

**Noolaham Foundation**  
**Final Report**



<b>Project title</b>	Osai: Jaffna Vembadi Girls' High School Digitization
<b>Project number</b>	NF/PG/2014/0001
<b>Project location</b>	Jaffna
<b>Sector</b>	Collection Development
<b>Implementing agency and contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Grant Agency and Contribution</b>	Noolaham Foundation
<b>Total Budget and Expenditure</b>	LKR 35,804.00
<b>Start and End date</b>	February 2014
<b>Responsible Stakeholder/s</b>	Volunteers, Noolaham Foundation Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna Vembadi Old Girls' Association (VOGA), Jaffna, Department of Education.

### Summary

The main objective of 'Osai: Jaffna Vembadi Girls' High School Digitization' project was collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the published documents of Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna and its community members. This collection includes periodical publications from different years (1956 -2014) and materials such as magazines, newsletters, booklets, reports, souvenirs and felicitation, annual publications, leaflets, memorial publications, monographs and educational materials. It was a collaborative project undertaken by Noolaham Foundation with the help of Vembadi Old Girls' Association (VOGA). This project was aimed to provide open access to and to create global visibility for the institution's publications and to store and preserve institutional digital assets.

During this project, 73 rare documents were digitized and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library ([www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org)) to the Tamil communities of the entire world. This project was a successful initiative and received special appreciation from the school community and other stakeholders. The digitized documents were published on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 at an annual programme of Vembadi Old Girls' Association (VOGA) in Jaffna. Noolaham Foundation was honored by VOGA. The documented collections were gifted to the school in the form of DVD and printed hand book so that the school can share this document with their well-wishers, stake holders, and students.

## **Introduction & Background**

Noolaham Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization (GA 2390) founded to provide enhanced access to information sources and foster knowledge-based development in Sri Lanka. It maintains an online digital library, facilitates information preservation programs, provides financial assistance and technical guidance for digitization initiatives, and actively participates in awareness-raising campaigns. It also co-ordinates a range of fund-raising activities and collaborates with other organizations and individuals.

Time to time many organizations such as schools are publishing printed documents, photos, recorded audio and videos retaining their history and culture. But such publications are not preserved in most libraries. Thus it is obvious they will be endangered over a period of time. So at the moment preserving and sharing of knowledge and resources are the most unrivaled requirement of the Tamil community. Thus Noolaham Foundation strives to fill the gap and toiled for the last nine years to work on digital preservation. As part of Noolaham Foundation's activity of 'Institutional Archives', this project identified some schools in the history of Tamil speaking community. Jaffna Vembadi Girls' High School celebrating 175 years is one such school.

## **Objectives and Achievements or Results**

73 books and various kinds of documents were digitized through this project and made available online through Noolaham Foundation's Digital Library ([www.noolaham.org](http://www.noolaham.org)).

Expected benefits of this project includes

- opening up outputs of the institution to a worldwide audience, maximizing the visibility and impact of these outputs as a result
- showcasing the institution to interested constituencies – prospective staff, prospective students and other stakeholders
- managing and measuring research and teaching activities;
- enabling and encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to research
- facilitating the development and sharing of digital teaching materials and aids,
- supporting student endeavors,
- Providing access to theses and dissertations and a location for the development of e-portfolios.

## **Constrains / Challenges**

- The quality of the original papers, including different text characters, irregular fonts, text density, torn or smudged pages, lack of environmental control and a variety in layout posed many challenges during the image capture process.

- Due to the unstable political situation in Jaffna in the past, and as only a few copies are available in the school community, and an enormous amount of valuable material in all formats remains uncollected and risks being permanently lost.
- Lack of awareness of open access institutional archives among students, teachers and researches, and inadequate information and communication technology infrastructure are major problem in this area. The high cost of internet bandwidth in Sri Lanka is another big issue for the student community to access these open resources frequently and whenever they want.

#### **Suggestion and Recommendation:**

- The publications missed out should be scanned when resources are available and Noolaham Foundation should find those documents from old girls, well-wishers, community libraries and community based organizations with the help of its volunteers.
- Project Noolaham should collaborate more and more with other institution and groups in creating digital content to share knowledge and resources. There is also a pressing need for training programs that will help administrators as well as special collections professionals to understand their responsibilities in this environment.

#### **Case Stories / Quotes etc...**

*This project will provide an opportunity to preserve these rare documents and share them with a wider community of school students and I am extremely excited about this process and made thanks about this project as well. All the published documents should be archived and sub section must be completed by all. In this hand book containing digitized documents detail and this book addition to helping to find and digitize other documents. I am kindly ask everyone come forward to complete this task.*

**Mrs. Sriranjini Anandakumarasamy**  
**President OGA, Vembadi Girl's High School**

#### **Relevant Attachments**

**News/2014/2014.05.25**

**Publication of "Osai", the collection of Vembadi Girls' High School**

<http://noolahamfoundation.org/wiki/index.php?title=News/2014/2014.05.25>

## Photos

During the digitized documents publishing event on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 at 10.30 am in an annual programme of Vembadi Old Girls' Association (VOGA), Jaffna

