



Annual Report

2023-24

AARTI HOME
VIJAY FOUNDATION TRUST
(ASSOCIATION) KADAPA,
ANDHRA PRADESH

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Readers,

I am writing to you today to thank you for your continued support. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue our work of making a difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

Aarti for Girls, under the legal entity Vijay Foundation Trust, is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to uplifting unfortunate women and girls and fighting for gender equality. We work with abandoned and needy children, and unfortunate women to bring them into mainstream society by providing the means to live a normal life. We believe that everyone deserves a chance to live a healthy, happy, fulfilling and dignified life.

Since founding our Trust in 1992, we have helped many girls and women realize their dreams and live dignified lives. To achieve these, we have established Aarti Village, a home for abandoned and needy children; Aarti English Medium School, a school where the most economically backward students are provided quality education, and Lalitha Cooperative for women to empower them by employability skills and leadership training. We also provide free meals, medical checkups, and job training opportunities.

Today, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of optimism and purpose as I reflect on our journey. The challenges we have faced may seem formidable but are not unsurmountable. Remarkable transformations have become possible when passionate individuals come together with a shared vision.

I am grateful for your support, generosity and commitment to making a difference. Your donations have enabled us to provide support and essential services to those who need them most. I am very excited to present this annual report for 2023-2024.

Thank you once again, and I am looking forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

P.V. Sandhya

Founder President, Aarti Home

Vijay Foundation Trust Association, Kadapa.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

1. Smt. P. V. Sandhya, President
2. Smt. B. Durga Kumari, Secretary
3. Sri. Jayesh Ranjan, I.A.S, Treasurer
4. Dr P. Bali Reddy, Member
5. Sri. P. Uma Maheswara Reddy, Member
6. Smt. R. Bhadravathi, Member
7. Dr T. Vindhya, Member
8. Smt. Shyamala Rajaram, Member
9. Smt. P. Swathi, Member
10. Sri. G. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Member
11. Sri. R. V. Shivanand Reddy, Member

Aarti Home

Aarti Home - a shelter for girls

Aarti Home, also known as Aarti Village, was founded in 1992 to eradicate gender bias in society. Rani (name changed) was the first girl child to live there. As the word got out, Aarti Home began to accept an increasing number of children. We had to relocate twice to cater to the shelter needs of an ever-increasing number of children. Aarti Home is now situated in a tranquil 2.5-acre site at the foot of Palakondalu, and today houses 130 girl children aged 5 to 22 years. Aarti Home is based on the concept of community living, with the children living in cottages under the care of a house mother. There are nine cottages, each of which can accommodate 15 children. Aarti Home meets all the children's physical needs, such as food, education, housing, and emotional needs, as they grow up to be responsible citizens. Regular health checkups ensure their good health.

The children are ready to meet the future when it is time for them to leave our care. Those children have gone on to become software engineers, medical care professionals, teachers, managers, and accountants. They are well-settled in life and some of them are happily married.

Aarti English Medium School

Aarti English Medium School began as a stop-gap school in 2007 for the sole benefit of Aarti children. It is now a full-fledged school with 709 children and caters to the needs of Kadapa's underprivileged children. The Andhra Pradesh government has recognized the school which accepts students from classes 1 to 10. The school has secured a 100% pass percentage in the SSC board examination conducted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Post Covid, the strength of the school has grown enormously and this necessitated shifting the primary school to Aarti Village. The Primary school follows the Government of Andhra Pradesh state syllabus. The curriculum is enriched with interactive and activity-based learning using the Maria Montessori methodology.

Aarti Creative School

The students of the Aarti School are first-generation literates and come from the most underprivileged families. Most of these children have never attended school and are

over-aged for the class they were admitted into. Aarti established the Creative School as a bridge school where these kids are admitted to address the issue of being over-age. They are given special attention to bridge the gap in their learning after which they are moved to the mainstream school. The creative school is partially sponsored by a corporation named e-Clerx. The bridge school had 508 students, 16% of these were promoted to the mainstream school, exceeding our expectation of 10%. It's encouraging to see that more than 60% of the children can secure 60% plus marks in Science and Maths. Children who fall behind in class X are encouraged to take the tests offered by the Open School Board, and every candidate has passed.

