

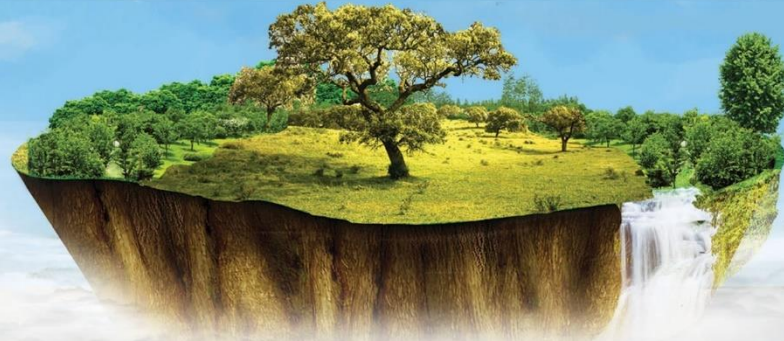
**Sastha Tamil Foundation Presents**  
Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raising Dance Musical Event**



- சண்ணிப் பெருமை -

**LIVE FROM GRANVILLE ARTS CENTER**  
300 N 5<sup>TH</sup> ST, GARLAND, TX 75040

**DATE : SEPTEMBER 24, 2016**  
**TIME : 03.00 PM**



Beneficiaries



[www.STFNonProfit.org](http://www.STFNonProfit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/SasthaTamilFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/SasthaTamilFoundation)  
Email : [STFTicketing@gmail.com](mailto:STFTicketing@gmail.com)



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# Eshwer Natyaalaya

Bharathanatyam Dance School



Artistic Director  
Kalpana Ravishankar, M.F.A.  
(Masters in Bharathanatyam)

Tel: 469-633-0623  
Email: EshwerNA@gmail.com



Humble gratitude to our Plano Tamil School Teachers.

**Thank you for your tremendous support** towards Sastha Tamil Foundation and its many charitable activities as we at STF, celebrate our **6<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary.**



Best Wishes to all the volunteers!

Thank you!

Proud Supporters of STF,  
**Ramya Velu and Ramu Velu**

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**Sastha Tamil Foundation (STF)** is a nonprofit organization based in Dallas, Texas, USA with a mission of **promoting volunteerism, serving our local community, and bringing the Tamil community together** while providing quality **education in Tamil language.**

#### About STF

- STF was founded in 2010 by Visalakshi Velu and Velu Raman.
- Thirukkural Competitions have been successfully conducted for 9 years now, with around 200 children reciting 7000 Thirukkurals.
- Last year, we were able to conduct a national competition at FeTNA for children all over the United States. This year, we are excited to announce our 10th annual Thirukkural competition soon!!
- Avvai Amudham, Pechu Potti and Katurrai Potti have been conducted since 2014.
- In efforts to support our local community, STF has conducted Thanksgiving Basket Brigade for 8 years now, with over 60 baskets donated in 2015.
- To create a sense of contribution for our young children, STF has been conducting Child-To-Child Harmony Pen Pal Sponsorship program for 8 years now, supporting 30 Udavum Karangal children.
- STF prides in honoring accomplished industry leaders and visionaries from the Tamil community in North America for their services, stewardship and success.

# STF Fundraisers

- 2011 **Hariyudan Naan Musical Event**  
Built an Auditorium for Udavum Karangal's School in Chennai.
- 
- 2012 **Aayiram Karangal Neeti Dance Drama**  
Aided to build the first phase of the psychiatric wing in Thiruvannamalai for Udavum Karangal
- 
- 2013 **Valliyin Kaadhal Dance Drama**  
Aided to build the second phase of the psychiatric wing in Thiruvannamalai for Udavum Karangal
- 
- 2014 **Anubhavam Pudhumai Musical Dance Drama**  
Aided to perform several weddings of Udavum Karangal girls, and to purchase a Sanitary Napkin making machine for the women of Udavum Karangal
- 
- 2015 **Thaandavakonae Charity Musical Event**  
Aided to sponsor building up to 4 classrooms for the Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan School of Udavum Karangal, Chennai
- 
- 2016 **5i Charity Musical Event**  
With your generous support and contribution, together we will be supporting the ICU unit equipments purchasing for Gayathri Medical Mission Hospital that Udavum Karangal is building for the underprivileged in and around Thiruverkadu, Chennai.
-



# Sastha Tamil Foundation

So, what is a non-profit organization? Why do we need it? How did this one, Sastha Tamil Foundation come to existence? What does it do? How is it possible?

For sure, those who have lived here in Plano, Texas for the last decade or so, very well know about the first Tamil School in this area. As the Tamil speaking community expanded in number, there was thirst for teaching the children mother tongue. Plano Tamil School was born in 2001. From day one, this effort is running on the sheer foundation of volunteerism. It is an undeniable truth that this ancient language is versatile to reach several levels of human being – life style, morals, quest and wisdom. Naturally, a school that has taken the task of teaching a significant language has to pass on that versatility to the next generation. As a result of the continuous support from the community, Plano Tamil School started focusing on this grass root movement. How about practicing what is taught?

Sastha Tamil Foundation came into play by 2010. The remarkable team effort resulted in yearly charity events, Child to Child Harmony program, Basket Brigade and Thirukkural competition. The people who genuinely love their mother tongue, the rich heritage and life lessons are the lynchpin of this great movement. Each one of us are blessed with unique talents. A non-profit organization could never get overwhelmed with each one of those volunteer's contribution. It grew with massive creativity, planning and execution of memorable events. Collectively, Dallas metropolis Tamil speaking community proved the value of collaboration.

Six years later, as the foundation is gearing up for this year's event, one can see those many new faces that keep coming year after year to join their hands together for a greater cause beyond their personal life. It becomes clear that it is what a non-profit organization is all about! Where people put aside their personal agenda and work tirelessly for a worthy, common purpose and find tremendous satisfaction at the end! These are people who inspire their friends and bring them on the fold as the legacy continues! This is exactly how it is possible to be a non-profit organization with grandeur plan time and again!

As a resident, observer and participant – I wish this legacy would continue to set an example for that simple purpose with which Sastha Tamil Foundation is started. May this promise to help the less fortunate with utmost humility, continue to keep the community instilled with higher goals for generations to come! May the versatile language stand to live for another five thousand years not just as a language but as a way of life!

