



Vijay Foundation Trust (Association)
Annual Report
2024-25

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A Message from the Founder President

Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

Ramya arrived at Aarti Home, a ghost of a girl. Abandoned and orphaned at the age of seven, her spirit had been silenced by a broken home. Today, that same girl is a force of nature. After years of relentless dedication, she has cleared a tough national entrance exam and is set to begin her journey to become a doctor. Her story is a testament to the power of her indomitable spirit, combined with the love and care she found with her Aarti family.

Every child who walks through the doors of Aarti Home arrives with a story. A story often marked by heartbreak, loss, and a world that turned its back on them. But what we've learned over three decades is that these stories are not defined by their beginning, but by the love and opportunity we provide to write their own endings.

Ramya's success is not a solitary one. It is a beacon of what is possible when grit meets opportunity. This year, we are overjoyed to share that four of our children will be joining top engineering colleges (some of them in top 50 NIRF ranked colleges), one is on her way to medical school, and another will be pursuing agricultural science. This is the new chapter they are writing—a story of success, empowerment, and a brighter future.

As we celebrate these milestones, our work is far from over. This year, we are incredibly proud to launch "Aarti Cares," an initiative born from our decades of experience. It is our new way of reaching out to children in need and supporting them without uprooting them from their families. Through this program, we provide crucial support for education, nutrition, and well-being, all while preserving the fundamental bond of the family unit.

Looking back on our work in the past year, our annual report shows a summary of our shared impact across our four key pillars.

Impact Highlights from 2025

Protect: 132 children were provided with safe homes, food and nurturing support.

Educate: We supported the educational journeys of 736 children, from foundational learning to higher education.

Empower: Our vocational training programs empowered 4894 women with new skills, enabling them to secure economic independence.



VIJAY FOUNDATION TRUST ASSOCIATION

Registration # 92/1992

<https://www.aartiforgirls.org>

Advocacy: We successfully advocated for the rights and well-being of 2300 girls, ensuring their voices were heard.

The success of Aarti Home has always been a collective effort—a symphony of kindness played by our donors, our volunteers, and our incredible staff. You are the hands that lift us, the hearts that inspire us, and the reason we can continue to be a home for every child who needs one.

Thank you for being a part of our family.

P.V. Sandhya,
Founder President,
Aarti Home,
Vijay Foundation Trust Association, Kadapa.

The Four Pillars of Aarti

Our work at Aarti Home is guided by four strong pillars viz. Protection, Education, Empowerment and Advocacy. This report outlines the activities carried out by the organisation under these pillars and the outputs /outcomes/ impact created through these activities.

We are also happy to share a few success stories with you.

A Few Success Stories

1. *Celebrating Soundarya's Success!* We're proud to share that Soundarya, who joined Freshworks Software Academy as a trainee in 2022, has successfully completed her training and is now a full-time employee at the firm. Alongside her professional growth, she has been pursuing a triple major in History, Political Science, and Computer Science, and will graduate in June 2025.
2. Our School has achieved 100 percent results in the Grade X Board exams conducted by the Board of Secondary Education in April 2025. The students are now preparing to pursue their careers in STEM.
3. All the grade 11 and 12 girls from Aarti Village have passed their Board exams and are pursuing their undergraduate studies.
4. We completed our **Sustainable Livelihood Training** Project funded by **Sony Music**, training 120 women in skills like tailoring, embroidery, culinary skills, and plant nursery management.

Pillar 1 : Protect

Aarti Home: A Sanctuary of Empowerment and Hope

Aarti Home, our first initiative, was established in 1992 when our President Sandhya found and brought home Rani (name changed), a 2-year-old girl abandoned in the streets of Kadapa.

Aarti Village, a shelter where our girls live, is a spacious, eco-friendly campus on the outskirts of Kadapa. It is a home for girls of ages 6 years and above. Aarti Village follows a unique method of community-based living where all the girls live in small family units. Here they find safety and comfort in the community of sisterhood. They are looked after by dedicated staff and the elder girls mentor, nurture and guide the younger ones with love, affection and dedication. Every girl grows up with security, food, shelter and health care.

Aarti village is a 2.5-acre campus that is self-sufficient with energy and water. We compost 100% of our organic waste and recycle our sullage to be used to water the plants on the campus. We produce our energy through 30 kVA rooftop solar panels, fed to the grid.

