



ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE – 2024 TO MAY – 2025

SJDT

**NUMBER
OF
CHILDREN
SUPPORTED
BY SJDT =
1098**

Number of Children Supported by

St. Joseph's Development Trust - 1098

Serial Number	Name of the Home	Number of Children
1	Pudhu Punal - Theni District	Girls - 150 Boys - 24 ----- Total - 174
2	Pudhu Vasantham - Dindigul District	Girls - 92 Boys - 0 ----- Total - 92
3	Pudhu Irudhayam - Mayiladuthurai District	Girls - 112 Boys - 0 ----- Total - 112
4	Pudhu Udhayam and Pudhu Vidiyal - Dindigul District	Girls - 29 Boys - 31 ----- Total - 60
5	C.S.I Boys Hostel - Dindigul District	Boys - 15 ----- Total - 15
6	Scholarships to Village Children	Girls - 547 Boys - 98 ----- Total - 645

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SHINNING STARS of

St. Joseph's Development Trust



STD	No. of children wrote the exam	No. of children pass the exam	Percentage %
10 th Standard	31	28	90%
11 th Standard	16	16	100%
12 th Standard	15	15	100%

Above 400/600 Marks Student

12th
std



Above 380/600 Marks Student

11th
std



Above 300/500 Marks Student

10th
std



The SJDT Annual Report to All Sponsors

1. Introduction:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed sponsors and supporters as we present the annual report of St. Joseph's Development Trust for the year 2024–2025. This year has been a testament to resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment to our mission of empowering underprivileged children and marginalized communities.

Despite global challenges, we have continued to provide holistic care, education, and opportunities for our children, ensuring they thrive in a nurturing environment. This report highlights our achievements, activities, and the transformative impact of your generosity.

Over the past year, we have not only sustained the core services of our children's homes but also expanded our efforts toward inclusive education, women's empowerment, and outreach to tribal and differently-abled populations. Each initiative was carried out with deep respect for human dignity and a keen sense of social justice.

Our programs remain anchored in compassion, participation, and rights-based values. The children entrusted to our care receive structured learning, nutritious food, guidance, and life-skills support in a homelike atmosphere. We continue our focus on education as a transformative tool,

ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to opportunities for growth and achievement.

Simultaneously, we work hand-in-hand with vulnerable women and rural families to enhance income generation, financial literacy, and legal awareness. The voice of every woman and child in our care is central to our mission. Our commitment to persons with disabilities is further strengthened through daily living skill training and vocational programs.

This report serves not only as a record of activities but as a reflection of your support, which made all of this possible. Together, we are planting seeds of change that will bear fruit for generations to come.

1.1 Overall Activities in Our Orphanages

Throughout the year, our orphanages remain vibrant centers of love, care, and learning. Children are nurtured in a structured environment with routine, play, discipline, and affection forming the core of their daily life. Each child receives individualized attention, from schoolwork support to health monitoring and emotional care. In addition to academics, equal emphasis is given to cultural exposure, creative development, sports, moral education, and life skills.

Caregivers and staff fosters strong emotional bonds, ensuring that children feel secure, valued, and motivated to pursue their dreams. The homes operate as miniature families where cooperation, shared responsibilities, and collective

decision-making teaches children about empathy and community living. All festivals and birthdays were also celebrated with joy and inclusiveness.

Special focus is also given to health, nutrition, and emotional well-being. From daily routines to evening study support and extracurricular activities, our programs aim at building confident, competent, and responsible individuals.

Each day at the orphanage is well-structured, promoting discipline, balance, and holistic development. The children rise early at 5:30 AM, followed by personal hygiene and prayer. After morning chores, they engage in yoga or physical exercise to energize their bodies and minds. Breakfast is served at 7:30 AM, and by 8:15 AM, children get dressed and ready to leave for school.

School hours last from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, during which children attend classes. The schools are nearby and they are government or aided schools. A dedicated vehicle facilitates safe transport. Upon return, children receive refreshments and engage in recreation or playtime.

Evening study sessions began at 6:00 PM, where each child receives assistance from wardens and tutors. Dinner is served by 8:00 PM, followed by a short prayer session and group reflection. The day concludes by 9:00 PM with lights out and rest.

