



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
ABOUT ASSIST.

**“THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT
IN ABUNDANCE.”**

- JOHN 10:10



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A WORD FROM THE LEADER

DEAR FRIENDS, COLLABORATORS, AND SUPPORTERS,
WARM GREETINGS OF PEACE AND HOPE!
IT GIVES ME GREAT JOY TO PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT
OF ASSIST (AUXILIUM SYNERGY SOURCE
FOR INTEGRATED SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION) - THE
OFFICIAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WING OF OUR
PROVINCE. AS AN ORGANIZATION ROOTED IN THE
SALESIAN CHARISM AND INSPIRED BY THE
PREVENTIVE SYSTEM OF ST. JOHN BOSCO AND ST. MARY
MAZZARELLO, ASSIST CONTINUES TO BE
A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AND
MARGINALIZED IN SOCIETY.
THIS YEAR HAS BEEN BOTH CHALLENGING AND
TRANSFORMATIVE. AMID SHIFTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
REALITIES, ASSIST HAS REMAINED FAITHFUL TO ITS
MISSION OF ACCOMPANYING THE POOR,
ESPECIALLY WOMEN, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN, THROUGH
EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT, SKILL-BUILDING,
CHILD RIGHTS, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. OUR
INITIATIVES IN RURAL AND COASTAL AREAS HAVE
FOSTERED GREATER DIGNITY, PARTICIPATION, AND SELF-
RELIANCE AMONG COMMUNITIES OFTEN
FORGOTTEN BY MAINSTREAM DEVELOPMENT.
WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO OUR STAFF,
COLLABORATORS, DONORS, GOVERNMENT PARTNERS, AND
LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR JOURNEYING WITH US IN A
SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND SERVICE. YOUR
COMMITMENT ENABLES US TO TOUCH LIVES, RESTORE
DREAMS, AND CREATE PATHWAYS TO A MORE
JUST AND COMPASSIONATE WORLD.
I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AFFIRM THE TIRELESS
EFFORTS OF OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM AND FIELD
ANIMATORS WHO EMBODY OUR MISSION ON THE GROUND.
MAY THIS REPORT SERVE NOT ONLY AS AN
ACCOUNT OF OUR ACTIVITIES BUT AS A CELEBRATION OF
WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN FAITH, LOVE, AND
PROFESSIONALISM COME TOGETHER IN SERVICE OF THE
LEAST.
LET US MOVE FORWARD WITH COURAGE AND COMPASSION,
EVER ATTENTIVE TO THE SIGNS OF THE
TIMES AND THE CRY OF THE POOR.
WITH PRAYERFUL WISHES,

SR. MAJELLA FERNANDO

PROVINCIAL - PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF SNOW,
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI



A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

IT IS WITH IMMENSE JOY AND GRATITUDE THAT I PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT OF NDF 2024 - 2025, HIGHLIGHTING THE REMARKABLE EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES IN EMPOWERING CHILDREN, PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMBATING SOCIAL INJUSTICES. THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A TESTAMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE MEANINGFUL CHANGE. OUR COMMITMENT TO NURTURING YOUNG MINDS AND FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AMONG CHILDREN HAS BEEN TRULY INSPIRING. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT HAS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN UPHOLDING CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION, ENSURING THAT THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD AND THEIR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED. THROUGH INITIATIVES LIKE THE "CHILDREN'S VOICE" CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND THE RESTORATION OF EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN NEED, WE HAVE WITNESSED THE POWER OF YOUNG ADVOCATES IN SHAPING A BETTER FUTURE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REMAINS AT THE HEART OF OUR MISSION. WITH THE FORMATION OF 226 ECO CLUBS ACROSS VARIOUS PROVINCES, ENGAGING 7,318 CHILDREN IN ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES, AND THE PLANTATION OF OVER 42,000 TREES, WE ARE FOSTERING A GENERATION OF RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS. THESE EFFORTS REINFORCE OUR BELIEF THAT CHANGE BEGINS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, WITH COMMUNITIES TAKING OWNERSHIP OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND NURTURING NATURE WITH CARE.

ANOTHER PRESSING ISSUE THAT DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING, A HEINOUS CRIME THAT STRIPS INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR DIGNITY. THIS YEAR, PREVENTION AND RESCUE WORK INTENSIFIED THROUGH AWARENESS PROGRAMS, VIGILANT COMMITTEES, AND COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT BODIES. THE TIRELESS WORK OF OUR SEVEN PROVINCES HAS SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED THE MOVEMENT AGAINST EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.

