



Annual Report of 2017–2018
(Apr – Mar)

Executive Summary

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Regenboog India Foundation!!!!

I am happy to send you this year's annual report, with a hearty THANK YOU to all our supporters and well-wishers! It has been a successful year with many good developments that have taken place, about which I invite you to read on the following pages. In September and October, I got the chance to give presentations and meet some of our donors in Switzerland and Holland, which I enjoyed very much. Happily, our local support keeps growing, too, which gives me much confidence for the future. Especially a group of youngsters extended their support, involving more and more in our environmental activities.

A continuous issue remains however the financing of our mobile medical clinic and I would like to cease this occasion to make an appeal to all of you: if anyone knows a possible source of sustainable support for this beautiful project, please contact me.

Apart from that it remains our continuous objective to fine-tune our work as well as to increase the quality of the services of our team, which finally reached a hopefully long-lasting stability. Once again thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support, which allows us to continue our work and continue dreaming...

*With Love & Respect,
Madhan Mohan*



Mission of Regenboog

“Regenboog India Foundation was founded to bring smiles and satisfaction to the needy people in the society by providing the necessary services and opportunities for them. It is dedicated to the society and promotes rural health care, children welfare, education and environment care.”

Vision

It is our vision that one day all persons in our community will receive the education, shelter, health care, love and support that nurtures their full potential to become themselves caring productive members of our society.

Principles

- *Any service provided is conceived and offered from the point of view of those who receive the service. In other words, always step into the shoes of those receiving and see the service through those eyes.*
- *Any service provided is of the highest level of quality possible.*
- *All will be treated with equal respect and understanding.*
- *All those involved in providing services for Regenboog will remain humble to the gift of serving others.*
- *All involved with Regenboog will work together as one family to reach others who are in need of help.*
- *Administrative expenses will be kept low in order to extend services to as many beneficiaries as possible.*
- *All donations of support, small and large, will be received with equal gratitude.*
- *Transparency and accountability in all aspects of our work is required.*



Achievements of 2017-18

- ❖ Mobile library distributed 13,682 books in the last financial year.
- ❖ Children's village sheltered 39 girl children
- ❖ Mobile medical clinic project offered medical treatments to 27,633 patients.
- ❖ Evening schools educated over 600 students in 2017-18.
- ❖ Six big water ponds were constructed inside the Arunachala foothills to offer water
- ❖ Regenboog started establishing temporary trash bins all over Tiruvannamalai during the Deepam festival to avoid the garbage stagnation.
- ❖ Drinking water was given to animals inside the foothills until the monsoon started.
- ❖ A nursery plantation program was started for the future tree planting works.

Sarasvathi Children's Village

Objectives:

Inaugurated in December 2012 after having initially been situated in a rented house since 2006, the Sarasvathi Children's Village (SCV) is a special home for girls in need of a safe place to live due to both of or one of their parents' death or other problems within their family. The girls live in a joyful home atmosphere where they receive unconditional love, good care and a good education for a better future.

Activities and achievements:

There are 39 girls living at SCV by the end of this academic year, aged 5 to 17 years. They are cared for by 6 housemothers of which 3 are qualified teachers, 4 caretakers/cooks and 2 teachers who help the girls with their homework in the evening. A gardener/driver and a security person complete our team. All of our girls receive a good education, frequenting 6 different schools, the oldest girl Sathiya is attending university, doing her second year of Mathematics bachelor degree. During the weekends they furthermore receive lessons of art and craftwork as well as Carnatic singing, Veenai instrumental classes and Bharatham (classical dance) lessons – with success: In February two of our girls, Sathiya and Diviya got the opportunity to perform a Veenai song for people from the Tamil film industry and a famous Tamil author.



In the course of this past year 11 girls left our children's village and were reintegrated into their families, all of them continue being monitored regularly and receive educational support where needed. 11 new girls aged 5 to 14 years joined our children's village, each one of them coming from a painful background. Two of them are sisters aged 6 and 10 who had lost their father. Their mother subsequently found a job as a housemaid in Chennai (4 hours from Tiruvannamalai) and therefore could not take care of them anymore. Other four sisters aged 5 to 11 joined us after their father had died due to tuberculosis, their mother not being able to feed them anymore despite the help of her husband's brother and herself working as a day laborer. Happily, all the girls have integrated themselves rapidly into their new children's village family, where they have found a safe and loving home. On weekends, all the girls return regularly to their original families where that is possible – we are convinced, that keeping these ties is important for their well-being.