This consistent routine instills punctuality, time management, self-discipline, and a sense of responsibility

among the children. Sundays and holidays were more relaxed, with added time for hobbies, field trips, or family visits when permitted.

1.2 Evening Study:

Evening study hours are a core component of academic success. Each day from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, children gather in study halls with the support of wardens and academic volunteers. Personalized guidance is offered based on each child's academic level and school syllabus.

Slow learners receive additional attention, while high achievers are encouraged to support their peers. Emphasis is laid on homework completion, preparation for tests, and revision of school lessons. In cases of academic difficulty, feedback is immediately shared with schoolteachers or staff to create remedial action plans.

This structured environment promotes not only academic excellence but also self-confidence, self-reliance, and motivation.

1.3 Nutritious Food:

Nutritious, balanced meals are provided every day to support children's physical and mental development. A weekly menu ensures variety and proper dietary balance. Meals includes rice, vegetables, pulses, green leafy vegetables, and fruits. Eggs are served thrice a week, and

non-vegetarian dishes like chicken, mutton or fish are included twice weekly. Children receive three balanced meals and one snacks daily, including fresh vegetables, eggs, fish, chicken, and nuts, to support physical and cognitive development.

Special attention is given to children's health needs—additional supplements are provided to those requiring extra care. Seasonal fruits and milk are also a regular part of the diet. Snacks are generally offered after school, such as sundal, channa, or groundnuts.

Meals are served in a communal setting, where children share responsibility for distribution, setting up and cleaning. Mealtimes become moments of bonding, gratitude, and nourishment. Clean drinking water and hygienic food preparation standards are strictly maintained.

1.4 Sports and Games:

Physical development is encouraged through daily games and sports activities. After school hours, children engage in both structured sports and informal games. Traditional games like kho-kho, kabaddi, and lagori are played alongside modern games like cricket and football.

These activities enhance physical fitness, motor skills, and emotional regulation. Regular competitions are conducted between cottages, fostering team spirit and friendly rivalry. Trained staff supervise the games and help children learn rules, discipline, and teamwork.

On weekends, inter-home matches are arranged, and children were encouraged to participate in school-level tournaments. The sports program also includes yoga sessions, stretching exercises, and rhythmic drills for younger children.

Through play, the children develop leadership, cooperation, and resilience—skills that would benefit them far beyond the sports ground.

1.5 Gardening:

Each orphanage maintains their own trees and a small garden, tended by children and staff. Gardening activities are scheduled weekly, where children learned how to sow seeds, water plants, and manage composting. By doing this Children about sustainability and environmental stewardship. The gardens contribute directly to the kitchen needs. This activity also helps children understand food cycles, and respect for nature.

Children love watching plants grow and took pride in harvesting what they had nurtured. Gardening also serves as a therapeutic outlet, helping children find calm, focus, and joy in working with soil and nature.

1.6 Extracurricular Activities:

A wide array of extracurricular activities enrich the lives of our children. Dance classes are held every weekend, and talented children perform during annual day events and

celebrations. Indoor games like chess, carrom, and puzzles stimulates critical thinking and creativity.

Children are given time for recreational TV programs, especially educational channels, news, and cartoons on Sundays. Art and craft activities, storytelling, and handwriting competitions are conducted monthly.

Cultural events such as fancy dress, debates, and skits allow children to showcase their talents. These platforms builds their confidence, improves public speaking, and nurtures emotional expression.

The orphanage also celebrates “Talent Time,” where every child is encouraged to present something creative. This inclusive environment ensures that each child, regardless of academic performance, find a space to shine.

1.7 Moral Education:

Weekly moral education sessions are organized to cultivate values like honesty, kindness, and cooperation. Stories, role-plays, and discussions helps children reflect on real-life situations and choose values-based responses. Weekly classes instill values like integrity, compassion, and social responsibility.

Festivals and community service programs reinforces these values in action. Children learn to respect elders, care for younger peers, and take pride in ethical behavior.

