



**TamilNadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights**

**A study on the Status of children  
who were sent out from the  
various closed Child Care  
Institutions in Tamil Nadu.**

(with specific reference to Closed CCIs from Trichy, Karur, Salem,  
Dharmapuri and Virudhunagar Districts)

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Study Facilitated by



## **1. General Overview**

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is one of the top seven developed states in India based on a "Multidimensional Development Index" in a 2013 report published by the Reserve Bank of India. The State's overall human development is higher in all parameters for children... According to the 2011 census, there are seven districts where the child sex ratio is much below the state average – Cuddalore (896), Ariyalur (897), Perambalur (913), Dharmapuri (913), Namakkal (914), Krishnagiri (926), and Salem (916).

Child Care Institution in Tamil Nadu:

In a Report of the Committee for Analysing data of Mapping and Review Exercise of Child care under Juvenile Justice Act (2015) and other Homes; Volume 1 - Main Report (conducted from January 2016 to March 2017) cites that Tamil Nadu followed by Maharashtra and Kerala have the highest number of Child Care Institutions in the country constituting 43.5% of the total population of children in CCIs across the country.

The total count of children in Tamil Nadu residing in CCI amounts to Tamil Nadu alone has 87,618 children both CNCP and CCL. Kancheepuram tops the list with the maximum number of institutions in child care institutions with 4,120 children, while Chennai has 3,299 and Thiruvallur has 3,015.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, mandates that child in need of care and protection should be presented before the

Child Welfare Committee and the committee would determine if the child is required institutional care, as last resort. In an attempt to restore children back to families, the department of social defense based on the High Court of Madras (Madurai Bench) had initiated implementing the JJ Act, 2015 in letter and spirit. CCI closure resulted in children either taken back to their families, moved to some other CCI or to a hostel. This measure it was believed that to facilitate family reunification, which resulted in restoring 17,000<sup>1</sup> children from the 843 homes closed since 2011 and 300 in April 2017.

*Principle of family responsibility: The primary responsibility of care, nurture and protection of the child shall be that of the biological family or adoptive or foster parents, as the case may be. – States Sec 3 (v) JJ Act 2015.* As per the principle the family - biological, adoptive or foster – is the primary unit of care for children. But it is important to see if the family restoration is done followed by a proper family study, periodical review of the child in the family and more importantly the present condition of children. With this perspective in mind the following objectives were framed for the study.

## **2. Objectives of the study**

1. To know the current status/ condition of children and their families (socio-economic and educational) who have been sent to home from CCIs.
2. To develop a follow-up plan (systems perspective).
3. To suggest measures for preventing such occurrences and improving the existing scheme. (Policy intervention).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/1700-from-child-care-homes-reunited-with-parents-in-6-yrs-in-tn/articleshow/59689847.cms>

### **3. Methodology**

State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) suggested Five (5) districts namely Salem, Thiruchirappali, Dharmapuri, Karur and Virudhu Nagar to conduct the study. Whereas, the research team proposed to choose top (3) districts by geographically dividing the State into 3 regions and choose the highest three (3) districts where reintegration of children has happened. The study adopted Qualitative method. Participatory Approach was adopted to collect data in the districts of Trichy, Salem, Kaur, Virudhu Nagar and Dharmapuri. Quantitative information on the number of closed CCIs and number of children sent out from these CCIs were collected by administering a simple tool which was sent to DCPU.

Lead questions were framed to conduct in-depth Interview with various stakeholders such as children, functionaries of closed CCIs, members of Child Welfare Committee (past and present) and staff from District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). Interviews with key stakeholders were undertaken to know the social-economic and child friendly environment. The research team could only collect the FGD as proposed could not be executed due to delay in getting the required data. As per the list provided by DCPU on the closed CCIs, the researchers met the functionaries of CCIs in the district and conducted an in-depth Interview with members who were part of the organisation.

### **4. Tool used.**

The tool focused on collecting the personal information of a child, their parents, social background of the family and the institution where they had been staying. The DCPOs were asked for the list of closed CCIs with name, contact details, closure year, reason for closure and strength at the time of

closure. Lead questions were prepared to interview the functionaries of closed CCIs, children sent out from CCIs, parents and other key stakeholders. Functionaries were asked to describe about CCI, challenges faced to run CCI, reason for closure, details of children stayed at the time of closure and any preparatory measures taken for reintegration. Children were asked to narrate their experiences in CCI, their family situation now and then, child's current status (education, psycho-social status). Parents were to narrate the details of the child, family situation, reason for admitting the child to CCI and their opinion about CCI. Finally, CWC members and staffs in DCPU were asked about the reasons and procedures followed in closure of CCI.

Table 1.1. Closed Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Five (5) districts

District	No. of closed CCI	Contactable	Contacted	Untraceable
Trichy	17	4	4	13
Salem	17	14	9	8
Karur	5	1	1	4
Virudhunagar	6	5	5	1
Dharmapuri	3	3	3	-
Total	48	27	22	27

Between the years 2015-2018 the closed down CCIs are numbered in Table 1.1. Districts of Trichy and Salem is reported highest number of closers compared to Karur, Virudhu Nagar and Dharmapuri. Among the 48 closed CCIs the research team could contact people who worked or established 22 CCIs. More than half of CCIs (27 Nos.) were untraceable, closed down institutions do not exist in the given Address and some refused to answer.

