



Annual Report 2024-25



PROMOTION - PROTECTION - PARTICIPATION

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Aarvam works to support and uplift families living in North Chennai's underprivileged communities. This report tells the story of all the work we did during the year 2024-2025. We focused on helping children, young people, and women through education, mental health support, skill-building, and community activities. Through our efforts, we have seen many positive changes and improvements in their lives.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & SECRETARY

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am honored to present the Aarvam Annual Report for 2024-2025. This year has been remarkable, filled with milestones achieved through dedication, collaboration, and relentless commitment. We reached hundreds of children, engaged numerous families, and formed partnerships that amplified our efforts. Each program has contributed to building stronger, more resilient communities. Thank you for walking this path with us.

Warm Regards,

S. Shanmugam
Founder | Secretary



VISION

Vision: Empowering women, children, and youth from marginalized communities to lead dignified and self-reliant lives.

MISSION

- To provide quality education and vocational training.
- To protect child rights and promote gender justice.
- To foster mental health awareness and resilience.
- To build youth leadership for sustainable community development.

OUR APPROACH

Aarvam integrates holistic and community-centric strategies to ensure meaningful impact:

Supplementary Education to improve learning outcomes.

Mental Health Support to build emotional resilience among adolescents and caregivers.

Vocational Training for skill development and employability.

Youth Leadership initiatives for peer-to-peer community transformation.



Young peer leaders

IMPACT REPORT: MENTAL HEALTH & SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION CENTRE (SEC) PROJECTS

EMPOWERING MINDS STRENGTHENING FUTURES

Mental Health Project Highlights

In 2024–2025, Aarvam’s Mental Health Program created a transformative impact across schools and communities, reaching 939 children with focused awareness, emotional support, and counseling.

- 939 children sensitized on stress, anxiety, peer pressure, and emotional well-being
- Early intervention and individual counseling support for high-risk children
- 50+ structured sessions on emotional regulation, healthy relationships, and resilience
- 120+ parents and teachers engaged through focus groups and workshops, reducing stigma
- Creative expression therapies introduced via art, theatre, and digital storytelling

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: PRE VS. POST ASSESSMENT

Indicator	Pre (%)	Post (%)	Change
Heard the term "Mental Health"	52%	93%	41%
Believe mental health is important	74%	96%	22%
Know what counselling is	48%	85%	37%
Have spoken to a counselor/ Mentor	15%	34%	19%
Understanding of mental health	23%	67%	44%
Confidence in identifying signs in self	19%	58%	39%
Comfort in talking about	16%	49%	33%
Awareness of counselling	22%	64%	42%
Believe counselling	70%	91%	21%
Know where to seek help	37%	71%	34%
Feel stressed often or always	56%	38%	-18%
Use healthy coping mechanisms	29%	59%	30%

Impact:

- Improved classroom behaviour and emotional coping among adolescents
- Increased peer support and help-seeking behaviour
- Reduced silence and stigma around mental health

“Now I can talk to someone when I feel angry or alone. I am not afraid anymore.”
13-year-old participant, Community Group

SEC PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Supplementary Education Centres (SECs) provided academic and emotional scaffolding for 109 children from highly vulnerable communities. This year's results reflect extraordinary resilience and commitment.

- 100% pass rate in 10th and 12th board examination.
- 109 children regularly attended SECs – zero dropouts
- 0% children exposed to drug use – SECs provided a protective, monitored environment
- Integrated life skills, self-discipline, and mental wellness sessions
- Personalized mentoring and regular academic tracking

Impact:

- Children stayed in school, succeeded in exams, and avoided risky behaviours
 - SECs became safe spaces for holistic learning, protection, and growth
 - Parents reported increased confidence and motivation in their children
-

Major initiatives and activities

2024-25

Summer Camp: A Creative Odyssey

In May 2024, Aarvam organized a 10-days summer camp that engaged 80 children in public speaking, art workshops, group games, and leadership activities. The camp nurtured self-confidence, communication skills, and creativity



DENTAL CAMP: A STEP TOWARDS HEALTHY SMILES

In collaboration with TN Government Dental College and Hospital, we provided free dental check-ups and treatments to 150 community members. Post-camp feedback showed that 85% of participants became aware of the importance of regular dental hygiene.



Mental Health Program: Building Resilient Minds



Assessment Reach: We conducted mental health assessments for 738 students across 5 schools and 201 adolescents from 8 community groups. The assessment identified common concerns like anxiety, peer pressure, and emotional instability.

Input Sessions: Conducted 10+ structured sessions on stress management, healthy relationships, emotional regulation, and early mental health intervention, reaching 500+ adolescents.

Focus Group Discussions: Engaged over 120 parents, teachers, and community stakeholders to openly discuss adolescent mental health issues, stigma, and community-based solutions.



Special Workshops for Adolescents and Caregivers.

- **Decoding Generation Z:** Facilitated by Ms.Mahalakshmi (Counseling Psychologist), this session helped adults understand and connect with today's youth.



