



## **TAMILNADU FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20**



Making  
'Right to Education'  
a reality.

**“Building Capabilities, Bettering Lives”**

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Greetings from the President

**வணக்கம் !**

**Dear TNF Members, Friends and Patrons,**

I am honored to be elected as the first woman President of Tamil Nadu Foundation and to continue the journey started by our past presidents, in making a difference in the lives of people in our ancestor land. This year has been a great learning experience and an interesting start of a wonderful journey for me. I have the privilege of working with a great team of officers and board members who are passionate, dedicated, and hard working. They are focused on serving the people of Tamil Nadu and work seamlessly. The TNF Tamil Nadu Chapter Trustees led by Chairman Mr. S.Rajarethinam provide excellent guidance. Chennai Staff led by Mr. Ka. Ilango, CEO has supported and executed the projects promptly and with great fiscal responsibility.

In 2020, we were looking forward to yet another great year and were actively planning on a wonderful Annual Convention at Michigan when the pandemic COVID-19 hit the world and disabled all of our lives as we know it... However, as the old adage goes, adversities bring out the goodness and generosity in people.

- TNF supporters all over the US helped to raise more than **\$13,000** for the **Covid-19 India Relief fund**. This money will be used for PPEs in the most affected area hospitals in Tamil Nadu.
- TNF Chapters raised about **\$12,000** for the **Covid-19 USA Relief fund** to be given to Food Banks in various cities in the U.S.
- TNF Chicago Chapter raised **\$35,000** to fund procurement of a rapid screening assay, an **RT-PCR Machine, for Stanley Medical College and Hospital** in Chennai

TNF was awarded **\$20,000** by **Adobe Community Employee Grants** for the ABC Initiative. Receiving a grant from an US-based company is prestigious and moving forward we intend to explore this avenue more.

The **ABC Education Initiative** has been steadily growing with many Chapters and individuals adopting districts and schools. To date, we have 125 partner schools in 29 districts and more than 79,000 beneficiaries. The ABC initiative opens doors for many slow learners and underserved children all over Tamil Nadu.

**Mann Vaasanai** is the largest and most ambitious initiative undertaken by TNF to date and is off to a great start. Its objective is to raise funds (target: **\$ 9 million-plus, \$ 250,000** per district) to sustain the TNF projects in each of the 38 districts and the Union Territory of Puducherry. In 2019 about **\$74,000** dollars were added to the program by the funds raised from 2018 and 2019 convention donations, bringing the total to approximately **\$ 400,000**. Namakkal, Nagapattinam, and Sivagangai have raised close to 60% of Phase I goal of **Rs.50 lakhs**. With your help, we can fund all of them in the very near future.

Usha Chandra

President@tnfusa.org

வறியார்க்கொன்று ஈவதே ஈகைமற் றெல்லாம்  
குறியெதிர்ப்பை நீர் துடைத்து  
சுமன் 221

"To give to the destitute is true charity.  
All other gifts have the nature of what is  
done for a measured return."





**S. RAJARETHINAM, I.A.S., (Retd)**  
**CHAIRMAN**

### **MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN TNF CHENNAI**

#### **VANAKKAM!**

India and the USA, along with rest of the World, are grappled with the serious public health issues caused by COVID-19. Today, we find ourselves in a peculiar social order, posing many problems, which has led to the dramatic slowdown in carrying out routine activities. The Governments have taken several measures on public health issues and protection of the social order. The need of the hour is to supplement the efforts of the Government to tide over the crisis. Non-Government organisations like TNF have been extending their helping hand to bring succour to the needy.

At this stage, I must acknowledge the stellar role played by TNF in moments of crisis in Tamil Nadu. **Now I would like to record my appreciation and gratitude to the members of TNF who have donated funds for providing medical equipments to institutions fighting to control the spread of the virus.**

During the year 2019-2020, TNF has scaled up welfare activities by bringing **SIX** more Districts under the thrust area of ABC project, thus increasing the districts from the current 9 to 15 project districts covering 6602 students studying in rural government schools. Scholarships to poor students who pursue higher studies have been prioritized and a sum of Rs.4 million has been disbursed to 169 students.

