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St. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
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OMR, CHENNAI - 119

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AD1006 - Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)



Focusing Area:

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Thenneri, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu

REPORT

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UBA Focusing Area Mapping with SDG and Justification



Goal 3. Ensure Healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Improving access to health services in rural areas contributes to early diagnosis, disease prevention, and overall well-being. Our project in Thenneri focused on medical awareness, health camps, and linking people to government health schemes

Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Clean water and hygienic sanitation are the foundation for good health. Poor water quality and lack of sanitation increase disease burden and mortality, especially among children. The awareness campaign helped communities understand water filtration methods, personal hygiene practices, and sanitation habits.

Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls.

INTRODUCTION

Rural health is a cornerstone of sustainable development. With a majority of India's population residing in villages, addressing health disparities in rural areas is critical. Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), our student team from St. Joseph's College of Engineering adopted Thenneri village in Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu.

The project aimed to assess health-related challenges, conduct health awareness programs, organize medical camps, and promote government health schemes.

Key Project Activities

- Conducting detailed household surveys to identify prevalent health issues.
- Organizing health awareness programs addressing hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention.
- Setting up a one-day medical camp in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre (PHC).
- Promoting and assisting with registration under various government health welfare schemes.
- Educating school children and women about hygiene and personal care.
- Promoting the construction and usage of toilets under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

By the end of the project, several individuals had successfully enrolled in welfare schemes, received medical assistance, and gained renewed hope of inclusion in the village's educational, health, and economic systems. Our goal now is to ensure that this momentum is sustained through community ownership and policy-level support.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The primary focus of this project under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan was to improve the health conditions and access to wellness opportunities for the residents of Thenneri village. Based on direct community interactions, household-level surveys, and observational analysis, we identified the following objectives:

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graph TD
  A[Identification of Beneficiaries] --> B[Assessment of Existing]
  B --> C[Create Awareness on Health and Government Schemes]
  C --> D[Facilitate Medical Services and Scheme Access]
  D --> E[Infrastructure Improvement Suggestions]
  E --> F[Sustainable Community Engagement]
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1. Identification of Beneficiaries

To conduct a comprehensive household-level health survey in Thenneri to identify families facing chronic diseases, nutritional deficiencies, or lack of basic health awareness.

2. Assessment of Existing Challenges

To evaluate the barriers villagers face in accessing proper healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and information about health schemes.

3. Create Awareness on Health and Government Schemes

To organize awareness campaigns on topics such as nutrition, hygiene, communicable disease prevention, and welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Janani Suraksha Yojana.

4. Facilitate Medical Services and Scheme Access

To collaborate with the local PHC and support villagers in registering for government health schemes while conducting free health checkups.

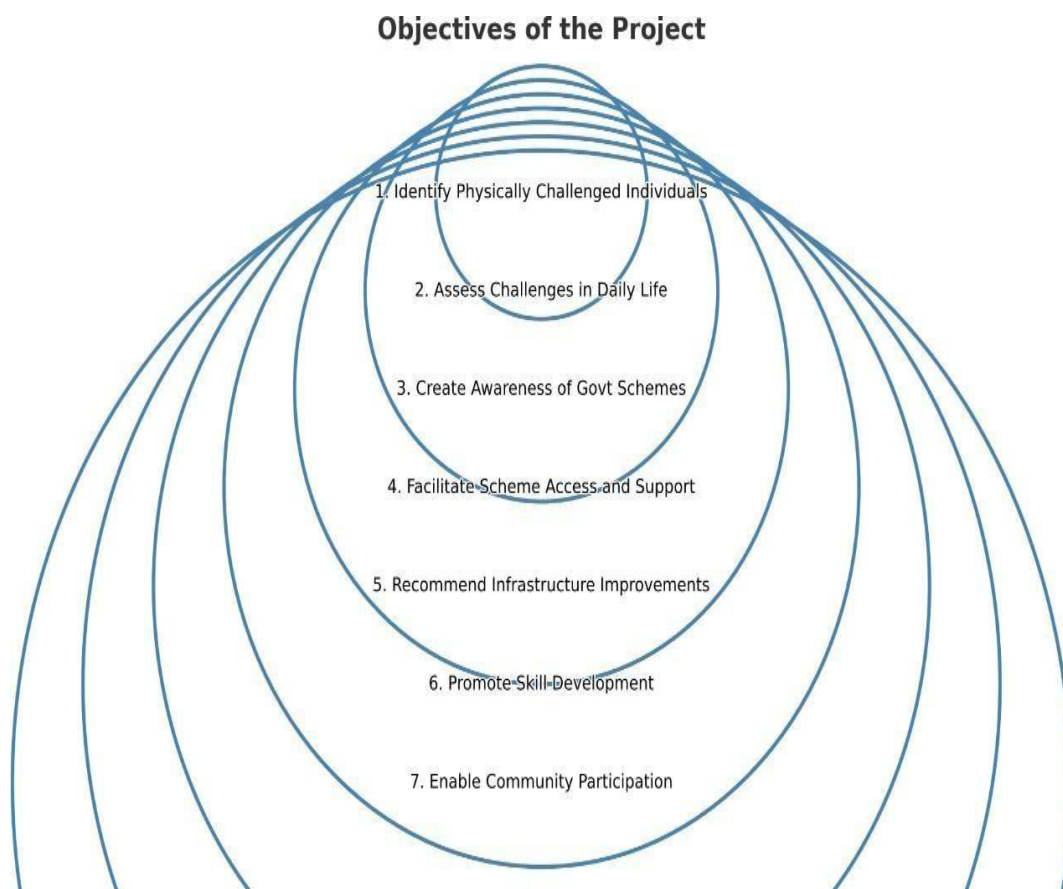
5. **Infrastructure Improvement Suggestions**

