THUVAKKAM
Reg. No: 131/2014 *Exceeding Limits*

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION HUMANITY

No. 112, Arcot Road, Alwarthirunagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 087
www.thuvakkam.org

Mission

To uphold virtues and create a better society

Vision

To create awareness on various social issues and to work towards a clean and green environment to enhance societal well-being

Letter from the President



Krishna Kumar Suresh
Founder / President

First and foremost, I am proud to report that our Thuvakkam organization has made significant progress towards our mission of improving the lives of those in need. Through our various programs and initiatives, we have been able to provide education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities to countless individuals and communities. We are also proud to have maintained our commitment to environmental sustainability.

In these last 9 years of our journey, with over 1,100+ change activities organized both on-field and virtually, our entire team has been able to engage more than 30,700+ volunteers who have clocked more than 1,23,700+ hours to impact the lives of 6,00,300+ people. None of this would have been possible without the support of our volunteers, employees, board members, advisors, and partners. We are incredibly grateful for your contributions, whether they were in the form of time, money, or resources. Your generosity has allowed us to continue our work and make a difference in the lives of those in need. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our efforts and expand our reach.

We have also expanded our operations to new cities such as Hyderabad and Bangalore, becoming recognized as an NGO working in all of south India. This has expanded our volunteering initiatives and programs to benefit a wider range of communities. At the same time, we have been engaged in research and development to stay ahead of the curve in terms of innovation.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our supporters, donors, and stakeholders who have been instrumental in our journey so far. Your support has been invaluable in helping us achieve our mission. We will continue to work towards creating a better world for ourselves and future generations. Thank you once again for your unwavering support. We hope you will continue to stand with us as we work towards a better future for all.
Let's be the change we wish to see.

Letter from the Executive Director



Syed Sirajudeen
Executive Director

Great joy to meet you all and share the events and projects of the past year through this Annual Report of the year 2022-2023. This report is a testament to our work and efforts, and showcases our plans for the future. The growth graph we are seeing at this juncture of this ninth year completion is nothing but the fruit of eight years of hard work by our predecessors. Beyond this, there are many kind-hearted well-wishers whose words actions, and love has led us here.

The last year was a very unique one for us, where we have undertaken many new projects such as pond rejuvenation, creating agroforests, commencing mangrove forestry, Ecoscapes in our urban forests, and women and child development awareness programs. We have achieved commendable success and satisfaction in our above-mentioned works and their expansions. Our full-time employees strength has tripled to in this last year achieve this. We hope they are the seedlings of many social changes enacted through our organization.

Current year we are marching forward as a team on uplifting the rural economy through agroforestry and mangroves Plantation, enriching urban ecology through native tree plantation and urban forestry methods, with inclusive education at Government schools, and engaging volunteers through various socially responsible activities.

I am grateful for all the support from the entire Thuvakkam team, Volunteers, Board Members, Corporate Partners, and Government officials. Looking for all your extended support in the upcoming days and years too.

Be the Change You wish to see.

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Thuvakkam's Domains

Thuvakkam is a registered Non Government Organization that has been operational in the domains of Environment, Education and Humanity since 2014 in South India. Started by a group of young aspirational college students, the driving intent was clear, "to create a better society for all". Thus the name "Thuvakkam", which in Tamil means "Beginning", was chosen since the founders saw themselves as the beginning of the change they wished to see in the society. Inaugurating the name at a modest plantation activity in their college campus, the organization grew each year with new projects and in new avenues. Each domain that the organization works in was a response to a problem that it saw in the society.

Environment



Thuvakkam's Environment projects are centered around increasing greenery and combatting climate change. As a generation that witnesses urbanization in the major metropolitan cities, Thuvakkam's strongest tool lies in the conservation of green pockets within the concrete jungle. Through Urban Forestry, Agroforestry, Ecoscape, and native tree plantations, spaces are reclaimed for nature. All of the saplings are also cared for to ensure sustainability.

Nutrition gardens are also created by Thuvakkam, engaging the green thumb of volunteers and school children. These gardens are composed of vegetable, fruit breaking, herbs, and medicinal plants. The creative side of volunteers are also tapped in the "Clean & Color" project where public spaces are beautified and uplifted through artworks. And water conservation is accomplished with the Blue Zone project for water body creation and restorations.



Education

The true mark of progress in a society is the improved living standards of everyone in the society. And there is no greater path to a better future than education. Thuvakkam realized this when working in Government schools, where there was a lack in infrastructure and tools required to prepare the children for the current age. Thuvakkam's Karka Kasadara programme was crafted with that in mind, bridging the gap between the classroom syllabus and the educational requirements of the society.

Through the Gamification of Education, topics such as Naan Yaar, Arasiyal Pazhagul, Ariviyal Aayiram and much more are taught through games and activities. The school is also bolstered with libraries, smart classes, schoolorts, and other infrastructure support. Thuvakkam also runs the Sponsor for Success initiative which helps fund the education of children in different standards and education courses.

Humanity

The society is comprised of people from different strata and localities, and their lifestyle and livelihoods vary. Thuvakkam's efforts in the domain of Humanity are to kindle the humanity within oneself. Beginning with flood relief efforts, Thuvakkam has branched out into different projects that ensure holistic progress for the masses. Sustainable projects such as installation of Solar Streetlights, infrastructure construction like toilets, and livelihood support in the time of Covid and emergency period

Thuvakkam's Zero Hunger Drive is aimed at eradicating foodlessness in the community, while organizing Medical camps and supporting Healthcare institutions is aimed at providing healthcare for all. Thuvakkam also supports orphanages and elder care centres with their daily needs and requirements. And Kural is Thuvakkam's positive journalism wing run completely by volunteers where news and podcasts are created by them for the online forum



Environment



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Urban Forestry

The Forest Survey of India's most recent report was published in 2021, which covers the state of tree cover in the country. The "India State of Forest Report 2021" has estimated that the country's forest cover stands at 24.67%, a number that is woefully short of the National Forest Policy target of atleast 33%. Year on year, there has been a decrease in the area, attributed to agricultural practices, urbanization, development needs, and natural calamities.



Thuvakkam's Urban Forestry initiative began in 2018, with the adaptation of the Miyawaki Method. The core of this technique lies in the intermingling of plant species of different heights and nature. Thuvakkam has made changes to the foreign technique for the indigenous species and native soil conditions. The soil is first tested to assess its nature and nutrients, before enriching it to support the forest. The plants are classified terms of their fully mature heights as shrubs, sub-trees, trees, and canopies. Thuvakkam then maps out the plantation matrix for the forest area. With the involvement of volunteers, the plantation is carried out to create a forest within urban spaces.





Thuvakkam maintains the forests for a period of 3 years

1,50,000+

saplings planted and cared for



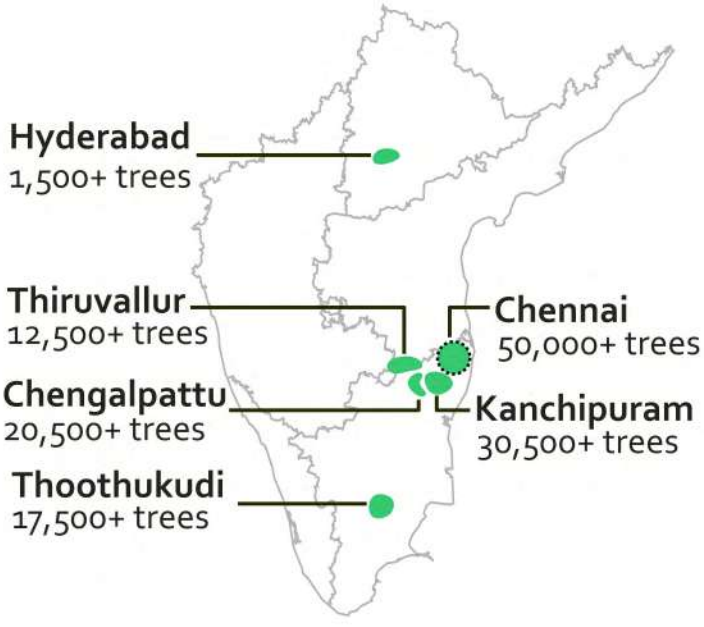
Thuvakkam's Forest Care

Thuvakkam's forests are composed of over 80 indigenous tree species. All forests that Thuvakkam creates are maintained for a period of 3 years with regular watering, de-weeding, and organic care for the plants, with the replacement of any lost saplings. This ensures sustainability and density of the forest, before handing it over to the local administration for its continued care.