A new dining hall which was constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.6 million was donated for the use of the Girls Students of Kasthurba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam Girls Higher Secondary School, Vedaranyam.

Under the "**Roof for the Roofless**" project basement for 100 houses for GAJA Cyclone affected people, renovation works for ABC schools, construction of two class rooms in Tiruvalluvar Arulneri Middle School were undertaken with the fund of Rs.13 Million received from TNF USA for Disaster relief in Thiruvallur and Nagapattinam Districts.

On behalf of the Trustees TNF Chennai Chapter, I convey my Hearty thanks to TNF USA Board and the members for their continued support to the welfare activities in Tamil Nadu.



**S. Rajarethinam**  
**Chairman TNF Chennai Chapter**

## I. About TNF

Tamil Nadu Foundation Tamil Nadu Chapter was formed in the year 1983 and it is a non-profit Trust for the benefit and welfare of the deserving citizens of Tamil Nadu.

TNF USA was set up by NRIs from Tamil Nadu settled in the USA in the year 1974.

The Mission of the Trust is to channelize Donations 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





## II. Education Enhancement Programmes

The goal of TNF's ABC initiative is to enrich and empower underprivileged students by providing resources, programs and tools currently not provided by the government.

The initial focus of the project was to enable grade level proficiency for underprivileged rural students who otherwise will become school dropouts. The current focus on the entire student population, ranging from academically challenged to highly ambitious students.

### Academic Bridge Course (ABC) project



## The three components of the model are:



### a. Achieving academic proficiency

The focus is on “Academically challenged” students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades. One third of the students in government schools are far below their grade level in basic reading and writing skills. In high schools, due to public exam expectations and pressure, they are likely to become school dropouts. The ABC class helps them to improve and become

### b. Boosting their morale

TNF – ABC Model boosts the morale of all the students of class 10 in the selected schools by including skills through trainings on the following topics:

- Self confidence
- Communication skill
- Time Management
- Motivation
- Memory capacity
- Goal setting
- Self discipline
- Human Relations
- Hard work and Smart work



## C. Championing for higher aspirations

With the help of the school Headmasters and the Teachers. Students of 11 & 12 class are nurtured through individual or group oriented initiatives such as orientation to college education, career guidance, scholarships, campus visits, internships, job placement.



## Beneficiaries

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b><i>Districts covered</i></b>                                    | 15   |
| <b><i>Schools adopted under ABC Project</i></b>                    | 62   |
| <b><i>Students in ABC Coaching classes (6 to 9 class)</i></b>      | 2623 |
| <b><i>Students benefitted in two days soft skills training</i></b> | 3156 |
| <b><i>Students on Educational Exposure visit</i></b>               | 823  |
| <b><i>Total No. of Students benefitted during the year</i></b>     | 6602 |

#### d. TNF ABC Project Coordinators and Teachers Training



TNF identifies qualified and field oriented personal as Project Coordinator to monitor and support the teacher in ABC project as every district where ABC project is implemented. TNF engages qualified teachers appointed through Parent Teacher Association with the school Headmaster concern in each school with the ratio of Teacher 1:25 students. The teachers are given trainings at regular intervals on various teaching Methodologies and digital ways of Teaching.

A District wise training for TNF Teachers was conducted with the support of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) in July 2018. Similar training was completed on 18th and 19th September 2019 in Trichy and 30th Sep and 1st Oct 2019 in Salem. The training was given by the trainers from SSA.

