

Shanthimalai Trust &  
Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

# QUARTERLY REPORT

October - December 2022 (Q3)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 2 February 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](mailto:vijayalakshmi@shanthimalai.in)).

## A. SHANTHIMALAI TRUST

### Poor and Needy

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

### SSA (Primary) School

On October 18, 2022, we held the Byjus Talent Exam and awarded certificates and gifts to students.



In the Drawings for Thanking event conducted on 3.11.2022, students displayed their appreciation for our loved sponsors through a variety of drawings.



We held a range of entertaining activities, including fancy dress competitions, plays, games, and quizzes on November 14 to honour Children's Day.

On 10.12.2022, the School Development team exhibition was performed by five teams: hybrid, well-being, 3R, English teatime, and feedback, which is very useful for our teachers' various aspects in school development.

II term exams were held, and children will be on vacation from December 24, 2022 to January 1, 2023.

We celebrated Christmas on December 23, 2022, with children performing a Christmas drama and cookies provided to students.

Mr. Armin, a community friend, met with the 3R and ABL teams on December 27, 2022, to share his expertise and strategies for using Teaching Learning Material and activities in class. It was a high-energy workshop for team members to master new teaching strategies.

Mrs. Kanimozhi delivered an Activity Based Learning Montessori initial training session for our teachers on December 29, 2022. As a consequence of this lesson, we gained a fundamental understanding of Montessori methods and their usefulness in primary education. The session includes both activities and new knowledge.

### **Yoga-Mediation Centre**

The Mahadeva and Lakshmi Amma house kitchen and bathroom were 30 years old and had suffered from wear and tear. As a need, renovation work has been finished.

Work of the Lan Cable network from the Arunachala House EB pole to the Adhisankara house and Meditation Hall was properly done.

General maintenance of the all the houses and garden were continued as usual.

### **Skill Development (SSDP)**

In our SSDP enrollments have been completed by the end of this 2022. The final numbers are:

GERMANY: 33 direct SP students graduated from SRM as of Dec 2022. 21 students have enrolled for SSDP support in 2022-23. The total number of direct sponsored SSDP students is 70.

USA: From the 6 graduated students, all 6 sponsors have consented to continue their SSDP support. The total number of direct sponsored USA SSDP students is 20.

CH: From 10 graduated students this academic year fund allocation for altogether 4 students is available from which 6 SRM students were taken into the program.

6 students will receive a one-time payment. Altogether, 93 old and 53 new = 146 students are studying this year with SSDP support. Letters and photos were mainly received from USA sponsors.

In continuation of the Sunday class activity (Spoken English, Computer basics, General Knowledge, Aptitude and Reasoning), we have created a new unique gathering for final year students that will commence in November 2022 and will be held online. Indian friends who live in Germany are participating in this gathering and volunteering their time to teach the students for no charge. After graduation the students should be able to write applications and make use of "LinkedIn" in finding jobs. They are given guidance to develop their inner skills to corporate standards.



## Shanthimalai Environment Care

**Girivalam Seva:** This service is being continued to keep the Holy feet of Arunachala in clean and green, with the support of district administration and the help of NRGES workers from three Village Panchayats. Under SEC, the following additional infrastructure has been created.

Constructed a natural hut for GVS workers as a breakout area and Information Centre, and 2 toilet rooms at SEC campus for GVS workers. Also converted 80-ton organic waste from the Girivalam path into bio compost.



**Solid Waste Management:** Using a mechanical shredding machine, organic waste collected from Girivalam Path is periodically transformed into bio manure in the windrow composting method. Vermicompost is produced as a value-added product. The demonstration plot utilizes bio-fertilizers to promote sustainable agriculture.

**Environmental Training Institute:** ExNoRa International's chairman and thirty of their volunteers visited Shanthimalai Environmental Care on December 25, 2022 and underwent hands-on training on a broad range of subjects including Tree Plantation, Integrated Natural Farming, Rainwater Harvesting, and Herbal plantations.



