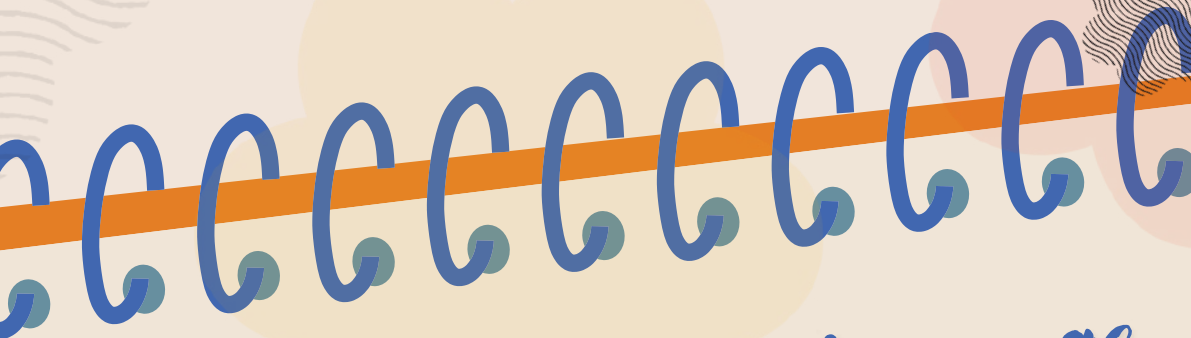






The President's Message



Dear Pudiyador family,

In this milestone year for us (25 years!), we recognize that it makes less and less sense to distinguish the Pudiyador ground team, staff, and volunteers, from the children, parents, and the communities themselves.

Some children who were 'beneficiaries' have now become teachers, while others have become parents of the next generation of Pudiyador children. Parents became teachers, teachers became part of the ground team, ground team members became parents. True stories, all!

Isn't this what it's all about? Seeing, creating, and feeling a sense of oneness?

We see this sense of oneness in Anupriya, once a Cradle Health mother, now returning to lead a session of her own. We see it in our tailoring graduates, sixteen batches in, coming back as instructors. In the sixteen women, some as young as eleven, putting their life stories into print for others to experience. We see it in our Playquity girls, across villages in India, stepping up to lead their communities, from positions that were strictly reserved for men.

As you take the time to read, we invite you to sit with a moment of your own, and reflect on whatever oneness means to you. Maybe it is a sense of community, of giving back, of equity, or simply the circle of life.

Speaking of circles, we would love nothing more than if you wrote back to us and shared your thoughts with us.