**No. of Teachers & Coordinators benefitted – 66**

- To motivate and inspire teachers towards their progression
- To empower teachers to self-analyse how they teach and find ways to improve their teaching
- To provide practical tools to better manage and motivate students
- To bridge the understanding and relationship gap between teachers and students
- To build team spirit and cooperation among teachers for mutual support and resolving challenges

## Salient Features of the Training

- Focusing on importance of having a vision and its role on transformation
- Developing specific teaching methods in English, Mathematics and science
- Enhancing teacher's ability to create to build child centric curriculum and assessment model to motivate the academically challenged students.





## e. Libraries are Temples Project

TNF has initiated the 'Libraries are Temples' Project in the year 2018 with the objective to promote the reading habit among the students. Library week is celebrated every year during the third week of November. To mark this occasion, TNF has planned to conduct competitions to the students of ABC Project Schools in all the ABC Project Districts.



| Beneficiaries                               |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| Districts covered                           | - | 12  |
| Number of Schools Participated              | - | 56  |
| Essay Writing                               |   |     |
| Number of Participants in Preliminary Round | - | 323 |
| Number of Selected Students for Final Round | - | 85  |
| Elocution                                   |   |     |
| Number of Participants in Preliminary Round | - | 232 |
| Number of Selected Students for Final Round | - | 75  |

## Model Library

Every year TNF adopts one library in the ABC Project area and converts that as a **“Model Library”** in the District. A public Library nearer to Anavarthikanpet ABC School, Vellore (Ranipet) District is selected for implementation this year. Creating a model library in this area will motivate students as well as general public in and around this village. The renovated Government Branch Library at Anavarthikanpet was declared open by TNF USA President, Tmt. Usha Chandra under the 'Libraries are Temples Project'. The Chairman, TNF, Thiru.S. Rajarethinam. I.A.S., (Retd), declared open the Computer section in the library in the presence of Dr. Ka. Ilango, Chief Executive Officer and Thiru. Anand, District Library Officer on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The Books for preparing for Competitive Exams worth Rs.5,000/- was handed over to the District Library Officer and the Librarian which was presented by the newly married couple Dr. Bharathy ( D/O. Mr. D. Sivasailam) and Mr. Mahesh during their wedding reception in Chennai.

The Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF), Bengaluru, donated five computers at a cost of Rs. 2,25,000/-. The total cost of the project including renovation is Rs. 3,05,000/-.



## f. Service and Education Internship

The Service and Education Internship Programme were initiated in 2014. The main objective of the programme is to expose US born students of Tamil heritage to volunteer and learn through TNF's Educational and humanitarian projects in different parts of Tamil Nadu and also to link with their ancestral roots in Tamil Nadu.

During the year 30 NRI students participated in different rural Government Schools and Awareness campaign on birth defects and other genetic disorder, Chennai.





**i. Feedback from Interns**

*Rinisha Ramprakash (GGHSS, Ashok Nagar, Chennai)*

“It was a great experience for me to be with the girl’s children from this government higher secondary school. From this internship, I have learned different ways of living and how students are studying in govt schools and their financial issues. I taught the girl students about the different fields they could excel like Astronomy other than medical and engineering. Along with this, I have also taught them Spanish for 7,8,9 classes, gave lecture on plastic pollution and distributed jute bags and wooden spoons. I am really grateful for this wonderful opportunity and thankful to TNF”.



**ii. Feedback from Parents**

*Jasmine Johnson (Parent of Joel Johnson GHSS, Mathandam, Kanyakumari)*



It was an amazing experience to my son Joel. Joel was born and brought up in USA and he does not have much friends, I thought he is an introvert and wondered how he would adjust in a new environment. To my surprise he was extremely involved and dedicated towards volunteering at the school. He involved himself in teaching, participated in scout camp and various other activities of the school. Thanks to Tamil Nadu Foundation for the opportunity given to Joel.

### iii. Feedback from School Headmaster

#### *Sree Visalakshi Mills High School – Vilangudi, Madurai*

**Master Kavın** who came to our school from Tamil Nadu Foundation completed his internship here very well. He taught grammar items like Present, Past and Future tense very clearly. Also, he taught some artwork that is Origami art from paper. Our Students enjoyed the art classes very much. They made different shapes like crane, Tree, Rabbit etc. His performance was excellent. Thanks to Kavın.

