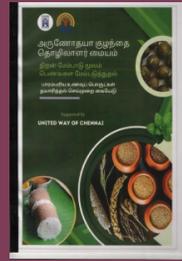
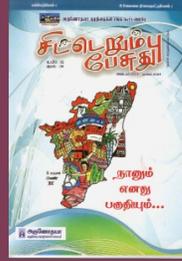




**ARUNODHAYA**  
Centre for Street & Working Children



# Annual Report 2024 - 2025



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*Compiled and Edited by :*  
**Ms. Virgil D Sami, Ph.D.**

*Published by :*  
**Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children**  
19/9/2, Bazaar Street, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013.  
**Phone** : 044-42632264, **Mobile** : 9444051529,  
**E-mail** : arunodhayaorg@gmail.com  
**Webside** : www.arunodhayacentre.in

*Layout & Designing by :*  
**VMS Dtp Centre, Chennai - 24.**  
Mobile : 6385496075



**ARUNODHAYA**  
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## Annual Report 2024 - 2025



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# Preface

It is my great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year 2024–2025. This report chronicles Arunodhaya’s achievements, the meaningful changes we have facilitated, and the challenges we have navigated in our ongoing journey towards our vision of a just society in which every child enjoys childhood, assured of his/her rights with dignity and happiness.

Our programmes—designed around child protection, child development, child participation, and community empowerment—have continued to transform the lives of children and families. This year, we strengthened enrolment and educational continuity, fostered safer and more protective environments, expanded platforms for children’s participation, and enhanced the capacities of community-based organisations to safeguard and promote child rights. The formation of Urban Ward–level Child Protection Committees marks a significant milestone in building community-led protective systems.

Child participation remains at the core of our interventions. Structures such as the Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam, the Children Nagara Sabai, and School Children Councils have provided vibrant spaces for children to exercise their right to participate, articulate their opinions, and influence decisions that affect their lives.

Our Youth Forum has evolved into the Youth Parliament, enabling young people to engage more deeply in civic processes and initiatives that advance child rights in their neighbourhoods. Through guidance on education and careers, along with opportunities to build life skills, the youth are shaping a promising future for themselves and their communities.

I place on record my sincere appreciation for the dedication and sustained efforts of the Arunodhaya team members and community volunteers, whose commitment has been pivotal in advancing the organisation’s mission. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to our trustees for their continuous encouragement and vision that strengthen and inspire our work.

As we reflect on the year’s progress, we remain steadfast in our resolve to build resilient communities and empower every child to thrive. With collective effort and unwavering commitment, we look forward to forging ahead with renewed energy, embracing new possibilities, and deepening our impact in the years to come.

July 2025

**Virgil D Sami Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*

*“The formation of Urban Ward–level Child Protection Committees marks a significant milestone in building community–led protective systems.”*

# Organisational overview

*“Arunodhaya believes that all children are born with an inherent right to justice, peace and freedom and deserve access to all fundamental human rights...”*

**A**runodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children is a registered public charitable trust established in 1992 committed to promoting and protecting the rights of marginalized children, especially those from street and working backgrounds.

## **Vision**

A Just society in which every child enjoys childhood assured of his/her rights with dignity and happiness

## **Mission**

Build a social movement that will uproot all form of exploitation and oppression of children and promote and protect the basic human rights of children enabling them to enjoy a dignified childhood. Effect policy changes and ensure social justice through research, documentation, campaign and networking.

## **Philosophy**

Arunodhaya believes that all children are born with an inherent right to justice, peace and freedom and deserve access to all fundamental human rights including education, health care, love, respect, security and protection. A nation’s development depends on the development of its children. Hence protection and promotion of the rights of children should become an inherent component of all development activities.

## Strategic objectives

Create a protective environment for every child free from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and neglect.

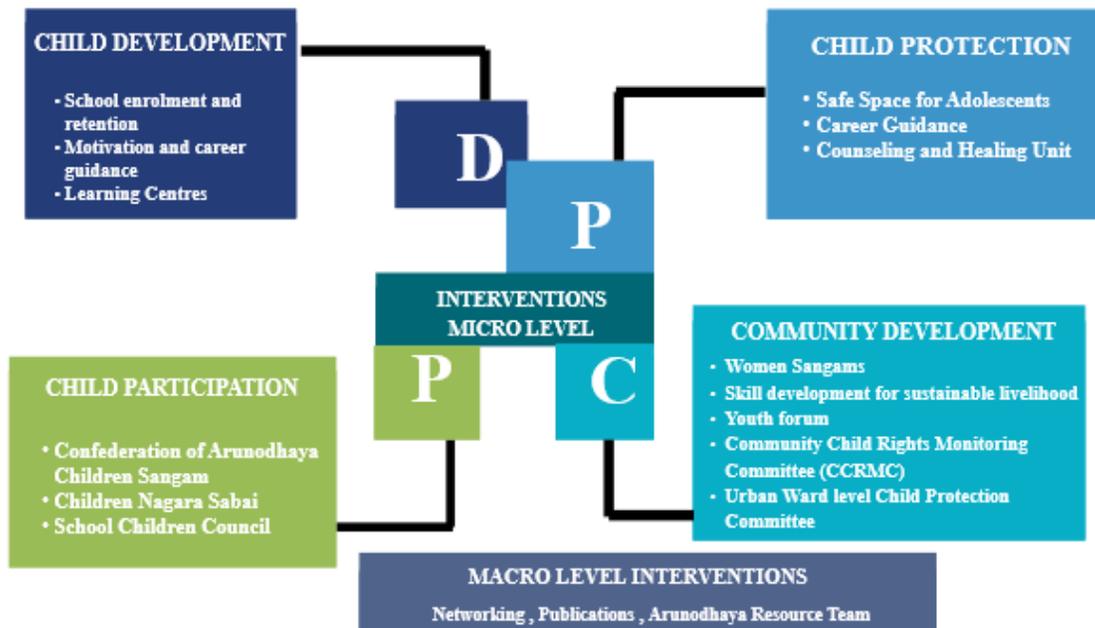
Create an environment at all levels for every child to express themselves, take decisions and participate in governance on all matters concerning them with the support of Community Based Organisations.

Create opportunities for all children to fully develop physically, mentally, gain knowledge and develop their personality.

Ensure the rights of all children by strengthening all community based organizations for the protection of children from all forms of violence.

## Approach

Arunodhaya adopts a rights-based, participatory, and community-driven approach. It emphasizes the active role of children, women, and community structures in sustaining social change and creating child-friendly communities.



## Core values

### Ambition

We pursue bold goals that drive lasting change for children and communities. Our ambition motivates us to constantly innovate and strive for greater impact.

### Commitment

We are dedicated to upholding child rights and improving their wellbeing. This commitment guides our actions and strengthens our bond with communities.

### Integrity

We uphold honesty, fairness, and ethical conduct in all our work. Integrity ensures we act responsibly and earn the trust of those we serve.

### Creativity

We embrace new ideas and approaches to address complex social challenges. Creativity enables us to design child-centred, effective solutions.

### Teamwork and Collaboration

We believe collective effort creates stronger and more sustainable change. Through teamwork and partnerships, we amplify our reach and impact.

### Accountability and Transparency

We take responsibility for our decisions and use resources with care. Transparency builds trust and ensures clarity in our processes and outcomes. ■

# Right to Education

*“The session completely changed my mindset. Mr. Solomon Victor’s talk helped me believe in myself and stay calm during exams. The teachers’ guidance made subjects easier to understand, and I now feel confident and well-prepared for challenges ahead.”*

— P. Vetrivel,  
Class 10



Arunodhaya is committed to realizing the Right to Education for all children up to 18 years and promoting higher education among youth. Our team members and community volunteers identify out-of-school and non-enrolled children through regular school and home visits, ensuring their enrollment and sustained participation in education through continuous follow-up.

