



Milestones in
the history of

VELLALA SAMITHI TRUST

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Eminent Personalities and Social Activists of the Vellala community organized several welfare schemes for the upliftment of the general public, individually and collectively in Kerala. Since these efforts did not bear fruit as envisaged by those visionaries. Hence a decision was taken to form a Charitable Organization.

At this point, a well-known merchandiser and philanthropist P. Chidambaram convened a meeting at his residence on the 9th of July 1992 to chalk out a plan with the participation of M/S Bright M.S. Lakshmanan Pillai, P. Pichandy Pillai, K. Perumal Pillai (MKP) N.Madhavan Pillai, Principal Conservator of Forest (Rtd) and many community well-wishers.

The outcome of this meeting was to establish a Charitable Trust with the active participation of prominent personalities and social welfare activists of the community, The Trust namely Vellala Samithi Trust was registered as number 399 of 1992 in Book 4, Volume 321, pages 87 to 95 of the Sub Registry Office, at Thiruvananthapuram by P.Chidambaram, as Managing Trustee M.S.Lakshmanan Pillai, as Secretary and N.Madhavan pillai as Chairman with an initial capital of Rupees Five Thousand.

Subsequently, the Founder Managing Trustee has nominated and appointed 17 more Trustees and accordingly the deed of appointment in execution at Power was registered as number 453 of 1992 in book 4 volume 323 pages 25 to 28 of the sub registry office, Thiruvananthapuram and thus the total number of Trustees in the trust has raised to Twenty.

Further in the year 1996, the founder nominated and appointed 20 more trustees and accordingly the deed of appointment in the execution of power was registered as number 745 of 1996 in book 4 volume 411 pages 107 to 111 of the Sub Registry Office, Thiruvananthapuram and thus the total number of Trustees in the trust has raised to 40. Later in the year 2012, the managing trustee nominated and appointed 109

trustees, so the total number of Vellala Samithi Trust increased to 149.

At that time the first committee consisted of Twenty member Trustees. During the year 1996, the membership was enhanced to forty trustees. Subsequently in the year 2012, the membership was enhanced to a total of 150. It involved a huge financial commitment and dynamic leadership to run the Trust. Realizing the fact that the basic need for any organization to grow is to have people who are interested in public welfare work and a workplace, our community leaders first decided to buy land in Thiruvananthapuram, where Tamilian presence is predominant and also to construct a building. Keeping this point in mind, a leading businessman came forward to contribute a sum of rupees equivalent to the cost of one cent of land. With their earnest efforts, they purchased 24 cents of land at Killipalam, Thiruvananthapuram, near Tamil Sangam road. It was decided to construct a multi-storey building with a plinth area of 750 Square Meters @250 Square meters per floor. The foundation stone was laid by Mr N. Madhavan Pillai, IFS (Rtd) Principal Conservator of Forest, in the presence of Mr P. Chidambaram Pillai, M.S. Lakshmanan Pillai, P.Pichandi Pillai, Dr N.T.Pillai and others.

During the period of construction, Mr P. Chidambaram made a cordial visit to Rajapalayam and met Mr Subramanya Raja, the Director of Ramco Cements in person to render necessary help to complete the construction. As a token of gesture, Mr Raja spontaneously offered a lorry load of cement free of cost for construction. In addition, he arranged with the local cement dealer Mr A. Kumaresan, Chalai to give a

concession of Rupees five per bag, at that time a bag of cement cost rupees one hundred. Since the construction material cost is exorbitantly high, Mr P. Chidambaram readily offered to build construction materials such as steel, timber and other materials at the procurement price from his shop, M/S C P Sons, a well-established and renowned building material shop in Thiruvananthapuram for the last three decades.

After completion of the work the building was named VELLALA BHAVAN on 26th January 1997, the landmark building was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by N.Madhavan Pillai in the presence of P. Chidambaram and all other leading personalities, social reformers, political leaders and well-wishers of the community. During the construction period, the service rendered by Architectural Engineer R. Murugan, in the construction of the building right from the beginning to the completion of the construction work was commendable and unforgettable. During the construction of the main building Sri P. Chidambaram, Sri N. M. Pillay, Sri M. S. Lekshmanan Pillai, Sri P. Pichandy Pillai, Sri K. Perumal Pillai and other few Trustees voluntarily given a sum of Rupees Ten Lakhs as loan and facilitated the leadership to complete the task of constructing the main building. Though the trust was registered in the year 1992, it took nearly 5 years to build the main building and christened as VELLALA BHAVAN.

It took another five years to settle the liabilities of the Trust. During this difficult period, the able leaders P. Chidambaram, N. M. Pillay and M.S. Lekshmanan Pillai joined their hands together and upheld their integrity and trustworthiness.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST

From 2002 onwards the trust extended its helping hand and was involved in community welfare activities such as medical assistance to the poor, providing livelihood-earning equipment such as tailoring machines, agricultural implements etc., and regularly honoured the best-performing students, who secured high marks in the board examination and University level rank holders.

