

SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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“MY FAMILY NOW HAS HOPE”

SUMMARY

Similarly to 2020, our challenges continued into 2021 with the COVID19 pandemic crisis in Sri Lanka. This year Sri Lanka saw a alarming rise in infection and death rates putting an immense strain on it's medical resources. Furthermore, the rise of a major economic crisis has continued to increase the cost of living for locals. Meanwhile, here in Australia we were restricted from have any fund-raising efforts due to the effects of the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions. While this made our efforts and relief work difficult and more challenging than ever, thanks to God's grace and the enormous support from all our donors in Australia, New Zealand and UK we are able to successfully continue to fund all our projects.

OUR MISSION

**PROVIDING WOMEN WITH
JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO
BE FINANCIALLY
INDEPENDENT.**

**EDUCATING
UNDERPRIVILEGED
CHILDREN TO REACH
THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**

**GIVING LIVELIHOOD
OPPORTUNITIES TO THE
POOREST TO ESCAPE
THE POVERTY TRAP.**

SIVAN ARUL ILLAM CHILDREN'S HOME

Currently, we house 50 boys and 50 girls in our home and their ages range from 8 all the way up to 22 years old. They attend the local government school, and we continue to support them by also providing a school based curriculum that includes sports, arts and culture. Furthermore, We take a particular interest in fostering human values by teaching ancient Hindu epics. Last year, in 2020 we opened up a library within the children's home to encourage reading habits. It has been heart-warming to see the children enjoying this with much enthusiasm. Moreover, our kids performed well in the GCE O/L exams. However, one of our challenges has been to increase the standard of Maths, English and science as many of these children have come from underprivileged backgrounds without access to any basic education. In our efforts to remedy this we have arranged private tuitions and as a result we are delighted to be observing a steady improvement amongst the group. In addition, we are extremely grateful to E Kalvi Organisation from Melbourne who provided us with vital internet resources and guidance for the children.



A tremendous challenge was when a number of girls contracted the covid virus and had to self isolate. However, with the quick implementation of necessary strict isolation procedures, we are relieved to inform that we were able to stop any further spread to the boy's home. As for everyone who was ill, they also thankfully recovered well.



SIVAN ARUL CHILDREN'S HOSTEL

In our last newsletter, we introduced our plans to also start a Sivan Arul Hostel for underprivileged children in other districts of Sri Lanka, who cannot continue their education due to poverty. Hence, we are pleased to announce that we were successfully able to get this up and running. Currently, we house 55 children and a Boys hostel as well as a girl's hostel has both been built along with the children's homes containing all the required facilities. These children are selected from underprivileged families living in Up-country Sri Lanka and in particular the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts. These children are already showing great academic progress with their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.



Moreover, while there is a substantial demand for an increasing number of children to join our program, we are constricted by the space and resources we have available. Currently, to run the children's home and the hostel itself we require about \$18,000 Australian dollars monthly. As you can appreciate this is already an enormous amount for us to raise. However, the foundation continues to strive to nurture mature and well balanced children who hold good values.

SIVAPURAM VILLAGE

Sivapuram is a village located 5 kms away from the children's home. This parcel of 10 acres was given to us by the government to build a farm as well as accommodation for children who had graduated from the home and had nowhere else to go. Our goal is to ultimately build 10 houses for the children and a farm. In this farm our plan is to mainly develop coconut plantations and vegetable patches for the children so that they can be self-sufficient. In addition, this place will also give them vocational training in farming.

SIVAN ARUL VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING CENTRE (FACTORY, KILLINOCHI)

The factory continues to produce and export a variety of spices, chili powder, rice flour and others to the UK, Switzerland, Canada and Australia. Our products are praised for their high quality and is well received overseas as well as in the local markets. In spite of sporadic infections, the factory management did exceptionally well in isolating staff in a timely fashion so that the work continued without any major disruption.

One of our major challenges has been the need to expand and to increase the production capabilities. There is a high demand for our products overseas and we are currently struggling to meet the demands due to limited machinery and staff. However, we are pleased to inform that due to the hard work of our local Director Dr Gajenthirav and his efficient management staff we managed to secure a world bank donation of 18 million. This will enable us to buy more automated machines from India and also be able to provide more job opportunities. In the not too distant future we would envisage the profits from the factory funding many of the projects. Currently they are also already regularly donating to the children's home. Moreover, we currently have 54 employees and plan to increase these numbers.

EDUCATION CENTRES AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

In the remote regions of Vanni's Eastern districts innumerable children live under the poverty line and are unable access adequate education. Eventhough these children attend local schools, often these schools are not adequately funded. This leaves them with limited resources and on many occasions without teachers or staff to teach important subjects.



