

**NGO:** *Vizhuthukal Trust, No. 633, Phase-II, Anayarkulam, Perumalpuram,  
Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu*

**Title of the project:**

*Educational Empowerment of Girl Children of Scavenging Community  
An oppressed community in Tirunelveli City Corporation, Tamilnadu, India*

**A Organization Background:**

Name of the organization	VIZHUTHUKAL TRUST
Address of the organization	633, Phase II, Anayarkulam Perumalpuram, Tirunelveli – 627 007 Tamilnadu, India.
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vizhuthukal1996@yahoo.com">vizhuthukal1996@yahoo.com</a>
Telephone	0462-2930 441
Mobile	(91) 94424 90236
Website	<a href="http://www.vizhuthukaltrust.org">www.vizhuthukaltrust.org</a>
Date of registration of the organization	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
Legal status of the organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Registered under Indian Trust Act. 1881 Registration No. 1251/05</li><li>2. Registered under FCRA (vide Registration No. 076030371</li><li>3. Registered under 12A of Income Tax Act (vide Registration .No. AABTV06060LE20216</li><li>4. Registered under 80G of Income Tax Act (vide Registration No. AABTV06066L F20214 PAN Registration No. AABTV0606L</li><li>5. DARPAN ID-TN/2017/0166820</li></ol>
Target area	Slums in Tirunelveli City Corporation
State	Tamil Nadu
District	Tirunelveli
Blocks	Tirunelveli Urban slums, Palayamkottai and Manur blocks of Tirunelveli district.
Number of members in the Board	4 members ( All are women)

Number of Staff	Full time : 5 Part time: 01 Volunteers: 39 (Staff and volunteers are women)
Bank details ( local funds)	For local contribution: Name of the Account: Vizhuthukal Trust Type of Account: Savings Bank Account number : 2397101027920 Name of the Bank : Canara Bank Name of branch: Perumalpuram IFSC Code: CNRB0002397.
FCRA ACCOUNT(Foreign contribution)	Name of the Account: Vizhuthukal Trust Type of Account: Savings Bank Account number : 40050690653 Name of the Bank : State Bank of India Name of branch: New Delhi, Main branch SWIFT code: SBININBB104
Chief functionary	N.P. Nancy Pushpam, Managing Trustee is an experienced Social Worker who has been leading the organization since 2005. She has undergone training in women empowerment, micro credit, income generation activities for women, entrepreneurship development, reproductive health, child labor system eradication, mainstreaming of children at work, skills training etc.

### 1. History of the organization

Vizhuthukal Trust, a non-profitable organization, has been functioning with a group of socially conscious young women who are themselves victims of discrimination, exploitation and poverty. Vizhuthukal Trust was established in 2005 “by women, for women and of women.” These women are socially committed volunteers who are individually has accomplished a lot of social service activities. Having realized the importance of collective efforts with a legal entity, they came forward jointly to promote Vizhuthukal Trust for the development of the deprived, dehumanized, exploited and downtrodden sections of women and children in Tirunelveli district Tamilnadu, India.

Since its inception in 2005, the organization through its various development programs has been concentrating on the socio-economic improvement of Dalit, the so-called untouchables, who live in rural and urban slums in Tirunelveli district of Tamilnadu.

## 2. **Vision, Mission**

**Vision:** To ensure a dignified, humanitarian life without any discrimination by establishing a just and fair society through empowerment of women and children.

**Mission:** To create awareness among deprived and coordinate them into mutually supporting cohesive groups, motivating towards equal human rights and channeling access to all available resources for maximizing their standard of living with adequate means and source of sustained livelihood and thus establishing a just and fair society without any discrimination on the spheres of caste, class, gender, creed, and economical source in existing life pattern.

### **Goal:**

Strive towards transforming the de-humanized and the exploited to experience a sustained dignified life.

## 3. **Current activities of the organization**

- ✓ Formation , strengthening of women groups, with small savings, internal lending and credit linkages with the banks
- ✓ Water and sanitation
- ✓ Income generation activities for women
- ✓ Skills training to young women and girls
- ✓ Campaign against child labor system and mainstreaming of former child laborers
- ✓ Health education and promotion
- ✓ Adolescent health promotion
- ✓ Strengthening of women leaders in the villages' Panchayat and ensuring gender sensitized good governances.

## **B. The Context:**

India is socially divided into castes on hierarchical basis. Caste identity is the symbol of social status, political power, and economic wealth. It has been in practice for more than 3000 years and the top of the hierarchical order lives the Brahmins and at the bottom the untouchables, called Scheduled Castes (SCs). Among the SCs, it is further compartmentalized and at the bottom of the SC (modern terminology is Dalits) stays the scavengers whom we call as **Arunthathiyars** in our place.