NONE OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE UNWAVERING DEDICATION OF OUR SALESIAN SISTERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, EDUCATORS, AND PARTNERS. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN TRANSFORMING THEIR REALITIES. THEIR COURAGE, RESILIENCE, AND COMPASSION FUEL OUR MISSION AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND HOPE.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD, LET US REMAIN STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION, EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS TREATED WITH DIGNITY, AND EVERY COMMUNITY FLOURISHES IN HARMONY WITH NATURE. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAXIMIZE OUR IMPACT AND BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

SR. AZARIS AROKIA MARY SELVI

DIRECTRESS



IMPACT AT A GLANCE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

50
YOUTH

SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED IN JOB-ORIENTED VOCATIONAL COURSES (CUSTOMER CARE & DATA ENTRY) AND MADE READY FOR THE JOB MARKET THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH DON BOSCO TECH.

1000+
CHILDREN

ENGAGED THROUGH HOLISTIC PROGRAMMES FOCUSING ON ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND STEM SKILLS.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

47
FAMILIES

FROM THE DEVARAYANERI GYPSY COMMUNITY DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES, RECEIVING 171 FRUIT TREE SAPLINGS TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM NUTRITION AND INCOME.

200
KG OF
TRADITIONAL
SEEDS

DISTRIBUTED TO 20 ORGANIC FARMERS, INCLUDING 10 NEW ADOPTERS, PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

4
COMMUNITY
CENTERS

HOSTED "BALANCED DIET CHART" TRAININGS, EQUIPPING SELF-HELP GROUP (SHG) WOMEN WITH CRUCIAL NUTRITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

28
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDS

TRAINED AS TRAINERS TO CHAMPION ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION AND LEAD ECO-INITIATIVES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

1. EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: CHILDREN & YOUTH

Our commitment to the future is embodied in our work with children and youth, providing them with the tools to become confident, capable, and conscientious citizens.

CHILDREN-VIDIYALIN VITHTHUKKAL: Nurturing Young Minds

This comprehensive programme touched the lives of hundreds of children across Tamil Nadu, focusing on multifaceted development.

- **Environmental Stewardship:** Through events like World Environment Day and the Season of Creation Celebration (over 400 students), we cultivated a generation of "eco-ambassadors." Children learned about waste reduction, water recycling, and biodiversity by planting trees and making seed balls.
- **Health and Well-being:** We addressed both physical and mental health through Yoga Day celebrations and specialized sessions on emotional well-being and mind control techniques for over 55 children and their parents.
- **Leadership and Civic Action:** The Neighbourhood Children's Parliament (NCP) was a cornerstone of our leadership training. We oriented 100 students and teachers, and proudly saw 45 NCP students actively participate in a Gram Sabha (village council) meeting, raising issues relevant to their communities.
- **Future-Ready Skills:** A major highlight was the AUXISTEM Robotics League, where 138 students from 12 schools, after months of dedicated training, competed at a state-level event graced by ISRO scientists, sparking a passion for science and technology.



