

20TH | ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



To Nurture the Nomadic Communities

20 Years
of Hope



Two Decades of Commitment to
Nomadic Children



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"Inspiring stories from the heart of Vanavil"



About Vanavil

Our Vision :

The Nomadic Tribes attain **Identity, Equality & Dignity**

Our 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**. Started as an anti-begging childcare institution, Vanavil has, in the **20 years** of its existence, grown into:

Quality Education

Health & Nutrition

Child Protection

Livelihoods

Vanavil Nursery & Primary School

Vanavil School supports children from nomadic communities to move away from begging and access meaningful education. The school runs from kindergarten to Grade 5 with a child-centred, arts- and performance-based pedagogy.

Our approach integrates education, nutrition, and well-being. Children receive three nutritious meals a day, and their health is regularly monitored. The learning environment recognises each child's strengths and builds confidence, creativity, and a sense of dignity.

Number beneficiaries : 125





Vanavil Children's Home

Child protection is a critical concern in NT-DNT communities. At Vanavil, we approach this through a community-centred lens.

While we run a Child Care Institution (CCI) for children in need of care and protection, we believe institutional care should be a last resort. Our effort is to ensure children remain connected to their families, communities, and cultural identities, while receiving holistic support.

Within the CCI, children access education, emotional care, life skills, and creative opportunities in a safe and nurturing environment.

Number beneficiaries : 38

Vanavil After School Centres

Vanavil's after-school centres provide access to education and nutrition for children in nomadic hamlets across 5 districts.

Through 19 community learning centres, we support children to enrol in school, attend regularly, and continue their education. The program includes daily academic support, protein-rich nutrition, and exposure to arts and extracurricular learning.

Teachers are trained in child-friendly, activity-based methods, making learning engaging and relevant.

Number beneficiaries : 1150





Nomads Higher Education Scholarship

This project supports first-generation learners from nomadic communities to access and succeed in higher education.

We provide career guidance, support with college applications and admissions, and scholarships covering tuition, hostel, and living expenses. Students also participate in regular workshops focused on communication, confidence, and navigating higher education spaces

Number beneficiaries : 132



Community-based Child Protection

Vanavil is building a community-based approach to child protection rooted in NT-DNT realities.

In two Nomadic hamlets we work with children at risk of dropping out, child labour, or unsafe conditions by strengthening family-based care, supporting education, and providing nutrition and safe spaces where needed.

We believe protection must go beyond safety—children should feel joy, belonging, and the ability to thrive. Through education and community engagement, we are working towards this vision.

Number beneficiaries : 138

Vanavil Golden Baby Project

The Golden Baby Project addresses malnutrition among pregnant women and infants in nomadic communities.

Focusing on the first 1000 days—from pregnancy to age two—the program provides regular monitoring, nutrition support, and awareness on maternal and child health. It works in collaboration with health partners to support severely anaemic mothers and malnourished children.

Number beneficiaries : 152



Alternative Livelihoods Program

Vanavil supports women from nomadic communities to move away from begging and insecure livelihoods.

Through self-help groups, interest-free microcredit, and skill training (such as tailoring), women are supported to build sustainable income sources. The program is evolving towards eco-friendly livelihoods that are dignified and locally viable.

Number beneficiaries : 88

Vanavil School of Art and Technology

This program supports adolescents (14–18 years) who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of formal education.

It combines STEAM learning, life skills, creative arts, and pathways to secondary education and employability. The aim is to create alternative, flexible learning opportunities that respond to the realities of young people from nomadic communities.

Number beneficiaries : 12



FOUNDER'S NOTE

"Two decades of walking together. The next steps belong to the community."

When we started Vanavil in the post-tsunami devastation of Nagapattinam moved by the death of a nomadic infant to malnutrition, I believed we could solve everything in six months to a year. Soon, I realised this journey was not a sprint but a long run. Even then, I imagined Vanavil would become unnecessary within ten years.

This year, as Vanavil turns twenty, our journey continues, now with new directions and a deeper purpose. We stand at a threshold of new beginnings, shaped by collective energy and community aspirations.

Vanavil began as a small community initiative and has grown into a space deeply rooted in the resilience, knowledge, and cultural richness of the Nomadic Tribes. The community has been our teacher—guiding our understanding of dignity, justice, and belonging.

In two decades, we have reached five districts and over 5,000 people. Our work has focused on identity and equality: supporting community certificates and school enrollment, reducing child begging, child labour, and child marriages, addressing stigma in schools, enabling holistic and culturally rooted learning, tackling malnutrition, and creating visibility for nomadic communities in wider discourses.

This past year reaffirmed our purpose. A moment that stays with me is watching a young woman from our community lead a village meeting with confidence, a quiet reminder that leadership grows from within the community, not outside it.



Our next chapter centres on strengthening emerging leaders—youth and women who will shape the movement for identity, equality, and dignity. We see Vanavil's role evolving into that of a supportive ally as the community takes the lead.

