

IDENTITY, HISTORY & VISION

Who We Are

DKSHA is a rural, community-based grassroots NGO committed to restoring dignity, strengthening families, and empowering communities.

Our Journey

Founded in 1993, DKSHA began its child-focused work through the establishment of Cornerstone Children Home, a Child Care Institution (CCI), which operated successfully from 2004 to April 2023. During this period, the institution earned wide recognition as a Centre of Excellence for quality child care and protection.

In 2017, following an inspirational dialogue with partner agency Miracle Foundation, DKSHA aligned its vision with the global belief that every child deserves a family. This marked a strategic transition towards Family Strengthening (FS) and Family-Based Alternative Care (F-BAC).

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, DKSHA ensured the safe reintegration of children into their biological families, while maintaining regular follow-up and care. By May 2023, 155 children were successfully reintegrated from DKSHA and neighbouring CCIs.

Today, DKSHA continues to support 166+ children living with their own families across Tiruchirappalli and Dindigul districts, ensuring safety, emotional well-being, education continuity, and family resilience.

Our Vision

A community where every child thrives in a safe, nurturing, and empowered family environment.

FUTURE DIRECTION & CONTACT

Government Convergence:

Staff link families to schemes including Widow Pension (21 families), PU-Ujjwala (55 families), and CM Health Insurance (22 families). DKSHA supports district-level initiatives like the Chief Minister's special camps (Makkaludan Mudhalvar).

Community Prevention:

Prevention and gatekeeping activities in **17 village communities** across two Panchayats (Malaiyadiipatty & Vengaikurichy) reduce unnecessary institutionalisation.

Infrastructure & Capacity Building:

Former CCI campus will host vocational training for older boys and girls. Staff undergo continuous training and internal audits to enhance programme delivery.

CONTACT US

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DKSHA Cornerstone

SINCE: 1993

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



Let Your Light Shine, Empowering Families. Transforming Futures.

EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION

Life Skills & Education:

Children receive training in decision-making, emotional management, interpersonal skills, and teamwork within a family-based care model. Career fairs, UPSC/TNPSC coaching support, and vocational courses prepare youth for higher education and employment. Children have shown strong academic outcomes, including high board exam performance and selection for national-level programmes such as ISRO's YUVIKA.

Child Protection:

Role-play and LCD-based Child Safeguarding Policy sessions address anti-bullying and awareness of safe and unsafe touch, helping children feel informed, protected, and confident.

Alumni Network:

131 past residents are settled in dignified employment. Regular Alumni Meets maintain connections and mentoring.



TRANSITION TO FAMILY-BASED CARE

DKSHA transformed from institutional care to a fully family-based model. Over several years, it reintegrated children and established systems to ensure continued support within their families.

Key Highlights:

- ✓ **155 children** reintegrated from DKSHA and neighbouring CCIs
- ✓ **166+ children** currently supported in Tiruchirappalli & Dindigul districts.
- ✓ Achieved recognition as a Centre of Excellence & Care Collective in 2025.
- ✓ In 2017, following an inspirational dialogue with Miracle Foundation, DKSHA aligned with the belief that every child deserves a family. Transitioned towards Family Strengthening (FS) and Family-Based Alternative Care (F-BAC)



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

DKSHA focuses on health, livelihoods, and community sustainability.

Our Journey

16-year collaboration with Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, delivered **1,319 cataract surgeries** with free IOL lens implantation. The Mega Eye Camp (May 2025) screened 216 patients and admitted 102 for surgery.

Health & Hygiene:

Routine medical check-ups for F-BAC children and families, along with nutrition guidance, handwashing demos, and hygiene awareness.

Financial & Livelihood Support:

Support provided to families includes goats, cows, sewing machines, and seed money for small businesses. Training covers financial literacy and self-employment skills like dishwashing and laundry liquid production.

Material Distribution:

Essential items such as dry rations, iron-rich food, clothing, footwear, cooking vessels, and educational/activity kits are provided.

Community Infrastructure:

Renovated the Panchayat Union Primary School in Ayanreddiyapatti (May 2022) benefiting children and staff.

www.dksha.org