

# The GIFT Foundation – Highlights: 2015-16

Konganapuram Tamil Nadu, India

The GIFT Foundation (கொடைமாட்சி அறக்கட்டளை) is a public charitable trust established in 1998 to promote quality education in rural areas of Tamil Nadu. GIFT secured TNF-USA project approval and started AGN SCHOOL at Konganapuram village in Tamil Nadu in June 1998. It then launched the CBSE Secondary School, APPU ARIVAALAYEM, in 2011. There are about 2200 students studying in both schools now. The Trust is also in the process of starting an Arts and Science College under the name, KAASI COLLEGE, targeted for launch in 2017-18.



All AGN 12<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> students successfully passed the public examinations with the top marks of 1164/1200 (Rotary Scholar) and 495/500, respectively. Of the 920 12<sup>th</sup> graduates from 2007 to 2015, 73% have gone into engineering, 24% into arts/science, 2% into medicine, and 2% into other medical fields. APPU's 10<sup>th</sup> students have done extraordinarily well in their maiden year with all 14 students passing out with 'A' grades.



Our students Monica Balamurugan of AGN and Vaishnavai SG of APPU secured the special honour of participating in the 'Thirukkural Mutrothal' at the Indian Parliament House.



Our students, staff and management collected donations and relief materials worth over Rs.3,00,000 and distributed them directly to affected flood victims.

The visit by Tr. Azhagappa & Tm. Meenakshi Rammohan of International Tamil Language Foundation, USA, in



August, 2005 was filled with inspiring interactions and 'Thirukkural' related competitions where over 800 students participated and won many prizes. Tamil Mandram organized a first-of-its-kind music concert correlating folk music, 'Punn-Isai', movie-songs and Carnatic music at our school. With the support of 'Kalari Trust', 'Paanchaali Sabatham' kalari-koothu was performed at school campus which helped expose the traditional art form to students.

Under the sponsorship of patron Tr. Mani Rajendran, USA, GIFT contributed Rs.1,40,000 and catalyzed a project under Self-Sufficiency Scheme for the construction of long-awaited compound wall for the Manjakkalpatti Elementary school where Mani had studied during his early years.



'Stanford Nanbarhal' program entered into the tenth year this year, where we hosted two student volunteers from Stanford University, USA. The volunteers actively participated in teaching, skill development and cultural exchange activities during their six weeks stay at the school campus.



The GIFT Foundation Scholarships for 2015-16 were awarded during annual functions last December. 138 Merit and Financial-Aid scholarships totaling Rs.18,92,379 were offered to deserving students, out of which 48 have been sponsored by donors from USA (through TNF-USA), India and other countries. Adelaide Parks Rotary (Australia) Scholarships with full-financial aid were awarded to two students for four-years of study from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

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