

The SEED School

SEEDlings



Newsletter

Issue 01

April 2026

We are delighted to launch the first edition of the SEED School Newsletter - SEEDlings! This newsletter is envisioned as a vibrant space that brings together the voices of our community - our patrons, teachers, students, and parents. It will also showcase the achievements and progress of our students and teachers, along with important updates from the school. More than just a publication, we hope this becomes a space for celebration, for sharing our stories, and for strengthening the sense of community that defines SEED School.



My 36-Year Calling: From the Classroom to a Mission of Hope

P. Thankamani, Principal, SEED School

My journey in education began in 1982. For the first eight years, I served as a teacher in a general school, but I always felt there was a deeper purpose waiting for me. I believe it was a divine calling that, in 1990, redirected my path toward the world of special education.

As I began working with "specially-abled" children, my heart was deeply moved - not just by the challenges the children faced, but by the silent struggles and immense hardships of their parents. It was then that I made a firm resolve: I wanted to do something meaningful for these families. I chose to dedicate my life to the special education sector.



Thankamani teacher with her team at the SEED School

Beyond Teaching: A Lifelong Bond

It has now been 36 years since I began this work, and I can truly say that I haven't been able to stay away from these children for even a single day.

To be a special educator is to look beyond the surface. It requires us to deeply understand a child's unique abilities and limitations. My mission has always been to provide tailored training - blending love, academic support, and vocational skills - to bring these children into the mainstream of society. We don't just teach them; we empower them to live with dignity.



Thankamani teacher and Venu sir with Mudassir at SEED School

The Joy of Independence: A Success Story

Throughout my career, I have seen many of my students grow to look after their own needs without depending on others. One success story that remains closest to my heart is my very first student, Mudassir.

Today, Mudassir is a respected Office Attender at the Social Justice Office. More importantly, he is the sole breadwinner for his family, providing for his mother and siblings. Seeing my students stand on their own feet is the greatest reward I could ever receive.

The SEED: A Legacy of Care

Even after my retirement, my heart remained with these children. Driven by the desire to continue this mission, and with the support and love of those around me, I founded The SEED Special School two years ago.

My vision for this institution is for it to remain a permanent sanctuary - an *Aathura Alayam* (house of healing) - for specially-abled children and a pillar of support for the parents who care for them.

The 'Duty' of Giving

TJ Mathew, Trustee, SEED

Late seventies San Francisco South Bay was still a farmland, popularly known as the Orchard. Apples and pears, oranges and lemons, cherries and apricots, tomatoes and zucchinis. And detached homes. That's when we bought our first home. For \$168,000! Soon after, 'the orchard' started reinventing itself as "The Silicone Valley". By the time we were ready to upgrade our house the \$168,000 fetched us \$460,000! Along with the purchase of our second house for \$610,000 my wife Sally donated \$73,000 to her alma mater against my wishes to buy a better house for \$710,000.



Mr. TJ Mathew celebrating Onam with the SEED family

That's how I learned the 'duty' of giving. That any 'windfall' is a divine gift and every gift has a duty to share with not-so-lucky brethren. That sharing has a beauty too, a sense of fulfilment. At 92, my bank account is empty but my life is full and happy and content.

“

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My Life and My Children - A Teacher's Note

Sri Venugopalan, Dance and Music Teacher, SEED School

I am Sri Venugopalan, a dance and music teacher. My life does not belong to me alone - it belongs to the children I have taught and continue to teach.

In 1980, I stepped into the world of music and dance education. After completing my studies at Swathi Thirunal Music College, many paths lay open before me. But I chose a different one - a life of teaching alongside children with special abilities.

For the past 24 years, I have been living and working with these children. Teaching them dance and music is not just a job; it is the very meaning of my life.

My goal is to discover the artistic talents hidden within them, nurture those talents, and build their self-confidence.

In the beginning, many people viewed these children's abilities with doubt. But what I saw in them was not their limitations - it was their potential.