## School Enrollment Awareness Campaign

In collaboration with Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) schools, Arunodhaya actively facilitated the enrollment of children into Chennai schools. During the reporting period, enrollment awareness campaigns were organized in 13 schools, with enthusiastic participation from Headmasters, teachers, School Management Committee (SMC) members, students, and local community representative. The campaign emphasized the importance of education and the collective responsibility to ensure that every child in the community is in school.

## Re-enrollment

Through these efforts, 59 out-of-school children (26 girls and 33 boys) were identified and successfully re-integrated into the education system.



### Continuous Learning Support

A total of 1,957 children (1,003 girls and 954 boys) received continuous academic support.

Through Arunodhaya's learning centres a special motivation session, "Step to Success," was organized for students appearing for board examinations (Grades 10, 11, and 12). The session focused on building self-confidence, maintaining a positive mindset, effective time management, overcoming exam anxiety, and holistic preparation for exams.

Subject-specific guidance was provided in Mathematics, English, and Science, including practical tips, answering techniques, and exam-writing strategies.

### Board Examination Results

- Grade 10: 109 students appeared, 87 passed
- Grade 11: 90 students appeared, 85 passed
- Grade 12: 115 students appeared, 108 passed

Students who could not clear the exams were followed up and motivated to appear for supplementary examinations. All students were encouraged and supported to pursue higher studies.

"The session completely changed my mindset. Mr. Solomon Victor's talk helped me believe in myself and stay calm during exams. The teachers' guidance made subjects easier to understand, and I now feel confident and well-prepared for challenges ahead."

— P. Vetrivel, Class 10

### Uyarvukku Padi Camp

The Uyarvukku Padi camp, an initiative by the Education Department, aims to motivate students to pursue higher education. Arunodhaya mobilized 15 students to participate in the camp, and four of them successfully joined higher studies.

### Reading Classes



To nurture a love for reading among children, reading sessions were conducted for 33 students from Grades 4 and 5 at Chennai Primary School, MGR Nagar. These sessions helped children improve vocabulary, sentence construction, and reading comprehension through guided reading, group activities, and storytelling.

### Community Libraries



Libraries were established at Arunodhaya's field offices in Korukkupet and Ennore. Children visited the libraries during evenings and holidays, accessing storybooks, motivational books, and general knowledge materials. The libraries have played a key role in developing reading habits and improving students' comprehension and academic performance.

### Digital Learning



Digital learning classes were introduced for 40 girls in Ennore and Korukkupet to bridge the digital divide and enhance learning outcomes. Each student received a tablet loaded with educational content such as stories, songs, and interactive games.

This initiative has resulted in improved comprehension and academic performance, particularly in Mathematics and English.

**"Using tablets was exciting and new for me. The interactive lessons helped me understand Mathematics better, and learning English and Tamil poems through music made studying enjoyable. I now perform better in exams thanks to these digital classes."**

*— Swathi Sri, Grade 7*

### Anganwadi Visits

Arunodhaya team members have built strong rapport with 61 Anganwadi Centres in the intervention areas. Regular visits and interactions with teachers help strengthen early childhood education services and ensure timely enrollment of children.

### District Educational Review Meetings

Arunodhaya actively participates in the District Educational Review Meetings convened monthly by the District Collector. Discussions focus on improving school infrastructure, teaching quality, support services, and strategies to prevent dropouts. The forum strengthens collaboration with government departments to collectively address educational challenges in the community.

**STORY OF CHANGE****Rising Beyond Setbacks**

**D**uring an Out-of-School Children Survey conducted in collaboration with the Education Department, Arunodhaya met Vijaya (name changed), a bright student who had dropped out of school after Grade 10 due to unforeseen circumstances.

Vijaya's father abandoned the family shortly after her sister's birth, leaving her mother to support the household by working as a saleswoman in a textile shop. Despite financial hardship, her mother remained determined to educate her daughters.

Vijaya excelled in her Grade 10 public exams in 2023, securing the top rank in her school. However, tragedy struck when she met with an accident on her way to collect her mark sheet, resulting in a severe leg injury and multiple surgeries. The medical expenses pushed the family into debt, and she lost one academic year after her school refused re-admission.

In 2024, the Arunodhaya team met Vijaya during the survey. Seeing her strong desire to study, they counselled, motivated, and facilitated her re-enrollment in Grade 11. With support from the school, her classroom was shifted to the ground floor to accommodate her physical challenges.

Despite her setbacks, Vijaya remained resilient and emerged as the top performer in her current class. Her determination and perseverance stand as an inspiring example of how timely support can restore hope and opportunity through education.

Her story reflects how timely intervention, empathy, and educational support can transform lives—even in the face of adversity. ■

# Right to Protection

## Empowering and Safeguarding Adolescents

*“Through games, discussions, and creative activities, participants built awareness, empathy, and a strong sense of self-worth.”*

**E**very child has the right to grow up in safety, dignity, and hope. Through our Right to Protection initiative, Arunodhaya continues to nurture adolescents with knowledge, confidence, and life skills to help them recognize risks, protect themselves, and make positive life choices. For those who have already faced trauma, counseling and personalized support pave the way for healing and resilience.

**Community based Adolescent awareness sessions** - 1104 Adolescents (553 girls, 551 boys) participated in Ilanthalir (adolescent) sessions in the communities.

**School Based Adolescent Awareness sessions** - 792 Adolescents (404 girls and 388 boys) participated in Ilanthalir (adolescent) sessions from 18 schools.

**Safety Education** - 1165 children of Primary school age (599 girls and 566 boys) from 20 schools made aware of safe and unsafe touch.

**Menstrual Hygiene Awareness for girl Children** - 1000 Girls in grades 8th to 12th gained information on reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and menstrual products and received cloth pads.

**Personalized Support** – 102 Adolescents (48 girls and 54 boys) were provided Individual Counselling.

**Group Counselling Session** – 148 adolescents (48 girls and 100 boys) were provided group counselling.

**Career Guidance** - 151 Adolescents (72 girls and 79 boys) from 9th to 12th grade attended career guidance session.

**Building Life Skills** - 84 Adolescents (39 girls and 45 boys) participated in life skill training.

**Exploring New Horizons** - 94 Adolescents (55 girls and 39 boys) participated in exposure visit to tea estate, farm house, toxic tour, IT company and Police Museum.

## Reaching Out to Adolescents

During the year, 1,104 adolescents (553 girls and 551 boys) took part in Ilanthalir sessions conducted in communities, while another 792 adolescents (404 girls and 388 boys) participated in school-based sessions across 18 schools. These sessions created safe spaces for



young people to explore issues they face daily—growing up, relationships, social pressures, and rights—while learning how to respond to challenges constructively.



The Ilanthalir groups met monthly to discuss 12 key adolescent-related topics such as physical and emotional changes, gender and identity, reproductive health, love and infatuation, online safety, substance abuse, early marriage, and child sexual abuse. Through games, discussions, and creative activities, participants built awareness, empathy, and a strong sense of self-worth.

## Safety Education for Younger Children

Recognizing that protection begins early, awareness sessions on Safe and Unsafe Touch were conducted for 1,165



primary school children (599 girls and 566 boys) from 20 schools. Children learned to identify inappropriate behavior, understood the importance of saying “no,” and were informed about the Childline 1098 helpline for support. They also learned to be cautious with strangers and to seek help from trusted adults when needed.

## Reproductive Health and Menstrual Hygiene

From August 2024 to March 2025, the Pad for Pad program reached 1,000 girls



from grades 8 to 12 across 17 schools. The sessions provided accurate information on reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and the use of menstrual products. Each participant received a set of reusable cloth pads, promoting

both hygiene and environmental sustainability. These sessions helped dismantle taboos and empowered girls to take charge of their health with confidence.