In the coming decade, we commit to building our capacities and collaborating closely with community associations, partner organisations, the state, and broader networks. Our aim is a future where the dignity of Nomadic Tribes is upheld, and where the community has the power to question and stop violations themselves.

This work has been possible because of the people who walk with us. I am deeply grateful to our community members, the Vanavil team, and the donors and partners whose trust and support sustain our mission.

As we look ahead, we carry twenty years of learning—and the hope that the next years will see even greater community-led change. New beginnings may be quiet, but they carry immense power. We are ready for the walk ahead.

Revathi R, Founder | Vanavil

OVERALL IMPACT



669

Children educated in our School



206

Community based child protection



251

First generation Nomadic students in College



797

Women provided livelihood support



1448

Children provided educational and Nutritional support through after school program



754

Children provided care and protection in our Child care institution



50

Skill Training for dropout students



218

Fighting malnutrition in pregnant women and babies

2024 - 2025



125

Vanavil Nursery & Primary School



38

Vanavil Children's Home



132

Vanavil College Scholarships



88

Vanavil Livelihood Support



1150

Vanavil After-School Centres



138

Vanavil Child Protection



12

Vanavil Skill Training



152

Vanavil Golden Baby Project

TESTIMONIALS



Meenakshi Ramesh

CEO Designate, Pratham

Ramesh Mangaleswaran

Senior Partner Emeritus, McKinsey & Co, Advisor

Even in the world of social impact Vanavil is a special organisation. Relentlessly focused over 20 years on the most vulnerable and underserved communities the nomadic tribes, and deeply entrenched in their midst so they can preserve their traditional practices while aspiring to education and economic development. We visited Vanavil's school in Nagapattinam and were impressed by the use of inclusive and holistic teaching practices, as well as the dedication of the staff, some of whom commute long distances to reach the school.

Best wishes to Revathi and the entire team, and a request to all supporters to visit the school, and see 'impact' at first hand.



R. Balachandran

Chairman, Buimerc India Foundation

The dedicated focus on inclusive education provided by and at Vanavil for the nomadic tribal children has ensured a transformation in their lives. It has not been an easy journey for Revathi and the Vanavil team over the last twenty years. Yet, they persisted and persevered with determination to make a difference in the lives of these children and empower them to contribute to the nation. Children and their holistic development have been a focal area for Buimerc India Foundation, and we were happy to support Vanavil to translate their dreams into reality.



Ujwala Rao

Lead Partner, SVP India

I first got acquainted with Revathi as one of her storytelling coaches during the SVP Fast Pitch program in 2024. Her brilliant pitch won many hearts, while also winning her the Gold Award! During our discussions over several months, she opened my eyes to an extremely disenfranchised segment of our society - the denotified and nomadic tribes. I am deeply inspired by Revathi's personal journey that led her to set up Vanavil Trust. I also appreciate the Trust's concerted, holistic approach towards using education as a significant pathway towards social justice for the communities that they work with. Look forward to seeing

Vanavil touch many more lives and build more muscle in the policy and advocacy space.



Soundharajan

Ashwini Seetha Foundation

Ashwini Seetha Foundation began working with Vanavil in 2021 during the second wave of COVID-19, supporting livelihood initiatives for women from nomadic communities. What began as pandemic response support has since expanded to include tailoring training for girls from deprived sections around Thiruthuraipoondi, as well as support for women engaged in milch-cow rearing.

Our collaboration with Ms. Revathi and the Vanavil team has been mutually enriching and deeply impactful. The nomadic communities they work with remain among the most socially isolated and economically marginalised, often excluded from the benefits of broader economic growth. Vanavil has been resolute in changing this reality and as a result, many children have transitioned into mainstream schools, completed their schooling, and some have gone on to graduate and pursue post-graduate studies.

The Vanavil school itself stands out for its child-centred pedagogy, nurturing environment, residential support, nutritious meals, and committed teaching staff often surpassing even well-regarded private schools. At the heart of this work is Revathi's extraordinary care and commitment to the children, treating them as her own. To date, over 500 women have been supported through this programme, and the number continues to grow. We are grateful to have contributed, in a small way, to the significant and sustained work being carried out by Vanavil.



R. Christodas Gandhi, I.A.S. (Retd.)

Former Additional Chief Secretary

"Hasn't God's light shone upon us?"

For children struggling in life, Vanavil nurtures them to thrive in this colorful world, helping them grow, learn, and flourish. Vanavil is not just a fleeting rainbow or a momentary spectacle; it is a constant, enduring force in their lives. Vanavil Trust stands as a moral pillar, consistently supporting children, guiding them like steady rain on the mountain slopes, ensuring their well-being and growth. I have known Mrs. Revathi and Mr. Nataraj for many years. Vanavil's work in safeguarding children, ensuring that they do not grow up as directionless birds lost to the world, guiding them into higher education, and helping them become

well-rounded, confident individuals, is truly commendable. We, at Paalam, Social Watch - TN, and AKAM, take pride in collaborating and working alongside Vanavil.



