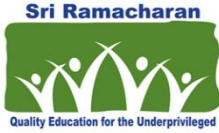


Annual Report 2025-26



Spreading the Magic of Montessori!



Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust

About Us

Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust (SRCT) was founded in 1999 with the vision of bringing about social transformation through quality education for children studying in Corporation schools in Chennai.

Introducing the Montessori approach in public schools, the Trust started its first Montessori Environment in 2004 in the Corporation School at VP Koil Street, Mylapore, with 45 Kindergarten students – in two sections/ environments.

As an integral part of offering Montessori education, the Trust also facilitates Montessori Teachers’ Training for underprivileged women.

Over the last 25+ years, SRCT has equipped 100+ teachers in the Montessori methodology and reached over 25000 children.

Our Journey 1999-2026

1999	SRCT Registered
2004	Started out in VP Koil Street Corporation School with 45 students in two classroom environments
2026	56 Montessori environments across 19 schools in Chennai, two in Thanjavur and one Balwadi in Thiruvallur district, reaching a little over 1500 students

The Montessori Approach

- Specialized materials are used as teaching tools; this helps children to develop their full potential through activities tailored to their needs.



-Children are respected and allowed to learn at their own pace.
-Children develop a positive attitude towards learning, developing their self-esteem, and an independent mind.

Of the 19 schools in Chennai, 17 are schools under the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC); one is a government school in Egmore, and one is a school run by the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalay Samithi, a charitable trust. In Thanjavur district, one school is under Thanjavur Corporation and another is in Kumbakonam Panchayat Union. The Trust is also supporting one Balwadi in Thiruvallur district.

In the 50 classroom environments across 17 GCC schools, SRCT teachers work in 40 environments across 45 schools; project support (e.g. Montessori materials, salary of helper, and monthly project expenses) is provided in the remaining 10 environments across five schools, viz. Ashok Nagar, Nesapakkam, Puliur, Rangarajapuram and Seniamman Koil. There were 1321 children in

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kindergarten level in the 50 Montessori classroom environments across 17 schools; in addition there were 105 children in 4 Class I Montessori environments across two schools, viz. MGR Nagar and Royapettah. There has been a good response to the Montessori approach in Ezhil Nagar, where we started with one classroom in 2024. An additional classroom was added during this academic year. One kindergarten classroom with 34 students was started during the year in Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, a school run by a charitable trust. **Table 1** has the details of the position as of 31 March 2026.



Children engaging in different activities in a Montessori Classroom

Table 1: Schools with SRCT supported Montessori classes (as of 31 March, 2026)

S.No	Greater Chennai Corporation Schools	No. of KG classes	No. of children	No. of Std I classes	No. of children	Total class environments	No. of Teachers	No. of Helpers	No. of Montessori materials provided
1	Ashok Nagar	1	25			1			1
2	CIT Nagar West	2	52			2	1	1	2
3	Kottur	2	65			2	2	1	2
4	Mettupalayam	2	47			2	2	1	2
5	MGR Nagar	7	160	3	82	10	10	3	10
6	MGR Nagar Market	6	137			6	1	1	5
7	Nesapakkam	4	68			4			4
8	Puliyur	4	78			4		1	3
9	Rangarajapuram	1	53			1		1	1
10	Royapettah	2	41	1	23	3	2	2	2
11	Saidapet	8	235			8	8	4	8
12	Seniamman Koil	1	75			1		1	1
13	Shankarapuram	2	42			2	2	1	1
14	T Nagar	2	62			2	2		2
15	Teynampet	2	88			2	2		2
16	South Canal Bank	2	21			2	1	2	1
17	Ezhil Nagar	2	72			2	3		2
Total		50	1321	4	105	54	36	19	49
	Other Schools								
18	Egmore Govt School	2	52			2	2	2	2
19	Kumbakonam Panchayat Union School	1	42			1	1	1	1
20	Thanjavur Corporation School	1	12			1	1	1	1
21	Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya	1	34			1	1	1	1
	Balwadi Centre								
22	Thiruvallur Balwadi	1	42			1	4		1
Total		6	182			6	9	5	6
Grand Total		56	1503	4	105	60	45	24	55