Suicide Prevention Workshop conducted by SCARF empowered over 60 participants to recognize warning signs and act promptly.



Capacity Building: Arts and Theatre Training

Aarvam staff members actively participated in a 15-day intensive Arts and Theatre-based Training Workshop facilitated by SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation). This training was designed to enhance staff capacity in using creative and expressive methods to engage with children and the community. Through interactive theatre techniques, role plays, and art-based interventions, the team developed innovative skills to promote mental health awareness, emotional expression, and community participation in a more impactful and empathetic manner.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP



Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is an arts based approach grounded in community engagement, which harnesses the power of theater to bring the desired change. Originating from Augusto Boal's works with peasant and worker groups, it has evolved globally. TO's applications range from social and political activism to resolving conflicts, community building, therapeutic interventions, and advocacy for legislative change.

KNOW YOUR MENTOR



Centre for Community Dialogue and Change(CCDC) is one of the leading and internationally recognised training centres for Theatre of the Oppressed in India. Established in 2011 and based in Bangalore, CCDC works with diverse populations on Community Education, Health Humanities and Community Mental Health.

Ravi Ramaswamy (they, them) is a trustee and a Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) facilitator with CCDC since 2011. They received training in Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) from Marc Weinblatt of the Mandala Center for Change, Seattle, Washington. With a Master's degree in Social Work and 10 years' experience of working in the development sector, Ravi brings to their TO practice, a deep understanding of issues such as urban poverty, education, child and youth rights, gender equality and mental health.



CREATIVE ART THERAPY: PAINTING EMOTIONS

Aarvam collaborated with IIT Madras - Hues of Chennai for creative art therapy workshops. 50 children participated in neurography sessions, exploring their emotional well-being through creative expression.



ALL IS WELL: MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

The All is Well Mental Health and Well-being Champions Train the Trainer Program, conducted in collaboration with Aaram Poul Foundation and Omega Forum for Social Impact, is held at the Aarvam office. The training involves 35 participants, including representatives from different NGOs, professors, and other stakeholders. Training conducted on Every Saturday from 10am to 4pm from July to September 2024



ALL IS WELL: MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Date: November 24, 2024 | Venue: Don Bosco School Campus, Vyasarpadi |

Time: 2 PM – 6 PM.

The festival was attended by over 150 participants and included puppet shows, skits, cultural performances, interactive workshops, and mental health talks. Key highlights included:

Puppet Show: Addressed self-esteem and bullying through the story of Elmer the elephant.

Skit: Explored parental overprotection and mental health consequences.

Silambam and Parai Aatam Performances: Fostered cultural pride and resilience.

Art Therapy: Engaged children in processing emotions through creative expression.

Expert Talks: Dr. Preenu and Mr. Milton provided actionable mental health strategies.



FESTIVALS

Christmas Celebration at Good Shepherd Hr. Sec. School

Date: January 4, 2025

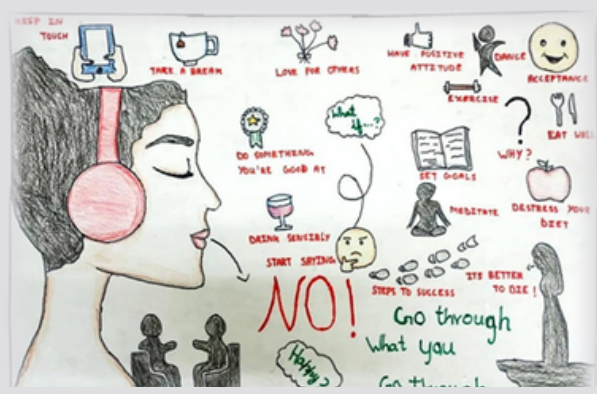
Twenty-eight Aarvam children (ages 12-16) participated in Christmas celebrations, enjoyed cultural programs, played games, and received thoughtful gifts, fostering inclusion and happiness.



Pongal Celebration: Embracing Culture and Community Spirit

Date: January 11th – 14th

Our four-day Pongal celebration was a beautiful blend of tradition, creativity, and healthy competition! We organized various contests and activities to engage both children and women from the Vyasaradi community and neighbouring schools.



Poster Making Competition: Children expressed their creativity on the themes “Say No to Drugs” and “Mental Health and Wellbeing.” A total of 39 children showcased powerful messages through their artwork.

Chess and Carrom Tournaments: Young minds aged 12 to 24 displayed remarkable strategic skills in these traditional indoor games.



Leadership Camp: Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders

Date: February 1st – 2nd

Location: Don Bosco Centre, Ennore

Twenty-eight dynamic Peer Group Leaders embarked on an inspiring two-day Residential Leadership Camp designed to nurture leadership qualities, enhance communication skills, and empower decision-making abilities.

This transformative experience was all about shaping confident, responsible, and proactive young leaders ready to make a difference!

Empowering Young Minds

The camp was strategically crafted to develop essential leadership skills while fostering a spirit of community service and social responsibility. Through a series of interactive activities and thought-provoking discussions, the children learned the true essence of leadership.

