

**RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE
DEEPAM, THUMPALY,
IRENIPURAM - 629 197
KANYAKUMARI DIST.
TAMIL NADU.**

It gives me great pleasure and joy in presenting the brief report of activities of Rural Uplift Centre and the results achieved during the year 2019-2020.

Programmes implemented during 2019 - 2020:

- Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the poor
- Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker families under National Crèche Scheme, Government of India
- Ensuring resilience capacity of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change through Organic Farming trainings.
- Enabling women to get relief from poverty & hunger, security from violence and to get legal aid.
- Legal aid and conciliation under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- Cyclone relief programme
- Net working & co-ordination

1. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor:

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor, who cannot enroll themselves under the regular life insurance scheme. One thousand and seventy six policy holders paid the premium amount of Rs: 1, 23,775/- (one lac twenty three thousand and seven hundred and seventy five) during this year. One hundred and fifty policy holders kept their paid their dues and kept their policies update. Two persons surrendered their policies and received the maturity amount of Rs: 38,406/- (thirty eight thousand four hundred and six). Three persons received the maturity amount of Rs: 69,678/- (sixty nine thousand six hundred and seventy eight).

Results: Life risk of one hundred and eighty four poor people are transferred during this year.

2. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker families under National Crèche Scheme, Government of India:

Rural Uplift Centre is maintaining four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agricultural laborers. One centre each at Kallathi and Elankulam and two centres at Thalpathysamuthram in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limit of Tirunelveli District. Ninety seven children are being taken care of at these crèches with sixty percentages financial support of Ministry of Women & Child welfare, Government of India, thirty percentages

financial support of Ministry of Social welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu and remaining ten percentages by Rural Uplift Centre. The children are imparted pre-school training through the play way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children are provided with nutritious mid-day meals and snacks in the morning & evening. Health and medical facilities are also provided to them in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings on child care are organized for their mothers. Besides, measures to prevent diseases and to prepare nutritious meals with the locally available food materials are also taught to the mothers. Crèche monitoring committees consisting of panchayat leaders, community leaders, leaders of women's groups and a representative of Rural Uplift Centre are constituted in all the four centers to animate and monitor the functioning of the four crèches. Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day, Education day (Kamaraj Birthday) and Annual school Day celebrations are organized at all the centers to demonstrate the skills acquired by the children.

Results: The programme enabled motor development, physical development, social development, knowledge development, mental arousal development and language development of ninety seven children. All the children acquired pre-school training & improved their health. The headmasters of the nearby primary schools have reported that the children trained in RUC -run crèches perform better than the other children in all school activities.

3. Ensuring resilience capacity of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change through Organic Farming trainings.

Capacity building trainings to small & marginal farmers: Rural Uplift Centre conducted nine one day capacity building training programmes for 200 small & marginal farmers of Marthandom, Kadayal, Moolachel, Pampanvilai and Kulasekaram of Kanyakumari District during the year. The topics covered were soil fertility management through various types of composts & green manure, selection process of seeds, nursery preparation, manure management, weed management, plant growth, tonic preparations, pest-repellent preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, three tier cropping, water conservation measures, Government welfare schemes for organic farming and disaster preparedness in organic farming etc. Seven days follow-up organic farming trainings were conducted to 170 small and marginal organic farmers of Chinthamani, Eduppal, Melapathai, Moongiladi and potthaiadi Alankulam of Thirunelveli District.

Exposure visits to University and expert's organic farm: Three days exposure programme was conducted for fifty five farmers. They spent one day at State level exhibition held at Coimbatore. Second day, they had interaction with Kothagiri organic farmers, Tea farmers, officials of horticulture Department at Ooty botanical garden.

Organic farmer's conference & exhibition of organic products: Twenty days exhibition of organic products was conducted at Kuzhithurai during the annual vahuveli function jointly by the Marthandam zone organic farmers & RUC. Marthandam zone organic farmers exhibited their seedlings and products and received the best appreciation award from the Kuzhithurai Municipality as the best exhibition stall.