### **Building Skills for Life and the Future**

To help adolescents navigate life with purpose, Life Skills Training sessions were held in May and October 2024 for 84 adolescents (39 girls and 45 boys). The training focused on self-awareness, self-confidence, communication, and goal setting—equipping participants with tools to face challenges and make informed choices.

Under the Amaipom Ethirkalam Career Guidance Program, 151 adolescents



(72 girls and 79 boys) from grades 9 to 12 received counseling and guidance to prepare for board examinations and explore career opportunities. The program addressed exam-related stress and introduced practical strategies for



time management, decision-making, and future planning.

### **Exploring New Horizons**

Learning extends beyond the classroom. 94 adolescents (55 girls and 39 boys) from Ilanthalir groups participated in exposure visits to diverse settings such as a tea estate, farm, toxic tour, IT company, and Police Museum. These experiences broadened their understanding of the world of work and encouraged them to dream beyond their circumstances.

### **Counseling and Healing Unit - Healing and Emotional Well-being-**



Counseling and Healing Unit provided support to adolescents struggling with emotional or behavioral issues. 102 adolescents (48 girls and 54 boys) received one-on-one counseling, while 148 adolescents (48 girls and 100 boys) participated in group counseling sessions. These sessions helped participants process difficult experiences, build resilience, and regain confidence.

**Table No. 1**

<b>Individual Counselling</b>			
<b>Type of Problem</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Total</b>
Behaviour Problem	4	14	18
Family Problem	8	5	13
Health & Hygiene	2	1	3
Love & Infatuation	2	1	3
Self Esteem	1	3	4
Depression	6	16	22
Education	8	8	16
Dropout	4	1	5
Self Analysis	2	3	5
Child Safety	1	1	2
Stress	7		7
Emotional Problem	3		3
Drug Abuse		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>102</b>

**Table No. 2**

<b>Group Counselling</b>			
<b>Type of Problem</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Total</b>
Health & Hygiene	4		4
Education	9	31	40
Behaviour	11	41	52
Family Counselling	10	10	20
Love & Infatuation	2	9	11
Drug Abuse	5	9	14
Emotional Management	4		4
Menstrual Problem	3		3
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148</b>

Through these multifaceted interventions, Arunodhaya reached thousands of children and adolescents, nurturing awareness, safety, and self-belief. Each session, conversation, and journey reinforced the message that every child deserves protection, opportunity, and a voice in shaping their future. ■

# Right to Participation

## Empowering Children to Lead Change

*“Elections teach accountability, inclusiveness, and teamwork, while empowering children to lead initiatives and organize programmes.”*

**A**t Arunodhaya, children’s participation is not just an activity—it is the foundation of every intervention. We believe that children have the right to be heard and to influence decisions that affect their lives. Our programmes nurture leadership, build confidence, and equip children with knowledge and skills to voice their opinions effectively. Alongside, we work with adults to foster an environment that respects and values children’s perspectives, promoting a culture of listening and shared decision-making.

### Child-Led Organisations:

#### Voices from the Ground

Arunodhaya’s child-led structures provide vibrant platforms for democratic participation at every level:

- **Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam (CACS)** – 81 Sangams with 3,390 members.
- **Children Nagara Sabai (CNS)** – active in 10 wards, engaging 72 (34 girls and 38 boys) child councillors
- **School Children Councils (SCC)** – functioning in 11 schools with 330 members (175 girls and 155 boys)

These bodies enable children to discuss issues, propose solutions, and engage with community leaders and local governance.

## Building Capacity and Nurturing Leadership

Elected leaders at area, zonal, and confederation levels experience the spirit of democracy firsthand. Elections teach accountability, inclusiveness, and teamwork, while empowering children to lead initiatives and organize programmes.

### Young Facilitators



A training camp on Climate Justice (3–5 May 2024) brought together 40 young leaders (17 girls and 23 boys) who later facilitated 41 annual planning camps, reaching 1,965 children (1015 girls and 950 boys). These facilitators became catalysts for action in their respective areas and zones.



### Peer Supporters

Every area unit has 3–5 peer supporters who motivate and guide other children to participate actively in meetings, trainings, and campaigns.

## Strengthening Advocacy Skills

Children express their views through creative and journalistic platforms:

- **Video Documentary Training (30 September–1 October 2024):** Led by film director and former CACS member Mohammed Sherief, 19 children (6 girls and 13 boys) learned filmmaking and produced two short films—one on child labour and another, Ammera, on gender equality. A refresher training in December 2024 further sharpened their skills.



- **Journalism Training:** Editorial team members comprising of 20 children (11 girls and 9 boys) were trained in April and December 2024 in layout, writing, and editing. They published quarterly issues of Sitterumbu Pesuthu (The Little Ant Speaks) on themes like Education is our Right, A World Free of Drug Addiction, and My Area.

## Children in Local Governance





The Children Nagara Sabai (CNS) has become a model for meaningful child participation in local governance, operating in 10 wards across three city zones. Meetings were convened on 30th April 2024, 15 August 2024 and 26 January 2025, creating space for dialogue between children and local authorities.

**IMPACT STORIES:**

- In Ward 6, children submitted a petition to clean the polluted Vannar Kulam. The local councillor responded promptly, leading to a community cleanup supported by a corporate partner. The pond is now clean, with trees planted around it—a testament to children’s civic leadership.

**Vannar kulam**



**Before...**



**After...**

- In Ward 41, children’s requests led to the renovation of a public park with new play equipment, benefitting the entire community.

**Participation in Schools**

Through the School Children Councils (SCC), students actively engage in improving their schools. Committees on Education, Hygiene, Noon Meal, and Safety ensure that children’s perspectives shape school functioning, creating a sense of ownership and responsibility.

**Children as Change Agents**

CACS members are changemakers who raise awareness, influence policy,

and drive action. They have organised rallies, street plays, and campaigns on key occasions—National Girl Child Day, International Day Against Child Labour, and World Children’s Day—to amplify children’s rights.

- A creative street play highlighting parents’ overindulgence in television serials inspired many parents to spend more time with their children.
- During the 2024 Parliament Elections, children prepared and presented their charter of



demands to political parties and candidates, encouraging adults to vote responsibly and reject cash-for-vote practices.

- CACS representatives serve in Community Child Rights



Monitoring Committees and Ward Child Protection Committees, where they raise concerns directly with councillors and officials.

Through their vigilance, 10 child labourers were withdrawn from work and re-enrolled in school.

Children also celebrated the Joy of Giving Week by supporting senior citizens, providing groceries to a needy family, and gifting play materials to an Anganwadi centre. They even submitted a petition to the Chief Minister's Cell on *violence against children in schools*.

### Nurturing Talent and Expression

Children are encouraged to explore their talents in sports and the arts:



- Silambam Training: 35 children (20 girls and 15 boys) trained weekly; 10 competed nationally and won prizes.



Bharatanatyam Training: 20 girls trained weekly and performed at schools, communities, and the Republic Day parade at Ripon Buildings.



## Annual Convention and World Children’s Day



The CACS Annual Convention is the flagship event where children take the lead in setting the agenda.

In 2024–25, the theme was “Children’s Right to a Safe Environment.”

Throughout the year, children discussed pollution, waste management, and sustainable



practices. They interviewed elders, documented environmental changes, and engaged with municipal officials to clean canals, renovate parks, and reduce plastic use.

The Convention showcased these efforts through presentations, short films, and the success story of Vannar Kulam, exemplifying how collective action can restore community spaces.

- **Sports Achievement:**

B.Sivakarthykayan from Royapuram, inspired through CACS, excelled in carrom, securing 7th place in the state.