15+

acres of greenery maintained

Thuvakkam has created over 40 forests in South India

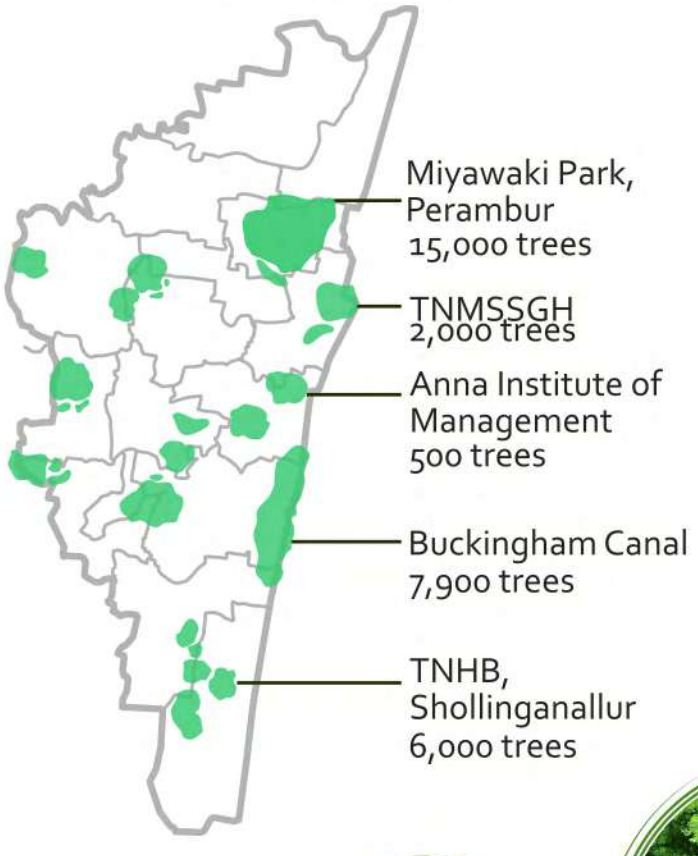




The forests that Thuvakkam creates are for the benefit of the people and the environment. Taking care to choose lands designated as Open Space Reservations (OSR), the sites of plantation are designated for plantations by the government and administrative bodies. With Thuvakkam's 3 years of maintenance at these locations, this ensures sustainability of the project, and the forest, for generations to come. During this care period, Thuvakkam will also replace any saplings that are lost due to environmental or climate conditions, thereby preserving the density of the forest and success of the Miyawaki method. Volunteers are engaged for these tree care activities, bringing a sense of community engagement within the forest.

When the people realize the value of the plants and the means of conservation, they will make significant efforts for their propagation and plantation. Thuvakkam installs information boards at all forests that explains the species at the location, and their uses. These boards have identification factors of the species such as leaves, flowers, and includes their medicinal, ayurvedic, cooking, and any other uses. The density of the forest and the care provided by Thuvakkam improves the survivability of the plants, while also welcoming insects, birds, bees, rodents, and other animals to make it their home.

Thuvakkam's 20+ forests in Chennai

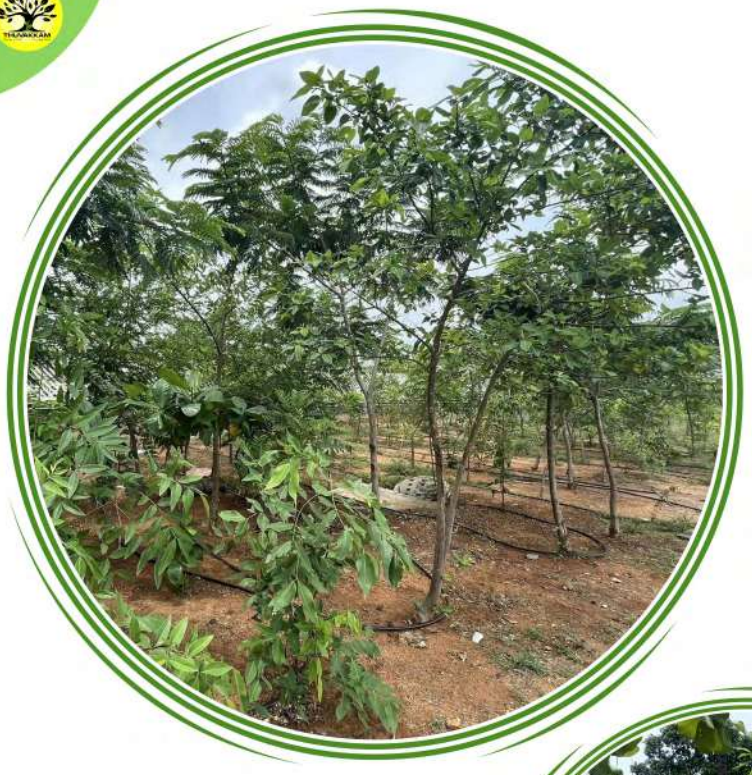












Native Tree Plantation

The Indian subcontinent is the home of a variety of ecosystems. From the marshy swamps in the south, to dense forests in the west, dry lands in the north west, and tundra conditions in the north and many hilly areas. This diversity of the locations affords for different plant species to thrive, based on soil, weather, and humidity conditions. Thuvakkam realizes the value of propagating the native tree species and only works with the indigenous saplings that have roots in the Indian ecosystems. With plantation, Thuvakkam also secures the plants with fencing for each, and has caretakers look after the plants health. With organic care such as vermi-compost and panchakavya, the plants are periodically cared for until they achieve the desired growth.

To support the greenery initiatives, Thuvakkam also sets up nurseries with a collection of species and saplings for future plantations.





30+ acres

turned green with Native Tree Plantation



OSR Maintenance

Open Space Reservation (OSR) is an area of land designated for improving the infrastructure of a community. These are lands designated for parks, play grounds, green spaces, and amenities for the people. The respective administrative body determines the ratio of OSR land area based on commercial and private land acreage that has been approved for construction via the local administration. Thuvakkam undertakes the maintenance and care of such spaces through greenery efforts.

As a part of the maintenance, Thuvakkam first evaluates the area and community for assessing the needs. After jungle cleaning and removing brush, Thuvakkam plants native tree saplings and engages caretakers for de-weeding and regular watering. Amenities such as parks and playgrounds are also set up with the support of corporate partners, thereby making it a space for the community to connect with nature.



