

# The New Liberation Education Economic Development Trust



## LEED ANNUAL REPORT - 2019

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### Introduction

- The New LEED Trust is an NGO working in the field of education for underprivileged and economically backward people in India. LEED stands for: Liberation, Education, and Economic Development.
- The New LEED Trust is functioning since the year 1991 and is registered as a charitable trust (Regd. No. 934/2000, 12AA Income Tax act 1961)
- At present The New LEED Trust is working in the slum community of Thiruvalluvar Nagar in Perungudi, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

### Mission and Vision

- To improve the standard of living of the underprivileged and economically backward people in southern India.
- Help through educating the people to be self-sustainable and socially and economically independent with special concern for weaker section of the community.
- Motivate people to overcome social evils like child marriage, dowry, domestic violence, illiteracy, unemployment, and health problems owing to poor living conditions.
- The goal is that everyone in our Project areas should be able to live a peaceful life with less worry and become a model for the change of the Indian society as a whole.

### Purpose of the Trust

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- Promote and spread education and entrepreneurial and professional skills for the benefit of depressed and weaker section of the society.
- To hold examinations and to grant certificates of proficiency or other academic distinctions or title to person who have complied with the conditions laid down in the regulations or bye-laws of the Trust and/or the State Government or any other statutory body set up by such Governments.
- To provide facilities for giving residential accommodation and boarding-house for teacher, staff and other persons engaged in carrying out any of the objects of the Trust.
- To set up libraries/ library facilities, reading rooms for the benefit of students and general public to promote education.

## Means to achieve these goals:

- Supplementary education for children(Activity based education programs & alternative education schools)
- Skill based education programs for women and youth ( Tailoring, computer education, Basket Making, file making & other socially useful crafts)
- Marketing the crafts through fair trade shops/events.
- Sustainable entrepreneurship program for women.
- Family development program.

## The New LEED Staff

The success of The New LEED Trust is its staff and volunteers, without whose involvement and dedication this, The New LEED, would not have achieved its success. The following are The New LEED Trust Staff members, Volunteers and Interns:

S.no	Name of the Staff	Designation
1	Mrs Anthoniammal	Office Superintendent , Tailoring Tutor and Basket Making Tutor
2	Mrs Poongothai	Field Social Worker
3	Ms Dhivya Bharathi	Computer tutor and Field Social Worker
4	Ms Iyyamma	Tuition tutor and Medical Representative
5	Mr Poovarasam	Medical Representative
6	Dr. SudanRaj	Medical Officer
7	Master Sarathy	Karate Master
8	Mrs Sangeetha	Medical Representative
9	Mrs Vijayalakshmi	House-keeping

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## Project Area Description:

The New LEED office is situated at Kallukuttai, which is part of the Perungudi area. This is an “Arrival City” (Slum Dwelling) with 20,000 houses. Most of the houses are huts and made of cement sheets and waste material & landfill. The area has the Mass Rapid Transit System- Perungudi railway station as the most important landmark. Most of the residents are employed in construction work and the women folk are either employed as housekeeping staff in offices or employed as housemaids and in some cases totally unemployed and depend on their husbands. Most of their husbands are addicts to alcohol and other habits detrimental to their health. These habits have an ill effect over their health as well as on the economic conditions and relation with their family. Though most of the children are sent to the nearby government schools, many among them lack in adequate nutrition. Hence the children are always prone to suffer ill health and immune deficiency.

### a) Basic services available in the community

- Most of them have Family Ration Card, Voters Identification card and Electricity connection. But some people have critical problems in getting these documents of identity.
- No legal land document (Patta) for the land/house.
- No announcement from Central / state government for eviction, destruction or rehabilitation process.
- Tahsildar office (Assistant collector & Executive Magistrate (Class II) revenue administrative officer holds court related to land, Tax and revenue matter) is located in Sholinganallur.

### b) Educational Services

- Pre-school (Balwadi) run by NGO- ‘Asha Nivas’
- Chennai higher Secondary School, Perungudi 2Km from The New LEED
- Chennai Higher Secondary School, Taramani 3km from The New LEED
- St. Anthony’s Higher Secondary school (Government Aided), near TANSI Nagar, Velachery 2.5km from The New LEED
- Colleges and Polytechnic Institutions - Velachery, Tambaram and Kelambakkam. The nearest college is the Guru Nanak College of Arts & Science and it is 5 km from The New LEED Trust.
- Women’s polytechnic college in Kasturibai nagar.
- Dr. Ambedkar Law College