To inspect public health-related infrastructure and propose improvements like sanitation facilities, drinking water systems, and PHC upgrades.

6. **Sustainable Community Engagement**

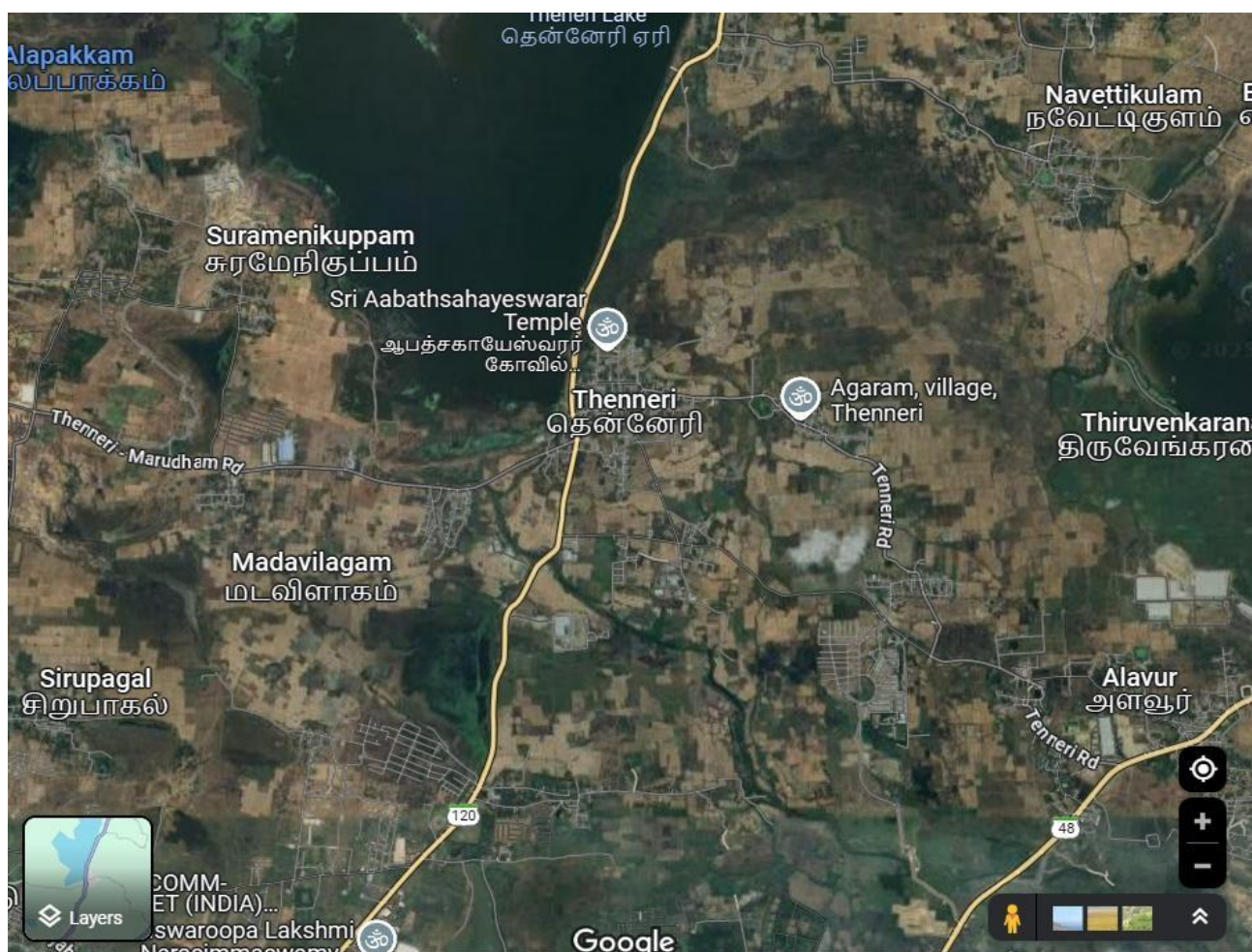
To initiate ongoing health education through printed pamphlets, school outreach, and identify local champions who can continue supporting public health awareness.

