

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

It gives me great pleasure and joy in presenting the brief report of activities of Rural Uplift Centre and the results which it achieved during the financial year 2020-2021.

Programmes implemented during 2020 - 2021 are:

1. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the poor.
2. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker-families under National Crèche Scheme, Govt of India.
3. Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence and to get legal aid.
4. Covid 19 relief activities in Kanyakumari & Tirunelveli Districts.
5. Ensuring resilience of small & marginal farmers to neutralize the damage caused by Climate Change.
6. Co-ordinating & monitoring the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.
7. Strengthening the network & co-ordination of NGOs.
8. Supporting other charitable organizations:

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 are unable to enroll themselves under the regular insurance schemes. One hundred and thirty-five policy holders paid their premium amount of Rs. 1,19,750, /- (one lakh, nineteen thousand and seven hundred and fifty) during this year. Two persons surrendered their policies and received the matured amount of Rs: 36257- (thirty-six thousand, two hundred and fifty- seven). Two persons received the matured amount of Rs: 36396- (thirty-six thousand, three hundred and ninety- six).

Results: Ensuring transfer of Life Risk Insurance to the eligible one hundred and thirty poor people.

2. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural labourer-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 labourers - one centre each at Kallathi and Elankulam and two centres at Thalapathysamuthram in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limit of Tirunelveli District. Ninety-six children are being taken care of at these crèches with the financial support of Ministry of Women & Child Welfare, Government of India. The children are imparted pre-school training through the play-way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers. The children's families are provided with uncooked food materials. Health and medical facilities are also provided to them in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre personnel. Monthly orientation meetings on childcare 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 centres to animate and monitor the functioning of the four crèches.

Results: All the ninety-six children acquired pre-school training and better 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. Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence & to get legal aid,

Capacity-Building Training Programme for Women

The advocate- team of Rural Uplift Centre consisting of A. Maria James and A. Maria Stephen and guest lecturers, Adv. Murugan and Adv. Helan Johnsi Bai along with the paralegal workers, Mrs. Laksmidevi and Mrs. Annammal and Mr.Christopher, organised training programme for 80 women beedi workers and agricultural workers of Ethencadu and Moolaikkaraippatti in June 2020. The team organised another five-day training programme for 40 women of Parvatipuram and another 40 women of Nanguneri spread over November and December 2020.

The team organised another two-day Capacity Building Training Programme for Women Beedi Workers and Agriculture Workers Rights at 26 places from June 15 to September 29, 2020. The first training session was organised on June 15 and 16 at Lathikulam and the last session was held on September 28 and 29, 2020 at Kattaikadu.

The team organised one-day Capacity-Building Training Programme for Women to help them work for their development at 25 sites in Kanyakumari District between November 19, 2020 and March 23, 2021. These sites were spread over six villages of the district namely Mathias Nagar, Mukkalampadu, Marthandom, Pattanvilai, Moolachel and Arasanvilai. Two hundred and ninety-three women attended these training programmes.

The team organised one-day Capacity-Building Training Programme to promote their development at 30 places in six villages in Tirunelveli District from November 23, 2020 to March 13, 2021. The six villages where the programme was organised are 1. Bharathi Nager, 2. Koonthenkulam, 3. Puthukudiyurpu, 4. Seelathikulam, 5. Lethikulam, 6. Melapathai and 292 women attended these programmes.

Two-day training for 419 women social workers to develop strategy to monitor women's rights was organised in November 2020 at Koonthenkulam, Sethuvor, Moolaikaripatti, Pambanvilai, Edupoor, Vellamodi, Donavur, Srikrishnapuram, and Pudukulam.

