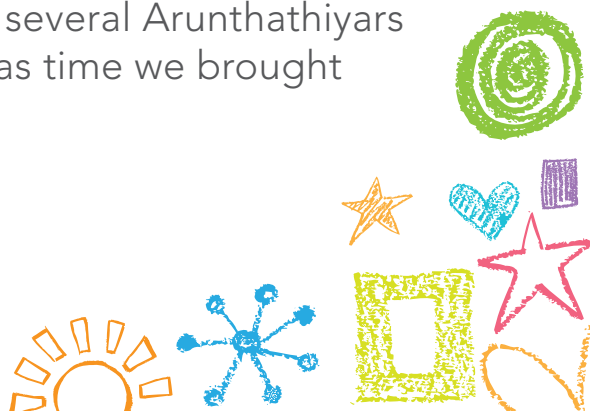




**We believe in a society where every person has the right to life and dignity.**

We ensure Arunthathiyar children are given education, are free from the bonds of labour and empower communities and women to lead a better standard of life.

We began our journey in 2001 where several Arunthathiyars came together and decided that it was time we brought change to our lives.



# CHILDREN MOULDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Arunthathiyars are one of the most marginalised communities in Tamil Nadu. Considered to be the Dalit amongst Dalits, Arunthathiyars are usually confined to menial jobs including manual scavenging. Only two of every 100 Arunthathiyars are said to be literate.

There are several Arunthathiyar children who live without parental care due to migration to cities for work. Children, especially girls, are vulnerable to child labour and even bonded labour due to poverty and their low social standing in the community. Parents very often marry their daughters very young to save expenses and improve the social status of their girls.

## Enhancing childhood for Dalit children

We continue working to ensure Arunthathiyar children have the right to education and are given the opportunities they require to become empowered adults, free to make choices about their life.

### Child Activity Centres

We run 150 Child Activity Centres across Erode and Salem districts. These centres help Arunthathiyar children to learn Math and improve reading and writing of Tamil and English.

Through this programme we successfully identify children in the community that are sent to work or drop out of mainstream schools. Once we identify these children we develop interventions to help these children go back to schools. We also conduct frequent school enrolment campaigns that ensure children stay in school. We identified and helped 43 children who dropped out of school to work, to go back to school over the year.

Over 2011-2012, all our students from the Child Activity Centres, more than 8000 students, graduated to the next grade.





This year we have also introduced several new initiatives in the Child Activity Centres. We have cultural classes through which children are able to learn

and practice traditional drum beating, drama and music that is intrinsic to our culture as Arunthathiyars. These practices give children a sense of belonging and community that is important for their overall development. We have also begun teaching children to develop simple video documentaries as a measure to have children develop perspective and participation in understanding the world that they live in.

We are always exploring new ways that children can communicate about rights that are important to them. In the month of May, we conducted a media training programme for one week, teaching children how to handle a camera, how to develop a script and other aspects of making a short documentary film. The children developed ten films in all, each being a duration of one minute, talking about some aspect of child rights.

## Support for children without parental care

We conducted a survey across 60 villages in Erode and Salem districts to document and identify children living without parental care. We identified over 2000 Arunthathiyar children during our survey who are either orphans, children with single parents, children living with their grandparents or children living with their employers. These children are at high risk of dropping out of school and working at a very young age.

Through our collaboration with NIMHANS, we provide these children with psycho-social care and support. This support includes helping children deal with absence of parental care, deal with stress, develop healthy relationships with their peers and understand and handle their emotions. We also help children develop skills that help them with decision-making and problem solving.

We also absorb these children into our Child Activity Centres and ensure we impart to them life skills in addition to academics. We also provide scholarships and ensure single mothers receive support by joining the Sakkiyar Womens Federation that helps with savings and provides loans to members.





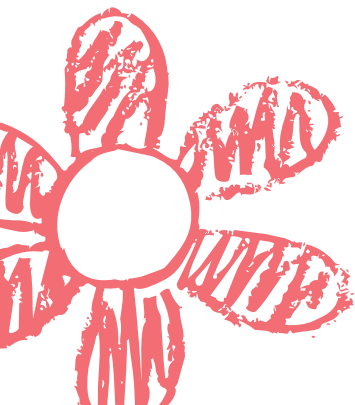
Nithya, 17 years old, completed her Class 12 at C K Palayam at Sathyamangalam, Erode. Her father died recently and her mother now supports her younger sister and her on her own. With lesser income, there was no option but to discontinue her studies and start working, helping her mother earn for the family. We met Nithya during our survey and quickly brought her into our programme. We gave Nithya a scholarship for her higher education and had her mother join Sakkiyar Womens Federation to help with savings and avail loans that might be required in case of emergencies. Says Nithya, "My mother works very hard, being the only earning member of the family and it would have been very difficult to continue my education if not for the support from READ. Now, we are all so happy that I am going to join college and continue my education."

