



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

**Bhoomika**

# CONTENTS

Vision.....	03
Mission.....	03
Sharing Our Thoughts.....	04
Disaster Rehabilitation.....	05
Educate & Empower.....	16
Other Activities.....	19
Moments We Cherish.....	21
Our Gratitude.....	22
Our Team.....	22
Financials.....	23

When a group of like-minded individuals gathered to support those affected by the Gujarat Earthquake in 2001, little did they imagine that they would witness the devastation caused by the earthquake and the suffering of the people in its immediate aftermath, followed by the long-term consequences of rebuilding homes, vocations and schools. The devastation caused in communities that were already underprivileged emphasised the need for emphatic organised support. The vision of Bhoomika was born out of this experience.

## VISION

Disasters have devastating impacts, traumatising and debilitating lives. We believe that response to disasters is not just about immediate relief but a humanitarian response to the affected that looks beyond immediate suffering. It is about rehabilitation through their vocation, their place of dwelling, the rebuilding of schools, nurturing of the children in the aftermath of the disaster. We aim to rebuild lives and livelihoods.

## MISSION

To work with underprivileged communities and individuals

- At times of natural disasters by responding through the three phases of Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation
- In the field of education by supporting children's education through better infrastructure and qualitative intervention with an aim to make it relevant, to equip them with a mind to enquire, to be creative, sensitive to environment and people, helping preserve the planet

# SHARING OUR THOUGHTS

As a disaster relief organisation engaging with both rescue coordination and relief during disasters, we have been very aware of the distress in the post-disaster phase. While many organisations reach out and support the affected during disasters, it is almost always the Government and larger aid organisations that have to take responsibility in building back infrastructure and re-creating livelihoods.

Over the years, Bhoomika Trust has taken a conscious decision to stay with the affected for a longer time through disaster rehabilitation projects. Rehabilitation is a long term engagement as it involves longer term intervention programs and the rebuilding of infrastructure. Sustainability of programs and building better have been the two principles that drive our post-disaster efforts. A disaster is devastating for the people who lose homes and livelihoods, and it becomes the responsibility of relief agencies to create rehabilitation models that withstand nature's onslaught.

In 2019-20 we focused a lot on rehabilitation. We built houses as part of rehabilitation of Chennai 2015 floods, we repaired and renovated schools post Gaja Cyclone 2018, and we created our first rehabilitation project in Kerala after the rains of 2018.

We built a new kitchen, dining hall and assembly hall for a residential school replacing a rain ravaged inadequate structure for tribal children in the hilly regions of Wayanad district.

Rehabilitation is an opportunity to create for the better. It is also about patience, planning and focus. This year we undertook the ambitious beginning of laying the foundation for a primary school, a 16,000 square feet building in Perumbakkam. After the December 2015 floods, families were relocated from canal banks into new resettlement colonies. Perumbakkam, one of the largest such colonies that housed over 15,000 families, did not have adequate schools and the children were studying out of tenements which were meant to be small apartments. It took us a while to start this project, but we are committed to see this through. Like I said, rehabilitation after a disaster is an ongoing process. I am, as always, humbled by the support of our donors, our volunteers, and our small and committed team that makes all that we do possible. We have shared some glimpses of what we see in the field and I hope we are able to bring alive some of these images for you.

Thank you for your support.

**ARUNA SUBRAMANIAM**  
MANAGING TRUSTEE



# DISASTER REHABILITATION

The year began with many of our rehabilitation projects getting completed. We define rehabilitation as rebuilding livelihoods and infrastructure, like schools, houses, senior citizen homes, and children's homes.

A heart-wrenching reality after a disaster is the loss of a home. We saw it immediately after the December 2015 floods in Chennai when we visited many areas in and around the city. Many marginalised communities live in huts with meagre possessions. We

saw their desolation as they came home to relief camps full of makeshift houses with sarees tied around poles, temporary roofs with vinyl sheets, and uneven mud floors.

In 2018, the Gaja Cyclone in its few hours of fury devastated several schools, as roofs collapsed or flew away, leaving windows and doors damaged. Many schools have poor infrastructure and disasters dent even this. Bhoomika looks at this as an opportunity to not just rebuild, but to build better.



