



Annual Report 2019

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Overview of Feathers

Only a life lived in service to others is worth living —Albert Einstein.

Feathers is a not-for-profit development organisation promoted on October 10, 2016, coinciding with the World Mental Health Day, which is observed with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. FEATHERS works with the mission of Laying “Foundation for Enabling Action to Transform Human Excellence with Resilience and Self-reliance”

Feathers was founded by a group of Development Professionals in Madurai, who were inspired by Ramamoorthy, an Electrical and Electronics Engineer. After encountering an accidental damage to his spinal cord, he became paraplegic. Undeterred by this set-back, he determined to serve the needy by way of transferring his knowledge in mathematics to children. In spite of being confined to wheelchair, he is busy tutoring students in mathematics and motivating them to get rid of math-phobia. Teaching has become his passion, pastime and profession. He is an inspiration for the entire initiative of FEATHERS and he is the Chairperson of this Trust.

FEATHERS envisions “building an inclusive society with enshrined values of equality, equity and humaneness”.

Registered as a Trust, FEATHERS works for building future citizens of the country with physical and mental wellbeing. The path it has taken for realising its vision is to retain its focus on children with special educational needs (SEN).



The Learning Resource Centre promoted by FEATHERS in Madurai has been mandated to

- Provide educational assistance to children from the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, from urban slums, rural and tribal villages.
- Reach out to children with special needs requiring professional assistance and offer on-campus and off-campus remedial education services
- Create awareness among the parents for identifying special needs in their children, seeking timely and appropriate medical and rehabilitation support.
- Work with like-minded individuals and institutions to further the cause of children with special needs through research, training and policy initiatives.

FEATHERS – Annual Report 2018-19

Though we have promoted FEATHERS as a Trust in 2016, we have started working at the ground from 2018-19. We have spent initial two years to gather requisite skills and perspectives by way of undergoing studies and training, consulting experts in the field. We have established a Resource Centre in Madurai City during this year and attracted a batch of students studying from 1st standard to 10 standards and began our remediation programme.

Simultaneously, we have established Feathers Village Learning Centres in the Rural areas of Madurai District, and extended our work with nearby Virudhunagar District in association with another group of volunteers.

We have initiated our educational initiatives in the following areas:

- Providing remedial education services to the Children from primary and middle schooling at Village level by establishing and operating Learning Resource Centres, by the trained volunteers.
- Organising motivational programme for the Children by inviting resource persons, and making them to address the children through story-telling, folklore methods, competitions, traditional games.
- Distribution of educational materials and aids to the children from underprivileged sections of the society by attracting sponsorships from philanthropic individuals and institutions.

During the year, we have set-up a Learning Resource Centre at Madurai and began our programme. There are four volunteers and two full-time professionals associating with us.

Involving our volunteers, we have undertaken a lot of programmes during this year. All these programmes were opportunities for us to understand the educational requirements of the disadvantaged communities, and what kind of qualitative improvements are required to enhance the educational attainment of the children. We have evolved a logo for FEATHERS, carrying the message of multi-coloured feathers that denotes diversity, colourfulness and flying-high attitude required in the process of learning.

In the coming years, FEATHERS will focus on educational remedial interventions for the children with special educational needs, children with intellectual and learning disabilities. We initiated a pilot programme, for evolving a community based remediation model for addressing the issues of children with learning difficulties from socially and economically disadvantaged households, who are often unaware of these complex issues of SLD and have no way out for providing professional care and support. We will work intensively in the coming years.

Distribution of Educational Materials to Poor Children

A bliss that we achieve after doing service is just unexplainable. Feathers works to provide learning opportunities for children facing poverty and discrimination through delivering education supplies. This small initiation of us encourages the children to read and write improving their education. Feathers has begun its educational service programme by providing a package of educational materials including exercise books, note books and other educational materials to children from the under privileged section of the society, particularly, the children studying in the Government Schools to ensure that their education is not hampered due to lack of educational materials. School bags, notebooks, compass boxes, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, umbrellas, etc. were distributed to the poor children in urban slums and rural areas of Madurai and Virudhunagar District. During the year 330 children were assisted with this support. Each unit was costed Rs. 500.

Along with the educational materials delivered to the students, we have also delivered basic supporting materials to the government schools like mats and sanitary materials.



This program would not have been succeeded without the helping hand and support from the benevolent contributors, individual philanthropists and well-wishers. Our volunteers in the rural areas identified the most deserving children in each village and with their assistance, we have ensured that the materials reached the deserving and needy students.

Running Remedial Learning Centres for the Poor Children

The Feathers Village Learning Centres will be housed in common facilities available in the villages wherever possible. Feathers has promoted VLCs in 10 villages in nearby rural block - Vadipatti. The centres are provided with basic teaching aids, and level volunteers have been identified to run the Centres in the evening hours, after the school.