Follow up meetings for Beedi Workers to make them aware of their rights were organised in the same month of 2020 in 29 villages. The following are the villages where the programme was held. The number of participants is given in brackets. Soorappallam (52), Varukkathattu (45), Manavilai (52), Moolaikkadu(54), Kizhavaneri (67), Arappura Colony 41), Muthu Nadarkudieruppu (64), South Ethencadu(47), Aseervatha Nagar (62), Vellichanthai Colony (48), Vandalampadu (60), Uzhaguvilai (35), Donavoor (68), Chempadu (65), Saral (40), Sethuvor (54), Seelathikulam (91), Pambanvilai (40), Singarathoppu (85), Achampadu (93), Vellamodi (50), Madappuram (61), Nadu Arupuli (61), Puthukudieruppu (61), Sarvothaya Colony (61), Chenappalli (52), Sreekrishnapuram (45), Asarivilai (45), Kattaikadu (72).

Follow-up meetings for Women Rights Monitoring Cell were organised in 25 villages in the month of September 2020. The following are the villages and the

number of beneficiaris from each village is given in brackets. Bharathi Nagar (61), Elangulam (61), Arappura Colony(41), Koonthakulam (64), South Ethencaude (49), Donavoor (50), Vellichanthai Colony (35), Nadu Lathikulam (56), Uzhaguvilai (35), Chinthamani (53), Saral (46), Kallathi (52), Pambanvilai (40), Sethuvloor (54), Valiyaneri (51), Puthukulam (60), Vellamodi (50), Sernthanarkulam (50), Lathikulam (58), Chenapalli (52), Sreekrishnapuram(45), Esenthangu(50),Unnangulam(50),Pandicherry(55)and Asarivilai (55).

Eight District co-ordination meetings of women’s rights monitoring cells were organised to benefit 322 women by the coalitions of women’s organizations and RUC on March 8, 2021 . International Women’s Day programme was also organized along with those meetings.. RUC organized three campaigns on March 25 and 26 in Kanyakumari district and on 24 in Tirunelveli District to emphasize the need for equal opportunities to women in socio- economic and political fields.

Eight Women Rights Monitoring Cells have been formed in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts and each of these cells has an average membership of twenty women to articulate their grievences to the appropriate authorities.

Legal Aid to victims:

During the financial year 2020-2021 thirty- five cases were taken up to assist the victims to various types of crimes to get justice and compensation:

Domestic Violence	3 cases.
Sexual harassment	1 case
Divorce & maintenance	2 cases
Protection of children from sexual offences	1 case
Dowry Harassment	2 case.
Family quarrel	2 cases
Criminal cases	4 cases.
Cheating case	2 cases
Accident case	1 case
Civil case	1 case
Theft case	1 case
Maintenance and welfare of senior citizens	1 case
Through Social Welfare office:	
Dowry cases	10 cases

Domestic violence	4 cases
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Results:

- Gold Jewels worth Rs.58, 12,000/- returned to fifteen victims.
- Cash Rs.35, 03,000/- returned to eleven victims.
- Household articles worth Rs. 7, 00,000/- and 20 cents land having worth Rs.2, 00,000/- were awarded in nine cases.
- Rs.4, 00, 000/- dowry amount returned in one case.
- Rs.5000/- per month amount was awarded as monthly maintenance in two maintenance cases.
- Four couples were united to live together.
- Rs.54,000/- was reimbursed in the SHG loan cheating case and Rs. 52,000/- was reimbursed in the chit fund cheating case.
- Rs.3,67,000/- reimbursed in the three jewels pledging cheating cases.
- Five couples got divorce.
- Rescued two women from Domestic violence.
- Rescued one missing Girl
- Sexual harassment accused got arrested and the trial is pending.
- Accused arrested in child sexual offence case and the trial is pending.
- The petitioner wrote to the nurses exam under the Medical Services Recruitment Board of Examination of Tamil Nadu. Her result was not published by the Department due to the mistake arose while allocating centre of examination. RUC assisted her to file a Right to information petition to the Medical Board. Immediately after that she got the result.
- One Criminal case accused arrested and the trial is pending.
- One time settlement amount/compensation of Rs.4, 00,000/- received in one case.
- Received accident claim of Rs. 20,000/-
- Jewels worth Rs.14, 40,000/-, Cash Rs.5, 00,000/-, Household articles worth Rs.1, 50,000/- returned to three victims.
- Six couples got divorced.
- Six couples were united.

