

ARUNACHALAM TRUST SCHOOL

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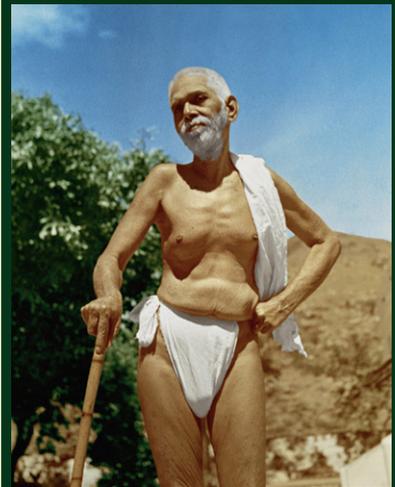
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Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi
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Arunachalam Trust (ACT)

Arunachalam Trust, Thendral Nagar, Vengikkal, Tiruvannamalai, South India 606 604. Telephone: +91-4175-28608 Fax and Voice Mail: +1-320-209-2241.

Arunachalam Trust (ACT)

The Arunachalam Trust was founded in October 1988 to give a standard education in English Medium to poor village children and also to guide them spiritually and morally to be good citizens. The Sri Ramana Vidyabhavan School was dedicated to the Sage of Arunachala, Sri Ramana Maharshi.

To upgrade the school to 10th standard, the name Sri Ramana Vidyabhavan has now been changed to Sri Ramana Matriculation School.

About 150 poor students are provided with books, meals and education in all the standard fields of learning. The school is not publicly funded, but depends on donations — It has three members.

1. M. Karunanithi,
40 Years old,
Master of Arts,
Managing Trustee.

2. K.Jothi,
30 years old,
S.S.L.C,
Trustee

3. M.Krishnamoorthy,
40 Years old,
Bachelor of Science,
Trustee.

The School

Growth

The school started with 6 children in lower kindergarten. It was accommodated in a small rented house. Since then it has steadily grown and has added one higher class every year. Prior to 1992 the school was accommodated in various buildings. In 1992 the school acquired a small site and then had a small building erected on it. In all of the classes the number of pupils is lower than 20, to enable the teachers to concentrate on each child. This academic year [1999-2000] the school has pupils up to 9th Standard. In the next academic year it will have children up to the 10th Standard. The school has appointed sufficient qualified teachers to educate the children properly. The children are learning the following languages, Tamil, English and Hindi. They are also learning about computers, for which purpose there is a computer in the school. Every year the strength of the school is gradually increasing.

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Extra Curricular Activity

The children's education is not only concentrated on academic subjects, but they are also taught elocution, writing, dancing, drawing, singing and so on. During celebrations like Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day, and Annual Day, the children have competitions in speech, writing, drawing and painting, dance, quizzes, and are encouraged to play games, etc. They also engage in the planting of trees to increase their understanding of the environment.

Progress of the Children

All of the children can read and write well. Their performance in extra curricular activity is good and they also practice meditation. The character of the children and their conduct both inside the school and outside is prized by the public.

Needs

Classrooms: The school has only a small building and a very small space for playing. Inside the small building the classes feel very crowded due to the limited space. The school does not need teaching aids or practical equipment, but it does require more spacious classrooms and a playground.

Financial Support

The school collects very nominal fees from the children and it is not enough to meet all of the challenges. Some of the children are sponsored by well-wishers through the Trust and some well-wishers donate generously to the school through the Trust. There is no Government aid, nor Government salary paid to the teachers.



School Principal and resident child



Children watching educational television



Children dancing during independence Day

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Scheme One: Two-thirds school fee concession



M. KANNAN - 9th Standard,
14 years old.
Sponsor - Ms. Martine Lafievre, France
Amount Required: Rs.1,500
Amount Donated: Rs.1,500
Father's name : Mr. Murugan
Occupation: Small Farmer
Family Background: Most Backward Class.
Economically weak.

Trust Activities

Three examples of individual sponsorship in the 1999-2000 school year are set out on this page. They represent the first three schemes run by the Arunachalam Trust for children of very poor families.