- **By Rajeswari Prabhakaran**



Dear Friends,

Sep 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Greetings from all of us at Udavum Karangal! It gives me great pleasure in sending this message as all of you have once again come together for the STF's 6th Annual Fundraiser event to extend support to the various projects of Udavum Karangal, especially those relating to the children.

In our journey of service, you are our faithful companions. Your continued support makes us work with courage and respond without hesitation to the thousands of desperate cries for help.

We work with the poorest of the poor, with those on the downward spiral of life due to mental illness, abandonment, homelessness. They lie on the road; people hurry past averting their eyes but it is our noble calling to restore their humanity.

In all our ventures to make a positive difference in their lives, you have supported us. The Auditorium in Ramakrishna Vidya Niketan is a great place for the school celebrations and other Community activities. Ramana Rehabilitation Centre in Thiruvannamalai gives refuge and treatment to men and women affected by mental illness. The Flood Relief made a big difference to poor people who had lost everything during the heavy rains last November and December. On behalf of all the beneficiaries we convey our heart- felt thanks.

The Feather on the Cap is the Child to Child Harmony (C2C) Programme which has given an impetus to the children of Udavum Karangal in helping them speak their mind with their peers who are pen pals from the children of the STF Community. This is a major breakthrough in bonding human relationship on a secular mode.

The construction of the Gayathri Medical Mission Hospital is progressing. For the people of Thiruverkadu where the hospital is located, it will be a big boon. Medical care is expensive and is beyond the reach of the poor. The GMM hospital will definitely improve the quality of their life. Thank you for sponsoring the ICU equipments.

Your program 5ஐ, will definitely have an impact and convey the message of caring for the Earth. We appreciate all your initiatives. What a Creative way to be charitable! We wish you success.

With Thanks and God's Blessings,

With sincere appreciation and Wishes from the children and residents of Udavum Karangal!

Regards,

**S. Vidyaakar**

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**Locations:** Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvannamalai, Madurai

**Email:** [Udavum@vsnl.com](mailto:Udavum@vsnl.com) **Website:** [www.udavumkarangal.org](http://www.udavumkarangal.org)

# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Dance Musical Event



— அண்ணிப் பெருகை —

Beneficiaries



**LIVE FROM GRANVILLE ARTS CENTER**

300 N 5<sup>TH</sup> ST, GARLAND, TX 75040

DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

TIME: 03.00 PM



At the outset I would like to extend my gratitude to Sastha Tamil Foundation (STF) for giving me the opportunity to present 5i (Ainthu I) a dance drama on September 24th, 2016. My name is Kalpana Ravishankar and I run a dance school “Eshwar Natyalaya” in Plano, Texas. I have been studying ancient Tamil literatures searching concepts and themes for a theatrical presentation. In the literatures that referenced the lifestyle of ancient Tamil’s in the five forms, I found an opportunity to conceive a theatrical presentation and also in the process could unearth the that fact the this is not a mere concept but was a representation of life style, culture and discipline of Tamils in those periods. Coincidentally STF gave me the opportunity to present a dance drama and I pitched this concept around the five forms that was to my delight

accepted by STF. I further developed this concept, narration and presentation to convey this core message in form of a dance drama.

The songs in this program are based on ancient Tamil literature has been written by Dr. Raghu Raman a popular lyricist from Chennai and a Professor. The music has been composed and rendered exclusively for this production by Mrs. Vanathi Raghu Raman. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to these wonderful couple.

The concept of 5i is based on Ainthinai that collectively represents the five land forms, two divisions and several disciplines. The five land forms are kurunji, mullai, marudam, neythai and palai. There are two divisions – outward and inward.

Outward – The external happenings in the life of



ancient Tamil people – war, politics and the discipline that went along.

Inward – In the cycle of life, as the man and woman go through various emotions, they continue to live an honorable life with discipline. The 5i dance drama brings forth these emotions of togetherness, waiting, misunderstanding, longing and separation.

- 1) Togetherness – happiness, natural abundance, devotion to Lord Muruga in the land of Kurunji surrounded by hills
- 2) Waiting – rearing cattle, devotion to Lord Krishna in the land of Mullai surrounded by forests
- 3) Misunderstanding – farming, abundance, celebration, festivities, devotion to Lord Indra in the land of Marudam dominated by agricultural fields
- 4) Longing – fishing, devotion to Lord Varuna in the land of Neythal with the women praying for the well-being and safe return of father/brother/husband who have gone to the seas.
- 5) Separation – dry lands due to hot Sun, men travels to foreign land to earn as agriculture is not possible in dry land that is Palai.

Togetherness, longing, misunderstanding, expectation, separation – All of them are fundamental disciplines. For centuries, these emotions have been dominating human life. It is important that everyone understands and acknowledges that these emotions are part of one's life journey. Joy and sorrow, happiness and sadness and adversity are unavoidable in life. We should aspire to accept this nature of life and continue to live a disciplined life. Stand to face the adversity when it comes because it is temporary and Happy Times are ahead! We hope 5i inspires you to this end!

- By Kalpana Kamaraj  
Director, Eshwar Natyalaya  
Translation Courtesy – Rajeswari Prabhakaran

## தமிழ் தந்த திணை மகள்

காதல் எனும் அருவி அவள்  
மலை மேகம் தழுவிவள்  
கலவை தரும் அழகியவள்  
குரவை ஆடும் குறிஞ்சிமகள்

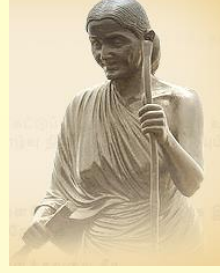
மயில் ஆடும் வனமானவள்  
வரகு சாமை உணவானவள்  
திரு மாலின் அன்பானவள்  
ஆயர் தரும் முல்லைமகள்

ஊடலும் கூடலும் உறவானவள்  
வயலும் குளமும் ஊரானவள்  
எருதும் உழவும் தொழிலானவள்  
பெரிதும் போற்றும் மருதமகள்

அலை கடலில் முத்தானவள்  
கரை மணலில் காத்திருப்பாள்  
கயல் விழியில் கரைந்திருப்பாள்  
தையல் எனும் நெய்தல்மகள்

கொற்றவை காக்கும் நிலமானவள்  
பிரிவை சொல்லும் உணர்வானவள்  
வெற்றியை போற்றும் வீரமகள்  
வெம்மை தரும் பாலைமகள்

By சு.வ.சுப்பிரமணியம் (மோனி)



சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டளையின் 10 ஆம் ஆண்டுத் திருக்குறள் போட்டி  
தமிழ் மொழியில் ஆர்வமுள்ளவர்களுக்கு அரிய வாய்ப்பு!

