



Payir Annual Report | 2013 - 14



payir.org

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Warm greetings from the Payir family!

This year has been a revelation of many a kind to us - A year in which the entire family put in more efforts than ever before, through days and nights of toil, connecting with children throughout Perambalur District, learning some of the deepest lessons in community work.

Highlights

- Monitoring and evaluation of supplementary nutrition scheme involving 23,000 children.
- Anaemia screening, door-to-door campaigns and street plays for sanitation and community healthcare awareness.
- Special coaching for 1402 students who needed additional help
- New lab in Payir community health centre
- New playground in Payir premises
- Bag making unit gearing up to establish Thoorigai, a separate business entity
- Registration of Payir Nursery & Primary School
- Student motivation and career guidance programs for students in 10th and 12th standards.
- IT training for government school teachers
- 1950 children participated in *Magudam 2013*, the annual celebration of children
- ECO-SAN public toilet complex

Being a helping hand to many more children now

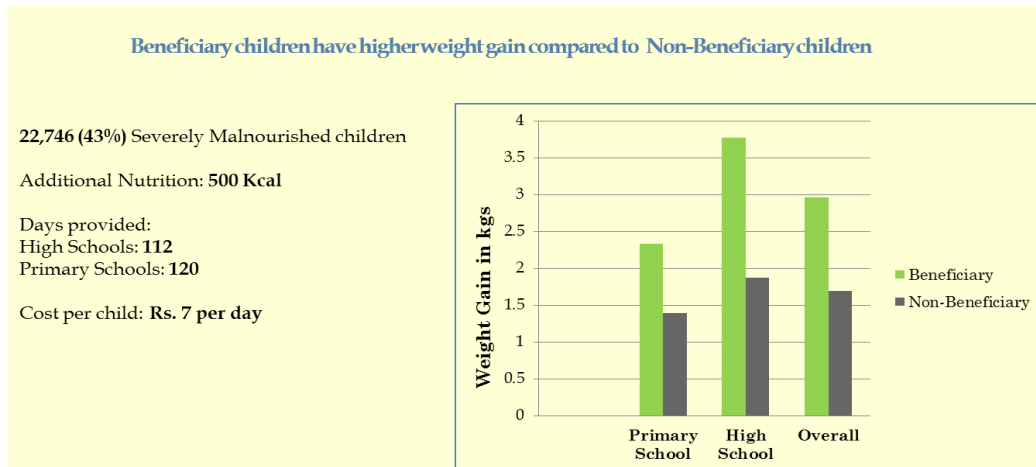
When the Chief Guest of our annual Cultural celebrations, *Magudam 2012*, District Collector Dr. Darez Ahamed, pointed out that he could see a marked difference in the children in this area, we mentioned our Supplementary Nutrition program for Malnourished children and the special coaching for children who are subject level slow learners. He expressed his wish to see all the Government school going children in Perambalur District more nourished and knowledgeable.

That October 2012, we undertook a pilot study of about 5000 children in all four blocks. The results were startling - About 48% of the school going children (ages 6 to 14), fell under three percentile (severe thinness) of the WHO Growth chart and another 9% between 3 and 5 percentile. A lot of convincing was necessary, up to the Secretary level, to accept these as very real scenarios and a survey of all the students revealed that we needed to feed about 23,000 children to help them grow to a healthier state. The District Collector passionately pushed through and the Government sanctioned a special scheme, as a pilot implementation in Perambalur. The DC assigned Payir to take charge of the implementation (along with all the pitfalls of Government system), monitoring and evaluation.

Our foremost task was to train the Noon Meal Organizers (NMO) and Village Auxiliaries (VPRC) who would be the last mile agents of this change. Payir trained 600 of them over the month of May. We received enormous support from the Personal Assistant to Collector - an upright officer, Rover's College, Sister Clare, Manimaran anna, Sujatha akka, Bala aunty, Santhanamary amma, Lucy Xavier, Dr. Lalitha, Ko. Sither and college students from Bishop Heber, Lady Doaks and Roovers. Despite being the first of its kind training for some of the NMOs and VPRCs, almost all of them felt rejuvenated and motivated to make a meaningful change in the lives of the children.

While we had little choice on the provider of this supplement, which was through a government tender process, Payir team took it upon themselves, against many odds, to ensure the quality, delivery and intake of the nutrient supplement twice daily to around 23,000 children in 402 schools. In addition, the team was involved again in the measurements of height and weight of the entire set of 52,000 children in the month of February—March. Our IT team created a working MIS in a short time.

