

## Institute of Social Education (ISE)

Empowering Children through Education, Protection, and Wellbeing

## **About the Organization**

The Institute of Social Education (ISE) is a voluntary, non-profit organization established in Tamil Nadu more than two decades ago. ISE's to ensure that every child enjoys the right to education, protection, development, and dignity, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (*UNCRC*). ISE works closely with schools, teachers, parents, and government departments to strengthen child-friendly, inclusive, and responsive learning environments.

#### **Vision**

Our vision is to ensure quality education for every child, enable them to grow with the fullest individual capabilities, and responsibilities and instill hope and fearlessness among the children to lead a dignified life.

#### **Mission**

Our Mission is to build a good rapport between Students, Teachers, and Parents to be collectively involved and to provide a creative and supportive learning environment for quality education for the children.

#### **Values**

Educate, Engage and Empower the inclusive community particularly Children, Youth, and Women to lead a sustainable and dignified life.

## **Our Core Objectives**

- 1. To promote **child-friendly and adolescent-responsive education** in government schools.
- 2. To ensure the **health and emotional wellbeing** of children through school-based interventions.
- 3. To strengthen **child protection mechanisms** within schools and communities.
- 4. To empower **teachers**, **parents**, **and communities** to act as catalysts for child development.
- 5. To provide **learning and life-skill opportunities** for marginalized children, especially in slum and tribal areas.

## **Key Program Areas**

### A. Child-Friendly School Program (CFS)

The Child-Friendly School Program is one of ISE's flagship initiatives designed to make schools safe, inclusive, and engaging spaces where every child feels valued and respected. The program aligns with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009, emphasizing children's right to quality education without fear, discrimination, or neglect.

#### **Under this initiative, ISE:**

- Works closely with head teachers, teachers, and School Management Committees (SMCs) to build awareness about child rights and inclusive education.
- Conducts **training workshops** for teachers on child-centered pedagogy, classroom climate, and participatory teaching methods.
- Supports schools to create **child protection policies** and ensure safe physical and emotional environments.
- Encourages student participation through student parliaments, suggestion boxes, and peer learning groups.
- Develops and shares practical tools and learning materials to help teachers identify and support vulnerable children.

#### Outcome:

100's of schools have adopted inclusive practices, improved attendance, and built stronger partnerships with parents and local communities.

## **B. Adolescent Responsive School (ARS) Model**

The Adolescent Responsive School (ARS) model is a pioneering framework developed by ISE to address the **unique developmental**, **emotional**, **and social challenges** faced by adolescents in government schools.

Adolescence is a critical period when children transition to adulthood, often facing confusion, anxiety, peer pressure, and identity struggles. Recognizing this, ISE, in partnership with the **Department of School Education (Tamil Nadu)**, developed the ARS model to make schools more responsive to adolescent needs.

#### **Key features of the ARS Model include:**

- Teacher Sensitization: Training teachers to understand adolescent psychology and handle behavioral or emotional challenges with empathy.
- Life Skills Education: Introducing modules on communication, critical thinking, gender sensitivity, and emotional regulation.
- Peer Support and Mentorship: Forming student peer groups and adolescent clubs to promote mutual understanding and confidence.
- Parent Engagement: Conducting workshops for parents to support adolescents through positive communication and guidance.
- Policy and Practice Integration: Collaborating with schools to embed adolescent wellbeing principles into school management and classroom practices.

#### **Outcome:**

The ARS model has been piloted in **10 districts** and is now recognized as a model for adolescent wellbeing and psychosocial education in Tamil Nadu.

## C. Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program

ISE believes that mental health is an essential component of quality education. The Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program, implemented in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha, aims to strengthen the capacity of schools to respond effectively for students' emotional wellbeing.

### The program includes:

- **Teacher and Counsellor Training:** Building the capacity of educators to identify early signs of distress, anxiety, or learning difficulties among children.
- School Mental Health Forums: Establishing platforms where teachers, counsellors, parents, and local health professionals can collaborate to support students.
- Referral and Support Systems: Linking schools with local healthcare providers and child psychologists for timely interventions.
- Mental Health Literacy: Conducting awareness campaigns for students and parents to reduce stigma around mental health.
- **Digital Learning Tools:** Creating short videos, handbooks, and mobile resources to guide teachers in providing psychological first aid.

#### Outcome:

ISE acts as a **technical resource partner**, providing structured training modules, expert consultation, and ongoing mentoring. The initiative has improved school attendance, reduced dropout rates, and promoted emotional resilience among students.

## D. End Violence Against Children (EVAC-TN) Campaign

The End Violence Against Children – Tamil Nadu (EVAC-TN) campaign is a statewide awareness and action movement led by ISE to eliminate all forms of violence affecting children — physical, emotional, and sexual.

#### The campaign focuses on:

- Awareness Building: Conducting school and community workshops to sensitize students, teachers, and parents about child protection laws and positive discipline.
- **Prevention Mechanisms:** Establishing child protection committees and student safety clubs in schools.
- Reporting and Response: Training teachers and staff to identify and respond to cases of abuse or neglect promptly and safely.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Working with local and state authorities to strengthen child protection systems in educational settings.

