



aasai



American Association for Social Advancement of India

Volume 18

help others to help themselves!

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25th Anniversary!



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President's Corner

Dr. K. (Subbu) Subramanian, President, AASAI

It is with great pleasure I write this brief note to acknowledge our 25th year of service to society. AASAI was founded in November 1998. AASAI in Tamil language stands for "desire". Thanks to the generosity of the donors and kindhearted volunteers in AASAI as well as the exemplary staff and volunteers in the many NGOs in India supported through AASAI our impact to the society has been gradual, steady, and sustained.

To continue this progress is our desire as we move forward.

Few highlights of accomplishments of AASAI over the years:

- ◆ High quality education available only to privileged families is now available to the rural poor children (Kaigal, Vanavil, Kalanjiam)
- ◆ Scores of children now bike to school, rather than walk, which minimizes school dropouts.
- ◆ Volunteers collaborate with school teachers for enhanced education and mentoring (Kalanjiam)
- ◆ Mentally ill and destitute men and women receive free care, housing, and rehabilitation training (Shantivanam, Rehoboth Home)
- ◆ Children with autism and cerebral palsy receive special education and training to help them become independent (AASAI – Athmalayam)
- ◆ Some of these children live in a safe and caring facility (AASAI Residency)
- ◆ Rural poor women are pre-screened for cancer and have free access to health centers.
- ◆ Rural women receive tailoring education and skills, becoming independent wage earners.
- ◆ AASAI n Pudumai run by rehabilitated destitute women generates income and self-sustainability.
- ◆ Rehabilitated destitute women live safely at AASAI Kudumbham, finding ways to live independently.
- ◆ Children and the poor receive free healthcare (VHS, Shiv Shantha Trust)

Above is only a small sample of the many successful outcomes of AASAI initiatives. More details can be seen in the following pages as well as our annual [Newsletters](#). We salute the leaders of all the NGOs we collaborate with as well as their staff and volunteers. Their energy, enthusiasm and dedication inspire the rest of us to do our part. I thank them, our donors and all my colleagues at AASAI for this amazing opportunity to serve and find an added meaning in our daily life! We look forward to the next milestone in this journey!!

Chairman's Message

As AASAI completes its journey of 25 years, it is my pleasure and privilege to write this brief message here and an extended description of my cherished memories under "reminiscence" elsewhere in this newsletter. Through these years our vision of "Help others to help themselves" has evolved. Our model of sharing skills and resources among the NGOs we support has significantly helped us to mobilize their energy and transform it to synergy to achieve our objectives both in an effective and efficient manner. All these efforts and progress would not have been possible without all our ardent supporters and well-wishers like you. To this I say thank you for each and everyone of you. But believe me, our thanks are truly meant and deeply felt. In the words of Oscar Wilde, "...it is not a thing for which one can render formal thanks in formal words..... I store it in the treasure house of my heart. I keep it there as a secret that I am glad to think I can never possibly repay."

Gratefully yours,
L. N. Raghavan
Chairman, AASAI.

Our AASAI journey - Reminiscence

L.N. Raghavan, Chairman, AASAI

On May 22, 1998, during an evening stroll with a friend, I expressed my desire (Aasai in Tamil language) to help the underprivileged in India to show gratitude and repay (in a small way) to India for all it gave me. I did not know how or the specifics. I kept thinking about it. My friend wisely suggested not to procrastinate and to execute a short-term effort that is easily achievable to gain confidence; then pursue any long term goal and constantly fine tune the vision based on lessons learned. I reflected hard on this wonderful advice.

On November 26, 1998 with a few of my friends AASAI was born and incorporated in the State of Maryland as a non-profit charity under the Internal Revenue Service rule section 501(c)(3) with a total funding of \$40.