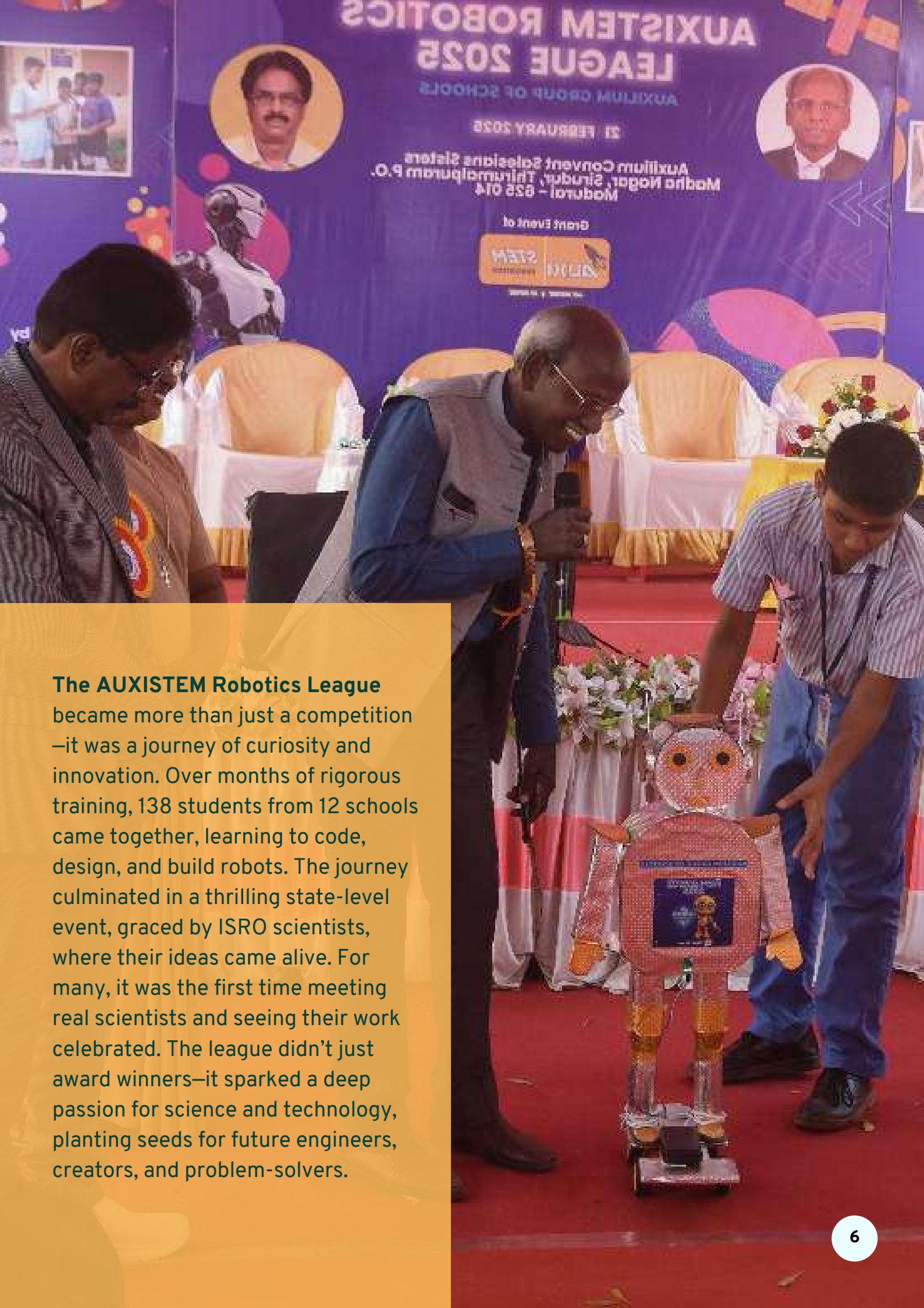


100+

Over 100 students and teachers were oriented on civic participation and local governance, strengthening their understanding of democratic processes.

