



2022

Visions India Annual Report

WWW.VISIONSINDIA.ORG

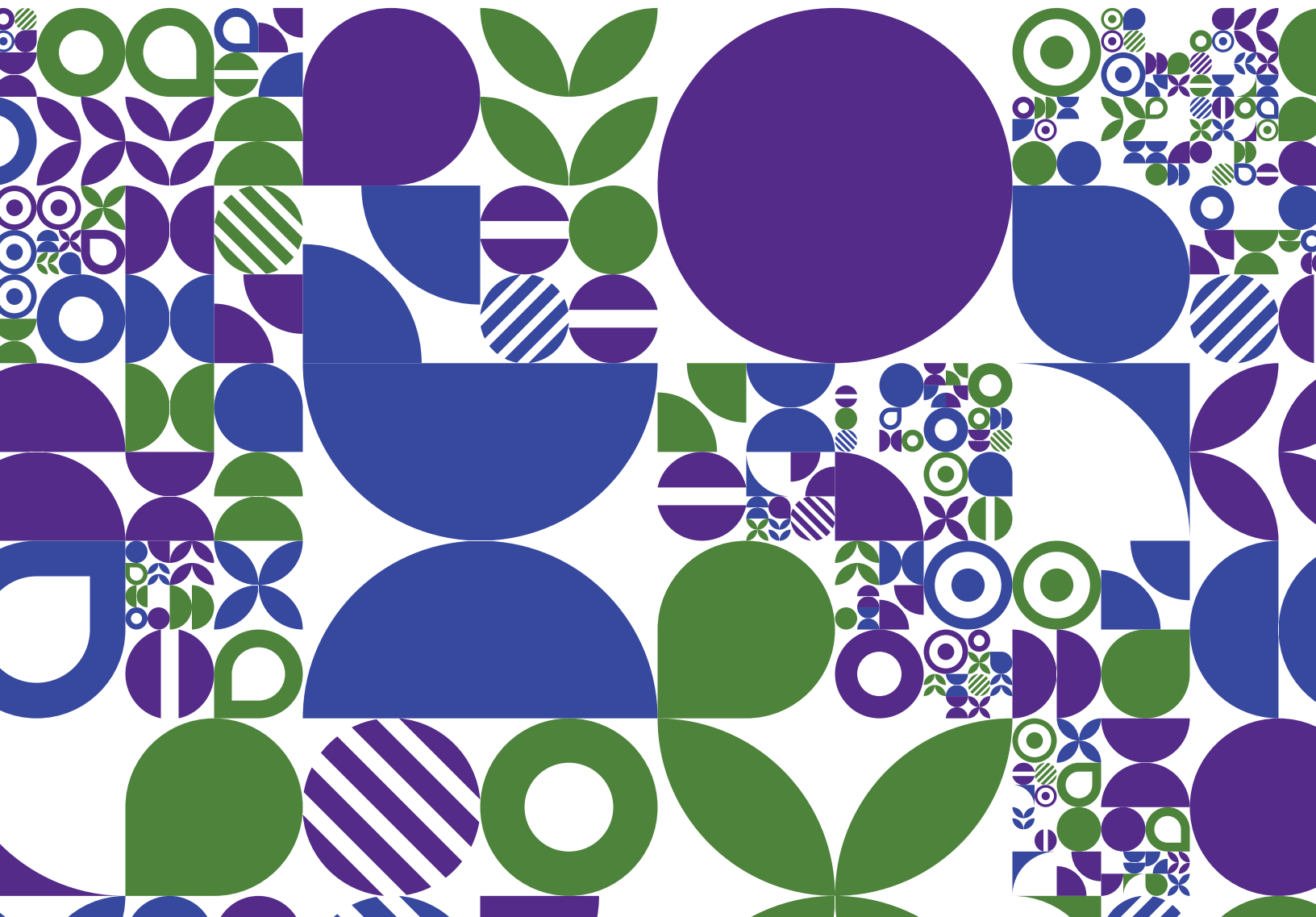


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About Us

Visions Global Empowerment - India ("Visions India") is an independent nonprofit organization incorporated under the Trust Act of India (Registration # 65/16) and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA # 076040441). Inspired by the ongoing educational development work of Visions Global Empowerment (USA), which has been active in India since 2008, Visions India seeks to continue the tradition of implementing meaningful education and community development projects in India for under-served populations.