Program Highlights:

- **Understanding Leadership:** Discovering the qualities of effective leaders and learning how to inspire and influence others.
- **Problem-Solving & Decision-Making:** Developing solution-oriented thinking to tackle real-life challenges.
- **Effective Communication:** Mastering the art of impactful communication and active listening.
- **Civic Awareness:** Learning about the roles and responsibilities of government officials to become informed citizens.
- **Social Advocacy:** Understanding how to use media responsibly to address social issues and inspire change.



Inspiring Sessions by Visionary Leaders

We were privileged to have expert mentors who inspired and guided our young leaders:

Mrs. Lilly (Director, Bloom Trust): With her dynamic leadership training, she empowered the children to believe in themselves and take proactive roles in their community.

Ms. Padmaja (Independent Journalist): She conducted impactful sessions on media literacy, teaching the children to use social platforms responsibly to raise awareness on social issues.

"GUIDING PEERS, SHAPING FUTURES"

ADOLESCENT PEER GROUP LEADERSHIP AND CULTURAL RESIDENTIAL TRAINING-2025



01.02.2025 & 02.02.2025
DON BOSCO YOUTH ANIMATION CENTRE,
ENNORE, TAMIL NADU



www.aarvam.org
aarvam2014@gmail.com

DONATE NOW



RESOURCE PERSONS



MRS. LILLY
DIRECTOR - BLOOM TRUST



MS. PADMAJA JAYARAM
INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Supported by:




Special Coaching for Public Exam Students

We launched dedicated coaching classes for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders every Sunday, benefiting over 40 students. Regular nutritious meals were provided to ensure their well-being.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

National Girl Child Day: Virtual Empowerment Session



STORY MAKING WORKSHOP



Resource Centre Activities

Our Resource Centre serves as a vibrant space offering daily activities for children, providing them with a variety of engaging and educational opportunities to support their holistic development. These activities are conducted from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, catering to the diverse interests and needs of our participants.



Activities Conducted:

- Carrom Board
- Shuttlecock (Badminton)
- Library Hours
- Movie Screening Sessions
- Indoor Games
- Cultural Activities



Celebrating International Mother Language Day with Children & Community

In celebration of International Mother Language Day, Aarvam organized a special talent recognition event for children. The event aimed to highlight the rich heritage and pride of mother languages through a series of engaging activities.



Children enthusiastically participated in activities such as:

- Poetry Recitation – Showcasing the beauty of words in their native tongue.
- Book Reading – Encouraging the love for literature in their mother language.
- Speeches and Conversations – Promoting effective communication and storytelling.
- Dance Performances – Expressing cultural stories through traditional movements.



An impressive number of 55 children participated, making the event a memorable celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural pride. Aarvam takes pride in nurturing young minds while preserving the significance of mother languages.

Leadership Meeting: Digital Advocacy in Action

Discussion with likeminded people on North Chennai Development:

Objective: Bring together like-minded stakeholders to discuss strategies for improving education and preventing children from falling into anti-social activities.

Participants:

- Journalists
- NGO Leaders
- Youth Beneficiaries
- Community Leaders



Key Discussion Points:

1. Strengthening access to quality education in underprivileged areas
2. Creating safe spaces and positive engagement for youth
3. Building community-based support systems
4. Collaborating across sectors (media, NGOs, local leaders)
5. Raising awareness on risks and providing alternatives to anti-social paths

COMPUTER IT TRAINING TO THE YOUTH:



In February 2025, Aarvam initiated a computer class for adolescents and youth in the community. The classes aim to improve digital literacy and equip participants with essential computer skills that can enhance their educational and employment opportunities.

Women Empowerment Skill Development Training

Inauguration of Beautician & Aari Work Training Centre:

On March 8, 2025, International Women's Day, we proudly inaugurated the Women Skill Development Centre. This centre currently offers Aari and Beautician classes for women from the community, providing them with valuable vocational training to support their journey towards financial independence. More than 35 women have already enrolled in these skill-building programs.



NEWS COVERAGE: “ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE”

Substance abuse new order in out-of-order GCC school



Students Have To Buy Water To Drink; Toilets, Labs A Mess

Padmaja.J@timesofindia.com

What was the reason for the pick of a Class IX girl student at a Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) school in Vyasarpadi on her birthday earlier this week? Could it be a bottle of beer she had bought for her brother in Class VII with her pocket money? Or was she drinking it all in her classroom and got high right there. A couple of days later, three Class X boys were caught smoking beedis on the school campus — a book shop near the school sold them to the boys in school uniforms.

“Substance abuse complaints flood the school,” said a Class X student. When TOI visited the school, located at Vyasarpadi, there were packets of a tobacco product called Cool Lip lying on the floor. Cool Lip used to be sold in petty shops and roadside stalls, but now they come via Bengluru. Some boys in the community buy and distribute them among students, who bring them to the school.

It used to cost ₹10 for a box of 20 packets. Now, they sell the box for ₹150, he added.

