

CAUVERY Project - Tiruvarur District

A Project of Asha Chennai Chapter.

Mission of Asha for Education

To catalyze socio-economic change in India through the education of underprivileged children.

Why Digital Education Matters along with traditional education:

Traditionally, education has been defined as the acquisition of knowledge in languages, mathematics, and science. However, in today's era of digitalization, education without exposure to **digital literacy** is incomplete.

The **digital divide** in rural India threatens to widen the gap between privileged and underprivileged communities. Bridging this divide requires introducing digital learning alongside the three R's—reading, writing, and arithmetic—from an early age. This equips students with essential skills for success in the modern world.

Project Cauvery

To address this need, **Project Cauvery** was launched in **November 2022** in Tiruvarur district. Its goal is to strengthen government schools—where the most marginalized students are enrolled—by providing access to digital education and quality teaching support. Project Cauvery also provides avenues for children to have a joyful experience via Excursions.

- **Current Reach:** 21 schools (partially funded by Amazon)
- **Team:** 1 Project Steward (volunteer), 9 Teachers, 1 coordinator
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Appointing computer teachers in schools
 - Teaching **Computer Science, Maths, English, and Science**
 - Leveraging **Asha Kanini**, a curated open-source digital platform with content from **Khan Academy, PhET, NLVM**, and more.

Our Computer Curriculum: The computer curriculum developed by Asha Chennai is designed specifically for government school students in rural Tamil Nadu, keeping in mind their background and access limitations. It is progressive, starting from basic digital exposure and moving towards creative and problem-solving skills.

1. Foundation Level – Basic Digital Exposure

- Introduction to Computers – hardware, software, safe usage
- Typing skills and navigation
- File management and understanding operating systems

2. Creativity & Confidence Building

- Tux Paint – drawing, storytelling through art, using colors and shapes
- Helps younger children overcome hesitation in using computers

3. Mathematical & Analytical Skills

- GeoGebra – interactive visualizations of geometry, algebra, and graphs
- NLVM (National Library of Virtual Manipulatives) – virtual tools for exploring math concepts
- Builds conceptual clarity and interest in mathematics

4. Practical Productivity Skills

- OpenOffice (Writer, Calc, Impress) – word processing, spreadsheets, presentations
- Creating reports, tables, charts, and presentations (building real-world skills)
- PowerPoint / Impress – communication and structured thinking through visual presentations

5. Coding & Logical Thinking

- Scratch – block-based programming to create stories, animations, and games
- Teaches sequencing, logic, and problem-solving in a playful way

6. Advanced Learning & Integration

- Internet usage: searching information, safe browsing
- Email, document sharing, and digital collaboration (where infrastructure allows)
- Integrating with Asha Kanini for maths, science, and English content

Asha Kanini – The Digital Learning Platform

What is Asha Kanini?: Asha Kanini is a **free, open-source digital learning platform** developed by Asha Chennai . It is designed to provide **quality educational content in regional languages** and to make digital learning accessible to children in government schools.

Key Features of Asha Kanini:

- **Curated Content:** Includes world-class open-source educational resources such as
 - **Khan Academy** (Maths, Science, English, problem-solving videos & exercises)
 - **PhET Interactive Simulations** (Science & Maths concepts made visual and interactive)
 - **NLVM (National Library of Virtual Manipulatives)** (hands-on Maths learning tools)
 - **CK-12 Foundation resources** (STEM content, simulations, adaptive practice)
 - Other localized and teacher-created content.
- **Multi-lingual Support:** Content is available in **Tamil and English**, with the aim to expand into more Indian languages.
- **Offline Functionality:** Works even in schools with poor or no internet connectivity. Content is preloaded on school computers, ensuring uninterrupted access.
- **Teacher-Friendly:** Comes with tools for teachers to:
 - Track student progress
 - Assign lessons and exercises
 - Use interactive teaching methods instead of rote learning.
- **Student-Centered:** Encourages self-learning and exploration beyond textbooks, which boosts confidence and curiosity.
- **Customizable:** Schools and teachers can adapt the platform to their specific curriculum and teaching needs.

Why Asha Kanini is Important for Rural Schools:

- Reduces dependency on textbooks alone by providing **visual and interactive learning**.
- Bridges the **digital divide** by giving underprivileged children the same exposure to digital tools as urban students.
- Enhances learning outcomes, especially in **Maths and Science**, where conceptual clarity is critical.
- Empowers teachers in government schools with **world-class teaching aids** in their own language.
- Prepares students with **21st-century skills** such as problem-solving, analytical thinking, and digital literacy.

Impact so far:

- Implemented across multiple government schools in Tamil Nadu and other states.
- Hundreds of teachers trained and actively using it in classrooms.
- Thousands of students gaining exposure to **interactive, enjoyable, and effective digital education**.

