

SEEKING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Crea Children's Academy is a non-profit English medium day school on the outskirts of Trichy, Tamil Nadu. It is an initiative of Manitham Trust.

We seek your assistance to help us keep our children in school in these difficult times, and in view of the severe financial crisis caused by the COVID Pandemic.



We have been working in a rural and semi-rural context for two decades. Over 69% of our students are from families, where both parents are school dropouts. These parents do not have access to a steady income: they are dry land farmers with small pieces of land, vendors, owners of teashops and those who perform casual labour of various kinds. Almost all of them have lost access to work and income in this time of the pandemic.

Likewise, a significant percentage of our teachers (65%) are first generation professionals and the income they earn is crucial for their survival and for their continuing to enhance their professional skills to enable our children continue their education, and for us to continue our school, we are looking for support.



About Crea

Our aim has been to provide a holistic education for children from these families which would help them access higher education with confidence and a sense of enhanced self-worth.

Crea has done this by:

- Keeping our fees affordable, and in consonance with government norms and by subsidizing fees for children from very marginal backgrounds
- Ensuring that the education we offer integrates a variety of learning approaches that address diverse learning needs
- Making sure that children learn as much outside the classroom as inside it: through a variety of programmes, including caring for the environment, learning science through simple everyday experiments, and vigorous and gender-equal sports initiatives
- Carrying out intensive and continuous teacher support projects through the year
- Holding themed meetings with parents regularly to acquaint them with their children's progress as well as communicate important social and educational concerns

We would like to stress that given our children's social and economic background, they would not have been able to access the sort of education that we have evolved over the years had it not been for our effort to keep fees as affordable as possible.

Our Successes

- We provide an open and fearless learning environment and this has helped nurture children's curiosity and self-confidence. Many of our children, especially those from marginal backgrounds, including from migrant labourers' families have fared very well in various fields.

Birendhar Yadav's father came here from Bihar, looking for work – and joined a local factory initially as a casual worker. He put his son in our school and the child took to the school as indeed the school did to him! He learned Tamil, made friends, and most important discovered his mettle as an athlete and with the able support of the school, he came to break records at the state level, as a runner and jumper. Today, his sports skills have earned him a place in a marine engineering college.

- We have created a strong teacher community, including many who are first generation teachers. In Crea, they have learned widely and deeply, and look upon education as more than schooling and as a central feature of social communication and change.

Baby Miss, as Babyrani is affectionately called, came to Crea as a soft-spoken timid teacher. She had just come out of a violent and abusive marriage, her husband having deserted her. She had a small child to take care of. Today, working with kindergarten she had emerged as a confident, happy presence and is easily one of the school's most sought after teachers.



- We are known for the experimental work we have done with community education to do with the environment and for classroom work in science

'Miss, I want also' – this is a refrain we often hear at school as children clamour to take plants and seedlings home. Crea has a large tree garden, with local species, where children spend time, either observing or lending a hand with digging and watering. This way, they learn a lot about the environment: about soil, suitable plants, caring for living things. They also volunteer at public projects, helping to plant trees on embankments for example. Likewise with science: they do simple experiments in school and undertake visits to local factories and workshops to learn from the workers and foremen.

- We encourage both boys and girls to play and engage in sport, and our children have been enthusiastic participants – and winners – in several inter-school events at the district and state levels.

'No pressure, that's what I like', says a girl who enjoys running. At Crea sports is a large part of what children enjoy and we encourage both boys and girls to play, from when very young. They play to be happy, to let off steam, and because they enjoy the experience of fitness. They do not have to win matches or prove their mettle, and because we let them be, they actually win easily at competitive sports!



Your support will

- Ensure that parents do not pull their children out of school, and in the case of older children put them out to work
- Help children from higher secondary classes complete their school education.
- Enable us carry on with our educational work as before, without compromising on all that we usually do, including pay teacher salaries on time

Support Crea

Crea's student strength at present is 720 students. Of these students only 231 of them are from families with a steady income.

The remaining 489 need your support.

We have a staff of 50 people, including non-teaching staff. Of these nearly 35 persons need to earn an income for survival.

You can support our students and teachers in the following ways:

- By supporting a child or teacher with whatever contribution you think fit
- By supporting a child for 3 months/6 months/ one year
- By supporting a teacher's salary for 3 months/6 months/ one year

Support a child

Rs 10, 000 for 6 months
Rs 20, 000 for one year

Support a teacher

Rs 60, 000 for 6 months
Rs 1, 20, 000 for one year

Bank details

For donations from within India

Name of the Beneficiary
Organisation MANITHAM
Account No 1088000100053981
Name of the Bank PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Name of the Branch SETHURAPATTI
Account Type Savings Bank Account
IFSC Code PUNB 0108800
Address of the Bank 1/66, Madurai Main Road, Nagamangalam, Tiruchirapalli – 620012. Tamilnadu, India.
Email.id of the Bank b001088@pnb.co.in

For donations from outside India

Name of the Beneficiary
organisation MANITHAM
Account no 1088000100045344
Name of the Bank PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Name of the Branch SETHURAPATTI
Account Type Savings Bank Account
SWIFT CODE PUBINBBTNK
Address of the Bank 1/66, Madurai Main Road, Nagamangalam, Tiruchirapalli – 620012. Tamilnadu, India.
Email.id of the Bank b001088@pnb.co.in