

# Shanthimalai Trust & Shanthimalai Research and Development Trust

## QUARTERLY REPORT

Jan - Mar 2024 (Q4)

Submitted by the Executive Committee, 30<sup>th</sup> Apr 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](mailto:vijayalakshmi@shanthimalai.in)).

## A. SHANTHIMALAI TRUST

### Direct Support Programme

As part of our direct support programme, essential grocery items like rice, oil, and lintels worth of ₹30,000 were provided to the little heart's residential vocational training centre at Aswanagasuranai village, Tiruvannamalai on 29th Feb 2024. The centre supports around 50 adult mentally challenged girls helping them to lead more comfortable lives.



On March 5, 2024, we provided essential groceries to the Ramana Old Age Care Centre located at Girivalam Road. This assistance directly benefitted approximately 55 elderly individuals residing at the centre. The total cost of the groceries amounted to Rs. 28,000.

### SSA (Primary) School

On January 5th, a special meeting for parents was held to discuss child nutrition. Dr. Santhosh Babu presented a diet plan using locally available foods.

During the Pongal festival, teachers participated in a Kolam competition, with winners receiving prizes and commendations from Mr. Armin and Mrs. Eva.



The 75th Republic Day was celebrated on January 26th, featuring a motivating speech by Mr. Moorthy, the recipient of the "Best Teacher Award."

On March 3rd, a polio eradication camp was organized by government health workers, where all kindergarten children were vaccinated.

Following the final term exams, parents were invited on March 9th to a one-to-one meeting with teachers to discuss strategies for fostering holistic growth in children.

To promote awareness of water and forest conservation, the children engaged in activities organized by the Science teachers.



Games and sports are a fundamental part of the curriculum in the kindergarten. The children participated in fun games, winning prizes and earning certificates.

### **Yoga-Meditation Centre**

We had 12 guests this quarter, and a revenue of Rs. 4 lakhs were made which helps towards maintenance costs. The ashram's houses regular maintenance for electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting was done in accordance with the requirements. The gardens were kept up as usual, with seasonal organic manure, pruning, and regular cleaning and watering.

We have recently installed an on-grid solar system in Sriram house for testing purpose as part of our energy conservation efforts. Upon completion, we intend to expand this system to the Namashivaya office and other high-energy consumption areas, aiming to reduce overall electricity charges. Furthermore, we have successfully implemented a solar-powered water heater in Brahman House. The total cost for these installations amounted to Rs. 4 Lakhs.

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

Sunday classes for SSDP students have maintained an impressive attendance rate above 95%. Students are now awarded course completion certificates for their participation in SSDP programs. This quarter we were focusing on communication skills and general aptitude.

To enhance the effectiveness of our programs, we collected feedback from students through a survey questionnaire. The insights gained are helping the development of our courses and the recruitment of industry experts who will guide our students in future.

Digital literacy among SSDP students has significantly improved, resulting in better collaboration and communication. Efforts are underway to develop a dedicated website for SSDP to broaden our global reach. Following their successful completion of a practical computer course, students have shown increased interest in technology, volunteering to create an information brochure for SSDP.

We provide advice to 10th and 12th-grade students on various career options available in the job market based on aptitude tests. To enhance our profile and attract more students, visits to selected colleges and industrial training centers are planned.

### **Shanthimalai Environment Care (SEC)**

**Girivalam Seva (GVS):** In collaboration with community sanitation workers, 40 metric tons of organic garbage were removed from the Girivalam route and transformed into bio manure. 40 more barrels were refurbished and reinstalled along the Girivalam route. The District Administration of Tiruvannamalai has deputed seven young engineers from the Swachh Bharat Mission Monitoring Team to work as interns with Shanthimalai Trust to learn about solid waste management.



We intend to join Ramanashram on the GVS project to effectively implement solid waste management in a four-kilometer model stretch from Ramanashram to Shanthimalai. Three meetings were held with the President and Managing Trustee of Ramanashram by the Chairmans, Trustees of Shanthimalai Trust, and Tiruvannamalai Municipality authorities. Continuous follow-up is being conducted for the collaboration.

**Natural Farming:** Turmeric grown on three acres of land has been harvested for sale. The matured peanut crop on 80 cents of land was collected and processed into value-added products such as groundnut oil and cake. Flowers on 50 cents of land were produced and used for personal use at the Ashram, earning Rs. 20k.

**Green Earth Movement:** Students from three Government Schools visited our campus, learned about environmental responsibility, and planted 150 trees. Our SEC donated 500 tree saplings, which were planted to increase green cover at Shanmuga Arts and Science College.



Our GEM project planted 500 saplings in the premises of the chief educational department Tiruvannamalai.



250 plants were planted by the project supporters at the SEC campus. We have created another Star Forest closer to the mountain.

**Function: Women’s Day celebration** - 40 members of Government officials from Social Welfare Department of Tiruvannamalai have celebrated the World Women’s Day 2024 under the theme of “Invest in Women: Accelerate the progress.” They went on a tour of our SEC Projects and assured the collaboration with us for Environmental Care Activities.



