



**The Vilvam Foundation™**

Helping rural communities thrive

# YEAR END UPDATE

**2025 - 2026**





**The Vilvam Foundation™**

Namaskaram!

Such a joyful year of hard work and strong results across all fronts!

The Vilvam Foundation team has truly built on our cumulative learnings to execute seamlessly at scale, creating meaningful transformation for all stakeholders, something we remain deeply humbled by. Delightful outcomes have been achieved through thoughtful investments in people, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, community relationships, and program execution.

Our programs have expanded to **32 villages** this year, with the hope of reaching **40 villages** in the coming year. Community stakeholders are seeing tremendous value in our work, reflected in their increased participation and engagement. From village leaders to parents, elders, children, and young adults, the impact is visible and widely felt. Their commitment and partnership will be key to sustaining these programs in the long run, and we are truly grateful.

We invite you to explore the growth and impact across our four program verticals; long-time supporters will notice the impact is now clearer, more visible, and measurable.

The strength and grounding of our vision were further reinforced by the acknowledgement of our work in India's **Annual Economic Survey**, a key document that evaluates innovations and guides investments in critical sectors, while also informing central government budget allocations.

The Economic Survey team, while analyzing rural development, invited The Vilvam Foundation to share insights from our work on holistic, community-driven interventions across multiple dimensions of the rural economy. Our efforts over the past seven years, our unique approach to inclusive development, and the early signs of transformative impact have been recognized.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have our ideas featured in the Rural Development and Social Progress section (Chapter 13) of the Economic Survey of India, and we warmly invite you to take a look.

This recognition is exciting, as we hope it enables these ideas to scale and create non-linear impact for India's growth.

We're grateful to all of you who have stood with us every step of the way, believing in our vision and supporting its execution, and invite you to take a few minutes to go through this report and see the change you have made possible.

Thank you for being with us.

See you soon,

Maithreyi

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# VILVAM | VISION

Helping rural communities thrive

- 1. Create Livelihoods
- 2. Build skill
- 3. Stem Urban Migration
- 4. Strengthen Local Businesses & the Economy

## KRIYĀ

Create and Strengthen Livelihoods

- 1. Strengthen Academic Performance
- 2. Promote Life Skills
- 3. Create Responsible Citizens
- 4. Care for Community & Environment
- 5. Instill Values in Action
- 6. Kindle the Entrepreneurial Spirit
- 7. Build skill towards Employability
- 8. Connect employers to job seekers

## ĀGAMĀ

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

- 1. Focus on Community Well-Being
- 2. Increase healthy interaction among community members
- 3. Establish herbal gardens
- 4. Provide Preventive Care through herbal remedies
- 5. Emphasize food as medicine
- 6. Increase Respect & Value of the Elderly & their Inherited Knowledge

## MANDALĀ

Health & Well-being

- 1. Save and Distribute Seeds & Saplings
- 2. Establish Nandavanams / Mini forests in Villages
- 3. Revive Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- 4. Nurture Native Cattle & Promote Traditional Farming Practices
- 5. Increase Green Cover

## ĀRANYA

Farm & Forest & Environment

HELPING  
RURAL  
COMMUNITIES  
THRIVE



The Vilvam Foundation™

*Growth and subsequent change does not have to be disruptive. Rural communities can learn new skills, find new livelihoods, stay healthy and debt-free, restore harmony in their households, ensure their children get a modern education while retaining their connection to their deep cultural values, each other and the Earth.*