**Miss Kanmani** from Tamil Nadu foundation also performed a very good manner. She trained our students how to speak in English. She conversed with our student in a perfect manner. Our students able to communicate with her by using simple English. She gave gifts to our students. Our students felt very easy to communicate and they get confident. She enjoyed taking classes and her performance is excellent too. Our hearty thanks to Kanmani. Thanks to Tamil Nadu Foundation to send these Candidates to enlighten the knowledge of our students.

### iv. Intern Joel's Involvement in Rural School

Joel Johnson did his internship at Government Higher Secondary School, Marthandam, Kanyakumari. He is supposed to start his internship earlier but fell sick and later he has managed to find the school and actively involved in volunteering activities. He went to school in the government school uniform, took food with the students and also had mid-day meals by bringing his own plate.

He participated in the District Scout Camp and delivered Chief Guest address wearing his US Scout uniform. He entertained students with a magic show and he played violin for the National Anthem during the Independence Day celebration. Along with that he also taught Mathematics and English during the class room hours.

## g. Educational Scholarship

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

During the year April 2019 – March 2020, 169 Students received scholarship.



### Scholarship Support 2019 – 2020

| Medical Students          |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| No. of Students- 25       | Rs.15,48,530.00 |
| ↓                         |                 |
| Engineering Students      |                 |
| No. of Students-35        | Rs.14,88,170.00 |
| ↓                         |                 |
| Arts and Science Students |                 |
| No. of Students-32        | Rs.5,44,954.00  |
| School Students           |                 |
| No. of Students-71        | Rs.4,07,400.00  |
| ↓                         |                 |
| Diploma and ITI           |                 |
| No. of Students-6         | Rs.67,000.00    |
| ↓                         |                 |
| Total                     |                 |
| No. of Students-169       | Rs.40,56,054.00 |



## h. Self Guided Digital Classroom

TNF initiated the Digital classroom Government Higher Secondary School, CMDA Colony, Arumbakkam in 2017. With the support of various donors like Ramco Cements and Trivent Systems.

With the objective to facilitate students of class 6 to 9, learn English and Mathematics with the help of various learning digital tools. Through this project, 1498 students benefited.



## i. Teacher aided Digital Classroom

### a. Government Higher Secondary School, Vadasithur

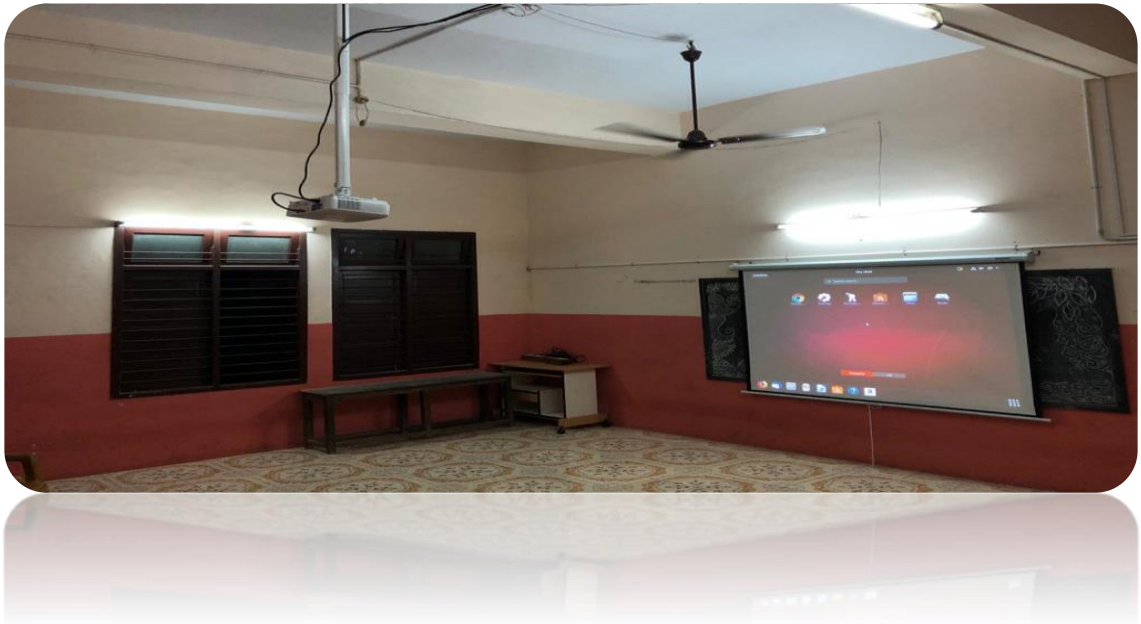
A Teacher lead Smart classroom was inaugurated on 24th July 2019 Government Higher Secondary School, Vadasithur, Coimbatore District. This enables teachers to harness the power of digital technology to supplement their traditional teaching materials with interactive videos aligned with the syllabus. The teachers are trained on a quarterly basis, with access to technical support from a call center.

