
CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BLOCK, MORNING STAR SCHOOL

Prepared For



Karur Vysya Bank

Prepared By



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Karur Vysya Bank donated a total sum of Rs. 2.12 crores to the Lions Club of Karur Host Charitable Trust. The donation was made to build school buildings for the Morning Star Matriculation High School on the land owned by the Lions Club in Palamapuram, Karur. This project was partnered with the Lions Club and a ground floor, first floor, and classroom blocks were built. They also donated desktop computers with UPS and one printer, equipment for digital classrooms, office room furniture, steel benches, ceramic classroom boards, and equipment for labs. The school is ready to function from the next academic year and admission will start in May 2023.

The data collected for the qualitative study was through interactions with the stakeholders (Lions Club members and parents), who were met individually, and in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted to know the impact of this project in their schools and their satisfaction from this project.

Some of the key findings are:

- The nearby village is Valammapuram in Punnam Panchayat.
- The nearby school name is Venus Global Private School which is 3 kilometers from the Morning Star School.
- The mode of transport to reach this school is by bus.
- Nearby villagers are attracted to this school because of the good infrastructure, low fees compared to private schools, and the scope for more sports activities.

The school building construction has been done efficiently and the school management is engaged in the last set of preparations for the admissions of the next academic year by May. The passer-by people started to recognize this school and voluntarily came to the school for inquiries. So far, the school had about 220+ inquiries plus daily 30 to 40 walk-in inquiries for admission. Employment opportunities in the nearby villages boomed due to this school. Recruitment of teachers and staff from the nearby villages was done through government-approved examinations. Once the school starts to function properly, it plans to increase the manpower even further. All the furniture and the equipment are of very high quality and could withstand for many years. The Lions Club members requested Karur Vysya Bank to extend their financial support for the development of playgrounds and for the purchase of school buses to access remote villages.



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Karur Vysya Bank donated a total sum of Rs. 2.12 crores to the Lions Club of Karur Host Charitable Trust. The donation was made to build school buildings for the Morning Star Matriculation High School on the land owned by the Lions Club in Palamapuram, Karur. This project was partnered with the Lions Club and a ground floor, first floor, and classroom blocks were built. They also donated desktop computers with UPS and one printer, equipment for digital classrooms, office room furniture, steel benches, ceramic classroom boards, and equipment for labs. The school is ready to function from the next academic year and admission will start in May 2023.

Components of the Project

A school building was built for the Morning Star School with Lions Club as their partner, for their CSR initiative.