சாஸ்தா தமிழ் அறக்கட்டளையின் சார்பில், 10-வது ஆண்டு சிறப்பாக டெக்ஸாஸ் மாநிலம் தழுவிய திருக்குறள் ஒப்புவித்தல் போட்டி (பொருளுடன்) வரும் ஆண்டு 28-ஜனவரி-2017 (சனிக்கிழமை) அன்று நடைபெற உள்ளது! திருக்குறளில் ஆர்வமுள்ள பெரியவர்களும், சிறியவர்களும் தங்களைத் தயார் செய்துகொள்ளுங்கள்!

மேலும் ஓனாவை அமுதம், பேச்சுப் போட்டி மற்றும் கட்டுரைப் போட்டிகள் நடைபெற உள்ளன!

திருக்குறள் மற்றும் தமிழ்த் திறன் போட்டியில் கலந்துகொள்வதில் பயன் :

- ✓ நினைவுத் திறன் மற்றும் மேடைப் பேச்சுத்திறன் வளர்ச்சி
  - ✓ தமிழ் மொழி வளர்ச்சிக்கு உதவுதல்
  - ✓ குறள் கூறும் அற நெறிகளை அறிதல்
  - ✓ நல்ல எண்ணங்களை மனதில் பதிய வைத்தல்
- தமிழ் ஆராதனை விழா (விருது வழங்கும் நாள்): 11-பிப்ரவரி-2017 (சனிக்கிழமை)
  - இடம்: Allen Public Library Auditorium, 300 N Allen Dr, Allen, TX 75013

வாழ்க தமிழ்!

வளர்க தமிழ்!





*Sastha Tamil Foundation Event*

## ***Thirukkural Experience***

Even though my children participated in the Thirukurals and Avai Amudam competitions, it has given other family members thoughts to ponder on and reflect on their role in society. My children were 11 and 6 at the time of participation. As parents, we searched the best thirukurals to teach them. But no, you cannot choose a few, as all of them provide invaluable lessons for life.

I would say, such an event only increased my passion to seek these Gems. My 6-year-old recited Aathichoodis and the deep meaning is those few words. He is a student at Plano Tamil School and it did not surprise me that he understood the meaning of aathichoodis.

### ***Your experience participating in the event.***

Learning about each kural, took me on a flash back of life's moments where I wish that kural influenced my decision at that time. I know by enrolling them in this event, I have given my children a glimpse of my rich heritage.

By their participation, my children felt a sense of accomplishment and I am very grateful to STF for bringing this event close to home.

These literature texts need to reach and inspire future generations. Such events need to occur more often and reach a wider audience.

- By Lakshmi Subramanian

Learning Thirukkural has added a lot of moral and values in our children Sita & Sahana's lives and ours and has guided us in our day to day activities.

It has greatly increased the memory power and presenting skills in our kids which helps in school as well.

We are very thankful to STF for conducting the Thirukkural competitions and thus creating a platform for the kids and providing the golden opportunity to participate and learn the invaluable Thirukurals. We will cherish these happy moments throughout our life!!

- By Balaji & Shanthi



## வள்ளுவம் பழகிய நான்கு மாதங்கள்.....

”திருக்குறள் போட்டி” பற்றி நான் எழுதிய சில வரிகளே டாலஸில் வாழும் தமிழர்களோடு எனக்கு அறிமுகத்தை ஏற்படுத்தித் தந்தது. அப்பொழுது போட்டி பற்றியோ போட்டியில் கலந்து கொள்வது பற்றியோ எந்தவித எண்ணமும் இல்லை. மனனம் செய்வது கடினம் என்று ஆங்கிலம் முதன் மொழியாக இருக்கும் நாட்டில் என் மகள் 75 குறள் சொன்ன போதும், அதற்கான முயற்சியின் போதும் தெரியவில்லை. பள்ளிப்பருவத்தில் மனனம் செய்தது, பல ஆண்டுகள் கழித்து நினைத்துப் பார்க்கவே வானளாவி நின்றது. முதலில் 100 குறள் படித்தேன், 2 மாதங்களுக்குப் பிறகும் அவை நினைவில் இருந்ததால், தொடர்ந்து படிக்கலாம் என்று முடிவு செய்தேன். திருக்குறள் போட்டிக்கு நான்கு மாதங்களே இருந்த நிலையில், முயற்சி மட்டுமே எனக்குத் துணையாக இருந்தது. அனைத்துக் குறள்களையும் படித்துச் சொல்லிப்பார்த்த பின்னர், பதிவு செய்யக் கடைசி நாள், பதட்டம் நிறைந்த நம்பிக்கையோடு பதிவு செய்தேன். போட்டி முடிந்த பின்னர் தோன்றிய நம்பிக்கை, மகிழ்ச்சி சொல்லில் அளவிட முடியாது. அடுத்த இரண்டு நாட்கள் எதையோ இழந்தது மாதிரி உண்ணவில்லை, உறங்கவில்லை. இன்னும் முன்னரே தொடங்கியிருந்தால் இதைவிடச் சிறப்பாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கலாம் என்ற எண்ணம் இருந்து கொண்டே இருக்கிறது.