The importance of moral education cannot be overstated, especially for children growing up without traditional family structures. At SJDT, these sessions go beyond theoretical discussions— they become the backbone for character formation. Children learn to differentiate right from wrong through interactive storytelling, participatory discussions, and real-life examples from their own experiences. Moreover, moral education helps children cope with difficult past experiences, offering them values to anchor their healing. Children also participate in community outreach as part of their moral lessons—visiting the elderly, planting trees, and cleaning public spaces. These acts of kindness deepen their understanding of shared responsibility. Celebrating values through monthly themes like ‘Kindness Month’ or ‘Gratitude Week’ makes the learning process fun and memorable.

Staff and caregivers model these values in daily interactions, reinforcing consistency between words and actions. With time, we’ve seen how children who once struggled with anger, fear, or selfishness grow into considerate and respectful young individuals. Such transformation proves that with the right guidance, values can be cultivated to last a lifetime. Moral education is not just a weekly subject—it is woven into the heart of our orphanage culture.

1.8 Children’s Studies in School:

All children attended nearby government and aided schools, where they follow the Tamil Nadu State curriculum. Transportation is arranged daily, and coordination with school

teachers helps us to monitor their academic progress.

Most children perform well in their classes, with some having the potential of achieving even district-level rankings in board examinations. We take pride in the academic achievements of our 10th and 12th standard students, many of whom secured first-class results.

Regular parent-teacher meetings, educational reviews, and counselling sessions are held to support children's learning needs.

In the academic realm, we ensure that no child is left behind. Our academic team follow up on each child's report card and homework diaries, facilitating communication between caregivers and schoolteachers. Monthly academic reviews are held at the orphanage level to track progress and identify learning gaps.

Children who require additional help are enrolled in bridge courses or evening tuitions with special educators. For higher secondary students, subject-specific coaching—especially in Math, Science, and English—are arranged. In addition, educational trips to science museums, libraries, and historical sites enrich learning beyond textbooks.

Career guidance is also integrated for senior students, with sessions on vocational courses, higher education options, and scholarship opportunities. Counselling helps children build academic confidence and envision a future beyond their circumstances.

We also provided stationery, uniforms, bags, and exam

materials to reduce dropout risk and promote educational continuity.

Importantly, we inculcate a culture of curiosity and lifelong learning through peer teaching, quiz competitions, and debates. School is not just a requirement—it is a gateway to self-discovery, discipline, and future dreams for our children.

1.9 Children's Parliament:

Children's Parliament is conducted monthly, where elected leaders from each cottage come together to discuss matters related to food, studies, games, cleanliness, and grievances.

The Speaker facilitates the meeting, and minutes are recorded by the secretary. Suggestions are shared with staff and implemented wherever feasible. This platform teaches democratic participation, leadership, negotiation, and accountability.

Elected councilors discuss orphanage programs, fostering leadership and democratic values.

Children learn the importance of listening, speaking up, and managing responsibilities collectively.

1.10 Cottage Living:

Children live in small cottages, each overseen by a caregiver. This foster-family model creates a home-like

environment where 8 to 12 children share responsibilities, cleaning works, and care for one another.

Each cottage has a name. Older children help younger ones with studies, hygiene, and emotional comfort. This model promotes strong sibling bonds and cultivates mutual respect and empathy.

Living in cottages also allows staff to monitor each child closely and intervene when emotional or academic support is needed.

The cottage-style living model has been internationally recognized for promoting psychosocial well-being in orphaned and vulnerable children. Studies show that smaller group care allows for deeper attachment with caregivers, improved emotional regulation, and stronger cognitive development compared to institutional dormitories.

At SJDT, this model provides children with consistent caregivers who knew them intimately—understanding their fears, habits, and aspirations. Children are not just one among hundreds; they are part of a small, caring family unit.

Living in cottages helps mimic the rhythm and dynamics of a normal family. Children celebrates small joys together, resolves conflict with guidance, and develops responsibility by cooking or cleaning together. These shared routines create a deep sense of belonging.

Moreover, peer support become a healing force. Older children naturally mentored younger ones, which boosts

their own self-worth and accountability. Emotional outbursts or academic stress are managed with collective empathy rather than isolation.