Demographic Details

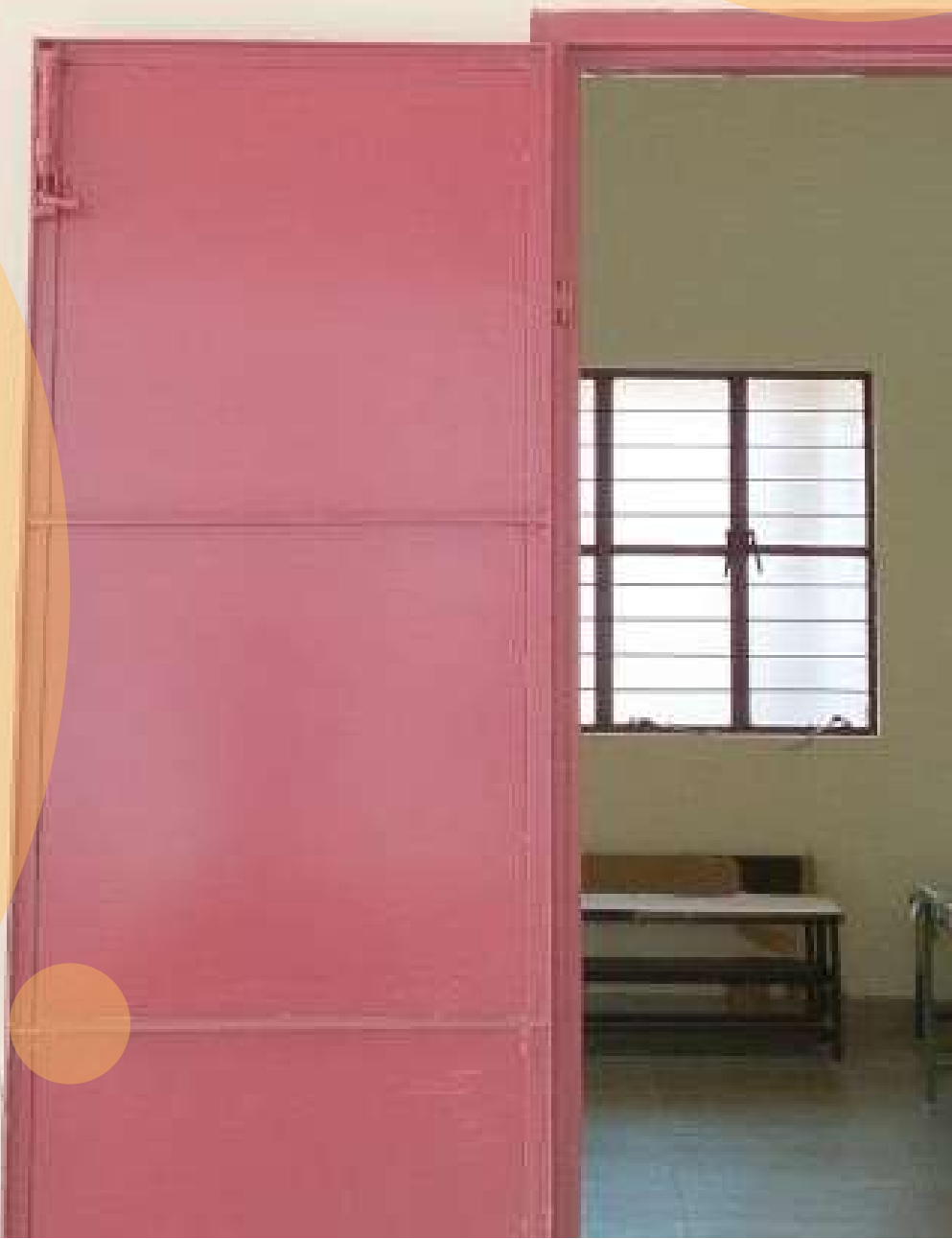
Once the school starts to run from the next academic year, the students studying and the staff working in the school would get the benefits.





KVB

BLOCK



CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research can be stated as a logical and systematic search for new and useful information on a particular subject matter. Social Science Research refers to the systematic activity of gaining new understanding by following scientific principles and methods to minimize bias and subjectivity. It is opposed to writing something based on assumptions or speculations. Though insight into certain facts can also be gained through common sense and based on general observation and hearsay, those facts will not be considered valid until they have been obtained in a methodical manner, which can stand the test of time. The defining characteristics of scientific research are objectivity, ethical neutrality, reliability, testability, and transparency. Identification of the research problem provides the starting point of research, which is then defined and redefined through a proper review of the literature on the problem or deliberations with research experts and knowledgeable others in the subject matter of interest. Each research problem has a multitude of perspectives and dimensions that research cannot cover in a single study. Thus, we need to delimit the research problem into a 'measurable problem and formulate objectives, make decisions on the research design, sample design, and type of research instruments for collecting the data, and how these data can be edited, coded, classified, tabulated, and interpreted so that findings and conclusions can be reached.' Every research needs to have a proper methodology to foresee the problems that could arise during research and steer through the research process in a proper direction without losing focus.



Use of Mixed Methodology for Maximum Insights

The research problem consisted of understanding the extent of impact created by Karur Vysya Bank-supported initiatives to increase awareness and sensitivity amongst the local communities to improve their quality of life by constructing a school building for the Morning Star School in Karur. To gain maximal insight, both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used.

