party symbols until the day of counting.

### **Inspiring through Cycling**

It was a pleasure to host 80 cyclists passing through Sittilingi for lunch. They were on a week long cycling tour organised by the Tamilnadu Cycling Club.



## Annual Day



Kalai Nila Kalai Kuzhu's team of eight artists trained the students and teachers to perform folk dances like *oyilaatam*, *saataikuchi aatam*, *tappaatam*, *kaliyiyal* and *karagam*. There were also plays in Tamil and English by the children. It was an evening of festivity much enjoyed by children and adults alike.

## Visits from students and parents from other schools

Students from the Centre For Learning , Bengaluru and Rishi Valley School, Madanapelle, spent a few days with us.

Many young parents from the cities have visited, wanting admissions for their children at Thulir. After Covid the number of young parents looking for alternative places to live and school their children has increased.

## Field and village classes



Our teachers continue to take turns to conduct village classes in the Palakuttai and Nammarkadu government schools. Suresh also conducts Afterschool evening classes at Pakakuttai village.



## Library



The new library-cum- resource centre is under construction. It is being built by artisans who have been trained at Thulir.



None of this could have happened without your support. We thank each one of you for recognising the value and authenticity of our years of ground work from the beginning and choosing to support its continued growth and blossoming into the future.



## Support Us!

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

### Indian donations :

Account no: 31799396966.

Bank: State Bank of India,

Branch: Kottapatti Branch

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> 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)

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