



Every Dream has a Right

- Mahasweta Devi



# 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2021 - 2022



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## ABOUT VANA VIL

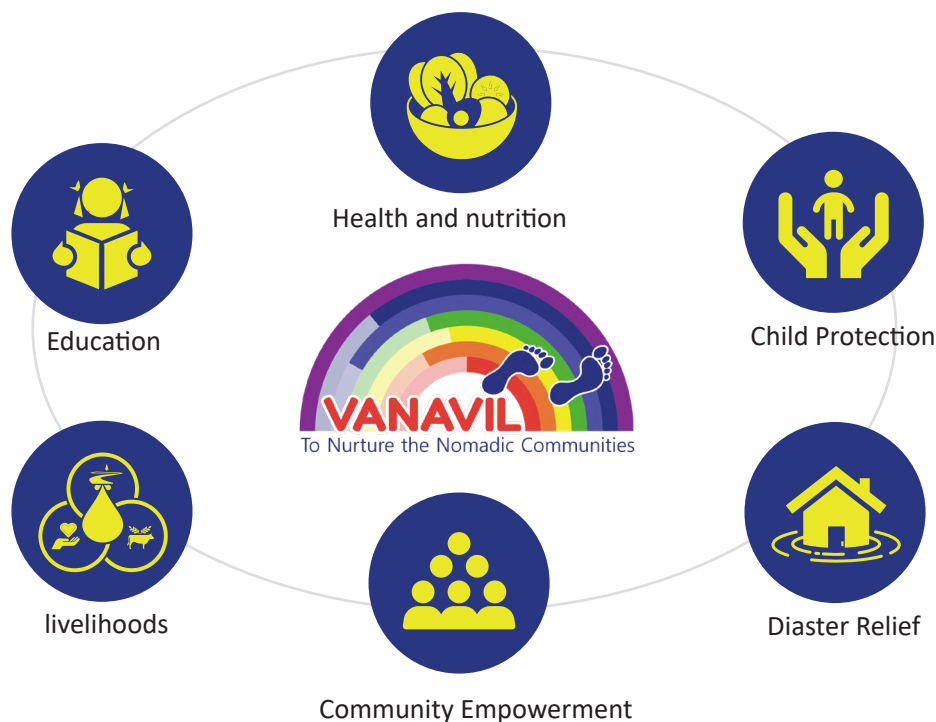


### NOMADIC TRIBES

The Nomadic Tribes are one of the extremely marginalised communities in India according to the government Commissions and reports of the NITI Aayog. Unidentified and wandering they live homeless and without documents to claim state welfare measures. Lack of livelihoods for the adults and Children being out of school, working keeps these communities in utter penury and menial conditions.

The Boom Boom Maatukarars and Narikuravars are two Nomadic Communities Vanavil works with in the delta Districts of TamilNadu

Vanavil works in the following areas focusing on the Nomadic Communities.



### Vision

**The Nomadic Tribes attain Equality, Identity and Dignity.**

### Mission

To ensure equality and dignity for nomadic communities by working for their protection, development and well-being in Tamil Nadu through Education, Livelihood, Advocacy, Health and Nutrition

## Overall Impact

**15000**

Families provided with relief materials

**1000+**

Nomadic children benefited through our after-school program

**530**

Children provided care & protection in our home

**450**

Children educated in our school

**380**

Women provided livelihood support

**65**

First generation college graduates

**06**

SHGs formed

**02**

Oxygen plants donated

**01**

Milk co-operate society formed

**674**

Nomadic children benefited through our after-school program

## Impact 2021-2022

**85**

Women supported through livelihood program

**75**

Children educated in our school

**60**

Children rescued through Railway Childline Program

**60**

Nomadic boys provided care by CBCP

**46**

Nomadic girl children in Children's Home

**24**

Nomadic students joined College education

**02**

New SHGs formed

**02**

New after-school centres opened





## Founder's Note

Dear Friends,

The Post pandemic world with more children dropping out of schools and increased rates of Malnutrition is upon us. The pandemic strengthened our belief that nutrition and overall family economical well being is crucial to the child's learning. We learnt to become agile and respond to the situation creatively without giving up our core values and goals.

As we faced the worst of the Covid second wave from April to June 2021, we scaled up ourselves to work in the health sector, organise an extensive food relief program and finding Nomadic communities outside our work area of the TN Delta.

Our primary focus remained in Education, we upskilled teachers to make videos and other online material. Our higher education scholars volunteered in the villages as teaching interns. We kept our Close to 750 kids engaged with some basic learning and foundational skills. We resorted to using mini libraries and storytelling for language skills. We redesigned our Math curriculum to the home environment with help from Jodogyan.

We strengthened our organisation with tremendous learning from Dhvani Foundation's Niranthara program. Improved our Governance, Finances and MIS systems amongst others.

We collaborated with experts, subject experts, peers, our community, children, and team to draw up our Strategic plan for 22-25 and have focussed our vision to **'The Nomadic Tribes attain Identity, Dignity and Equality.'** Guided by this vision we will work with Nomadic communities in a holistic way addressing the multitude of issues they face.

