

Review 2020-21 & Budget 2021-22



Photo by Anita Balasubramanian

Annual Review 2021-22

While 2020-21 ended with a hope that the worst is over, the second wave dampened all the hopes and made situation even worse. In the first wave, in 2020, there was no significant impact of viral infection in Sittlingi, while the economic and social impact was severe. In the second wave, the valley was affected by the virus and took a severe toll on the health infrastructure of the village. In May 2021, Thulir was actively engaged in COVID Relief works along with Tribal Health Institute and other organisations in the village. You can read more about it and the support from Asha for Education in this report - https://ashadocserver.s3.amazonaws.com/967_COVID-19andThulir.pdf

Classes resumed finally on November 1, 2021 and it was a relief for every one involved. The school was closed briefly for the third wave in January 2022. Site visit could not be undertaken during the year. Anita Balasubramanian, one of the earliest volunteers from Asha, visited Thulir in February 2022. She interacted with Asha Bangalore volunteers in March 2022. Some excerpts from our conversations and her reflections on visiting Thulir are published in Thulir project page here - https://ashadocserver.s3.amazonaws.com/967_AnitaB.pdf

To know more, you can read the blogs of Thulir here - <http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/>

Utilisation of Funds 2021-22

	Budget*		Actuals	
Salaries	₹	11,88,900	₹	12,44,830
Nutrition expenses	₹	3,00,000	₹	4,21,325
Resource person expenses	₹	50,000	₹	46,185
Travel Expenses	₹	50,000	₹	70,863
Telephone and Communication	₹	10,000	₹	7,413
Vehicle Maintenance	₹	15,000	₹	23,389
Teaching materials	₹	30,000	₹	45,410
Total	₹	16,43,900	₹	18,59,415

*Revised budget presented and approved in October 2021

Given the uncertainty, Thulir were allowed to revise the budget during the middle of the year. Only 50% of the funds requested in budget during June 2021 was disbursed. Later, in October 2021, Thulir revised the budget and the balance was disbursed.

Notes:

1. Salaries were paid as per the budget for most of the regular staff. The difference is due to few minor changes in the roster and were informed to the project whenever changes happen.
2. Nutrition expenditure is higher on two counts - a. Due to inflation in food prices across board and b. Support from parents during the year

was lower than expected amount due to prevailing economic conditions.

3. Travel expenses - The increase was due to additional expense in fuel expenses as some of the teachers had to travel to remote villages (upto 10-12Kms from the school premises).
4. Resource person expenses - Some of the visitors include,
 1. Varun - Classes on basic computer programming for senior children.
 2. Swetha.- Art workshop for children
 3. Shanthi from Thiruvannamalai - music classes
 4. Manimaran - Folk dance and music workshops

The Year Ahead...

On July 24, volunteers of Asha Bangalore met with Anu, Archana, and Ram from Thulir over video conferencing where Anu briefed us about what holds for the year ahead. Some excerpts with added details.

- ✱ Thulir has decided to limit the student admissions for the year at 62. The students are mostly from the valley belonging to Tribal backgrounds.
- ✱ Evening classes / After School programs are currently being undertaken in two ways - 1. Suresh, who joined Thulir during the pandemic, continues to organise evening classes at Balakutttai and 2. Regular interactions with Government School Students in Balakuttai and Nammangadu villages. This will continue during the year.
- ✱ Thulir actively supports the newly launched 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' (Education at door steps) program of Tamil Nadu Government. Under this program, the Government appointed a few volunteers (fresh graduates) in every village to provide supplementary and bridge classes to a specified number of children every evening in their neighbourhood. Most of these volunteers have no prior teaching experience and they were given just a two day training at Harur before starting to teach. Thulir, with consent from CEO of Dharmapuri, decided to train these volunteers at Thulir so that the required educational support reaches the children in the villages. This programme has started off and the response, both from the volunteers themselves and the headmasters of the government schools in the villages, has been very positive. Volunteers from Palakuttai, Velanur,

Nammankadu and Sittilingi villages attend a full day training workshop at Thulir school once in two weeks. They have also started a whatsapp group for these teachers so that continuous guidance can be given and materials shared. This group chat has been very active.