OUR MISSION

To enable social change through education, technology, leadership and health for youth and communities affected by poverty, disability, and other hardship; and to promote thoughtful and sustainable community development that promotes the wellbeing of all persons and leads to a thriving and robust civil society.



Our Team



Shylet Moni
Executive Director



A.S Beena
Deputy Director



Ambily Mohan
Programs Manager



K. Anbarasi
Finance Manager



Alex Paul
Project Officer
(Kalvarayan Hills)



B. Kayalvizhi
Community Mobilizer
(Kalvarayan Hills)

COMMUNITY EDUCATORS



Our team of 17 Community Educators in 2022: Ms. M. Aathiya, Ms. K. Anbarasi, Ms. B. Sarmila, Mr. Anbu Joe, Ms. E. Anitha, Ms. G. Azhagusundar, Ms. E. Bakiyarani, Mr. V. Dhinakaran, Mr. M. Gopi, Ms. R. Lalitha, Ms. V. Kalaiselvi, Ms. M. Sudha, Ms. M. Sudha, Ms. S. Kamatchi, Ms. S. Pratheepa, Ms. M. Kavitha, Ms. B. Vimala Ananthi

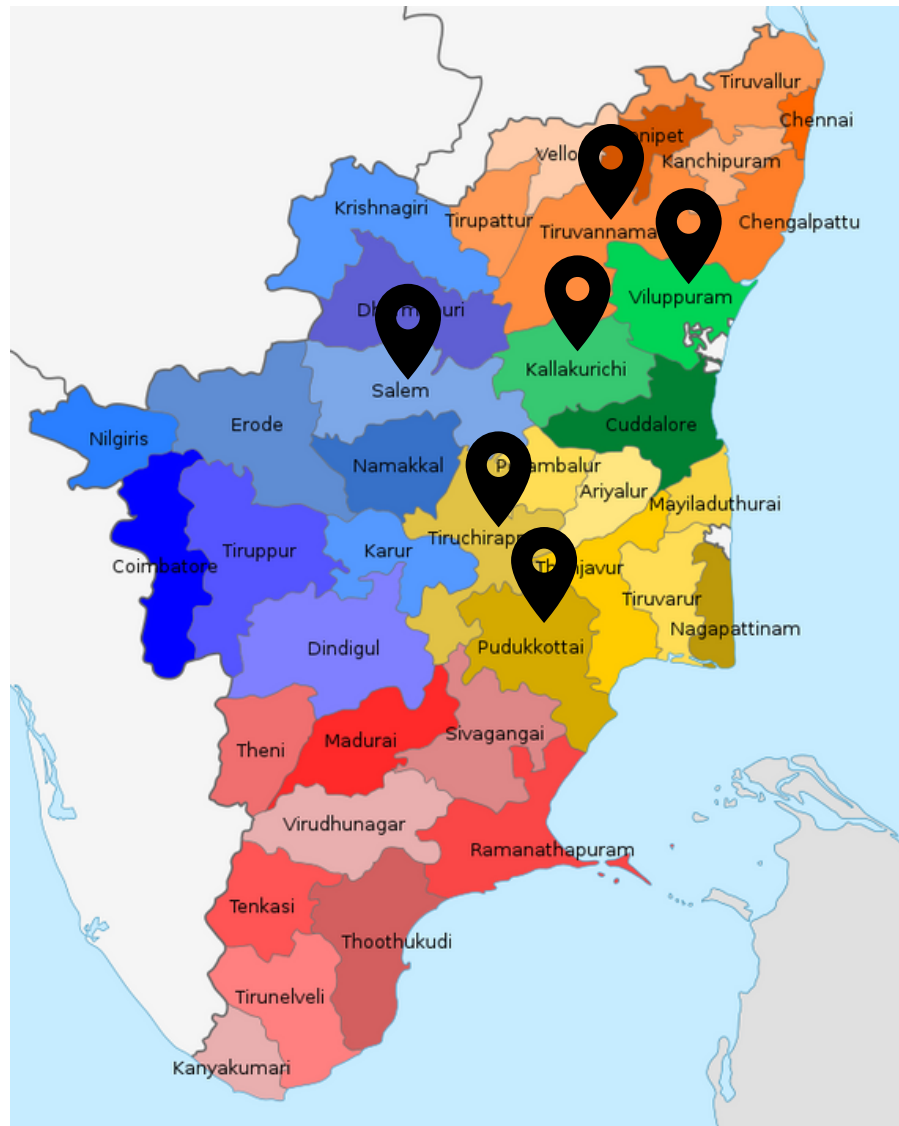
Where We Work

While Visions India is not bound by any geographic limitations within India, the organization is focused primarily on serving communities in need throughout the state of Tamil Nadu.

Across Tamil Nadu, we support efforts in the following districts:

- Tiruvannamalai
- Villupuram
- Kallakurichi
- Salem
- Tiruchirapalli
- Pudukkottai

We also support scholarship students who attend universities & colleges throughout Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, and Karnataka.



Learning & Empowerment Program

The Visions Learning and Empowerment Program (also referred to as our "after-school program") is a multi-dimensional program that provides vital after-school support intended to foster the overall development of children and youth aged between 6 to 18.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

-  **01.** After-School Study Support
-  **02.** Celebration of National & International Days
-  **03.** Leadership Trainings
-  **04.** General Knowledge
-  **05.** Book Reading
-  **06.** Parents' Meetings
-  **07.** Educational Tour Savings
-  **08.** Special Events



KEY PROGRAM OUTCOMES

17

After-school centres

695

Youth benefited
from 3 districts
across Tamil Nadu

95%

Of youth come from
socially discriminated
communities (i.e.
Dalits and Tribals)



01. After School Study Support

Visions after-school study centres are a boon to hundreds of youth who are deprived of quality education and leadership opportunities. Visions currently runs 17 after-school study centres reaching out to a total of 695 youngsters in three districts of Tamil Nadu, namely Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvannamalai and Kalakuruchi. These 17 centres mostly (95%) cater to the youth who come from socially discriminated communities (i.e. Dalits and Tribals).