Through these objectives, our team aimed to not only highlight the needs of a neglected section of society but also contribute practically toward a more inclusive and equitable rural ecosystem. These goals guided every step of our intervention in the village and were aligned with the vision and mission of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.



VILLAGE PROFILE – Thenneri

Thenneri is a serene, agriculturally-driven village located in Kanchipuram Taluk, Tamil Nadu, situated around 60 kilometers from the bustling metropolitan city of Chennai. The village is celebrated for its deep-rooted cultural heritage, tranquil atmosphere, and tight-knit community. As part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) initiative by St. Joseph's College of Engineering, Thenneri has been adopted for targeted rural development interventions. It is one of five villages selected for focused efforts under the UBA program, aiming to elevate the standard of living through sustainable, community-centered practices.



The population includes a significant number of young children, middle-aged adults, and elderly residents. Education levels vary, with a notable gap in literacy between men and women. Most households rely on farming during harvest seasons and seek labor work during off-seasons to sustain their livelihoods.

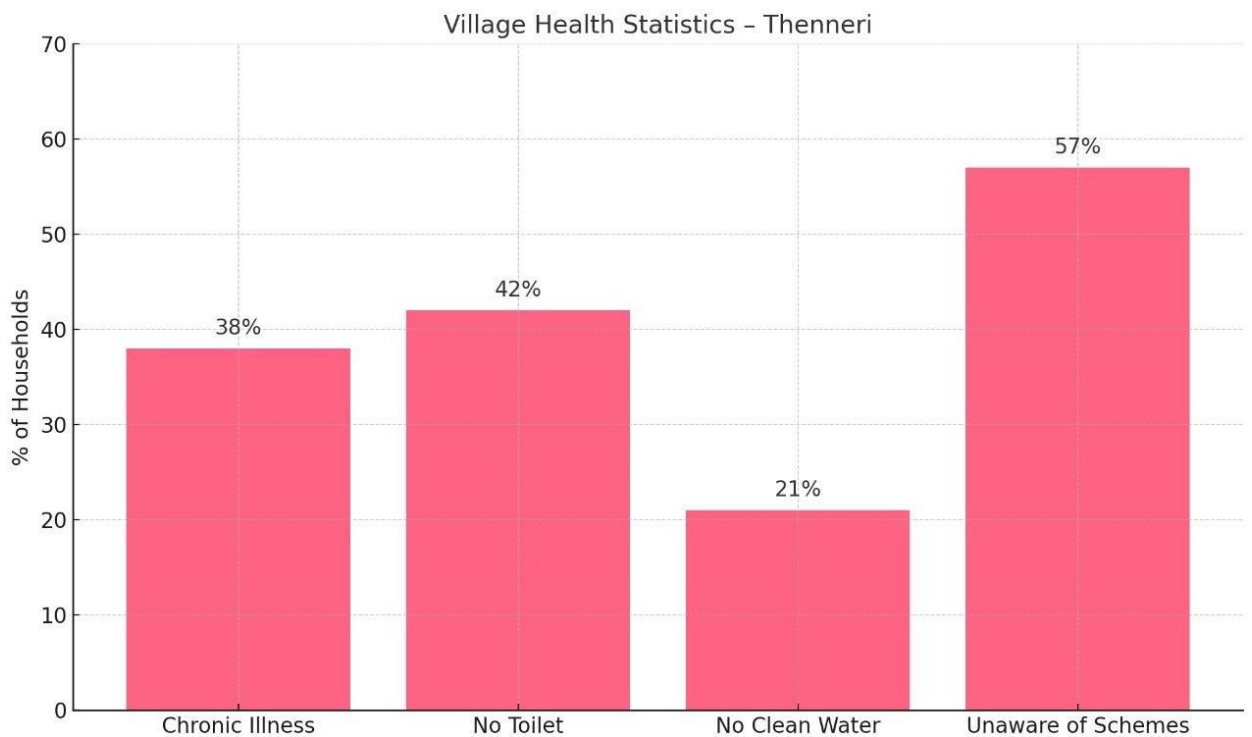