45

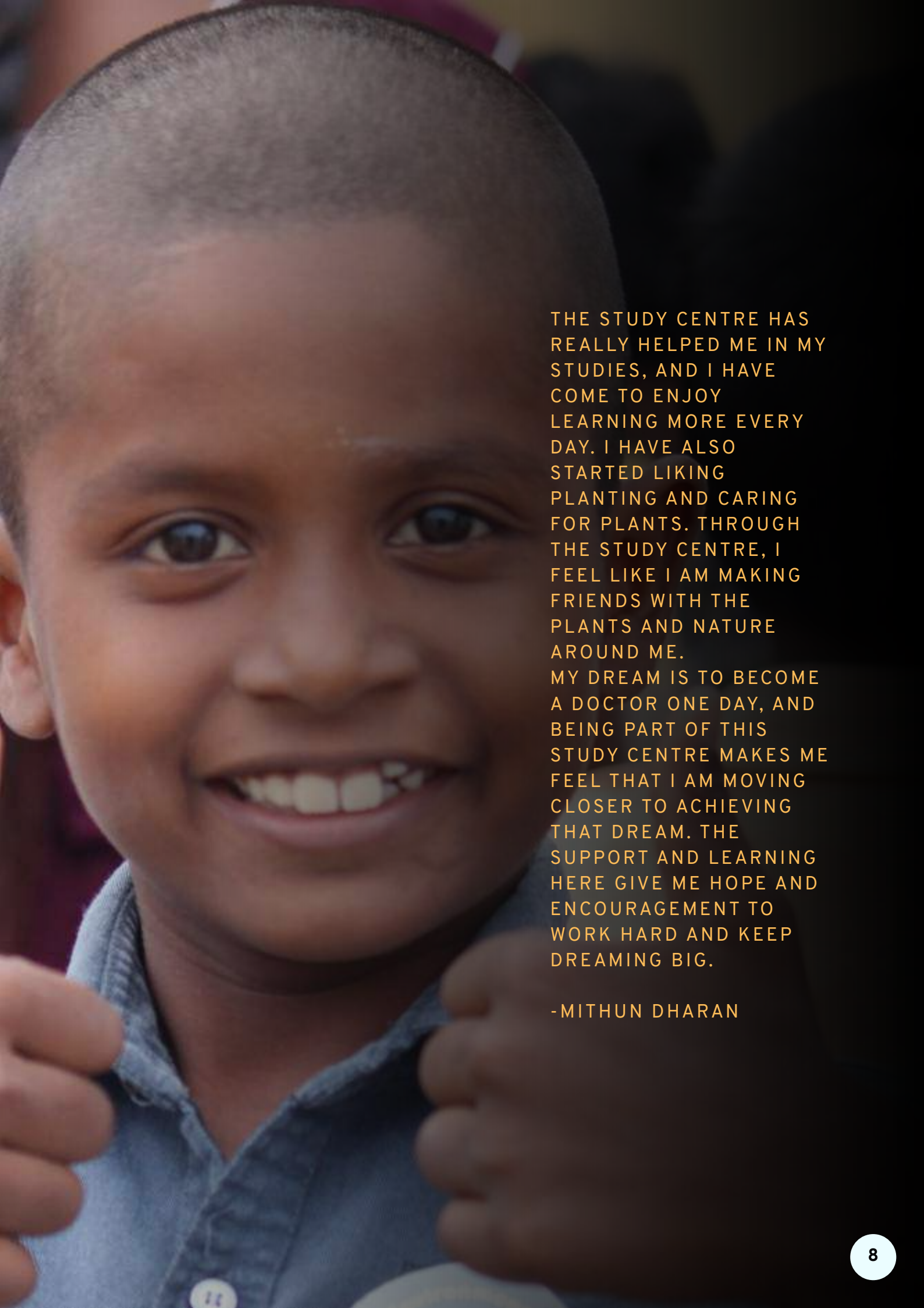
In a powerful display of youth leadership, 45 NCP students actively engaged in a Gram Sabha meeting, voicing concerns and raising community-relevant issues.



The AUXISTEM Robotics League became more than just a competition—it was a journey of curiosity and innovation. Over months of rigorous training, 138 students from 12 schools came together, learning to code, design, and build robots. The journey culminated in a thrilling state-level event, graced by ISRO scientists, where their ideas came alive. For many, it was the first time meeting real scientists and seeing their work celebrated. The league didn't just award winners—it sparked a deep passion for science and technology, planting seeds for future engineers, creators, and problem-solvers.

OUR PHOTO GALLERY





THE STUDY CENTRE HAS REALLY HELPED ME IN MY STUDIES, AND I HAVE COME TO ENJOY LEARNING MORE EVERY DAY. I HAVE ALSO STARTED LIKING PLANTING AND CARING FOR PLANTS. THROUGH THE STUDY CENTRE, I FEEL LIKE I AM MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE PLANTS AND NATURE AROUND ME.

MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A DOCTOR ONE DAY, AND BEING PART OF THIS STUDY CENTRE MAKES ME FEEL THAT I AM MOVING CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THAT DREAM. THE SUPPORT AND LEARNING HERE GIVE ME HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO WORK HARD AND KEEP DREAMING BIG.

-MITHUN DHARAN

YOUTH-VETRIYIN VERKAL: FORGING PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

Recognizing the critical need for job-ready skills, we launched a strategic partnership with Don Bosco (DB) Tech, culminating in a new vocational skilling center. This initiative directly bridges the gap between youth potential and industry demand.

- **Successful Launch:** A formal MoU cemented our partnership, leading to the successful launch of two training batches.
- **Market-Relevant Training:** A total of 50 young people completed intensive courses in "Customer Care Executive" and "Domestic Data Entry Operator." The curriculum was comprehensive, covering not just technical skills but also essential life skills, communication, and workplace readiness.

Dedicated Placement Support: Both batches were made ready for job interviews, with dedicated support from the DB Tech Placement Coordinator to facilitate their entry into the workforce.





50+

Youth successfully completed market-relevant training programs in Customer Care and Data Entry, gaining both technical and life skills essential for today's workforce.

All trained participants received dedicated placement support, including job interview preparation and career guidance, through collaboration with DB Tech's Placement Coordinator.