### Networking for Greater Impact

CACS plays an active role in the Federation of Children’s Movements for Right to Participation (FCMRP). Its representatives hold leadership positions in the management team



and contributed as young facilitators at the FCMRP Annual Convention in May 2024, strengthening the statewide children’s movement.

Through its commitment to children’s participation, Arunodhaya continues to nurture confident, informed, and compassionate young citizens. These children are not just beneficiaries—they are leaders shaping their communities, challenging injustices, and envisioning a fairer, safer world for all. ■

# Community Empowerment

## *Building Empowered and Protective Communities*

*“Community empowerment is central to Arunodhaya’s mission of building safe, inclusive, and child-friendly neighbourhoods. By engaging adults, parents, and local structures, the organisation fosters shared responsibility for child protection and well-being.”*

Community empowerment is central to Arunodhaya’s mission of building safe, inclusive, and child-friendly neighbourhoods. By engaging adults, parents, and local structures, the organisation fosters shared responsibility for child protection and well-being. Through trainings, awareness initiatives, and the strengthening of local committees, communities have become more informed, responsive, and proactive in addressing issues affecting children and adolescents.

### **Empowering Women as Catalysts of Change** *(Promoting Child Rights through Awareness, Leadership and Action)*

Women are at the heart of Arunodhaya’s community transformation efforts. Through capacity-building programmes, awareness sessions, and health initiatives, women are being equipped not only to safeguard their own rights but also to stand as protectors of children and advocate for justice and equality within their communities.

### **Building Capacities and Confidence**

Arunodhaya organized a series of trainings to strengthen women’s knowledge, leadership, and sense of agency. These programmes aimed to help women understand legal provisions related to women and children, protection mechanisms, and their role in promoting child rights.

- **Gender Justice Training:** 115 women participated, deepening their understanding of gender equality and women’s rights.
- **Leadership Camp (by OFSI):** 3 women attended, enhancing their confidence to lead community initiatives.
- **Financial Literacy Training:** 30 women gained practical financial management skills.

- **Disaster Preparedness Training:** 600 women were trained to respond effectively to emergencies.
- **Adult Peer Educators Training:** 250 women were equipped to educate others on key social issues.
- **Training on Adolescent Issues:** 1,500 women enhanced their awareness on adolescent development and challenges.

Recognizing the barriers posed by illiteracy, 120 women were referred to literacy programmes. The joy of being able to sign their own names, especially on their children's progress cards symbolized newfound dignity and empowerment.



*Adult peer educators training*

These initiatives enabled women to develop skills in leadership, gender sensitivity, self-care, and goal setting, fostering confidence and a renewed sense of identity.

### Voices of Change

"The sessions opened my eyes to the realities of gender inequality and domestic violence in our community. I now feel more aware of how these issues affect women and girls. I learned about legal protections for women, which I didn't know existed before. This has empowered me to help others in need."

— G. Saraswathy, 25 years

### Promoting Financial confidence

Economic empowerment of women is facilitated through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), credit linkages, business ventures, and marketing opportunities. SHGs are guided to link with the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and benefit from its training and schemes.

*Arunodhaya* facilitates 54 SHGs with a total membership of 764 women. These groups have collectively availed ₹56.5 lakh in credit linkage, enabling both individual and group enterprises.

To help women explore tangible income opportunities, platforms were created to showcase and market their products. Trainees participated in exhibitions and sales events, including:

- NGO Fair at Loyola College
- Two-Day Sale Event at Chartered Standard Bank



*Sale event at Altimetrik India Pvt. Ltd.*

- Stall at the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board Pavilion during the Government's Tourist Trade Fair



These events provided first-hand experience in marketing, customer engagement, and product presentation—boosting confidence and visibility for budding entrepreneurs.

Further, five women participated in an exposure visit to the Voluntary Association for People’s Service (VAPS) and Green Fem Pvt. Ltd., Madurai (February 2025). The visit inspired and guided them to transform entrepreneurial ideas into feasible ventures, marking the next step in their empowerment journey.

### Safeguarding Women’s Health: Awareness, Action, and Change



*Community Health Educators*

Recognizing that empowerment is incomplete without well-being, Arunodhaya conducted an extensive women’s health initiative. Over 1,000 women across 10 localities participated in weekly awareness sessions covering reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and gender equality.

These sessions were made interactive through dialogues with gynecologists and supported by health camps that offered diagnostic services and lifestyle counselling. A household health survey covering 3,000 families provided valuable insights into community health practices and service accessibility.

Community Health Educators (CHEs) built strong partnerships with Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) to ensure continued support and access to care.



### Story of Change:

#### Shifting Traditions, Strengthening Bonds

#### A Mother’s Awakening to Menstrual Myths

In the bustling neighbourhood of Anna Nagar, Korukkupet, lives Lilly Christie, a 48-year-old mother of two. Like many women of her generation, Lilly grew up with deep-rooted beliefs surrounding menstruation—beliefs that led her daughters to face exclusion each month.

When Lilly joined Arunodhaya’s Safeguarding Women’s Health sessions, she encountered scientific truths and emotional reflections that changed her perspective. Learning that menstruation was a natural and clean process, she decided to break the silence at home.

“I had never questioned these practices,” Lilly said. “But now, I realize how much it was hurting my daughters and limiting our connection.”

Lilly lifted the restrictions in her household, opening conversations and rebuilding trust with her daughters. Her transformation has since inspired other women in her community to challenge similar taboos. Today, Lilly stands as a quiet revolutionary—proving that awareness can heal generations and reshape traditions with compassion and truth.

## Extending Health Services to the Community

- A general health camp, organized post-floods in collaboration with the PHC, benefited 1,000 women.
- Eyecamps were held for Irula women in Athipet and Sadayankuppam.
- Awareness on cancer prevention reached 41 women through sessions conducted with Pearl Health Institute.

## Nurturing Responsible Mentors: Adult Peer Educators

A total of 177 adult peer educators from the community were identified and trained through four comprehensive sessions. The training aimed to equip them with knowledge and practical skills to guide and support adolescents, particularly in addressing issues related to infatuation and emotional development. Participants learned to understand adolescent behaviour, communicate effectively, and model positive values. These trained peer educators now serve as trusted mentors within their communities—promoting healthy relationships, empathy, and emotional resilience among young people.

## Celebrating Women's Achievements: Women's Day 2025

Women's Day celebrations served as powerful platforms for expression,



recognition, and solidarity. The Self-Help Group (SHG) federations Amudha Surabhi, women groups in Tiruvottiyur and Royapuram SHG federation organised vibrant programmes in Korukkupet Tiruvottiyur and Royapuram respectively.



Amudha Surabhi Federation marked the occasion by releasing a Souvenir documenting two decades of its inspiring journey and accomplishments.

Arunodhaya hosted its annual Women's Day event on 22 March 2025, themed "Accelerate Action for Rights and Equality." Nearly 500 women participated in the day-long celebration, featuring:

- Sharing of personal achievements and challenges





- Exhibitions on gender equality and women’s health
- Cultural performances showcasing creativity and resilience

The day became a testimony to the strength and collective spirit of women leading community transformation.

### Women Leading the Change

From gaining literacy and financial confidence to challenging gender taboos and advocating child rights, women have emerged as dynamic change agents in their communities. Their empowerment is not confined to personal growth—it is rippling across families, streets, and neighbourhoods, shaping a culture of equality and protection for the next generation.

### Skill Development for Sustainable Livelihood

Building pathways to economic independence has always been at the heart of community empowerment. Arunodhaya’s skill development initiatives continue to equip youth and women with practical, market-relevant, and life-enriching skills that help them secure sustainable livelihoods. Through a blend of vocational training, life skills, and exposure visits, participants are encouraged not only to learn but to dream bigger, act confidently, and pursue self-reliance.