R. Karuppusamy

Founder Director, READ, Sathyamangalam

Many communities in Nagapattinam district were severely affected by the tsunami and rehabilitation efforts were carried out for them. However, the Boom Boom Mattukkarar community, also known as the Adiyar community, remained largely neglected. Vanavil Trust was established specifically to support this community's rehabilitation, dignity, education and economic progress. Today, through Vanavil School, children from the Adiyar community are completing their higher education and confidently pursuing diverse careers. This has not only increased family income but also contributed to the community's overall socio-economic development.

I feel immense joy to have been part of Vanavil's journey during its early stages of community transformation. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to Director Revathi and the entire Vanavil team for their dedication and commitment to this social change.



P.Sundhara Vadivel

Founder, Salya Construction

One morning, three women visited my office, introducing themselves as members of the Vanavil Trust-led by Ms. Revathi, with architect Ms. Meenakshi. Having seen many NGOs emerge after the tsunami, some genuine and others not, I was initially sceptical, but their clarity, purpose and vision of building a vernacular-style school quickly impressed me.

I decided to visit Vanavil before making any decision. What I saw moved me deeply, children from highly marginalised communities learning with discipline, confidence, and joy. The dedication with which they were being nurtured made me reflect on my initial

doubts. I felt that meaningful change often happens through individuals who choose to serve selflessly.

Moved by this commitment, I decided that the school building would be constructed free of cost, with materials sourced locally. This was not for recognition, but as a sincere act of service. Working alongside Ms. Meenakshi and her team, I witnessed professionalism, integrity and humility at every level. Vanavil continues to empower children and uplift the community with unwavering dedication. I am grateful to have played a small part in this journey and share this with pride and joy.



Niruj Mohan Ramanujam

Astrophysicist, Bengaluru

A Little Bit of Vanavil in Us

When Revathi asked me to write for Vanavil's 20th anniversary, I was reminded of how deeply its beginnings still shape me. I was part of Vanavil from the very start after the 2004 tsunami, involved in relief work, community rebuilding, and setting up the school by the sea. It was unlike anything I had known, yet it felt instinctively right.

Over time, my direct involvement reduced, but Vanavil grew stronger through the dedication of many committed people. The values I learned in those early months stayed with me, shaping how I see education and community.

Today, my work in astronomy and science outreach carries a deeper commitment to equity and access because of Vanavil. It taught me to reflect on whom education truly serves. In that sense, I still carry a little bit of Vanavil with me.



Lakshmi's Journey of Education & Empowerment



"I am from Sellur village in Nagapattinam district, from the Adiyar community, and now live in Bengaluru with my family. After the tsunami, when our family received no relief, Vanavil reached out and stayed with us. Before Vanavil, we had never seen a school. It became the first place where I felt safe, respected, and encouraged to imagine a future for myself. I joined a formal school later and struggled at first, but with steady support, I completed my studies and became the first girl from my village to finish school and go on to graduate. Today, I move across cities with confidence and carry with me what Vanavil gave us care, dignity, and the courage to think and choose for ourselves."

Sudha & Vanavil Legacy

"I am from Sellur village in Nagapattinam district, from the Adiyar community. After the 2004 tsunami, our family lost our home and all our documents, and we received no relief. Vanavil reached us during that time and became a constant presence in our lives. All seven of us siblings studied with Vanavil's support, from school through college. I went on to complete my engineering degree and worked in the IT sector for three years. During college, I struggled, especially with English, and often felt like giving up, but the support from my community kept me going. Today, I work at Vanavil as a Higher Education Coordinator, supporting students from nomadic communities to continue their studies. Being part of Vanavil's work today is both a responsibility and a source of pride."





Lakshmi's Twenty Years with Vanavil



"I belong to the Adiyar community and have known Vanavil for over twenty years. I first met Revathi Akka after the tsunami, when our family had received no support and she came to us personally. At a time when even attending school felt difficult and children like us were mocked, Vanavil became a space of care and belonging. We learned at our own pace, travelled beyond our village for the first time, and grew with confidence. Although I could not continue my own education and later worked in the plastic industry, I wanted uninterrupted education for my child. Today, my daughter studies at Vanavil with curiosity and joy. She gets the same care, stability and an environment to grow, as I got years ago at Vanavil."

Mahesh: Carrying education forward

"I have known Vanavil for over twenty years. When Revathi Akka first reached our community, she helped ensure we had a safe place to stay and access to learning. I was in the second standard then and attended tuition classes where we were taught, fed, and cared for. My own studies did not continue as I had hoped, and my path unfolded differently. Today, all the children in our family study at the Vanavil after school and I am determined to make sure they have stable environment to learn and grow, with Vanavil's continued support."

Across our settlement and nearby villages, more children are now going to school, and several alumni have reached college. Twenty years ago, we did not imagine Vanavil would stand with our community for so long. Seeing their work continue across many villages gives me hope, and I remain committed to supporting my children's education."





A Lifelong Partner in Education and Support: Sellammal's Story



"My name is Sellammal. Vanavil began supporting our family when my youngest son was seven months old, and it has remained part of our lives since then. All five of my daughters study with Vanavil's support. My eldest daughter, Sudha, is an engineer and works in the IT sector. My second daughter Selvarani is a textile designer and artist. Third daughter Bhuvaneshwari completed her masters in social work and works for an NGO.