Aarti Family-Based Care

The family, being the primary social group, is the finest environment for the child to develop. It is well-known that children who live in this social group develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually more quickly. Keeping this in mind, we developed a novel program called "Family Based Care". The children reside at home with their parents and continue to attend school during the day while the parents are away at work. Aarti provides the child with three wholesome meals, a uniform, stationery, and transportation as part of this program. The program started initially with 30 children and was a great success. This prompted us to offer this program to a much larger number. Currently, all students of Aarti School are benefiting from this program. Regular grade-based assessments, well-being check-ups, and home visits are used to evaluate the children's overall development. We have discovered that these children have responded to tender loving care and have developed an interest in learning.

Mid-day meals

Aarti Home has been tirelessly working towards addressing the issue of hunger and malnutrition among children. We provide nutritious mid-day meals to all children regardless of their socio-economic background. We source fresh ingredients daily and prepare balanced meals that meet the nutritional requirements of growing children. The menu includes a variety of wholesome foods like eggs, rice, pulses and vegetables.

The mid-day meal program also promotes social interaction and a sense of belonging among the children in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

The parents of the students are kept informed of their child's progress through frequent parent-teacher conferences. The parents are apprised of their child's overall development

during these meetings. Parents of the graduating students are provided with career counselling suggestions for their children and are given a tour of the vocational training facilities that offer income-generating courses.

Social Investigation:

We firmly believe that the relationship between the students and the teachers is most important for the student's overall development. This relationship is built through home visits by the teachers once (or twice) every year. We have noticed that the bonding between the teachers and the students has strengthened. The teachers are now able to understand the family's socio-economic conditions and they can effectively deal with the emotional/academic issues of the students. The students also feel proud as their teachers have visited their homes.

School Reopening and Summer Camp Valedictory Function

The Aarti English Medium School reopened on 12 June 2023, followed by the Valedictory function of the Summer Camp on 14 June 2023. This event marked the start of a dynamic academic year.

Workshop on Visual Learning and Project Zero from Harvard

In June, a transformative workshop on Visual Learning and Project Zero from Harvard was conducted by Aruna Ma'am. This workshop introduced innovative teaching methodologies that set the tone for dynamic and interactive teaching approaches.

Induction of New Staff

Welcoming new staff members from various parts of India added diversity to our academic community. Their unique perspectives and experiences contribute to the overall growth and excellence of Aarti English Medium School.

Establishment of Preschool and Maria Montessori

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education, the school established a preschool and Maria Montessori, aligning with our commitment to providing a strong educational foundation from the very beginning of a student's academic journey.

Initial Overall Assessment

An initial overall assessment was conducted in June to evaluate students' learning levels. This assessment identified areas requiring special attention and informed well-prepared teaching modules.

Establishment of a Computer Lab

The establishment of a state-of-the-art computer lab marked a significant infrastructural enhancement. This facility is designed to improve students' digital literacy skills and prepare them for the technological demands of the modern world.

Interclass Essay and Painting Competition on Indian Independence Day

Interclass essay and painting competitions were organized to celebrate Indian Independence Day. Students from classes 8 to 10 participated in an essay competition, showcasing their writing skills and understanding of historical significance. Simultaneously, students from classes 5 to 7 engaged in a painting competition, expressing their creativity through art. A quiz competition was also held, with Sabiha Banu, Harshita, and Ishwarya securing the first prize.

Poster Making Competition on World Tiger Day

As part of our commitment to environmental awareness, a poster-making competition was organized to mark World Tiger Day. Students enthusiastically participated, creating visually striking posters that conveyed important messages about wildlife conservation. The first prize was secured by G. Aarogya Mary Jessica from the 9th standard.

Implementation of Visual Learning

Visual learning strategies were implemented in classrooms, utilizing charts and flashcards to make complex concepts more accessible and engaging for students.

Preparation of Worksheets

Subject teachers prepared worksheets designed to reinforce class concepts. These worksheets served as valuable tools for students to apply their knowledge practically.

Online Class Facility with Smart Classrooms

To adapt to the changing educational landscape, the school introduced online class facilities equipped with smart classrooms. These classrooms featured televisions and internet access, creating an interactive and technologically advanced learning environment.

Colourful Display of Independent India on Independence Day

The vibrant display of Independent India on Independence Day was a collaborative effort, transforming the school premises into a patriotic showcase. Students and teachers worked together to create visually appealing installations, fostering a sense of pride and unity.

