



# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



Arunachala  
Village School



Arunachala Village School (AVS) started the academic year with uncertainty about the functioning of school due to Covid-19 induced lockdown. AVS faced an irreplaceable loss with the sad demise of its founding partner Aldis Jasper and Rudi Jasper. The Jaspers made it their life mission to educate the rural children of Tiruvannamalai.

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*Students of AVS pay their homage to Aldis Jasper by planting a tree in the garden.*

Jasper's vision made AVS stand tall today and transform the lives of children through education. A small mourning program was conducted to help share everyone's grief and a fruit garden has been cultivated in their memory at AVS campus to pay them a rich tribute. In the coming year, we wish to install a standing statue of the Jaspers to honor their service to the people of Tiruvannamalai.

Covid-19 disrupted the events planned for the year. Children were psychologically disturbed at homes as their parents were unable to provide them required care due to financial strain. Child marriage and child labor started to increase from April 2020 due to lockdown and no formal learning at school.

Microclasses conducted with Covid-19 appropriate mechanism brought back the glow in the lives of children through education and learning activities. Microclasses was an effective tool in handling child marriage and school drop outs.

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I thank all the donors, volunteers and district administration for their relentless support. Government of India graciously paid the Provident fund contribution of employee and employer for 6 months from March 2020.

Donations budgeted for the year was not achieved completely. On account of Covid-19, So-hum foundation generously donated twice their usual contribution. The fight for Covid-19 is lasting longer than expected and I request the support of mankind to battle collectively and make the lives of people around us better than ever.



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The Jaspers  
shaped the  
dreams of  
children with  
hopes in to a  
reality

G Madhan Mohan

*G. Madhan Mohan*

# OVERVIEW OF 2020-21

Academically current year was not productive but with respect to wellbeing, students and parents are safe in pandemic. Other than learning, the absence of schooling would also have a long-lasting effect on the health and nutrition of children.

01

## **Offline Student monitoring and Capacity building**

Students of AVS were regularly monitored via digital medium during the onset of the pandemic. Teachers and support staffs utilized the time during lockdown to strengthen their skills and transform the mindset and attitude of children better.

02

## **Microclasses**

Online classes are not feasible in rural parts of India due to lack of digital sophistication. No experience can match the physical presence of a teacher and offline mode of study enables direct interaction between the teachers and students.

03

## **Covid relief works**

Since the onset of pandemic, AVS actively involved in Covid-19 relief works including providing dry rations to the needy. AVS created a mobile kiosk van for swab collection and pressed it to service for the people of Tiruvannamalai.

# Offline Student Monitoring

Since the onset of Pandemic and lockdown measures imposed by Indian Government, teachers of AVS regularly contacted all the students via telephone and advised them about the impact of the virus and briefed them about the hygienic practices to follow. Parents of the students were given tele counselling on how to handle the children at home in these tough times and the teachers lent an extra hand to them whenever necessary. As teachers were aware of the economic and psychological background of all students, teachers periodically followed up everyone to ensure their lives are not impacted adversely.

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## Teacher's Capacity Building

Breaking patterns and learning new behaviors requires ongoing training and preparation as well as support and capacity building.

- Technical Training - Teachers attended workshops on developing Computer skills and on effective use of technology to reach children.
- Worksheets for Microclasses - Children were given worksheets about subjects of their interest. Worksheets were filled with puzzles, quizzes and other fun related activities which engaged children away from school at all times.
- Art workshops - Teachers deepened their knowledge and skills in creative arts like silk thread designing, wood carving, painting, tailoring.

*Aim of capacity building program is to enrich and update teachers' knowledge in their domain. Capacity building is developing a culture of shared learning in teachers while building renewed energy and enthusiasm in them*





## Ecological Intelligence

Playground of AVS was put to better use by caretakers during the lockdown. Horticultural crops was cultivated throughout the period. Spinach, Peanuts and other regional fruit varieties were harvested and the proceeds from the harvest will be provided as nutritional supplements for the students during the next academic year. Caretakers together managed the garden and formed meaningful relationships that gave them a sense of personal well-being during this pandemic.



# Microclasses - The way forward

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With no formal learning activity for the students since March 2020, students' attention towards education diminished due to lack of focus and guidance. Online classes are not a feasible option in rural parts of the country as technological is still a far cry for these people. COVID-19 has made an already difficult situation for millions of girls even worse.

As schools remain closed, girls are more likely to drop out of education and not return. Job losses and increased economic insecurity may also force families to marry their daughters to ease financial burdens.

