



# TAMIL NADU FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2017-18

# குறள் வழியில்...

அதிகாரம்: ஈகை

குறள் : 221

வறியார்க்கொன்று ஈவதே ஈகைமற் றெல்லாம்  
குறியெதிர்ப்பை நீர துடைத்து.

விளக்கம்:

வறியவர்க்கு ஒரு பொருளைக் கொடுப்பதே ஈகை  
எனப்படுவது. மற்றவர்க்கு கொடுப்பதெல்லாம்  
பயன் எதிர்பார்த்து கொடுக்கும் தன்மை உடையது.





# TAMIL NADU FOUNDATION

## Tamil Nadu Chapter

### Annual Report 2017-18



"Building capabilities, bettering lives."

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## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

### Greetings from TNF USA!

The year 2018 was a very dynamic year for Tamil Nadu Foundation in Tamil Nadu and in the U.S.A. Key highlights of the year include:

- Expansion of our successful ABC education initiative in government schools across Tamil Nadu
- TNF USA's 44th National Convention in New Jersey
- Growth of TNF Service and Education Internship for U.S. - born Tamil youth and linking the next generation with their ancestral heritage through volunteering and service
- Swift and targeted relief and rehabilitation activities in Cyclone Gaja affected districts

TNF USA reached a milestone in receiving \$1 Million in donations in 2018-19 fiscal year and that reflects the vote of confidence the donors have on TNF's ability to identify projects that are unique, cost effective and sustainable, and in our ability to implement them directly by adhering to all government rules and regulations

As the largest and oldest U.S.-based charity organization solely focused on Tamil Nadu, TNF continues to grow in membership, donors and Chapters and has become the sister organization of choice for numerous U.S. organizations interested in assisting humanitarian services in Tamil Nadu.

We fully realize that starting new projects is relatively easy, but the challenge is in our ability to sustain them over time. To address the issue proactively, TNF USA Board has launched "Mann Vaasanai" an \$8 Million district focused corpus initiative, with emphasis on using only the interest from these funds to expand and sustain TNF projects across the state.

The credibility TNF has built among U.S. donors is primarily because of the ability of our Tamil Nadu Chapter to stretch our hard-earned dollars and maximize the benefits for the underprivileged. In the last couple of years, under the very involved and passionate Chairmanship of Mr. S.Rajarethinam, IAS (Retired), TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter has evolved and demonstrated its potential to directly execute projects all over Tamil Nadu, under TNF banner. This is a testimonial to the strength of our Board Members, Trustees and the dedicated TNF staff in Chennai and in various districts.

On behalf of all our donors and TNF Life Members, we congratulate TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter for its many accomplishments in 2018. We thank the government officials, industry and NGO partners, public and all those who extended their support to TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter in our mission to empower the underserved in Tamil Nadu.

Sincerely,

**Somalay Somasundaram**

President, Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc, USA

**"Ask not what your country can do for you,  
but what you can do for your country".**

- John F. Kennedy, U.S. President



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN

Tamil Nadu Foundation has been focusing on “Building Capabilities and Bettering Lives” of the needy people of Tamil Nadu. So far we have reached out to more than 2 lakh people both children and adults through 65 Projects every year.

The ABC Project which is the Flagship project of TNF has been expanded to more schools. During this year, 4,957 students in 51 Government Schools in rural areas have benefitted through this project. The Soft Skills Programme which is part of the ABC Project is credited to have changed the lives of many students and helped them to climb the ladder of success.

TNF has also reached out to many women and youth in rural areas through various training programmes.

People affected by Gaja cyclone in Thiruvavur, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts received Relief materials, roof Tiles and Medical aid. TNF is currently in the process of assisting 100 beneficiaries for building Permanent Houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY) Schemes announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Delta region.

All this has been possible with the support of the NRI Tamils in USA who want to give back to their ancestral roots in Tamil Nadu.

Ambitious Fund raising programme “**MANN VAASANAI**” is being launched by TNF with passion for helping the under privileged in Tamil Nadu.