On February 9, 1999, with the great help and enthusiastic support of my father-in-law late Sri. K.S. Ramanujam, (well known journalist in India) and our family friend Sri B.S. Raghavan (retired IAS executive and father-in-law of Dr. Gopinath, our fellow AASAI Director), AASAI initiated its first project: a sports club at Karapakkam, a beautiful, and serene town about 25 km from the heart of Chennai. The aim was to encourage and build a team of underprivileged youth from the local area through sports. AASAI bought for them equipment and other items for playing cricket and volleyball. As part of our support, I insisted that the team members should commit to pursuing education, become productive citizens and contribute to the welfare of their community. To fulfill this



requirement, the team decided to start an after school program to help younger children in their neighborhood with their homework. With the help of the above mentioned two mentors and the local Panchayat President, the team secured a hall for the evening school. The sports team cleaned the school area and fitted fans and other amenities necessary for the after-school activities. Within a couple of weeks approximately 80 students enrolled in the evening school. One of the team members (with education only up to 8th grade) was quite skilled in computers. With him as a resource, we started a desktop publishing activity. In fact he designed and printed AASAI's first letterhead! Later he was introduced by me to my

contacts in Chennai for marketing the desktop business. Unfortunately the overall project did not succeed. This first failure taught us a good lesson: for any project to succeed AASAI must be actively involved and provide necessary local supervision and guidance. Remote management will not work. Thus we decided that it is best to connect with local non-profit organizations and help them to do what they do best.

We connected with **Shantinivas** run by Sri Poorna MahaMeru Trust, Chennai providing free care and shelter to destitute seniors, i.e., old age home. Shantinivas housed approximately 60 elderly in dormitory style living. The service and care was totally free. The trust was wholly dependent on donations. Local citizens surrounding Shantinivas started contributing to this effort and the trust was surviving with difficulties. AASAI initially provided financial support to Shantinivas and later helped them to build 16 rooms to accommodate elders with means who paid nominal fee for their service. The income generated and contributions from locals were adequate to care for the unpaid elderly wards. Shantinivas became reasonably self-sufficient. This effort helped us to refine our vision: "Helping others to help themselves."

(Continued...)



Our AASAI journey - Reminiscence

As we progressed with our charity work, our fellow Director Dr. Gopinath identified another organization, **Deena Seva Sangha (DSS)** in Bangalore. DSS started in 1930 by a band of Gandhian workers, provided education, health care, and rehabilitation of orphan and destitute children. The project based at Pestalozzi Children's Village near Bangalore housed approximately 50 children in 4 cottages. Initially AASAI sponsored 10 children at the school. Subsequently, AASAI expanded its effort and started a midday meal program for over 150 children. For many of them this may be the only meal they get for the day. AASAI also supported Mr. Doug Jones, an young resident American volunteer in his efforts to provide morning milk to these children and ensure that they get proper nourishment. This effort required significant kitchen space and large cookware and other equipment. This is when our previous initiative, Shantinivas - old age home effort came to help. Thanks to substantial support from local citizens, which exceeded their needs, Shantinivas could donate large cookware, dining furniture and other items to DSS. This effort taught us that we could share not only skills but other resources among all the NGOs supported by AASAI. Thus our vision got refined and our model incorporated this synergy across NGOs in future projects.

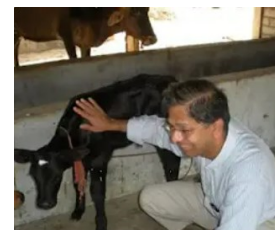
AASAI has continued its journey supporting other NGOs: (e.g.)

Little Angels, special children school at Mumbai - AASAI supported infrastructure and a van to bus the children; **Sri Vidyashram**, village school near Tanjore - currently approximately 700 children receive education in par with affluent children in cities, AASAI provided extensive infrastructure support including a computer lab, solar electrification, facilitated teacher training in coordination with Children's garden school, Chennai; **Avvai Home** where girls from the slum areas of Chennai receive high level English medium education (this effort was started by AASAI and provided financial support and teacher salary subsidies); **Sri Parsahara Gurukulam** in Mysore where children receive modern education founded on vedic culture (AASAI supported library, infrastructure, solar electrification).

In the year 2004, Thanks to our good friend and an ardent supporter of AASAI, Dr. K. Subramanian (current President), AASAI has embarked on a new project in the field of mental health care, Managed by TRUST, a NGO, **Shanthivanam** serves the needs of the mentally ill destitute. Shanthivanam also seeks to care for the rights of these clients to live with self-respect and dignity. After rehabilitation they strive to reunite them with their families as far as possible. AASAI has provided substantial support for infrastructure buildings, a cow farm, biogas plants, biofertilizer project, Arecanut dish making facility, etc.