Thuvakkm's Ecoscape

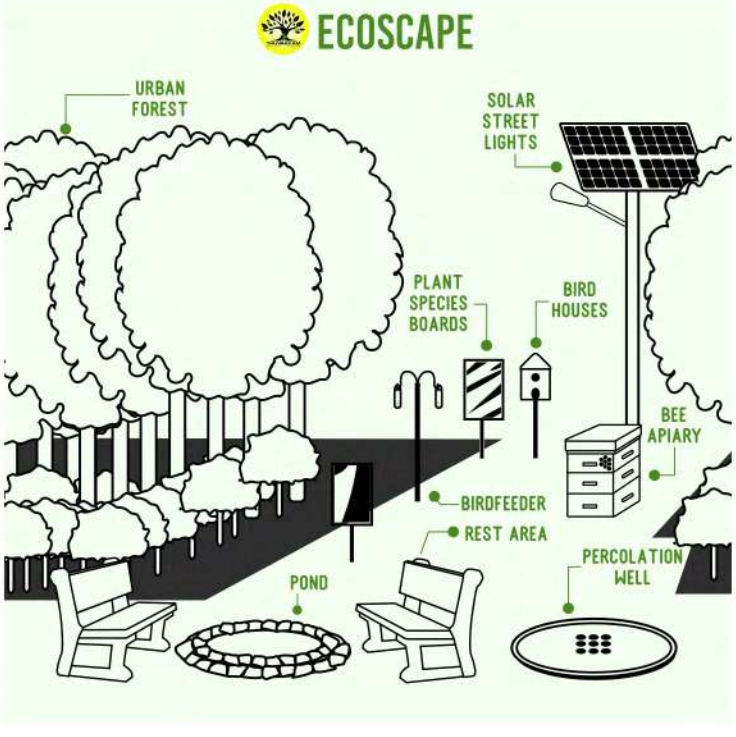
More than just a forest

Thuvakkam has been creating forests of different sizes and in varied landscapes since 2018. These forests have become pockets of bio-diversity conserving spheres, attracting many insects, reptiles, birds, and animals with its rich selection of indigenous plant and tree species. However, these landscapes are but a foundation upon which a much better system can be created. Thuvakkam's Ecoscape project incorporates eco-friendly ideas into this forest space, thereby welcoming the people and local community to experience nature in a sustainable manner. For watering the plants and supporting amphibious ecosystems, a pond will be created within the forest. Pathways and structures made of sustainable materials, rest areas, solar streetlights all transform this green space into an ecoscape. Bee Apiary boxes and bird feeders will add to the rich ecosystem by attracting these natural forest dwellers. Thuvakkam's Ecoscape is a novel approach in incorporating forests into an urban landscape.











Agro-Forestry

With the growing population and the rising demand for food, agriculture driven deforestation is one of the primary factors of India's loss in forest cover. The rapid pace of farming also malnourishes the land without giving it time to recover its nutrients before the next cycle. By combining agriculture and forestry, Agroforestry is a profitable approach that does not sacrifice on greenery, while also incorporating crops and produce into the area of the forests.

Based on the requirements of the community, Thuvakkam creates forests that are silvoarable (the produce of the forest supports people's needs and livelihood), silvopastoral (aids in animal rearing and grazing of livestock), or a combination of both. Thuvakkam has created forests that are diverse in its crop production, mixing in paddy, flowering, vegetable, fruit, and timber plants of different species. The caretakers and Self Help Groups involved reap the benefits of the forest, while also conserving nature.







Project Blue Zone

Water is the most precious resource on planet earth, required by every living being. With borewells becoming the norm in many parts of the city, the rural population also faces a shortage as the demands on agriculture grows. The larger population of India needs water for both their sustenance and their livelihood. Thuvakkam's "Project Blue Zone" is the venture that focuses on water conservation.

With ponds and lakes all over India needing care and attention, the efforts taken are multi faceted. Ponds are created in suburban and rural area, after analysis of the topography and water table. Trees are lined on the bunds of the pond, strengthening the structure and offering a space for nature and water birds to roost. Thuvakkam also cleans and rejuvenates existing ponds and lakes, clearing the effects of eutrophication and weeds that grow on its perimeter, making the area a recreational area for the community.



Ponds and Forests

Thuvakkam's largest forests span over 2 acres and are tended to by gardeners and caretakers. An effective method of watering the plants is with the setup of a drip irrigation system. However, the sustainability of the forest lies in ensuring the soil and ecosystem thrive without manual care, that is the goal of Thuvakkam's long term forest care plan.

To ensure the water table supports the plants and trees, Thuvakkam has incorporated the creation of ponds and percolation pits within the forest. They will continue to nourish the ecosystem and boost the natural fauna of the space. Every droplet saved will water the seeds of change.

Mangroves

Considered a natural biological phenomenon and a hotspot, Mangroves are trees and shrubs that grow in lox-oxygen soil with slow moving water, predominantly in the estuarial regions. Their significance in disaster management scenarios and preventing erosions are well documented. This also offer a rich source of livelihood for the local communities, through tourism and fisheries. Thuvakkam has begun Mangrove forestry in collaboration with private and government bodies with the help of the local communities. They provide a habitat for unique plants and helping those species flourish, while also playing a significant role in carbon sequestration.



Metro Green Zone

Chennai city's Metro stations are a mix of underground and elevated stations that are made of ceramic and cement materials. Thuvakkam launched the Metro Green Zone (MGZ) project to bring greenery to the metro stations and create awareness amongst the public. The MGZ is composed of different ideas that blend together to foster a healthy, sustainable, and decorative space within the stations.





Sciophytes at the station





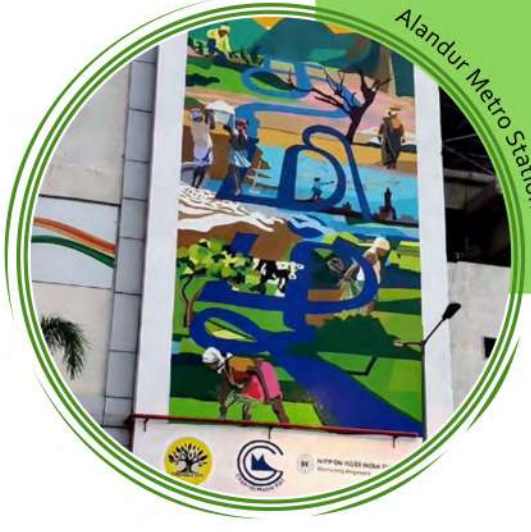
- Sciophytes at the stations
- Informative posters
- Mural artworks
- Moss Panels
- Air-To-Water Machines

Mural Artwork

As a part of the awareness initiative, Thuvakkam has painted Massive Mural Artworks at the Alandur and Chennai Central Metro stations. These were designed and painted with the collaboration of transgender artists, covering themes of ecosystem, conservation, culture, and progress.



Central Metro Station



Alandur Metro Station

Thuvakkam's projects are always driven by ideals of sustainability. With the large number of footfall at the Metro stations, people require drinking water, and turn to public stores with single use plastic bottles. Coming forward with a progressive alternative, Air to Water machines have been installed at the stations. These machines extract the humidity from the atmosphere and makes it potable with filtration and treatment. These machines can be installed in public schools and parks as well, affording drinkable water to the people and children.



Air to Water Machines

Clean and Color

A wall is but an empty canvas that is waiting to be given color. Thuvakkam started the Clean and Color project to revamp city spaces to make them more welcoming and representative of the city's identity. Every color and stroke fills the place with life. With the help of artists and volunteers, a place with blank walls is turned into art. Thuvakkam has carried out clean and color activities at bus stops, public places, parks, care shelters and many more locations.

First, the place is given a base coat of paint, laying the foundation for the change. A theme is then chosen, be it awareness, conservation, ecology, information, or progress. With the outlines of the art stenciled on the walls, the volunteers begin filling in color fueled by their imagination. Every stroke, every daub, changes the walls into art that represents the contribution of every volunteer and the community.





23,000+ sq. ft.
painted with artwork
in 2022-2023







Thuvakkam has undertaken clean and color projects at Valluvar Kottam, Avadi Air Force base, flyovers, and bridges. With the support of the local administration of the area, proper approvals and permissions are sought before execution of the activities. The paintings carried out are sustainable and will withstand weather conditions. The efforts of the artists will be reflected in the art for people to enjoy.



Education

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Karka Kasadara





300+ students

reached in

6 schools

The single most effective tool of changing society is through Education. Thuvakkam's Karka Kasadara initiative was started in 2017 with the dream to bridge the gap between classroom learning and day-to-day life. With enthusiastic volunteers with a background in teaching and child psychology, Thuvakkam set about with the first ever Karka Kasadara action plan teaching children in a suburban community.

