Valarkuzhanthai Trust

Genguvarpatti, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District, Tamil Nadu, India

ANNUAL REPORT
2025 – 2026

Empowering Lives Through Education, Care & Compassion

Executive Director: Dr. I. Sebastian

www.valarkuzhanthaitrust.in

About Valarkuzhanthai Trust

> *"The real road of compassion — giving, helping, assistance and community service — is a road that can be set and declared as your life's purpose."*

Valarkuzhanthai Trust was founded with a singular vision: to transform the lives of the most vulnerable children and communities in Tamil Nadu through the twin pillars of education and compassionate care. Rooted in the belief that every child, regardless of their background, circumstance, or ability, deserves an opportunity to flourish, Valarkuzhanthai Trust has grown from a small initiative into a multi-dimensional development organisation that now serves thousands of beneficiaries across the districts of Dindigul, Theni, and Mayiladuthurai.

Under the inspired and tireless leadership of its Executive Director, Dr. I. Sebastian, the Trust has built and sustained a family of institutions that together form a vibrant ecosystem of care. Dr. Sebastian is often described by those he has served as a brother, a guide, and a father-figure all in one, a person whose compassion is matched only by his extraordinary organisational vision. Over more than four decades of service, he has channelled the support of generous donors, dedicated staff, and international partners into life-changing programmes for children who would otherwise have had no hope.

Our Mission

To provide holistic care, quality education, vocational training, and social empowerment to underprivileged children, differently-abled individuals, and marginalised communities, enabling them to lead dignified, self-sustaining lives.

Our Vision

A society where every child has access to education, every individual is treated with dignity, and every family has the resources to thrive, regardless of their economic background, caste, or disability.

Core Values

- Compassion: Every action we take is rooted in genuine love and care for the other.
- Dignity: We treat every individual as a person of inestimable worth.

- Excellence: We hold ourselves to the highest standards in education, care, and management.
- Inclusivity: We serve all people without discrimination of religion, caste, or gender.
- Sustainability: We build programmes that create lasting, generational impact.

Our Footprint — Academic Year 2025–2026

This academic year, Valarkuzhanthai Trust's programmes have touched the lives of thousands of beneficiaries across ten distinct programme areas. From children living in our residential homes to young women learning livelihoods, from specially-abled students at our special school to village children accessing evening tuition, the Trust's work spans every dimension of human development.

Programme	Description	Location
Pudhu Punal Children's Hostel	Residential hostel for 206+ children	Genguvarpatti
Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home	Girls' residential home	Nilakottai, Dindigul
Pudhu Irudayam Children's Home	Girls' home (tsunami-affected children)	Thiruvidaikazhi
Pudhu Udhayam Special School & Home	School & home for differently-abled	Dindigul
CSI Boys Hostel	Residential hostel for boys	Battalakundu
Sponsorship / Village Scholarship	Village outreach programme	Dindigul, Theni, Mayiladuthurai
St. Lasalle Pudumanam ITI	Industrial training institute	Pudumanam, Dindigul
Tuition Centre Programme	Evening tuition for village children	Mayiladuthurai & Theni
Women Empowerment Programme	SHG, livelihood & skill training	Multiple Locations
Other Special Projects	Corporate & donor partnerships	All Locations

The pages that follow present a detailed account of each of these ten programme areas, the people they serve, the activities they undertook this year, and the impact they have created in the lives of the children, families, and communities who are at the heart of everything we do.

A. Pudhu Punal Children's Hostel

Genguvarpatti | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"In this home, every child finds not just shelter, but a family — not just food, but love — not just education, but a future."*

Introduction

Pudhu Punal Children's Hostel, located in Genguvarpatti, stands as one of the foundational pillars of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's mission. The name 'Pudhu Punal' means 'New Spring Water' — a name that beautifully captures the essence of what this place provides: fresh hope, nourishment, and the promise of life to children who might otherwise have been stranded in the drought of poverty and neglect. The hostel was established on December 7, 2007, and has since grown to become one of the most vibrant and impactful children's homes in the region.

This hostel is a sanctuary for children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds — children whose parents are separated or deceased, those from families facing insurmountable hardships, and those who simply need a safe, nurturing environment in order to focus on their studies and their futures. Under the careful and loving stewardship of the management team, 200+ children began the academic year 2025–2026 in June, and 206 children completed the year successfully — a testament to the stability, warmth, and care that defines this institution.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The Pudhu Punal hostel complex is a well-designed and thoughtfully maintained campus that caters to the developmental needs of children at every stage of their growth. The campus comprises 13 cottages in total, ensuring that children are housed in small, family-like groups that foster close bonds and personal accountability. The facilities are structured as follows:

- 2 Dormitories for Primary children (younger students in a more supervised, communal setting)
- 6 Dormitories for Primary Boys (Classes 1 to 4)
- 5 Dormitories for Primary Girls (Classes 5 to 8)
- Cottages 1, 2, 3 house students from Class 8
- Cottages 4, 5, 6, 7 house Classes 8 to 9

- Cottages 9 to 12 house students from Classes 9 to 12
- Dedicated Study Hall for academic activities
- Chapel for prayer and spiritual formation
- Auditorium for cultural events and assemblies
- Playground and Park with games equipment for physical recreation

The campus is maintained to high standards of cleanliness and safety, and regular inspections are conducted by both internal staff and visiting government officials to ensure that the living environment remains healthy and conducive to learning and growth.

Management and Staff

The hostel is managed by a dedicated and experienced team that works tirelessly to provide the best possible care for every child. Chief Manager and Trustee Ms. Devibala provides overall leadership and ensures that the hostel's operations align with the Trust's mission and standards. Co-ordinator Ms. Therase Dayana oversees daily programme implementation. Chief Warden Ms. Dhivya Deva Kumari leads the wardens team with professionalism and deep care for the children. Wardens Ms. Mala and Ms. Mounika provide hands-on, day-to-day supervision, while Care Taker Ms. Ramuthai provides vital support to younger children. Assistant Wardens Ms. Kokila, Ms. Jency, and Ms. Subadharshika look after the college-going girls, and wardens Ms. Pattatharasi, Ms. Tharane, Ms. Aanathi, Ms. Amali, and Ms. Akila care for the school-going students. Ms. Immanuel Iruthaya provides additional staffing support, and the kitchen team led by Cook Ms. Anna Kamu ensures that nutritious and well-balanced meals are prepared for all children every day.

Student Strength — Month-wise Record

Month	Students	Note
June 2025	200+	Start of academic year
July 2025	195	
August 2025	201	
September 2025	206	
October 2025	208	
November 2025	203	
December 2025	199	

January 2026	195	
February 2026	191	
End of Year	206	Continuing students

Special Events and Celebrations

Founder's Birthday Celebration — June

Every year, the birthday of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's Executive Director and Founder, Rev. Br. I. Sebastian, is celebrated with tremendous affection and joy by all the children and staff of Pudhu Punal. This year was particularly special as the schools had re-opened on June 6th, the same day as the birthday celebration. The children performed dances, recited poems, sang songs, and offered heartfelt prayers for their beloved director. The warmth and love in the hall were palpable — a beautiful reminder of the bond between the children and the person who has dedicated his life to their welfare.

Independence Day — 15th August 2025

The Independence Day celebration at Pudhu Punal was a grand and memorable event this year. The Chief Guest was Mr. Augustine Selvaraj, a former District Child Protection Officer from Dindigul, who honoured the occasion by hoisting the national flag and addressing the children with an inspiring speech on the values of freedom, civic responsibility, and patriotism. In order to encourage the children's creativity and public-speaking skills, competitions were organised including poetry recitation, speech, fancy dress, group dance, and individual song competitions. Mrs. Thareni and Ms. Therase Dayana served as judges for the competitions, evaluating the children with fairness and encouragement. All winners received prizes and certificates, and every participant received appreciation for their efforts.

Republic Day — 26th January 2026

The Republic Day celebration this year was elevated by a thought-provoking address by Br. Dr. I. Sebastian himself, who has made it a tradition to speak to the children on themes of national significance. This year, his address centred on three profound questions: 'What is the Republic?', 'Why do we celebrate it?', and 'How should we create our own path of development?' His words challenged the children to think beyond the surface of celebration to the deeper meaning of citizenship, self-determination, and contribution to society. The children participated enthusiastically, performing cultural programmes that reflected both patriotic pride and personal aspiration.

Ganesh Chaturthi — 27th August 2025

Vinayagar Chaturthi was celebrated on 27 August 2025, with the entire hostel community coming together to honour Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. Children and college students dressed up as Ganesha and performed Kolattam and other traditional programmes. The evening featured prayers, songs, and a special snack of sweet potato and payasam — Lord Ganesha's favourite offerings — shared among all the children in a spirit of joy and unity.

Diwali — 20th October 2025

The Festival of Lights was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Pudhu Punal on 20 October 2025. Br. Sebastian personally distributed new clothes to every child and staff member — a beloved tradition that ensures no child feels left behind during a festival of joy. Children wore their new clothes with pride, shared sweets, and burst firecrackers under the supervision of staff. The atmosphere was one of pure happiness, with laughter, music, and the warm glow of celebration filling the entire campus.

Karthigai Deepam — 3rd December 2025

The festival of light and lamps was observed on 3 December 2025. On this day, all the children cleaned their dormitories and common areas, decorated them with lamps, and offered prayers. The campus was transformed into a beautiful, glowing space that symbolised the triumph of light over darkness — a fitting metaphor for the journey of these children themselves.