Facilitation to avail Government welfare measures: Thirty two farmers availed 50 lac loan through Kisan Credit facility. Eighteen farmers received forty lac rupees for drip irrigation facility in 20 acres. Eighty five farmers received subsidized vegetable seeds. Twenty farmers received one lac rupees for honey production through apiary. Five farmers received fifty lac rupees as loan cum subsidy for farm development. Seventy farmers are receiving rupees six thousand per year as farm subsidy from Central Government.

Participation in the Climate Change Adaptation Conference held at Bonn, Germany:

United Nations granted “**Observer**” status to Rural Uplift Centre from April, 2019 to participate in UN proceedings based on the recommendation of the Government of India. RUC participated in the United Nations Climate Change Adaptation Conference held at World Conference Centre, Bonn, Germany from 17th June, 2019 to 26th of June, 2019.

Results:

Three hundred and seventy small and marginal farmers of Thirunelveli & Kanyakumari District have acquired alternative skills on organic farming strategy to respond climate change induced drought or flood. The alienated organic farming technologies become their own technology and now have control over it. The organic matter of the soil increased and the soil fertility increased to sustain productivity.

The above farmers have cultivated various drought resistance food crops by adopting organic farming practices and obtained reasonable yield (paddy, plantain and vegetables) in the first time crop itself. The study conducted by RUC revealed that organic farming was done in 80 acres and the 185 farmers received the profit ranging Rs:25,00,000 (twenty five lac) in Kanyakumari District; Seventy-five rubber tappers received rupees one hundred and seventy-five lac profit from their 1250 acre plantations. One hundred and thirty (cattles 1125 & poultry 1000) farmers received nine lac rupees profit. All the beneficiaries ensured food security at their family level for the whole year. The yield obtained is nutritious, poison free and good for health and preventing various diseases. The cost of cultivation decreased, as the farmers themselves produce organic manure and pest repellants. They are able to find market in and around the community.

The 370 farmers acquired organic farming skills, relieved from the dependency on companies for seeds, chemical fertilizer, chemical pesticides, technology and resilience to damage caused by Climate Change and relieved from poverty.

The neighbours of the beneficiaries have started organic farming practices with the motivation and the help of the trained beneficiaries.

Forty five farmers have produced 210 tons of vermin compost. Eighty six farmers produced 955 ltrs of pest repellors and used it in 80 acres of land. Sixty farmers produced 365 ltrs of plant growth tonic (pancha gouwya) and used it in 80 acres of land, forty five farmers produced 58 ltrs of fish amino acid and used it in 34 acres of land and 41 farmers produced 27 kgs of vegetable seeds, 35 farmers produced 3350 kgs of paddy seeds, 78 farmers produced 38 kgs of green leafy vegetable seeds and 56 farmers produced 134 kgs of cereal seeds.

Expert organic farmers participated in the All India Radio experience sharing programmes. Twenty five interviews were broadcasted by All India Radio . Some of the interviews were repeated several times.

Two organic farmers Mr.Micheal and Mrs.Little Flower received best organic farmer award from the Malankara Catholic Diocese and Kerala Agriculture University respectively.

4. Enabling women to get relief from poverty, violence and to get legal aid

Trainings for Rural Women: The RUC's advocates team along with the paralegal trainers conducted four days each eight para- legal trainings benefitting 379 rural women on Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Indian Christian Marriage Act,1872, Muslim Marriage Act, 1937, Special Marriage Act, 1954, Divorce Act 1869, Family Court Act, 1984, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens' Act 2007, National Commission for women Act,1990, Protection of Women from Domestic violence Act,2005. Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act,1998, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplaces (prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act 2003, Protection of women from Domestic violence Act, 2005 and Convention on the "Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. Booklets containing the above laws are prepared in simplified Tamil Language and supplied to all the trainees for their ready reference.

Conducted one day each ten trainings conducted for 179 women beedi workers and one day each eleven trainings conducted for 190 agricultural laborers on their legal rights and privileges.

Two days each two trainings conducted for 206 social workers on facilitating to get remedies to the victims of various forms of violence inflicted on women.

One hundred and thirty two women workers participated in the International labour day programme held at Nanguneri. Mr.H.Vasanthakumar, Member of Legislative Assembly and Mr.S.V.Krishnan former Member of Legislative Assembly participated as guests.