# HUNDRED RESILIENT HOMES

In June 2016, Bhoomika Trust set up its 'Hundred Resilient Homes' program, focusing on those affected by December 2015 floods in Chennai. Partnering with a team of young architects and actively consulting the local community, we developed housing models. This year, in our second phase of construction, we built **46 houses**.

## MUDICHUR, TAMBARAM

Bhoomika built **20 houses** in Periyar Samathuvapuram in Mudichur (Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu), at a cost of **Rs 36,40,000**. The project was started in December 2018. It was completed and handed over in June 2019.



## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

His speech falters and she cannot speak. Their three daughters have speech and hearing impairments as well. This family was one of the 20 beneficiaries of our Hundred Resilient Homes rehabilitation program. As we handed over the small houses to some of them, their tears and shows of gratitude somehow made us uncomfortable.

The Bhoomika Team had visited Periyar Samathuvapuram Nagar in Mudichur (Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu) in 2016 after the Chennai floods. Most of these residents had resettled in Periyar Samathuvapuram Nagar two decades ago from near Ramapuram with a small piece of paper as proof for their entitlement to live here.

They were living in thatched huts when water rose up to 8 feet high during the floods. They came back after the floods abated and built temporary structures fashioned with tins, flex banners and old sarees tied around poles. A concrete house was a dream they could not afford.

We first supported many of them with livelihood needs such as catering equipment, push carts and cattle, to start earning. Next, we built twenty houses in the community. Many decked their new houses with 'kolams' and flowers, and waited to welcome the Bhoomika team. However, behind every smile was a disturbing story. Every second house had a young woman abandoned or widowed, often because

of alcoholism. These girls were too young to take on the role of single parents. On our visits, we often received requests for jobs, education and other support needs to help them provide for their family.

Even as we recognised the depth of the community's needs, we felt relieved to know that these twenty families now had a home to come back to and a loft to store their possessions in.



## MANAMBATHY, KANCHIPURAM

We built **13 houses** in Manambathy in Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu. This settlement is one of the earliest sites that our teams visited in 2015 after the

floods and we have built a total of 30 houses here. This phase, which was the final one, was started in 2018 and completed in June 2019 at a cost of **Rs. 42,01,200.**

The images of the damaged huts we saw haunted us. Housing is the most basic of needs and we wanted to do as much as we could once we got through the relief phase. But this process is time consuming as the beneficiaries' entitlement to the land they live on has to be verified and permissions have to be put in place.

Community meetings need to be held and almost always the need is more than what we can provide. The phase needs a lot of perseverance. However, our team has been overwhelmed by tears and gratitude from many of these beneficiaries. Many of them are senior citizens and women.



We built houses in some locations close to urban centres, yet remote in terms of approach.



## ARUMBAKKAM, POONDI

We built and handed over 5 houses in Arumbakkam (Thiruvallur district) at a total cost of Rs. 6,70,000. The work started in 2018 and houses were handed over in May 2019. We took care to provide enough elevation to the house to keep them safe from flooding.



## ACHARAPAKKAM, KANCHIPURAM

4 houses were built and handed over to beneficiaries in Acharapakkam at a cost of Rs. 5,20,000. The work began in September 2018 and the houses were handed over in April 2019.



## MELKANAKAMBATTU, KANCHIPURAM

This remote settlement has only 11 huts. In Phase 1 we completed 7 houses, and in the current phase we completed the remaining 4 houses at a cost of Rs. 6,04,800.

The gratitude shown by the people in these communities is humbling. Housing for the poor should become a necessary social commitment for the Government because NGOs like Bhoomika can only reach out to a select number.

# REBUILDING SCHOOLS: REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Over the years, Bhoomika Trust has continued to work on education-related activities. One of the key focus areas after disasters has been that of working with schools to repair damages and rebuild them better. The Trust had renovated and upgraded several schools after the Gaja cyclone 2018 and Kerala Floods 2018.

## A NOON MEAL CENTRE FOR THIRUVARUR DISTRICT

In the previous year, we had repaired and rebuilt the Kokiladi Primary School near Thirutharaipoondi in Thiruvavarur district. Based on the school's request, this year, we went back and rebuilt the noon meal centre to benefit the 75 children studying in the school. The renovation was done at a cost of **Rs. 1,05,452** and handed over to the school in June 2019.