என் பார்வையில் திருக்குறள் கூறும் கருத்துக்கள் மிகவும் திறம் வாய்ந்தவை. ஒவ்வொரு பகுதியும் படிக்கும் போதும், படித்து விட்டுக் கடக்கும் போதும் மனதைச் சுத்தப்படுத்தியது! சுருக்கென்று நீ செய்வது தவறு என்று சுட்டிக்காட்டியது! நான் யார்? என்று எனக்குச் சொல்லும்படி அமைந்தது! உன் உள்ளத்தைச் சுய பரிசோதனை செய்து கொண்ட நிறைவு கிடைத்தது. மேலும், பொருளைப் புரிந்து கொண்டு பின் குறளைப் படித்து மனனம் செய்து இருந்தாலும், அதை எல்லாம் தாண்டி என்னுள் இன்னும் வியப்பை நிறுத்திக் கொண்டிருப்பது வள்ளுவனின் வார்த்தைப் பயன்பாடு. ஒரு வார்த்தையைப் படித்த பின் அதைத் தேடிக் கொண்டு குறள் படிப்பதை மறந்திட்ட நேரமும் உண்டு. எனவே திருக்குறள், படிப்பவரின் உள்ளத்தில் தெளிவான எண்ணத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும் என்பது என் நம்பிக்கை. மற்றும் ஒரு நல்ல மனிதனாக, நல்ல மனத்துடன் வாழ்வதற்குரிய ஆழமான கருத்துக்களை மொழிந்த வள்ளுவனை வாழ்த்துவோம்! வள்ளுவம் பழ(க்)குவோம்.

### 10 ஆவதாம் ஆண்டில் சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டளையின் திருக்குறள் போட்டி

இந்த வருடம் சாஸ்தா அறக்கட்டளையின் 10 ஆவது ஆண்டு திருக்குறள் போட்டி மிகப்பெரும் விழாவாக நடக்க இருக்கிறது. குறளுக்கு ஒரு டாலர் பரிசு என்பதோடு எத்தனை குறள் படிக்கிறோமோ அவை தரும் கருத்துக்கள் ஒவ்வொன்றும் கிடைத்தற்கரிய பரிசு!!! எனவே இந்த வாய்ப்பைப் பயன்படுத்தி வள்ளுவன் மொழிந்த திகட்டாத் தமிழ் அமுதம் பருகுவோம் நம் குழந்தைகளோடு நாமும்....

- சித்ரா மகேஷ், Ph. D

# Plano Tamil School - *The Accreditation Journey!*



Plano Tamil School obtained the coveted accreditation during the course of school's 2015-16 academic year. The School had an incredible journey towards accreditation which was received from AdvancEd a conglomeration of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). Accreditation is a quality assurance certification that Schools can voluntarily obtain by going through a vigorous process that ascertains the school's operations, governance, processes, instructional methods, long term plans, vision and leadership. AdvancEd is recognized by Texas Education Agency which requires all charter and private schools to be recognized by an organization like AdvancEd.

The school leadership have been studying the nuances of accreditation and its benefits since 2013 and have been laying the ground work for the core team to build upon. One of the foremost benefits anticipated from the accreditation effort is to increase the possibility of school districts like Plano ISD or Frisco ISD awarding foreign language credit (referred to as LOTE - Language Other Than English) to our middle and high school children. While accreditation does not automatically guarantee such a recognition it certainly provides a path for such a recognition for our children from the school districts so that the effort put in by our children are suitably recognized and awarded. A core team of nearly 25 volunteers worked for nearly 2 years beginning in the summer of 2014.

The first fruits of success to our efforts were achieved during the 2014-15 academic year at which time AdvancEd sent Dr. Judy Johnston to perform an assessment of Plano Tamil School and its readiness to subject itself for accreditation. We passed this milestone with encouraging feedback and were declared as being Ready for Accreditation. This achievement motivated us to double down in our efforts to obtain accreditation. The School was optimistic and was keen to submit itself for formal accreditation which involves detailed audit of the school from multiple perspectives by a team of academicians. However AdvancEd guidelines required us to wait until the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. In the meantime, as per AdvancEd guidelines the school conducted surveys with its key stakeholders and obtained overwhelming scores. The highlight of the survey was that almost 90% of the parents responded to the survey, which was exemplary by any standards and a reflection of unstinting dedication of parents to institutionalize Tamil language in their adopted country!

A team of four academicians lead by lead auditor Dr. Barbara-Jane Paris along with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, Dr. Ram Natarajan and Mr. James Michael Paris conducted a detail assessment of Plano Tamil school on Oct 11th 2015. The assessment was carried out to determine the Index of Education Quality (IEQ™) that provides a holistic measure of overall performance based on a comprehensive set of indicators and evaluative criteria. Plano Tamil School scored 348 as against the network average of 278. The remarkable scores were an indication of the high levels of Tamil language education we are imparting to our children.

Since obtaining accreditation the school board has been in discussions with school districts for setting up a process for facilitating foreign language credit. The school board with the help of parents is looking forward to obtaining this benefit for our children. As we say everything we do and every success here at Plano Tamil School is due to the dedication of our volunteers, staff, teachers, students, parents and our wellwishers. Accreditation is no exception!

*By Sriram Krishnan*



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<b>New Jersey, NJ</b> Crossroads North Middle, School, 635, Georges Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 15-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM	<b>Chantilly, VA</b> IAACM Studio, 14240, Sully Field, Circle #U, Chantilly, VA 16-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM
<b>Atlanta, GA</b> Hindu Temple of Atlanta, 5851, GA-85, Riverdale, GA 15-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM	<b>Bay Area / Northern CA</b> Bala Ganesan (510-789-8323) Shirdi Sai Parivaar, 1221, California Circle, Milpitas 22-Oct-16, 9 AM to 8 PM
<b>Dallas, TX (Gulf Coast Regional)</b> 4501, Legacy Church, Plano, TX 19-Nov-16, 9 AM to 8 PM	
<b>Saptami 7, Nationals</b> 4501, Legacy Church, Plano, TX 20-Nov-16, 9 AM to 8 PM	



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எம் பெரும் பணியன்றோ ”



எனத் திகழும் சாஸ்தா தமிழ் அறக்கட்டளை நீடு வாழ, அதன் தொண்டும்  
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Jayesh Thamburaj  
Lalitha Venkat  
Mageshwari Guruswamy  
Manjari Prasanna  
Meera Lakshmanan  
Monu Isaac  
Muthiah Subhash  
Sangeetha Mathavan  
Subramoni SV  
Sudha Karthikeyan  
Suman Sreenivasan  
Vijay Viswanath