Health wise we have been fortunate this year, all children as well as the staff passed the year without any major issue. As usual we made several trips with the girls, including a 3-day-trip to Rameshwaram, Dhanushkodi, many temples...

Also, after a long interruption of our organic gardening due to a historical draught that had affected the whole state of Tamil Nadu, we finally could restart gardening from August 17 onwards: we planted lentils, pumpkins, chilies, zucchini and tomatoes, hoping that this year the monsoon will provide sufficient water for them to



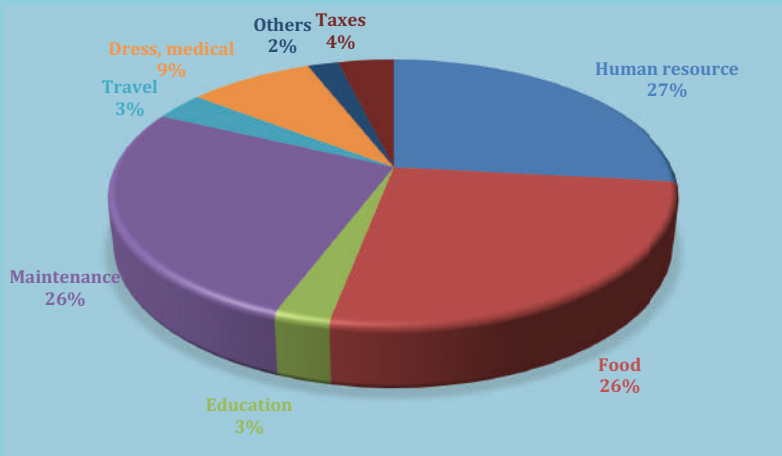
grow. Also, we were so happy to discover that our jackfruit tree planted 7 years ago bore fruit for the first time! In December 17 we built a small henhouse which two months later got inhabited by 50 hens, which the girls together with the staff enjoy taking care of very much which we had bought from local farmers in the Jawadhu hills, contributing hereby to their earning their living. The hens are taken care of by the staff as well as the girls who hereby learn basic animal farming knowledge for the future.



Financial overview of 2017-18:

The annual budget for 2017-2018 was Rs.2085,712 of which we used Rs.25,10,024. There was 20% spent excess than the budget and which was caused due to the storm that damaged the reception and cob kitchen roof completely in May 2017. So, we have changed the kitchen roof from mud to tile roofing and also repaired the main building tile roof. This work alone caused 15% increase in the actuals and other 5% are caused due to the increase in human resource, repair and maintenance and electrical repair works, which are unavoidable.

The following graph illustrates our expenses in more detail:



Conclusions:

After having had a slight shortage of staff during past years, we are very happy to finally have found sufficient good people to form a dedicated team who creates an atmosphere of love and happiness, helping the girls to get over the pain experienced in the past. It remains our objective to guarantee our girls a continuous good education, health care and a joyful environment, giving them furthermore the opportunity to explore the world. Also, it has been quite a while that we have been searching for a calf to join our children's village but up to now we could not find a good offer – let us hope the upcoming year will bring us luck with that.

Environment Project

Objectives:

In December 2008 we first started our environmental activities by spreading seeds on the holy mountain Arunachala, which had been victim of repeated fires in past years. Ever since we have been continuously expanding the range of our work, involving more and more local people. We consider it being our duty to care for our mother earth the best we can, by revegetating our environment as well as by raising awareness about environmental protection in the society we live in, working hereby for a sustainable change to the better.

Activities and achievements:

This project kept growing in the course of this past year, three more activities were added. As a response to the historical draught in 2017 we built 6 water ponds on the foothills of holy Arunachala to prevent the forest animals from dying of thirst. It was not an easy task to build these ponds, mostly because it was hard to find collaborators who would enter with their construction vehicles into the forest. Finally the ponds were built from April to July, providing over 50'000 liters of water to the forest animals. During summer, the ponds were monitored regularly and refilled when needed.

