

கிராம கல்வி மற்றும் செயல் மேம்பாடு (ரீடு)  
**RURAL EDUCATION AND  
ACTION DEVELOPMENT (READ)**

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Reg No: 159/1994

# Rural Education and Action Development (READ)

*Instituting capacity building measures to ensure the welfare of rural women, children, differently-abled persons, providing education to children, special children with Intellectual Disability, farmers and healthcare services for people with HIV.*

## About us

READ was established in 1994 as a Non-Governmental Organization head quartered in Andimadam, Ariyalur District. A group experienced social workers under the leadership and guidance of Dr READ Selvam, started this organization to address the poor, neglected status of women living in rural areas. Their commitment towards empowering women gave birth to this organization, which was registered under the Societies Registration Act 27 of 1975. Over the years, we spread our activities to improving the social, educational and economic conditions of the underprivileged, disadvantaged and vulnerable people, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex and sexual orientation.

As a step further in helping the target communities, we opened Anbagam special school for differently-abled children, "Malarum Motukal" group for supporting HIV affected people, Community Resource Centre to institute capacity building for people with disabilities, Self-help groups for women, Childline 1098 service for children living in rural areas, and agricultural programmes to enable the development of farming communities. All our initiatives ensure that our target communities are enabled and empowered to be a decision makers of their lives. Our current area of operations include 211 villages in Ariyalur, Perambalur and Cuddalore districts.

## Objectives

1. To empower marginalised people through a community mobilisation process towards independent life
2. To promote gender consciousness and equity in society throughout the humanisation process
3. To empower persons with disability to lead a dignified social life through community mobilisation and rehabilitation strategies
4. To provide care and support to persons affected with HIV/AIDS, the aged and orphan children
5. To promote awareness and comprehensive health care to prevent HIV/AIDS, disability and other contagious diseases
6. To promote and protect the environment through bio-cultivation and sustainable management of natural resources
7. To increase the educational status of poor and marginalised children
8. To make a sustainable livelihood possible for women and poor people
9. To build the capacity of self-help leaders and community organisations to ensure active participation and independent functioning

## Vision

READ is to create a just society practising democratic and human values of equity, participation, inclusion and self-reliance through education.

## Mission

To empower the poor, marginalised and unorganised sector of the society through promoting and strengthening community based organisations and instituting capacity building measures.



## Board members

Mrs A. Leela Mary - President  
Mrs V. Chitra - Vice - President  
Dr READ Selvam - Secretary  
Mr G. Thiruvarasan - Treasurer  
Mrs R. Manonmani – Executive Member  
Dr K. Jothy - Executive Member  
Miss A. Amalorpava Mary - Executive Member  
Mrs P. Kanimozhi - Executive Member  
Mrs K. Ranjitha – Executive Member

## Executive team

Mr Chitrakannan - Co-ordinator (Women Empowerment)  
Mrs Dhanakodi - Field co-ordinator (Women Income Generation)  
Mrs Arokia Mary – Headmistress (Anbagam Special School)  
Mrs Shakilabanu - Co-ordinator(Special School Education and special homes)  
Mrs Deepa – Co-ordinator (Skill training instructor)

## Partnerships and collaborations





## Our approach

### Women empowerment

Empowerment is the main process of social development which can enable women to participate in the economic, political and social sustainable development of the rural communities. We knew it was crucial to empower women, especially in rural areas, as they were subjected to gender inequality, violence, and lack of access to livelihood opportunities. So, we formed women self-help groups which is mainly focused on savings and credit method within the self-help groups. We also provide capacity building training, skill development training to members of Self-Help Groups. We follow-up this initiative to monitor the progress of the group, and make necessary decisions in advancing their progress.

### Special education for differently-abled person



**Anbagam for the differently-abled:** Persons with disabilities live a very challenging life as their 'disability' is often seen as their 'inability' by many. Due to their disabilities, they are often neglected, abandoned which further deteriorates their condition. We provide special education to them to have equitable opportunities in society. In order to make them feel loved and included, we opened a home called Anbagam which is both a day care and residential care centre, to provide care, food, and build their skills to have a job opportunities in mainstream society.



## Orphan children Education

Majority of children living in Vilandai and Andimadam were working as child labor in factories, shops, hotels, and they couldn't go to schools because there were no parents or caretakers to give food and education. To tackle this major crisis, we came up with a sustainable solution, which is to get sponsorship from willing donors for their education, food and other expenses. Further, we also let children stay at their relatives home to grow up in a homely environment, so that they never feel excluded. READ also collaborates with Child Line 1098 to help children from distressing situations. We provide counselling, rehabilitation services, legal support to children we come across through Child Line emergency services.

## Health and sanitation and support to senior citizen

READ is dedicated towards providing a safe environment for elders. We have an accommodation facility for elders where we provide healthy, nutritious meal, health check-ups, and knowledge enrichment sessions. By creating a safe environment, we establish a better retired life for them.

## Malarum Mottukal (Blossoming flowers)

READ initiated a number of HIV prevention care and support programmes, as part of these programmes, READ started the HIV positive network called "Malarum Mottukal" to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in the district.

## Awards and achievements

- Gold Star Millennium award by National Integrity Cultural Academy - 2010
- Best Organization Award by Film Director V. L Baskar Raj, Agada Vigadam - 2014
- Best Service Award in the social sector by Tamil Sangam - 2014
- Excellence Award by Excellence in Humanitarian Service - 2017

## Impact over the years

**456**

Children educated through sponsorship programme

**198**

Adults supported with health care, counselling, and livelihood

**1500**

women given community level awareness towards self-sufficiency

**58**

youth and women provided skill training

**80**

intellectually challenged adult given vocational skill training

**220**

intellectually challenged children given writing and reading training

**33**

HIV/ AIDS affected children got health and nutrition support

**155**

PwDs supported for better livelihood to live like others in the society

**1452**

families received Grocery things, Toilet things and Mask for pandemic situation.

\*Data as of December 2021, based on NGO records

## Our organization goals for the future

- Support additional 100 children in the Children sponsorship program.
- Train multiple farming technology to the 100 small and marginal farmers.
- To raise funds to construct a residential centre for senior citizens with all infrastructure facilities.
- To equip with special education to special needs for the Intellectually disabled children.
- Engage with more training in READ's community resource centre



# READ'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE RCRC

திரைப்பட அறம்  
ENTRANCE



## Rural Education and Action Development (READ)

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