



ANNUAL REPORT ON PROJECTS
2024-2025

March 2025

We make a living by what we get; But we make a life by what we give.

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1. Introduction to FORTESS:

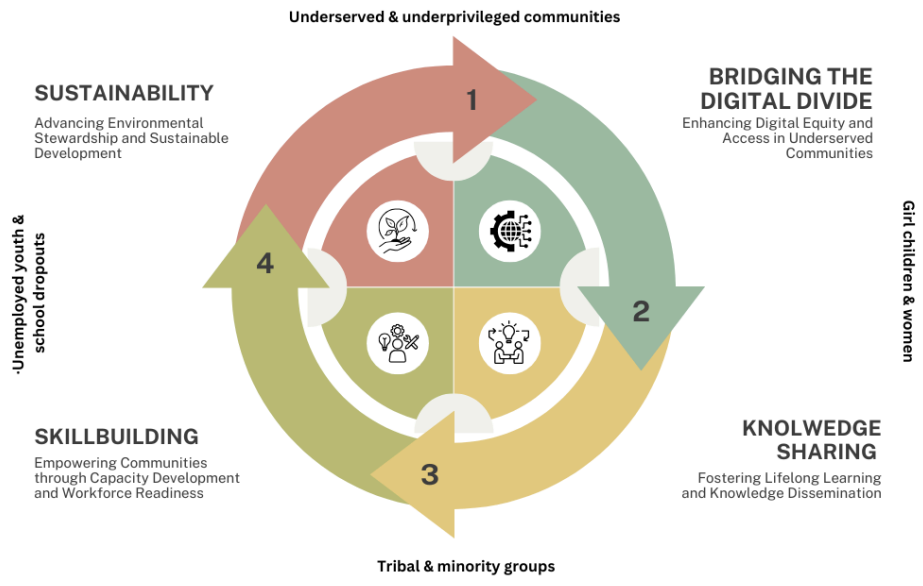
FORTESS is a society established in 2016 by former employees of Tata Consultancy Services Limited and its subsidiaries. Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and The Societies Registration [Maharashtra] Rules 1971, FORTESS is dedicated to driving meaningful change in society. Refer Annexure 1 for our Objectives. FORTESS is registered under Darpan (MH/2025/0505158), Society's registration Act, Charities Commissioner and CSR regulations (CSR00065347).

Mr. S. Ramadorai, former MD & CEO of TCS, is one of the founding members and currently serves as the President. Mr. S. Mahalingam, former CFO of TCS, holds the position of Vice President. The other Trustees and Governing Council members are seasoned industry leaders and leading technologists, having dedicated decades of service to TCS and other leading IT organizations. FORTESS currently has over 300 members spread globally.

Our **VISION** is to be a catalyst for transformative impact across five key areas: **Education, Environment, Technology, Health, and Culture**. Guided by a culture of professionalism, competence, integrity, and reliable execution, we strive to make a lasting difference in the communities we serve.

While community service remains at the heart of FORTESS, we are equally committed to creating & fostering knowledge-sharing opportunities that inspire and empower the younger generation to dream big and achieve more. Our Annual FEST events hosted as part of this mission promote learning, entrepreneurship, skilling & sustainability.

OUR GOALS



(www.fortessgroup.org).

Our registration certificates:

- 
 Fortess Registration Certificate.pdf
- 
 DARPAN_FORTESS.pdf
- 
 CSR Registration certificate.PDF

2. Our Operating model:

FORTESS follows a structured approach to project execution, ensuring **maximum impact and sustainability**. From identifying community needs to implementation, evaluation, and future planning, each phase is designed for efficiency and long-term success.



Phase 1: Planning & Partnerships

- ✓ **Project Identification** – Assessing community needs and defining project goals.
- ✓ **Partnership with Local Partners** – Collaborating with local organizations for expertise and resources.
- ✓ **Fundraising** – Securing financial support and in-kind contributions to sustain the project.

Phase 2: Execution & Monitoring

- ✓ **Implementation** – Executing planned activities to achieve project objectives.
- ✓ **Monitoring & Evaluation** – Measuring progress, tracking impact, and ensuring project effectiveness.

