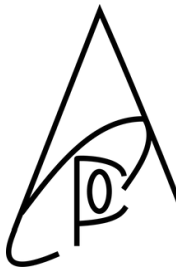


2022-2023



ANNUAL REPORT



OPEN SPACE
FOUNDATION

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Message from our Co-Founder



Dear Supporters,

I am thrilled to present to you the Annual Report for the year 2022-23 of Open Space Foundation (OSF). It has been a year of challenges and resilience, as we navigated the impact of the global pandemic on our activities. Despite the obstacles, we remain committed to our mission of strengthening the scientific temperament among students, teachers, and the public, and creating positive impacts in remote areas of India.

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and volunteers who have stood by us during these trying times. Your generosity and dedication have enabled us to continue our efforts to provide quality education and promote scientific inquiry, despite the digital divide and resource constraints.

In response to the pandemic, OSF has adapted its approach, focusing on geocentric activities and collaborating with higher education institutions, local STEAM advocates, and other academic-social institutions. This approach aims to cultivate self-sustaining resources for long-term education in a decentralized manner. We are excited about the progress we have made and look forward to building on these efforts in the coming years.

In this Annual Report, you will find updates on our flagship projects, impacts achieved, financial highlights, and testimonials from our beneficiaries. We are proud of the difference we have made, and it is all thanks to the support of our dedicated community.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision of creating a world where scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and access to quality education are accessible to all. We are confident that with your continued support, we will overcome challenges and achieve even greater impact in the future.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Anupama Pradeepan
Co-Founder & Secretary

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Education is not a privilege, but a fundamental right. It is our responsibility to ensure that every child, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background, has access to a quality education that empowers them to thrive and succeed in the 21st century.



City Corporation Commissioner Mr.Prathap, IAS presenting the certificate of Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign to the Students & Teachers

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Open Space Foundation (OSF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting science, astronomy, and space education among students and teachers. OSF was established in 2018 and has since been committed to fostering scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and STEAM skills among the youth. With a vision to inspire the next generation of space enthusiasts and professionals, OSF conducts a variety of programs and activities together with partners & networks, including ISRO, IASC, IAU, NASA and other institutions. OSF's initiatives aim to create a positive impact on students, teachers, and communities, by providing opportunities for learning, innovation, and exploration in the field of space science and astronomy.

VISION

To inculcate scientific temper among people as a way of life

MISSION

We strive to build and connect alternative education models through decentralized platforms

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Space Foundation (OSF) is committed to strengthening the scientific temperament among students, teachers, and the public through various measures. Our organization aims to bring about a shift from superstitious beliefs to scientific questioning through our flagship projects “Democrazily Science,” “VISTA,” “STEAM Teacher Network,” and “Namma Telescope.” By leveraging these projects, we strive to create positive impacts on the students and teachers' community in remote areas of India, fostering critical thinking, curiosity, and STEM skills, and promoting a culture of scientific inquiry and exploration.



OSF VISTA Group photo | Iruway - Community Owned Wireless Network, Dhurgadhahalli, Karnataka

THE PROBLEMS

03

A Brief Description About the Problems

Despite the importance of science education and the need for a strong scientific temperament, many students, teachers, and the public in remote areas of India lack access to quality science education and critical thinking skills. Superstitious beliefs and lack of scientific questioning prevail, hindering the development of a scientifically literate society. This knowledge gap hampers the overall progress and development of communities, limits opportunities for growth and advancement, and perpetuates misconceptions and misinformation. There is a pressing need to address this problem and foster a culture of scientific inquiry, curiosity, and evidence-based thinking to empower individuals and communities with the skills and knowledge needed for success in the modern world. Open Space Foundation (OSF) recognizes this challenge and is dedicated to addressing it through its impactful initiatives and projects.