Table 2.2. No. of Children sent out from Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

District	No. of children sent out	Contacted	Answered	Refused	Not Traceable
Salem	721	70	14	56	651
Virudhunagar	242	11	11	--	231
Karur	90	6	3	--	81
Dharmapuri	51	4	4	7	40
Trichy	Exact number not provided	7	7	--	--
Total	1111	105	39	63	1006

For the years 2015-2018 the number of children moved out from CCI (except for Trichy district) were 1111 and out of which 39 children's family were contacted. This was due to the fact that the residential address or the contact number provided were non -contactable, children were readmitted either in CCI since the registration is renewed or placed in a hostel, families have vacated the house and hence non-traceable.

### **5. Profile of the closed down CCIs**

CCI profile was written based on the personal interaction with various stakeholders, telephonic conversation with the senior functionaries of the organization. Details of some organization were discussed here based on the interaction the researchers had with multiple stakeholders. Not all NGO heads or founders were willing to be interviewed. The following list of organization the DCPU provided with and researchers contacted in the following districts namely Salem, Karur, Dharmapuri, Viruthu Nagar and Trichy. Similarly, children were contacted based on the list provided from DCPU.

## 6. District Reports

### Salem District

Salem district has a population of 34,82,056 as per Census 2011. Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 916 compared to 851 of census 2001. In 2011, Children under 0-6 formed 9.91 percent of Salem District compared to 11.67 percent of 2001. There was net change of -1.76 percent in this compared to previous census of India. Salem district accounted for a large number of daily wage earners who had no permanent jobs and moved from one place to another in search of employment.

#### Closed down Child Care Institutions in Salem District

Salem district - Child Care Institution						
Name of the Organisation	Year of Closure	Reason for Closure		No of children (Closure)		Current Status
		DCPU	CCI/other sources	DCPU	CCI	
Indian Christian mission centre	2015	Voluntary	POCSO Case	39	24	Closed
Deepalaya home for destitute	2016	Voluntary	Insufficient fund	11		Closed

Sriram manavar illam	2016	Converted into hostel	Converted into hostel	24		running
CSI unit 1 Attur.	2016	Voluntary	Land dispute	81		Closed
Annai Teresa karunai illam	2017	Voluntary	Delay in renewal of registration	29		running
Anna 4 Children India Trust	2017	Voluntary	No strength and court dispute	0	0	Closed
Social Awareness for cultural Society	2017	Voluntary	No infrastructure	25		Closed
Ragavendra Adharavatrai illam	2017	Voluntary	Delay in renewal of Registration	23		Running
St. Patricks Home for Children	2017	Voluntary	Building renovation	65		Closed
Lovers of Truth, Unity and Service (LOTUS)	2017	Voluntary	Delay in renewal of registration	54		Running

Indian Christian Mission Centre, Chinnathirupathi, Salem was established in 1988. Registered under Trust Act with 40 children at the time of establishment, the organization had 24 children and at the time of closure. Founder of this organization also runs CCI in the same district and in the other districts too. At the time of its operations there were 4 staffs working. It caters to both boys and girls. Functionaries of the organization stated that local police demanded bribery to run this facility but was not provided with. Meanwhile there was a sexual abuse complained filed against the male warden in the CCI. The child's parent was bought from Mumbai, case was filed in the Court in the meantime Government officials closed the CCI on POCSO charges. The local police have hidden the test reports and dragged the case since the CCI refused to tip the police. Finally, the evidence suggested that the girl was not sexually abused and the case was closed. They did not reopen the CCI because it created bad image among the general public.

Deepalaya home for Destitute situated in Visnupathinagar, Chinnathirupathi of Salem District. It was established under trust act in 2001 by one Mr. Chandru due to her daughter's demise and was running with meagre children strength. They couldn't continue because the rent was very high, infrastructure was not good, they didn't get sufficient fund to fulfill the needs of the children. They struggled to provide proper meal, sanitary needs, clothing and stationaries. However, they did not collect any money or any kind from the children. So, they voluntarily gave a letter to DCPO stating that they are unable to run the CCI. Since both of them were becoming old, the infrastructures was not sufficient and they were unable to bare the huge amount of rent stated the reason and closed the home. The children were accommodated in other CCIs.

Annai Teresa Karunai Illam is located in Mecheri, Salem District. It was established in 2000 by Mr. Mohan and registered under Trust Act. Number of children at the time of establishment was three and it expanded to 57 at present. It only caters to boys. Children in the CCI are studying in a nearby Mecheri Government school. The organization receives fund from local public and friends of the Managing Trustee. The registration certificate was not renewed for this CCI as the building does not have proper documents. So the CCI was told to close immediately. The founder rented a marriage hall and kept all the children in the hall sent all the children to school from that place. After a struggle of one month the founder received his registration certificate by submitting all the documents to the DCPO. So no child was reintegrated during the closure and reopen time.

Social Awareness Cultural Society, Veeranam established in 1999 by one Mr. Nayagam under Society Act. There were 142 children at the time of closure of this home. It can accommodate both boys and girls. The organization was funded for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The projects are running in Veeranam, Pallipatti, Pethanaikampalayam, Valapari, Umayalpuram. Children of drop out, orphan, semi-orphan are mainly staying in the CCI. Other children in the CCI were sent to nearby government school. They engage the children by teaching glass painting, yoga. Psychiatrist meets the children once in every month and counsellor visits every week to the CCI. Funding for the Government project got over and there was problem in the registration and building infrastructure. So the CCI was closed. At present they are trying to reopen the CCI with proper documents and infrastructure.

St.Patrick's Home for Children, Shevapet, Salem registered under Trust Act and established by one Mr. Nayagam. There were close to 300 children when they established. At the time of closure there were 42 children and it was closed for want for building renovation.