I run a small business processing and selling plastic items. When it was difficult to take my children to work, Vanavil became their home. Over the years, its work in our village has grown to include tuition centres and support for families' daily needs. Seeing this care reach our village and other tribal communities fills us with happiness. Even today, I remember the warmth with which Revathi Akka first spoke to us, a care that has continued for over twenty years."

Two Decades of Care and Education: Anjamal's Journey with Vanavil

"My name is Anjamal, and I run an old cloth shop in Vanchur, and all five of my children have studied with Vanavil's support. When Vanavil first came into our lives, they provided meals, tuition, and a safe space for our children to learn. Today, my daughter Meena works in TV, my son Jothimani is a driver, and my eldest son Sami works as a video editor and aspires to become a filmmaker. Twenty years ago, I could not have imagined this. I would leave my children at Vanavil while I worked, and now even my grandchildren study there. Vanavil has been more than a school, it has been like a home and family. The care they began with continues today, not only in our village but across other villages where our community lives, for generations of children."



Chitra's Journey: Teaching and Nurturing at Vanavil School



"My name is Chitra, and I am from Thanjavur. I worked as a resident teacher at Vanavil School in Maraimalai Nagar during its early years, when the school was just beginning and many children were coming to a classroom for the first time.

Working with the children was challenging at first. They were not used to sitting in one place or following a fixed routine, and we often visited their homes to encourage them to attend school. Vanavil's activity-based approach allowed us to teach in ways that matched the children's interests and experiences. Over time, the children grew more confident, and strong bonds formed between us.

I worked at Vanavil for four years before returning to my native place due to family responsibilities. Seeing the school grow and continue its work fills me with pride. The time I spent learning and teaching alongside the children remains one of the most meaningful chapters of my life."

Selvi: Carrying education forward

"My name is Selvi. I worked as a teacher at Vanavil during its early years. I had studied only up to the 12th standard, but during my interview, I was asked about children—how to care for them and how to work with them, rather than about qualifications.

Vanavil was a residential school then, and learning was hands-on for both teachers and children. I built close relationships with my students, and even today, families remember those years and share where their children are working now. Seeing Vanavil continue its work over the years fills me with pride, and knowing I was part of its beginning means a great deal to me."





IMPACT STORIES

VANAVIL SCHOOL



VISHNU VARDHINI

Vishnu Vardhini is from Sellur village in Nagapattinam district, from the **Boom Boom Mattukararan** community. Her family depends on daily-wage work, including reselling old sarees, small trade, and plastic waste collection.

She joined *Vanavil School* at the age of three. Born premature and underweight, she was quiet, often tired, and preferred to stay withdrawn, speaking very little and engaging only one-on-one. Teachers observed her closely and stayed in regular touch with her parents, offering steady individual attention. Over time, her fatigue was linked to nutritional deficiency. From Grade 1, she began receiving regular meals, health monitoring, and support around eating and physical activity. With consistent care, her health and confidence improved.

Today, in Grade 2, *Vishnu Vardhini* participates actively in class, volunteers for activities, and communicates freely with her peers and teachers. Her growth reflects what sustained attention, nutrition, and a safe learning environment can make



Saravanan lives with his parents and younger sister near the canal in the Sikkal Mozhithidal area. His family earns a living through bamboo work, ladder making, and cleaning jobs.

He is in Grade 5 at Vanavil School. When he first joined, Saravanan would take his time to interact with everyone around him and slow to respond in class. With time in the school's activity-based learning environment, he began to engage more and gain confidence. Two other members of his family have since joined the school.

Encouraged by his teachers, Saravanan started singing, telling stories, and writing. He spends a lot of time in the library and enjoys reading, especially the book *Diju and Seenu*, which he reads again and

again. His attendance has become regular, and he now participates actively in class. After seeing doctors care for his father during a hospital stay, Saravanan hopes to study well and become a doctor.

VANAVIL SCHOOL OF ART & TECH

"My name is **K.E. Mahalakshmi**, and I am from Perambalur village in Thiruvavur district. My father worked as a sanitation worker and passed away when I was in Grade 6. After that, my mother continued the same work to support our family.

In Grade 10, I failed three subjects. After the supplementary exams, I cleared two but could not pass Mathematics. During this period, I joined the Vanavil School of Art and Technology, where I learned sculpture, painting, fabric design, and printing. This helped me stay connected to learning and rebuild confidence.

Along with this, I received focused coaching in Mathematics and was able to pass the subject. I am now studying in Grade 11. My time at Vanavil has taught me to continue even when learning becomes difficult, and I am committed to carrying that forward in my studies."



VANAVIL CHILDRENS HOME



Ezhumalai is from *Sellur village* and belongs to the *Boom Boom Mattukkar community*. He lives with his parents and three siblings. Due to his father's health issues and alcoholism, the family lost its main source of income and now survives through his mother's begging. They do not have a house and stay in a temporary tent at a relative's place.

