

## TNF –ABC Proposal for Namakkal District

### 1.0 PREAMBLE

The proposal to expand the TNF –ABC Project in Namakkal district has been drawn based on the interest expressed by the TNF Michigan Chapter. The TNF Chennai Chapter went to Namakkal district to assess the needs in about 10 schools which were recommended by the CEO. The assessment was done in five schools in Kolli Hills and five schools in and around Namakkal town.

#### 1.01 About the proposed district

**Namakkal District** is an administrative district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. The district was bifurcated from Salem District with Namakkal town as Headquarters on 25-07-1996 and started to function independently from 01-01-1997. The district has 4 taluks (subdivisions); Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Rasipuram, Velur and KolliHills(in descending order of population) and has two Revenue Divisions; Namakkal and Tiruchengode. It was major source of Tamil Nadu Economy. Namakkal District comes under the North Western Agro climatic zone of Tamil Nadu. It is situated in the dividing portion of two watersheds between Cauvery and the Vellar System with the Taluks of Attur, Rasipuram and Namakkal on the East and Salem, Omalur and Mettur on the West. Tiruchengode taluk alone is placed under Western Agro-climatic zone.

Besides the above two zones, Kolli and a few isolated hills and ridges are scattered over Namakkal, Rasipuram and Tiruchengode and along with the valleys and rolling hills, make up the characteristic topography of the district.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 20 % and 3.3% of the population respectively. According to 2011 census, **the average literacy of the district was 68.12%, compared to the national average of 72.99%. According to the State Level Achievement Survey - 2014 conducted by Sarva Shiksha Abiyan, in three subjects English, Tamil and Math for class 3, 5 & 8, the results show :**

Subject	Class 3	Class 5	Class 8
Tamil	81%	63%	68%
English	68%	68%	56%
Math	76%	70%	57%

**Though the result shows the district performance is above average, there are considerable per cent ages of students in all classes who need special attention to improve .**

## 1.02 Namakkal and Kolli Hills are the Taluks proposed for the TNF ABC Project

**Namakkal** or **Namagiri** (Tamil: நாமக்கல்) is a city and a municipality in Namakkal district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the headquarters of Namakkal district. It is the first ISO 14001-2004 certified municipality in Asia for environmental management, specifically the provision and maintenance of water supply, solid waste and sewage management, town planning, lighting and other social services. It is a part of Kongu Nadu (Kongu Desam) region of Tamil Nadu.

Namakkal is located at 11.23°N 78.17°E. It has an average elevation of 218 metres (715 ft). It is close to Kolli Hills - which is part of the Eastern Ghats. The closest river is Kaveri and it is located 360 km southwest of Chennai and 250 km south of Bangalore.

Namakkal is a historic town with reference back to at least 7th century. The name Namakkal derives from Namagiri, which is the name of the single rock formation at the center of the town. Mahatma Gandhi held a public meeting in 1933 in Namakkal under the slope of the Namakkal rock. It is one of the few places in Tamil Nadu, that has not been seriously affected by famine.

The economy of the district was primarily agricultural, but as on today it has changed its occupation to Lorries, Educational Institutions, Poultry Farms and real estate. So, Poultry, Lorry Transport and related businesses drive the economy of the town. Namakkal is famous for its Lorry body building industries and Poultry farms. It is India's 2nd biggest egg producing region (producing 3 crore eggs per day). A wide variety of crops are grown within the district. One of the main crops is Tapioca.

**Kolli Hills** or **Kolli Malai** (Tamil: கல்லிமலை) are featured in several works of classical Tamil literature such as Silappathigaram, Manimekalai, Purananuru and Ainkurnuru. The region was ruled by Valvil Ori around 200 A.D., who is praised as one of the seven great philanthropists of ancient Tamil Nadu. His valor and marksmanship are sung by several poets, and his exploits are a popular part of folklore. Kolli hill is a small mountain range located in central Tamil Nadu in Namakkal district of India. The mountains are about 1300 m in height and cover an area of approximately 280 km. The Kolli Hills has 70 hair pin bends to reach the top of the hills. The Kolli Hills are part of the Eastern Ghats, which is a mountain range that runs mostly parallel to the east coast of South India. The Mountain is named Kolli Malai behind the name of Goddess Ettukkai Amman (KolliPaavai). The Goddess has been guarding the hills from evils and the same is believed even now.

The Kollihills is a sub taluk and forms a part of Namakkal district. Semmedu is the headquarters for the Kolli hills and Semmedu is connected by road to Namakkal and Salem.