# VILVAM | Summary of Impact till date

**32**

Village  
Ecosystem

**4**

Self-sustaining  
Rural  
Enterprises

**300+**

Direct impact  
on livelihoods

**1000+**

Indirect impact  
on livelihoods

**20000+**

Households  
impacted  
indirectly

**~1000**

Proud learners of  
Indian heritage,  
culture &  
environment

**20**

Mini Forests  
to Enhance  
Green Cover

**7000+**

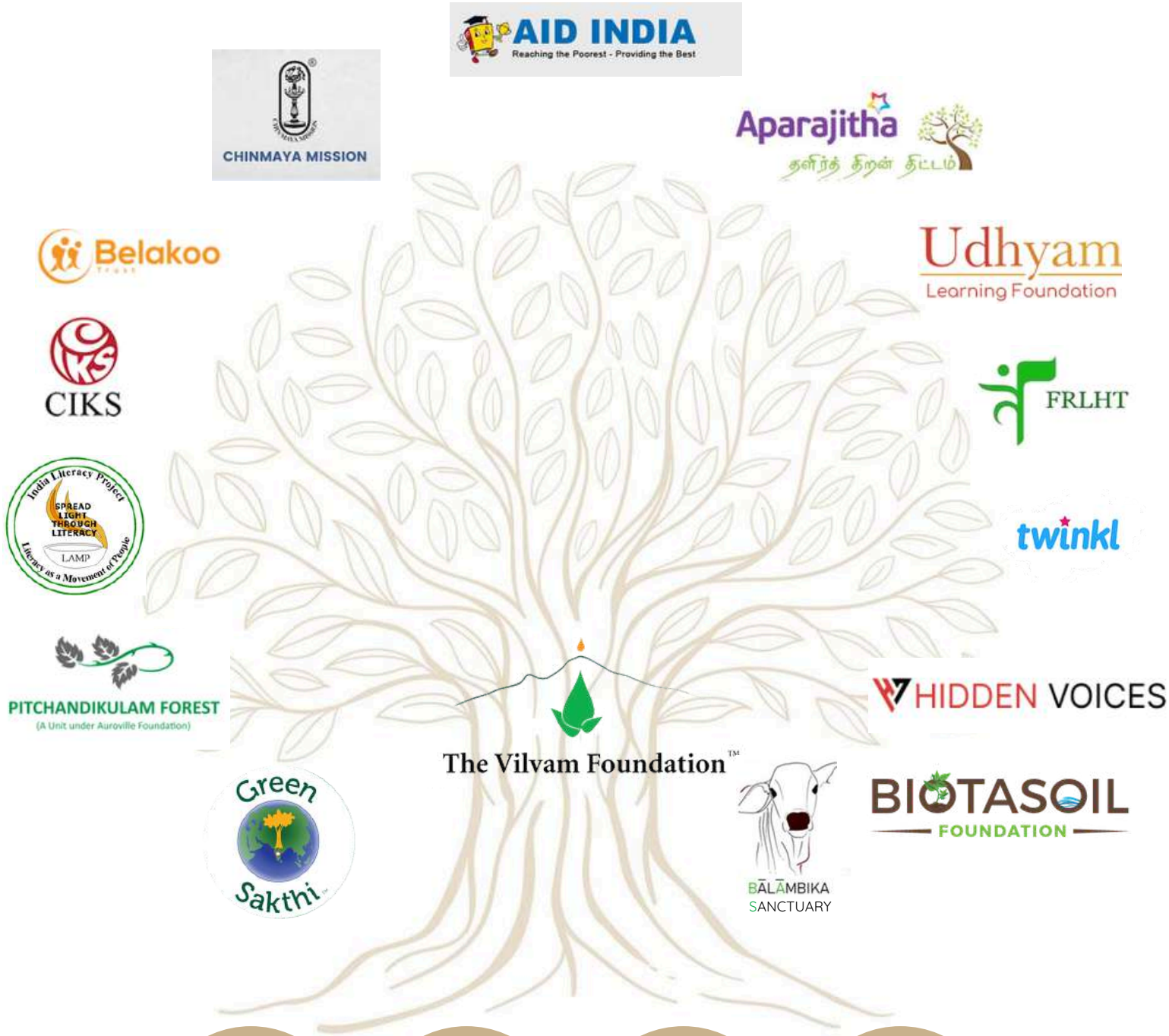
Tree saplings  
planted

**1**

District Seed Bank:  
100+ Vegetable  
Seeds & 11 Rare  
Grain Varieties.

# VILVAM | RICH PARTNER ECOSYSTEM

- Local community and Government partners
- Resource and execution partners.