Our recent initiatives are **Athmalayam** school for special needs children and **AASAI Residency**, residential facility for special needs children. **Rehoboth Home**, shelter for mentally ill women and those impacted by domestic violence receives totally free professional care; has received substantial resources from AASAI for setting up a store for selling used items, a water well, residence for the rehabilitated women, nursery, etc.

Kalanjiam, a women empowerment program, started a tailoring school with AASAI support. More than 200 women have received tailoring skills. Each graduating student receives a sewing machine paid for by the previous graduates from their own income! An initial investment of 4 sewing machines has now multiplied into 45! - Helping others help themselves! AASAI substantially supported building houses for several of these families affected by major floods in the year 2015; Kalanjiam is also involved in children education activities (AASAI provided hundreds of bicycles so the children could easily commute to school resulting substantial reduction in school drop-out).



Other NGOs supported by AASAI include: **Siva Shanta Trust, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Kaigal KEEP, Vanavil**, etc. You can read details of AASAI collaboration with all these NGOs in our newsletters.

(Continued...)

Our AASAI journey - Reminiscence

Our AASAI journey which started with the stroll, twenty five years ago, has blossomed into a vision — help others to help themselves - and a mission to achieve that through synergy across NGOs. This progress is made possible only through intense and personal commitment by a few dedicated AASAI volunteers along with the dedicated services of all the NGOs, their leaders, staff and volunteers. This collective expression of humanity is realized and sustained only through hundreds of donors and their generosity. As we continue this journey, I can not but wonder how all this dream, vision, mission and seamless collaboration by so many and in so many ways through AASAI will take us in the future? While my thoughts were filled with apprehension twenty five years ago, I feel that a bright and sustainable future is ahead. My sincere thanks with gratitude to everyone for this amazing journey!



Best wishes to AASAI on 25 years of Service!

Best wishes from Shri B S Raghavan who gave us the inspiration to start AASAI

I learn the American Association For Social Advancement Of India (AASAI) has completed 25 years of very Impressive contribution to the regeneration of organizations and institutions engaged in a variety of activities meant for the uplifting of people. Those who have been making this possible with their manpower and monetary help deserve our sincere salute. Long live AASAI creating opportunities for the advancement of India's poor and under-privileged people.

Shri B S RAGHAVAN (Retired IAS)

Ex US congressional fellow,
ex policy adviser (FAO) Food Policies,
ex Chancellor Jharkhand ICFAI University



Vision & Board of Directors

American Association for Social Advancement of India
....help others so they can help themselves....

- ❖ Let none lack opportunities to excel
- ❖ Let all have equal access to health care to prosperity
- ❖ Let elders lead a secure and dignified life
- ❖ Let all minds realize its full potential
- ❖ Let women be empowered to lead a life without fear, discrimination and abuse
- ❖ Let us wipe out tears from every eye
- ❖yes, together we can achieve....

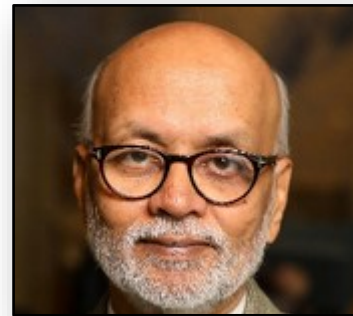
Board of Directors:



With Gratitude!
Mr. L. (Narasimhan) Raghavan
Director (Chairman)



Spirituality: Seeing the self in others and others in us!
Dr. K. (Subbu) Subramanian
President



Assisting exemplary individuals positively impact their communities!
Dr. C. Gopinath
Secretary



