

Thamarai

Learning & Community Centre



Annual Report
2024-2025

“True knowledge is not attained by thinking.
It is what you are; it is what you become.”

Sri Aurobindo - The Life Divine



Thamarai is a registered under Auroville Village Action Trust of the Auroville Foundation

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A message from our hearts!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Another year passed. It was a year of growth. A year of learning and a year of strong connections. We are deeply grateful for your presence and support, which makes all our work possible.

Thamarai is a place where children and youth find their path to growth. They learn, they discover their strengths, and they become leaders. Our Annai Nagar Learning Centre now stands complete, a vibrant community hub, open to all seven days a week.

This year, our focus was broad and deep. We worked to help bodies grow strong, introduced new ways of learning, and trained young people to lead. We also dedicated ourselves to supporting family health and empowering adults through literacy.

We are proud of what we achieved together. This report shares our journey and highlights the impact of your generosity. Your support enables us. Thank you for sharing this journey.

Together we are planting seeds of possibility.



Thamarai: The Lotus Blooms

In Tamil, ‘Thamarai’ means ‘lotus.’ Just as the lotus rises from the mud to bloom beautifully, our vision is for every child to rise from challenging circumstances and reach their full potential and follow paths in life that are meaningful for them.

Our journey began in 2006 with a simple goal: to practice the Auroville ideal of human unity by supporting children in the villages surrounding Auroville to thrive. In this area, many families face daily struggles. Literacy rates are often low, and unstable incomes make it hard for parents to fully support their children’s education. Thamarai steps in to bridge these gaps, aspiring to offer the “missing elements” crucial for a child’s complete development, extending beyond formal schooling. The Annai Nagar Learning Centre is now our permanent home. It was built with the children’s ideas and community feedback, incorporating sustainable practices like solar power, earth brick construction, rainwater harvesting, and water-conserving dry toilets.

The centre is open every day, it is a vibrant space with after-school programs, STEM & integrated classes, weekend activities, body awareness, leadership training, and support for addiction recovery. It also hosts community meetings and adult classes. The adjacent sports ground is equally vital, a space for daily activities, tournaments and community gatherings.

Thamarai is more than a physical structure. It is a working model aspiring to be a blueprint for others to have the agency, capacity and skill to support their own communities to thrive through after-school and activity centres in regions with limited resources. It is a template we wish to share.





Our Year in Numbers: Impact at a Glance

This past year, our daily programs directly served 100 children and youth. We saw a significant shift, with 35% of our students now coming from surrounding villages, a testament to our commitment to caste integration. Our Learning Centre was a hive of activity, open 7 days a week and we organized four vibrant holiday learning camps this year. We provided countless hours of homework support and integrated learning, helping each child progress.

In health and wellbeing, we held various health and dental clinics, ensuring children received essential care. A key part of our daily routine was providing nutritious snacks and health education, to combat undernourishment among students.

Our focus on community and leadership bore fruit. We co-delivered Radical Transformational Leadership (RTL), 4-day program in Tamil for 75 people and RTL 9-day English program for 98 people. Twelve teenagers completed Foroige Leadership for Life program, ready to make a difference. We also celebrated an award-winning international storybook project, a collaboration that brought our students together with peers from Ireland.

Thamarai’s reach extends widely. We directly serve a population of 792 in Annai Nagar, and our influence touches approximately 4,000 people in the surrounding areas. Each number reflects a real story, and each story represents a life touched.



