



പൊതുവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പ്
കേരള സർക്കാർ



പ്രീ പ്രൈമറി ബേബിയിൽ
വസന്തം വിരിയൂ

വർഷം കൂടാരം

പ്രവർത്തന ജടങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ
പ്രീ പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂളുകൾ



V. Sivankutty
Minister for General
Education and Labour
Government of Kerala



Thiruvananthapuram
Date: 17/07/2025

Message

Kerala has always been a role model among all states in the field of education. Performance excellence and quality are the hallmarks of General education in Kerala.

The Kerala society's emphasis on education has contributed greatly to this achievement. The General Education Department and Samagra Shiksha Kerala, hand in hand, are implementing numerous quality interventions, paving the way for the empowerment of public education and thereby creating a new Kerala.

Kerala is among the states that have shown the best performance in the National Quality Index. This achievement has earned Kerala a place in the 'STARS' project. The goal of the 'STARS' project is to implement necessary reforms to enhance the quality and credibility of public education, design and implement innovative and flexible activities to improve educational quality, and ensure better outcomes.

This is a brief document about the major activities implemented by Samagra Shiksha Kerala under the STARS project in Kerala. I extend all my best wishes for the continuation and quality implementation of excellent activities.

With affection,



V. Sivankutty



Dr. K. Vasuki IAS
Secretary



Genaral Education Department

Government Secretariat

Thiruvananthapuram

Phone Office : 0471-2517395

Date :

Message

Secretary, General Education

Samagra Shiksha represents an integrated and inclusive approach to school education, and this document reflects the innovative practices, collaborative initiatives, and community engagement that have enriched our educational landscape. I am delighted to note the commendable effort taken to present a document showcasing the academic activities carried out under Samagra Shiksha in Kerala under the STARS Project. This initiative is a significant step forward. Creating a comprehensive record of our academic endeavours is crucial for several reasons: it allows us to effectively showcase the depth and breadth of the programme, serves as an invaluable resource for future planning and implementation, and enables us to identify best practices and areas for further improvement. This document not only reflects the dedication and hard work of our educators, administrators, and stakeholders but also serves as a valuable record of the innovative and inclusive practices being implemented across the state.

The holistic development of learners is always the focus of the Samagra Shiksha, Kerala. This documentation highlights our collective strides towards that goal. From strengthening foundational learning to fostering equity and excellence in education, the initiatives captured in this document reflect the spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines Kerala's education system.

The hard work demonstrated in creating this document is truly appreciated. Such thorough documentation will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and evolution of educational initiatives across the State, ultimately benefiting our students and the entire academic community.

I congratulate the entire team behind this initiative for their dedication and vision. May this report serve not only as a record of achievements but also as a source of inspiration for future educational endeavours.

Dr. K. Vasuki
Secretary Department of Genaral Education
Government of Kerala



Introduction

STARS (Strengthening Teaching-learning and Results for States) is a sponsored project of the Central government implemented in Kerala through Samagra Shiksha since 2020. Numerous commendable activities have been implemented through the STARS project to improve the educational quality of Kerala. Early childhood education, foundational literacy, evaluation, improving classroom learning, streamlining educational service activities, interventions in vocational education, and physical infrastructure development are among the various programs implemented as part of the project. This booklet introduces some of the most commendable programs among them. We hope that the information in this book will be beneficial for future educational planning and implementation.

Dr. Supriya A.R.
State Project Director
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Department of General Education
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STARS Project Document 2025
Varnakkoodaram

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It is the duty of every pre-primary school to provide each child with the opportunity to gain developmental experiences in the domains of child development by interacting with their surroundings and engaging in play based activities. An appropriate learning environment is needed in every pre-primary school to achieve the goals set forth by the existing pre-primary curriculum in Kerala.





It should be safe and joyous. The learning environment should be safe and happy, where children can interact without fear and express themselves.

It should foster curiosity. Learning resources and facilities for playing, that are colorful and attractive, should be arranged to foster curiosity and a desire for inquiry in children.

It should facilitate social and emotional development. It should be conducive for constant interaction with other children and teachers, promoting sharing and cooperation to develop social and emotional skills.

It should facilitate locomotor development. Facilities for running, jumping, and playing should be provided to enable muscle development and physical development in children. It should foster thinking skills and creativity.

Toys and learning materials that foster the child's thinking skills and creativity and provide opportunities for problem-solving should be made available.

It should encourage self-learning. Facilities should be provided to encourage self-learning by allowing children to make choices according to their own preferences and interests and engage in activities they are interested in.