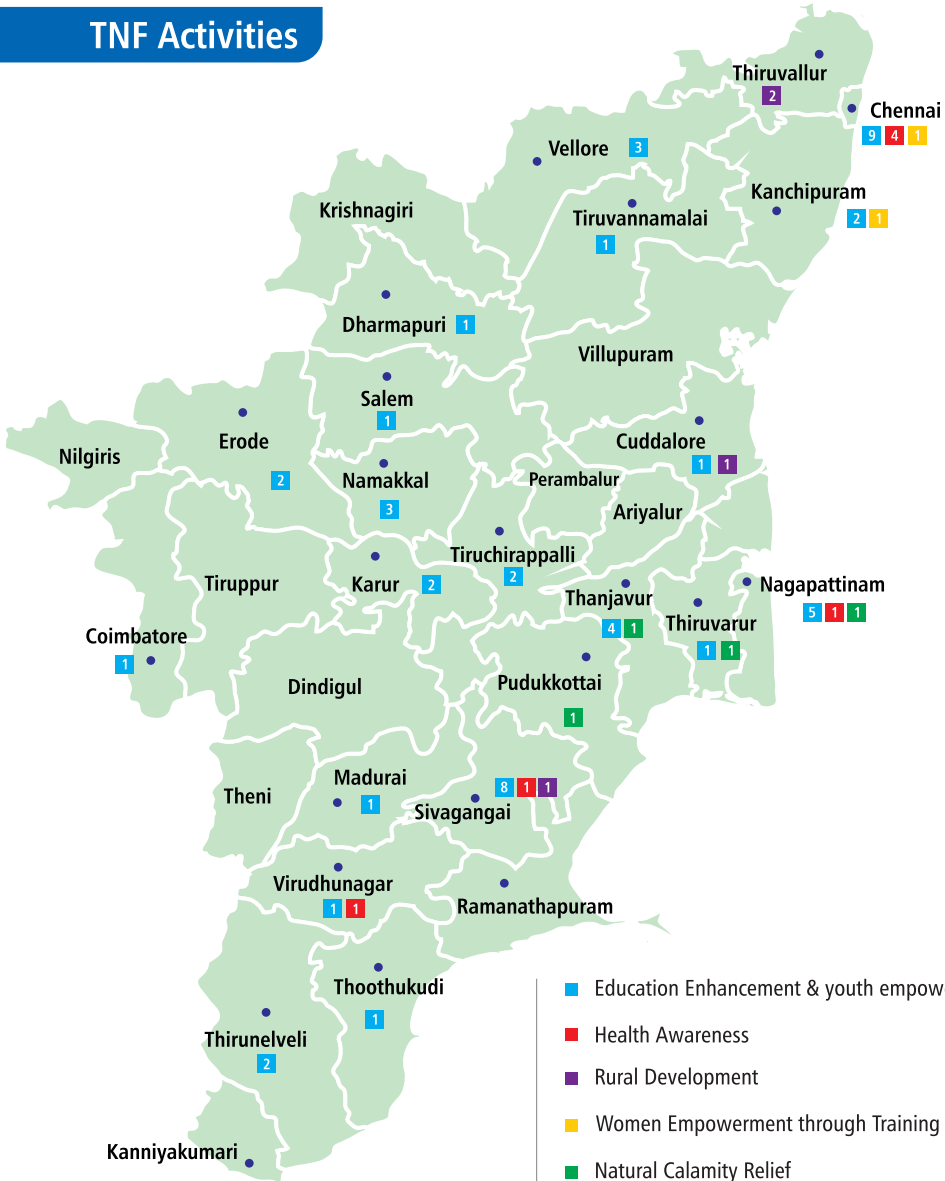
I thank the donors and the volunteers for all their support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rajarethinam'.

**S. Rajarethinam., I.A.S., (Retd.)**

Chairman, Tamil Nadu Foundation - TN Chapter

## TNF Activities



Map not to scale locations marked approximately for representative purpose only.

Numbers inside the boxes indicate no. of projects (under each category) at each location.

## About TNF

Tamil Nadu Foundation Tamil Nadu Chapter was established in the year 1983 and it is a non-profit Trust.

TNF USA was established by Tamil NRIs settled in USA in the year 1974.

The Mission of the Trust is to channelize funds received from NRI Tamils in USA to help the needy people in Tamil Nadu.

### Objectives

- Enhancing quality of Education.
- Improving Health and Hygienic Environment.
- Creating basic infrastructure for rural development.
- Empowerment of women to achieve better socio-economic status.