During the year 250 students benefitted.



### **b. CSI Anderson Girls Higher Secondary School**

A Digital classroom was setup in CSI Anderson Girls Higher Secondary School in Chennai District. Through, this project 250 students benefitted during the year.



### **c. Panchayat Union Primary School**

A Smart classroom was established in Panchayat Union Primary school, Siraimetanpalayam at Erode District. Through this project 120 students benefitted during the year.



### III.GAJA Cyclone Relief and Rehabilitation

#### III. GAJA Cyclone Relief and Rehabilitation Projects

Tamil Nadu Foundation stepped in to support the people affected by Gaja cyclone through Relief and Rehabilitation work. The following rehabilitation works were carried out during the year.

##### Rehabilitation works at Schools

- a. Renovation of Government High School, Ettukudi in Nagapattinam District which benefitted 190 students

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs. 5.07 Lakhs**



- b. Construction of cycle shed at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Thiruthuraipoondi in Thiruvarur District which benefitted 150 students

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs. 75,000**

- c. Construction of 2 classrooms at Thiruvalluvar Arulneri Middle School, Korukkai in Thiruvarur District which benefitted 140 students

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs. 14.40 Lakhs**

- d. Construction of Auditorium at Government Higher Secondary School, Nedumbalam in Thiruvarur District which benefitted 850 students

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs. 9.14 Lakhs**



- e. Makeshift Houses at Muthanpallam in Pudukottai District which benefitted 9 families

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs. 9 Lakhs**



**f. KGKG – Annapoornalayam Building, Nagapattinam District**

Annapoornalayam, the newly constructed Building with Dining Hall facility was declared open by Dr. Somalay Somasundaram, Past President, TNF USA in the presence of Mr. S.Rajarethinam, I.A.S., (Retd), Chairman, TNF and Dr. Ka. Ilango, Chief Executive Officer, TNF on 14.02.2020. 1200 Girl students studying in KGKG School in Nagapattinam District will benefit out of the newly constructed Annapoornalayam.

Total Cost of the Project – **Rs.56 Lakhs**



#### **IV. Special School for Intellectually Disabled Students**

TNF provides assistance to the intellectually disabled students of a Special School at Sirkazhi in Mayiladuthurai District. TNF has constructed a dining hall and provided a commercial washing machine.

**No. of Children Benefitted - 63**  
**Total Amount of Assistance provided – Rs. 37 lakhs**



## V. Individual Donor Projects

### a. Pilot Project on Nutrition - Government High School, Anavarthikanpet, Ranipet District

Pilot project on Nutrition in Government High School, Anavarthikanpet, Ranipet District supported by Sri Annapoorani Trust (TVS Group) -Nutrition Center at Thandalam was initiated on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2020. The nutrition packets were given to 270 students in the school on the first day and 80 needy malnurtured students were selected for the continuous support in this academic year.