After the draught, during which many plants had withered, we decided to go full speed towards a greener environment and started a tree nursery at AVS school, with the goal to grow 7,000 saplings a year. This nursery is now maintained by the staff team together with the AVS school kids.



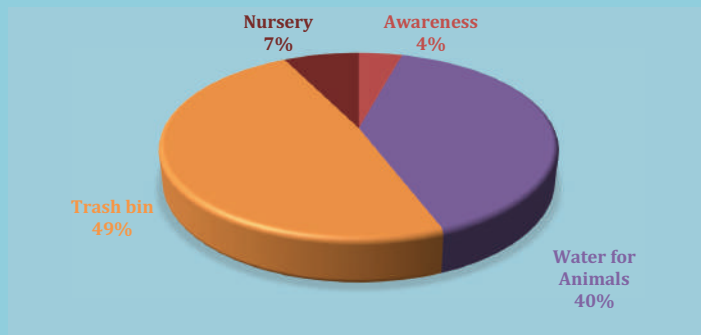
Third, we executed our fire and plastic garbage protection activities of Arunachala during Deepam festival in an expanded manner: all devotees who wanted to climb the mountain were screened by our volunteers, and on the streets around Arunachala many big trash bins were installed. It was particularly through these huge garbage bins that we attracted much public attention: to find the streets clean in the early morning of the day after Deepam was a whole new experience for the local people.



Finances:

All the activities of this projects were carried out by the local support (India donors) and there was no budget made for this project since in the past only the fire protection and garbage prevention during the Deepam time was carried by us and it cost only very little amount which was raised locally and utilized for these purposes. But after the request from the district administration for the trash bins for the Deepam festivals, this project spending was increased and the same was managed successfully. Rs.316,942 was spent for these activities in 2017-18 financial year.

The following graph illustrates the expenses in more detail:



Conclusion:

The environment project is the project that has grown most in this past year and continues to be an important focal point, bringing us closer to the local people, who themselves become more and more involved. In this coming year we continue our work on and around Arunachala mountain and will provide water to the forest animals throughout the upcoming summer. We also plan to expand our tree plantation work by involving the mobile library and evening schools in the coming year.

Mobile Library

Objectives:

Launched in 2011 with a motorbike and from 2013 onwards with a jeep transporting books to schools and evening schools in the surroundings of Tiruvannamalai, this project is meant to bring back the habit of reading to children, lost in the past years due to a lack of availability and the high cost of good books as well as the increased use of television and amount of school homework.

Activities and achievements:

Many great developments have taken place in the course of this past year. The number of books crossed 10'000 thanks to donations and purchase of new books. Several publishers of whom we had bought books in the past, now donated us children oriented books with minor damages that they could not sell anymore. Also a new vehicle was purchased and the mobile library shifted to it in April 2017.



Three famous writers of Tamil Nadu contributed furthermore their own books after having gotten to know us through our environmental project and through social media. Our mobile library has been visiting 15 different government schools as well as our evening schools, monthly twice each. During its visits, children are encouraged to tell the others with a microphone what book they read and what they most liked about it. This motivates the other children to read and teaches them at the same time to talk in public.



In December 17 we launched once again an additional service with a motorcycle library, equipped with a proper book box as well as a laptop for book registration, which has taken over visiting the 5 evening schools as well as 2 children homes and 2 streets in

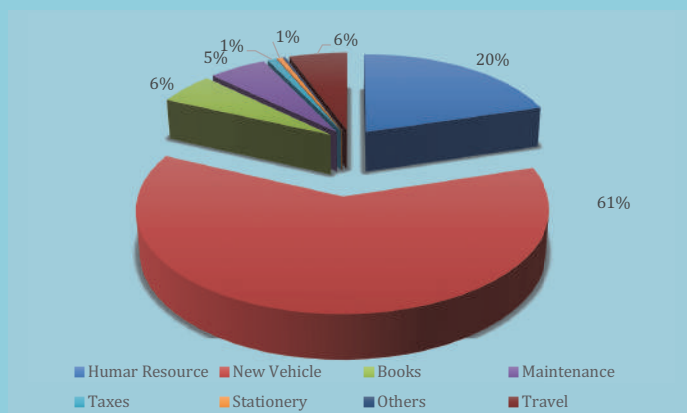


Tiruvannamalai and 2 surrounding villages every alternate week. Visiting places with small student counts with this motorcycle instead of the mobile library saves fuel and time.