Christmas — 16th December 2025

The Christmas celebration holds a special place in the heart of every Pudhu Punal child. This year, the celebration was held on 16 December 2025 — the first Sunday of Advent — with all the traditional features that make this the most anticipated event of the year. A nativity hut was erected, and for nine days before Christmas, the children and staff offered special prayers with great devotion. On the day of celebration itself, a beautiful scene depicting the birth of Christ was enacted, and the programme concluded with artistic performances, carols, and a joyful feast.

Pongal — 11th January 2026

Pongal, the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, was celebrated on 11 January 2026 with the enthusiastic participation of all 206 children. True to tradition, the children cooked sugarcane

pongal together, danced the Kummi dance, and shared the joy of the occasion without any barriers of religion or background. The celebration was a beautiful expression of cultural identity, communal harmony, and the simple joy of shared abundance · values that Valarkuzhanthai Trust seeks to instil in every child.

Children's Day — 14th November

Children's Day, celebrated on the birthday of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was marked by a unique and heartwarming reversal of roles: it was the staff — not the children — who performed dances, songs, and dramas for the children's delight! This tradition, maintained every year at Pudhu Punal, powerfully communicates to the children that they are cherished, valued, and celebrated. The laughter and joy of the children watching their usually-serious wardens dance and perform was a memory that will stay with everyone.

Literary Forum Festival — 25th November 2025

The annual Literary Forum Festival was held on 25 November 2025, providing a wonderful platform for the children to showcase their intellectual and artistic talents. The festival featured competitions in story writing, poetry, painting, essay, devotional songs, guru songs, and short drama. The judges for this prestigious event were Mrs. Inigo, a teacher from St. Joseph Primary School, Batlagundu, and Mr. Babudasan from D.S. School, Theni. Their expert evaluation and encouraging words inspired all participants. Prizes were distributed to winners, and all participants received appreciation for their efforts.

Staff Birthday Celebration

One of the most distinctive traditions at Pudhu Punal — virtually unheard of at any other institution — is the celebration of staff birthdays. This year, Chief Warden Ms. Dhiva Dera Kumari's birthday on 15 October was celebrated with a surprise cake cutting, with the children organising the entire event with creativity and affection. This tradition embodies the family spirit that Valarkuzhanthai Trust has cultivated · where every member of the community, child or adult, is seen and celebrated as a person of worth.

Support and Welfare Initiatives

Grocery Distribution Programme

In order to reinforce the children's sense of belonging to the hostel and to ensure that they maintain nutritious eating habits during holiday periods, the hostel has institutionalised a grocery distribution programme. This year, grocery items were distributed on eight separate

occasions, with provisions worth Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 given to each child. This initiative ensures that children return from holidays on time and that even during breaks, their families benefit from the nutritional support that the hostel normally provides.

Specific distributions this year included: items worth Rs. 1,500 to 12 students who arrived on the first day after Diwali holidays (21 October 2025), items worth Rs. 1,000 to 180 students at half-year holidays, and items worth Rs. 1,000 to 150 students returning from Pongal holidays.

Yoga Mats

Recognising the importance of physical and mental well-being, the management provided Yoga Mats to all the children this year. These mats serve a dual purpose: they are used for yoga practice, which reduces stress and improves focus, and in the winter months, they serve as additional bedding. The children have embraced yoga enthusiastically, and the practice has visibly improved their concentration, self-discipline, and general health.

Sports and Games Equipment

A comprehensive set of sports and intellectual games equipment was provided to the children this year to support their cognitive and physical development. Items provided included Sudoku sets, crossword puzzle books, vocabulary games, memory card games, jigsaw puzzles, Shuttle Cocks, and Basketballs. These activities help children develop problem-solving skills, logical thinking, and healthy physical habits.

Dress and School Bag Distribution

Every academic year, each child at Pudhu Punal receives a new dress and a school bag — a gesture that may seem simple but carries profound significance for children who come from backgrounds of deprivation. This year's distribution was greeted with the same joy and gratitude that it is every year, reminding the children that they are cared for, seen, and provided for in every dimension of their lives.

Student Achievements

This year, Pudhu Punal continued its proud tradition of academic and extracurricular excellence. Several students distinguished themselves in competitions at school and district levels.

S. Malika of Class 10 won the First Prize in the speech competition organised on former Chief Minister and Congress leader Mr. Kamaraj's birthday — a district-level event held on July 15, observed as Education Development Day. Her articulate speech on educational values earned her the top prize and brought great pride to the hostel.

V. Kokila, who has been a resident of Pudhu Punal since childhood and is now pursuing her M.Com (CA) degree, participated in the Tamil Nadu Government's flagship skill development programme 'I Am The First' in October. She presented a research paper titled 'Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)' and was praised by the evaluation committee for its clarity, depth, and academic excellence — a remarkable achievement that reflects the long-term impact of the hostel's nurturing environment.

Conclusion

The academic year 2025–2026 has been a year of joy, achievement, and renewed purpose for Pudhu Punal Children's Hostel. Every programme, every celebration, every act of care and discipline has been guided by one simple conviction: that these children deserve the best that we can give them, and that the investment made in their lives today will bear fruit in the form of a better, more compassionate society tomorrow. We express our deepest gratitude to every donor, volunteer, staff member, and well-wisher whose generosity and dedication makes this place possible.

B. Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home

Murugathuranpatti, Nilakottai Taluk, Dindigul District | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"Live like a river of love — those who like can quench their thirst for love from you."*

Introduction

Pudhu Vasantham — meaning 'New Spring' — is a name that captures the spirit of renewal, hope, and fresh beginnings that this extraordinary home has offered to girls from the most vulnerable sections of society since its founding on 15 July 2000. Located in the peaceful village of Murugathuranpatti in Nilakottai Taluk, Dindigul District, Pudhu Vasantham was established by the Valarkuzhanthai Trust under the inspired leadership of Dr. I. Sebastian. The home serves as a refuge and launchpad for economically disadvantaged, orphaned, and motherless girls from the districts of Dindigul, Theni, and Madurai.

For over twenty-five years, Pudhu Vasantham has been more than a children's home — it has been a school of life, a community of love, and a nursery of future leaders. The home ensures that every girl who enters its gates leaves it equipped with the education, confidence, skills, and moral character needed to thrive in the world and contribute meaningfully to society. The management is committed to the holistic development of every girl — academic, physical, emotional, spiritual, and vocational — and this commitment is reflected in every aspect of the home's functioning.

Educational Development

Education is the cornerstone of Pudhu Vasantham's mission. Primary children are enrolled at Kalladypatti Primary School, while older girls attend Silukkuvarpatti St. Joseph's Middle School (Classes 1 to 8) and another Secondary School for their higher education. The management places enormous importance on monitoring each child's educational progress, and wardens make two dedicated visits to each school every month to meet the class teachers and headmasters, discuss the academic standing and moral character of the children, and ensure that any areas of weakness are addressed promptly.

The mark cards of all children are collected at the end of each examination period, analysed carefully by staff, signed, and returned to the school. For children who struggle academically, special attention is given by the wardens in the form of additional study time, one-on-one guidance, and targeted encouragement. The management's aim is not simply to secure passing grades, but to build in each child a genuine love of learning, a habit of intellectual inquiry, and the confidence to pursue higher education.

The home also ensures that children participate fully in all academic competitions and events held in school — essay writing, quiz competitions, speech competitions, art exhibitions — and the children of Pudhu Vasantham have consistently distinguished themselves in these events, bringing prizes and recognition to the home and to themselves.

Nutrition and Healthy Food

The management of Pudhu Vasantham believes deeply that physical health is the foundation upon which intellectual and emotional well-being is built. The food programme at the home is designed with great care to ensure that every child receives a nutritious, balanced, and varied diet that supports her growth and development.

Non-vegetarian food including chicken, mutton, and eggs is provided twice weekly to ensure adequate protein intake. Nutritious foods such as pulses, chickpeas, millets, and milk are provided in the evenings as part of the regular diet. Breakfast varies weekly — idli is served three times a week, and chapati or wheat dosa once a week. The food menu is prepared in consultation with the children's preferences, ensuring that the meals are not only nutritious but also enjoyable. This thoughtful approach to nutrition ensures that the girls at Pudhu Vasantham grow up healthy, energetic, and well-nourished.

Medical Facilities and Health Care

The health and well-being of every girl at Pudhu Vasantham is a top priority. The home ensures access to comprehensive medical care through a multi-layered approach. Firstly, the on-site first aid team provides immediate care to children who fall unwell at any time of the day or night. Children who do not respond to first aid are taken to the nearby Ammainayakanur Government Hospital for professional treatment, and in cases requiring specialised care, private hospitals are accessed.

Twice a year, the home organises comprehensive medical camps in partnership with trained nurses and doctors. These camps include full physical examinations, eye tests, height and weight measurements, and complete blood tests. Special attention is given to girls' reproductive health — medical professionals explain relevant health matters clearly and sensitively, ensuring that the girls have accurate information and access to appropriate care.

The home's commitment to health extends beyond treatment to prevention and education. Children receive regular guidance on nutrition, hygiene, and healthy lifestyle habits, and the clean, well-maintained environment of the home itself contributes significantly to the general health of its residents.

Sports and Physical Activities

Physical activity and sports are given a prominent place in the daily and annual programme of Pudhu Vasantham. The Managing Director personally leads the sports competition held at the home, and the children participate with tremendous enthusiasm and competitive spirit. This year's sports competition saw children competing in a range of events, with all winners receiving prizes and certificates from the Managing Director himself. The children also participate in the sports competitions held at their schools, where they consistently bring home prizes and accolades.

