

Annual Report

2013-14



THULIR TRUST

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Key Activities

Workshop for Adolescent Girls at the Government School



During November 2013, Thulir organised a workshop titled “Enakkul oru Sittrula” (a tour inside me) facilitated by Tayamma, Balamma and Luciamma. It was conducted for girls studying in classes between sixth standard and ninth standard. It was divided into three broad divisions – Body, Mind/Thought and Emotion. It dealt with the changes, issues and doubts that adolescents faced in these three realms. The facilitators were very impressed with the response of the children. They also conducted a week long team building and motivational workshop for the teachers, and yoga and theatre workshops for the children in the evenings.

Evening Classes for Government School Children

The evening classes have been going on more enthusiastically and are well attended. The children coming in the evening are from various classes. Rajammal, Devaki, Senthil, Ambika, Anjali, Nikhil and Anu take up teaching

duties in the evenings. Attendance is not compulsory and the number of students attending varies from 15 to 60 each day.

The children usually engage in academics, art and craft, and sports during this time. There is lot of experiential learning during their walks around Thulir studying the plants, trees and insects in the campus. Indoor activities include solving jigsaw puzzles, experimenting science concepts, working on computers or reading books that appeal to them.

Preparatory classes for the teachers happen during the day. Various visitors have contributed their knowledge to these classes, making them more interesting for the teachers. Activity Based Learning sessions are still conducted along with classroom theory in the evenings.



Crèche for 2- 5 year olds

We started a crèche on an experimental basis, open only for the hospital and Thulir staff children. We have about 5 children at present. Their day is filled with various activities for developing their senses of sight, hearing, touch, math and reading skills, listening and telling stories, art and craft, games, nature walks and music. The classes are handled by two young mothers, Lakshmi and Sasikala, who are also trained in Thulir. There are proposals to establish it on a more permanent basis.



Marudam Craft Week

We spent a week in Marudham Farm School and participated in many interesting events. Some of the Thulir staff went for a few days to take part in this yearly get together of craftsmen and artisans from different parts of Tamil Nadu. Parallel sessions were held in different rooms and one could choose. Some of the sessions were palm leaf weaving, banana fibre work, kalamkaari, jewelry and other product making with beads, mask making, sculpting with

soapstone and kolattam.



Bee Keeping

The bee boxes have been busy homes and within 4 months, the bees have managed to fill up the boxes with honey. The honey from one box has been harvested, still leaving a lot of honey behind as food for the larvae.

Organic Farming

After the harvest of *thattam payaru*, we planted coriander to take advantage on the minimal rainfall we received during the year. The plants yielded a good number of seeds to use in the kitchen as well as for the next planting.

Camp at Sita School, Bangalore

Around 20 students from Thulir went to Sita School in December for a two-day camp where they got to learn clay modeling, crochet, the workings of a grassland ecosystem among other things.

“Maari Varum Sitling” (Changing Sittilingi)

We commenced a project of documenting the changes happening in the village through photography, video and writing. We have started the first phase – photography. Nikhil has been taking classes for the kids on how to use a camera and the need to study things better to take better pictures.

Presently, the project is progressing into the next stage where the children are going out to the village to meet with the elders and learn about the history and culture of Sittilingi. We are also documenting the process through video and footage has been recorded. The first cut should be out soon.



Traditional Millet Festival

Tribal Health Initiative decided to organise a traditional millet food festival in Thulir to revive the usage of millets. We had Dr. Regi and Dr.Lalitha and Manjunathan from the Tribal Health Initiative, Sittilingi, talk about the various problems that can be caused to the body by consumption of inorganically grown food. Organic farmers came from all over the valley (and outside it too)

also talked of the benefits of farming closer to nature.

The organic farming women groups from all 22 villages in the valley got together at Thulir and served us atleast 32 tasty, home cooked millet dishes for lunch!

Tiruvannamalai Trip

Students training for running events were taken on a two-day trip to Marudam School, Tiruvannamalai in September. They enjoyed running there, from the school till the base of the famous hill. The group also went to the Organic Park, Ramanashram, Skandashram and the Tiruvannamalai Temple.