During the past year, 13,682 books were distributed 2,682 books more than last year. Unfortunately, we did not succeed in creating a children's book made off stories written by the children frequenting our library, as it was intended. This was due to a change of staff in the course of the year but continuous to be our plan for next academic year. Let the children write their own stories shall empower them and stimulate their creativity and writing skills!

Finances:

The annual budget for 2017 - 2018 was Rs.803,831 of which we used Rs.806,341. The following graph illustrates our expenses in more detail:



Conclusion:

Over all we are very happy about the functioning of this project, which continues to grow and expand. From next academic year onwards, two more government schools located 30 km from Tiruvannamalai will be visited by the mobile library. We also want to add craft workshops during library stops and start creating a book with children's stories as mentioned above.



Our motor cycle library, for now in its test phase, will be able to offer its service to more places with small student counts. But most importantly we will start integrating tree planting from next academic year onwards: saplings from our tree nursery will be given to the government schools we visit and we will motivate children that frequent our library to plant trees at their homes as well. It is our ambition and deep wish to address environmental care wherever possible and don't want to miss this opportunity to reach the children who are our only hope for change to the good.

Arunachala Evening Schools

Objectives:

Since 2008 several evening schools in Tiruvannamalai and in the Jawadhu hills provide a safe place to study and develop their personal skills to children from the slums region and rural areas, lacking such support due to underprivileged living conditions of their families. Goal is furthermore to diminish the dropout rate out of school, explaining to the parents the importance of a good education.

Activities and achievements:

This project ran very smoothly during this past year with 5 evening schools in the plain area and initially 3, in the course of the year 4 schools supported on the Jawadhu hills. Our goal to provide more arts and craftwork activities in addition to the basic school support could not be accomplished in all evening schools since some of them are located in remote areas and not easy to reach for volunteers. Now evening school teachers get training themselves so that in the future they will be able to teach the children. Also, children from the evening schools and from the Jawadhu hills participated for the first time in the craft week conducted at AVS, which was a great success.



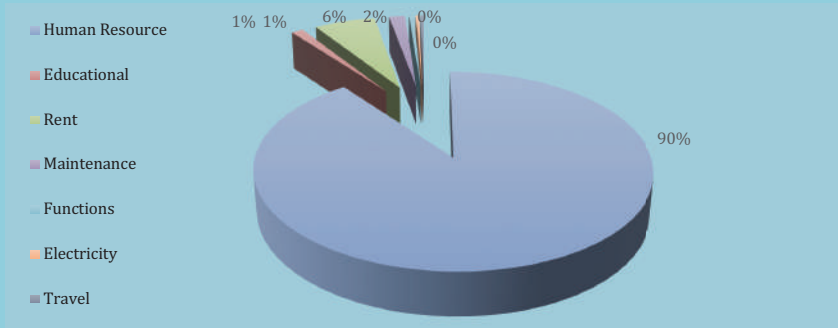
A challenge remains to provide computer education to the children, mainly due to a lack of teachers. On the Jawadhu hills one new school, namely the Kallathur government middle school, was included into our project, which makes 4 schools in total that we support with teachers. Every year we furthermore motivate all evening schools and the local staff to approach us if there are any children that need financial support for their education.



Finances:

The annual budget for 2017-2018 was Rs.824,136 of which we used Rs.653,049. We have utilized 21% less and this was caused due to short of staff in few centers, cost saving and local support.

The following graph illustrates expenses in more detail:



Conclusion:

As mentioned above, the evening school project is a simple project running smoothly on a big scale. It remains our goal to find good computer teachers that are willing to support us in the evenings, as well as to fine-tune our work and increase the quality of the education we provide.

