



# Open Space Foundation **Annual Report 2018-19**

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Improve to touch the Sky!

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**Access to quality science education is not a privilege, it is a fundamental right. Every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves the opportunity to explore the wonders of science and to be inspired by its possibilities.**



# Foreword



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**Science education is the key to unlocking the potential of our future generations.**

**Surender Ponnalagar**  
CEO, Open Space Foundation

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am pleased to introduce the annual report of the Open Space Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing quality science and technology education to underserved children in Tamilnadu. Started by a group of passionate young people, the foundation has been making a significant impact on the lives of children in and around Tamilnadu.

At Open Space Foundation, we believe that every child deserves access to quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. We understand that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating a brighter future for all. That's why we have been working tirelessly to provide science and technology education to underserved children in Tamilnadu.

Our programs are designed to inspire children and ignite their curiosity about science and technology. We provide hands-on learning experiences, innovative teaching methodologies, and access to learn cutting-edge technologies.

We believe that by making science education fun and engaging, we can help children to develop a lifelong love of learning and to pursue careers in science and technology.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress in achieving our mission. We have expanded our reach, serving more children in more communities than ever before. We have also launched new initiatives, including Democrazily Science, STEAM Teachers' Network, and OSF-VISTA. Our impact has been felt across Tamilnadu, as we have helped to improve educational outcomes and to create a brighter future for the children we serve.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and partners. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and commitment to our cause. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of underserved children and helping to create a more equitable and sustainable world.

As you read this report, we hope that our work will inspire you and that you will join us in our mission to provide quality science and technology education to the children in Tamilnadu.

Sincerely,

# | Vision & Mission

## Vision

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**To inculcate scientific temper among people as a way of life**

## Mission

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**We strive to build and connect alternative education models through decentralised platforms**



# About Us



**2014**

## **Ideation**

Born out of the passion and vision of young first-generation graduates, the Open Space Foundation was ideated in 2014 with the goal of providing quality science and technology education to the children in Tamilnadu

**2018**

## **Founded & Registered**

"After years of grassroots work and pre-registered activities, the Open Space Foundation was officially established in 2018 with its headquarters located in Lower Camp, Theni, Tamilnadu."

**2019**

## **Changelooms Fellowship**

Within a year of its establishment, the Open Space Foundation received the prestigious Changelooms fellowship from Pravah, a New Delhi-based youth organization, recognizing its status as a dynamic and youth-led organization.

**PRESENT**

## **Open Science Center**

In the upcoming academic year of 2019-20, the Open Space Foundation is determined to expand its impact by launching its year-long science education program, the Open Science Center, which will bring quality science education to school students.



# Activities overview



The Open Space Foundation has been working tirelessly to provide quality science and technology education to the children in Tamilnadu through a range of innovative programs and initiatives. Our main activities are,

- **Democrazily Science:**

Our flagship program aims to make science education fun and accessible for children from all backgrounds. Through hands-on learning experiences and innovative teaching methodologies, we inspire children to explore the wonders of science and technology.

- **STEAM Teachers' Network:**

We believe that teachers are the key to unlocking the potential of children. That's why we have created a network of passionate and committed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) teachers who share our vision for quality education.

- **OSF-VISTA:**

The OSF-VISTA program offers a unique experiential learning journey for remote rural school students. In one such instance, students were provided the opportunity to witness a rocket launch at the Indian Space Research Organization and interact with space scientists and engineers.

Through this program, we aim to inspire the next generation of scientists and technologists and broaden their horizons.

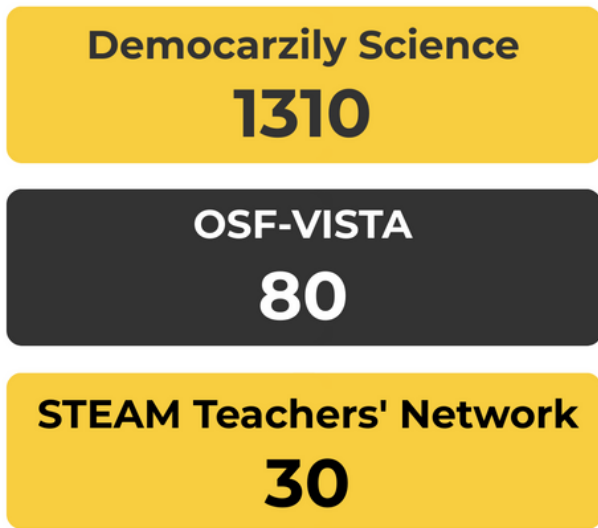
These programs and initiatives have been instrumental in helping us to achieve our mission of providing quality science and technology education to children in Tamilnadu. We remain committed to our cause and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.