The cottage environment also enhances communication and decision-making skills. Weekly cottage meetings encourages children to voice concerns and jointly agree on chores or outings. This inclusive setup cultivated leadership and democratic values.

Over the years, many alumni have shared that their best memories—and their strongest life values—came from these tight-knit SJDTC cottage communities.

1.11 Health Check-ups:

Preventive and curative health care is ensured through monthly medical checkups and dental screening camps. Local doctors volunteer their services, and serious cases are referred to hospitals immediately.

Health records are maintained meticulously, including vaccination history, growth charts, and anemia screenings. Personal hygiene is emphasized, and training is given on handwashing, oral hygiene, and nutrition.

Mental health is also addressed through regular counseling, especially for children coping with trauma or emotional instability.

In 2024–2025, we strengthened our preventive

healthcare framework by expanding tie-ups with local hospitals and health professionals. Monthly check-ups are carried out by pediatricians, dentists, and dermatologists, ensuring early detection of illnesses. Special health camps addresses issues like anemia, vitamin deficiency, dental decay, and skin infections—conditions often overlooked in orphanage settings.

In addition to physical health, our program address mental health, an often-neglected area in child care. A trained counselor visit the homes twice a month, offering one-on-one sessions for children who had experienced trauma, loss, or anxiety. Group sessions include stress relief games, meditation, and emotional expression through art and storytelling.

Hygiene education remain central. Children are taught about menstrual hygiene, personal grooming, clean habits, and the importance of handwashing. Peer monitors ensures toilets, dormitories, and dining areas are clean, and soap and sanitation supplies were always available.

Nutritionists advise on balanced meals, and children with special health conditions receive custom meal plans and regular follow-ups. Children's weight, height, and BMI are tracked quarterly.

Importantly, we empowere children with body autonomy and safety education—teaching them about personal

boundaries, safe touch, and speaking out. Our health care approach is not just reactive— it is proactive, child-centered, and built on dignity and awareness.

1.12 Celebrations:

Celebrations form the heart of our community life, serving as moments of unity, healing, and joy. They give children a sense of belonging and cultural identity—key factors in psychological well-being. Celebrating festivals in a communal setting replicates a family atmosphere that many children miss. Beyond entertainment, these celebrations are deeply educational. During Pongal, for instance, children learned traditional farming practices, Tamil heritage, and the value of gratitude for nature. Christmas fostered an understanding of generosity and global traditions. Independence and Republic Days nurtured civic pride and historical awareness.

Children were actively involved in preparations—from making rangoli and decorating the premises to cooking traditional meals or preparing skits and dances. Their involvement nurtured teamwork, creativity, and event planning skills. Below are some of the festivals that our children celebrate:

Birthdays: Celebrated monthly with special meals, a cake-cutting ceremony, and gifts, making every child feel valued.

Pongal: Traditional games, rangoli competitions, and

the cooking of pongal in earthen pots makes the harvest festival joyous.

Christmas: The homes lit up with stars and cribs, and Santa Claus distributes gifts. Children perform carols and skits.

Independence Day: Flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and children's speeches inspire civic values.

Republic Day: Children march in unity, take part in drawing competitions, and learn about basic constitutional rights.

These celebrations also serve therapeutic functions. Children who arrive at the home with trauma or emotional baggage often find release and connection through dance, music, and drama. Watching their friends cheer for their performances boosts their confidence and social skills. Visitors and local donors often join during these festivals, reinforcing community support and external encouragement. The presence of guests makes children feel valued and celebrated. In essence, each celebration becomes a memory etched with love, learning, and togetherness.

2. Special Home and School for Differently-abled Children and Adults

Our Pudhu Udhayam and Pudhu Vidiyal Centre serves as a home and special school for children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. The program focuses on enhancing their

independence, mobility, and self-worth through individualized care and training.

Children receive daily physiotherapy, speech therapy, and adaptive education based on their abilities. Adults are enrolled in vocational training to build income-generating skills. Parents are engaged through monthly reviews and counselling.

Our approach is holistic, focusing on dignity, functionality, and social integration.

