



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROJECT PUNNAGAI

It gives us immense sense of fulfillment to mention that our College has been chosen to train students under the **'Muskaan' Program (Punnagai in Tamil, Smile in English)**, of the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MoHA**), Government of India, in association with the Police Department of Puducherry, to rehabilitate parentless and recalcitrant youth, from various destitute homes and downtrodden families, including the children of convicts.

Demographics of the children:

- The basic qualification of most students would range from class 8th to class 10th dropouts
- From families of fishermen, street vendors, auto drivers, daily wage workers, orphaned and street kids
- From Juvenile homes
- Children of convicts
- From broken/single parent homes

The program aims at linking these children with a time-bound vocational training system in around 15 technical trade skills.

SVRCC helps to build competency, ability and capacity of young Indian men and women especially from socially, educationally and economically marginalized segments to earn livelihoods through skill oriented careers in industry or through self-employment. In addition to technical and vocational skills, SVRCC also imparts to all students, a sound grounding in personal values, ethics, soft skills, self-discipline etc., thus providing for a holistic education.



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SVRCC has been administering the Punnagai Programme since 2015 and we have trained over 645 students (till 2023) as part of the project, most of who earn an average take home pay of Rs 6,000 to 8,000 per month and are now able to look at life with joy and hope.

The year-wise break-up of the number of students trained are as under:

YEAR	No of Students Trained
2015-16	45
2016-17	195
2017-18	100
2018-19	40
2019-20	165
2022-23	100
Total	645

Note:

The year 2020-2021 and 2021-22 did not have any enrolment under Punnagai project due to 2 primary reasons:

1. Covid and its impact on the local communities. The police department was completely occupied with COVID duty.
 2. The Tamilnadu State and Panchayat elections were scheduled during the year and all the authorities were preoccupied with the duties related to elections.
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