Help others to help themselves!
Mr. R. Muralidharan
Director

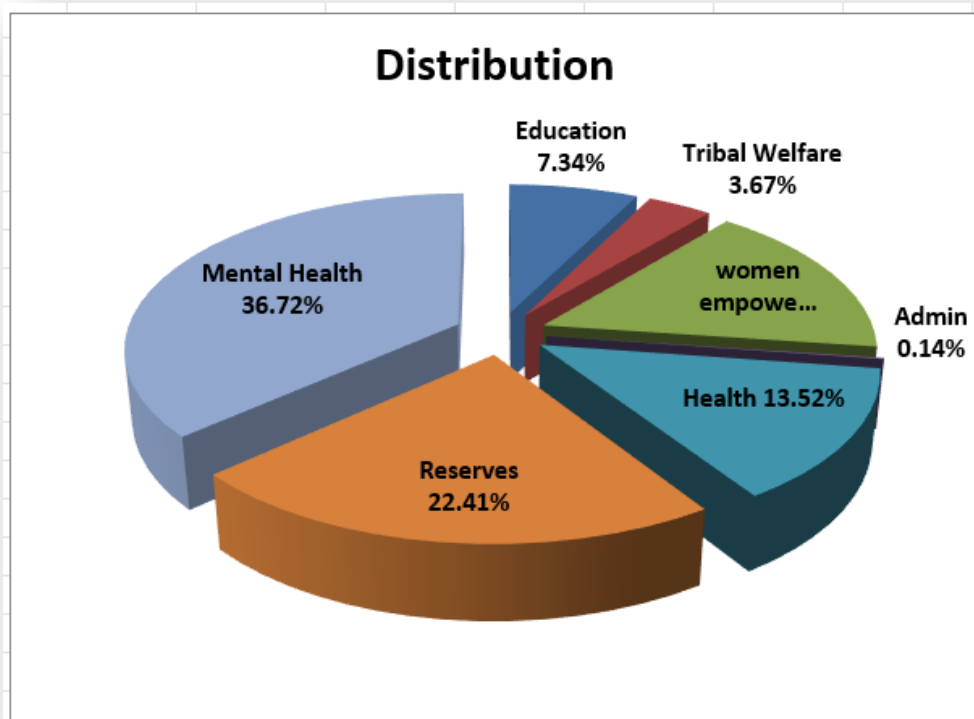
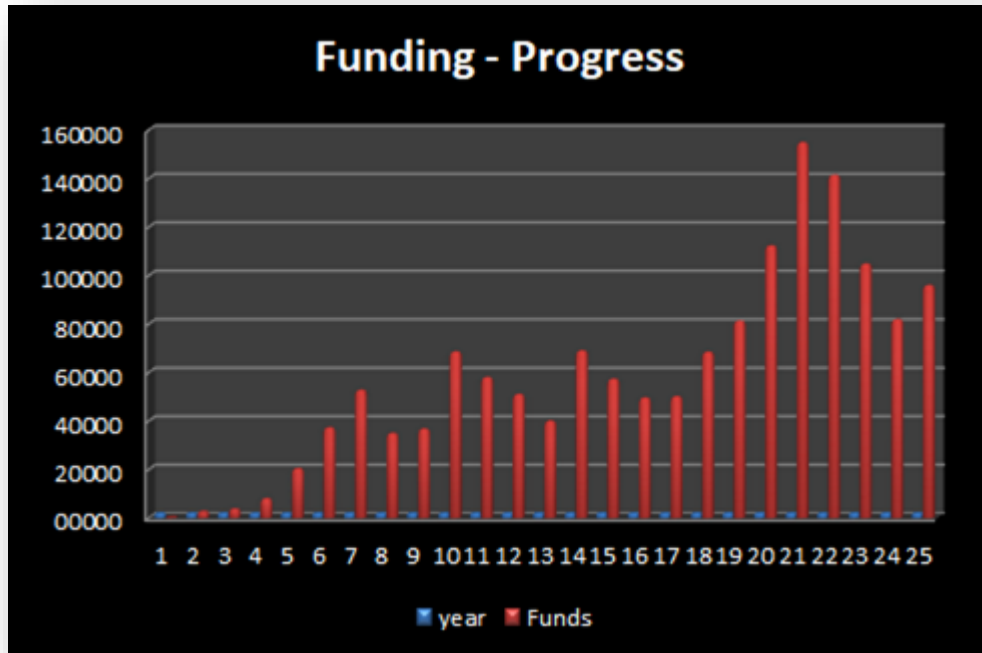


