



Thulir

A Center for Learning at Sittilingi Village

Overview
2025-26

&

Budget
2026-27



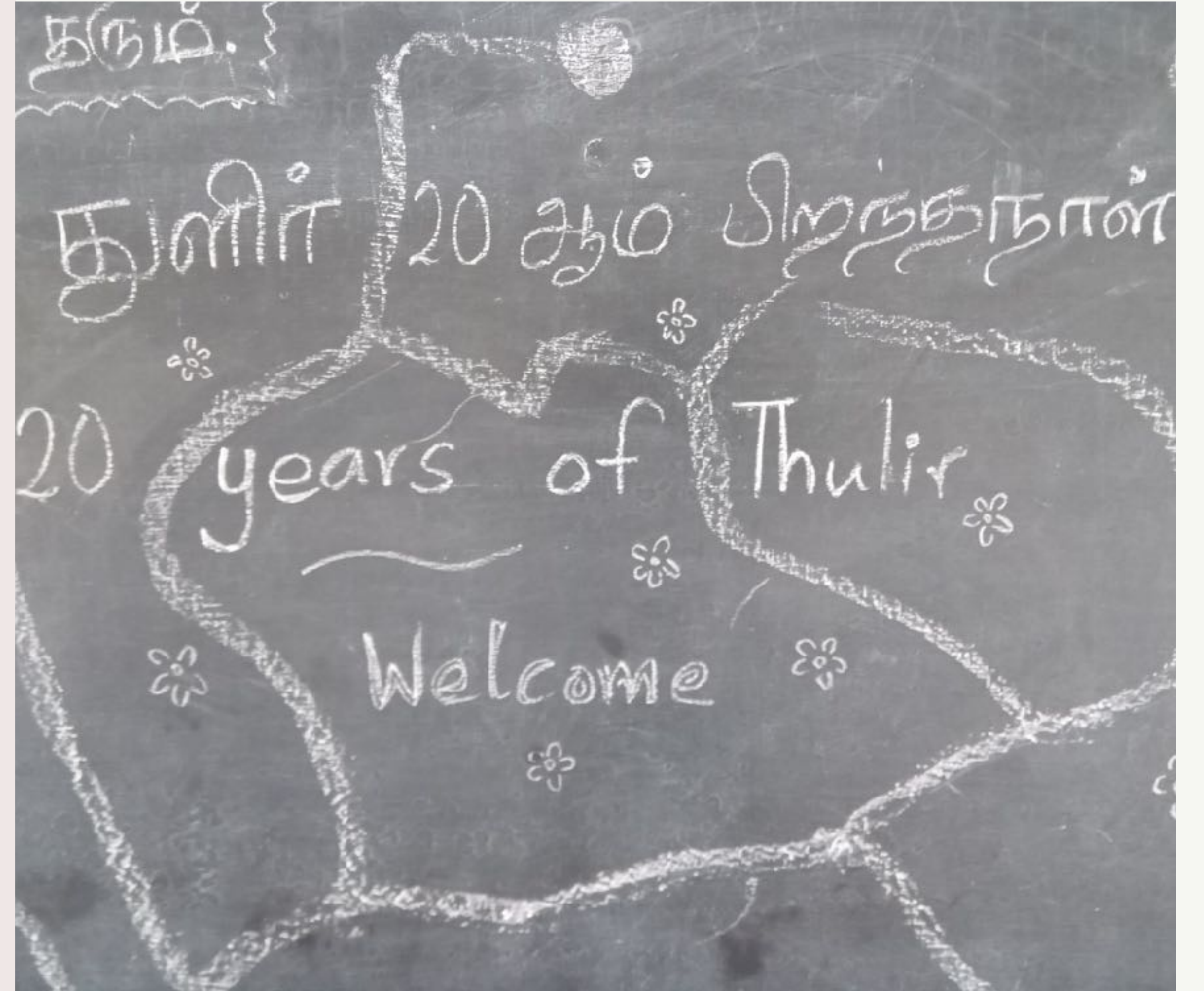
Asha Bangalore
Bringing hope through education

Prepared by Balaji in consultation with Project Partner

Overview

Quick Recap

- It was the 21st year of Thulir and 5th year in the new campus.
- The year marked the inauguration of the new Library building.
- Running and running events got additional attention this year. I visited Thulir for the Sittilingi run in February 2026.
- I could visit and spend time in Thulir between June 29-July 2nd. The details are available in my Site visit Report.