Unique Skills and Talent Development

One of the most distinctive features of Pudhu Vasantham is its commitment to identifying and nurturing the individual talents of every child. The management recognises that education alone is not sufficient — children must also be given opportunities to discover their unique gifts and develop them through practice and encouragement. The home organises a rich calendar of talent development activities, including:

- Literary Forum: competitions in story writing, poetry, essay, and speech
- Costume and Fancy Dress Competitions
- Painting Competitions
- Singing and Music Competitions
- Dance and Drama performances

Special guests — teachers, artists, and community leaders — are invited to judge these competitions and to offer guidance to the children. The Managing Director personally distributes prizes not only to competition winners but to all children who demonstrate effort and improvement, creating a culture of recognition and encouragement that builds confidence and self-esteem across the entire community.

Special Events and Festival Celebrations

Pudhu Vasantham celebrates all major festivals of India with warmth, creativity, and inclusivity. Diwali, Christmas, Pongal, and Navaratri are all celebrated with special programmes, new clothes, and festive food. The birthday of the home itself and the birthdays of the Executive Director and other leaders are celebrated with great enthusiasm and blessings from all the children.

When special guests and donor visitors come to the home, the children give them a warm welcome and put on special cultural programmes. These visits create meaningful connections between the children and the wider world of people who support their journey, and the guests invariably leave the home moved and inspired by what they have witnessed.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

The Pudhu Vasantham Children's Home stands, after twenty-five years of service, as a testament to what is possible when a community of caring, dedicated people commits to the welfare of the most vulnerable. Every girl who has passed through these gates carries a piece of Pudhu Vasantham in her heart — its values, its warmth, its discipline, and its love. We express our deepest gratitude to the Executive Director, Br. Dr. I. Sebastian, whose unwavering vision and leadership have made this home what it is, and to all the donors, staff, and well-wishers who have walked this journey with us.

> *"It is not good to forget gratitude on a good day — it is better to express it every day."*

C. Pudhu Irudayam Children's Home

Thiruvidaikazhi | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"The world needs strong women — women who lift and build others, who love and are loved, who live bravely, both tender and fierce."*

Introduction

Pudhu Irudayam — meaning 'New Heart' — was born out of one of the most devastating tragedies of the 21st century: the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. In the wake of that catastrophe, which orphaned thousands of children across coastal Tamil Nadu, Dr. I. Sebastian and the Valarkuzhanthai Trust responded with the founding of Pudhu Irudayam in 2008, starting with just 18 children from tsunami-affected families. Today, the home has grown into a flourishing community of 153 girls in Class 1 through Class 12, all living, learning, and growing together at Thiruvidaikazhi.

From its traumatic origins as a home for tsunami orphans, Pudhu Irudayam has evolved into a home for all kinds of vulnerable girls — those who have lost one or both parents, those from economically destitute families, and those who simply need the safety, structure, and love that this home provides. The home operates under the principle that every girl deserves not just shelter and food, but the full range of experiences and opportunities that make for a rich and purposeful childhood.

Academic Enrolment and Class-wise Distribution

All 153 girls at Pudhu Irudayam attend school at two institutions: A small Primary School in Tharangambadi (Classes 1 to 5) and St. Teresa Girls' Higher Secondary School in Tharangambadi (Classes 6 to 12). The school vehicle is arranged by the institution to ensure safe and timely transportation for all the children every day. The current class-wise distribution is as follows:

Class	Number	Note
Class II	4	
Class III	11	
Class IV	15	

Class V	15	
Class VI	16	
Class VII	22	
Class VIII	21	
Class IX	29	
Class X	17	(including 1 repeating)
Class XII	3	
Total	153	Girls

Governance Meetings — Building Leaders from Within

One of the most distinctive features of Pudhu Irudayam is its structured system of internal meetings, which are designed not merely for administrative purposes but as deliberate tools for developing leadership, self-governance, and accountability in every child. These meetings are held weekly and monthly, and they serve as a powerful training ground for the citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

Panchayat Meeting — Weekly

The Panchayat Meeting is held every Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. In this meeting, the Head of House and five elected House Leaders gather with all children to discuss any issues, problems, or suggestions arising from the week. Children are encouraged to speak openly about difficulties they have faced — in eating, bathing, cleanliness routines, school transport, playground behaviour, or study time. The Head of House and responsible persons listen carefully and provide solutions, mediate disputes, and guide the children towards resolution. This meeting empowers children to advocate for themselves and their peers, developing confidence and civic awareness in the process.

Group Meeting — Weekly (Sundays)

Every Sunday afternoon, a Group Meeting is held cottage by cottage from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. In this meeting, the House Leader inspects the personal belongings of each child — her clothes, her books, her hygiene items — to ensure that everything is kept clean, organised, and safe. Discrepancies are noted in the register, and children are held accountable for the care of their possessions. This meeting cultivates habits of personal responsibility and orderliness that will serve these children throughout their lives.

Guardian Advisory Meeting — Weekly (Sundays)

Every Sunday evening from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, the Guardian Advisory Meeting is held. In this session, the primary caretaker and co-workers gather to discuss the children's progress, identify areas needing correction, and celebrate improvements. Children are addressed individually when needed, and both praise and constructive guidance are given. The purpose of this meeting is to create a culture of continuous improvement and mutual accountability that permeates every corner of the home's life.

School Visits and Educational Monitoring

The wardens at Pudhu Irudayam conduct regular monthly school visits that are among the most comprehensive and systematic in any Valarkuzhanthai Trust institution. Before each visit, the wardens prepare a detailed agenda of questions and discussion points to raise with the teachers. During the visit, they enquire about the children's academic performance (homework completion, mark sheets, attendance), moral character, punctuality, dress and appearance, classroom behaviour, attentiveness, and whether the children are eating their school meals properly.

Based on teacher feedback, the wardens return to the home and provide tailored guidance to individual children, arranging additional tuition for those who struggle and recognising the achievements of those who excel. Children in Classes 10 to 12 are given special attention, with dedicated tuition teachers providing extra coaching throughout the academic year.

Parent Meetings

Parent meetings are held once a month on the second Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Parents and authorised guardians are permitted to visit the children during this time. The meetings serve multiple purposes: parents bring monthly supplies for their children, wardens share academic progress and behavioural reports, and advice is given to parents of children who need additional support at home. This structured parent engagement ensures that the bonds between children and their families are maintained and strengthened, even as the institution provides a stable residential environment.

Birthday Celebrations

At the end of every month, all children whose birthdays fall in that month are celebrated together in a beautiful ceremony. Prayers are offered, candles are lit, and a cake is cut. All the

children of the home gather to congratulate their birthday peers, who are treated as special guests for the day. This celebration is deeply meaningful for children who may not have had the experience of a birthday celebration at home, and it communicates powerfully that every child is seen, valued, and loved.

Psychological Counselling and Emotional Well-being

Pudhu Irudayam provides dedicated psychological counselling support to ensure that every child can grow in a state of emotional health and psychological security. The counsellors are trained to identify signs of stress, loneliness, or withdrawal in children — particularly newly admitted children who are adjusting to the home environment. When a child is observed to be isolated, quiet, or struggling to integrate, the counsellor engages with her individually, listens to her concerns, and uses positive stories, challenges, and activities to help her reconnect with the community.

This proactive approach to emotional well-being ensures that mental health concerns are identified and addressed early, preventing escalation and enabling every child to thrive in a supportive, connected environment.

National Festivals

Independence Day — 15th August 2025

Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Pudhu Irudayam. The national flag was hoisted in the presence of Thiruvidaikazhi Panchayat President C.P.N. Nagaraj and Panchayat members. The children decorated the campus with kolam and flags, and performed speeches, poetry, songs, drama, and dance that honoured the freedom fighters and leaders of India. The entire programme was organised and delivered by the children themselves — an exercise in civic pride and practical leadership.

Republic Day — 26th January 2026

Republic Day was celebrated with a similar spirit of civic awareness and national pride. The event was organised by the children, with every aspect of the programme — the welcome speech, vote of thanks, pledge, and national anthem — performed methodically and excellently by the resident girls.

Pongal — 14th January 2026

Pongal was celebrated in the most authentic and joyful manner at Pudhu Irudayam. The children went house by house, celebrated together, and cooked Pongal in every cottage. The joy of children cooking their own food, sharing it with each other, and celebrating a festival that connects them to their Tamil heritage was visible and palpable.

Medical Camp — 11th December 2025

A comprehensive medical camp was conducted on 11 December 2025, led by Dr. Easwar from Valliammai Hospital, Thillaiyadi. During the camp, each child had the opportunity to discuss her physical health concerns personally with the doctor. Medicines, tablets, and special supplements were provided where needed. Insect repellent (Albendazole) was administered to all children as a six-monthly preventive measure. Heights and weights were measured and recorded. Children identified with anaemia received dedicated nutritional supplements. The camp concluded with an awareness class on personal cleanliness, hygiene, and healthy eating habits — delivered by Dr. Easwar in a child-friendly and engaging manner.

Sports and Physical Recreation

Every evening from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, the children of Pudhu Irudayam engage in play and physical activity. Younger children (Classes 1 to 5) enjoy swings and playground games, while older children (Classes 6 to 12) play Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and flag games. This year, two of our students — Aakutha (Class 6) and Sangdovini (Class 9) — won the district-level Kho-Kho competition, bringing home the championship cup and a certificate. We are enormously proud of their achievement.