Cultivate a spirit of selfless service to know yourself!
Mr. Logachander Natarajan
Treasurer



Uplift & Empower people through Service!
Mrs. Abirami Balasubramanian
Director, Technology

Funds Generated (history) & Funds Distributed



Voluntary Health Services—VHS

VHS association with AASAI - DR.M.C. VASUDEVAN Co-ordinator

AASAI provides financial support to VHS for the following:

1. Purchase of medical equipment.
2. Treating poor patients and supporting the medical needs of middle-income group.
3. Concrete Platform for prefabricated ward at VHS.
4. Give free treatment to the inmates of Rehoboth Home and from poor patients from Kelaniya supporting areas.
5. 5 patients of Rehoboth home were treated as inpatients and 4 patients as outpatients during the year 2021-2022. About 26 people underwent Master Health Check-up.
6. Purchase materials for Hospital linen. These materials are sent to Jyothi Tailors in Kalanjiam for stitching various needs of the Hospital e.g. White sheets, pillow cover, patient gown, surgeon gowns, towels, leggings, scrub suits, nurses uniform.
7. VHS provides Master Health Check as directed by AASAI.
8. An early detection of breast cancer and cervical cancer was screened by OBG department of Omayal Achi College of Nursing.



TREATMENT GIVEN TO REHOBATH HOME INMATES BY VHS



Savitha was rescued from the streets by Rehoboth Home staff with severe Psychotic symptoms. She had developed skin infections at our shelter which became acute and unmanageable with any other treatments. Only after visiting VHS and meeting up with the dermatology department has the infection subsided. At VHS she was treated as an Outpatient and referred to a Dermatologist. Medicines were given and she improved well.

Bujji is a mildly challenged individual with overlap of Psychosis. She was taken to VHS with her Hb reading at 3.5. At VHS XRAY, ECG, CT BRAIN, ULTRASOUND were taken. She was found to have severe anemia (Hb-4 gm/dl) hence 5 units of packed red cells were transfused as per protocol. Also, she was treated for hyponatremia and hypokalemia with electrolyte correction. Repeat HB :12.6 gm/dl. She improved and was mobilized. Today she is back at the shelter healthy and fit.



Ashik lost his father recently after which he has been deeply affected though he cannot express anything verbally. After his mother remarried, he was left dependent on his grandmother, an elderly lady for all his needs. Ashik started deteriorating in health and movement resulting in a state of total immobility. He had to be shifted away from his grandmother and brought to VHS. Here he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. Pediatrician and General surgeon advice was followed. ECG, XRAY, CT BRAIN were taken. Anemia corrected with iron supplements and blood transfusion with PACKED RED CELLS. He improved in his symptoms and was discharged. Today Ashik is able to sit up straight and drag himself to the toilet. The family is grateful for the efforts on Ashik.

Message from Mrs. Abirami Balasubramaniyan: I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Vasudevan with his team and witness first-hand their incredible services. I am grateful to AASAI, it's donors and VHS.

Athmalayam Special School

Athma Special School located in Inamkulathur Panchayat, Srirangam Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu, India is conceived and implemented to serve the children with special needs in rural and semi-urban areas. It was established in 2009.

This school caters to the educational needs of children with Mental Retardation, Autism, Learning disabilities, Speech and Hearing Impairment. Individual-based rehabilitation program is offered at this school, designed to attain desired progress in every child's special needs. Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational therapy, play therapy, speech therapy, sand therapy, and aquatic therapy are provided to enhance sensory and motor skills.



Currently, this school serves 78 Children with various special needs through tailored educational programs. The school also imbibes a comprehensive institutional and community-based approach to educating these children by incorporating the program's latest scientific and technological advancements.



Every child is important to us, and no education is denied at any cost. We are focusing on the outcomes of being healthy, safe, joyful, and achievements, to make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being. Focus on children and their needs while reducing the burden of the parents is central to all our policies. We have a fleet of 3 school vans to transport the children to the school and back to their home.