We had some amazing art made, stories created, crafts made, laughter echoing our campus, the deep observation of Nature and the happy songs of our children. The quiet of curious learning and the music of a fully functioning school's hum drum fills us with motivation to continue our journey. We thank every one of you who stood by us during the pandemic and afterwards in our recovery from the bottom of our hearts.

Revathi R, Founder  
revathi@vanavil.org

# The Vanavil Journey



Tsunami 2004



girl with an infant begs to Revathi



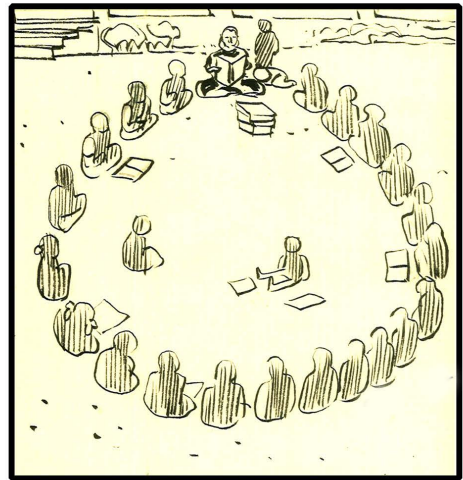
Lakshmi the malnourished infant



Taking her to the hospital



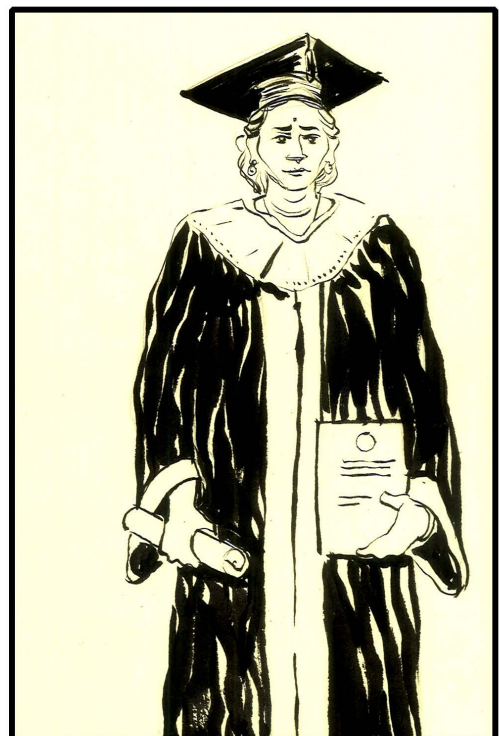
Lakshmi succumbs to Malnutrition



2005 - Vanavil school started to give lakshmis a chance at happy childhood.



Grew into a residential school with a strong Nutrition program



After 17 years 100 children have reached College!  
Our first graduate in 2016 was M. Lakshmi





**Dr. A. ARUN THAMBURAJ, I.A.S.**  
**District Collector**



**Collector's Office,**  
**Nagapattinam – 611 003**  
**Tel : 04365-252500, 252700 (O)**  
**247800 (R)**  
**Mobile : 94441 76000**  
**Fax : 04365-253048 (O), 247800 (R)**  
**Email : collrngp@nic.in**  
**website : www.nagapattinam.nic.in**

**Lr.No.01/2022/C.O Dated. 01 .12.2022**

I am proud to note that in order to educate the Nomadic children, Vanavil Trust realized that the school as an institution has to have value and respect children's sensibilities.

In that respect, I have to admit that you have acknowledged their life style and accordingly devised interesting ways that connected to their realities to make school life a fun and worthwhile pursuit.

It is found that the biggest hurdle for the children from Nomadic Communities is the non sedentary lifestyle of their parents. Even though most of them have settled down in some address or the other in the last decade they still keep travelling to work. In order to change address the issue, Vanavil Trust decided that the school has to be a residential one from the beginning.

I am happy to know that at the Vanavil children's home, Shelter, Food, Education, Medical care, etc., are provided free of cost and encourage Extracurricular activities, Arts and performance to equip them to face the world outside. To bridge the gap in respect of children facing difficulties in learning, evening study classes that are being run with special tutors brought in will help them with their educational progress and also help them in better understanding Mathematics and English.

Vanavil Trust deserves appreciation for it sent 11 kids from the Nomadic communities to college during 2019 with one Mr.Lakshmanan, one of Vanavil's oldest students, having joined the college of Fine arts to pursue a BFA in ceramic design thus Vanavil becoming the epic centre of help for the Nomadic Communities in Tamil Nadu especially during the sudden lockdown forced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is true that Vanavil Trust' 15 years of working with the Nomadic communities have shown as that the health and nutrition of the child and the livelihood and stability of the family are very crucial for the Nomads Education Projects.

**To**

Mrs. Revathi. R,  
Founder / Director,  
Vanavil Trust,  
Keezhakarayiruppu Village,  
Sikkal Post,  
Nagapattinam. 611 108.



## EDUCATION



### Vanavil School

During the pandemic we reached out to our children in the villages with activities and nutrition. Vanavil alumni who were back from colleges conducted classes in the villages with videos and materials sent by the teachers.