Educational Sponsorship Program

Objectives:

Having evolved seamlessly from our other projects, this program supports those students who are in need of financial aid and moral support to continue and finish their school and higher education until they manage to finance themselves independently. They have joined this program either through our evening schools, through the children's village or after having contacted us personally, seeking support.

Activities and achievements:

The educational sponsorship program supports 17 students at the time being: 6 frequent high school, 8 frequent university or diploma courses and one young woman finished her civil engineering studies but needs financial support to prepare for an entrance exam to obtain a government job. 2 young men, Venkatesh and Pandiyan, finished their diploma courses in car mechanics successfully and are now working, which makes us very happy.

As always, we have been in regular contact with our students by phone, us being moreover reachable for them whenever needed. In February 18 we conducted an official meeting with members of the ARS board, where the students shared their ambitions and plans. In February 18 we were furthermore approached by

Suriyalakshmi, a girl from a poor family who frequents one of our evening schools. She is studying in 12th standard with very good grades and wants to become a gynecologist. We promised to support her to take the very difficult and costly entrance exam for medical school, to finance her medical studies if she succeeds as well as any other studies in case she won't be able to enter medical school.



Finances:

The annual budget for 2017 - 2018 was Rs.478,400 of which we used Rs.439,156. All these amounts were spent only for the schools / college's fees, uniform and educational materials only and nothing spent for any other reasons.

Conclusion:

This project remains a small one when it comes to invested time necessary to keep it running smoothly, but financially it is very. It remains our goal to support our own children who are in great need medical professionals, teachers and social workers in the future.

Mobile Medical Clinic

Objectives:

Launched in 2010 the mobile medical clinic is meant to provide basic health care to the people living in remote rural villages in the surroundings of Tiruvannamalai who don't have any access to medical facilities. It furthermore executes awareness campaigns about different diseases and provides regular health education to the public.



Activities and achievements:

This project has endured a very challenging year, mainly due to difficulties to find good staff members. In April we stopped collaboration with our doctor due to a lack of cooperation. Subsequently the mobile medical clinic was not able to go on the field for several weeks, until a temporary solution was found with the local Rangammal memorial hospital. They sent weekly another doctor, enabling us that way to continue our work until a new permanent doctor was found in the beginning of August. Unfortunately, this doctor quit his job by November 15th without any notice, interrupting our work once again until third week of January, when we finally found a new doctor.



Apart from these interruptions, our medical team has been providing its services efficiently, serving the people in remote villages in the plain area 3 days a week with the mobile clinic. Our service in the Jawadhu hills, where we go by jeep, has been extended from weekly once to 6 times a month. As a new initiative we also started giving our pharmacist's and nurse's phone numbers to the local people, enabling them thus to contact us for any health doubts. This improved confidence and our relationship to the people, who now have an opportunity to talk about their health issues with professionals.

Similar to previous years we continued providing health education on diabetes, hypertension, arthritis and vitamin deficiency. From August to November we conducted furthermore awareness campaigns about seasonal diseases such as dengue fever. It troubles us, that due to the lack of human resources mentioned above we were not able to provide a first aid training to the government schools' staff located in the remote villages that we visit, as it was intentioned. For the same reason our educational campaigns suffered from inconsistency and we were not able to conduct specialist camps, but we are confident that with our new team we have reached once again a stable situation that enables us to fulfill our goals in the near future.



We also learnt once again, that out of each negative incident, something positive can be drawn: in February 18 we were approached by a government school teacher on behalf of a family from Kanchipuram. The father, main contributor to the family's

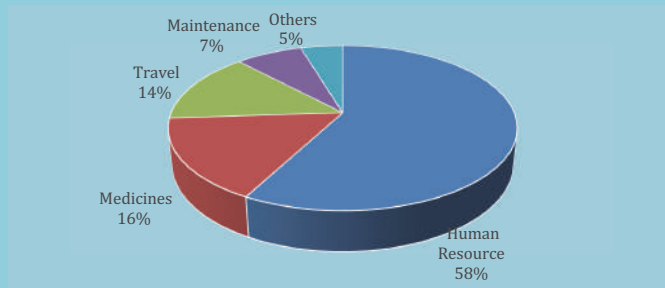
income, had lost his leg in a car accident. The family's existence at stake, they asked for financial support to acquire an artificial limb, so that the father could go on working.