OUR PHOTO GALLERY



2. FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS: FARMERS & WOMEN

Economic independence and sustainable practices are the twin pillars of a resilient community. Our programmes this year provided tangible resources and knowledge to empower local farmers and women.

FARMERS-VAAZHAVAIAKUM VANAM: Cultivating a Greener Future

This initiative strengthened our support for agricultural communities by promoting organic farming and sustainable water management.

- **Expanding Organic Farming:** We brought together experienced and new organic farmers, distributing 200 kg of traditional, healthy rice seeds to 20 farmers in Ulagampatti, empowering them to pursue natural farming methods.
- **Sustainable Water Solutions:** Crucial groundwork was laid for constructing grey water recycling beds in three communities, marking a significant step towards water conservation.
- **Building Environmental Leadership:** A "Training of Trainers" program equipped 28 key community leaders with the knowledge to champion environmental stewardship, creating a ripple effect of ecological awareness.





20+

farmers in Ulagampatti were empowered to adopt natural farming practices through the distribution of 200 kg of traditional rice seeds and peer collaboration.

28

community leaders were trained as environmental champions, while groundwork for grey water recycling in 3 villages set the stage for sustainable water management.

OUR PHOTO GALLERY





I'M ABEL, A FARMER, AND I LOVE WHAT I DO. THANKS TO THE TRAINING AND SUPPORT I RECEIVED FROM ASSIST, I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT NATURAL FARMING. IT HAS CHANGED THE WAY I CARE FOR MY LAND AND CROPS. NOW, MY MISSION IS CLEAR: I WANT TO SHARE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED WITH EVERYONE IN MY VILLAGE. I AM TEACHING MY NEIGHBORS ABOUT NATURAL FARMING, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT CAN BRING BETTER HEALTH TO THE SOIL, BETTER FOOD FOR OUR FAMILIES, AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL OF US. I WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THIS MISSION. NO MATTER WHAT CHALLENGES COME MY WAY, I AM COMMITTED TO SPREADING NATURAL FARMING AND MAKING MY VILLAGE A MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

WOMEN-VIDUTHALAIYIN VIZHUDHUGAL: CHAMPIONING EMPOWERMENT

This programme addressed the multifaceted needs of women, focusing on health, economic self-reliance, and social dignity.

- **Nutrition and Health:** We conducted "Balanced Diet Chart" trainings for SHG women across four centers, improving family health. Direct nutritional support was also provided to pregnant and lactating mothers in three villages.
- **Economic Support:** We conducted monitoring visits to SHG-run vending cart businesses, providing crucial feedback to sustain and improve these income-generating activities.
- **Advocacy and Recognition:** "Orange Day" celebrations in three communities raised powerful awareness against gender-based violence. Our extensive International Women's Day celebration honored the contributions of women in often-overlooked roles, from police officers to sanitation workers, fostering immense community appreciation.





3

communities engaged in Orange Day campaigns, mobilizing women workers from MGNREGS and 100-days work schemes against gender-based violence.

4

people from 4 villages received direct nutritional support for pregnant and lactating mothers, improving maternal and child health.

OUR PHOTO GALLERY



3. BUILDING RESILIENT & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Our work extends to targeted interventions that uplift marginalized groups and ensure our strategies are deeply rooted in community needs.

Empowering the Devarayaneri Gypsy Community

This focused initiative provided tangible resources to enhance livelihoods and promote self-sufficiency.

- **A Greener, Healthier Environment:** We established and protected a community herbal garden. Most significantly, we distributed 171 fruit tree saplings to 47 families, a long-term investment in their nutrition and potential income.

Skill Development: A Herbal Balm Making training session equipped community members, particularly women, with a practical skill for a value-added, marketable product.



OUR PHOTO GALLERY



STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION: CAPACITY BUILDING

To ensure our work remains effective and responsive, we invested in our own organizational development.

- Grassroots Understanding: A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Pallapatti village allowed us to listen directly to children, ensuring our future planning is informed by their real-world needs.
- Investing in People: We oriented 50 social work students, prepared 31 youth for leadership roles, and held our Annual Staff Meet to reflect, strategize, and renew our collective commitment to ASSIST's mission.





and remaining steadfast in our mission to empower every individual to reach their full potential. Our work is made possible by the dedication of our staff, the collaboration of our partners, and the incredible spirit of the communities we serve. Together, we are not just changing lives—we are building a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

OUR PARTNERS





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