Ragavendra Adharavatra Kulanthaigal Illam is located in Mettur. One Ms. Saraswathi established it in the year 2011 under Trust act. Number of children at the time closure was 17. This CCI caters to both boys and girls. Founder of the organization was worked in Ramakrishna home. Children in the Ramakrishna Home came to Saraswathy's home seeking care and protection saying that new caretaker was very rude so they directly came to her and stayed at her home so this made her to begin a CCI. It was not allowed to register under JJ Act since infrastructure was poor. Kitchen was not properly cleaned; there was no proper space for children to play. But registration was affected within a week and the children came back to the same place.

Lovers of truth Unity and Service, Alagapuram, Salem was established by Ms. Celine Augustine Mercy in the year 1996. It was closed due to delay in registering under JJ rules 2017 and reopened again. There were 20 children when it was established and during its closure there were 17 boys 38 girls. This organization was initiated to provide care and protection for needy children. Orphan, semi orphan, children rescued from child labour were also sheltered. Children are sent to nearby government school.

Parents of several children contacted to know the status of the children after CCI was closed down. Based on the list provided by the District Child Protection Unit, contacts were made to the family members and those who were willing to answer questions were interviewed. Only few parents asked the researchers to meet them in person and others provided either very limited answer or were not interested to reply to the questions posed. Based on their response the current condition of the child is described or discussed in the report.

Most of the parents due to their poor economic condition have admitted their children in CCIs. Others admitted them due to their family situation like father is ill, alcoholic or single parent. Parents shared how the CCIs were treated equally without any partiality, help received in continuing their

child's education. Some families refuse to answer any questions. Children sent from these homes are currently pursuing courses in architecture, bachelor degree, diploma and even nursing.

#### Story 1.

Native of Namakkal, the family of two girls admitted both elder and younger daughters in Indian Christian Mission Centre. Parents of these girls are coolie labourers and the school was in distant place. As it would take 2 hours for them to reach school the parents admitted them to CCI. Parents stated that the CCI took good care of the children. In fact their elder daughter stayed in this CCI and finished schooling and now she is pursuing her B.Com at Govt. Arts College, Coimbatore. The issue of sexual abuse resulted in CCI closure and all children were shifted. Due to closure they shifted their younger daughter school to another government home. At present the child is in the government home and studying 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

#### Story 2

The child, native of Mettur town lived with her grandmother 3 years back once St. Mary's Home for children closed. Her grandmother earns her livelihood from a small idli shop. The child was admitted to CCI since her mother passed away and her father became alcoholic. Her grandmother was not aware about the details of the CCI and reason for she being sent back from CCI and only she remembers was her grand daughter visits her only during vacation time. The child discontinued her education once she left CCI. Subsequently at the age of 17 she got married. Her brother is a mechanic but he doesn't support her monetarily.

#### Story 4

The boy aged 15 years, native of Attur studied up to 9<sup>th</sup> standard by staying in St. Mary's home for children. He was admitted when his father died due to HIV/ AIDS and his mother too died 2 years back. He used to come home

to visit his grand mother. The child is still studying 9<sup>th</sup> standard in St Mary's Home for children. Father of the child passed away due to HIV, mother was sick and she died 2 years back. So the child was sent to CCI. The child still studies in same CCI, he used to come home during his holidays to visit his grandmother. CCI does not collect money or kind from parents. They provide toiletries, stationaries, three times meal with evening tea and biscuit, also clothes. Two years back the child was sent home during his summer vacation because CCI had a problem in their registration renewal the problem which was resolved by converting CCI in to hostel. So the child was sent back to school even after converting it into hostel. They didn't collect any fees from him. The child is recently diagnosed with some heart disease and his grandmother was worried that she will lose her grandson too. Also she said that he has been taken to government hospital for check-up and getting medicine.

#### Story 4

Native of Namakkal, the child was admitted to CCI right when she was studying 6<sup>th</sup> standard. She completed her 10<sup>th</sup> standard and when the issue of harassment reported in the CCI. Hence all the children were transferred to other homes and some went back to their families. Parents admitted this girl to other school called Shanthi Vidyalaya at Salem for her higher secondary education. But before the 12<sup>th</sup> board exam result was released the child attempted suicide by drinking poison and she died. Her father told she was worried about her marks and she had no confidence that she will pass her 12<sup>th</sup> examination. The girl lost her self-confidence and became timid.

## Dharmapuri District

Dharmapuri Child care institutions				
Name of the Organisation	Year of closure	Reason for closure	No of children (closure)	Current status
Puvidum rural developmental trust		There was no closure		running
Life and light India children home	2018	Lack of fund	19	Closed
Kirubai illam	2018	Lack of fund	19	Closed

Life and Light India Children Home is functioning from 2015 at Oddapatti, Dharmapuri. Previously called as Banjara Home it was registered under Trust Act. Mr. Dhanapal who belongs to Banjaras community initiated this home; his motto was to equip his community with proper protection, care and education, as the community people were highly backward and marginalized. There were 24 when it was established and at the time of closure 19 children were present. It was closed due to insufficient funds. Children were sent to nearby government schools located at Oddapatti, Addiyaman and Avai Nagar.

Kirubai Illam, Eriyur, Pennagaram, Dharmapuri. Its founder Mr. Ramaya established it in the year 1989 under Indian Trust Act. They had 250 children in the year during 2003. They were instructed to reduce the children strength based on JJ Act 2015. They stated that the home is closed as the Government directed them not to function the home due to non-possession of land documents, and improper infrastructure. They could not cover the needs of the children due to insufficient funding as both founders passed away. Moreover, the home was close to granite quarry and it is quite unsafe for the children to stay in this home. It was ordered to close down. But when visited it was found that home is still functioning and children still go to school.