ISRO Space Tutors inauguration ceremony group photo | ISRO Head Office, Bangalore

THE PROBLEMS

04

The Post-Pandemic Effect

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for Open Space Foundation (OSF) in reaching its target audience and delivering its programs and projects. The digital divide exacerbated by the pandemic posed significant hurdles in reaching students and communities in remote areas. Many of our students were not reachable due to a lack of internet access or digital devices, disrupting our regular activities.

During the prolonged break, OSF took proactive measures to adapt and innovate, ensuring that our mission to strengthen scientific temperament continued despite the challenges. We leveraged technology and collaborated with partners to develop creative solutions to bridge the digital divide and reach students and teachers through remote learning methods. We also focused on the capacity building of our team members, exploring new ways to enhance our program delivery and engagement, which brought us to develop “Minkeni” an offline e-learning tool, expected to launch by the 2024-25 academic year.

As the situation gradually improved, OSF pushed ahead with renewed vigour, utilizing our full potential to deliver our flagship programs and projects. We implemented strategies to safely resume our activities, adhering to health and safety guidelines while maximizing our impact. We conducted online workshops, webinars, and virtual events to engage students, teachers, and the public in scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and evidence-based learning.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, OSF remained committed to our mission of strengthening scientific temperament, and we are proud to share that our efforts have yielded positive results. Through our resilience and adaptability, we were able to continue our work and make meaningful contributions towards fostering a culture of scientific curiosity and questioning among our target audience, including in remote areas.

Post Pandemic approach

In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, OSF adopted a slightly different approach to reach out to beneficiaries and maximize impact. We recognized the need for a geocentric approach, given the resource mobilization challenges faced during the pandemic in supporting education for children in remote regions of Tamil Nadu, India. As a result, we decided to divide Tamil Nadu into five divisions, and in the fiscal year 2022-23, we focused specifically on the Central and West divisions.

The aim of this approach is to cultivate self-sustaining resources for long-term education in a decentralized manner by collaborating with higher education institutions, local STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) advocates, and other academic-social institutions. By leveraging local expertise and resources, we aim to create setups that can sustainably support scientific education and inquiry in these regions. Our goal is to establish such setups in the Central and West divisions by the end of the next financial year 2023-2024.

Through this geocentric approach, OSF seeks to empower local communities, foster local ownership, and create sustainable models for education in the post-pandemic era. We believe that by working closely with local stakeholders and institutions, we can make a lasting and meaningful impact on the scientific temperament of students, teachers, and the public in these regions, paving the way for a brighter future for science education in Tamil Nadu.



The Foldscope construction workshop at Panchayat Union Middle School, Thudiyalur

Activities Overview



In the year 2022-2023, Open Space Foundation experienced a significant acceleration in its activities and achievements. We proudly achieved recognition as a **Space Tutor under the esteemed Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**. Building on the success of previous years, we hosted another highly successful **Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign** in September 2022, engaging and inspiring students in the wonders of space exploration.

One of our most significant milestones was the official launch of our flagship project, 'Namma Telescope,' which we executed in a **pilot phase across five Government schools**. This marked a crucial step in our mission to make astronomy accessible to all.

In the domain of Democrazily Science, we reached out to more than 2000 students and teachers, fostering a passion for science and critical thinking. OSF - VISTA received a special grant from the **Amazon Employee Grant Scheme**, enabling us to take **180 students and teachers** on an enriching journey to prominent **science and technology institutions in Bangalore**.

These accomplishments have reinforced our commitment to promoting science education and engagement, and we look forward to further expanding our impact in the years to come.