Health and Sanitation Status

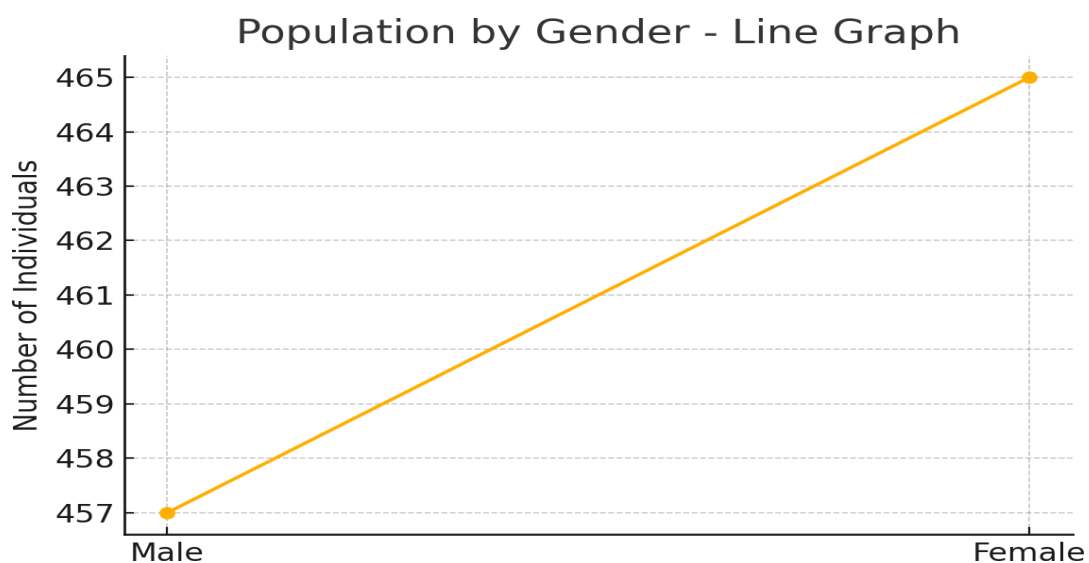
From our extensive door-to-door health and hygiene survey, the following observations were recorded:

- **38%** of households reported the presence of chronic conditions such as diabetes or hypertension.
- **42%** of homes did not have access to hygienic toilet facilities.
- **21%** of residents relied on unsafe or untreated sources for drinking water.
- **57%** of respondents lacked awareness about government health and welfare schemes available to them.

Attribute	Value
Total Population	~1,500
Number of Households	420
Male-Female Ratio	Approximately Equal
Literacy Rate	65% (Male: 72%, Female: 58%)
Primary Occupation	Agriculture and Daily Wage Labor



The village has essential amenities like a primary school, anganwadi center, PDS shop, and a nearby PHC, though it lacks disability-specific services. Transport to nearby towns is available but not accessible for the physically challenged. Our survey revealed key gaps: absence of ramps in public buildings, limited mobility aids, poor awareness of government schemes, and no vocational training for differently-abled individuals.



BASELINE SURVEY AND IDENTIFICATION OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED INDIVIDUALS:

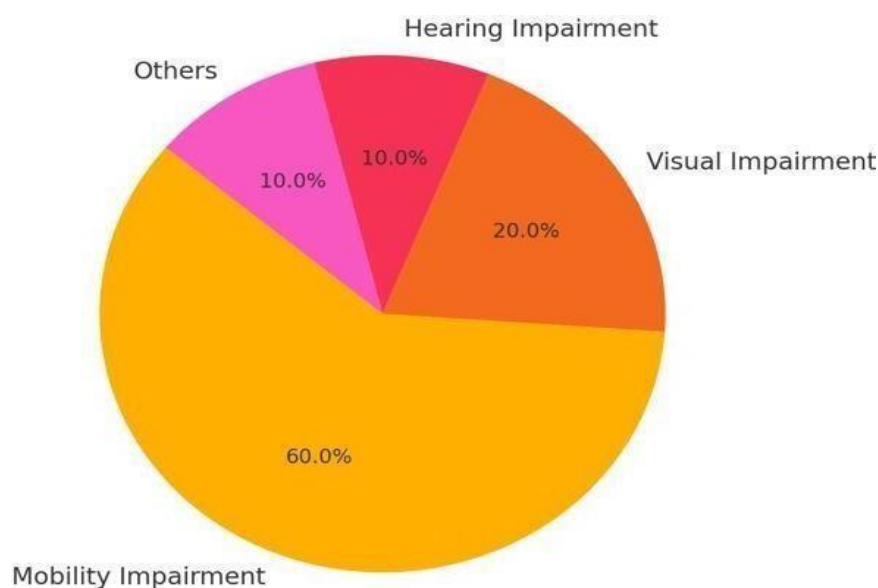


Figure 1: Distribution of Disability Types Among Affected Individuals (Sample-based Data)

