



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

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South Indian Educational Society

Mrs. Vidya Shankar

Chairperson,
Relief Foundation

Dear friends, associates & well-wishers of Shriram Foundation

The past year was historical since we saw our team expand and new paths created to bring a quality difference in the lives of children and their families we impacted. Also, we have had the pleasure of hosting international and local visitors, volunteers and donors.

We at Shriram Foundation have made it our mission to further the cause of education and our schools are the harbingers of change with passion and professionalism which is at the center of all the work we do. In a technology driven world, our task was yet simple. Through a process of information dissemination, community facilitation and participatory need assessments; planning was undertaken to address these needs with the cooperation of all concerned and hence time and resources were utilized for maximum impact.

Keeping in line with our broad goal that education is a key instrument for shaping and fulfilling the goals of poverty alleviation and rural transformation; the ambitious rural school projects initiative was anointed by our new trustee Shri V Shankar of South Indian Educational Society, Mumbai in December 2012.

Aiming to apply our core strengths for social good and innovation in the field of education and allocation of resources directed towards increasing access to quality education, our key achievements are manifold. Our learning gained a noteworthy increase and was derived from evidence on the ground. We arrived on a model that showcased the connect between child attainment and the relationship triad of child-teacher-community. We are now positioned for rapid expansion. We seek land from well wishers and donors to build small schools in remote rural areas that will offer quality education and community building as an integral part of learning for life.

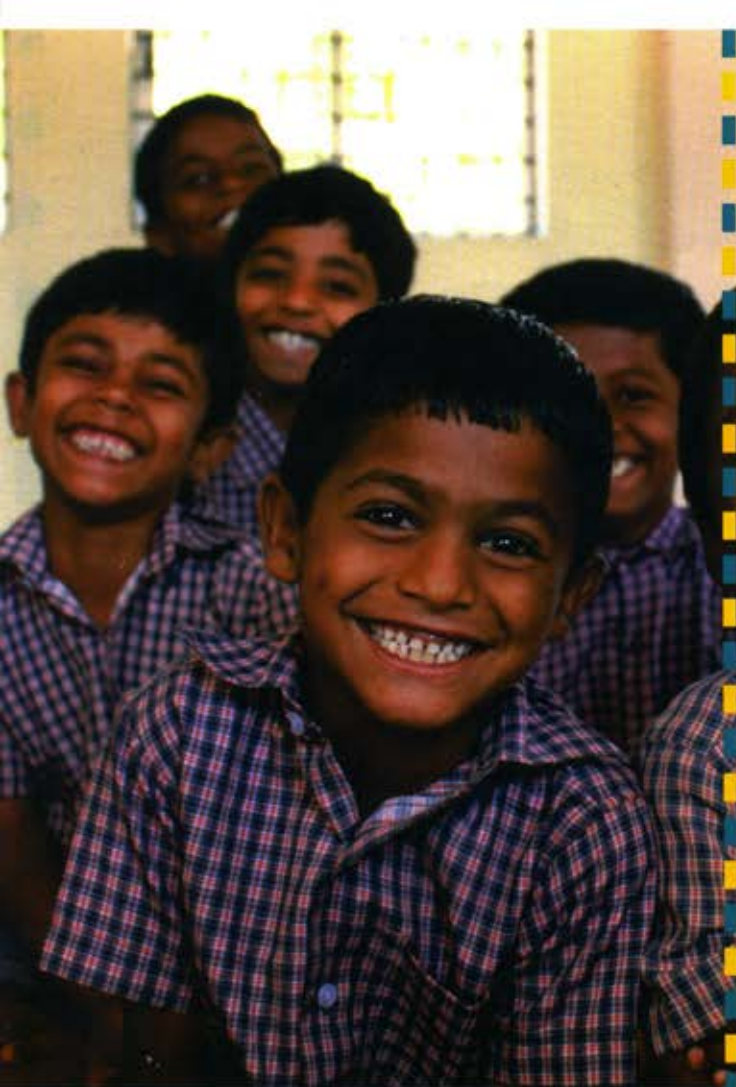
We want to thank the individuals and organizations that have supported us in making our joint vision come true. We look forward to your continued support.