Headmistress Madhavi, who joined three months ago, said, “I ask them to sit or stand outside the class for three hours or give other punishments, hoping they will change. Usually, these substance abuse incidents happen within a group. So, if we catch someone, we also track their friends.”

But you cannot blame everything on the students alone. “We have never entered labs, libraries or even used clean toilets,” says a student. There TOI visited the campus, the physics, chemistry and biology labs and the library remained locked. Inside a lab, newly bought tables were laid on top of one another. At the computer lab, monitors, CPUs and wiring were a mess. Students of classes XII A and B sit inside the biology lab.

“The school does not have drinking water. We pool in ₹50 for a can

There is drug menace in some schools in Chennai, including ours. We don't have a physical education teacher (PET) and sports equipment to get the students into sports and return them, this dispute has a long playground. Madhavi | chemistry and biology laboratory, mess, mess

plant to supply clean drinking water. Sanitation issues are tied with sanitary pads lying in dry latrines, and no water in most of the taps. The wash basins had even and ground level. The four CCTV cameras present in the school do not work, said a teacher.

“We get funds for repair and maintenance from the state govt and the GCC. We repair taps and pipes, but students vandalise school infrastructures,” said the headmistress. They are waiting for a new, larger building to accommodate more students and other anti-social activities because of lack of parental supervision. Their parents are daily wage labourers who work for longer hours. So, the parents are unable to give care, attention, and discipline the children,” said Sumithra Devi, from the NGO Aarvam, who is working with the school in supplementary and behavioural education.

FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOLS

NUMBER OF GCC SCHOOLS
420 including primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools

HOW MUCH SCHOOLS GET
State govt fund to improve each school a year ₹50,000

2024-25 ALLOCATION FOR ALL GCC SCHOOLS

Generators, tables, lab equipment, new classrooms, computers ₹5.8 cr
plumbing ₹1.32 cr
Building ₹3 cr

ABOUT THE GCC SCHOOL IN VYASARPADI, KALYANIPURAM

- 375 students study in classes VI to XII in 12 classrooms
- Class XII and XII all inside biology lab
- Physics, chemistry, history and computer lab remain locked
- No drinking water available, students pay for water or bring it from home
- These tables are in a filthy condition, with barely one tap with running water
- Random checks of tobacco products and beedis is prevalent among children
- We have conducted a detailed survey of schools that need better water and sanitation facilities. We will evaluate the issues seen. Instances of substance abuse happens outside schools generally. We did not hear complaints of anything inside schools. We are establishing football and volleyball courts in schools to divert students attention to sports

Vijaya Reddy | our senior reporter (Chennai)

HC acts on substance abuse in GCC school

Initiated Sua Motu PIL Based On A TOI Report About A Corporation School In Vyasarpadi

Times News Network

Chennai: Madras high court has initiated a suo motu note of a TOI report on substance abuse among school children and the lack of basic amenities at a Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) School in Kalyanapuram in Vyasarpadi, and has initiated PIL proceedings.

The first bench of acting Chief Justice D.Krishnakumar and Justice P B Balaji, which initiated the PIL proceedings on a news report published in TOI dated Aug 23, directed GCC to file a status report on the actions taken to address the issue within two weeks.

The TOI report — titled ‘Substance abuse new order in out of order GCC school: students have to buy water to drink; toilets, lab a mess’ — brought to light how a Class IX girl drank a bottle of beer in her classroom and got high to celebrate her birthday. A couple of days later, three Class X boys were caught smoking beedis on the school campus, which they sourced from a bunk shop near the school.

The report further highlighted the lack of basic facilities on the campus and how students are compelled to daily pool ₹10 to buy a can of drinking water for each class.

The school, which has 375 students, lacked clean toilets, water and a proper facility to dispose of used sanitary napkins. Two sections of Class XII were accommodated in the biology lab, while the physics, chemistry and computer labs remained locked, the report said.

It further highlighted the free availability of a banned tobacco product, Cool Lip, inside the campus and its use among the students.

The suo motu plea was initiated to direct the authorities concerned to inspect the school campus and take immediate steps to ensure basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets, maintenance of labs, and all necessary infrastructure.

It wanted the court to direct the authorities to take strict action against people selling tobacco items in and around the school and to direct the authorities to conduct counselling programmes for children to address behavioural problems.

The suo motu plea was initiated to direct the authorities concerned to inspect the school campus and take immediate steps to ensure basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets, maintenance of labs, and all necessary infrastructure.

Committee meets to discuss Vyasarpadi school issues

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Chennai: The management committee of a GCC higher secondary school at Kalyanipuram in Vyasarpadi held discussions about inadequate amenities such as drinking water, clean toilets, functional laboratories, library and physical education classes at the institution on Saturday, two days after TOI highlighted substance abuse among students. Elections for the com-



TIMES impact

Substance abuse new order in out-of-order GCC school

Students Have To Buy Water To Drink; Toilets, Labs A Mess

Headmistress, assistant headmistress, local ward 46 councillor and parents attended the SMC meet

mittee members were also conducted. The headmistress, assistant headmistress, local ward 46 councillor and parents among others attended the SMC meet.

