Thalir Academy

A Unit of Kalanjiyam Trust

Working together for a better future

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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Partnership with





Thal Academy

We offer our heartfelt thanks to

Kavita Thirumalai and Krishna Bharat of the **Bharat Family Foundation** for their generous support and steadfast faith in our vision. Their dedication to nurturing transformative change has been pivotal in taking this initiative forward. With their trust and encouragement, we are inspired to create lasting impact, and we are profoundly honored to have them with us on this journey.







WAY FORWARD

INTRODUCTION

Kalanjiyam Trust established Thalir Academy, an initiative created to address the socio-economic challenges faced by rural youth in underserved communities. The academy derives its name from the Tamil word "Thalir," symbolizing new growth, development, and the hope of a brighter future.

Focused on skill enhancement, digital empowerment, and entrepreneurial development, Thalir Academy strives to equip young people in rural areas with practical skills and opportunities that can transform their lives. The academy's objectives center around promoting holistic community development, employable skillbuilding, and economic self-sufficiency.

We are proud to be registered under the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) part of the Skills India Initiative of the Government of India.

Through this platform, Thalir Academy offers the following key activities:

- Skill development programs in high-demand areas such as fashion design, tailoring, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship, enabling young people to build employable skills and improve their livelihood opportunities.
- Digital empowerment initiatives, including training in basic computer operations, internet literacy, and digital marketing, help rural youth actively participate in the digital economy and explore online job prospects.

Turn Your Spark into a Flame – Thalir Builds You Up!

DATA ENTRY OPERATOR

To address the growing need for employable skills among youth, **Thalir Academy** launched **targeted skill development programs** focused on **computer literacy and vocational training**. The initiative began with a comprehensive field survey across two blocks, where the team identified **young graduates** who were not engaged in employment, education, or training . This groundwork helped the team understand the real challenges and aspirations of local youth.

From the survey findings:

- 76 students enrolled in the skill development program after personalized counseling sessions explaining the course structure and career opportunities.
- All participants underwent an initial assessment to gauge their educational levels and interests.
- Based on their readiness, motivation, and assessment performance, 21 students were selected for the first cohort.

The skill development initiative launched by Thalir Academy spans a duration of six months and is meticulously designed to impart both foundational and applied digital competencies. The program **targets youth with minimal or no prior exposure to computers and aims to bridge the digital divide through structured, progressive instruction.**

DIGITAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-A STRUCTURED LEARNING PATHWAY

Upon enrollment, the majority of students demonstrated limited familiarity with computer systems. Many faced challenges in performing basic tasks such as powering on a system, navigating the user interface, and using peripheral devices like the mouse and keyboard. Recognizing this gap, the program commenced with essential digital literacy training.

PROGRESSIVE LEARNING PATHWAYS: FROM BASICS TO DIGITAL CREATIVITY AT KALANJIYAM"





HIGHLIGHT

Initial sessions focused on familiarizing students with basic operations, followed by the introduction of MS Paint —a simple graphic tool used to develop comfort with mouse control and screen navigation through creative expression. As learners became more confident, the curriculum advanced through the following stages.



NOTEPAD:

Introduced for basic text input and keyboard practice, helping students understand formatting essentials and file-saving procedures.

MS EXCEL:

Focused on data entry, students were taught to work with spreadsheets, apply basic formulas, and organize information efficiently.

WORDPAD:

Used for structured writing exercises, such as typing biodata and formal letters, which reinforced formatting and document structuring skills.

MS WORD:

Enabled students to create professionally formatted documents utilizing tools such as bullet points, tables, page layout, and templates.

MS POWERPOINT:

Provided training in developing structured presentations, incorporating visuals, text, and slide transitions to enhance communication skills.

MS OUTLOOK:

Introduced students to professional email communication, including sending, receiving, and managing correspondence.

GMAIL AND EMAIL SETUP:

Students were guided through the process of creating personal email IDs and instructed on digital etiquette, file attachments, and inbox organization. Our staff effectively guided the Microsoft Excel session, giving clear instructions on basic features, data entry, and simple formulas. With step-by-step explanations and individual support, they ensured every student could follow along and participate actively, making the session engaging and productive.

Our staff played a pivotal role, offering hands-on guidance and ensuring that each student received individual attention. The session contributed to improving students' typing confidence and efficiency, aligning well with our educational goals of promoting practical computer literacy.

"Click, Compose, Connect — Empowering Students with Smart Skills!





PPT





FEEDBACK

I found the WordPad session really helpful. It was great to learn how to format documents like biodata and formal letters. The hands-on practice with tools like bold, italics, and underline made the process easier, and now I feel more confident in creating well-structured, professional documents. This session really improved my understanding of how to organize and present my writing clearly. I'm excited to apply these skills in my schoolwork and beyond.

We really enjoyed the Gmail and Email Setup session. It was our first time creating personal email IDs, and we learned how to compose emails properly, attach files, and organize our inbox. The staff guided us patiently and clearly explained every step, which made it easy to follow. We now feel more confident about using email for school projects and personal communication. It was a fun and useful experience, and we look forward to exploring more digital skills like this.







I'm Gunaseelan from Pavunjur, a Computer Science student. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I missed out on learning many important concepts and practical skills during my college years. I felt like there was a big gap in my knowledge.

Through my sister, I came to know about Thalir Academy, and I'm truly glad I joined. I was taught by Punitha Akka, and I want to especially thank her. I know I'm not an easy person to teach, as I usually take time to understand things – but she was very patient and explained everything so clearly. Her teaching style really helped me grasp the concepts that I had struggled with before.

I'm very happy and grateful to have learned at Thalir. It has boosted both my confidence and my skills. My sincere thanks to the entire Thalir Academy for giving me this wonderful opportunity and for supporting students like me who want to learn and grow.





FROM DOUBTS TO DATA CHAMPS

During the Data Operator Course sessions, students were actively engaged as our educator provided continuous hands-on practice and live assignments. Throughout the practice sessions, students eagerly participated, raising numerous doubts and clarifying their queries without hesitation. The classroom environment was highly interactive, with students showing great involvement and enthusiasm in learning tools like WordPad, Excel, PowerPoint, and Gmail setup. Their interest in mastering each task was evident through their energetic participation and positive response. This practical approach not only helped students understand theoretical concepts better but also boosted their confidence in operating digital tools independently. The overall involvement level was exceptionally high, making the sessions lively and impactful.



