



“Thank you for making the difference, we can now look after our families!” - Factory ladies coming for work at Sivan Arul factory and training Centre

SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT - 2019

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



Summary

Sivan Arul has gone from strength to strength over the past year, expanding its humanitarian efforts to extend the work opportunities of the vulnerable, and increasing the number of underprivileged children receiving educational support. Our major highlights for 2018-2019 are:

1. The opening of “Rudram” a vegetarian restaurant in Mullipalam, Mannar District, creating further job opportunities and vocation training for school leavers.
2. The DFAT supported, ongoing development of an Integrated Farm in Palampitty (Madu District).
3. The opening of Educational Centres in Palacholai, Vammivadduvaan and Paataalipuram which are all in the Eastern District.
4. Building 20 small houses for the homeless in Paatalipuarum, Muthur district in the East of Sri Lanka.
5. Establishing a Model Farm in Mavittapuram cultivating ayurvedic herbs, Alovera, Moringa in a 25 parappu land given to Sivanarul by a philanthropic family.

We are humbled to see the immense positive impact of our projects on the vulnerable, war affected individuals in the North and East of Sri Lanka. We are very grateful to all our patrons for their generous donations and support.

Dr J Jayamohan

Chairperson, SAF Inc

1st November 2019





Deepavali at the children home 2019

CHILDREN HOME (SIVANARUL ILLAM)

The Boys and Girls home in Thiruketheeswaram is functioning well. The children are continuing to benefit and thrive. We now have 51 boys and 38 girls, a total of 89 children. There is a small decline in numbers from last year's 110, but this is due to School Leavers and some graduates finding employment in our Vocational Training Centre in Kilinochchi as well as at the recently opened restaurant. We continue to look after 10 University students from the children home as they have no other relatives.

We also continue to provide extra tuition classes and other extra-curricular activities including sports, classical dance and music to our boys and girls giving their education a holistic approach. A teacher specialising in devotional songs, travels from Jaffna to teach music to the children. They have taken part in many National competitions and have performed extremely well. Recently our children showcased their talents in the famous Nallur Festival in Jaffna. This was very well received and was attended by the Commissioner of Children for the Northern Region.

Recently we appointed Mr Selvaranjan as the Principal. He is a retired principal having a track record of transforming many troubled schools and has produced exceptional results academically. We envisage seeing a tremendous improvement in the school's educational outcome as a result his appointment. Unfortunately, we continue to receive children from the Probation Department experiencing extremely difficult situations, which makes our work more difficult but extremely vital. Despite these challenges, we continue to strive providing the best support and mentoring for these unfortunate kids.

SIVANARUL VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PRODUCTION CENTRE

I am happy to report that this facility has been growing exponentially over the last 12 months. We are producing over 50 products at present. Our major export items are Chilli Powder, Roasted Flour, various spices, Odiyal Flour and Red Farm Rice among many others. Our products are now being exported to Canada, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Australia. There is a huge demand for our products in Sydney and we are very grateful for this support from the Diaspora.

Currently, we have employed 62 workers at the factory, 80 percent of which are war affected women. Their lives have changed for the better, with most of them owning their own homes complete with water and sanitation facilities provided by the Sivan Arul Trust. However, we are unable to service the demand due to issues with electrical wiring and lack of appropriate transformers. Plans are being made to replace the existing network with a new wiring/electrical circuit following consultation with the Electricity Department and External Consultants. The cost is around SL Rs12 million. We are grateful to the Australian Turf Club who had generated funds for this Project, through a Race Day, fund raising event in June 2019.

We continue to provide livelihood work opportunities for the young destitute girls by providing hostel accommodation and employment/vocational training. The young girls sew dresses for children and ladies which are all sold at the local shops

The storeroom built with the financial support from Macquarie bank is functioning to full capacity. Soon we may have to build another level inside the facility to accommodate more storage.

We are also planning to employ a lawyer to investigate our Trust and Business model to ensure that we comply with all the Government Regulations. Another positive news is that as we now have our own export license, we are able to directly export our goods without relying on another middleman; thereby cutting costs.

There have been few management structure changes and we are pleased to report the organization growing from strength to strength. As there is a growing demand for our products locally and in the South, we are now employing sales representatives to advertise our products outside of Jaffna.

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PUTHUKUDIYIRIUPPU BAKERY

The Bakery is now functioning in two separate buildings, a kilometer apart. It was becoming increasingly difficult to undertake the work in the existing building. Once again Macquarie Bank has helped us partly fund for the new building. The workload has increased exponentially as our baked and fried products are now exported in tons internationally. Murukku, Pakoda, Mixture, and Devilled Cashew Nuts are all popular products from the Bakery.