Akhila Srinivasan
Trustee



Shriram Foundation

The Foundation is continuously working towards creating inclusive and democratic learning spaces where each child is empowered and happy. It also aspires to be the convoy of hope for rural communities looking at means to develop into responsible citizenry.



The Foundation's areas of work include

Education

- Schools
- Micro-schools
- Education sponsorship
(GiveLife Trust)

GiveLife Trust is a not-for-profit organization working with government schools and schools run by trusts and other NGOs with a critical focus on enrollment and academic growth of children.

Women & Youth empowerment

- Community College
- Vocational training for women
- Self-help group for women

The work-model of the Foundation is **two-fold**. First, it **runs and supports schools** in the **semi-urban** and **rural** communities, where children can have access to **supportive, quality education**. Secondly, the Foundation's approach graduates to **empowerment**. Under this approach, it runs **community college** in two campuses and a **vocational training centre** to provide employment opportunities to community youth and women.

The Year that went by,

The past year has been a year of growth, new developments and collaborations for the Foundation. Shriram Foundation continued carrying out quality interventions to address the critical issues within education and community development. During the fiscal year, new Projects Heads for Sri Sri Vidya Mandir Matriculation School, VSR Montessori School and GiveLife Trust brought fresh insights and implemented novel programs in their respective projects. The report illustrates some of the progress that the Foundation has made in the year 2012-13.





Education

While the number of children attending schools in India continues to rise, the education system has been inadequately developed. The nation is wracked by a shortage of resources, schools, classrooms and teachers. Being acutely aware of the reality, the education program of the Foundation focuses on running and supporting schools and small-schools in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Within these projects, the thrust is on addressing the issues pertaining to quality of education. Shriram Foundation works to strengthen schools and make them inspiring spaces for children. From building teacher capacity to establishing efficient administrative systems to enriching curriculum to monitoring and assessment, a multi-pronged approach is employed.

In addition, with each year, the Foundation is also widening its interventions to reach out to the communities in which supported schools are located.

Shriram Matriculation School (SMS), Thiruneermalai



Located in the suburbs of Chennai, SMS, an English medium school, serves 520 students who come from the community of daily wagers and stone quarry laborers. Pre-primary classrooms in the school are based on the Montessori methodology with a student teacher ratio of 30:1. SMS boasts of well-equipped labs, library as well as Mathematics and language resource centers. SMS also provides afternoon meals to students in partnership with the AkshayaPaatra Foundation. To support the teachers, training sessions on child rights, child safety and other relevant issues are conducted at regular intervals.

In the year 2012-13, SMS focused on developing the vocational skills of students by providing them regular training in particular trades. In addition, new partnerships have been made with other resource organizations to support students' learning.

Besides books & blackboards

In an effort to provide varied exposure to students, vocational training has been made an integral part of the school curriculum, along with the main subjects prescribed by the government syllabus.

Regularly scheduled classes for students of class 5th and above enabled them to apply their hands and hearts to learn specific skills in looming, carpentry, tailoring, craft, two-wheeler mechanism and pottery.

As the academic year approached its end, an exhibition of the products and artifacts, made by the students, was organized for parents and community members.

For the next year, school is planning to include block printing and baking as new vocational courses.



On the way of collaboration

Over the years, SMS has tried to broaden the scope of children's learning experiences by partnering with organizations with expertise in allied areas. A similar trend continued in the year 2012-13.

Teach for India (TFI)

In an attempt to get qualified teachers, SMS collaborated with the Chennai chapter of TFI. Two teachers from TFI joined SMS for teaching class 3rd and class 4th students. For the next year, two other teachers from TFI will join to teach class 4th and class 5th.

StoryTrails

SMS joined hands with StoryTrails with the aim to make children think critically using creative means. StoryTrails conducted a series of ten story-telling sessions for class 5th students. These sessions ranged from great inventions to paperback heroes to food and nutrition.

A session on storytelling was also organized for pre-primary and primary teachers.

Aseema Trust

2012-13 was the second year of SMS' association with Aseema Trust. Mr. Kannan Kumar continued to teach Oyilaatam— a folk dance of Tamil Nadu for class 6th and class 7th students. In addition, Ms. V R Devika, Chairperson of Aseema Trust organized a one day field visit for class 6th students to Dakshina Chitra, a place emphasizing the traditions of South India.

