

The GIFT Foundation School Project At Konganapuram, Tamil Nadu

The GIFT Foundation, or *Kodai-maatchi Arakkattalai* in Tamil, is a public charitable trust established in 1998 to promote quality education in rural areas of Tamil Nadu. GIFT secured the TNF project approval about three years ago and commenced the operation of AGN School in June 1998 in a renovated farm house with about 200 students.



TNF President Gomes Ganapathy's Dec 2000 visit to school

GIFT believes quality education is fundamental for uplifting economic, social and cultural prosperity. The school's philosophy is to

- *Nurture and groom rural talent for global opportunities, without losing their Thamizh roots.*
- *Provide opportunity and climate for staff to contribute and develop to their full potential.*
- *Enhance learning through advanced learning methods and tools.*
- *Lead by example and serve the educational community and society by sharing the resources and best practices.*



A prayer meeting at the Junior Section

The school has grown a lot over the four years and has enrolled about 800 students this year from kindergarten to 11th grade. Most students are based from surrounding villages of up to 15 kilometers. The phase-1 of the main building was inaugurated about two years ago. Phase-2 is under construction.



Main Building Phase-I inauguration by Dr. VC Kulandaiswamy

GIFT has enlisted the services of experts like Dr. V. Balasubramaniam, Academic Director, and Tr. N. Thirunavkkarasu, English Language Specialist, to guide the development of the institution.



Jaswa Computer Center inaugurated by Mason Byles in June 2001

This rural education initiative has received overwhelming support from parents, the local public and well-wishers from US, UK and India. GIFT is very proud of the fact most of the thirty-eight scholarships it offered last year were sponsored by individual donors. Nancy Clayton, Ramasamy family, HELP Charitable Foundation and PD Rajan Educational Institutions have supported special projects like books for the library.

Then there are other patron's like Paul & Gwyn Bradley, CV & Lakshmi Prakash, Rajen & Kalpana Jaswa, Linda Archbald & Mason Byles, Arun Ulag, Mohana & K Jaganathan and Numeric Power Systems, who have contributed generously towards the development of the school infrastructure and scholarship programs.

Pls feel free to visit www.giftfoundation.ws for more information. Or, you can write to Kasi Goundan at kasigoundan@aol.com or Aye Goundan at ayeeg@yahoo.com.

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