In these 7 years, the classes have undergone much iteration, now being a holistic course ready to introduce children to the tools they'll need to take control of their lives. The latest iteration of Karka Kasadara is focused on Gamifying Education. Thuvakkam has drafted the syllabus with courses such as Naan Yaar, Arasiyal Pazhagu, Ariviyal Aayiram, Computer Education, and Mann Thaavaram Soru.

Each of the classes engage the children with games and activities that help them understand the topic of the day. Focusing on students between 5th and 9th standards, each class is designed as per the developmental acuity of the children's age. Throughout the academic year, the students are also privy to extra-curricular sessions such as Yoga, Stone Painting, Design thinking, Gardening, and more.

Thuvakkam also takes the children on field trips to educational sites such as zoos, planetariums, cultural centres, book fairs to expand their horizons.

NMMS

The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship scheme is a stipend that is offered to government and government aided school students through a qualifying test. Thuvakkam teaches students the means to solve quantitative and aptitude questions for the exam.





VARK

Each child is unique in terms of their skills and abilities. Likewise, their capacity and capability to learn depends on the style in which they are taught. Thuvakkam uses VARK analysis to determine the students' learning aptitude. VARK stands for Visual, Auditory, Reading, and Kinesthetic learning. The students are evaluated through questionnaires to understand which style suits them best. The classes and activities are catered to the students learning style.

IMPACT

Thuvakkam does not follow any traditional method of testing and evaluation as the children have associated them with rote learning and the pressure of scoring. IMPACT metrics, developed by Thuvakkam, brings out the implicit skills of the children in every activity and games they participate in. IMPACT is the abbreviation of Imagination, Motor Skills, Problem Solving, Administration skills, Communication, and Team Work. All classes and activities will engage and improve these skills of a student.

12
special sessions in
2022 - 2023



Teaching a child takes one class
Helping the child understand takes time





The syllabus of Karka Kasadara classes have a dedicated workbook and action plan drafted by Thuvakkam instructors. As the classes involve games and activities, volunteers from the public and corporates join in the sessions. A child's attention span determines their interest and takeaways from the classes. And with more volunteers, it is possible to create a positive and progressive environment for the child's inquisitive mind.

*Thuvakkam has drafted and follows a Child Protection Policy and ensures all volunteers adhere to the same

Sponsor for Success

Education is not a luxury, but a necessity. Thuvakkam started the Sponsor for Success initiative with tenet at its core. The Scholars of Sponsor for Success are vetted by Thuvakkam to understand their household and capital state. After talking with their educational institution, their mark sheets and test scores are also verified. Once cleared, the student is supported by Thuvakkam for their educational needs. This can be school fees, college fees, mess fees, hostel rent, book expenses and many more.

Thuvakkam has supported scholars through kindergarten, schooling, college, post graduate, and diploma courses. Prioritizing girl child education, Thuvakkam's scholarship program has grown year on year with the funds raised from private and corporate donors. To ensure standards are maintained, Thuvakkam also shares the milestones of the student with the donor, such as semester grades and test results. Education is everyone's right, and should not be barred behind a paywall.



Scholarship Meets

The Scholars of Thuvakkam are bolstered in their educational journey with frequent meetups, virtual or in person. This gives them a chance to form bonds with each other, and Thuvakkam members and volunteers. This network will help them through to a career of their choice, opening doors for a better future.



25 students
benefitted in
2022 - 2023

200+ requests
fulfilled



thuvakkam.org/sfsscholarship/

Every year, Thuvakkam supports students for their educational needs. The latest batch of Scholars and their educational details can be found at Thuvakkam's website. The personal information of students are strictly confidential and are not released to any interested entities.

Sports and Education

Athletics play an indispensable role in a child's development. It teaches them valuable skills of teamwork, interpersonal skills, discipline, and character. Thuvakkam has supported sports in schools and public spaces with the creation of playgrounds and fields. The students in the Karka Kasadara classes are engaged in games and activities all through the academic year. The schools themselves are provided infrastructure support with equipment and tools for physical education classes.





In 2022, Thuvakkam organized a sports event at the Jawaharlal Stadium, Chennai, Tamilnadu, for school students between ages 9 and 12. The athletics meet was held for boys and girls, and included track events, long jump, shot put, and many more. Over the course of the day, students showcased their implicit talents in front of coaches and trainers. This affords them a path for education and a future based on their athletic ability, a path for sports, national, and international level events. India as a nation has a dearth of sportspersons and it all starts with providing the best coaching for children and fueling their passion for achievements.







1,000+

participants across age groups

Schoolorts

Classrooms are more than just 4 walls and a black board, they are the space in which a child forays into society and develops skills and understanding that will define their character for the rest of their lives. Such places need to feel inviting, and kindle their minds. Thuvakkam's Schoolorts initiative to transform these rooms into learning spaces, to use art as a teaching technique.

Themes are chosen and educative content are painted with the help of artists and volunteers. English propositions and their regional language equivalents, quotes of great leaders, Olympic sports, flowers and ecosystems are just some of the beautiful artworks that are painted in the classes. Chosen based on the standard of the classroom, the art is painted for understanding and appeal. Art that will be in the regional language and explain concepts that are taught in their textbooks, in an appealing form. Through images and associated text, children will be able to understand ideas that are complex and abstract. For images are thousand words.









500+ books

filled new shelves and libraries



Libraries

The world exists beyond the four walls of the classroom. The textbooks are but compilers of information, carefully edited and drafted for the syllabus of the school board. But books are a window to outer world, with genres of fiction, non-fiction, biographies, encyclopedias, history, and numerous other ideologies and that can awaken the free spirit of thinking in the children. Libraries set up by Thuvakkam will foster reading habits and ease the learning of languages. The companion of books and their stories will forever accompany its readers and change their life.


Humanity
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Mannin Maindhargal

Fostering a sense of community

Thuvakkam's Humanity initiatives are driven by kindling the Humanity within oneself. Every initiative is focused on sustainability of the efforts, and bringing forth that change in people will ensure the change persists over time. If one can bring themselves to care about others and environment, they will treat the world with compassion. Every being, be it human or otherwise needs a little kindness.

Mannin Maindhargal showcases Thuvakkam's efforts of helping people and society. By visiting communities and analyzing their requests, Thuvakkam is able to support to improve their quality of life. Construction of toilets, installing solar streetlights in villages, infrastructure support in terms of schools and buildings for the panchayats, replacing wood stoves with gas line, and many more quality of life changes.





Relief Efforts

The common populace fails to realize the luxuries afforded to them in their daily lives. This is never more apparent than the times of natural disasters and calamities. The lockdowns and loss of lives during Covid-19 showed the clear distinction between people living off their savings and the people who lived day to day.

As a part of the relief plan, Thuvakkam and donors combined efforts to help the people in need. Relief kits containing rice, non-perishables, sanitary needs, refreshments, and more were put together for rural communities. With local administration and panchayat bodies, Thuvakkam distributed the kits to over 9000 families, providing them with much needed respite.



Helping those who are in need is the true spirit of humanity.

The society is composed of people from all walks of life, and true progress is when every facet is able to meet its bare necessities. But that is not the case as the rapid pace of development sometimes leaves behind the few of the society who need the most care. Thuvakkam supports care centres and orphanages in different cities with monetary and amenities. Daily groceries, beds/cots, playthings, clothes, utensils and other requests are fulfilled with the kind help of donors and supporters.

Greenergize

A Solar Power initiative

175
Solar Streetlights installed





As a part of the Community Development initiative, Thuvakkam has collaborated with rural communities and panchayats to understand their needs. The rolling tides of change deplete over the cities and sub-urban communities, becoming a trickle as it reaches the people farther away. To bridge this gap, Thuvakkam's projects are aimed at sustainable approaches to addressing community requirements. The Greenergize Project was borne of one such request, combining Green Energy with infrastructure initiatives. In 2022, solar powered streetlights and traffic blinkers were installed in villages and rural communities. This ensures safety for the people and their livestock that wanders on the roads. Improving the road conditions for the vehiclists, the solar powered traffic blinkers afford for hazard signals in the rural space.