	Budget	Actuals	Explanation
Salaries	₹ 17,52,000	₹ 17,64,000	See Note 2
Nutrition expenses	₹ 6,00,000	₹ 5,95,595	See Note 3
Resource person expenses	₹ 1,00,000	₹ 1,32,100	See Note 4
Travel Expenses	₹ 1,00,000	₹ 1,21,472	
Teaching materials	₹ 50,000	₹ 55,043	
	₹ 26,02,000	₹ 26,68,210	

Notes to Realisation of Budget

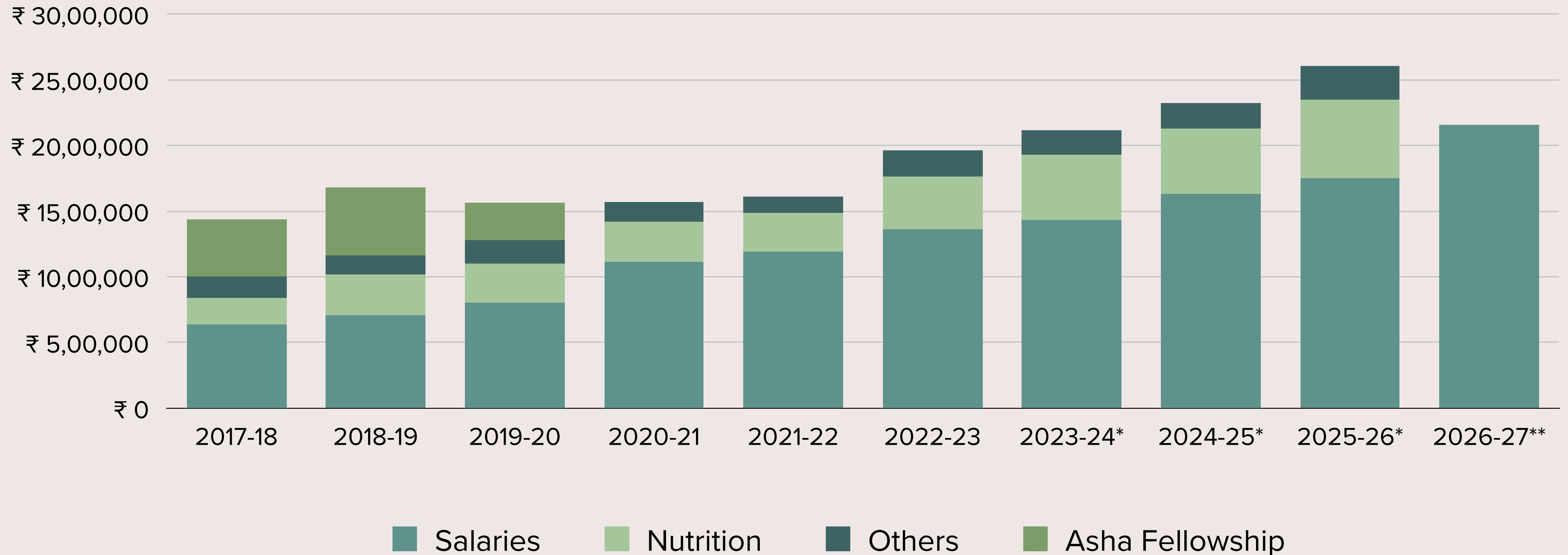
1. Asha for Education contributed Rs. 17,85,000 from Asha Bangalore and Rs. 2,40,000 from Asha Irvine. Thulir raised the the remaining funds on their own.
2. Swetha left Thulir in December 2025 due to personal commitments. Her salary was used to pay Sai Swetha and the approval from project steward was obtained for the same. Since, the profiles of the teachers are identical and there was no significant change in the impact of the work undertaken, the same was approved.
3. During last financial year, support from Asha was limited to salaries of the cooks and a partial subsidy for the expenditure incurred by the teachers. Support for Kitchen comes in various forms - donations in cash and kind - Thulir accepts farm produce from parents of children who study there, and also volunteering for kitchen work.
4. Resource person expenses refers to the expenditure incurred on visitors to Thulir (see next page for details), many of whom engage in teaching, fund raising, administration, and other activities with Thulir.