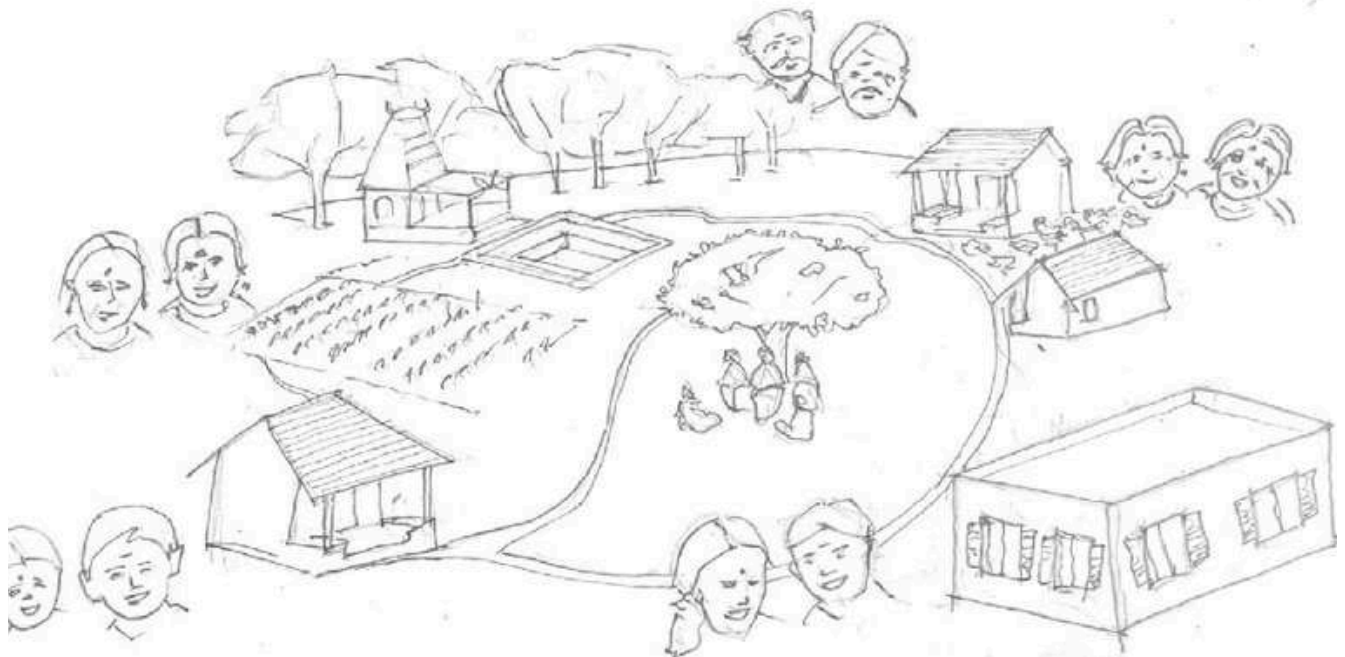


# VILVAM | Villages We Serve

1	<u>Adiannamalai</u>
2	<u>Athiyandal</u>
3	<u>Kaveriampoondi</u>
4	<u>Ayampaalaiyam</u>
5	<u>Nalavanpalaiyam</u>
6	<u>Kanantampoondi</u>
7	<u>Pandithapattu</u>
8	<u>Punalkadu</u>
9	<u>Nandhimangalam</u>
10	<u>Kattampoondi</u>
11	<u>Kannakurukai</u>

12	<u>Agaram</u>
13	<u>Quilam</u>
14	<u>Devanandal</u>
15	<u>Aswanagasuranai</u>
16	<u>Perumbakam</u>
17	<u>Sirupakkam/Pudhur</u>
18	<u>Japthikariyendhal</u>
19	<u>Periyakolapaadi</u>
20	<u>Viswanathapuram</u>
21	<u>Visvanthangal</u>
22	<u>Pudhur</u>

23	<u>Meyyur</u>
24	<u>Kilchettipatu</u>
25	<u>Kanji</u>
26	<u>Karapattu</u>
27	<u>Alathur</u>
28	<u>Kottavur</u>
29	<u>Gengampattu</u>
30	<u>Kilsirupakkam</u>
31	<u>Melchettipattu</u>
32	<u>Kottangal</u>



# ĀGAMĀ



# VILVAM VAASAL | ĀGAMĀ

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

ĀGAMĀ aims to transform rural children and youth into responsible, self-aware adults who participate in the economic and cultural life of their communities.

Strengthening Education

Building Knowledge

Instilling Values

Reviving Culture

Enabling Entrepreneurship & Job Readiness.

## PROGRAMS



### UDHYOGAM

Cultivates an entrepreneurial and employment mindset in young adults. Connects local employers with job seekers.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**

### UDHYOGAM CERTIFICATION COURSES

Equips students with essential skills and career guidance, enabling them to be workforce-ready.

**CLASS 9 TO COLLEGE**



### VILVAM KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Strengthens academic skills in addition to focusing on culture, value-based education and life skills through an after school program.