Along with these efforts, we conducted awareness sessions with children as well as parents. Nearly 60 of us put our heart and soul into this, while taking care of the rest of our responsibilities too!



Towards inclusive and joyous learning

With the help of 53 teachers, we extended our model of coaching for slow learners to 16 other high schools all over the District, covering 1402 subject slow learner children. Payir's role was primarily coordinating and monitoring the effort. While we would have loved to continue further, we were constrained by funds and from this year, we have further limited our exposure, to the three high schools and five primary schools nearby. Here, our teachers have gone a little further to stay overnight with 10th Standard children during exam days and ensuring the children have evening supplements too. Overall, we have a pass percentage of above 90% in 10th Standard, more than 20% children scoring above 400 marks and the highest of them with 473 marks! Kannan, the son of our own farm staff Sekar, scored 1124 in 12th, an achievement that makes us very proud.

Children coming to Payir for their evening and weekend getaways (in picture) have more to cheer. They roar with joy in the new playground, established thanks to Asha for Education, UFlorida and Prabhu anna, who donated the entire play set. During the summer, about 40 children had more fun with a trip to Thanjavur and Yercaurd. We had to go for recognition of our Non-formal school as per RTE act. Jaykumar, our IT team member, took the arduous task upon himself to get the school recognized under the State syllabus, with assistance from Patchaimuthu, and Karthika from our school team. After one long year of going back and forth to different authorities, the file has reached the Chief Education Officer of the District. Even though this has been a painstakingly unfair exercise, our team members have refused to give into corruption. The kids of the freshly renamed school, Payir Nursery & Primary school, have, this year too, won trophies in Karate Championship held in Trichy. Ms. Salai Selvam from Madurai guided our teachers through her monthly visits and was instrumental in bringing about a mind-set change on child upbringing among the parents of our school.



Bringing focussed changes in health care

The year started with a brainstorming session with the Health workers on their role as community change makers. The health team came up with a clear plan and individual goals. Apart from doing their regular home visits to take care of antenatal and postnatal mothers, chronic and elderly patients, and monitoring immunization, the focus has shifted towards schoolchildren and adolescent girls education/intervention, bringing about change in food habits, mental health, community awareness and upkeep on neighbourhood sanitation, drive against alcoholism and self-development on community health issues. As part



of the sanitation program, street plays and door-to-door campaigns, formation of women's group were taken up in the surrounding five villages. The team conducted 60 Health Education classes in the nearby schools. Screening for anaemia was done for all girls/women between 15—30 years. The figure was shocking - about 80% were below 9 HB level. A control study with different type of Iron supplements—Iron Tablet, Homeopathic, Ayurvedic and Siddha supplements is underway to determine the efficacy and for later charting out an intervention program. The team has also helped in identifying and providing people with specific aids like walking sticks and artificial limbs and, through our referral network, helped 25 persons to undergo cataract surgery.

Bringing cost-effective lab investigation

One of our long overdue projects of having a full-fledged lab in Payir Community health centre is now functional. A special note of Thanks goes to Sashank Srinivasan—a lad from Delhi with a Bio-Med degree, who came to Payir as volunteer for a month, fell in love with us (and it was mutual) and stayed for nine months. He was not only instrumental in setting up the lab, the protocols and procedures, but nudged all our health workers to learn and become quite adept in doing most of the lab tests with accuracy by themselves. We have made arrangements so that our lab goes through CMC Vellore External Quality Assurance Scheme.

Building entrepreneurship

Bag Making Unit

Our cloth bags, pouches, purses are now trendier and showcase a variety of models catering to every age group. There are six full time and two part-time bag makers. They underwent a weeklong training at Krishnagiri that opened them to view bag making as a viable business. For now, they are selling their products through exhibitions, in college campuses and apartment sales. They have completed some bulk orders for conferences and wedding functions. The team has taken it upon themselves to spin this as a separate business entity called Thoorigai.



Nutritious food products

What started as a unit for catering to our malnourished children is now a two-member unit that not only provides nutritious malt flour and laddus for our children but also produces more for the local village and for sales through friends in cities. In the coming year, they plan to expand to a few other food products that will help our health team take forward their program to change people's food choices.