Visitors to Thulir

1. Nikhil from Mumbai.
2. Old students (alumni meet)
3. Resource persons from Barefoot Academy of Governance.
4. Mathew and Sonia from France - cartoon comic creating workshop for 2 weeks.
5. Prasanth and Sri Krupa, who directed the documentary on Thulir- ' A new beginning.'
6. Govind and Leela from Marudam School working on afforestation of the campus.
7. Sutha, a social work postgraduate student, interned for two weeks.
8. Vaisakh, Vivek, and Suba, friends of Anjana (Asha Volunteer).
9. Prayaag Joshi, an experienced educator, from Centre for learning school, Bangalore came with two children and stayed for a week. Conducted sessions for teachers.
10. Manikandan from Runners High, to discuss fund raising for Thulir and Porgai.
11. Dr. Christy.
12. Students from different schools during sports day.
13. Professor Ravindran and Vanaja-akka.
14. Sai Swetha from Thanjavur. She has an experience of working with government school children. She volunteered for a week first in September and later from November to March. She helped us document our curriculum and also did the entire choreography for the Annual Day Cultural Programme.
15. Lia from Germany volunteered for 6 weeks totally. She took English speaking sessions for the teachers and students.
16. Rakesh, a young architect interned for 2 weeks.
17. Participants for one day workshop for mothers.
18. Robin, Meethu came to do a kalari demonstration.
19. Santhosh family - 'Friends of Thulir'
20. Ute and Ulrike Breckner and Karl Schnapauff from Germany. Long term supporters of Thulir.
21. Sathish and the Yevvi team of 8 members came for 3 days to help fundraise for finishing the library and to make a podcast about Thulir in Thamizh.
22. Haneer- volunteered for a week.
23. 6. Naveen from Singapore- volunteered for 3 weeks. Taught chess to our children and the government school children. Funded the transport costs to help parents bring children to school last year.
24. Deep- a teacher from Shibumi school involved in sports education.
25. Students and teachers from Farm hill school, Soolagiri, catering to neuro-diverse students visited for a week.
26. Juliana from Germany, and her 5 year old son, Anton, in our school for 6 weeks. Anton attended the KG class regularly for 6 weeks while his mother did her medical elective in the tribal hospital.
27. Vellachchi amma - came to teach traditional folk dances and songs for Pongal.
28. One- day workshop featuring experiential education activities to demonstrate the pedagogical practices in Thulir for THI, SOFA, and Porgai.
29. Sittilingi run featuring runners from Runner's High and Marudham team.
30. Ten teachers from Dew drop Academy School, Meghalaya visited for 3 days.
31. Dr. Bala and his friend.
32. A group of 3 construction artisans from Gudalur visited and held meetings in our institution as well as with villagers to sow the seeds of abstaining from alcohol and creating a community of reformed alcoholics.
33. Balaji, Asha volunteer and project steward

Budget

Support by Asha for Education over the decade



*Only partial support in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26

** Proposed budget

	2026-27	2025-26	Explanation
Salaries	₹ 21,54,000	₹ 17,52,000	See next page
Nutrition expenses		₹ 6,00,000	
Resource person expenses		₹ 1,00,000	
Travel Expenses		₹ 1,00,000	
Teaching materials		₹ 50,000	
	₹ 21,54,000	₹ 26,02,000	

Notes to Budget

	2026-27	2025-26	
Anuradha	₹ 2,94,000	₹ 2,40,000	Thulir is introducing Provident Fund and Gratuity contributions for their staff, and this requires additional finances. The deficits in prior periods towards these will be covered by donations from elsewhere. Thulir follows the system raising salaries on absolute level and not in terms of fixed percentage. The trustees recommended a minimum salary of Rs. 15,000 per employee in line with other organisations in the village.
Rajammal	₹ 2,38,800	₹ 1,96,800	
Swetha		₹ 1,98,000	
Sai Swetha	₹ 2,16,000		
Ravi	₹ 2,29,200	₹ 1,87,200	
Lakshmi	₹ 2,04,000	₹ 1,62,000	
Sasikala	₹ 2,04,000	₹ 1,62,000	
Chitra	₹ 2,04,000	₹ 1,62,000	
Sindamani	₹ 2,04,000	₹ 1,62,000	
Jeevila	₹ 1,80,000	₹ 1,38,000	
Suresh	₹ 1,80,000	₹ 1,44,000	
	₹ 21,54,000	₹ 17,52,000	

Annex - Profiles of Teachers

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 supersede her interests in architecture and has been involved in teaching children for the past 25 years. She also practices architecture and was actively involved in designing 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 and shifted to Sittilingi in 2003 with their 2 sons.