OSF VISTA



STEAM Teachers Network

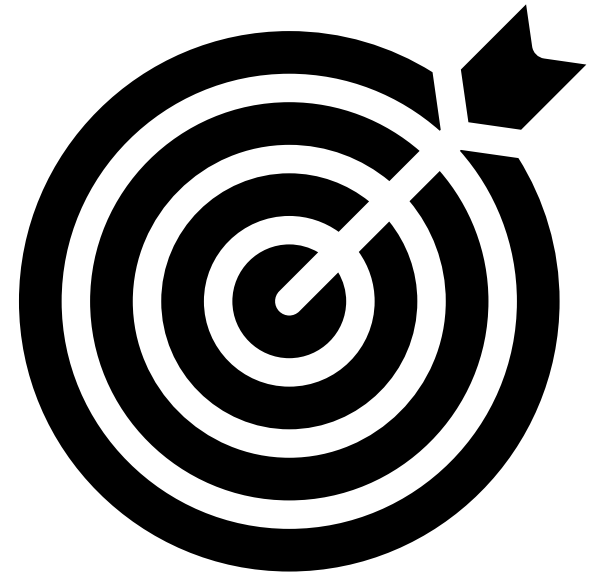


Namma Telescope



Democrazily Science

IMPACT REPORT



Key impacts measurements

- Successful execution of **peer activities in Namma Telescope Schools**.
- Promoting gender inclusivity, as measured by the **ratio of male and female students** participating in the activities.
- Reach and engagement: The **number of students and teachers** who actively participated in the Democrazily Science program.
- **Utilization of science education resources:** Measuring the number of resources used by students and educators to enhance science learning experiences.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2887 Beneficiaries directly impacted through Democrazily Science

281 Students & Teachers participated in the OSF-VISTA

118 Signatures of Asteroids recorded - Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign

111 Participants in Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign

05 Namma Telescope Schools

Impacts Measures

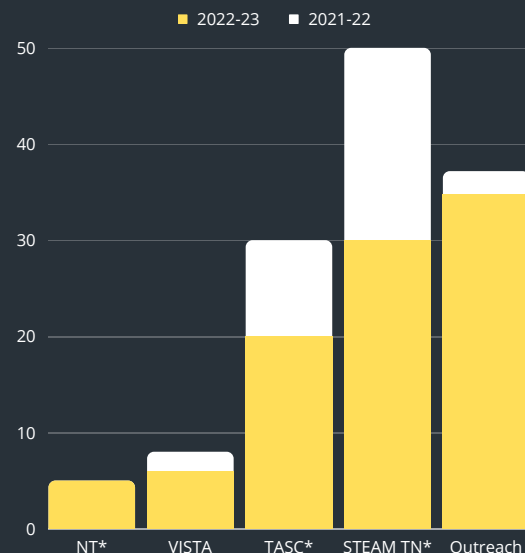
Gender



Female

Male

Geographic



Note: *
NT - Namma Telescope

TASC - Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign

STEAM TN - STEAM Teachers Network

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ISRO Space Tutor



Open Space Foundation is now officially registered Space tutor of ISRO

Open Space Foundation (OSF) is proud to be officially recognized as an **ISRO Space Tutor**, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing science education and outreach. This recognition from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) signifies our commitment to promoting space science and technology education.

The ISRO Space Tutor programme is a prestigious initiative that engages organizations and individuals who play a pivotal role in fostering an interest in space science among students.

On 05th August 2022, we have received the official agreement letter from Shree. A S Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman of ISRO. As an ISRO Space Tutor, OSF has access to valuable resources and support, allowing us to better serve students, teachers, and communities in our mission to democratize science education. This recognition amplifies our capacity to inspire and nurture the next generation of space enthusiasts and scientists.

Through our work as an ISRO Space Tutor, OSF is dedicated to creating opportunities for students and teachers to explore the wonders of space and technology. We aim to make space science accessible, engaging, and educational, building a brighter future for science and technology in India and beyond.

Highlights

To Educate & communicate Space science & technology for public

one among the 30 Space tutors (31st March 2023)

Received the Space Tutor agreement from Former chairman Mr.Kirankumar, ISRO

SDG 4



Space Tutor is the initiative of Capacity Building Programme Office of ISRO



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Namma Telescope Project: A Glimpse into a Starry Future



In the academic year 2022-2023, the Open Space Foundation (OSF) introduced a dream flagship project, "Namma Telescope," which has now unfolded as an awe-inspiring initiative. Namma Telescope's mission is to bring the wonders of the cosmos closer to the students of Tamilnadu by commissioning functional telescopes in schools across the region. This year, we've established crucial partnerships with various organizations to kickstart this transformative project.