### Courses Offered

During the reporting period, a range of skill development courses were conducted to meet diverse aspirations and local market demands.

Diploma in Computer Applications and Tally with Spoken English and Life Skills	288 youth (212 girls and 76 boys)
Garment Making and Fashion Designing	200 women
Aari Designing	100 women
Home and Beauty Products	120 women
Food Products	120 women
Mehandhi Art	120 women
Saree Draping	120 women





Each course was designed not only to develop employable skills but also to nurture creativity, self-confidence, and a sense of purpose among participants.

## Stories of Change

### Stitching Her Way to Independence

#### Rekha's Journey of Empowerment

**R**ekha, a resident of Thiruvottiyur, lives with her husband and family. After completing her 12th grade, she longed to pursue her passion for garment and fashion design. However, financial constraints and her husband's irregular income as a daily wage worker made it difficult for her to access formal training.

Her life took a positive turn when she learned about the Empowering Women for Sustainable Development (EWSD) project through Arunodhaya staff. Recognizing it as a valuable opportunity, Rekha eagerly enrolled in the tailoring training program — a decision that became a turning point in her life.

Through the program, Rekha mastered advanced tailoring techniques and gained confidence in garment and fashion technology. Today, she skillfully stitches a range of garments, including chudidars, blouses, and skirts. Her enhanced skills have opened up new work opportunities and significantly improved her income, enabling her to contribute steadily to her family's financial well-being.

#### Rekha expresses her heartfelt gratitude, saying:

*"I am truly grateful for the invaluable support and training I received through the Tailoring Training program. This experience has been life-changing, empowering me with the confidence to embrace new opportunities and build a brighter future."*

Rekha's story is a testament to how access to skill development and the right support can transform lives. From being constrained by financial challenges to becoming a confident and independent woman, Rekha now stands as an inspiration to others in her community — proving that empowerment begins with opportunity.

## Stories of Change

### When Skills Create Confidence: Chitra's Success Story

For 25-year-old Chitra, life revolved around caring for her husband, children, and elderly in-laws. Watching Ilanthilir sessions (organized by Arunodhaya) piqued her interest, and a conversation with animator Ms. Jayalakshmi introduced her to the Garment Making and Fashion Designing course. Despite her heavy responsibilities, Chitra made bold adjustments—taking her younger child to the center and ensuring her in-laws were cared for—to attend the course. Today, she earns around Rs.5000/- per month sewing nighties and dreams of buying her own sewing machine to expand her home-based work. I lived a life of nothingness and felt negative about myself. The training centre and the comradeship here have boosted my energy, and I now feel positive about my life and confident of bringing up my children for a brighter future," says Chitra, reflecting on her journey. '

### Preparing for the Job Market

For participants in the DCA and Tally course, special sessions were organised to enhance job readiness and introduce them to professional opportunities. These included:

- Orientation on Competitive Examinations



- Training on Resume Preparation and Online Job Portals
- Workshops on Interview Techniques with Mock Interview Sessions
- Exposure Visits to Omega Health Care Management Services, Altimetrik, and DP World

These initiatives helped participants sharpen their communication, understand workplace expectations, and build confidence to face interviews. The exposure visits provided them with real-world learning—insights into healthcare management, IT, and port operations—while enabling direct interaction with industry leaders who shared their professional journeys and inspired participants to aim higher.

### Voices of Change

"The discussion on the nature and ethics of the company was enlightening. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to engage with such inspiring leaders and to gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to succeed in the healthcare industry."

*-Hari Prasad V, DCA & Tally Student*

Such testimonials reflect the transformative impact of the skill development initiatives—instilling confidence, broadening horizons, and nurturing aspirations for a better future.

### Job Placement

Contact is established with 69 companies for placement of students from the Computer centre. During the year 49 students (26 girls and 23 boys) have been placed as Data Entry Operator, Administrative Assistant, Junior Data Analyst, MIS assistant HR/Accounts, Assistant Junior Data Analyst, Education - Tutor.

## Story of Change

### From Learner to Earner: Velan's Journey to Confidence and Career

**A**t 20, Velan from Nehru Nagar, Korukkupet, was determined to change his family's circumstances. Though pursuing a Bachelor's degree, he lacked digital exposure. Enrolling in Arunodhaya's Computer Centre supported by Asmae, he mastered MS Office and Tally, earning his Diploma in Computer Applications by March 2024.

Soon after, Velan secured a Trainee position at Royal Enfield with a salary of Rs.12,000 per month. He credits his success to the practical computer training and the life skills sessions that boosted his confidence. Velan now dreams of advancing his career and supporting his siblings' education. His story stands as a testament to the power of opportunity and guided empowerment.

*"I am grateful to Arunodhaya and Asmae for believing in youth like me. The training changed my life."*

— Velan

The skill development programmes have evolved into a powerful catalyst for change—building confidence, enhancing employability, and opening doors to entrepreneurship. By integrating life skills and market exposure, Arunodhaya ensures that participants are not just trained but truly empowered to sustain themselves and contribute meaningfully to their communities. The journey of these women and youth reaffirms

the transformative potential of skill development—turning aspirations into action and livelihoods into lasting dignity.

## Youth Power for Change

*(Building Leadership, Equality, and Responsibility among Young Citizens)*

Youth are the driving force of social transformation. Through Arunodhaya Pudhumai Ilaingar Iyakkam (Arunodhaya Youth Forum), Arunodhaya channels the energy, creativity, and aspirations of young people towards constructive community action. The initiative focuses on developing their leadership, enhancing awareness of social realities, promoting gender equity, and empowering them to become proactive agents of change in their own communities.

## Capacity Building and Leadership Development

To build youth as leaders and change agents, a series of capacity-building programs were conducted during the year.

- **Understanding Youth and Society:** On 12th June 2024, a training on the Status of Youth brought together 21 participants (9 girls and 12 boys). The sessions encouraged critical reflection on social realities, the role of youth in governance, and an understanding of democracy, constitutional values, and government schemes.
- **Gender Equity and Digital Safety:** Youth engaged in sessions on gender and sexuality, domestic violence, and women's legal rights. Training on digital safety and responsible

social media use helped participants become advocates for safer and more inclusive online spaces.

- **Leadership and Team Building:** Leadership workshops enhanced communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork. The activities nurtured trust and collaboration among youth members, helping them realize that effective leadership is rooted in empathy, cooperation, and respect for diversity.
- **Exploring Opportunities and Entrepreneurship:** Youth were oriented on government programs related to education, employment, and entrepreneurship—such as MUDRA loans, Post-Matric Scholarships, and Startup India. Practical sessions on entrepreneurship encouraged youth to develop small business ideas and leverage available schemes for economic independence.
- **Preparing for Civic Engagement:** A training on Youth Parliament introduced participants to democratic debate and civic participation. Inspired by this, the youth forum initiated steps to establish their own Youth Parliament as a platform for advocacy and community leadership.



*Entrepreneurship training*



### Voices of change

“The Youth Leadership workshop helped me see that leadership is not about position—it’s about responsibility and consistent effort.”

— *P. Thenmozhi, Korukkupet*

“I realized that even small ideas can grow into a business. I feel more confident and want to share what I learned with my friends.”

— *Mahalakshmi S.*

### Youth-led Community Initiatives

- **Breaking the Silence on Menstruation:** On International Menstrual Hygiene Day (28th May 2024), youth boys took the lead in promoting awareness. They produced a short film demystifying myths around menstruation, screened to 300 youth and viewed by over 600 on YouTube.
- **Promoting Civic Responsibility:** Youth leaders from Ennore facilitated discussions on ‘The Role of Youth in Society,’ attended by 23 participants, demonstrating peer-led learning in action.