- ✱ Ambika has joined again to help with few mentally challenged children, one of whom is her own child. She is guided by Dr. Sridhar, Dr. Samuel Oomen and Dr. Srinivasa Raghavan of CMC, Vellore. She attended two week-long programs with the Development Paediatrics department for assessment, Physio, pedagogical and occupational therapy. She interacted with and taught two such children in school this year apart from her own daughter. Lakshmi, a PG educational psychology student, acts as an interpreter between the doctors and Ambika and helps the doctors remotely guide Ambika now and then in her work. The project cannot be formally launched in Thulir due to other legal requirements. Presently, Thulir is providing space for it to function temporarily.
- ✱ The school is in the process of getting the recognition. The Education department has recommended some alterations to the school buildings which need to be undertaken.

Budget 2022-23

	2022-23		2021-22	
Salaries	₹	13,64,600	₹	11,88,900
Nutrition expenses	₹	4,00,000	₹	3,00,000
Resource person expenses	₹	60,000	₹	50,000
Travel Expenses	₹	60,000	₹	50,000
Telephone and Communication	₹	10,000	₹	10,000
Vehicle Maintenance	₹	25,000	₹	15,000
Teaching materials	₹	45,000	₹	30,000
Total	₹	19,64,600	₹	16,43,900

Notes:

1. Break-up of Salaries

	2022-23		2021-22		Remarks
Anuradha	₹	2,16,000	₹	2,16,000	
Archana	₹	1,26,000	₹	1,02,000	
Rajammal	₹	1,48,800	₹	1,30,800	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000
Ravi	₹	1,39,200	₹	1,21,200	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000
Lakshmi	₹	1,14,000	₹	96,000	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000

	2022-23	2021-22	Remarks
Sasikala	₹ 1,14,000	₹ 96,000	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000
Chitra	₹ 1,14,000	₹ 96,000	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000
Sindamani	₹ 1,14,000	₹ 96,000	Standard increase of Rs. 18,000
Jeevila	₹ 96,000	₹ 78,000	She has finished her two year training period and now gets included in the teachers' scales and so has a higher increase
Suresh	₹ 92,400	₹ 62,400	New teacher. Profiles in the annexure.
Ambika	₹ 90,000		Ambika has re-joined Thulir. She is appointed on experimental basis.
	₹ 13,64,400	₹ 10,94,400	

I am enclosing a brief profiles of the teachers in the Annexure..

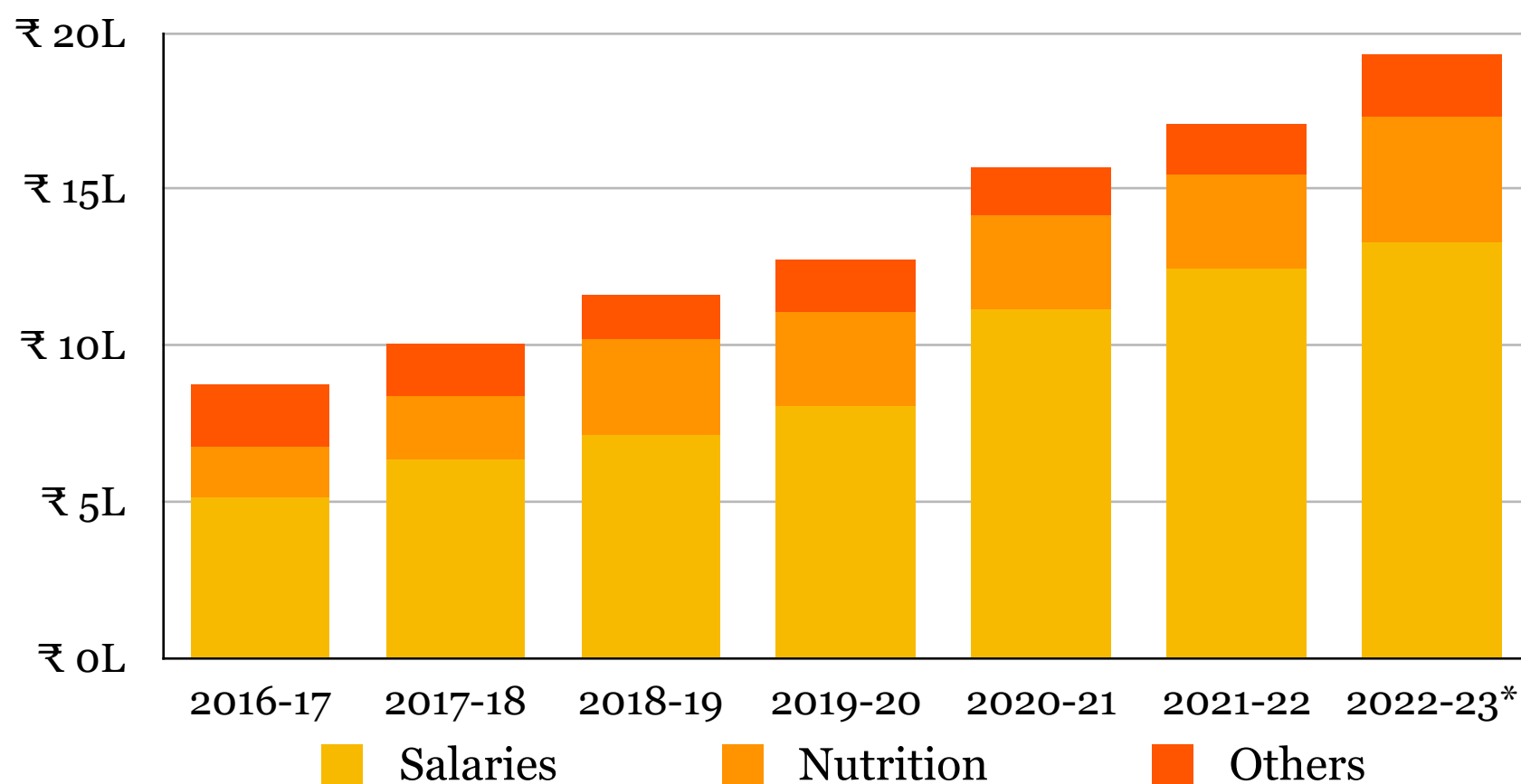
2. The lunch expenses for students are on shared basis. Parents are asked to contribute either in cash or in kind, but not insisted upon. The budget under this head contributes to food for staff, volunteers, guests, and any deficit arising out of shortage from students' contributions. It has been budgeted higher due to prevailing uncertainty over food prices and ability to pay for students lunches by parents.