With love,
Swapnaa

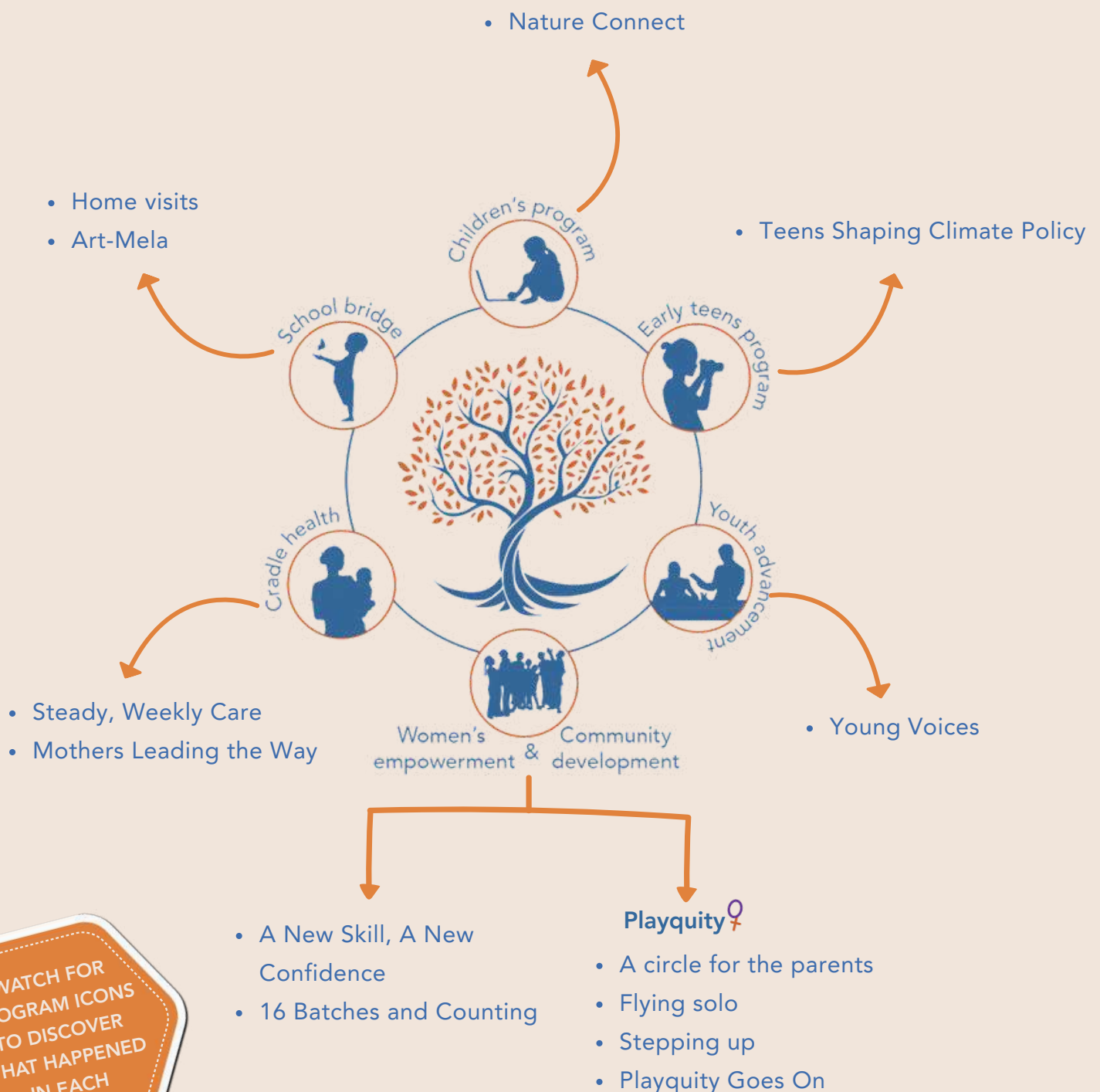


ABOUT PUDIYADOR

Pudiyador ("anew" in Tamil) is a community-based educational organization that caters to marginalised communities across India. Our goal is to enable all children, women and communities to act as engines of their own empowerment through access to relevant education, quality healthcare, and meaningful employment. Through our six programs, we operate using a cradle-to-college-to-community approach, supporting individuals at every stage of their development.

CRADLE → COLLEGE → COMMUNITY

IN THIS EDITION



PUDIYADOR-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

DALIT HISTORY MONTH

Every April, Dalit History Month is our space to bring forward stories of marginalised communities and help our children understand the histories they belong to. This year marked our fifth consecutive celebration, themed Dalit Women, with movie screenings, sessions on Dalit women leaders, and short stories exploring the issues Dalit women continue to face. For the first time, we made a deliberate push to take this beyond Pudiyaador, hosting a closing ceremony at Besant Nagar for a wider audience. Highlights included an interactive gallery walk, stunning performances by our children, and the release of a Pudiyaador song sung by our youth, Vishwa and Hema.



This year, we also went beyond looking back at history, we turned to the women around us. Every Dalit History Month, it's been our tradition to release a book, usually written by one staff member or student. This time, given our focus on Dalit women, we wanted something different: we invited our own women to come forward with their stories, reflections, poems, and art. The result is "*Ippolam Yaar Jaathi Pakkura?*" (Is Caste even a thing, these days?)-16 women, ages 11 and up, many writing for the very first time, coming together in one book of raw and unfiltered voices spanning generations, united against a society still fractured by caste. Readers bought copies on the spot, making this one of Pudiyaador's proudest celebrations yet. Click [here](#) to read the book!