**Kolli Hills is covered in dense forest and is inhabited by the Malai Alis tribal community. The name 'Malai Ali' derives from 'Malai' meaning 'hill,' and 'Ali' meaning 'dweller'. 14 village panchayats with an estimated total population of 42,200 people, 95% of whom are tribals, are present in the hills.**

Important farm products of the mountain ranges include coffee, tea, jackfruit, pineapple, black pepper and other spices. Rice and other minor millets form the staple food of the tribal people who

inhabit these mountains. The jackfruit grown on these mountains is well known for its taste and fragrance and is often soaked in wild honey that is also harvested from these mountains. Forest produces are the main source of income for the people of Kolli Hills who come down by foot with their produces to the foot hills of Kolli Hills and they sell their produces and go back after buying their required materials.

## **2.0 TAMIL NADU FOUNDATION AND ITS EXPERIENCE**

TNF has been implementing more than 600 projects across the following four sectors for the past 40 years:

- Strengthening Education and Empowering Youth
- Improving Health and Hygiene
- Facilitating Rural Development
- Ensuring Women Empowerment

Over the period and with its experience of cluster approach in **empowering education among the rural students** since 2012, TNF now proposes to enhance education in the needy areas. In this way, a cluster of schools in Sivagangai district has been adopted by the TNF Philadelphia Chapter, Vellore district by TNF Chennai Chapter and Cuddalore district by Chicago Chapter. In this line, it is now proposed to extend this project to Namakkal district based on the following criteria:

- (1) Performance of student below class 8 in SSA survey
- (2) Presence of TNF in the district and good rapport with the education department officials
- (3) Availability of Financial support to implement the project atleast for a period of five years.

## **3.0 KEY OBJECTIVE**

- To improve learning capabilities of targeted students

## **4.0 KEY RESULT AREAS (Period January 2015 – April 2020)**

- Provide quality coaching to targeted students
- Promote self development and motivation through soft skills
- Empower TNF teachers to improve their teaching and motivate slow learners

## **5.0 DETAILS OF THE ONGOING PROJECTS IN EDUCATION**

### **5.1 TNF-ABC in Sivagangai District**

- TNF-ABC (Academic Bridge Course) project was initiated in February, 2012 in selected eight Government schools in Sivagangai district to motivate and improve the performance of students who are weak in academics identified by the teachers.
- The number of slow learners in each school range from 30 to 100. About 400 students are enrolled under this project.

## **5.2 TNF –ABC in Vellore District**

- TN Chapter is implementing a comprehensive strengthening education project in five schools at Vellore district since October 2013.
- This project was initiated after evaluating the success of similar projects in Sivagangai, Kattupakkam and Vedanthangal .
- Around 480 students who are weak in academics from class 6 to 9 were identified and given coaching in reading and writing skills and are streamlined into regular syllabus.
- Special coaching center is run for classes 10 in all the five schools, an hour before school begins and two hours after the school in the evening hours. This benefits about 350 students.

## **5.3 Special Coaching Classes in Kattupakkam, Vellore District**

- The aim of the coaching center started in 2010 - 11 was to provide additional coaching to improve the academic performance of the students in the Public Examination.
- The coaching has improved the pass percentage to approximately 80% in 2011, 95% in 2012, 100% in 2013 and 90% in the last academic year.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> class special coaching center at Kattupakkam was sponsored by TNF Houston Chapter for the last academic year ( November 2013 to March 2014)

## **5.4 TNF - ABC in Cuddalore District**

AS an extension of the TNF –ABC Project and to replicate the TNF’s education model, six schools have been selected at Cuddalore district. The coaching for students performing low in academics of class 6 to 9 has started from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014 which is supported by TNF Chicago Chapter. The project also focuses on providing special coaching for all students of class 10 in the targeted schools with two days soft skill training.

## **5.5 Soft Skill Training**

- Training in soft skills was provided to the rural and urban youth passing out of school to promote the students ability to present and communicate effectively and perform with confidence.
- 1450 students in 33 schools across seven districts of Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Tiruvannamalai, Sivagangai, Villupuram and Vellore) have benefited.
- Training is conducted by Master trainers selected by TNF in collaboration with NTTF, Bangalore.

## **5.6 TNF Teachers Training**

- To motivate and inspire teachers towards their profession and empower teachers to self analysis and improve the teaching skills, a three day workshop is organized for the Teachers appointed by TNF in Arrakkonam Taluk.
- Teachers appointed in the ABC in all the three districts – Sivagangai, Vellore and Cuddalore participated on “Basic Methodology of classroom management” workshop.

## 6.0 TARGET GROUP

Based on the experience gained at Sivagangai, Vellore and Cuddalore districts, TNF proposes to implement similar **project in six selected Government High and Higher schools and Govt. Tribal Residential schools from class 6 to 12 in Namakkal district.**

The proposed schools are selected in consultation with the District Education Officials.