ITES

They have become the backbone of all our other activities, be it school recognition, conducting competitions and trainings, creating awareness campaigns and lab application for health team, creating back end support for the other Income generation works. The team has on their own successfully created sales with a publishing company in Trichy for book publishing, with the Block Development Office for MNREGA, ration card, Patta data entry works. The development team has been working on maintenance of couple of projects that they co-developed. While the business turnover has been low, they have put their skills in training 300 Government schoolteachers on basic computers and digitizing Old Age Pension (OAP) and Pongal free scheme beneficiaries. The latter has helped in escalating issues and curbing leakages in OAP, and provided a redress mechanism.

Ms Ishwari, a doctoral fellow in health GIS, has come forward to mentor the team and this has already created a huge impact with a structured approach to learning programming skills.

Farm & Livestock

We are reeling under severe drought. We have just enough water for day-to-day use and for the cattle. As a result, not only were we able to do very little farming, but half of our coconut trees have died.

The most satisfying aspect has been that the team has taken a number of social entrepreneurship roles. While the Supplementary Nutrition program propelled the team to seamlessly scale up to an entire district, the initiatives with people issues like OAP, MNREGA worker rights, cleaning a Primary Health Center because there was a good doctor were really changes we are proud of.

With our partners we fly high

Magudam 2013

One of the leading events in our calendar is the Celebration of our Children—*Magudam*. Dream India 2020, always a hand for us to hold onto, initiated this event a couple of years before. This year, we added Sports to the Cultural program. 1950 children from 14 government schools took part in various events and it was indeed a celebration we had with the children. The Sports finale conducted in the District Sports Stadium was the icing on the cake. It was the first time ever for the children to enter a swimming pool and what a swim fest we had! It still brings goose bumps to all of us.



BUILD India, a student led initiative of TUFTS, Boston, USA

The BUILD India team was the reason behind the visit of the Vice-Chairman (VC) of State Planning Commission to Thottiapatti village. The ECO-SAN public toilet complex, first of its kind in a village of India, was envisioned and spearheaded by the BUILD India and inaugurated by the VC and the District Collector. On average, about 30 persons use the toilet every day in a village with only a handful of individual toilets. The BUILD team is currently on a plan to create a business entrepreneur initiative for the Thottiapatti community. They are also supporting and monitoring the evening coaching classes in the village. As part of the initiative to empower the village youth group of taking ownership of the programs initiated by BUILD team, Manimaran Anna and his team gave a powerful and inspiring training on being change makers.



Project Velicham

Venkat, the founder of Project Velicham joined hands with us to give handy solar lights to about 120 lights to our children in Thenur, Thottiapatti, Nathakadu and M.R.Palayam village to help them to be able to study during the rolling power cuts.

Trichy Round Table

One of our first school intervention programs was started in Nathakadu Primary school in 2008. The school was in a dilapidated condition. So, when Trichy Round Table approached us to suggest a school for them to take up for a new building as part of their 'Freedom Through Education' program, we had no second thoughts. With their funds, we approached the District Collector for building a model school with 4 class-rooms under the Self-Sufficiency scheme, where in the Government matches the fund. Through this effort, we were able to highlight how a school within the Government type design can be built such that the children would love to come to school. A large part of this love must be attributed to the beautiful paintings by Mr. Adhiveera Pandian's art team. Even though the whole exercise of working with the Government to release funds (still pending) has caused enormous aversion towards the system, everything disappears when we adore the paintings with the children.



GIS Survey

Our friend Palani, now an Assistant Professor at IIT, initiated a student-led effort to create a Farm to Consumer model using GIS mapping. As part of it, three students from Anna University and NIT along with Aarayee & Santhanamathi did GIS mapping of a few farms in Varadarajapuram village. It was a wonderful learning experience for the women in our team who learnt how to mark boundaries precisely and they did a great mapping.

In partnership with District Administration

Career Guidance & Student Motivation program

Mr. Chellamuthu & his family, of Thenur village, have been our local champion and patron. They have a special interest in the development of Thenur schoolchildren. For the past two years, we have been organizing under their aegis a student motivation program for the students from Thenur and Nathakadu schools appearing for the 10th exam. This year, along with the District Administration and patronage of Mr. Chellamuthu, we conducted a career guidance program for around 400 12th standard children from all over the district. Mr. Bala and Mr. Suresh, eminent student motivators, conducted the sessions. We received help from MSW students from Madurai Institute of Social Work and LDC.



DHDR & SBGF

Payir has been identified as the resource person for the preparation of District Human Development Report and perspective plan for the three blocks under State Balanced Growth Fund. So far, the State Planning Commission has approved six of the proposals that worked with the District Administration.