Application of Qualitative Techniques

Qualitative research can only unravel enriched and hidden information that may not be evident on the face of it. The qualitative approach is distinguished by deeper probing and flexibility, and it can yield massive amounts of data that were not anticipated when the research was initiated. For better accuracy, to ensure anonymity and at the same time, to cover a larger sample population, quantitative techniques were used. Qualitative techniques of interviews with key stakeholders and interviews with community people were adopted for a better understanding of the problem alongside quantitative research.

Ensuring Triangulation

Triangulation is needed to increase the credibility and validity of the research findings. It is also a measure taken to ensure the trustworthiness of the research process. The findings of the quantitative research were verified with the insights from qualitative research and the report is structured to reflect this point.

Research Design

- **Name of the project** : Construction of School Block, Morning Star School
- **Project partner** : Karur Vysya Bank and Lions Club
- **Research Design used** : Descriptive Research Design
- **Sampling Technique** : Random Sampling
- **Sample size** : 15 Lions Club Members + 10 Parents
- **Qualitative methods used** : In-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions with Lions Club members and parents.

Key Stakeholders



- Lions Club Secretary
- Lions Club Members
- Parents

Study Tools

Tools used during the study

SoulAce has developed a mobile application platform for data collection that the field team used to undertake the study. This application has real-time data entry and data upload with GPS location details along with a questionnaire, for interaction with the project beneficiaries. The application also has a provision to take pictures of each respondent.



Primary data was collected using two types of questionnaires.

Questionnaire for Primary Beneficiaries:

Structured questionnaires were developed reviewing the project details for each of the focus areas and indicators were pre-defined before conducting the surveys.

Questionnaire for Secondary Beneficiaries & Stakeholders:

Semi-structured questionnaires were developed for each type of sample of this group. Stakeholders were identified across the focus areas.

The one-on-one discussion was done with the beneficiaries to prepare the case studies.

Ensuring Commitment to Research Ethics

Anonymity

Anonymity refers to not revealing the identity of the respondents. This research study strictly sticks to not revealing the identity of the respondents unless the same is warranted for the illustration of success stories or case studies. After the research was completed, the study did not reveal which individual respondent answered which question in what manner. The results were revealed only as an aggregate, so no one would be able to single out the identity of a particular respondent. This was required to not break the trust of the respondent by not revealing the individual identity.

Confidentiality

Research subjects participate in the process only based on the trust that confidentiality has been maintained. Hence, the research would not reveal any data regarding the respondents for purposes other than the research study.

Non-Maleficence

Research would not lead to any harm to the research subjects. This study ensured that the respondents were not harmed in any way.

Beneficence

Any research study should lead to some benefits for the respondent. This research study also ensured that individuals, groups, and communities benefit and their well-being is enhanced.

Justice

Justice refers to being fair to all. This research study ensured equal treatment of all its research subjects and no biases or prejudices towards any group based on social stereotypes or stigma associated with being a member of a certain group or class.



CHAPTER 3: MAJOR FINDINGS



Major Stakeholders (Lions Club Members)



N.Karupusamy, Secretary-Lions Club (Testimonials from Stakeholders)

“I am the Principal/Head Master for the Morning Star School, and I am incredibly grateful for the assistance provided by the Karur Vysya Bank in the form of a sizable donation towards the construction of the school. Beginning in September 2019 and ending in May 2021, the construction was completed. We want to assist the needy and poor youngsters living in the adjacent communities. The quality of the building materials we used was uncompromised. For the stairs, cooling tiles on the roof, ceramic tiles for the bathroom walls, etc., we chose granite stones. Our school is becoming recognized by the local villagers, and the inquiry process has already started. As soon as the full construction process is complete, we will begin the admissions process by May 2023.”