Post July when the lockdown conditions were relaxed our teachers started going to the village and many of our parents allowed us to use their modest houses and verandas to run the classes.

We converted our activities to suit the home environment like measuring distances to the village pond, learning about plants that grow in various water bodies and the Cauvery River. We gave the children library books to read and share the stories. We did a project on the theme Birds during the pandemic at the village and conducted a science fair with small experiments in the village. Community engagement increased as they saw their children doing and learning.





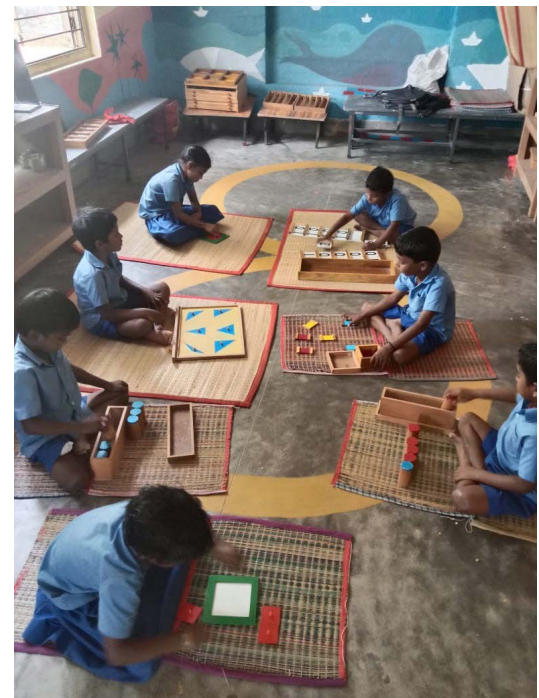
We took stock in the break and did extensive teacher training in History of Education, Learning and Pedagogy, Understanding the community and Using library for foundational literacy. The training was done via book reviews, field projects and some lectures.

In August we conducted our annual summer art and performance workshop in the village as the school was closed. It really brought all the kids scattered into work and displacement at one place and the **Clay Fingers** group created unbounded happiness amidst extreme challenges.

We revamped the school building and classroom space into a colourful and happy one to welcome the children when schools finally opened in November. We spent the last term revisiting literacy and numeracy skills.

### Challenges:

Many families got displaced during the pandemic as some lost their houses and some others moved to places seeking work. Some children were on the move throughout the pandemic and only returned when schools reopened. So, despite all our efforts, 30-40 % of students came back with learning losses.







## Afterschool

Vanavil runs 11 after school centres for children from nomadic communities in the TN Delta districts. These centres are set up in each village in the available spaces. In some places temporary structures are erected by Vanavil. Daily classes take place between 5-7 on weekdays and Saturday.



During the long lockdowns of the pandemic Vanavil after school centres were run throughout and doubled up as health awareness centres. We ensured that the children follow sanitation protocols, created awareness on Covid precautions to the whole village and distributed nutritional support.

We kept the children engaged with library reading activities, counselled their anxieties through art kit distribution and an ultimate frisbee workshop. We tracked the children who went into begging and child labour and helped them to get back to education.





Until the schools reopened in November the centres functioned working on foundational literacy and basic Math skills through

1. Reading activities with textbooks and storybooks with a remedial intent.
2. flashcards to learn difficult words and to build sentences.
3. Used oral math puzzles from real life situations.



We distributed two tabs to each centre and these are being used for group learning. We also did mental wellbeing activities and distributed colouring books and art kits.

After the schools reopened in November, we trained the kids on the reduced syllabus expectations while retaining the language and math focus conceptually. We assessed all the students using the ASER survey tools to evaluate their levels.

Special attention was given to children in 9-12 standards. Conducted online Math classes for tenth students from all the centres with the help of CLE trust.

## Challenges

The school closure affected a lot of our students, many of whom went for work. We did two surveys and found out children working as vegetable vendors, ice vendors, construction workers, accompanying fathers in plastic vending, hotel servants, unloading dead fish from trawlers in the Harbour and flower plucking. Some young children were taken to begging. We tirelessly followed up on them and stopped them from begging and hazardous labour via conversations with parents, involving the village panchayat and in some cases the CWC and Police.







## Higher Education Program

The pandemic affected those in school finals the worst. Many marginalized children went to work in the school closure. Some of our brightest children had to work as construction workers, vegetable sellers and coolies in the Fishing Harbour. In other districts many moved to bigger cities in search of work. While many came back after the pandemic when schools reopened some dropped out and continued to work.

We kept in touch with all the nomadic students in class 12 and conducted a guidance meeting in June at the peak of the pandemic. With the gracious support of Shooting star Foundation and Mrs Usha Subramanian we sent 24 students to colleges last year. 27 students moved to the next year in colleges.





# CHILD PROTECTION

## Home

Vanavil runs a children's home for Nomadic girls and young boys. The home helps kids who are homeless as well as kids whose parents are semi nomadic. We house 44-50 children and provide them safe shelter, Education, Health and Nutrition. We ensured that no child marriage happens in our primary village and monitored the situation in other villages also. We reported close to 12 child marriages that were planned and stopped them.