Afterschool: Learning Grows

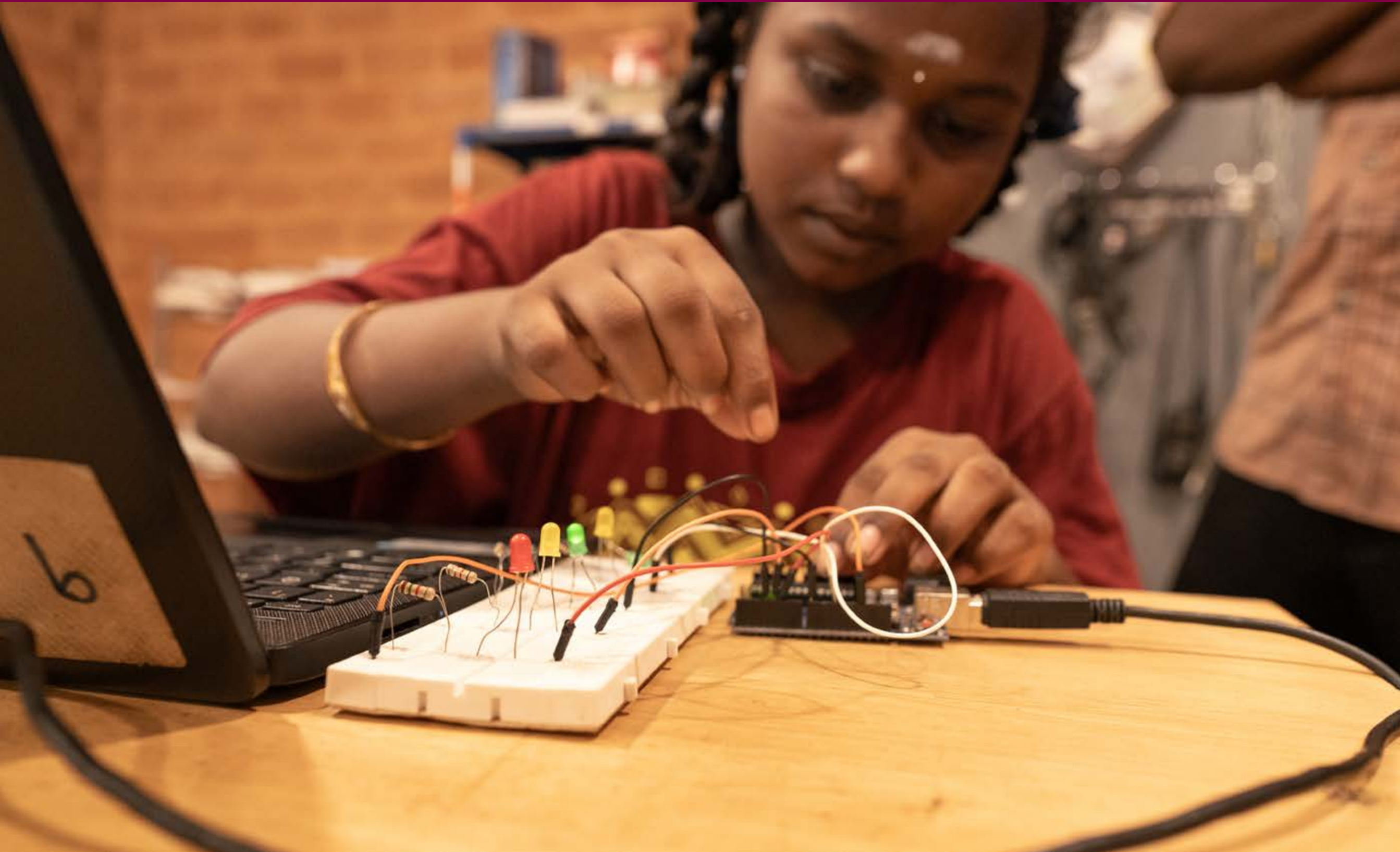
Our afterschool program remains the vibrant heart of Thamarai. Here, we offer more than just homework support; we introduce new concepts and make learning an engaging, joyful experience. Children arrive daily, eager to learn to read, master numbers, and explore the world around them.

Our approach to Integrated Learning goes beyond traditional schooling. It is holistic, encouraging children to learn through hands-on activities, engaging both their minds and their hands, fostering a deeper understanding and growth.

Through the “Joyful English” program, developed by ALERF, children embrace language with enthusiasm. We use songs, movement, and interactive activities, helping them develop strong language skills and a genuine love for English. Their reading skills have shown remarkable improvement. We also equip our young people with essential Digital Skills. Our classes cover computers, coding, robotics, and 3D printing, preparing students for the future. Akshaya, one of our 8th standards, shared her experience: “I learned to use a computer. Now I can do many things. I feel ready for college.”

Sports play a crucial role in our program. We built a dedicated sports ground where children enjoy games like Ultimate Frisbee. This sport, in particular, helps promote gender equity and builds confidence and teamwork among all participants. We are especially proud of our coaches, Gothai and Selvi, who are national champions.

See reports link on page 19





Health & Wellbeing: Stronger Bodies, Clearer Minds

We believe that healthy children learn better and healthy families thrive. Our Health & Wellbeing program is designed by Carla to nurture the potential of both children and their families, addressing their physical, emotional, and mental needs.

We collaborate closely with medical and health services, including Pondicherry Institute of Medical Science and Aurville health services, to provide direct care. We regularly hold health camps and conduct dental check-ups. A core part of our effort involves teaching about good nutrition and providing daily nutritious snacks. This has been crucial in addressing the widespread undernourishment we observed, helping children become stronger and more energetic.

Movement and physical education are integral. We offer yoga and other movement sessions, helping children develop body awareness and emotional regulation. Pablo leads weekly “Awareness Through the Body” sessions, where children learn to pay attention to their inner state and manage their feelings. Honor supports child safety training for our team and children learn about safe touch.

