

## Trimble Sugadhram - 2019-20

Asha Chennai has been supporting the education at Government schools for over fifteen years. At times, we had also repaired and built new toilets in some of these schools based on the needs at the schools and the availability of donors. In general, the toilet facilities in many of the schools are inadequate. The children end up openly defecating during the break time. With rising urbanization, there aren't even fields near the schools in many of the schools. Lack of toilet facilities in middle and high schools is a major cause of girls to drop out or develop health problems as they attain puberty. Thus middle schools in particular require proper toilet facilities.

With this as a focus, in 2016-17, we at Asha Chennai launched Project Sugadharam to enhance the sanitation facilities in our supported schools. For the toilet work, the school had to have space for a new toilet or an old toilet in good enough condition to be at least repairable. Further, we need support from the Panchayat, the Block Officers and the people from the village to be able to take up the activities.

In 2018-19, Trimble came forward to help enhance the sanitation facilities in the rural government schools that Asha Chennai works with. With the constraints highlighted above, we identified schools and villages that would offer us a supporting environment for the work. Below are details about schools that were proposed to Trimble seeking support.

#	School / Village	Location	Description
<b>New Toilets</b>			
1	Chidambarampatti	Thoothukudi district; about 20 km southwest of Kovilpatti	12' x 10' with 3 close door toilets, urinals, water tank
2	Kaatu Chittambur	Gingee Taluk in Villupuram district; midway between Tiruvannamalai and Gingee	New toilet - 20' x 12' with 4 close door toilets, urinal, water tank and an external septic tank.  Deepening of one borewell
3	Nandivaram	Near Guduvanchery in Chengalpattu district	New girls toilet - 10' x 16' with 3 close door toilets, urinals, wash basins Repair existing boys toilet  Deepening of one borewell
<b>Toilet Repair Work</b>			
4	Kumaragiri	Thoothukudi district; about 9 km east of Kovilpatti	Plumbing line from govt tank, doors for the urinals, plumbing, painting and tile fixing work.

5	Athikinaru	Thoothukudi district; about 18 km southeast of Kovilpatti	New tiles for the floor. New water tank mounted on top of the old one with related plumbing work.
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In early 2019, Trimble accepted the proposal for work on these toilets. In May of 2019, Trimble released the first tranche of funds to Asha Chennai for one new toilet construction and the work was started duly soon after. Here is a report of the toilet construction and repair work done since then.

### **Chidambarampatti - New toilet construction**

The construction started with a Bhoomi Puja on the 4th of June, 2019. The work started a little later on the 21st of June after all arrangements of materials and labour was done. From then on, the work was carried out at full pace and the entire toilet construction was completed by the middle of August.



The new toilet was inaugurated on the 17th of August, 2019 by Trimble and Asha. Mr. Subburaj represented Trimble and Rajaram represented Asha at the function. Even though this was a holiday, all the school teachers and children were there for the function.



[Click here to view photos](#) from Bhoomi Puja till completion of construction and [click here](#) for photos from the inauguration function.

## Kaatu Chittambur - New toilet construction

After finalizing the budget, doing the groundwork and planning the toilet construction, the work started in Nov-Dec of 2019. Following a Bhoomi Puja, the new toilet was constructed as planned at a reasonable pace and was completed in about three months' time.

An existing borewell of about 200 feet depth does not yield always water and hence it was proposed to be dug deeper as a part of this work. That activity was undertaken too and the borewell was dug to a depth of about 650 feet.



By the time the preparations for an inauguration ceremony were being discussed, COVID struck and hence the formal inauguration of the new toilet and the borewell have not been done yet. We will plan to hold them in consultation with Trimble once the schools reopen.

[Click here](#) for photos from the construction of the toilet and the digging of the borewell.

### **Kumaragiri and Athikinaru - Toilet repair**

The renovation work at Athikinaru and Kumaragiri was started in early January and completed in early February. At both schools, the toilets required plumbing work. The doors needed to be replaced in some cases. The flooring and entrance to the toilets were badly damaged. We fixed the plumbing in the toilets including providing new wash-basins. We put tiles on the floor and the walls up to a height of 4 feet. We replaced broken doors and we gave a new coat of paint.

Kumaragiri toilet before renovation:



After renovation:



Athikinaru toilet before renovation:



After renovation:



[Click here](#) for photos showing the progress of the work at these two toilets.

## **Nandivaram - New toilet construction**

This Adidravidar Welfare Board (ADW) run middle school had two toilets, one each for girls and boys, that were renovated recently. In addition, the school requested another pair of toilets to cater to the school strength. Hence, the proposal was to build one new toilet and repair an unused toilet. Further, there was a need for a new borewell as the existing one did not yield water.

The girls' toilet construction work began in mid-January of 2020 and the scope was to build three close door toilets and 6-8 urinal stations. The Bhoomi Puja was attended by Ms Lalitha from Trimble. The work was progressing well, got stalled for a while due to road work adjacent to the toilet but continued soon after into February. The basic structure got completed but had to be stopped in March following the shutdown due to COVID. Piping work, doors, laying tiles and the finishing is the set of work that's pending.



Renovation of the boys' toilet is yet to commence and we plan to do that soon after completion of the girls' toilet.

Digging of a borewell to 250 feet has been completed. A motor needs to be purchased and installed, and that's also being planned currently.

[Click here](#) to see photos of the new toilet construction so far.