Conclusion

Pudhu Irudayam Children's Home enters its 18th year of operation with a renewed sense of purpose and an undiminished commitment to the 153 girls who call it home. From tsunami orphans to today's diverse community of girls from all circumstances of need, the home has remained true to its founding vision of providing safety, education, love, and opportunity. We thank our Executive Director Dr. I. Sebastian, our management team, our dedicated wardens, and all the donors and friends who make this work possible.

D. Pudhu Udhayam Special School & Home

Dindigul | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"Our school is a new dawn — created to make a new world for children whose abilities are different, not lesser."*

Introduction

Pudhu Udhayam — meaning 'New Dawn' — is one of the most unique and compassionate institutions in the Valarkuzhanthai Trust family. It is a special school and residential home for differently-abled children and young adults, founded in 2003 on the foundational belief that intellectual or physical disability does not diminish a person's worth, dignity, or potential. Now in its 23rd year of operation, Pudhu Udhayam has grown steadily from a small school for a handful of children to a thriving institution serving both students at school and young adults in the Pudhu Vidiyal Special Home.

The school was established through the untiring work of Dr. I. Sebastian, whose compassion for differently-abled individuals led him to create a space where they could receive not just care, but education, vocational training, and opportunities for meaningful engagement with the world. The Managing Director is described by staff as the embodiment of the three great relationships — a brother who guides and a sister who comes to the rescue — and this spirit of unconditional love permeates every corner of Pudhu Udhayam.

Pudhu Vidiyal Special Home

In December 2009, a residential extension of Pudhu Udhayam was established: the Pudhu Vidiyal Special Home. This home caters to differently-abled adults aged 18 to 40 who require ongoing residential support and care. Currently, 40 individuals reside in the home — 18 males and 22 females — with separate accommodation and separate wardens provided for men and women respectively. The home provides a safe, structured, and dignified living environment for adults who need long-term support.

Daily Routine — Residential Home

Time	Activity
6:30 AM	Wake up and exercises
6:30 – 7:00 AM	Personal hygiene

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Bathing
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Campus cleaning
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Preparation for school / vocational centre
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Walking and Games
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Entertainment and recreation
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Oral song practice
8:00 – 8:30 PM	Dinner
8:30 – 9:00 PM	Plate washing and preparation for bed
9:00 PM	Lights out

Daily Routine — School Programme

Time	Activity
9:30 AM	Prayer and assembly
9:45 AM	Attendance
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Staff meeting
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Oral song practice
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Teaching sessions
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Yoga
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Arts, drawing and colouring
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Campus cleaning work
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Snacks time
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Games
4:30 – 5:00 PM	A.D.S. practice and activity
5:00 PM	School ends

Student Admission and Enrolment

Admissions to Pudhu Udhayam are conducted every year during the months of April and May, with the academic year commencing in June. Children aged 5 to 18 years are admitted to the Special School, while young adults aged 18 to 40 years are admitted to the Pudhu Vidiyal Special Home. The admission team visits families and communities to identify eligible

beneficiaries, ensuring that the most deserving individuals are given priority access to the institution's services.

Vocational Training Programme

Vocational training is at the heart of Pudhu Udhayam's approach to differently-abled children and adults. The programme is built on the understanding that every person, regardless of their disability, has the capacity to learn a skill, contribute to their community, and take pride in their work. The vocational training offered at Pudhu Udhayam includes a diverse range of activities:

- Soap Water (phenol) making: students learn to prepare this widely-used cleaning product
- Garland making: students create beautiful garlands for sale at local markets and festivals
- Moss collecting and organic gardening: students engage with nature and learn ecological skills
- Sapling watering and nursery management: students tend to a plant nursery
- Sheep rearing: the school maintains a flock of 100 sheep, and students learn all aspects of their care — including feeding bran and cake, watering, counting, and returning the sheep to their pen each evening

The sheep rearing programme is particularly significant. The children's enthusiasm for this activity — counting the sheep, caring for them, watching them grow — is remarkable. It teaches responsibility, patience, and the joy of nurturing living beings. Parents who visit the school are invariably moved to see their children engaged so confidently and purposefully in these activities.

Staff Meetings and Organisational Management

The Pudhu Udhayam team operates with a high degree of professional rigour and organisational discipline. Staff meetings are held every morning to review the work of the previous day and plan for the current day. Weekly planning meetings produce written weekly work plans that are submitted to the head office. Once a month, a comprehensive review meeting is held in which all staff gather to assess the work done and not done in the previous month, discuss challenges, and plan for the month ahead. WhatsApp photo documentation is maintained for all activities.

Parent Involvement

The second Saturday of every month is set aside for a Parent Meeting at Pudhu Udhayam. This meeting is a vital component of the school's approach, recognising that parents are partners in the child's development rather than passive observers. At these meetings, parents discuss their child's food and nutrition, health status, academic and vocational progress, and any medical or therapeutic needs. The school provides advice and guidance to parents, and the products of the children's vocational training — garlands, phenol, and other items — are displayed and available for purchase by parents, giving the children a sense of pride and achievement.

Medical Care

A medical team from Ammaiyanayakr Primary Health Centre visits the school every month to conduct health checks on all the children. The visiting doctors examine each child individually, prescribe necessary medicines, and provide health education. This monthly medical visit ensures that health issues are identified and addressed promptly, and that both children and staff are equipped with the knowledge needed to maintain good health.

Special Events and Celebrations

Independence Day — 15th August 2025

The Independence Day celebration at Pudhu Udhayam this year was led by DMK Union President Karikalan, who hoisted the flag in the presence of all the children, staff, and parents. He addressed the gathering with words of inspiration and encouragement, and distributed sweets to all the children. The children participated in cultural performances and song programmes, demonstrating their abilities and bringing joy to everyone present.

Republic Day — 26th January 2026

Republic Day was celebrated with a flag hoisting ceremony led by the village Administrative Officer of Ammaiyanayachchar. The officer addressed the children with words of wisdom and encouragement, distributed sweets, and interacted warmly with the students. The occasion was a reminder to the wider community that differently-abled children are valued citizens who deserve recognition and respect.

Christmas Day — 25th December 2025

Christmas at Pudhu Udhayam is always a joyful and memorable occasion. Br. I. Sebastian personally distributed new clothes to every student and resident, and the celebrations included dance, music, and community feasting. The children's joy on receiving their Christmas clothes and participating in the festivities was heartwarming and deeply moving.

World Disabled Persons Day — 3rd December 2025

The celebration of World Disabled Persons Day was a landmark event this year. Our students participated in the district-level painting competition held on 3 December and won prizes — a tremendous achievement. The World Disabled Persons Day celebration was held at the Dindigul Women's Art Gallery, where our students performed mesmerising solo and group dances before an audience that included the District Minister and the District Collector. The quality and joy of the children's performances moved the entire audience and demonstrated powerfully that differently-abled individuals have extraordinary gifts to offer the world.

Government Incentives and Welfare Programmes

This year, students of Pudhu Udhayam benefitted from a district-level welfare assistance programme for the differently-abled, through which MISR Kit wheelchairs were provided to eligible students. These wheelchairs have transformed the daily lives of the recipients, enabling greater independence and mobility. Students also received other government welfare benefits under various schemes for the differently-abled, and the school's management works diligently to ensure that all eligible students and families are aware of and accessing the full range of government entitlements.

Evaluation

Evaluation of students is conducted three times a year. This year, in December, a special evaluation was conducted by Poongodi Silpu, a specialist teacher from Madurai, who assessed all the students. Her report was encouraging — she noted significant and measurable progress in the academic, vocational, and social skills of the children, and commended the dedication and professionalism of the Pudhu Udhayam team.

Government Visits

Government officials visit Pudhu Udhayam regularly to inspect and support its work. Monthly visits by the District Transfer Students Welfare Officer, the Fire Department Officer, and the Health Inspector are routine. Officers from the Village Administration, Civil Supplies Department, and other government bodies also visit to assess campus cleanliness and the welfare of the children. These visits are welcomed by the management as an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to high standards and to build relationships with government stakeholders.

Conclusion

Pudhu Udhayam Special School and Home continues to shine as a beacon of hope and possibility for differently-abled children and adults in the Dindigul region. In its 23rd year of operation, the institution has never wavered in its mission to provide education, vocational training, love, and dignity to those who need it most. We are profoundly grateful to Dr. I. Sebastian for his visionary leadership, to the staff who give their best every day, and to every donor and friend who believes in the immeasurable worth of every differently-abled person.

E. CSI Boys Hostel

CSI Higher Secondary School, Battalakundu | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"Education is not merely the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire — and at CSI Boys Hostel, every boy's fire is kindled and nurtured every day."*

Introduction

The CSI Boys Hostel, located on the campus of CSI Higher Secondary School in Battalakundu, provides a structured, disciplined, and nurturing residential environment for boys pursuing their secondary and higher secondary education. The hostel is closely integrated with the academic life of the school, ensuring that the boys receive not only a safe place to live but also the academic support, moral formation, and extracurricular development needed to build well-rounded, capable individuals.

The hostel's programme is built around a carefully designed daily timetable that balances academic study, physical activity, spiritual formation, and personal development. Every aspect of the boys' day — from wake-up to lights-out — is thoughtfully planned to maximise their growth and ensure their well-being. The hostel is managed by experienced and dedicated staff who are committed to the welfare of every boy in their care.