PUDIYADOR-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER CAMP

In May, all early childhood programs come alive with Summer Camp, a series of events designed to give children exposure to experiences they otherwise wouldn't have. Children's Program ran storytelling sessions, discussions on hygiene and healthy habits and plenty of painting, play, and movie time. They also trained in drama and took part in the annual shore walk tradition where they got to watch sea turtles hatching.



Our Early Teens Program ran an 8-day edition packed with exposure trips, teenagers visited Sathyabama University for a session on mosquitoes and climate change, Sukha Yoga Studio for a yoga experience, and Adyar Eco Park and Pitchandikulam Forest's Blue Green Centre in ECR, Chennai. The camp closed with its biggest highlight yet, a trip to VGP Snow Kingdom, funded specially for the occasion, followed by a river bath after their last day of forest learning.

TIME TO GRAD

Starting a new academic year at Pudiyaador is filled with hope but also harsh realities, too many children drop out of school not because they want to, but because families face constant upheaval, moving homes, losing jobs, struggling to make ends meet. For many of our children, staying in school is a daily act of resilience, and that resilience deserves to be celebrated. This year, children across all our programs moved up to the next stage, and we hosted a small event to mark the milestone. Our children rarely get moments where they're cherished simply for how far they've come, celebrations like this tell them there is joy in moving forward, and that their effort is seen. It's a small push that goes a long way in keeping them in school and moving ahead, year after year.



CRADLE HEALTH

A program for expectant/new mothers and their infants



STEADY, WEEKLY CARE

The strength of the Cradle Health program lies in its weekly rhythm. As summer set in, we ran a session on caring for infants through the heat, covering hydration, skin care, and keeping homes cool, with mothers asking specific questions about their routines. Other weeks turned to the emotional side of caregiving: one workshop focused on mother-infant bonding through play, while another helped mothers navigate a shared challenge, supporting an older child through the arrival of a new sibling. We have seen how these weekly check-ins give mothers a reliable place to bring out practical everyday questions and figure things out together.



MOTHERS LEADING THE WAY

Anupriya once came to Cradle Health for support through her own transition into motherhood. This time around, she came back to lead. As an alumni mother, she facilitated a session on Karuthadai Muraigal (family planning methods), walking the current batch of mothers through a PowerPoint she'd put together herself. For a topic that's often left undiscussed, having someone from within the community lead the conversation made all the difference, exactly the kind of cycle we hope to see more of in the Cradle Health program.



SCHOOL BRIDGE

For our toddlers between ages 3-5 years



HOME VISITS

For many parents in the communities we work with, being present for their child's early learning is a luxury they can't always afford, both parents often work, and there's no spare income to delegate this to someone else. This summer, we brought that learning home. Our team visited each child individually and walked parents through simple activities that support their toddler's developmental milestones. These home visits gave parents simple, low-cost tools and the confidence to support their child's early growth right from home.



ART-MELA

Taking that same personal approach out into the neighborhood, we organized an Art-Mela as part of our children's recruitment drive. We know that joining a new program can feel intimidating, so our team went home to home to invite children personally. To keep things comfortable, we hosted the event inside one of our beneficiary's houses so it felt familiar. One parent even stepped in to help gather the kids from around the neighborhood, a small act that shows how it truly takes a whole community to raise a child. And through this event we were able to engage with 10 children from the community.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

For children between 5-10 years



NATURE CONNECT

This quarter, our children got two chances to slow down and really look at the world right outside their door, proof that wonder doesn't need to be far away to be found. To mark Environment Day, Anooja, a volunteer from the Centre for Environment Education led a session on the birds found right in the children's own locality, Besant Nagar, a spot by the beach. Using picture cards and bird calls, the session helped children recognize the diversity of birds many of them see every day but rarely stop to notice. In line with the Children's Program's focus on hands-on discovery, the activity encouraged children to slow down, pay attention, and start exploring the natural world in their own vicinity.