During the pandemic months we sealed the home to the outside world and continued to keep the place running. The kids read, made crafts, learned tailoring, build houses, did a sculpture mural, weaved a basket, learnt to weave thatches amongst other things.

Online English & Math classes for children of grades 6-10 by CLE trust and Science classes for class 6 to 9 children twice a week by Ms. Sujitha (Intern from Central University, Haryana) were conducted.

Six girls passed tenth standard and joined St. Theresa's residential school in Tarangambadi. Five girls passed 12th standard. Three girls joined Colleges. Arthi an avid athlete has joined Bachelor of Physical education Course at the Tamil Nadu Sports university. Sagunthala has joined a teaching diploma and Lakshmi in BBA.

Art & Theatre workshop by Clay Fingers was conducted in which children were engaged in clay modelling, singing, crafts, puppetry, storytelling, etc. We conducted an Ultimate Frisbee Life skills session for the children and a facilitators training program for the teachers. Children really loved the group sports and the One all curriculum teaching values of teamwork conflict resolution etc were well absorbed.





# Community Based Child Protection (CBCP) of Nomadic Boys

Since we had to let go of the boys from the children's home most of them started working and selling stickers (Begging). Through the pandemic it was difficult to gather them and stop them from working. Still, we persisted and admitted 60 boys in St Antony's School in Nagapattinam.

We developed CBCP to care for them. For boys without any stable family or shelter we placed them in the government SC,ST hostel. For those who stay at home we arranged transport to school, monitor their school education and run online and offline tuition classes. With the help of our partners CLE Trust we conducted online maths classes.



## Challenges

Many of the elder students are addicted to mobile phones and online games. The break of almost two years has also diverted their attention away from education and they are also finding it difficult to comprehend the syllabus after the gap. We are counselling students who have difficulties in subjects to take up vocational training courses. For those who are keen we have organised offline tuitions to help them crack the 12th standard final exams. The lack of a Boys home has affected some brilliant boys like Yesudas who's become very irregular to school. We are trying to strengthen our program to address these challenges.







## Campaign Against Child Begging

[Child friendly space at Velankanni shrine]

Vanavil has been spearheading a campaign against child begging right from its inception. We rescue children begging at Velankanni and other places of worship and get them into education.

Velankanni is a famous Christian shrine which attracts pilgrims from all faiths all round the year. It is one of the 51 places of worship identified by the NCPCR to be made into worship spaces with child protection. as per NCPCR's CISS-2.0 Vanavil in collaboration with DCPU unit, Nagapattinam has opened a Child friendly space for rescue of children involved/ used in begging and child labour.

We opened the centre in 2021 December in a space provided by the Velankanni town panchayat. Our community workers go around the church to gather children found begging, selling stickers and or working in hotels and shops. Women carrying infants and begging is an offence and we catch them and retain them in the child friendly space and explain the problems of infants kept tied the whole day to the mother. We conduct awareness to shop owners and general public.

In four months, more than 100 children have been caught begging/working in Velankanni and of them 42 have been repeat cases. Concerted efforts by all stakeholders is required to control this issue.





## Railway Children's Helpdesk – Nagapattinam Railway Childline

Vanavil has been a collab partner of Childline India Foundation and Ministry of Women & Child Welfare to run a Helpdesk in Nagapattinam Railway Station premises from 2020. As part of our child protection goal we monitor and create awareness on child rights in adjoining areas of the Railway station and other areas.



During the pandemic as the number of trains were reduced, we focused on creating COVID awareness in and around the railway station. COVID-19 precautionary measure awareness was given to passengers, general public, etc with a focus on the issues faced by children during the pandemic. A play to create awareness on the dangers of COVID-19 by Vanavil students was staged in Railway station and a high school in Nagapattinam.

We distributed dry ration kits to the residents of Keerakollai street – an area near Nagapattinam Railway Station which was affected by the floods with the help of United Way.

We also conducted school sensitisation programs where we spoke about child protection and child rights to school students in Nagapattinam. We attend VLCPC and BLCPC meetings in our work area and create awareness against Child Marriages and Child Labour. Through our various initiatives and strengthening of stakeholders, we rescued and restored 60 children last year.





# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



## Skilling and Livelihood Creation for Nomadic Women



Ashwini Seetha Foundation supported us in the peak of the pandemic to realise our long-cherished dream of creating a skilling and livelihood support program for the Nomadic Women.

The first round of SHG loans we gave in 2020, the women paid back 100% by 2021. We used the money as revolving credit and issued loans to two more groups. One group took up livestock – Goat rearing, and another was an assorted vendors group involved in plastic and other trades.

The Milk producer group has been supplying milk to Aavin and repaying loans regularly. From the repayments we have bought another single woman Raji of the group a Cow and Calf.



60 women from Nomadic and other poor communities were given Tailoring training and certificates. We trained 10 women in Foot mat making. Four young women took up employment in a Garments factory in Karur. We have guided the women to seek free tailoring machines distributed by the government for marginalised women.



## Identity Documents and Visibility

Thanks to our District Collector Dr. Arun Thamburaj IAS, we conducted a ration card special drive in the Aadiyan villages and obtained Ration cards for those who didn't have them. More than 50 families from Sellur, Porakudi and Neelapadi benefitted from this drive.

