

SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION INC

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NEWSLETTER 2022



SIVAN ARUL
FOUNDATION



SUMMARY

We welcome you to read our annual newsletter for Sivan Arul Foundation and get to know about all our activities throughout 2022. Once again, this year has been challenging with the Sri Lankan Economic collapse making a big negative impact on the activities of many charities including ours. However, with all of your support, we have managed to keep the charitable work going smoothly. Once again, a big thank you to each and every one of you. Without your continued support, we could not have achieved this. We are very grateful for the support from all the international donors.

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

As you are aware, we now have the girl's and boy's hostel as a separate building to the home. Our hostel now accommodates 85 students and in total we have 189 children in the home and the hostel.

The biggest challenge for us was to continue to provide the same high standard of care with the rise in cost of living going up exponentially over past 8-10 months. With the help of the donors, we have managed to not compromise on the standard of our care.

One of the greatest achievements was staging a dance drama on the Kumbabisegam of the newly renovated temple. Almost 80 children participated in this 4-hour dance drama. This has been in the making for three years with multiple breaks due to COVID-19.

The children's performance was witnessed by over 1000 people with applause and world-wide appreciation for the high-class performance.



We are very proud to announce that the recent national exam results for 10th Grade (GCE O/L) were released and 14 of the 16 kids who sat for the exams passed and are qualified to sit for the HSC.



SIVAN ARUL GRADUATES

We were pleased to witness the graduation ceremony of five of our children from Sivanarul Home this year! Three children were from the University of Jaffna and two were from the Eastern University. It was truly an emotional moment for all of us. They were greeted by our director, Mr Selvaranjan, and the children of the home, and followed by celebrations. We hope to see many more children graduate from the home in the years to come.



It's great to see these graduates returning to work with us either in the factory, bakery or our integrated farms.



We are in the process of assisting committed graduates to undertake graduate management training programs on the factory. Students who do not succeed in gaining entrance to university are encouraged to join vocational training schemes supported by Sivan Arul.

HANDLOOM FACTORY

A home based cotton handloom centre is now built for single women who have been trained in the industry for many years. They now successfully make cotton sarees, bed sheets, lungies and shawls. We are planning to export the cotton sarees to Australia. This had given livelihood and importantly hope for single women with school children. We are also working on innovative ideas to try and improve the business with new products.



Ladies checking the sarees before export



Display at local exhibition

SIVAN ARUL FACTORY (KILINCHCHI) AND BAKERY (PUTHUKUDIYIRUPPU)

There have been positive changes in the management teams and we now have a talented, motivated management team steering the business aspect of the factory. If not for this team, we would not have coped with the disastrous economic collapse and lack of the availability of raw materials to continue our productions. Many factories had been closed and workers sent home but Sivan Arul was one of the few business establishments which did not close for a single day, thanks to the management team and hardworking staff.

We have imported more machines from India and have plans to expand the business further as the demand for Sivan Arul products are going up both nationally and internationally. Currently we export to the UK, Australia, Switzerland and Canada.

We have in 85 people in total working both in the factory and bakery. Contrary to the factory, we had challenges continuing work at the bakery as many of the bakery products had to come to a halt without the supply of raw materials such as flour nationally. However, we continued to support the female employees by increasing the production of other items. Currently the navaposhha unit is being shifted to the bakery from the factory. We are also working on innovative ideas to try and improve the business with new products.



Mr Nanthivarman's motivational speech at our first Sivan Arul strategy meeting



Factory ladies

DRINKING WATER PROJECTS

There are no facilities to have quality drinking water in many schools and villages. Many succumb to kidney disease and renal failure as a result of consuming water containing dangerous levels of hazardous minerals. Sivan Arul has built many tube well facilities, water filters and large water purification units.



EDUCATION FOR UPCOUNTRY CHILDREN

It's a well known fact that many of the kids studying in the upcountry areas struggle to find optimal education mainly due to a lack of transportation facilities. Many of these students walk for long distances, with some instances nearing 3-4 hours to get to the school. They also do not get the opportunity to have quality education.

To empower these children to study and receive standard education, Sivan Arul had come up with two initiatives:

1. Offer admission to Sivan Arul hostel in Thiruketheeswaram
2. Start a hostel/teaching facility in Jaffna for children who obtained high grades in Year 10

We have built a hostel facility at our head office in Thirunelvali, Jaffna and currently accommodate 15 students to educate. Vigorous training is given to these kids for them to enter University in Science, Medicine and Engineering fields. There has been an enormous support from donors for this project. We are very grateful to the Stem-Kalvi group who generously donated, including donation of new bicycles for all the children. This is a two-year project and depending on the success, we wish to expand this project to include more children.