## **Project Management**

Arunkumar Suryanarayanan  
Vinodh Ramadoss

## **Finance**

Arunkumar Suryanarayanan  
Sriram Krishnan  
Velu Raman  
Visalakshi Velu

# 5<sup>th</sup> Performers & Volunteers

Radhika Narayanan

## **Website**

Arunkumar Ponnusamy  
-MarketingPerfected.com

## **Souvenir**

Arunkumar Ponnusamy  
Annamalai Rajendran  
Raji Prabhakar  
Ramya Velu  
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Divya Prabhakar

## **Marketing & Sales**

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## **Communications**

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## **Technical Team**

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Meenakshi Suresh  
Muthiah Subash  
Prabhakar Thangavel  
Sathish Anand  
Vel Dhandapani

## **Master of Ceremony**

Ramya Velu

## **Welcome Speech**

Subramoniam SV

## **Child to Child Harmony**

### **Coordinators**

Ramya Velu  
Uma Muthiah

## **Vote of Thanks**

Velu Raman  
Visalakshi Velu

## **Logistics & Transportation**

Velu Raman  
Visalakshi Velu  
Balaji Palanisami  
Murali Radhakrishnan  
Prabhakaran Thangavel  
Radhika Narayanan  
UmaMahesh Iyer  
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## **Hospitality**

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Divya Rajendhiran  
Palanisami Pachagownder  
Thinakar Rathinasabapathy  
& students of Plano Tamil School

## **Food Coordination**

Uma Muthiah  
\* Thanks to all the volunteers  
who provided food.

## **Photos/Videos**

Bombay Studio  
Krishnaraj Kaliappan

Our advance apologies if any volunteer's names may have been missed. Please bear with us as our volunteers have done the best to collect all the volunteers' names.

Thank you for your understanding.

We appreciate each and every one of you who have come forward to help us, Thank you!!

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



# Happenings Of Udavum *Karangal*

## Meet Papa Vidyakar, a social worker with 95 sons-in-law and 45 grandchildren!



Surely it must make it to the Guinness Book of World Records as Vidyakar, who founded Udavum Karangal in 1983 to serve the needy in Chennai, is about to complete conducting the weddings of a hundred adopted daughters! As I write, he already has 95 sons-in-law and 45 grandchildren!

This scribe has known these children from infancy, because, deputed by the Sai organization as a Psychiatrist-Physician team, my husband and I used to do free service at Udavum Karangal once a week, in the nineties. Once our work with the adults was over we used to go to Shishu Bhavan next door, the cleanest ever infants and toddlers orphanage I have ever seen, and all the little ones would make a beeline for my husband as he used to lift, throw up in the air and catch each of them- an exercise they loved!

The children were all adopted by Vidyakar; he was Papa and Mamma to them. When asked their name, they would proudly say, “ Rajesh Vidyakar”; “ Sindhu Vidyakar”, and so on. They would all get a teaspoon of honey in the morning and a weekly oil bath. The young girls who looked after them, were part of the older lot at Udavum Karangal. Many of them too carried the Vidyakar surname, and Vidyakar would somehow save money to get each of the caregiving

girls a gold chain. He was truly Papa to them all. After many years when I recently went to Udavum Karangal, I found the wall plastered with ‘wedding pictures’! Then the staff told me that the girls who grew up at Shishu Bhavan, as they finished with school and college, were now getting married! In fact Papa Vidyakar was more busy these days getting his daughters married!

Vidyakar takes his responsibility very seriously. Like a typical Indian father, he starts with ads on matrimonial sites. He too puts up ads from the girls’ side. Transparency is the name of the game. Once enquiries from prospective grooms come, Vidyakar gets down to action. He screens the boy, asks for references, literally starts a dossier on him compiling date of birth, educational qualifications, hobbies, health background, present employment and salary, parents’ and siblings’ details, their attitude to those socially disadvantaged and so on. Short of horoscope matching, he studies suitability from all angles. He also visits their homes.

The boy’s family is invited to Udavum Karangal. All the girls are given pre-marital counselling. The boy and girl are allowed to meet and talk in private at the home. If his daughter nods ‘okay’ then an engagement is planned a few weeks before the wedding. This is done, says Vidyakar, so that he gets to meet with the extended family and friends. Even at the ‘engagement stage’ if he feels the chemistry is not quite alright, he calls off the match; Vidyakar is fiercely protective of his daughters!

Reference: <http://www.theweek.in/news/india/meet-papa-vidyakar-an-inspiring-social-worker-with-95-sons-in-law-45-grandchildren.html>



# Grassroots

A JOURNAL OF THE PRESS INSTITUTE OF INDIA PROMOTING REPORTAGE ON THE HUMAN CONDITION

## Rising like a phoenix, thanks to love and care

Women achievers in the fields of politics, sports, business, medicine and the arts are given wide media coverage and serve as role models for those who seek the courage to step out of the shadows. But equally motivating and inspiring are the often untold stories of ordinary women, battling the scourge of poverty, mental instability and gender discrimination, to carve out lives of dignity for themselves and their children

**DOROTHY JOSEPH**, Chennai

Udavam Karangal, a social service NGO based in Chennai, has repatriated many women who have been abandoned or abused, or who are destitute. All that the women needed was basic medical care with a bit of tenderness and a friendly atmosphere, to rise above their challenges and live with dignity. Some heart-warming stories:

### Mariamamma

The residents of a particular locality in Madurantakam, Tamil Nadu, had become almost inured to the screams of a young woman which pierced the silence of their neighbourhood every night for about three years. Mariamma had no home; she lived in the streets surrounding a temple there. She was mentally challenged and considered fair game by every drunkard in the area, young and old alike. The gift of a half-packet of biryani was all that they considered necessary to appease their conscience, and she was raped regularly. She had given birth to two babies, who mysteriously disappeared, and it was only when she was about eight months pregnant with a third child that someone thought fit to do something about it. Udavum Karangal was contacted. They took Mariamma to live in Chennai.