Thanks to our intervention and support from the District Collector's office we obtained loans from Mahalir Thittam for 6 SHGs of the Nomadic women.



The Tamilnadu CM visited the house of a Narikuravar woman after her interview went viral on social media. He also ordered a survey of Nomadic and marginalised communities in TN through the revenue department. We gathered details of all the Aadiyan hamlets in Tamil Nadu with number of families and reached out to the CM's secretariat.

## CHALLENGES

Our quest of community certificates continues with some victories and some setbacks. In 21-22 we sent M. Madhesh from Krishnagiri and Tamilarasan from Pudukkottai to College in open category. As both these boys did not have their community certificates, they were denied admission in Government colleges. Vanavil intervened and got them admitted. Madhesh studies B.Sc. Chemistry in Arignar Anna arts and Science College, Krishnagiri and S. Tamilarasan has joined integrated MA in History from the Bharathidasan University, Trichy. Along with S. Devi, who's in the final year of her nursing diploma these students are denied their reservation benefits and probable employment opportunities due to the lack of Community certificates.





## Research

Vanavil along with Praxis Institute of participatory research and ROSA, Pondicherry have initiated a participatory survey of Nomadic tribal communities in Tamil Nadu in order to bring to light the plight of the NT people.

15 nomadic tribal settlements from Boom Boom Maatukarars, Narikuravars, Lambadas and Saataiadikkaravar across Tamil Nadu were selected for the survey. The focus of the survey was to understand

- i) the history of the settlement,
- ii) background information on the settlement,
- iii) their access to government schemes, clean water, sanitation, health, education and other entitlements from the government.

We were able to understand the problems and discrimination faced by the nomadic tribes when they try to access the public spaces. The other commonality we found was that the children from the communities drop out of school at the age of 13 or 14 due to various issues faced by them in school and join the labour force to support their families.

We are now in the process of compiling the report which will bring to light the problems faced by the nomadic communities to the government and general public.







# FINANCIALS



Vanavil Trust Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year ended 31-03-2022					
Expenditure	For the Year Ended 31-03-2022		Income	For the Year Ended 31-03-2022	
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Administration	20,57,759	1,89,55,017	Donations and Contributions		1,85,40,259
School	22,03,722		Donations	1,73,77,487	
Children's Home	24,20,873		Childline Contribution	11,62,772	
After School Centres	17,69,088		<b>Other Income</b>		1,51,215
Higher Education	11,01,801		Interest From FD	1,33,827	
Women Empowerment	3,75,813		Interest From SB	17,388	
COVID Relief	74,06,197				
Childline	13,03,284		<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>		8,83,860
Farm	2,73,330				
Awareness and Advocacy	43,151				
Depreciation	6,20,317				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,95,75,334</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,95,75,334</b>	

For Vanavil Trust	 <b>Reg.No: 81/2005</b> <b>SIKKAL, NAGAPATTINAM</b>	As per our report of even dated <b>For Kumar &amp; Raj</b> Chartered Accountants  <b>V.Kumar</b> Partner M.No: 027762 Firm Reg No: 0015785
Revathi R Managing Trustee Date: 22/09/22 Place: Chennai	UDIN: 22027762ATVBFT7945	

Vanavil Trust Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2022					
Liabilities	As at 31-Mar-2022		Assets	As at 31-Mar-2022	
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
<b>Capital Account</b>		20,01,000	<b>Fixed Assets (Net)</b>		40,40,991
Corpus Fund	1,000		Land(Agricultural Development)	97,290	
Endowment Fund			Building	23,25,730	
- Mr. Beins	5,66,667		Computers	2,34,175	
- Mr. Upinder Singh	11,33,333		Cycles	51,007	
<b>Other Funds</b>			Electrical Fittings	88,009	
- Father Manu	2,00,000		Equipments	2,00,971	
- Mrs. Premavathi	1,00,000		Furniture & Fittings	3,23,109	
			Granlery & Cow Shead	2,01,364	
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>		59,34,715	Kitchen Items	1,70,182	
Opening Balance	68,18,575		Two Wheeler	1,11,482	
Current Period	(8,83,860)		Washing Machine	20,450	
			Car	2,17,220	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			<b>Current Assets</b>		38,99,724
Audit Fees Payable		5,000	Deposits		
			- Fixed Deposit	28,10,061	
			- IT Refund Receivables	41,947	
			- Telephone Deposit	1,500	
			<b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>		
			- Rental Advance	2,90,000	
			- Loan to Livelihood	90,000	
			Cash-in-hand	47	
			Bank Accounts	6,19,381	
			Accrued Interest	46,788	
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,40,715</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>79,40,715</b>	

For Vanavil Trust	 <b>Reg.No: 81/2005</b> <b>SIKKAL, NAGAPATTINAM</b>	As per our report of even dated <b>For Kumar &amp; Raj</b> Chartered Accountants  <b>V.Kumar</b> Partner M.No: 027762 Firm Reg No: 0015785
Revathi R Managing Trustee Date: 22/09/22 Place: Chennai	UDIN: 22027762ATVBFT7945	



# STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



## Amudha P, Class 9

Amudha is the 6<sup>th</sup> child in a family of 7 children. Amudha's mother picks rags. Father is an alcoholic. When Amudha was born, she suffered from severe malnutrition as her mother had to work to feed her other children all through her pregnancy and did not get enough food for herself.