## THIRUVALLUR PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THIRUMANAGUDI, NAGAPATTINAM

These pictures tell you the story of the devastation and the effect of renovation.

This school was started in the year 1952 and currently has over 150 students. After the cyclone, the school lost its tiled roof, sintex tanks and toilet doors. The floors were cracked and the school looked quite depressing.

We decided to relay the traditional Mangalore Roof tiles and replace the damaged wooden rafters. The floor was repaired, the damaged walls replastered, and windows and doors fixed. The entire school was given a fresh coat of paint. The noon meal centre was given a facelift. The project was completed at a cost of **Rs 2,22,751** between April 15th 2019 and June 27th 2019. The teachers and children were delighted.



## KERALA RAINS DEVASTATE A TRIBAL SCHOOL IN WAYANAD DISTRICT

The unprecedented rainfalls and ensuing natural calamity in Kerala in 2018 took Bhoomika to Wayanad in particular.

Rehabilitation after a disaster is a sustained long-term effort. At Bhoomika, we are a bit partial towards schools and we keep redrawing our boundaries. We have done significant disaster relief work in Kerala after the devastating 2018 rains. The stunning Wayanad district that faced huge damages was the focal point for us. We had earlier distributed elaborate 'Back Home' kits to 5,000 tribal families there and helped several farmers by buying them cattle.

We have now built a large dining hall and a kitchen in place of a damaged, inadequate dilapidated structure in a residential tribal school in Niravalpuzha, Wayanad. The project was completed over a period of 6 months (May 1 - September 19 2019) at a cost of **Rs. 41,18,878**. Our team of architects, Triple O Studio from Chennai, were delighted to make multiple visits with our team to finish the project aesthetically.



The drive through the ghat section is scenic. In several parts, the roads are disastrous, making the drive arduous. You can see the mountains revealing their brown scalp in places where there had been landslides. Nineteen residents lost their lives in the recent landslides.

A significant population of tribal communities live in the enchanting hills of Wayanad, dotted with coffee and banana plantations. There were 47 tribes originally, even though only 8 tribes are spoken about most often, constituting 90 percent of the population of Wayanad.

Today with increasing migration of other communities into this special jewel in God's Own Country, they are now less than 20 percent. A large part of the district is covered by forests with a population of elephants, tigers and leopards.

The school, with multiple structures perched on the hill with serene surroundings, has a solar electric fence to keep the wildlife out.

The tribal children from the local area and some from across the border come and reside here for their education. The inauguration ceremony was enchanting. In a wonderful show of affection, the children, parents, the local panchayat and school staff received us at a formal inauguration function. The colourful 'pookolams' typical of Kerala added a charming background. The whole neighbouring area came in to celebrate the event.



## THE FURY OF GAJA CYCLONE

The coast is 187 kilometres long with 53 marine villages dotted along the shore. It has over 1000 mechanised fishing vessels, 7000 traditional catamarans and multiple motorised fibre-reinforced vessels. About 26,000 families, with 50,000 fishermen and over 40,000 fisherwomen, fish for a living here. These fisherfolk invest a minimum of Rs 8 lakhs in boats, nets and engines, and use around 6 varieties of nets, each costing around Rs. 1 lakh, for different seasons and fishes.

This was the scene of Nagapattinam's fishing villages: vibrant ecosystems of traditional livelihoods; families coming together to temporary abodes during the peak season; men taking boats out before dawn and women waiting for them to sort the catch of the day; the tradition of fishing and their worship of the sea; evenings that come alive with singing and dancing; the traders who commission and support their needs.

Then came Cyclone Gaja.

On November 16th 2018, it made its landfall to devastate this community. In spite of extraordinary levels of precaution, the coastal villages faced massive damages. Team Bhoomika visited a few villages immediately after the cyclone. The devastation was enormous, with torn nets flying away, boats broken, motors in repair.

Amidst all of this, the women spoke, sitting on top of broken ice boxes, taking us to a different time - a time of



their bonding with the sea, of festivities in their peak season, of the families they leave behind to harvest the sea of its various offerings. For a moment, they forgot the present. They invited us to visit them again to see how they truly live, how beautiful their normal is.