### Details of selected Schools at Namakkal District

Sl. No .	Name of the School	Classes	School total strength	No. of teachers available	No. of vacant positions of teachers	10th class public exam result in 2014	12 <sup>th</sup> class public exam result in 2014	Approximate no., of students performing weak in academics from class 6 to 9
1	Valvil Ori GTR Hr. Sec. School, Vazhavabdi Nadu, Kolli Hills	6 to12	515	20	28	86%	77%	40
2	GTR Hr.Sec.School, Senkarai, Kolli Hills	6to 12	319	6	9	55%	88%	70
3	GTR Hr.Sec.School, Mullukkurichi, Kolli Hills	6 to 12	757	27	32	83%	74%	110
4	GTR High School (Girls),Mullukuruchi, Kolli Hills	6 to 10	426	7	7	82%	N.A	55
5	Govt. Hr.Sec.School (Boys), Erumapatti, Namakkal	6 to 12	549	27	27	73%	75%	75
6	Govt. Hr. Sec.School, Kalappanayagan-patti	6 to 12	589	31	32	89%	79%	92
	<b>Total</b>							<b>332</b>

**Note: GTR-Govt. Tribal Residential School**

## Specific information about proposed schools

### **1.Valvil Ori GTR Hr.Sec.School, Vazhavandi:**

This school was started way back in 1967 as School for Adivasis. Later in 1976 this was converted into High school and named as 'Valvil Ori GTR High School', in memory of the King 'Valvil Ori' who ruled the region around 200 A.D. He is praised as one of the seven great philanthropists of ancient Tamil Nadu. His valor and marksmanship are sung by several poets, and his exploits are a popular part of folklore. The school became Hr. Sec.School in 1978. Students come from about 14 areas which is called as Nadu. There are a few day scholars who come from Vazhavandi and the rest of them stay in the separate hostels that are available for boys and girls. It is said that there are lot of drop outs in class 10 due to parents lack of interest in children education.

### **2. GTR Hr.Sec.School, Senkarai:**

There is shortage of teachers in this school. There are only 4 teachers available for classes 6 to 10 and 2 teachers for 12th class. The school was upgraded to Higher Secondary in 2010-11 and the result was during the 1st batch was 0% as there were no teachers at all for class 11 and 12. Gradually the results were improved from the next academic year. The Head Master seems to be on leave more often as he is transferred from Chennai.

### **3. GTR Hr. Sec. School (Boys), Mullukuruchi:**

This school is seems to have big campus but the classrooms are spread here and there. It has a big strength of nearly 757 students. There is shortage of teachers, out of 34 there are 32 but 5 teachers are deputed to the nearby Girls school. It is told that in class 6 there is more than 70% of weak students. The teachers seem to be supportive and encouraging.

### **4. GTR High school (Girls), Mullukuruchi:**

This school seems to be doing well yet they look for support to coach the weak students as there is quite a majority in class 6. There are about 100 girls who stay in hostel who are from different villages. The teachers are committed.

### **5. Govt. Hr. Sec. School (Boys), Erumapatti:**

There is full strength of teachers in this school, yet it is challenging for them to focus on the students who are weak in studies due to heavy strength of students in each class. This school has also started English medium for class 6 from the current academic year onwards. There are 19 students in the English medium. The school Head Master is pro active and takes various measures to improve the performance of students. His only concern is "lack of parental care. Atleast 20% of the students are single parent and are from other districts". Students need counseling in terms of personal care and protection and in preparing them for exams.

### **6. Govt. Hr. Sec. School (Boys), Kalappanayaganpatti:**

This school is located at the foot of Kolli Hill. Most of the students of this school are from Kolli Hill and stay in the Govt. (BC/SC) Hostel not connected with school. Long absenteeism is the biggest problem expressed by the school Head Master. The students who go to visit their family members at weekends are so do not return to hostel on time and take long leave. This seems to create a gap to cope with their studies.

## **7.0 PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- Around 450 students of class 6 to 9 will improve in academics
- Targeted 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students will be better prepared to face the public exam to achieve better results and have will have more information on career options
- TNF appointed teachers are trained to handle and motivate academically weak students

## **8.0 PROJECT BUDGET**

The proposed budget is drawn for a period of one year from January 2015 to December 2015. This is only an approximate estimation for six schools which is calculated after considering the local situation like the distance between schools in Kolli Hills and the Namakkal town and the infrastructure facilities etc.

**Total cost for six schools a year - INR 992,000 US\$ 16,533**

Detailed budget is annexed in excel sheet –**Annexure 1**.

Inflation of 10% per year, need to be incorporated from second year onwards up to five years.