

Assist Resettlement & Renaissance

Charity registered in England & Wales – Reg. No. 1151025



1. Solar Powered Lamps Donation by Assist RR

There are many villages in Mullaitivu district, which are not connected to the main grid for electricity supply, and the students are struggling to learn using kerosene lamps due to their financial situation.. It is estimated that a family needs to spend nearly Rs 22,000 per annum to use one kerosene lamp. When many families struggle to feed their children, kerosene is not their priority. This can be resolved by providing solar powered lamps, which would save money on kerosene and enable the children to learn at home in the evenings.

At the opening ceremony of Chandran Pre-School in Mullivaikal East in June 2013, Colombo Ramakrishna Mission (RKM) donated nearly 50 solar powered lamps to help the children learn and families to save money on kerosene. When Assist RR went there to distribute clothes in November 2013, many families, who did not receive these lamps in June 2013, stated that these lamps would be very useful to their children to assist in their learning and made a request that Assist RR should arrange to donate these lamps to the rest of the families in their village.

Assist RR therefore believes that there is a need to provide solar powered lamps to remote villages and to at least O/L & A/L students in remote villages with no electricity. Following Assist RR's appeal, **Anbaalayam and Tamil Engineers Foundation**, both charitable organisations from Australia have provided funds to import 450 lamps from China. These lamps were distributed to villagers in Mullivaikal and Ambalavanpokkanai and to needy O/L & A/L students in remote areas of Thunukkai on 20/21 April 2014. Assist RR visited 6 schools in Thunukkai for this purpose.



Donating solar powered lamps in Mullivaikal East & West on 20/04/14

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Donating solar powered lamps to O/L & A/L students from remote schools in Thunnukai on 21/04/14

These lamps cost only around Rs 1150 (£6) per lamp. The bulb fitted in this lamp has a life of 10 years and the battery has a life of around 3.5 years. The rechargeable battery can be replaced at a cost of Rs 350 locally. The suppliers and RKM haven't received any complaints in the last 1.5 years since they started giving away these lamps. These specific lamps are proven to be reliable and useful products. They would also save a family nearly Rs 22,000 over a year. Even if the lamps lasted 2 years, it would be very cost effective as they would save significant amount of money on kerosene. If we could find more funds, we can provide more solar powered lamps to other remote villages. Assist RR would like to express their gratitude to Anbaalayam and Tamil Engineers Foundation for their generous contributions towards this good cause.

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2. Clothes Distribution in Valayarmadam near Mullivaikal

During a visit by Assist RR in June 2013, three suitcases full of used clothes were taken to Puthumathalan and Ambalavan Pokkanai in Mullaithivu and were handed over to a number of families there. Although Assist RR was unsure how the villagers would react to being provided with used clothes, we found that they were very keen and happy to receive these clothes. This encouraged Assist RR to collect more used clothes in the UK and to ship 6 boxes of to Mullaithivu. These clothes were distributed to the villagers in Mullivaikal, and the event took place at Chandran Pre-School in November 2103. Nearly 120 families benefitted by these clothes.

A second shipment of clothes was sent again in March 2014 after Assist RR collected them from kind hearted people in the UK. These clothes were distributed to nearly 75 families in Valayarmadam, which is located between Mullivaikal and Puthumathalan. People were very pleased to receive these clothes and thanked Assist RR, which has already started collecting more clothes to be given to people of Puthumathalan.



Donating clothes to families in Valayarmadam on 20/04/14