122 children are living in Aarti Village at present.



Ms. Vani and Ms. Latha joined Aarti Village in June 2024. They have taken over the day to day operations of Aarti Village. This saw a remarkable improvement in the performance of all the departments of Aarti Village. Under their leadership, extensive repairs were carried out along with infrastructural developments in the kitchen, dining hall and residential areas.

Achievements During the year

1. **5** girls from Aarti Village appeared for the Grade X Board exam April 2024 and all the girls passed the exam with an average of 72%. All these girls, along with three other girls who have newly joined, are presently pursuing intermediate education.
2. All the 6 girls who appeared for the senior Intermediate Board exams have passed the exam, with an average 78% marks. They are all pursuing their first-year graduation in a reputed college. One of the girls, Jakeera has chosen to pursue BSc Physiotherapy.
3. All the 6 girls who appeared for junior intermediate Board exams have passed the exam. They will appear for the senior intermediate board exam in March 2025.
4. As scheduled, the medical examinations of the students were completed (from November 24 to January 25) and the data - Height, Weight, Haemoglobin, and blood pressure were measured and tabulated. The average Hb levels were increased to 10.80, and the average BMI was also increased to 19.80. Most of the girls have Hb levels

between 10.9 and 11.3. Every student's health has been profiled and targeted nutritional support for those diagnosed with anemia or undernourishment.

5. Health profiles were created for the students. Specialised nutritional support was provided to undernourished children or those with health concerns. The girls are showing a marked improvement with the nutritious food, especially in their health and academic performance. The percentage of girls falling sick has also reduced, resulting in improved school attendance.
6. A dedicated team maintains the facilities in Aarti Village. The kitchen was renovated to provide for improved efficiency in terms of provision storage, health, hygiene and ease of cooking. All the living spaces and common areas are inspected regularly and the shortcomings are immediately attended to.
7. A solar water heating system was installed for three more cottages, providing hot water to all the cottages.
8. Swarna, a girl from rural Proddatur joined Aarti Home with reference from her teachers as she was unable to continue her education after grade X. Her hard work paid off as she scored 100 percent in core subjects in the intermediate first year exams.
9. Swarna's success has encouraged us to start an initiative called **Aarti Cares**, to support high performing students from rural government schools. These students will live in Aarti Village and pursue their intermediate education in reputed corporate junior colleges in Kadapa. This Initiative, hoping to benefit 20 students, will start from the academic year 2025-26.
10. Alekhya joined Aarti Home with clubbed feet, facing mobility challenges. Her deformity has been corrected through multiple surgeries, thanks to help from a donor. She has recovered now and is able to walk without discomfort.

Events & Initiatives

Aarti Home Girl:

Nagaveni and her two sisters were abandoned by their father, and their mother was unable to care for them. Under Aarti's love and care all the sisters have performed well. April was a moment of joy for all of us at Aarti as Nagaveni married Logabhiram in a joyous celebration at Aarti Village.



Aarti Home Volunteer:

One of our Volunteers and her husband Mr. Clem visited us after their recent wedding. This was also celebrated at Aarti Village with a reception for the newlyweds. The occasion was marked with dance, music and cultural events.



Skill Development

Older children at Aarti learned biscuit-making. Home and terrace gardening workshops were conducted by agricultural experts.

Festivals & Togetherness

Diwali, Krishna Jayanthi, Vijaya Dasami, Christmas, New Year, Sankranthi and other festivals were celebrated in the village with great reverence and joy.



Sustainability Milestones

- **Net Zero Initiatives:** Solar water heating systems were installed in Block D, E and F, and all the residents of Aarti Village are now enjoying hot water for bathing. This is one more step towards attaining net-zero campus, cutting energy costs and lowering the carbon footprint. 30 kVA roof top solar PhotoVoltaic Panels have been installed and the excess electricity is supplied to the common grid. Water Conservation is being done through grey water treatment and rainwater harvesting systems promote resource sustainability.