Perambalur Book Fair

We were one of the partners of the District Administration in conducting the Perambalur Book Fair. This year, we helped organize a Cultural evening conducted by Mr. Manimaran & Mrs. Mahizhini and their team in the Perambalur High Secondary school and at the Fair. The theme of the event was to induce continuous learning and reading among children and espousing social equality.

Thanks to our Donors, Colleges & Student volunteers

One of Payir's missions is to be an inspiration for students, to provide a space for them to experiment with their social ideas and at the same time contribute to our rural empowerment programs. In the past year, a majority of student interns were from colleges in Trichy (Bishop Heber, Holy Cross, Chidambaram Women's), Madurai (MISS, LDC) and Perambalur (Roever).

The entire Payir team thanks all our donors for collaborating and walking with us along this journey.

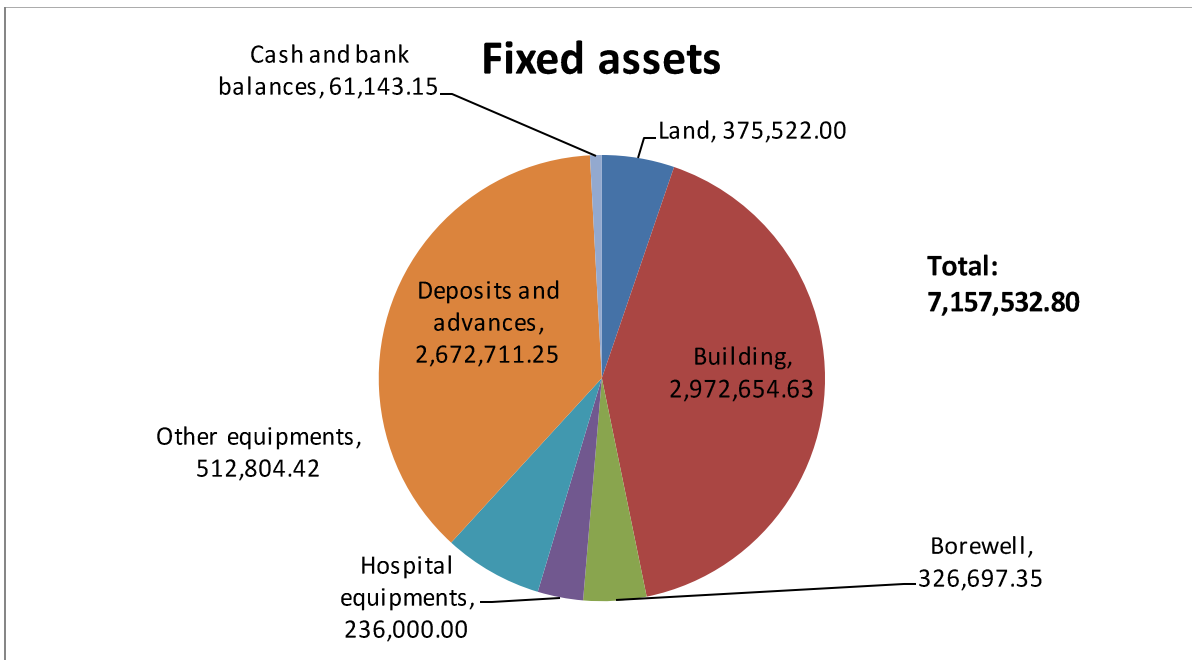
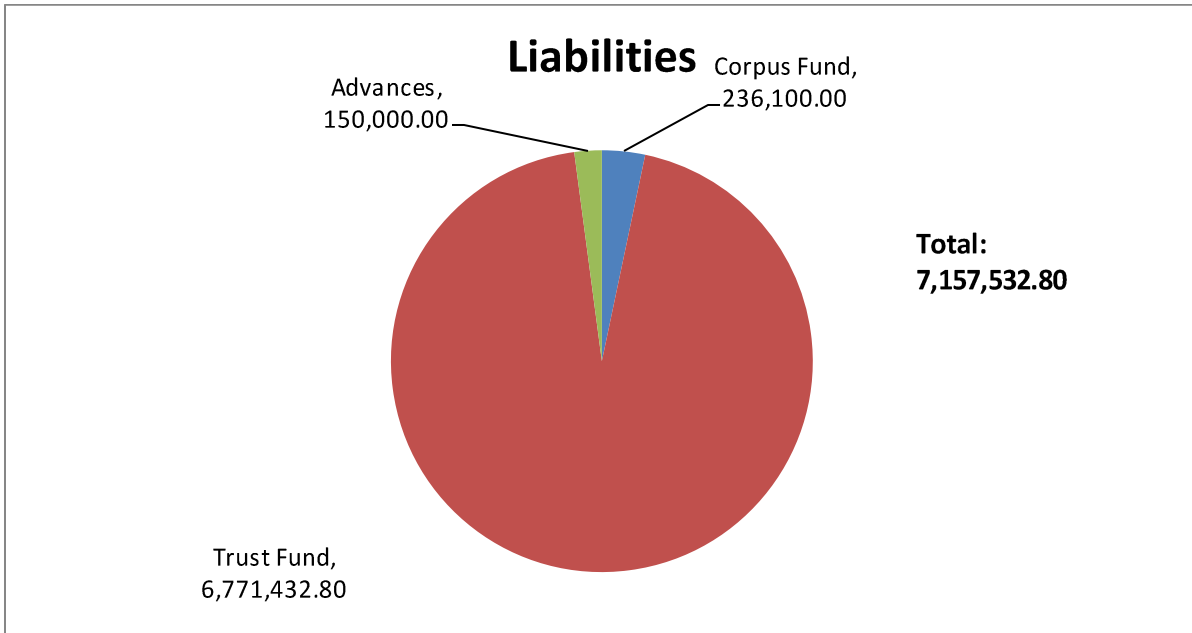
Finances

