

Project : 04 Honoring Kamarajar: Father of Education

Kumaraswami Kamaraj (1903-1975) remains an eternal inspiration for his unwavering commitment to education, social justice, and grassroots development. Known as "Kalvi Thanthai" (Father of Education), Kamarajar transformed Tamil Nadu from a state with just 7% literacy to 37% - a revolution that touched millions of lives.



Project 4
Celebrating Sri.Karmaveerar Kamaraj Birthday
Honouring Followers of Kamaraj Principles

Date & Time : 16.07.2025 Wednesday 6.30pm
Place: Rotary Hall, Dharmapuri



Request all members to participate in the project



Rtn. Sathesh Kumar K.R.
President 25-26



Rtn. Thiagarajan S.
Secretary 25-26



Rtn. Madheshwaran V.
Treasurer 25-26

On July 15, 2025, Rotary Club of Dharmapuri Midtown gathered with school children and community members to celebrate Kamarajar's birth anniversary, honoring his timeless principles of education for all, social equity, and dedicated public service.

"In one life, how much can be done when you dedicate yourself to public service?"

The Life & Legacy of a Legend

Kumaraswami Kamaraj was born on July 15, 1903 in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu. Despite losing his father at age six, young Kamaraj rose from humble beginnings to become one of India's greatest leaders. He left school at twelve to support his mother, yet his thirst for knowledge never diminished.

Journey to Leadership

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and the freedom struggle, Kamaraj became a full-time political worker at just 18 years old. He participated in major independence movements including the Salt Satyagraha and was imprisoned multiple times for his unwavering commitment to India's freedom. He served as Chief Minister of Madras (Tamil Nadu) from 1954-1963, a period that transformed the state forever.

Enduring Impact

Kamarajar passed away on October 2, 1975, but his contributions continue to shape Tamil Nadu's prosperity. He transformed the state from a food-deficit region to self-sufficiency in food production, making it one of India's most industrialized and urbanized states.

Education Pioneer

Revolutionized education with free schooling, free uniforms, and the innovative midday meal scheme.

Social Reformer

Fought for equality, breaking caste barriers and ensuring education reached the poorest communities.

Statesman

Became "Kingmaker of India," instrumental in bringing leaders to national prominence.

Man of Integrity

Known for simplicity, honesty, and genuine concern for the common person.

The Education Revolution

When Kamaraj took office in 1954, Tamil Nadu faced a crisis: 6,000 villages had no schools, and literacy stood at a mere 7%. He set out on an ambitious mission to bring education to every village, no matter how remote. His vision was simple: "No child should have to walk more than 3 miles to reach their school."

27K

Schools Established

Nearly doubled from 12,000 during previous administration

7%

Starting Literacy

Literacy rate in 1951 before reforms

37%

Achieved Literacy

Literacy rate in 1961 - a 5-fold jump!

Free Education Policy

Made education free and compulsory up to 11th standard

One-Teacher School Model

Enabled schools in remote villages with single dedicated teachers

Free School Uniforms

Eliminated caste and class distinctions among students

Revolutionary Midday Meal Scheme

First in the world! Provided nutrition to encourage attendance

The Midday Meal Scheme: A Game Changer

Kamarajar introduced free midday meals to address malnutrition and encourage poor families to send children to school. This groundbreaking initiative resulted in school enrollment increase from dropout rates of 40% to 22%, nearly 100% enrollment for children aged 6-11, and greater impact on backward class and Muslim community students.

Kamarajar believed that education was the only weapon against caste discrimination. He rejected the hereditary education policy and ensured that every child, regardless of background, had access to quality schooling.



"If people are educated, all other problems will be solved." - Kamarajar

Kamaraj Birthday Celebration 2025

On July 15, 2025, Rotary Club of Dharmapuri Midtown organized a special celebration honoring Kamarajar's birth anniversary. With school children and community members, we came together to remember his principles and continue his legacy of education and social justice.



Student Participation

School children participated in discussions about Kamarajar's life and principles



Sharing Insights

Children shared insights on his contributions to education and social equality



Recognition

Recognition of Kamarajar as "Father of Education" and advocate for literacy for all



Community Pledge

Community members pledged support for education initiatives



Rotary Values

Celebration of Rotary's alignment with Kamarajar's values of service



Our Commitment to Kamarajar's Legacy

Just as Kamarajar dedicated his life to ensuring education reaches every child, Rotary Club of Dharmapuri Midtown continues this noble mission through supporting educational programs in underserved communities, promoting literacy initiatives for all sections of society, fostering social equality and breaking barriers to education, and serving with integrity and dedication to public welfare.

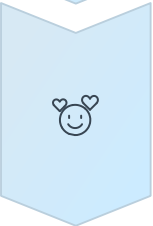
Kamarajar's Timeless Principles

More than 50 years after his death, Kamarajar's principles remain profoundly relevant. His approach to governance, education, and social reform offers valuable lessons for contemporary society.