4.Covid 19 relief activities in Kanyakumari & Tirunelveli District:

Following the imposition of Covid lockdown, people are very much afraid and worried. RUC obtained a special travel permit from the Government for meeting people at their doorstep and to carry-out relief activities for them. RUC published awareness materials and organised one-day each awareness meetings on preventive

measures of Covid 19 in 48 villages of Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts. As there were no medicines prescribed by Government for Covid-19, RUC provided a Sidha medicine namely Kabasura mixture @50 gms each to 2000 families on the recommendation of a Sidha practitioner. Kabasura mixture was approved by the Government of India after a few months. RUC also provided reusable face masks four each to 2000 families. RUC along with the community leaders identified five-hundred beedi worker and agriculture worker families severely affected by the Covid lockdown and provided to them 500 sets of Groceries & oils, rice @ 10 kgs each to 500 families in Thirunelveli District. RUC provided nine varieties of vegetable seeds to 1200 families to produce vegetables during the lockdown period. We also suggested various relief measures to be adopted by the Government during the lockdown period.

Result: The 2500 victim families of covid-19 lockdown are able to get back their normal life.

5. Organic farming strategy for resilience to the damage caused by Climate Change in Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli Districts

Capacity-building training: Rural Uplift Centre organised seven one-day capacity-building training programme for 600 small & marginal farmers of Moolachel, Marthandom, Kadayal, Kurunthancodu, Kulasekaram, Vellamodi, Pampanvilai, Alanvilai, Saral, Vellichanthai, Pattarvilai, Varukkaithattu, Surappallam, Kazhuvanthittai, Ethankadu of Kanyakumari District and Edppur, chinthamani, Potthaiadi Alankulam, Melapathai, Moonkiladi, Lethikulam, Nadulethikulam, Seelathikulam, Puthukudieruppu, Koonthakulam and Bharathi Nagar of Thirunelveli District during the financial year 2020-2021.

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 management preparedness in organic farming etc. These six hundred farmers acquired knowledge on organic farming to produce their own vegetables.

The organic farmers have sought several measures from the Government of Tamil Nadu to promote organic farming in the State and thereby ensure food security and resilience to disasters.

Results:

Six hundred small and marginal farmers of Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari District have acquired alternative skills on organic farming strategy to respond to drought or flood because of climate change. The hitherto alienated organic farming

technologies have now become their own technology and they have control over them. The organic matter of the soil has now increased and the soil fertility has also increased to sustain productivity.

The six hundred farmers have cultivated various drought-resistant crops by adopting organic farming practice and obtained reasonable yield (paddy, plantain, cotton, vegetables) in the first time crop itself. Most of the farmers have taken up poultry-keeping or cattle-rearing to enhance their income. They have ensured food security for their families for the whole year. The yield obtained by them is nutritious, poison-free and good for health and prevents various diseases. The cost of cultivation has decreased, as the farmers themselves produce organic manure and pest repellants. They are able to find market for their produce in and around their own places.

The six hundred farmers have acquired organic farming skills and got themselves free from being dependent on companies for seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and technology. The farmers and their family members are resilient to damage caused by Climate Change and free from poverty. The neighbours of the beneficiaries have started organic farming practices with the motivation and the help of the trained beneficiaries

Disaster Management Committees have been formed in all the ten communities to respond to emergencies and they are linked up with State Disaster Management Authority.

Twenty-five expert organic farmers participated in the All India Radio experience sharing programmes. Their interviews were broadcast by All India Radio. The duration of the broadcast was thiteen hours. Some of the interviews were repeated several times.

Government of Tamil Nadu have initiated pilot measures to promote organic farming in the State based on the request of the organic farming beneficiaries.

6. Coordination & monitoring of the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.

Rural Uplift Centre has been nominated by Mr. Vijai Vasanth, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and appointed as one of the members of "District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee" for Central Government programmes implemented in Kanyakumari District. A. Maria James, Secretary of Rural Uplift Centre, participated in the two meetings held at the Collectorate, of Kanyakumari Dsistrict at Nagercoil, and he submitted various suggestions and recommendations.