Daily Timetable — Hostel

Time	Activity
5:30 AM	Morning Prayer
5:30 – 5:45 AM	Morning Prayer and Devotions
5:45 – 7:00 AM	Morning Study Session
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Personal hygiene and bathing
8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM	Departure to school
9:30 AM – 12:45 PM	Morning lessons (4 periods)
12:45 – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 – 4:15 PM	Afternoon lessons (4 periods)
4:15 PM	Return to hostel
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Refreshment time (bathing, washing, rest)

6:00 – 7:30 PM	Evening Study Session
8:00 – 8:45 PM	Dinner
8:45 – 9:30 PM	Night reflection and preparation for sleep

School Activities and Academic Programme

Time	Activity
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Independent study time
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Morning assembly and prayer
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Eight periods of regular classes
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Special classes for Classes 10 and 12
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Evening sports
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Special coaching for slow learners (Classes 10 & 12)

Each class includes two dedicated physical education periods, one ethics class, and one library class per week, in addition to the regular academic curriculum. This ensures that the boys' development is holistic — academic, physical, ethical, and cultural — and that no dimension of their growth is neglected.

Sports and Physical Development

Sports and physical activity are given significant emphasis at the CSI Boys Hostel. Every evening from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, the boys engage in structured sporting activities. The sports programme includes Cricket, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Handball, Football, and Athletics training. During weekends, the boys play Kabaddi and Volleyball in team formats, and intellectual games such as Carrom and Chess are available for indoor play.

Once a year, the school organises an Annual Sports Festival in which prizes are awarded to outstanding athletes. This festival is a highlight of the school calendar and cultivates a spirit of healthy competition, team work, and physical excellence. The boys participate enthusiastically, and the event strengthens community bonds and morale.

Moral and Values Education

Moral education is a cornerstone of the CSI Boys Hostel's formation programme. One day per week, a dedicated teacher provides moral education classes to all the boys, covering themes

of honesty, respect, responsibility, service, and social justice. These classes are supplemented by the daily prayer life of the hostel, which provides regular moments of reflection and spiritual renewal.

At the end of each academic year, the hostel organises a Dormitory Festival that showcases the talents of the students — in music, drama, dance, and oratory. This event provides every boy with an opportunity to shine in front of his peers, builds confidence, and celebrates the diverse gifts that each student brings to the community.

Health and Environment

The CSI Boys Hostel is designed and maintained with the health and well-being of its residents as a priority. The hostel is well-ventilated, ensuring a healthy and comfortable living environment throughout the year. Clean drinking water is provided through an RO (Reverse Osmosis) purification system in the school. The campus is maintained to high standards of cleanliness, with regular cleaning programmes involving both staff and students.

Students receive high-quality instruction from experienced teachers, and the overall academic environment is one of rigour, encouragement, and mutual support. The hostel's integration with the school means that academic concerns can be identified and addressed quickly, ensuring that no boy falls behind.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival, held in the first week of December, is the most eagerly anticipated event of the year at the CSI Boys Hostel. Special food, cake, and gifts are provided to all students, and the campus is decorated beautifully. The festival creates a warm, joyful atmosphere that strengthens community bonds and provides the boys with a beautiful memory of their time at the hostel.

Conclusion

The CSI Boys Hostel continues to provide an excellent residential and academic environment for the boys of Battalakundu and surrounding areas. Through its integration of academic rigour, physical development, moral formation, and community life, the hostel is shaping young men of character, competence, and compassion. We express our gratitude to the school's Head Teacher, all staff, and the broader Valarkuzhanthai Trust family for their unwavering support.

F. Sponsorship Programme & Village Outreach

Dindigul, Theni & Mayiladuthurai Districts | Annual Report 2025–2026

"We rise by lifting others."

Introduction and Programme Overview

The Sponsorship Programme and Village Outreach of Valarkuzhanthai Trust represents the Trust's commitment to extending its impact beyond the walls of its residential homes and into the wider community. Focused on three districts — Dindigul, Theni, and Mayiladuthurai — this programme identifies and supports the most deserving children and families in remote villages, providing educational sponsorships, school materials, health camps, and family guidance that transform the trajectories of young lives.

The villages served by this programme are home to agricultural labourers, daily-wage workers, and families living in conditions of profound economic precarity. In many of these communities, even basic educational facilities are inadequate or inaccessible, and the aspiration for a child to complete secondary school — let alone pursue higher education — can seem impossibly distant. Valarkuzhanthai Trust's village outreach team works tirelessly to bridge this gap, ensuring that the most deserving children have access to educational support and the encouragement they need to persist through their studies.

How the Programme Works

The programme operates through a rigorous and compassionate process of identification, assessment, and ongoing support. Valarkuzhanthai Trust staff · led by field coordinator Mr. A. Suresh and Mr. Vellaichamy, supported by their team members — make regular visits to every village in the programme area, going house to house to identify children from genuinely needy families. Once a child is identified and a case study is prepared, the file is reviewed by the Executive Director and, if approved, the child is enrolled in the sponsorship programme.

Each sponsored child receives financial support for school fees, books, uniforms, and other educational materials. Staff also make monthly home and school visits to monitor the child's academic progress, behavioural development, and overall well-being. At school, staff meet the class teacher and principal to obtain a detailed assessment of the child's performance. At home, they discuss the findings with parents and provide advice on how to support the child's

education. This combination of financial support and personal accompaniment creates a comprehensive safety net that helps children stay in school and succeed academically.

Monthly Home and School Visits

The monthly home and school visit programme is one of the most important components of the Sponsorship Programme's effectiveness. Staff visit every sponsored child's school to meet the class teacher and principal, enquiring about the child's academic performance, attendance, homework completion, behaviour, and social relationships. They take careful notes and compare them with observations from previous months to track each child's progress over time.

Following the school visit, staff visit the child's home to discuss the school's feedback with parents. They celebrate improvements, address areas of concern, and provide practical advice to parents on how to create a supportive learning environment at home. Staff also address any psychological or family issues that may be affecting the child's school performance, acting as mentors and counsellors for the entire family.

Competitions and Confidence Building

The Sponsorship Programme recognises that poor and rural children often carry deep-seated beliefs about their own limitations — beliefs instilled by years of poverty, marginalisation, and limited access to opportunities. One of the programme's most important functions is to challenge and dismantle these beliefs by creating opportunities for children to experience success, recognition, and applause.

Valarkuzhanthai Trust organises regular competitions for sponsored children in areas such as speech, essay writing, art, quiz, and general knowledge. These competitions create a stage on which village children can demonstrate their abilities in a supportive, encouraging environment. Winners are celebrated publicly, and all participants receive appreciation and encouragement. The impact on the children's self-confidence is visible and significant — many children have reported that their first experience of winning a competition, or simply of standing on a stage and speaking, changed their self-perception and their ambitions.

Recognising Academic Achievers

Each year, Valarkuzhanthai Trust publicly honours sponsored children who achieve excellent results in their Class 10 and Class 12 public examinations. The top three achievers in each class are celebrated in a special function attended by their peers, parents, and community members. This recognition serves multiple purposes: it rewards the hard work of the achievers, inspires younger children to aspire to similar success, and demonstrates to families and communities that educational investment yields tangible results.

Health Awareness and Blood Group Identification

The Sponsorship Programme conducts health awareness sessions for sponsored children and their families on a regular basis. This year, a blood group identification camp was organised for all sponsored children — an initiative that has proven enormously valuable in communities where many people are unaware of their own blood group. Resource persons were invited to conduct the camp and to provide education on the importance of knowing one's blood group and the life-saving significance of blood donation. Parents and children who had previously held superstitious fears about blood donation were reassured and enlightened by the factual, scientific presentations.

Environmental Awareness Programme

In keeping with Valarkuzhanthai Trust's commitment to holistic development, the Sponsorship Programme organised an environmental awareness seminar for sponsored children this year. The seminar educated children about the importance of protecting the natural environment, the consequences of pollution and deforestation, and the simple daily actions that each person can take to reduce their environmental impact. At the end of the seminar, each child was given a tree sapling to plant and care for — a symbol of their commitment to the environment and a daily reminder of their responsibility to the living world.

Looking Ahead

The Sponsorship Programme will continue to expand its reach in the coming year, aiming to identify and support additional deserving children in the three target districts. Plans are in place to introduce new competition formats, strengthen the parent engagement component of the programme, and develop partnerships with local schools and government bodies to ensure that the programme's impact is sustained and multiplied. With the continued support of generous donors from India and abroad, Valarkuzhanthai Trust is committed to ensuring that poverty is never a barrier to a child's education and future.

G. St. Lasalle Pudumanam Industrial Institute

Pudumanam, Dindigul | Silver Jubilee Year 2025–2026

> *"Twenty-five years of empowering youth through technical education, skill development, and value-based formation."*

Introduction — Silver Jubilee Year

The academic year 2025–2026 is a landmark year in the history of St. Lasalle Pudumanam Industrial Institute — it is the Silver Jubilee Year, marking 25 years of dedicated, uninterrupted service in technical education and youth empowerment in and around Dindigul District. Over these twenty-five years, hundreds of young men have passed through the doors of this institution and emerged as skilled professionals, responsible citizens, and agents of economic development in their communities.

The institute is rooted in the Lasallian spirit — a tradition of educational service to the poor and marginalised that has shaped Catholic educational institutions around the world for over three centuries. True to this tradition, Pudumanam ITI has consistently prioritised service to young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, providing them with world-class technical training, moral formation, and practical skills that give them a genuine path out of poverty and into dignified, productive employment.

Student Enrolment — 2025–2026

The academic year 2025–2026 commenced in September 2025 with great enthusiasm. A total of 130 students were enrolled across seven technical trades, including the newly introduced Electrical Technician programme.