- **Sports for Awareness:** The Youth Parliament organized a sports event in November 2024, emphasizing the importance of a drug-free lifestyle and healthy living. 51 youth participated.



- **Championing Gender Equality:** A peer-to-peer session on gender equality by youth parliamentarians engaged 27 participants, addressing stereotypes, unequal roles, and gender-based violence. The open discussions inspired both boys and girls to commit to gender justice and join future awareness efforts.
- **Action for Safer Communities:** Youth trained on the Safety App mapped unsafe zones in their communities, prompting police intervention and improving local safety conditions.
- **Representation in Governance:** Four youth (two boys and two girls) represented the Youth Forum in Child Protection Committees of two Greater Chennai Corporation wards, advocating against drug abuse and for the safety of public spaces like parks.
- **Supporting Peers in Need:** Youth volunteers identified 45 peers (28



girls and 17 boys) facing personal or social challenges and referred them for counseling—demonstrating empathy and community responsibility in action.

Through consistent engagement, training, and participatory initiatives, Arunodhaya’s Youth Forum has nurtured a cadre of young leaders who are informed, responsible, and socially conscious. Their journey from awareness to action demonstrates how youth, when empowered, can lead their communities towards equality, safety, and sustainable progress.

### Strengthening Community-Based Child Protection Structures

Children’s safety and well-being are best ensured when families, communities, and local institutions work together with shared responsibility. Recognizing this, Arunodhaya adopts a community-centred approach to child protection—strengthening families through positive parenting, building awareness on child rights and social issues, and enabling community-led monitoring and governance mechanisms.

### Strengthening Families through Positive Parenting

Parenting plays a vital role in shaping a child’s emotional and social well-being. Recognizing this, Arunodhaya facilitated structured training sessions on parenting skills through nine parent groups, engaging 270 women. The



sessions explored essential themes such as understanding brain development, setting boundaries with empathy, and expressing love and care effectively.

The programme helped parents gain deeper insight into their roles as caregivers and nurturers. Participants reported being able to respond to

their children with greater patience and understanding, especially during moments of stress or conflict. The training also encouraged parents to shift from punitive practices to positive discipline, helping them build stronger and more trusting relationships within their families.

### Story of Change:

## Transforming Parenting Practices

In September 2024, a group of parents from Pattinathar Kovil attended Arunodhaya's parenting training with a shared struggle — they loved their children deeply but often felt frustrated, misunderstood, and unsure how to connect with them. Many had grown up in environments where shouting or punishment was the norm, and they found themselves repeating those same patterns.

During the sessions, the parents began to see their children's behaviour through a new lens — one shaped by empathy and understanding. They learned how a child's brain processes emotions, why patience matters, and how consistent love and gentle communication can nurture trust. For many, it was the first time they reflected on how their words and reactions shaped their children's sense of safety and self-worth.

As the days progressed, changes became visible. Parents began to listen more and shout less. They included children in small decisions, apologized when they lost their temper, and took pride in seeing their children respond with affection rather than fear. The training also inspired several parents to get more involved in community activities, such as Women's Day events and local awareness programmes.

Jancy from Seyon Nagar shared, "Before this training, I often misread my children's behaviour and didn't know how to respond. Now I understand their feelings better. I've learned that every child is unique and deserves to be treated with love and respect. When I started listening to them, they began to listen to me too."

The transformation went beyond individual families — it rippled through the community. Parents began to model empathy, patience, and open communication, creating more nurturing home environments. With continued support, these mothers are not only raising emotionally healthy children but also building stronger, more compassionate communities.

## Raising Awareness and Inspiring Action

Community awareness programmes play a vital role in spreading information and encouraging dialogue on critical social issues. During the reporting period, 48 awareness programmes were organised on themes such as International Girl Child Day, Online Safety, Drug Abuse Prevention, National Girl Child Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Day Against Child Labour, and Positive Parenting. Through interactive methods such as street plays, community discussions, and group sessions, these programmes reached a wide audience—stimulating conversations, correcting misconceptions, and inspiring community members to take an active role in protecting children and promoting social well-being.

### Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs)

A total of 143 parents actively participated in PTA meetings designed to strengthen the link between families and schools. These sessions created awareness among parents about the importance of education and their involvement in their children's learning journey, fostering a stronger home-school partnership.

### School Management Committees (SMCs)

Arunodhaya staff and volunteers actively participated as members of School Management Committees across 21 schools, attending meetings regularly and providing inputs on child protection and school governance. They also supported schools in implementing actions based on SMC resolutions,

promoting accountability and improved learning environments.



### Training for men on gender and child protection

A new initiative was taken to train men on gender justice and child protection. Ten men participated in the training.



### Community Child Rights Monitoring Committees (CCRMCs)

To reinforce community-led child protection, 16 Community and Child Rights Monitoring Committees were established, conducting 62 monthly meetings during the year. These committees—comprising community women, children, and youth—monitor child rights violations, raise alerts, and advocate for timely interventions.



Their efforts have strengthened local vigilance and fostered a culture of collective responsibility for children's safety and rights.

### Urban Ward-Level Child Protection Committees (WLCPCs)

In line with the Government Order for establishing Ward-Level Child Protection Committees in urban areas, Arunodhaya facilitated the formation of WLCPCs in Wards 38 and 47 of the Greater Chennai Corporation. Through five meetings, the committees identified key child protection concerns, reviewed existing support mechanisms, and planned collaborative, community-based responses to ensure children's safety and well-being.

Through the combined efforts of trained peer educators, active parent groups, and structured child protection committees,



communities have evolved into safer and more nurturing environments for children. These initiatives have deepened awareness, strengthened collective action, and fostered accountability among stakeholders. The growing collaboration between children, families, and local governance structures stands as a testament to the power of community empowerment in safeguarding child rights and building a more just, compassionate society. ■

## Impact of Child-Led and Community Based Initiatives in Promoting Child Rights

*“The initiatives led by Child-Led Organisations and Child Protection Committees demonstrate the power of collective community action and child participation in governance.”*

The active participation of children and community members through Children Nagara Sabai and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) has transformed several neighbourhoods into safer, healthier, and more child-friendly spaces. These platforms have empowered children to voice their concerns, engage with elected representatives, and collaborate with government departments to bring about tangible community improvements. The following outcomes highlight the impact of these collective efforts.

### Key Outcomes and Achievements

#### Banking Facility

A long-pending demand of the residents of Korukkupet was fulfilled with the opening of a Mercantile Bank branch on 9th July 2024. This has made financial services easily accessible, especially for women, who no longer have to travel to Tondiarpet or Tiruvottiyur for banking needs.



## Renovation of Parks

Children advocated for safe recreational spaces, resulting in the renovation of parks and installation of play materials in several areas. The parks now serve as venues for children’s meetings and leisure activities.



**Renovated Parks:** Stanleynagar (Ward 53); AIR Site, Kasikoil Kuppam (Ward 3); MGR Nagar (Ward 41, with trees planted); Bharathinagar (Ward 47); Patelnagar (Ward 38, helpline board displayed); Annai Sathya Nagar (Ward 38).

## Establishment of Library

A children’s library was established in Annai Sivagaminagar (Ward 3) following consistent advocacy by children, providing a dedicated space for reading and learning.

## Renovation of Anganwadi Centres

Through persistent representation by children and CPC members, Anganwadi Centres in Parameswaran Nagar (Ward

38) and Jeeva Nagar (Ward 47) were renovated, ensuring a safe and child-friendly environment.

## Cleaning of Ponds

Environmental discussions by children led to collaboration with municipal councillors for pond cleaning in: Vannar Kulam, V.S. Nagar, Kasikoil Kuppam (Ward 6); Nehru Nagar (Ward 41); Jeeva Nagar (Ward 47).