Concerned about his safety, nutrition, and education, his parents enrolled him at the Vanavil Children's Home at a young age. He is currently studying in Grade 4 at Vanavil School. In the beginning, Ezhumalai found it difficult to focus in class and often wandered. When his teacher gave him a small leadership role, his behaviour began to change. He started attending regularly and taking

responsibility for himself and others.

Ezhumalai enjoys singing, storytelling, reading the newspaper, and learning Thirukkural and proverbs. With steady encouragement, his pronunciation and confidence have improved. He actively participates in songs on equality and social justice and hopes to become a police officer.

Mahalakshmi belongs to the Boom Boom Mattukaran community and is from Sellur village. She has been living and studying at Vanavil since early childhood and is currently in Grade 9. With regular academic support, especially in Mathematics and Science, Mahalakshmi has developed confidence and interest in her studies. Holiday coaching helped her stay consistent with learning.

Alongside academics, she actively participates in sports, including carrom, chess, kho-kho, kabaddi, judo, swimming, and silambam. She has won a gold medal in judo and secured second place in a district-level swimming competition. Mahalakshmi attends school regularly and hopes to become a doctor.



VANAVIL AFTER SCHOOL CENTRES



NISHA

Nisha is from Melur village in Thanjavur district and belongs to the **Narikuravar community**. Her parents earn a living through needle selling and seasonal trade. Due to frequent migration for work and the need to care for her younger siblings, Nisha stopped going to school after completing Grade 5. She now lives in Veeranagar and attends the Vanavil after school Centre with her siblings. With encouragement from teachers and regular conversations with her parents, she decided to return to school. Her admission was delayed because her school certificates were lost in a fire, but with steady follow-up, the centre helped her obtain replacements.

Today, Nisha is enrolled in Grade 7 at a government school. She attends regularly, participates actively at the evening centre, and enjoys reading from the centre's library.

Parameswari studies in Grade 11 at **Ambal Government Higher Secondary School** and lives with her grandmother in Nagapattinam. With no parental support, she looks after her two younger siblings while managing school and household work. This often made her late to school and the Porakkudi after school, and over time she began to lose motivation.

In 2022, we spoke to her, understood her struggles, and worked with her school teachers for support. Teacher Rajini accompanied her to school for a week, helping her feel seen and supported. When it became clear she loved dancing, she was encouraged to perform. Winning a prize on annual day gave her confidence and helped her return to regular learning.

Vanavil helped in arranging necessities like uniforms, supplies and school bag, and she slowly rebuilt her attendance and, passing more subjects each term and finally cleared Grade 10 with 210 marks.

Today, Parameswari enjoys reading, participates actively at the centre, and feels it is a place where she belongs and dreams of becoming a teacher. Vanavil has helped her rediscover confidence, routine, and hope for her future.



PARAMESWARI



Regina is a Grade 3 student at the Srivanchiyam Centre. She lives with her mother, Mariyammal, who supports the family and works at the centre. Despite financial and emotional challenges, Regina shows up every day. She has never missed a day at the centre and was recognised for her regular attendance on Annual Day.

Her love for reading stands out. During a read-aloud session, she listened closely, asked questions, and engaged with the story. The library record later showed she had borrowed and read ten books, retells stories to other children or other babies, explaining pictures and ideas in her own words. When she chose Magalgalukkum Vendum Viduthalai, she discussed its meaning confidently with her peers.

Though she is still too young to attend library facilitator training, Regina already leads through curiosity and enthusiasm. The centre has become a space where her voice and love for learning continue to grow.



“My name is **Deepika**. I belong to the **Boom Boom Maatukkar community** and live in Neelapaadi village. My father works as a mason and my mother runs a plastic goods business. I am now studying in Grade 11 after scoring 428 marks in my Grade 10 exams.

Tamil is my favourite subject, and my Tamil teacher, Vasuki, has always encouraged me. I have been attending the After School Centre since Grade 1. The teachers help me understand my lessons clearly and support me every day with homework. The nutritious meals we receive also help me stay healthy and focused.

The centre has given me more than academics. Cultural programmes, games, arts, and skill-building activities have helped me build confidence and grow in many ways. My dream is to become a doctor. With the support of my teachers and my determination, I believe I can do well in my studies and achieve my goal.”

VANAVIL GOLDEN BABY PROJECT



Shivani was born in *Srivanjiyam* on 8 January 2024. Her parents, Santhosh and Vijaya, run a small plastic trading business. Soon after her birth, a Vanavil volunteer registered her under the Thanga Kuzhanthai (Golden Child) Programme.

At birth she weighed 2.7 kg. After three months, her weight began to drop, and she was identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition. From then on, the Vanavil volunteer monitored her every week. Her mother received guidance on nutrition, feeding practices, hygiene, and infant care. Nutritional supplements were provided, vaccinations were followed up on time, and regular Anganwadi visits were ensured.

Today, at one and a half years old, Shivani weighs 10 kg. Her health status has improved from Severe Acute Malnutrition to Moderate Malnutrition, marking strong recovery and steady growth. With continuous support, early intervention, and family involvement, Shivani is now on a healthy path forward.