Sivan Arul has now established 16 Educational centres in the Vanni district, Akkarapathu, Amparai district and upcountry. In addition, Sivan Arul has also established many Ara Neri (ethics) schools facilitating the teaching of human values in the form of regular meditations, Yoga classes and scripture teachings.

REVOLVING FUNDS

This project aims to help single women establish and run their own small businesses, so that they can sustain their families. Sivan Arul works with the local female organisations to identify deserving women and provide them a loan of 50 thousand rupees to start a small business of their own. These include backyard vegetable gardening at home, small scale farming, home catering, Poultry and etc. We aid them in establishing the business and after 14 months the capital is returned to us so that we can once again help another further group of women.



Today, numerous women have already benefitted from this program and more will continue to do so. Similar to the revolving funds project, many tube wells have been built and over 500 bicycles distributed to school going children. For the past two years we have successfully established revolving fund projects in the Eastern district in Korakkar Village, Manicka Madu, vinayagapuram- all near Ampaarai district. It's truly inspiring to see the success of this program. Sivan Arul buy the products from these farms directly to cut costs that are affiliated with having a middleman to sell their products. We continue to provide revolving funds for poultry and goat rearing for poverty struck families in Eastern districts.

RELIEF WORK IN UP COUNTRY

Recognising an enormous need for livelihood projects, raising the living standards and educational needs for the Estate workers in the upcountry Sivan Arul has initiated many required projects. Numerous Tea estate labourers used to live in tin sheds without basic amenities such as a toilet. To them gaining Education, finding basic clothing and medical facilities have all have been a major obstacle. Hence, Sivan Arul has invested a large sum of capital to improve their housing conditions by building toilets and supplying tin sheets for more sturdy roofing. Furthermore, we have provided education centres to further their education. In addition, Sivan Arul has repaired and provided new furniture to the local downtrodden schools.

"NAVA POSHA" PROJECT

Sivan arul Factory produces Navaposha to address the malnutrition commonly observed amongst those living under the poverty line. Our nutritious flour mix made from the 9 essential grains are distributed to under nourished children through many local schools in poverty struck districts. However, due to the COVID pandemic many schools have shut down for the past two years. Therefore, to resolve this issue we distributed this mix through education centres to under nourished children and the elderly. This has been a humongous help for these families during the pandemic as they were also facing a food shortage crisis. Furthermore, once local schools are reopened we plan to once again continue supplying them through schools.

FAMILY SUPPORT, UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND PARAPLEGIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

There are a great deal of families where both the husband and wife are disabled due to war related injuries and are unable to make a living as they cannot secure employment. Therefore, Sivan Arul Foundation looks after their children's education and assists them financially by giving them a monthly allowance. Furthermore, Sivan Arul also provides monthly funding for 50 university students from underprivileged families in order for them to continue their education. It has been heart-warming to see some of these students do exceptionally well. In particular, two of our students from the Engineering Faculty recently did exceptionally in attaining a first class rank, whilst another student received a gold medal for the best Invention.

In addition, Sivan Arul also provides regular funding to 15 paraplegics and 45 families.



SPECIAL MEAL (ANANDHAM) PROVISION



Donors from abroad regularly donate funds to provide meals to the needy on their special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death anniversaries and etc. We organise these events, "Aanandhanam" (partaking of meals to the poor), at the children home in Thiruketheeswaram and also in many remote villages in the East.

Moreover, during the COVID pandemic we also provided parcels of dry rations to underprivileged families living under the poverty line so that they can keep using this to provide food for their families for a few days. We thank all our sponsors, donors and supporters for their ongoing financial and moral support. Without your support, we could not have achieved any of these milestones.

We hope to have your ongoing and unwavering support in the coming year so that we can continue to provide the assistance and care for the underprivileged kith and kin in Sri Lanka. We are grateful for the many organisations who have worked with us and funded many of the activities. To name a few, the Tamil Engineers Foundation Australia, Gandhi Illam New Zealand, and Ratnam Foundation UK have all helped us generously.

Please contact us at sivanarulillam@gmail.com if you need this arranged on your special occasion. We will also provide you with feedback regarding the event and photos from it.



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Sivan Arul Foundation has emerged as a leading NGO in Sri Lanka's North and East, providing Livelihood opportunities, Education and Employment opportunities to the under privileged. With our ever-expanding humanitarian work, funding has been a great challenge particularly during the COVID pandemic times as we could not have any fund-raising opportunities. We are grateful to all of our supporters, who have gone out of their way to dig deep into their pockets to financially support us. We sincerely hope to continue getting your unwavering support.



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“BE THE LIGHT THAT HELPS OTHERS SEE”



THANK YOU