As a kid, Amudha was always tired and fell sick often. She had very thin hair and had excess hair fall even as a child. She came to Vanavil as a 4 year old kid and was given nutritious food, education, care and protection. Now, she is in class 9. She is healthy, active, interested in studies, arts, theatre. She is a star kid in the government school she goes to.



## S. Yelumalai, Class 4

When Yelumalai joined Vanavil he was quiet and always outside the classroom. He comes from a family of five children. His father has a kidney ailment and is bedridden. They do not have a house to stay. Lack of proper food affected his digestion and he was prone to dysentery frequently. They live in a tent set up on the side of the road.

He comes to our school every day and gets a good education with good clothes, nutrition, security, etc. His older sister and brother both study in hostels. His Mother picks up plastics from the trash and sells them.

At Vanavil we allowed Yelumalai to do what he wants and on days when he didn't want to attend class he was let to explore the campus as he wished. He was very good in making clay sculptures. We kept inviting him for play and his favourite activities and did not force him to speak in front of others. Slowly with nutrition we provide he regained his health and his stomach stabilised. He started coming into classes frequently and now is an avid doer of montessori activities. He also talks to his friends and teachers freely now.





## K. Sathish, Class 7

St. Antony's Higher Secondary School

K. Sathish is the eldest of 4 siblings. His parents are Mr. Kaliyamoorthi & Mrs. Selvi. Kaliyamoorthi is a disabled person who is also an alcoholic without any permanent work. Selvi begs at Velankanni shrine to take care of her 4 children and her husband. His 3 siblings are studying at Vanavil school. At the start of the pandemic, when the schools shut down, his father took Sathish along with him and made him to beg and sell pens. With Sathish working, his father was able to get money for his alcohol without any difficulty.

With the help of his mother, we traced Sathish and his father in a temporary settlement near Surakudi, Karaikal. The family doesn't have a house of their own and are living in make-shift tents in front of their relatives' homes. We brought him back and admitted him to the Adi-Dravidar Welfare Students Hostel, Nagapattinam and enrolled him in St. Antony's Higher Secondary School, Nagapattinam in 7th grade.

With our continuous monitoring, food and shelter, Sathish is now going to school regularly. He is also attending online classes for English and Maths and is showing interest in academics.

## Meena, Sub Editor - News 7

Meena is the second child in a family of 5. She was the first child to go to school from her family. From a young age she was a bold, outgoing, brilliant girl who wanted to be a journalist. After her schooling, she got admission in Loyola Arts & Science College in the Visual Communication department. She got interested in photography while in college and joined as an intern at Vikatan as a student photographer.

After completing her course she worked in Theekathir, a tamil daily as a photojournalist and reporter where she wrote an article on Boom Boom Maatukarars. She joined News 7 as a reporter and got promoted as a sub-editor. Being a photojournalist in a man's job where you have to go first to the field, fight with other photojournalists to get a place, be on the field for long hours, go out at odd hours etc. She initially struggled on the field but her perseverance to be best at what she does made her shine as a young journalist.

She wants to pursue her masters in Media Studies or Political Science at JNU, Delhi. She is now preparing for it by learning English and preparing for the entrance examination. When asked at a young age, she would say that she wants to become a journalist like Revathi akka and write about her community. Now she is a sub-editor, working in mainstream media and is working on a documentary on social issues. She wants to bring to light the plight of marginalised communities through her work.







**Gurubalan** is a very bright student, the eldest brother of five boys. His story needs to start with his grandparents. He belongs to the Boom Boom Maatukarar Aadiyan community. His family fell into a dire straits some years ago with a debt crisis that took the life of his grandmother. She had a stroke when money lenders were harassing her asking back for the loans Guru's father had taken. That traumatic incident made Guru to resolve to become a doctor. His father is still in a big debt crisis and has also succumbed to excessive alcoholism. His mother works as many jobs as possible to pay interest to those excessive loans and to keep her family afloat.

Amidst all this Guru is a very studious bright student and came school first in class tenth. He went to a government school that does not treat children from his community very well and yet proved himself as a topper. He went to class 11 in June 2019 hoping to work towards his dream of becoming a doctor. When the Covid first wave hit us all in March 2020 Guru came back from his residential school that Vanavil placed him in.

He started working as a vegetable vendor, Ice candy seller, Loading worker in the Fishing harbor and a welder's assistant. He had to support his family and could not attend the few online classes his school held. The whole of his class 12 went by in hard labour and humiliation from loan sharks plus aggressive demands from his father to quit education and work full time. he managed to attend tests amidst all these. Government cancelled Final exams and graded children based on earlier tests.

The pandemic killed his dream to become a doctor but his tenacity and Vanavil's consistent and unrelenting efforts resulted in Gurubalan joining an integrated M.Tech Biotechnology course at the Bharathidasan University, Trichy.



