



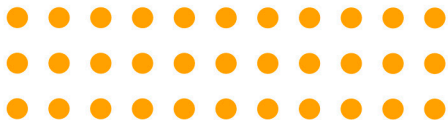
General Education Department
Kerala Government

STARS

Strengthening
Teaching-Learning
and Results for States



Foot prints



समग्र शिक्षा
Samagra Shiksha



FOOT PRINTS

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



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
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



General Education Department
Government Secretariat
Thiruvananthapuram-695 001

Phone-Office : 0471-2517395

Date



Message from 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 IAS
Secretary
Department of General Education
Government of Kerala



Dr. Supriya A.R.
State Project Director
Samagra Shiksha Kerala

Introduction

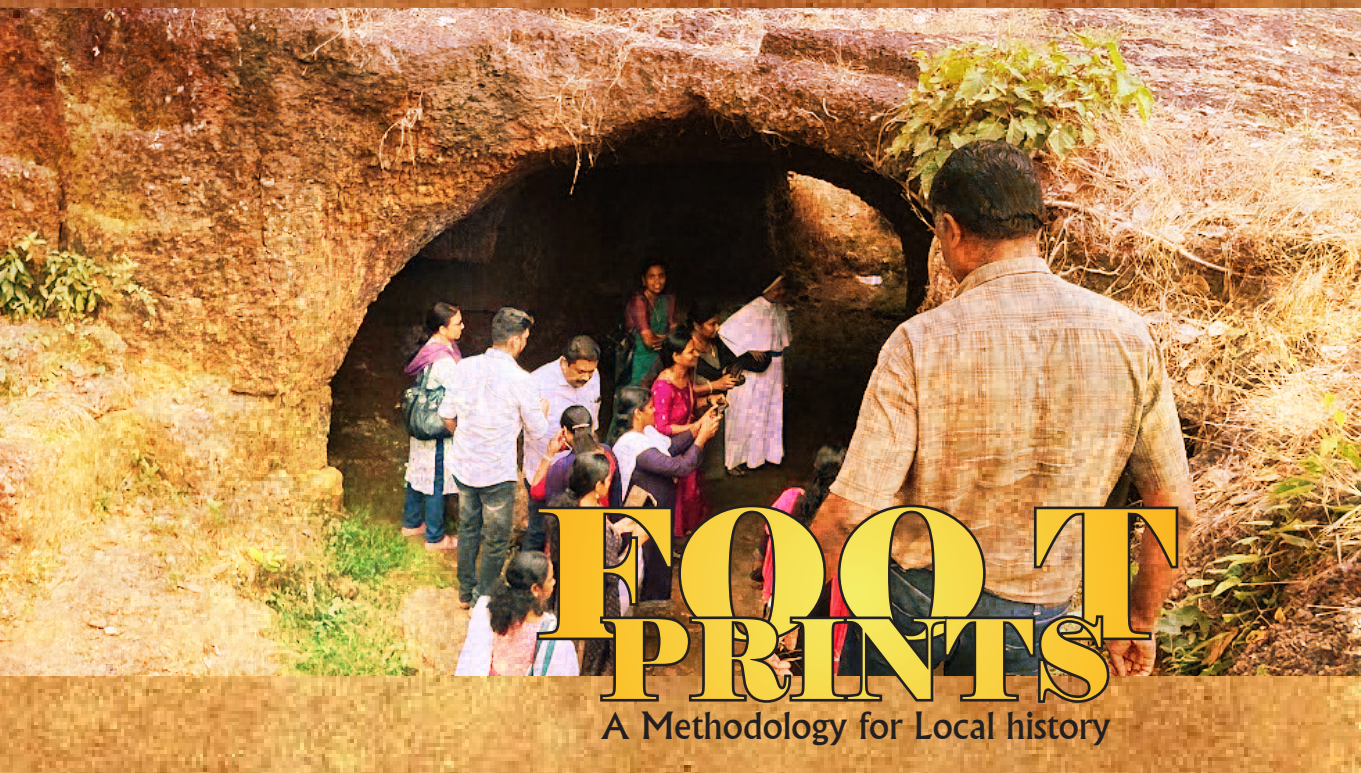
STARS (Strengthening Teaching-learning and Results for States) is a sponsored project of the Central government implemented in Kerala through Samagra Shiksha since 2020. Numerous commendable activities have been implemented through the STARS project to improve the educational quality of Kerala. Early 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.