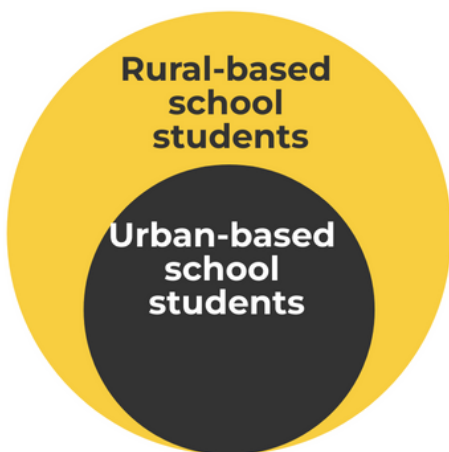
# Activities Data Insights

## Total students benefitted

In the academic year of 2018-19, the Open Space Foundation positively impacted the lives of 1390 students through its various activities and programs, creating opportunities for quality science education and fostering a love for learning.



## Geography of audience

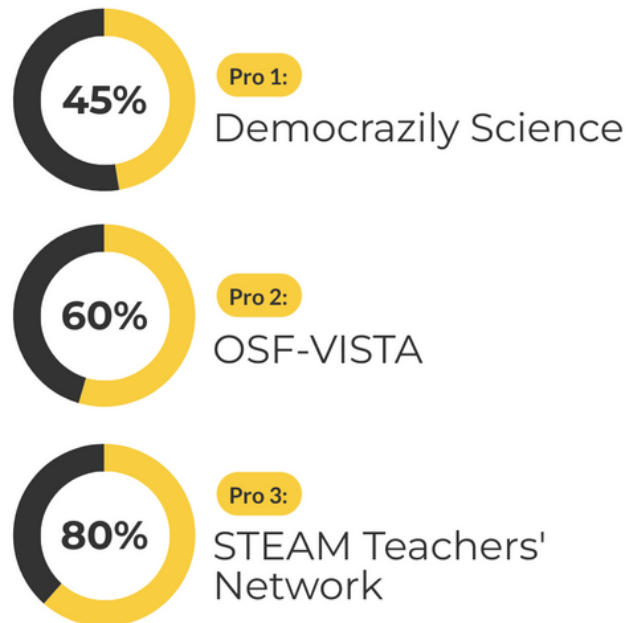


**70%** | The students beneficiaries are from the remote rural villages

**30%** | Socially excluded urban slum kids were engaged

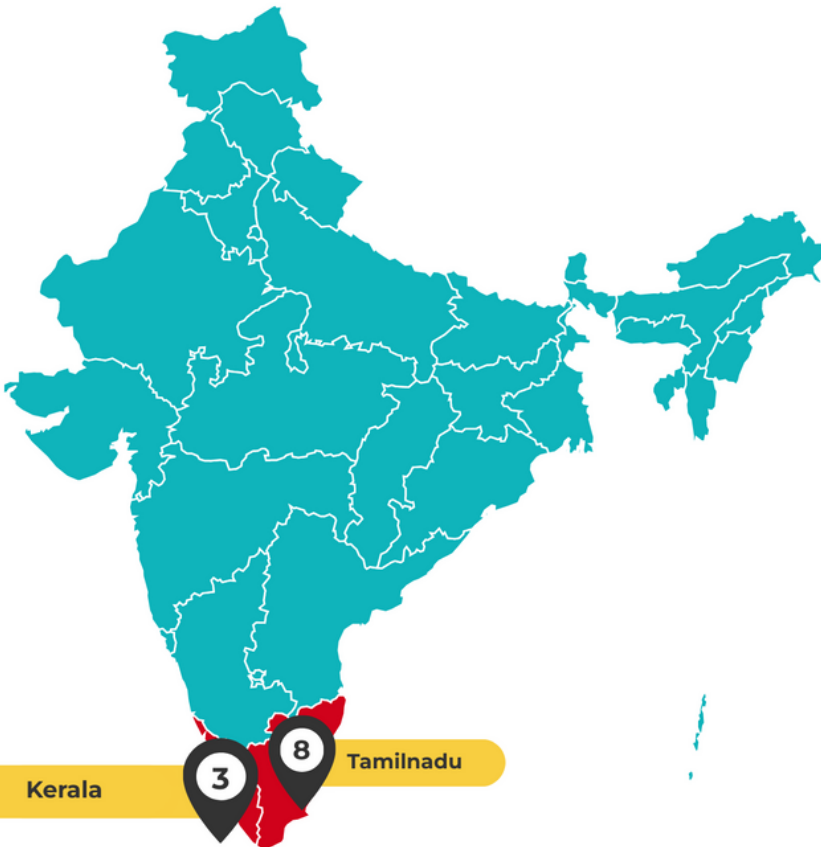
## Girl students / Women participation in OSF activities

The Open Space Foundation is committed to promoting gender equity in education, with a particular focus on increasing the participation of girls in its science and technology programs. Through this approach, OSF is helping to break down barriers and create opportunities for young girls to pursue their dreams.





## Impacts & Case studies



The Open Space Foundation has made significant progress in expanding its reach and impact, working in two different states in India - Tamilnadu and Kerala. Through its flagship initiatives, including Democrazily Science, OSF-VISTA, and STEAM Teacher's network, the foundation has reached 1390 students directly with its innovative and engaging programs. With a focus on astronomy and night sky observation activities, OSF has successfully created opportunities for young learners to explore the wonders of science. Looking forward, the foundation plans to expand its activities to other states in the coming years, further increasing its reach and impact.



