

Appeal for support

- 1. Background:** Kanchipuram, some 100 km from Chennai(formerly Madras) is a famous temple town of South India in which Indian religions such as Vaishnavism, Saivism, Jainism flourished. It is a fairly big town spreading to an extent of about 50 sq km. The part of this town housing a lot of temples which has developed into a commercial hub(famous for silk sarees) is known as Big Kanchipuram. There are parts of the town which are not developed in terms of infrastructure and facilities because of their being non-viable commercially. One such part is known as Little Kanchipuram centering around Sri Devarajaswami Temple. This part of the area houses mostly (roughly 90%) poor or economically backward families pertaining to all castes totalling a population of almost two lakhs. Facilities for education were first provided in the town by Christian missionaries who established schools (up to the high school level). All these institutions were located in the developed part of the town (viz. Big Kanchipuram). Later Pachayappa's Trust started educational institutions which were located again in the same part. Thus children interested in schooling had to take around 5-6 kms to reach school from Little Kachipuram area. Even now public transport system is meagre and other facilities for transport are not within reach of economically weaker sections.
- 2. Initiative:** Limiting attention only to the educational needs of Little Kanchipuram, a Trust was formed in 2006 and named as "**Yatheendra Educational Trust**". Yatheendra is one of the names of the philosopher Ramanuja whose formative years were spent in this part of India. The name was chosen also having in mind his reformatory social philosophy and concern for the down-trodden. The Trust aims at even a University projecting the cultural heritage of India and in particular, Kanchipuram. As a beginning, a primary school with pre-KG, LKG, UKG, and I standard classes began functioning from 6 June 2006 with 24 students in all. The school was named "**Sri Ramanuja Vidyalaya**". These students were from very poor background and the quality of education and training made available to them in the first year attracted more students in the second year 2007, with the additional classes II standard, III standard being started. The strength increased to 90. In 2008, the strength increased to 172 for classes pre-KG to IV standard. The increase in strength may be taken as a yardstick for the popularity of the school in the locality gained through imparting quality education and training.
- 3. Curriculum and application:** It is believed widely, justifiably too, that the curriculum prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education in India has a better educative value than the one prescribed by the states. Schools affiliated to this Board are not available in and around Kanchipuram in a radius of 20 km. Noting this disadvantage the school is affiliated to National Institute of Open Schooling under the Union Ministry of Human Resource And Development through the organization "Vidya Bharathi". For communication at a national level knowledge of Hindi is essential while English is essential for international

communication and to keep abreast of information relating to technology and science. To be aware of the cultural background, knowledge of Sanskrit and mother tongue Tamil is a must. The school has chosen English as medium of instruction and has arranged for part time instruction in Hindi and Sanskrit. Tamil is a part of the curriculum and Yoga is also taught outside the hours of classes.

4. **Staff:** As on date 2009, there are nine teachers 6 for LKG to II std. 3 for III and IV. They are not however trained teachers. There is one teacher completely incharge of pre-KG. There is a full time Hindi teacher and there is a part-time Sanskrit teacher besides a part time Yoga teacher.
5. **Administrative Support:** A retired educational administrative officer has been designated as correspondent to oversee the academic and administrative management of the school. There is also a part time accountant.
6. **Present Premises:** The present accommodation of the classes and office stand on a piece of land taken on lease till 2012. It consists of seven rooms got by walled partition with roofing in the form of a shed with asbestos on the top. The address of the school is “**Sri Ramanuja Vidyalaya**”, 10/2 Thiruvenkatam Nagar, II street, Little kanchipuram, 631501, Kachipuram District, TN, India. Phone number is 091 044 27269050.

7. Present financial commitments

Academic Staff	
Pre KG 1 teacher	Rs 1250
Teacher for LKG, UKG, I, II 6@1250 pm	Rs 7500
Teachers for III, IV stds 3@Rs 2000 pm	Rs 6000
Sanskrit teacher part-time	Rs 1000
Hindi Teacher full-time	Rs 1250
Yoga teacher part-time	Rs 1000
Administrative Staff	
Correspondent	Rs 1000
Accountant	Rs 1000
Attendants 2 @ Rs 1000	Rs 2000
Miscellaneous	
Lease amount for vacant land	Rs 350
Electricity and telephone	Rs 2500
Maintanance Charges (Rent for 2 places @750 per month.)	Rs 1500
Salary for van driver	Rs 3500
Total	Rs 29800

- 8. Free education for poor students:** Supply of books, notebooks, ID-card, stationery, calendar, two sets of uniform are provided free to 25 students who belong to backward communities but they are required to pay the monthly fees because of the financial position of the school not making it possible to waive the fees too..
- 9. Future commitments:** There is urgent need to start the additional classes viz for V and VI standard in June 2009. The present accommodation is not sufficient for these additional classes to function. Hence we have to go in for a building owned by the school to accommodate all classes in one complex. We have taken a vacant area of 28 feet X 110 feet to put up a building for a lease period of 21 years. We have also prepared a plan and we expect sanction from the Municipality for the plan. Approximate cost of the construction would be nearly 30 lacs to accommodate all classes in one complex.
- 10. Donations:** Separate particulars annexed (Annexure I). Donations to the Trust have been exempted from Income-tax under Section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income-tax Act.(Copy in Annexure II).
- 11. Fees Structure: Chart giving Fees Structure and Breakup for income and expenditure for 2007 and 2008 are enclosed.(Annexures III and IV)**

From the above details , it is clear that the school is run on a non- profit basis with the help of dedicated teachers who work for paltry salary.

12. Financial Estimate for Proposal:

- 1) Lease amount for the new land Rs 12,000 per/year
- 2) Cost of construction of building on lease land- 30 lacs
- 3) Furniture Rs 2 lacs
- 4) Salaries to be increased by two fold and additional teachers to be inducted: Rs 22,000.
- 5) Increased aid to poor students: 50X Rs.5000= Rs. 25,000.

13. Appeal : In the interest of uplifting an educationally backward community and imparting education for whom this is a luxury because of poor financial and social environment of the family, the Trust earnestly solicits generous donations to help it do the service meaningfully and in better ways. Donations towards one or more of the proposals are eagerly awaited from donors with social awareness and concerns.

Address for communication is

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Secretary
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Mobile : 99430 23376

Donations may please be sent in the form of crossed cheques or drafts drawn in favour of **“YATHEENDRA EDUCATIONAL TRUST” Kanchipuram.** The bankers for the Trust are “Union bank of India”, MG road, Kanchipuram.

For further details kindly contact the above named person.

Yours in service,
T Satakopan, BA BL
Secretary. Yatheendra Educational Trust, Little Kanchipuram