Sports Day I

A week after the millet festival was the sports festival for the children to make good use of the nutritious food consumed the previous week.



Activities like running, high jump, long jump, obstacle course, hopping race, musical chairs, kho-kho and kabaddi were enjoyed by around 60 Children in the age group six-thirteen. Few doctors from the hospital arrived in the evening to play tug-of-war.

Sports Day II

The second sports day of the year was a two-day exhibition held in December. Kabaddi, football, hopping game (nondi), relays, running races, frog races, dodge ball, shotput, kho-kho and even an improvised javelin throw for the older group and rugby too were held. It was also interesting to see the children create their own acrobatics in their free time

Solar Panels

We fixed new solar panels during the year to increase the availability of power . The new system now generates around 5 kWh a day, enough to run the computer lab and the electric motor to pump water too.

Science Camp



A two day event, the science camp, was held on the 19th and 20th of April, 2014. 30 children and 8 adults stayed the whole weekend in Thulir exploring Science. The entire group listened to stories about famous scientists, watched

a film on honey gathering, played the 'web of life' game to understand our interconnectedness, walked around the campus and learnt about the solar PV system, solar cookers, solar water heaters, biogas plant, smokeless rocket stove, dry compost latrine , etc. They also split into 6 groups both the days and conducted various experiments under the guidance of a teacher. We also had to take turns and help with cooking, serving and cleaning.

In the evening after dinner, we spoke about what we had learnt that day and cleared doubts. There was a star gazing session and a cake baking session using the solar cooker too.

Elections

The Thulir elections was an innovative experiment to educate the children about the modus operandi of general elections. For the purposes of voting, Senthil and his team prepared a special 'Electronic voting machine' – a simple gadget with three switches and two lights connected to each switch, one at the polling area and other light at the counting area. All the staff of Thulir acted as the election officials. The children responded enthusiastically and got themselves acquainted with the electoral process.



Anandayana Run

The run was organised by Runners High, an informal group of runners based in Bangalore. It was organised in association with Ananya, Thayee Mane and Sneha Care Home - three institutions dedicated for the welfare of the underprivileged children. Ananda Yana, meaning the joy of running in Kannada, was hosted for runners to use running to find joy within themselves as well as with others. Eight students from Thulir accompanied by Senthil and Sakthivel went to Bangalore to take part in it. Being a weekend, they had a chance to experience Bangalore market and a walk in Lalbagh before returning home on Sunday evening.



Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments A/c for the Year ending March 31, 2014

	Amount (Rs.)
Receipts	
Contributions Received	9,60,560
Donations	1,13,500
Interest and Others	97,593
Total	11,71,653
Payments	
Salary & Stipends	3,43,400
Fellowship	2,61,000
Additions to Fixed Assets	2,01,291
Nutrition Programme	1,51,739
Educational Programs and Materials	1,00,820
Rent & Campus Maintenance	75,491
Other Administrative Expenses	61,392
Total	11,95,133
Opening Balance of Cash, Bank account and Fixed deposits	5,72,848
Less: Excess of Payment over receipts	23,480
Closing Balance of Cash, Bank account and Fixed deposits	5,49,368

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2014

	Amount (Rs.)
Sources of Funds	
Capital Fund	15,67,700
Corpus Fund	3,66,332
General Reserve Fund	1,56,027
Bank Interest Fund	26,802
General Education Fund	19,703
Total	21,36,564
Application of Funds	
Fixed Assets	9,36,696
Fixed Deposits	6,94,703
Fixed Deposits (Corpus Funds)	3,94,703
Others	500
Cash and Bank Balances	1,09,962
Total	21,36,564



Many individual donors, friends and organisations supported us this year.

Thank you

For your continued support

How you can support?

Donations can be transferred directly to Thulir's State Bank of India accounts.

Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Indian donations : Account no: 31799396966, State Bank of India, Kottapatti Branch [Kottapatti, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu 636906 India] IFSC code: SBIN0006244

Please visit our website <http://www.thulir.org> for more details of our programmes.

Regular updates of our activities are also made in the blog site <http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/>

We welcome your Comments, thoughts and suggestions. Please mail us at thulir@gmail.com