Thuvakkam has also targeted schools under the Greenergize project. By analyzing the schools monthly usage and working the electricity board, the apt solar panel setup is installed at the school. On a smaller scale, solar powered appliances have also been distributed to the people for promoting concepts of green energy and incorporating it in their lives.

Zero Hunger Drive

THUVAKKAM
ZERO HUNGER DRIVE

Thuvakkam's Zero Hunger Drive initiative is a donor driven food donation drive. The homeless and the needy all over the city struggle for their basic needs, food being a critical concern. With the funds raised, Thuvakkam procures food for these people to ease their struggle and live another day.





2,000+
beneficiaries

Healthcare

Health and medicine should be part of everyone's rights and within their access. Numerous schemes and initiatives have been implemented by the Government to alleviate the people's problems. However, there is a dichotomy between urban and rural medical centres. This was more visible during the time of Covid-19, as the rural community struggled to get preventive medicine and doses. Thuvakkam knew its responsibility at this time of need and leapt into action, mobilizing people and resources to help coordinate efforts.

Following the relaxation of lockdown norms, Thuvakkam has continued the efforts to bolster the infrastructure of healthcare centres. As a part of this initiative, Thuvakkam has donated hospital equipment, blood storage unity, dialysis machines, generators, bedding, and sanitation necessities to rural medical centres. Through analysis and conversation with the hospital personnel, their exact requirements and assets and the necessary machines were procured and delivered.



Donated beds at Sriperumbudur Government Hospital

Help for Humanity

The Help for Humanity donation campaign began as the means to help people without means. The funds raised are used to help patients and their families cope with hospital expenses. These include costs for tests, treatment, visitation, lodging, and the numerous others associated with hospital care. Details about the patients and their conditions are collected and analyzed before their request is accepted by Thuvakkam. Donors are shared progress updates about their wards without revealing confidential information.





Medical Camps

While not all medical centres are able to perform the tests and treatment, this shortfall should not hinder ones access to healthcare. Thuvakkam has organized medical camps in various locations in rural and developing communities. Beginning the process with a survey, the ailments of the people are understood before scheduling a camp with the respective medical team. Eye check-ups, dermatology consultations, regular blood work are just some of the specialized services provided to the people through these camps.


2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2015
2014
THUVAKKAM
Reg. No: 131/2014
Exceeding Limits

Thuvakkam in South India



Having its humble beginnings in Chennai, Thuvakkam has grown year on year. Focusing on the three domains of Environment, Education, and Humanity, the projects and activities are driven by the needs of the society. Its reflections are seen in the efforts taken by the organization, involving volunteers and the community. Being recognized in Tamilnadu, Thuvakkam's Urban Forests are found in many districts on the state. But the needs of the people sees no borders. Thuvakkam first crossed state lines offering flood relief efforts to the people of Kerala.

That was just the beginning. In the years following, Thuvakkam has engaged volunteers in the neighboring states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka. Working with corporates, administrative bodies, corporations, and governments of the states, Thuvakkam has been invited to carry out initiatives it has successfully implemented in Tamilnadu. Urban Forestry, Clean and Color, awareness workshops, and volunteering sessions are but some of the roster of activities. Ecoscape, agroforestry, and ponds soon followed. The winds of change blow where they are needed, and Thuvakkam has followed the cause.

Projects and Events

Working with the corporates, administration, corporations and governments of different states, Thuvakkam ensures to build a relationship that will aid in the implementation of projects and events. The Greater Chennai Corporation in Chennai, district collectors, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation in Hyderabad, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for Bengaluru, and other like organizations and associations. Working in different spheres and areas needs the involvement of people and community, and Thuvakkam values their input and commitments.



Creative Artwork at Hyderabad



Urban Forestry at Hyderabad



Awareness workshops at Bengaluru



New Horizons

With the expansion of projects and their scale, Thuvakkam has a new base of operations. With the inaugural ceremony involving the employees and their families, and advisors, Thuvakkam's new and larger office was opened. Located in Alwarthirunagar, this new space has space for a larger team and bigger dreams.





Thuvakkam's Green Partner Awards

In its 9 years of operation, Thuvakkam has carried out many environment projects in South India with different partners and scale. As a part of the Eco Month celebration, Thuvakkam honoured these partners with the "Green Partner Award 2022" to acknowledge their commitment for creating a green and sustainable environment for the future generations. Recipients of this award included HCL Foundation (Urban Forest Ecoscape), Nippon Koei India (Project Metro Green Zone), First Source (Hyderabad Urban Forestry), L&T India (Clean and Colour), Waycool (Perungudi Forestry), Art of Life (Native Tree Plantation), and AstraZeneca (Largest Urban Forest in Chennai). It was an evening to shine a light on the greenery initiatives that are heralding in a positive change in the society, graced by the honorable Commissioner of Kundrathur Municipality. The first of many such meetings commemorating green projects of Thuvakkam over South India.

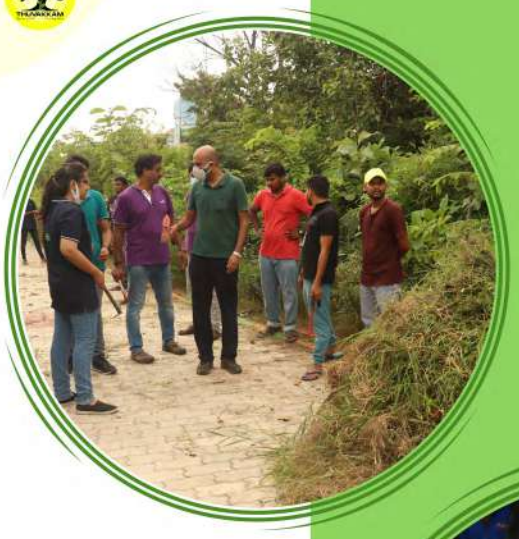














Eco Month

Centering around World Environment Day (June 5th) Thuvakkam celebrates the month of June as Eco Month. Adhering to the theme of the year, activities and events are scheduled in the month to engage volunteers in raising awareness on environmental issues. Thuvakkam ensures to organize events virtually and on field to maximize the impact of the message. Street plays and Mimes, Cloth Bag distribution, Virtual Eco Tour, Tree care and Maintenance, plantation events, Beach cleanups are some of the approaches that Thuvakkam takes to celebrate Eco Month.



Eegai Tiruvizha

The month of October is celebrated in India as the "Joy of Giving", commemorating the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. Thuvakkam as an NGO has followed the mantra of "Be the Change you wish to see", which was articulated by the same. Adapting it for South India, Thuvakkam celebrates the month of October as Eegai Thiruvizha, wherein Eegai is the joy of giving. Donation campaigns for clothes, healthcare, books, Zero Hunger Drive are carried out month long, with associated events held across the state. Medical camps and street plays are also organized on societal issues to spread awareness among the public.



75 Days of Change - Volunteering Campaign

2022 marks the 75th Independence year of India, and it was celebrated nation-wide as "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", a grand celebration of Independence. Thuvakkam launched a campaign in tandem titled "75 Days of Change", to celebrate the spirit of volunteering. Spanning 11 weeks starting from August 26, Thuvakkam planned activities and events engaging volunteers in all three domains of Environment, Education, and Humanity. The weekly calendars of events were released by dignitaries such as the Hon. Minister Siva Meyanathan (Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu), the Hon. Dr. Tamizhachi Thangapandian (Member of Parliament, Chennai – South), the Commissioner of Kundrathur Municipality, and partners.