The city of Chennai was reeling under the impact of the worst floods in living memory. All three of the Udavum Karangal centres in the city were inundated. Nearly 300 residents,

including psychiatric patients and old and terminally ill men and women, had to be evacuated. The NGO's founder-director Vidyaakar, in the midst of all the chaos, found time to be present to welcome a new arrival on December 4 last year. Mariamma gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Vidyaakar wanted to name him after the presiding deity of the temple in the area from which she was rescued, but with the simplicity and tenacity of a mentally challenged person, Mariamma insisted she wanted a modern name for her son. And so he was called Sanjay.

### Shoba

On the night of December 12 last year, a young woman was put on a train at the Bangalore Station by her husband. It was a Bangalore-Chennai train, but she was under the impression that it was bound for Rajasthan. En route, when she realised that she had been duped, she became extremely agitated. It soon became apparent to her fellow passengers that she was mentally unwell. So disturbed was she that she fainted, collapsing on a young man in the compartment. The man, Chandrakumar, took responsibility for her. With the help of others in the compartment he fended off the attempt of an unscrupulous stranger to stake a claim for the woman, and used the Internet to locate a social service organisation to take care of her. Google led him to Udavum Karangal.

When the train reached Chennai, Chandrakumar called Udavum Karangal, and handed over 20-year-old Shoba to the NGO's staff. Thanks to his compassion, Shoba was saved from being targeted by lascivious men.

At Udavum Karangal, Shoba revealed that she was originally from Rajasthan. She had been married off to a man in Bangalore,



Shoba with Shoban Babu.

but when her husband discovered that she was suffering from some psychological issues, he wanted to get rid of her. Shoba's parents did not want her back, and he took the easy way out by putting her on a train to a place where she knew nobody. She was seven months pregnant. In the safety of Udavum Karangal, Shoba delivered a baby boy on January 5 this year. Vidyaakar chose the name Shoban Babu for him.

### Fareeda

A scantily clad pregnant woman lay on a pavement in Chennai. The spot was opposite the eternally busy Central Station, and just a few feet away from the Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital. Doctors, nurses, medical students and thousands of people passed her by each day without a second glance. Perhaps they had grown used to similar sights in this city. It took the compassionate heart of a young boy to inform Udavum



Fareeda with Noor.

Karangal of the woman's plight. Volunteers found that the woman, in her early thirties, who gave her name as Fareeda Khatun, had severe fractures and wounds, and could not walk. She was also in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Despite the circumstances, she had a serenity and dignity which impressed the social workers.

Fareeda had to undergo surgery costing over Rs 2 lakh. She moved from a wheelchair to a walker, but now walks with confidence. She has gained confidence in many other respects as well. In May last year, she gave birth to a baby girl who was named Noorjahan by Vidyaakar.

Fareeda does not want to return to her husband in Uttar Pradesh - he had kicked her out of her marital home, and has since remarried. Efforts are on to trace her mother and brother in Mumbai.

Over the last 33 years, hundreds of women have been rescued and rehabilitated by Udavum Karangal (the name literally means Helping Hands). The vast majority of the women were tricked by their husbands and sold into prostitution, or rejected because their husbands wanted to take new wives, or abandoned because they showed symptoms of mental illness. "What we see and deal with is only the tip of the iceberg. Many suffer within the four walls of their homes and their woes are hidden from the public until they become homeless," says Vidyaakar.

With a bit of compassion, understanding and loving care, necessary medical/psychiatric treatment and a friendliness that restores their dignity and sense of self-worth, women can rise from the ashes of exploitation and rejection and fly on new wings.

## INSIDE

When having a child also means fighting a lonely battle 2



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Here, motherhood is no longer a frightful experience 4



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Living up to their promise, building on dreams 8



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Of forgotten women and their struggle for land rights 11

Photos: Udavum Karangal



Mariamamma with Sanjay.

# தமிழே! நைந்தாயெனில் நைந்துபோகும் என்வாழ்வு!

திரு. உதயபாஸ்கர் ஆசிரியர், விழுதுகள் கலிபோர்னியா தமிழ்மன்றம்

பொய்யகல நாளும் புகழ்விளைத்தல்  
என்வியப்பாம்  
வையகம் போர்த்த வயங்கொலிநீர் -  
கையகலக்  
கல்தோன்றி மண்தோன்றாக் காலத்தே  
வாளைடு  
முன்தோன்றி மூத்த குடி!  
[புறப்பொருள் வெண்பாமாலை]

வையகம் சூழ்ந்த பேரெலி கொண்ட கடல்தீர்  
வடியும் நேரம் கையளவு அகலத்தில் கல் தோன்றி,  
அதன்பின் நீர் முழுதும் வடிய மண் (சமநிலம்)  
தோன்றியது. இவ்விரண்டுக்கும் இடைப்பட்ட  
காலத்தில் கையில் வாளுடன் தோன்றிய மூத்தகுடி  
என்று தமிழரை விளக்கிறது கற்காலத்தையும்  
இரும்புக்காலத்தையும் சேர்த்தே சுட்டும்  
இப்பழம்பாடல்.

இம்மூத்த பழங்குடி மொழியில் ஓரெழுத்துச்  
சொற்கள் மட்டும் ஐம்பதுக்கும் மேல்  
இருக்கின்றன. சங்கப்பாடல்களில் ஈரெழுத்துச்  
சொற்களும், மூவெழுத்துச் சொற்களும் ஏராளமாக  
இருப்பது கண்கூடு. மொத்தம் இருநூற்று  
நாற்பத்தேழு எழுத்துகள் மட்டுமே கொண்ட  
மொழியில் குறைந்த எழுத்துகள் கொண்ட  
சொல்வளம் இருப்பது தமிழாக மட்டுமே  
இருக்கமுடியும்.

தற்போது இருக்கும் நூல்களில்  
மிகப்பழமையானது 2500 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முற்பட்ட  
தொல்காப்பியம்தான். தொல்காப்பியத்திற்கு  
முன்பே இலக்கியவளத்துடன், முறையாக  
இலக்கணம் வகுக்கப்பட்ட மொழியாகவும் இருந்த  
தமிழின் இலக்கணத் தொகுப்பே தொல்காப்பியம்.

அரை, ஒரு, இரு மரத்திரை (கண்ணிமை அல்லது  
நொடி அளவு) அளவில் இசைக்கும் எழுத்துகள்  
மட்டும்தான் தமிழில் உண்டு.

