

Shanthimalai Trust &
Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

QUARTERLY REPORT

January - March 2023 (Q4)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 28th April 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)

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

SSA (Primary) School

Mr. Kuppan (Tirukkural thondu maiyam), who presided over the celebration of the 74th Republic Day on April 26, presented an inspiring speech to the children. About the Indian freedom fighters, a children's performance was staged.



The Bhoomi Pooja for the new Bala Ganapathy temple was done on March 6th, and construction work soon followed.

'World Women's Day' was observed on March 8th. Teachers planned some interesting activities for the day to keep students interested.

Mr. Armin donated sports equipment as well as language and math teaching materials.

We held a science show on March 21, the day before the commemoration of World Forest Day. Students presented their projects to their classmates and explained them.



On March 23, 2023, a field excursion to the Science Park in Vengikkal was organised for our Vth standard students. By doing this, they picked up several new scientific ideas they had never heard of before. Additionally, they delighted in the lake scenery and park activities.

Yoga-Mediation Centre

We had a magnificent winter meditation retreat led by our Beloved Amma, in which nearly 100 friends from various countries participated and experienced joy and inner peace which enhanced their well-being. They have also contributed to our charitable endeavors.

We had a full season with all the house were occupied with our friends.

The extension of cattle yard was constructed for our cows to move freely within the enclosure.



As usual maintenance of the Ashram and routing works were done in this quarter. We have provided equipment and other necessities for the Government Sidda Hospital's treatment of the underprivileged.

Our organization has received an award from the District Administration on January 26, 2023, the 74th Republic Day of India, in recognition of its outstanding services to the underprivileged people of Tiruvannamalai and the surrounding area in the fields of education, health, and environmental protection.



Skill Development (SSDP)

The annual Alumni meeting was held on Jan. 6th with our chairman Dr. Ruediger & Mr. Robert, sponsor manager Dr. Andreas and SSDP staff. The following students were contributing with testimonials.



Mr. Gnanasrikanth, joined Sri Ramana Maharshi Matriculation Higher Sec. School in the year 2010 – 2011 in 3rd std. Due to his family's poor economic condition he got full sponsorship for class 3 to 12 and for his Bachelor of computer science college degree. He is now in his final (3rd) year at Shanmuga Industries Arts and Science College, Tiruvannamalai. He is a hardworking, sincere, polite, soft spoken, well-disciplined, and respectful student. He is cooperative with SSDP and regularly attends his Sunday classes. For his attitude and achievements, he was awarded a laptop.



The SSDP sponsorship activities were focused on the processing of sponsorship contributions and the collection of letters and photos to the sponsoring parents.

Shanthimalai Environment Care

Girivalam Seva: Co-ordinating with officials of the village panchayat for the effective implementation and safe disposal of solid waste being collected from the Girivalam path. Our GVS workers are regularly collecting the garbage even behind the fencing.

Source segregation is mandatory for processing organic waste and recycling of dry waste. Different strategies will be adopted to achieve the source segregation including creation of awareness among all stakeholders.

Solid Waste Management: Tender coconut shells, Sugarcane bagasse and other organic waste collected from Girivala path are being shredded for size reduction and then mixed with cow dung slurry to adjust the carbon to nitrogen ratio to achieve good quality bio manure. The bio fertilizers are mainly used to raise the tree saplings in the nursery.



Water Augmentation and Conservation: To efficiently conserve water, drip irrigation systems have been developed in Ananda vanam, fruit orchards and Miyawaki forest. This facilitates an effective irrigation system for 1500 tree species. Aqua culture has been implemented in Meenakshi Pond to grow fishes.



Integrated Farming System: After the plants had reached full maturity, ground nuts were harvested from the demonstration plots of 5 acres. Flowers and vegetables were plucked at regular intervals and utilized for offerings and cooking respectively. The excess was sold in the market.



Green Earth Movement: Our community friends enthusiastically and wholeheartedly took part in the tree planting and tree adoption. This brings harmony with nature through spiritual path.

The baby saplings were collected from seed beds and growing in the controlled atmosphere of green house for further growth and will be distributed for plantation. 1500 tree saplings were planted in the collectorate campus with the help of the District Sports Officer.