Department of General Education
Samagra Shiksha Kerala

STARS Project Document 2025

PADAMUDRAKAL - FOOT PRINTS

Chief Editor	Dr. A R Supriya (Director, SamagraShiksha Kerala)
Editor	Radhakrishnan Nair C. (Consultant, STARS, Kerala)
Creative Team	Dr.Shaji B (State Programme Officer) Amul Roy R. P.,(State Programme Officer) Dr. N. I. Sudheesh Kumar (State Programme Officer) Resmi T. L (State Programme Officer) Dr. Little Helen (State Programme Officer) Prity M. Kumar (State Programme Officer) Famila E. R. Principal (Rtd.) Anulekha E (State Programme Officer) Dr. Arooja M. V (State Programme Officer) Dr. Rajesh K (District Programme Officer, Kannur) Manoj Kumar (District Programme Officer, Malappuram) Dr.Bindu T.S. (Trainer, BRC Chathanoor, Kollam) Briji K B (District Programme Officer, Thrissur) Krishnan P (Block Project Co-ordinator, Parappanagadi, Malappuram) Santhosh A (Trainer, BRC Pappinissery, Kannur) Sajila M (Co-ordinator, SSK, State Project Office) Rashmi. M P (Cluster Co-ordinator, BRC Thrithala, Palakkad) Arunkumar K G (State MIS Co-ordinator)
Lay out & Design	Smt. Reena R R Abdul Shukhur V P (Trainer, URC Ernakulam) Sumesh R (Data Entry Operator, BRC Panthalam, Pathanamthitta) Joshi K (Teacher, AVHSS Ponnani, Malappuram) RekhaKumari V. R &Anila R (Data Entry Operator, SPO, SSK)
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Vision

Kerala envisions an education system that promotes critical inquiry, scientific temper, and contextual understanding of knowledge, particularly in the field of Social Science. The State recognises that the study of history should move beyond rote memorisation to a process of exploration, analysis, and interpretation, enabling learners to engage meaningfully with the past and its relevance to the present.

In this context, 'Padamudrakal' (Local Historians – Footprints) represents a distinctive initiative aimed at nurturing a research-oriented and analytical approach to the study of history among learners. The programme encourages students to investigate their local history, culture, and heritage with curiosity and a scientific perspective, thereby fostering a deeper connection with their immediate social environment.

Through structured guidance and capacity-building initiatives at the State, District, and Block Resource Centre (BRC) levels, learners are equipped to undertake systematic research, documentation, and presentation of local historical narratives. The process of preparing and



presenting local history at various academic forums, including seminars at BRC, district, and state levels, provides students with opportunities to refine their analytical, communication, and presentation skills.

The programme also offers experiential exposure through visits to historically significant sites, further enriching learners' understanding of heritage and cultural continuity. By engaging in such activities, students develop a nuanced appreciation of their community's past and its influence on contemporary society.

Through initiatives such as Padamudrakal, Kerala reaffirms its vision of fostering informed, reflective, and critically aware learners who approach Social Science with depth, curiosity, and intellectual rigour, thereby transforming learning into a meaningful and participatory experience.

Objectives

The programme aims to foster a scientific and critical approach to the study of history by encouraging learners to explore and analyse the past through inquiry, research, and evidence-based understanding. Moving beyond rote memorisation, the initiative enables students to engage with Social Science as a dynamic and interpretative discipline.

It seeks to promote an appreciation of local history, culture, and heritage by guiding students to document and study their immediate surroundings. Through this process, learners develop a deeper sense of connection with their community and gain insights into the socio-cultural evolution of their region.