#### Outcome:

Through EVAC-TN, ISE has reached 1000's of children and adults, creating a growing movement towards violence-free, child-friendly schools and communities.

## **E. Human Rights Education & Student Forums**

ISE has pioneered the introduction of Human Rights Education in schools and colleges across Tamil Nadu, integrating constitutional values with real-life learning. The program helps children understand their rights and responsibilities while nurturing respect, empathy, and civic consciousness.

#### **Program components include:**

- **Human Rights Curriculum:** Integrating human rights principles into classroom subjects and extracurricular activities.
- **Student Forums:** Establishing Human Rights Student Forums in schools and colleges to encourage youth participation in social issues and leadership development.
- Workshops & Debates: Organizing interactive events on equality, gender justice, democracy, and child protection.
- Youth Leadership Development: Training students to take up small community action projects related to inclusion, environment, and justice.

#### Outcome:

This initiative has helped young people develop a strong moral compass, civic awareness, and leadership qualities necessary for building a humane and equitable society.

## F. Slum & Tribal Child Development Initiatives

ISE's Slum and Tribal Child Development Initiatives focus on reaching the most marginalized children — those growing up in urban poverty or remote tribal areas. The program currently operates in Chennai slum communities and Jawadhu Hills villages (Tiruvannamalai District).

#### Core components include:

- Learning Centres: Establishing after-school learning spaces where children receive academic support, digital literacy training, and mentoring.
- **Nutrition and Health:** Providing nutritious meals and facilitating basic health check-ups through community partnerships.
- Educational Continuity: Supporting school enrollment, retention, and transition to higher education through scholarships and quidance.
- Parental Involvement: Engaging parents and community members to value and sustain education for their children.
- Leadership and Life Skills: Conducting camps and workshops to nurture leadership, self-confidence, and career aspirations among adolescents.

#### Outcome:

These centres serve as **safe**, **nurturing spaces** for children to learn, dream, and grow — bridging the gap between opportunity and potential in some of Tamil Nadu's most underprivileged communities.

## **Our Strengths**

- Over 20 years of experience in education, child rights, and mental health, with proven implementation and monitoring systems.
- Strong collaboration with Government Departments School Education, Social Welfare, and Samagra Shiksha – ensuring effective program outcomes.
- A network of trained teachers, social workers, and psychologists across Tamil Nadu.
- Proven capacity to **design**, **implement**, **monitor**, **and evaluate** large-scale school-based programs.
- Recognized as a state-level resource organization for child-friendly and adolescent-responsive education by the Tamil Nadu government.
- Transparent governance, **certified audits**, and statutory compliance **(12A, 80G, PAN, NGO Darpan)**.
- Experienced in training workshops, community forums, and statewide EVAC- TN campaigns.

#### **Achievements**

- Introduced Human Rights Education in more than 200
  Adi-Dravidar Welfare (ADW) Schools across Chennai,
  Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Vellore, and Tiruvannamalai
  Districts, empowering thousands of students to understand their
  constitutional rights and social responsibilities.
- Under the Child-Friendly School Program, over 3,000 government schools across Tamil Nadu have voluntarily joined hands with ISE to create safe, inclusive, and child-centered learning environments.
- The Forum for Child-Friendly Schools (FCFS) an innovative teacher network initiated by ISE now has more than 8,000 government school teachers as active members, collaborating to exchange ideas, share best practices, and promote child-friendly education at the grassroots level.
- Trained more than 1,200 teachers and headmasters on child mental health, psychosocial wellbeing, and inclusive education strategies through workshops, mentoring, and capacity-building programs.
- Established School Mental Health Forums and Teacher Peer Support Groups in 10 districts, providing structured platforms for emotional support, case discussions, and collaborative problemsolving among educators.
- Strengthened School Management Committees (SMCs) in over 6,000 government schools through orientation, participatory planning, and continuous support to ensure accountability and parent participation in school governance.
- Positively impacted 2000's of children and adolescents from disadvantaged and marginalized communities through integrated programs on education, nutrition, emotional wellbeing, and leadership development.

## **Future Focus Areas (2025–2027)**

- Expand **Learning Centres** in urban slums and tribal areas to reach more children.
- Scale up School Mental Health and Wellbeing Programs across districts in Tamil Nadu.
- Develop digital learning and awareness platforms for teachers, parents, and students.
- Build **strategic partnerships** with CSR foundations and corporate partners for sustainable educational development.

## **CSR Partnership & Collaboration Opportunities**

ISE invites CSR collaboration and funding support in the following areas:

- Child-friendly and adolescent-responsive school initiatives.
- School mental health and counselling programs.
- Slum and tribal children's learning and nutrition programs.
- Digital content creation on child rights and wellbeing.
- Capacity-building workshops for teachers and parents.
- ISE ensures complete transparency, periodic reporting, impact documentation, and brand visibility for all CSR partners.

## **Contact Us**

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**CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL PROGRAM (CFS)** 



**ADOLESCENT RESPONSIVE SCHOOL (ARS)** 



COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM



END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (EVAC-TN)
CAMPAIGN



**HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION & STUDENT FORUMS** 



**SLUM & TRIBAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES** 



# "Empowering children today for a dignified tomorrow."

-ISE

## Thank you!!!