**Natural House:** We have completed 95% of our eco-friendly model house project and intend to rent it out to generate revenue for sustainability from May onwards.



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

### **SRM School**

On January 19, 2024, a parents' meeting was hosted where Dr. Santhosh Babu discussed the importance of nutritious diets and the impact of junk food. The parents gained useful tips for promoting their children's growth. Additionally, Dr. Andreas delivered a special address.

The school celebrated the 75th Republic Day of India with cultural programs showcasing student talents. Retired District Education Officer Mr. Madhiyazhagan served as the chief guest, and deserving students received certificates. He praised the school's achievements in his address.



On February 12, 2024, 5th grade students from the school, accompanied by four teachers, visited the Tiruvannamalai museum. The trip aimed to provide a hands-on learning experience, educating them about the historical significance of their native city.



On March 9, 2024, a one-to-one meeting for all classes saw active parent participation. Parents discussed their child's education with teachers and inquired about school updates. The principal personally addressed parents of fee defaulters and slow learners to discuss concerns and solutions.

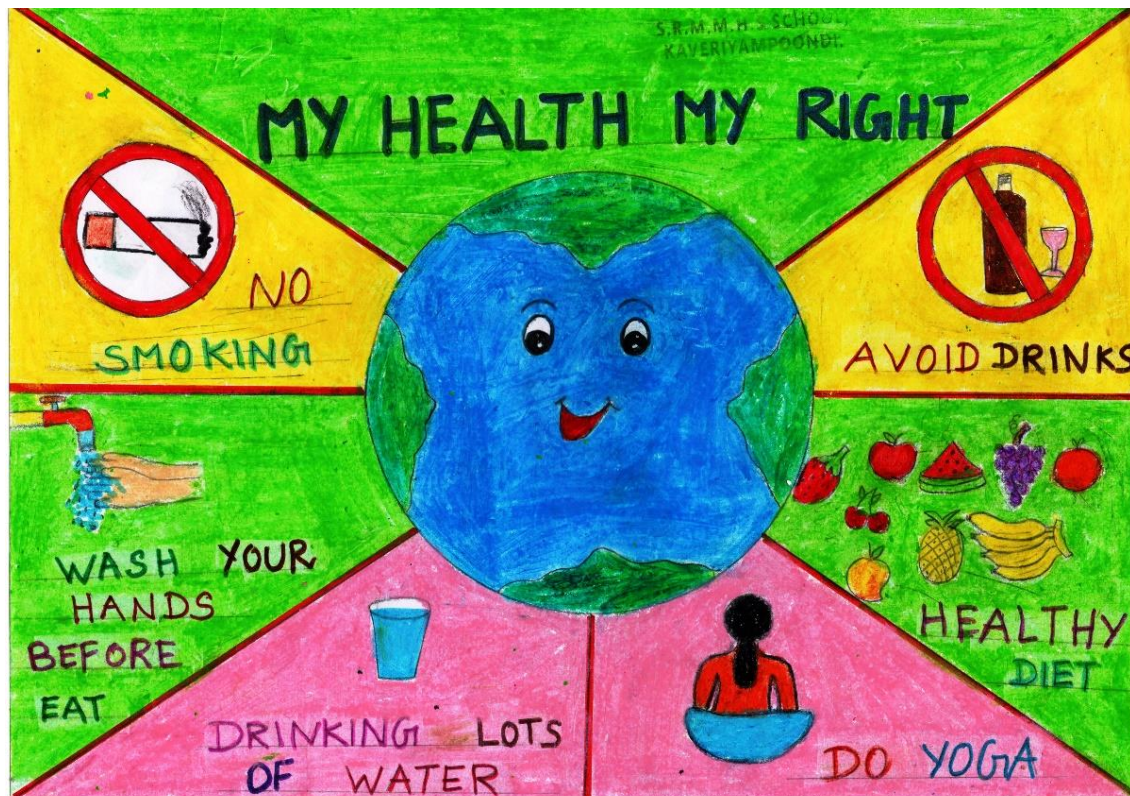


On February 17, 2024, the 24th Annual Sports Day featured Dr. Ruediger and Mr. Armin as chief guests. Mr. Armin hoisted the Olympic Flag and lit the torch, symbolizing sportsmanship. Students competed enthusiastically in various events, and winners received medals and certificates for their achievements.



On March 11, 2024, the Tiruvannamalai School Education Department held a Book Fair in Gandhinagar, encouraged by the CEO. Our school arranged for students to visit, with teachers explaining the different types of books available. Students enthusiastically explored and purchased books.

Students from grades VI to IX participated in a Drawing Competition organized by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Chennai. Their exceptional performances earned them prizes and recognition for their artistic talents.



## School Development Project

### - Hybrid Learning

Hybrid learning has significantly enhanced the success of English Teatime meetings by installing high-quality projector speakers and internet for seamless operations. Additionally, the hybrid team conducted a detailed usage analysis of the laptops used by teachers during a sanity check. This analysis provided precise data on laptop utilization hours, offering valuable insights to optimize resource allocation and boost productivity.



