



# KIRAN

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## EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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# FROM THE TRUSTEE

IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE, WE HIGHLIGHT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST SIX MONTHS WHILE ALSO PROVIDING INSIGHTS INTO THE PLANS FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD.

“Karna Vidya Foundation, a registered non-profit trust, has been empowering individuals with visual impairment through technology since 1999 when it was started as a project of Rotary Club of Madras Coromandel”

Over the years, the organization has made remarkable strides in advancing education and employment opportunities for visually impaired individuals, and the journey continues.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated trainers of Karna Vidya Foundation for their unwavering commitment and expertise in empowering individuals through technology.

Our sincere appreciation goes to our CSR partner, Mind Sprint, for their generous support and collaboration, which have been pivotal to the success of this initiative.

We are also deeply thankful to the Trustees for their continuous guidance and staff and library volunteers of KVF for their tireless efforts, and seamless coordination in ensuring the program's smooth execution.

Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu for their invaluable guidance and support, which have enabled us to make a meaningful impact.

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions to this journey of empowerment and inclusion.

*Subramaniam V*

Trustee





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Mr Sasi Kumar, Programme Head



The first batch of Data Entry Operator course



Digital Literacy Programme at Salem

# SASI TALKS



SASIKUMAR, THE PROGRAM  
HEAD, SHARES HIS  
PRIORITIES FOR THE  
STUDENTS.

By Shankari Ezhilarasan  
Compiled by Khyati Goswami



I am thrilled to share that nine students from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School for the Blind in Paravai, Madurai, and the Government Higher Secondary School for the Blind in Poonamallee, Thiruvallur, successfully completed their exams using laptops after participating in our technology training program.

At KVF, our mission is to empower visually impaired students to lead independent lives through the effective use of technology.

As someone with visual impairment myself, I deeply understand the daily challenges we face. In my role as the Training and Program Head at Karna Vidya Foundation, my focus is on equipping students with essential skills to foster their independence.

These skills include:

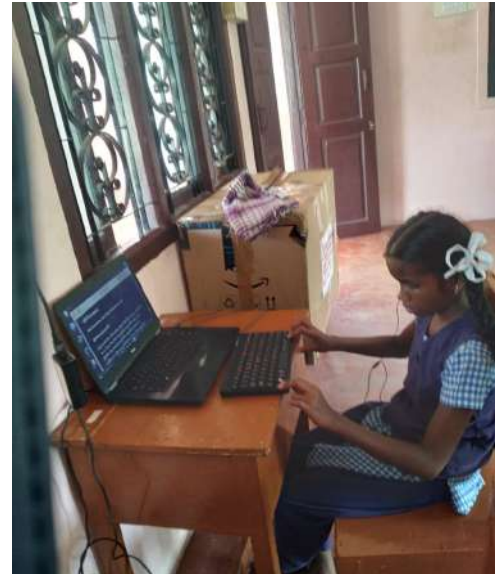
- Application navigation: Enabling students to navigate software and tools effectively.
- Document management: Teaching them to read, write, and edit documents independently.
- Spreadsheet usage: Helping them create and utilize spreadsheets for various tasks.
- Presentation skills: Guiding them in designing and delivering impactful presentations.
- Internet-based applications: Training them to use maps, navigate online services, and order services via apps, allowing them to engage with technology just like everyone else.
- Communication tools: Encouraging proficiency in email, chat, and other collaboration tools, preparing them for roles in any organization.

Writing exams independently, without the assistance of a scribe, is a crucial first step toward achieving this autonomy through technology.

Our Right Living Program further supports students by teaching them to travel independently, enhancing their personal grooming, and building their communication and teamwork skills.

These initiatives collectively prepare them for a life of confidence and independence.

**Sasikumar-Program Head talks about how the students wrote the exams using a laptop.**



"Dharani wrote her exam for the first time using a laptop!!