### b. V.T.K Memorial Fund Educational Service Awards

Tamil Nadu Foundation initiated a project to support students of TNF ABC Schools to recognize excellence in academics and doing best useful and productive services to local community with the support of VTK Memorial Fund.





VTK Memorial Educational Service Award Service awards were distributed in the form of National Savings Certificate (NSC) of amount Rs.20,000 /- and a merit certificate to the meritorious students and given on Independence Day function on 15th August 2019

respective schools in the presence of representative of TNF, Chennai.

**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 1 Lakh**

**No. of benefitted students – 5**

#### **c. Educational Assistance to Orphaned Girl Children, Kundrakudi**

TNF provides educational assistance to deserving girl children below 18 years of age at Kundrakudi in Sivagangai District.

Besides providing educational assistance to encourages to pursue their talents and interests.

**No. of Children Benefitted – 21**

**Total Amount of Assistance provided – Rs. 33 lakhs**

#### **d. Awareness campaign on birth defects and other genetic disorder**

Awareness campaigns on birth defects and other genetic disorder are conducted to various stake holders during the year 600 people attended the awareness.

**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 13 Lakh**

**No. of benefitted – 600 people**



**e. Tamil Braille Books on Hygiene for young adults with visual impairments**

Tamil Braille books to create awareness on personal hygiene among young visually impaired adults were printed and distributed to 25 students / Institution, Coimbatore. Training program was also conducted in two places in Chennai which benefitted 24 visually impaired girl children.

**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 1 Lakh**

**f. Educational Support Project - Ramakrishna Middle School, Cheranmadevi, Tirunelveli District**

Educational support materials such as Laptops, Printer, Speakers, Uniform materials were provided to the students and Library Books and Notebooks were supplied to Ramakrishna Middle school, Cheranmadevi which benefits 80 students.

**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 1.5 Lakhs**



#### **g. Covilur Elementary School**

Renovation of school building and support rendered to children play equipments at Covilur Elementary School at Thiruvannamalai District which benefitted **56 students**.



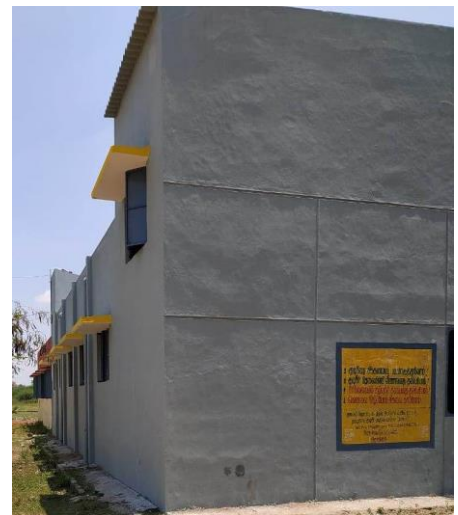
**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 6 Lakhs**



#### **h. Government Higher Secondary School, Arasangudi**

Renovation of School library and computer lab at Government Higher Secondary School, Arasangudi at Trichy District was undertaken to benefit 250 students.

