

Other Areas of Support

The Trust funds a computer centre for the training of young people and there is a tailoring centre for young women, some of whom were previously panning in the sewers.



A drop-in centre is available for working boys. These are vulnerable young boys who would otherwise spend 24 hours every day working and sleeping in the street corner cafes where they are employed.



The Trust's work extends into the slum itself, offering love, care and practical help to elderly people and the families of the children from Vidiyal.

The Trust also supports a mission hospital and a boys' home in Kerala, South India.

The Trust receives no government grants or other financial assistance in either the UK or India.

Voluntary contributions from individuals, churches, businesses, schools, and other groups fund the work of the Trust.

Tax efficient donations under the *Gift Aid* scheme are encouraged whenever possible.

The Trustees are happy to give presentations to interested groups on the work in South India.

Please contact the Trustees for further details.



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NewDawn India is the working name of
The Cooper Atkinson Charitable Trust for India
Registered Charity Number: 1001535



For the relief of Poverty
in Southern India

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Aims and Purposes

The main purpose of the Trust is the relief of poverty in India, in particular in the slums of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. We are a Christian charity and work, in co-operation with a Christian group in India, for the benefit of all in need, irrespective of race, caste or creed. There is a special emphasis on projects for children, healthcare, education and training. The Trust has no political affiliations and merely offers Christian love and care.



The Trust was founded in 1990 and its founder, Neville Cooper, continues with the work, alongside other trustees and supporters. This makes the Trust a small local charity with minimal overheads, providing greater benefit to the children of Madurai.

The Vidiyal Street Children Programme

It is estimated that there are 30,000 living rough on the streets or in the slums of the city of Madurai. They survive by rag picking, scavenging in sewers, which run right past their homes, and begging. The caste system keeps these families in poverty. "Vidiyal" means a new dawn or new beginning, and new hope. Some 300 children come daily to the Vidiyal drop-in centres, run by Jim Jesudoss and his dedicated team, where they receive unconditional love, as well as material needs and medical care. The children are placed in local schools and workshops, some moving on to higher education.



The new Vidiyal Centre

Many of the children who arrive at Vidiyal have been abandoned or orphaned and some have been abused on the streets. A new building has been constructed to provide a home for these children so that they can receive love and care. Many of the orphaned children and those who live in the slum are sponsored and they respond so well to the love and interest of their sponsors.



Joseph's House

Joseph's House, which is a home for disabled children who have been found abandoned, is part of the new Vidiyal Centre. These children receive love and care, including medical care, physiotherapy and appropriate education.

The School

Also housed in the Vidiyal centre are the nursery and kindergarten schools. Parents of the slum and street children are very keen for their youngsters to have an education so demand for the places is high. The current building is only large enough to accommodate two classes. The latest Trust project is to fund the building and operation of a new seven classroom primary and junior school for Vidiyal.



Songs of Praise House

Songs of Praise House is next to the new Vidiyal Centre and is home to boys that the police have picked up on the streets. They may have only stolen to provide food but here they are cared-for in a safe environment until they can be returned to their families if possible.

