

# AGN SCHOOL

... an update on the TNF sponsored project - THE GIFT FOUNDATION School - in Tamil Nadu, India...

The GIFT Foundation (கொடைமடர்ச் குறக்கட்டளை) was established as a public charitable trust in 1998 to promote quality education in rural areas of Tamil Nadu. GIFT secured TNF project approval and commenced the operation of 'AGN SCHOOL' at Konganapuram village in Salem district in June 1998 in a renovated family farm house with 200 students.



A view of the Junior Campus

GIFT believes quality education is fundamental to uplifting economic, social and cultural prosperity. The school's first philosophy is to "nurture and groom rural talent for global opportunities, without losing their Thamizh roots."



Dr. Palani G Periasamy, a TNF founder, honored at Annual Day

The school has today blossomed with a student strength of over 1100 from LKG to 12<sup>th</sup> standard, good infrastructure and a public respect for its quality education.



A view of the Main Campus

Two third of the students commute via school transportation. About 80 students stay in hostel facilities. We have three batches of students graduated out of the 12<sup>th</sup> standard so far. The school achieved the status of one of three schools to score 100% results in Salem district last year. Most of our

alumni have joined professional colleges, and some in top rated colleges like PSG.



A view of the Chemistry lab

Numeric Computer Lab, sponsored by R. Chellappan, a GIFT Trustee, was inaugurated last October for the senior class students.



Prof. R. Natarajan of PSG Tech opening Numeric Computer Lab

A recent highpoint in the School's growth is our participation in the 'Global Education Initiative' run by John C. Ford program in the US on 'International H2O Purification and Ecosystem Preservation. While this was a tremendous learning experience participating over the internet, we are very proud that the AGN students' presentation was selected as the best among participants from 14 countries and received 'The Millennium Young Scientist Award'



AGN team making the final GEI presentation over the Web

AGN was selected in October 2004 as a zonal center for Art and Literary competition, in which 15

schools participated. Of the 73 students participated from AGN, two students went on to win State level awards; Suganya Rajendran (left inset), first place for English essay writing, and Yadhunanth Ramasamy, for third place in Tamil poetry.



A scene at the zonal level Arts and Literary competition

Last year, our school has been invited to participate in the Salem Exhibition to demonstrate the 'Life-Saver,' invented by AGN teacher, Victor Sundaram, to help prevent automobile accidents.



Victor Sundaram demonstrating his invention at exhibition

The school strives to broaden its students' awareness to nearby natural resources and environmental issues. Trekking expedition to Yercaud hills



AGN students on a trekking trip on Yercaud Hills

has become regular event on Gandhi Jayanthi day every year. Another event that invites wide AGN participation is Muthu Marathon, which is a 12 KM

running race during the Pongal holidays and co-organized by Konganapuram Foundation - a TNF sponsored project.

During Summer holidays, the school conducts computer classes for the staff and students of the surrounding government schools. The school strives within its means to be a resource for the local educational community and public, consistent with its fourth philosophy which is to "lead by example and serve the educational community and society by sharing the resources and best practices."



Computer training to local government school children

We are deeply grateful that this rural education initiative has the generous support of many patrons and sponsors. Of the 75 merit and financial aid scholarships awarded in 2005, over 75% of them were supported by sponsors from US (thru' TNF), UK and India. The school library has received hundreds of books from the Rural School Development Trust of Chicago, IL. Mason Byles, a retired senior executive from US, has been an advisor, spends a couple of months a year at the school and has launched many educational initiatives. Radha Thakkar, a young lawyer from US, has volunteered four months of her time coaching AGN teachers in English and the GEI project team.



Radha Thakkar and Mason Byles greatly contributed to initiatives

Finally, our sincere appreciation to the board of directors of TNF over the years for their guidance and support in this challenging, yet wonderfully rewarding journey!

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Pls feel free to visit [www.giftfoundation.ws](http://www.giftfoundation.ws) for more information. Or, you can write to Kasi Goundan at [kasigoundan@aol.com](mailto:kasigoundan@aol.com) or Aye Goundan at [ayeeg@hotmail.com](mailto:ayeeg@hotmail.com)