Net Zero Initiative

Academic & Emotional Support

- Intensive Board Exam Preparation: Dedicated counseling and personalized revision is being done for Intermediate, 10th grade and Undergraduate students, with a focus on managing exam stress and performance.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

- Environmental Awareness: Children visited Kadapa Municipal Corporation, and learnt about the waste management and eco-friendly practices being followed.
- Women Empowerment: Visits to the Aarti Women's Centre inspired values of education, self-reliance, and gender equality.



Expert Guidance

Workshops conducted by consultants in nutrition, health, and education, as well as Mindfulness sessions that helped improve students' knowledge and mental well-being.



Virginia Tech Visit (4th–9th Jan 2025): Building Community & Connections

- At the beginning of the year, 9 students from Virginia Tech University, USA, visited Aarti and spent a week with our children. These annual workshops and cultural exchanges help broaden our children's learning and provide valuable global exposure. The team engaged the students through storytelling and fun activities related to English, Science, and Geography. Their interaction encouraged cross-cultural learning and supported educational development in a joyful and meaningful way.



Family Connections: Aarti Home Staff home visits tailor support to each child's background and needs.



Aarti Village continues to nurture, empower, and inspire—one child, one family, one milestone at a time.

Family Based Care

Under Family-Based Care during the year 2024–2025, a total of 580 children were supported. Along with education, nutritious meals were provided, and students received essential educational materials. To ensure proper guidance and well-being, school teachers conducted home visits twice a year to understand parents' involvement in their children's education and to gain insight into their home environment.



Pillar 2 : Educate

Aarti EM School – A Beacon of Learning

Our school fosters holistic development by nurturing minds, bodies, and spirits. From academics to life skills, students grow in an environment where care and curiosity are celebrated. Compassionate educators shape students into leaders and thinkers.

School strength

The school has 580 students on its rolls, 296 girls and 284 boys. Most of these children belong to marginalized communities and are first generation learners.

Learning Improvement Program:

Aarti School admitted 218 new students during the academic year 2024-2025, after conducting an entrance test to ascertain their suitability for admission. The students who lacked the basic age appropriate skills were admitted to a unique program called LIP (Learning Improvement Program) and coached in basic concepts in languages, Math and Science. They are admitted to their grades on completion of this course.



Know Your Student:

This is a unique program started by Aarti. Student profiles essential to understanding the students' diverse backgrounds are created by teachers and social workers through home visits. The parental involvement has improved and special bonds have been established between the teachers and the family of the students resulting in enhanced empathy among teachers. This

has resulted in more effective responses to student behaviour.



Teacher Empowerment Sessions

Two sessions led by Ms. Aruna Reddy focused on Classroom Management and Innovative Teaching Methods. She helped the teachers explore the use of AI tools, peer learning, gamification etc, and stressed on the importance of a growth mindset for all teachers.

Events, Celebrations, Competitions

Plantation Drive – 22nd July 2024

Students and staff members planted saplings under the guidance of our Director Ms Bhagyamma. The activity combined environmental stewardship with practical knowledge of gardening.



Tata Essay Writing Contest

Top students from Grades 6–10 were awarded for insightful essays on nation-building. The winners were celebrated by the faculty and management.



National Mathematics Day

Students showcased various Mathematical models, puzzles, and experiments. Dignitaries appreciated the innovative displays. The Math teachers were lauded for their dedicated coordination.



“Voices of Tomorrow” – Poetry Recitation

Held on Jan 4, 2025, this inter-school competition encouraged literary expression. Students recited poems in multiple languages and the winners were felicitated by our School director.



Lyrical Tribute to Sarojini Naidu

A literary event on Feb 13, 2025, celebrated Ms Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India. Students presented poetry recitals and enacted a skit on Palanquin Bearers.



International Mother Tongue Day – 21st Feb 2025

Celebrated with enthusiasm to promote linguistic and cultural pride. Student presentations showcased the richness of various mother tongues. Esteemed guests, including the Director appreciated the efforts, while emphasizing the need to preserve linguistic heritage.



National Science Day – 28th Feb 2025

Dedicated to Sir C.V. Raman, the day began with a demonstration of the “Raman Effect” by Physics teacher Mr. Chaithanya. A seed germination activity led by the Biology teachers showcased the importance of scientific inquiry and sustainability. The event sparked curiosity and highlighted the relevance of Science in daily life.