The programme also focuses on developing essential academic skills such as research, documentation, analysis, and presentation. By preparing local history projects and presenting them at various academic platforms, including BRC, district, and state-level seminars, students enhance their communication skills and confidence.

Further, through exposure visits to historical centres and participation in collaborative learning activities, learners are encouraged to think critically, question assumptions, and develop multiple perspectives on historical events.

Through these objectives, the programme aims to transform the learning of Social Science into an engaging, meaningful, and intellectually stimulating process, thereby nurturing informed and reflective learners.

Implemented under the auspices of SSK STARS, Padamudrakal aims to familiarise students with the contemporary methodological approaches to learning history, introduce them to the characteristics of local history, and make learning both meaningful and engaging. As part of the initiative, students documented the history of their locality, which provided valuable opportunities for them to explore and understand the historical and cultural heritage of their own community.





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The experiences of compiling the local history paved the way for narrating the stories of lands that had gone unrecorded in the mainstream history. This raised awareness among the students about the overlooked heritage sites, figures, and cultural practices. This aimed to develop the observation skills of students and promote evidence-based history writing. It ensured the participation of the local community in the compilation of local history writing at the school, BRC, district and state levels.



Steps

- To make the teachers of Social Science and the students understand and realise the methodological approaches of local history writing and its significance.
- To foster scientific awareness and approach to the study of history.
- To promote evidence-based learning of local culture and tradition.
- To encourage the students in their efforts to understand the history of their locality
- To foster an interest in research and a critical approach to the study of history through research and investigation.
- To understand the locally important historical places, heritage sites and figures
- To familiarise the methodology, instruments, and skills related to local history writing
- To upscale the quality of the students' products for publishing.



Through the stage of implementation

At the state-level conceptualisation workshop, a framework was prepared by a group of experts in the field of history, focusing on its educational goals and the peculiarities of the locality.

The conceptualisation workshop consisted of high school and higher secondary teachers, and experts from the Universities. They designed the guidelines for the different levels—from the school to the state level—as well as the methodological aspects of the programme. Familiarised the teachers with the steps of writing local history in the workshop.



State-level workshops, BRC-level workshops, teachers' orientation, and designing the methodology for local history writing were organised.



District-wise workshops

Conducted district-wise workshops for training the resource groups, which consisted of teachers from each subdistrict and the trainers from the BRCs.



Training sessions

The training emphasised hands-on experience, where resource teachers participated in the same learning activities as the students, gaining insight into historiography and effective teaching methods.

- Experts examined the selected local history writings prepared by the students of classes 8 and 9 at the BRCs.
- One student from each school was selected for the two-day camp at the BRC.
- District-level residential camp were conducted for the students selected at the BRC-level camps.
- Two selected students from each district participated in the state-level camp.
- The state-level camp was organised in Kozhikode, where the experts provided suggestions to improve each student's work.
- The revised work was then presented at the second-level workshop organized at Thiruvananthapuram
- The students presented their work in front of renowned historians, legislators, teachers, eminent personalities, parents, and fellow students.



Towards Local History Writing



Local history helps the students to understand and draw conclusions about the geographical peculiarities of the locality, the remnants of history and related aspects. Here are the activities conducted as part of the workshops at the school, BRC, district, and state levels.

- Local history quiz
- Field visit
- Local history exhibition
- PaithrukaNadatham' – Heritage Walk
- Interviewing and honouring renowned personalities, familiarizing with historical documents and documentaries
- Historical seminars
- Exhibition of historical books and picture canvas of local history
- BRC level 'Karanavarkoottam'

THROUGH HERITAGE WALK...

This activity focuses on visiting places of historical significance and was appreciated for emphasising evidence-based investigation rather than a mere curiosity-driven visit.

- Understood the peculiarities of the place, the people and their occupation
- Organised interviews with the historians who knew the local history of that area.
- Honoured the renowned historians
- Examined and familiarised with the local historical documents and souvenirs.