The students in the Remedial Learning Centres undergo two levels of education and training. During working days of schools, the Centres function as regular remedial tutoring centres in the evenings for students from both primary and middle schools. In the weekends, the Centres function as a training centres to offer specialised training to impart skills in language, mathematics and science. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as sports and games, folklore arts, vocational skills are provided.



The Volunteers follow innovative training methods. The students will be taken outside the classroom into the field to study the flora and fauna of their village, district and state, its forests and water bodies, its agricultural and artisanal practices. Teaching in the field also helps understand how the students see the world differently. With this understanding on student's perspectives, the volunteer will clarify the concepts better. This experiential learning method will help the volunteer to deploy natural world as a teaching aid for biology, botany and physics, geography and create a relationship between children and the natural world.

With the penetration of modern media, our children have been weaned away from the folklore tradition. Education through folklore art would reinforce aesthetic culture, and help build more cooperative, inclusive, and humane values among the children. Artistic activity challenges the imagination and brings out creativity and build a sense of belonging to the immediate surroundings and the environment as a whole. Feathers adopts the following strategies:

- Use of folklore art forms such as puppetry, songs and drama to impart knowledge / concepts.
- Training students on folklore arts to keep them connected to their cultural roots.
- Applying drama / art as a therapy for behaviour change.





Conducting Motivational Programmes for the Rural Students

Feathers believes that the outcome of a true education is building citizenship with civility. It should make the personality of a child complete. It should propagate the culture of valuing fellow human being and environment. It should not only contribute to the self-growth and wellbeing of a person, it should enable a person to get empowered and empower others. Progress of a society can emanate from scientific thinking and contribution.

Many children are growing up in an environment that is absent of authentic role models but increasingly flush with negative media influences that promote fame, flash, conflict and blame, over character development, accountability, unity and impacting the greater good. It is an environment where values development can be low or absent. The results of this unhealthy grooming are:

- Absence of compassion, kindness, respect and gratitude
- Lack of personal accountability
- Sense of privilege
- Lack of self-confidence
- Lack of passion and motivation to excel
- Apathy towards learning

Feathers Village Learning Centres invite people with passion for child development to address the students at the weekend programmes. Using storytelling, sharing of life experiences, telling the life-stories of great leaders, the students are motivated to derive lessons from the stories and internalize the values.

Conducting Competitions for the Rural Students

Conducting village level competitions for the students is an important fun and challenging engagement of children and teens with competitive natures. However, the children only enjoy contests that they have a good chance of winning. Luckily, there are many different traditional competitions, focusing on everything from skill-based talents like arts, skills, creativity and problem solving.

Traditional games that have been played since time immemorial in our villages. However, with the advent of video games and gadgets, people, especially the younger generations, have forgotten these games. Feathers works for reviving such



traditional games and re-introduce such games to give our children a glimpse of the past. For instance – kabaddi, an ancient game, is still very popular. A team sport, kabaddi requires strength and agility, and no equipment.

The traditional games are part of our week-end engagement with the children at our Village Learning Centres. Feathers Promotes such creative contests at village level to impart the competitive attitude among the children.

Celebration of National & International Days for the Rural Students

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5, 2019 at Thiruvudagam village, near Sholavandan, Madurai with active participation of the children from our Village Learning Centres (students of evening tuition centres). As part of the day's celebration, school children took up the 'Clean Village' drive to pick all non-biodegradable plastics and related materials near their residences. In all, 30 children participated and 4 children were given prizes for their actively collecting plastic waste materials including carry bags and other children were received participation prizes. The students were sensitized on the Causes, Consequences and Corrections of air pollution and the urgency to work towards preventing air





pollutions. The concept of 4 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink and its relevance to sustainability was dealt in detail. Followed by this programme the Children took the oath to keep the environment clean.

Children's Day was celebrated on November 14th in the Village

Learning Centres. Volunteers have organised various events like cultural events, sports events, talent shows were organised. Over all 214 children were enthusiastically participated and received prizes.

Health Awareness Programme was organised for the mothers of the VLC Children on traditional foods. They were given a training on locally available 15 types of medicinal plants and usage of their leaves, how to identify the herbal plants in the surroundings, collection of leaves and use them for treating minor ailments. They participated actively and identified the herbs such as Neem leaves, Basil Leaves, Curry Leaves, Tamarind, Eucalyptus, Betel Leaves, Nochi leaves, Pirandai, Drumstick Leaves, Nithyakalyani, Mudakathan, Thoothuvalai Leaves, Musumukkai, Ranavalli and Karpooravalli.