KaradiPath

It is the second year of KaradiPath program in the school which was initiated to improve English language skills of the students. One of the key areas of this program is to improve the listening skills of children in addition to language development. Apart from enjoying the stories, children learnt to sing and enact simple English songs. Easy to use sentences aided them during their conversations with each other and the teachers. Today, many of them can understand simple English and, to an extent, can respond to questions in English.

Better Parenting

In association with Chennai Counselors Foundation (CCF), parenting workshops 'We can, we care.' were organized for teachers and parents of class 6th and class 7th students. These workshops had sessions on 'barefoot counseling'; techniques to identify students who may need guidance and counseling; support system for teachers with regards to effective and efficient student management; changes and challenges to expect with pre-teens and teenagers and managing students in the classroom. Other topics discussed during the sessions were, parenting types and styles; positive guidance techniques to foster a child; situations based solutions; psychological needs for children and various stages of child development in relation to their physical, emotional and mental states.

The highlight of these workshops was the individual discussions that followed the group session wherein, many parents sat with professional counselors to discuss their problems. Parents' participation reaffirmed that they are looking for professional support and if provided in the right method, they are willing to avail such services.

Seeing the positive response of the community, a psychologist was recruited as School Counselor for SMS in collaboration with CCF. She has counseled 87 students, also many teachers and non-teaching staff.

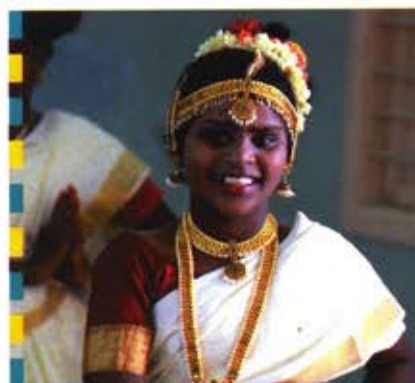
The counselor worked closely to address students' psychological needs in relation to academics and behavior. With adults, she focused on areas of child-rearing, parental concerns and family issues. 40 training sessions on various relevant topics were conducted for teachers and students.

Events



Exhibition for parents: Students displayed various products they prepared during vocational training classes.

Sports Day celebration: witnessed students participating with much enthusiasm and vigor.



Class-wise cultural program was organized by the students and their class teachers.

Open day for parents was organized by teachers of Pre-primary Montessori section.



Sri Sri Vidya Mandir (SSVM), Anaikoil



SSVM, an English medium school, was established in 2007 as a part of tsunami relief efforts. Donors from the USA and Netherlands helped build this school through the Art of Living Foundation and the International Association for Human Values. Since 2009, Shriram Foundation has been providing financial support to the school and has also supported the school in various school reform initiatives.

SSVM is located in Anaikoil, approximately 7 kms from Thirukkadaiyur, a temple town in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu. It has 625 students from surrounding villages, most of whom belong to the families of fisher-folk and farmers. SSVM offers the pre-primary students (ages 3-6 years) a Montessori based education and, for classes 1 to 10, is committed to providing an education environment that addresses the learning needs of all children through material based resource centers for science and mathematics and a print and activity rich school campus for English and Tamil. Teachers are supported through continuous teacher development program and training on effective teaching and assessment techniques.

In the year 2012-13, development and well-being of teachers at SSVM entered a new phase. Various small but significant steps have been taken to create a spirit of solidarity and ownership among teaching and non-teaching staff. Attempts have been made to shift the focus from persons-in-charge approach to processes-in-place concept. SSVM's community outreach initiated two significant programs to address some of the concerns observed in the community.

Changing trends

To co-create a culture of team spirit and responsibility, 13 committees were set up by teachers to take care of the everyday activities of the school. These committees are critically involved in building a democratic school. There are intense and informed discussions that happen in these meetings and teachers have been finding and asserting their voices responsibly through these committees. Such discussions aid in the development of the individuals and the school as a whole.

Some breakthroughs by these committees are,

The Kitchen Management Committee revised the menu and continues to look at streamlining purchases of materials from different vendors. They ensured that redundancies were avoided and the materials purchased were of good quality. In an effort to conserve water while cleaning plates, the Kitchen Committee initiated a small pilot program. Students of class 4th and class 5th used a serial washing method. Water is placed in four tubs with one of the tubs containing soap water to wash away any grime. Plates are dipped in tubs with each dip washing away the soap. Water usage has significantly reduced as a result of this initiative. The school's electricity bill has also been impacted. In the coming year, the program will be extended to include other classes as well.