3. Resource persons expenses have been budgeted higher as they expect more people to visit school this year.

4. The travel expenses continue to be budgeted at higher levels due to involvement in after school programs and evening classes.

Overview of Asha's Budget support for Thulir over the last 7 years

Support for Thulir over years



Suggested further reading:

1. Thulir Blogs/News Letter - <http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/>
2. Anita Balasubramanian's site visit report - https://ashadocserver.s3.amazonaws.com/967_AnitaB.pdf

Annexure - Profiles of Teachers

- 1. Anuradha** - Anu 'chithi', as she is popularly called by the children, is the co-founder of Thulir. An architect by qualification, her interests in education triumphs her interests in architecture, which she also practices now and then, including on the Thulir campus. She, along with her husband Krishna, were Asha Fellows for more than a decade and half, supported by Asha Princeton till 2020. They have been coming to Sittilingi from 1993, to design and help build the Tribal hospital here but shifted to Sittilingi in 2003 with their 2 sons.
- 2. Archana** - Archana, along with her husband Ram, moved to Sittilingi in late 2016. She has two daughters - Sharada, already a student in Thulir and Chaitanya, who is likely to join Thulir from current year. She was earlier helping in the administration of the school on pro-bono basis. She now handles all the accounts in addition to teaching English.
- 3. Rajammal** - Hailing from Sittling, she has been with Thulir for over a decade now, first as a student in the Basic Technology program and now as a teacher. One of the first teachers for the school, she is now a graduate. Her son, Rishi, also studies in Thulir.
- 4. Ravi** - Ravi joined Thulir in 2014 and has a B.Ed. Degree. His wife works as a nurse in the THI and his son studies in Thulir. Ravi handles all the online reports required by the state government.
- 5. Lakshmi** - She was a student of Thulir in the evening classes. She has been trained in Thulir for the past 10 years. She was away during last year on Maternity leave. She teaches the kindergarten children.
- 6. Sasikala** - She joined Thulir when her daughter joined the pre-school program. She teaches the kindergarten children. Her daughter finished 5 years in Thulir and has joined the local government school.

7. **Chitra** - She possesses a D.T.Ed. (Diploma in education). She was earlier working as a teacher in neighbouring village. Apart from teaching she manages the school kitchen.
8. **Sindhamani** - She is a graduate with B.Ed. qualifications.
9. **Jeevila** - Jeevila joined in 2019. She hails from S. Thathampatti, a dalit hamlet, about 15 Kms from the school. She is a graduate with B.Ed and worked at a private school in Kottapatti for sometime.
10. **Suresh** - Suresh hails from Palakkuttai village but has grown mostly outside, as his father worked with the Railways. He holds an M.A in English with a B.Ed degree. He helps in all the outreach programmes of Thulir.