Perspective Plan of FEATHERS

In the next Five Years, FEATHERS would like to create a workable model for remedial education at the grassroots level benefiting children from the poor and vulnerable communities. BY end of the fifth year, FEATHERS would have achieved the following milestones.

- A full-fledged Remedial Resource Centre for conducting research and training in Learning Disabilities and Difficulties would have been built and operationalised.
- Our field based and community centred remediation programme for the children with learning difficulties and SLD would have been established in Madurai District, covering both slums and villages reaching out to 2000 children. A trained volunteer would be placed in each Village/Slum based Learning Resource Centre, serving 25 to 30 children each.
- We would have built capacity of the 100 volunteers in remediation programme for learning difficulties through various hands-on training programmes. They would be available for furthering our initiative in the ensuing years.
- Feathers would have been built as a Resourceful Organisation in educational domain, with needed financial, material and human resources, by mobilising needed support from well-wishers, philanthropic institutions and individuals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to place on record, our sincere gratitude to all our well-wishers, individual and institutional supporters. During the year, support from individuals was overwhelming and with their support only we could distribute educational materials to the deserving children. Also, our thanks are due to our Board of Trustees, who continued to advise us to plan and execute our works professionally with passion and rigour. We thank our volunteers, who worked tirelessly without looking for remuneration, with commitment and sincerity.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**P. SRINIVASAN, B.Com., FCA.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**

No. 3/5, LAKSHMI NARAYANAPURAM AGRAHARAM
SIMMAKKAL, MADURAI – 625 001
CELL: 9443799731, Email: srinivasanaca@gmail.com

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the consolidated Balance Sheet of FEATHERS, 114 E.M.S Nagar, Madakulam Main Road, Ponmeni, Madurai – 625 016, Tamilnadu, India (Permanent Account Number: AAATF6558Q) as at 31 March 2019 and the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust.

This financial statement is the responsibility of the Trust's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the information given to me, the said accounts give a true and fair view:

- i. In the case of the consolidated Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at 31 March 2019 and
- ii. In the case of the consolidated income and expenditure account of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting year ending on 31 March 2019.

Place: **Madurai**

Date: **July 18, 2019**



P. Srinivasan
**CA.P. SRINIVASAN, B.Com., FCA.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**
3/5 Lakshmi Narayanapuram Agraharam
SIMMAKKAL, MADURAI - 625 001
Membership.No: 219094

FEATHERS

114, EMS NAGAR, MADAKULAM MAIN ROAD,
PONMENI, MADURAI-625 016.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		(In Rupees)
RECEIPTS	FOR THE PERIOD ENDED	31-Mar-2019
Donations Received		4,32,840.00
	Total	4,32,840.00
PAYMENTS		
Training to Teachers		66,420.00
Purchase of Educational Aids		1,65,420.00
Salary to Teachers		1,76,000.00
Rent Paid		24,000.00
By closing Balances - Cash in Hand		1,000.00
	Total	4,32,840.00

"Vide my report of even date attached"

for FEATHERS

R. Rauty
Chairperson

R. Parameswari
Treasurer

R. Nageswari
Executive Director

Place: Madurai
Date: July 18, 2019



P. Srinivasan
CA. P. SRINIVASAN, B.Com., FCA.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
3/5 Lakshmi Narayanapuram Agraharam
SIMMAKKAL, MADURAI - 625 001
Membership.No: 219094

FEATHERS

114, EMS NAGAR, MADAKULAM MAIN ROAD,
PONMENI, MADURAI-625 016.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED	
(In Rupees)	
31-Mar-2019	
INCOME	
Donations received	4,32,840.00
Total	4,32,840.00
EXPENDITURE	
Training to Teachers	66,420.00
Salary to Teachers	1,76,000.00
Educational Aids Distributed to Children	1,65,420.00
Rent Paid	24,000.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,000.00
Total	4,32,840.00

"Vide my report of even date attached"

for FEATHERS

R. Raitly
Chairperson

R. Parameswari
Treasurer

R. Nagarajan
Executive Director

Place: Madurai

Date: July 18, 2019



P. Srinivasan
CA. P. SRINIVASAN, B.Com., FCA.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
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SIMMAKKAL, MADURAI - 625 001
Membership.No: 219094

FEATHERS

114, EMS NAGAR, MADAKULAM MAIN ROAD,
PONMENI, MADURAI-625 016.

BALANCE SHEET		(In Rupees)
AS AT		As at 31-Mar-2019
LIABILITIES		
CORPUS and CAPITAL Fund		1,000.00
Total		1,000.00
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets (Gross Block)		
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES		
Cash in hand		1,000.00
Total		1,000.00

"Vide my report of even date attached"

for FEATHERS

R. Ranthy
Chairperson

R. Parameswari
Treasurer

R. Nagappan
Executive Director

Place: Madurai
Date: July 18, 2019



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