Puvitham village development organization: Functionaries of this home stated difficulties in running CCIs. Hence they changed CCI into hostel. Some of the difficulties they shared were as listed

1. Too many rules to follow under JJ Rules Tamil Nadu 2017
2. Too much work pressure to fulfill the requirement
3. Even though we don't get Government grant we had to follow all rules of the department.
4. We had to wait long hours before CWC to regularize and to produce a children before them since they are part-timers.

Children sent out in Dharmapuri were going to school leaving out their parents who migrated for work, stay in their relatives house, struggle to complete college degree after their schooling due to multiple socio-economic reasons. Most importantly the parents of these children struggle to meet their end needs.

## Child Profile

### Story 1

The girl currently studying 11<sup>th</sup> standard was in CCI between 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Since the Puvitham village development organization did not follow the JJ Act 2015 it was closed down. But girl like her faced immense pressure socially and financially due to multiple family situation. Her father is addicted to alcohol and her mother became sick, stay in her elder daughter's house in Bengaluru for treatment. The girl is forced to stay in her aunt house to continue her education. She felt at ease when she was placed at CCI since the home authorities met her immediate needs.

### Story 2

The girl who is intellectually disabled studying 5<sup>th</sup> standard at Timmampatti panchayat local school. Her parents were separated for the past 4 years due to family dispute. Her younger sister is doing 2<sup>nd</sup> standard. Her mother works in a garment shop for a salary of Rs. 8,000 per month. With this meagre salary her mother manages her home along with her grandmother. The mother admitted her daughter in CCI since she had difficulty in speaking. Initially they promised that there is no charges for the children to study. But demanded Rs. 12,000 as annual fee. They had to borrow money for interest and paid in 3 instalments. According to her mother the daughter stayed in CCI for 2 years between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> standard. Though her daughter did not wish to study in CCI, the mother did admit that there was an improvement in her speech. Yet, the CCI did not have warden staying with the children at night, which created lot of anxiety for the parents. Government officials visited the home and we were asked to take out our children. We were instructed to inform authorities that no fee was collected and there were no problem in the CCI. Later when we went to collect TC the functionaries in CCI asked Rs. 1,000. We could not mobilize that amount hence without Transfer certificate we admitted our child to a nearby Panchayat school.

### Story 3

Parent of 2 girls, the mother shared difficulties she had in rising up her daughters. Being a single parent she finds it extremely hard pressed to meet family needs. She admitted her daughter to Puvitham village development organization and she studied from 3<sup>rd</sup> standard up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. She had to pay Rs. 500 per month for food expenses. She had to bring her daughter home since Government closed the home. Right now the eldest daughter is studying 9<sup>th</sup> standard and her second daughter is pursuing 7<sup>th</sup> standard. She felt that there is always a pressure now since it incurs money as she is working in Tiruppur as a tailor in a garment factory.

### Story 4

The boy aged 15years hails from Tiruvannamalai. His parents are daily wage earners. Due to poor economic background he was admitted in a CCI as his parents were not able to afford his basic need and education. The child came in to this home when he was studying first standard and continued until 7<sup>th</sup> standard. The sudden information on CCI to be closed for a year left him spell bounded as he spent his entire childhood days in the institution. On hearing this children was scared to go to school. The parents were informed during their summer holidays to take back their children. Few parents took back their child and few shifted their children to some other home like Salem BC Boys home. This child is not happy staying in BC boys' home as he felt isolated due to caste discrimination. The child also stated that there is no warden in the home only cook is taking care of the children in the home and at night no warden stays with the children. Due to family circumstances the child wished to stay till 12<sup>th</sup> standard and then go back to his parents.

## **TRICHY DISTRICT**

### TRICHY DISTRICT CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

Name of the organisation	Year of closure	Reason for closure	No. of Children (closure)	Current Status
Shalom Foundation		No such organisation was present		
Rojavanam Children Home	2015	Non-Registration, Poor infrastructure	19	Closed
Anbu karunai Illam	2016	Non-Registration, Poor infrastructure, lack of fund	25	Closed
Rehoboth Rural Development Trust	2015	Non-Registration, Poor infrastructure, lack of fund	10	closed

**Rojavanam Children Home** was established in the year 2014 was functioning from Trunk Road, Trichy. It was not registered under JJ act 2015. There were 19 children at the time of closure of this home. With no proper infrastructure and necessary documents to run CCI under JJ Act the home was closed. All children were produced before CWC and sent to their respective parents and 4 children were transferred to a CCI in Dindigul district. Now the organization runs a home for Differently abled person and old aged person.

**Anbu karunai Illam, Thuraiyur, Trichy.** It was established in 2009 under Indian Trust Act. There were 25 children present at the time of closure. Ten children were handed over to their parents and 15 children were transferred to government home. Most of the children bought from this home were semi-orphans whose parents belong to nomadic community and beggars. They don't come and visit the children or they are also not interested to take the children from the home. Reason for closure is inadequate Infrastructure, non-availability of proper facilities, insufficient funds and poor maintenance of children's health.

**Rehoboth Rural Development Trust, Thuraiyur, Trichy.** It was established in 2003 and was closed by 2016. There were 10 children at the time of closure. This organization was started to enhance the life of orphan and needy children by providing shelter, food, clothing and education, due to reduced income the organization failed to provide the need to the children. Children were shifted to government run home.