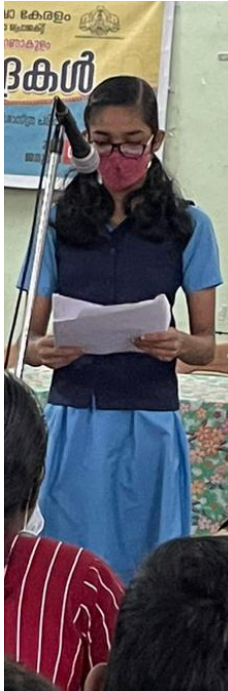
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Students learned about the country's history through the stories and memories shared by elders in this programme. Students gained valuable insights into the nation's journey.

Achievements

- It helped in restructuring the methodological aspects of learning history
- It enabled the study of history through research and made the subject more interesting for students.
- It ensured the practical experience of collecting historical facts through research and documentation
- Students acquire the skills in research, critical thinking, composing and communication
- The main achievement of Padamudrakal is the creation of discussion-oriented classrooms.



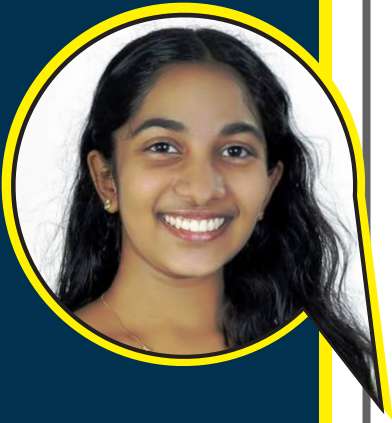


Achievements

- It helped in developing the skill of critical thinking, as required by the curriculum
- It helped the Social Science teachers familiarise themselves with the methodology of local history writing
- This supported a reciprocal approach to learning, explaining and documenting history at both local and national levels.
- This marked a significant step towards research-oriented study.



Testimonial



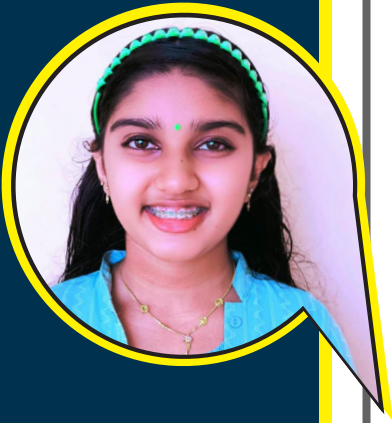
Sithara. M. S
Class:9 C
G V H S S Pattazhy

Padamudrakal happened quite unexpectedly, and has taught me who truly I am. I participated in the local history writing competitions in the Sasthra Mela, and my writings reached their perfection through this programme. My research focused on something for which only one or two works have been previously published. Through this work, I learned about my country, its people and its roots. My research concluded with the realization that the history of Pattazhis not its myths and stories, but the struggle and survival of the people here.

As a student of history and as an individual, the discussions and journeys from the sub-district level influenced me greatly. The knowledge I gained through this workshop holds a special place in my life.

I learned the history of many different districts through the State-level workshop organised in Kozhikode. The travels and discussions I engaged in during that workshop enriched my understanding and inspired me to study history more deeply. I was also able to help the people of that area learn more about their roots. Perhaps that indeed is my success.

Testimonial



Padamudra's Guided Triumph

This year, for the first time, I participated in the local history writing competition. Last year, I was selected at the BRC level and took part in the district-level two-day workshop organised in Kannur. It was there that I learned how to write the history of a place.

The camp helped me understand how to investigate historical facts and organise them effectively. I was able to record history in a much better manner.

There were no publications about the history of my land, Kurumathoor. I am now engaged in compiling its history into a book by collecting more details.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Kannur SSK team for guiding me on this journey into the unexplored areas of history.

Mesna K V

Class 9

GVHSS Kurumathoor, Kannor District



General Education Department
Kerala Government

About STARS

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.