Consolidated receipts and payments for the period 01 – 04 – 2013 to 31 – 03 – 2014 are shown below. For a more detailed report, please visit payir.org.

Receipts	Amount (in Rupees)
To opening balance	187,192.18
Deposits and advances	3,181,396.99
Revenue income	
➤ Income from Payir IG activities and other sources	944,296.62
➤ Voluntary contribution	2,500,573.31
Total	6,813,459.10

Payment	Amount (in Rupees)
Capital expenditure	
➤ Building	217,671.00
➤ Borewell	197,522.00
➤ Other equipment	19,700.00
Revenue expenditure	3,644,711.00
Closing balance	
➤ Cash and bank balances	61,143.15
➤ Deposits and advances	2,672,711.25
Total	6,813,459.10

Assets and Liabilities



Donate

Payir operates mainly on donations received from friends and well-wishers like you. Any amount you contribute will help Payir make a difference in the lives of many rural people. You can also donate to our corpus fund (only the accrued interest of the corpus fund is used, without touching the principal itself) or donate a minimum of Rs. 1000 monthly for a fixed number of months.

This year, we need Rs. 15 Lakhs for building & equipment for our Skill Building & Income Generation programs and Rs. 5 Lakhs for training to learn more about donating to Payir, please visit our website payir.org

Contributions made to Payir Trust are 50% tax-exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. If you file taxes in India, an excellent alternative to make your tax rupees work for the society!

For those outside India, Payir Trust has Foreign Contributions Regulation Act clearance to receive foreign donation. Donations can be made in Indian rupees or any foreign currency

Payir Bank Account Details

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch: Srirangam

Account Name: PAYIR TRUST

Account Number for Indians/Non-Resident Indians: 10465350452

Account Number for Foreign Nationals: 30750793126

The Bank accepts funds transferred through electronic channels

IFSC Code: SBIN0001983

Wish list

We understand that you may not be able to support us financially. We have published a wish list of items we need on our website. If you would like to purchase any of the items for us or give us your slightly used items, we would be grateful to accept them. The following are some of the items on our wish list

- Cots for patients (2)
- Laptops (4)
- Two-wheeler
- Projector
- Printer and scanner
- Autoclave
- Steel cupboards (2)
- Camera

Trustees

M. Meenakshisunderam – Treasurer
Senthilkumar Gopalan - Managing Trustee
Dr. K. Sridhar
Dr. R. Lalitha
Rama Sastry
R. Sathish

Registration Details

Trust: 112/2005
Income Tax:
Under 12 AA: 81/2005-2006
Under 80G: C.No.6162E(28)/2005-06/CITI/TRY

Office

Thenur village
T. Kalathur via
Kunnam Taluk
Perambalur District
Tamil Nadu 621 114
India

Phone: +91 4327 234 644

E-mail: info@payir.org

Bankers

State Bank of India, Srirangam
Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Thuraiyur

Auditor

AR. Karuppan Chetty
Chartered Accountant
Tiruchirapalli