That is why I trained them and brought them onto stages. Today, they have participated in many competitions and achieved success. One of the proudest moments of my life was when my students performed at the Republic Day event in New Delhi and won second place.

Now, I continue this journey with the institution "The Seed." Here, I am not just a teacher - I am a companion, a guide, and sometimes even a family member to these children.

It is my love for these children and my belief in their abilities that has kept me on this path all these years. When I see them move forward, when I see confidence shining in their eyes, I realize that my life is on the right path.

I cannot measure how much I have been able to contribute to their lives. But one thing I can say with certainty - they have made me a better human being.

In the days to come, my goal remains the same: to discover their talents and help them move forward. To be with them - that is my greatest joy.



SEEDs of Promise

Meet Alnazmi KS!

**Ever
cheerful.**



**Loves to
sing and
dance.**

Alnazmi, who is autistic and was once very hyperactive, has shown remarkable growth over the years. She has gradually become calmer and more independent, now able to take care of herself with confidence. Alongside this, her reading and writing skills have improved significantly. She also expresses herself beautifully through singing and dancing, bringing joy to those around her.

A Teacher's Bond Greater Than a Mother's Love - A Mother's Gratitude to Thankamani Teacher

Sabitha Kareem, Parent



*Sabitha with her daughter
Abnazmi*

Just as a mother plays an essential role in a child's life, so does a good teacher. But sometimes, that teacher-student relationship grows deeper and stronger than even a mother's love. This is the story of such a rare and beautiful bond between my daughter and Thankamani Teacher.

My daughter is intellectually challenged from birth. When she turned five, I enrolled her in a special school so that she could receive the extra care and attention she needed. It was on that very day that Thankamani Teacher entered our lives.

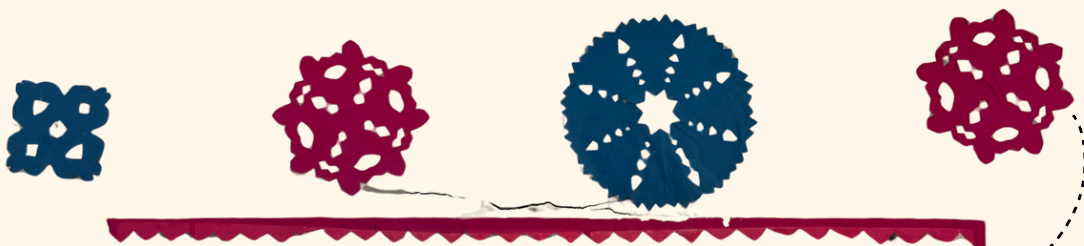
The relationship that began on that first day continues with the same sincerity even after thirty years. My daughter studied for many years in the school where Teacher taught, and she remained a constant presence in her life until her retirement. Even after retiring, without letting go of her love and dedication toward her students, Thankamani Teacher started a new school called "The SEED."

We became a part of this new journey as well. I transferred my daughter from another school and admitted her to Teacher's institution. For my daughter, Teacher is not just an educator - she is her life. The bond she shares with Teacher is deeper than the love I give her. As a mother, I can confidently say that my daughter feels even more safety and affection in Teacher's care than in my own arms. As part of this loving relationship, Thankamani Teacher also gave me a job at her school. Today, I am a colleague there. But it is not just a workplace - it is a family. The love Teacher shows me feels like that of a sister or a mother.

The blessing that my family and my daughter have received is beyond words. Thankamani Teacher is a remarkable person who proves how deeply a teacher's love and care can transform a life.

My life today, my sense of stability, and my daughter's happiness and security - all of these are the result of this great teacher's love and support.

My gratitude and affection for Thankamani Teacher are immeasurable.



Art by students at SEED School

Moments of Pride



Mayuri SS, student at SEED, secured first place in Tabla competition at the DCL Special School Kalolsavam organized by Deepika Children's League

Scan the above QR code to watch Mayuri's performance.



Thankamani teacher was felicitated by the Rotary Club of Trivandrum South on the occasion of Women's Day 2026

Journey to Our Dream



August
2025

Foundation stone of the SEED School in Malamukal was laid by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram, in August 2025.



