Grace Ministries Overseas Aid

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, GMOA continued to make meaningful progress in holistic child development and community empowerment, working alongside the Christian aid organisation for a second consecutive year. Four Family Child Care Centres (FCCC) have been established in vulnerable villages, collectively supporting around 240 sponsored children. Each FCCC is strategically situated in villages where families face serious challenges, including illiteracy, poverty, caste discrimination, and exploitation. Through the FCCC programme, vulnerable children and their families are receiving education, care, and hope, for a brighter future.

Focusing on four core developmental area, cognitive, emotional, social, and physical, the FCCC programme nurtures all aspects of child development through structured routines and a well-designed curriculum. Children benefit from nutritious snacks, academic support, and interactive activities that cultivate curiosity, discipline, and resilience. Exam periods receive special attention, leading to consistent academic improvement. Each child receives essential stationery and monthly hygiene kits, while tutors extend support beyond the classroom with home visits to monitor attendance, health, and family circumstances.

Skill development and spiritual growth are integral, with a three-day programme featuring crafts, stories, and English lessons that instil perseverance, trust, and values. Regular parent-teacher meetings and home visits foster strong communication and encourage positive behavioural changes, with parents noting improvements in discipline and study habits. Health and safety are prioritised, highlighted by a medical camp with a mission hospital providing check-ups, and ongoing health and hygiene awareness sessions. The Child Protection Policy Awareness Programme, led by legal experts, further educated children, parents, and staff on child rights and safety.

Cultural and national events such as Republic Day, Independence Day, Teachers' Day, and Children's Day were celebrated, encouraging patriotism, creativity, and leadership. The annual Christmas programme reinforced the commitment to inclusive growth and joy for every child.

Expanding beyond child-focused initiatives, GMOA introduced the Goat Rearing Programme, supporting 30 underprivileged families with training and resources to foster sustainable livelihoods. This initiative encourages responsibility and community participation, representing a significant move towards long-term development and self-reliance. Through strategic partnerships and comprehensive support, GMOA continues to invest in children, uplift families, and drive transformation within communities and the nation.

"Invest in a child. Change a family. Transform a nation."

Development Initiatives

Goat Rearing Programme

The Goat Rearing Programme was launched in CK and VP villages to empower 30 underprivileged families by providing them with a form of sustainable livelihood. Each of the 30 families received a pair of goats, as a way to provide immediate and long-term income generation. Families were also equipped with training and guidance in proper animal care. Follow up visits indicate that the families have taken good care of the goats with several of the goats having given birth. In the long term each household will return one offspring to the project, allowing the initiative to expand and impact more families over time.





New FCCC at RP

A fourth FCCC was launched at RP in July with 50 children. The inaugural programme, attended by project leaders, families and staff, set a clear vision for the centre as a place where children can grow educationally, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Leaders encouraged families to send their children regularly, affirming the project's commitment to nurturing each child's potential.

Since its launch, the centre has already begun shaping children's lives through a range of centre activities. The daily nutritious meals, structured play and health-focused routines are helping build physical strength. Spiritual and moral growth is being nurtured through storytelling and values-based lessons. Creative activities such as skits and cultural events are helping the children grow in confidence and resilience, while academic progress is being supported and monitored through consistent tutoring, use of interactive methods, and special projects. It has been a blessing to have opened a fourth FCCC and, as with other FCCCs, we will continue to monitor progress to ensure continued growth of the children and a long term impact.





FCCC Impact

Education



Over the past year, children at the various FCCCs have settled well into the new syllabus. Placing a strong focus on the four core areas, each area is given dedicated attention through a variety of structured activities that foster not only academic support but broader developmental learning.

Each afternoon, the program begins with a nutritious snack, followed by a prayer of gratitude. Children then receive support from tutors as they complete their school homework, receiving additional assistance where needed. This is followed by lessons tailored to the day's curriculum focus, delivered through engaging stories, activities, and interactive sessions that make learning both practical and enjoyable. Additional support and emphasis on reinforcing key concepts is provided especially during midterm and end-of-year exams with final exam results showing steady and successful progress among most students.

To further assist with their studies, each child was given a stationery pack, containing a pencil, ruler, eraser, sharpener, and two notebooks, at the start of the academic year. Monthly provision of toiletries—soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, and hair oil—support ongoing health and hygiene. Care for the children also extends beyond the classroom —when a child is absent or unwell, tutors make home visits to check on their wellbeing and offer support.