# URAI KAL

Touchstone



STREAM  
(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RIGHTLI  
VING, ENGLISH ARTS, MATHS)  
EDUCATION

By Shankari Ezhilarasan  
Compiled by Khyati Goswami

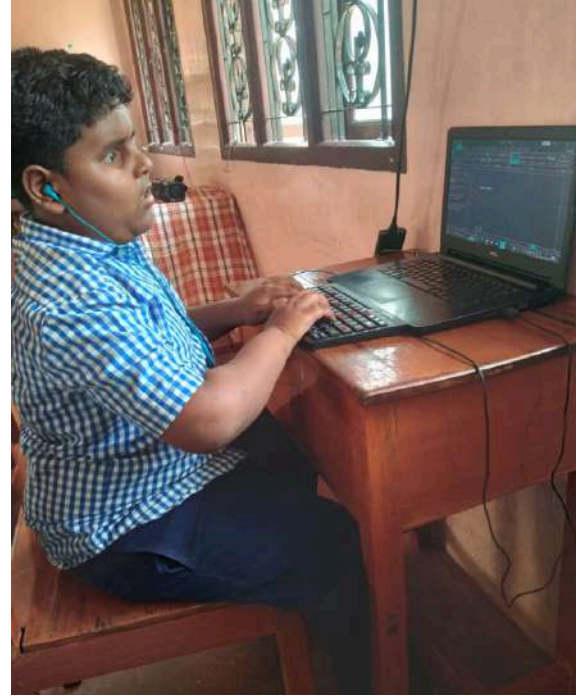


The Digital Literacy Training for Students with Visual Impairments is an initiative designed to empower students in special schools under the Department of Welfare for Persons with Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu, as well as those attending KVF training centers.

This program emphasizes the critical role of digital literacy in today's academic landscape, aiming to enable students to become self-reliant.

The training equips them with essential skills to effectively use computers, mobile devices, and assistive technologies.

In collaboration with the Directorate of Welfare for Persons with Differently Abled, this initiative has received official approval and is being implemented in government and government-aided special schools across Tamil Nadu.



Apart from the STEAM subjects, KVF is planning to start Right Living ( Mobility Training, Personal Hygiene) from the next academic year

STEAM  
(Science,Technology,English, ARTS,Math) Education  
உரைகல் means (touchstone)



Students undergoing the digital literacy program





# GOING PLACES



FINDING THE DREAM JOB

By Shankari Ezhilarasan  
Compiled by Khyati Goswami

# GOING PLACES..



The Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF) Placement Team took an active role in seven job fairs held across Tamil Nadu to assist and recruit job seekers with visual impairments.

Organized by the District Differently Abled Welfare Offices under the Government of Tamil Nadu, these fairs provided a platform for KVF to collaborate with various stakeholders in identifying employment opportunities for visually impaired individuals.

The team offered guidance and support to help participants secure meaningful and fulfilling careers.

This initiative underscores KVF's commitment to fostering workplace inclusion and empowering the visually impaired community to achieve economic independence.



Karna Vidya Foundation, an empaneled training partner of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), has successfully completed training for three batches of the Data Entry Operator course at the Guindy Technology Centre and Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education in Srivilliputhur.

Over the past six months, a total of 33 jobseekers have been trained under this program.

Currently, the foundation is training the fourth batch of students at both centers, continuing its efforts to equip individuals with the skills needed for meaningful employment.

"GETTING THE JOB WHICH ENABLES TO LEAD AN INDEPENDENT AND FRUITFUL LIFE"



# LETS TALK METRICS!



PROOF OF THE PUDDING!!  
THE METRICS SPEAKS FOR THEMSELVES ON  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF KVF INTERVENTIONS..

**By Shankari Ezhilarasan**  
**Compiled by Khyati Goswami**

# LETS TALK METRICS!

KVF COVERAGE IS INCREASING EVERY MONTH WITH NEW CENTERS IN MANY DISTRICTS, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW COURSES LIKE ARTS AND RIGHT LIVING..



"TECHNOLOGY IS NOT JUST A  
TOOL BUT A VOICE"

The Digital Literacy Training for Students with Visual Impairments is an initiative designed to empower students from special schools under the Department of Welfare for Persons with Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu, as well as those at KVF training centers.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of digital literacy in fostering self-reliance in today's academic environment, this program focuses on equipping students with the skills to effectively use computers, mobile devices, and assistive technologies.