Sophisticated toilets for boys and girls



“I live in Karur's Bharathi Nagar. I work as a Coolie. The monthly income for our household is Rs. 11,000. Due to familial obligations, I completed my schooling up until the 12th grade. My son attends a government higher secondary school, and I would like to enroll with him there because I believe that by utilizing these cutting-edge labs and digital classrooms, he would gain more practical experience. I have faith that my son will one day change the course of our family's circumstances if he studies and does well on his final exam.”

-V.Govindaraju, Parent





Good quality benches



"I am from Thuavarapalayam, in the city of Karur, and I work at a textile factory. Our monthly family income is Rs. 6000. I finished up to the 12th grade before stopping my studies owing to financial difficulties. My child previously attended a government school, but we weren't satisfied with the level of instruction he received there. I am confident that my child will receive the greatest education available in the Karur district after witnessing the infrastructure."

-S.Kugumaselvi, Parent





Overhead tank with cooling tiles on the rooftop to prevent heat from entering the building



Western-type toilets for staff and differently-abled people and students



Toilets with good ventilation



"I'm from Senguthapuram, Karur, native. I work in the textile factory's quality control division. I make 7000 rupees a month. I only completed the eighth grade before leaving school to help support my family. I would like to enroll my daughter in the government school she attends in the hopes that she would go on to achieve bigger things in the future. I firmly feel that if she completed her remaining coursework at Morning Star School, her inner potential would be revealed.

-A.Angayee, Parent





Meeting hall for staffs



R.Sivashankar, Joint Secretary-Lions Club (Testimonials from Stakeholders)

“I participated actively in the construction of the school. Karur Vysya Bank donated an amount for constructing the ground floor and ground levels of the building. There are 17 classrooms, each of which has all the amenities needed for a smart classroom. Apart from that, separate restrooms for boys and girls had also been constructed. There is a total of 4 staff rooms with 2 staff rooms on each floor on either side of the floor. There are also other amenities such as a library, computer room, more lab supplies, and high-quality furnishings. We are going to run this school as a state board. The school can accommodate 800 pupils in total, and 20 teachers have been hired so far. Upon visiting the school, over 220 inquiries were made. We are getting ready for admissions starting in May, and we are confident that the poor and disadvantaged students would benefit greatly from this new school.”



Granite stone staircase



Proper floor tiles for toilets



**PMJF. Lion ,Er.N.Ramanathan, Past President-Lions club
(Testimonials from Stakeholders)**

“I am relieved to see that the construction of this new school building is complete. I sincerely appreciate Karur Vysya Bank's financial assistance in making this building effective. By May of this year, we want to begin accepting students for the upcoming academic year. This school was specifically constructed to assist underprivileged and poor children. We provide top-notch amenities like digital classrooms, state-of-the-art labs, a library, the newest models of computers and CPUs, and more. For them, we would charge a very small cost. Our main objective is to raise literacy levels in the villages near the school. We have already hired 20 teachers, and all the classrooms, labs, and other buildings are ready to be used. We constructed four toilets in total, two on the ground floor, one on each end of the floor for boys and one for girls, and one on the first floor as well. The lavatory is roomy, well-ventilated, and can keep a student busy during the break. The government-approved correct interview process was the only method used to appoint the 20 teachers. We are pleased to see that at least 20 to 30 people inquire about our school each day.”



Almirah



“ I work in the textile factory's packing department. I'm from the city of Karur. I make 8000 rupees a month. I only completed the eighth grade before quitting school since my parents could not afford to pay for my education. My son attends a government school, and by enrolling him there, I hope to improve his education. The school is housed in a large, expansive facility with digital classrooms and a sizable play area. I think he should enroll me in this school for the benefit of his future.

-S.Gopalakrishnan, Parent





Desks



“ I am from Sengunthapuram village, Karur. As a tailor, I make 6000 rupees a month. My highest level of education is the eighth standard. I had left school to help my siblings, so I didn't finish. My daughter currently attends a government school, but I want to transfer her to this one because it offers English as a language of instruction and has many excellent features including an auditorium, a library, digital classrooms, cutting-edge labs, and more. I can't wait to enroll my child in this school for the upcoming school year.