# Impacts & Case studies

Our work at Open Space Foundation is driven by our commitment to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG5 (Gender Equality)**, and **SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities)**. In this section, we highlight the impact of our programs through case studies that showcase our work with schools and communities in Tamilnadu and Kerala. These case studies demonstrate how our initiatives are making a difference in achieving these vital SDGs.

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



## Democrazily Science

OSF's STEAM teacher *Falicia Janet*, from *Panchyat Union Middle School, Malumichampatti, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu*, has been awarded the best teacher award by "Space Awareness," a Leiden University-based Space Science Education organization. She was selected from a pool of 30 contestants worldwide for her exceptional demonstration of space awareness resources. OSF served as the National Contest Organizer for the competition in India.

**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



## STEAM Teachers' Network

OSF's STEAM teacher training program has had a significant impact on the teaching methods of Tamilnadu's educators. Out of the 30 teachers who received training, 60% have incorporated hands-on activities from OSF into their Science and Mathematics classrooms.

**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



## OSF VISTA

Panchayat Union Middle School in Malumichampatti, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu, received a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from a local company for renovating their school building. The donation came after a news clip was published in a Tamil daily newspaper about the school's participation in OSF-VISTA, where they witnessed a rocket launch at the Indian Space Research Organization.





## List of Activities in 2018-19

S. No	Date of the Event	Name of the Programme	Venue	Audiences	No. of Participants
1	19.09.2018	Open Space VISTA - ISRO Visit	Vikram Sarabhai Space Center	College Students (SN College, Kannur)	45
2	04.10.2018	Model Rocket Making interaction I	Govt. Primary School, Mugapair, Chennai	School Students	10
3	08.10.2018	OSF VISTA - VSSC visit	VSSC Trivandram	College Students & General Public	20
4	08.10.2018	Day Sky observation & Telescope demo Programme	Sri Akilandeswari College for Women, Vanthavasi	College Students & School children	200
5	13.10.2018	Science Fest at Tribal Village	Kongada Tribe Village Bargoor Hills Erode Tamilnadu India	Children	120
6	20.10.2018	Night Sky Observation	St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Trichy	School Students	300
7	22.11.2018	Vickram Sarabhai Space Centre visit	VSSC Trivandram	College Students & General Public	15
8	30.11.2018	Night Sky Observation	SVV Higher Secondary School, Trichy	School Students	150
9	05.01.2019	Astronomy Seminar & Workshop	National College Trichy	School & College Students	80
10	10.01.2019	IAU 100 Hours Astronomy - Sky observation Programme, Trichy	Beemanagar, Trichy	General Public	250
11	11.01.2019	IAU 100 Hours Astronomy - Sky observation Programme, Tirupur	Corporation Middle School, Tirupur	School Students	200







# Team behind Journey

At Open Space Foundation, our team is our greatest asset. Our passionate and dedicated team is committed to providing quality science and technology education to children across Tamilnadu and beyond.

## Meet our Team



### Anupama Pradeepan Co-Founder & VP

Anupama Pradeepan is a co-founder and Vice President of Open Space Foundation, with expertise in Education Governance. She holds a Master's degree in Local Governance from the RGNIYD, Govt. of India and has extensive experience working in Curriculum Development. Anupama is passionate about improving the quality of education and empowering students with practical skills that will help them succeed in the future.



### Bharath Kumar Velusamy Co-Founder & Secretary

Bharathkumar Velusamy is a Co-founder & Secretary of the Open Space Foundation team, bringing his expertise in Communication & Media to the organization. With a Master's degree in Communication, he is passionate about using media to promote science education among young students. Additionally, he has a keen interest in robotics and automation, which he utilizes to create innovative and engaging activities for the foundation's various programs.



### Surender Ponnalagar Co-Founder & CEO

Surender Ponnalagar is one of the key members of the Open Space Foundation team, serving as the co-founder and CEO. With a background in Physics and experience in project management, he brings valuable skills and expertise to the organization's operations and strategic planning. Surender is passionate about science education and promoting equitable access to quality education for all children.



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United by a common passion for science education and a drive to empower underserved communities, the team at Open Space Foundation brings a diverse range of skills and expertise to make a meaningful impact.

Anupama Pradeepan  
Co-Founder, OSF



# Networks & Collaborations

Open Space Foundation has been successful in establishing partnerships and collaborations with several organizations, academic institutions, and individuals who share our vision and mission. These partnerships have helped us to expand our reach and impact and to bring high-quality education and awareness to students and communities across India. Here are some of our valued collaborators who have supported us in our journey towards democratizing science education and promoting scientific literacy.



Estd. : 1989





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## Contact Us



[contact@openspacefoundation.in](mailto:contact@openspacefoundation.in)



[www.linkedin/company/official-openspace/](http://www.linkedin/company/official-openspace/)