The children and adults who arrive at Pudhu Udhayam and Pudhu Vidiyal often come from heart-breaking circumstances. Many have been abandoned by their families, deemed a “burden” due to their disabilities. Others were left unattended, isolated in dark rooms, or neglected by overburdened caregivers.

At SJDT, we believe that every person, regardless of ability, deserves dignity, opportunity, and love. That’s why our special homes are created—not only to provide shelter but to affirm the inherent worth of each child and adult who walks through our doors.

Our approach begins with empathy. New admissions undergo a comprehensive needs assessment that includes physical, psychological, and social evaluations. Individualized development plans are created for each resident, focused on achievable goals in mobility, c o m m u n i c a t i o n , a n d daily life functioning. Our caregivers are

specially trained to work with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and intellectual disabilities. Daily routines include sensory integration activities, fine motor skills development, and cognitive stimulation.

We celebrate every small milestone—a first spoken word, the ability to feed oneself, or a completed handicraft—with joy. These moments, though small, signal liberation from past neglect and a movement toward self-worth.

Our goal is not perfection, but progress—and unconditional acceptance of every individual's journey.

2.1 Pudhu Udhayam:

This unit focuses on children under 14 years, helping them develop Activities for Daily Living Skills (ADLS). Children here learn to eat independently, bathe, use toilets, dress themselves, and express basic needs.

Simple tools, repetition, and one-on-one attention helps children progress. Parents report great improvement in their children's confidence and communication.

2.2 Pudhu Vidiyal:

For adults aged 18 and above, the focus is on vocational training. Participants are taught to weave coir mats, rear goats, and make handicrafts such as beaded jewelry and liquid cleaning agents like phenyl. These skills enable some to earn pocket income and gain confidence.

2.3 Daily Learning Activities for Mentally and Physically Challenged Children and Adults:

Each day start with a morning prayer, followed by physical therapy and classroom sessions tailored to cognitive levels. Midday, children work on tasks like folding clothes, making chains, or preparing handicrafts. Bead-chain making, phenyl preparation, coir mattress weaving, and goat rearing are taught as occupational skills. Children rotate between activities based on preference and capacity.

Recreational therapy, music, and socialization exercises are integrated to encourage communication. This comprehensive routine bring smiles, stability, and structure to many lives.

3. Outreach Programs

Our outreach units focus on rural and tribal areas where access to basic services are limited. Mobile awareness units conduct education, health, and empowerment programs in collaboration with local leaders.

The Outreach Program extend the reach of SJDT's mission to some of the most under-served regions in Tamil Nadu. The villages we serve often lack basic infrastructure—no reliable transport, limited access to health care, and high school dropout rates.

Our mobile units visit these areas weekly, transforming village commons into hubs of empowerment. Through street plays, puppet shows, and awareness videos, we educate

communities on issues ranging from child marriage and alcoholism to digital literacy and gender equality.

In partnership with local schools, our field staff supported over 600 children with remedial coaching and school re-enrollment drives. Our documentation assistance also help families acquire Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and disability certificates—opening doors to crucial government services.

Health camps provide vital services like deworming, vaccinations, and maternal care check-ups, often in collaboration with Primary Health Centres. For tribal communities, traditional beliefs are respectfully engaged with, ensuring trust and participation in medical care.

Our outreach also focuses on youth engagement. Sports meets, poetry contests, and leadership workshops are organized to keep adolescents motivated and inspired. Many young people begin volunteering in our programs, becoming catalysts for change in their own communities.

This ripple effect prove that transformation begins when the right support reaches the right hands.

3.1 Village Outreach:

The outreach teams in Dindigul, Theni, and Mayailaduthurai provid after-school support for children, health awareness camps, tuition centers, and documentation assistance for government schemes.

These interventions keep children in school, increase immunization coverage, and improve awareness on child

protection and women's rights.

3.2 Women Empowerment:

Women Self-Help Groups are trained in savings, microloans, legal rights, nutrition, and reproductive health. Special sessions focus on ending domestic violence and dowry-related abuse. Legal aid referrals are also offered.

Women begin taking collective decisions and initiating income activities, thus emerging as powerful agents of change.