A parent, who attended the meeting, said, “We asked the school heads and the ward councillor to put an end to petty shops selling beedis to children. Narcotics also need to be banned.”

Ward 46 councillor S Anandhi said she asked parents to write about the drug and substance menace in the school for her to represent the issue to the police and GCC. “I would also ask police to check the nearby petty shops and Tasmac outlets to not sell beedis and alcohol to

students. We would also ask the police to have two personnel near the compound wall to ensure the students do not jump out of the campus within school hours,” she said at the meeting.

The drinking water, lab, library and better toilet facilities will be sorted when the new school building is handed over, said the councillor. “We are hopeful that the building will be ready for students in another three months. We will also hire a sports coach soon.”

Puppet show raises awareness on mental health for Vyasarpadi youth

Padmaja.J@timesofindia.com

Chennai: “I am sorry that you changed yourself to feel included,” said a cloud to Elmer, an elephant, after listening to his story. The cloud was flying to learn about the world.

“I am not like other elephants. I was born light-skinned. Everyone teased me for that. So, I left my herd and blackened myself with jamun juice,” said Elmer to the cloud. Then, nobody teased him. He felt accepted for the first time. Alas, it did not last. It rained one day and his ‘true colours’ came out. “We thought you were naturally that colour. We didn’t know that teasing you would affect you so much that you had to change yourself. You could have told us. I am sorry,” said another elephant to Elmer.

The cloud, elephants, and the surroundings were all mere paper cutouts whose shadows were sup-



CRUCIAL SUBJECT: Puppet show about mental health on Sunday

posed to make the children reflect on their mental health.

This puppet show was staged for around 150 children, aged 8-18, in Vyasarpadi as part of the mental health festival organised by the local community and civil society organisations, including Aarvam, Omega forum for social impact, and Aram Porul.

A nearby corporation school was recently busted for alcohol and substance abuse among stu-

dents. “Addressing their well-being and mental health can prevent them from being addicted to drugs in the long term,” said Sumithra Devi, the event coordinator.

Several activities were conducted at the festival held at Don Bosco School on Saturday. A skit was staged where a father did not allow his teenage daughter to travel outside the city after she was selected for sports competitions. He stopped her from even going to school. The drama showed her isolating herself, not talking to anyone or reaching out for help, indicating mental health distress.

Realising that he killed his daughter’s smile, the father said, “Parents themselves are not aware of what the children need. I want you to be happy. Please go participate in the competition.”

“If you need any help, please share it with someone you trust,” said child psychologist Preena, speaking to the children.

This is the state of @chenaicorp toilets.

What sort of administration you are running
@KN_NEHRU @kgbias

Women, children forced to use toilets without doors in city

• TINIHA RACHEL SAMUEL

CHENNAI: Women and children in Vyasarpadi's Kalyanasaram are forced to use toilets without any doors while women stand guard, as the Corporation fails to maintain the public restroom despite multiple complaints raised.

While the GCC claims that crews of repairs are being spent on maintaining these toilets, a visit to the public toilet in Kalyanasaram, Vyasarpadi, tells the struggle of women forced to use the doorless public toilets. As residents power through unlit and smelly toilets, men they require an extra eye to watch when they go about their routine.

Residents rue that someone has to stand guard outside the facility while use uses the toilet, and in desperate times, one has to look out for themselves and hope there are no more visitors.

Jaganesh LM, a localite, described the ordeal to *DT Next*. "Around 20 women in the nearby areas use this toilet. There are a total of 12 toilets,



One of the toilets without door

toilet for drinking." The ghastly interior and exterior of the facility raised multiple alarms when *DT Next* visited the Kalyanasaram public toilet, even raising the question of whether it could still be called a facility. "One of the toilets had a rusty 'half' door awaiting its fall. Despite the use of red flags, residents are forced to use these toilets as there are no other options.

Jaganesh noted that toilets in areas like Anna Nagar and Nungambakkam are in better condition than those in north Chennai. "Toilets in Vyasarpadi and its neighbourhoods are totally ignored and not maintained well," he said.

"The residents have used the toilet for more than 40 years. The Tannac outlet near the toilet only adds to the misery as tipples have made it a drinking spot," a resident said, requesting anonymity.

Responding to the issue, S Anandhi, the ward of councillor, said the process of demolishing the toilet has started and that a new facility will be built soon.



- Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG)
- Citizen Matters
- The Times of India
- The New Indian Express
- Dinamalar - World's No 1 Tamil News Website
- Deccan Chronicle
- DTNext
- The Hindu
- Perambur Neighborhood Development Forum
- Madhavaram Neighborhood Development Forum
- Tamil The Hindu
- Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban
- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
- TIMES NOW
- Republic
- Polimer News



+16

02

Vyasarpadi's rly tracks turn loos

Two Toilets Nearby, Both Inaccessible

Padmaja.J@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Every day, groups of Gandhipuram residents head to the Vyasarpadi Jeeva railway tracks around 2pm, furtively glancing around — not to board a train without a ticket, but to relieve themselves. This has been their reality for the past 30 years.