## Child Parliament

We organise children from the Child Activity Centres to form Child Parliaments so they may learn and address issues concerning them. We have 150 Child Parliaments in all with 2,300 children being members of the parliament. We have a district level Child Parliament where its members have been given specialised leadership training. Our Child Parliament Members participated in the State level Child Parliament this year.

Panchayats across these districts conduct a Grama Sabha four times a year. During the Grama Sabha people are invited to present their grievances and demands. Before the Grama Sabha meetings, the Child Parliaments come together and discuss local issues concerning them.

The children prepare a memorandum with the help of the community and present it to the Grama Sabha.



On 2 October 2011, the Child Parliament from Sathyamangalam, Erode, prepared a memorandum addressing the shortage of water supply to the village, Vellijampalayam Pudur. The Grama Sabha accepted their memorandum and the Panchayat President visited the village to assess the situation. In two months, the Panchayat built a water tank that now supplies ample water to the residents of the village. Says Sivakumar, a member of the Child Parliament, studying in Class 7 in the local government school, "We took the initiative to prepare the memorandum with the support of our community. Now we all have water."

## Child Rights Protection Committees

We have created committees within each village to monitor and support the protection of child rights in their communities. These communities consist of ten members who are community leaders, women leaders, ward councillors and youth.



# Fighting Child Labour

We strive to reach out to all children who are employed and work to protect their rights and bring them back to school. We rescue and rehabilitate children employed as agricultural labourers or hotels and have been very successful over this year in rescuing and protecting girls employed in spinning mills through the Sumangali Scheme.

**Spinning and Textile mills employ young girls for a period of three years through the Sumangali Scheme where they are paid a monthly salary of Rs 1000 to Rs 3000 and given a lumpsum amount of Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 at the end of this period. Most often employers do not pay the whole amount due to them, provide no benefits and deduct costs of living in the hostels at the factories. The hostels have 10 to 15 girls staying in single 10 by 10 rooms.**

**Erode has more than 350 Spinning and Garment factories and has 33,000 girls employed in them. More than 60% of these girls are Dalits. The girls face difficult work conditions and are not allowed to go home or anywhere outside the premises of the factory. Several girls are below the age of 14 years.**

This year we conducted several campaigns to bring awareness to parents and children about the hazards of the Sumangali Scheme and the importance of continuing the girl child's education. We had several discussions with spinning mill employers to make them understand why young girls should not be employed.

- We reached out to more than 25000 people through our campaigns, including a State level consultation to raise awareness on the hazards of the Sumangali Scheme.
- We rescued a total of 12 girls from the Sumangali Scheme who are now back in school, or pursuing tailoring or computer courses.
- We rescued three girls under the age of 14 years who were employed under the Scheme who are now back in school.
- We helped several older girls to receive payments that were due to them from the Scheme, to open bank accounts and collect Provident Fund from their employers.
- We rescued 48 children from various forms of child labour, including 27 boys and 21 girls with the help of the National Child Labour Project.



Nagraj and his wife Selvi are agricultural labourers in Mangalapuram, a village in Sathyamangalam Taluk, Erode. They are illiterate and depend on the wages they earn from working on the land of higher caste families. They have three daughters who were going to school. The eldest daughter Divya, at the age of 16 gave up her studies and joined a Garment factory through the Sumangali Scheme to help her family with finances.

One and a half years later, Nagraj and Selvi attended our street theatre performance on the reality of Sumangali Scheme. Nagraj spoke to us right after the performance and explained to us that his daughter had begun working in the garment factory. In two days time we went along with Nagraj to the factory and brought Divya back home. Divya joined tailoring classes and now works as a tailor. Says Nagraj, "I am so happy to have Divya back home. Till I watched the street theatre performance, I did not know how hard life would be at the garment factory."

## Bringing back childhood to rescued child labourers

### Bridge school

We run two bridge schools with the support of National Child Labour Project that provides education to child labourers we rescue and other school drop outs.

BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL!

FUN

### Training centres

To provide alternative training and means of employment to children above 14 years of age who wish to join vocational training rather than school, we offer a course in our computer or tailoring training centres. They are placed in a course that suits their interest and prior level of education. We place children in other training centres that we network with as well to support other interests.