Next month, we will add another 5 after-school centers in mostly tribal communities of the Kalrayan Hills serving an additional 200 children.

- 695 youngsters have a decent space to do their homework and study lessons for 3 hours 6 days a week.
- 695 children complete their homework in teams and, if needed, with the support of their Community Educator.



02. Celebration of Important National & International Days

The celebration of important national and international holidays are celebrated in all the after-school study centers. This practice motivates the youngsters to understand important dates, historical events, and the leadership traits of great leaders.

- In 2022, Visions celebrated 12 national and international days, including:
 - Harvest Festival, Republic Day, National Science Day, International Women’s Day, World Water Day, Dr Ambedkar Jayanthi, National Yoga Day, Education Day, Independence Day, Teachers Day, Gandhi Jayanthi (Birth day of Mahatma Gandhi) and Children’s Day.
- On average, 300+ youth actively participated in each of the celebrations.
- The Community Educators organized poster preparations, sports and talent competitions, reaching out to vulnerable people in their communities, etc.





03. Leadership Trainings

The Leadership Program has had and continues to have a major impact on our youngsters...

1.5

Hours of leadership training a week per student

250+

Youth on average participate in each leadership training

235

Tree saplings planted and cared for in 2022

- Youth undergo weekly leadership trainings for 1.5 hours every week on various topics and skills
- On average, 250+ youth regularly participate in each leadership training.
- In 2022, we covered 9 leadership topics, including:
 - Self Esteem, Self-Awareness, Managing and Understanding Emotions, Communication Skills, Interpersonal Relationship, Resilience, Goal-Setting, Gender Equality, and Time Management.
- Visions senior staff train the 'Community Educators' in the leadership topics who then relay the information to students. We rely heavily on the leadership curriculum prepared by Visions USA.
- Youth are motivated to save from the money they get for chocolates to reach out to the poor, elderly, sick and homeless in their communities as service projects.
- Youngsters have helped their colleagues (55 youngsters) in need with the provision of notebooks and pens.
- Youth keep their streets, villages, and public places clean and plastic-free.
- In 2022, our youth planted 235 tree saplings in public places and continue to provide care to them.



