

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 2021-2022

(From 01-04-2021 to 31-03-2022)

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 Periava**. 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 Periava**.

At the commencement of the year, the Trust had 462 beneficiaries based in rural areas in its list, made up of 166 Sivacharyas, 145 Poojaris and 151 Bhattachariars (84 Vaikhanasam and 67 Pancharatram). Since the Selection process could not be conducted during early part of Calendar Year 2021, no new beneficiaries were added. 35 beneficiaries were deleted from the scheme as detailed below. At the end of the year, the Trust had 427 beneficiaries in its list, made up of 155 Sivacharyas, 133 Poojaris and 139 Bhattachariars (77 Vaikhanasam and 62 Pancharatram).

The Trust continued to provide financial assistance to the tune of Rs.2,300/- per month to each beneficiary. It was not possible to increase this amount during the year based on the estimates of Interest Income and the Projected Expenses.

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

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 by word-of-mouth communication from existing beneficiaries. Candidates who respond are sent an 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 Periava** 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). 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.

The Trust has also been following the practice of rewarding the top rankers from each stream (Sivacharyas, Poojaries, Vaikhanasam and Pancharatram) with a cash award provided they score at least 70% in the Oral test and clear the inspection process.

Since it was not possible to conduct the Oral examinations during early part of 2021, no new beneficiaries were added during the Financial Year.

Self-Certificate/pledge from the beneficiaries affirming their performance of worshipful services diligently twice daily is being obtained from all beneficiaries twice every year in a format specified by the Trust.

288 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 35 beneficiaries from the list on account of various reasons including adverse inspection reports (13), voluntarily ceasing to perform daily services owing to personal reasons (8), demise of the beneficiary (12) and other reasons (2).

At the commencement of the year, the Corpus Fund stood at Rs. 1598.17 lakh. Donations amounting to Rs. 159.01 lakh were received during the year with Rs. 157.71 lakh of this being towards the Corpus Fund. The Corpus Fund at the end of the year was Rs. 1755.88 lakh. Investments grew from Rs. 1663.25 lakh at beginning of the year to Rs. 1797.25 lakh at the end of the year.

Annual accounts of the Trust for 2020 - 2021 were duly audited by honorary auditors M/s V.Narayanan & Co and approved by the Board at its meeting on 06.06.2021. The submissions relating to IT Returns were duly done within the prescribed time limits.

The IT department granted exemption under Section 80(G) for five financial years up to 31.03.2026 vide their order dated 24.09.2021.

Financial Summary

Donations received during the year:	Rs. 159.01 lakh (Rs.186.82 lakh previous year)
Corpus Fund as on 31.3.2022:	Rs. 1755.88 lakh (Rs. 1598.17 lakh as on 01.04.2021)
Investments as on 31.3.2022:	Rs. 1797.25 lakh (Rs. 1663.25 lakh as on 01.04.2021)
Stipend to each beneficiary:	Rs. 2,300 per month from August 2020

Snapshot of Beneficiaries

	Sivacharyas	Poojaries	Vaikhanasam	Pancharatram	Total
As on 31.03.2021	166	145	84	67	462
As on 31.03.2022	155	133	77	62	427

Addition of New Beneficiaries in 2022

As part of the Selection Process, Oral tests were earlier planned for Feb 2022 at Tiruvanaikoil, and Mannargudi. However, keeping in view the Travel requirement and the safety of the Trust Representatives, Examiners and Archakas, it was not possible to conduct the Oral tests until end-March 2022. (Note: Subsequently conducted in April 2022)

Change-of-Temple and Deletions

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

	Sivacharyas	Poojaris	Vaikhanasam	Pancharatram	Total
Adverse Inspection Report	3	6	2	2	13
Voluntary Relinquishment	2	2	3	1	8
Expiry	5	4	2	1	12
Others	1	-	-	1	2
Total	11	12	7	5	35

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 : 25-06-2022

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