To gain a thorough understanding of the condition of physically challenged individuals in Thennari, our UBA student team conducted a detailed door-to-door baseline household survey. The primary objective of this survey was to identify the number of differently-abled individuals in the village, understand the nature of their disabilities, evaluate their current living conditions, and assess their access to government support schemes. Covering all 432 households, the survey ensured that every segment of the population was represented and that the data collected was both inclusive and accurate.

In total, 1,668 individuals were surveyed, out of which 28 were identified as physically challenged—representing approximately 1.7% of the village's total population. The breakdown of disabilities revealed that 60% suffered from mobility impairments, 20% had visual impairments, 10% had hearing difficulties,

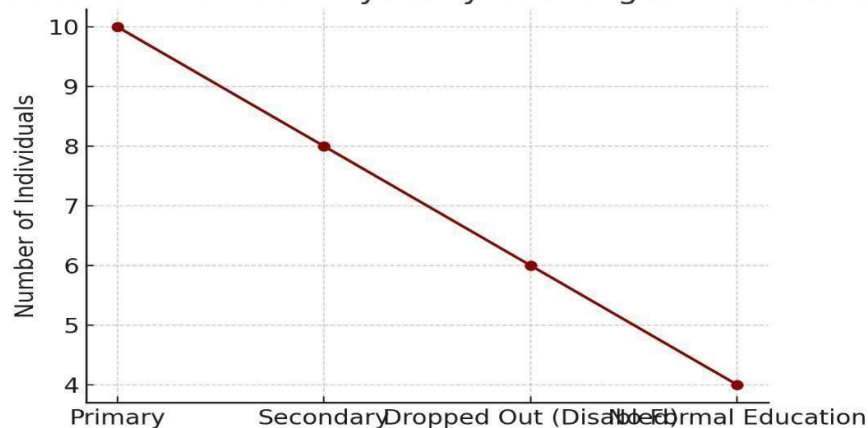
and the remaining 10% were affected by other issues such as speech or neurological disorders. This data helped our team classify the support required and understand the priority needs within this population group.

Observations

A number of critical observations emerged from the survey. Many individuals suffering from mobility issues did not possess even the most basic assistive tools such as wheelchairs, walking sticks, or crutches. This lack of support severely restricted their movement and independence. Additionally, we observed that key public infrastructure—such as the village school, anganwadi centers, and Panchayat buildings—lacked accessibility features like ramps or handrails, further isolating physically challenged individuals from social and civic engagement.

The impact on education was significant. Several individuals, particularly children and youth, had dropped out of school because the buildings were not accessible or because they lacked social support systems like peer inclusion or transport facilities. Furthermore, our team discovered that more than half of the differently-abled persons surveyed were unaware of the existence of government schemes designed specifically to support them, such as the UDID card or disability pensions.