## Cleanliness and Safety in Schools

Through School Children Councils and Children Nagara Sabai meetings, issues of sanitation and safety were addressed. Actions included: removal of garbage and cleaning of toilets in Chennai Middle School (AIR Site) and Chennai Primary School (Tiruvottiyur Kuppam, Ward 9), and installation of CCTV cameras in Chennai Middle School (AIR Site, Ward 9).

## Programmes in Schools

An Aadhaar enrolment camp organized at Chennai Higher Secondary School, Patel Nagar (Ward 38) enabled 100 children to receive certificates. An awareness programme on drug abuse was also conducted for students in the same school.

## Rescue of Child Labourers

Two child labourers were identified and re-enrolled in school (Ward 38), ensuring their right to education.

## Safety in the Community

Children and CPCs identified vulnerable spots and requested police patrolling, resulting in increased safety in: Muthumariamman Nagar (Ward 47); Ambedkar Nagar 7th St. (Ward 3); Model Line (Ward 52); Sastri Nagar 1st & 2nd St., Tamilan Nagar (Ward 38); Ambedkar Nagar 1st St. (Ward 47).

## Civic Amenities

Community and child representatives addressed issues related to roads, drinking water, street lighting, waste management, and sewage systems. Their advocacy resulted in the following improvements:

- **Roads, Street Lights, and Water Supply:** Ernavur Kuppam, Kasikoil Kuppam (Ward 3)
- **Road Repairs:** Pattinathar Temple area (Ward 9), Vinoba Nagar (Ward 38), MGR Nagar 5th Street (Ward 41), Vetri Vinayagar Nagar Main Street (Ward 7), Saraswathi Nagar 2nd Street (Ward 6)
- **Water Supply:** Neduchezeian Nagar (Ward 38), Nehru Nagar 14th Street & Main Street (Ward 41), Jeeva Nagar and Muthumariamman Nagar (Ward 47)
- **Street Lights:** AS Nagar (Ward 3), Vetri Vinayagar Nagar 5th St. (Ward 7), Tulukanathamman Temple (Ward 9), MGR Nagar (Ward 41), Bharathi Nagar (Ward 47), Bishop Line & Model Lane (Ward 52), R.R. Nagar (Ward 47), Saraswathi Nagar 2nd St. (Ward 6).
- **Garbage Clearance:** Ambedkar Nagar 10th St. (Ward 6), Pattinathar Koil – Tulukanathamman Temple

(Ward 9), Nehru Nagar (Ward 41), Model Lane (Ward 52)

- **Traffic Management:** Traffic signal installed on Beach Road, Pattinathar Koil (Ward 9)
- **Storm Water Drainage Cleaning:** Annamalainagar 4th St. and Kargil Nagar (Ward 7), R.R. Nagar (Ward 37), JJ Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar (Ward 47)
- **Sewage and Sanitation:** Problem of sewage mixing with drinking water resolved and public toilets maintained in Model Lane (Ward 52)
- **Electricity Supply:** Transformer repaired and raised in Nehru Nagar (Ward 41).

## Conclusion

The initiatives led by Child-Led Organisations and Child Protection Committees demonstrate the power of collective community action and child participation in governance. Their proactive engagement has resulted in improved civic amenities, safer public spaces, and strengthened local accountability. These efforts have not only enhanced the quality of life in their neighbourhoods but also nurtured a generation of informed, responsible, and empowered young citizens committed to building child-friendly communities. ■

# Resource Centre

- The Resource centre has team of trainer trained in :
- Parenting
  - Ilanthalir session (Adolecent) training modules
  - Menstrual hygiene
  - Sexual and Reproductive health
  - Mainstreaming child participation

A team of 20 Lay first aiders from ASSCOD (OFSI partner) visited Arunodhaya on 4th January 2025 on an exchange programme. The team interacted with the CHEs, visited the community and witnessed an awareness session. They gained valuable insight on the strategy adopted in mobilizing women for awareness sessions, the modules and the method of conducting the sessions, the different documents maintained by CHEs for follow up and monitoring and evaluation.

Dr. Virgil D Sami was invited by the Department of Social work Bishop Chulaparambi Memorial college Kottayam Kerala, to deliver a lecture on ' Children and Social Inclusion' at the 22nd Samanwaya International conference held from 3-5 February 2025.

Students from 20 colleges in Chennai and from Kerala came for field work and internship training. ■

# Documentation and Publications

The second edition of 'Thalai Nimir' sexual and reproductive health training manual was released and used for conducting sessions for women in the communities.

The women who participated in the different skill training programee produced the following hand books

- Household and beauty products guidelines
- Traditional Food recipes
- Pickle recipes



Education, health and employment schemes of the National and State government has been documented detailing the eligibility, documents needed and the benefits derived.

Amudha Surabhi SHG federation released the souvenir on 20 years of federation

The social media team produced the following short films and documentaries

Elakku (Goal) –A short film on gender justice

Vannar kulam – Then and now - short film depicting the success story of Children nagar sabai in cleaning up a pond with the support of the Councillor.

Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam (CACS)- Annual report -2024- A Documentary of the activities of CACS

Thoduvanam – Short film on Children’s right to play

Children’s Nagara Sabai – A powerful platform to amplify the voices and rights of children – A documentary of the achievements of Children Nagara Sabai

Ameera The Ilavarasi - A short film on gender justice

The Mask – A short film on Mobile addiction

Thalai Nimir - A documentary on the activities of Safeguarding Women’s health-Awareness, Action and Change

Four issues of Sitterumbu Pesuthu- Children’s newsletter. ■



# Collaborators

- Altimetrik
- Azim Premji Foundation
- Asmae
- Chennai Volunteers
- Ecofemme
- Greater Chennai Corporation
- I volunteers
- Omega Forum for Social Impact
- Online giving foundation
- Praise foundation
- UK online giving

# List of Abbreviation

APF	Azim Premji Foundation
CACL	Campaign Against Child Labour
CACS	Confederation of Arunodhaya Children Sangam
CCRMC	Community Child Rights Monitoring Committee
CHU	Counseling and Healing Unit
CNS	Children Nagara Sabai
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CWO	Child Welfare Officer
FCMRP	Federation of Children Movement for Right to Participation
FPCP	Forum for Promotion of Child Participation
OFSI	Omega Forum for Social Impact
SCC	School Children Council
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

# Target Areas

## ● CHENNAI DISTRICT

### Kodungaiyur

1. MGR nagar
2. Ezhilnagar
3. Kanangi nagar
4. R.R Nagar
5. Annai Sathya Nagar

### Korukkupet

6. Dr.Ambedkar Nagar
7. Bharathi Nagar
8. Jeeva nagar
9. Meenammmal Nagar
10. Sikkirindapalayam
11. Karumariamman Nagar
12. Moopannar Nagar
13. Rajiv Gandhi Nagar
14. JJ Nagar
15. Anna Nagar
16. Stanley Nagar
17. Canal Street
18. Nehru Nagar
19. Chandrasekar Nagar
20. Govindasami Nagar
21. Railway Colony
22. Thiruvallur Nagar
23. Periyar Nagar
24. Gopal Nagar
25. Coronation Nagar
26. Mthumariyamman koil street
27. Bojarajan nagar

### Royapuram

28. Model lane
29. Meenakshiammanpettai
30. Bishop lane

### Tondiarpet

31. Tamilan Nagar
32. Rajasekar Nagar
33. Patel Nagar
34. Navalur Nagar
35. Kumaran Nagar
36. Indhiragandhi Nagar

37. Vinoba Nagar
38. Nethaji Nagar
39. Parameswaran Nagar
40. Sasthri Nagar
41. New Vinoba nagar
42. Neduchezhiyan Nagar
43. Annai santhiya nagar

## ● THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

### Thiruvotriyur

44. Rajaji Nagar
45. Palagai thotti kuppam
46. Balakrishna Nagar
47. Kargil nagar
48. Annamalai Nagar
49. Kamarajar Nagar
50. Natarajar Thottam
51. Vetri vinayagar Nagar
52. Raja Shanmuga nagar
53. Ambedkar Nagar
54. Poonga Nagar
55. Gomatha Nagar
56. K.R Ramaswamy Nagar
57. Sadyankuppam Paatai
58. Kasi vishawanadha kovil kuppam
59. Periya paalaiyathamman kovil street
60. Ghandhiji Nagar
61. Charles nagar
62. NTO Kuppam
63. J.J Nagar
64. Sathyamoorthi nagar
65. Kalyani Chetty Nagar

### Ennore

66. Mastan koil
67. Ondikuppam
68. Kannikovil
69. AIR site
70. Kasikoilkuppam
71. Sivanpadaiveedhi
72. Kattukuppam

# N Chennai kids lead civic engagement through area sabhas

Padmaja J@timesofindia.com

Chennai: "We want a police booth, library, and more CCTV cameras in our area to tackle increasing theft cases," declared Yuvarani, a Class XI student and 'child councillor' of Ward 38, during a child 'area sabha' at a Greater Chennai Corporation school in Patel Nagar, Tondiarpet.

It was the fourth area sabha in the ward, and more than 100 children, parents, and caregivers attended. Officials including representatives from police, child protection committee, and school authorities, heard their demands. "We will try to address your demands and set up more CCTV cameras," said Vijayakumar of Korukkupet police station.

While most wards skipped area sabhas that are to be conducted on Jan 25, children of wards 3, 6, 7, 9, 37, 38, 41, 47, 52, and 53 in North Chennai came together for their mini-area sabhas.

Yuvarani, elected child councillor a year ago, said that apart from raising civic issues, she also address challenges such as school dropouts and drug abuse. "Today's concerns will be presented to our ward councillor."

The sabhas have tangible impacts. "During our first meeting, officials dismissed our compla-



**HEARING THEIR DEMANDS:** Children nagara sabha at GCC school, Patel Nagar, Tondiarpet

ints about defunct streetlights. When we questioned their inaction at the next sabha, the lights were fixed," said Selvi of Arunodaya Centre for Street and Working Children, the NGO organising these gatherings. The child sabha also led to a taller school boundary wall and increased police patrols.

The sabha also flagged off the first ward-level child protection committee in the city. "This committee, formed in Feb 2024, has held four meetings, and drug abuse is the most pressing problem among children," said Virgil D Sami, the NGO's executive director.

But the child sabha model is yet to be formally adopted by the govt. "Just as Kerala's Kudumbashree initiative institutionalised child sabhas, TN should formalise this," said Selvi.



# Children's forum seeks action on climate change

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In an effort to raise awareness on the impact of climate change on children, the Confederation of Arunodaya Children Sangam in Washermenpet called for measures to combat climate change for a sustainable future.

To mark World Children's Day, the Arunodaya Centre for Street and Working Children on Sunday organised a conven-

tion on the theme, 'Climate Change and the Future of Children'. The forum put forth 19 demands to tackle the impact of on environment and climate change on children.

**Pollution of waterbody**  
They urged the government to inspect the Kosasthalaiyar river as industrial waste is being dumped into the waterbody.

"The government should inspect the river and take action. Further,

**The forum called for action to inspect polluted waterbodies, tackle air quality deterioration, and reduce the impact of climate change**

the air quality in Tiruvottiyur has deteriorated due to the smoke billowing from the petroleum factory. The government should take action to shift the factory from the area. The govern-

ment should not grant permission to set up a factory that emits toxic fumes in a residential area," the forum's members said.

**Garbage pile-up**  
Highlighting the need for "non-discriminatory environmental justice" for the children and residents of north Chennai, they called for the removal of the garbage pile-up near the residential area in Korukkupet.

Speaking at the event,

the executive director of Arunodaya, Virgil D'Sami, said, "A recent UNICEF report highlighted the impact on children when we don't take care of our environment and surroundings."

An exhibition showcasing children's interpretation of climate action was put up at the event.

R.K. Nagar MLA J.J. Ebenezer, Royapuram MLA Idream R. Murthy, and others also addressed the gathering.



**ARUNODHAYA**

Centre for Street & Working Children

No.19/19/2, Bazaar Street, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013. Phone : 044-4263 2264

E-mail : arunodhayacentre@gmail.com, Web : arunodhayacentre.in

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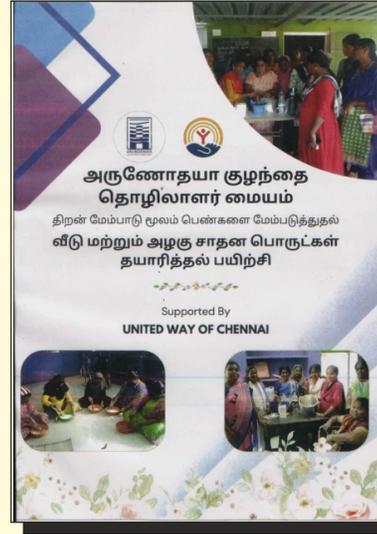


**HEARING THEIR DEMANDS:** Children nagara sabha at GCC school, Patel Nagar, Tondiarpet

ints about defunct streetlights. When we questioned their inaction at the next sabha, the lights were fixed," said Selvi of Arunodaya Centre for Street and Working Children, the NGO organising these gatherings. The child sabha also led to a taller school boundary wall and increased police patrols.

The sabha also flagged off the first ward-level child protection committee in the city. "This committee, formed in Feb 2024, has held four meetings, and drug abuse is the most pressing problem among children," said Virgil D Sami, the NGO's executive director.

But the child sabha model is yet to be formally adopted by the govt. "Just as Kerala's Kudumbashree initiative institutionalised child sabhas, TN should formalise this," said Selvi.



# Children's forum seeks action on climate change

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In an effort to raise awareness on the impact of climate change on children, the Confederation of Arunodaya Children Sangam in Washermenpet called for measures to combat climate change for a sustainable future.

To mark World Children's Day, the Arunodaya Centre for Street and Working Children on Sunday organised a conven-

tion on the theme, 'Climate Change and the Future of Children'. The forum put forth 19 demands to tackle the impact of on environment and climate change on children.

**Pollution of waterbody** They urged the government to inspect the Kosathalayar river as industrial waste is being dumped into the waterbody.

"The government should inspect the river and take action. Further,

**The forum called for action to inspect polluted waterbodies, tackle air quality deterioration, and reduce the impact of climate change**

the air quality in Tiruvottiyur has deteriorated due to the smoke billowing from the petroleum factory. The government should take action to shift the factory from the area. The govern-

ment should not grant permission to set up a factory that emits toxic fumes in a residential area," the forum's members said.

**Garbage pile-up** Highlighting the need for "non-discriminatory environmental justice" for the children and residents of north Chennai, they called for the removal of the garbage pile-up near the residential area in Korukkupet.

Speaking at the event,

the executive director of Arunodaya, Virgil D'Sami, said, "A recent UNICEF report highlighted the impact on children when we don't take care of our environments and surroundings."

An exhibition showcasing children's interpretation of climate action was put up at the event.

R.K. Nagar MLA J.J. Ebenezer, Royapuram MLA Idream R. Murthy, and others also addressed the gathering.



**ARUNODHAYA**  
Centre for Street & Working Children

No.19/19/2, Bazaar Street, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013. Phone : 044-4263 2264

E-mail : arunodhayacentre@gmail.com, Web : arunodhayacentre.in