- We have 48 students in our Bridge schools from the last year.
- We have trained 39 children in our training centres over the last year.
- Fifteen girls joined our tailoring centre.

# EMPOWERING DALIT WOMEN

The Sakkiyar Womens Federation helps Arunthathiyar women to come together to create savings and give loans to members to help them with education of their children, medical emergencies or to start small businesses. There are currently around 1700 women in the Federation across 81 villages. The Federation has given out more than 350 loans over the last year amounting to a total of Rs 15.3 lakhs.

We have been supporting the Sakkiyar Womens Federation by facilitating the group and conducting regular meetings to strengthen the functioning of the Federation.

No of loans, their purpose and total amounts given in loans		
Education	31	155,000
Goat purchase	34	170,000
Cow purchase	15	150,000
Small businesses	26	260,000
Housing	50	250,000
Medical	48	240,000
Family expenses	160	348,000
Total	364	1,573,000

"I took a loan this year for my daughter to pursue a Masters degree in Computer Science. Without the help of the Federation, I would have no option to educate my child." Kalamani is the leader of the Sakkiyar Womens Federation and was the first Arunthathiyar woman to stand for the local body election at Ariyappam Palayam, Erode district.





# ERADICATING MANUAL SCAVENGING

It is well known in several parts of Erode district that the practise of manual scavenging is still practised. Manual scavenging is the practise of cleaning human excreta from dry latrines which was a practise abolished in 1993 through the Manual Scavengers and the Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act. However, many areas in India still practise manual scavenging and the provision of dry latrines. Most manual scavengers are Dalits.

Our focus lies in eradicating the practise of manual scavenging, creating alternative livelihoods, improving the health and education of these families and providing credit to those who want to begin small businesses. We also conduct several awareness drives on the abolition of manual scavenging and services available for helping those employed as manual scavengers.

In an effort to eradicate manual scavenging we have facilitated the development of a Commission consisting of more than 80 members from different areas of expertise including lawyers, journalists, politicians, social workers. During a consultation held in December 2011, we presented data on manual scavenging from municipalities across Erode and together drafted recommendations which were sent to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

- We helped 25 manual scavengers find alternative employment.
- We organised four health camps and four health drives in public health centres for manual scavengers.
- We helped 150 families access government provided schemes for rehabilitating former manual scavengers.
- We provided 60 children of manual scavengers with scholarships to pursue their education.

## Other emerging initiatives

We have started a Green Club initiative over the past year to ensure villages at a local level take measures to protect their land, water and environment. Green Clubs have an elected President, Vice-President and Secretary who are in-charge of implementing programmes like kitchen gardens, protecting and planting trees, segregation of waste, recycling bio-degradable wastes as fertilisers, etc. We also have Green Club Children in villages to educate them about the need to protect our environment and contribute to eco-friendly villages.

The Inter-cultural Network for Peace and Development have begun an organic farming

programme in Addamokkai village in July 2011. The INDP provided support in the form of loans amounting to Rs 10,41,000 to the Sathyamangalam Organic Farmers Society consisting of 52 farmers over 150 acres of land. We have partnered with INDP to address needs of community development in the area.

## Credibility norms and Finances



**REGISTRATION NUMBER:** 62/2001

**REGISTERED ADDRESS:**

Rights education and development centre (READ)  
64, Puduvalavu, Pulyenkombai, Sathyamangalam 638401  
Erode district, Tamil Nadu

**AUDITORS:**

N.K. Doraiswamy, Chartered Accountants, Mayur complex, 20 Palaniappa Street, Erode – 638009

### Balance Sheet as on 31.03.12

Liabilities	Rs.Ps	Rs.Ps	Rs.Ps	Assets	Rs.Ps	Rs.Ps
<b>Capital Fund</b>				<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
At the beginning of the year		175022.00		Motor Cycle	84284.00	
Add : Capital Expenditure amount				TVS 50	51738.00	
Transferred during the year		0.00	175022.00	Camera	14020.00	
				Office Equipment	840.00	
<b>General Fund</b>				DVD Player	3100.00	
At the beginning of the year		6127.00		Furniture	11040.00	
Add: Excess of Income over				Photo copy machine	10000.00	175022.00
Expenditure during the year		370867.00	376994.00			
<b>Undisbursed funds</b>				<b>Current Assets</b>		
From Every child UK				Rent deposit	28000.00	
As per last balance sheet		139298.00		Staff advance	118900.00	
Add : Received during the year		4547107.00		Programme Advance	38106.00	
Add : Fund from SPI-Indonesia		243640.00		Cash at hand		
Add : Interest received during the year		20140.00		(FC + Non FC)	55804.00	
Less : Applied during the year		4950185.00		Cash in Bank		
Programme Expenses	4697810.00			(FC + Non FC)	388559.00	629369.00
Capital Expenditure Transferred						
To Capital fund	0.00	4697810.00	252375.00			
From NCLP, Erode						
As per last balance sheet		-1703.00				
Add : Received during the year		182183.00				
Add : Interest received during the year		3564.00				
		184044.00				
Less : Applied during the year programme						
Programme Expenses		182403.00	0.00			
<b>Total</b>			804391.00	<b>Total</b>		804391.00