3.3 Sponsorship Department:

Led by Rev. Bro. Sebastian, this team carefully select deserving children and match them with compassionate sponsors. They ensured timely updates, letter exchanges, photo documentation, and transparent fund use.

Field staff visit families periodically to track school attendance, health status, and psychosocial well-being, keeping donors informed and engaged.

3.4 Field Visits:

Regular home and school visits are conducted every month to assess children's performance and well-being. Staff meet with teachers, parents, and guardians to offer academic counseling and guidance.

This grassroots-level monitoring system ensure early

detection of problems and timely intervention.

Field visits are the cornerstone of our child-centered care approach. These monthly visits are not just formal check-ins—they are windows into the lives of children, revealing stories behind their smiles and struggles.

Our staff visit both school campuses and the homes or guardians of children supported under our sponsorship program. We assess whether school attendance is consistent, whether meals are adequate, and if the child had access to learning materials.

Conversations with teachers offer insights into classroom behavior, academic performance, and any special needs. Where needed, remedial plans are suggested and implemented. Parents or guardians are counseled on education importance, hygiene, and time management.

For children showing signs of distress or underperformance, follow-up visits are scheduled. We ensure interventions are immediate and relevant. In some cases, these visits unearthed issues like child labor, emotional abuse, or neglect—prompting swift redressal and social work support.

These visits also strengthen relationships. Children felt seen and valued, families felt supported, and sponsors received timely updates. Beyond reports and data, these visits help us nurture the human connection—ensuring that every child under our care is known, understood, and accompanied on their journey toward a better future.

C. Divya

Introduction:

By and large, when success does not happen, people get frustrated and finally get deeper inside the darkness of inferiority. But in the case of Divya, she never failed to apply her regular commitment and dedicated efforts in her life and refused to entertain failures and disappointments as barriers to her success.

The Situation of the child and her family before coming into Pudhu Vasantham:

Divya came from a small village, near our SJDT's head office at Genguvarpatti in Theni District. Her parents were very poor and they had two children. Divya, being the



11-years old C. Divya

eldest, had to share all the chores with her mother. The father was the only breadwinner in the family and he was a daily wager. He would do agricultural work here and there. The family had to feed the children and provide other necessities to them. His income was very meager and the children couldn't get their basic needs fulfilled with that little income. The parents tried their level best



C. Divya a college graduate

to find other part-time jobs, but they couldn't succeed. The parents felt pained as the children went to sleep without having taken anything. In this extreme poverty, they could not imagine education for their children. The parents feared that their child Divya would likely grow up poor and be more likely to repeat the cycle of poverty. But somehow they were convinced that education would be the only factor to change the life of their child Divya. But, finances were not enough to feed a family of four, let aside his dreams of pursuing higher education. "My parents wanted me and my younger brother to complete higher studies so that we don't suffer," said Divya proudly of her parents. Hence, Divya was accepted by SJDT and was placed into Pudhu Vasantham Orphanage under a sponsorship programme.

Divya's Development under the care of SJDT:

Divya studied in one of the Government schools in his village and was very fond of playing Kho-Kho. He was an average studying student when he joined SJDT in grade 6th in the year 2009. She resided in the Pudhu Vasantham orphanage and started her schooling happily. He says, "I was taught by Joselin Amma and she helped me clear my basic concepts. Slowly I started gaining interest in the topics taught and loved the tricks to solve mathematical problems."

Divya scored good marks in the Tenth Examination and had good grades in the 12th standard too. It was well of a surprise to her family and teachers and she wished to pursue Engineering from the esteemed colleges. SJDT provided her with all the required resources and support to continue the journey toward her dream despite the odds. Everything seemed fine for her at times but there were times that wouldn't let her pass easily. "When Divya started her engineering classes, she found it difficult to match the rhythm due to language differences and the pace of teaching. She became impatient and started losing hope. At that point, SJDT came forward and provided her a special tuition during the weekends so as to boost her self-confidence and enthusiasm. Joselin Amma and Flora, the warden there were ready to help her out in every way possible to keep her spirits high. Divya has made us proud by cracking the Engineering studies with flying colours.