In addition, based on the request from the Principals of three of the schools - Royapettah, T Nagar, and Teynampet, remedial classes were conducted to strengthen foundational learning skills of students in Standards II, III, IV and V. The classes conducted by SRCT teachers working in these schools commenced in July 2025 and focused on improving reading and writing in English and Tamil and on enhancing student understanding of the four basic mathematical applications.



Remedial Classes in Progress

Montessori Teachers' Training for Women from Underprivileged backgrounds

As an integral part of Montessori Learning, the Trust facilitates Montessori Teachers' training for underprivileged women – the goal being to train and employ women with aptitude. Till 2020, the Trust had sponsored the training of 71 such women for a one-year training course conducted by the Centre for Montessori Training, Chennai.



Certificate Training Program 2023-24

In 2023, at the request of Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), SRCT developed a certificate training course on the Montessori approach. 44 teachers (37 contract teachers of GCC and 7 SRCT teacher trainees) graduated in the first batch in 2024.

The second batch targeting women in Ezhil Nagar and Kannagi Nagar¹ commenced in Feb 2026 with 10 students. The program was conducted with the generous support of a philanthropist and in collaboration with Muthal Thalaimurai Trust, a NGO in Kannagi Nagar. Six students successfully completed the programme that ended in July 2025. Two of them have been employed by SRCT as teachers in the GCC school in Ezhil Nagar itself!

¹ Two large slum resettlement colonies; we inaugurated a kindergarten class in Ezhil Nagar in 2024



Successful candidates of the certificate program with training faculty & SRCT Trustees

Human Resource Management

The teachers employed by SRCT are women from low income households. Many of them are sole bread winners in their family. Our teachers are our pillars and their motivation and commitment is central to the success of the Montessori approach. In the backdrop of rising cost of living, as a Trust we decided that there should be parity in the salary paid by SRCT to the teachers we appoint with that drawn by teachers employed on contract basis by the GCC.

Preparatory to this, SRCT Trustees undertook an exercise from Jan to March 2025 to interact individually with each teacher to assess their professional capability and commitment and also understand problems faced by them, if any. It was decided that the starting salary of a newly recruited Montessori trained teacher should be Rs.10,000/- and the most experienced would draw a salary at par with the GCC employed contract teacher.

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Accordingly, teacher salaries were revised and given effect from the academic year that began in June 2025. SRCT is grateful to its donors for supporting the increased human resource cost.