Beyond the children, we extend our support to adults in the community. We offer assistance to people struggling with alcohol addiction, guided by Mutukumari they are supported towards recovery. This support strengthens families and contributes to a healthier, more stable community for everyone.

Full health and well being report link on [page 19](#)



Leadership & Community: Building Futures Together

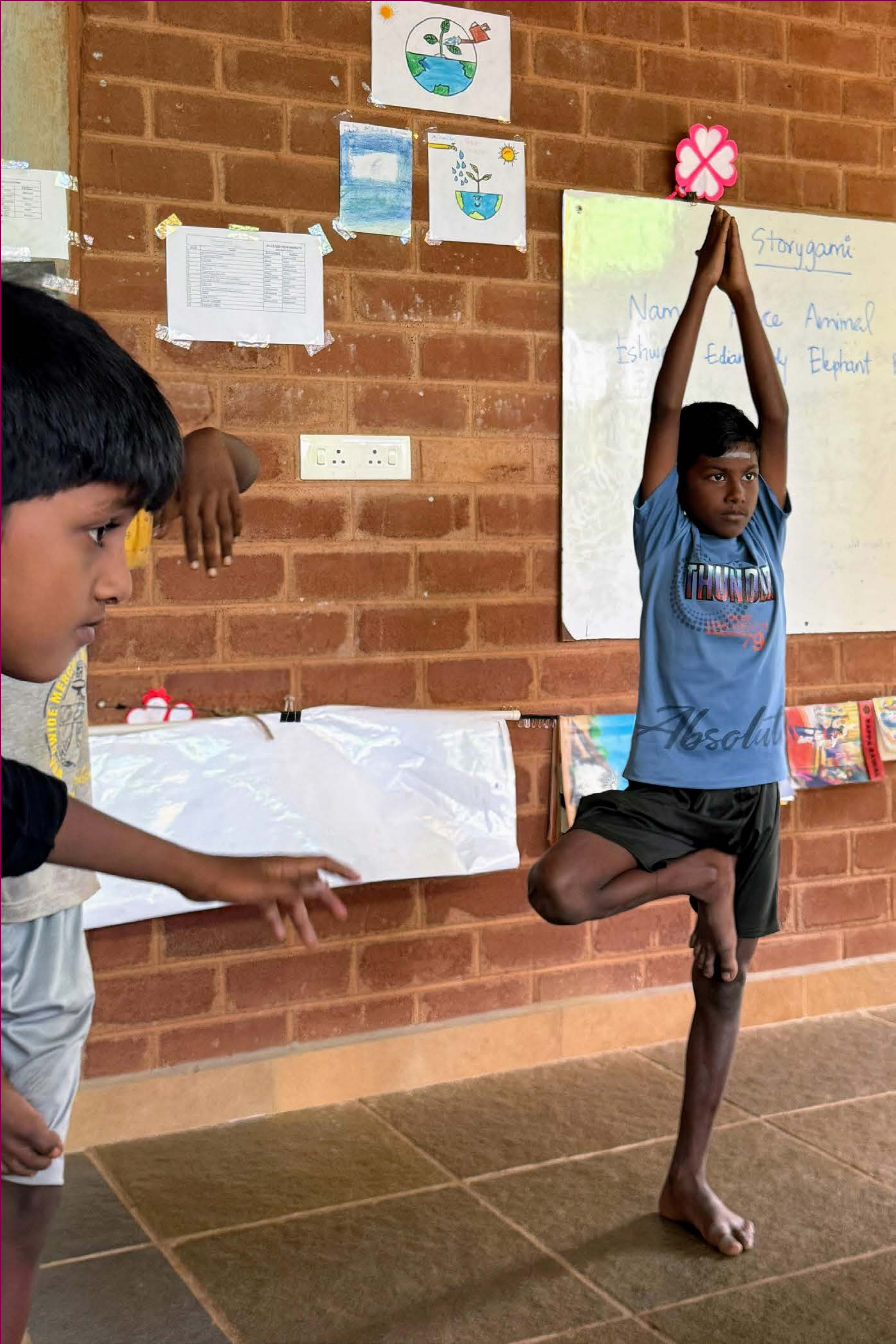
Thamarai cultivates leaders. We operate as a learning organization, with continuous training and reflection. Our core programs, like Radical Transformational Leadership (RTL) training, empower individuals to discover their inner potential and become agents of positive change.