Tree care, Plantation, Painting, seedball making activities were organized in Environment. Karka Kasadara classes, Scholars meeting, Career guidance, extra curricular activities were organized in schools and for students as a part of Education domain. Zero Hunger drives, donation of clothes and toys to care centres, Read and Reveal virtual sessions, podcasts were some of the events under the banner of Humanity. The strength of Thuvakkam as an organization is engaging people from the community through volunteering and partnership. These 75 days volunteering challenge made successful with the collaboration of corporations, administrative bodies, colleges, schools, corporates, well-wishers, and volunteers from different locations coming together to create a better society.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

75 Days of Change

81 Events
in 75 Days





4,500+
Volunteering hours
by
2,000+
Volunteers

Collaborating with Thuvakkam

A society is composed of the people and their responsibilities, and the institutions that they have formed. Two such institutions that play a crucial role in shaping the society in a large scale. The Government and administrative bodies draft plans for the betterment of society and execute schemes for improving the life of the people. Likewise, colleges and educational institutions play the role of shaping minds that will shape the society through the next generation of thinkers and leaders. Thuvakkam as an organization works hand in hand with the community to ensure it is their voice that is amplified. By joining hands with the organizations that play a critical role in the society, Thuvakkam can connect more like minded persons and form a network that will create a larger and more sustainable impact for the future.



Government organizations



And more...



Thuvakkam also encourages interning at the organization, creating future leaders and social workers. With their commitment and efforts, Thuvakkam guides their passions on the right path to hone their skills, involving them in the day to day operations.



Colleges and institutions



And more...



Collaborating with corporates has grown year on year as Thuvakkam has expanded its operations across borders and domains. Organizations that enact projects and activities to better their localities, their employees, their kith and kin. Organizations that work based on their Corporate Social Responsibilities as per their policies and aspirations. Thuvakkam has had the privilege of working with such entities whose goals is to create change in the communities. Forests that have been planted, academic support provided for students, relief efforts for the struggling, and so many more projects that impact the society on a large scale.



Thuvakkam has been partners with corporate entities working for the execution of existing projects, or the implementation partner for the efforts required by the organizations. Every project that Thuvakkam takes up has been carried out in an efficient manner with the goal of helping create a better society, by benefitting the people in the best possible manner. Apart from project collaborations, Thuvakkam also hosts events for volunteering for the employees.



Partners and Organizations

AstraZeneca, firstsource, HCL, HCL FOUNDATION, aspire SYSTEMS attention. always., LARSEN & TOUBRO, LIGHT & WONDER, FULL, NIPPON KOEI INDIA PVT. LTD. Consulting Engineers, IBM, HYUNDAI GLOVIS, rrd, Goodera, TATA COMMUNICATIONS, iff, CSB Bank, ADF, APPLIED DATA FINANCE, EY, SANOFI, NetApp, BMW, Punjab National Bank, NIPPON PAINT, CSRBOX, KBR, MIOT International, SOCIAL LENS OPTIMISE IMPACT, United Way Bengaluru, POLYCAB, amadeus, AT&T, Hanon SYSTEMS, IAHV INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN VALUES, Ford, kyndryl, HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES, TransUnion, THE HINDU, TVS ELECTRONICS, Ultramarine & Pigments Ltd., L&T Construction, genpact, DLF Foundation, cognizant, BNP PARIBAS, XORIANT, waycool, AGILISIUM BIG ON CLOUD. BIG ON DATA., NAC JEWELLERS, FRANCH EXPRESS DOMESTIC | INTERNATIONAL | CARGO, SAINT-GOBAIN, THE ART OF LIVING, DRA EXPERIENCE NICE, Bhumi, CNSI, बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda, Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation, SAIPEM, ZUORA, சென்னை பத்திரிகையாளர் மன்றம் CHENNAI PRESS CLUB, McRennett SINCE 1903, BNY MELLON, PRABHA AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS PVT. LTD., WESTBRIDGE | CAPITAL, BULK DRUGS A D P L

And more...

Volunteering with Thuvakkam

The first event of Thuvakkam was a humble plantation activity in 2014 in the college campus of the founders, carried out with the help of students and classmates. Since this first event, Volunteering has been the core of Thuvakkam and its operations. The activities and events in Thuvakkam's roster includes opportunities for people to engage in them. Forests plantation and tree care, painting of artwork in public places, spending time with children in orphanages, engaging students in activities. These are but some of the ways in which people can volunteer in Thuvakkam. No specific skills, no intrinsic talents are required to volunteer. Just the time to spare, and the passion to help others.



Inhouse Volunteering

Thuvakkam engages employees in volunteering activities within the office space. Procuring the required materials in terms of soil, seeds, stationaries, and associated personnel, the volunteers will participate in the activity for change. Creating education materials, making seedballs, awareness workshops on environment, and much more.



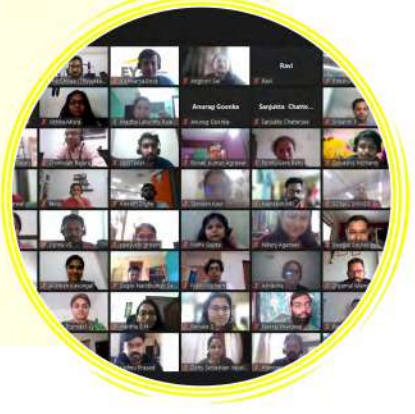
Event Organizing

Working in all three domains of Environment, Education, and Humanity, Thuvakkam receives requests from schools, administrations, and partners for events. Playing host to volunteers of change and organizing events, Thuvakkam ensures as many people benefit from the activities in a safe and exciting way.



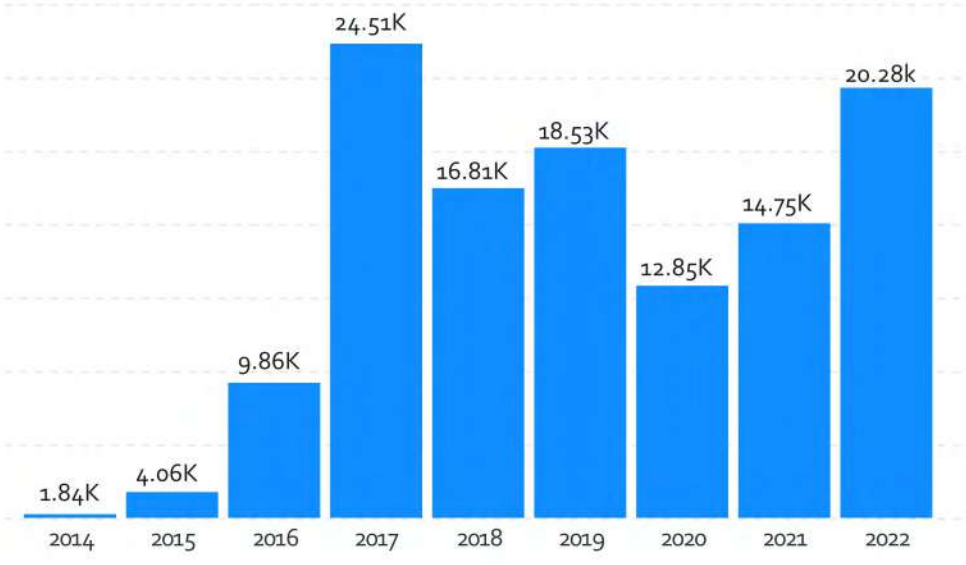
Virtual Volunteering

Volunteer anywhere is an initiative by Thuvakkam to create opportunities for people who wish to do good but are unable to join others in physical events. Virtual workshops, Eco Tours, Read & Reveal, article writing, poster designs, video editing, story telling and other events are hosted by Thuvakkam on digital platforms for people to join from anywhere in the world.