Student Pupil Leader Elections – Democracy in Action

On the National Voter’s Day, students had hands -on experience about the conduction of elections, democratic values, leadership and civic responsibility. They were guided by the teachers to participate in an election for the Student Pupil Leader. It was a very exciting and informative experience.



Festivals

At Aarti School, all religious festivals are celebrated with deep reverence and joy. They are not only expressions of faith, but also opportunities to foster mutual respect and cultural togetherness. National days like Independence Day, Republic Day, and Gandhi Jayanthi are also celebrated with solemnity, patriotism, and community spirit.



Ugadi Celebrations

Decorations and student participation reflected the spirit of new beginnings as we celebrated the Samvat new year Ugadi. Students came dressed in festive attire and the campus was filled with sounds of cultural programs and speeches highlighting the festival's significance.



Ramadan Awareness

On 20th March 2025 a spiritually enriching session was led by President Ms. Sandhya. Our visiting Islamic Scholar Janab Shaik Ishaq interacted with the students, emphasizing the value of fasting. He also pointed out similarities between faiths with many references. Janab Bahauddin shared scientific insights, linking faith and health. The program was a unique blend of tradition, science, and inclusivity.



Visits by the Volunteers/Donors

Feeding India

Mr. Milan from Feeding India visited the school to assess the programme. He appreciated the hygiene, food quality, and positive impact of the “Heart for Girls” program. His feedback was recorded in the Visitors’ Register, affirming continued collaboration.

| S.No | Date | Visitor Name | Visitor feedback |
|------|------------|--------------|---|
| 1. | 30/01/2025 | MILAN A.S | Had a great time here. loved the food, enjoyed the hospitality of the staff. & Looking forward to my next visit! :) |



Lilly Singh’s Visit

On 22nd August 2024, renowned YouTube influencer and global icon Lilly Singh visited Aarti Institutions in Kadapa. She brought immense energy and inspiration to the staff, children, and women supported by the Aarti. Lilly immersed herself in the campus, engaging warmly with students and women, and applauding AARTI’s transformative work in education, shelter, and empowerment.

In tribute to her visit, S. Rahamathulla, SA English, composed a poem titled “LILLY THE LIGHT – ILLUMINATING THE LIVES”, which included stirring lines such as:

***“Thou Lilly Singh, a star so bright,
Thou a queen of comedy with a heart of gold.”***
“Thou a Superwoman, inspiring millions to turn the page.”
“Thou a shining hope, banishing the dark of night.”



Success Stories:

S. Roohi comes from the village of Turakapalli, where her parents work as daily wage laborers. In spite of very little support at home, Roohi was determined to study. She joined Aarti School and was admitted to a lower grade because of her poor academic performance. Roohi has put in tremendous effort, traveling by auto or even cycling long distances to reach school. She improved under the guidance of Aarti’s caring teachers and scored 425 marks in the SSC Public Examinations. Her success shows the difference made by combining hard work and the right support. She shines as an example of hope and resilience, proving the power of education.



Indian Talent Olympiad

Our students participated in the Indian Talent Olympiad, and out of 92 participants, 42 qualified for Round 2. In the final round 3 of our students were successful. Sandhya Pasupuleti of Grade IX secured 4th rank in the state in Mathematics along with a scholarship.

| AARTI SCHOOL Y.S.R. KADAPA | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------------------------|---------|----------------|------|---|----------------------|---|
| II ROUND INDIAN TALENT OLYMPIAD EXAMS 2024-2025 WINNERS | | | | | | | | |
| S.NO | CLASS | STUDENT NAME | SUBJECT | HALLTICKET NO. | RANK | AWARD | ADDRESS | PHOTO |
| 1 | X | PARINIKA ALAVALA | ENGLISH | AP134510008 | 23 | EXCELLENCE AWARD & EXCELLENCE MEDAL AWARD | BELLAM MANDI KADAPA |  |
| 2 | IX | PASUPULETI SANDHYA | MATHS | AP134509007 | 4 | STATE TOPPER & SCHOLARSHIP | AARTI VILLAGE KADAPA |  |
| 3 | VIII | SREE THANUSYA UPPUTURU | MATHS | AP134508010 | 23 | EXCELLENCE AWARD & EXCELLENCE MEDAL AWARD | Y.S.R COLONY KADAPA |  |

Quadruple Triumph – Four Sisters Rise

The school proudly celebrates Lahari, Gnanadeepika (BPM), Yamini (Pharmacy), and Tejaswini (Engineering)-alumni whose success stories stand testament to Aarti's transformative impact. All of them have received free education and personal mentoring at Aarti.