04. General Knowledge

The youth who attend our after-school centers do not get the opportunity to learn General Knowledge ("GK") in their schools, which is a critical way students are able to absorb new academic content. Visions after-school study centres provide them with this opportunity to learn 5 GK questions and answers every day. Every weekend there is a test, and the best performers are given an award.

- In 2022, more than 1,250 GK questions and answers were shared with our youngsters.
- On average, 275 students wrote GK tests every week.



05. Book Reading

- Each of our after-school study centers has a library of 100 books on average, in both Tamil and English. Books are periodically rotated amongst the centers.
- On average, each child read 13 books in 2022.
- This initiative promotes literacy, as well as reading and learning of new English and Tamil words.



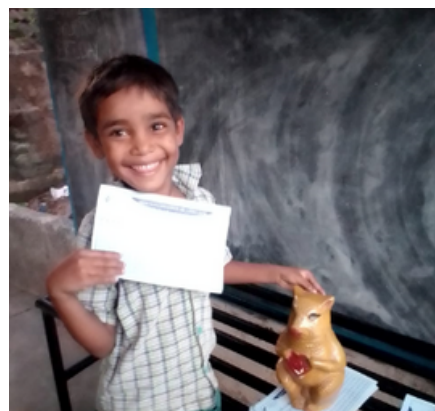
06. Parents' Meetings

All the centres conduct parents' meetings once every three months, primarily to share with the parents how well their children are faring in their studies and in extracurricular activities, and also to orient them in parenting and child care. It is also an opportunity to encourage parents to keep their children in school and to attend regularly. Many of our student graduates have moved on to university with the help of Visions, so parents are aware of the possibilities and importance of continuing education.



07. Educational Tour Savings

To encourage saving habits amongst the youth, we introduced a scheme called "save a rupee a day". Each youngster has a card with 500 numbers, and with the payment of one rupee, one number is marked off. Upon completion of the savings, the Community Educators organize and take youth on an educational tour. It motivates the youth and parents alike. More educational tours are to be organized in 2023.





08. Special Events

Special Events 1:

Now and then, each after-school study center organizes special days like 'kootanjoru' - meaning 'cooking and eating together'. Youngsters bring food materials from their homes, travel to a forest area or tourist place, and cook together along with playing games, singing songs, and doing dances. Every center organizes two events per year. It brings youth together and creates stronger bonds.

Special Events 2:

This past year, we organized a visit to the Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre (TNSTC) by our young leaders. Earlier, we organized science exhibitions in our centers by dividing the youngsters into teams of five. The best team was taken to the TNSTC in Chennai. It was a great eye-opener to many of them. They began to understand what science and technology can do for human development and for society.



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES BY OUR YOUNGSTERS

Master P. Raman (Grade 10) & Miss S. Anushiya Mary (Grade 8) from Olaiyur, were both bestowed singing awards during District level contests and were honored by the Tamil Nadu Education Minister, the respected Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, on December 24th, 2022. They have now been chosen to compete at the State level competition.



ABOVE

Miss S. Anushiya Mary being honored by the Tamil Nadu Education Minister.



ABOVE

Master P. Raman being honored by the Tamil Nadu Education Minister.

Youth Talents Meet

The 6th Annual Visions Youth Talents Meet - 2022 was conducted on 28th December 2022 at DM Town Primary School, Tiruvannamalai. The purpose of this event is to recognize the talents of the young people amongst the Visions Learning and Empowerment Centres and to help enable them to make meaningful contributions to their communities. The theme of this year's event was "Read to Make History".

Over 450 youth participated in this exciting event. Different competitions were held during the day. In the evening, a stage program was organized to orient the participants in the importance of reading and to showcase students' talents. At the end of the day, all the youth received a certificate and a gift to carry home.



University Scholars Program

Bridging the gap between school and either higher education or the working world is a concern of youth worldwide. At the end of 2015, a new initiative - the Visions University Scholars Program was launched with the aim of providing a more holistic set of support services to high-achieving youth who find themselves at this critical juncture.