A Stellar Launch: The grand inauguration of the Namma Telescope project took place on **February 24, 2023**, at the **Department of Physics, Jamal Mohamed College, Trichy**. This launch event was nothing short of remarkable, as four telescopes were constructed for four schools in the vicinity. The eager participants hailed from **Panchayat Union Middle School - Edyathangudi, Govt. Higher Secondary School - Enamkulathur, Panchayat Union Middle School - Chinnamuthur, and AVM Public Matericulation School - Sevoor**.

The launch was graced by the esteemed presence of **Shree Ingersol Selladurai, Former Group Director at ISRO, and Dr. A K Khaja Nazeemudin, Secretary & Correspondent of Jamal Mohamed College, Trichy**. This momentous occasion marked the initiation of a unique educational journey, one that would empower students to delve into the boundless realms of space.

Embracing Partnerships: At OSF, we understand that the realization of such a grand vision requires collaborative support. It's with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the generosity of the **Rotary E-Club of Metrodynamix**, which provided the necessary funding for telescope construction for the students of **Panchayat Union Middle School, Thudiyalur**.

The Pilot Phase: In this pilot phase of the Namma Telescope project, we have embarked on a journey of discovery and education. We are not only delivering telescopes but are also actively engaging with teachers to ensure that students receive comprehensive training in telescope operation. Furthermore, we aim to ignite their passion for space science and technology research.

Looking Ahead: The Namma Telescope project is not just about telescopes; it's about fostering curiosity, scientific inquiry, and a lifelong love for the cosmos. As we move forward, we envision a future where every school in Tamilnadu has access to the wonders of the night sky, and every student has the opportunity to explore the universe above. Namma Telescope is a step towards a brighter, more educated, and inspired generation, ready to reach for the stars.

With heartfelt appreciation for the support and collaboration of our partners, we eagerly anticipate the limitless possibilities that the Namma Telescope project will unveil in the days to come.

Highlights

5 schools were
commissioned with
functional telescopes

150 students were trained to
operate the Telescope



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign - 2022: Pioneering Citizen Science



The Open Space Foundation (OSF) embarked on an extraordinary journey with the Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign in 2022, bringing together students and educators from across Tamilnadu for an enriching experience in the realm of Citizen Science.

Empowering the Brightest Minds: This year, OSF took the helm in guiding **20 dedicated teams**, comprising **111 students and teachers**, on a quest to explore the cosmos through the discovery of asteroids. Notably, the campaign extended its reach to encompass **14 teams from public schools** and **six from colleges**, promoting the inclusion of participants from diverse educational backgrounds. Impressively, over **56% of the campaign's participants were young female students**, underscoring OSF's commitment to gender inclusivity in science.

A Gateway to Citizen Science: The essence of the Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign lies in its dedication to kindling the spirit of **Citizen Science research**. By actively engaging students and science enthusiasts, OSF strives to inspire a deeper connection with astronomy and space science.

A Global Pursuit: The Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign aligns itself with a global mission, being part of the international campaigns to discover new asteroids. In partnership with the **International Astronomical Search Collaboration** and **NASA**, OSF is instrumental in fostering a network of budding astronomers and researchers who share a common passion for unraveling the mysteries of the universe.

The 2022 Tamilnadu Asteroid Search Campaign marks another remarkable chapter in OSF's relentless pursuit of promoting science education, nurturing young talents, and advancing the frontiers of space science. This endeavor epitomizes the power of collaboration and community-driven science, paving the way for a brighter and more inclusive future of scientific exploration.