### c) Health Services

- Private hospitals located in Velachery (2Km from this area)
- TN Multispecialty Hospital near Chintadripet Railway Station.
- Rajiv Gandhi General hospital central,
- Government hospital in Royapettah and Triplicane.
- Nearby PHC located in Thuraipakkam.
- Government Hospital in Perungudi 184 Division (near Raman Building)

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## d) Water and Sanitary Situation of the area

- Only few houses have individual toilets with individual septic waste tank.
- Have facility of metro water supply twice a week
- Domestic and industrial garbage is dumped in the area.
- No government support to dispose the garbage.
- There are no proper roads or streets leading to unliveable conditions in the area during rainy season; even a very light rain floods the street leading to dirty water stagnation, sometimes for as long as 3 to 6 months.

## e) Political situation

- Corruption in purchasing or selling of lands which has no proper land documents.
- People living in the area are of mixed ethnic groups, different caste and community with various political party affiliations, with people from other parts of India staying in the area.

## LEED at a Glance - 2019

Community based programs is a social program with participatory approach for community development and it involves community stakeholders in the process. In the year of 2019, The New LEED Trust conducted Community Programs for the children, adolescent, youth and women groups on various topics like, Health, Hygiene, Career, environment etc. The purpose behind the program is to make the people aware of their rights, duties, availability of welfare schemes and guide them towards constructive development.

### Awareness Program

Awareness Programs for children, adolescent, youth and women groups on various topics like health, hygiene, communicable and non- communicable diseases, Child rights, Women's rights, TB Awareness, Aids and Kidney Awareness and various Camps etc. The Purpose behind the program is to make the people aware of their rights, duties, availability of welfare schemes and treatment on health issues, the importance of timely medical help and proper understanding of medicine.

### Skill Development Training Program (SDTP)

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## I. Tailoring Centre

During the baseline survey and need assessment, it was identified that the majority of women are interested in learning tailoring. More interest was shown by women who are separated, widowed and women who want to support the family and also women who have family difficulties. Tailoring classes for women in Perungudi was started in the month of June, 2011.

This is a six months certification course. This program has enabled 27 New joiners this year and 47 old Students have mastered the skill. Many women are interested in learning tailoring and embroidery skills. This training will enable them to learn a new skill and help them to become more self-reliant.



## II. Project Thalir - Basket Weaving

Most women in Perungudi are plagued by poverty as a lot of them are either single mothers or widows. The New LEED Trust does its bit to help uplift the living conditions of these down-trodden women by initiating a project called 'Thalir' which means 'to sprout'. It simply means 'New beginnings'. And that's exactly what Thalir signifies for these women.

This is an important project of LEED where we give training to community women for basket weaving from colourful wires and custom-made designs to accommodate a buyer's/ customer's requirement.

LEED provides employment opportunity for those who are trained. This program enables them to earn a monthly amount of INR 4000 to 5000. Most of the women who participate in this program eke out an honest and fair means of living to overcome their



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situations. Totally we have 15 women who are part of the program. This year we saw a rise in number of basket orders.



### III. Computer Training

The main objective of this program is to engage children in purposeful activities which would allow them to grow personally and academically. This computer training program aims at training children to know the basics of computer, the syllabus is framed especially for slum children to make them computer friendly. Computers are considered as elite learning and a dream for slum children with this program allowing children to utilize their leisure time conservatively.

Computer Literacy Program was been started in 2011 for the employment opportunity of the community people for self-dependence. The program consists of two courses, Diploma in Computer Application and Basic Type writing course. This program is open to all people from the community. Interest to learn is the only eligibility criteria set by the LEED. This program has enabled 26 students to learn this year.

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## Activity Based Supplementary Education Programs

### i. Activity Centre

Most of the children in this are sent to the nearby government schools, many among them lack basics in their studies. There are cases where even a 10th standard student is unable to read Tamil and English or not even know the simple mathematics concepts such as addition and subtraction. Most of parents are illiterate in this area so they are not able to guide their children in their education. This made LEED take a voluntary stand to work on this filed. So this year LEED started this Activity centre Ms. Iyyamma is taking care of this activity centre in the evening from 4.00 PM to 7.00 PM. Nearly 50 students are benefited by this activity centre each day. The tutor guides the children for their educational and moral development and creates awareness about social problems to them. Children of this Activity centre have shown a tremendous improvement in their education and social activities than the other children in the community. This highlights the success of this program.