Approach & Pedagogy

- **Developed by Asha Staff & Volunteers:** The curriculum is not a copy-paste of urban programs; it is adapted to rural realities.
- **Activity-Based Learning:** Students learn by doing, not memorizing.
- **Language Support:** Instruction happens in **Tamil and English**, ensuring inclusivity.
- **Progressive Skill Development:** From fun and creativity in primary school → to logic, coding, and productivity in middle and high school.

- **Integration with Academics:** Links digital learning with school subjects, reinforcing maths, science, and language lessons.

By empowering students with both academic and digital skills, Project Cauvery is working to create lasting, positive change in the quality of education in the district of Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu.

Timeline of the Support given to the schools covered under Cauvery Project -

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>School</u>
2022	Irulneeki PUMS KeezhaPanaiyur PUPS Komalapettai PUMS
2023	Tirupathur PUMS Vilakkudi PUPS Vikarapandiyam PUPS Adichapuram PUPS Kottur Thottam PUPS Nerunjanakudi PUPS Rayanallur PUPS MelaPanaiyur PUPS Karuppukilar PUMS
2024	83 Kulamanickkam PUMS Kalappal PUPS NaduvaKalappal PUPS OverCheri PUPS Sollangnallur PUPS Kottur PUPS
2025	ThathanThiruvasal PUPS Renganathapuram PUMS Thattankovil PUPS

Details of the Schools

School	Block	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total Strength	No.of Classrooms	No.of Teachers	Pvt School Nearby
Irulneeki PUMS	Kottur	36	28	64	7	6	No
Panaiyur PUPS	Thiruthuraipoondi	17	13	30	2	3	1 school about 3 kms away
Komalapettai PUMS	Thiruthuraipoondi	55	41	96	5	6	No
Vilakkudi PUPS	Thiruthuraipoondi	77	68	145	6	6	No
Thirupathur PUMS	Thiruthuraipoondi	51	56	107	7	6	1 school about 3 kms away.
Adichapuram PUPS	Kottur	7	7	14	2	2	1 school
Vikkirapandiyam PUPS	Kottur	34	34	68	4	2	1 school
Kottur Thottam PUPS	Kottur	8	10	18	2	2	1 school about 2 kms away
Nerunjanakudi PUPS	Kottur	12	16	28	2	2	Nil
Rayanallur PUPS	Thiruthuraipoondi	48	53	101	6	4	4 schools
Karuppukilar PUMS	Kottur	51	65	116	6	6	nil
MelaPanaiyur PUPS	Kottur	29	24	53	3	2	nil
OverCheri PUPS	Kottur	13	14	27	1	2	1 school

Solangnallur PUPS	Kottur	8	10	18	1	2	nil
Kottur PUPS	Kottur	36	38	78	3	3	1 school
83 Kulamanickam PUMS	Kottur	38	25	63	3	3	nil
Kalappal PUPS	Kottur	27	40	67	3	2	nil
NaduvaKalappa PUPS	Kottur	20	17	37	1	2	Nil
ThathanThiruvasal PUPS	Kottur	9	5	14			2 schools
Thattankovil PUS	Kottur	9	12	21			Nil
Renganathapuram PUMS	Kottur	33	23	56			nil

Important Events at the Project in the year 25-26.

Asha Uniform Distribution.

Asha does not provide uniforms to the students as a part of the budget for all our school support projects. We take this up when we have some excess funds and are able to provide this extra. In the month of June uniform distribution was undertaken in the schools.



First RTC inauguration at Kottur- In the month of August the 13th Rural Technology Centre of Asha and the first Cauvery Project was opened at Kottur, Thiruvavarur Dt. Rural Technology Centers (RTCs) are a collaborative initiative between IIT Madras and Asha aimed at delivering computer education to high school and higher secondary students in remote rural areas. At each RTC, we teach both basic and advanced computer courses to students free of cost.



Study in Materials distribution :-



Teachers Training through in house and outside mentors:



Assessments for the Children: Oral, Written and Computer.





Asha Volunteer Visit: Long time Asha Volunteer Mr. Arjun Shankar visited Cauvery project on December 9 2025. He visited the following schools Erulneeki PUMS, Vikrapandiyam PUMS and Vilakkudi PUPS. He interacted and engaged with the students, Cauvery project and the Govt staff. He was very appreciative of the project.



Students Excursion: In the month of February 4th and 5th students of selected students were taken to Sithannavaasal Cave temple, Thirumayam Fort and Manora beach and fort

experience a joyful ,fun and informative outing.



ASHA IMPRESSIONS 2026:

Recognizing that computer science is best learned through hands-on experience, Asha requires all students to submit their own projects at the end of the term. Students in 4th and 5th standard create presentations using OpenOffice PowerPoint Presentation, while those in 7th and 8th standard develop creative projects using Scratch and Physical Computing . To provide a platform for the students to showcase their efforts, we organize Asha Impressions which acts as

a motivator for students to do better for selected Projects. A project submitted by a group of students of class 5 of Erulneeki PUMS won the first prize at the PPT category.