A learning environment conducive to scientific and child-centered pre-school education





VARNAKOODARAM

Samagra Shiksha Kerala had taken many steps to transform pre-schools into vibrant spaces for nurturing children's personalities and capabilities by creating an excellent learning environment.

- ◆ Status study of Primary Schools and Anganwadis.
- ◆ Preparation of 'Thaalolam' activity corners.
- ◆ Pre-primary literary ares
- ◆ BaLA (Building as Learning Aid), child-friendly furniture, outdoor play equipment.
- ◆ Support for providing learning materials.

It is as a continuation of such progressive interventions that the concept of 'Varnakkoodaram' pre-schools with activity spaces, ensuring spacious and attractive classrooms, availability of learning materials, and an environment in harmony with nature, was realized.





The best pre-school education must be made available to the children of Kerala. Samagra Shiksha Kerala implemented the 'Varnakkoodaram' project as part of the STARS project, with the aim of creating a Kerala model by utilizing national and international models and possibilities.

Activity Areas



Literary Area

Math Area

Hands-on Construction Area

Dance and music Area

Performance Area

Drawing Area

Science Area

Garden Area

Handicraft Area

E- Area

Sensory Area

Play Area (Indoor and Outdoor Play Area)



Scientific pre-school education should be flexible, have local relevance, and prioritize the development of the five senses. Activities should not be limited only to classrooms. The indoor and outdoor spaces of the pre-school should be sufficient for the child to gain rich experiences. Additional facilities should be provided for this. Due consideration should be ensured for all skills and developmental domains. It is with these objectives that the various activity areas have been arranged.

VARNAKOODAM

Literary Area

Imagination and thinking skills develop by providing opportunities to see and hear stories, songs, conversations, descriptions, pictures, etc., and to present them in their own language. Emphasis is given to pre-reading and pre-writing activities. Reading materials are arranged attractively in the Literary Area. Facilities to sit, read and engage in language activities are provided in the Literary Area.

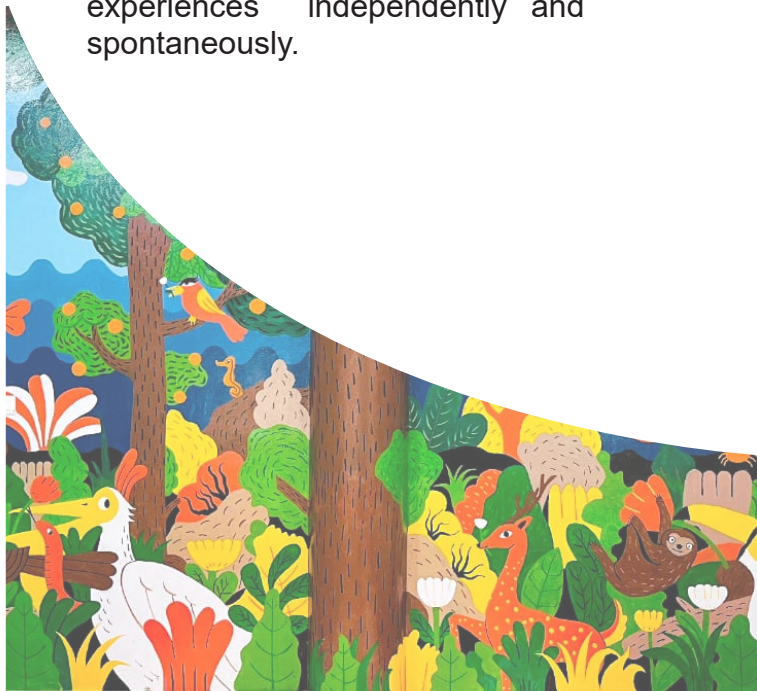


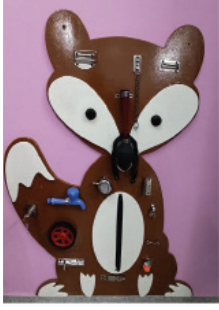
VARNAKOODARAM



Math Area

Opportunities are provided to form pre-mathematical concepts from the objects around the child. These concepts can only be formed in connection with concrete objects. Math Area is a space where pre-school children gain mathematical experiences independently and spontaneously.





Varnakkoodaram

Hands-on Construction Area

Hands-on Construction Area fosters curiosity and interest in the child's innate nature to engage in building activities.

Through various such constructive activities, locomotor development and development of different domains are facilitated. Familiar objects from the child's surroundings are attractively arranged here.