The Academic Affairs Committee and Inspector of Matriculation Schools (IMS) Affairs Committees are gaining a better understanding of ways in which academic systems can be deployed to ensure better student learning/achievement. While the former looks into any academic issues related to the school, the latter represents the school, whenever required, at IMS (a government school recognition body) meetings. This committee is also responsible for the correspondence between the school and the IMS.

The Van committee has had to tackle many issues related to streamlining the van services that the school provides. The committee liaises with the van drivers to ensure that safety regulations and schedules are followed. The committee has and continues to initiate and moderate meetings between the van drivers and parents.

Community interventions

A Tobacco Awareness Program for parents and students was launched to increase awareness of issues related to tobacco addiction and cancer. Under this intervention, the school's visiting counselor spoke to the parents; the positive response shown by the parents paves a path for the school to continue engaging with the parents on these issues. Students of class 8th and class 9th performed a mime about ill-effects of tobacco to raise awareness on Republic day at the community hall



Evening program and the challenges

In December, the school started an evening program for local children, not enrolled in the school, to learn folk dance and songs. The dance and art teacher of the school coordinated the program. Attempts were made to build rapport with the local parents through this program and the parents were consistently encouraged to send their children to attend these classes. Disappointingly, after a month, despite strong interest shown by the parents and children, the program was forced to stop as no child was ready to come fearing repercussions from the teacher in their schools.

Considering the limitations, a new evening program was started for young adults in the community. Spoken English classes and computer classes are being conducted every evening throughout the week.

Other initiatives



Exploring Science through exhibitions was launched in July to research on the hypothesis that regular science exhibitions can increase interest in science among students. This year the school had two exhibitions.



Print-rich environment: The team of language teachers continue to create a print rich environment in the school. This method of delivering information seems to be an effective way for some students to engage in reading and learning new vocabulary.



VSR Montessori School, Reddivaripalle



Situated in Reddivaripalle, a remote area of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, VSR school serves 80 students who come from 7-8 hamlets within a radius of 6 kms. Based on Montessori methodology, school believes in providing independent and holistic educational environment for the students. In this small school, students are learning to respect the natural world through regular 'nature walks' in the campus. Along with it, school ensures focus on play and co-curricular activities like art and clay work.

With an aim to understand the community better, regular parent-teacher meetings are organized at VSR. Additionally, teachers are constantly engaged in discussions with students to create a culture of respect and responsibility in the school. Last year, the school expanded its focus to include new learning components to provide varied exposure to children. School also tried to foster a spirit of ownership and responsibility among teachers and students to create a culture of independence.

Expressing with clay

Clay modeling classes were started in June, 2012 and since then students have been perfecting the skill of giving shapes to their ideas. Due to these classes, students were able to develop skills like original thinking, eye for detail, problem solving and creativity. Pre-primary students were able to get the most out of it as clay modeling helped them build finger coordination and muscle strength. For the next year, school looks ahead at creating a full-fledged pottery studio. By having potters wheels and a well stocked pottery workshop, school aspires to continue its journey into clay.



Among other co-curricular activities, students also learnt gardening; kite making and flying; using trash to make valuable objects/models; integrating curriculum with their natural surroundings; real life implications of mathematics and science among many other things.

Parenting to Participating

Since inception, VSR has been struggling to find permanent teachers for the pre-primary Montessori environment. Even after several endeavors, school was not able to find a permanent solution to this problem. Hence, after due consideration school came up with the idea that could be a sustainable solution to this problem. School started training parents from the local community for Montessori pre-primary environment.

To start this program, a parents-teacher meeting with a Montessori trainer Ms. Sujatha from Indian Montessori Centre, Bangalore was conducted. She explained the philosophy behind this method to all the parents. Around 10 parents showed interest in learning Montessori methodology. After interviews, 5 parents were selected for the training which began in December, 2012. Training sessions are conducted every alternate Saturdays of the month and the trainees are showing immense enthusiasm and interest in learning the method.