### Story 1.

The child aged 13 years, native of Dindigul said that she is missing living in a family atmosphere. When she goes to school, she sees parents bringing lunch to other children and her classmate telling their family stories but she has never experienced such situations or going any occasions. The child while living in previous Child Care Institution had no restriction. She can choose to go or not to go to school. She was allowed to stay in CCI (Anbu Karunai Illam) and play games in the tablet. Girls were not taught about menstrual hygiene, how to use sanitary napkins. Girls usually don't bath daily and change clothes. Some girls were not aware about menstrual cycle at all. There was no stipulated time to study or no fixed time for extra-curricular activities. But the children were given food to eat and few balls to play and tablet to play games. After coming to government home, Trichy the girls were taught about health and hygiene, importance of using sanitary napkins and other basic discipline of living. The girl lives happily in the government home with all the facility she needs and currently staying at Government Home, Mathur, Trichy.

### Story 2.

The child currently studying 7<sup>th</sup> standard came to Anbu karunai illam at the age of three. She doesn't remember her parents but she remembers her mother came to leave her in the CCI. Later, her mother did not come to see her and even her mother doesn't know that she is now in Government Girls home, Mattur. Sometimes she feels bad because she in home but she distracts such feelings by playing with other girls. While staying previous CCI she doesn't know about personal hygiene and now she has learned after coming to Government home. The child had skin problem while coming from Anbu karunai Illam later she was taken to the doctor for the treatment and got cured. The child liked her previous CCI as they had always play and enjoy their time but in government home , they have to go

school and study after coming back her play time has been reduced. But she likes the food they provided in government run home.

### Story 3.

The child came to Anbu karunai illam when she was 3 or 4 years old. She was staying there. After government officials inspected the home they found that the maintenance of the children was very poor so they immediately produced the children in government officials. Later the children were shifted to Gandhi home in Namakal and later they shifted to Trichy government girls home. When children left from Anbu karunai Illam children cried all night and they felt really strange fearful that where are they going send them and they missed their place they eat and sleep. Also the child told that they don't know how they will be able to adopt the new place since suddenly they had to leave. They couldn't sleep that particular night, as they all were afraid. Now 10 children from the previous CCI were together. Hence, it has become normal and they got used to this routine.

## **KARUR DISTRICT**

### KARUR DISTRICT CHILD CARE INSTITUTION

Name of the organisation	Year of closure	Reason for closure	No. of Children (closure)	Current Status
Happy Home	2016	Lack of fund	15	Closed
Windy Trust	2016	Lack of infrastructure and physical abuse	7	Closed
Karuvarai kuzhandhaigal illam	2016	Reduced no of children	2	closed
Umapathi charitable trust	2016	Personal reasons	20	closed
Holy heart home	2015	Lack of fund	35	closed
Divine love home	2017	Lack of fund	3	closed

Muthan illam	2018	Lack of fund	15	Closed
Sanctuary home	2018	Lack of fund	149	Closed

### **Institutional Profile**

**Sri Ragavendra Trust, Velliyannai, Karur** was registered in Indian Trust Act. It was ordered to close since it was not registered under JJ Act 2015. He converted the home into hostel during summer holidays in the year 2016. The strength of the children at the time of closure was 40.

**Happy Home was functioning from Aravakurichi, Karur District** under Indian Trust Act. There were 15 children under their care when it was closed due to insufficient fund and as the founder Mr. Gnasekar left abroad.

Windy Trust, was operated from Kulithalai, Karur and there were 7 girl children stayed in this home. This organization was started by a Sister who passed away due health issues. The CCI was closed because there was a complaint about physical Abuse in the CCI. The children were also made to work in the CCI. So the children were rescued from the CCI and they were shifted to Anbu Karangal home, Karur district. The sister died and the children were taken for her funeral. CWC ordered that no one from Windy trust should visit the children in school or in CCI.

**Karumarai Kuzhandhaigal Illam, Vennaimalai, Karur** was closed due to insufficient children strength. At the time of closure in the year 2016 there were only 2 children.

**Umapathi Charitable Trust, Aravakurichi** could not be contacted as the founder became sick and surrendered children to the parents and relatives.

## **Virudhu Nagar District**

Functionaries- The researchers were able to meet functionaries of various closed CCI's run by host of agencies. Some refused to answer citing many reasons and other provided meagre details about the closure and yet others provided detailed description. The organizations visited were namely Bharati voluntary organization located at Tiruchuli; Muthan Illam, Sivakasi; Divine love home, Arupukottai; Scenkari illam, Alagapuri; Odam organization, Arupukottai; St. Theresa home, Sathur and Holy Heart Home, Arupukottai.

### **Muthan Illam, Alangulam**

Kamarajar district Rural Institute for Social Action and Liberation (KARISAL) was registered as a social service society in 1997 to facilitate ways and means for formal and informal education to the socially backward communities in Virudhunagar district. As one of its activities, KARISAL provided hostel facilities through Muthan Illam at KARISAL centre in Alangulam to children from Scheduled Caste community particularly belonging to Arunthathiyar school students who were studying in Government Higher Secondary schools in Alangulam and Kallamanayakkanpatti in the district. As years went on there were changes in funding such facility. Also the number of schools increased in the district, which led to the option of children going from their residence to schools nearby. The students and their parents were informed about the conditions of Muthan Illam in April 2018 and proper continuation of existing students was taken care. Functionaries of Muthan illam mentioned that they were unable to bear the escalating cost and to found it extremely difficult to

implement the stringent rules of Juvenile Justice Tamil Nadu rules 2017. Hence, the home was closed after 18 years of its operations.