Phase 3: Review & Future Planning

- ✓ **Reporting & Stakeholder Management** – Communicating outcomes with donors, sponsors, and partners.
- ✓ **Assessment for Continuation** – Evaluating success and deciding on scaling, modifying, or concluding the project.

3. Projects & initiatives

EDUCATION:

1) The Scholars program

- a. **Project 1:** 12 Scholars sponsored in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Tamil Nadu
- b. **Project 2:** 20 Scholars sponsored in Govt. schools from various districts in West Bengal

2) FORTESS Smartlabs

- a. **Project 1:** Smartlab set up in Govt. school in Sirkazhi, Tamilnadu/.
- b. **Project 2:** Smartlab set up in Govt. school in Krishnachandrapur High school, Krishnachandrapur, West Bengal

- c. **Project 3:** Smartlab set up in Govt. school in Govt. school #2 in Adilabad, Telengana

3) EarlyStart – Kalvi40 initiative

4) XpressUrself – Holistic development programs

- a. Project 1 – English communication coaching for students of Sevalaya’s Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Tamil Nadu

ENVIRONMENT:

5) FORTESS grove

The Scholars program

About the project:

For many students from underprivileged backgrounds, **access to quality coaching for competitive exams like NEET and JEE remains a significant barrier**, limiting their chances of pursuing higher education in medical and engineering fields. To address this challenge and empower talented students, FORTESS launched the Scholars Program—an initiative to **identify promising students and provide them with professional coaching, fully sponsored by FORTESS members**, to help them achieve their dreams of cracking the IIT-JEE and NEET exams.

As on date, FORTESS has sponsored 32 students from Grades X, XI & XII across Govt. schools in Tamil Nadu & West Bengal.

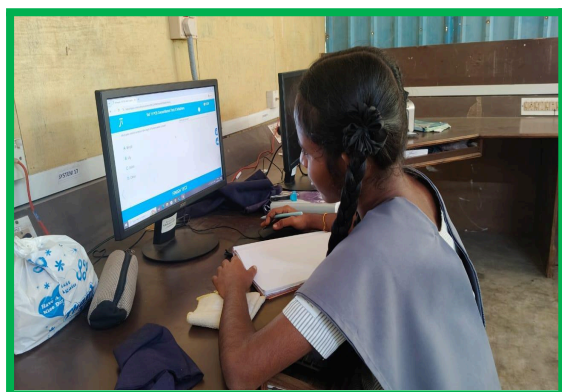
Project 1: 12 Scholars sponsored in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Tamil Nadu

Project details:

No. of students	12
Grades	X,XI,XII
Implementation partners	Ahaguru coaching center - Mentors and provides online coaching to the selected students. Sevalaya - Teachers support the students with online classes, marking their test scores, etc.
Project budget	Rs 7.08 lakhs
Duration	24 months per student
Students profile	JEE – 4 Students (1 boy, 3 girls) NEET – 8 students (No boy, 8 girls)
Classes	156 (NEET- XI) 219(JEE - XI) 390 (XII -JEE) 237 (XII- NEET) concept videos through Online
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class tests were conducted regularly and feedback given to students to improve performance • CBSE syllabus books were provided for 11th and 12th class students • Study materials for JEE & NEET students were also provided • Students visited IITM Campus • Active whatsapp group for students, teachers & mentors for assessment, doubts & additional support throughout the year
Challenges faced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping with CBSE syllabus

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivating the students to interact & be eloquent with doubts & ask for support
Reporting & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A details student wise progress report with marks & feedback is submitted by the school to the FORTESS team. While all the students continued to show progress in academics & interest levels, one student dropped out of the program due to lack of family support.