“My name is *Solaiyammal*. I belong to the Boom Boom Maatukkar community and live in Gandhi Nagar, Trichy, with my husband Karthik. We have a three-year-old daughter, and I was expecting my second child when I joined the Thanga Kuzhanthaigal (Golden Baby) Programme.

Through the programme, a Vanavil volunteer regularly monitored my health and provided nutritional support throughout my pregnancy. As my delivery neared, my haemoglobin level dropped severely, which caused a lot of concern for our family. But the volunteer continued frequent home visits, follow-ups, counselling, and support to ensure I received the care I needed.

With steady medical guidance and nutrition, my health improved. My haemoglobin level stabilised, and I safely gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Nithra. The programme’s timely care and consistent support helped me feel safe, supported, and strong through my pregnancy.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Jacob Matthew belongs to the **Narikuravar community** and comes from Old Needamangalam village in Tiruvarur district. His father makes pasimani garlands as a daily-wage worker, and his mother is a homemaker. With limited income and many responsibilities, education was never easy for the family. Jacob is the youngest of three children.

Because of financial challenges, he had to shift between schools but still completed his Higher Secondary education. He is now in his second year of B.A. English at R.A. Government Arts and Science College and is the first graduate in his family. In a community where children are often pushed into work or early marriage, Jacob dreamed of becoming a government officer. Vanavil encouraged this dream.

Through ongoing counselling and guidance from the Director and mentors, his parents began supporting his higher education. With full educational support from Vanavil Trust, Jacob now studies with confidence.

He hopes to support his family and uplift his community. His dream is to promote education, prevent child marriage, support girls' education, and guide other marginalized students towards higher studies and dignified livelihoods.



JACOB MATTHEW



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM



"My name is **Bharathi**. I belong to the Narikuravar community and live in Vaanchoor, Nagapattinam district, with my husband, a daily-wage labourer, and our two-year-old daughter, Akathiya. I earn my livelihood by running a bangle and bead business, which often goes through ups and downs.

Through Vanavil Trust, I received an interest-free micro-loan of ₹10,000. I used it to expand my business by purchasing goods in bulk from outside the district. Within 20 days, this investment helped me earn ₹20,000, bringing both relief and confidence.

I continue to reinvest my profits, strengthen my business, and build greater financial stability for my family."



HIGHLIGHTS 2024-2025



- Vanavil Nursery & Primary School celebrated its 19th Annual Day with joy and participation from children, parents, and the wider community. Film director Jai Kumar and actor Manikandan joined as special guests, making the day memorable for everyone.
- A community medical camp was organised in Karai Irupu, offering consultations and medicines to meet the everyday health needs of local families.
- During the Summer Camp, children were given hands-on training in Parai drumming, folk dance, music and rhythm, drama, origami, painting, sculpture, and handicrafts using coconut shells. The summer camp was also taken to four villages, running for five days at each after-school centre.
- Vanavil School expanded this year with the introduction of Class 6, supporting children to continue their learning journey.
- Every term, Project Exhibitions were conducted to help parents understand their children's learning progress. Educational trips included visits to Kodiyakarai Bird Sanctuary, Nagore Dargah, and conversations with women role models. Through these experiences, children completed and shared learning from 18 projects over the year.
- Aadhaar cards were applied for 18 children, and community certificates were secured for six children, helping them access essential services and education.
- Across 14 after-school centres, 35 children who had dropped out were successfully re-enrolled in school.
- A new activity-based math learning method called "Jodo Gyan" has been introduced in daily classes. Through this approach, students learn to identify numbers and understand mathematical patterns.

- In May, 30 students from the Pamani center were taken on a library tour to the Paravakottai village library.
- At the Apparakudi center, a 9th class student named Sabarinathan participated in the Chief Minister's Sports Competition organized by the Tamil Nadu government and won first prize at the district level in Silambam, qualifying to compete at the state level.
- Mukesh (Class 12) won an award at an international Silambam record competition.
- At the Trichy center, Sandhiya (Class 4) secured first prize in a district-level speech competition.
- In the Class 10 board exams, Pandiyammal scored 410 and Amudha scored 406, securing second and third ranks in the school. Both are now studying in Class 11 at the Government Model School.
- Four students who passed Class 10 with over 50 marks in Mathematics received a government scholarship of ₹1,500 each.
- Child Committee elections were conducted for the children of Sellur, Neelappadi, and Vanavil Home. Based on the vote count, children were elected to the positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Weekly Social Emotional Learning (SEL) classes are being conducted for children across centres.
- At the Vanavil Children's Home, 12 girls from classes 8 and 9 participated in Judo training held at the District Collector's Sports Ground and returned after winning prizes.
- Frisbee training was provided to students from Neela Paadi and Sellur. A total of 48 students participated in the training, and competitions were conducted. Trophies and medals were awarded to the winners. The special guest, Ms. Sanofar, Judo Master from the Sports Department of the Nagapattinam District Collector's Office, attended the event and distributed the prizes.
- In July, a kabaddi competition was organized for the children of Sellur and Neelappadi, and prizes were distributed to the winners.



