



aasai



**American Association for Social Advancement
of India**

...help others to help themselves...

Volume 17

March 2022

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- Women health
- Special Children
- Tribal Skill
- Women Empowerment

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WOMEN HEALTH AND COVIDCARE
Voluntary health services (VHS)

FEMALE GENERAL WARD AND COVID WARD



AASAI provided partial funds for the construction of Prefab modular covid and infectious disease ward . Dr. Subramanian , President, Dr. Gopinath, Secretary AASAI and Dr. Vasudevan, VHS Neuro Surgeon visit the modular ward unit in progress.



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President's Corner



Everyone who has built a successful life for themselves, and their families has also received some bit of help from someone else. Very likely such help came about at a critical point along their journey. Such help also 'helped them help themselves' and progress in their journey. This is especially true for immigrants and their children. To contemplate the impact of someone else's help not just on our lives, but on all those around us is truly awe inspiring. If we stop and think about it for a moment, such help has mattered so much not only for us,

but also for parents to siblings to children, and not just in the present day, but for generations to come.

AASAI was founded on a simple idea: 'help others to help themselves,' just like we were fortunate enough to receive and build on. In our efforts to deliver on this mission, AASAI has spent the last 20+ years working with our tirelessly dedicated on-the-ground partners that are serving severely underserved communities in India. We've learned that the best way to 'help others help themselves' is to focus on three basic needs:

- ◆ Quality Medical Care
- ◆ Primary and Secondary School Education
- ◆ Employment and Skill Development Opportunities

By focusing on these building blocks AASAI, with your generous support, each year gives hundreds of people the foundation on which to build a secure, self-sufficient life for them-

selves, their families, and the communities in which they live. The idea may be simple, but the results are nothing short of transformational.

The last two years concerns of health and well-being due to the Covid 19 Pandemic has been global. Tragically, India is facing an unprecedented public health crisis, with over 1 million cumulative COVID-19 deaths expected by the end of this year, a statistic that is likely far short of the actual figure. Thus this newsletter focuses on the health and covid issues.

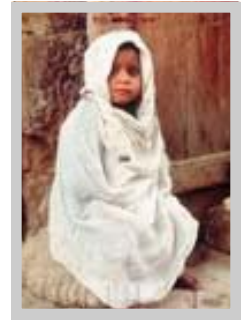
We also highlight AASAI work in the areas of:

- * Health Care for women
- * Special Children
- * Tribal children Skills
- * Women Empowerment

We gratefully acknowledge your support and sincerely hope for your continued generosity in this effort.

Dr. K. Subramanian

Let me enlighten



I have learned that:

- ◆ just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- ◆ Being kind is more important than being right.
- ◆ I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

AASAI CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT TO SHIV SHANTA TRUST—FREE CLINIC

Shiv Shanta Trust provides free care to underprivileged in Chennai area.



- ◆ Sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- ◆ Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- ◆ We should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- ◆ That money doesn't buy class.

Andy Rooney

AASAI's Three New Initiatives at VHS



Over the last 15 years, AASAI has been involved with the Voluntary Health Services (VHS) a non-profit 450-bed teaching hospital located in Chennai. Here world renowned physicians serving in a pro bono capacity provide care at a level comparable to leading private hospitals to disadvantaged women, children and the elderly provided at a heavily subsidized fees in many cases at no cost at all. (See <https://vhschennai.org>). Now AASAI has initiated three new initiatives, **(1) opening a new Women's general Ward**, (see picture above), **(2) Medial Aid Plan (MAP) that provides free master medical checkup of young women and (3) providing partial support to the modular infectious disease treatment facility.**

To provide comprehensive medical care to the growing young women AASAI has partnered with another NGO V V Charitable Trust, an organization that supports the education of children at various City Corporation schools. These children hail from very poor economic situations, many of whom have no parents and live in foster care. For their medical care we have initiated the MAP (Medical Aid Plan) project .