## HELPING FISHERMEN GO BACK TO WORK

Team Bhoomika coordinated with the Fisheries Department and identified fisherfolk who were still struggling to get back to work.

We zeroed in on two villages - Vanavanmahadevi and Vilunthamavadi - and decided to supply them with nets. The process of identifying, verifying and raising money was challenging, but we were able to deliver the fishing nets to **209 fishermen.**

We supplied nets worth **Rs. 21,53,031** between September 2018 and April 2019.

Team Bhoomika also helped local vendors in Ezhilur Village to restart their provision stores.



# EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

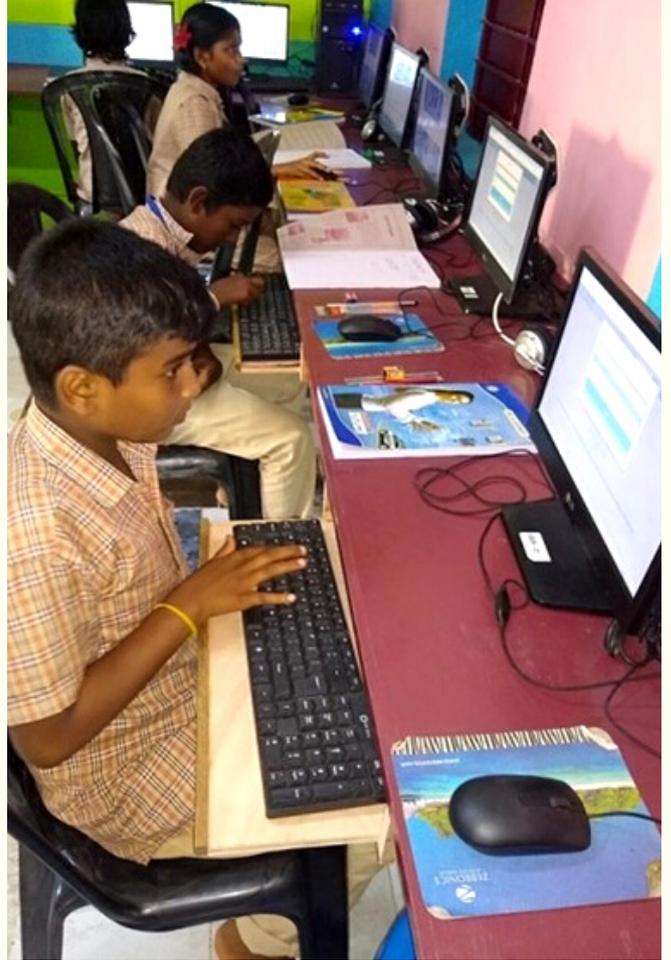
Bhoomika's mission in the field of education involves addressing gaps in infrastructure and providing material support, scholarships to students in need and qualitative intervention with the aim of helping students perform better. Through the year, we have initiated and completed several projects.



## KARKA MATH LAB AT PANCHAYAT UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THIRUVALLUR, TAMIL NADU

We provided computer peripherals and installed the Karka Math Lab Program in the Panchayat Union Middle School, Manjankarani village (Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu), benefitting **43 students**.

A computer facilitator was also appointed to monitor the classes. The Karka Math Lab program aims at improving the mathematical and logical thinking abilities of children by supporting classroom teaching with self-paced learning through technology and trained facilitators.



Towards the end of the financial year, we organised a storytelling session in Panchayat Union Primary School, conducted by Ms. Janaki Sabesh, a professional actor, storyteller, trainer, author and voice artist. She narrated two stories and kept the children enraptured.

The dimly lit corridor of the Slum Clearance Board tenement in Perumbakkam packed with young children transformed into a jungle on a

pleasant February morning. The passionate storyteller was at her mesmerising best, bringing alive birds and animals. She majestically strolled and roared like a lion much to their delight. The children were made to visualise the presence of monkeys, ostriches, tortoises and parrots with the sounds of the jungle as she told them tales that made them smile and laugh. A myriad of emotions dancing on the faces of these children was a joy to behold.



# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Sujatha is a Class 8 student who loves going to school. Both her parents are HIV positive, and her father has walked out of their lives. Her mother earns a meagre salary but is the sole provider of the family. Bhoomika supports her school fees and provides monthly provisions for the family. We are committed to supporting her education until Class 12.

Asha is a second year undergraduate student pursuing a degree in computer science engineering. Her family is one amongst many affected by the Chennai floods. We, at Bhoomika, have been supporting her college education in order to ensure that she graduates.

Radhika is a Class 12 student who works hard academically and lives in a thatched home. Her father, who is HIV positive, is not strong enough to work and earn a living. Her mother is HIV positive as well but earns a small income to keep the family going. Bhoomika supported Radhika's education expenses last year and hopes to take her through college.

Every year, students from low income families with sick parents or no livelihood reach out to us asking for help. Every such appeal strengthens our commitment to our cause. Our field team completes an elaborate verification process before we bring the student into the Bhoomika fold. We believe that each one of them is worthy of our support.

This year, we provided an amount of **Rs. 13,24,048** to **100 students** as fees support



# OTHER ACTIVITIES

From January to December 2019, we distributed monthly provisions and nutritious food to students with HIV positive parents. The provisions had a total value of **Rs. 7,49,399.**

Our Trustee Aruna Subramaniam addressed the students of Sairam Engineering College on exploring engineering minds for rural development.

We conducted a career guidance program in September 2019 for our scholarship students.

Our trustee, Ms. Aruna, was the Guest of Honour at CHILD Trust's ISAG's fifth Annual Day celebrations.

We distributed educational material to 220 students of Vivekananda Tribal School, Niravalpuzha, Wayanad, Kerala.

In November 2019, we donated **six desktop computers and five laptops** to CHILD Home, as a long term resource to train children. The laptops had a value of **Rs.3,40,900.**



In May 2019, we conducted a summer camp for children in the Police Boys and Girls Club. The camp involved several fun activities that were interspersed with learning: CPR training, paper bag making, cleaning, sporting, learning about dental awareness, theatre training and cooking without fire. Over **50 children** attended the camp.



We collaborated with AWARE to conduct an orientation on child sexual abuse awareness at the Perumbakkam Government High School. It was attended by **18 teachers**.



We donated LCD projectors for smart classrooms and T-shirts for the students of the Panchayat Union Middle School, Omavayal (Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu) in August 2019.



We started a community tuition centre in Seniyar Medu, Acharapakkam village in August 2019.



We conducted a women's vocational program meeting at Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Perumbakkam.



We honoured the conservancy workers of Ward 119 in Royapettah, Chennai by giving them gifts and sweets for Deepavali in October 2019.



# MOMENTS WE CHERISH

- A message from CHILD, an NGO:

*We are very happy to inform you all that our ISAG girls have passed and scored well in their 12th exams. It gives a great joy to share our happiness with you all. Our heartfelt thanks to Bhoomika Trust for the education that you have given our children. With lots and lots of happiness and happy tears we thank you for the support that you have rendered. Thanks Bhoomika for the best tool that you have given our girls!*

A Harshini Priya - 455/600 (First)  
T Archana Devi - 414/600 (Second)  
P Varshini - 379/600 (Third)  
Sathya - 372/600  
Sivaranjini - 348/600  
Logeswari - 368/600  
Gomathi - 355/600

- Our project coordinator, Purushothaman, was invited by the US Consulate to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on "Crisis Management and Resilience in Coastal India" in the United States from March 30th 2019 to April 20th 2019. He was joined by five other Indian participants from Chennai, Mumbai and Trivandrum.



# OUR GRATITUDE

We are deeply honoured by the trust placed in us by philanthropic individuals, foundations, and corporate entities. We thank them for their continued support. The relief and rehabilitation work that we do is possible only because you put your faith in us.

To all those who have continued to volunteer with us over the years and for those who joined us this year, we place on record our sincere gratitude. You have made everything we do possible; your empathy has made our efforts more significant.