Our goal for 2020 is to establish a Solar Drying Fruits and Vegetable Factory within the existing premises as we have space. We are planning to dry and packet seasonal fruits such as mangoes, papaws and pineapple. We also plan to make varieties of “vadakams”; as there is a great demand for this product overseas; and we have been specifically approached by companies to incorporate this it. We plan to use medicinal leaves/herbs such as Musuttai, Siru Kurinja and Moringa for this purpose.

We have already submitted a fund proposal to DFAT under their Friendship Grant. Once established, we envisage this facility will provide further job opportunities for war affected women and assist the local farmers.

INTEGRATED DAIRY FARMS



The farm in Katsilaimadu is functioning but not as well as we hoped. We broke even with a narrow profit margin. However, we were still able to give employment opportunities to five to six people. There have been few challenges particularly with the Dairy farms. We were unable to grow the specialized grass needed for the cows. The milk produced is sold

to Milco at a reduced price. We have investigated this issue through consultation with the Agriculture Department and have decided to change strategies by reducing the number of cows, and increasing the goat farming sector and poultry farming instead. We currently have 750 chickens and is turning out to be profitable. We have also planned to do make our own milk products; particularly panneer and ghee, which are popular in local markets. We hope this will be a turning point for this valuable project.

Despite the difficulty with the cows, we remain very positive about the outcome for the Integrated Dairy Farm in Palampitty. From the lessons learnt at Katsilaimadu, we will be more focused on the poultry and goat farming. Water was a major issue; however, we have now built a well and an overhead tank to store the water. This project is 50% funded by DFAT and our plan is to open the farm in February 2020. We envisage inviting the Australian High commissioner for this event. Sivan Arul also funds two farms in a smaller scale, one in Kannagipuram in the East and the other in Neenakerni, Muthur District.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Our Educational Centres are situated all over the North, East and Upcountry to provide educational opportunities for the wider community. In the North, we have two Centres located in Kondavil and Thinnavali, which are both administered by CCYE (Centre for Children and Youth Empowerment). In Vanni, there are Centres in Oddusuttan and Olumadu(Nedunkerni). In the Trincomalee District, there is a Centre in Paatalipuram which is mainly for the Tribal Community. In the Batticaloa District Centre, there are four Centres located in Akkaraipathu, Aligambe, Kanchanakuda and Amparai. In the Up Country, we have two Centres in Bandarawela and Nayampatta(Galgatta). We are fortunate to have the support of individual donors and organisations such as Australian Tamil Engineers foundation, World Children Organisation(Denmark), Ratnam Foundation(UK)and Mr Balendra(UK).

Sivan Arul is the first charity organization to start Kindergarten Centers (paalar paadasaalai) in a large scale and these are all located in the East. Recently, the Jaffna Central College Old boy's association from Sydney donated for a three-year project to start a Kindergarten Facility in Ampaarai. Hopefully, we will see many such Centres blossoming in the East, ensuring that the children are well prepared and motivated to study by the time they begin their schooling.

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Education is the key factor in promoting meaningful change and escaping the cycle of poverty in the North and East. It is our duty to ensure that we focus and invest in Early Learning Centres in these vulnerable areas, to establish solid foundations to and maximise our children's outcomes in their schooling career; thereby increasing their chances of accessing Tertiary Education and successful careers.



RUDRAM VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

Half an Acre of land was given as a donation to Sivan Arul in the Mannar- Vavuniya, main road in Mullipalam, Mannar. Recognizing the need to establish a Vocation Training Centre for School Leavers from the Children's Home and Youth in general, Sivan Arul decided to establish a vegetarian restaurant. We completed this building in June this year, and the restaurant is now fully functional and doing quite well. As this Project is still in its early days, we are breaking even without much profit, however, we are pleased to have provided job opportunities and training to so many youths including the few boys who finished their education at the Children's Home.

We envisage this to be a growing business making huge profits; and will continue to train youth for Hotel Industries. This Restaurant now provides regular meals to our Children's Home. The vegetables are supplied from our Sivan Arul farms. This is truly inspiring.

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COMPUTER LEARNING CENTRES

Sivan Arul recognizes the importance of computer literacy amongst children and particularly school leavers to find employment. We have established Computer education centres in Thinnaveli/Kodavil in Jaffna, Olumadu, and Akkaraipathu. In Akkaraipathu there are three computer teaching programs namely general Information (govt approved course), Network communication course and a Graphic design course. 19 students who completed the graphic design course are now in full time employment.