Currently, our trainees are working on their language skills where school is helping them by organizing after school reading workshops both in Telugu and English while simultaneously learning the methods and philosophy behind Montessori Education.

Events & activities



Independence day celebration



Kite-making activity by students



Students observing during nature walk



Students doing gardening

Women & Youth Empowerment

With community development as the eventual vision, the Foundation works to provide economic empowerment to women and youth by running Vocational Training Centre and Community College.

These interventions are essentially integrated to recognize and address the issues of the communities and bring economic independence among the women and the youth.



Community College



Higher education remains a distant dream for many students today. With the increasing cost of education and financial pressure from family, many students drop out of school or choose to work after completing their class 12th. There can be numerous reasons like financial constraints and/or inability to join courses due to work timings.

The Foundation has adopted the model of Community College to address these gaps by offering affordable and flexible courses in Thiruneermalai and Nagapattinam areas of Tamil Nadu. Attempts have been made to customize these courses according to the local needs and state-based requirements.

After successfully placing all the Two-wheeler Mechanism students and Non-Banking Finance course students of both the campuses, in the last year, community college has been continuously trying to provide best professional training in the various courses it offers.

Seeds for a better future

Various exposure visits and training sessions were arranged for students of Integrated Farming. They visited Sirkazhi, Vedanthangal, Dindugal and Javaadhu Hills in association with Centre For Indian Knowledge Systems. The aim of these visits was to provide them with an opportunity to interact and work with organic farmers who follow good organic farming practices. Centre For Indian Knowledge systems also organized a 12-day residential organic farming training program in the month of August for the students.

Additionally, agriculture students also visited primary agricultural co-operative banks, animal husbandry farms, cattle sheds, goat sheds and fodder crops production farms to know about organic farming methods. Students were also exposed to the field of Aquaculture through a series of lectures by Dr. Sathiyapreman, an experienced resource person in the domain of Aquaculture.

Students of Welding and Electrical Technician courses are also going for industrial visits to gain first-hand exposure of technology and market needs.

Big efforts of Small projects program

Small projects program taken up by the students in Anaikoil campus has created a positive momentum in the college. Students started working on small projects like preparation of benches and stands for the college, re-fixing switch boards for computer lab, setting up wiring arrangement for intercom system and whole building electrical maintenance work for the college and SSVM school. In addition, students also did wiring work and lighting work for the nearby temple.

Events



Cultural Program



Sports day celebration



Farm Inauguration



Ayudh Pooja celebration

The Farm acquired by the college in the last year is being suitably utilized by the agriculture students. They were able to cultivate nine varieties of rice in the farm. Along with it, cows, calves and goats have been bought to help generate manure for the farm.



Vocational Training centre, Thiruneermalai



The Shriram Foundation's Vocational Training Centre instructs rural women on skill areas such as tailoring, embroidery, cooking etc. These courses help women find employment with garment export companies or setup their own small businesses.

The center has 12 tailoring machines including 3 power machines. It has trained over 500 women in the last 2 years. These facilities are also utilized by school children and community college students who visit the center to learn the skills as part of their curriculum.

In the year 2012-13, 44 women enrolled themselves to learn tailoring, embroidery, soft-toy making and preparation of household chemicals. Along with these community women, students of Shriram Matriculation School were also trained in basic tailoring by the centre.

The Self-help way

Sri Ranganathar Self-Help Group (SHG) was formed by the centre in association with a group of 12 members from the Thiruneermalai community. Two monthly meetings were conducted by the group and members were given training on preparation of flavored milk, pickles and household chemicals.

Three management students, Dipika Rao, Godwin Bennet and Ishwarya Srinivas from S P Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai interned with the Foundation to 'Explore and Create sustainable livelihood opportunities for SHG as a viable model to empower women in the Thiruneermalai community.' They conducted detailed primary and secondary research, requirement analysis of various vocations, demand analysis of the community and field visits both within and outside Chennai to create external linkages for mutual benefit. In addition, they also did FGDs for understanding emotional dilemmas and motivational hurdles of various stakeholder. They also created templates in Tamil for SHG members to track savings and creating a training plan for skill enhancement and motivation. Besides facilitating the formalization of the SHG by visiting the bank and getting it registered; they have also been able to establish the SHG evaluation indicators and the cost-volume-profit analysis parameters. All these tools will be used to monitor SHG progress and for arriving at pricing decisions for various products.

