



Shanthimalai Trust &
Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

QUARTERLY REPORT

April - June 2023 (Q1)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 21st July 2023

The report aims to give a brief but accurate overview of the developments and activities of each quarter of the Financial Year, for publication to interested readers of all kinds. For questions and suggestions please write to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi (vijayalakshmi@shanthimalai.in).

A. SHANTHIMALAI TRUST

Poor and Needy (Pension Scheme)

533 beneficiaries from surrounding 30 villages for this quarter received their monthly pension under the PN scheme.

SSA (Primary) School

During the second week of April 2023, children took up the year-end annual exam and all of them faired out very well. The exams were followed by a summer vacation for children till the second week of June 2023.

The academic year ended with a Teachers' Get-together at hotel Sparsa, where teachers took part in many fun-filled activities and enjoyed a dinner together. The event was followed by a teachers' vacation of 15 days (about 2 weeks).

Issue of applications for new admissions in all the standards commenced from the 17th of May 2023.

After teachers returned from their vacation, the new academic year (2023-2024) commenced with a special pooja at SRM School – Varsharamba Pooja (a special pooja at the beginning of every academic year). Later the teachers took part in the Teachers' Orientation Camp run by the School Development Team.

The school for children reopened on 14th of June 2023. All the children were welcomed with welcome cards and sweets, later followed by a pooja for Bala Ganapathi.



On the 22nd of June 2023, Joyful Learning – Montessori Kindergarten was implemented for entry level standard – previously LKG. Children now have a new classroom, with all necessary toys and learning materials. The curriculum is very child friendly, and children have great fun learning. The first day began with a hand printing activity.



Yoga-Mediation Centre

9th of May 2023 we celebrated our beloved Appa Jayanthi day with our staff and some devotees.



We had 12 guests this quarter, and income of Rs.3.6 lakhs was made, which helped with maintenance costs. The ashram houses' regular maintenance for electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting has been done in accordance with the requirements. The garden has been maintained as usual, with seasonal organic manure produced, pruning, and regular cleaning and watering.

Skill Development (SSDP)

For the new academic year 2023-24 it is planned to revive the Sunday classes, for which each 4 tutors in the areas of GK, English, Computer and aptitude will teach in 2 groups every 2nd Sunday.

A career guidance meeting exclusively for +2 students and parents with the attendance of 2 resource persons Mr. Sriram (SVRCC, Sri Vivekananda Rural Community Centre) and Mr. Surendran (Cumi College, Hosur) was held on 17.4.23: From 52 sponsored 10std. students all returned to 11th std. Activities in the 2nd quarter 2022 were mainly concerned with the collection of letters to the passing-out students, who apply for SSDP sponsorship.



In the previous academic year, we had a total of 151 students, with 42 students successfully graduating. Currently, we have 109 students enrolled for the ongoing academic year. We are pleased to share that we received 62 new applications for the current year, with 42 applications from within SRM School and 20 applications from students outside of our school.

Private colleges started admissions. The selection for Government colleges (“Counseling”) will take till the middle of August. Then only those students who did not get a government seat, must decide if they will go for a private College. Once this decision making is over, we can start with the SSDP selection.

During May 10th and May 12th, we organized a three-day intensive coaching program on communication, values, and personality development for 20 graduating students from our class 12. The sessions were highly useful, providing valuable skills and personal growth opportunities. We are grateful for your support in making this impactful experience possible for these students. Thank you for your ongoing dedication.



Shanthimalai Environment Care (SEC)

Our Shanthimalai Environmental Care programme is divided into six components, the details of which are listed below.

1. Girivalam seva
2. Solid waste management
3. Green Earth mission
4. Water Augmentation & Conservation
5. Promoting alternative energy
6. Integral farming system

The following are the details of completed tasks for the last three months.

Shanthimalai Trust has donated two cows for the livelihood of the tribal women's community. When those cows produce a new calf, they will donate it to another tribal group, under the cyclic arrangement.



Shanthimalai Trust and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board held an awareness program and workshop on single-use plastics, reusable cloth bags, MSW management rules, and e-waste management at TNPCB's Tiruvannamalai office on 6.6.23. Participants pledged to adopt a LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment).