S.No	Trade	Students
1	Electrician — Year I	20
2	Electrician — Year II	18
3	Fitter — Year I	20
4	Fitter — Year II	15
5	Welder	22
6	Automobile	18
7	Electrical Technician (New)	17
	Total	**130**

Tech Expo – 2K25

One of the highlight events of this Silver Jubilee Year was Tech Expo – 2K25, a technical exhibition organised by the institute that drew participants from multiple industrial training institutes and educational institutions across the region. Students displayed their innovative projects, technical models, and practical solutions — demonstrating not just technical competence but also creativity, problem-solving ability, and entrepreneurial thinking. Industry representatives, educators, and community leaders attended the expo, providing valuable feedback and recognition to the students. Tech Expo – 2K25 was widely hailed as one of the best technical exhibitions in the district this year.

Job Mela — Placement Opportunities

In a direct embodiment of the institute's commitment to bridging technical education and employment, a Job Mela (Job Fair) was organised for both institute students and students from other institutions. Several companies and industry representatives participated, conducting on-the-spot interviews and issuing placement orders to successful candidates. The Job Mela opened new career pathways for numerous students, giving them their first professional opportunities and the confidence to embark on independent careers. The institute views these placement activities as among its most important contributions to the students' futures and to the regional economy.

On-the-Job Training (OJT)

All trade students of the institute participated in structured On-the-Job Training (OJT) as an essential component of their practical learning and industry exposure. Second-year students underwent their OJT during December and January, while first-year students were sent for OJT from the last week of February through March — a period of 21 days. The OJT programme provides students with irreplaceable hands-on experience in real industrial settings, exposing them to workplace practices, professional expectations, and the practical application of the technical skills they have developed in the classroom and workshop.

Convocation Ceremony

A grand Convocation Ceremony was organised to celebrate and honour the students who successfully completed their courses during this Silver Jubilee Year. The ceremony was a moment of immense pride for the institute, for the students, and for their families. Certificates were formally awarded in recognition of the hard work, discipline, and dedication demonstrated by each graduating student. The convocation served as a powerful reminder that the institute

is not merely a place of technical learning but a launching pad — a place where young people are prepared and propelled into the world with skills, confidence, and purpose.

Sports Achievements

The academic year brought remarkable sporting success for St. Lasalle Pudumanam ITI. Students participated in the District Level Inter Industrial Institute Sports Competition, held at the Sports Stadium in Dindigul, and performed outstandingly across multiple events including athletics, running, and long jump. We are immensely proud to announce that St. Lasalle Pudumanam Industrial Institute emerged as the Overall Champions at the District Level Sports Competition — a tremendous achievement that brings great pride to the institution and to every student and staff member.

Following this success, two of our talented students — Karthik and Rayappar — represented the institute at the Regional Level Sports Competition, where they won prizes in Long Jump and Running events respectively and were selected to participate in the State Level Sports Competition. Their achievements are a source of enormous pride for the entire institution and a testament to the comprehensive, holistic development that the institute provides.

Government Skill Development Schemes

The institute actively participates in and promotes government-supported skill development initiatives to enhance students' learning and employment prospects. This year, all students were enrolled in the Nan Mudhalvan Scheme and the 'The World Is At Your Hand' digital learning initiative. As part of these programmes, eligible students received laptops — a transformative resource that enables them to access digital learning platforms, develop their technical knowledge online, and prepare for the increasingly digital world of work.

Campus Development and Maintenance

The Silver Jubilee Year provided an impetus for renewed attention to campus development and maintenance. Several improvements were undertaken to ensure that the institute's physical environment continues to meet the highest standards of cleanliness, safety, and functionality. Regular maintenance activities were conducted in classrooms, workshops, and common areas, creating a comfortable, productive environment that supports excellent learning outcomes.

Introduction of New Course

As one of the key Silver Jubilee initiatives, the institute introduced a new course in Electrical Technician Training — a qualification designed to meet the rapidly growing demand for skilled electrical technicians in industries, commercial establishments, and domestic settings. The response from prospective students has been highly encouraging, with 17 students enrolled in the inaugural batch of the course. The introduction of this course reflects the institute's commitment to remaining responsive to industry needs and to expanding the range of opportunities available to the young people it serves.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

To commemorate the historic milestone of 25 years of service, the institute organised a series of Silver Jubilee activities and events throughout the year. A Jubilee Inaugural Ceremony was conducted on 26 January 2026 and 26 February 2026, with community leaders, benefactors, alumni, and students gathering to celebrate the institution's legacy and to renew its commitment to its mission. Free medical camps and health awareness sessions were conducted for students and the wider community, with special emphasis on girls' health and hygiene. Various community outreach activities and awareness programmes were organised to strengthen the institute's connection with the local community.

The final Silver Jubilee Celebration is planned for 26 May 2026, marking the culmination of this remarkable anniversary year with gratitude, reflection, and a renewed commitment to the next 25 years of service.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, the institute is planning a comprehensive Jubilee Renovation programme to upgrade infrastructure and facilities, creating better learning spaces and more modern training environments for future students. Plans also include the introduction of additional industry-relevant technical courses, the strengthening of industry partnerships, the expansion of placement opportunities, and the continuation of community outreach and skill development initiatives. The institute enters its 26th year with confidence, gratitude, and a clear sense of purpose.

Conclusion

The academic year 2025–2026 has been a year of growth, achievement, and celebration for St. Lasalle Pudumanam Industrial Institute. Our students have demonstrated excellence in technical skills, sports, innovation, and community engagement. As we celebrate 25 years of service, we express our sincere gratitude to the staff, benefactors, industry partners, and well-wishers whose support has shaped this institution. With continued dedication and collaboration, we look forward to many more years of empowering youth and building a skilled, responsible society.

H. Evening Tuition Centre Programme

Mayiladuthurai & Theni Districts | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"Education is the light that dispels the darkness of poverty — and through these evening classes, we carry that light to every village."*

Introduction and Programme Background

The Evening Tuition Centre Programme is one of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's most impactful community outreach initiatives, designed to provide high-quality educational support to underprivileged children in villages where access to good tuition is limited or non-existent. The programme operates through a network of evening tuition centres across 16 locations — 8 centres in Mayiladuthurai District and 8 centres in Theni District — reaching approximately 40 children per village, with a total programme beneficiary count of approximately 640 children across all centres.

The programme runs from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM daily (an average of two hours per session), providing tuition in all subjects for children from Classes 1 to 8. The centres function six days a week throughout the academic year, ensuring continuity and consistent progress. Local teachers, carefully selected for their subject knowledge and commitment to the children, lead the sessions under the oversight of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's programme coordinators.

Detail	Information	Notes
Mayiladuthurai District	8 Centres	~320 children
Theni District	8 Centres	~320 children
Classes Covered	1 to 8	All subjects
Session Timing	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Daily, 6 days/week
Total Beneficiaries	~640 children	2025–2026

Why This Programme Matters

In the villages served by this programme, children face formidable barriers to educational success. Parents are often daily-wage labourers with little formal education themselves, unable to provide academic support at home. Schools in these areas are frequently under-resourced, with large class sizes and insufficient individual attention for struggling students. After school, many children spend their time on mobile phones or watching television rather

than on their studies — a pattern that, over time, creates significant learning gaps and reduces the chances of academic success.

The Evening Tuition Centres directly address these barriers. By providing a structured, supportive, and stimulating learning environment for two hours each evening, the programme ensures that children have dedicated time for their studies, receive targeted help with their weakest subjects, and develop the habit of regular, focused academic work. The presence of skilled and caring teachers fills the gap left by under-resourced schools and home environments, giving every child — regardless of their family background — access to quality educational support.

Teaching Methods and Academic Focus

The teachers at Valarkuzhanthai Trust's Evening Tuition Centres are trained to provide engaging, child-centred instruction that meets the individual needs of each student. The curriculum covers all core subjects, with particular emphasis on the areas where village children most commonly struggle: Mathematics, English grammar and vocabulary, Tamil language skills, and General Knowledge. Teachers use a range of methods to make learning accessible and enjoyable — including puzzles, worksheets, group activities, and oral exercises — ensuring that even children who struggle in conventional school settings can engage, progress, and succeed.

- Mathematics: number puzzles, arithmetic exercises, logic problems, and mental maths drills
- English: grammar exercises, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, and writing practice
- Tamil: comprehension, essay writing, and poetry appreciation
- General Knowledge: current affairs discussions, quiz competitions, and research activities
- Science and Social Studies: concept mapping, project work, and group discussions

Monthly Competitions and Rewards

One of the most distinctive and effective features of the Evening Tuition Programme is its regular system of competitions and rewards. Every month, various competitions are organised in each centre — covering academic subjects, creative arts, and general knowledge. Winners receive prizes and certificates, and all participants receive acknowledgement and

encouragement. This competitive element is carefully designed to be inclusive and motivating rather than exclusive — every child has a chance to win in their area of strength, and the experience of receiving a prize or a certificate of achievement is genuinely transformative for children who have never been publicly recognised before.

Teachers also provide monthly snacks to students as a token of appreciation and care — a small gesture that communicates to the children that they are valued and that their effort is seen. Monthly development reports are prepared by each teacher and submitted to the Valarkuzhanthai Trust administrative director, creating a system of accountability and continuous improvement.

Parent Feedback and Engagement

The impact of the Evening Tuition Programme has been overwhelmingly positive, and this is reflected in the enthusiastic feedback received from parents. Parents across all 16 centres have reported dramatic improvements in their children's academic performance, attitude to study, and time management. Many parents have noted that children who previously spent their evenings on mobile phones or in aimless activity are now arriving home from school, completing their daily tasks, and walking to the tuition centre with purpose and enthusiasm.

One parent's testimony captures the experience of many: 'My child previously hesitated even to sit for studies and used to run away from books. Now, when he returns from school, he washes his face, eats quickly, and leaves for the tuition centre without being asked. He comes home having used his time well. Before these classes, he would waste all his time on his mobile phone or watching TV. Now his time is used well, and his marks have improved significantly. The gifts, the snacks, the prizes — all these make my child feel valued and motivated. I and my whole family are very grateful.'

Academic Progress and Outcomes

The measurable academic outcomes of the programme are deeply encouraging. Across all 16 centres, children who have been in the programme for at least one full academic year consistently achieve higher marks in their school examinations than before they joined. Teachers report observable improvements in attention span, reading fluency, mathematical reasoning, and confidence in answering questions. Children who previously sat passively at the back of school classrooms are now raising their hands, engaging with teachers, and participating actively in classroom discussions.

The programme also supports children in Class 8 who are approaching their first significant public examination, providing intensive targeted coaching in the months before the exam and ensuring that these children enter the examination hall with adequate preparation and genuine confidence.

Role of Teachers

The teachers of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's Evening Tuition Centres are the backbone of the programme. They work with dedication and creativity to deliver high-quality instruction in resource-limited environments, adapting their methods to the needs and pace of each student. They provide individual attention to struggling students, celebrate the achievements of all students, and serve as mentors and role models for children who may have few such figures in their lives. The management of Valarkuzhanthai Trust recognises and deeply appreciates the commitment of these teachers, and provides them with ongoing training, support, and recognition for their vital contribution to the programme.

Looking Ahead

In the coming academic year, Valarkuzhanthai Trust plans to expand the Tuition Centre Programme to additional villages in both the Mayiladuthurai and Theni districts, increasing the number of beneficiary children and strengthening the quality of the programme in existing centres. Plans also include the introduction of digital learning tools in select centres, the organisation of inter-centre competitions and festivals, and the development of a mentorship component that connects older students with younger ones. Valarkuzhanthai Trust is committed to ensuring that quality education reaches every child in every village it serves.

Conclusion

The Evening Tuition Centre Programme represents Valarkuzhanthai Trust at its most grassroots and most impactful — reaching directly into the homes and villages of the poorest families and placing the tool of education in the hands of every child. We express our gratitude to the teachers, programme coordinators, parents, and donors who make this programme possible, and we renew our commitment to ensuring that no child's education is limited by the accident of birth.

I. Women Empowerment Programme

Multiple Locations, Tamil Nadu | Annual Report 2025–2026

> *"When you educate a woman, you educate a family. When you empower a woman, you transform a community."*

Introduction and Programme Philosophy

Valarkuzhanthai Trust has long recognised that the empowerment of women is not merely a social good — it is the single most effective lever for sustainable community development. When a woman has access to education, skills, economic resources, and the confidence to use them, the benefits cascade across her family, her children, and her entire community. The Women Empowerment Programme of Valarkuzhanthai Trust is built on this conviction, and it works through multiple interconnected strategies — livelihood support, Self-Help Group (SHG) formation, micro-credit access, skill training, and awareness programming — to create lasting, generational change in the lives of women and their families.

The programme targets women from the most vulnerable sections of rural Tamil Nadu — widows, single mothers, women from marginalised communities, women affected by poverty and social exclusion. It meets them where they are, builds their confidence and capacity over time, and supports them on a journey from dependency to dignity, from isolation to community, from poverty to economic self-sufficiency.

Self-Help Group (SHG) Formation and Strengthening

The Self-Help Group is the foundational unit of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's Women Empowerment Programme. SHGs are small groups of 10 to 15 women from the same village or community who come together on a regular basis to save money collectively, access micro-credit for income-generating activities, and support each other through shared challenges. The SHG model has been proven globally to be one of the most effective mechanisms for women's economic empowerment, and Valarkuzhanthai Trust has worked to establish and strengthen SHGs across multiple village communities in its programme areas.

This year, the programme supported SHG formation and functioning in villages across the programme areas. Each group meets weekly or fortnightly, with Valarkuzhanthai Trust field staff facilitating meetings, providing training, and offering ongoing support and guidance. The groups

collectively save small amounts each meeting — typically Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 per member — building a communal corpus that is used to provide internal loans to members at low interest rates. Over time, these groups are linked to formal financial institutions, enabling members to access larger loans from banks and government schemes.

Micro-Credit and Income-Generating Activities

Access to credit is one of the most important determinants of women's economic agency. In rural communities, poor women have traditionally been excluded from formal financial systems, leaving them vulnerable to exploitative moneylenders who charge exorbitant interest rates. Valarkuzhanthai Trust's micro-credit component directly addresses this exclusion by facilitating access to affordable credit through SHG internal lending and through linkages with formal financial institutions.

This year, women supported by the programme used micro-credit to invest in a range of income-generating activities, including:

- Small-scale retail businesses: selling vegetables, provisions, and daily goods from home or at local markets
- Food preparation and catering: preparing pickles, papads, snacks, and ready-to-eat foods for sale
- Animal husbandry: rearing goats, cows, and poultry for milk, eggs, and meat production
- Tailoring and garment production: sewing clothes, school uniforms, and festive garments
- Agarbatti (incense stick) and candle making: producing daily-use items for local markets
- Handicrafts: making bags, decorative items, and household products from natural materials

The income generated from these activities, however modest initially, gives women a degree of economic independence that has profound effects on their confidence, their status within the family, and their ability to make decisions about their lives and their children's futures.

Skills Training Programme

The Skills Training component of the Women Empowerment Programme provides women with practical, market-relevant skills that enable them to generate income and build sustainable livelihoods. Training is provided in areas that match both the interests and abilities of the participants and the economic opportunities of their local environment. This year, training was provided in the following areas:

1. Tailoring and Embroidery: women learn basic and advanced tailoring techniques, enabling them to sew their own clothes, take on repair work, and eventually establish tailoring businesses
2. Beauty and Wellness: training in basic beauty treatments — threading, waxing, and hair care — enabling women to establish home-based beauty salons
3. Candle and Soap Making: production of candles and soaps for home use and local sale
4. Organic Farming and Kitchen Gardens: training in growing vegetables and herbs without chemical inputs, both for home consumption and for sale
5. Computer Literacy: basic computer skills — Microsoft Office, internet use, and digital communication — enabling women to access information, government schemes, and employment opportunities
6. Financial Literacy: training in basic accounting, budgeting, saving, and the use of banking and digital payment systems

Training sessions are conducted by qualified and experienced trainers in accessible village-level settings, ensuring that women do not need to travel long distances to access them. Childcare support is provided where needed. Certificates of completion are issued to all trainees, providing formal recognition of their skills.

Health and Awareness Programmes

Physical and mental health are inseparable from women's empowerment, and Valarkuzhanthai Trust's Women Empowerment Programme includes a strong health and awareness component. This year, the programme organised health camps in partnership with local government health facilities, providing women with access to gynaecological check-ups, nutritional assessments, and mental health screenings. Awareness sessions on topics including maternal health, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, child health, and domestic violence were conducted by qualified health professionals and social workers.

Critically, the programme also provides awareness training on women's legal rights — covering topics including property rights, domestic violence laws, rights in marriage, and access to government welfare schemes. Many women in the programme areas have never been informed of their legal rights, and this knowledge empowers them to advocate for themselves and their families with confidence.

Leadership and Advocacy Training

The long-term goal of the Women Empowerment Programme is not merely to improve women's economic circumstances but to build a generation of confident, informed, and active women leaders who can advocate for themselves and their communities at every level — from the family to the panchayat to the district. Towards this goal, the programme provides leadership training that builds public speaking skills, teaches women about local governance structures, and encourages them to participate actively in Panchayat meetings and local decision-making processes.

This year, several SHG leaders participated in district-level events and government consultations, representing the interests of their communities and demonstrating the programme's success in developing confident, capable women leaders. Their participation is a powerful symbol of what is possible when women are given the tools, the support, and the encouragement to step into their own power.

Testimonials and Impact Stories

The most powerful evidence of the programme's impact is the voices of the women themselves. This year, programme staff documented several testimonials from women who have participated in the Women Empowerment Programme, each of which reflects a particular dimension of transformation.

One participant, a widow with three children, describes how joining an SHG and receiving micro-credit changed her life: 'Before I joined the group, I was completely dependent on my relatives, who did not always help willingly. I had no money of my own and no way to earn any. After joining the SHG and receiving a small loan, I started selling vegetables at the local market. Today, I earn enough to pay for my children's school fees and to save a small amount every month. Most importantly, I make my own decisions now.'

Another participant, who completed the tailoring training, says: 'I always wanted to learn tailoring but never had the opportunity. After the training, I started taking small orders from neighbours. Now I have a machine of my own and a steady flow of customers. My children see me working and earning, and I know it is teaching them that women can do anything.'

Conclusion

The Women Empowerment Programme of Valarkuzhanthai Trust is a long-term investment in the most powerful agents of community change: women themselves. Through SHG formation, micro-credit, skills training, health awareness, and leadership development, the programme is creating ripples of transformation that extend far beyond the individual women it serves — reaching their children, their families, and their communities. We are deeply grateful to all the staff, trainers, donors, and partner organisations whose support makes this work possible.