Trainings for students: Conducted one day Human Rights orientation programme for 170 students of RECT polytechnic College, Vijayanarayam. Conducted one day workshop on "International day for the elimination of violence against women & Girls" for the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Kampankulam. Conducted Human Rights day workshop at Women's Christian college in collaboration with Society for Law & Justice and District Legal Services Authority. District Judge Mr. Mahizhenth, Asst.District Superintendent of Police Mr.Jawagar, Women's Christian College Principal Mrs.Padma Correspondent Mr.Asirpackiasingh participated as guest speakers. International Women's day celebrations were conducted at St.Joseph's College of Education, Kalakadu .

RUC also participated in the International Women's day jointly organized by the coalitions of women's organizations at Nagercoil on 8th of March. International Labours day was celebrated at Nanguneri. Member of Parliament- Mr.H.Vasanthakumar, Former member of Legislative Assembly Mr.S.V.Krishnan participated in the celebration and interacted with the workers.

Ten Women Rights Monitoring cells were formed in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts having an average membership of nineteen each to facilitate grievances of the women victims of various forms of violence to the appropriate authorities.

Legal Aid to Women victims:

During the year forty cases are conducted to assist the women victims to get justice & compensation.

Results:

- a) Women's groups leaders, beediworkers & social workers are aware of the strategy of asserting rights of women, children, workers and enhanced their joint bargaining capacity to assert their rights.
- b) Women beedi workers received pass books and log books, Due to this, they are able to get Rs: 263.80 as wage for rolling 1000 beedies including eight percentage leave wage, eight percentage bonus and ten percentage provident fund contribution.
- c) Received Governments assistance for construction of houses to the two beneficiaries @Rs:1.5 lac and Rs 2 lac each to eighty families.
- d) Thirty-five families received @ Rs:1200 for construction of toilet at their houses.
- e) Drainage facility worth Rs: 2,00,000/- (rupees two lac) availed by Lathikulam community.
- f) Road facilities maintenance works worth Rs:37,00,000 (rupees thirty seven lac) carried out in Kallathy, Vellichanthai to Ehankadu, Koothankulam,
- g) Rain water harvesting facility worth Rs:2,00,000/- (rupees two lac) constructed
- h) An amount of Rs. 10,00,000/- (rupees ten lac only) in cash, Rs. 5,00,000/- (rupees five lac only) worth gold jewels and household goods worth Rs:1,50,000(rupees one lac and fifty thousand) were awarded in three cases.
- i) Rs. 30000/- (rupees thirty thousand only) was refunded in a cheating case.
- j) One missing Girl was rescued.
- k) Rs.4,00,000/-(rupees four lac only) was awarded as compensation in a case.
- l) Two families were united.
- m) Rs:30,000/-(rupees thirty thousand only) worth gold jewels were rescued with the help of Police.
- n) Provided police protection to a victim of domestic violence through a court order.
- o) Two families united.

5. Legal aid and conciliation : Service provider under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Rural Uplift Centre was appointed as “**Service provider**” under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for Kanniyakumari District and the District Social Welfare officer as the “**Protection officer**” by Government of Tamil Nadu. RUC is also one of the District Committee members of “**Dowry prohibition Committee**” constituted by the District Collector of Kanniyakumari District. RUC along with the District Social Welfare Officer cum Protection officer conducted conciliation for ten dowry Domestic violence cases referred by the different All women police stations of Kanyakumari District.

Results:

The victims are able to get speedy remedial measures. Out of ten dowry dispute cases, three families were united, two of them divorced, one woman received the settlement amount of Rs:1,00,000/-(rupees one lacs), one divorce case is pending for trial and the rest of them are under conciliation process.

6. Cyclone relief programme.

RUC Disaster response team conducted eleven workshops on rehabilitation measures in all the cyclone affected villages of Nagapattinam and facilitated the victims, who had lost their houses in the cyclone to get housing assistance and relief assistance for livelihood damage from Government of Tamil Nadu. Four thousand and five hundred applications for relief assistance were submitted to the District Collector of Nagapattinam.

Result

All the victims received relief measures for the loss of livelihood means and only a few families received assistance for the construction of damaged houses.