Remote internet-based teaching (E-kalvi) is administered by the Victorian Tamil Graduates to many centres in the east, North and Mannar district.

REVOLVING FUND PROJECTS



The Revolving fund projects administered by CCYE in Jaffna, and supported by Sivan Arul. Many organizations and individual donors are helping us to fund this well deserving and successful project, providing livelihood opportunities to many woman-headed families to start small businesses such as home farms, small scale catering business run from home, banana plantations, preparing savory eats at home, and goat and poultry farming. From 2017, women have benefited from this program. We have also built 110 tube wells and 475 bicycles -all with revolving funds for this Project. The major advantage of this approach is that the projects continually revolve without the need for ongoing funding, except for a small administrative charge.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM

“Navaposha” - Nutritious flour made from 9 grains are made in our factory to address the undernutrition. This is then distributed free to schools attended by children from the poorest families with malnutrition. We identified such schools from Kilinochchi, Muthur District, Vanni and Akkaraipathu and supply this product three days a week.

Individual donors sponsor this school feeding program. The other major advantage is that producing this product in our Sivanarul Factory, provides further job opportunities for our war affected ladies.

FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

This year we were again fortunate to secure a further funding of \$116,800 from the Australian Turf Club for 2019. They have offered to continue similar funding for 2020 which is a welcome news.

Last year we secured funding of \$60,000 from DFAT as a Friendship Grant for setting up an Integrated Farm in Palampitty. This project will be completed in December 2019.

We continue to receive substantial ongoing financial support from the diaspora in Australia for which we are grateful. Some of our projects are supported and funded by Local NGO's and Gandhi Illam in New Zealand.

FUND RAISING EVENTS 2018-2019

In November 2018, we held a fund-raising dinner for Sivan Arul Foundation at the Cherrybrook Community Centre. This was a very successful function and we had approximately 200 guests. We also had a great opportunity to showcase all our projects to those who attended. In total, we made a profit of \$15731.

In July 2019, we staged a comedy show at the Bahai Centre at Silverwater. This was a huge success and we had a 'Full House'. We made a profit of \$35,981 from this show.

In June 2019, The Australian Turf club organized the Matt Calendar Day and donated \$116,800 from the profits.

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FAMILY SUPPORT, UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND PARAPLEGIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

There are many families where both husband wife are both disabled by due to war injuries; and they are unable to make a living as they cannot secure gainful employment. SAF looks after the children's education from these families, and assists them financially by giving them a monthly allowance. Similarly, around 50 University students and 18 students with paraplegia, receive regular funding from the Sivan Arul Foundation.

BUILDING SMALL HOUSES FOR THE POORES



TO



from a dilapidated hut to a small house

Paatilipuram is a remote village near Muthur District in Trincomalee. This is a very poor village, inhabited by tribal Tamil people, (Pazhankudi Makkal). They mainly lived in the forest hunting animals and selling forest products on the road to local travelers. As the area was badly damaged during the war they were moved to Refugee camps and released three years ago. Now they have come back to claim their land but live in very shabby shelter accommodations. . So sad that any human being should live under such appalling conditions.

In time to come the government housing scheme may offer houses but this will take a long time, may be 8-10 years if they are lucky. If they find the conditions unbearable and move out, then they will lose the claim to the land altogether.

Sivan Arul can make a difference by building few houses to the most needy. We plan to build simple dwellings; large multipurpose room to be used as a hall, room and kitchen

with a veranda like covered area. It will be built with half parapet walls and tin sheets. Cost of building a house is Rs197,010 (AUD 1,675). We were fortunate to receive donation from our supporters in Australia to build 20 houses. The work started in September and 12 houses have been completed. The progress is slow because of ongoing rain in the region. We envisage this project being completed in January 2020.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND....

1. Establish the solar drying dry vegetable/fruit factory in Puthukudiyirruppu in 2020.
2. Increases the production capacity in the factory and bakery so that we can increase the profit margin and the number of women in the work force giving further job opportunities.
3. Improve the education standards at the children home and achieve more children entering universities.
4. Improve the productivity in all four integrated farms. Develop the herbal/Moringa farm in Mavittapuram
5. To continue empowering single women to gain employment and live independently by offering vocational training and work opportunities

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT TO ALL SIUVANARUL PROJECTS. ALL OF YOU MADE THIS HAPPEN!!! GOD BLESS.

WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2020!

-SIVANARUL TEAM