Children 4 Children (C4C)

Maths Coaching for Marginalised Girls

Timeline: Sept 2024 – Feb 2025

Children 4 Children (C4C) guided by Mr Abhiram Racahamadugu, has launched a collaborative effort between C4C, Municipal High School (Main) and Aarti EM School. The drive was aimed at sharpening the mathematical skills of the children studying in the Main Municipal High School Kadapa. Tri-weekly classes were held after school hours at Aarti School under the mentorship of Ms. Firdous Parveen



Highlights:

1. 17 girls were selected after screening.
2. They were Mentored by Ms. Firdous Parveen.
3. Classes held thrice weekly, snacks provided.
4. Emphasis on foundational Maths, TLMs, and regular assessments.
5. Home visits by HM Obulesu and team helped curb absenteeism.
6. Inspiring transformation of Meghana, who went from zero knowledge to topping the final Test.
7. Outcome: Improved understanding of the mathematical concepts leading to better performance in the school.

Pillar 3 : Empower

Aarti Women's Centre:

Aarti Women's Centre is where women can find a safe, discrimination-free space to be themselves and thrive. Aarti enables women to change their circumstances through sustainable livelihood activities and capacity enhancement programs, thus empowering them with the skills and support needed for self-reliance and resilience. The holistic training programs in tailoring, embroidery, beauty care, computer skills, and culinary arts, Aarti has enabled women to earn livelihoods, support their families, and build brighter futures.



Activities and achievements at Aarti Women's Centre

Sustainable Livelihood Activities and Capacity Enhancement Programs

Aarti Women's Centre provides continuous support to help women transform their lives through capacity-building initiatives. The programs include:

Livelihood Skills Training: Focused on skill development in tailoring, computer literacy, hand embroidery,



culinary skills, and beauty care, ensuring women are equipped for economic independence.

Women's Education Programs (WEP): Aimed at building confidence and fostering leadership among women through skill-based and ancillary training.

Financial Guidance and Linkages: Women receive counseling on financial planning, and are connected with opportunities for loans, government schemes, and markets to grow their businesses.



This holistic approach guarantees that women not only receive skills training but also ongoing support to navigate financial systems and social challenges, ultimately building sustainable livelihoods.

Programs:

Skill Development Programs

April to June: Sony Music Project: In collaboration with Sony Music, Aarti Women's Centre initiated the Sustainable Livelihood Skills Program, which supported 120 women severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over three months, participants engaged in comprehensive training sessions covering diverse skills crucial for economic independence. This program was conducted from July 2023 to June 2024. The 4th

batch commenced on April 1st, 2024, with 30 women participating in skill-based and ancillary training.



July: Training in computer literacy, tailoring, and hand embroidery to enhance technical skills and self-reliance.

August: A vibrant market was held at AWC, where women proudly displayed and sold their handmade products. YouTube influencer Lilly Singh visited the event, expressing her appreciation for the women's entrepreneurial spirit by purchasing products and encouraging their growth.



September & October: Skill development in tailoring, computer literacy, soap making and hand embroidery continued with great enthusiasm.

November: The Beauty Parlour was inaugurated, offering new opportunities for women to train in beauty and personal care. Diwali celebrations were also held with joy and community spirit.

December: Skill development programs continued, focusing on tailoring, embroidery, and beautician training. A saree rolling machine was purchased as part of the Skill Building Program for economic stability and is being actively used in skill-based training sessions to enhance learning and job readiness.

January: A Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) was conducted for three months, combining skill-based programs with mandatory courses. The participants also celebrated Sankranti, the harvest festival, with colorful rangolis and traditional Pongal sweets.

February: Tailor's Day was celebrated, recognizing the hard work and growth of the trainees. Senior tailors shared their experiences and inspired the trainees.

Women's Education Program:

Aarti has been collaborating with WEP since 2012 and we have conducted many programs that have transformed the lives of women and girls. The following programmes were conducted this year:

April 1st, 2024: 42 participants began their journey in mandatory and skill-based training. The focus was on holistic learning and combining life skills with practical training.

