



TNF-ABC PROJECT

“நல்லகாலம் பிறக்குது”



Soft skills training for above average students in Sivagangai District



TNF-ABC class for “slow learners”

அன்னசத்திரம் ஆபிரம் வைத்தல்
ஆலயம் பதினாபிரம் நாட்டல்
பின்னருள்ள தருமங்கள் யாவும்
பெயர் விளங்கியொளிர நிறுத்தல்
அன்னயாவினும் புண்ணியம் கோடி
ஆங்கோர் ஏழைக்கு எழுத்தறிவித்தல்

- மகாகவி பாரதியார்

“தமிழ்நாடு அறக்கட்டளையால்
எங்கள் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு
நல்லகாலம் பிறுக்குது”
என்கிறார்
சிவகங்கை மாவட்டம்
வடுகப்பட்டியைச் சேர்ந்த
ஒரு குடுகுடுப்பைகாரரின் மனைவி.



ஆங்கோர் ஏழைக்கு எழுத்தறிவித்தல்

More than 10 million underprivileged children from 30,000 villages benefit from Tamil Nadu's 36,000 government schools. With the rapid growth of convents and English medium schools in villages, there is a growing concern that students in government schools in the villages have no bright future. On the contrary, illustrious leaders like Dr. Abdul Kalam went to such schools. The TNF-ABC model's mission is to uplift these rural students by enabling them to achieve grade level proficiency, boosting their morale, and championing for their academic aspirations. The TNF-ABC project was conceived and developed by a study team consisting of students, teachers, parents, school officials, and TNF representatives from Chennai and the U.S.

Donations to TNF's Pittsburgh convention in 2008 and the Philadelphia convention in 2010 enabled TNF to pilot school education projects in Chengalpat and Sivagangai districts. This led to the evolution of the TNF-ABC project, which has now been expanded to Vellore, Cuddalore, and Virudhunagar districts, and is soon to be launched in Madurai and Nagapattinam districts. TNF's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu enables its local project coordinators to work closely with adopted schools and the village community in making a positive impact on the lives of thousands of rural underprivileged students.

Three unique aspects of the TNF-ABC Model :

A - Achieving Grade Level Proficiency - Uplifting the “Slow Learners”

B - Boosting the Morale

C - Championing for Higher Aspirations

A - Achieving Grade Level Proficiency - Uplifting the “Slow Learners”

- As part of Government of India's “Education for All” scheme, all students must be promoted up to 9th grade, even if they score below 35% (passing grade) in the final exams. Some are unable to write the alphabets, or even worse, cannot write their own name in Tamil. They fail after 9th grade or drop out of school because of academic pressure.
- 30 to 50% of students across Tamil Nadu's government schools are unable to read and write at their grade level.



Classes are held daily in schools by specially trained teachers with a focus on preventing school dropouts and empowering students to perform at their grade level

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

- TNF's solution: Special evening classes are conducted in the adopted schools by TNF-ABC teachers for students identified as “slow learners” by their teachers. The intent of these classes is to help students develop the proficiency to learn the fundamentals and pass the final exam.

B - Boosting the Morale

- TNF-ABC model bolsters the morale of average and above average students in adopted schools by inculcating the following skills through training sessions and seminars:



Students learning to use computers at a TNF-ABC village government library

- ▶ Self confidence
- ▶ Communication skills
- ▶ Time management
- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Memory capacity
- ▶ Goal setting
- ▶ Self-discipline
- ▶ Human relations
- ▶ Hard work and smart work



TNF soft skills trainer interacting with a student



Summer camp for students at a village library

- 10th and 12th grade public exams are important milestones in students' lives and significantly influence their future. By organizing free coaching classes by well trained teachers, TNF-ABC project enables the students to better prepare for these key exams and pursue their dream of higher education.

C - Championing for Higher Aspirations

- With the help of the Head Master and teachers, students with higher aspirations and capabilities are identified, and their ambitions are nurtured through individual or group oriented initiatives such as:



Students' response when asked
“How many of you want to go to college?”

- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Summer camps and computer training in village libraries
- ▶ College visits
- ▶ College application process support
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Career guidance
- ▶ Internships
- ▶ Job placement²

“Those who educate children well are more to be honored than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those the art of living well.”
-Aristotle

Funding for TNF-ABC Projects are made possible by the following partners:

Bay Area Tamil Mandram (San Francisco)¹

Bharathi Kalai Mandram (Houston)¹

Chicago Tamil Sangam^{1&2}

Meroplex Tamil Sangam (Dallas)¹

Missouri Tamil Sangam (St. Louis)¹

Pittsburgh Tamil Sangam

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Tamil Association of Greater Delaware Valley (Philadelphia)¹

Tamil Sangam of Central Indiana (Indianapolis)³

Tamil Sangam Michigan (Detroit)¹ and

TNF's Austin, Chennai, Dallas, Georgia, Houston, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, and Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh) Chapters.

¹Sponsored the pilot project in Sivagangai District

²Sponsored Cuddalore District projects

³Sponsored Vellore District projects

TNF-ABC Schools in Sivagangai District

- ▶ Government Boys High School, A. Kalappur
- ▶ Government Girls High School, A. Kalappur
- ▶ Sathappa Government Higher Secondary School, Nerkuppai
- ▶ Government Higher Secondary School, Vettriyur
- ▶ MK Government Higher Secondary School, Sembanur
- ▶ SCGK (Gurukulam) High School, Amaravathi Pudur
- ▶ Government Higher Secondary School, S.S. Kottai
- ▶ Government Middle School, Vadugapatti

TNF-ABC Schools in Vellore District

- ▶ Government High School, Mittapettai
- ▶ Government Adi Dravida Welfare High School, Elathur
- ▶ Government High School, Kunnathur
- ▶ Government High School, Anawarthikanpettai
- ▶ Government Middle School, Kattupakkam

TNF-ABC Schools in Virudhunagar District

- ▶ Government Higher Secondary School, Krishnan Koil
- ▶ Government Higher Secondary School, Chinnakkamanpatti
- ▶ Government Higher Secondary School, Koomapatti

TNF-ABC Schools in Cuddalore District

- ▶ Government High School, Sakkankudi
- ▶ Government Adi Dravida Welfare Higher Secondary School, Madhuranthagallur
- ▶ Government High School, Vergalur
- ▶ Government High School, Keerapalayam
- ▶ Government Middle School, Oddakunallur



about TNF

Tamil Nadu Foundation (TNF), founded in 1974, has 40 years of rich legacy in implementing 600+ service projects. These projects benefit more than 100,000 people all over Tamil Nadu. TNF is the only overseas NGO solely focused on serving Tamil Nadu, and has a full-fledged functional office in Chennai to implement and audit projects. The projects range from immediate community needs such as tsunami relief to long term needs such as education, health care, women empowerment, and rural development. TNF is currently focused on uplifting rural underprivileged students by implementing its successful TNF-ABC project in government schools in several districts. The TNF-ABC project enables village students to achieve grade level academic proficiency, boosts their morale, and champions for their educational aspirations. For more information: www.tnfusa.org



TNF-ABC teachers in a training session

Voices of some of the beneficiaries of TNF-ABC Project...

"I struggled to read and write and was left behind in the class. No one was able to help me at home. Now I have picked up my studies through TNF-ABC class and want to learn more."

B. Kanimozhi, 6th class, Government High School, A. Kalappur, Sivagangai District

"The soft skills training provided by TNF to our 10th standard students has enabled them to manage the public exam fear. TNF has fulfilled a key student need, not addressed otherwise."

A.S.Duraivel, Head Master, Government High School, Kunnathur, Vellore District

"The three-day teacher training by TNF changed my belief that beating is the way to make students learn. The trainers taught me different learning techniques and beating was not on that list."

V.Vinoth, Teacher, Government High School, Kattupakkam, Vellore District

"TNF's coaching classes for rural students have boosted our pass rate in public exams from 25% to 100% and that translates to bringing hope and opportunity for college education to 75% of our students."

Head Master, Adi Dravida Welfare School, Elathur, Vellore District

How Can I help and get involved?

- ◆ Sponsor an underprivileged student at a TNF-ABC school for just \$99/year
- ◆ Contact us about sponsoring your village school under the TNF-ABC project
- ◆ Visit TNF-ABC schools during your next visit to Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Encourage our second generation to participate in TNF summer Internships

Please mail your tax deductible checks in favor of Tamil Nadu Foundation to TNF, 1709 Kenyon Drive, Naperville, IL 60565. In the memo mention "TNF-ABC Project". For more information: web www.tnfusa.org, phone (610) 444-2628, and email tnf.philly@gmail.com