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## ii. **Library for the Youth and children**

The Library program was started after understanding that there is no library for the children in the area. The library for the youths and children were started with the help of well-wishers who sponsored around 150 books which are arranged in the library unit. The books includes general knowledge, moral stories in English and Tamil, autobiography of leaders, comic books, books related to psychological problems, dictionary, Thirukkural ( classic Tamil language text), yoga, meditation many other interesting books to motivate children to practice the habit of reading books daily.

## II. **Karate class**



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This year, 19 students enrolled for this program. Students Participated in International Karate tournament held on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019 and won laurels. Totally 5 Students and 1 Staff from LEED Trust participated . Ms Iyyamma Secured 1<sup>st</sup> place in Kata, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in kumite and Manisha secured 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in kata. Ranjitha secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place in kumite.



### iii. Family

Family started in June aiming for community. This coordinator and 2 present is dealing social worker is responsible for 40 families. They will practice a continuous interventional process for nine months. This program motivates and guides the families for their development. This year the number of LFDP families increased to 3000 families from the previous 2000 families.



### Development Program

Development Program was 2011 supported by LEED maximum reach to the Team consists of FDP Social workers. The team at with 2000 families. Each

The main Objectives of the LEED Family Development Program (LFDP) is to identify the potential of the families and building up their self-confidence for their development

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apart from the other areas. The families targeted by LEED Family Development Program (LFDP) are the poorest ones, who are most often not capable to respond to their own needs by themselves. These programs are done by Field Social workers in a systematic manner; namely Survey visits, Selection meetings, Permission visits, Observation visits, Regular Home visits, Second last visits, Phase out Meetings, Bye Bye visits, Evaluation visits, Re-visits.



### iii. LEED Rotary Medicare Center

Good health is central to human happiness and well-being. It is also a fundamental right of human being to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health ("the right to health") (WHO, 2015). However, there are numerous factors that hinder the people in Kallukuttai, from attaining sound health. One of the major factors is an absence of medical center in the community. The people are denied adequate access to health care; their right to health is endangered. We, The New LEED Trust, aspire to help the people enhance their quality of living by addressing this issue. We aim to establish a medical center in the community, which empowers the people with multiple health aspects, for example, that is prevention and treatment of disease and illness; it imparts the health-related information and knowledge and prevents the people from falling into ill-health and it provides them with adequate medical treatment when needed. Overall, having a medical center will make an essential contribution in assuring and enhancing their health and well-being in the community. With the effort of the New LEED Trust, on 1st July'2015 Medicare center was established in Perungudi Kallukuttai. This Medicare Center is operational 6 days a week in the evening from 7.00 PM.

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## iv. Eye and General Medical Camp

The New LEED Trust and Rotary Community Corps conducted a “**Free Eye and General Medical Camp**” in association with Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital at Perungudi Kallukuttai slum area. During this year, 8 Mega medical camps have been organized in Perungudi to address the health needs of the community people with the support of Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chrompet.

Office Superintendent Mrs Anthoniammal, Social worker Mrs. Poongothai, Computer Tutor & Social Worker Ms Dhivya Bharathi and all the Youth group members worked together and organized this Free Medical Camp.

427 patients availed this free medical camp facility with 3 of them getting free eye surgery this year through the organizing hospital.





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## v. Kidney Awareness

On 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019, The New LEED Trust and RCC Perungudi Conducted Kidney Awareness. Ms. Ramapriya explained about kidney's importance as an organ. She gave an in-depth knowledge about kidney diseases and their symptoms. She created an 'awareness tour' in the community for the people by visiting various parts of the community during the awareness program day and also taught them how to do a self-examination for kidney problems in order to know when to reach out to a medical facility for help. 40 people participated in the programme conducted at the facility. LEED honoured the Kidney Awareness Team with a small token of love and



appreciation.

## Nutrition Awareness Day:

In line with the 17 goals outlined by the UN and 'Zero Hunger Day', on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 RCC organized Nutrition Awareness Day. The members of RCC Perungudi, RV Poovarasana organized this program. With temperatures hitting high and the mercury levels rising. One of the main concerns besides the rising temperature was creating awareness of avoiding consumption of outside food. Poovarasana executed this program through fun activities, puppet shows and organized distribution of south India's cool aid – a glass of refreshing buttermilk to beat the heat and let people know the benefits of the probiotics contained in this humble glass of the refreshing drink!

Apart from this, children of the community who attended the program conducted in the facility also were given a portion of the nutrient rich food supplement called 'sathumavu'. Children are given this each day during extended classes or Activity

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Based Learning which takes place every evening between 4:30 to 7 PM. Families that are malnourished get help from LEED and are supplied with this Nutrition formula to help regain health through nutritional supplements. 56 children with the help of 15 volunteers had a truly fun filled day to beat the heat and forget the scorching summer!