Marathon in Association with Kadapa Municipal Corporation

In collaboration with the Kadapa Municipal Corporation, a marathon was organized to promote physical fitness and community engagement. The event witnessed active participation from both students and staff members.

Initiation of Basic Classes

Recognizing the diversity of learning abilities among students, basic classes were initiated to provide specific assistance to those who needed additional support. This personalized approach aimed to bridge any gaps in understanding and ensure that every student could progress at their own pace.

Remedial Classes

Dedicated remedial classes were conducted to address specific areas where students needed improvement. These classes provided targeted assistance to enhance overall academic performance.

Makerspace Lab for Robotics

The creation of a dedicated Makerspace Lab for robotics was a major milestone. This lab provides students with hands-on experience in robotics, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.

Painting Competition and Tree Planting Drive

In collaboration with the Kadapa Municipal Corporation, the school organized a painting competition and a tree-planting drive. This initiative aimed to instil environmental consciousness in students, combining artistic expression with a hands-on approach to sustainability.



Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

The Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations involved students in creating and distributing Ganesh Idols. This cultural event not only showcased creativity but also promoted the importance of traditional festivities among the student community.



Teachers' Day Celebration

The Teachers' Day celebration organized by students and staff was a heartfelt gesture of appreciation for the dedicated educators at Aarti English Medium School. It fostered a sense of camaraderie and acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the teaching staff.

Workshop on Robotics for Teachers

A robotics workshop was conducted for teachers, focusing on skill enhancement for the newly established Makerspace Lab. This initiative aimed to equip teachers with the necessary tools to guide students in the exciting field of robotics.

ELE Module for Teachers

The introduction of the ELE (Effective Learning Environments) module for teachers demonstrates our commitment to providing educators with the tools necessary for effective online teaching. This module facilitates visual learning aids, making the teaching-learning process more engaging and impactful.

Experiential Learning through Student Banking Initiative

The primary school implemented a pioneering program integrating experiential learning through a simulated banking system. This initiative introduces a unique approach to instilling financial literacy and encouraging positive behaviour among students.

Field Visit to Eco Park

A field visit to Eco Park in collaboration with the Kadapa Municipal Corporation was an educational excursion for class 8 and 9 students. It provided them with real-world insights into environmental conservation and sustainability practices.



Children's Day Celebration with Sports Activities

The Children's Day celebration was a joyful occasion filled with sports activities. It not only brought joy to the students but also emphasized the importance of physical activity for overall well-being.

Child Protection and Good Touch/Bad Touch Workshop

Conducted by Rashmi Rao, this workshop addressed crucial aspects of student rights, responsibilities, safety, and awareness of personal boundaries. It was held in two batches to cater to the diverse needs and developmental stages of our students from Class 5 to Class 10.

Child Protection and Safety and Code of Conduct Presentation

This workshop aimed to raise awareness and enhance understanding of child protection and safety among school staff, emphasizing their role in ensuring a secure environment.

Additionally, it instilled the importance of adhering to a code of conduct that upholds ethical and respectful interactions with children.

TATA - Building India Essay Writing Competition

In collaboration with TATA - Building India, an essay writing competition was organized. Our students participated enthusiastically, showcasing their writing skills and depth of knowledge. At the senior level, P. Divya Teja and K. Nissy Grace secured the 1st and 2nd positions, respectively, while at the junior level, C. Safa Anjum and U. Sree Thanusya earned the 1st and 2nd positions.

Workshop on Government Schemes by Nancy Ma'am

Nancy Ma'am conducted a workshop enlightening students about various schemes and benefits provided by the Andhra Pradesh government and the Central government. This information was crucial for students to be aware of the opportunities and support available to them.

Model Question Paper Book Distribution

As part of the 'Children for Children' initiative, model question paper books were distributed. This thoughtful gesture aimed to assist students in their academic preparations and provide them with valuable resources for exam readiness.

Mathematics Day

National Mathematics Day was celebrated with enthusiasm, inspired by Ramanujan's legacy. The day witnessed lively engagement from both students and teachers, fostering a shared appreciation for the wonders of mathematics.

Team Google Collaboration

A big shout-out to the amazing Team Google for their generous contribution of teaching aids to our school! These resources have been a game-changer, helping our students grasp concepts with ease and making classes more interactive for our dedicated educators.

Republic Day Celebration

Celebrating the 75th Republic Day with pride and joy, our children at Aarti School lit up the stage with incredible performances showcasing the spirit of unity and patriotism. This event emphasized the importance of each child's contribution to the nation's future.