While these residents have toilets inside their homes, they remain unusable due to the lack of a proper sewer line. "Men go below the track, and women go above," said Munusamy, a daily wageer. He added, "They usually avoid mornings and nights to stay safe from snakes and crows." However, this precarious practice exposes them to the risks of train accidents and public health hazards caused by open defecation.

When *TOI* inquired about public toilets, residents pointed to two facilities nearby, both inaccessible. "One has been shut for more than three years. The other is functional but locked, with a GCC contract worker controlling the key and charging ₹5-5 per use. He's often unavailable," said Sandhya, 24. She added, "If we refuse to pay, we face verbal harassment." On Friday, *TOI* found the operational toilet locked, with no worker in sight.

Women face even greater



UNDER LOCK AND KEY: Toilet at Gandhipuram, Vyasarpadi

challenges, lacking a safe place to change sanitary napkins during menstruation or to wash and bathe due to the absence of sanitation facilities.

Pointing to a hole in the road connected to a stormwater drain, residents said, "This is where greywater from washing and bathing goes. We've submitted multiple petitions for opening the toilets and constructing a sewer line," said Munusamy.

Tondiarpet GCC zonal officer G Saravananamthy promised an inspection and resolution. Metrowater's Tondiarpet area engineer K Namachivayam said Gandhipuram will be connected to a sewer network under the Vuda Chennai Valarchi Thittam, with work scheduled to begin post-monsoon.

Girls As Young As 15 End Up Pregnant And Dropout Of School After Unprotected Sex. Their Families Then Get Them Married As A Solution In Low-Income Settlements Where Awareness Is Abysmal

Padmaja.J@timesofindia.com

In 2022, 17-year-old Anasudha* from Vyasarpadi's Kalyanasaram was taken by surprise when she missed her Class X board examination. Now, she is pregnant with her second child, while her husband Sweetha*, 19, works in a steel factory earning ₹10,000 a month. Anasudha is the second child of her single mother, who is a domestic help.

Sweetha*, who turned 17 last month, is three months pregnant and lives in the Urban Habitat Development Board apartments in Thiruvottiyar's Tsunami Quarters. She plans to marry Charan, a sanitary worker who studied until Class VI. Underage pregnancies and consequent child marriages often go unreported as families try to cope as best they can. Sweetha's parents are construction workers.

SILENT CRISIS

"We wanted her to study and get a job, but she became pregnant. When we scolded her, she eloped with Charan. Now we have no choice but to accept the union," said her mother.

In Vyasarpadi, several women shared tales about child marriage. Anasudha*, for instance, fell in love with Sweetha* at 15, and got pregnant. Her mother stopped talking to her for three months in anger, leading them to elope and marry. "My friend Sowmya* loved a boy in school, but her parents stopped her education and married her off to her cousin to prevent her from eloping," said Anasudha.

A local Anganwadi worker said, "Underage pregnancies disqualify girls from receiving the Dr Murugadasan scheme's ₹10,000 cash assistance. So, many drop out of school and take up jobs to support their families."

Underage pregnancies, child marriages derail young lives

AS THE LAW GOES

Finding hotspots and spreading awareness among teenagers is the only way to bring the numbers down

LAWS AROUND CHILD MARRIAGE

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012
PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT (PCMA), 2006

Legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 years for men. Under this age, any wedding is considered child marriage.

PUNISHMENT | Two-year imprisonment or ₹1 lakh fine against those marrying underage girls, including parents and guardians who arrange or encourage the marriage.

PUNISHMENT FOR APPROPRIATING UNDERAGE GIRLS | Seven-year imprisonment.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012

To safeguard children under 18 years from sexual abuse, harassment, and pornography.

PUNISHMENT | Three-year imprisonment to life-time imprisonment depending on intensity and fine.

Even if a minor girl 'consensually' has intercourse, it is an offence against the POCSO Act

PUNISHMENT FOR APPROPRIATING UNDERAGE GIRLS | Seven-year imprisonment.

GREY AREA IN THE LAW

Child marriage is not automatically null unless the minors or their legal guardians want to annul it. Child marriage through force is also automatically void.

band had bought them. A blanket prohibition on exploring new romance has driven them to elope and get pregnant due to lack of awareness," said Kalpana Karumakaran, an IIT-M Bombayites professor. "Instead of hashing it up when they get pregnant or marry, children must be taught about consent and safe sex. The govt should help them continue their education," she said. ("Names changed to protect identity")

CHILD MARRIAGES IN CHENNAI (JAN - JUL, 2024)

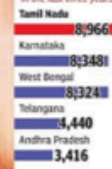
Region	Complaints	Child marriage stopped	Child marriage conducted	CSR filed	FIR filed	CSR, FIR not filed
Chennai North	18	4	14	2	16	4
Chennai South	27	10	17	5	10	12
TOTAL	45	14	31	7	26	16