Shanthimalai Environmental Care (SEC), in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Sports Development Authority, organized a mini marathon to educate students on single-use plastic dangers. Winners received prizes and certificates at the SEC campus.



All of the teachers at our Shanthimalai School received updates about the Environmental Care Center's initiatives and were given awareness training as well as gifted reusable cloth bags.



On June 30, we made a visit to Mr. Raju's organic farm in Siruvachur village, near Salem, where he had successfully cultivated turmeric. He trained our crew for one day on how to execute a successful natural farming technique on our Kannappa land.

On June 23, we made a visit to the FRLHT (Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions), a Scientific and Research Organisation dedicated to revitalising Indian Medical Heritage in Bangalore. It is a National Centre of Excellence for medicinal plants and traditional knowledge, and we would like to collaborate with Dr Ganesh Babu, the head of the organisation, who will assist us and provide direction to establish the herbal park in our SEC campus.

As part of our IFS initiative under the SEC project, farmers were trained on Panchakavyam (five ingredients from desi cow) natural fertilizer, which is made with natural ingredients without the use of hazardous chemicals. Also taught how to make insect repellents made from natural ingredients.



One acre of sesame was sown and harvested on Kannappa's land during this summer.

As part of the Solid Waste Management initiative, 21 tons of organic waste collected along the Girivalam path were combined with cow dung to produce natural bio compost for our agriculture field.



After the summer season ended, 5 acres of land were prepared over the last three months for the cultivation of seasonal crops for sustainability.

B. SHANTHIMALAI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

SRM School

With the blessings of AppaAmma our school was successful in producing 100% results in standards 10 and 12. Pachaiyammal, topper in standard 10 scored 96% marks and Pasupathi topper from standard 12 scored 91% marks.

The academic year 2023-24 had a fresh beginning at school with **Varsharamba Pooja** – a special pooja that marks the beginning of a new academic year. The Chairman, Correspondent, Management and all the staff of both schools (SSA and SRM) gathered at Ganesha temple to offer their prayers. The pooja included some rituals that ought to be done in the Vedic education system of ancient India.



An intense 5 days' Teachers Orientation Camp was started off by the Chairman and the trustees. The camp lasted for 5 days, and it included variety of events planned by the School Development Team. Each day included Yoga, Meditation, Bhajan, Training sessions and other games. A special meditation session was also organised at Kannappa's temple followed by a nature walk at SEC. The orientation camp was very well received by all the teachers.



The teacher's orientation camp was followed by a Subject Teachers Meeting (5 days) to plan the academic year forward. The subject teachers meeting was aimed at identifying common learning difficulties faced by the students and in developing appropriate teaching and learning strategies thereof.



Once the students were back to school after their summer holidays, students of standards 12 and 10 were offered a motivation session (to ensure readiness to learn) by the Correspondent which was later followed by a discussion session

between teachers and the students. Students found the discussion session very helpful as teachers shared with them some smart study techniques.

To foster cultural values, a sense of togetherness and respect for lunch (prasada from Bhagavan), lunch is now being organised in a common hall where all children sit along with the teachers to have their lunch together.



School Development Project

The School Development Team comprises of the Correspondent, Principals, Project Managers and Team Heads. The school development team has brought about many positive changes this academic year which includes, Teacher's orientation camp (an inhouse initiative – by the teachers; for the teachers), Lunch distribution and dinning arrangements, Joyful learning implementation etc.,

- Hybrid Learning

During the Teachers Orientation camp, teachers were provided with a hands-on training session on how to use MS Teams for teaching, content development and collaboration. 25 additional laptops were purchased and now teachers of standards 9, 10, 11 and 12 have started to deliver lessons using digital teaching and learning tools.

A repository of resources has been put up by the teachers on MS Teams Education version of our school. The team is currently working on developing some learner management tools that includes attendance monitoring, lesson progress tracker, etc.,

- English Tea Time

The team contributed the most during the teachers' orientation camp. It was resolved during the camp that all teachers try to speak English in the campus without any hesitation.

To help teachers overcome their hesitation and fear of speaking English, the team is developing a 30 days bootcamp exclusively for adult learners.



- Well-being

Bhajans have been introduced to the students and now children sing bhajans with great joy during their free hours.