**Total Cost of the Project – Rs. 2.35 Lakhs**

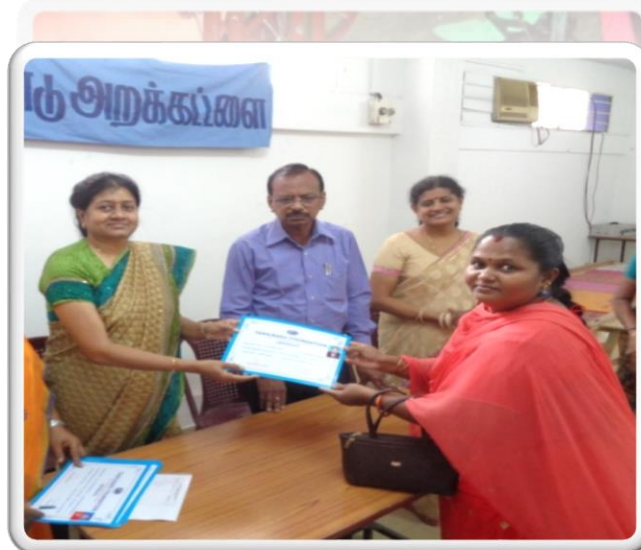


## VI. Awareness and Skill Training

### Tailoring Training

Six month training was given to adolescent girls and women in Kilpauk and Perumbakkam Unit.

Number of Beneficiaries – 90 women





## VII. TNF Annual Conference 2020

Tamil Nadu Foundation, TN Chapter, Chairman, Thiru. S. Rajarethinam I.A.S., (Retd)., presided over the Annual Conference organized at Thiyagaraja College, Madurai on 19-02-2020. Tmt.Usha Chandra, TNF President USA, Dr.Somalay Somasundaram, Past President, TNF USA were the Special Guests at the Annual Conference. Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar, released the Annual Report and gave the Chief Guest address. Thiru.K.Hari Thiyagarajan, Secretary, Thiyagaraja College, Madurai and Dr.S.Aravind, Aarvind Eye Care Systems and Thiru. S. Raja, Pattimandram Speaker, felicitated the programme.

The Past Presidents of TNF USA - Dr. Deivanayagam and Mr. Sivasailam and few Life Members also participated in the conference held at Madurai.





## IX. Trustees & Board of Directors

### TNF TN Chapter Board of Trustees

#### **CHAIRMAN**

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

#### **TRUSTEE CUM – TREASURER**

Tmt. S. Kavitha

#### **TRUSTEES**

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Thiru. M. Senthilkumar

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Thiru. Srikanth Venugopalan

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Dr. Varalakshmi Niranjan

Thiru. Doss Kuppuswamy

Thiru. M. Baskaran

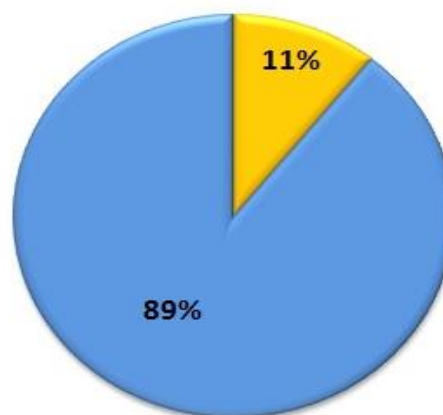
Thiru. Annadurai Murugesan



## X. Financials

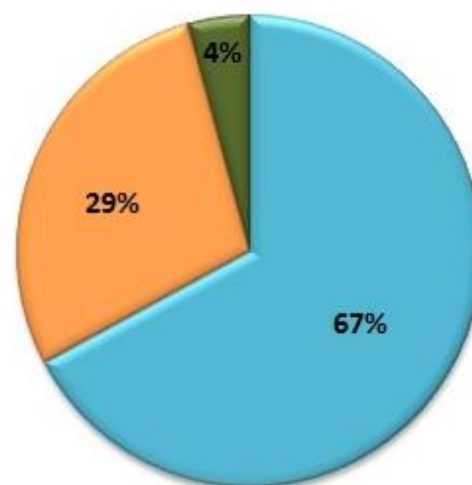
### Source of Funding 2019-20 (Rs. In Lakhs)

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| TNF USA        | 330.29 (89.27 %) |
| TNF TN CHAPTER | 39.71 (10.73%)   |
| TOTAL          | 370.01 (100%)    |



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

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Enhancing Education   | 234.60 (67.19%) |
| Natural Calamity  | 99.48 (28.49%)  |
| Awareness & Training<br>IN Health, Rural<br>Development &<br>Women<br>Empowerment | 15.05 (4.31%)   |
| Total   | 349.14 (100%)   |









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