Implemented in collaboration with the Directorate of Welfare for Persons with Differently Abled, this initiative has received official approval and is currently being rolled out in government and government-aided special schools across Tamil Nadu.

## LETS TALK METRICS!



**Number of Centers** **11**

The new centers opened from April to October are Salem, Dharmapuri, Thanjore, Amalarakkhini

**Total Students covered** **368**

Boys: 118 and Girls: 250

**Total Job Seekers Trained** **11**

Boys: 6 and Girls: 5

**Number of e-PUB pages created** **27801**

Creation of accessible materials for the print disabled enabling them to access information across academic and non-academic platforms. The pages are converted and uploaded live in the Bookshare Online Library for the Print Disabled.



# KVF LIBRARY AND E-PUB



Dedicated team of

**Compiled by Khyati Goswami**  
**Photography by Shayla Vishwanathan**



Dedicated team of KVF library volunteers

Today a reader,  
tomorrow a leader

The Karna Vidya Foundation has a remarkable history of championing accessibility for visually impaired students, evolving significantly over its 25-year journey. Starting as a grassroots movement, volunteers initially supported students by reading aloud, enabling them to take notes and access educational content.

Today, the foundation operates a library in Mandaveli, where dedicated volunteers leverage modern technology to create accessible learning materials. They digitize and convert resources into formats like DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) and upload them as ePub files, ensuring visually impaired students can access a wide range of reading materials easily.

This evolution reflects a seamless blend of tradition and innovation. While the movement began with volunteers offering personal assistance, advancements in technology have transformed how accessibility is provided.

Volunteers now enthusiastically use tools for scanning, converting, and uploading books, enhancing the quality and reach of the resources available to students. This ongoing commitment underscores the foundation's pivotal role in fostering inclusivity and empowering visually impaired learners.



Dedicated team of KVF library volunteers



# VALAR PIRAI

To educate children with visual impairments, we integrate innovative methodologies with inclusive practices, fostering a transformative and empowering learning environment.

**By Sriharan**

**Data compiled by Shally Susan John Britto**



# VALAR PIRAI



VALAR PIRAI Training Program at KVTC,Guindy



VALAR PIRAI Training Program at KVTC,Guindy

The Training of Trainers (ToT) course was successfully conducted to develop skilled trainers capable of teaching students with visual impairments.

A total of eleven individuals with visual impairments participated in the program. Of these, five trainees have transitioned to full-time trainer roles, showcasing their expertise and competence.

The remaining six participants are currently completing internships to further refine their teaching skills and prepare for future trainer positions.

This initiative underscores our commitment to cultivating skilled professionals who will have a lasting impact on the education of students with visual impairments.

# OASIS @ SCHOOLS



A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO  
DELIVER PERSONALIZED LEARNING  
FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL  
IMPAIRMENTS"

**By Vedhapriya Ganesan & Satishkumar**  
**Photography by Khyati Goswami**



KVF team visiting I.E.L.C school ,Bargur



KVF team interacting with school student at  
Bargur, Krishnagiri

"Project Oasis seeks to deliver quality education to students with visual impairments enrolled in government and government-aided schools in Krishnagiri.

With the support of special educators and under the approval of the CEO of Krishnagiri district, we have identified the relevant government and aided schools under the SSA (Samagra Shiksha) program."

Children with visual impairments from 10 blocks across these schools have been assessed, and as part of our intervention, we plan to provide STREAM (Science, Technology, Rights Education, English, and Math) training to these students.

The project aims to support 200 visually impaired students over the next five years, with a CSR fund allocation of INR 4.72 crores.

We intend to launch the project in the academic year 2025-26."





KVF employee interacting with a child during block survey in Krishnagiri



Student in Bargur, Krishnagiri

"The special educators from Samagra Shiksha are doing remarkable work in providing education to children with disabilities. Their on-the-ground expertise and personal engagement with each child are truly commendable.

KVF is collaborating with them to further train and enhance their skills and knowledge, specifically in the area of teaching students with visual impairments.

Based on our field research and discussions with the SSA team, we have identified a need to mobilize additional resources, particularly in the form of teachers, to support the existing team of special educators and teachers."