**நீட்டம் வேண்டின், அவ் அளவுடைய  
கூட்டி 'எழுஉதல்' என்மனார் புலவர்.**

என்கிறது தொல்காப்பியம். இது தமிழின் சிறப்பு!  
“ற” என்னும் குறிலை *tra* என்று ஒண்ணரை  
மரத்திரையில் ஒலிப்பது வடமொழித் தரக்கத்தால்

நேர்ந்த தவறு.

**அணர் துனிநா அண்ணம் ஒற்ற  
றஃகான் னஃகான் ஆயிரண்டும் பிறக்கும்**  
[ அணர் = மேல்நோக்கி அசைந்து விரிதல்,  
அண்ணம் = மேல்வாய் ]

என்று தொல்காப்பியம் ஒரு மரத்திரையில் “ற”  
ஒலிக்கும் முறையைக் கூறுகிறது.

தேவநாகரியில் நான்கு வகையான  
ஒலிக்குறிப்புகள் *க (ka, kha, ga, gha)*, *ச (ca, cha, ja, jha)*, *ட (ṭa, ṭha, ḍa, ḍha)*, *த (da, dha, ḍa, dha)*, *ப (pa, pha, ba, bha)* ஆகியவற்றிற்கு உண்டு.  
இது இந்தோ-ஐரோப்பியன் மொழிக்  
குடும்பத்தைச் சார்ந்த வடமொழியின்  
மேன்மையாகப் போற்றப்படுகிறது. உண்மையில்  
சொல்வளமை குறைந்தால்தான் ஒலிவளமை  
தேவையாகிறது! ஒரேவிதமான ஒலிக்குறிப்பை  
வெவ்வேறு விதமாக ஒலித்து வெவ்வேறு பொருள்  
காட்டும் பொருட்டே இவ்வெழுத்துகள்  
பயன்படுகின்றன. ஆப்பிரிக்கா கண்டத்தில்  
புஷ்மென் (Bushmen) என்ற ஒரு இனத்தினர்  
பேசும் மொழியில்கூட “டிக்” என்று வெவ்வேறு  
விதமாக ஒலிக்கும் வேறெந்த மொழியிலும்  
இல்லாத ஒலிக்குறிப்புகள் உண்டு. ஆனால்,  
சொல்வளமில்லை!

எழுத்து, சொல், சொற்றொடர் அமைப்பு, காலம்,  
பால் போன்றவற்றை விளக்குவதே  
மொழியிலக்கணம். தமிழர் வாழ்வியல் மரபை  
விளக்கும் தொல்காப்பியத்தின் பொருளதிகாரம்  
எம்மொழிக்கும் இல்லாவிடாது தனிச்சிறப்பாய்  
தமிழுக்கு அமைகிறது. இதன் அடிப்படை திணை!  
திணை என்பது நிலம் (*earth, land, place, region*),  
குலம், ஒழுக்கம் என்று மூவகையாகப்  
பொருள்படும்.

**உயர்திணை என்மனார் மக்கட் கட்டே  
அஃறிணை என்மனார் அவரவ பிறவே**  
[தொல்காப்பியம் - சொல்லதிகாரம் - திணை]

ஆற்றிவு படைத்த மக்கள் உயர்திணை, மற்றவை  
அனைத்தும் அஃறிணை. உயர்திணை தொட்டே  
அகத்திணையும் புறத்திணையும். மக்களின் மன



உணர்வை அகழும், அவர்களின் வீரச்செயல்களைப் புறமும் வரையறுக்கின்றன. அகத்தில் மக்கள் வாழும் நிலமும், அவர்கள் கொள்ளும் உணர்வும் (ஒழுக்கம்) ஐந்திணைகளாகப் பிரிக்கப்படுகின்றன.

**மாயோன் மேய காடு உறை உலகமும்,  
சேயோன் மேய மை வரை உலகமும்,  
வேந்தன் மேய தீம் புனல் உலகமும்,  
வருணன் மேய பெரு மணல் உலகமும்,  
முல்லை, குறிஞ்சி, மருதம், நெய்தல், எனச்  
சொல்லிய முறையான் சொல்லவும்படுமே**

[ மை = மேகம், வரை = மலை, மை வரை = மேகம் முட்டும் மலை, தீம்புனல் = தூயநீர் ]

என்று தொல்காப்பியம் தெய்வத்துடன் சேர்த்தே நிலவகைகளைப் பிரிக்கிறது. மாயோன் (கருநீறமுடையவன்) எனும் திருமால் காட்டுக்கும், சேயோன் (சிவந்தவன்) எனும் சிவன் அல்லது வேலன் மலைக்கும், வேந்தன் என்னும் அரசன் தூயநீரோடும் விளைநிலத்துக்கும், வருணன் (வார் = நீர், வாரணம் = கடல், வாரணன் = கடலின் தலைவன், வாரணன் => வருணன்) என்னும் கடல் தெய்வம் நீருக்கும் சொல்லப்படுகின்றன. பாழ்பட்ட நிலம் பாலை. பாலைக்கும் தெய்வம் உண்டு; அது காளி.

புணர்தல் (இணைதல்) குறிஞ்சிக்கும், பிரிவு பாலைக்கும், இருத்தல் (காத்திருத்தல்) முல்லைக்கும், இரங்கல் (ஆற்றாமை) நெய்தலுக்கும், ஊடல் மருதத்திற்கும் உரிய பண்புகளாக தொல்காப்பியம் கூறுகிறது. மேகமுட்டம் கொண்ட மலையின் அழகில் காதலர் இணைவதும், முல்லையின் ஆயர்கள் ஆடு மாடுகளை மேயவிட்டுக் காத்திருப்பதும், பரதவகுலப் பெண்கள் (மீனவர்) கடல் சென்ற தம் தலைவன் வரும்வரை ஆற்றாமைமுடன் இருப்பதும் நாம் அறிந்ததே. இணைந்தவர் பிரிவது பாழ்பட்ட வாழ்வைக் குறிப்பதிலும் வியப்பில்லை. மருதத்தின் பண்பாக ஊடல் காட்டப்படுவதேன்? மருதத்தின் உழவர்பெருமக்கள் செல்வச் செழிப்பில் பரத்தையரிடம் நாட்டம் கொள்வதால் அவர்தம் தலைவியர் ஊடல் கொள்வதே இதன் பொருள்.