AAAAB



"I am Sirikeshwari from Nedumaram. I came to know about Thalir Academy through Punitha Akka and decided to join the computer course. The training I received was very clear and wellstructured, which helped me learn effectively and score well in class. I am happy to share that I am now working in the computer section at the Nedumaram Panchayat Office. I sincerely thank Thalir Academy for providing me with this opportunity and helping me build a better future."

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"TURNING PRACTICE INTO PROGRESS"

Throughout the course, emphasis was placed on practical application. Assignments included **resume creation**, **poster design**, **form completion**, **and basic report writing**—ensuring students gained hands-on experience aligned with workplace expectations.

The first batch, consisting of **21 students, successfully completed** the sixmonth program. Despite beginning with limited technical knowledge, participants demonstrated substantial progress and emerged with confidence in using digital tools independently. Several graduates are now exploring further training opportunities or engaging in employment where digital literacy is a prerequisite.



Following the positive outcomes of the initial cohort, Thalir Academy launched a **second batch with 33 students, reflecting increased community interest and program credibility.** The second cohort is currently in progress and early indicators show promising levels of engagement and skill development.





Before I came to Thalir Academy, I had no knowledge about computers. I didn't even know how to switch one on, and I felt very unsure of myself when it came to technology. But everything changed after I joined here. Step by step, I started learning different computer skills – how to use PowerPoint, Paint, Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPad, and even design tools like Canva and Photoshop. I also learned how to browse using Google and

how to create and use an email ID, which I had never done before. One of the proudest moments for me was when I made my first PowerPoint presentation. I put in a lot of effort, and when sir appreciated my work, it gave me a big boost in confidence. It was the first time I felt, "Yes, I can do this too!"

In the beginning, even after learning these things, I was confused about what to do next. I wasn't sure how to use my new skills or what kind of opportunities would come my way. But sir didn't stop at just teaching mehe also encouraged me and gave me a job. That moment changed everything for me. It made me realize my own potential and gave me a sense of purpose.

This job has not only given me financial independence but also helped me grow as a person. I now have the confidence to speak up, take responsibility, and most importantly, help others the way I was helped. Today, I teach other students with the same dedication and care that I received. It gives me great joy to see them learn and improve.

I feel very proud and grateful to be part of Thalir Academy. It has truly transformed my life, and I hope to continue learning and helping others for

a long time to come. -JEEVALATHA

Competition conducted

The presentation competition aimed to enhance students' **digital literacy and boost their confidence** in using presentation tools effectively. The competition encouraged students to independently research, thoughtfully design, and confidently deliver engaging presentations on topics. This initiative not only allowed them to express their creativity and ideas but also helped them develop essential skills such as **public speaking, content organization, critical thinking, and visual communication**.



The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 21 students, each bringing unique perspectives and creative flair to their presentations. Their dedication and hard work were truly commendable. To acknowledge their efforts, all participants were appreciated, while the top two performers, selected for their outstanding presentation skills and content quality, were awarded medals and certificates.



"EVERY COMPETITION IS A CHANCE TO GROW."



Story time

Hi, I'm Akash. Before joining Thalir Academy, I had no knowledge about computers. I came to know about Kalanjiyam through my brother, and I can honestly say that joining Thalir was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I'm truly thankful to the entire Kalanjiyam team for this wonderful opportunity.

The sessions were incredibly helpful, and the way they taught us was very friendly and supportive. Punitha ma'am, in particular, taught us in great detail. She covered everything from MS Word, Notepad, WordPad, typing, Excel, PowerPoint, Canva, and even Photoshop. She also gave us the chance to create and present a PowerPoint presentation, which helped me gain confidence in using these tools.

One of the highlights for me was winning a competition organized at the centre. It felt great to be encouraged and appreciated. Earlier, I used to feel shy and hesitant to speak in front of others, but the team here guided me on how to communicate well and express myself clearly. That made a big difference in me.

I successfully completed the course with an A grade, and now I feel very confident in my computer skills. I truly believe that I can apply these skills and join any organization with self-assurance. This experience has not only

given me knowledge but also helped me grow as a person.

-AKASH

STUDENTS MILESTONE

In a wonderful display of gratitude and social responsibility, many of these empowered students are now giving back to the community. They've come forward as mentors for the upcoming computer batch, generously sharing their knowledge, guiding younger learners, and inspiring them to aim high.



This opportunity has not only enhanced my skills but also boosted my confidence in leadership, communication, and teamwork. I look forward to continuing this journey, learning new things, and inspiring others to explore their creative potential. 17

VACATION COMPUTER CLASS

A vacation computer training class was conducted for students in classes 7 to 9. They learned basic computer skills such as using Word, PowerPoint, and proper typing techniques. These skills support their academics and prepare them for future careers. Hemavathi found learning to use the mouse, save work, and practice typing very helpful. Nivetha enjoyed using the computer dictionary and appreciated the friendly and supportive teachers.





The team conducted computer training program for students who had recently completed their 12th grade, **aiming to strengthen their digital skills** for both higher education and job readiness. In this program, we provided practical instruction on **typing**, **creating professional documents using MS Word**, **designing presentations in PowerPoint**, **and managing files and folders effectively**.

Participants found the training highly beneficial in building their confidence with computers. The hands-on approach allowed them to apply what they learned immediately, and the friendly guidance from instructors made the learning process smooth and enjoyable. The program served as a valuable stepping stone for students entering the next phase of their academic or professional lives.



OORARU OLI

A New Phase of Growth and Empowerment

From the very first batch of Thalir Academy, a remarkable initiative has taken shape under the guidance of our beloved Sir. Recognizing the talent, passion, and leadership qualities among students, five best students were specially selected to form a dynamic and creative new team known as the **Ooraru Oli** Team.

The Ooraru Oli Team isn't just a team — it's a movement aimed at creating young entrepreneurs and digital leaders. Also called the Entrepreneur Team, this phase has opened exciting new opportunities for students to learn, lead, and grow.