Energy Conservation Initiative: Biogas is used as an alternative to LPG and solar lights are being used for lighting the pathways in the entire land. Battery-operated vehicle is used for transportation.

Star Forest (Rasi & Natchathra Vanam): Star Forest is being developed by planting appropriate tree saplings for every stars and Zodiac sign. Base for Lingam has been constructed and path ways are laid to enable easy access to all spritivaul trees.

Radha Ramana Sanjeevini Herbal Centre: Radha Ramana Sanjeevinee centre is currently part of SEC, efforts to save and develop herbs from extinction. It has been decided to create a demonstrative herbal centre to conserve, educate, propagate, preserve natural biodiversity and generate income for farmers. The layout for the herbal garden has been prepared and an entrance arch has been erected. 108 herbal plants are being grown in the earthen pots.



B. SHANTHIMALAI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

SRM School

On January 7, 2023, individual teacher-parent meetings for grades LKG to IX were held.

Ten students participated in the District level school volleyball rolling trophy event on February 10, 2023 at Global Path School in Thiruvannamalai, claiming the third-place trophy.

Our volleyball and target ball teams competed in the Chief Minister's Trophy, which was held in the Tiruvananthamalai stadium from February 25 to February 27, 2023.



The Pollution Control Department conducted a sustainable environmental programme for students at our school on February 27, 2023.

On January 26, 2023, a Yoga demonstration featuring 15 students was organised at Tiruvannamalai Stadium.



A student from the IXth grade, Deepalakshmi, won first place in the district-level competition for the prime minister's painting, which was held at the Kendriya Vidyalaya school.

Republic Day was celebrated in our school on January 26, 2023. In 2023, February 28th was designated as National Science Day. Our third through ninth-grade students took part with enthusiasm. Twenty-one students from our school took part in the Auroville Foundation's essay writing competition.

School Development Project

- Hybrid Learning

IT Assistants completed a Support Service Desk and 15 assignments for teachers of classes 10-12. They now have access to computers in their staff rooms and Computer Lab and can use MS Teams Education to prepare Third Term Exam Question Papers. A repository of Question Papers has been pooled by the Hybrid Learning team and is now available for teachers to access anytime anywhere. Laptops are ready for classroom teaching.

- English Tea Time

The team has developed a testing system for assessing the standard of language proficiency in teachers for both schools (SRM and SSA). The system shall categorize teachers into three namely, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

The assessment comprised of various tools such as video, online exercises etc., for 4 major domains – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The tools were developed on MS Teams and were tested within the Team.



- Well-being

Yoga sessions are being conducted to the teachers for 45-minutes daily, with Pooja, Shlokas, Stories about Ramana, Pranayama, Simple yogic postures, Meditation, Relaxation, and Shanthi mantra. Students participated in Yoga at the collectorate office on 26th January and were awarded for their performance. In February and March, students were given practice for School Choir song and

shlokas. Discussion and planning are being processed for the Orientation program, and a Shlokas booklet is being planned and in the process of preparation.

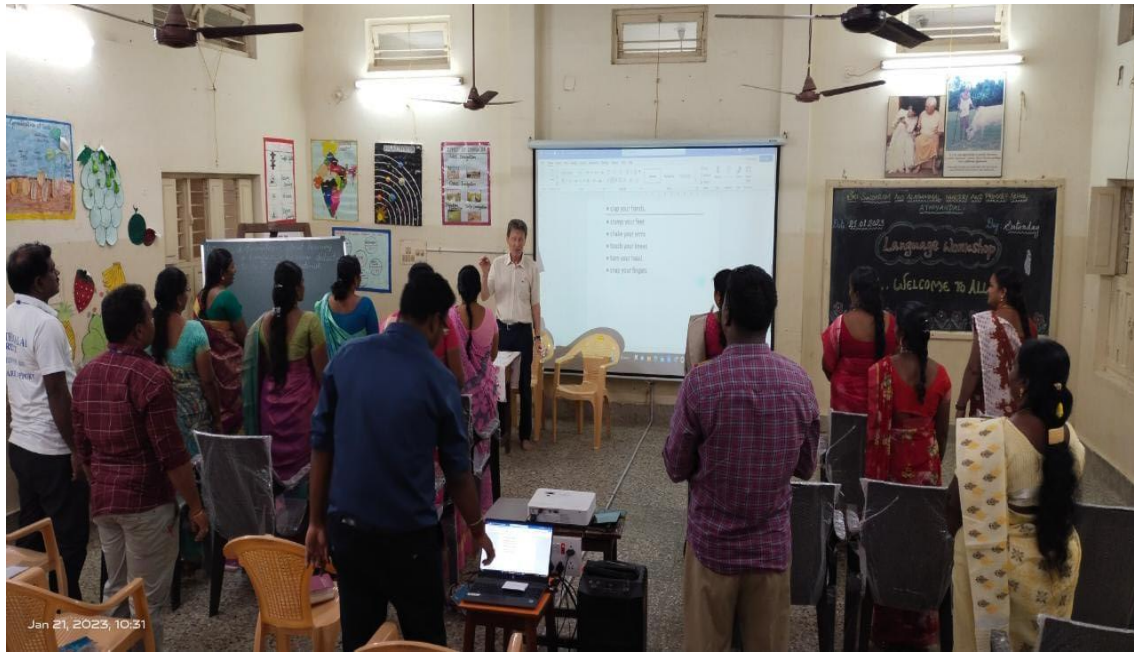
- Feedback and Coaching

The feedback team is putting a lot of effort into creating a healthy and friendly feedback culture amongst teachers. Mr. Armin's support and guidance is invaluable, and the process has been taken over by Dr. Sudha. Team members developed teaching tools such as MS forms, worksheets, observation request forms, questionnaire forms, and tested them successfully. Two-week stand-up meetings are held with Mr. Armin and Dr. Sudha to ensure progress and make changes required. The team is ready with TTO (Training The Observers) deliverables.



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

On January 21st, Mr. Armin conducted a workshop for Language and Mathematics teachers of both SSA and SRM schools. On February 11th, he shared innovative teaching methods. On February 18th, he exhibited innovative didactic materials. On March 4th, he gave training on Math Software. On March 8th, they discussed the process and difficulties of implementing 3R. On March 10th, they had an online meeting with Mrs.Chinthamani to discuss Montessori curriculum and the implementation process.



Sponsorship Programme

At the end of the 4th quarter the numbers of sponsored students are nearly unchanged compared to the Q3 report. The 3rd. parents meeting was held on March 18th for the SRM school for the parents of std. 10-12 and on March 9th for the SSA school with 174/218 (80 %) (w/o Kindergarden).

This term's activities were focussed on the distribution of letters from sponsoring parents and the collection of respective answer letters. In these months much time was spent on the assessment of the letters and the individual talks with children. As on 31.3.23 - compared to the previous year - the number of children receiving Educational Aid was reduced from $489/976 = 50\%$ (2022) to $440/946 = 47\%$, which has to do with the large number of sponsored students of 12th std. (61) leaving this year. Due to the economic situation of Europe and the USA the number of new sponsoring parents is getting less. (In 2021-22 the number of Sponsorship beneficiaries was $513/1060 = 48\%$).

A parent meeting only for 12th std. students was held on 4.3.23 by Dr. Ruediger, Dr. Sudha and Dr. Andreas regarding the "Life after School", in which the parents were prepared for the next steps to be taken to move towards professional life.



C. FINANCE REPORT (FY 22-23)

Income

A total income of 899 lakhs was received, 561 from foreign donors (CH, DE, US) and 338 lakhs local income from fees and rentals. (Rupees 1 lakh ~ 1,230 Euro).

Expenditure

With total expenses of 802 lakhs and a head count of 2321 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is sound and well within budget. Reserve funds shall be utilized for existing and upcoming projects.

Approvals and Renewals

- Donation particulars submitted to FCRA for 4th quarter.

Overview

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
BENEFICIARIES	2566	2433	2321
INCOME*	733	858	899
EXPENSES*	513	637	802
PROJECTS*	-	21	19
*INR lakhs, 1 lakh INR ≈ 1,230 €			