The **turnout** of production unit of the centre for the year **2012-13** includes,

926 pouches for Montessori and learning centres run by Shriram Foundation

1200 uniforms for SMS students

192 uniforms for community college students

5203 shopping, multipurpose usage **bags**

11071 shopping bags were stitched for DMACS Garment, Chennai

Earn while you learn

This scheme was launched by the centre for the students of Community College, Thiruneermalai campus. Under this scheme students have been provided part time job opportunities to work in the centre. 44 students are being benefitted by this scheme.



Looking Ahead



The 100 schools program

Shriram Foundation has placed a premium on rural education and hence is entering the arena of small schools in the rural areas of the nation. In the coming years, the Foundation will start new small schools in the rural areas. Foundation will also collaborate with trusts that are running schools in rural locations and support these schools. The objective of this program is to have such small schools which can become significant community spaces in rural areas. These schools essentially would foster respect for the child, the families and communities and the environment.

Educational scholarship program

Since government schools provide free education only till class VI, many students are not able to continue their higher studies. To address this concern, the foundation is going to launch a nationwide Educational scholarship program for the children of small transporters and truck drivers. The foundation is going to rope in transport associations across the country for this noble cause. The objective of this program is to decrease the drop out rate of students in the families of transporters and drivers.



Financial Report

SHRIRAM FOUNDATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2013

EXPENSES		Rs.Ps
To Advertisement Expenses-		
- Audit Fees		415,364.00
- Bank Charges		11,236.00
- Educational Assistance to Amari Priya Nursery and Primary School		13,554.32
- Educational Assistance to Ascentra Trust		50,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Agastya International Foundation		21,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Relief Foundation		595,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Sarpa Sarabhi Trust		830,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Sri Sri Vidya Mandir Analkoil-CAPEX		150,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Sri Sri Vidya Mandir Analkoil-School		4,891,418.00
- Educational Assistance to Viveka's Nursery and Primary School		90,000.00
- Educational Assistance to VSR Montessori School, Redivarpalli		1,248,335.00
- Educational Assistance to VSR Montessori School, Redivarpalli+CAPEX		749,095.25
- Educational Aid To Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems		169,500.00
- Educational Assistance to Teach to Lead		104,000.00
- Educational Assistance to TARSHI		25,000.00
- Educational Assistance to International foundation for Research and Education		1,000,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Shri Sharadha Sakshi Petnam		5,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Kalvi Trust for Research and Education		10,000.00
- Educational Assistance to Waynand Girls'Jana Seva Trust		19,440.00
- Fees paid		46,000.00
- Internet Access Charges		58,588.00
- Other Expenses		10,008.00
- Petrol Expenses		186,314.00
- Printing & Stationery		147,121.50
- Rent		307,500.00
- Salary-Trust Staff		853,128.00
- Telephone Charges		12,673.00
- Scholarship		489,000.00
- Travelling and Conveyance		554,737.00
- Professional Fees		1,182,310.00
- Security Charges		21,067.50
- Staff Welfare		1,132.00
- Transportation Charges		6,300.00
- Workshop Session Expenses		9,550.60
- Insurance Premium paid		55,618.00
- Postage and courier		35.00
- Miscellaneous expm		180.00
- Out Reach Programme Expenses(M.N.G.P)		184,267.00
		18,536,202.17
		<hr/>
Depreciation-I		
- Library Books		5,190.60
- Building		57,040.11
- Computer		22,042.02
- Camera		595.53
- Fan		2.42
- Montessori Teaching Materials for Resource centre		41,972.07
- Furniture & Fittings		11,547.12
- Vehicle TYS 50sl		101.75
- Vehicle		159.63
- Learning Aids		1,384.10
		140,035.35
		<hr/>
Excess of Expenditure over Income from		
- Schools		8,777,334.89
- Ashram		2,792,537.77
- Vocational Training Centre		591,215.72
- Shiram Ignou Community College		6,210,386.51
		18,371,474.89
		<hr/>
		37,047,712.41

FOR SHIRAM FOUNDATION

MANAGING TRUSTEE

For G. BALLU ASSOCIATES

R. RAVISHANKAR
PARTNER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
M.No: 26819



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