Based on our experience with the Umayal College of Nursing's cancer screening initiative (below) and the women in the Reho-both Home we know how critical comprehensive access to health care from an early age is, especially for women. So through our partnership with VHS, these young women receive free comprehensive medical check up to ensure their fine health growing up. As of now over 70 girls have been enrolled in the MAP program, all at no cost to them. Going forward, VHS/ AASAI will enroll eligible school aged girls in MAP and provide identification cards to receive free medical care at VHS. AASAI has established a corpus fund at VHS for thie effort. We will be grateful for your support to this initiative.



Modular Infectious Disease care facility Young Women receiving medical checkup

To face the Covid 19 health crisis VHS is constructing a prefab modular negative pressured ward accommodating 50 beds. These wards are designed to be built in just a few days but expected to last a long time so that in a post-COVID future they can be used for other infectious diseases. Dr. Subramanian, President and Dr. Gopinath, Secretary from AASAI visited the structure at VHS. (See picture above) with Dr. Vasudevan, Neuro Surgeon at VHS.

Athmalayam School for Special Children

Disability is most likely to inhibit a child's access to pre-school and primary education. There is a pervasive gap in the education of children with special needs in India. *Special children rarely progress beyond primary school, and only 9% complete secondary education. Around 45% of disabled people are illiterate. Only 63% of disabled between ages 3 and 35 have attended regular schools. Though many reasons contribute to this gap in India, lack of access, awareness, and poverty are the major contributing factors for this condition. **Athmalayam** founded in 2009 aims to remedy this situation. The school provides special education and training to these deprived children. By a comprehensive institutional and community-based approach and using modern scientific and technical advancements the special children learn to live an independent life.

Out of 91 identified economically backward special children in nearby villages the school currently has enrolled 51 children. We bought a new bus to bring children from remote villages to the school. We are planning to build a Residential facility for adult mentally retarded and for parents of children when they bring them for therapy.



The school is divided into various sections: Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Prevocational and vocational and Therapeutic training & Rehabilitation. We are planning to include Hydrotherapy (water therapy) which is considered as one of the best and proven therapies for children with special needs to improve physical functioning, especially if they are not ambulatory. We are seeking to raise funds from sponsors and bring a swimming pool.

We will be grateful for your generous contributions to this noble cause.

Kaigal Trust—Skill Development for Tribal Community

AASAI is pleased to join hands with the Kaigal Trust in its mission to develop, sustain and nurture the skills of marginalized tribal communities and harnessing natural resources in a eco-conscious manner. We would greatly appreciate your support in this noble cause.



Kaigal Trust, a Public Charitable Trust provides skill building and training aims to tribal and other marginalized people in the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. The Trust's mission is to build empower communities through education, conservation of local ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods. Now it is model of a community-led successful business enterprise. The Trust develops significant body of knowledge that already exists among tribal community on forest based

produce and further enhances their talents and skills to produce products using local bio-resources. They are also trained to form the core team to manage the enterprise.

The intent of Kaigal Trust is to develop products through value addition of local bio-resources by the local communities so that the economic benefit reaches the communities, particularly women and youth and the producers.



In these efforts, the Kaigal Trust takes into consideration Criteria for selection of different aspects such as Sustainability, General Health Benefits, Ecological Safety, Opportunity for Simple Value Addition and Marketability. Some of the categories of the products that the Trust helps to produce include: Health & Wellness, Pickles & Preserves, Kitchen Staples, Personal Care and Health & Wellness. The products developed have reasonably high market, particularly in urban areas and help to bring in flow of funds from the urban to the rural population.

AASAI continues its support of Kalanjiam a community empowerment program in rural areas of Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu. As part of our effort, in 2015, AASAI initiated the JYOTHI Tailoring Training Centre with a mission to strengthen women's skills, increase their self-confidence and enable them to support



their families for improving livelihoods. A dedicated professional tailor, Mr. Ezumali and assisted by Ms. Nandini oversee the program. This program has reached rural women from 48 panchayat villages and to date a total of 20 batches of four month tailoring courses trained 250 women.



Using AASAI's Unique model of sharing skills and resources, the women at the center have stitched over 5500 garments and provided them to the Voluntary Health Services (VHS) Hospital. This program model allows the women get hands on experience, get stipend while learning and at the same time providing VHS's need for stitched bed linen, surgical linens and hospital garments. Also, approximately 50% of these trained women have successfully gained employment in certain document export companies and others are self-employed.