May 2024: 37 women participated in WEP, engaging in rigorous training that enhanced their confidence and self-sufficiency.

June 2024: 37 participants, including April and May, received tailored support for education and skill development, overcoming significant socio-economic challenges.

Jan - Mar 2025: 34 women actively participated, acquiring hands-on experience in tailoring, saree rolling, and beautician skills, along with the mandatory courses.

Saturday Activities: Trainees visited Aarti Village, where they learned about sustainable farming, solar dehumidifiers, and vermicomposting. This experience enriched their understanding of eco-friendly practices and self-sustenance.

Special Events and Celebrations

Throughout the year, Aarti Women's Centre hosted various events that celebrated empowerment, unity, and cultural richness: Sankranti Celebrations (January), Tailor's Day (February), Women's Day (March), Holi Celebrations (March), Deepavali (November).

Success Stories:

Sameera's Journey to Self-Reliance:

Sameera lost her husband during the COVID-19 pandemic and faced immense financial and emotional challenges. Despite her elder son cutting off communication and financial support, Sameera persevered. After failing medical exams thrice in her attempt to go abroad for work, she joined Aarti's skill-based training with no prior tailoring experience. Through determination and support from Aarti's trainers, she learned to stitch blouses and frocks confidently. She now looks forward to joining the garment industry in Bangalore, ready to provide for her son and rebuild her life.

Sony's Ambition for a Better Future (Sony Project):

Sony (name changed), a young girl from Kogatam, struggled to continue her education but found her calling in skill-based training at Aarti. After joining the beautician program, she is now confidently pursuing a career she loves, aiming to become financially independent.



Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) by IFSI

Activity Report: February–March 2025

Aligned with our shared mission to advance women's economic empowerment, VFT, in collaboration with The Udaiti Foundation (TUF), made key progress across multiple initiatives in Uttar Pradesh in the months of February and March 2025. A major milestone was the submission and departmental presentation of the final Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index to the Planning Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh. Developed with 49 indicators across 15 departments, the Index was appreciated by the Planning Department and is set for launch.

VFT also supported the development of Gender Action Plans for the Transport department helping establish a gender cell and define inclusive targets for FY 2025–26.

Two pilot programs also moved forward: the Female Employment Pilot with Qness Corp, approved by the Labour Department, and the Access to Credit Pilot, with consultations underway to finalize district selection and partners. These efforts reflect VFT's continued commitment to systemic change for women's economic inclusion.

Pillar 4 : Advocacy:

Aarti Home has been conducting awareness campaigns on women's rights and women's wellness programs since its inception. This year the focus was on rights and Menstrual Hygiene Management.

Violence Against Women:

In collaboration with the **Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists Society of India (FOGSI)** and doctors as resource persons sessions on **Violence Against Women VAW** were conducted in December for some of the women in Kadapa and the students of Yogi Vemana University.



Workshop on Child Safety:

Continuing our concerns and our campaign for a safe world for children, we conducted a workshop on **Good and Bad Touch** for the students of Aarti School. After the awareness sessions, the children were involved in poster making activity.



Advocacy for Clean Environment:

Our efforts towards a clean, green and a sustainable environment are constantly reflected in all our activities as we advocate for sustainable development. To create awareness on how to live with nature and in nature without damaging it, women visiting AWC were taken on a visit to Aarti Village. They were also provided training on terrace/home gardening and horticulture.



Future Plans

In our continued efforts for the betterment of women and children we propose the following interventions in the coming years

1. Aarti Cares:
 - a. This program aims at providing quality intermediate education to high performing and deserving girls passing out from rural government schools. This will be implemented from the academic year 2025-26 and will benefit around 20 girls.
2. STEM education to girls from government schools.
3. Introduction of AI tools to teens from rural areas in the district.
4. Continuation of projects on education and women empowerment.
5. Inspired by Ms.Nalina Ramalakshmi, the DOT learning methodology for the nursery, KG and grade 1 students will be introduced in the next academic session (2025-26).
6. Aarti Learning Hubs plans to offer daily remedial classes and holistic support to vulnerable children, closing learning gaps and reducing dropouts in Kadapa's slums.

Thank you for all your support