-M.Sundari, Parent



Focus Group Discussions of the Stakeholders (Lions Club Members)



This Focus Group Discussion (FGD) mainly talked about the journey of the construction of the school, the amenities available, tentative dates for admission, and their plan. Mr. Lion S. Shankar, the past Direct Cabinet Treasurer of the Lions Club, gave us a brief timeline of the school construction phase, and the involvement of the Lions Club in that phase. Next, Mr. J. Williams, the past President, joined the cabinet of the Lions Club and gave us a gist of the amenities available in the new school. All the Lions Club members were actively involved while talking about the future plans and expansion of the Morning Star School. Their plans included recruiting more teachers and support staff, proposing plans for financial assistance for building a playground and requesting financial support for procuring a school bus for the new school. They were also planning to advertise this school on local TV channels to reach popularity.

Parents



This Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the parents covered the reasons behind putting their children in Morning Star School. The reasons mentioned by the parents were, firstly, the infrastructure. They had seen the inside of the building before they planned of enrolling their children, and were fascinated by the digital classrooms. They said that they had never seen any classroom like this before. Next, they saw the labs, which all of them liked very much. They also said that the auditoriums, library, and toilets were spacious and could accommodate many students at once. The parents requested the school to provide school buses for transportation, since, this school is situated on the state highways and the government buses do not go on that route frequently.

Major Findings:

- The nearby village is Valammapuram in Punnam Panchayat.
- The nearby school name is Venus Global Private School which is 3 kilometers from the Morning Star School.
- The mode of transport to reach this school is by bus.
- Nearby villagers are attracted to this school because of the good infrastructure, low fees compared to private schools, and the scope for more sports activities.





RELEVANCE

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

The school building construction project in the Morning Star School, by Karur Vysya Bank partnering with Lions Club, had addressed the real and felt needs of this school. They provided state-of-the-art infrastructure and amenities that lived up to the rival private school standards.

COHERENCE

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

The school building construction project of Karur Vysya Bank partnering with Lions Club greatly aided in the realization of SDGs.
Goal No 4: Quality Education



EFFECTIVENESS

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

The school building project by Karur Vysya Bank partnering with Lions Club had met its objectives by providing school blocks, classrooms, toilets, a library, an auditorium, and labs. The main objective of this project was to provide quality education to poor and needy students.

EFFICIENCY

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

The resources allocated by Karur Vysya Bank were well utilized by Lions Club to build this Morning Star School. Hence, the project can be stated as efficient.

IMPACT

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

Since the school has not started yet, it is impossible to find out the impact that the school had created on the community people.

SUSTAINABILITY

RATING ● ● ● ● ●

The school had received 220 + inquiries so far and still receiving 20-30 inquiries per day before the admissions start. Hence, this project can be stated to be highly sustainable in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Lions Club members requested Karur Vysya Bank to donate an additional 1.2 crores for playground developments.
- The club members also requested Karur Vysya Bank to financially support them to purchase school buses.
- Parents requested the school management to teach foreign languages to the students.

CONCLUSION

The school building construction has been done efficiently and the school management is engaged in the last set of preparations for the admissions of the next academic year by May. The passer-by people started to recognize this school and voluntarily came to the school for inquiries. So far, the school had about 220+ inquiries plus daily 30 to 40 walk-in inquiries for admission. Employment opportunities in the nearby villages boomed due to this school. Recruitment of teachers and staff from the nearby villages was done through government-approved examinations. Once the school starts to function properly, it plans to increase the manpower even further. All the furniture and the equipment are of very high quality and could withstand for many years. The Lions Club members requested Karur Vysya Bank to extend their financial support for the development of playgrounds and for the purchase of school buses to access remote villages.