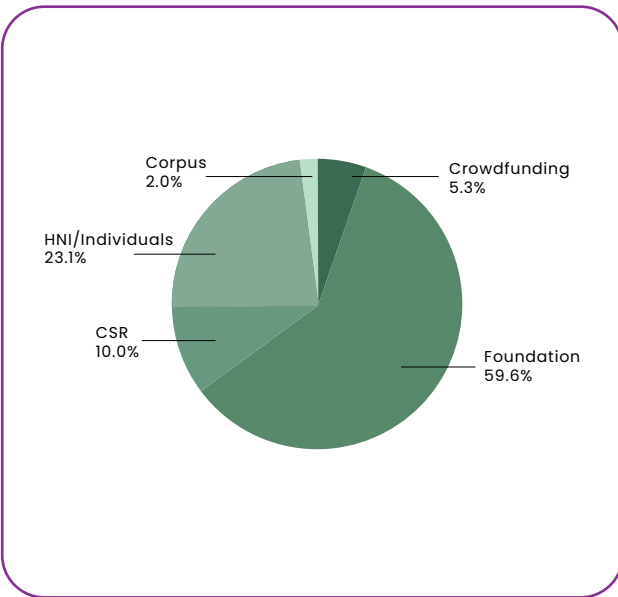


- Christuraj and Santhosh, both studying in Class 9, were successfully re-enrolled in school.
- The village-level Child Protection Committee meetings were conducted once every three months in the villages of Neelappadi, Sellur, and Sikkal.
- Students from Art and Technology programmes, including sculpture, dyeing, and printing, showcased and sold their work at a sales and exhibition event organised by a Trichy-based institution.
- Through “Thanga Kuzhandhaigal” (Golden Children) program, the health and nutrition of 65 pregnant mothers and 100 children across 15 centers were regularly monitored. Special attention was given to mothers and children who required additional nutritional support, and nutritional supplements were provided to all beneficiaries every month.
- In the villages of Veeranagar, Vanjur, and Thuravikadu, interest-free loans were provided to women from the Boom Boom Mattukarar and Narikkuravar communities to help them start small businesses. Last year, loans were given to two groups through the Undiyal scheme. In total, 64 women benefited from this program during the year.
- To enhance women’s skills, sewing training centers were started in Neelappadi and Porakkudi, where 72 women received certificates upon completion of their training.
- In this academic year, Vanavil evening learning centers were newly started at Gandhinagar in Tiruchirappalli district, and at Needamangalam and Thirumeni Eri in Tiruvarur district. A total of 260 children are benefiting from these centers.
- Under the Understanding Society initiative, we identified key social issues such as drinking water, free bus services, caste and education, and agricultural water. Data collected through direct interviews with community members and research by 4 groups of Vanavil staff was used to compile the findings and published as books.

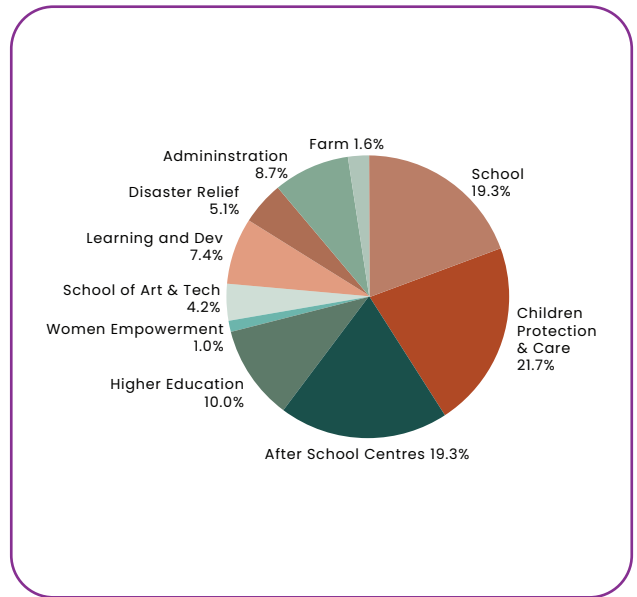
FINANCIALS

Vasavi Trust Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year ended 31-03-2025			
Expenditure	For the year ended 31-03-2025 Rs.	Income	For the year ended 31-03-2025 Rs.
School	5,19,868	Donations and Contributions	3,43,86,396
Child Protection and Care	58,41,211	Donations	5,58,18,787
After School Centres	51,81,607	Charitable Contribution	6,87,609
Northwest Higher Education Institute	25,36,893	Other Income	3,63,883
Women Empowerment	1,25,046	Interest from FD	1,51,919
School of Art & Technology	11,25,763	Interest from SB	64
Learning and Development	13,87,540	Profit on Sale of Fixed Asset	0
Disaster Relief	13,71,738		
Administration	23,48,124		
Research & Advocacy	99,078		
Flags	4,31,625		
Children	1,91,933		
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Asset			
Depreciation	9,96,117		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	68,42,648		
Total	3,47,85,079	Total	3,67,86,279