Our teenagers are actively developing into leaders, they are designing and implementing their own Conscious Full Spectrum Response projects. Many of our alumni return to Thamarai, contributing their skills and inspiring the next generation. Savithri, for example, began as a student and now serves full-time in the project in administration and facilitating, embodying her leadership.

Thamarai deeply values its community connections. Parents visit daily, and we hold regular meetings, maintaining an open-door policy to listen and engage. Our “Grandma (AAIYA) is learning too” program is a heartwarming initiative where grandmothers gather to learn numeracy and literacy, proving that it’s never too late to embrace learning. Our community garden is flourishing, evolving into a permaculture garden with active community involvement. It’s a place where we grow food and learn sustainable practices together, strengthening our collective bond.

See report link on page 19





Partnerships & Global Reach

Collaboration is a cornerstone of Thamarai's work. We value our partnerships, both local and international, as they enrich our programs and align with our shared values. Locally, we work closely with Auroville health services, Botanic gardens, Eco Femme, and STEMLand, among others. These collaborations enhance the quality and reach of our programs, ensuring we can provide comprehensive support to our community.

Our youth programs also foster international engagement. We host annual visits from students from Kedge Management College in France, the American University of Paris, and Weltsweart Youth Exchanges from Germany. These interactions create a valuable cross-cultural exchange, broadening the horizons of both our students and our visitors.

A highlight of the past year was an award-winning international storybook project. Our students collaborated with teenagers from the Foroige Bey project in Ireland, creating a joint publication that won 3rd prize in the Education Training Board of Ireland Youth Excellence Awards. This project beautifully demonstrated that young people, regardless of their background or location, can achieve great things when they work together, embodying Thamarai's global spirit. This year we started the first Foroige youth club in Asia!

[Report link on page 19](#)