In another session, Anooja brought that world to life through a puppet show, introducing children to nature's own "actors," like a spider that mimics an ant. The children then got their hands into puppet making themselves, building characters out of paper and sticks and inventing entire backstories for them, the result felt like watching a cartoon series the children had dreamed up on their own. The day ended with a beach walk to spot milkweeds and search for insects they'd just learned about. We're grateful to the Centre for Environment Education for running this session, and for gifting art kits and books to the Pudiyaador library, a gift that means a great deal to our children and to us.



EARLY TEENS PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 11-14 years



TEENS SHAPING CLIMATE POLICY

In partnership with the *Chennai Climate Action Group* (a youth-led environmental justice collective), 8 of our adolescents from our zone of operation in Ramapuram have spent this year going deep on one issue: heat waves. Beyond learning about the science, they've picked up photography, mapping, and weather-monitoring skills to study how policy gaps play out on the ground in their own communities, building toward a report they'll submit to government officials.



The project hit a new level of visibility this quarter: *Scroll*, an independent digital media publications produced an 11-minute documentary on their work ([Click the link to watch it](#)), and the team sat down with Ms. Supriya Sahu, former Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu's Department of Environment, to debrief their findings and interview her on the state's heatwave response. They also spoke publicly about their work at the Kondal Art Exhibition at Lalit Kala Academy. The teenagers, who once were just learning about climate changes, are now part of shaping the conversation around it.



YOUTH ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For our teenagers between 15-19 years



YOUNG VOICES

Our youth continue to echo for various issue on bigger stages, and this May, that voice showed up at "Kondal: Arts from the Seaside", a week-long art and photography exhibition at Lalit Kala Academy in June, featuring around 60 artworks celebrating coastal life and the seaside communities of Tamil Nadu.

Amid this platform for coastal culture, our youth from the *Vinaa* theatre group, most of them are from a fishing community themselves, staged their play, *Yaar Nilatha Valachu, Yaarukana Valarchi?* ("Whose land is being reclaimed, and whose development is this for?"), taking on a pressing land rights issue through this performance.



Alongside them, our adolescents from Ramapuram community shared some insights & their efforts from their Heatwave Project, speaking on a major stage alongside special guests and leaving audiences moved.

From theatre to environmental advocacy, our young people are learning that their voice belongs in these rooms and using it.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Our women empowerment program



A NEW SKILL, A NEW CONFIDENCE

In our Women's Program, we focus on practical skills that build both income potential and self-belief. This May and June, that took the shape of a saree pre-pleating workshop led by Prema. Over three hours, she patiently guided participants through every step, taking measurements, draping, and setting neat box folds, until each woman had pre-pleated a saree entirely on her own.

The real impact of this single skill is best seen through Kalaiselvi, one of the women who attended, is a homemaker whose husband doesn't allow her to work outside the home. After learning to pre-pleat sarees through our workshop, she started a small business right from home, fitting it around her daily routine. She now earns about ₹1,500 per order, money that is entirely hers to use as she chooses. She shared that this means the world to her, as it saves her from daily tussles over money and fills her with pride to finally stand on her own two feet.



16 BATCHES AND COUNTING

That same momentum carries over to our tailoring classes, which have now reached their 16th batch with 8 to 10 women in each cohort. What makes this initiative special is its peer-led cycle: women who complete the training often return as instructors for the next batch, passing their knowledge forward and keeping the community growing from within.



PLAYQUITY

Building equity through play by inverting gender roles



A CIRCLE FOR THE PARENTS

Parents from our two Assam cohorts, all of whom work in the tea gardens, came together to talk about what their days actually look like. Opening up in a circle is a very alien concept here, and people often shy away from articulating their feelings at all. So getting them on board was a big step forward. We got them talking about the heavy unpaid work they carry at home, and how we can start teaching boys to share that load too, not just girls. After initial giggles and hiccups, the conversations did come through. We are so glad to have started this dialogue, because changing mindsets at home is where the real ground work begins.