Similarly, **Scenkari illam was located at Alagapuri** with 300 children was in operational from 1986 at Kovilpatti in the name of Hope Children Home and it was shifted to Sriviliputtur in the year 2015. Subsequently due to financial burden and enforcement of Tamil Nadu rules it was untenable to operate the home. The functionaries cited how sudden closer might impact the students future as many children do well in their life and have joined in government services compared to Govt. run CCIs. The very fact that close to 70 per cent of the children who studied from here have parents work in Firework industry as daily wage earners. Some children have single parent and many parent (father) addicted to alcohol. The children were cultured, taught self-respect and treated with dignity. But sudden closer shattered the future lives of many children. Reason cited at the time of closer was many children from other districts were accommodated here.

**The Organization of Development Action and Maintenance (ODAM)** is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It was established in 1995, under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975. The central location of O DAM is in Tiruchli; the organization's work is spread across 278 villages, impacting over 14, 000 men, women and Children in the Tiruchuli, Narikudi, Kaiyapatty, Aruppukottai and Watrap blocks of Virudhunagar district, and Kamuthi block in Ramnad district of Tamilnadu.

Discussion with functionaries from Oodam charitable organization depicts vivid situation on the contradictions and arbitrary actions of the then DCPO to close CCI when children were away on an annual holiday. They felt that the founder of this organization questioned the Government functionaries and policies of the Government on various occasions. According to them this created ill feeling among the D CPU and they waited for a chance to close CCI on many occasions and finally when all chief functionaries were away the CCI was sealed and closed down. Parents had a tough time to

figure out a new accommodation since there was a CCI run by Govt. and children had a tough time to continue their studies due to change of place and to get accustomed to a new environment. The CCI according to them was closed due to apathy and indifference of the authorities, as they were unable to prove charges legally.

Similar situation was echoed from **Theresa Girl home** functionary. This institution was established in the year 1939. Government supplied rice, wheat and sugar for children from the year of establishment. But from the year 2013, all supplements and financial aid was stopped. Smt. Mariya Sundhara Jothi held the management when this home was closed. With a mounting requirement from JJ Tamil Nadu rules and financial liability forced them to close the home. Government contributes Rs.36 per child every month, which is insufficient to cover even their food costs. Whereas, children staying with Government hostels are provided with Rs.500-600 per month. The various standards and requirements as per Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 was difficult to be accomplished. The home was closed on the grounds that too much restrictions and compliances were impractical to follow. Education of the children has been affected after the home was shutdown.

**Holy Heart Home** was inaugurated in 1992. Rupees 55,000 was sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu every year. In the year 2010, Director of this home Mr. Stanlee passed away due to illness. This home was closed down in March 2015 as per Juvenile Justice Act 2015, since it was not registered with government legally. All children are legally handed over to parents and children welfare committee. No evidences and documents were available when enquired about the home. Hence all information could not be gathered.

**Divine Love Home** director refused to answer. We could not meet even after fixing appointment twice. Even after requesting for reason for close down, it was not provided. Unable to meet functionaries from Bharati

voluntary organization located at Tiruchuli since they were out of station and functionaries from Divine love home, Arupukottai refused to meet when contacted.

DCPO- Unable to meet and get details from DCPO since he was on long leave.

### Meeting with parents

Unable to meet parents whose children left from Scenkari illam since the parents had gone to Kerala for work. One girl who was studying 10<sup>th</sup> standard found it difficult to continue her studies since she her residence is 40 kilometres from the school. After 2 months with lot of difficulties she had to stay in her uncle's place to continue her education.

### Reasons for closing down

1. Due to financial difficulties
2. Government officials' personal choices with no objectivity.
3. Without any legal proof the home was closed down.
4. JJ rules Tamil Nadu is not practically implementable.

## Narratives from Children

### Story-1

The girl aged 18 stayed all along in CCI until she completed her schooling, currently she is doing her first year commerce degree course. She hails from upputhur village of Sathur taluk, Virudhunagar District. Her father aged (40) is alive with mental illness. Hence her grandmother is taking care of her. Her mother passed away due to TB when she was 7 months of old. Her elder brother currently studying 2<sup>nd</sup> year Commerce in Sathur College.

Her younger brother aged 16 years could not continue his education as Children's home which he was studying in Kovilapatti was shifted to Azhagapuri. Hence, currently he is working in a super market in Chennai. Her father became mental ill after her mother's death. He has been staying indoors for past 17 years. They are scared of his behaviour and do not know his routine. He meets his grandmother once in 3 months to provide rations and talks to her only. Under these circumstances, her grandmother with the guidance of head master of Thottalampatti, enrolled them in Hope Mission Children's Home. She was 3 years old when she joined in the home, along with her brothers. She got her schooling until 9<sup>th</sup> standard. Once the home was relocated to Azhagapuri in 2015, she stayed with Sanctuary Children's home and continued further education (10<sup>th</sup> standard) in Government higher secondary school in Nathampatti and 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> standard in Government higher secondary school at Thailakulam. If Sanctuary home hadn't accepted to provide a place to them, they wouldn't have educated. They have been staying in children's home almost from their birth. Since the Government closed this home, her brother was not able to get further education and turned as a victim of child labour. They were provided with sufficient basic needs and the authorities in the home treated them equally. They did not experience any physical or mental troubles in these past 17 years. At the time of closure her grandmother gave undertaking that she would take care of her grand children since her mother passed away when she was a toddler and her father is mentally sick. She had to move out of the home since it was closed on 05-06-2018 and also because she have completed schooling and currently she is staying with her grandmother. Her current need is finance to continue their education.