We proudly run our own YouTube channel where our team actively Our Focus & Goals: The main mission of the Ooraru Oli Team is to:

- Promote Thalir Academy's vision digitally Create awareness and advertisements for small and new businesses
 - Support and promote real estate businesses
- Help young talent showcase their skills and services to a wider audience
- Build leadership, marketing, and content creation skills among students

SUBSCRIBE

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ஊராரு ஒளி

@OORARUOLI 500 subscribers • 1 video

More about this channel ...more

Shares information about local opportunities
Documents our community work and events

OUR TEAM

Harini Deepika Sanjay Akash Gunaseelan Jeevalatha

Future Plans:

REC

- Conduct workshops for other students interested in entrepreneurship
- Help more small businesses grow through digital marketing
- Continue expanding our YouTube Channel content and reach

Facilities Provided for Growth: To support this dream, our management has generously provided: Laptops for digital editing, content creation, and design work Cameras for high-quality video shoots and business promotions



From Classrooms to Careers: NSDC Computer Skills Certification

As part of our commitment to empowering students with relevant technical skills and enhancing their employability, 21 students enthusiastically participated in the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) examination conducted during the academic year. This comprehensive assessment was thoughtfully designed to evaluate both theoretical knowledge and practical competency in computer applications. The examination structure included a theory section carrying 30 marks, consisting of oneword questions covering essential computer concepts. Following the theory test, students undertook a 45-minute practical examination for 100 marks, where they demonstrated their skills in MS Word, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint — essential software applications widely used in the professional world.

Our Skill Champions

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1.Akash 2.Jeevalatha 3.Suganya 4.Deepa 5.Arul Jothi 6.Deepika 7.Sundari 8.Reekeshwari 9.Harini 10.Haripriya 11.Sanjay 12.Gunaseelan 13.Lakshmi 14.Gokulakannan 15.Kowsalya 16.Sowmiya 17.Keerthiga 18.Nishanthi 19.Divya 20.Abinesh kumar 21.Navaneetham







To further assess their understanding and presence of mind, a viva voce session was conducted individually for each student, carrying 50 marks. In this segment, participants were asked 10 system-related questions, providing them the opportunity to articulate their knowledge confidently and engage in direct interaction with the examiners. Additionally, attendance was awarded 20 marks, emphasizing the importance of commitment and regular participation throughout the course.

VIVA SESSION

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Live from the Viva: Student Experiences

Many students appreciated that the viva gave them a chance to test not only their computer knowledge but also their communication skills. A few said that the interactive session made them realize the importance of being well-prepared and staying calm under pressure. Overall, students described the viva as useful, confidence-boosting, and a good learning experience that would help them in future interviews and professional settings. The performance of the students was commendable, with 14 students securing A Grade and 7 students achieving B Grade, reflecting the effectiveness of the training provided and the enthusiasm of the learners. Upon successful completion, all participants were awarded a government-recognized certificate, which holds significant value in the job market, particularly for roles such as Data Operators and other entry-level positions in the information technology and administrative sectors.





"Punitha's Journey: From Learner to Educator,



I am Punitha, a passionate and dedicated educator with a strong academic background and a deep love for learning. I completed my B.Com degree through the Kalanjiyam Scholarship and went on to learn my MBA. I proudly worked with Kalanjiyam for 10 wonderful years, where I gained valuable professional experience and built meaningful connections. After taking a two-year maternity break, I was encouraged by my mentor to continue growing and enhancing my skills. Following his guidance, I joined a six-month HDC Diploma in Computer Application course at Kalpakkam, where I confidently learned Java, Python, and various computer applications. This experience rekindled my enthusiasm for teaching and technology. Soon after, I joined Thalir Academy as a Computer Educator. While initially I guided school students, I am now thrilled to take classes for college students, which has opened up new opportunities for me to grow as a teacher. My heartfelt aim is to teach each student with care, ensuring they gain a deep, clear understanding of every concept. I believe in creating a positive, encouraging classroom environment where students feel inspired to learn and achieve their goals. Teaching is not just my profession — it is my passion, and I look forward to making a meaningful difference in the lives of my students.



From Dreams to Achievements – Our First Batch Shines Bright!

Our first batch successfully came to an end with a grand celebration marking the achievements of our students. The highlight of the event was the presence of our esteemed Chief Guest, Dr. Xavier Alphonse, Director of ICRDCE, who graciously visited our program. Dr. Xavier Alphonse encouraged our students with his motivating words and appreciated the efforts of every participant and team member. It was a proud moment for our team as we celebrated the dedication and hard work of our students.

Certificates and gifts were distributed to all the students in recognition of their successful completion of the program. The atmosphere was filled with joy, pride, and a sense of accomplishment as both students and team members celebrated this milestone together.

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Certificates, Cheers, and Celebrations!



Out of 21 computer students:

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- Around 29% scored above 170, indicating high performance.
- Approximately 33% scored between 160 and 169, reflecting good performance.

 About 29% scored between 150 and 159, showing an average level of understanding.
Overall, the majority of the students performed well, with more than 60% scoring above 160



It was truly a memorable event, marking the 27 beginning of many more such achievements in the future.

Tailoring Course – Thalir Academy

At Thalir Academy, our Tailoring Course is thoughtfully designed to introduce beginners to the world of sewing and garment construction. The course is divided into progressive modules, each focusing on key skills required to become confident in tailoring—from basic techniques to machine stitching.



Basics of Tailoring

At Thalir Academy, we teach individuals the **foundational skills of tailoring** through simple yet essential hand-sewing techniques. Learners are guided on how to **sew buttons securely, attach hooks, and use fasteners effectively.** Alongside these practical skills, they become familiar with basic hand-stitching methods. We place strong emphasis on proper **tool handling and safety** to ensure everyone feels comfortable and confident while working with the basic materials required for tailoring.



Learn to troubleshoot common sewing problems during hands-on practice. Learn essential hand-sewing techniques like sewing buttons, attaching hooks, and using fasteners



Measurement Techniques

As part of the Thalir Skill Development Program, tailoring classes have been organized with the aim of empowering men and women by equipping them with valuable skills that can lead to self-employment and financial independence. One of the essential components of tailoring training is learning the correct techniques for taking body measurements. Accurate measurements play a crucial role in ensuring well-fitting and comfortable garments.



Accurate measurement is the cornerstone of well-fitting garments. In this module, learners are introduced to the use of measuring tapes and the importance of precision. They learn how to differentiate between centimeters (cm) and millimeters (mm), understand when and why each is used, and practice taking body measurements from key areas like the chest, waist, hips, and shoulders. Learners also gain skills in recording and interpreting these measurements for pattern making and garment fitting.