**150** AVS STUDENT  
BENEFICIARIES

**234** GOVT & OTHER PRIVATE  
SCHOOL STUDENTS



**Approximately one in four young women in India were married before their 18th birthday.**

## Microclasses - Mode of Operation

- Teachers of AVS visit each village of AVS students on alternate days between 10AM-12noon.
- Public utility places such as temple, community halls, open ground, terrace of parents home were chosen as class rooms.
- Refreshment course was organized at the inception of the program to brush up the students learning.
- Students learning was made easy with fun filled activities and games.
- The concept of teaching is to ensure that students start learning sub-consciously without any conscious effort.
- All necessary standard operating procedure of Government on Covid-19 were strictly followed on Microclasses.





## Why Microclasses are important ?

- **Parents unprepared for home schooling:** When schools close, parents are often asked to facilitate the learning of children at home and can struggle to perform this task. This is especially true for parents from rural part of the country with limited or no education and resources.
- **Psychological imbalance:** Parents are unable to cope up with the already stressed family finances due to income loss and the pressure on the child increases to stop learning and start earning for the family.
- **Social isolation:** Schools are hubs of social activity and human interaction. When schools close, many children miss out of on social contact that is essential to learning and development.



- **Rise in dropout rates:** It is a challenge to ensure children return and stay in school when schools reopen after closures. This is especially true for women students who are forced to marry and parents use this lockdown to ease their financial burden.

## MEASURING PROGRESS

- *Microclasses act as a vital source of learning activity for the children*
- *Children are now back to formal learning with professional guidance*
- *Parents are happy to witness their children learning at their doorstep*
- *Microclasses also helps parents to witness the learning of activities of their children with their peers. This act makes the parents realize the importance of educating the children at any cost.*

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## Challenges of Microclasses

- Teachers of AVS faced hardships at various villages due to resistance from nearby Government school teachers.
- Parents of other school students willingly send their wards to AVS microclasses on witnessing the engagement of teacher student activities. This pushed the Govt school machineries to act on their own.
- After the success of Microclasses, other school started to adopt to similar approach in teaching the students the way AVS does.
- We are delighted to witness the chain reaction caused by us in educating the children.

# Library - The heritage continues

Teachers carry Library books with themselves to Microclasses and students utilize them for 15 days and return it for the next book. The tradition of book reading is kept alive by the Teachers at every possible instances.



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## Parents lending a hand

Parents support for microclasses were phenomenal and they were pivotal in the successful conduct of classes with ease.

### Anbu's kind gesture

Anbu, a parent of AVS student from *Selvapuram*, is a mason by profession. He constructed make shift classroom in no time with available materials for Microclasses. Walls of home were painted black and used as board for students.



# 02

## Wealth out of Waste

*Keerthana* studies 4th Standard at AVS. Her Mother is a tailor by passion. She volunteered to stitch school bags made from used cloth and garments. She herself made nearly 200 bags for the students.

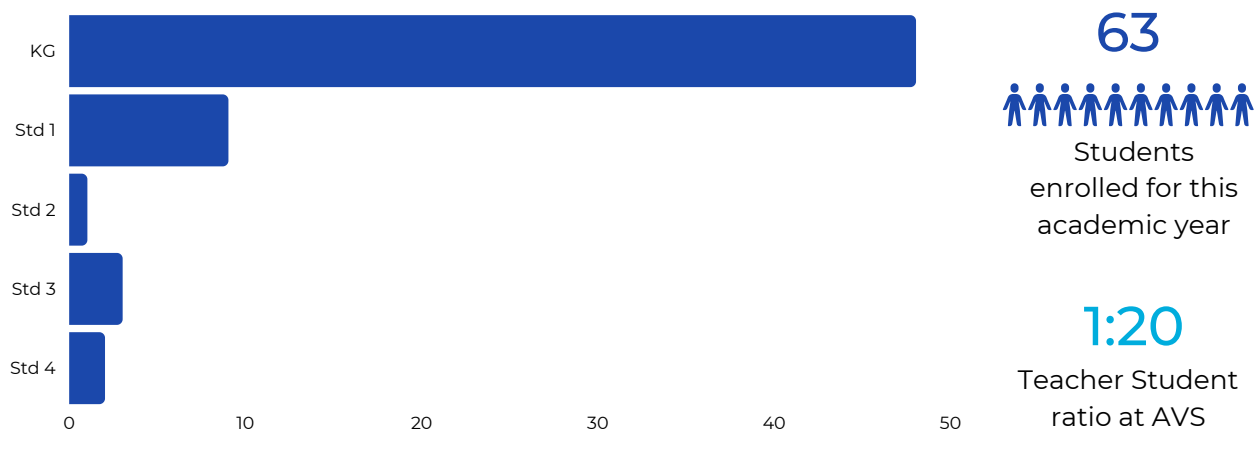
### A key to inclusivity

A parent of Govt school student who was a beneficiary of Microclasses generously provided their home space while they were away from the town for a week. Teachers of AVS recognized the heartfelt support by the parents and this act proves the reach of Microclasses amongst the communities.