Academic Preparations:

During the three months, the school prioritized rigorous academic preparations for various classes. This included organizing preparatory tests, grand tests, study classes, and subject-specific examinations. Special focus was given to the 10th-grade students to ensure they were well-prepared for their upcoming board exams. Teachers conducted dedicated study sessions to cover essential topics and provide guidance. Additionally, the school held discussions on poetry recitation, conducted a science exhibition, and celebrated National Science Day to foster academic interest and engagement among students.

Cultural and Educational Events:

Alongside academic activities, the school actively engaged in cultural and educational events to enrich students' overall learning experience. These events included the celebration of Vasantha Panchami Pooja, discussions on poems, and organizing a Social Fair. National Science Day celebrations were held to promote scientific temper among students, encouraging them to explore and experiment. Furthermore, the school observed festivals like HOLI and Good Friday, fostering cultural inclusivity and understanding among students and staff.

Community Outreach and Engagement:

The school emphasized community outreach and engagement by participating in various activities aimed at connecting with the broader community. This included discussions on admissions, distributing pamphlets, and engaging in dialogues with parents and guardians during parent-teacher meetings. The school also organized programs focused on health and hygiene, particularly targeting girls, to raise awareness and promote well-being within the community. By actively participating in community initiatives, the school reinforced its commitment to holistic development and social responsibility.

Administrative Tasks and Management:

Administrative tasks were efficiently managed throughout the three months to ensure the smooth functioning of the school. This included conducting feedback collection exercises, organising parent-teacher meetings, and coordinating exam corrections. Teachers and administrative staff worked collaboratively to maintain records, address concerns raised by parents, and provide necessary support to students. Additionally, preparations for summer classes and upcoming exams, including the TOEFL exam, were diligently handled to facilitate students' academic progress and growth.

Aarti Women's Centre

Product Creation and Customer Orders

Table Mats, Duffel Bags, and Coin Purses:

In April 2023, we designed and produced hundreds of table mat sets as per customer orders. Additionally, we crafted 50 duffel bags and manufactured 250 coin purses, catering to the diverse needs of our customers.

Gift Bags and Embroidery:

May saw the creation of 100 gift bags along with embroidery table mats and pillow covers. We also designed and stitched classical dresses for Aarti children for the Valedictory function of Summer Camp 2023, showcasing our versatility in product creation.

Duvets and Saree Bags:

In June, we crafted duvets and made 70 saree bags. We also produced uniforms for the children, fulfilling both regular and custom orders from our clients.

Shoulder Bags:

July was dedicated to the production of 100 shoulder bags, which were well-received by our customers for their quality and design.

Assorted Products for Sale:

December was a busy month with the creation of baby bedsheets, patch bedsheets, playmats, table mats, gents' toilet cases, flower pouches, potlis, lunch bags, gents' kurtas, and frocks for sale. These products highlighted our capability to cater to a wide range of customer preferences.

Bags for Udaiti Foundation:

In February 2024, we produced 300 bags for the Udaiti Foundation, reflecting our ability to handle bulk orders efficiently.

Shopping Bags:

In March 2024, we produced and sold Benaras shopping bags, adding another popular item to our product lineup.

Training and Empowerment Initiatives

Sony Project Inaugurations:

First Batch: In July, we inaugurated the Sony project, benefiting 30 women through comprehensive training sessions.

Second Batch: In October, we launched the second batch of the Sony project, providing training to another group of 30 women.

Third Batch: In January 2024, the third batch of the Sony project was inaugurated, continuing our commitment to women's empowerment by benefiting 30 more women.



Special Events and Sales

Inauguration of Aarti Women Cooperative (AWC):

June marked the inauguration of AWC with the sales of all Lalitha Coop products. This event was a significant milestone in our journey, showcasing our products to a broader audience.



JP Morgan Sale and Event Participation:

In January 2024, we participated in the JP Morgan sale in Hyderabad. During this time, we also stitched lehengas and blouses for all the children at Aarti Home for Nagaveni's event and produced 40 trays with napkins, highlighting our event-specific product creation capabilities.

***Sunday Market and JP Morgan Sale in Bangalore:***

In March 2024, we participated in the Sunday Market and JP Morgan Sale in Bangalore, further expanding our market reach and customer base.