The **Arunthathiyars** are performing scavenging and other demeaning activities which are the lowest work one could do. Arunthathiar women and elders are treated with contempt even by the children of the oppressor castes. They face restrictions on social interactions. Dalit students are discriminated on caste grounds and forced to sit separately from other non-Dalit students.

Arunthathiyars continue to remain landless and hence powerless and forced to live a life of hands to mouth existence on the mercy of the rich and the affluent employers by performing impure activities. Most of the Arunthathiar women are doing either scavenging work in the corporation and in the private hospitals or work as domestic servants in the households and hotels. They are paid low and looked down by the mainstream society.

'Arunthathiyars', the most vulnerable and weaker section of the society, are still to be empowered socially and economically in all means. In order to reach the minimum level of well-being, Vizhuthukal Trust plans to provide educational support to the children of Scavenger's community.

Vizhuthukal Trust has been working with the 'Arunthathiyar' community for the past ten years and initiated Children's Collectives, Special Education Centers, women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rehabilitation of the aged people. However, we need external support to sustain and strengthen our all initiatives.

This project aims at involving women SHGs of Arunthathiar community in the implementation process. At present, we have 25 women SHGs with a membership of 425 women.

The major objective of this project is to make the girl children of the Arunthathiyar community aware of the importance of academic education by motivating them through Tuition centers and providing schooling materials (Uniforms, Bags and other stationeries).

We have plans to form Children's Collectives, Parents Associations and more women SHGs towards the long term goal of establishing a fair and just society. We have also plans to form Parents' Committees and educate them on the importance of education and contributions to sustain the activities of child-centered centers in future.

Forming and Strengthening Parents' Committees and Women SHGs would make the Tuition Centers more sustainable in the future. Inter and intra meetings will be held to discuss and implement the actions to improve the education status of children. Monthly subscription will be collected by the Parents' Committees from each members through which the Tuition Centers will be run effectively even after the withdrawal of Vizhuthukal Trust from the community.

**1. What is the project is seeking to achieve? Describe the problem that the project is seeking to solve.**

This project seeks to achieve socio-economic empowerment of girl children at the age of 6 to 7 through scientific educational programs among the Arunthathiyar community who are the Dalit among Dalit.

The concentration of Dalit communities is sizable in the Tirunelveli region and Pallars, Paraiyars and Arunthathiyar's settlements are invariably located in all villages. 13% of the population belongs to Dalit community in this District, of which 4.5% are Parayar caste and 2% are Arunthathiyars, and the remaining 6.5% belong to Pallar caste. It is to be noted here

with concern that Arunthathiyars constitute the lowest strata of the SCs and they are the most subjugated under the caste system.

Arunthathiyar women are typically the most disadvantaged – bearing most of the family burdens (children, water, health, nutrition, etc.), but totally dependent on their men-folk for money. They are 100% landless and live a life of collecting food (left out food) from the hotels and households where the women work. They have no other options to generate money on their own.

A definite economic pattern that has been designed, structured, sustained and justified, all through the ages in relation to livelihood of Dalit community, by Manu- the law giver of Hindu Social Order. That design of injustice and human shame is still guarded in the agrarian society in which land is the symbol of wealth and power.

Arunthathiyars continue to remain landless and hence powerless and forced to live a life of dependence. They are forced to borrow money from private moneylenders as they have little access to borrow from the mainstream financial institutions like banks.

They live in secluded habitats, mostly thatched or tiled houses at the outskirts of the town. The major issues in relation to financial position of Arunthathiyar, especially, the women is that there has been no security of job assurance, dwindling job openings, and hence the vicious cycle of poverty push them into the traps of debts and day to day humiliation and fear of money lenders.

In brief, Arunthathiyars are a minority among Dalits, doing scavenging and other menial jobs. They live in secluded pockets away from other Caste Hindu communities looking for alternatives to develop their economic and social status.

### **C. Project Description:**

#### **a. Purpose:**

The main purpose of this project is socio-economic development of under privileged girl children in the mainstream of the society by raising their dignity through education and to make the children of the Arunthathiyar community to understand the importance of the education by providing desirable environment (Tuition centers) and schooling materials (Uniforms, school bags and other stationeries).