## - English Tea Time

LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) skills are essential for learning English, with a focus on Spoken English to improve fluency and conversation skills. The training started with instructors practicing simple conversations using model videos to improve pronunciation. Teachers then discussed a variety of topics and engaged in different types of conversations, including debates on themes like "Money Vs. Time," which encouraged active participation. The sessions also included engaging activities like scrambled sentences. Regular meetings every Wednesday helped plan future sessions and track significant improvements among participants.



### **- Well-being**

The Wellbeing Team has been actively conducting bhajan and yoga sessions for both students and teachers, contributing to the community's holistic wellness. These sessions have become increasingly popular, with teachers particularly enjoying the blend of singing and playing instruments during bhajans. Moreover, yoga sessions include educational videos on spiritual teachings, followed by discussions and meditation, deepening participants' spiritual engagement and personal growth. This approach has effectively fostered a nurturing environment for enhancing well-being.

### **- Feedback and Coaching**

In a recent One to One Coaching session, Mr. Armin and Mrs. Eva Regula led discussions on classroom observations and productivity strategies, while also instructing teachers on lesson planning. Additionally, they donated educational materials to schools and provided guidance on teaching methodologies. This coaching model, focusing on personal development and skill enhancement, included a demonstration of a model lesson plan. Teachers from SSA and SRM schools were tasked with creating their own lesson plans that incorporated defined learning objectives, exemplifying a structured approach to effective teaching.



## - **ABL (Activity Based Learning)**

On January 4, 2024, our team, including Mr. Armin and the Senior Team Manager, reviewed SSA and SRM schools' educational strategies, revealing that 18 students demonstrated proficiency in the ABL curriculum and were reintegrated into mainstream classes, with Science and Social Science added to the third term syllabus. Following requests from SSA's principal and teachers of classes III-V, 11 more students struggling in language and arithmetic were incorporated into ABL classes with tailored curriculum adjustments.

On January 24, Shanthimalai community members visited and praised the active participation and engagement of teachers and students in these classes, with students' strong mid-term exam performances further reflecting their successful curriculum adaptation.



## - **Joyful Learning**

Members of the Shanthimalai community visited Joyful Learning kindergarten, where Swiss educators Ms. Catharina Augustoni and Mr. Martin offered feedback and suggestions. During a subsequent meeting, Switzerland Foundation members agreed to support the expansion of the Joyful Learning Project at SSA School, with Dr. Ruediger outlining a long-term strategy for enhancing the Activity Based Learning model.



As part of their studies on vehicles and transport, children took a practical bus ride, learning about safety from their teachers and enjoying the experience. A games event was also organized for the kindergarten, with each child's participation encouraged by motivational gifts.



On World Water Day, March 22nd, the kindergarten celebrated "Blue Colour Day," engaging in water-themed sensory art activities and mask-making crafts, enriching their learning experience.



## Sponsorship Programme

At the end of the first quarter of 2024 (fourth quarter of the financial year 2023-24), the number of sponsored students remained unchanged compared to the Q3 report.

Regarding parent meetings at SSA, the third meeting was held on January 5, focusing on food and nutrition with Dr. Santosh Prabu. It had an attendance of 82%. The fourth meeting took place on March 9, with a attendance of 91%.



The SRM school organized multiple parent meetings throughout the quarter. One session, held on January 19th, focused on food and nutrition in

collaboration with Dr. Santhosh Prabu. Another meeting addressed options after the 10th grade, emphasizing the choice between continuing high school or opting for practical training. Separate sessions were arranged for 11th and 12th-grade students to prepare them for after-school counseling at SSDP. These discussions aimed to promote responsible decision-making based on a thorough understanding of available courses and future job prospects. Despite their efforts, many high school students still lean towards academic professions without considering their individual circumstances.



As of March 31, the number of children receiving Educational Aid (excluding kindergarten children) decreased compared to the previous year. In 2022-23, 440 out of 946 children received aid, accounting for 47%. In contrast, in 2023-24, 388 out of 870 children received aid, accounting for 45%. This reduction is primarily due to 60 students leaving the program last year. Additionally, there has been a decline in the number of new sponsoring parents, attributed to the economic and political situations in Europe and the USA.



During this season, 17 parents from the USA and Germany visited our schools to see their children.



## C. FINANCE REPORT (FY 23-24):

### Income

A total income of 915 lakhs (552 L and 363 L from foreign and local incomes respectively). Local income includes 236 lakhs of school fees which is only 65% 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 780 lakhs and a head count of 2207 beneficiaries, the current financial expense position is well within budget. There is a decline in the beneficiary numbers due to a drop in the school strength. Reserve funds shall be utilized for existing and upcoming projects.

### Overview

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24
BENEFICIARIES	2566	2433	2321	2207
INCOME*	733	858	899	915
EXPENSES*	513	637	802	780
<i>*INR lakhs, 1 lakh INR ≈ 1,130 €</i>				

\*\*\*