## Snapshot of our Initiatives

### EDUCATION

Academic Bridge Course (ABC)  
Digital Classroom  
Educational Scholarship  
Service and Education Internship  
Kanavagam

Health Awareness Camps

Tailoring Courses - Training

Public Libraries  
Summer Camps in Villages



## 1. Education Enhancement Programmes

### i. Academic Bridge Course (ABC) Projects



TNF - ABC model's mission is to uplift rural students by enabling them to achieve grade level proficiency, boosting their morale, and championing their academic aspirations. The TNF – ABC Project was conceived and developed by a study team consisting of Students, Teachers, Parents, School officials, and TNF representatives from Chennai and the U.S.

Donations to TNF's Pittsburgh convention in 2008 and the Philadelphia convention in 2010 enabled TNF to pilot school Education Projects in Chengalpattu and

Sivagangai Districts. This led to the evolution of the TNF - ABC Project, which has now been expanded to Vellore, Cuddalore, Thiruvavur, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Thirunelveli and Chennai Districts.





## Unique aspects of the TNF - ABC Model:

### A - Achieving Grade Level Proficiency Uplifting the "Slow Learners"

Special Classes are conducted in the adopted schools by TNF - ABC teachers for students identified as "Slow Learners" by their teachers. The intent of these classes is to help students to develop proficiency in the fundamentals and pass the final exam.



**Vasuki** started showing interest in studies after TNF started coaching classes both at her village and in the School. Her performance improved in class 8 and 9 and scored 369 marks out of 500 in class 10 Public Examination. She sets a good example for the children in her community in continuing schooling among the many drop outs.

"I didn't know to read or write or even did not know to identify the alphabets. After TNF gave special coaching I was able to read and write and got interest to study. TNF supported me with note book, pen, pencil and other school stationery including school bag and Tiffin Box."



**Vasuki** was one among the students of Govt. High school, Katchanam, Thiruvavur District in the TNF ABC class. She belongs to 'Jogi' community at Apparkudi where TNF supported the households during flood of 2015. She is a single parent child and lives with her father. Most of the time, she is left on her own as her father goes out of station to earn their living.



## B - Boosting the Morale

TNF - ABC Model boosts the morale of average and above average students in adopted schools by inculcating the following skills through training sessions and seminars:

- Self Confidence
- Communication Skills
- Time Management
- Motivation
- Memory Capacity
- Goal Setting
- Self - Discipline
- Human Relations
- Hard work and Smart work



10th and 12th grade public exams are important milestones in student's lives and significantly influence their future. By organizing free

“

A two day soft skills training was organized at Govt. Girls High School, Kalapur in October 2017. At the end of the two day training, one of the students named Jayapratha says, "I participated in two days training on soft skills where they talked about self confidence, time management, etc., which was useful to us. They also gave some puzzle and games. They gave tips on how to manage sleep and focus on studies. They also told us about the career options available after finishing 12<sup>th</sup> and also 10<sup>th</sup> class. This was very useful to all of us."

”



## C - Championing for Higher Aspirations

With the help of the Head Master and Teachers, Students with Higher aspirations and capabilities are identified, and their ambitions are nurtured through individual or group oriented initiatives such as:



- Mentoring Summer camps and Computer Training in Village libraries
- College Visits
- College application process support
- Scholarships
- Career Guidance
- Internships
- Job Placement

“ ‘ Kathiravan “I was one among the student who went on a College exposure tour organized by TNF. TNF took us to Annamalai University at Chidambaram. I was so excited to enter into this college like my other friends. This was my first visit to college. We were taken to all the departments where the Professors explained the courses offered in each department and the eligibility criteria and the facilities available in each department. Later in the afternoon, we were all gathered in a hall where, the Dean and some of the professors explained how to manage stress, how to focus on preparing for examination and how to start preparing from now to choose our career.” Kathiravan is studying in class 10 in Govt. Adi Dravida Welfare Hr. Sec. School, Mathuranthaganallur, Cuddalore District.’ ”

<b>Districts Covered</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Schools adopted for ABC Programme</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Students in ABC Coaching classes (Std. 6 to 9)</b>	<b>2724</b>
<b>Students benefitted in two days soft skills training</b>	<b>2054</b>
<b>Students on Educational exposure visit</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Total No. of Students benefitted</b>	<b>4957</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs.53 Lakhs.</b>

## D - TNF - ABC Project Co-ordinators and Teachers Training.



Any good initiative needs a sustainable thought process. In order to make this a sustainable model, TNF selected teachers and co-ordinators from the local population who maintain close rapport with the students, their parents and also with headmasters of schools. For every 30 students one co-ordinator has been appointed. This ensured right communication, mutual support and progress.