#### **b. Objectives**

- To enroll all children, specifically girl children, of Arunthathiar community and other Dalit students.
- To provide necessary provisions.
- To give special attention on the girl children with additional basic learning equipment and materials.
- To spread awareness and motivate parents in target locations on the importance of girls' education
- To reduce the school dropout level of girl children of scavengers

### **c. Scope:**

#### **Type of Work**

- Conducting Tuition centers for the girl children of Scavengers and domestic workers.
- Material support for the School going girl children
- Formation of Children's Collectives
- Formation of Parents Committees
- Motivating the parents
- Competition for the children to bring out their skills and talents

#### **Type of Client**

- Girl Children

#### **Type of Problem**

Scavengers are psychologically, socially, economically and educationally very pathetic situation. Educational empowerment is the foremost need of the girl children of Scavenger community, which leads the key role for their holistic sustainable development. Additionally, the following stuff also add to their miserable condition of their girl children's educational condition, which are;

1. The parents are not educated
2. Since all the parents go to works every day in the early morning and come back to home at late night, they are not able to monitor their girl children's daily studies.
3. School going girl children do not have enough dress materials (uniform)and writing material
4. As they live in the small houses, they do not have enough space for studies in the evening
5. As the parents are not educated, children cannot get any support from their family to teach their day-to-day lessons and home works.
6. If nobody shows care for the children's study, school dropout rate will be increased, ultimately the girl children will be fallen as domestic servants.
7. Once they started earning in the childhood or teenage, they will easily get addicted to bad habits.

Caste discrimination is the major problem faced by the Arunthathiyar community. They are not given any respect by the other upper class people. Arunthathiyar women and elders are being treated with contempt even by the children of the oppressor castes, restricted social interaction, Dalit students being discriminated against on caste grounds and forced to sit separately from other students, and disallowing the public display of their traditional art and culture are some of the other manifestations of the practice of untouchability.

The another major issues in relation to financial position of Arunthathiyar, especially, the women is that there has been no security of job assurance, dwindling job openings, and hence the vicious cycle of poverty push them into the traps of debts and day to day humiliation and fear of money lenders. In brief, Arunthathiyars are a minority among dalits, doing scavenging and other menial works. They live in secluded pockets away from other caste Hindu communities looking for alternatives to develop their economic and social status. *If the above said problems have not been eradicated, the girl children would be again fallen in to the "Scavenging Work".*

### Geographical Area

200 school going girl children from the following 10 areas of Tirunelveli Corporation are our main target group for this project.

1. Periyar nagar,
2. Annai Indra nagar,
3. Pettai-MGR nagar
4. Thatchanallur,
5. Indra nagar-Anna Nagar,
6. Ilango Nagar
7. Indra Nagar,
8. Pettai- kattalai and Karuvelakuntru street,
9. Tirunelveli Town - Slum clearance board colony and
10. Vannarpettai.

### d. Deliverables:

Sl.No	Output	Means of Verification	Expectable date of Deliverables
1	100% school going girl children	School Attendance Register, Attendance Register of Tuition Centre	Sixth month
2	Improved Educational status	Test, marks, progress report	Fourth Month
3	Health and hygiene	Handsome look-wearing neat dress,	Third month
4	Initiation for reducing Caste discrimination Level	Sitting together with upper caste students in the classes	10 <sup>th</sup> month
5	Parents got awareness on the importance of the education	Minutes of Parents Committee Meetings, Attendance registers of Tuition Centers	Third month

### e. Constraints:

Arunthathiyar's holistic development is fully based on their internal and external causes. Attitude is more of internal and society plays externally. Attitude of the community and Caste discrimination would be the constraints which will influence the development of the Scavengers. Apart from that, lack of educated person within the community to teach the children in the tuition centre would be the main constraints to execute the programs.

### f. Assumptions:

- 100% of school Attendance of the students will increase.
- Grade or marks in all the subjects will go up.

- 50% of the students will go for next level of standards
- Caste discrimination level will be reduced.
- School dropouts will be reduced
- All the girl children of the Scavenger will follow the Personal Health and Hygienic methods
- All the parents in the Scavenger community will get awareness

### Project costs and timescale

S.no	Particulars	Unit	Quantity	Period	Rate	Total
1	Material Support	Bags	200	1	500	100,000
		Uniform ( two sets)	200	1	1300	260,000
		Stationeries (Geometry Box, Writing Materials)	200	1	400	80,000
2	Tuition Centers	Teacher's Honorarium	10	12	2,500	300,000
3	Staff training	Training	2	1	5,000	10,000
4	Extra curricular competitions for children	Competition	10	2	5,000	100,000
5	Travel and Communication	Lump sum	1	12	2,000	20,000
6	Educational Tour	Lump sum	4	1	35,000	140,000
7.	Report and Documentation	Lump sum	1	1	10,000	10,000
8	Audit	Lump sum	1	1	10,000	10,000
7		<b>Total</b>				<b>1,030,000</b>

**Grant request - INR 1,030,000 (Ten lakhs thirty thousand only)**

*N.P. Nancy Pushpam N.P.*

**Time Scale-** one year

Place: Tirunelveli,  
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

(Nancy Pushpam N.P)

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