Her Status at present:

Divya has made us proud by cracking the Engineering studies with flying colours. As of now, Divya is a technical supervisor in one of the manufacturing textile companies in Tirupur. She works there with much satisfaction and happiness. She fetches a handsome amount of salary and is able to contribute to her family's financial management. She is also providing a free tuition coaching classes to her village children. Her parents are indeed proud of their daughter's achievement and thankful for the services rendered by SJDT.



C. Divya as a professional

Conclusion:

“Her dream didn’t become reality through magic; it took sweat, determination, and hard work.” This was the aphorism that kept Divya going. Divya is ever grateful to for the financial support throughout her scholastic years and as of now she stands tall as a brave girl in the society.

Divya's growth over the years At Pudhu Vasantham



Achiammal

Introduction:

Time and again, there are few who have risen, tackled all odds, and worked with determination to come out of the cycle of poverty. Achiammal has joined that rare category. We present here her beautiful story.

The situation of the Child and her family before coming into SJDT:

Achiammal comes from an impoverished family. Her father was a daily wager on the agricultural farm. His income was insufficient to manage the family. He didn't get a regular job and he did only get seasonal work. Oftentimes, he remained at home



9 Years Old Achiammal

unemployed. In addition to this, he also indulged in drinking and gambling. Most of his earnings were being wasted on his bad habits. In the course of time, he became a drunkard. Her mother had to manage all the needs of the family with a limited income. They went to bed with empty stomachs on many nights. But in reality,

the parents could not afford their three children's education. The parents decided to stop Achiammal

from going to school as she is a girl. This is the mentality still alive and kicking in that region. They allowed their sons to school regularly. Achiammal was on the verge of being stopped from attending school. Fortunately, her

situation was referred to St. Joseph's Development Trust and was accepted into Pudhu Vasantham Children's Orphanage.



Post-graduate Achiammal

Achiammal's Development Under the care of SJDT:

Achiammal was brought to Pudhu Vasantham when she was nine years old. She found wardens' support during her stay at Pudhu Vasantham Children's Orphanage inexplicable and amazing. She developed a wonderful relationship and friendship with other children which enabled her to forget her past life and move ahead in life. The diverse

community experience at Pudhu Vasantham was valuable to her academic success in the school. She formed study groups with other students and often sought advice from senior girls and wardens. Some wardens had a positive impact on her educational experience. She says, “Each one of them showed me extra care and time through the years and I really enjoyed the way I was able to grow in a way that allowed me to study and learn on a deeper level”. She placed herself to the point where she could accept all the hurdles that she was going to take. She has an understanding that it is okay to fail but is willing to get up again. She knew there were people there to support her. She was indeed happy that she was accepted in love even when she failed. This experience motivated her to become a strong person. She did well in her studies both at school and college.

Achiammal's Status at Present:

With her successful completion of an M.A. degree in Tamil literature, she became a competent person to teach in the school. But her parents arranged a marriage for her and she is a married person now. Her husband owns a grocery job on the main road leading to Dindigul. Achiammal is a teacher now, working in the Matriculation School. She is delightful and very happy about her present life.



Achiammal with her Husband

Conclusion:

Achiammal was indeed resilient and took the courage to bounce back by taking risks despite adversity and initial setbacks coming from a poor family background. It was an outstanding example in the case of Achiammal in reaching heights in her life. She was elated to utter her words of thankfulness to SJDT and her sponsor for a wonderful opportunity to live and shine at Pudhu Vasantham.

Achiammal's Progress over the Years in Pudhu Vasantham Orphanage



Conclusion

The journey of 2024–2025 has been one of deep reflection, steady progress, and new beginnings. Our mission to protect and empower vulnerable children and communities continues because of your unwavering support.

As the world evolves with new challenges, our commitment to justice, compassion, and community-led transformation remains firm. This year's work has shown us the extraordinary resilience of the children and families we serve. But much more remains to be done.

In a time of growing inequality and uncertainty, your role as a sponsor is more vital than ever. Your support is not just financial—it is an investment in dignity, opportunity, and hope. Together, we are building a world where no child is left behind.

We thank you for walking alongside us in this mission. Let us continue forward—united in purpose and bold in compassion.