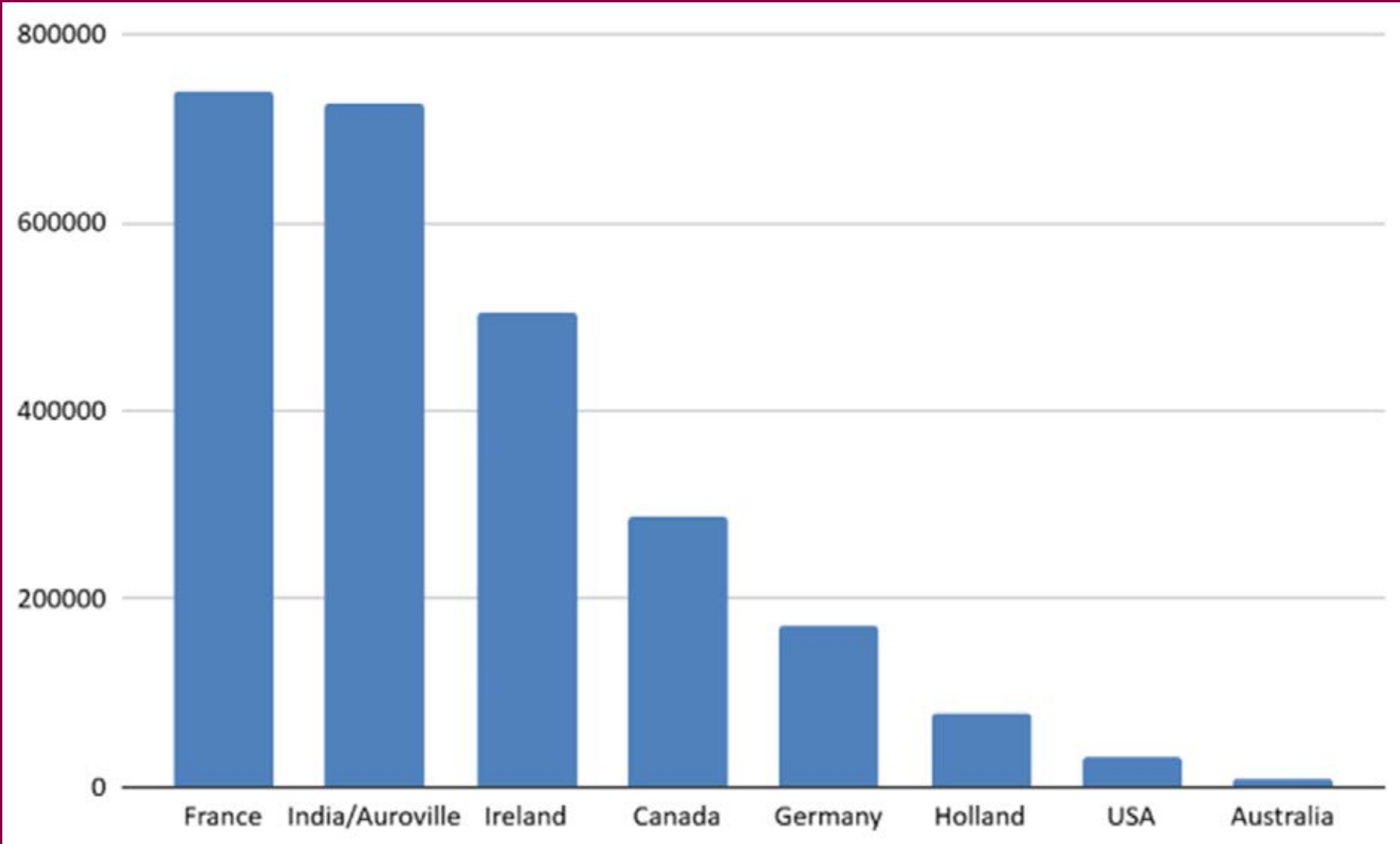
Financial Overview: Our Stewardship

Your support is lifeblood for Thamarai. We are committed to being responsible stewards of every rupee, ensuring that your generosity directly funds our programs and supports the children and community we serve.

Financial Summary 2024-2025:

Category	Amount
Total Contributions Received	INR 226,4854/- (equivalent of Euros 25,165 or US \$ 27,287)
Total Expenses	NR 272,8378 (equivalent of Euros 30,315 or US \$ 32,872)
Shortfall	INR -463,524 (equivalent of Euros -5,150 or US \$ -5,585)
Note: Exchange rates used for conversion: 1 Euro = 90 Rupees, 1 US Dollar = 83 Rupees (approximate for 2024-25) The figures do not include an estimated depreciation of INR 12 Lac on buildings	

Where donations of Rs 226,4854 came from:



This year, we experienced a modest shortfall. This highlights the critical importance of your continued support. Your contributions directly help us keep our doors open, expand our reach, and continue to grow our programs.

Looking Ahead: The Path Forward

Thamarai continues its journey of growth, and moves forward with clear purpose. In the coming year, our focus will be on strengthening our existing programs, providing even more care for each child, and fostering the continued growth of our dedicated team. Our key priorities for the future include:

Developing Leadership:

A significant goal is to create an after-school management curriculum. This will allow us to train local volunteers, empowering them to run similar programs independently.

Deepening Partnerships:

We will continue to work closely with Foroige, Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, RTL and other partners, learning from their expertise and expanding our collaborative initiatives.

Improving our sports ground:

We plan to enhance our sports ground, making it an even more enriching space for play and personal development.

Enhancing Health and Well-being:

We will deepen our focus on nutrition, teach practical life skills like money and time management, and expand our wellbeing & sports programs.

Expanding Education and Skills:

We aim to further develop digital literacy and offer more comprehensive educational opportunities for all ages.

We hold a bigger dream for Thamarai. We envision our center becoming a training hub. We want to share our accumulated experience and methods, helping others establish After-School and Activity Centres in other rural parts of India. In this way, the Thamarai model can spread, planting seeds of learning, care, and hope in many more communities.



Join Our Journey:

Thank you for your belief and trust in Thamarai. You are not just a supporter; you are an integral part of our story, a partner in every child's journey. Your support helps Thamarai's work to bloom and cultivate futures. We warmly invite you to visit our centre to see first hand the work we do.



How You Can Help!

Continue Your Support:

Your ongoing donations are vital. They provide the stability and resources we need to continue our daily operations and to overcome challenges like our recent shortfall. Your consistent support ensures our programs remain strong and accessible.

Spread the Word:

Share the story of Thamarai. Tell your friends, family, and networks about our work. Help us reach more people who care about empowering communities in regions with limited resources.

Donate:

Click on the Link or Scan the code:

<https://thamarai.org/donations/>



More Information and Reports:

[Annual Health & Wellbeing report 2025 by Carla](#)

[Integrated Learning Report](#)

[Joyful English - Literacy Report](#)

[Volunteer Experience](#)

[International Storybook Report](#)

[Virtual Art Gallery](#)

[Leadership for life program](#)

[Puppetry](#)

[STEM & 3D Printing Youth Education](#)

[Youth Education](#)

[Nature writing - Class by Sarah](#)

Thamarai Learning & Community Centre

Annai Nagar, Auroville



Thamarai Team



2024-25 team: L to R - Jagrata, Carla, Gunavathi, Bridget, Abishek, Vishnu, Gothai, Madhumita, Abirami, Anandhi and Ramanan
not in the picture Ananthi, Deanna, Honor, Oskar, Pablo, Pavithra, Savithri



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