Vasavi Trust Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2025			
Liabilities	As at 31-Mar-2025 Rs.	Assets	As at 31-Mar-2025 Rs.
Capital Account	88,51,889	Fixed Assets (Net)	76,43,862
Current Fund	1,089	Land/Agricultural Developments	67,881
Investment Fund	7,00,000	Building	29,06,311
Govt Bonds	1,00,000	Computers	4,94,075
Other Bonds	1,00,000	Historical Energy	96,137
Govt Securities		Equipment	1,23,411
Other Securities		Warehouse Building	13,74,889.38
Reserve		Medical Building	5,74,217.80
Unappropriated Surplus	1,61,64,715	Software	25,68,711
Opening Balance	84,11,837	Store	11,57,000
Current Fund	88,51,889	Mobile Phone	13,080.00
		Furniture & Interiors	8,86,352
		Primary & Low Street	1,36,788
		Children Home	1,75,448
		Two-Wheeler	18,844
		Working Machine	13,339
		Car	1,08,939
		Current Assets	81,45,071
		Debtors	
		Prepaid Expenses	58,11,287
		Income & Expenditure	
		Prepaid Expenses	1,75,000
		Advances	1,13,086
		Current Liabilities	
		Bank Balance	826
		Bank Accounts	11,74,937
		IF Applied Reservations	15,289.00
Total	1,14,58,604	Total	1,14,58,604



Donations



Expenses

MEDIA MENTIONS

Social innovators ride the shark tank effect, raise a crore in 48 hrs

Mehna Desai@timesgroup.com

In 2005, while visiting the tsunami-stricken town of Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, filmmaker and journalist Revathi Radhakrishnan had an encounter that changed her trajectory. "I was having chai at the bus stand when a young girl with an extremely thin infant called Lakshmi came to beg. I'd never seen a child so malnourished. They asked a few questions and quietly trailed away," recounted Radhakrishnan who followed them to their home and that journey today is Vanavil, meaning 'rainbow' in Tamil, a trust that has been educating children providing nutritious meals, and ac-



Vanavil Trust working for nomadic tribes has won prize of Rs 25 lakh — assisting mothers from two nomadic communities in Tamil Nadu — the Boom Boom Mat-tikarars and Narikuravars — for close to two decades. "The eventual loss of

Lakshmi revealed the harsh living conditions of nomadic tribes and following dialogues with the community I realised education could be their weapon for sustainable change," said Radhakrishnan who gradually built village learning centres across 16 hamlets in five districts.

Vanavil Trust emerged as the frontrunner, clinching the top prize of Rs 25 lakh at a Shark Tank-style showdown last week where instead of profit-driven startups, you had social change makers pitching the impact they're trying to make in the communities they serve while the 'sharks' weren't your typical cutthroat business tycoons but everyday people from across the country, eager to

champion positive change in the lives of the less fortunate.

"To have our voice heard and supported at a national scale restores my belief that the world revolves around people's generosity and love. We can now build more centres," gushed Radhakrishnan who was among the 12 finalists putting their best ideas forward in a five-minute high-stakes startup-style of pitching that drew a virtual audience of over 2,000 live viewers who responded generously, contributing close to Rs 1.10 crores within 48 hours, the donations spread across organisations whose compelling pitches resonated with them. And the giving continues on the virtual platform till April 30.

Now in its third edition, Fast Pitch, an initiative by Social Venture Partners India (SVPI India), a platform for philanthropy, has evolved into a force for good, closing the divide between funders and NGOs since its debut in 2021. Each year, only 12 organisations out of a pool of several hundred applications earn a coveted spot in the final cohort. These select few undergo around eight weeks of intensive coaching to craft their story within a tight five-minute window.

Simultaneously, a panel of social impact experts — Hari Menon, India director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Venkat Krishnan, India Welfare Trust and Gayatri Nair Lobo, CEO ATE Chan-

dra Foundation — assessed these non-profits, not just for the cash prize, but for their potential for impact and sustainability.

Whittled down from nearly 200 entries from across the country, this year's chosen ones tackle diverse issues from prison reform, zero hunger and building a hyper-local sports ecosystem to supporting children with life-threatening illnesses, rescuing trafficked women and empowering ragpickers.

Delhi-based Project Second Chance's interventions to shake up the slow and outdated prison reform ecosystem in India by empowering those with incarceration backgrounds bagged the second spot of Rs 15 lakh. "We're

excited that we can use this fund for everything from buying new chairs to rehabilitating prisoners," said the project's founder Mohit Raj whose pitch of "Reimagining Prisons", struck a chord when he shed light on how criminal justice was a matter of social justice given that a significant majority of Indian prisoners come from marginalised communities.

Anahat Foundation in Bangalore bagged third place, cash prize of Rs 10 lakh for their work in providing free consultations, medicines, diagnostic services to underserved communities while the women-led Jayam Special School in Chennai for children living with autism won a prize of Rs 10 lakh.

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