Source: Tamil Nadu Directorate of Social Welfare

The next step is to educate children about gender and safe sex to prevent underage pregnancies and child marriages. There are several child marriage cases due to elopement in the city - V Anasudha, COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of child marriages in India

NO. OF CHILD MARRIAGES



Complaints filed in Tamil Nadu from Jan to Jul 2024: 2,361

Source: Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and Tamil Nadu Directorate of Social Welfare



HELPLINE TO REPORT CHILD MARRIAGES: 181 + 1098

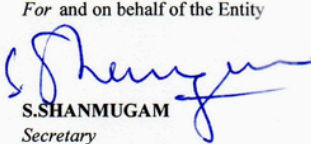
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2024-25


RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

BRO SIGA ANIMATION CENTRE A-248, B-KALYANAPURAM, VYASARPADI, CHENNAI-39 (Consolidated) RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT For the Year ended 31st March, 2025 (Amount in Rs.)				
Sl. No	PARTICULARS	NOTE NO	For the year ended 31 March 2025	For the year ended 31 March 2024
RECEIPTS:				
I	Opening Balance			
a)	Cash & Cash Equivalents	26	2,75,349.57	4,57,539.58
II	Income from operations			
a)	Revenue from Operations	27	36,91,031.00	19,72,348.00
b)	Other Income	28	23,702.00	20,081.00
III	Capital Receipts			
a)	Funds	29	-	-
b)	Loans & Advances Received	30	-	-
c)	Current Liabilities & Advances	31	31,240.00	-
d)	Long Term Provisions	32	-	-
e)	Others	33	-	-
	Total Receipts		40,21,322.57	24,49,968.58
PAYMENTS:				
I	Purchases	34	-	-
b)	Grants, Contributions & Donations	35	-	-
c)	Employee Benefits expenses	36	-	-
d)	Finance Cost	37	-	-
e)	Programme Expenses	38(A)	22,95,083.78	19,89,707.66
	Administrative Expenses	38(B)	1,17,138.67	1,71,937.35
II	Capital Payments			
a)	Fixeds Assets Details	39	7,49,090.00	9,674.00
b)	Current Investments	40	-	-
c)	Loans & Advances Repaid	41	-	-
d)	Current Liabilities & Advances	42	-	3,300.00
e)	Long Term Provisions	43	-	-
f)	Others	44	-	-
g)	Funds (Expended)	45	-	-
III	Closing Balances:			
i)	Cash & Cash Equivalents	46	8,60,010.12	2,75,349.57
	Total Payments		40,21,322.57	24,49,968.58

As per our report of even date attached

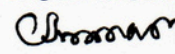
For and on behalf of the Entity


S.SHANMUGAM
Secretary


P.PORCHEZHIAN
Treasurer

Place: Chennai
Date: 25.06.2025

For Krupa & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regd. No.0015605


Proprietor
Membership No.: 204464



INCOME & EXPENDITURE

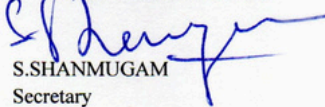
BRO SIGA ANIMATION CENTRE
A-248, B-KALYANAPURAM, VYASARPADI, CHENNAI-39
(Consolidated) Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2025

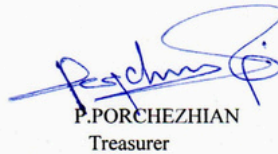
(Amount in Rs.)

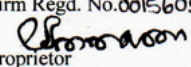
	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	Revenue from operations	19	36,91,031.00	19,72,348.00
II	Other Income	20	23,702.00	20,081.00
III	Total Income (I+II)		37,14,733.00	19,92,429.00
IV	Expenses:			
(a)	Cost of goods sold	21	-	-
(b)	Employee benefits expense	22	-	-
(c)	Finance costs	23	5,504.67	2,284.35
(d)	Depreciation and amortization expense	24	58,582.96	45,325.45
(e)	Other expenses	25	24,09,292.48	21,55,868.66
	Total expenses		24,73,380.11	22,03,478.46
V	Profit/(loss) before exceptional and extraordinary items, partners' remuneration and tax (III- IV)		12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
VI	Exceptional items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-
VII	Profit/(loss) before extraordinary items, partners' remuneration and tax (V-VI)		12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
VIII	Extraordinary Items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-
IX	Profit before, partners' remuneration and tax (VII-VIII)		12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
X	Partners' remuneration*			
XI	Profit before tax (IX- X)			
XII	Tax expense:			
(a)	Current tax		-	-
(b)	Excess/ Short provision of tax relating to earlier years		-	-
(c)	Deferred tax charge/ (benefit)	6	-	-
XIII	Profit/(Loss) for the period from continuing operations (IXI-XII)		12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
XIV	Profit/(loss) from discontinuing operations		-	-
XVII	Tax expense of discontinuing operations		-	-
XIV	Profit/(loss) from discontinuing operations (after tax) (XIVII-XVIII)		-	-
XVI	Profit/(Loss) for the year (XIII+XIV)		12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