Learning by Doing

A key part of the Thalir tailoring program is hands-on practice, which enables the participants to apply the theoretical knowledge they learn into real-world skills. Through guided practice sessions, women actively measure, cut, and stitch fabrics, gaining confidence with each step. This practical approach helps them understand the importance of precision in measurements, the feel of different fabrics, and the techniques required to create well-fitted garments.

"The Heart Behind the Thread: Our Master Educator"

The educator brings not just knowledge but passion to every session. Through patient guidance, clear and detailed explanations, and immersive hands-on demonstrations, they ensure each participant fully understands the critical art of accurate measurements, precise fabric handling, and flawless garment finishing. This nurturing approach builds not only technical skills but also self-confidence, empowering women to embrace tailoring as a pathway to independence and livelihood.





My name is Padmini, and I'm from Lathur. I have studied up to 12th standard and have been married for 7 years. We live in a rented house. It was our house owner who introduced me to Thalir Academy and the tailoring classes. I attended the interview and was selected. I've always been interested in tailoring since childhood, but I couldn't pursue it back then. I wanted to support my husband financially, as he is the sole breadwinner and works in welding. Joining Thalir Academy gave me the chance to follow my passion. I learnt everything from the basics, and because of my performance, I received a job opportunity as an assistant tailor. That became a turning point in my life, giving me both financial stability and confidence. I didn't stop with just learning—I also share my knowledge by teaching others, which has been beneficial for them too. The life skills sessions at Thalir have helped me grow personally and mentally. My work here continues to motivate me every day and has greatly boosted my self-confidence and self-esteem. I'm now financially independent and able to buy things for myself without relying on anyone. I feel truly proud of myself. A heartfelt thanks to Thalir Academy and the entire team for

+ empowering me and changing my life.







ory time





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My name is Kannabiran, and I am a daily wage laborer from Aakkinampattu. My son, Akash Raj, is 20 years old. He was born with hearing and speech disabilities, and as his father, I have always worried about how he would manage to live independently in the future.

For a long time, I kept searching for an opportunity that could help him stand on his own. That's when we came to know about Thalir Academy and their tailoring course. We immediately enrolled Akash in the three-month training program. He had no prior experience in tailoring, but the teachers there were extremely supportive and patient. Not only did he complete the course successfully, but he was also given a sewing machine free of cost. With that, he set up a small tailoring unit right at home. Today, Akash earns around ₹300 per day by stitching clothes for people in our village. Despite his challenges, he is now financially independent and even supports us—his parents without expecting help from anyone else.

As a father, I cannot express how proud and happy I feel, seeing my son build a life with dignity. Thalir Academy has not only taught him a skill but has also given him confidence, purpose, and a future. We are truly grateful to the entire team for giving him this opportunity and transforming his life.

Thank you, Thalir Academy!

Machine Components and Threading Techniques

Here, students dive deeper into the practical usage of machine components. They learn how to select suitable threads and needles, insert and remove needles correctly, and thread the machine step-by-step. The module also covers how to wind the bobbin and load it into the machine properly. Special attention is given to understanding thread tension and how to troubleshoot common issues like tangling, skipping stitches, or jamming. This module builds confidence in operating the machine smoothly and efficiently.



Many students suggested having extra practice time on scrap fabrics to build confidence in stitching straight lines, curves, corners, and backstitching. Additionally, they were keen to learn speed control techniques using the foot pedal and hand-wheel to manage the pace of stitching safely. Safety practices while handling needles and procedures to follow when a needle breaks or jams were also considered important. Students showed interest in trying decorative stitches and practicing creative patterns to make the learning process enjoyable.





I learnt how to use fabric marking tools like chalk and fabric pens for guided stitching, which helped me sew neatly along the marked lines. I also learnt some basic troubleshooting methods for emergency situations, like how to handle tangled threads or unusual machine sounds before calling for technical help. These lessons made me feel more confident, safe, and comfortable while using the sewing machine. 27



My name is Sumathi, and I'm from Ungonam. I've been married for 18 years and have two children. I studied up to 8th standard and was working in a textile shop. It was through the shop owner that I came to know about the free tailoring course offered by Thalir Academy.

When I first joined, I didn't know anything about tailoring. I was very anxious and fearful in the beginning. But after joining, I slowly started learning the basics—how to use the machine, and gradually moved on to stitching skirts, baby clothes, and blouses. With every step, my confidence began to grow.

Before coming here, I used to feel very low and constantly worry about my problems. But being at Thalir Academy gave me a new purpose. When I'm here, I forget all my worries and fully immerse myself in tailoring. The trainers here are incredibly kind and patient. I can ask my doubts as many

times as needed, and they always answer politely and with a smile. Today, I'm proud to say that I stitch clothes for myself and my children. I no longer need to depend on other tailors. In fact, people now come to me to get

their clothes stitched! Thalir Academy has helped me become financially independent. I can now take care of my own needs, which brings me immense happiness.

My communication skills, confidence, and self-esteem have all improved so much since I joined. I feel truly proud of myself. I am very grateful to Thalir Academy for giving me this opportunity and changing my life.

Thank you, Thalir Academy!

Basic Stitching Skills

In the final module, students focus on perfecting their stitching technique. They practice sewing straight lines with accuracy, keeping the stitches even and consistent. Learners are taught how to insert and remove the bobbin, manage thread alignment, and prevent skipped stitches. Additionally, they practice basic stitch types such as the straight stitch, backstitch, and zigzag, while gaining control over fabric movement and machine speed. This hands-on experience ensures that students complete the course with neat, clean, and confident stitching skills.

At Thalir Academy, we believe in learning by doing. Once learners become familiar with sewing machine basics and stitching techniques, we guide them through a series of practical projects that gradually increase in complexity. This step-by-step approach builds both skill and confidence. We begin with a simple, useful project: a pillow cover. Learners are asked to measure a pillow they use at home using the techniques taught in the measurement module. Using these measurements, they stitch a custom-fitted pillow cover. This project helps them apply basic stitching, fabric cutting, and finishing techniques in a manageable, low-pressure task. It also reinforces their ability to measure accurately and handle fabric confidently.