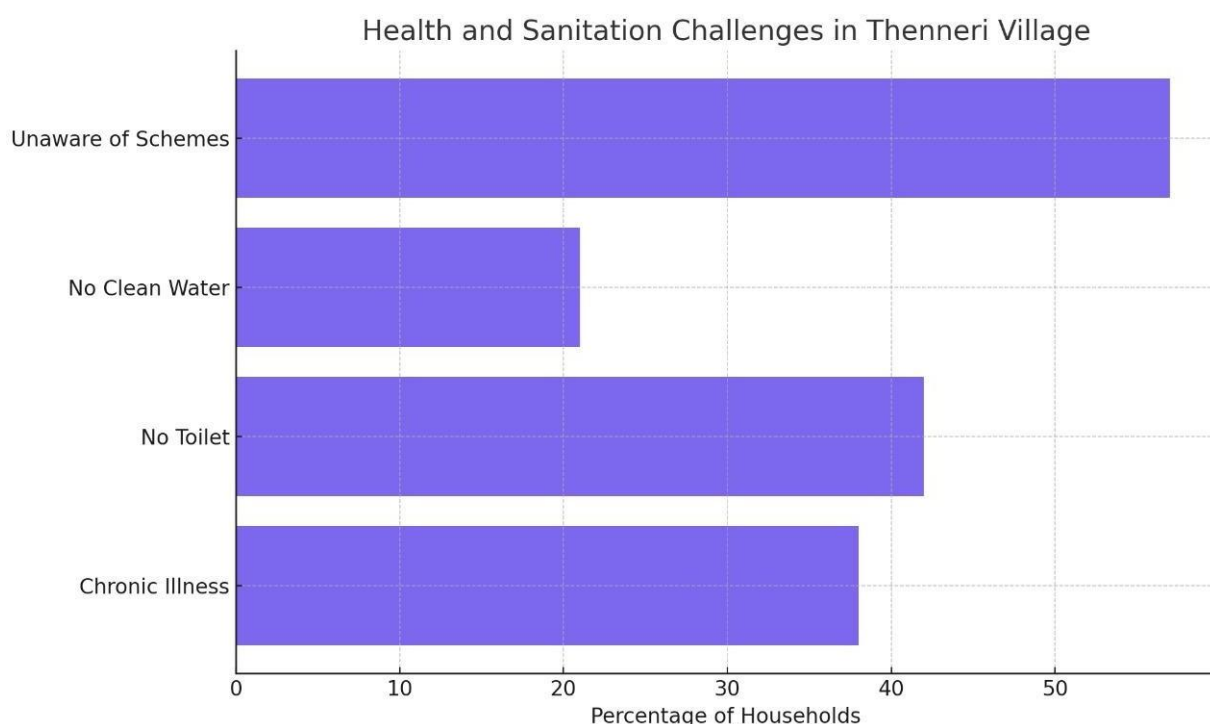
Education Profile of Physically Challenged Individuals



CHALLENGES FACED BY PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED INDIVIDUALS:

During our systematic household-level survey and participatory rural appraisal in Thenneri village, we identified a range of interlinked barriers experienced by individuals with physical disabilities. These challenges not only limit their mobility and independence but also obstruct their access to education, healthcare, and livelihood—thereby excluding them from mainstream community development.

One of the most glaring issues is the **lack of physical infrastructure**. The village does not have ramps or handrails in any of its public institutions such as schools, anganwadis, or Panchayat offices. Roads are narrow and uneven, making mobility extremely difficult for those with disabilities, especially wheelchair users. Public and household toilets are not designed with accessible features, further compounding the challenge.



1. Inadequate Infrastructure and Accessibility

A major finding was the absence of disability-friendly infrastructure across the village. Essential public facilities like schools, anganwadis, and Panchayat buildings lack basic accessibility features such as ramps and handrails. The narrow, unpaved internal roads and uneven terrain further worsen mobility—especially for wheelchair users and elderly individuals. Even public toilets are not designed to be accessible, posing serious sanitation and dignity concerns.

2. Limited Availability of Mobility Aids

Among the 28 individuals identified with physical disabilities, only a few possessed mobility aids such as crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs. Most were unaware of government-provided assistive devices or found the application process too cumbersome. Consequently, many remain confined to their homes and are heavily reliant on family members for movement and daily activities.

3. Barriers to Inclusive Education

Several physically challenged students in Thenneri have discontinued formal education due to inadequate support systems in local schools. The absence of accessible classrooms, special educators, and transportation services has contributed to high dropout rates. This lack of educational access severely hampers their chances of long-term socioeconomic inclusion.

4. Low Awareness of Government Schemes

Our surveys revealed that over 70% of the physically challenged individuals and their families were unaware of vital welfare schemes such as:

- **UDID (Unique Disability ID) Card**
- **Disability Pension Scheme**
- **Free Assistive Aids Program**
- **Skill Development for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**

This lack of information leads to underutilization of resources that could otherwise improve quality of life.

5. Economic Insecurity and Employment Gaps

Economic vulnerability is one of the most pressing challenges. None of the individuals surveyed had formal employment. There were no village-level vocational programs tailored to their needs, nor were they included in any skill training initiatives. Additionally, caregivers often forgo job opportunities to care for their disabled family members, reducing household earning capacity.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AVAILABLE FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED INDIVIDUALS

As part of our project in Thenneri , one of the key components was creating awareness about government schemes that are specifically designed to support the physically challenged population. During the household survey, we found that awareness and enrollment in such schemes were extremely low. To address this gap, we collected information from official Tamil Nadu and central government sources and presented it to the villagers in simplified terms through posters, handouts, and personal counseling.

The following are some of the major government schemes available to physically challenged individuals that were introduced to the community:

1. UDID – Unique Disability ID Card

The Unique Disability ID (UDID) project by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities aims to issue a digital disability certificate and ID card to each person with a disability. It streamlines the process of accessing various government benefits and ensures national-level recognition.