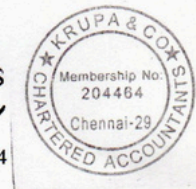
As per our report of even date attached

For and on behalf of the Entity


S.SHANMUGAM
 Secretary


P.PORCHEZHIAN
 Treasurer

For Krupa & Co.,
 Chartered Accountants
 Firm Regd. No. 0015605

 Proprietor
 Membership No.: 204464



Place: Chennai
 Date: 25.06.2025

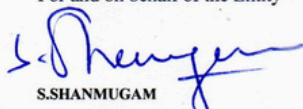
BALACE SHEET

BRO. SIGA ANIMATION CENTRE
A-248, B-KALYANAPURAM, VYASARPADI, CHENNAI-39
(Consolidated) Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

		(Amount in Rs.)		
	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
	1 Members' Funds			
(a)	Member's Account	3	15,25,830.12	17,36,879.58
(b)	Reserves and surplus	4	12,41,352.89	(2,11,049.46)
			27,67,183.01	15,25,830.12
	2 Non-current liabilities			
(a)	Long-term borrowings	5	-	-
(b)	Deferred tax liabilities (Net)	6	-	-
(c)	Other long-term liabilities	7	-	-
(d)	Long-term provisions	8	-	-
			-	-
	3 Current liabilities			
(a)	Short-term borrowings	5	-	-
(b)	Trade payables		-	-
(c)	Other current liabilities	10	-	-
(d)	Short-term provisions	8	-	-
			-	-
	Total		27,67,183.01	15,25,830.12
II	ASSETS			
	1 Non-current assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets			
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment	11	12,52,802.89	5,64,870.55
(ii)	Intangible assets	11	-	-
(iii)	Capital work in progress	11	-	-
(iv)	Intangible asset under development	11	-	-
(b)	Non-current investments	12	-	-
(c)	Deferred tax assets (Net)	6	-	-
(d)	Long Term Loans and Advances	13	-	-
(e)	Other non-current assets	14	6,54,370.00	6,85,610.00
			19,07,172.89	12,50,480.55
	2 Current assets			
(a)	Current investments	12	-	-
(b)	Inventories	15	-	-
(c)	Trade receivables	16	-	-
(d)	Cash and bank balances	17	8,60,010.12	2,75,349.57
(e)	Short Term Loans and Advances	13	-	-
(f)	Other current assets	18	-	-
			8,60,010.12	2,75,349.57
	Total		27,67,183.01	15,25,830.12
	Brief about the Entity	1	-	-
	Summary of significant accounting policies	2	-	-
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

As per our report of even date attached

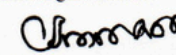
For and on behalf of the Entity

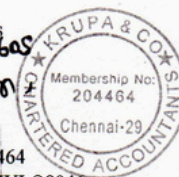

S.SHANMUGAM
Secretary


P.PORCHEZHIAN
Treasurer

Place: Chennai
Date: 25.06.2025

For Krupa & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regd. No.: 001560


Proprietor
Membership No.: 204464
UDIN : 25204464BMJYLQ8046



DONATION APPEAL

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION

Your donaon can transform lives at BSAC. With your support, we can provide vital nutrion to 500 children, empower women through skill training, and offer skill development to disadvantaged youth. Join us in creang a brighter future for our communitie!

A SMALL CONTRIBUON CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

"Your support is crucial for continuing our work. Please consider supporting us through donations."

Donation Appeal

At BSAC, we focus on empowering marginalized women, children, and youth for positive change. We need your support to:

- Fund education programs for underprivileged children
- Expand outreach to communities in need
- Ensure sustainable change in health, education, and the environment.

You Can Sponsor

- A child for one year or one month.
- Supplementary education center expenses (part/full).
- Teacher salaries.
- School fees, uniforms, and educational materials for children.
- Contribution toward scholarships or recreational materials.

We Accept Donations Via:
Cheque / DD / MO / Bank Deposit.
Wire Transfer / NEFT / RTGS / ECS.
Tax Benefits: Contributions to Bro. Siga Animation Centre are exempt under Sec. 80-G of the Income Tax Act. We are also authorized to receive foreign donations under the FCRA

Scan here to pay



Merchant Name: BRO SIGA ANIMATION CENTRE
MID: 037347016300180
TID: 27878784
Helpdesk: 1860233232 / 022-40426060

ACCOUNT NAME : BRO.SIGA ANIMATION CENTRE
ACCOUNT NUMBER : 920010051466411
BANK NAME : AXIS BANK
BRANCH : CHENNAI - 600003
IFSC : UTIB0001630

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:



Your support has enabled us to expand our reach and enhance our impact in the community. Together, we have initiated innovative projects, empowered local leaders, and fostered sustainable development. Our collaboration has not only strengthened our organisation but has also brought hope and positive change to many lives.

As we move forward, we are excited to continue this journey with you, exploring new opportunities and achieving greater milestones.

Thank you for being an indispensable part of our story.