I like the way we learn step by step at Thalir Academy. Starting with the basics and then doing small projects helped me understand the machine better. Each activity made me feel more confident, and now I'm excited to try bigger stitching projects. It's a very nice way of learning by doing.


Once they successfully complete the pillow cover, we move on to stitching a petticoat. This introduces them to working with longer seams, waistbands, and shaping. From there, learners progress to more structured and wearable garments such as a child's frock, skirts, and school uniforms. These projects help them practice neatness, consistency in stitching, and precision in garment construction.

As they gain more experience, learners take on advanced tailoring tasks such as stitching a churidar set, salwar kameez, blouse, and other fitted garments. These require careful attention to detail, accurate body measurements, and knowledge of garment fitting and finishing techniques.

Each project is designed not only to enhance technical skills but also to build a portfolio of completed items, which learners can use as samples of their work. By the end of the course, individuals will have created a variety of stitched garments —starting from home textiles to complete traditional and modern wear—equipping them for personal use or to start a tailoring business of their own.



My Tailoring Story

Wow... I can't believe I'm almost done. From the first day when I didn't even know how to thread a needle properly, to now – stitching blouses, dresses, even taking my own measurements. I was scared in the beginning... What if I made a mistake? What if I got teased? But look at me now. My hands have learned this craft, my eyes can spot the tiniest flaw, and my mind dreams of designs. Amma will be so proud when I stitch her a saree blouse for the first time. One day... my own boutique? Who knows? But for now – let me finish this final project neatly. Last stitch... and done. I did it!"



My name is Sumathi. I am originally from Dharmapuri and currently living in Pavunjur. I've been married for 4 years and have two children—my daughter is in LKG, and my son is 2 years old. We are a nuclear family.

I came to know about Thalir Academy through my neighbour (akka), and I was very happy to get selected through the interview. I joined the tailoring classes and started learning. In the beginning, it was very difficult for me to cope with the back pain due to the strain of sitting, as I have had two C-section deliveries. My family discouraged me at first, as they were concerned about my physical health. It was painful to hear, but the discouragement actually motivated me to push myself and learn even more.

Though my family takes care of me, they often expressed doubts about my health. But now, I feel very proud because the same people who once discouraged me now tell others that I stitch clothes very well and even encourage others to get their clothes stitched by me. My mother-in-law now supports me by taking care of my younger son, which gives me time to focus on my work.

After marriage, I earned for the first time by stitching a bag–I used that money to purchase slippers for myself. Later, I bought a water bottle for my daughter. That feeling of earning and spending for my family gave me so much joy.
Today, I am able to take care of my personal financial needs through stitching, and I feel proud to be independent. Earlier, I used to feel hesitant to ask my family for money, but now I stand on my own.

Thank you so much, Thalir Academy, for giving me this life-changing

Advancing to the Next Level

After completing the foundational course, learners at Thalir Academy have the opportunity to move on to our Advanced Tailoring Program. This next level focuses on more detailed garment construction, complex patterns, fitting techniques, and finishing skills—empowering individuals to handle custom orders or even start their own tailoring ventures.



We are proud to share that we have successfully completed the first batch, training 23 learners who went through the entire course with commitment and enthusiasm. Many of them have already started taking small stitching projects independently.

Our second batch is currently in progress, with 30 active learners participating in the basic course. In addition, we have 11 learners enrolled in the advanced level, refining their skills further and working on complex garments such as blouses, designer wear, and customized tailoring projects.

This growing number of learners and their success reflects the effectiveness of our hands-on, step-by-step training model—and our commitment to empowering individuals with practical skills for self-reliance and income generation.





My name is Nithya, and I come from Kalpattu village. I am a mother of three children—two daughters and a son. My eldest is studying in 9th standard, the second in 6th, and my youngest is in 2nd standard. We belong to a middle-class family, and I had completed my Diploma in Nursing.

Life was very difficult for us. My husband, who worked as a driver, struggled with alcohol addiction. He would spend all his earnings on alcohol and never supported us financially. His addiction also made him violent at times. Sadly, he took his own life while under the influence. After his death, I had to raise my three children alone, and it was an incredibly challenging time. When I was at my lowest, Thalir Academy became a turning point in my life. I enrolled in their tailoring course, and after completing it, they generously provided me with a sewing machine free of cost. They also offered me a job, which helped me regain stability and hope.

I am deeply grateful to the Thalir team for their support and encouragement during my toughest times. Their help gave me the strength to stand on my own and care for my children. Thank you, Thalir Academy.



From Learning to Earning — With Yon All the Way

At Thalir Academy, we believe in growing together as a community and empowering individuals to build a better future. Selected learners in our tailoring program receive a sewing machine, providing them with the tools and confidence to begin earning independently. Though the market price of the machine is ₹13,000, we offer it at a subsidized rate of ₹10,000 to ease their journey. Repayment begins only once they become financially independent, through monthly EMIs of ₹1,000. It's not just about learning a skill—it's about giving our learners the tools, trust, and support they need to stand tall and succeed.







Give a person a fish, and you feed them for a day.
 Teach them to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime."





Kalanjiyam Thalir Academy has launched a meaningful initiative to reconnect the younger generation with the rich heritage of traditional handloom weaving, a craft cherished by past generations.

As part of this effort, four participants from Thalir Academy were selected and taken to Chennai to attend a two-day handloom weaving workshop. This program, organized in collaboration with Shuttles and Needles, introduced participants to the art of weaving using modern yet accessible techniques with the "spinner weaver." The skills and knowledge gained from this workshop will be shared by these participants with their peers at Thalir Academy, ensuring that this traditional craft continues to thrive among future generations. This initiative was officially launched on 19th November 2024





When I first heard about weaving, I had not seen or heard about it before. Then I went to a class in Chennai where we saw the weaving machine. At first, I thought it would be difficult, but it was easier than I expected. I learned the basics in just two days and found out that weaving has many benefits. I'm happy to have learned so much and I'm excited to learn more. BY

A STUDENT



As part of our skill development initiative, our team took the opportunity to learn weaving techniques, focusing on creating stoles and belts. **To support this effort, we purchased a weaving machine and various types of threads suitable for the process.** Initially, only four members from our team underwent hands-on training to learn the basic weaving techniques and machine operation. These four members became the foundation for further knowledge sharing within our team. Using a peer learning model, these trained members started guiding other staff, gradually enabling them to understand and handle the weaving machine with confidence.