FLYING SOLO

Anima and Amritha, two of our Playquity coaches-in-training from Assam, got selected for the Kick-Off fellowship, a structured, two-year leadership and development program launched by KickOff Solutions, a foundation partnering with grassroots sports-for-development nonprofits in India, and travelled to Bangalore for their induction. This was their first trip away from home without a Pudiador leader by their side. For two girls from the tea gardens of Assam, that's not a small thing. The trip exposed them to new places, people and understanding. We're already looking forward to watching their sisterhood grow through this opportunity.



PLAYQUITY

Building equity through play by inverting gender roles



STEPPING UP

Young women stepping into leadership is one of the clearest signs of the Playquity effect, and this period we saw three of them do exactly that. Premi and Janaki are now officially appointed as coaches-in-training for the Assam cohort, and with that comes a well-earned monthly stipend. Both have been with Playquity since 2021, and their growth over the years shows in everything they do, from observing and facilitating sessions to transforming into confident leaders with a voice of their own. In Bhopal, Playquity sessions at our partner site Muskaan had paused for a few months due to community resistance, and in a place where living conditions and access to education are already difficult, finding someone new to run sessions consistently wasn't easy. Mehak, our new coach-in-training, restarted the cohort. We're glad to have her on board as work here continues.



PLAYQUITY GOES ON

Playquity keeps finding its way to more girls. We started two new cohorts recently, one in Kozhipuiyur, Tamil Nadu, led by Kavitha, and one in Bagli, Madhya Pradesh, led by Saloni. In both places, girls are showing up with consistency, and with that we're now running 11 cohorts across 4 states in rural villages in India.

TEACHER TRAINING

Our training program for teachers from all programs



EQUIPPING OUR TEACHERS

Strong communities are built by the people who live in them. Almost all of our teachers, 95%, come directly from our communities. Some are still working through college. Others clock in at a day job first, or spend their mornings as domestic help. Yet they show up every evening for our children as teachers.



To support the incredible effort they put in, our training goes far beyond a one-time workshop. Every May, our team gathers for an intensive annual camp to dive into practical tools designed for their daily classroom needs. This year's focus spanned Tamil and Maths curriculum planning, child-centred learning, alternative discipline, reading habits, photography, teacher leadership, and even using AI in education. Thanks to the volunteers and experts who joined us, our teachers had a wide range of experiences.



And to honor the hard work they put in year-round, we wrapped up the learning experience with a relaxing day out at a waterfall near Chennai.

Pudhiyadhur Charitable Trust

Projected Budget - 2026

Projected Budget for 2026 - 75.59 Lakh INR / 80,561 USD



Quarter 2 : Apr-Jun

Projected amount to be raised:
18.00 Lakh INR / 19,049 USD

As of Jun 31, 2025

Total amount raised:
3.61 Lakh INR / 3,824 USD



Quarter 2 deficit

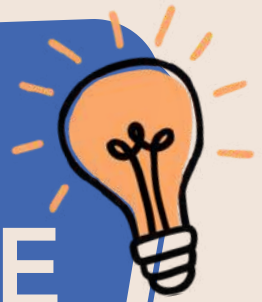
14.38 Lakh INR / 15,225 USD



Quarter 3: Jul-Sep

Projected amount to be raised:
20.00 Lakh INR / 21,166 USD

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE



From one story to many – help us write the next chapter

DONATE



Your contributions keep PudiyaDor's work going—whether it's rations for families, salaries for community teachers, or programs for kids, youth, and women.

<https://www.pudiyador.org/donate>

VOLUNTEER



Share your time and skills with our children—teach, mentor, or just connect. In-person or online, your presence makes a difference!

www.pudiyador.org/volunteer

FOLLOW



www.pudiyador.org

CONNECT



Know an NGO, company, or institution that shares our vision? Introduce us—we'd love to collaborate and grow together.

info@pudiyador.org