Highlights

20 Teams from Tamilnadu Schools & colleges

55% of participation from female students

118 signatures of Asteroids were detected through this campaign

SDG 4



Space Tutor is the initiative of Capacity Building Programme Office of ISRO



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

OSF VISTA - Bridging Minds with Science & Exploration



The financial year 2022-2023 witnessed the Open Space Foundation (OSF) soar to new heights with its innovative program - OSF VISTA. This year marked a golden period for VISTA, with OSF securing funding support from Amazon through the **Amazon Employee Grant**, allowing us to spread the wings of exploration even wider.

Bridging Education with Exploration: OSF VISTA stands as a unique initiative dedicated to nurturing young minds and opening doors to the world of science and technology. The core objective is to provide students from rural schools with the invaluable opportunity to visit renowned scientific and technological institutions, interact with experts, and explore the boundless realms of knowledge. By doing so, VISTA acts as a vital bridge, connecting school-level education with higher learning and research institutions.

A Year of Impact: The 2022-2023 financial year unfolded with OSF VISTA leaving a profound impact on **281 students**. Through meticulously planned and executed excursions, these students had the privilege of venturing into the hallowed halls of some of India's most prestigious scientific establishments. Their journey of exploration took them to the **Vickram Sarabhai Space Center - ISRO, the National Brain Museum, the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, the TIFR - National Center for Biological Science, the Vishveswaray Technological Museum, the Ramanujam Maths Museum, and the Satish Dawan Space Center - ISRO Shriharikota.**

Empowering Minds for a Brighter Tomorrow: The OSF VISTA program remains an embodiment of OSF's unwavering commitment to empowering young minds, nurturing their passion for science, and fostering a deep love for exploration. As we look back on the success of this year's VISTA initiatives, we are driven by the vision of a brighter and more connected future, where scientific curiosity knows no bounds.

Highlights

281 students were taken to various science & technology spaces

75% of participation from rural schools

0.5 millions Indian rupees was granted for the OSF VISTA through Amazon Employee grant

SDG 4



The Amazon logo, consisting of the word 'amazon' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font with a curved orange arrow underneath it.

DEMOCRAZILY SCIENCE

The year 2022-2023 marked a remarkable journey for the Open Space Foundation's "Democrazily Science" project. With an unwavering commitment to democratizing science education, this initiative witnessed substantial growth, impact, and outreach.

Reaching for the Stars: Democrazily Science reached new heights by engaging with over **2000 individuals**. This expansion enabled us to touch the lives of students, teachers, and the general public across 12 different districts in Tamilnadu and a district in Karnataka.

A Window to the Cosmos: One of the primary focuses of the project was to explore the mysteries of space science. Many of the organized events were centered around "**Introduction to Astronomy & Sky Observation**" sessions. Participants had the privilege of witnessing celestial wonders, including the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, and the Sun. These experiences left a lasting impact, inspiring a profound connection with the night sky.

Empowering Educators: Democrazily Science not only engaged students but also opened doors for educators. New teachers from different schools joined our journey, further expanding our influence on science education. This, in turn, led to the growth of the **STEAM Teachers Network**.

A Vision for the Future: Our mission extends beyond the present, looking toward a promising future. To continue this impactful work, we are actively developing a structured volunteer program. With this, we aim to broaden our reach, empower more minds, and inspire a new generation of young scientists and enthusiasts.



OUR SUPER TEAM

09



Surender Ponnalagar
CEO & President



Anupama Pradeepan
Co-Founder & Secretary



Bharathkumar Velusamy
Co-Founder & Vice President



Dineshkumar P
Co-Founder & Joint Secretary



Ramaseshan S
Minkeni - Project Head



Aathithya Velusamy
Minkeni - Project Developer



"We are deeply committed to ensuring that every student has access to high-quality science education since our inception in 2018. This journey has been made possible by the unwavering support of our dedicated team, passionate volunteers, and the generous contributions of our partners. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this mission.



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