**CLASS 1-8**

### SPONSORSHIP

**LKG TO COLLEGE**



# ĀGAMĀ | SPONSORSHIP

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency



## A Journey of Resilience & Aspiration: Mukesh Kumar

Mukesh comes from a financially vulnerable family in Tiruvannamalai. His father, a Theru Koothu artist, lost his primary source of income during the COVID-19 pandemic and now works as an ironing vendor with limited earnings. His mother, Vedavalli, is the main breadwinner, supporting the family and their three children.

Mukesh studied in a Government school until Class 10 and later transitioned to an English-medium school for his higher secondary education. Despite initial challenges with the language shift, he successfully completed Class 12 with a science background.

He is currently in his third year of a diploma program and also works part-time as an AC mechanic to support his family. Being highly aspirational, Mukesh took part in the Udyogam program by The Vilvam Foundation, aimed at developing entrepreneurial and employment skills in young adults.

Sponsorship support has played a crucial role in enabling Mukesh to continue his education despite financial constraints. It has helped reduce the burden on his family and allowed him to pursue his studies.



## From Challenges to Confidence: Thulasi

Thulasi comes from a challenging family background. Her father, a construction mestri, does not contribute consistently to the household income due to health issues and personal challenges. Her mother, Chitra, has taken on the full responsibility of supporting the family and raising their three children.

Currently studying in Class 8, Thulasi is a bright and enthusiastic student. Alongside her academics, she is actively involved in Silambam, a traditional martial art, and has participated in several competitions. She was also a proud participant in a Silambam Guinness World Record event organized by her school.

Sponsorship support has enabled Thulasi to study in a good school and access opportunities that nurture both her academic and extracurricular talents, helping her move towards a more confident and promising future.