Sponsors offer help according to their personal means and often take a personal interest in the progress of the child.

Scheme Two: Free Education - Fee, books & notebooks paid for



P. ANITHA - 6th Standard,
Eleven years old.
Sponsor - Dolly. Ms. Kolah, Mumbai.
Amount Required: Rs.3,111.50
Amount Donated: Rs.3,000
Father's Name: Mr. Pachaiyappan
Occupation: Small Farmer.
Family Background: Belongs to most
backward class, has two brothers.
Economically Weak.

Scheme Three: Free Education - Free hostel, food, uniform, fees, etc.



L. SARAVANAN, 1st Standard,
6 Years old.
Sponsor - Mr. Mark Davis, London
& Mr. Paul Cullen, Ireland.
Amount Required: Rs.13,044.25
Amount Donated: Rs.10,000
Father's Name: R. Loganathan
Occupation: Farm Labourer.
Family Background: Belongs to Adi
Thiravidar (S.C) caste.
Economically very poor condition.



Extra coaching 1st to 5th Standard



Some of the children who need support



School supporters

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Scheme Four: Extra coaching classes food provided free.

Extra coaching - 1st to 5th Standard - Time: 4.30 p.m - 5.30 p.m
Amount Required: Rs. 500 per pupil

Extra coaching - 6th to 8th Standard - Time: 4.30 p.m - 5.30 p.m
Amount Required: Rs. 500 per pupil

Extra morning coaching - 9th Standard - Time: 6.30 a.m - 8.30 a.m
Amount Required: Rs. 1,800 per pupil

Extra evening coaching - 9th Standard - Time: 5.30 p.m - 7.30 p.m
Amount Required: Rs. 1,800 per pupil

Snacks for 9th Standard and free hostel students - Time: 4 p.m - 4.30 p.m
Amount Required: Rs. 12,000



The new latrines for the children



The new compound wall



The damaged roof & terrace - now partially

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Scheme Five: Building and Endowment

Latrines & urinals have been constructed for the children and teachers.

A compound wall has been built to the side of the school and concrete laid between the wall and the existing building to create outside teaching space.

Building construction needs to be done on the terrace of the existing building which suffered severe damage during the monsoon season, this will cost Rs. 375,000

An endowment deposit towards the cost of school recognition up to 10th Standard is required, costing Rs. 200,000

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Proposals 2000-2001

Proposals: 2000-2001

SCHEME - I

There are 12 children in scheme one for the coming year, sponsorship for a child in this group costs Rs. 2,310 for the full year.

SCHEME - II

Sponsorship for the very poor children in this group costs Rs. 4,500 and provides free education (paying for fees, books, notebooks and uniforms)

SCHEME - III

Sponsorship for the poorest children costs Rs.15,000 and provides a free hostel, food, clothing and all medical costs in addition to full education.

SCHEME - IV

Scheme five provides extra coaching for those students who need it and also provides snacks for the children who study until 7 p.m. There are about 40 children who require extra coaching. The cost per child is approximately Rs. 1,500 per annum.

Free conveyance to school:

Now nearly 50 children are coming from nearby villages within a 12 kilometre radius. Some of them walk, some come by bicycle and



PHOTOGRAPHS - Top left to bottom right: 1st to 9th Standard classes

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Proposals 2000-2001

Your support

few of them travel by bus with great difficulty. If the Trust provides a van for the conveyance of the children, it would be a great help to them.

If you feel that you can support the Trust and are also interested in helping poor children to open their eyes to knowledge, then please send your Donations in the name of "ARUNACHALAM TRUST" Tiruvannamalai 606 604.

The trust has a bank account in the STATE BANK OF INDIA, Tiruvannamalai - 606 601. Arunachalam Trust's Bank Account Number: 01100060044.

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Tiruvannamalai,
South India 606 604.

Telephone: +91-4175-28608

Fax and Voice Mail: +1-320-209-2241.

Email: "Karunanithi" <tvmalai@md4.vsnl.net.in>

PHOTOGRAPHS

Top and second left: LKG & UKG classes.

Bottom right: Resident Scheme III children.

All others: Donors with the children they support