A three-day skills development and spiritual enrichment program was also conducted to equip children with confidence, resilience, and practical learning skills. Through crafts, songs, stories, and English lessons, they engaged both creatively and academically. The story of Joseph was central, illustrating how God uses challenges to build character and fulfil His plans, inspiring children to persevere with faith. The program also introduced the principles of Explore, Experiment, and Excel, fostering curiosity, hands-on practice, and the pursuit of excellence. The program concluded with a prize distribution, to celebrate and motivate the children. Through these and other initiatives, the FCCCs remain committed to fostering a caring environment that promotes children's learning, wellbeing, and holistic growth.





FCCC Impact (cont..)

Family Engagement and Support

Project staff conduct regular home visits to better understand each child's home environment, strengthen relationships with families, and gather feedback on the program's impact. These visits allowed staff to identify specific challenges faced by families, observe improvements in children's behaviour, discipline, and study habits, and assess the positive use of hygiene kits, with parents consistently reporting greater cleanliness and, in some cases, a deepened prayer life.

Parent-Teacher meetings were also held to strengthen family engagement. Led by the Program Manager and Project Coordinator, the meetings, which were well attended by parents, emphasised and discussed practical topics like early conflict resolution, open communication, emotional validation, and consistent encouragement to support children's development. Practical tools and real-life examples were shared, and parents had the opportunity to discuss their own challenges and receive helpful suggestions. The home visits and parent-teacher meetings helped reinforce the partnership between the project and the community, and families expressed their appreciation for the support they and their children received through the FCCC's.







Health Initiatives and Awareness Programmes

A number of health initiatives and awareness programmes were held aimed at fostering healthier habits among the children and their families. The medical camps organised at VP and CK offered comprehensive health screenings, including general check-ups and eye examinations. Health records were established to monitor ongoing wellbeing, and advice was provided to parents to address any identified health concerns, especially in the areas of diet and hygiene. The family health and hygiene awareness meeting held at VP and led by a graduate nurse, highlighted the significance of maintaining a disciplined lifestyle. It covered topics such as nutritious meals, consistent sleep routines, and proper personal hygiene.



FCCC Impact (cont..)

Child Protection and Rights Awareness





A Child Protection Policy Awareness Program was held in one of the FCCCs, bringing children, parents, and staff together to deepen their understanding of children's rights and legal protections. Led by a Chennai High Court Advocate and supported by the Development Department, the session emphasised creating a safe environment for children at home and in the community. It highlighted the importance of transparent reporting and provided practical strategies for recognising and addressing child abuse. Aimed at equipping parents with the necessary tools to identify inappropriate behaviour, and respond confidently to potentially harmful situations, the event reinforced that child protection was a shared responsibility and underscored the need for education and open dialogue to ensure every child's safety and wellbeing.

Celebrations Inspiring Growth and Patriotism

A series of celebrations that nurtured patriotism, creativity, and community spirit while providing children with opportunities for personal growth, were organised by all four FCCCs. India's **Republic Day** was observed with the national anthem, an address on the values of democracy and unity, and a Speech and Essay Writing Competition, with prizes awarded to top performers. **Independence Day** was celebrated with patriotic songs, cultural dances, and inspiring speeches, with invited guests encouraging students on values of unity, perseverance, and honesty. The year also featured an **Annual Day** celebration marked by an evening of cultural performances, student recognition awards, and a shared supper. By acknowledging and celebrating these important national and historical events, a valuable platform was provided for the children to develop and showcase their talents, while reinforcing values of unity and patriotic pride.







FCCC Impact (cont..)

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations were held at the FCCCs with much joy and festivity, beginning with prayer and a welcome address. Celebrations included vibrant cultural performances by the children, folk dances, songs, and a puppet show that conveyed the true message of Christmas. Project staff shared greetings and a special address highlighting the themes of love, hope, and giving. The highlight of the celebrations however was the distribution of “Joy Boxes” containing T-shirt, water bottle, water colours, clay set, and chocolates, bringing much delight to the children. The event concluded with a closing prayer.







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Jesus is at the centre of this work and we praise Him for His faithfulness

Grace Ministries Overseas Aid (GMOA) is a not for profit, non-Government Australian Christian Aid Organisation working in Southern India. GMOA was founded in 1984.

GMOA is approved by the Australian Government as a tax-exempt charity, and as such is required to meet high standards of corporative governance, public accountability and financial management, this includes an independent audit. All monies donated for work in India are sent to India. All work for GMOA in Australia is done on a voluntary basis.

GMOA would like to once again thank everyone who has partnered with us in many ways to offer hope and a future to these children and young adults in India.