- **Eligibility:** Persons with 40% or more disability
- **Benefits:** Single digital document for availing benefits, easy access to pensions, concessions, and reservations

2. State Disability Pension Scheme

Under the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Department, individuals with a disability are entitled to a monthly pension.

- **Eligibility:** Minimum 40% disability; income limit applies
- **Benefit:** ₹1,000 per month credited directly to the bank account

- **Documents Required:** Disability certificate, Aadhaar, bank passbook, and ration card

3. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)

Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, this scheme provides assistive devices such as wheelchairs, tricycles, crutches, and hearing aids to eligible beneficiaries.

- **Eligibility:** Indian citizen with 40% disability and income below ₹22,500 per month
- **Benefit:** Free or subsidized aids provided through special camps
- **Mode of Delivery:** Organized by NGOs and District Social Welfare Offices

4. Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities offers scholarships to students from Class 9 to Post-Graduate level.

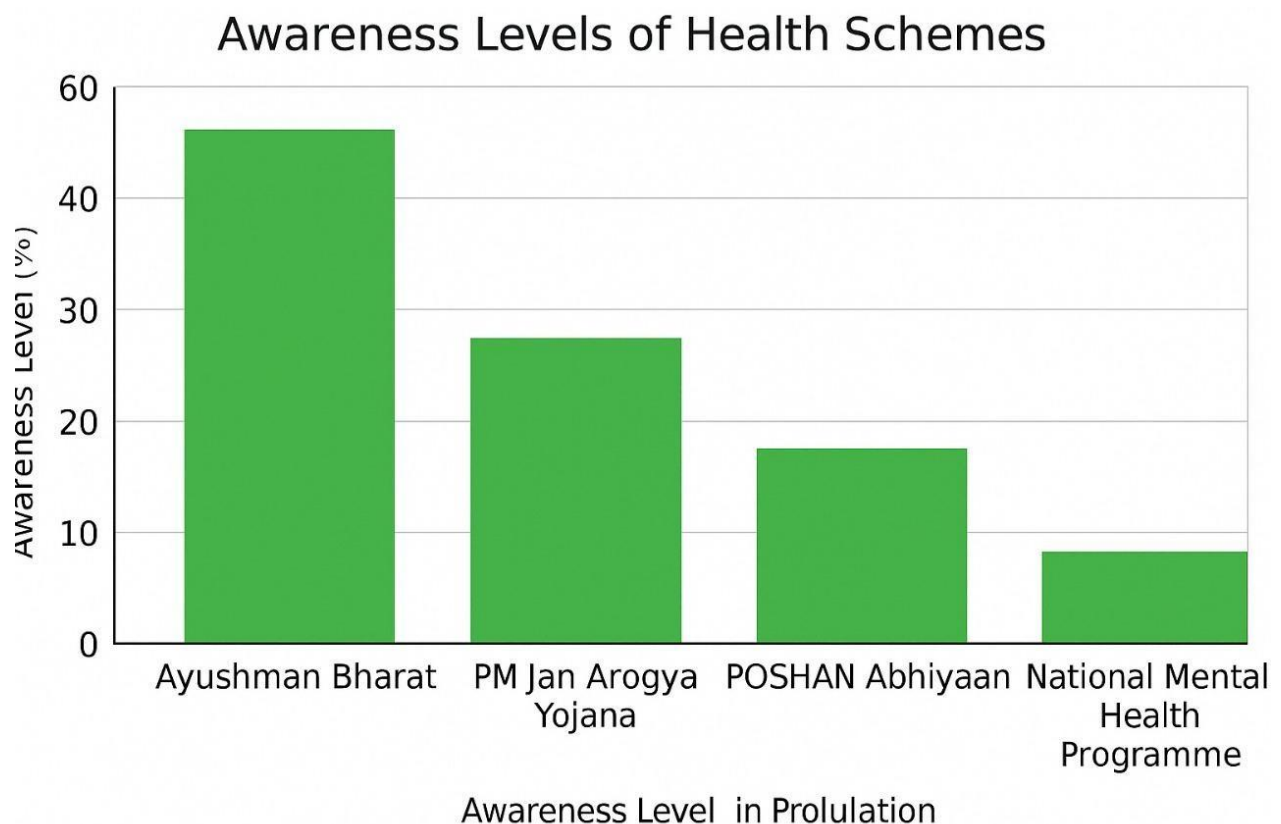
- **Eligibility:** 40% disability, valid UDID card, and income below ₹2.5 lakh per annum
- **Benefit:** Monthly financial assistance, books, and transport allowances

5. Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)

This national initiative focuses on making public buildings and transportation accessible.