IIT/NEET sponsored coaching classes in progress:



Accolades:

Best Performers in XI (JEE & NEET)

NEET - Best Performer student

Srinithi M - 92%



JEE - Best Performer students

Amuthashree D - 94%



Best Performer in XII (JEE & NEET)

NEET - Best Performer student
Sripriyanka S - 72%



NEET - Best Performer student
Vishali R - 91%



Feedback & Gallery:



Moumitha.mp4



Hashini.mp4



Rashwanth.mp4



Photos and Feedback
Report of JEE & NEET

Project 2: 20 Scholars sponsored in Govt. schools from various districts in West Bengal

Objective of the program: To improve numeracy, science and analytical skills for 20 underprivileged students of Class XI & XII to help them to crack IIT/NEET entrance examinations

Project details:

No. of students	20
Grades	XI,XII
Implementation partners	Mukti Foundation
Project budget	Rs 5.01 lakhs
Duration	17.08.2024 to 31.03.2026
Students profile	12 girls & 8 boys from Grade XII from difference Govt. schools in West Bengal
Classes (Avg. no. of classes per month)	Avg. 15 hrs per month
Challenges faced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendance issues due to scheduling conflicts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Digital devices & uninterrupted internet for the students
Reporting & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance metrics such as exam scores, attendance records, feedback from teachers • Detailed report of each student attached



Propeller Report (Aug 24 to March 25.)

FORTESS SMARTLABS

In today’s rapidly evolving digital age, access to technology and digital literacy are no longer optional—they are essential. Yet, rural India continues to face significant barriers in accessing digital resources, limiting educational and employment opportunities. Addressing this critical gap is vital to **empower the next generation and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital revolution.**

Our journey toward promoting digital literacy began with our very first project—the Smartlab established at a government school in Sirkazhi, Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of our then Secretary, Mr. R. Chandra. Today, this Smartlab provides digital literacy to over 1,000 middle school students from Grades 6 to 9. This pioneering initiative laid the foundation for our broader Smartlabs program, reflecting our **commitment to advancing digital literacy in rural areas across the country.**

Building on this vision, we successfully inaugurated two new Smartlabs last year in **rural schools in West Bengal and Telangana.** These labs aim to equip students with essential **digital skills, opening doors to better educational and career prospects.** Looking ahead, FORTESS plans to establish five additional Smartlabs in the coming

year, taking steady steps toward **our goal of bridging the digital divide and fostering an inclusive digital future for all.**

[Project 2: Smartlab set up in Govt. school in Krishnachandrapur High school, Krishnachandrapur, West Bengal](#)

Project details:

No. of students covered	180
School	Krishnachandrapur Govt. High school, Krishnachandrapur, West Bengal
No. of desktops	20
Grades	9 th to 12 th
Implementation partners	Mukti Foundation
Project budget	Rs 11.5 lakhs
Duration	12 months (April '24 to March '25)
Topics covered	Computer fundamentals, MS Office, Internet basics, basics of computer programming including HTML
Classes (Avg. no. of classes per month)	10 hours
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video conference facility sponsored, to enable remote coaching & training on soft skills for students in the Computer lab ● Total 115 students from Grades IX to XII underwent soft skills training classes for approx. 4 hrs every week. Some topics covered were <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of English Language 2. Communication skills : Self Introduction, Active Listening , Public speaking, Written communication, Interpersonal Communication, Body language. 3. How to build Self confidence 4. Time Management 5. Assertiveness 6. Problem solving skills 7. Importance of Teamwork

Reporting & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance metrics such as exam scores, attendance records, feedback from teachers ● Detailed report of each student maintained
Challenges faced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time management remain a key issue affecting attendance sometimes. ● Network problems. ● Frequent Power cut is interrupting operations.

Feedback from the students:

1. Appreciated to have this opportunity and they have showed their gratitude to Fortess also.
2. They found these classes highly beneficial as they are learning new things about the computers
3. Want to learn more about the advance technology like AI, Web design, App development etc.

Feedback from the teachers & project coordinator

1. Students are very enthusiastic for the classes.
2. These classes helping students to upgrade themselves and getting more score in the Computer subject.
3. Students need more classes within the school time but regular classes will be affected.
4. Ensure consistent internet access for all systems to maximize the effectiveness of the program.
5. Acquire an inverter to mitigate the impact of frequent power cut.