7. Net working & Co-ordination:

Kanyakumari District Collector appointed A.Maria James, the Secretary of Rural Uplift Centre as one of the members of the DISHA Committee to coordinate and monitor the forty three central Government welfare Schemes in Kanyakumari District based on the recommendation of the Kanyakumari Member of Parliament, Mr.H.Vasanthakumar.M.A., for the 17th Lok Shaba period.

A.Maria James, Secretary is serving as the State Executive Committee member and District Chief Convener for Kanyakumari District Social Action Movement Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry. Social Action Movement- Kanyakumari District and RUC jointly conducted six District level workshops on Resource mobilization strategies, Compliance of various laws/Government orders governing NGOs such as FCRA amendments, Income Tax amendments and Employees Provident Fund regulations etc.

RUC along with twelve experts of Social Action Movement (SAM net work of NGOs in Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry), prepared a booklet on the present socio-economic status of Women, Dalits, Tribals, Children, Urban poor, Coastal communities, and status of Health & Medical services, Disaster response, Agriculture, HIV & AIDS and distributed to the Members of Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry.

RUC along with Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Barathidasan University, Trichirapalli, Confederation of Indian Industries, Tamil Nadu and Madras School of Social Work conducted three workshops one at Kudumbam-Keeranur, one at Barathidasan University- Trichirapalli and one at Madras School of Social Work-Chennai to promote greening in 134 panchayats in Tamil Nadu. RUC jointly with SAM-Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry conducted three workshops at Trichy for the members of the SAM on compliance of various domestic laws (FCR Act & rules, Income Tax Act & rules, Tamil Nadu Societies registration Act & rules etc) governing NGOs in Tamil Nadu: Also providing legal consultancy to solve their internal and external issues/disputes.

RUC participated in two Inter Agency Group (IAG-coalition of humanitarian organisations)-Tamilnadu State executive committee meetings and jointly conducted one day workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction as the followup of Gaja relief response in Tamil Nadu with IAG.

8. Resource mobilization:

The members of RUC and the staff took serious efforts to mobilize local resource for implementing the charitable activities. The parents of crèche programme, beneficiaries of Organic farming strategy for Climate Change Adaptation programme in Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli Districts and other wellwishers. Misereor – Germany and Indesch Patens Chaften – Luxembourg supported for enabling women to get relief from poverty & violence and to get legal aid project, Organic farming for Climate Change Adaptation respectively. Ministry of Woman & Child welfare-Govt. of India & Government of Tamil Nadu jointly supported for running crèche programme. RUC participated in the local resource mobilization workshop organized by Smile Foundation at New Delhi.

9. Income & Expenditure account:

During this financial year an amount of Rs: 51,82,245.87/- (fifty one thousand eighty two thousand two hundred and forty five paise eighty seven including the opening balance of Rs:13,25,343.62 only) was received as contributions and bank interest from various sources and spent an amount of Rs: 45,34,092.60/-(Rs forty five lace thirty four thousand and ninety two paise sixty) for various charitable activities as detailed in the attached audited statement of accounts.

Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners:

We, the members, staff & beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre, whole heartedly thank Misereor - Germany, Indesch Patens Chaften - Luxembourg, Rev.Fr. Vathroder Kluas.s.j- Jesuit Mission Procurator, Germany, Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai, Bishop of Kottar, Members of Parliament Mr.H.Vasanthakumar & Mr.S.Gnanadiraviam, Members of Legislative Assembly Mr. Rajesh, Mr.Manothankaraj, Mr.Sureshraj, Mr. Prince, Mr.Narayanan, Ministry of Woman & Child welfare-Govt. of India, Director-Integrated Child Development Services-Government of Tamil Nadu, District Legal Services Authority- Kanyakumari District & Thirunelveli District, Officials of Agriculture Department- Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli, Officials of Social welfare Department- Kanyakumari District & Thirunelveli District, Mr.A.Kulathooran Pillai-Auditor-Nagercoil, Mr. Charles Fernando-Auditor-Madurai, Members of the Social Action Movement-Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Members of Inter Agency Group-Tamil Nadu, Members of Sphere India, Confederation of Indian Industries-South India, all our well-wishers and Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable co-operation & support in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2019 - 2020.