

**RAL UPLIFT CENTRE
DEEPAM, THUMPALY,
IRENIPURAM – 629 162.
KANYAKUMARI DT,
TAMIL NADU.**

Annual Report 2022-2023

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

It gives me great pleasure and joy to present the brief report of activities of Rural Uplift Centre and the results that it achieved during the financial year 2022-2023.

Programmes implemented during 2022 -2023 are:

1. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor.
2. Running of crèches for children of poor agriculture labour-families and beedi worker-families under National Crèche Scheme, Govt of India.
3. Organic farming for increasing productivity and profitability of small & marginal farmers.
4. Improving the infrastructure facility in Government High School.
5. Enabling women to get relief from poverty and security from violence and also to get legal aid.
6. Co-ordinating & monitoring the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.
7. Strengthening the network and coordination of NGOs.

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

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the agencies approved by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to implement the Prime Minister's Micro-Insurance Scheme for the Poor who are unable to enrol themselves under the regular insurance schemes. One thousand and seventy-six hundred policyholders together paid their premium amount of Rs. 1,23,775, /- (one lakh, twenty-three thousand seven hundred and seventy-five). One hundred and seventeen policyholders are paying the premium amount regularly. They have remitted an amount of Rs 82450/- (eighty-two thousand four hundred and fifty). Six policyholders who were defaulters of their due payments renewed their policies without paying the interest and fine. One hundred and five policy holders received an amount of Rs;26,54,350/-(twenty six lakh fifty four thousand three hundred and fifty).One

of the defaulter (ten years discontinued) has received an amount of Rs;18000/- (eighteen thousand).

Results: Ensured Safety of Life from Risk to Life through Micro Insurance to the eligible one hundred and seventeen poor families. This also enhanced the savings habits of the poor.

2. Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agriculture labourer families and beedi worker families under the National Crèche Scheme, Government of India:



Mrs. Makalaxmi conducts pre-School training at Kallathy

Rural Uplift Centre is maintaining four crèches for the children of beedi-workers and agriculture labourers - one centre each at Kallathi and Elankulam and two centres at Thalapathysamuthram in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limits of Tirunelveli District. One hundred and ten children are being taken care of at these crèches with the joint financial support of the Ministry of Women & Child Welfare, Government of India (sixty per cent) & Government of Tamil Nadu (thirty per cent) and Rural Uplift Centre (10 per cent) .

Centre-wise beneficiary children:

S.no	Centres	Sex		Total numbers
1	Elankulam	18	12	30
2	Kallathy	19	11	30
3	Thalapathysamuthram-1	10	15	25
4	Thalapathysamuthram-11	11	14	25
	Total			110

The preschool centres are functioning from morning 9.00 a.m to evening 4.00 p.m. The children are imparted preschool training through the play-way method with the help of trained pre-school teachers.

The topics covered are to enhance knowledge development, Language development, Motor development, physical development, social development and intellectual development. The children are provided with snacks and milk at 11.00 a.m. and nutritious noon meals at 1.00 P.m. 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 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 the Rural Uplift Centre are constituted in all four centres to animate and monitor the functioning of the four crèches.

Results:

All the one hundred and ten children acquired pre-school training and better health. This program enabled the children to acquire motor development, knowledge development, physical development, social development, intellectual development and language skills. 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. The parents can go for their manual work without hindrance. The elder brothers did not break their schooling to care for the younger ones.

3. Enabling women to get relief from poverty and security from violence and also to get legal aid.

Capacity-Building Training Programme for Women

The advocate team of Rural Uplift Centre consists of A. Maria James and A. Maria Stephen and guest lecturers, Adv. Murugan and Adv. Helen Johnsi Bai along with the paralegal workers, Mrs. Laksmidevi and Mrs. Annammal, and Mr. Muthukumar organized legal awareness training programs in twelve villages during this financial year benefiting 650 rural women (second batch villages: Saral, Koduppakuzhi, Marthandam, Esanthimangalam, Pallichanvilai, Moolachel in Kanyakumari District and Eduppoor, Elangulam, Kalungadi, Madappuram, A.D.Colony, Ambedkarnager in Tirunelveli District. Third batch villages: Moolachel, Marthandom, Mavilai, MelaKoduppakuzhi, Kannangkurichi, Navelcadu in Kanyakumari District and Moongiladi, Arumaneri, Pondicherry, MadappuramMellur, Thanthontri, Kumbikulam in Tirunelveli District).

This program was held for five days in each of these places and it gave an idea of the Indian Penal Code, Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872, and Muslim Marriage Act 1937 to 480 rural women. The participants in the programs also got the idea of the Special Marriage Act 1954, Divorce Act 1869, Family Court Act 1984, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, National Commission for Women Act 1990, Dowry Prohibition Act 1986, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986, Sexual harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2003 and labour welfare laws.

Twenty-one-day District level training programs were organized for fifty women social workers each in Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts during this financial year to help them develop a strategy to monitor women's rights



Mrs Annammal conducts Capacity-building training for women beedi rolling workers on their rights and the ways and means to assert them.



Mrs Laksmidevi conducts Capacity-building training for Rural women/agricultural labourers on their rights and the ways and means to assert them.

Four women's Rights Campaign meetings were conducted. Three hundred women participated in these campaigns. RUC jointly organized with member organizations of Social Action Movements at CPD hall, Kottar Social Service Society, Bishop House campus, Nagercoil on 7th of March 2023. Three hundred women leaders, a few NGO leaders, and Women's Rights activists were made aware of the Violence against Women and girls.

Six Women Rights Monitoring Cells have been formed in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts and each of these cells has an average membership of twenty women. 108 Follow-up meetings were conducted to facilitate them to articulate their grievances to the appropriate Government authorities.

Legal Aid to Women Victims:

During the financial year 2022-2023 eighty cases were taken up to assist the victims of various types of crimes to get justice and compensation:

Matrimonial Dispute	17 cases.
Land Dispute	6 case
Accident	2 cases
Finance Dispute	5 case.
Aged parents and Senior citizens	1 case
Cheating case	5 cases
Property dispute	9 cases
Parent missing	1 case
Migrant workers death	1 case
Foreign death	2 case
Police Torture	1 case
Communal tension	1 case
Labour Issue	3 case
Criminal case	1 case
Exorbitant interest	1 case
Dowry harrasement	16 cases
Domestic violence	7 cases

Results:

All the para-legal training beneficiaries are aware of rights guaranteed through various women's welfare laws.

Welfare schemes received from the Government:

- Four families received housing facility with the subsidy amount @ Rs.1, 80,000/- per family.
- Eighty-one families received housing facility with the subsidy amount @ Rs.2, 70,000/- per family.
- 5 families received toilet facilities with the subsidy amount of @ Rs.12, 000/- per family.
- Thirty-six widows and thirty-four old aged and Eight differently-abled persons received Widow Pension @ Rs.1000/ each.
- 85 families benefitted from Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme @ Rs.25, 000/-
- Four Persons received Rs.25,000/- each under the unorganized workers' