

Shanthimalai Trust &
Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

QUARTERLY REPORT

Oct - Dec 2023 (Q3)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 31st Jan 2024

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

529 beneficiaries from surrounding 30 villages received their monthly pension for this quarter under the PN scheme. We are reviewing the program from January 2024 since the living conditions of the people enhanced through various Government schemes.

SSA (Primary) School

All the children from standards 1 to 5 were vaccinated in a special vaccination camp organized by Government of Tamil Nadu. It was followed by a medical screening for all the students by SRM Hospital.



After the assessment examination parents were informed about their child's academic progress and school life in a one-to-one parents meeting.

The birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (First Prime Minister of India) is celebrated as Children's Day in India. Children's Day many literary and cultural activities were conducted at school. Activities, such as handwriting competition, Thirukural and Bharathiyar Poem Recitation, Skit, One Act plays etc., were enjoyed by the children.



For the first time, Mio (a child from a German school) attended our school upon a special request. He had a great cultural exchange with our children and teachers of standard 4 during his three weeks stay here.



Christmas was celebrated with great joy by all the children at our school. children dressed up as Santa Claus went around giving gifts to their fellow children.



Yoga-Meditation Centre

Thoothukudi District in Tamil Nadu has been devastated by a storm and heavy rains. To assist flood-stricken residents, our trust provided 700 kilogramms of rice bags. The donation was organised and properly delivered to the District Administration office.

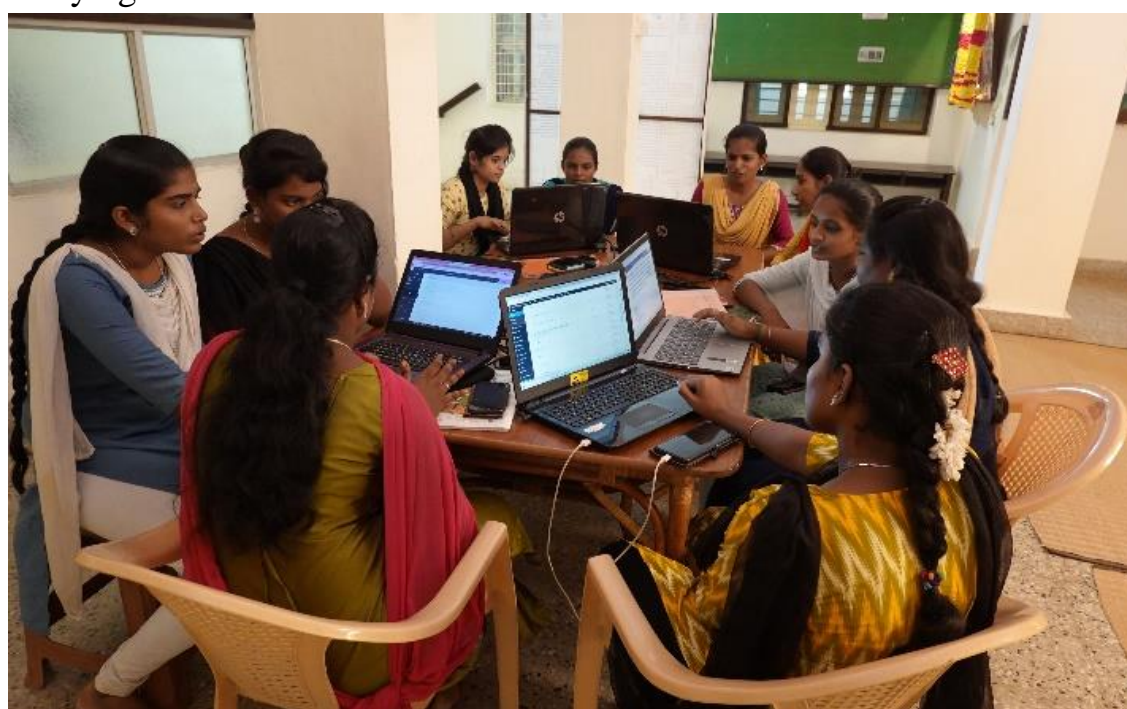


This season has begun under the guidance of beloved Amma, and we have 85 friends participating in the meditation sessions. Friends in the community were pleased to see our efforts continue to benefit the needy.

In the way to Meditation Hall and Adisankara House, we installed paver blocks to enhance the pathways. Also ensured safety by installing handrails at the entrance of Meditation Hall, Adisankara, Sannithi, and Hanuman house. Furthermore, we successfully constructed a new toilet in the upstairs of Siva Sakthi house to address the insufficient facilities, considering the ample space available and the presence of only one existing toilet. General maintenance of all the houses and gardens has continued as usual.

Skill Development (SSDP)

In our SSDP (Skill Development Programme) enrollments were completed by the end of 2023. The final numbers are GERMANY: 38 direct SP students graduated from SRM as of Dec 2023. 24 students have enrolled for SSDP support in 2023-24. The total number of direct sponsored SSDP students is 58. USA: From the 5 graduated students, 4 sponsors have consented to continue their SSDP support. The total number of direct sponsored USA SSDP students is 18. CH: From 9 graduated students this academic year no fund allocation is available. 4 SRM students were taken into the general funding 6 students will receive a one-time payment. Altogether, 108 old and 39 new = 147 students are studying this.



On 24.09.23 SSDP students appeared to the first quarterly online Assessment in English, Computer Science, Aptitude and General Knowledge. This gave us an insight on the effect of skill training and development.

On 8th October 2023, 18 SSDP Students worked with the facilitator Mr. Ashok and created a website. After successful completion, they were given Certificates by Dr.Andreas, Dr.T S Sudha and Mr.Ashok.



Shanthimalai Environment Care (SEC)

Girivalam Seva: 70 Numbers of barrels were repaired and installed into Girivalam Path. 60 metric tons of mixed garbage were removed from the Girivalam path.



Solid Waste Management: 15 metric tons of biodegradable waste have been converted into bio manure. The composted manure was fed into the natural farm as Bio Fertilizer and used for tree plantation.

Environmental Training: A workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Department of School Education & Department of Environment on 18th December 2023. The district coordinator of National Green Crops & ECO Clubs, Green Fellow from Department of Environment and 35 teachers Coordinators from 35 various schools of Tiruvannamalai district participated. In this workshop, teacher coordinators were advised to keep the school premises clean and green. Shanthimalai Environmental Care will support planting trees and regular maintenance will be carried out by the respective schools.



Integrated Farming System: Peanuts were grown on one acre of land using natural fertilisers and insecticides. Chrysanthemum plants thrived, and the flowers were picked on a regular basis for use as garlands in Appa Sannithi.



Star Forest: Lingam with Nandhi have been consecrated in center of the star forest. This has been spiritually connected with nature and experienced by many visitors, especially by children.



Eco Friendly Model House:

Eco Friendly Model House is being constructed for sustainability of the project with the following salient features:

1. Unbaked Compressed and Stabilized Earthen Bricks (CSEB) are manufactured from foundation soil for construction. So, no backing, no transportation, and no carbon emissions.
2. We exclusively used windows and doors from ancient houses, therefore no trees were destroyed to build this house.
3. As part of energy conservation measures, a high-rise double-layered clay tile roofing system is proposed to minimize scorching temperatures and provide adequate ventilation.
4. The solar system will be installed for generating renewable power.
5. A bio septic tank will be built, and the overflow and sullage water from the kitchen and bathrooms will be treated using phytoremediation techniques.
6. A Biogas plant will be built to cater to the need for cooking gas.
7. A rainwater harvesting system will be installed.



B. SHANTHIMALAI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

SRM School

All the teachers took part in a unique workshop on - “Effective Stress Management” organised by Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya. Teachers from many other schools took part in the programme and Bhrama Kumari Sister Uma, the resource person provided an eye-opening session on stress management exclusively for teachers.

After the quarterly examinations, parents were invited for a one-to-one meeting to discuss the progress of their children. 96% percent of parents attended and benefited from the meeting.



15 students from our school were sent to take part in a special craft week organised by Marudham Farm Trust School. Children tried their hands on pottery, rope making, stone sculpturing, paper craft etc.

To kindle scientific curiosity at school Mr. Rajkumar and Mrs. Malar took part in a Science Teacher Training Workshop at St Joseph Higher Secondary School, Arani, Tamil Nadu. The workshop highlighted the different types of experiments that could be included in teaching science at school.

Christmas was celebrated at school by all the children with great pomp and show. Children dressed up as Santa Claus and Fairies came up to stage to wish everyone Merry Christmas.



School Development Project

- Hybrid Learning

Now standards 9 to 12 have projectors installed in the classrooms and teachers have started to use them in their daily teaching routines. In the previous quarter all the secondary and higher secondary teachers were provided with laptops to prepare their lessons.

A sanity check was performed on the laptops and on all Wi-Fi networks available in the school. Based on the usage reports from the devices, revised usage guidelines were prescribed to enhance efficient usage and experience. A foolproof troubleshooting mechanism is put in place using a ticketing system that avoids unnecessary delays.

Basic Computer Training was offered to all the Primary and Upper Primary teachers from both SRM and SSA school.



- English Tea Time

Teachers meet 3 days in a week in the English Tea-time to interact and discuss on a variety of topics. The focus is on encouraging teachers to use English in their day-to-day communication. There are 6 different batches of teachers who meet at different places in the evening for the English Tea-Time. Each session is facilitated by the team members of English Tea-Time.



The topic for discussion includes activities, short videos, audio files etc., and are prepared by the team members in advance. Mrs. Eva took part in the English Tea-Time and provided her feedback on the activities.

There is a visible improvement seen in the teachers' progress, they are now trying to overcome the hesitation to speak English. The team is presently working on developing the next set of resources, activities, and materials for the upcoming module of the English Tea-Time.

- Well-being

The wellbeing team has made good strides in recent months. Yoga, Meditation, Bhajans, Music, Art and Craft have been included into school life. Now teachers eagerly take part in a 45-minute Yoga Meditation Session.



“Singing together is such a joy”, Say the teachers. They now gather in the multipurpose hall to sit peacefully and sing bhajans together.

Mr. Armin and the Wellbeing team have now included musical instruments in the Bhajan Sessions. Teachers love to sing to the tune as the musical instruments are being played.



- Feedback and Coaching

Feedback plays a pivotal role in enhancing the learning experience, promoting continuous improvement, and fostering a positive and supportive educational environment. Teachers willingly came forward to receive feedback from their fellow teachers and their seniors. Every teacher was provided with honest and collegial feedback as per the agreed guidelines.

Seeking feedback from students was also done as planned by the Team. As a trial, feedback from students of classes 10 to 12 was only obtained. The feedback was collected using a questionnaire which students filled out online in the school computer laboratory. This kind of feedback is the first of its kind in the history of the school.

The student feedback was immediately followed by a Teachers Efficacy Workshop. Mr. Armin, Mrs. Eva, Dr. T S Sudha and Dr. Durai Ganesh put together the summary of their observations and provided comprehensive feedback to all the teachers. Mrs Eva explained in detail an effective lesson planning technique using different social learning forms. Mr. Armin gave a presentation on Productivity for teachers which was very useful for all.

To ensure that the learnings from the observation feedbacks are put to daily use by the teachers it was decided to do offer model lessons (sample) in English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, etc., Teachers were invited to prepare sample lessons in their own subjects based on the social learning lesson plan presented to them. It was an eyeopener for many of them as it was considered an entirely new way of delivering their lessons in the class.



- ABL (Activity Based Learning)

Students enrolled in the ABL classes have progressed very well. An in-depth review of progress made by individual students was conducted within the ABL Team. Review included discussions on difficulties faced by students, changes required in the syllabus, modification in the didactical methods etc., Based on the review a revised course of action was prepared.

Furthermore, Mr. Armin and Mrs. Eva reviewed the objectives, teaching processes, and action plan to provide their valuable recommendations.

ABL teaching materials were put on display during the Teachers Efficacy workshop. Other teachers eagerly listened to the ABL teachers as they explained the usage of different didactic materials and methods.



A test was conducted to assess the progress made by students. Students who performed well in the assessment will then be moved to regular classes and will learn along with other children. To make the transition from ABL to Mainstream smooth enough, a detailed transition plan has also been prepared. As a next step ABL would select some more students from the regular classes.

- Joyful Learning

In the beginning of the 3rd Quarter, a General Health Screening was organised by the Doctors from SRM hospital for all the children. It was then followed by a one-to-one parents meeting wherein parents were explained about their child's health and progress at school.

Vijayadashami (also known as Saraswathi Pooja day) according to Hindu culture is considered an auspicious day for children to join a school. 4 new students were enrolled on this day, increasing the class strength to 20 students.

On the eve of Children's Day, children took part in a variety of activities with Green being the theme colour for the celebration. Activities included – Show and Tell, Vegetable Printing and Fancy-dress competition etc.



Celebrating festivals are an integral part of the Joyful Learning curriculum. Diwali (festival of light) was celebrated in the classroom. Children listened to the story of Narakasura with great delight and it was then followed by some fun filled activities.

Joyful Learning is now well received by parents and the children are making good progress. Dr. Ruediger and Dr. Durai Ganesh visited the classroom and interacted with the children and observed the didactical materials and methods used. Mr. Armin and Mrs Eva also visited the classes and offered their valuable feedback and expert guidance on developing the model furthermore.

Children celebrated Christmas with great joy with Red being the theme of the day. Children actively took part in art and craft, pick and talk, free group dance etc.,

Joyful Learning Project has aroused the curiosity of all the teachers from both the schools (SRM and SSA). On a special request from her fellow teachers, Mrs Kanimozhi did an introductory workshop on Montessori philosophy and teaching methods.



The children are enjoying the Montessori classes and have started to actively engage themselves in all the learning activities of the class. Parents have become very supportive now and are being regularly informed about their child's progress.



Sponsorship Programme

The final number of sponsor beneficiaries for the year 2023-24 is follows: in total 919 students (SSA, SRM and OUT) 374 (41%) receive educational support. (Full sponsorship: 223 and Aid to Education 151 students). Germany is supporting 164 students with full sponsorship and 70 students with Aid to Education.

On October 10th a meeting for parents and all new Sponsor students was held to inform about the principles of our sponsorship program.



10 classes of Paul Schneider Gymnasium in Germany have collected money for 10 full sponsored SRM children. Claus Münz, physics teacher, who has been for one summer volunteering in our school is coordinating this school program and has been distributing photos and letters to the ten SRM students.



Student's Lunch:

During this quarter, altogether 17700 students received lunch from our schools. From 150 children of our SSA school about 73% and from 700 children of our SRM school about 36% of children were eating our school food.



C. FINANCE REPORT (FY 23-24) Q1-Q3:

Income

A total income of 567 lakhs (367 L and 200 L from foreign and local incomes respectively). Local income includes 168 lakhs of school fees which is only 46% of the expected income for this year. Schools are working with parents to improve their payment attitude (Rupees 1 lakh ~ 1,130 Euro).

Expenditure

With total expenses of 487 lakhs and a head count of 2205 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is 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

- The interim audit of accounts was completed. (From April 2023 to December 2023).

Overview

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24 Q1-Q3
BENEFICIARIES	2566	2433	2321	2205
INCOME*	733	858	899	567
EXPENSES*	513	637	802	487
*INR lakhs, 1 lakh INR ≈ 1,130 €				