## Story -2

The child aged 16 years, currently studying 11<sup>th</sup> standard only remembers that she hails from Madurai district. She does not know which place she belongs to nor who brought her to the home. She remembered a person

telling her father's name. She has been staying with Holy Heart home from the day she remembers. She studied in Aruppukottai Government higher secondary school till 7<sup>th</sup> standard until then handed over to district child welfare committee after the home was closed in 2015. She was sent to Annai Sathya Ammaiyar memorial Government Children's home on June 2015. Since then she is continuing her education in Choolakarai medu Government Higher Secondary School. All the older children have to cook the day meal at Holy Heart home together every day. They have to eat the food cooked throughout the day. They collect wooden logs on their own to cook for everyone. They rarely get good food and only get when someone sponsors. Sometimes, teachers of Aruppukottai Kammaavar Government School buy some vegetables for them. There is no cook in this home. Children cook, clean the dishes before going to school everyday. A police officer is willing to adopt her to support my studies once she finishes her schooling. She likes reading books and her future aspiration is to become a teacher.

### Story-3

This boy aged 17 years completed his schooling. He comes from Keezhakurunaikulam of Thirusuzhi union under Arupukottai Taluka of Virudhunagar District. The boy along with her sister was admitted to CCI soon after his mother demise due to snakebite when he was studying 4<sup>th</sup> standard. His sister is studying 8<sup>th</sup> standard in Annai Sathya Ammaiyar Memorial Government Children's home. Initially his maternal grandparents were taking care of them. His father took them with him and enrolled in Holy heart home and continued 5<sup>th</sup> standard schooling in Puliampatti Devangar middle school. His father gradually became addicted to alcohol. His father also passed away once I he finished 5<sup>th</sup> standard. After that my uncle who resides in Paalayampatti of Aruppukottai became our guardian. This home was closed when he was studying 8<sup>th</sup> standard in Ameen higher secondary school. Thereafter he joined state children's home in Sokkalamatti of Srivilliputhur Taluk for continuing 9<sup>th</sup> standard schooling.

Few relatives of my father would come to visit when they were with Holy heart home, although none of mother's relatives came by. But, once we were shifted to Srivilliputhur, none of them came by to visit him or his sister. Currently, he has completed 12<sup>th</sup> standard in CMS higher secondary school. He aspires to further study polytechnic and plan to discuss this with Child welfare officer. He was told that he will be helped get educated until he attains 18 years. At present he doesn't have anyone to support his education. They have not visited their native village or relatives house until now today for a vacation or holiday. The challenges faced in this home would be to collect logs own and cook. Since they do not have anyone to share their issues, they have to fume it within themselves and fulfill their needs without anyone's help. We would not have survived if we do not have Government children's home. We are mentally depressed since we do not have any relatives visiting us.

#### Story-4

The girl aged 14 currently stays at Kandiyapuram refugee camp in kandiyapuram of Vempakottai taluka. Her father's worked as a mason and her mother in Firework Company as a daily wage earner. She has two elder brothers who go for painting work. Her father committed suicide by setting himself on fire after a fight with my mother. They could not run our family after her father's death as a result she couldn't continue schooling for a year. She joined Sanctuary children's home on 12-06-2017 through her neighbor whose children are also staying with her. She was there only for a year as the home was closed on 05-06-2018 since then she has been studying from her home for the past year. She felt that all the children were pressured to study a lot when she was in CCI. There were many restrictions like not to go anywhere nor to talk to anyone nor to play with anyone. They were not able to feel at home. Apart from that, they were adequately provided with food, place to stay, play area and other basic needs. The teachers and staffs of the CCI took care of them with interest and energy. Their guidance has helped them a lot. It saddens that the CCI has been

closed. Now she missed that good environment, food and clothes. She felt that her economic situation in her home is difficult to experience the same facilities offered at CCI. She expects the home to be opened soon to help continue our education. Once the CCI was closed her mother was explained by CWC and she took her back home.

#### Story 4

The boy aged 12 years currently stays at Kandiyapuram refugee camp in kandiyapuram of Vempakottai taluk, Virudhu Nagar district. His father worked in Firework Company for daily wages and met with a road accident and broke his leg while returning home a couple of years back. He has not been able to work since then. His mother works in Gowtham cracker's factory in Thulukankurichi village and earns Rs. 250 per day. He has younger brother who is 7 years of age. He joined Sanctuary Children's home through his neighbour on 12-06-2017. He stayed there for 2 years and completed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> standard until the home was closed on 05-06-2018. He has been studying from his house after that. His father has been addicted to alcohol since he is unemployed which resulted in a lot of fight at home. His father has not been living with them for the past one year. The whole family now depends on his mother's salary, which is insufficient to even provide for food. Their first need right now is food. Most of the times, my mother takes food from neighbour to provide dinner for his sons. They were provided with basic needs in the children's home (CCI) like food, play time and sanitation materials. But it is not so at their house. The teachers and staffs of the CCI took care of us with interest and energy. Their guidance has helped them a lot. It saddens that the CCI has been closed since then he did not get good environment, food and clothes at his residence. He expects the home to be opened soon again to help him continue his education. His basic need for now is food and a good environment to continue his education.

## **Summary of the Findings.**

### Trichy

- ✓ CCIs contact number was given as child's contact. Hence, barring few other children could not be contacted.
- ✓ The Institutional Care PO was relieved from the job. Hence factual information from DCPU could not be obtained.
- ✓ Most of the CCIs refused to meet and even to answer over phone

### CHILDREN

- The list of closed home did not match with the list of children sent out from the CCIs
- At present after reintegration ,Girl Children living government home answered and cooperated well they also said they are happy as they get education and all other basic needs
- Children living in government homes were taken care by providing proper meal, education, shelter and their basic needs.
- Children faced lot of stress during reintegration process.
- Child living in government home feels being with family is more safe and secure than CCIs

## Karur

### CHILD CARE INSTITUTION

- List of children were provided with CCI's contact number
- Out of 5 closed CCIs four (4) CCIs directors could not be contacted and they were not in the given address.