# Student Enrolment for the year



## Learning kit

- From July 2020, students were given a Education materials which includes a school bag with stationaries, notebooks, *Thirukkural* book, tables and worksheets for activities.
- The aim of providing education materials is to reduce the dependence of digital devices for learning and avoid mobile phone addiction among children.
- Worksheets were provided on a weekly basis for the students to practice and learn through fun filled puzzles and games.
- 144 Students from AVS and 310 Students from other Schools were the beneficiaries of this program.



# Covid relief works

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AVS was active in the field for battling Covid-19 virus ever since the outbreak. We predicted the impact on Covid-19 by Feb'2020 and Teachers were well prepared on handling the crisis from day one. Teacher's of AVS were the emotional support system for the students and parents. Teachers contacted all parents and students periodically. Students were given offline activities and parents were trained to teach the children at home.

## → 01 Dry ration for 200 families

Families of AVS students and other families around the school were provided dry rations(rice, oil, dal, spices) for a month to support them during the lockdown.

## → 02 Covid Testing Kiosk

School van of AVS was converted to a mobile testing kiosk. This mode of testing eliminated the travel necessity of people and thereby curtailed the transmission of virus instantly. School Manager Mr.Giridharan converted the van in to a testing kiosk in no time when the request was prayed from Municipal department in July 2020. The kiosk is still in service and will be ready for service in the future without any delay.





# Police Personnel Recruitment Board

## Model exam

### Background

Young people of Javvadhuhills were involved in illegal smuggling of Red sander logs from the nearby states and often get tangled in unlawful activities. Lack of awareness and job opportunities led them to lead a life filled with crime.

### Request from Superintendent of Police(SP)

Tiruvannamalai SP Mr. Aravindh suggested to train the young people from the hills to join police force and this will keep them motivated and bring a social change among their tribe.

### AVS in Picture

AVS started to support this move by conducting mock exams for the candidates of the hills. Exams were conducted in real exam conditions and monitored by AVS at Vandavasi, Javvadhuhills and AVS school campus.

*227 Students were trained in all 3 centers out of which 28 students successfully passed Preliminary written exam*

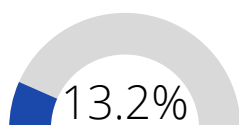
### AVS Support

- Study materials and exam coding papers were provided free for all candidates.
- Transport facility to AVS school from nearby places.



# Financials

Receipts	2020-21	2019-20
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>15,70,865</b>	<b>10,71,229</b>
<b>Corpus</b>	<b>68,75,000</b>	<b>68,75,000</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>28,94,415</b>	<b>54,04,764</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>4,60,743</b>	<b>5,62,304</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,18,05,023</b>	<b>1,39,13,297</b>



Administrative expenses as a  
% of Total expenses

Payments	2020-21	2019-20
<b>School Expenses</b>	<b>25,66,005</b>	<b>35,34,959</b>
<b>Educational Sponsorship</b>	<b>35,245</b>	<b>65,175</b>
<b>Covid-19 relief works</b>	<b>2,02,033</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Police Personnel Model exam</b>	<b>63,711</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	<b>4,98,555</b>	<b>5,39,081</b>
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>85,031</b>	<b>2,13,308</b>
<b>Fixed Assests</b>	<b>1,18,973</b>	<b>11,04,909</b>
<b>Corpus</b>	<b>68,75,000</b>	<b>68,75,000</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>6,55,740</b>	<b>15,70,865</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,18,05,023</b>	<b>1,39,13,297</b>





# CONTACT US

*We thank you for your continued support  
in our efforts to provide education for all*

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ARUNACHALA VILLAGE SCHOOL TRUST  
#371/1, Vedyappanur Village  
Adi Annamalai PO Tiruvannamalai  
606 604 - Tamil Nadu, India

Phone: +91-87782-25254  
e-mail: [president@arunachalaschool.org](mailto:president@arunachalaschool.org)  
website: [www.arunachalaschool.org](http://www.arunachalaschool.org)