J. Special Projects & Corporate Partnerships

All Valarkuzhanthai Trust Institutions | Annual Report 2025·2026

> *"True partnership is when those with resources align with those with purpose — together, they create impact that neither could achieve alone."*

Introduction

Valarkuzhanthai Trust has always believed that its mission is too important and too urgent to pursue alone. Over the years, the Trust has cultivated a network of corporate, institutional, and civil society partners whose support has enabled it to expand its reach, enhance its programmes, and provide its beneficiaries with resources that would otherwise have been out of reach. This year, several outstanding partnerships have made a measurable difference to the children and communities in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's care, and we take this opportunity to recognise and express gratitude for each of them.

1. Feeding India — A Zomato Initiative

One of the most impactful partnerships of the year has been with Feeding India, the social impact arm of Zomato, India's leading food delivery platform. Under this partnership, Feeding India has ensured that all children in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's residential institutions receive four nutritious meals every day — breakfast, lunch, evening snacks, and dinner — without exception. This commitment to daily, round-the-clock nutritional support has been transformative for the children's health and well-being.

The significance of this contribution cannot be overstated. For many of the children in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's care — particularly those who come from backgrounds of severe poverty — the guarantee of four meals a day is a profound source of security and stability. Research consistently demonstrates that well-nourished children learn better, sleep better, and develop more healthily both physically and emotionally. The Feeding India partnership has therefore had a ripple effect on every aspect of the children's development and progress.

The meals provided under this programme are carefully designed to meet the nutritional requirements of growing children, with appropriate protein, carbohydrate, and micronutrient content. The consistency and quality of the meals have been maintained throughout the academic year, and the children's general health indicators — weight, energy levels, and

resistance to common illnesses · have shown measurable improvement. Valarkuzhanthai Trust expresses its deepest gratitude to Feeding India and Zomato for this life-changing partnership and looks forward to its continuation in the years ahead.

2. Aptus — Compound Wall Construction and E-Auto

Aptus, a committed corporate partner of Valarkuzhanthai Trust, has provided two forms of tangible, impactful support this year that have significantly improved the safety and mobility of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's institutions and their residents.

Protective Compound Wall:

Through a generous CSR contribution, Aptus funded the construction of protective compound walls at all four of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's orphanages · Pudhu Punal, Pudhu Vasantham, Pudhu Irudayam, and Pudhu Udhayam. The compound walls serve multiple vital functions: they protect the children from potential threats from the outside world, they delineate a safe and clearly bounded play area and living space, and they provide a visual and physical sense of security that contributes to the children's psychological well-being. For children who have experienced trauma, loss, or instability in their lives, the safety and containment provided by a secure compound wall is more than a physical asset — it is a powerful symbol of protection and care.

The construction of the walls was completed this academic year, and the impact on the daily life of each campus has been immediately noticeable. Staff can supervise children more easily, children can play freely within the compound without safety concerns, and the overall security and orderliness of each campus has been enhanced.

E-Auto for Transportation:

Aptus also provided an electric auto-rickshaw (e-auto) to Valarkuzhanthai Trust this year. This environmentally friendly vehicle has become an important resource for the institutions, enabling the transportation of children, staff, and supplies in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. The e-auto is used for a range of purposes — taking children to hospital appointments, transporting staff between institutions, collecting supplies, and facilitating the daily operational needs of the campus. Its electric motor means that transportation costs are significantly reduced compared to conventional petrol or diesel vehicles, and its environmental footprint is minimal. Valarkuzhanthai Trust is grateful to Aptus for this thoughtful and practical contribution.

3. LIC — Bus Donation

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has made a transformative contribution to Valarkuzhanthai Trust this year through the donation of a bus for the use of the children across Valarkuzhanthai Trust's institutions.

Before the arrival of this bus, transportation for children — particularly for school attendance, medical appointments, educational visits, and events — was a constant logistical and financial challenge. The bus has removed this challenge entirely, providing a safe, reliable, and comfortable mode of transportation for the children.

The practical impact of the bus has been most immediately felt in the area of school attendance. Children can now be transported to and from school safely and on time, every day, regardless of weather conditions or road access challenges. For children at Pudhu Irudayam, where the school is some distance from the home, the bus has been particularly transformative — ensuring that children arrive at school freshly and on time, and return safely in the evening. The bus has also been used for educational visits, cultural trips, and participation in district-level events and competitions — enriching the children's educational experiences and broadening their horizons.

Valarkuzhanthai Trust is deeply grateful to LIC for this extraordinarily generous gift and for its confidence in the Trust's mission and management. The bus will continue to serve the children of Valarkuzhanthai Trust for many years to come, and its impact will be felt in every school journey, every medical trip, and every opportunity for children to engage with the wider world.

4. Jindal Foundation — Scholarship Donations

The Jindal Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Jindal Group, has provided generous scholarship support to Valarkuzhanthai Trust's children this year. The scholarships have been directed towards children and young adults pursuing higher education — enabling young people who have grown up in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's care to continue their educational journeys into college and university without the financial barriers that might otherwise force them to abandon their studies.

The significance of this support is profound. Many of the young people who have grown up in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's institutions have demonstrated remarkable academic ability and aspiration, but face enormous financial challenges when it comes to pursuing higher education. Tuition fees, hostel costs, books, and living expenses can be prohibitive for young people without family financial support. The Jindal Foundation's scholarships have removed these barriers for a

number of Valarkuzhanthai Trust's children, enabling them to pursue degrees in areas including commerce, computer science, engineering, education, and social work.

These young scholars are among the most inspiring members of the Valarkuzhanthai Trust family · living proof of what is possible when a child is given love, stability, education, and opportunity. As they graduate and enter the workforce, they carry with them not just their qualifications but the values of compassion, gratitude, and service that have been instilled in them throughout their years in Valarkuzhanthai Trust's care. Many will, in time, become contributors to the very communities from which they came. Valarkuzhanthai Trust expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Jindal Foundation for its belief in these young people and for its investment in their futures.

Gratitude and Looking Ahead

The partnerships described in this section — with Feeding India, Aptus, LIC, and the Jindal Foundation — represent the very best of what corporate social responsibility can look like when it is guided by genuine commitment, strategic thinking, and a desire to create lasting impact. These organisations have not merely written cheques; they have invested in people, in institutions, and in futures. They have trusted Valarkuzhanthai Trust's management and mission, and that trust has been rewarded with efficient, transparent, and impactful use of their contributions.

As Valarkuzhanthai Trust looks ahead to the coming year, it is actively seeking to deepen existing partnerships and cultivate new ones — with corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individual donors — whose support will enable the Trust to expand its programmes, reach more beneficiaries, and continue delivering the high-quality care and education that its children and communities deserve. We invite all friends, well-wishers, and organisations who share our vision to join us in this work.

Message from the Executive Director

> *"Every child is a gift, every dream is possible, and every act of compassion creates a ripple that reaches further than we can imagine."*

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I reflect on the academic year 2025–2026 — a year of joy, challenge, growth, and gratitude — I am overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of what this community of compassionate people has accomplished together. What we have done this year is not merely the work of an organisation. It is the work of a family — a large, diverse, and deeply committed family of children, staff, donors, volunteers, and well-wishers who share a common belief: that every human being deserves dignity, love, and opportunity.

This year, we have cared for hundreds of children in our residential homes, trained dozens of young people in technical skills, accompanied thousands of village children through their educational journeys, and empowered women to stand on their own feet and build better lives for themselves and their families. We have done all of this not through grand gestures but through thousands of small, daily acts of love, discipline, encouragement, and service — by wardens who get up at dawn, teachers who stay late, field workers who walk the last mile, and managers who never stop thinking about how to do better.

To every member of the Valarkuzhanthai Trust team, I say: your dedication is seen, your sacrifice is valued, and your impact is immeasurable. To every donor — whether you contribute thousands or a handful of coins — I say: your generosity has changed lives, and the ripples of your kindness will be felt for generations. To the children in our care, I say: you are loved, you are capable, and the best of your lives is still ahead of you.

I am particularly grateful this year for the extraordinary support of our corporate and institutional partners: Feeding India (Zomato), Aptus, LIC, and the Jindal Foundation, whose contributions have made tangible, lasting differences in the lives of our children. I am also grateful to our international supporters and friends whose encouragement and generosity sustain us year after year.

As we move into the next year, we carry with us the lessons of this one: that compassion must be organised, that love must be disciplined, and that the work of building a more just and equitable world requires not just good hearts but good systems, good people, and good partners. Valarkuzhanthai Trust is committed to all three.

With gratitude and hope,

Dr. I. Sebastian

Executive Director, Valarkuzhanthai Trust

Acknowledgements

Valarkuzhanthai Trust expresses its profound and heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported its mission during the academic year 2025–2026. Without your faith, your generosity, and your partnership, the work described in this report would not have been possible.

Our Partners This Year

- Feeding India (Zomato) — for ensuring four nutritious meals daily for all our children
- Aptus — for constructing protective compound walls at all four orphanages and for providing an e-auto
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) — for the donation of a bus for our children's transportation
- Jindal Foundation — for scholarship support enabling higher education for our young people
- All individual sponsors, donors, and well-wishers — whose contributions, large and small, make our work possible

Our Staff

We recognise and honour every member of the Valarkuzhanthai Trust staff · wardens, teachers, cooks, watchmen, field workers, administrators, and support staff — who give their best every single day for the children and communities in our care. Your commitment is the true foundation of everything we do.

Our Children

Above all, we acknowledge the children themselves — their resilience, their joy, their determination, and their trust. They are the reason for everything. They are our greatest gift, our most important responsibility, and our most profound source of hope.

Valarkuzhanthai Trust

Genguvarpatti, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District, Tamil Nadu

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"Empowering Lives Through Education, Care & Compassion"