AASAI Residency

This special school for day students is being expanded to include a residential facility. AASAI Residential Care Center now accommodates 6 students with plans to increase this to 15 students by the end of the year. Our long-term plan is to accommodate 30 student residents. This requires completion of AASAI Residential Care Center, Kitchen Block and Hydrotherapy Unit.



Vetrivel's Mother Speaks:

My nine years old boy, **Vetrivel** enrolled in Athma special school with complaints of great difficulty in communicating, forming relationships, speaking and using language. His mood fluctuations, fidgeting, producing different sounds, poor eye contact and improper toilet training were also impediments. He was diagnosed to have Moderate Mental Retardation and Autism. He was enrolled in Athma special school in 2012 and is coming to special school regularly. Now he has started saying a few words, obeys others orders, eats by himself, if he wants to use toilet, he calls me. I feel happy about my son's improvement.



Like my son, there are so many Vetrivel, who do not have family support and strive for better life. **Yes, now the new special school project has been launched and the work is in progress. I received a helping hand to uplift me and my son. It's my turn to support Athmalayam and the AASAI Residency project in all their efforts. I promised myself to get donations from everyone as much I can. I request you all to get involved in the AASAI Residency project and help this vision to become a big success.**

Kaigal Education and Environment Program (KEEP)

The Kaigal Education & Environment Program (KEEP) has completed 20 years of service in areas covering Education, Conservation and Livelihood.



Teachers Preparing Study Material



Pre-Primary Play Group Children



Science Activity at Learning Centre

A. Education through Pre-Primary, Primary Schools, Learning Centers and Environment Education Program

The two Primary Schools, Chamanthi Sanctuary School and Parijatham Sanctuary School have now a combined strength of 44 children with four Teachers. Both schools have a pre-primary group too. Pre-primary children activities include nature walks, sensorial activities, games designed for gross motor development and a language program for developing their communication skills.

Primary children activities: Strengthening numeracy and literacy skills, while maintaining emphasis on hands-on activities as per the demands of the local environment. In addition to a regular curriculum, children were introduced during this year to computational thinking through different games and activities. Sanctuary Schools transitioned to English medium from being Telugu medium schools under the new regulation from the State Government. Teachers and Coordinators stepped up to this challenge admirably.

B. Learning Centers after school time provide learning support to children of government primary schools and upper primary children graduated from Sanctuary Schools

These Centres have provided support to over 160 children with 7 part-time teacher-facilitators.

C. Environment Education Program (EEP) for children from other schools to create an awareness of the environment and understanding of the need for conservation

Facilitated EEP for fifteen groups from six different schools covering Classes 4 to Class 12 (10 year olds to 18 year olds) and about 150 children.

D. The Livelihood program for adults from the nearby villages, farming and tribal, provides training in value addition of NTFP and assistance in marketing of finished goods through dealers (retailers).

The year 2022-23 has on the whole been a year of fresh revival for KEEP's activities to support its objective to work for the welfare of the marginalized communities. Income through donations has been moderate but showing an upward trend. We solicit help for all donors and their generosity!



Pre-Primary Story Telling



Children Working on a Trench & talking with a farmer (EEP)



Primary School Children at Work



Customized Cotton Bags and other Products put up for Sale

Kalanjiam

Kalanjiam Education Programs:

A big component of Kalanjiam model for education is to allocate supporting or para teaching staff based on the needs and strengths of students in each school. They have moved to a more sustainable model, where Kalanjiam supports a portion of the para teacher salary, while the rest is picked up by the school or local community. This model has worked well and has now been extended to 20 schools for the 2022 – 23 year. The para teachers are further trained by Kalanjiam staff on approach for interacting with and helping school children, activities to be implemented and documentation requirements.

During the morning prayer session, the para teachers ensure attendance, breakfast, cleanliness, and tidy appearance. They also help with teaching in specific classes as per the requirements identified by the school administration as part of their daily routine. They manage initiatives for Hygiene and Sanitation, Nurturing Creativity, Drawing Class and Competition, Fancy Dress Competition, etc. Sustained scholastic improvements in students have been documented in Class 3, 4 and 5



Kalanjiam Supports mothers' choice to ensure her infant's right to breast feed and empower herself!