No. of Teachers & Co-ordinators benefitted

87

## ii. Digital Classroom

TNF initiated a Pilot Project in Chennai, which on its success, will be replicated in rural schools across Tamil Nadu.

The main Objective of the Digital Classroom:

- To enable students in the school to learn Mathematics joyfully using computers.
- To enable the deprived students access technology.



Digital classroom is expected to bring significant progress among 250 students every year.



This project was developed with the support of other like minded partners. **Trivent Systems Pvt. Ltd** provided 30 computers, LCD Projector, Screen and power backup system, **Vetrivel Foundation** provided relevant content for teaching Mathematics for class 6 to 8, **Ramco Group** supported recurring and non-recurring expenditure to improve the classroom environment with additional computers and Facilitator.

Total project fund

30 Lakhs



”

‘ **Deepa**, Math Teacher “It’s a gift for our students. Generally Math is considered as touch subject. They see the videos first and follow the steps to do the exercises. They do it with interest. This promotes self learning. Students enjoy doing Math through computers and learn fast.’

‘ **Rizwana Begum** class VII student “Math is not easy to learn in regular class but it is easy to learn through computers. After watching video about the exercise we are going to do, we get into the task and move from one level to the next by ourselves. It gives self confidence and us useful for future. We do not have this facility at home but so happy that the school provides this exposure for us.’

”

### iii. Educational Scholarship



TNF extends educational scholarships to the students who belong to economically backward families and aspire to continue their higher education.

#### SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT 2017 - 18

S.No	Course	No of Students	Scholarship Amount in INR.
1	Medical Courses	12	3,88,757
2	Engineering, Degree and other Diploma Courses	50	10,61,647
3	School Support	159	6,98,792
	<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>Rs.21.5 Lakhs</b>

”

‘Sivaprasath, Thanks for this financial support for my education. I cannot express my happiness enough to you for being selected for this finance. I have completed my BE in the stream of “Electronic and Communication Engineering” in first class with 79%. Now I am working in Private company as “Business Development Executive” with 15K Salary at “Ignite Inclusive Technologies Pvt. Ltd” in Bangalore. I am taking care of my family. I thank you for this scholarship.’

”



#### iv. Service and Education Internship

The service and education internship programme was initiated in 2014. NRI students from different parts of USA participate in the programme. The key objectives of the programme remained the same, broaden the perspective, team building, developing leadership skill and voluntarism.

##### Fourth batch of Internship programme



Thirty NRI students in different rural Government Schools and Centre for Medical Genetics, Chennai.



## Partner Schools for Internship.

- Greater Chennai Hr. Sec. School, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai
- Government Girls Hr. Sec. School, Ashok Nagar, Chennai
- The Besant Theosophical Hr. Sec. School, Besant Nagar, Chennai
- Olcott Memorial Hr. Sec. School, Besant Nagar, Chennai
- Center for Medical Genetics, Chennai
- Subramanian Chettiar Gurukulam Hr. Sec. School, Amaravathipudur, Sivagangai District
- Sathappa Government Higher Secondary School, Nerkuppai, Sivagangai District
- Government High School, Ramanathapuram, Pollachi, Coimbatore District
- Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kalappanaickenpatty, Namakkal District
- Government Boys Hr. Sec. School, Erumapatti, Namakkal District
- Mangayarkarasi Higher Secondary School, Madurai District
- Grama Senaithalaivar Hr. Sec. School, Thirunelveli District

## Chennai Innovation & Technology Incubation Center (CI-TIC)



Setting up Technology Incubation Center in TNF building in collaboration with Trichy Regional Engineering College & Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (TREC-STEP) fulfills the objective of TNF.

TNF in collaboration with Tiruchirappalli Regional Engineering College Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (TREC – STEP) set up a Chennai Innovation & Technology Incubation Center (CI- TIC) in TNF Center. TREC STEP is a technology incubator renowned technology business incubator and leading developmental not for profit organization.



The objective of the Chennai Innovation & Technology Incubation Center is to identify the educated youth in rural & urban areas and provide them opportunity and encourage their innovative ideas in various technology for sustainable development, utilizing the resources, facilities and capacities of both TNF & TREC STEP.



## v. Kanavagam

An initiate to educate destitute children below 18 years functions as a non-religious home to 50 girl Children. It provides education, care, protection and accommodation to the children.



TNF provides education to the deserving girl children who are either destitute or having single parent. The girls are studying from 1<sup>st</sup> standard to higher secondary level in Government Schools. The girls are encouraged to bring out their inner potentials such as sports, music and dance etc. These girls are provided with food, accommodation, care & protection at the home Kanavagam at Kundrakudi, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District.

