

DR. MEENAKSHI TYAGARAJAN ENDOWMENT AT PUNARCHITH

Dr. Meenakshi Tyagarajan's family members have initiated an endowment at PUNARCHITH in honour of her memory.

DR. MEENAKSHI TYAGARAJAN (1926-2014)

Dr. Meenakshi Tyagarajan was an economist by training, but had a range of interests and a very unusual outlook to life. She received her Ph.D in Economics from the University of Kansas, USA, worked with the Reserve Bank of India for most of her career, and retired as an Economic Advisor. Along with this, she managed to keep up with her love for literature (both Tamil and English), music, art, history, development, politics, education and gastronomy. She was comfortable and erudite in the intellectual realm and equally at home in other spheres of engagement as well.

Meenakshi was deeply committed to teaching poor and underprivileged youth thus enabling them to meet the challenges in understanding subjects taught in English, especially after high school. She felt this was a small way to help mitigate the existing education system that left many bright students at a disadvantage. She wrote regularly for journals and also translated two early Tamil works of fiction into English. Choosing to remain single, Meenakshi lived a rich and full life. Her family included her parents, siblings, nieces, nephews and a vibrant network of friends of all ages. Ever helpful and generous, her sharp repartees and tart humour were enjoyed by everyone who knew her.



The Dr. Meenakshi Tyagarajan Endowment at PUNARCHITH will focus on supporting a range of interests and activities that were close to Dr. Tyagarajan's heart. These include the running of a library at the learning centre in Nagavalli Village, Chamarajanagar (Karnataka); scholarships for rural youth to access higher education and or for English language training; financial support for women and elders in distress; emergency medical support for children; and facilitating translations of pertinent literature/ideas into Kannada.

A tree sapling (kenda sampige or red champa) was planted in 2017 in her memory at Punarchith's land and bio-diversity conservation site (Angarike Maala) and it is now about two feet high.