During the lactation period Kalanjiam's Right Information Community Health (RICH) initiative has been actively promoting and implementing breast feeding education and support in the villages in Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu Districts of Tamil Nadu, India.

Breast feeding in the first hour of life can prevent 20% of newborn deaths. Infants who are not breastfed are eleven to fifteen times more likely to die from pneumonia and diarrhea.

The **RICH program** begins before conception and continues through the duration of pregnancy, breast feeding and the first nine months of the infant's life. The services are provided directly at the doorstep through education of expectant mothers and their families on prenatal care, birth preparation, breast feeding and complimentary feeding.

Since inception Kalanjiam RICH Program has reached 1500+ pregnant and lactating women from 290 villages. Exclusive breastfeeding has improved to 76%, continued breast feeding for 8 months after birth and enhanced infant health.

Through the breast-feeding awareness week, our team celebrated the important issue of empowering women to make their right choices by themselves and for the welfare of their children. Village camps were set up to sensitize the communities on this key goal.

Vanavil



Nomadic tribes are among the extremely marginalized communities in India. Unidentified and wandering, they live homeless and without documents to claim state welfare measures. Lack of livelihood for the adults and children being out of school, these communities remain confined to working in utter penury and menial conditions. Vanavil works with such nomadic communities in the delta district of Tamil Nadu.

Highlights:

- 106 students are pursuing higher education this year. Among them, 5 have completed their college studies. 92 students are currently studying in different courses in various colleges. 9 students have dropped out from college.
- Career Guidance Meeting was conducted for students who have completed 12th standard. 40 students each from Aadiyan community and from Fishermen community were provided career guidance through Sneha Foundation.
- Devi studied at MA Chidambaram College of Nursing, Chennai. She has been selected to work at SRM Medical College this month.

Vanavil Children’s Home:

Our Vanavil Home is a place where children can grow up in a healthy and happy environment! Our Vanavil children are not only provided with safe shelter, food but also high-quality education and life skills.

Education:

Goal: Quality education for 1400 children from Nomadic Tribes Communities by 2025; Ensuring primary education for 100 students; Supporting Students Education and After School Center. **Community Based Child Protection and Livelihood Activities are also among Vanavil’s many thrust areas.**

The Vanavil Journey

Tsunami 2004

Girl with an infant

Lakshmi the Malnourished

Revathi takes the Baby to the hospital

Lakshmi treated for Malnutrition

2005 – Vanavil school started to give Lakshmi a chance for education

Vanavil has grown into a residential School with a strong nutrition program

After 17 years, 100 children have reached college level Education. First graduate in 2016: M. Lakshmi!

Siva Shanta Trust

Siva Shanta Trust runs 2 clinics in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India - a Pediatric clinic in Nesapakkam, West K.K.Nagar, and a General Adult clinic in Chetpet, which also has specialty clinics in Pediatrics, Cardiology, Psychiatry, Dentistry and Siddha medicine. A team of 9 doctors provide free consultation at the clinics. We also provide free medication and immunization and bear the cost of hospitalization when the need arises. Under our 'Milk program' school children are given a glass of milk and a multivitamin tablet daily. This is an after-school program for children in the vicinity of the clinics.

Our clinics have now been functioning for over 25 years. We have averaged around 9000 patients/ year in our outpatient services. We have admitted about 430 patients to private hospitals and most of the admissions were sponsored by us. We usually admit pediatric patients to CHILDS Trust hospital, and our adult patients to Billroth hospital. We have an MOU with both the hospitals for admissions, whereby the bill comes to Siva Shantha Trust.



When there is a vision there is a path: Fund raising for VHS by Sapna and Sanjana

Last year, during a family visit to Chennai, along with our parents Dr. Rajesh and Mrs. Smitha Krishnamurthy, we visited the Voluntary Health Services (VHS) Hospital in Chennai. From the moment we entered, we witnessed a place filled with kind people doing incredible things for those who needed it the most, fueled by a selfless desire to make the world better. At VHS, world-renowned physicians, volunteer their skills and services free of charge to provide high-quality care to disadvantaged women, children, and the elderly. People who couldn't afford treatment at private hospitals were provided state-of-the-art treatment, in many cases free and in some situations of high cost at affordable prices. This organization is funded entirely through charity.