## Awareness & Training in Health, Rural Development Women Empowerment

- Financial support for conducting of Health programmes, free medical camps, Immunization programmes.
- Improvement of infrastructure in Health institutions particularly in rural areas.
- Support to the Institutions dealing with educating the mentally challenged Children.
- Creation of infrastructure such as toilet constructions, drinking water sources and water tanks in rural school.
- Conducted Kidney diseases awareness camp at Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar District.



Kilpauk



Perumbakkam

### Tailoring Courses

- Imparting training on Computer, Tailoring etc. to create self employment to women entrepreneurs.
- Sewing machines distributed to 16 women trained in Tailoring at Perumbakkam
- Skill training in power driven machine and embroidery provided.
- Four batches of women in Tailoring Course completed at TNF Center & Perumbakkam.



Summer Camp and Health Awareness program at Arignar Somalay Memorial Library Nerkuppai, Sivagangai District.



Distribution of School Bags for Rural children.



Donated furniture to Deivasigamani Elementary School, Kundrakudi, Sivagangai District.



No. of Students benefitted 200

Donated books to Thiruvalluvar Library at Katpadi, Vellore District



No. of Students benefitted 250

## Natural Disaster Relief



TNF provided relief to mitigate the suffering of the Cyclone affected people - food, candles, match boxes, sleeping mats, blankets and biscuits.

One lakh roof tiles distributed to revamp the roofs of the damaged houses in Coastal areas.

15,000 people have benefitted through TNF's activities in Nagapattinam, Thiruvavarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram districts.



## Gaja Cyclone affected houses...

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE

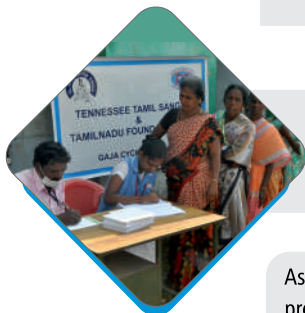


AFTER



Distributed Solar Lights to the Cyclone affected Schools.

TNF provided Sintex Water tanks and other essential supplies to Govt. Schools adopted under the TNF-ABC education initiative.



Medical camps for the Cyclone affected people.

As part of the long term rehabilitation project, TNF will support 100 families in Thiruvapur, Nagappattinam & Pudukottai districts under the Housing project announced by the Government of Tamilnadu.

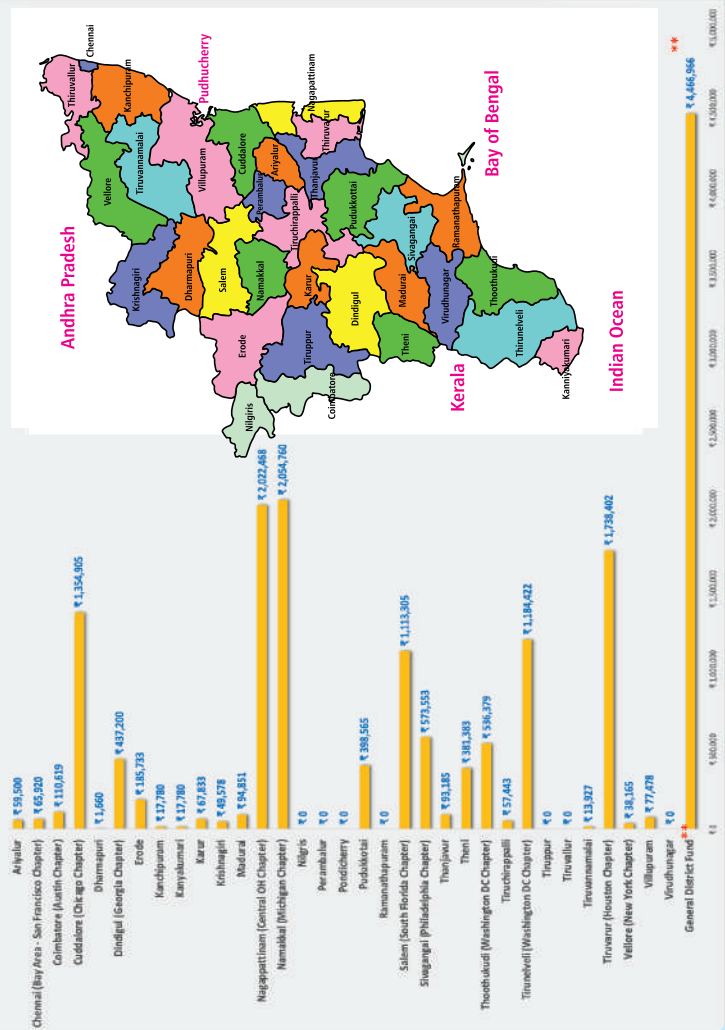


## New Initiative

(மணி வாசனை) Mann Vaasanai

DISTRICT CORPUS FUND (As of Dec 31, 2018)

