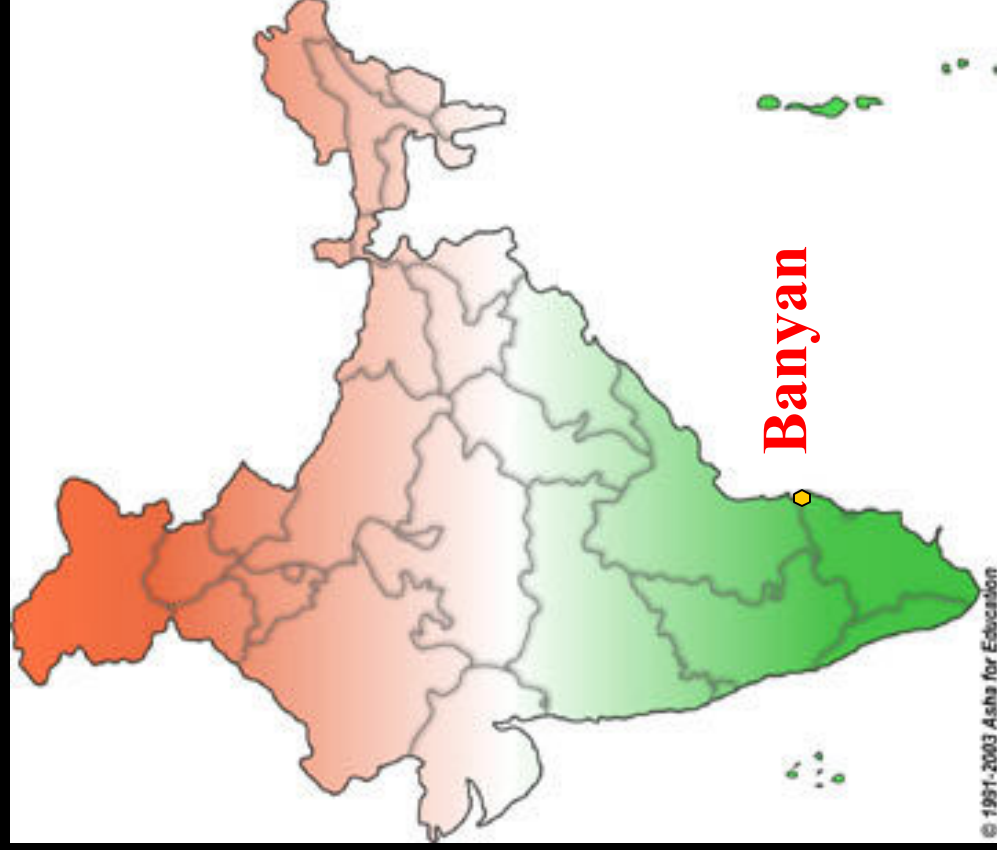


Provides free medical care and shelter to mentally ill destitute women and reunites them with their families.

Since its inception in 1993, they have reached out to more than 1500 women, rehabilitating over 700 and currently 400 women are being looked after at banyan.

The Banyan has a 24 Hr helpline. An in-house clinic that caters to patients even outside of the Banyan.



- Vandana and Vaishnavi when students of the Madras school of social work, started the organization in 1993.
- Santhosh brought a proposal to Asha Austin in 2004 for support of vocational training/occupational therapy unit.
- We started with one VT stream – Tailoring.
- In the next year we helped with the recurring expenses of the entire VT/OT stream.
- The VT/OT units have been successful in spinning of as employment generation activities.

Social Context

- Urban Setting
- Context of mental health care in India
 - Religion and stigma associated with mental illness
 - Gender based discrimination
- Reasons for destitution and homelessness
 - Specific stories
 - Is there a single root cause ?

Banyan's model of Care

- <http://www.thebanyan.org/html/help.html>
- Aداكالكام
- Steps towards rehabilitation
- Treatment
- VT/OT
- Re-integration
- After-care
- Holistic care
- Legal Aid clinic

Financials

- Complete Audited statements available on banyan's website – www.thebanyan.org
- Reports specific to VT/OT unit is on project page.

Achievements

- Reached out to hundreds of destitute mentally ill women. Always constrained for capacity
- Got the government to react and is now actively working with the government in establishing the banyan model of care in Govmt. Institutions.
- Functioning as a training institute to help contributors in the mental health sphere
- Successful in reaching out to new communities
- Organized national level conferences to share learning through NIMHANS

Challenges

- Project
 - The permanent home in kovalam has just started. A lot of efforts would go into making it successful.
 - About 50 women are in the working womens' hostel. To expand this initiative in creating opportunities for more women
 - To demand and fight for more rights for the mentally disabled – Adaikalam groups' initiatives – involves demand for changes in laws etc.
 - Financial support for new employment generating activities.
- Steward/Chapter
 - Have been in regular touch – one call/email at least every month.
 - Not been able to update project page regularly. Will work on it actively

Updates

- New proposal on the anvil would involve employment generation schemes.
- Kovalam center was inaugurated. Abdul kalam was there. A major fundraiser had happened to generate funds for this initiative.
- The kovalam center
 - Why in kovalam ?
 - Mainstreaming mental health in general health services
 - 50 villages in the block – started with survey, mental health camps, awareness efforts, working with PHCs
 - Detailed report on banyan’s website.

Site Visit

- Last site visit was made by Preethi in May 2007.
 - Need to upload on project page.
 - No pending concerns or questions from the visit
 - Aspects related to new ventures were discussed in last meeting

Funding scene

- Until we receive a concrete proposal, we don't have much info on the exact funding requirements.
 - We have a couple of documents related to the TVS courses and placement services
 - Requested Porkodi to give us a detailed proposal.

Measurables

- Quantitative :
 - No. of women under the auspices of Banyan
 - Women successfully rehabilitated or re-integrated
 - Communities that Banyan reaches out to
 - Government Institutes and other NGOs adopting banyan's model
- Qualitative :
 - Rights advocacy and SHG
 - Changes in government systems and laws
 - Attitude towards mental health in communities

Networking

- National level Conferences
- Visits to other organizations
- Training modules for students and others who want to start initiatives
- Role of Asha
 - Maintaining a current and up-to-date project page is our responsibility towards the project partner.
 - Put in touch with other Asha projects working for Mental health and womens' rights advocacy
 - Get training workshop schedules for benefit of all Asha project partners