Since the mobile clinic was not on the field due to a lack of doctors for two months, we had money left and could therefore help this family. Another the one an 8-year-old boy who was diagnosed with cancer (Non Hodgkin Lymphoma, stage 4) in 2016. He receives chemotherapy from the government hospital for free, but the costs of the medical treatment for his chronic hepatitis the family has to cover by itself. In January 17 we were approached by the same government teacher mentioned above on behalf of Ajeeth's family who struggled financing his therapy, asking for financial support, which was granted.



Finances:

The annual budget for 2017-2018 was Rs.17,84,120 of which we used Rs.14,31,151. We have utilized 20% less and this was caused due to the doctor's absence for few months. The following graph illustrates expenses in more detail:



Conclusion:

After a turbulent year we are happy to have again built a stable and promising team. For this upcoming year we plan to finally conduct specialist camps and give first aid trainings to the staff of the government schools we visit. As already mentioned the financing of this project remains an ongoing challenge and we keep doing our best to find a solution. We are thankful for the support of Patricia Moran (USA) who has helped us tremendously with her fundraising efforts involving the One World Children's Foundation during the last three years. In this next year, ARS will increase its support by financing the 6 days of medical treatment in the Jawadhu hills, for the plain area however a sustainable source of financing is still needed.

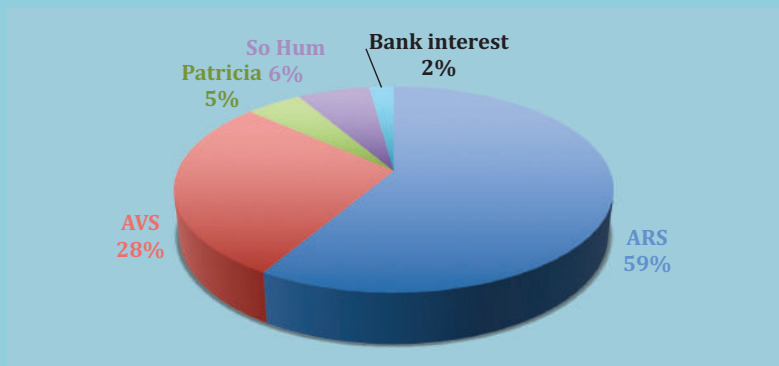
Digital visibility of Regenboog

We are very happy to finally have found support for our website which unfortunately has not been well maintained during last years due to a lack of human resources. Marco Studer from Switzerland who has been volunteering in our projects in January 17 will set up a whole new website which is now on internet for access.

Also the long waiting Android mobile application also developed finally and launched for people's access in this financia year. This would help us to reach the existing donors to follow the projects closely and make sure where there money is utilised and what is the impact of their support in the society.

Finance:

As usual the budget for 2017-18 was made with careful considerations and the same was approved by the donor organizations on time. Rs.60,18,557/- was the total budget amount for 2017-18 excluded the environment care projects, which is managed with the local support. This was 7% more than the previous year's budget figure.



Educational support program, mobile library, evening schools are 100% supported by Verein Arunachala Rising Sun, Switzerland. Sarasvathi children's village project is supported 50% each by Verein Aruanchala Rising Sun and Verein Arunachala Village School, Switzerland. Administrative cost was met by the bank interest mainly and partially also supported by Verein Arunachala Rising Sun.

Rs.277,100 raised locally which is 5.58% of the total receipts of the organization. Many efforts are taken to increase the local support this was the maximum achieved.

Conclusion and lookout

I am deeply grateful that after many years of frequent change of staff we have finally built a well functioning team: striving together for the same goals brings so much joy! It remains our continuous objective to fine-tune our work and increase the quality of our services – and to find a sustainable source of financing for our mobile medical clinic, I can't repeat it often enough: if there is anyone who is able to help, please contact me!

A hearty thank you to all of our supporters and well-wishers, we are looking forward to another fruitful year, serving the underprivileged people of our society.



Regenboog India Foundation

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