Pooja before lunch is being organised now by the wellbeing team. Before children start to eat, food is offered to Bhagavan, all present in the hall sing Annapoorna Shloka (a hymn to thank Goddess of Food and Nourishment)

Now Yoga, Meditation and Bhajans have become a part and parcel of school life. Teachers have been encouraged to do yoga and meditation on a regular basis.

- Feedback and Coaching

Feedback is an integral part of any teaching and learning process. The feedback team has already developed a foolproof feedback mechanism which would provide teachers with valuable insights into their profession. Giving feedback is an art in itself; thus, the team is developing a training module for all observers who choose to serve as feedback givers.

It would then be followed by Peer feedback among fellow teachers at school. This would bring in an air of openness among teachers as they give and receive collegial feedback to each other.

- 3R (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic)

The 3R team has developed modules to help children with 3Rs (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic). As a prototype it will be first implemented on a small group of children who have difficulties in 3R skills. The team has identified 40 students from both the schools who have difficulties learning. The parents were invited for a meeting wherein the agenda and objectives of 3R were discussed.



This class shall run in parallel in separate classrooms (includes an activity room). Teaching and learning resources have been pooled out and the classrooms are ready to go.

- Joyful Learning

A unique Montessori based curriculum – Joyful Learning for kindergarten children has been initiated at SSA school. The project is first of its kind in the history of Shanthimalai schools. A fully equipped classroom to run the curriculum has already been set up and a group of dedicated teachers are now working on the project.



The curriculum shall offer budding kid's ample opportunities to explore the world around them by engaging in many stimulating activities. The curriculum mainly focusses on Life skills, Sensorial learning, Arithmetic skills, Language skills, Cultural learning and Mindfulness. It intends to kindle the inborn ability of every child towards learning and thereby make self-learning more joyful and fulfilling.

A child friendly curriculum of this kind needs the full support and engagement of parents at home. A total of 16 children are part of this project and their parents have already been explained the benefits of this new curriculum.

Sponsorship Programme

At the end of the 2nd quarter 2023 (first quarter of financial year 2023-24) this year's figures of the Sponsorship Program are not known as the selection process is still pending. School started only in the middle of June and by July 1st. 100 applications have been submitted, of which less than 30 are for upgradation. A final figure can be expected for the Q2 report.

Leaving SP program: From totally 86 12th std. students 61 (71%) sponsored students have been leaving this summer.

Sponsored students as on 1.7.23: Before new SP students will be admitted, this summer the SP program still has 359 sponsored students (SSA, SRM, OUT).



Student's Lunch:

School lunch is now part of the Sponsorship Department. A medical screening done in the previous year revealed 50% of primary students and 30% of high schools are below the WHO limit of BMI. The lunch provision at both schools were reassessed and the menu was accordingly revised. The menu includes Sambar rice, Vegetable rice, Tamarind rice, Tomato rice with side dishes such as greens, dal and different vegetables. Presently a total of 350 students are receiving their lunch at school. The average cost per serving is Rs. 33/- i.e., Rs. 5/- more than the previous year mainly due inflation and addition of side dish.

In both schools a dedicated space to serve lunch has been organized and children everyday sit down to have their lunch together after a pooja.



Regular feedback from students about the quality of food is being collected and the quality of food is being checked before being supplied to children.

C. FINANCE REPORT (FY 23-24)

Income

A total income of 121 lakhs (63 L and 58 L from foreign and local incomes respectively). Local income includes 37 lakhs of school fees which is only 12% of the expected income for the year. (Rupees 1 lakh ~ 1,130 Euro)

Expenditure

With total expenses of 126 lakhs and a head count of 2142 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is fairly well within budget. There is a drop in the beneficiary numbers due to budget constraints. Reserve funds shall be utilized for existing and upcoming projects.

Approvals and Renewals

- Donation particulars submitted to FCRA for 1st quarter.
- FY 2022-23 final auditing is in progress.

Overview

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24 (Q1)
BENEFICIARIES	2566	2433	2321	2142
INCOME*	733	858	899	121
EXPENSES*	513	637	802	126
PROJECTS*	-	21	19	4
*INR lakhs, 1 lakh INR ≈ 1,130 €				