Unique to note that about 10% women have purchased their own sewing machines. Another 25% of the women have been provided sewing machine by the project, on loan / repayment basis. The project initially purchased 4 tailoring machines (average cost of Rs. 10,000 per machine) and subsequently additional machines (28) have been provided, purchased from funds received only from repayment by previous recipients of sewing machines!



Network Transforms Energy To Synergy - Beneficiary to Resource



Totally free medical care to Rehoboth residents

Totally free medical care to deserving patients from the Kalanjiam sponsored areas

Voluntary Health Service
General financial support
other support as depicted here



Phynoil
Soap
Mop

Bed Sheets
Pillow Covers



Rehoboth Home

Pudhumai store
Livelihood Program
Phynoil Project
Tailoring

Kalanjiam

General financial support
Bicycles to children to reduce school dropouts
Women livelihood program



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Professional medical care to the women and special children



Shantivanam
General financial support,
Goshala (Cow farm),
biogas plants for cooking gas,
Organic fertilizer production
Finance to school for special children



AASAI's unique model provides resources for self sustainability of individual NGOs to do what they do best. Their skills and resources are shared with other NGOs in AASAI's network to promote effectiveness and efficiency through synergy. Please share your views with us and help us better. Please support.



Please visit us at WWW.AASAI.org It has been revamped and substantially upgraded. You can read about many more stories and updates and see a Gallery section with photos of the many projects and activities carried out through our partner NGOs.

Please visit the website for detail on our Vision, Mission and Approach. The website includes a well-illustrated video clip highlighting our unique approach in the selection and management of projects.

You can now make donations On-line. Also make every purchase count for a small donation to AASAI using Amazon smile. For details go to <http://www.aasai.org/donations>

Our Board

Dr. K. Subramanian	President
Logachandar Natarajan	Treasurer
Dr. C. Gopinath	Secretary
L. Raghavan	Director
R Muralidharan	Director
Abirami Balasubramanian	Director