### Project Technovation - LakshyaShala

A budding young talent by the name of Tanya Elizabeth Ken contributed to the already existing brain pool of LEED's community girl children by creating an opportunity window for the young talents in our community to take a peak at the techno-run world outside the community slum walls. Tanya opened a talent pool group in LEED as a preliminary to help her select the best to represent 'Technovation' for LEED in the final globe wide competition. In order to achieve this feat, Project LakshyaShala and LEED Trust had to come together to collaborate. Tanya took the learning from within the 4 concrete walls enclosing a classroom to a classroom without walls, from education within a confined space and structure to education with a purpose and aim. This project was to reach out to girls in the community within the age group of 8 to 14 to try their hand at learning technology and also increase their chances at looking at their options of a bright career in the technology domain.

Tanya, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader, taught the students within LEED community, basic computer skills as most of them do not have a great deal of exposure to a computer, basic coding and honed their spoken English communication skills using her app 'LakshyaShala' to help them not only learn how to create an app but also identify and tap into their interests for a career. 16 students attended the weekend classes which ran for 6 months and 3 of our students, Pavithra, Sindhuja and Mahajothilakshmi went on to represent LakshyaShala. They have created EKTA, their app through this training and workshop.



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Tanya will closely work with our girl students for the next 5 years to help us harvest more talents and budding 'technovationians'.



## **Drawing Competition Program.**

Not just in the technology field do we have talents lying waiting to be recognized. We also have some spectacular budding artists too. To encourage this natural, inborn talent, on 20<sup>th</sup> May '19 at 4 pm we conducted Drawing Competition in the Perungudi LEED facility.

RCC past President Ms Pavithra conducted a Drawing competition for 20 students . We clubbed TB Awareness to reinforce the concept through drawing. We realized just how much talent and creativity LEED children's possess.

Apart from this, children catch up on fun time at the facility by playing games like passing the ball, carom, chess and word puzzles and mazes.

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**Harvest festival-“Pongal” Celebration**

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Harvest festival in South India is celebrated with great pomp and festivity in January! To mark the importance of the occasion, on 12th of January, The New LEED Trust & Youth group celebrated Pongal Festival with the children of the Community. This festival is known by different names in different regions of south India but is called Pongal in Tamil Nadu. It is an occasion for giving thanks to nature. We began the day of festivities with 'kolam' (kolam- form of drawing using rice flour/ chalk/chalk powder/ white rock powder). Pongal(sweet dish made of rice and pulse)was cooked in a new pot. The children along with the staff and volunteers joined together and celebrated Pongal with LEED's youth Association members. Everybody dressed up in their traditional attire!

## **Kolam Competition**

Sometimes, we resort to some creative and fun means to campaign for a just and noble cause. So also, on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 2019, we set out to campaign for health awareness keeping in mind one of the deadliest diseases which still plagues our population – TB. Our staff namely Mrs. Poongothai (field Worker), Ms. Dhivya Bharathi, Mrs. Sangeetha and RCC Members informed the community women and families about the Kolam Competition. Women registered their names. The Admin Coordinator informed the Purpose of this event which was to commemorate Women's Day, The Participants were given tokens along with the handouts. The New LEED Brochure. Participants were eagerly waiting on the road leading to their street for the judges arrival. Participants later gathered at the Activity centre in LEED facility for the prize distribution to the winners and also to receive their consolation Prizes. This year, the Kolam Competition Topic was 'It's Time to Empower Women to End TB.'

## **TB Awareness Program**

This was in tandem with the Kolam competition held on International Women's day, March 8<sup>th</sup>. We conducted a TB Awareness Program assisted by the Community Advisory Board for TB (CAB). We focussed on empowerment of women and the great role women played as home makers and advocates of family health in any society. More so in Perungudi. We chose to call our awareness program - Time to Empower Women to End TB.

Sister (and volunteer) Nalani, member of CAB, conducted the awareness program with a small puppet show. A brief introduction about TB and the role women can play to end it were the highlight of the program. of the Program.