She loves learning and believes that a good teacher should be a student forever! She is keen on learning new things each day from her students and teachers. She is presently concentrating on capacity building of her existing team to gradually take over the running of Thulir and training newer groups of teachers in order to spread this pedagogy further.

Rajammal



Rajammal hails from Moola Sittling. She joined Thulir in 2007, first as a student in the evening program, an apprentice in the Basic Technology program, and now as a teacher. She pursued her graduation and became one of the first teachers for the school. She has also been shouldering administrative duties in managing kitchen, receiving guests, organising workshops, co-ordinating visits to other schools, and many others. Her son, Rishi, finished his studies in Thulir and her daughter, Aadhira will soon join Thulir.

Lakshmi



She was initially a student of Thulir in the evening classes. She joined as apprentice to handle evening classes in 2011 and has been trained on the job since. She has three children - one of them finished her studies in Thulir and the other two study in Thulir. She teaches the kindergarten children. Her interests are in story-telling and the nature walks with little children, where she enjoys explaining them about the plants, insects, birds, animals and anything that catches their attention. In recent years, she has learnt using Tally over the last year and doubles up as Thulir Book-keeper in addition to her teaching role.

Annex - Profiles of Teachers

Ravi



Ravi joined Thulir in 2014 when it was still a centre for evening classes. He has a B.Ed. and worked as a teacher before joining Thulir. It was here where he learnt that one size doesn't fit all and each student learns in a unique way. His wife works as a nurse in the THI and they have two children - a son, and daughter who study in Thulir. Ravi teaches maths and handles matters relating to compliance with the government authorities.

Sai Swetha



Sai joined Thulir in 2026. Hailing from Thanjavur, she has completed her graduation and post-graduation in International studies. After a fellowship with Bhumi Foundation where she visited many schools in Tamil Nadu, she found her calling in teaching. Thulir was her chosen place as she was impressed by the learning environment and collective decision making. She teaches science and also helps in co-ordinating cultural and sports activities.

Sasikala



She joined Thulir in 2011 when her daughter joined the pre-school program, a pre-cursor to the current school. She was trained on the job at Thulir and teaches kindergarten children. Her daughter and son studied in Thulir for five and six years respectively, and have now joined the Government School. She also handles additional responsibilities in maintaining teaching materials, administration of kitchen, and maintenance of Solar Panels.

Sindhamani



She is a graduate with B.Ed. qualifications. She joined in 2016. Her daughter studied for 5 years in Thulir and is presently studying in Marudam Farm school, another alternative school in Thiruvannamalai. She was attracted by Thulir's pedagogy that is oriented to kindling imagination in the minds of children. She attributes significant change in her approach towards teaching and learning to her work in Thulir. Her husband is part of the school construction team.

Annex - Profiles of Teachers

Chitra



She possesses a D.T.Ed. (Diploma in education). She was working as a teacher in a neighbouring village and joined Thulir in 2016. Unlike other schools, she found Thulir to be a learning centre for teachers as much as it was for students. She also finds the exposure to a wide range of people beneficial in her learning process and approach towards teaching. Apart from teaching, she manages the school kitchen and accounts related to the kitchen.

Suresh



Suresh hails from Palakkuttai village but has grown mostly outside, as his father worked with the Railways. He has completed M.A. in English and a B.Ed. Suresh anchors the outreach programs with Government schools. He conducts evening classes in his village twice a week for students studying in Government schools. He is also an avid runner and spearheads the running program, which includes organisation of the annual Sittilingi Run. The recent workshop has kindled an interest in Rights and civic duties, which he is keen on imparting to children.

Jeevila



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. Her two sons and one daughter study in Thulir.

Thank you

For more Information:

1. Thulir Website - www.thulir.org
2. Project Page in Asha for Education - <https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=967>
3. My recent site visit report - [CLICK HERE](#)
4. Write to me at sbalaji1 (at) gmail (dot) com