

# Assist Resettlement & Renaissance

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



## Educational Development Projects - Needs Assessment by Assist RR

### Expansion of "After School Tutorials" to more Remote Villages

During Assist RR's current visit (April 2014) to the East and Vanni, members of Assist RR visited many remote villages in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai districts. Some of these villages are located in jungles where elephant roam around. This means that people do not venture out after dark unless there is an emergency. This as well as their financial positions affects the ability of the children to follow extra tuitions to improve their chances. Assist RR noted that nearly 95% of students in these remote villages are opting to follow Arts and Commerce streams in their GCE A/L due to their financial positions as well as due to lack of Maths, Science and English teachers in many schools in these remote villages.

Children lack confidence to take up Maths & Science subjects in A/L because of poor basic knowledge of these subjects due to shortage of teachers. Only a small number is following Maths and Science streams. Wherever Assist RR went, their main requests were to support their children's education. Assist RR visited many schools in these remote villages and spoke to O/L and A/L children. They told Assist RR that they would choose science stream if they have access to free private tuitions.



**Examples for Schools in remote villages of Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa & Amparai districts**

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The effects of teacher shortages in the areas of Maths, Science and English in these villages will be compounded in the long run by children from these villages opting to follow Arts and Commerce. The future generation of these villages can only be saved by the students of today. This is evident in the East and Vanni. It is noticeable that teachers and doctors originated from these areas are dedicating their lives for the betterment of the locals but some teachers from outside these villages attend schools late and leave early as well. These villages need more service minded people from within these villages so that they can look after their own.

There are many vacancies in these villages and teachers from towns and other parts have been appointed for the vacancies. However, they are not assuming their positions because of the remoteness of these villages and are using influences to cancel their transfers. For example, a dental specialist was posted to PTK hospital but people managed to get him transferred to Karaveddy. If these situations are to be changed, students from these villages need our support to help their own.

The above issue could be helped and should be resolved by providing "After School Tutorials" and special weekend classes/seminars free of charge. This would need the support of Diaspora to implement this from Mannar to Amparai. It is also essential that duplication should be avoided as some areas are currently covered a number of charities. Assist RR has been providing this assistance since June 2013 with great difficulty in Mullaithivu district at nearly 24 centres. A recent evaluation process by Assist RR in Mullaithivu district has shown that students have made some improvements compared to the results last year. This assistance is also encouraging students to take up Maths/Science streams. Assist RR hopes that Diaspora Tamils would consider supporting this initiative in other districts as well. Assist RR with the help of local NGOs and principals has identified villages in these districts where this assistance is required.



***"After School Tutorials" at Mallavi Central College in Thunukkai, Mullaithivu***

### **Educating Disadvantaged Children in Hostels**

There is a minority of children from these remote villages, who would benefit from hostel education. These children come from many backgrounds such as unhappy families, orphans, single parent families (mainly widows), etc. Assist RR have seen proofs that these children are succeeding in their lives by entering universities, colleges, etc, through hostel education.

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During the current tour of Assist RR to the East and Vanni, they visited Kalmunai Carmel Fatima College to organise admissions and hostel facilities to three children from a very remote village, called Maalayakaddu bordering Amparai district. **Sivanarulillam** has arranged sponsorship through **Lyca's Gnanams Foundation** to provide hostel education to 10 children from remote areas (16th Colony, Maalayarkaddu, & Raanamadu) in Vellaveli DS Division. Three boys are being admitted to Fatima and seven girls are being admitted to Kalmunai Wesley High School.



***St Mary's Boys Home - Hostel facility for Carmel Fatima College boys***

When Assist RR met with Brother Thevarajah, who runs the hostel (St Mary's Boys Home) of Carmel Fatima College, to discuss hostel admission to the three boys, he told Assist RR that the boys' home is being run with great difficulties as there are 42 boys of the total of 62 boys do not pay for their stay. These 42 boys do not pay because of their family financial situations. Six of these 42 boys have lost both of their parents, 21 boys lost one parent (most fathers), and rest 15 boys come from very poor background. These 42 boys hail from Sorikalmunai, Alikambai, Batticaloa, Valaichchenai, Vaharai and Trincomale and Mannar.

Although the home needs around Rs 2.5 Million (Rs 4000 per boy), Brother is currently raising Rs 1 Million only. Brother has been visiting middle class families in Kalmunai and asking them to provide at least one meal on special occasions such as birthdays and remembrance days. Assist RR members were invited to a dinner provided to the children by a family who lost their father (photos given below). Brother told Assist RR that this is how they have been surviving but they struggle many days due to lack of funds.

Even with all these difficulties, the boys in this home are doing very well in their education. Brother Thevarajah has been providing extra lessons to these boys by bringing in teachers from outside, although they struggle some times for food. He told Assist RR that their main focus is education, education & education. Assist RR has seen proof for this statement as described below.

Last year, nine non-paying boys (3 maths/science, 4 Arts & 2 commerce) from this home sat A/L and seven of them are entering universities including Moratuva and Sri Jeyawardena Pura. The other two boys are enrolling at colleges to learn vocational training. Four of these nine boys made requests for funding to start their university education. One of them has lost both parents.

Similarly, six of these boys sat O/L last year and all of them passed and 2 of them are eligible to do science subjects in A/L. This proves that helping these boys would benefit them as well as their communities.

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Assist RR have met many officials who hail from these villages and are now serving their communities with dedication.



***Boys at St Mary's Boys home enjoying their dinner provided by a family***

Assist RR urge Diaspora Tamil to consider sponsoring at least one child at a cost Rs 4000. If we could sponsor at least 20 boys here, Brother Thevarajah should be able look after these 42 non-paying children by also using generous support of meals by the local people. Please kindly consider this worthy appeal, which would help the boys as well as their communities. This system would also assist students to choose science subjects.

**Please help these boys.**