**Name: Santhosh** Class 7

12 year old Santosh stays with his grandmother's house along with his 3 sisters. His mother Deivanai died when he was young. So his father Manivel remarried and abandoned Santhosh and his siblings.

He is a inquisitive boy Interested in learning new things. He had trouble in English and maths earlier. After he joined the vanavil evening classes he kept coming regularly. He shared his difficulties in understanding to the centre teacher and she helped him with his doubts. The Math and English activities helped him pick up basic skills in English and Maths. The student is now making good progress as he studies with interest. He has progressed to the extent of helping his classmates with solving problems.



**Raji** is 29 years old. Both her parents passed away when she was young, and she grew up with the support of her relatives and got married four years ago. After living with her for two years her husband accused her of being barren and abandoned her. Now Raji lives with her in laws and her two young brothers in law. Since her mother-in-law took care of Raji when she was growing up now Raji supports her in laws. She takes care of the family mainly through the MGNREGA. The Alli shg women unanimously decided to buy a cow next to Raji to enable her to have a steady income and hope.



## WISHES FROM THE WORLD

**Ms. Akila Ramesh, CEO**  
**Nivasa – NGO That builds homes for the poor**

The atmosphere of lightness and joy pervades Vanavil, and instils in the visitor with a deep hope that a more egalitarian world is just round the corner. It is simply not easy to ensure such a positive ambience when dealing with this mammoth task on shepherding hundreds of kids towards what should be birth right. Keeping this work going, will extract a huge price on the physical and mental health of the founding team. My hope, wish, and prayers are for Vanavil to do their work with the most magnanimous of people supporting this amazing work, without them having to spend time, efforts and heart aches in thinking of money matters and sustainability. Kudos to the team!



**Mr. R. Venkatanathan, Secretary**  
**Socare Ind – Home for children of prison inmates**

I had a pleasant experience when I visited Vanavil on 16th June 2022. Amazed to see the talent of these nomadic tribal kids whom the Society has neglected so far. Vanavil is doing a great service in empowering the community of nomadic tribes in general and their kids in particular. Such concerted action is the only guarantee to remove the inequities in the Society that has been in existence for centuries. My deep appreciation to Revathi and her dedicated team for addressing this so effectively. Their passion and commitment awes me.



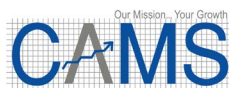
**Ms. Thenmozhi Arunan, Software Profession**  
**Volunteer Teacher, CLE Trust**

I have been associated with Vanavil Trust from 2020. I volunteer as a Tutor for Mathematics for 8th, 9th and 10th standard students. Vanavil Trust is doing a great job is taking care of the children of nomadic tribal communities near Nagapattinam. Vanavil does not only provide Educational support but focus all round development of the children. Children are encouraged to develop skills in music, dance, reading story books, sports etc. The children are able to express themselves freely and growing into confident young adults. All this is possible with the holistic care that Vanavil Trust is providing to the Children.

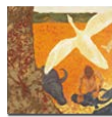




## PARTNERSHIPS



United Way of Chennai



India Foundation for the Arts  
transforming lives through the arts



**A big shoutout to United Way Chennai** for their amazing Covid relief program of giving financial support to street vendors. We applied and secured the grant for 150 women. It gave critical support to the women vendors and many of them thanked us profusely for giving their trade and life a new lease.



## Board



Revathi R  
Managing Trustee



R Solairaj  
Board Member



Dinesh Sundaramurthy  
Treasurer

## Team





## UPDATES

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The rains and floods in November 2021 left the Nagapattinam district with clogged drains and flooded streets. The Nagapattinam District Administration approached Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, Karaikal to fund the Solid Waste Management Project. Vanavil Trust was chosen as the implementation partner for this project. To make the Nagapattinam city clean of solid waste it was decided that all the 36 wards in Nagapattinam Municipality will be cleaned under this project.



The Solid waste management project was inaugurated on 15th March 2022 in the presence of Nagapattinam District Collector Dr. Arun Thamburaj IAS and Nagapattinam MLA Mr. Aloor Shanawaz. The project started on 16th March 2022 and ended on 25th March 2022.

### Arts integrated Education

Thanks to a grant from IFA we have been working on

#### i) **Creating Arts integrated activity books**

We conducted teacher discussions on the theme of wild animals and the teachers did a project on tribal communities and are creating a handbook about the Aadiyan people.



#### ii) **An ambitious project to conduct an art show titled NOMAD.**

Student artists from Vanavil will create work with senior artists exploring the concept of Nomadism. In Nov, we conducted a workshop in Pondicherry where artists gave lec dems on various mediums and how to evolve ideas into artworks. The artists learned a lot about the Nomadic people from the children and the children were fascinated by the mediums and ways of seeing and expressing. Curator and Artist C.P. Krishnapriya helped with the ideation process and academic J. Prabakar spoke to the group about social concerns and the medium of art as a tool of organising marginalised people.



Mr. Krishnamurthy from IFA visited Vanavil to see our progress which had been delayed by the Pandemic.

