

Help a Child to Get an Education

Introduction

Aikiyam School is an Auroville outreach school serving more than 250 children from the neighbouring villages of Kulapalyam and Bomiarpalayam. The children range in age from three to thirteen or fourteen years and are in



classes from crèche to the eighth grade.

Although the school was founded in the late 1980's, the present management has been in place since 2005. Our aim is to prepare children for life in the rapidly changing modern world while keeping close contact with their Tamil village roots. To this end we introduced the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum in 2007



because of its emphasis upon creative stimulation and recognition of the uniqueness of each child.

When the school started, the families were very poor, and could not afford to pay for the education of their children, so the school program, which includes a mid-day meal and 2 nutritious snacks per day, was entirely funded by Auroville, and the donations of well-wishers. Today, with India's increasing prosperity, and the better financial circumstances of the families, we are charging parents a modest fee to help cover our costs.

However even the most well off families cannot pay the full amount, and most have to struggle to pay a modest fee, while a few are not able to contribute anything.

Costs of Education

In 2016/17 it cost Rs 24,932 (€325 or US\$387) to educate one child and provide a nutritious lunch and 2 healthy snacks per day for one year at Aikiyam School. Fortunately Auroville covered approximately half of this, and a Government of India grant covered 5%, leaving a need of Rs10,955 (€143 or US\$168) per child per year.¹ Because of inflation and the intention to give the teachers a substantial salary increase, this year we need Rs 12,955 (€172 or US\$199) per child.

There are 258 children at Aikiyam. On average they can make a contribution of Rs 4,000 (€53 or US\$61) per year, meaning **we still need to find Rs 8,955 (€117 or US\$137) per year for each child.**



Typical village home of poorer families

¹ This is the average cost as it costs more than this to educate a child in grade 5,6,7 & 8 but less in crèche or kindergarten

What their Education Includes

An Aikiyam education includes:

- A value based education in Tamil and English from crèche to grade 8
- An individualized education programme for children with special needs
- All of the regular academic courses
- Art and art therapy
- Two hours of sports every day
- An hour of swimming per week
- Computer Classes
- At least 5 hours per week of optional classes including tailoring, carpentry, clay-work, singing, dancing, painting, drawing, drama
- A nutritious lunch and 2 healthy snacks per day
- Two weeks of summer camp for the upper grades
- School trips
- A safe and happy environment



Any amount you can afford to help these children is welcome!

There are many ways to donate to Auroville, depending on whether you donate from inside or outside India and whether or not you require income tax exemption. You may also donate online. Go to www.auroville.org/contents/2835 and choose the way that is suitable for you. Regardless of your choice please be sure to write to assg@auroville.org.in with copy to unityfund@auroville.org.in explaining that your donation is for Aikiyam School. Any questions, please let us know. Contact details are below.



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December 2017