# ĀGAMĀ | VILVAM KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency



**29**

Villages



**43**

Centers



**~750**

Children



**155**

Learning Hours

**85%**

Student attendance  
rate



**25**

Community  
Programs  
Organized



**26**

Teacher  
Development  
Programs delivered

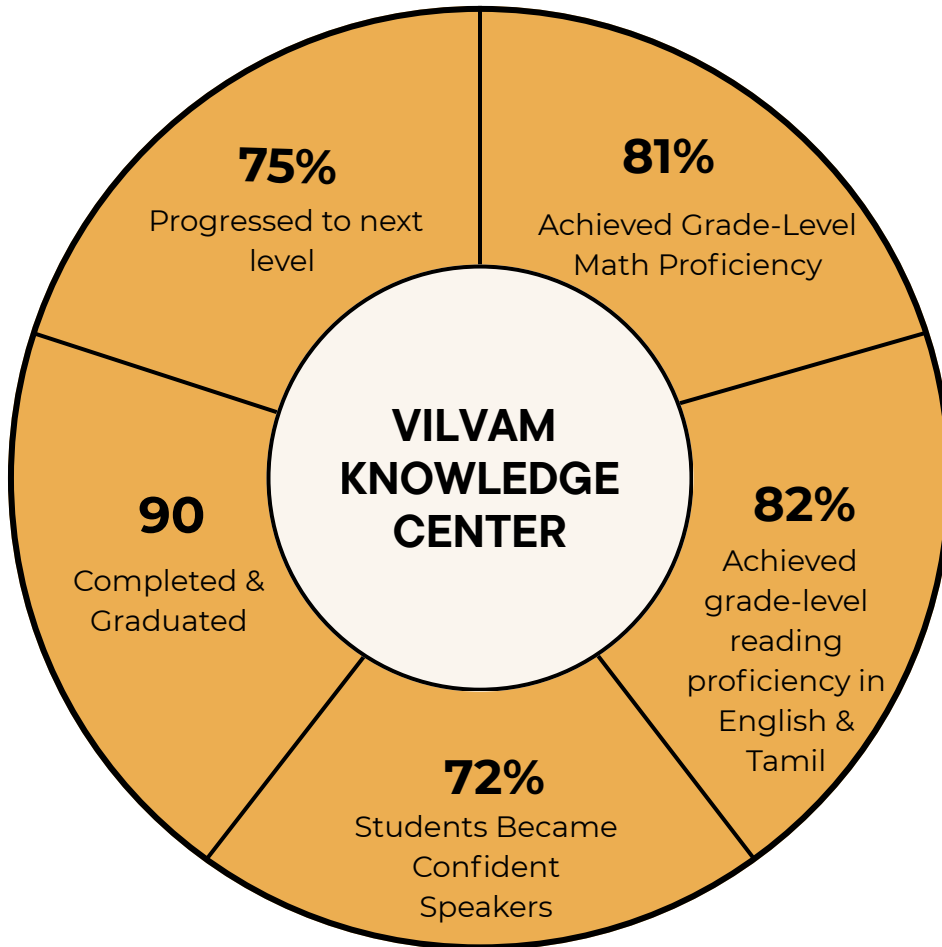


**75%**

Parent attendance in  
PTMs

# ĀGAMĀ | VILVAM KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency



## STRENGTHENING LEARNING DELIVERY



26

Teacher  
Development  
Programs delivered

21

Internal Trainings

5

External  
Trainings

- **Stronger Pedagogical Skills:** Teachers gained confidence in child-centric and activity-based learning approaches.
- **Efficient Use of Learning Tools:** Training in Montessori methods and teaching aids helped reduce learning time and improve student understanding.
- **Professional Growth:** Teachers strengthened their overall teaching capabilities, benefiting them beyond the program.
- **Career Advancement:** Some teachers were able to secure jobs as trained educators.
- **Peer Mentorship Model:** Enabled teachers to receive timely guidance from experienced peers, helping them overcome classroom challenges and build confidence in their teaching.

### From Teaching to Transformation: Shobana

“I am very happy to be associated with Vilvam and to see children from my village benefiting from this initiative. Even before I arrive, the children come early, arrange everything, and eagerly wait to learn. They truly enjoy learning through Montessori tools and play-way methods, which help them understand and absorb concepts better—this is clearly reflected in their improved marks.

Through the trainings, I have also learned a lot and now understand how to use these tools effectively in teaching. It has not only helped me grow as a teacher but has also made a visible difference in the classroom. Parents are very happy to see the progress in their children’s education, which is very encouraging for all of us.”



Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

## CURRICULUM DESIGN

### Strengthening Education

#### Level 1

Literacy and numeracy competencies corresponding to Grades 1-2

#### Level 2

Literacy and numeracy competencies corresponding to Grades 3-4

#### Level 2

Literacy and numeracy competencies corresponding to Grade 5

Reading Skill

Listening Skill

Speaking & Communication

Comprehension & Retelling

Critical Thinking

Peer Learning

### Lifeskills Education

#### General Awareness

#### Local Knowledge & Cultural Awareness

#### Environmental Awareness

#### Local Knowledge & Cultural Awareness

#### Values & Ethics

#### Health & Wellbeing

Cultural & Social Awareness

Environmental Responsibility

Awareness & Curiosity

Decision-Making

Personal & Social Identity

Observation Skills

### Rooted in Tiruvannamalai - 2025 - 2026

- This year special focus was given to Tiruvannamalai, where children learned about the main temple, the positioning of the lingas around the hill, and their significance. The sessions generated great excitement, and children developed a strong sense of pride in their heritage and belonging to the district.
- Children also learned about the saints associated with the Arunachaleswar Temple, gaining insight into their lives, teachings, and spiritual significance.
- Soil testing emerged as another highly engaging topic, with children actively sharing their learning at home and even teaching their parents.



Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

## ROOTS Program in association with Chinmaya Mission

- Stories were taught through **activity-based** methods, which the children enjoyed and eagerly looked forward to every week.
- **Community participation** was encouraged during all festival celebrations, and everyone actively took part.
- Each student voluntarily brought prasadam every week, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and inclusivity.
- The **inter-center bhajan competition** was held and it provided a platform for students to showcase their talent and build confidence.
- With an already strong foundation in values, the program contributed to a further 5-8% improvement, reflecting a deepening of value internalization among students.

### Topics Covered

#### GROUP 1

##### Ramayana

Aranya kandam,  
Kishkindha Kandam,  
Sundara Kandam

#### GROUP 2

##### Avadootha Geetha

Introduction to 24 Gurus



Prayer Before Learning



Hands-on craft activities in every session



Active community participation in all festival celebration

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

## Yogiram - Building Confidence

Yogiram, a Class 7 student and an only child, comes from a difficult home environment. His father is often away on long spiritual tours and, when present, is critical, which has affected Yogiram's confidence. His mother is the sole breadwinner.

When he joined our center, Yogiram was very quiet, withdrawn, and did not interact or participate in class activities. With consistent encouragement and individual attention from teachers, he has gradually opened up. Today, he interacts with peers, speaks confidently on topics given on the spot, and actively participates in class programs. He also shows initiative by regularly bringing prasadam for the Friday class.