Phase I Goal: Rs. 50 Lakhs for each district and Pondicherry



Only the interest generated from the fund for a specific district will be used in the district to sustain TNF USA board sponsored projects.

\*\* General Funds - Ear marked as matching grant to districts based on incoming donations as per the Nov 2018 TNF USA Board Meeting resolution

## (மண் வாசனை) Mann Vaasanai

### District-Focused Corpus Fund

Ambitious Fund raising programme “MANN VAASANAI” is being launched by TNF with passion for helping the under privileged in Tamil Nadu.

To enable the donors in USA to contribute for projects for the development of their native Districts in Tamil Nadu and to link them with their ancestral roots through service, TNF USA has floated the concept of raising corpus fund for each District.

TNF USA Board has fixed an ambitious goal of raising 8 million (US Dollars) The goal is to create Rs. 175 lakhs for each district in Tamilnadu&for the union territory of Puducherry. Under this concept District focused corpus fund will be set up for all the 33 districts of Tamilnadu and for the Union Territory of Puducherry for implementing various projects for the benefit of students, women and the needy.

Although TNF USA is sending about \$ 1 Million annually to support various projects in Tamil Nadu, “Mann Vaasanai” is the single largest fund raising and corpus initiative since the formation of TNF in 1974. Only the interest generated from these funds will be used to expand and sustain TNF's educational and humanitarian projects in those specific districts. The main purpose of this “Mann Vaasanai” initiative is to provide **financial sustainability** for TNF projects for decades to come.

For the year ending December 2018, Namakkal, Nagappattinam & Thiruvavur are the top 3 districts which have received tremendous support under “MANN VAASANAI”.



## TNF TN Chapter Board of Trustees

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Thiru. S. Rajarethinam, I.A.S., (Retd)

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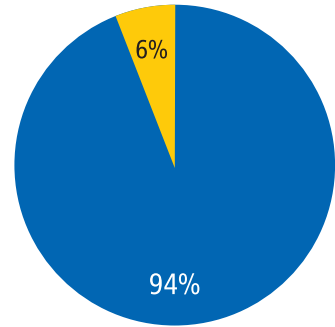
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## Financials

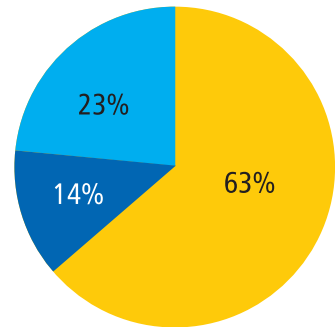
### Source of Funding 2017-18 (Rs. in Lakhs)

TNF USA	361.48 (94%)
TNF TN CHAPTER	22.32 (6%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>383.80</b>



### Utilization of Funds (Rs. in Lakhs)

Strengthening Education	164.14 (63%)
Flood Relief	60.64 (23%)
Awareness & Training in Health Rural Development Women Empowerment	34.11 (14%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>258.89</b>



## Appreciation for the Good work...



## TNF USA Members Visit...





Please make your cheque payable to :

“TNF INC TN CHAPTER” with a note in the memo section The Project Name or purpose you are contributing to and Complete postal address with contact number along with Copy of Pan Card or Pan Number and send your cheque to:

**Executive Director :**

**TAMIL NADU FOUNDATION**

No 27, Taylor's Road, Kilpauk,  
Chennai - 600 010.

Ph: +91- 44 - 2644 6319

E-mail: [info@tnfindia.org](mailto:info@tnfindia.org)

**DONATIONS GET 80G TAX EXEMPTION**



**CONTACT US:**

**Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc.**

Tamil Nadu Chapter

No.27, Taylor's Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600010.

Phone : +91 - 44 - 2644 6319 | E-mail: [info@tnfindia.org](mailto:info@tnfindia.org)

Website: [www.tnfindia.org](http://www.tnfindia.org)