### CHILDREN

Majority of the children untraceable as there was no contact details

## Salem

- Most of the CCIs were closed in the month of May for registration renewal. Reopened in the month of June
- Children sent back to their houses & re-joined again.
- The CCIs hesitated to meet or answer over telephonic Interview
- CCIs lack knowledge about JJ act and its regulation(children's safety)

### CHILDREN

- Majority of the children were not reintegrated with families.
- They went for holidays and brought back when the school reopens.
- After CCI's registration was renewed children joined again
- Long distance to school from residence was one of the reasons where child stay in CCI.
- Parents who were working in other states out of poverty apart from being separated.

### Dharmapuri

- The list of children sent out from CCIs were mostly children restored to parents during renewal of the organisation.
- CCI was functioning in other name and location even after DCPO's closure order.
- The CCIs were unaware of their roles and responsibilities.

### Children

- Children sent out from the CCI in this district are staying in the government home.
- Mostly orphans, semi orphan, and migrant worker's children are sent to CCIs.
- The children in the government home face physical abuse by the cook.
- No warden until now. The cook locks the children inside the home and nobody takes care of the children during night time.
- The children face caste base discrimination (Children transferred from Bangaras community face discrimination).

## Virudhunagar

Unable to collect the necessary details and questions related to closed down CCI's and children remain unanswered.

### CCI

Few CCIs were well maintained by providing proper needs to the children.

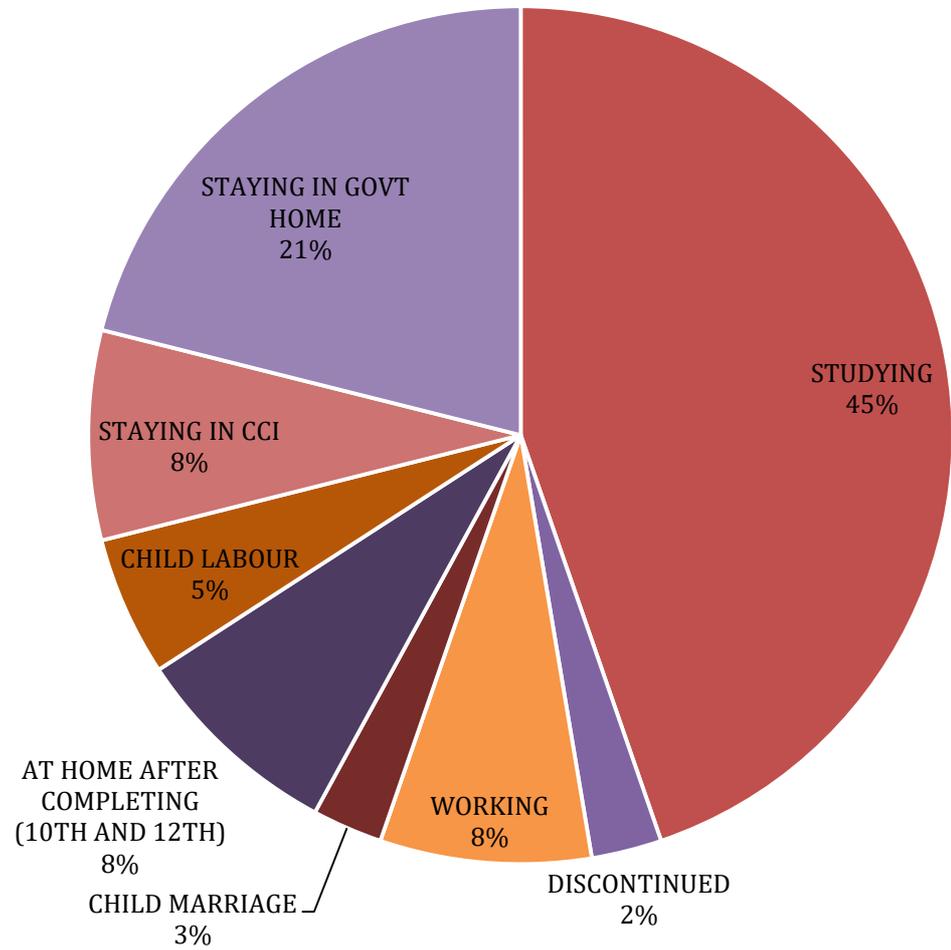
DCPO forced few CCIs to close citing reason that children from various districts should not stay as per JJ Act.

Pressures from such authorities made the CCI's to close.

### CHILDREN

- Majority of the children seek CCI's help are semi-orphans and are living under poverty.
- Parents opined that closing CCI created a question mark for the child to have good food.
- Govt. must facilitate child's future by allowing homes to function and not making the homes to close down (parents).

## CURRENT STATUS OF CHILDREN IN 5 DISTRICTS



## Suggestions

1. Continuous maintains of record of the children by CCIs and government can help in tracking the children details also to plan their future.
2. Developing individual care plan can help the children for prosperous future.
3. Government should decide registering and closing CCI depending on the need of the districts.
4. After care plan must be practised by the CCI
5. There must be a Child friendly integration process.
6. The children have to be informed earlier before they are reintegrated.
7. The children should be given counselling before starting their reintegration process.
8. Periodical follow up must be conducted when the children are reintegrated to CCI, home or hostel.
9. Encouraging Children who has family or an extended family to reintegrate with can be best option
10. Government home or hostel can be established in the required districts