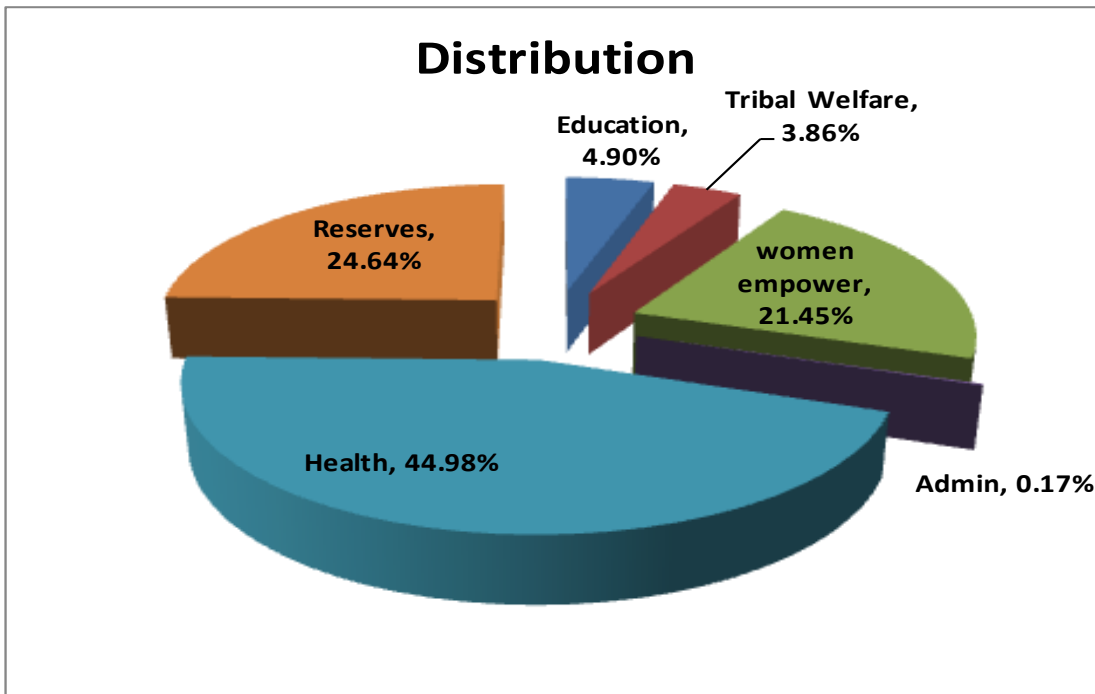
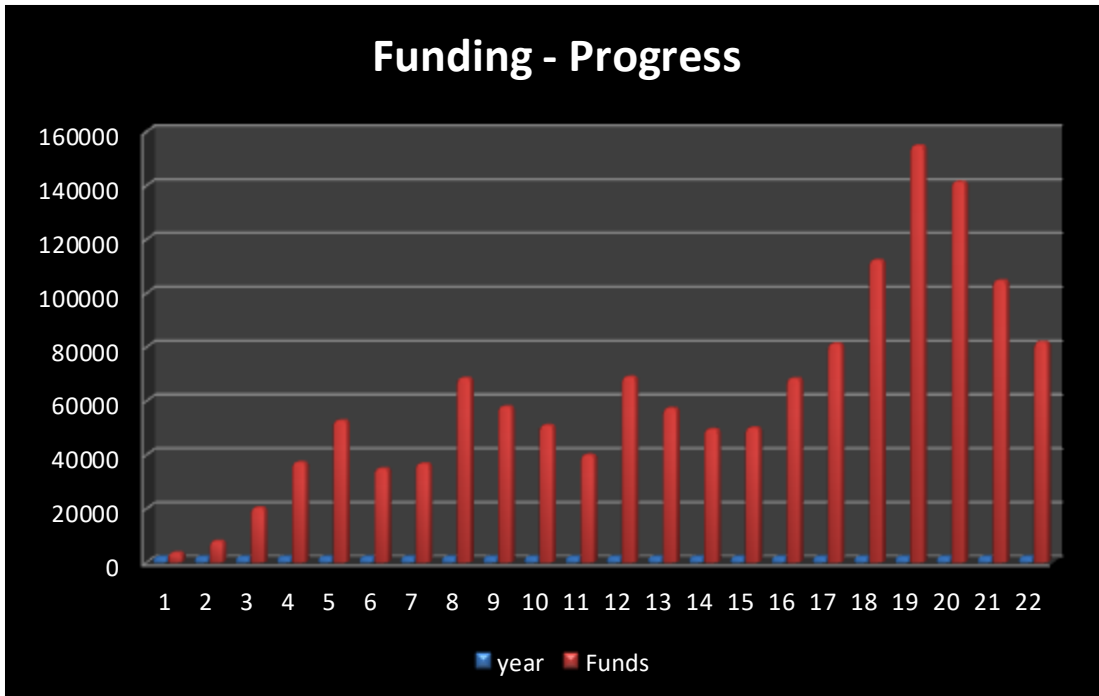
American Association for Social Advancement of India

....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....



THANKS — WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



Goodness is the only investment that never fails---Thoreau

MAHAVIR FOUNDATION TRUST

Sponsorship Initiative – Recently Launched Novel Project



Mahavir Foundation Trust caters to a large number of students from economically weaker sections of our society. MT Programs ensure quality education for students from this layer is the best way to uplift their families to better economic conditions in the long run. Experience suggests that even partial / limited financial assistance acts as a great motivator for the parents and their children to pursue their education.

Sponsorship Initiative enables financial assistance to around 1,500 of beneficiary students, but it could also connect these students with the sponsors who could act as guides or mentors. In cases where sponsors are unable to provide mentorship, mentors are assigned from members and volunteers of Mahavir Trust.

The overall impact enables these students to realise their inherent potential and improve economic condition of the entire family in the long run and enable them to become better citizens of our society and the nation.

AASAI n KUDUMBHAM

Rehoboth is one of the NGOs supported by AASAI over the years. They care for mentally ill and destitute women and their rehabilitation.