However, he still hesitates to participate in community programs due to fear of being scolded by his father if he makes mistakes. Yogiram continues to need support to overcome these fears and fully build his confidence.



## Vishnu - From Disruption to Discipline

Vishnu, a Class 8 student, struggled academically after missing regular schooling during the pandemic. When he joined our center three years ago, he was very restless, often disrupting the class and unable to concentrate. With consistent guidance from teacher, along with regular appreciation and small responsibilities assigned to him, Vishnu gradually began to change. Today, he is attentive in class, actively participates in activities, and shows genuine interest in learning. His academic performance has improved considerably over time.



## Expressions from the Classroom

I have been to temples many times, but now I understand what each structure in a temple symbolises and its significance.  
-Samitha

We all love VBE class, and every week our teacher tells a story and we do a craft activity.  
-Prathish

I never understood the solar system topic, but the teacher taught us through activities, and now I want to learn more about our universe and Earth.  
-Yogesh

I love doing math activities, and they help me remember the concepts well.  
-Vasanth

The lingams around the hill lesson was very interesting, and no one has ever told me about this before.  
-Sai Janani

For each topic, the teacher gives us many worksheets, and they help us understand the topic well.  
-Monisri

# ĀGAMĀ | VILVAM KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

## Scenes from Our Learning Spaces



# ĀGAMĀ | UDHYOGAM

Knowledge building towards employability & self-sufficiency

## Career Guidance Program for Rural Students



1045

Students

25

Villages

9

Schools

16

Community  
Centers

### Class 9 & 10th

Focus on introducing a broad range of career options, explaining the various academic streams available in class 11, and highlighting alternate pathways after Class 10, such as polytechnic and vocational courses.

### Class 11 & 12th

A deeper understanding of requirements for different courses, relevant entrance examinations, information on colleges, and available financial aid and scholarship options.



## Facilitator's Reflection

"It is essential to build an understanding towards career decision-making from an early stage. This helps a child to take their career seriously.

During the sessions, I observed that many students who had chosen the computer group aspired to enter the IT field but were unclear about the wide range of career opportunities available and the courses required to pursue them. Through the sessions, I was able to clarify these pathways and help students better understand their options.

One student who had dropped out after Class 11 attended the session and gained clarity on the alternative education and career opportunities still available to him. This interaction highlighted the importance of timely guidance, especially for students who feel they have limited options."

-Vimala | The Vilvam Foundation Facilitator



For the upcoming academic year, three government schools and one private school have requested us to conduct this career guidance program as a structured six-month initiative.

# KRIYĀ



# VILVAM VAASAL | KRIYĀ

Create and Strengthen livelihoods

- Incubate and establish self sustaining rural Enterprises
- Strengthen local business
- Build skill to help get livelihoods
- Encourage replication by documenting process and learnings involved in setting up a rural MSME in a playbook.

## Athai's Kathais

Good health in every bunch

Livelihood  
Generation

Promoting  
Traditional Green  
Varieties

Chemical-Free  
Farming Practices

- **Two women farmers** are already earning a meaningful and reliable income through this program.
- The products have become a hit among urban consumers, as they offer native variety greens in **well-packed, ready-to-use** formats.
- The convenience of reduced preparation time makes them a preferred choice for urban households.
- Currently, the greens are being sold in Bangalore and Chennai and the program aims to expand to support more women farmers and to reach major organic stores across cities.

Monthly sales average around 430 bundles of greens.



# MANDALĀ



# VILVAM VAASAL | MANDALĀ

MAKING HEALTHCARE & WELLBEING ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND LOCAL

- Establish and run a wellness center
- Build a world-class herbal nursery and knowledge bank
- Create a medicinal herbal garden in every village
- Provide preventive care focused on diet, nutrition & herbal remedies
- Restore respect for the elderly and their traditional knowledge

Health  
Camps

Social Media  
Awareness

Outreach  
Sessions

Community  
Engagement

## Health Camp



Eye camp held on 16th November at Kaveriyampoondi Government School with support from Government Hospital staff.

## Social Media Awareness



**Unave Marundhu** shares weekly herbal wellness videos via WhatsApp, reaching over 2,000 people at home. The videos offer simple remedies & traditional recipes to boost immunity & revive forgotten foods.

