

NRIs restore auditorium at Ashok Nagar school

The facility was damaged in the 2015 floods and had been waiting long for a facelift

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With the walls receiving a new coat of paint and the flooring laid anew, the auditorium of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Ashok Nagar is looking better than before.

The auditorium was heavily damaged in the 2015 floods. This damage was undone only recently with a restoration work that was supported by the Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc., United States, an organisation of NRIs of Tamil origin.

"For over a week, water up to a height of 6.5 ft, was within the auditorium. The wooden doors, window panes and walls were badly damaged," says R.C. Saraswathi, headmistress of the school.

Besides replacing damaged items, including electrical appliances, additional fans and tube-lights have been installed. The entire project was taken up at a cost of ₹12 lakh.



The renovated auditorium at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Ashok Nagar. PHOTO: G. KRISHNASWAMY.

Additional appliances

"The corridor of the auditorium and its washroom have also been renovated. Now, plumbing works are on to provide water supply to the washroom," says Vasumathi Benny, executive director - projects, Tamil Nadu chapter of Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc.

The Foundation came to know of the requirements of the school through one of its exchange programmes.

"The Foundation tries to involve children of its members in such projects, often to help them understand problems faced by the marginalised," says S. Rajarethinam, IAS (Retd), chairman of Tamil Nadu chapter of Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc.

Earlier projects

In 2016, the Foundation renovated the Ashok Nagar Circle Library in Ashok Nagar at a cost of ₹50 lakh; and the library and a few classrooms of Government Higher Secondary School at MGR Nagar in K.K. Nagar six months ago, both of which were ravaged during the floods of December 2015.

Plans for 2018

Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc., United States, is a non-profit organisation founded in November, 1974, by a group of Tamils settled there.

The Foundation which has over 1,000 members, has taken up many projects in the fields of education, healthcare and disaster management.

At its annual conference held last week in Chennai, the Foundation announced the projects it has chalked up for 2018.

The Foundation has identified three areas: empowerment of underprivileged girl students, extending support to underprivileged students pursuing engineering and offering a first-aid course



Dignitaries at the recently-held conference of Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

with emphasis on snake bites.

Vocational skills

Girl students from Class 6 to 10 will be taught tailoring and embroidery. Special coaching classes will be conducted for "low

achievers in academics" and in English language skills. Career guidance sessions and counselling will be organised for students from Class 10 and 12.

As part of the second initiative, the Tamil Nadu chapter of the Foundation

will set up a knowledge incubation centre in Chennai with the guidance of Regional Engineering College, Tiruchi for the benefit of underprivileged students pursuing engineering.

Next, the Foundation will be conducting awareness programmes on snake bites with the support of The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology at Vadanemeli on East Coast Road.

It will be also working towards making anti-venoms available at all government hospitals.

The office of the Tamil Nadu chapter of Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc. is at No: 27, Taylors Road, Kilpauk. For details, call 044-2644 6319.