Puvidham Rural Development Trust is a registered organization that works on providing a humane, sustainable and child-centered education environment for children in the Nagarkoodal area of Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu, India. The educational environment is modelled around Mahatma Gandhiji’s Nai Talim Curriculum with the spiritual principle which states that "knowledge and work are not separate".

Primary Aim—Providing primary school education to children of migrant workers, and providing hostel facilities to as many children as possible.
How did it start?

• In 1992 Meenakshi Umesh and her husband decided to start a farm and school of their own in the dry, draught prone Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu.

• The school Puvidham was started in 1999 and has been steadily growing in strength. The school started with seven children.

• Old hostel construction started in 2006 but was functional from 2009.

• New hostel was constructed in 2015—Funds from Asha London through WAH and Asha Seattle.
Mission

• Providing primary school education to children of migrant workers, and providing hostel facilities to as many children as possible.

• Imparting education to government school drop outs and children from the National Child Labour Prevention Program, who have been unable to cope with the pressures of formal schooling, with the intention of helping them join regular schools after Class VIII. Many of their students join without even a basic knowledge of the alphabet, or have been out of the educational system for many years disillusioned by the rigid schooling at government schools.

• Giving the children a working knowledge of Tamil and English and a strong foundation in Mathematics, and getting them familiar with farming activities.
Methodology

• Puvidham believes in holistic learning and seeks to improve self confidence of children who have been out of the educational system for many years.

• Tamil and English are introduced simultaneously. Often in their books, the same text is given both in Tamil and English!

• Children are taught the importance of nature and the relevance of farming to their lives.

• The children are placed in classes according to age. Activities vary from one age group to another.

• Teaching is done creatively. English and Tamil are taught through language flash cards. Maths is taught through the abacus, counting on stringed beads and Montessori like learning aids.

• Importance is given to creative extracurricular activities like clay modelling, drawing, conducting puppet shows, stitching etc.

• Children are encouraged to help at home and are taught about their responsibilities to their families, so that the parents dont lose out on helping hands at home. Unlike at government schools, students are not penalised for missing a few days because of work at home.

• The teachers are also from the Dharampuri district from similar backgrounds, so they empathise better with the children
Current Status

• Number of children in the school - 110
• Number of children in the hostel - 50
• Number of teachers including art and wood work teachers - 10 + 3.
Some Success Stories

• Lokesh came to us in 2015 November. He was 12 years old. He had a lot of stress related mannerisms and his learning level was zero. He had no interest in learning. Today he reads both in Tamil and English at the level of a 4th standard kid. His math is at the 8th level and he is a very good chess player. He can repair bicycles and anything that needs repair is handed to him. He now is happy to stay in puvidham and we feel that we can help him to clear the 10th as a private student.

• Keerti came in August 2016. She was 8 years old. The only word she spoke was “maa”. She never looked anyone in the eye and was bed wetting every night. Today she sings songs that she has heard her classmates sing in her own intonations and can speak coherently to explain incidents and give reason for what happened and why. Her mother was in tears when she came to take her home for the vacation because this was the first time that she had run to her mother with a huge smile and hugged her.
• Samhita bala came to us in June 2016. She was 8 years old. Her reading level in English was at the 2nd level but her math and Tamil was at zero level. She is the child of a single mother who has separated from her husband due to domestic violence. The child was in deep depression and had no interest in playing with other kids. She would never answer any question asked even about things like did you have breakfast unless she felt like answering. She abused her mother and spoke bad words. Today she is a cheerful child. Her learning level is age appropriate and she loves playing hide and seek.

• Suresh came in August 2016. He was 11 years old and had passed the 6th class in another school. He had been in many hostels and was expelled from all because he was a very violent and naughty child. His reading level in Tamil was at the 4th level and his math was at the 2nd standard level. Today he is eager to help and learn. His learning level is at the 7th in Tamil and math and at the 4th in English.

• **Success Stories**

• **Students History.**
### Asha SV contribution History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Contribution</th>
<th>Amount Paid</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>Number of Children in Hostel</th>
<th>Number of Teachers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>Rs. 8,36,120</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>Rs. 7,23,281</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>Rs. 682,281</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Rs. 8,31,694</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>Rs. 11,07,394</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>Rs. 11,34,378</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Rs. 13,85,100</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>16,00,254</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10+3</td>
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</table>
Funds Proposal

Funds disbursed-from 2008
# Budget Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-2017 (Proposal)</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries (7)</td>
<td>8,97,000</td>
<td>105,3000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insurance, Water Transport, notebooks, educational trips, maintenance, uniform (50kids), furniture</strong></td>
<td>301,500</td>
<td>421,754</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostel (30 Kids)</td>
<td>710,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Auditor, Transport, stationary, Telephone, misc(tools and fittings)</td>
<td>307,500</td>
<td>301,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Updates

- Meenakshi is taking a break to ensure no dependency on leadership.
- Construction of new activities building.
- Space syllabus was been come to effect.
- Several teachers left and a few have joined.
- More emphasis on framing and learning through poems
Important Documents:

- Proposal for 2017-18.
- Proposal for 2016-17.
- Students history reports.
- Site Visit.
- FCRA reports.
- Photos and Videos
- Funds Usage
- YouTube Video