Just being around the atmosphere of VHS was enough to inspire us to act. What we witnessed reminded us of what we hoped to create with our education and learning through Bharatanatyam dance – create and foster a community of healing. We decided to dedicate our first recital - *Arangetram* - to VHS and donate any funds that we raised to help support their pediatric clinic. We are grateful to the AASAI team for seamlessly facilitating everything and making this a highly fulfilling experience. In this journey we also came to know about the wide range of charity work that AASAI is engaged in, and we felt honored to partner with such an organization. We were also privileged that the secretary of VHS, Dr. Suresh and Dr. Indrani Suresh blessed our performance with their presence. We hope to continue our relationship with both entities.



Rehoboth Home

Mr. Logachander Natarajan's Account of his visit:

During my Chennai visit, I visited the Somangalam center and spent a couple of hours with Mrs. Zoraida and her team.



I visited the Pudumai store and went around the other facilities in the building. I was informed that this thrift shop was doing well. This building employs members who have recovered and are in the next level of rehabilitation and are slowly being moved into the community. I got to see the health center where a visiting doctor was treating some of the patients who needed medical attention. This center also supports special needs children. While we were walking around, the children were celebrating the 'Onam' festival. There was some beautiful Rangoli placed with flowers and lamps interleaved in it. The walls were covered with inspiring words and learning material. The school is run within the premises of Rehoboth home. Children from nearby homes attend the day school. I also got to meet some of the women who were in a knitting group. The effort and dedication of the staff members were truly inspiring and uplifting. The Bus Stop in front of AASAI n Pudumai store is called "AASAI Bus Stop!".



Mrs. Zoraida also took me to a farm which was located a few miles from the main center. This center had a large number of women. They had a dorm facility and this facility hosted people who needed extra attention and care. The farm had some cows and animal husbandry.

The recent AASAI approved project to support pet animal, Aquarium, and nursery center would be part of this location. The farm setting with abundance of plants, trees, and nature would provide a great healing and wellness effect to residents here. Also got to meet Mr. Prabhakaran who happens to be the accountant for the Rehoboth homes. He drove us between the farm and the other location.

I also visited the Paraniputhur center in the afternoon near Porur which is their largest rehabilitation center for women hosting around 70 women. This was the first center that was started, and women here were rescued for initial rehabilitation. They have an in-house kitchen which provides meals for all the residents. The dorm facility was located on multiple floors in the building across from the tailoring center. The large tailoring unit had around 20 women who were actively working, making jute bags and small items. A screen-printing job was being demonstrated by the staff. External orders are mostly executed by the team here. One of the floors also hosted small play center for children,

The love, compassion, and respect shown by the staff towards all were amazing. The women reciprocated to Mrs. Zoraida with their own personal touch and kindness.

I would like to personally thank Mrs. Zoraida and her staff for all the work they are doing. Blessed are the souls who are doing God's work. They truly represent the philosophy of love for all and serve all. Mrs. Zoraida and her team were very appreciative of the support AASAI was providing on the various projects.

Mrs. Abirami Balasubramaniyan's experience from visit to the center:

I had instant connection to the people that were the staff at these locations, and the in-mates. I was able to truly appreciate the work that is being done here by Mrs. Zoraida, Sumitha Chechi and their team. Mrs. Zoraida and I were able to dine together the same lunch that was offered to the inmates in her farm that she has donated to this service. Here is what Sumitha Chechi from Rehoboth home, Porur shared about my visit, "Thank you so much for taking time to visit us and girls were happy to have spent time with you. You blended so well with us, in fact you did it so easily, it seemed like you were part of us."



I am grateful to AASAI Donors for their contributions to make these services a reality.

AASAI Turns 25! -Picture Gallery: Health Care



Mental Health



AASAI Turns 25! -Picture Gallery: Education



**“Bicycle to students” is a self-sustaining project, helping students over many years!
Teachers and mentors encourage, inspire, influence and shape young minds!**



AASAI Turns 25! -Picture Gallery: Social Welfare