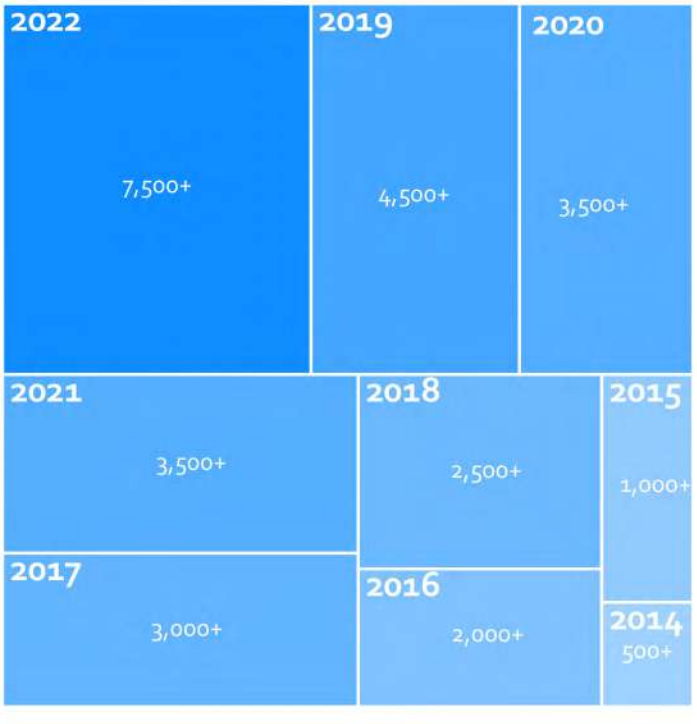
30,000+ volunteers and 1,23,500+ hours of volunteering across nine years demonstrate Thuvakkam's mission and progress towards contributing to change. This has been done as Thuvakkam has aimed to bring about change in the fields of Education, Humanity, and the environment. Volunteers assist towards the change they desire and are never forgotten by Thuvakkam as they are appreciated with the help of a monthly newsletter and during events, thus bringing in more ardent volunteers and change for a better society. Volunteering is a breath of fresh air, giving a break from our routine lives and providing another purpose. The volunteer's role can never be calculated on one hand or in terms of money. Without the support of incredible volunteers, it would not have been possible to help bring about the change that we desire.

Volunteering Hours by Year

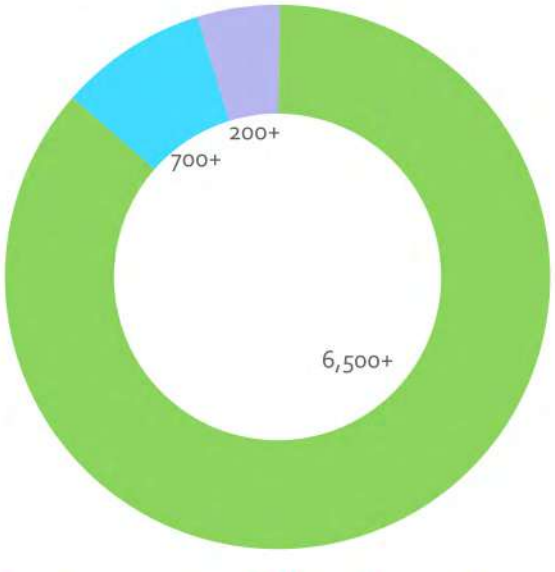




Total Volunteers engaged by year



Volunteers by Domain (FY22-23)



Environment Education Humanity



NGOs form an integral part of any economy as they are one of the first responders in times of need for society. Society requires NGOs that are honest and willing to make the change, acting as the medium through which people can create a positive impact. The growth of an NGO depends on factors such as credibility, clientele, issues being tackled, and how they are using their knowledge and efforts to help better society. Thuvakkam has worked on these aspects and continues its efforts in providing answers to problems, and ensuring that society is involved in decision-making and activities.



Organization Chart



Gunasekaran S
Executive Committee Member



Senthil Mani R
Executive Committee Member



Wajakath Hussain
Executive Committee Member



Joseph Alex L
Joint Secretary



Dinesh Babu S
General Secretary



Jeevaganth BS
Treasurer



Karthik Shivaa S
Director - R & D



Hari Haran
Web Developer



Krishna Kumar Suresh
Founder / President



Jerri Babu
Manager - Accounts



Monica M
Senior Associate - Partnership



Jeba Rupavathi A
Associate - Communications



Syed Sirajudeen
Executive Director



Parthiban Munusamy
Director - Programs & Volunteering



Aritharan K
Senior Manager - Operations



Majitha M
Associate - Education



Naveen Kumar
Associate - Operations



Paul Raj
Associate - Programs



Santhosh M
Field Coordinator



Suriya S
Field Coordinator



20+
Gardeners & Caretakers

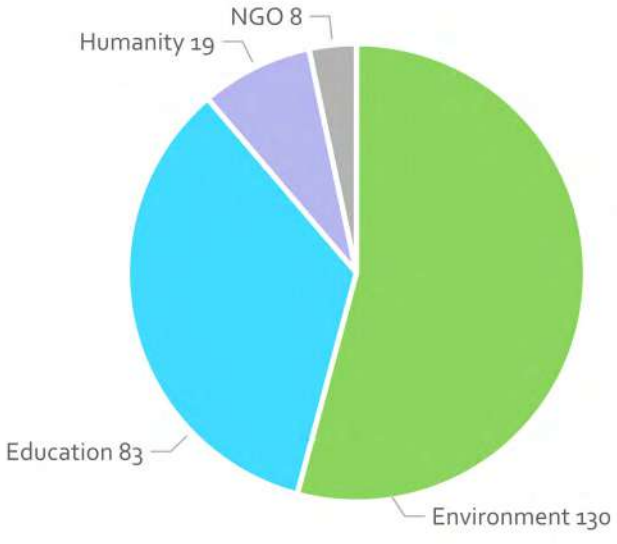
Thuvakkam began with the notion of being the change they wished to see in the society. With time, efforts, and the collaboration with other like-minded partners and administrative bodies, the impact created has become noticeable in South India. As agents of change and with a growing number of employees, volunteers, and partners, Thuvakkam is poised to expand its operations to new domains and regions.

1,140 Events Organized
in 2014-2023

240 Events Organized
in 2022-2023



Events by Domains (FY22-23)



Events organized by year





Top volunteer engagement events by domain

Environment	Education	Humanity
Sustainable Lifestyle	MemoryTraining	Mental Health Session
Best Out of Waste	Alternative Education	Medical Camp
Creative Art Work	Read & Reveal	Zero Hunger Drive
Beach clean up	Learning Tamil Glyphs	Healthcare donation
Urban Forestry	Learning Sign Language	Toys for Tots



Awards and Accolades



Thuvakkam has been operational in South India for over 9 years with innovative initiatives that help people in different regions and in different ways. For these efforts, Thuvakkam has been recognized in terms of execution and sustainability by local, state, national, international, and independent entities. Thuvakkam is grateful for the awards showcasing the efforts made and uses this as wind beneath the wings of change.



- United Nations India Young Change Maker of the year 2019 awarded to Krishna Kumar, Founder - Thuvakkam
- e-NGO Challenge Award South Asia 2017, 2019, and 2020 (Environment & Sustainability) by Digital Empowerment Foundation
- Best Project 2018 - Go Green Program (Green Feather Award) by Cognizant Outreach
- Recognition award by science city higher education department of Tamil Nadu government
- Dr Kalam social Activist award by World youth Federation
- Appreciation award 2020 from Larsen & Toubro for partner in creating impact in the lives of children
- Appreciation Award 2022 from RR Donnelley in Collaboration for change.

And many more...



MCCI Recognition

The Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry performs a yearly evaluation of CSR projects that have been implemented in Tamil Nadu for their Annual CSR Awards. Thuvakkam had the honour of receiving the CSR Award 2022 for Environmental Sustainability and Ecological Balance for the Urban Forest created and maintained in Buckingham Canal, Chennai.

Created with the support pf HCL Foundation, the 7000+ trees have become a part of the community's landmark, with joggers, daily visitors, and burgeoning flora and fauna. Thuvakkam also accepted the associated prize of 1 Lakh which will be used for future sustainability efforts in projects.