1. Pension to economically weak senior Citizens

With the support of Dr. S. K. Das, an expat living in the United States of America and our Trust member, the project was started in the year 2017 through the Rajammal Foundation, a charitable foundation established in memory of his mother. Now every year the Rajammal Foundation donates a sum of rupees 2.4 lakhs. Sri Kuttichal C. Radhakrishnan is donating a sum of Rupees 48,000 every year. Outside the trust membership, Sri S.Sreepathy contributes 60,000 rupees per year. Since 2021, PRS Hospitals, as a part of their community service activities have donated a sum of rupees 48,000 per year. Dr.K.Kumarapillai Donated a sum of Rs.18,000 for Paying Pension. With the generous support of these philanthropists and from the trust fund every year the trust is giving monthly pensions to 21 persons.

2. Educational stipend for medical students

To support the other community members the trust is giving a scholarship of Rs 2000 per month to Miss Sreelakshmi, from 2021 April onwards.

3. Honouring the best-performing students

For the last several years the trust has been honoring the best-performing students of SSLC Plus Two. In 2021, former minister V.S.Sivakumar handed out certificates and cash awards to deserving students. During the year 2022 Dr. Rajasree M.S. Vice Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam University was the Chief Guest. During the year 2023, Prof. Dr. N. Ramalingam, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation gave a motivational speech and handed out certificates and cash awards to the meritorious students of our community. On this occasion, the trust honoured outstanding performers in Academic examinations and also in Arts and Sports. The entire trust appreciated the young achievers, Doctoral degree holders and University rank holders.

4. Financial assistance for medical treatment,

Every year the trust extends financial support to the economically weak and those suffering from prolonged illness. Every year the trust donates more than one lakh for this purpose, with the generous contribution of Trustees.

5. Assistance during the COVID-19 period to the poor.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period under the leadership of our former Managing Trustee P.Subramoni on several occasions, the trust distributed groceries and vegetables to hundreds of poor families.

6. Matrimonial services

To guide our community members under the leadership of Sri L. Anandan, matrimony service functioning since 2010. The service is provided to our community free of cost and it is functioning on all working days at Vellala Bhavan.

LATEST INITIATIVES

To get the attention of the general public, as an outreach program, the trust launched a website <https://vst.org.in/>. The project was inaugurated by Dr Oommen V. Oommen, Director of the Biodiversity Board, Govt of Kerala on second October 2021. To strengthen the activities of the Trust sustainably, a few independent projects are also proposed and implemented in the trust. These individual projects are funded by the VST trustees.

1. G. Kesava Pillai - Krishnammal Memorial endowment

Er. K. Ganesan in memory of his parents deposited a sum of Rupees **one lakh** in the trust and from the accrued interest every year one or two girls students who have secured admission in the Engineering Stream are given cash awards. The project was launched in the year 2021.

2. Dr. N. T. PILLAI Memorial Endowment

Dr. T. Mukesh, in memory of his father, deposited a sum of Rupees **One Lakh** in the trust. Every year one or two female students, who have secured admission to the science stream are identified and a stipend is given. The project was launched in the year 2021

3. Kuttichal C Radha Krishnan pension fund

To strengthen the activities of the trust one of our trustees Kuttichal C.Radhakrishnan, donated **Two Lakh** rupees. Utilizing this fund, a pension was given to two widows. From this, one lakh Rupees was set apart as an endowment fund to give scholarships to eligible students of our community. The project was launched in the year 2022.

4. M.N.PILLAY Memorial Scholarship

Wg Cdr M. Narayanan in memory of his father instituted an endowment N.M.PILLAY SCHOLARSHIP by donating a sum of Rupees **One Lakh** to the trust. The scholarship will be given to economically weak and eligible Law students. The project will be implemented in the current year, 2024

CONCLUSION

As a founder Managing Trustee Shri. P.Chidambaram, maintained cordial relationship with all on all occasion and his leadership was wholeheartedly accepted and appreciated. His ambition of promoting the trust having own land and having a building Vellala Bhavan ,without any financial liability was achieved .Till his last breath on 14th October 2019,he dedicated himself for the trust . The trust remembering this great visionary .

Considering the unanimous request of the executive committee members of the trust, P. Subramani to take up the position of Managing Trustee and he accepted the assignment.

He focused his fullest attention to the trust and implemented many projects in line with the wish of his affectionate

brother and founder managing trustee Shri P.Chidambaram. During this period, the corona virus devastated the world and the entire population in the state of turmoil. The trust extended help to poor public by way of distributing groceries and medical kits. Unfortunately,the unexpected death of Shri P.Subramani on 21st May 2021 become yet another blow to the Trust.

While this organization and Trustees were in deep distress and don't know what to do, Er.R.Murugan who had spent his valuable time and resources for the development of the trust since it's inception, accepted the unanimous request. Over and above as an Architect he took lead role in the construction of Vellala Bhavan and on several occasions he extended support to the trust .

He assumed charge as Managing Trustee on 5th July 2021. While assuming the charge as Managing Trustee he reiterated the words of Shri P.Chidambaram and remembered the dynamic leadership of Shri P.Subramani and requested the unstinking support of all the trustees for the effective functioning of the trust.

Under the leadership of Shri R.Murugan, the board of directors and the executive committee members are working together and implementing several programs, including Pearl Jubilee celebration to create momentum and also to get the attention of the community as well as the political leaders. I am sure, the present leadership will make an impact in Vellala Community.

Coming together is beginning

Keeping together is progress

Working together is success