

FACT SHEET

Ramana Maharshi Livelihood Program



Saraswathy Illam
Ramanalayam



August 2022 - update

As Women we can Achieve!:

This activity was commenced on 16th July 2022 and is aimed at providing opportunities to young women wishing to get a start-up in life. Women between the age of 15 and 35, who are either school drop outs or young women who are single mothers and/or bread winners in the families are the main participants in the program.

Participants:

Participants were called from **Kadduvan, Then Mailai and Varuthalaivilan** areas. Applications were received from women aged between 18 and 40. Of these, 16 were selected initially aged between 25 and 35. The intention of the program was to encourage young women to empower themselves and become self reliant through a livelihood initiatives that would give them financial independence and decision making capabilities.

Number of women:

Enrolled for program - 22
Initially attended training - 12
Selected for first batch - 6

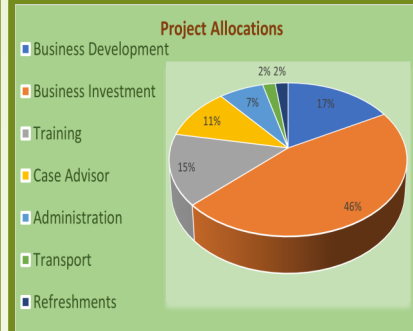
Chosen vocations by participants:

Tailoring - 3
Catering and Food supplies - 2
Value adding to dairy products - 1

The young women selected for the program were all who had an existing skill or basic training, but who did not have the start-up financial capital or the necessary business literacy to run a business. Prior to engaging the participants, training is being provided on financial literacy and management, how to run a business, marketing, and leadership and communication skills.

Circumstances and Opportunities:

The families of women participating have resettled in this area after prolonged displacement of more than 30 years. Largely living on subsistence income, school drop-out girls have limited opportunities to break out of poverty. Amounts of up to Rs 100,000 will be made available for women who have a vision and show promise and commitment to uplift their lives. Estimates for each recipient will be provided as interest-free loans, in instalments.



Donors supporting this program:

• Pala Gnanodaya Sangam, UK and Swiss (c/f from 2021)*	- Rs 547,000
• Pala Gnanodaya Sangam, UK (in 2022)	- Rs 1,319,950
• Independent donor from Canada	- Rs 100,000
• Varuthalaivilan Global Forum (anticipated)	- Rs 250,000
• Miscellaneous income	- Rs 125,000
TOTAL	- Rs 2,341,950

Balance funds will be carried forward to the next phase of the project.

Project costs and Time line:

The total estimated project cost is Rs 2,417,460. Of this, 97% has been received or pledged to date. After a training period of 12 weeks, beneficiaries will be accompanied for 9 months to ensure viability of initiatives.



Training sessions being held at Varuthalaivilan Youth League Centre for project participants.

* - Funds carried forward from an earlier donation made to provide provisions for livelihood to 10 recipients in 2021