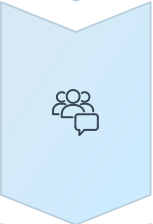
Education as Foundation

Kamarajar believed that education is the most powerful tool for breaking caste barriers and economic inequality. In today's world, where millions still lack access to quality education, his vision reminds us of the urgent need for inclusive learning opportunities for all.



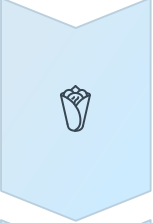
Service Above Self

Living a life of simplicity and integrity, Kamarajar never sought personal wealth or power. His commitment to public service - sacrificing personal comfort for community welfare - is a powerful example for leaders everywhere.



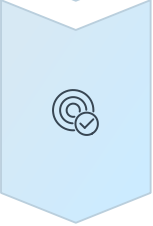
Grassroots Focus

Rather than imposing top-down solutions, Kamarajar understood local problems and tailored solutions. He visited villages, listened to people, and acted. This approach to governance remains vital in addressing modern challenges.



Social Equality & Justice

Through free uniforms, midday meals, and accessible schools, Kamarajar fought caste discrimination and economic disparity. His belief that all children deserve equal opportunities continues to inspire social reform movements.



Vision with Pragmatism

Kamarajar had ambitious goals but implemented practical solutions - the one-teacher school model being a perfect example. He achieved transformational change through strategic, sustainable initiatives.

What Students Today Can Learn

For school children and young people, Kamarajar's life teaches us valuable lessons about character, dedication, and social responsibility.



Value of Education

Despite limited schooling, Kamarajar's self-education and curiosity made him great



Integrity Matters

His honesty and simplicity earned him respect and trust



Perseverance Pays

Facing hardship and imprisonment, he never abandoned his principles



Give Back to Society

True success means uplifting those around you



Social Responsibility

Every individual has a role in creating a just, educated society

Continuing the Legacy

The mission of Rotary International - "Service Above Self" - perfectly aligns with Kamarajar's life philosophy. Both are dedicated to improving communities through education, social equality, and genuine concern for human welfare.

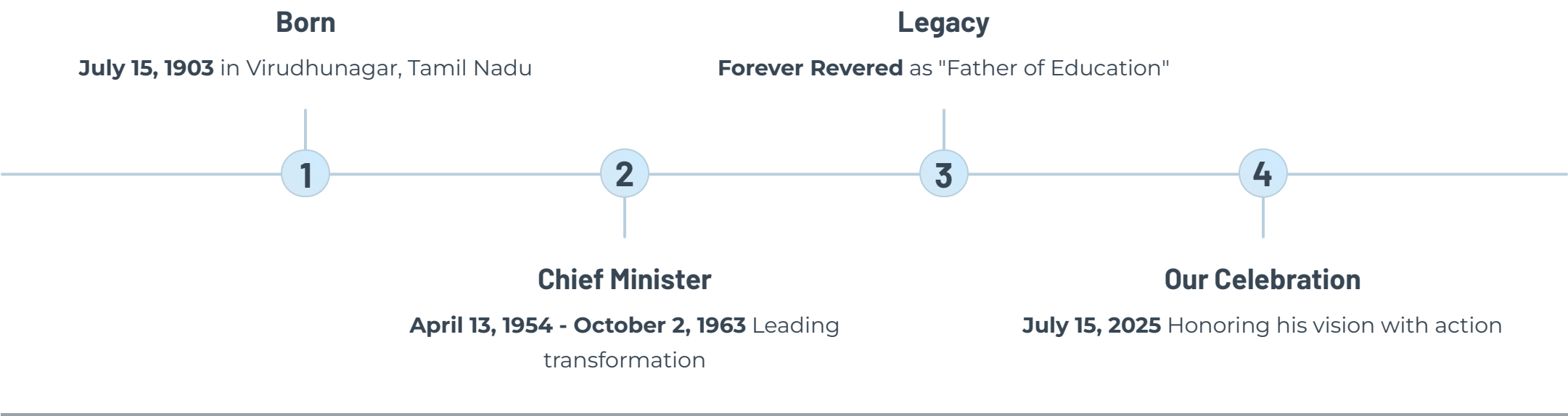
Rotary Club of Dharmapuri Midtown's Initiatives

- Supporting educational programs in rural and underserved communities
- Providing scholarships to deserving students from economically weaker sections
- Conducting literacy awareness programs
- Promoting values of integrity, honesty, and service
- Building bridges between communities for collective growth

Our Vision Moving Forward

Inspired by Kamarajar's legacy, we commit to ensuring every child has access to quality education, addressing social inequalities through education and empowerment, serving communities with integrity and dedication, inspiring young people to become agents of positive change, and building a society where talent, not circumstance, determines destiny.

"Kamarajar showed us that one dedicated person can transform millions of lives. His work in education created a ripple effect that continues to benefit millions today. Let his legacy inspire us to do the same in our communities."



Rotary Club of Dharmapuri Midtown

[Service Above Self](#) | [Education for All](#) | [Social Justice](#)

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