**Water Augmentation and Conservation:** The water resources have been enhanced by conserving rainwater by constructing percolation ponds and de-silting and deepening existing water resources with a proper network of pipelines.

**Integrated Farming System:** A demonstration plot of 10 Acres to educate farmers on the preparation & usage and benefits of using organic manure, liquid fertilizers, Jeevamirtham, Panchakavyam, and other pest repellents have been developed and growing beneficial crops. Cow shed has been constructed for 10 cows.

A natural footpath has been created along the northern and eastern boundary of our land from Ganapati Temple to Kannappa Temple with a 1.5 Km long and 5 feet high barbed wire/ chain link fencing to protect the land/crops from wild animals.

**Green Earth Movement:** During the first phase, planned to plant at least 5000 tree saplings on our own grounds, so far 2500 indigenous tree saplings planted with the help of volunteers, staff, friends, students, and the public.



1000 tree saplings have been planted SRM school campus by our students to create a dense forest to mitigate the impact of carbon emissions.

A 1600 square feet greenhouse was constructed to grow young saplings.



**Energy Conservation Initiative:** Stand-alone solar streetlights have been installed to conserve energy and also utilize the alternate energy of solar. Biogas has been used for cooking in SEC as an alternate energy. Battery-operated



vehicle is used for transporting plants, manure etc.

### **Star Forest (Rasi & Natchathra Vanam)**

Star forest has been created for the wellbeing of everyone.

According to Indian astrology, there are 27 trees that symbolise the 27 Nakshatra or Stars. As per conventional astrology, planting, nurturing, and worshipping respective Trees by persons based on their star sign will assure your well-being. These trees were once planted in temples and gardens.

## **B. SHANTHIMALAI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

### **SRM School**

13 of our school students took part in a special one-week art and craft training – Marudham Craft Week at Marudham Farm Trust School, Tiruvannamalai. Rope making and doll making using recycled materials, Origami – paper craft, Kalamkari – cloth dye printing – traditional, Sculpture work – stone, Mask making with wastepaper pulp, Clay pottery, Palm leaves craft, Embroidery and cloth weaving, Traditional folk dance – Kolattam.

A one day – craft exhibition at school was organized following. All students and teachers visited the exhibition. Some interested students and teachers tried their hands in the exhibition.



Students of all the classes appeared for Half Yearly Examination during the middle of December. Students have considerably improved compared to the Quarterly Examination conducted previously.

A one-to-one parents meeting was conducted by the teachers to update the parents about their wards progress. More than 85% parents attended the meeting and had a good exchange of thoughts with the teachers and assured to support their children at home.

Sports and athletics are an integral part of student life and at SRM school students show interest in a variety of sports. Many of our school students took part in the Revenue District level sports competitions such as Tennikoit, Silambam, Swimming, 80m Hurdles, Target ball etc.,



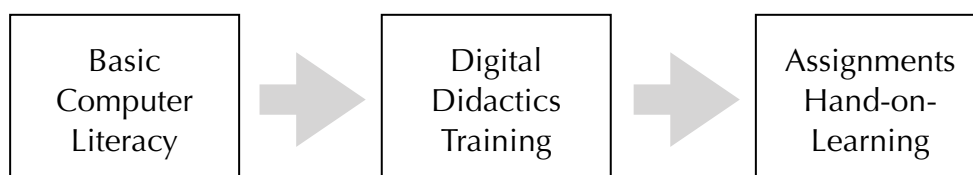
### **School Development Project**

A special Town Hall meeting was organised by the school development team in the multipurpose hall. Dr. Ruediger and Durai Ganesh addressed the teachers and emphasised on the need for change. After a short break, teachers met the team members in their booths. In the booths, teachers had an opportunity to interact closely with the teams and they learnt about the various initiatives that the teams were working on.