# Organisation Development

We successfully completed the Organisation Development program conducted by Dhwani foundation as part of the 32 NGO cohort Niranthara-3. We were trained in eight modules namely Governance, Finance & Accounts, Compliance, HR, Fundraising, MIS & Tech, Leadership and strategy and Project Management. Vanavil was assessed on 161 parameters in all the above and we secured 97.64 / 100 as our final score. We thank Dhwani team and APPI for this great opportunity given to us to strengthen our organisation at a critical stage in our growth calendar. We have drawn out our first strategic plan setting a blueprint for what we want to achieve in the next 3 years.



## Tamil Nadu Alternative School Network Meetings

Vanavil is a part of the Tamilnadu Alternative School Network which is a collective of non-commercial schools and individuals committed to the cause of Learning, Teaching and Nurturing with a deep focus on the child, the environment and society, understanding and allowing the child to be him/herself. The network met two times in the year 2021 - 2022 at Marudham School, Tiruvannamalai and Payir Trust, Perambalur.

Everyone shared how they engaged with children through the pandemic, initiatives taken to keep up the morale of children and discussed about school education, what should be taught to kids, how children learn, what are the factors that affect learning and how to make sure children are happy in school.

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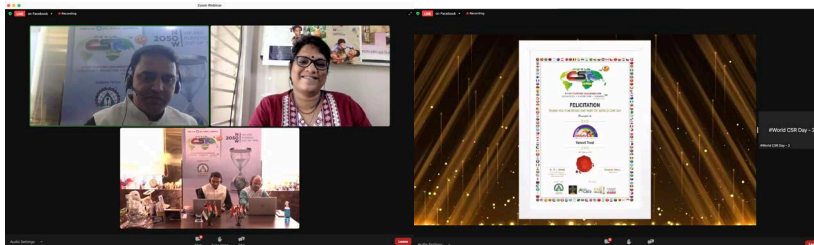
# AWARDS AND MEDIA MENTIONS



Vanavil received the United way Chennai 360 degree award for best partner - COVID relief from esteemed Mr. MA Alagappan, Chairman of United Way Chennai.



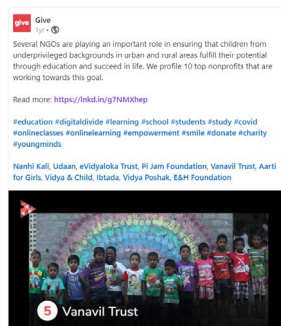
Vanavil awarded for exemplary service in the fields of Education and Covid Relief works to Nagapattinam District by the District Collector Dr. Arun Thamburaj IAS at the Independence Day parade on 15th August 2021



Vanavil Trust was felicitated on 'World CSR Day' by the Social and Corporate Governance Awards team on 18th February 2022.



Our solid waste management project with ONGC's support gets a media mention



Vanavil featured in the GiveIndia list of 10 NGOs rejuvenating education in India



The story of Vanavil and Revathi in the New Indian express

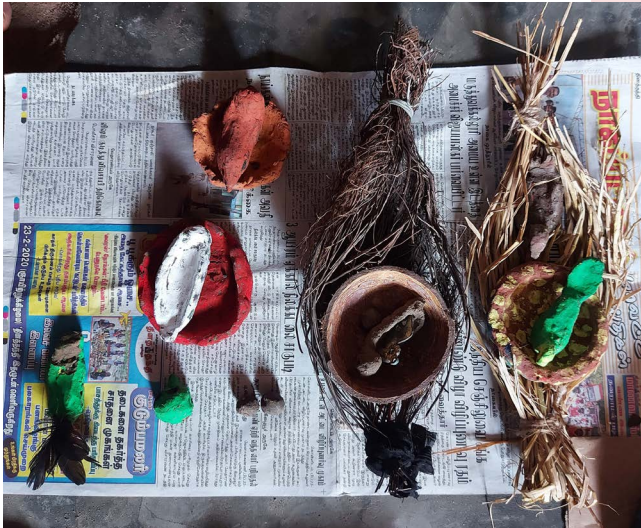


Vanavil student P.Meena's dream came true. Meena wanted to become a journalist and write about the plight of her community and so she did in Theekathir newspaper!



News on certificate distribution for women who completed tailoring training conducted in Thiruthuraipoondi





## COME AS VOLUNTEERS

Vanavil is a happy campus thriving with energetic children who love having akkas and annas visit them to teach English, play a game, or do some maths. We need your help to improve on the gaps arising from functioning in a marginal small town – English-speaking teachers, mentors for our college students, and tech-savvy volunteers are welcome on all days. Email to [team@vanavil.org](mailto:team@vanavil.org) if you want to visit/ volunteer.

### ADDRESS



Vanavil Trust,  
No 264, Public Office Road, Velipalayam, Nagapattinam - 611001  
Website: [www.vanavil.org](http://www.vanavil.org)  
Phone number: 8072691159  
Email: [team@vanavil.org](mailto:team@vanavil.org)

## DONATE

Scan the QR code to donate to Vanavil and support our work or drop a line to [team@vanavil.org](mailto:team@vanavil.org) for bank details to donate.