As a result of this collaborative learning environment, more of our team members became proficient in weaving. Soon, eight students joined the initiative and actively participated in weaving activities.



- Measuring in inches for weaving accuracy
- Thread changing techniques on the machine
- Safety precautions while operating the weaving machine
- Understanding different thread types and their usage



After covering the basics, we encouraged the students to use their individual creativity in designing patterns and color combinations. This not only helped in improving their technical skills but also boosted their confidence and creative thinking.









GLIMPSE OF AARI AND WEAVING



Additional Highlights:

- 1. Students learnt to calculate measurements for various weaving products like stoles, belts, and bookmarks.
- 2. Introduced techniques like adding decorative beads and tassels to woven items.
- 3. Planning to extend this activity by introducing eco-friendly materials like cotton and jute threads.



Feedback from Kirubavathy – Pavanjur

Vanakkam! I am Kirubavathy from Pavanjur. I am a mother of three children. To be honest, I didn't know anything about tailoring or weaving before. One day, a kind neighbour informed me that Kalanjiyam was offering tailoring classes. I felt interested and decided to join.

While attending the tailoring class, I came to know that two other skill classes — Aari work and weaving — were also being conducted. Among these, I felt very attracted to the weaving class. I asked the Thalir team if I could also join the weaving class. Since the tailoring class was in the morning and weaving class was in the afternoon, I happily adjusted my schedule and started attending both.

To my surprise, within just one week, I learnt to weave a stole by myself. It gave me so much happiness and confidence.

One day, a chief guest visited Thalir Academy, and I was so proud when the stole I had woven was used to honour the chief guest. It was a very special moment in my life and an unforgettable memory. I never imagined that something I made with my own hands would be appreciated in front of so many people.

Thanks to Kalanjiyam and Thalir Academy for giving me this opportunity. Now, I feel more confident and interested in learning more skills in the future. I am also happy that I am able to show my children that learning has no age limit.





Aari Embroidery Training at Thalir Academy

At Thalir Academy, we are committed to empowering individuals with valuable, income-generating skills. One such initiative is our Aari embroidery training program, designed for women and young learners who are passionate about traditional handcraft and looking to build a sustainable livelihood through it.

Our training is structured into two well-designed levels to suit beginners and help them gradually advance to more complex techniques:

BASIC COURSE (1 MONTH)

The basic level introduces students to the foundational techniques of Aari embroidery. This includes:

- Chain stitch the core technique used in Aari work.
- Beadwork attaching beads in patterns for decorative appeal.
- Introduction to fabric types and basic design tracing methods.

Learners begin with simple exercises and gradually move on to embellishing their own clothes, such as kurtas and saree borders. Many of them experience the joy of crafting something beautiful with their own hands for the first time.

ADVANCED COURSE (2 MONTHS)

Once the basics are mastered, students progress to the advanced level, which includes:

- Bridal blouse embroidery learning to design and execute heavy bridal and festive wear, in demand for weddings and special occasions.
- Thread work and decorative patterns including florals, paisleys, peacocks, and other traditional Indian motifs.
- Introduction to stonework, sequins, and mirror work for more elaborate designs.

At this stage, learners often begin stitching for their family members, gaining real experience while building a portfolio of work.







My name is Kalaiselvi, and I'm from Nelvaipalayam. I joined Thalir Academy to learn Aari embroidery, and it has been a truly life-changing experience for me.

Thalir Academy is doing incredible work by supporting women-especially those from economically weaker backgrounds-who are not financially independent. The academy offers Aari work, tailoring, and computer classes, all of which are incredibly beneficial for women looking to develop skills and stand on their own.

The quality of training they provide is exceptional. Usually, to get this kind of training, one would have to go all the way to Chennai and pay a high fee. But here at Thalir, they offer high-quality skill development courses absolutely

free of cost. That in itself is a huge support for women like me. In fact, many women who had already benefitted from Thalir Academy encouraged me to join. They shared how much it had helped them, and that gave me the motivation to enrol. When I first started, I was taught the basics. Later, when I practiced those skills outside, people were shocked to see the quality of my work. It gave me confidence and made me realize how valuable this training truly is.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and for everything I have learned here. A heartfelt thank you to the entire Thalir team for empowering women like me and making a real difference in our lives.

Thank you, Thalir Academy!



My name is Thenmozhi, and I'm from Dharmapuram. I'm a mother of two children and have always been interested in learning Aari embroidery. However, when I enquired about classes elsewhere, the fees were too expensive, and I felt I had no choice but to stay at home.

That's when I found out about Thalir Academy. I joined the tailoring course here and also enrolled in the Aari work training. I started with the basic level, and gradually moved on to advanced techniques like bullion stitch, thread work, and bridal embroidery.

I am truly thankful to the Thalir team for providing this opportunity. The training has not only given me valuable skills but also the confidence to move forward in life.

Thank you, Thalir Academy!



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

At Thalir Academy, we emphasize a friendly and encouraging environment. Learners are supported every step of the way, with trainers who are approachable and patient. Doubts are clarified thoroughly, and students are encouraged to practice without fear of making mistakes.

BEYOND SKILL: BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

The impact of this training goes far beyond just learning embroidery:

- Many participants begin to **accept orders** from neighbors and local customers.
- They become **financially independent**, **supporting their families and gaining recognition for their work**.
- Their confidence, communication skills, and sense of self-worth improve remarkably over the course of the program.

We are proud to see our learners grow into confident artisans, some of whom have even begun training others or planning their own small tailoring businesses. At Thalir Academy, our Aari embroidery course is more than just a class—it's a journey of empowerment, creativity, and transformation.







My name is Chithra, and I'm from Dharmapuram. I joined the tailoring course at Thalir Academy and successfully completed the 6-months training. Along with tailoring, I was also very interested in learning Aari embroidery, so I enrolled in the 3-month Aari course.

I completed the basic level in the first month, and now I'm continuing with the advanced course where I'm learning thread work, bullion stitch,

long press art work, and bridal blouse embroidery. As I progressed, people started approaching me to stitch their clothes, and that gave me a lot of confidence. Learning Aari work has shown me that this skill is not only useful for myself and my family but can also help me

earn and contribute financially to our household. What truly amazes me is that such a valuable and empowering skill is being taught completely free of cost. I'm extremely thankful to Thalir Academy for giving me this opportunity and helping me believe in my abilities.

Thank you, Thalir Academy!

BUILDING LIFE SKILLS FOR REAL LIFE

At Thalir Academy, we don't just teach computer skills—we are committed to shaping well-rounded individuals. Alongside technical training, we conduct Life Skill Classes and specialized programs that help learners grow personally, emotionally, and professionally. These sessions are led by dedicated mentors who guide our learners beyond academics, preparing them for real-world success.

Munusamy Raviraaj focuses on nurturing essential life skills that help students grow both personally and professionally. His sessions emphasize the importance of clear communication, smart decision-making, effective time management, and productive teamwork. These skills are designed to build confidence, improve relationships, and prepare students to face real-life challenges with clarity and responsibility. He ensures that students not only excel in academics but also develop the practical abilities needed for a balanced, successful life.







Students learnt the importance of effective communication, how to make wise decisions, manage their time efficiently, and work together as a team. They understood how these skills improve their confidence, help in handling challenges, and prepare them for both academic and real-life situations. The sessions also taught them to think positively, stay organized, and build good relationships with others

Self-Awareness -JANANI









This skill encourages students to pause and reflect on their thoughts, emotions, and actions. Through guided activities and discussions, learners identify their personal strengths, weaknesses, and unique abilities. They also explore their core values and beliefs. understanding what truly matters to them in life. By becoming aware of their own emotions and triggers, students develop better emotional control, empathy, and selfconfidence. This foundation of selfawareness helps them make smarter decisions, build stronger relationships, and handle stressful situations calmly. It promotes personal growth, emotional intelligence, and a clearer sense of purpose in both their personal and academic lives.

Many students discovered personal strengths they hadn't noticed before and learned to accept both their strengths and areas for improvement. They felt more confident in identifying their core values and realized how those values guide their decisions and relationships. Some mentioned that it made them think about how to handle anger, sadness, or nervousness in healthier ways. Overall, students expressed that the session encouraged them to become more positive, self-aware, and emotionally strong individuals.

Suresh – Positive Thinking



He is well known for his motivational sessions that focus on developing positive thinking and building self-confidence among learners. In his sessions, he encourages students to believe in themselves, maintain a hopeful attitude, and face life's challenges with courage and resilience. Through inspiring stories, real-life examples, and simple practical exercises, he teaches students the importance of replacing negative thoughts with positive ones and reminds them that every setback carries a lesson.

He highlights the power of hope and positivity in transforming failure into success and encourages learners to focus on their strengths instead of weaknesses. His sessions often include activities like writing personal affirmations, sharing positive experiences, and group discussions on overcoming negative thoughts. By attending his sessions, students feel motivated, confident, and ready to face difficulties with a positive attitude. His approach leaves a lasting impact on young minds, teaching them that while they cannot always control what happens in life, they can always control how they respond to it.

Deepa – Overcoming Failure

The sessions on overcoming failure are designed to help individuals embrace setbacks as valuable stepping stones toward success. These sessions highlight that failure is a natural and inevitable part of every journey, and what truly matters is how one chooses to respond.

Powerful stories of well-known personalities and everyday heroes who faced repeated failures but persevered to achieve their goals are shared to inspire. The importance of determination, perseverance, and resilience is emphasized, guiding learners to develop patience and keep moving forward, even when challenges arise.

Practical techniques are introduced to help analyze failures objectively, identify lessons learned, and set new goals with renewed confidence.

As a result, individuals become more courageous, open to taking risks, and equipped with the mental strength to navigate obstacles. These sessions help transform the fear of failure into a powerful drive for continuous growth and lifelong learning. Yokesh Srinivasan – Hardware Program



The program provides comprehensive hands-on training in computer hardware, designed to give learners a deep and practical understanding of the internal components that make up a computer system. Through detailed demonstrations and guided practice sessions, learners explore the functions and features of key hardware parts such as the motherboard, CPU, RAM, hard drives, power supply units, graphic cards, and peripheral devices.

The training emphasizes the practical skills needed to assemble and disassemble computers safely and efficiently. Alongside this, learners are taught essential troubleshooting techniques to diagnose common hardware problems such as boot failures, overheating, hardware conflicts, and connectivity issues.

The curriculum also covers routine maintenance tasks including cleaning, component upgrades, and preventive care to enhance the longevity and performance of computer systems. By engaging in handson labs and real-world simulations, students develop confidence and technical proficiency that prepare them effectively for entry-level technical support roles or for further studies and certifications in IT infrastructure and computer engineering.

This practical approach ensures that learners gain both theoretical knowledge and the necessary skills to solve hardware-related challenges independently, making them valuable assets in any IT environment.



Through this holistic approach, Thalir Academy ensures that learners are equipped with not only digital skills but also the mindset, confidence, and knowledge to thrive in all aspects of life.

Additional Skill-Bnilding Conrses

At Thalir Academy, we believe in nurturing well-rounded learners by going beyond the regular academic curriculum. To support this vision, we offer the following additional classes designed to build essential life and career skills:

SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASSES

Our Spoken English program is designed to help students build confidence in communicating effectively in English. We focus on both foundational and practical aspects of the language. The course includes:

- Basics of English: Understanding sentence structure and everyday usage
- Vowels & Phonics: Proper pronunciation and sound recognition
- Vocabulary Building: Learning new words with meanings and usage in context
- Grammar Fundamentals: Articles, verbs, tenses, prepositions, and more
- Speaking Practice: Daily conversation, role play, and situational dialogues
- Idioms & Expressions: Common English phrases for fluent speaking

Our aim is to make learners feel comfortable speaking English in academic, professional, and everyday environments.











"The Spoken English classes have been very helpful for me. I've learned important grammar rules, tenses, vowels, and the basics of English grammar. It has really improved my understanding and confidence in using the language."

-ARULJOTHI







Don't worry about perfection; just start speaking and improving step by step.

Tally & Accounting

For our senior students and learners interested in career-ready skills, we also offer training in Tally – an essential accounting software used widely in businesses. This course covers:

- Introduction to Tally: Overview of the software and its purpose
- **Billing and Invoicing**: Creating professional bills and managing transactions
- **Voucher Entry:** Recording different types of vouchers like sales, purchase, payment, and receipt

This course helps learners gain practical knowledge in business accounting and enhances employability skills.







