



Natural Beauty of Sangarathai-Thunaivi in Northern Sri Lanka

Capturing the beauty of nature is not easy. The glowing sky, banyan tree, cool breeze from the trees and right in the middle of it all is Shiva-Shakthi in the form of Vairavar-Kali in the twin village of Sangarathai-Thunaivi.

In 2005, it was almost barren land except for the small temple and a well from which many folks around the temple drew water for their daily use.



The temple was rejuvenated with the full participation of local folks, especially those who have invested in the School of Human Values. Australian architect Pradeepkumar Paramasivam designed the changes and the additional wings of the new temple and has earned much appreciation and praise from local folks who now come often to enjoy the cool breeze in the serenity of the temple environment.



School of Human Values

Hundred and Four children have registered with the school and they are tutored by youth from the local area. The school is resourced by Australians as well as Sri Lankan Government (Ministry for Hindu Culture). Almost all teachers were provided with basic Management training through *Australian Tamil Management Service*.

As a result, the following Constitution was drawn up towards self-governance:

CONSTITUTION

THUNAIVI-SANGARATHAI SCHOOL OF HUMAN VALUES

1. *The Thunaivi-Sangarathai School of Human Values is formed by the following members:*
 - (i) *All citizens of Thunaivi & Sangarathai*
 - (ii) *All members (by birth and/or by marriage) of Manickaachi (Manickam Visvalingam - Founder of Sangarathai-Thunaivi, Vairavar-Kali Temple) Family*
2. *The Official address of the School is -
Thunaivi-Sangarathai Vairavar-Kali Temple, Naval Road, Thunaivi-Sangarathai*
3. *Governance of the School is conducted through a Governing Council made up of:*
 - (i) *Governor – as determined by the legal owners of Sangarathai-Thunaivi, Vairavar-Kali Temple – the Founding Governor being Mrs. Gaja Lakshmi Paramasivam of Australia*
 - (ii) *Chief Executive Officer – the head teacher of the School is also the CEO of the School*
 - (iii) *Elected Representative of the Employees of the School*
 - (iv) *Elected Representative of the Parents of the students of the School*
 - (v) *Elected Representative of the Students of the School*
 - (vi) *Appointee of the Government (Ministry for Hindu Culture), representing the General Public of Sri Lanka*
4. *All appointments to the Council are for a period two years after which the appointments are to be renewed or new appointees elected through majority vote of the respective group represented by each member*
5. *The Core Purpose of the School is Social Cohesion through Education*
6. *The Governing Council has the power to delegate its powers, except this power to delegate, through majority vote; the Governor having the power to exercise casting vote when a simple majority is not achieved.*
7. *The quorum for the Council meeting is three. The quorum for the meetings through which representatives are elected is 20 percent of the registered members.*
8. *The Governing Council is required to meet at least once every 3 calendar months. The minutes of the meeting are to be distributed to all members of the Council.*
9. *The School is to be resourced by voluntary contributions from anyone and through its own generation of resources on the basis of educational activities.*
10. *All decisions of the Governing Council through majority vote are binding on all members, so long as they are within the boundaries of this constitution and are not in breach of the laws of Sri Lanka.*

The main aim of the Constitution's simplicity and brevity is practicality. During Management Training, emphasis was made on the importance of actually *practicing* policies through which governance was claimed to be conducted. Emphasis was also made on the path to Commonness through Equality:

It was appreciated that Commonness, Equal Opportunity and Equality were like the Soul, Mind and Body. Hence once diversity is expressed at the physical level, it is important to demonstrate equality.



Breakfast is provided on School days due to the efforts of the team led by Sai devotee Mrs. Dushy Pitchumani, from Australia. Birthdays of donors and their families are also now being celebrated with special feast (Cost of about \$100) and it is believed that when these children and their parents feel appreciation, blessings from Above are rich and deep. The first of such common celebrations was on 19 September 2008, to celebrate the birthday of young Australian - Narayani.



On Thursday, 11 September 2008, students with highest level of attendance were awarded prizes during celebrations of the Community's work and achievements over the past few years, sponsored by NECORD and Asian Development Bank and actively supervised by Government authorities and the activity teams led by Institute of Nursery Studies.