Project 3: Smartlab set up in Govt. school in Govt. school #2 in Adilabad, Telengana

Project details:

No. of students covered	295
School	Government school #2, Adilabad in Telengana
No. of desktops	5
Grades	8 th & 9 th Grades
Implementation partners	Ekalavya Foundation
Project budget	2.8 Lakhs
Topics covered	In report attached
Classes (Avg. no. of classes per month)	6 hrs per month
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Smart Lab has enhanced practical and scientific learning, complementing theoretical knowledge.
Reporting & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly assessments to evaluate students' understanding and progress.
Challenges faced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet connectivity• Security concerns as the school is in a very remote village

Assessment and Feedback report:



Digital lab report
2024-25.pdf



EARLYSTART – KALVI40 INITIATIVE

About Kalvi40:

For **rural school students who do not have access to quality education** (due to varying teachers' expertise, quality content, and relevant interesting learning method in their mother tongue) as their parents earn below-average incomes, the Kalvi40 project aims to **provide relevant, interesting, lightweight content for students Digitally from class 3 to class 8 for free** to learn inside the classroom and after school also.

Kalvi40 is one of the very few organizations in India to focus on providing content in regional language free of cost, thus creating an **equal opportunity for those students in government schools**. Focusing on such a neglected sector, this project carries its

mission to **“Reach the Unreached”** with a digital transformation in classrooms. This is in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDG”): Goal #4 – **“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”**.

FORTESS project:

This project sponsored by FORTESS involves the implementation of the Kalvi40 school solution to create a digital classroom environment in selected schools. This project has been implemented at **11 Government schools in Thanjavur and Thiruvarur Districts** and ASER Pre-Assessment has been conducted for 344 Government Primary & Middle Schools Students (10 Schools) in Thanjavur and Thiruvarur Districts of Tamil Nadu. The implementation involves the setup of 11 Android TVs in these schools to support the "Kalvi40 Digital Classroom". The installation of 40-inch Android TVs and setting up of digital classroom in those schools have been completed across this district.

Project launch date	July 2024
Beneficiaries	1200+ students & 30+ Govt. school teachers
No. of schools covered	11
Grades	3 rd to 8 th Grade
Implementation partners	Bumble B Trust
Project budget	Rs 5.5 lakhs
Reporting & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASER pre-assessment conducted on 344 Govt school students to assess proficiency of Tamil & English reading & Arithmetic skills. Detailed report attached.
Other details	Creativity workshops conducted for students of 9 Govt schools
Challenges faced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year adaptation level - Capability of the teachers in using new digital teaching methods 100% dependency of teachers for regular use of Kalvi40 & the specialised content Teacher’s efforts get deviated due to various activity mandates by the Department



Detailed implementation & Feedback report:



KALVI40_FORTESS
SMARTLABS-Report (/

EXPRESS URSELF – COMMUNICATION TRAINING & CAREER COUNSELLING:

FORTESS launched a transformative initiative to enhance communication skills among rural students from underprivileged families. This program equips them with essential language and interpersonal skills, **boosting their confidence and improving their future educational and career opportunities.**

[Project 1 – English communication coaching for students of Sevalaya’s Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Tamil Nadu](#)

Project details:

Project launch date	December 2024
No. of students	60
Grades	6 th to 11 th Grades
Implementation partners	Sevalaya and Express English Academy
Project budget	Rs 1.2 lakhs
No. of classes	4 hrs per student every week
Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● In classes 8, 9, 10 and 11, there are about 20 students are fast learners.● They have more Self Confidence.● They are now in a position to help the slow learners in the class.● The classes are very interactive.● Students scored well in role plays, spot the error and memory test chapters.

Highlights of Batch 1	The English Fluency class was previously conducted for 75 students from 7 th std to 11 th std during last academic year 2023 - 2024. In that 1 st batch 25 students were very smart.
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Feedback:



Iniyasri A D Grade 7

I feel, I have been given really an wonderful opportunity to learn English speaking. This course is really useful for my subject, nowadays I can feel drastic difference in my written English.



Manikandan K Grade 9

I am really happy in learning English as I come across in every class new words which is heading me clarity. And I am also getting comfortable to speak in English whenever required

Parents speak: We couldn't send our children for spoken English classes privately because of our financial condition. But this course **fulfilled our unimaginable dream**. We are **happy to see our children trying to speak in English** with their class mates, friends and neighbour. It improves our self-respect too.

Teachers feedback: The English fluency class is really useful to us. Our students are learning new words in every class. Using Rules they can frame sentences in present, past, and future tenses. How to frame positive sentences, negative sentences, positive yes or no question, negative yes or no question and wh questions. These training helps them to attend many questions in English theory exam. Their self-confidence is improved due to this English fluency class our students speak English fluently with their friends and classmates. Their parents are happy to see this.