- **Target Areas:** Government buildings, schools, transport systems
- **Scope for Village:** Ramp installation in Panchayat buildings, PHCs, and schools

We conducted an **Awareness Camp** where these schemes were explained to the villagers in Tamil using real-life examples. Application support was provided to families on the spot. As a result, 14 individuals initiated the UDID card application process, and 8 families submitted documents for the disability pension scheme.



- **Vaccination Programs** have the highest awareness at 35%, which shows successful outreach by public health departments.
- **Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY)** is relatively known (28%), but still underutilized given its wide scope of free medical coverage.
- **Health Insurance Awareness** is critically low (12%), which reflects a major gap in financial literacy related to healthcare.
- **Schemes for mothers**, like **PMMVY** and **JSY**, have **moderate to low** awareness, even though they provide essential financial and nutritional support.

ACTIVITES

As part of our Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) project, my partner and I visited Thennarii village and conducted a range of activities over few days. Each activity was carefully planned and executed with the goal of supporting physically challenged individuals in the village and raising awareness among the local community. Our presence in the village allowed us to interact directly with residents, understand their challenges, and respond in a meaningful and impactful manner.



Our first major activity was conducting a **door-to-door household survey**. We personally visited all 432 households in the village, introducing ourselves as student volunteers and explaining the purpose of the survey. Using printed forms and direct interviews in Tamil, we identified physically challenged individuals, noted their needs, and documented their access (or lack thereof) to government

support schemes. This activity helped us build trust with the community and gather accurate ground-level data.



Following the survey, we organized a **community awareness session** in collaboration with the village Panchayat. The session was held in the community hall, where we used posters, charts, and real-life examples to explain government schemes such as the UDID card, disability pension, and assistive devices available under the ADIP scheme. Many villagers actively participated, asked questions, and showed genuine interest in applying for these benefits.

We also conducted a **basic medical screening camp** with the help of the local Primary Health Centre (PHC). We coordinated with the PHC nurse to assess the needs of the physically challenged and provided assistance in scheduling follow-ups for further disability certification and UDID registration. This camp helped bring health services closer to the people who had limited mobility and access.

Another key activity was **resource support and application assistance**. We sat with interested families and helped them fill out forms for disability pension and UDID registration. For those without digital literacy, we explained the process, collected the necessary documents, and facilitated the submission through online portals. We also spoke with Panchayat officials to encourage their support in verifying documents and endorsing local applications.



Additionally, we carried out a **physical audit of public spaces** such as the primary school, PHC, anganwadi, and the Panchayat office. We took photographs and notes highlighting the lack of ramps, handrails, and accessible toilets. This documentation was submitted along with our recommendations for infrastructural improvement.

Throughout our visit, we made a point to engage villagers in informal conversations. These interactions were not only valuable for gathering unspoken insights but also served to strengthen community bonds. Several families expressed gratitude and relief that someone had finally taken an interest in their needs.

In summary, every activity we conducted was hands-on and field-based. From identifying issues to proposing solutions, we took ownership of every step in the process. The experience was deeply humbling and taught us the real meaning of inclusive development. Our goal is now to ensure that these activities continue through local stakeholders and that the impact we made serves as a foundation for long-term change.



CONCLUSION

Our journey as part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) project in Thennari was a transformative experience, both for us as student volunteers and for the community we engaged with.

Activity/Component	No. of Beneficiaries	Remarks
Household Disability Survey	28	All households covered
Awareness Session (Govt Schemes)	40	Well attended with Q&A
Medical Camp with PHC	18	Screenings done by nurse
UDID Card Form Assistance	14	Support for online form filling
Disability Pension Registration	8	Forms verified by officials
Accessibility Audit in Public Buildings	4	Photos and notes recorded
Documentation Submission to Panchayat	2	Submitted with recommendations
Skill Development Counselling	10	Youth and adults counseled
Follow-up Visits	12	Feedback collected
Report Preparation and Presentation	2	Submitted to UBA Coordinator

Through our household surveys, awareness sessions, health screenings, and support with government schemes, we gained meaningful insights into the challenges faced by differently-abled individuals. We uncovered stories of resilience and brought attention to long-overlooked needs.

Our efforts went beyond data collection—we empowered families with information, helped initiate applications for disability benefits, and promoted

inclusive development. The project reinforced our belief that real progress begins with equal access and dignity for all.

We believe this work has laid the groundwork for lasting impact. With continued support from the Panchayat, NGOs, and future UBA teams, Thennarii can truly become a model of inclusive rural development.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve and contribute to the vision of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: empowering villages through collective and compassionate action.

“Our Journey in Thennari”

(Survey → Awareness → Health Camp → Application Assistance)