## OUR TEAM

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jayendra Panchapakesan  
Sudha Panchapakesan  
Aruna Subramaniam  
Rinku Mecheri  
Bombay Jayashree

### COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Latha Subramaniam  
B.Ramakrishnan  
Pravin Sekhar  
Geetha Rajagopal  
Raju Rajagopal  
Usha Sarathy

### BHOOMIKA TEAM

Murali Vedachalam  
V Purushothaman  
Yesudhas  
Syed Mohammed Azarudeen  
Reegan Raj  
Uthamanathan

# FINANCIALS

## Bhoomika Trust

Regd office : 32, 1st street, Karpagam Avenue, Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai - 600 028

Admin office : Ground Floor, "Pushpak Apartments", 14/10, Jagadambal Colony 1st Street, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014

### Income And Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 2020

Particulars	Schedule No.	For the year ended 31-03-2020 ₹	For the year ended 31-03-2019 ₹
<b>Income</b>			
Donations received	-	1,90,83,895	2,02,72,775
Processing Fee received	-	5,650	7,622
Interest received from bank	-	31,00,336	38,36,374
Interest on Income Tax Refund	-	32,484	4,990
Other Income	-	540	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,22,22,905</b>	<b>2,41,21,761</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Application for Charitable Purposes	7	2,33,68,739	3,77,05,579
Depreciation	2	28,932	45,763
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,33,97,671</b>	<b>3,77,51,341</b>
Excess of Expenditure over Income		11,74,767	1,36,29,580
<b>Carried to Balance Sheet</b>		<b>11,74,767</b>	<b>1,36,29,580</b>

As per Our Report of even date  
for **CNGSN & Associates LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Reg. No. 004915S/S200036

*B. Ramakrishnan*

**B Ramakrishnan**  
Partner  
Membership No.201023

Place: Chennai  
Date: 31st December.2020



for and on behalf of  
**Bhoomika Trust**

*P Jayendra*

**P Jayendra**  
Trustee



*Aruna Subramaniam*

**Aruna Subramaniam**  
Trustee



## Bhoomika Trust

Regd office : 32, 1st street, Karpagam Avenue, Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai - 600 028

Admin office : Ground Floor, "Pushpak Apartments", 14/10, Jagadambal Colony 1st Street, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014

### Balance Sheet As At 31st March, 2020

Particulars	Sch.	As at 31st March.2020		As at 31st March.2019	
		(Amount in INR)		(Amount in INR)	
<b>I. Sources of funds</b>					
(a) Capital Fund	1		4,84,33,826		5,46,08,591
(b) Corpus Fund	2		50,00,000		-
(b) Loans & Advances	-		-		-
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,34,33,826</b>		<b>5,46,08,591</b>
<b>II. Applications of funds</b>					
(A) Fixed Assets:	3				
(a) Gross Block		1,03,484		1,49,247	
(b) Less: Depreciation		28,932		45,763	
(c) Net Block			74,552		1,03,484
(B) Current Assets, Loans and Advances:					
(a) Cash and Bank Balances	4	5,23,64,107		5,33,19,988	
(b) Other Current Assets	5	11,47,665		11,85,118	
(c) Loans and Advances	-	-		-	
		5,35,11,771		5,45,05,106	
(C) Current Liabilities and Provisions:					
(a) Liabilities	6	1,52,497			
Net Current Assets (B) - (C)		5,33,59,274	5,33,59,274	5,45,05,106	5,45,05,106
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,34,33,826</b>		<b>5,46,08,591</b>

As per Our Report of even date  
for CNGSN & Associates LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Reg. No. 004915S/S200036

*B. Ramakrishnan*

**B Ramakrishnan**  
Partner  
Membership No.201023

Place: Chennai  
Date: 31st December.2020



for and on behalf of  
**Bhoomika Trust**

*P Jayendra*

**P Jayendra**  
Trustee



*Aruna Subramaniam*

**Aruna Subramaniam**  
Trustee





## CONTACT US

### Bhoomika Trust

Ground Floor, "Pushpak Apartments"  
14/10, Jagadambal Colony 1st Street,  
Royapettah, Chennai - 600014

 +91 (44) 42020526 / +91 94444 51268

 [office@bhoomikatrust.org](mailto:office@bhoomikatrust.org)

 [www.bhoomikatrust.org](http://www.bhoomikatrust.org)

 /bhoomikatrustindia

 @TrustBhoomika