"The following key challenges are faced by teachers and special educators in government schools:

- Providing individualized attention to children with disabilities, especially those with visual impairments.
- Many parents of visually impaired children in rural areas are daily wage earners, making it challenging to bring them to daycare centers or inclusive schools.
- Each visually impaired child requires specialized equipment and teaching methods, highlighting the need for trained teachers to support the existing staff."

"Karna Vidya, through the Oasis@Schools project, is proposing several key interventions:

At the Teacher Level:

- Training special educators on ICT tools for teaching visually impaired students.
- Training regular teachers on ICT tools for educating visually impaired students.
- 

At the School Level:

- Assisting inclusive school classes with additional teachers to provide focused attention to visually impaired students.
- Supporting government-run blind schools with extra teachers.
- Providing specialized assistive devices for visually impaired students.
- Offering home-based learning support for students who are unable to attend school."

At the Daycare Center Level:

- Offering support to parents to facilitate the transportation of their children to daycare centers.

At the Home Level:

- For students with mobility challenges who cannot attend school, KVF will conduct home visits to provide specialized lessons.

At the District Level:

- A unique outdoor experience center is being proposed in Krishnagiri, spread across 20 acres. This initiative is currently under active consideration by the district administration.



# OASIS@SCHOOLS

## Project Coverage:

The project will encompass 120 schools across the following blocks in Krishnagiri District: Bargur, Hosur, Kaveripattinam, Kelamangalam, Krishnagiri, Mathur, Shoolagiri, Thally, Uthangarai, and Veppanapalli.

## Grades:

The project will include visually impaired and low-vision students, aged 6 to 17.

## Subjects Covered:

English, Tamil, Mathematics, Science, Arts, and Wellness.

## Students Covered:

The project aims to support up to 400 students, based on the currently available data.







KVF team conducting an assessment of the student at Oppathavadi GHSS school.



KVF team visiting remote locations for field visits in Bargur Block, Krishnagiri



KVF team interacting with the child at Bargur, Oppathavadi school in Krishnagiri district.

# GOVERNMENT INTERACTIONS



KVF TEAM IS WORKING CLOSELY  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF  
TAMILNADU

**By Vedhapriya Ganesan & Satishkumar**  
**Photography by Khyati Goswami**

# GOVERNMENT INTERACTIONS



## Samagra Siksha

Karna Vidya Foundation is collaborating closely with the Samagra Shiksha project office in the districts.

Special educators working with differently-abled students are partnering with KVF to support various initiatives.

They assist in identifying visually impaired students, organizing meetings with parents, and facilitating home visits to ensure better engagement and support for the students.

## Directorate of Welfare of the Differently Abled

The district department offices provide valuable data on visually impaired students and job seekers, which helps in creating customized learning and skill development plans.

Karna Vidya Foundation actively participates in job fairs organized by the department, helping to connect visually impaired individuals with employment opportunities.

In addition, KVF engages senior officials to advocate for policies and programs that benefit the visually impaired community, ensuring their inclusion and empowerment.

## Namma School, Namma Oor Palli

NSNOP is the nodal agency responsible for granting approvals to organizations working with government schools.

Karna Vidya Foundation has submitted the proposal for the Oasis@Schools project to NSNOP and is expecting approval soon.



# KIRAN HIGHLIGHTS!



IT WAS AN ACTION PACKED DAYS  
DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS

By Vedhapriya Ganesan & Satishkumar  
Photography by Khyati Goswami

# KIRAN HIGHLIGHTS



## **Karna Vidya signs MoU with IITM Research Park and Maxellerator Foundation**

SEPTEMBER 2024

Karna Vidya Foundation is developing an innovative all-purpose reading device for visually impaired students.

This device will allow students to learn across all subjects using a lesson card that includes Braille, tactile "Touch and Feel" images and diagrams, and a voice assistant to explain concepts.

KVF has partnered with IITM Research Park and Maxellerator Foundation to bring this device to life.

Once developed, the device will be distributed to visually impaired students throughout Tamil Nadu, empowering them with new learning opportunities.