#### **- Hybrid Learning**

The school campus is now fully Wi-Fi-enabled, and all computers have access to high-speed internet access. Teachers now have access to computers in their staff rooms and they use MS Teams Education to prepare their lessons and to collaborate with each other. There is a repository of learning materials (from standard 1 to 12) that has been pooled by the Hybrid learning team and is now made available for teachers to access anytime anywhere.

Teachers are being skilled up with computer know-how and as a first step 18 higher secondary teachers are trained to effectively use computers in their daily teaching activities.



### **- English Tea Time**

Ability to read, write, understand and speak English is paramount for every teacher at Shanthimalai Schools. As a first step the English Tea Team have been meeting every evening to run the ETT for themselves.

The team has made progress and has collected a set of English Learning Resources to be used in the future. These resources would be then compiled into modules for three distinct levels; Entry level, Intermediate, Advanced.

English Language Proficiency was first assessed within the team and it is further to be extended to the teachers in the form of an adaptive self assessment tool. The team shall multiply itself to facilitate learning English among fellow teachers.



### **- Well-being**

40 minute Yoga Meditation Session is being organised every morning by the team members.

Pooja, Shlokas, Simple Yogic Postures, Pranayama, Relaxation, Meditation, Shanthi Mantra, Reflection and Feedback are often part of each session.

The sessions are carefully planned in advance and tweaked from time to time to give participants a deep touching experience.

Every day the team seeks feedback from the participants to make any changes if required till a viable model could be rolled out to the students and teachers.



### **- Feedback and Coaching**

It's a known fact that seeking feedback in teaching can help a lot in improving the quality of teaching and learning in the classrooms. Feedback team has been keenly working on establishing a healthy feedback culture at school, i.e., feedback for coaching and not for sheer evaluation.

The team has been developing necessary feedback tools such as observation sheets, feedback questionnaires, training module for providing coaching feedback etc.,

Mr. Armin Stocker shared his expertise with the team in developing an effective classroom observation model. The same shall be tested within the team so that teachers in the team learn to coach their fellow teachers by offering feedback.

### **- 3R (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic) /Activity Based Learning**

A bottom up approach has been adopted to ensure that children at entry level standards are able to read, write and do basic arithmetic. The team has researched on various learning and teaching tools that can be used in improving 3R skills.

A thorough review of the existing curriculum with the learning outcomes for entry level was done at the team level. A strategic plan to integrate 3R/ABL methods into the existing curriculum is being devised by the team. Mr. Armin Stocker has been sharing his expertise with the teachers in this regard.



## Sponsorship Programme

The final number of sponsor beneficiaries for the year 2022-23 is follows: from totally 945 students 437 (46%) receive educational support. (Full sponsorship: 252 and Aid to Education 185 students). Germany is supporting 179 students with full sponsorship and 91 students with Aid to Education.

On 19. November the second parents meeting of SRM school and on 13. Dec. 2022 the second parents meeting of SSA school was held. The main activities were the annual processing of correspondence between parents and children and conducting individual meetings with parents and children at the SP office.



## C. FINANCE REPORT (FY 22-23)

### Income

Total income of 198 lakhs was received, 123 from foreign donors (CH, DE, US) and 75 lakhs local income from fees and rentals. (Rupees 1 lakh ~ 1,230 Euro).

### Expenditure

With total expenses of 242 lakhs and a head count of 2307 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is sound and well within budget. Reserve funds shall be utilised for existing and upcoming projects.

### Approvals and Renewals

- The interim audit was completed. (From April 2023 to November 2023)
- Donation particulars submitted to FCRA for 3rd quarter.
- SMT & SRDT FCRA Renewal certificate was received.

### Overview

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23 (Q1)	FY 22-23 (Q2)	FY 22-23 (Q3)
BENEFICIARIES	2566	2433	2,273	2317	2307
INCOME*	733	858	170	191	198
EXPENSES*	513	637	144	171	242
PROJECTS*	-	21	18	14	6
*INR lakhs, 1 lakh INR ≈ 1,230 €					