"I joined the Tally course at Thalir Academy after completing my undergraduate degree in Commerce. Even though I had a basic idea of accounting, I wasn't very confident in using Tally. This course helped me understand how Tally is actually used in real companies and organizations. Thanks to this Thalir Academy, I've now secured a job, and the knowledge I gained here played a big role in helping me get hired." <u>Gokulakannan</u>

Mental Health & Emotional Well-being Sessions

At Thalir Academy, we believe that true growth goes beyond technical skills. Emotional well-being plays a crucial role in personal and professional success. That's why we offer dedicated Mental Health and Emotional Wellness sessions as part of our holistic development programs.

These sessions are designed to help individuals gain self-awareness, manage emotions effectively, and build strong interpersonal skills essential for everyday life and the workplace.

Key Topics Covered:

- **Self-Analysis** Reflecting on thoughts, behaviors, and personal patterns
- **Self-Esteem** Developing confidence and a positive self-image
- **Stress Management** Learning practical techniques to handle stress
- Self-Evaluation Understanding personal strengths and growth areas
- **Understanding Emotions** Identifying and managing emotions in a healthy way
- Motivation Setting clear goals and maintaining drive
- Interpersonal Skills Enhancing communication and relationshipbuilding
- **Problem Solving** Tackling challenges with a calm, solution-focused approach
- **Boundary Setting** Respecting personal space and establishing healthy limits

These interactive, age-appropriate sessions are led by trained facilitators and tailored to meet the needs of different age groups and professional backgrounds.

At Thalir Academy, we don't just build skills—we build stronger, more self-aware individuals ready to thrive in life and work.

Feedback

"I was going through a difficult time in my personal life and felt confused and indecisive about many things. After attending the counselling session at Thalir Academy, I was able to open up and share all my concerns. The way they listened to me without judgment was incredibly comforting. It helped me feel relaxed and supported. Gradually, I began to trust myself again and believe in my ability to handle things on my own. One of the most valuable things I've learned is how to manage my anger in a healthy way. This experience has truly helped me regain confidence and emotional balance." -EPSEEPAH



"After attending the counselling sessions at Thalir Academy, I feel refreshed and much more positive. The practical tips they shared have helped me focus on self-care and personal growth. I've learned that when problems arise, instead of getting overwhelmed, it's important to stay calm and handle them with a clear mind. These sessions have been truly helpful in teaching me how to manage challenges and maintain inner peace." -KALAIVANI



"Wheels of Change: Thalir Academy's Driving Initiative"



Our core belief is that every woman should be empowered and one important step towards this is the ability to drive with confidence. Recognizing the lack of exposure and opportunities for women in our village when it comes to driving, our team, with the support and encouragement of Thalir Academy, took a meaningful initiative.

We planned to help all our staff members obtain both two-wheeler and four-wheeler driving licenses.

This initiative not only encourages our team to learn driving but also builds their confidence to navigate the roads independently. It's a proud step towards creating safer, stronger, and more self-reliant women in our community.





2 Wheeler : 8 4 Wheeler : 6 Both : 2

Our staff

"We've always watched others drive past, believing it wasn't meant for us. In our small village, opportunities like this felt so far away. But today, because of this initiative, we feel seen, valued, and capable. Getting a driving license isn't just about holding a card – it's about holding the steering wheel of our own lives. It's about breaking old beliefs, about proving to ourselves and others that we can move forward, faster and stronger. We are not just learning to drive – we are learning to lead, to dream, and to be independent."

WAY FORWARD

Thalir Academy: A Roadmap for Transforming Rural Skills and Livelihoods The way forward for Thalir Academy's skill training for rural communities involves a strategic, multi-pronged approach focused on relevance, accessibility, and sustainability:



1

2

Launch dynamic community and market scans to pinpoint real-time, high-demand skills that open doors to employment or entrepreneurship—ensuring every course offered is relevant, futureready, and rooted in local economic potential:



Expand vocational horizons with NSDC-approved courses: Broaden our vocational portfolio to include industryaligned tracks.

- Junior Software Developer: Introduce learners to Python/ JavaScript, version control (Git), and real-world app development.
- Accounts Assistant: Equip youth with essential finance tools like Tally, GST invoicing, and digital bookkeeping.
- Beautician & Wellness Professional: Train women in personal care services with a focus on fashion, quality, hygiene
- Creative and Practical Modules: Offer skill tracks in photography/ videography, blended with communication and financial literacy training for all-around readiness.
- Introducing an embroidery unit to bring embroidery skill, enabling them to enhance their abilities to craft unique products.



TRAIN LOCAL CHAMPIONS, BUILD OWNERSHIP:

Create a cadre of certified local Master Trainers through an intensive "train-the-trainer" model. These trainers will not only ensure continuity but also embed vocational education into the cultural and economic fabric of the community. 62



5



GO HYBRID, STAY ACCESSIBLE:

Adopt a flexible blended learning model—combining on-ground workshops with AI-powered digital modules, interactive apps, and mobile-based learning.

POWER THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS:

Partner with MSMEs, district-level skilling hubs, CSR donors, and private firms to create robust pipelines for internships, apprenticeships, and job placements. These alliances will bridge the gap between training and livelihood.

6

CATALYZE MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS:

Provide end-to-end incubation support—mentorship, business plan development, marketing guidance, and microfinance access—for youth and women ready to start their own ventures, from beauty parlors to digital services and home-based tailoring units.

BUILD A FEEDBACK-DRIVEN INNOVATION LOOP:

Implement a smart, data-driven monitoring system that tracks certification, job placement, and income outcomes. Regular participant feedback will fuel course evolution, ensuring relevance, quality, and continuous improvement.

Through these efforts Thalir Academy will continue to empower rural youth and women with market-ready skills and create pathways to dignified livelihoods and resilient communities.



"Small steps create big changes — and with your support, every step we take turns into a beautiful journey."

We at Thalir Academy, extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who believed in us, stood by us, and helped us grow stronger with every new initiative. Your encouragement fuels our mission to empower, uplift, and create opportunities for our community.

Together, let's continue to bloom and build a brighter tomorrow.