## **Karna Vidya urges implementation of G.O for using laptops to write exams!**

OCTOBER 2024

Karna Vidya Foundation has proposed the implementation of the Government Order (GoTN G.O) titled "Tamil Nadu Guidelines for Conducting Examinations for Persons with Disabilities, 2021," published by the Department of Differently-Abled, Tamil Nadu.

KVF Advisor Dr. Raghuraman emphasized that the implementation of exams using computers by students with visual impairments should not rely on scribes, allowing for independent examination methods.

In a meeting with the Director, Ms. Lakshmi, IAS, of the Department of Welfare for Differently Abled (DWDA), Dr. Raghuraman requested that the order be circulated to schools, urging them to implement it.

The Director assured that the order would be circulated and implemented as soon as possible.

# KIRAN HIGHLIGHTS



KVF team interacting with a child during the block survey in Krishnagiri

## **KVF starts online classes for Visually Impaired students in Krishnagiri.**

NOVEMBER 2024

Karna Vidya Foundation has launched online classes for visually impaired students in the Krishnagiri district.

Initially, the classes are being offered to a small group of students, with plans to expand to the entire district in the future.

These online classes are designed to complement in-person lessons at schools and students' homes, enhancing their overall learning experience.

KVF English language trainer, Ms. Shally Susan, shared, **“We are experimenting with a few subjects like English, and currently conducting sessions for a select group of students. Based on the feedback and participation, we plan to expand the program to include more students.”**



# HAPPENINGS @ KARNA VIDYA..



IT WAS AN ACTION PACKED DAYS  
DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS

**By Vedhapriya Ganesan & Satishkumar**  
**Photography by Khyati Goswami**

Lots of events happened and we are  
giving the highight of key events!

# HAPPENINGS @ KARNA VIDYA



**Independence day celebration at KVF**

August 2024

Karna Vidya Foundation celebrated Independence Day at Guindy, marking the occasion with a special event.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of smartphones, generously provided by our CSR partner, Mindsprints, to students who achieved excellent marks.



**ASAM- Alternate skills and adaptive materials- One day workshop for special educators in krishnagiri**

July 2024

ASAM- A one-day workshop, organized by Karna Vidya Foundation (KVF), was held in Krishnagiri to orient special educators on alternative skills and adaptive learning materials for teaching students with visual impairments.

The workshop was attended by 38 special educators under the SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan).



**Orientation workshop for 12th toppers at KVF**

May 2024

A two-day orientation workshop was held at Karna Vidya Foundation for students who have excelled in their 12th exams.

The workshop focused on introducing assistive devices and training students on their effective usage to support their higher education journey.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

LOTS OF EXCITING EVENTS ARE LINED  
UP FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!!



DO NOT MISS THE DATES.....

**By Vedhapriya Ganesan & Hemavathi**  
**Photography by Khyati Goswami**

Keep note of these events so that you  
won't miss them!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



2024

November

Children's day and International Disability day celebration.

December

Parallel Music Fest  
Calendar distribution day  
Faculty development Programme for Trainers.

2025

January

Louise Braille Day  
Pongal Day celebration  
Republic day celebration at KVF

February

State level competition for children with visual impairment.

March

Karna Vidya Foundation Annual function.

# ABOUT KARNA VIDYA

WHAT WE DO? AND THE JOURNEY



# ABOUT KARNA VIDYA



Karna Vidya Foundation is a registered NGO, training partner for TNSDC Tamil Nadu skills development corporation, empowers persons with visual impairment through technology. Karna Vidya foundation focuses on School children by collaborating with Government, Private and Aided schools to provide training in STREAM, ICT and other necessary skills to live an independent life.

The foundation focuses on education and employment needs of the person with visual impairment for the past 20 years. With the rising demand of technology, the foundation believes to empower every individual through technology and hence STREAM courses are focused primarily for providing quality education.

Karna Vidya Foundation main headquarter is in chennai, Guindy and through collaboration with Government it caters to 400 Visually impaired students and jobseekers in various districts of TamilNadu. Karna Vidya Foundation has stepped into Research and Development to know the status of education among visually impaired children.



**We thank our CSR partners**

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