HIGHER EDUCATION & UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SUPPORT

Over 200 children and 30 university students are supported financially to complete their education. A committee carefully monitors their progress by conducting regular exams, and enrolls new students depending on their performance. We work with CCYE (Centre for Children and Youth Empowerment) to support education for 120 children. We are pleased to inform that two of the engineering students sponsored by Sivan Arul got top marks, one graduating with first class and the other with second upper honours. They are currently head hunted by universities and private companies. This is a heart-warming success story and we thank all the generous donors for supporting the education projects.

FARMS

We have integrated farms in Palmpitty (initially built by the grant from the Australian Government) and in Mavittapuram (Nadarasa Farm). Our recent graduates, Kokulan and Arichandran, have taken over as the managers for both of these farms. We are making profits from the produce with some being sent to the children home. The poultry farm is also very successful.

One philanthropic donor from New Zealand has leased 30 larchums of Farmland (Arunachalam Farm), free of charge, for us to develop into integrated farm, with work underway to develop this. There is also a plan to build an aged care home in this land in the near future.



COMPUTER LEARNING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Sivan Arul has established computer centres in many of the tuition centres including within the children's home. Ratnam Foundation, Vanni Neyam, along with private organisations, kindly donated the computers.

Last year, a four months course of ICT for O/L and a 6 months course of NVQ3-CAA (computer application assistant) has been commenced in our Olumadu Ratnam Foundation -Sivanarul Education Centre, Katkulam Education centre in Vavuniya and Ratnam Foundation in Akkraipaththu.

In the latter centre, an NVQ4 - Graphic Design course (6 months course) has been established which is a Government approved course that enables the youth to seek employment nationally and internationally.

Many other vocational training courses have been established in the East for girls wanting to learn beauty therapy and cake decorations. Boys and girls who could not complete education at the children's home are offered vocational training spots at the factory, bakery and the head office to help with accounting.

EDUCATION CENTRES – ARANERI SCHOOLS AND TUITION CENTRES

A number of Araneri schools are supported by Sivan Arul to teach and promote human values. There are over 20 such centres and tuition centres established after school for extra studies. Uniforms, education supplies and food are provided for these children mainly in the Eastern districts and upcountry.

Larger Educational centres are built in Olumadu, Katkulam in Vauniya, and Nedinkerni districts. A centre and farm are established in Neenankerni, in the Muthur district.



FAMILY SUPPORT /REHABILITATION PROJECT

Sivan Arul supports many families to start small business projects and support livelihood activities. We believe in assisting with livelihood projects rather than cash and food handouts. Many families have benefited from these livelihood projects.



Revolving Fund projects

This project helps the single women and vulnerable families with small business, enabling them to make a living to look after their families. Sivan Arul works with the local women organisations to identify deserving women and provide a loan of 50 thousand rupees to start a small business. This includes home vegetable gardening, small scale farming, home catering, poultry etc. We help them to establish the business and after 14 months, the capital is returned so that a further group of women can be helped.



To date, women have benefitted from this program. Similarly, with revolving funds, many tube wells have been built and over 600 bicycles have been distributed to school children. Many of these revolving fund projects were funded by the Australian Tamil Engineers Foundation.



For the past two years, Sivan Arul Foundation has successfully established revolving fund projects in remote villages in the East, notably in Thangavelayuthapuram, Korakkar Village, Manicka Madu , and Vinayapuram. It's truly inspiring to see the success of this program. Many of these families are now self-sufficient and we revolve the funds to other needy families.

SPECIAL MEAL (ANANDHAM) PROVISION



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

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.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM -"NAVA POSHA" PROJECT

Sivan Arul Factory produces Navaposhha 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.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Sivan Arul has emerged as a leading NGO in the North and East proving livelihood opportunities, education, and employment opportunities to the under privileged. With our ever-expanding humanitarian work, funding has been a great challenge. We are grateful all our supporters to have gone out of their way to dig deep into their pockets to financially support us. We sincerely hope to continue getting your support.



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"IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING"
MOTHER TERESA

Please contact us with any feedback or suggestions

Australia

sivanarulillam@gmail.com - J Jayamohan

United Kingdom

sivanarulillamuk@gmail.com- J Namasivayam

Sri Lanka

sivanarulillamtkw@gmail.com- Selvaranjan

Please visit our website www.sivanarul.org