

KACHCHI MOODOOR ARCHAKAS WELFARE TRUST

(Founded in 1986 on the expressed wish and with the benign grace of
MAHA PERIAVA of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam)

Annual Report for 2017-2018

(From 01-04-2017 to 31-03-2018)

The Trust continued to focus on its core activity of providing financial assistance in the form of monthly stipend to needy persons who render service and perform the daily rituals in accordance with **Indian tradition and culture in ancient places of worship in rural areas**. These payments were regularly made from the interest earned on investments of the Corpus Fund of the Trust, constituted by donations received from time to time from individuals devoted to the cause espoused by **Maha Periaiva**. Beneficiaries of this assistance were identified by a due process of selection on the merits of applicants and their actual performance of the prescribed acts of worship in accordance with the guidelines laid down by **Maha Periaiva**.

At the commencement of the year, the Trust had 422 beneficiaries based in rural areas in its list, made up of 154 Sivacharyas, 127 Poojaris and 141 Bhattachariars (78 Vaikhanasam and 63 Pancharatram). During the year, 24 more beneficiaries were added and 20 beneficiaries were deleted from the scheme as detailed below. At the end of the year, the Trust had 426 beneficiaries in its list, made up of 150 Sivacharyas, 129 Poojaris and 147 Bhattachariars (83 Vaikhanasam and 64 Pancharatram).

While the Trust was providing financial assistance to the tune of Rs.1,750/- per month to each beneficiary at the beginning of the year, the amount was increased to Rs.1,900/- per month with effect from June 2017.

The Trust has been following a structured selection process for identifying new beneficiaries every year. The process begins with calling for applications through newspapers and also by word-of-mouth communication from existing beneficiaries. Candidates who respond to this call are sent a structured application form to be filled up and returned. These applications are then scrutinized for adherence to the criteria including twice-daily service, rural location, the ancient nature of the place of worship, monthly income of the candidate, etc. Those who meet the minimum criteria are sent small booklets prescribed by **Maha Periaiva**, and given 2-3 months to study them and prepare for an Oral test. The Oral tests are held at different centers (usually Tiruvanaikoil and Mannargudi), and the candidates who appear are reimbursed the travel expenses. Experienced and learned examiners, who have voluntarily offered their services to the Trust, conduct the Oral tests. Physical inspection is then carried out for the selected candidates at their respective locations to ensure that they are truly deserving candidates and that all the criteria are met. Based on the Inspection reports, candidates are added to the list of beneficiaries.

On completion of the selection process to identify new beneficiaries to be added during 2017, the Trust Board approved the addition of 24 beneficiaries from June 2017 (10 Sivacharyas, 5 Poojaris, 9 Bhattachariars (6 Vaikhanasam and 3 Pancharatram)).

In recognition of meritorious performance, three top rankers (one each from Sivacharyas, Poojaris and Pancharatram) were invited to Kanchipuram for the Jayanthi day of **Maha Periaiva** on 08.06.2017 and honoured with a cash award of Rs.1,500/- each. All travel expenses were also reimbursed. The Trust has been following this practice for the top rankers of each stream provided they score at least 70% in the Oral test and also clear the inspection process.

In addition to the monthly assistance, the Trust covers all beneficiaries under the age of 60 years under LIC Group Insurance Scheme.

Self-Certificate/pledge from the beneficiaries affirming their performance of worshipful services diligently twice daily and keeping away from detracting habits like smoking and drinking is being obtained from all beneficiaries twice every year in a format specified by the Trust.

Apart from inspections in regard to new candidates, 104 inspections were carried out in respect of existing beneficiaries during the year. Appropriate action was taken on the adverse inspection reports. By the end of the year, the objective of ensuring that all beneficiaries had been inspected at least once within the last 3 years was largely achieved.

During the year, the Board approved the deletion of 20 beneficiaries from the list on account of various reasons including adverse inspection reports (2), voluntarily ceasing to perform daily services owing to personal reasons (5), demise of the beneficiary (8) and others (5).

At the commencement of the year, the Corpus Fund stood at Rs. 1055.22 lakh. Donations amounting to Rs. 101.55 lakh were received during the year with Rs. 101.52 lakh of this being towards the Corpus Fund. The Corpus Fund at the end of the year was Rs. 1156.74 lakh. Investments grew from Rs. 1076.50 lakh at beginning of the year to Rs. 1166.00 lakh at the end of the year.

Annual accounts of the Trust for 2016 - 2017 were duly audited by honorary auditors M/s V.Narayanan & Co and approved by the Board at its meeting on 29.06.2017. The submissions relating to FCRA Returns and IT Returns were duly done within the prescribed time limits. The Status of the Trust's FCRA Registration was uncertain considering Regulatory changes.

The IT department had granted exemption under Section 80(G) up to 31.03.2011 in their letter-dated 26.02.2009. The IT department also granted approval under section 10(23C) (iv) to the Trust during July 2010. Both of these have been since deemed to extended in perpetuity until withdrawn vide Circular issued by CBDT during October 2010.

During the year, the Trust Board met on 4 occasions to transact the business of the Trust. Subsequent to the demise of Sri.K.S.Logavinayagam, (Trustee), the Trust Board decided at its meeting on 31.03.2018 to co-opt Sri.Chandrasekhar S as a Trustee with effect from 18-04-2018.

Financial Summary

Donations received during the year: Rs. 100.51 lakh (Rs.118.14 lakh previous year)
 Corpus Fund as on 31.3.2018: Rs. 1156.74 lakh (Rs. 1055.22 lakh as on 01.04.2017)
 Investments as on 31.3.2018: Rs. 1166.00 lakh (Rs. 1076.50 lakh as on 01.04.2017)
 Stipend to each beneficiary: Rs. 1,750/- per month upto May 2017
Rs. 1,900/- per month from June 2017

Snapshot of Beneficiaries

	Sivacharyas	Poojaris	Vaikhanasam	Pancharatram	Total
As on 31.03.2017	154	127	78	63	422
As on 31.03.2018	150	129	83	64	426

Addition of New Beneficiaries in 2018

As part of the Selection Process, Oral tests were held between 08.03.2018 and 09.03.2018 at Tiruvanaikoil, and on 11.03.2018 at Mannargudi. Summary of the outcome is presented in the table below. The process of Inspection for Archakas who cleared the oral test was in progress as on 31.03.2018.

	Sivacharyas	Poojaries	Vaikhanasam	Pancharatram	Total
Attended	9	14	3	2	28
Cleared Oral test	6	6	3	2	17

Change-of-Temple and Deletions

During the year the Trust approved Change-of-Temple requests from two beneficiaries after due consideration. The Board also approved deletion of beneficiaries as detailed below.

	Sivacharyas	Poojaries	Vaikhanasam	Pancharatram	Total
Adverse Inspection Report	1	-	1	-	2
Voluntary Relinquishment	2	1	-	2	5
Expiry	6	2	-	-	8
Others	5	-	-	-	5
Total	14	3	1	2	20

The Trustees remain grateful to all the Donors who had contributed and greatly helped the Trust to carry on its activities for sustaining the cultural and spiritual life of the community, especially in rural areas.

Dated : 23-06-2018

Prakash R Bhat
Honorary Secretary & Treasurer

Board of Trustees

S.Raghunathan : Chairman
M.D.Gopal : Trustee
R.Subramanian : Trustee
Chandrasekhar S : Trustee
Prakash R Bhat : Honorary Secretary & Treasurer