Dance and Music Area

This space nurtures children's linguistic and musical intelligence by presenting a variety of theme-based songs, action songs, story songs, call and response songs, folk songs, number songs, traditional songs and riddle songs through engaging melodies and rhythms.





Varnakkoodaram

KUNJARANGU

Performance Area

By engaging in expressive activities such as solo acting, group acting, sound imitation, pretend play, storytelling, choreography, and rhythmic movements, the child gradually becomes a social being. In addition, the Performance area helps in developing language skills, attaining emotional maturity, and increasing self-confidence.



VARAYIDOM
Drawing Area



VARAYIDOM Drawing Area

Scribbling is a natural instinct of children. It is a pre writing process. The drawing area is a space that supports this unique tendency, helping in the development of multiple intelligence, fine motor skills, and free drawing. Materials for colouring and materials for displaying the children's products are attractively arranged here.





VARNAKOODARAM

Sasthrayidom

**Science exploration/
Experience Area**



Science exploration/experience area nurtures children's curiosity, eagerness to experiment, and divergent thinking, thereby fostering scientific inquiry. This area provides a space for developing basic scientific skills and places emphasis on their cognitive development.



Haritho dhyanam Garden Area

A space that enables children to observe natural phenomena and explore its causes. It is a place within the school that allows children to engage in nature observation naturally.





Karakowsalayidom Handicraft Area

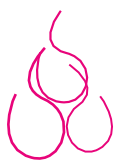
A space that gives importance to activities that support the development of both gross and fine motor skills, along with precise eye hand-coordination.





Sensory Area

Children should be given opportunities to identify objects and understand their characteristics through experiences involving the five senses. Children are naturally very active and curious about natural phenomena and living beings. Therefore, by providing more hands-on, direct experiential activities, the sensory area helps nurture and promote their scientific development.

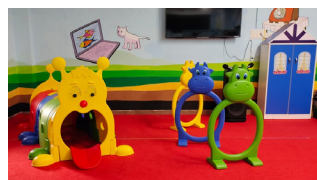


Kaliyidom Play Area

Indoor and Outdoor Play Area

Children have a deep and natural interest in playing. It is important to create safe and attractive spaces that encourage them to engage in play. To support the development of multiple abilities, play areas have been arranged both inside and outside the classroom. The focus is on natural play spaces.





Pre-school Furniture in Varnakkoodaram

The furniture in Varnakkoodaram holds great significance in creating an environment where pre-school children can learn by playing and enjoying themselves, deviating from the concept of a collaborative classroom. Numerous pre-school furniture models were created in Kerala as part of the Varnakkoodaram project. Safe and easy-to-use furniture, appropriate for the children's age and height, has been arranged in the Varnakkoodaram activity areas. Furniture designs were created that lack sharp edges, are light in weight, can be easily moved, and can be arranged in different ways according to pre-school activities. Furniture suitable for the activities of various activity areas were arranged. Special furniture was provided for the Literary area, Science Area, and Performance Area. The shelves in each activity space also exhibit diversity. Models where the furniture itself functions as learning materials were also developed. High-quality construction materials that are not harmful to children's health were used for making the furniture. Child-friendly and safe furniture in attractive colors has made Varnakkoodaram even better.



Features of Varnakoodaram Activity Areas

- Attractive
- Materials that children can handle independently
- Emphasis on children's safety
- Inclusion of a variety of materials
- Can be arranged in multiple ways
- Provides a safe and comfortable space for children to sit and engage in activities freely
- Facilities to display and store children's work
- Child-friendly
- Use of locally available facilities and materials
- Inclusive of all categories of children
- Contains materials that help communicate the ideas of different themes



Utilising Activity Areas in Daily Learning Activities

- ▶▶ While planning activities for each theme, the possibilities of using multiple learning spaces are explored.
- ▶▶ As part of experiential activities, children reach the designated spaces individually or in groups and engage in the tasks.
- ▶▶ Following these experiential activities, children complete the Kalithoni worksheet and store it in their portfolio.
- ▶▶ Children's performances are recorded using digital tools in E Area and a digital portfolio is prepared.

