

## Noolaham Foundation Final Report



<b>Project title</b>	Republishing of Rare and Endangered documents
<b>Project number</b>	NF/PG/2013/0006
<b>Project location</b>	Colombo
<b>Sector</b>	Publications – Objective 4.3 (Roadmap 2020)
<b>Implementing agency and contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation, Ezhuna Media Foundation
<b>Grant Agency and Contribution</b>	NA
<b>Total Budget and Expenditure</b>	NA
<b>Start and End date</b>	January 2013 - June 2013
<b>Responsible Stakeholder/s</b>	Ezhuna Media Foundation Editor - Mr. Satkunam Sathiyathevan, Editor - Dr. Arangaraj Jeganathan

### Summary:

The objectives of the ‘Republishing of Rare and Endangered documents’ project was to publish rare works in collaboration. During this project Noolaham Foundation collaborated with some individuals and Ezhuna Media Foundation and published two books. Ezhuna Media Foundation is a non - profit, charitable, independent media organization. The part of publication expenditure was covered by Mr. Sujan Shanmugasingam, Canada.

During this project two rare documents were published. They are ‘*Thamizhpashai*’ and ‘*Pandaithamilar*’. The ‘Thamizhpashai’ is re-edition of Mr. T. T. Saravanmuthupillai and was edited by Mr. Satkunam Sathiyathevan. ‘Pandaithamilar’ is the first edition and the author is Swamy Gnanapragasar. It was edited by Dr. Arangaraj Jeganathan. A digital copy of ‘Thamizhpashai’ is available at Noolaham Foundation’s Digital Library ([www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org)) and the digital copy of ‘Pandaithamilar’ book will be made available only in 2016 on Noolaham Foundation’s Digital Library due to copyright restrictions. If anyone wants to use the content of the book with less copyright restrictions, they would contact the publishers.

### Introduction and Background

The Sri Lankan Tamil speaking community has given to the world many scholars. Armuga Navalar and Swami Vipulanandar, two such eminent scholars, rendered invaluable service to their language and religion. Another eminent scholar Swami Ganapragasar is from the same band of scholars. He wholeheartedly dedicated himself to the service of Tamil Language and Lexicography. He bestowed all his inductive studies for the benefit of the Tamil world. His monumental work - “the Etymological and Comparative Lexicon of the Tamil Language” is the product of real scholarship. He has written hundreds of articles in various fields – historical research, linguistic studies, and religious writings, to name a few.

Swami Gnanaprakasara has left behind a number of unpublished manuscripts such as 'Sri Lanka originally a land of Dravidians'

Other scholars have also contributed articles to journals on various subjects of the history of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. Only sporadic attempts have been made from time to time, to put together anything like a connected narrative of the origin, progress, culture, and etc. of the Tamil language and the Tamil community in Sri Lanka which, nevertheless considers itself as one of the oldest civilizations in the world. There are, indeed, many scholarly views on the Tamil language. Mr. T. T. Saravanmuthupillai has brought together various views by researching a vast quantity of historical material from the ancient Tamil classics known as Sangam works through his 'Thamizhpashai'.

Therefore Noolaham Foundation intended to recollect and publish these two books so that they will be available for the use of all.

### **Objective/s and Achievements or Results:**

The objectives of the 'Republishing of Rare and Endangered documents' project was to publish rare works in collaboration. The two collections of rare and endangered documents were not only published as books, but also changed into machine readable formats and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library ([www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org)). The preserved historical information and intellectual property were shared with others as well.

### **Constraints / Challenges:**

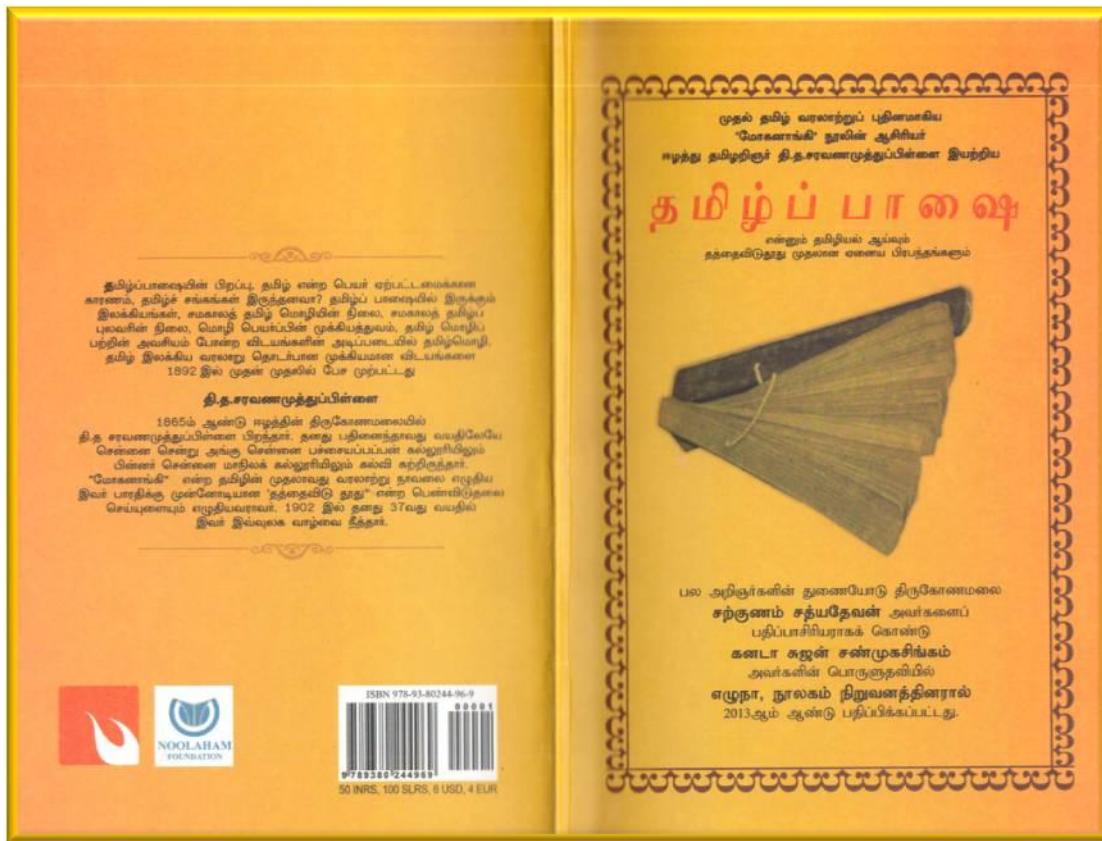
- The bottlenecks of the project were finding and collecting rare and unpublished documents. Noolaham Foundation and its volunteers spent more time and money for this activity.
- Due to the shifts in the weather conditions between the wet and dry seasons and related challenges posed by insects, dust, humidity and variations in temperature, rare and endangered documents are in a fragile condition. Thus when we publish precious, endangered, old documents we need to ensure they are handled in the correct manner.

### **Suggestion and Recommendation:**

- This project was a great opportunity for students coming out from schools to develop an interest in research. Works of this kind should be encouraged more and more, if one wishes to produce students who are motivated to enquire academically into their cultures, languages and rituals. .
- There are many unpublished and valuable material in all formats which remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost. So all the unpublished and rare intellectual documents should be archived by the Tamil speaking community in the near future.

Relevant Attachments

The Cover Page of the 'Thamizhpashai' Book



The Cover Page of the 'Pandaithamilar' Book