7. Net working & co-ordination:

The Social Action Movement, Kanyakumari District, and RUC jointly organised during the financial year 2020-2021 five meetings-cum- workshops on resource mobilization strategies, Compliance with various laws/Government orders governing NGOs such as FCRA (amendments), Act 2020, Income Tax (amendments) 2020 and its consequences, workshop on Social Stock Exchange, Workshop on Environment Impact Amendment Draft Notification, 2020 and two workshops on preparation of application to State Bank of India-New Delhi and conducted one-day state-level workshop on compliance of FCRA (amendments), Act 2020. These have helped the NGOs in Tamil Nadu to comply with regulations and enhanced the governance capacity of the organisations.

Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry and Rural Uplift Centre jointly organised a state-level workshop on Tamil Nadu Public Trust Act, 2020 (**when**) at Trichy. The participants jointly prepared and submitted a memorandum to the Government of Tamil Nadu for withdrawing the Tamil Nadu Public Trust Act, 2020. Immediately, the Government of Tamil Nadu withdrew the Tamil Nadu Public Trust Act, 2020.

RUC has been admitted as one of the members of Sphere India, the network of Humanitarian agencies working in India. It participated in one of the virtual meetings for finalization of Sphere India strategy for responding to disasters. RUC attended three virtual meetings of Inter-Agency Group, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry to prepare and respond to disasters in Tamil Nadu. RUC participated later in the rapid flood damage assessment and brought out the Flood damage assessment report. It has helped the humanitarian agencies to mobilise support for flood relief programmes in Vilupuram, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Districts.

8. Support for other charitable organizations:

Rural Uplift Centre has also provided support to nine organisations namely, VRDP-Salem, Island Trust-Kothagiri, Iniyauthayam Trust-Chennai, VDC-Trichy, Green-Theni, AXIOM Trust-Dindugal, Future Trust-Puthukottai, CAD-Aranarai, IRWO-Eral for purchase of two wheelers for the mobility of women social workers.

9. Resource mobilization:

The members of RUC and the staff took sincere efforts to mobilize local resource for implementing the charitable activities whenever they were required to do so. The parents of crèche programme, beneficiaries of organic farming strategy for disaster resilience programme in Kanyakumari & Thirunelveli Districts and other well-wishers have helped RUC with their contributions when it took up service

activities. Misereor - Germany supported it when it took up Covid relief project and helping women to get relief from poverty and violence and to get legal aid project. Jesuit Mission supported it to take up Covid-19 relief programme. MIVA-Switzerland has supported it to take up the two-wheeler vehicle project. Ministry of Woman & Child welfare of the Government of India has supported it for running crèche programme.

10. Income & Expenditure account:

During this financial year 2020-2021 an amount of Rs: 61, 75,674/- (sixty-one lakh, seventy-five thousand and six hundred and seventy four) was received as contributions and bank interest from various sources and an amount of Rs: 6320718/-(Rupees sixty-three lakh, twenty thousand and seven hundred and eighteen) only for various charitable activities as detailed in the attached audited statement of accounts.

Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners:

We, the members, staff and beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre, whole heartedly thank Misereor - Germany, Jesuit Mission-Germany, MIVA-Switzerland, Ministry of Woman & Child welfare-Govt. of India , Director-Integrated Child Development Services-Government of Tamil Nadu, Mr.Vijay Vasanth, Member of Parliament, Kanniyakumari, Mr.Gnanathiraviyam, Member of Parliament, Thirunelveli, Members of Legislative Assembly in Kanyakumari and Thirunelveli Districts, District Collectors of Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts. Mr.A.Kulathooran Pillai, Auditor, Nagercoil, Members of the Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu, Members of Inter-Agency Group,Tamil Nadu, Members of Sphere India, Confederation of Indian Industries, South India and Print & Electronic media personnel for their valuable co-operation & support in implementing the charitable activities during the year 2020 - 2021.