Beneficiaries of the University Scholars Program benefit from:

- counseling / mentorship
- exam prep & registration
- access to information about higher education & technical opportunities, requirements, etc.
- support with drafting applications, CVs, scholarship applications, and essays
- interview training
- intensive spoken English training
- leadership & life skills development training
- field trips to prospective universities, programs, etc.
- parents counseling & planning support
- regular communication with Visions-supported local staff in order to track and document progress & overall development
- whenever possible, provide financial assistance or interest-free loans to qualified students

KEY PROGRAM OUTCOMES

69

Scholars currently enrolled and are attending universities throughout South India

- Currently we are supporting 69 youth attending various universities across Tamil Nadu.
- We have already had 39 students successfully complete their programs and graduate, most of whom are now currently employed.

17

Youth from Visions after-school study centers were selected and supported in 2022

39

Students have graduated (with most being currently employed)

113

Youths supported since the inception of this program



"I am M. Bhuvana Parameshwari. I completed my Master degree in Social Work at Holy Cross College, Trichy. Now I am working in an organization that works for transgender rights. If it were not for Visions financial support and guidance, I would not have completed my Masters.

A great thanks to Visions for making my future bright. Visions guided me not only for my education but also they guided me to develop my leadership, and basic computer skills."

Blue Brick School Pilot

Currently, there are 54 children enrolled in the Blue Brick School (www.BlueBrickSchool.org) pilot across 3 training centers, which aims to enhance the literacy skills of early learners.

This innovative pilot utilizes technology as a platform for teaching English literacy, offering engaging and impactful content for children. As a result, these students are developing crucial literacy skills and setting the foundation for success in their future studies. Parents of the students in the Blue Brick School pilot have also reported their satisfaction with the program.

Moreover, the program has expanded its offerings under the guidance and support of Visions USA. A dedicated team is now developing content to develop Tamil literacy skills as well, providing an even broader range of educational opportunities for the students, and crucially so in their mother tongue.



Health & Hygiene

In order to provide emotional support and promote awareness of adolescent girls' rights, health, and hygiene (specifically with regards to menstrual and reproductive health), Visions India initiated a new initiative in 2022 known as the Visions Adolescent Girls Associations.

This effort was launched in three villages and will soon be extended to all villages where Visions India operates its Learning & Empowerment Program after-school centers. These associations will convene twice a month and will focus on leadership development, women's rights, empowerment, and legislation aimed at protecting women. Additionally, each association will establish a "Women Empowerment Fund" to aid women financial in times of critical need.





KEY PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- October 9, 2022 the first adolescent girls association was started in Kolakkaravadi Village in collaboration with District Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Office and District Free Legal Aid Centre.
- September 23, 2022, Adolescent Girls Associations were inaugurated in the communities of Alaganathal and Kannapandal in collaboration with District Free Legal Aid Centre.
- 61 girls in total have participated in the Adolescent Girls Associations to-date.
- Our Visions India team opened a new office in the Kalrayan Hills and is undertaking a health and hygiene project there for communities that lack proper sanitation access with support from a foundation based in Chile.
- Our team also conducted a menstrual health & hygiene management project in partnership with a U.S. researcher and have plans to do a second study soon as well in partnership with UC Berkeley.



Testimonial

Meet Rajalakshmi



"I am Rajalakshmi. I did well in the final exams. After the final exams, the very college where I had studied was happy enough to recruit me as the Assistant Professor of English.

I am so thankful to my college, Don Bosco at Yelagiri Hills. The gross pay is 14,850 and the net pay is around 12,000 - 13,000. I also pay for accommodation and food.

I am who I am today because of the relentless support given to me by Visions. Thank you, Visions. Without Visions, I could not imagine being in this position."



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because of the
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imagine being in this
position.**

Testimonial

Meet Jhansi Rani

"My name is Jhansi Rani. My daughters Shalini and Nishalini are active participants of VLEC Alaganathal since 2019.

The Visions India programs have helped my children to become dynamic, to communicate well in English, and to be highly responsible. Their school teachers are full of appreciation for them.

They have said, "your daughters are responsible and take initiative." They excel in their academics, too. Without any doubt, I can say that these are the outcomes of the VLEC. Thank you, Visions India, for mentoring my daughters."



The Visions India program has helped my children to become dynamic, to communicate well in English, and to be highly responsible.



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