## Outreach Sessions



Awareness sessions during Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) are conducted to promote food as medicine and reach many families at once. We also serve herbal drinks like kashayam and hibiscus tea, inspiring interest in natural preventive health practices.

## Community Engagement



Weekly greens distribution at VKC encourages the community to include nutritious greens in their regular diet.

# ĀRANYA



# ĀRANYA

FARM | FOREST | ENVIRONMENT

Preserve vital components of a self-sustaining life

PROGRAM	LOCATION	INTENDED OUTCOME
<b>Propagate, Save &amp; Distribute Seeds &amp; Saplings</b>	The Vilvam campus and 2 acres of land in Balambika Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propagate, save and distribute varieties of native rice grain.</li> <li>• Propagate, save and distribute varieties of native keerai and vegetable seeds.</li> </ul>
<b>Nurture Native Cattle &amp; Promote Traditional Agricultural Practices</b>	The Balambika Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House native cows and bulls in a Goshala.</li> <li>• To help farmers observe the relative ease in nurturing native cattle and reduced upkeep costs thus reviving interest amongst them.</li> <li>• Promote Traditional Agricultural Inputs</li> </ul>
<b>Create Nandavanams / Mini Forests in Villages</b>	With the permission and cooperation of local authorities, we work on common land and in government schools across the 25 villages we serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Green Cover &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>• Revive traditional Ecological Knowledge</li> <li>• Establish the community as caretakers of the commons again</li> </ul>
<b>Increase Green Cover &amp; Biodiversity</b>	Identifying suitable land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To grow a forest and extend green cover in as many acres as possible</li> </ul>

## Increase Green cover & Biodiversity

### Green Space Establishment

20 community spaces converted into protected green ecosystems across common lands, temples, and government schools.

### 90% Survival Success

All sites were secured with protective fencing to safeguard the saplings from grazing animals and external damage, and were equipped with drip irrigation systems, resulting in an increased survival rate.

### Community Participation

Active involvement of villagers and panchayats in planting, and stewardship, fostering ownership.

### Biodiversity Enhancement

Plantation of indigenous forest species to create mini forests and restore local ecological balance.

### Long-Term Ecological Impact

- Flowering plants supporting temple needs
- Native trees providing shade
- Improved soil health and water retention
- Identified caretakers ensuring continued maintenance
- Increased carbon sequestration contributing to climate resilience



**~7000**

**Trees Planted**



**510**

**Herbal plants  
Planted**



**~5.58 Lakh sq. ft**

**Area Greened**

## Way Forward

### Program Expansion - Increasing Green Cover & Farmer Livelihoods in 20 Villages

To expand our green initiative across the 20 villages we work in, we propose to distribute 25,000 saplings (1,250 per village) to local farmers. This will help increase tree density and promote sustainable livelihoods. The saplings will include a mix of fruit-bearing and timber species, enabling farmers to generate short-term income through fruit sales and long-term financial security through timber.

This initiative will strengthen rural incomes, enhance ecological balance, and support the creation of sustainable green village ecosystems.

## Our Green Journey Across Villages

- 1** Aswanagasuranai  
Amman Temple
- 2** Pandithapattu  
Perumal Temple
- 3** Gegampattu  
Draupadi Amman Temple
- 4** Kanji  
Amman Kovil
- 5** Kottavur  
Amman Temple
- 6** Quilom  
Public space
- 7** Karapattu  
Govt. School campus
- 8** Alathur Phase 1  
Amman Temple
- 9** Kanathampoondi  
Vediyappan Temple
- 10** Periyakolapadi  
Public space
- 11** Adiannamalai Phase 1  
Temple-owned Government School campus
- 12** Pudhur  
Pond side
- 13** Kaveriyampoondi  
Vediyappan Temple
- 14** Nallavanpalayam  
Murugan Temple
- 15** Kannakurukai  
Murugan Temple
- 16** Kattampoondi  
Public Space
- 17** Meyyur  
Public Space
- 18** Adiannamalai Phase 2  
Temple Land
- 19** Alathur Phase 2  
Public Space
- 20** Sirupakkam  
Public Space

## Afforestation Gallery



Greening common lands, temples, and school spaces.



Students of Adhiannamalai School actively participated in the plantation drive, tagging each sapling with their names to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.



Protective fencing and drip irrigation systems installed at every site to ensure long-term survival.



Afforestation site with indigenous tree species

# **VILVAM** | Corporate Partnerships



**& Several Individual Donors**



**The Vilvam Foundation™**

**THANK YOU**