Varnakkoodaram

No of schools and fund details

Sl.	Year	No. of Schools	Allowance amount
1	2021-22	168	1680 Lakh
2	2022-23	440	4400 Lakh
3	2023-24	500	5000 Lakh
4	2024-25	408	4080 Lakh
Total		1516	15160 Lakh



Stages of Implementing Varnakoodaram

- ▶ Preparation of implementation guidelines for Varnakoodaram (State level)
- ▶ Approval of the list of schools (STARS P.A.B)
- ▶ Allocation of funds to schools
- ▶ Residential training for pre- primary teachers, Head teachers, and PTA Presidents of the selected schools on concepts such as scientific pre-schooling and implementation of the Varnakoodaram project.
- ▶ Entering into an agreement with Samagra Shiksha for the implementation of Varnakoodaram
- ▶ Formation of the Varnakoodaram Beneficiary Committee in schools after the training
- ▶ Preparation of the implementation plan





Preparation of Project Document

- ▶ Varnakkoodaram Beneficiary Committee Meeting
- ▶ Discussion of Guidelines
- ▶ Preparation of Draft Project Document, considering the school's possibilities and local context
- ▶ Evaluation of the Draft Project Document at the District Level
- ▶ Improving the project document by incorporating appraisal committee's suggestions and submitting for approval





Varnakkoodaram Construction

- ▶▶ Arranging each activity area based on the approved Project Report.
- ▶▶ Availing the services of local experts and workers.
- ▶▶ Procuring local resources and low-cost, quality materials.
- ▶▶ Completion of construction under the supervision of the Beneficiary Committee.

Varnakkoodaram Monitoring

- ▶▶ Responsibility is assigned to a BRC Trainer/Cluster Coordinator for the execution and support of each Varnakkoodaram and for monitoring the construction activities.
- ▶▶ Block and District level monitoring mechanisms.





Outcomes and Achievements

- ⦿ A learning environment conducive to the holistic skill development of children has been created.
- ⦿ Development of the child's imaginative skills, thinking skills, and creativity has been addressed .
- ⦿ The activity areas have been utilized as learning resources.
 - ⦿ Curiosity, interest, and self-confidence have increased among children.
 - ⦿ Due consideration has been ensured for all skills and developmental domains.
 - ⦿ Quality and scientific pre-school education has been achieved.
 - ⦿ Experience-based activities were developed to help acquire skills based on developmental domains, centered around themes.
- ⦿ The acceptability/attractiveness of public schools has increased.





People's Representatives On Varnakoodaram



Varnakoodaram project provides quality environments that sow the seeds of talent, creativity, and curiosity in young minds. Such enriching steps taken during the school years become pathways that inspire children's future learning.

The scientifically designed 13 activity areas play a major role in nurturing children's natural, experiential learning. Interventions like these by Samagra Shiksha Kerala are truly a matter of pride as they lay a strong foundation for the public education sector. As a public representative, I assure you that I will continue to extend my support and encouragement to such initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of our children.

V N Vaasavan

Minister for Ports,
Cooperation and Devaswoms



The thirteen specially designed learning areas, scientifically developed under the academic guidance of Samagra Shiksha Kerala, are now available for our pre-primary children. These domains are created across various subjects such as science, reading, music and dance activities, and more.

The objective of this initiative is to identify each child's abilities and assess their skills through diverse learning experiences. Through this, children receive meaningful experiences at an early age that support their cognitive, cultural, emotional, and physical development.

These children are the future of our nation. Recognizing that learning in these formative years is crucial, Kerala is offering valuable opportunities for their growth. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that these opportunities are used effectively and expanded further with the support of our community.

Dr. N. Jayaraj

Government Chief Whip,
Kerala



At GUPS Vallachira in Vallachira Grama Panchayat, an enriching learning environment has been created for students by setting up 13 learning spaces both inside and outside the classrooms. This initiative was completed at a total cost of ₹20 lakh, which included ₹5 lakh from the MLA Special Development Fund, ₹5 lakh from the Grama Panchayat Fund, and ₹10 lakh from the SSK Fund.

We are extremely happy that we could stand with the State Government in its efforts to strengthen public education by providing quality infrastructure and learning environments right from the pre-primary level. The Panchayat can take great pride in being a part of this initiative. Through the MLA Fund and Panchayat Fund, we were able to successfully complete the Varnakoodaram project as envisioned.

The Varnakoodaram initiative has contributed significantly to modernizing public schools and ensuring joyful learning experiences for young children. It is also a matter of pride that Government UPS Vallachira has been recognized at the state level as one of the schools that has effectively implemented pre-primary empowerment. Wishing the school continued success in all its future endeavors.

K K Ramachandran MLA
Puthukkad



Department of General Education
Government of Kerala

STARS (Strengthening Teaching-learning and Results for States) is an education project designed and implemented by the Central Government with World Bank assistance to improve education standards. Among the states of Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala implementing this project, Kerala was included considering its excellent education quality index. Kerala has been receiving the benefits of the STARS project since 2021. Numerous suitable and commendable education programmes for Kerala have been implemented as part of the STARS project.

This booklet presents one of the most important activities among them.