## **Installation - RCC President of Rotary for 2019-20**

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Running an organization like LEED requires willing hearts and minds and some amount of dedication right from the heart of the community we serve in. These willing spirits come in the form of responsible young adults and youth who take up on the role of Rotary Community Corps. We installed these RCC members by inducting them into the system on 7<sup>th</sup> of Aug'2019. Mrs. Poongothai was installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> President of Rotary Community Corps Chennai, Perungudi for the year 2019-2020 by the past president Ms. Tamilselvi and headed by Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Madras Assistant Governor Rtn. P. P Dhakshayini Venkatesh,

Other rotarians that graced the function were Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Madras President Rtn. Gopinath Gorantala, Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Madras, Secretary Rtn. Elango, Rtn. Srikumar.



Handmade baskets woven by the community women of Perungudi were given away to the dignitaries as a token of love and appreciation. To celebrate the occasion, we ended the program serving lunch to all those who attended the event from the community.



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## **TB & AIDS Awareness Program**

One of the evils in society is the misfortunes of ill health most individuals fall prey to in a third world country such as India. Perungudi too is not immune to poor and life threatening diseases such as Tuberculosis or TB & AIDS. LEED makes and takes every effort to bring about awareness and thereby contain and help partner in the eradication of this disease.

The New LEED Trust and Stella Maris College conducted a community program to spread awareness on TB and AIDS.

Stella Maris Students pursuing their Masters program in Social Work (MSW) planned, organised and executed a program to bring about the awareness of these communicable diseases. The programme included the common causes, symptoms and underlying issues of these major illnesses.

Part of the program dealing with TB awareness was conducted by the Community Advisory Board for TB members who volunteered to deliver the session.

RCC Members enacted a skit to reinforce TB and AIDS awareness . Both these were organized and conducted at the LEED facility in Perugundi.



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## **International Elders Day Program**

A community, a society, a nation that has elderly people that make up part of the population is truly blessed indeed because wise counsel and wisdom will adorn the very portals of that place and its inhabitants will survive any onslaught through the wisdom of the elders. To honour our elderly, we observed 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2019 as a World Elders Day.

RCC Perungudi too celebrated this event by organizing a program and conducted various games and fun activities for the elders in the community.

30 elderly people shared these beautiful moments of their life, they shared small anecdotes from the pages of their lives at the Perungudi LEED facility. Entertainment program included singing and dance by the children.

The elders had fun and shared words of wisdom and advice with the young from what they went through in life, and the lessons they learned. It was a heart-warming moment to watch the elders re-live a few moments of their youth while sharing incidents from their past and yet connect to the children and share a great unbreakable bond with them.

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## **Flood Relief Food Distribution:**

Every once in a while in a place like Perungudi, nature shows her displeasure in the form of bad weather. Given its geographic location and land form, water clogging after a rain is inevitable. On 30<sup>th</sup> Oct '19 LEED distributed food packets to all who were affected by the flood.

We owe our gratitude to Mrs. Mary who sponsored idly, poori, vadai, pongal etc the regular fare for breakfast in Chennai and Tamilnadu.



## **Children's Day Celebration:**



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Children add zest and joy to life all over the world. India has a unique way of celebrating childhood and a day that is dedicated and known as Children's day is celebrated country wide in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who is said to have loved children.

We, at LEED celebrated Children's day on 14th Nov 2019 with the assistance of RCC Perungudi. Mr. Poovarasam, Vice President of RCC Perungudi, Mrs Poongothai President of RCC and members organized this program. Ms Kokilalakshmi, Joint Treasure of RCC addressed the welcome speech and compered. Iyyamma and Poovarasam conducted various games. The children of the community took part and had great fun. Just to ensure the children knew the significance of the event, one of the students, Bharath, spoke about Nehru.



The New LEED distributed notebooks, stationery and other writing materials for children to use in school. It was a great joy and pleasure to watch children's faces light up gleefully and hear their happy laughter. It was a well spent day!

**LEED's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Celebration**

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The New LEED achieved yet another milestone when it celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> year on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Once in the year it is beautiful to take a break and look back and see the goodness and blessings we have experienced from God's goodness in our life. This was no exception as we had a lot to be grateful for.

We are grateful for the staff who help run the organization, the community people who show their gratitude for the many things and ways they benefit from through The New LEED, the various people such as volunteers and people who help LEED in different ways through their initiatives to uplift our children in the community (Technovation). But most of all, we are grateful to our sponsors, donors and people who are constantly working behind the scenes to help us continue to fight hard and do our best for the disadvantaged despite the hardships and challenges we face.

The annual day was also a time to thank our volunteers, staff and well wishers and have a look back at the year that was and celebrate the good and not so good moments we had through the past year.

We had Ms Preethi Ken felicitate our Technovation students Pavithra, Sindhuja and Mahajothilakshmi. The staff and students organized an entertainment program for the parents and other community members that attended the function.

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