Thuvakkam has also had the privilege of being invitees to pan-India conferences to showcase projects and meet its peers in creating a better society. VolCon 2022, TOFI, TN Climate Summit 2022, HCLF's Partnering for Change, and many more. These occasions have proven invaluable, meeting influential leaders such as Mr. Joss Brooks (Environmentalist), Mr. Erik Solheim (Green Ambassador from Norway), and others, forging alliances for impactful projects for Thuvakkam.

Thuvakkam in the News

In south India, the name Thuvakkam has become synonymous with Urban Forestry. This flagship initiative was started in 2018, with adapting the effective Miyawaki methodology for the Indian soil and weather conditions. Seeing the success of the method, Thuvakkam became the forerunners for creating forests, being featured in multiple news outlets and articles. These and other environment efforts received much recognition from the press and media, even becoming part of multiple panels and college conferences.













In the domains of Environment, Education, and Humanity, Thuvakkam's projects have been spotlighted by the media. This has shone a light on the beneficiaries of these efforts. Transgender artists who joined hands with Thuvakkam for mural artwork, the residents of the village where Thuvakkam installed solar streetlights, the numerous beings who visit and reside in the forests. Thuvakkam is grateful to the press and media for covering these stories and reaching more people who deserve the help and aid in this society.

BBC NEWS தமிழ் · Newstm தமிழ் · DINAMALAR National Tamil Daily · NEWS 18 · THE TIMES OF INDIA · விகடன் · the better india · THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS · 92.7 BIG FM · Stades · The NEWS Minute · தி இந்து · THE HINDU · NDTV PROFIT · TIMES MEDIA Neighbourhood Newspaper · புதிய தலைமுறை · NEWS TODAY · PORUR TIMES · MYLAPORE TIMES · CITIZEN MATTERS ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

And more...



Thuvakkam Online

In the modern day, having an online presence is of the utmost need. Thuvakkam utilized multiple platforms to reach out to volunteers and partners for upcoming activities and keep them appraised of progress made. It is essential to connect with people as it builds a better reputation for NGOs, maintains connections with stakeholders and brings forth new collaborations to help the society.

11,000+
Followers
@thuvakkam

3,000+
Followers
@thuvakkam

2,000+
Followers
@thuvakkam

500+
Subscribers
@ThuvakkamNGO

300+
Followers
@thuvakkam



THUVAKKAM KURAL
THE VOICE OF TRUTH

An NGO can extend itself beyond just social media platforms because there are several other, equally productive online forums such as interviews, blogs, radio, podcasts, etc. Thuvakkam began Kural as a volunteer driven journalism wing for positive news, managed by volunteers.

Newsletter

Thuvakkam's newsletters contain information on upcoming events that offer opportunities to volunteer and collaborate. It is also the showcase of the activities that were carried out in the previous month, through articles and galleries along with statistics and impact numbers. Thuvakkam also honors volunteers and changemakers for their efforts in being part of the change.



www.thuvakkam.org

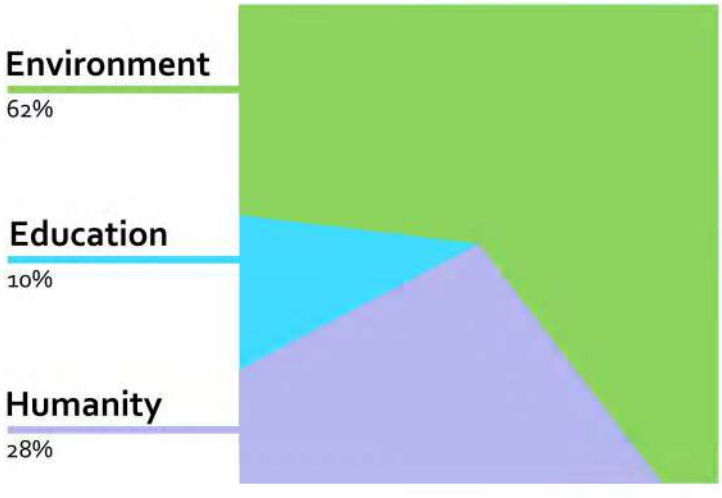
Thuvakkam Financials

Transparency and accountability are some of the strong pillars that underlay Thuvakkam's ethics. The progress that Thuvakkam has made has been through the diligent planning and implementation of projects that best utilize the funds and reach the most beneficiaries. Registered as a society in Tamilnadu, projects have been carried out all over south India with corporates and government entities. Every penny is accounted for and documented in the financial statements that are available on Thuvakkam's website. Funding the change initiatives have been through corporates, foundations, private organizations, schools, and individual donors. Each contribution is a creator of change.

2.91 crores
in project expenses
(FY22-23)

3.10 crores
in funds income
(FY22-23)

Project Expenses (FY22-23)



Thuvakkam has been independently audited by **Anand Radhika & Associates** since FY14-15. The financial records of the organization and annual reports are available online tracking Thuvakkam efforts and activities since its founding year of 2014.

Thuvakkam is registered on NGO Darpan, the national NGO roster of India and has obtained CSR number and certification from the Ministry of Corporate affairs to carry out projects under Corporate Social Responsibilities

Thuvakkam has obtained 12A/80G certification from the Income Tax Department of India, ensuring any donations made to the organization are upto 50% tax exempt.

Source of Funds (FY22-23)





Thuvakkam as a Non Government Organization has followed and exceeded the due diligence expected of any entity working in the society. Following standards set by local, state, and national level administrative bodies. With the diligent record maintenance, blemish free operations, and comprehensive independent audit reports, Thuvakkam has been awarded the Guidestar Gold certification for a third year. Guidestar India is an independent third party organization that reviews NGOs on a pan India standard and evaluates their transparency policies.

Thuvakkam started as an idea among college students in their final semester in 2014. With each passing year, the organization found its footing and understood the needs of the society better. The efforts that it undertook were streamlined into the domains of Environment, Education, and Humanity. Working with peers and joining hands with collaborators, Thuvakkam has been able to grow to help more people on a larger scale. Recognizable as a grassroots level organization, this last year has seen Thuvakkam working more effectively in South India. With the base of operations in Chennai and expanding efforts all over Tamilnadu and extending into Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Always focusing on sustainability, the projects are implemented to benefit the most people and organisms in the community.

Starting with a small room in the home of the founder, the ideas and their strength grew with time. This year Thuvakkam has moved into an office space with much bigger dreams for more beneficiaries, fueled by the passion of partners and supporters. Volunteers driven by the need to serve the community and create a better society are the leaders of such change. And Thuvakkam is the implement making it possible.





With the growing team and partners, Thuvakkam continues to uphold its standards in its execution. Following regulations and guideline on a state and national level. And with new offices setup, making the workplace a safe and welcoming place to all is of utmost importance. For the organization needs to take of its employees who take care of the society.

Thuvakkam is registered as a society under the Tamilnadu Societies Registration act 1975 in posession of

- **80G**
- **12A**
- **CSR Number**
- **Internal Committee**
- **Child Protection Policy**
- **Data Security Policy**
- **Environment, Health and Safety Policy**

and other policies. As a growing organization, Thuvakkam has always maintained standards and ensured the best working conditions for carrying out projects all over south India.









Environment



Education



Humanity



1,50,000+ trees planted and cared for

30,000+ volunteers engaged

10,000+ square feet of walls painted

1000+ Events

100+ partners

50+ scholars

40+ Employees

9 years of operations

5 departments

3 domains

1 idea

To Be the change you wish to see

Founder/President: krishnakumar.suresh@thuvakkam.org

Executive Director: syedsirajudeen@thuvakkam.org

CSR & Projects: externalrelation@thuvakkam.org

Career & internships: admin@thuvakkam.org

Events & Volunteering: programs@thuvakkam.org

Press & Media: communication@thuvakkam.org

General: info@thuvakkam.org

Website: thuvakkam.org

Social Media: @thuvakkam

Contact: +91-9444888937

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