இத்தனை வளமிருந்தும் தொல்காப்பியத்திற்கு முன்பான நூல்கள் இல்லாமைமால் தமிழ் மிகவும் பிற்படுத்தப்பட்ட மொழியாகவே பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. எனவேதான், திராவிட மொழிக்குடும்பத்தின் மூலமொழியான மூலதிராவிடத்தைப் (proto-

dravidian) பழந்தமிழ்மொழி எவரும் ஒத்துக்கொள்வதில்லை. “திராவிட” என்பது வடமொழி நூல்களில் தயிழைக் குறிக்கப் பயன்பட்ட சொல். ஈராயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேல் நிகழ்ந்த வடமொழிச் சொற்களின் கலப்பே இந்த குழப்பத்தின் மூலம். நூன், முகம், மேகம், மோகம் போன்ற சொற்களெல்லாம் வடமொழியிலிருந்துதான் தமிழுக்கு வந்ததென மக்கள் நம்பிய காலக்கட்டத்தில் அவையெல்லாம் தமிழிலிருந்தே வடமொழிக்குப் போனதாக தேவநேயப்பாவாணரின் வேர்ச்சொல் ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவியிருக்கிறது.

இடையில் வந்த ஆங்கில மோகம் தயிழை மேலும் சிதைத்திருக்கிறது. இன்று ஆங்கிலநடையில் தமிழ் எழுதப்படுகிறது. இது சொற்கலப்பைவிடக் கொடியது. “முக்கியம்”, “விஷயம்” போன்ற வடமொழியின் பொதுச் சொற்களே பேச்சிலும் எழுத்திலும் கலந்து தயிழைத் சிதைத்திருக்கும் இக்காலத்தில், அவை “இம்பார்ட்டண்டா” (important), “மேட்டர் என்னன்னா” (matter = விஷயம்) என்று மருவி, தயிழை முழுமையாய்ச் சிதைக்கின்றன. மறைமலையடிகளின் தனித்தமிழ் இயக்கம் தயிழை மீட்டெடுப்பதில் ஆற்றிய பங்கு அனைவரும் அறிந்ததே. இன்று தனித்தமிழ் என்பவரை “தமிழ்த் தீவிரவாதி” என்று ஏளனப்படுத்துவது மரபாகிவிட்டது. குறிப்பாக, அறிவியல் கலைச் சொற்களை அவரவர் விருப்பம்போல் தமிழ்ப்படுத்துவதே இவ்வித ஏளனத்தின் அடிப்படை. இதை முறைப்படுத்தவொரு துடிப்பான உலகத் தமிழறிஞர் அமைப்பு ஏதுமில்லாதது ஒரு குறை.

செய்தி பரிமாற்றக் கருவியாகவே பிறமொழிகள் இருக்கின்றன. வாழ்வியலுக்கும் சேர்ந்தே இலக்கணம் வகுத்திருப்பதால், தமிழ் தமிழினத்தின் உயிர். கடந்த ஐம்பதாண்டுகளில் நிகழ்ந்திருக்கும் தமிழ்ச்சிதைவின் வேகம் கவலையை ஏற்படுத்துகிறது. தமிழ் முழுதும் இறந்தபின் ஹிப்ரு மொழியைப்போல் மீட்டுருவாக்கம் செய்திடினும், அதில் உயிர்ப்பு இருக்கப்போவதில்லை. இதுவே “**நைந்தாடியனில் நைந்துபோகும் என்வாழ்வு!**” என்று பாவேந்தரின் பாடலில் பொதிந்திருக்கும் உண்மை! தமிழர் தமிழின் பெருமையை உணர்ந்து, பிறமொழி கலக்காமல் எளிய தமிழ்ச் சொற்களை பேச்சிலும் எழுத்திலும் மேற்கொள்வதே தயிழைச் செழிக்கச் செய்து மேன்மையுறச் செய்யும்!

**References:**

- 1) தேவநேயப்பாவாணரின் செந்தமிழ்ச் சொற்பிறப்பியல் பேரகரமுதலி (<http://www.tamilvu.org> -> நூலகம் -> அகராதிகள் -> செந்தமிழ்ச் சொற்பிறப்பியல் பேரகரமுதலி)
- 2) தொல்காப்பியம் (<http://www.tamilvu.org> -> நூலகம் -> நூல்கள் -> இலக்கணம் -> தொல்காப்பியம்)





“Because I like the kids responding to my teaching which is the greatest appreciation in my teaching endeavor. My energy comes when the kids raise their arms on any of the question and are very enthusiastic in their response.” *By Sundar Ramamoorthy*

“I love to volunteer because it makes me happy to teach our mother tongue to the younger generation. I personally feel that every one of us has the responsibility of passing on our culture to the next generation and language is the best tool. Value add: I have learnt to accept that each kid is different and unique and talented in their own way. This has made me be less critical of my own daughter.” *By Sulakshana Natarajan*

“To give back something to Tamil community. Since I am teaching in Tamil school, I know how to give them practice at home and my kids are benefitting from that.” *By Amudha Navaneedhan*

“I LOVE Volunteering because it's a great way of giving back to our community with love and compassion. As Mother Teresa says, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” *By Sudha Kumar*

“It provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. Getting to know and love the children I worked with. and I'm very thankful to be able to say I'm part of it. Great program! Volunteering does make a difference - slowly but surely. I should have done it years ago. Keeping me responsible... new friends... new environment etc.” *By Anuradha Sathiyachalam*

“Love to teach kids and admire their smartness.” *By Mahalakshmi Sathya*

“I like meeting the Tamil community and spending time with the little ones in Mazhalai level. So Volunteering” *By Srividya Sundar*

“Major reason for me to volunteer is - create impact on young generation in understanding the significance of their mother language, and showing my own kids the value of giving back to the community. 'Sense of purpose' is the value I gain by volunteering” *By Hema Gnanavel*

“The satisfaction after completing a task is immense. The opportunity to even venture on unknown areas is thrilling. The chance to know our potential is satisfying. I am able to meet people now and ready to start a conversation.” *By Radhika Narayanan*

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