March
2026

As of March 2026, the fabrication of the steel structure for the administration block has been completed.



Destination

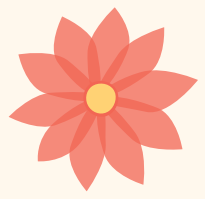


As we continue on this journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us so far. Your encouragement and belief in our vision have brought us this far.

There is still a long way to go, and we will need your continued support to reach our destination. With your partnership, we hope to keep growing, building, and creating meaningful opportunities for our children.



Wall of Gratitude



Individual Donors

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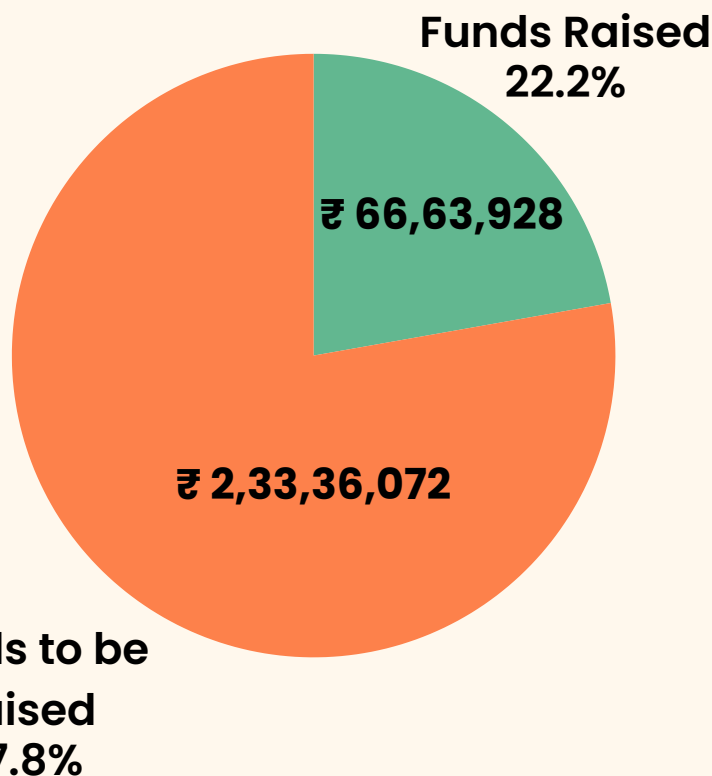
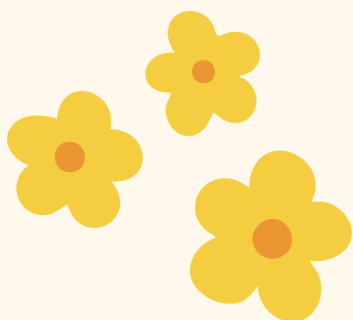
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32. Sudhakaran, Sudha
33. V, Satish
34. Varghese, Dr. Abraham
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42. Vincent, Paulson

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2. Inner Wheel Club of Trivandrum South
3. Muthoot Finance
4. RM Education Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.
5. Rotary Club of Trivandrum South
6. The KEY Core Foundation
7. USEReady Technology Private Limited

Names are listed alphabetically by last name. We sincerely apologise for any inadvertent omissions or errors.

Support Us



Bank Details for Donations towards Campus Development

Account Name: **The Society to Educate
and Empower the Differently Skilled**

Bank: **Federal Bank**

Branch: **Vattiyoorkavu**

IFSC Code: **FDRL0002204**

Savings Account Number:

22040100061621

Bank Details for Donations towards Day-to-Day Operations

Account Name: **The Society to Educate
and Empower the Differently Skilled**

Bank: **Federal Bank**

Branch: **Vattiyoorkavu**

IFSC Code: **FDRL0002204**

Current Account Number:

22040200003549

We currently accept donations only from Indian sources, as we are not registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). All donations made to SEED are eligible for tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.



The Society to Educate and Empower the Differently Skilled (SEED)

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