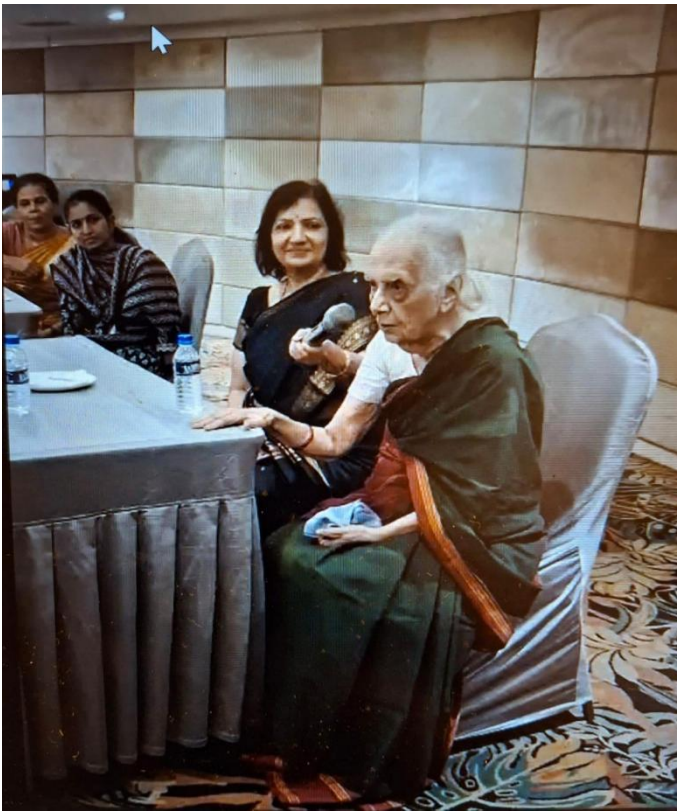
Teacher Wellness Initiatives

A day-long interactive programme for the teachers was conducted on 5 April 2025. It was conducted at a premier hotel in Chennai and all the Trustees participated and interacted with the teachers. Activities included simple yoga exercises, ice breaker sessions and group games to instill a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation.



Teachers' Wellness Programme

A highlight of the day was SRCT's Founder President, nonagenarian Padmini Gopalan coming in briefly to address the gathering and share her reflections.

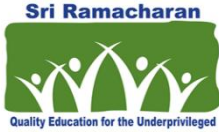


**SRCT's Founder President
sharing her thoughts**

Apart from this, regular counselling is available for teachers as part of welfare measures. Teachers are encouraged to reach out to the Trustees if they face any problem and sessions are arranged with trained counselors on need basis. The Counselor's confidential feedback also enables us to better understand the teacher and their issues.

Study to Assess Impact of Montessori Education

We are often asked: what is the impact of the Montessori approach on the children? How do these children fare as they grow up? There is a lot of anecdotal evidence that our teachers often share. Having been on the ground for over 25 years now, we felt the need to have more rigorous evidence.



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To this end, an experienced researcher has been entrusted to undertake a study to assess the impact of the Montessori approach on children as they move on from kindergarten and class I to higher classes and study in a non-Montessori environment.

The study is being conducted in three of the GCC schools where SRCT has had the longest presence, viz. Royapettah, Saidapet and MGR Nagar.

The methodology includes comparative assessment of children in primary and middle school, who studied under Montessori in kindergarten and those who did not, interviews with teachers, parents, focus group discussion and case studies of older children.

The study commenced in February 2026 and will be completed by September 2026.

Certificate Award Ceremony

The 37 teachers of GCC who successfully completed the certificate training programme in the Montessori approach in 2024 were awarded certificates at a function in the Corporation building on 24 December 2025. The event was graced by the Mayor of Chennai, Ms. R. Priya, who handed over the certificates to the teachers.



A teacher receiving certificate from the Mayor of Chennai

Procurement of Montessori Materials

A MoU was signed to procure Montessori learning materials and set up the classrooms where the teachers who underwent training are employed.

A mini replica of the Montessori learning kit was handed over to a few teachers by the Mayor of Chennai, at the same function in Dec 2025.



Teachers of a School receiving Montessori Learning kit from the Mayor of Chennai

Montessori materials for 18 classrooms across nine schools were procured with support of ESVEE Foundation. SRCT teachers helped set up the classrooms

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and are providing hand-holding support to the teachers as they practise the approach in a real classroom environment.



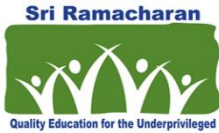
Newly setup Montessori Classroom Environment

Recognition of our Work

As part of commemorating their 20th anniversary, Cognizant Foundation India, an esteemed donor, recognized Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust for our meaningful collaboration in uplifting communities and transforming lives. A coffee table book brought out by them to mark the occasion includes the story of their partnership with SRCT.



Memento from Cognizant Foundation



Sri Ramacharan Charitable Trust

Our Lifelines

Major Sponsors

- Administrator General and Official Trustee of Tamil Nadu
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- Caplin Point Laboratories Limited
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