ENVIRONMENT: THE FORTESS GROVE

Sustainability Initiatives

At FORTESS, we believe in fostering a **sustainable future through community-driven environmental initiatives**. Our efforts aim to create a lasting ecological impact while encouraging members to take active roles in preserving the environment.

The FORTESS Pune chapter launched the FORTESS Grove initiative in association with **14 Trees Foundation**, a leading environmental NGO based in Pune. Driven by individual member interest on a small scale, **FORTESS members have contributed and pledged over 210 trees to the grove**, commemorating TCS' 20th anniversary as

a publicly listed company. This initiative reflects our **commitment to environmental sustainability and our dedication to reducing our collective carbon footprint.**

To pledge a tree to the FORTESS grove: Rs 3000/- per tree



4. Upcoming projects for 2025-2026:

Education projects:

Program	Project	Budget
The Scholars program	Continuation of Batch 1 – 12 students from Sevalaya’s Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher	Total budget: 5.6 lakhs Cost per student: Rs 45,000/-

	Secondary School, Tamil Nadu	
	Continuation of Batch 1 - 20 Scholars sponsored in Govt. schools from various districts in West Bengal	Total budget: 5 lakhs Cost per student: Rs 25,000/-
FORTESS Smartlabs	Launch of 5 new Smartlabs – 1 in Sirkazhi TN, 2 in Telengana and 2 in Karnataka. Schools yet to be identified	Total budget: 25 lakhs Cost per lab: 5 lakhs Cost per desktop + desk & chair – Rs 30,000/-
Kalvi-40 initiative	Launch of Kalvi-40 Digital education in another cluster of 10 to 12 schools in Tirunelveli district , enabling computer augmented teaching for close to 1500 primary school students	Total budget: Rs 6 lakhs Cost per school: Rs 50,000/-
Career Counselling & language development programs	Overall outlay of Rs 6 lakhs to extend soft skills training, coaching & mentoring initiatives for all Govt. school students Fortess partners with. Exact details will be shared.	Total budget: Rs 6 lakhs Cost for communication skills training per student: Rs 2000/- Cost for Career Counselling program per student: Rs 300/-

Apart from the above mentioned, several new projects are planned in the areas of vocational training, skill building, etc. for launch in 2025–2026, with details to be shared in due course. At FORTESS, we believe that **education is the key to empowerment and long-term societal progress**, which is why we are committed to initiatives that create **equal learning opportunities**. As we continue our mission of making a meaningful impact, we look forward to the continued support of our members in driving FORTESS’s efforts to give back to society and transform lives.

5. How To Support Us

a. Donation & Sponsorship Opportunities

- Sponsor a Project – Fund specific initiatives such as SmartLabs, education programs, or skill development workshops (pls refer cost details in above table)
- Student Scholarships – Support underprivileged students by covering tuition, exam fees, or learning resources.
- Infrastructure Development – Contribute towards setting up computer labs, libraries, or school facilities.
- Corporate & Institutional Partnerships – Collaborate with FORTESS to create CSR-driven social impact projects.

b. Volunteer & Membership Information

- Mentorship & Training – Share your expertise by mentoring students, conducting workshops, or training teachers.
- Community Engagement – Participate in outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and local development initiatives.
- Event & Program Support – Help organize fundraising events, seminars, and other community programs.
- Fundraising & Advocacy – Assist in raising funds, networking with potential sponsors, or spreading awareness about FORTESS's mission.

c. Identify New Opportunities, Needs & Projects

- Community Needs Assessment – Help identify critical gaps in education, technology access, or skill development within underprivileged communities.
- Project Proposal & Development – Suggest innovative projects or partnerships that align with FORTESS's mission.
- Impact Research & Data Collection – Conduct research, surveys, or case studies to evaluate existing initiatives and explore areas for future expansion.

Support our projects with a donation – click here: <https://fortessgroup.org/donation/>

For discussion on volunteering, fundraising, CSR partnerships & new opportunities:
Write to generalmanager@fortess.org & secretary@fortess.org