Through the years of working with mentally ill women and after repeated attempts to repatriate treated women back to their families and communities, Rehoboth team has studied the requisites to mainstream the women back into the community. In the light of the above, Rehoboth has derived on a pilot community based rehabilitation program called a “KUDUMBHAM”. This project ‘groups’ treated women as family units to practice on daily life-skills with a small remuneration for their work outside the Kudumbham to help them live responsible, financially and socially independent lives.

Modes operandum for the “Kudumbham” project:

- Identify women who are ready for independence and mainstreaming into the outside world.
- Forming groups as family units based on compatibility and backgrounds.
- Employing the women in various projects at Rehoboth to help them have a small source of regular income
- Providing small housing units for the employed women to start their independent living.

AASAI has provided funds and guidance in the construction of housing units—AASAI n KUDUMBHAM—which are now used to house the rehabilitated women on their path towards self sufficient and independent living.

**Your support for the AASAI n KUDUMBHAM project
will be extremely valuable and serve a very worthy need.**

American Association for Social Advancement of India, Inc.

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Yes I would like to contribute \$1000 / year (See Appeal next page)

My address:

Email:

Telephone:

Our Projects:

Education

Mahavir International—Vadodara Kendra
 Srividyaaram— Aduthurai Rural School for poor children
 Shree Parashara Gurukulam - Modern education through traditional values
 Kalanjiam - Rural Village development

Children Welfare

Balavidyalaya - School for hearing speech impaired children
 Athma School for Autistic Children
 Kalanjiam - Rural Village development

Health

Voluntary Health Services- medical needs of the poor and middle-income groups
 Shantivanam, Trichy - Home for destitute mentally ill
 Rehoboth Home -Home for mentally challenged and battered women
 Omayal Aachi College of Nursing - Women health Screening
 Shiv Santananda Trust—Free Health care for poor

Vocational Training / Livelihood Skill Development

AASAI Jyothi Tailoring School at Kalanjiam
 Rehoboth Home –Employment for mothers of special children
 Kalanjiam - Employment for Village poor women
 Nambikai (Shantivanam)—Employment for rehabilitated mental patients
 Kaigal Trust—Nurturing Tribal skills and empowerment

“Goodness is the only investment that never fails” - Thoreau

**WE ARE AN IRS-APPROVED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3). YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FULLY
 TAX DEDUCTIBLE. OUR TAX ID NO. 31-1634640**

Appeal – \$1000 a Year Dedicated Contribution

We appeal to your generosity to commit \$1000 a year contribution to AASAI to enable us to pursue, develop and implement projects in a predictable manner. Many of you are already contributing significantly higher amounts. Please continue the same level of support..

Encouraged by your support, AASAI has been involved with a wide range of activities, from children's education to care for abused women, from free health care to care for children afflicted with autism, and from women health center to vocational training and development of employment opportunities for women and other poor citizens. We are extremely thrilled of our success and diligently focused on improving these areas. Many examples of our successes can be seen in several pages of this newsletter.

AASAI has also been following a unique model of self sustainability of individual NGO and developing synergy through integration and sharing of skills and resources. (See page 7). In addition our projects are environmentally friendly ensuring nothing goes to waste. (e.g.): at AASAI n Pudhumai Store, Rehoboth Home, donated used clothes are either sold to public or used by the residents. Remaining not wearable items are made into floor mats or mops and washed and provided free to VHS hospital in Chennai. Similarly, at Shantivanam, a mental health center, AASAI's Goshala, milk is either sold or consumed by the patients, cow dung is used at the biofuel plants generating cooking gas. The remaining waste is processed and sold as organic fertilizer and used in site vegetable garden, rice paddy, and grass feed for cows. These are but a few examples how your contributions are used effectively and efficiently. (see details in this news letter and our webpage www.AASAI.org)

We strive to find ways to raise the needed funds with certainty and with minimum efforts so we can focus our efforts on ensuring success of the projects rather than fund raising.

In order to reach our goal, we need you and other 99 donors to commit \$1,000 a year to AASAI. (If you are able to contribute larger amounts please continue to do that). Considering several employers match your contributions, we need less than 100 people to raise \$100,000 / year.)

Please note our address for payment

AASAI, 5925 Hillview Ave., San Jose, CA. 95123

We are ever so grateful for your continued support and contributions.

.....Goodness is the only investment that never fails....