## BOARD MEMBERS, THEIR DESIGNATIONS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

Prof. Mani	President	Professor
Mrs Sarasu	Vice President	Teacher
Mr Karappu Samy	Secretary	Social worker
Mrs Krishna Veni	Joint Secretary	Social worker
Mr Gurusamy	Treasurer	Social worker
Mr Bannan	Executive Committee Member	Professor
Mrs Renuka Devi	Executive Committee Member	Nurse

SALARY PLUS BENEFIT PAID TO STAFF PER MONTH	Women	Men
Rs 5000 to 10000	2	4
Rs 10001 to 25000	1	1

Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31.03.12					
(01.04.11 to 31.03.12)					
Receipts	Rs.Ps	Rs.Ps	Payments		Rs.Ps
<b>To Opening Balance</b>			By Engal Kural Programme Expenses		4469746.00
Cash in hand (FC+Non FC)	13086.00		" Aid India Programme Expenses		49076.00
Cash at Bank (FC+Non FC)	8783.00		" SPI - Indonesia Programme		228064.00
Staff Advance	79173.00		" CENSA Programme		559176.00
Program advance	2656.00		" INDP Programme		215995.00
		103698.00	" CRT Programme		1176687.00
			" CADAM Programme		50000.00
<b>To Specific Funds Received</b>					
(i) From Every Child UK Towards			" National Child Labour Project Expenses		182403.00
Engal Kural Programme		4547107.00	" ICDE Programme		64700.00
(ii) Fund from Aid India		49000.00	" Janvikas Programme		281216.00
(iii) Fund from INDP		215995.00	" Arogyagam Programme		1000.00
(iv) Fund from CENSA USA		559176.00	" IOB Programme		2500.00
(v) Fund from CRT		1176687.00	" ITI Programme		65151.00
(vi) Fund from CADAM		50000.00	" Education Survey Expenses		83030.00
(vii) Fund from SPI-Indonesia		243640.00			
			By Closing Balance		
(viii) Fund from NCLP, Erode		182183.00			
(ix) Fund from ICDE		64700.00	Cash in hand (FC +Non FC)	55508.00	
(x) Fund from ITI		123890.00	Cash at Bank (FC +Non FC)	388559.00	
(xi) Fund from Janvikas		590000.00	Staff Advance	105393.00	
(xii) Fund from Arogyagam		1000.00	Program advance	38106.00	587566.00
(xiii) Fund from IOB		2500.00			
<b>To Other receipts</b>					
Bank Interest on S.B		20140.00			
Bank Interest on S.B (local)		3564.00			
Donation - General		83030.00			
<b>Total</b>		8016310.00	<b>Total</b>		8016310.00



# Every child has the right to learn and play

Support us and help us ensure that every child stays in school. You can make the difference to a child's future.

Just Rs 1200 pays for books, uniform and tuition. Donations can be made by cheque or demand drafts in favour of 'READ' and sent to 195 MGR Nagar, Kombupallam, Bannari main road, Sathyamangalam - 638401, Erode district, Tamil Nadu.

Please also send us your communication address and telephone number so we may acknowledge your donation.

All donations will receive an 80G tax exemption receipt within three weeks of receiving your donation.



## We thank our supporters

EveryChild UK  
INDP  
CADAM  
NCLP  
Wyvil Systems Inc.  
Dr Shivasankar

Traid, UK  
CENSA, USA  
SPI – Indonesia  
IOB Bank  
Dr Balakrishnaraju and family  
Mr Martin

Aid India  
CRT  
JanVikas  
Ms Payal  
Mr Julian



## VISIT US

Do come and visit us. We welcome interns, volunteers and anyone who would like to know more about our work.

# 195 MGR Nagar, Kombupallam, Bannari main road, Sathyamangalam,  
Erode district – 638401, Tamil Nadu

+91-4295-224313, **Email:** padi.sathy@gmail.com, **Website:** [www.readindia.org.in](http://www.readindia.org.in)

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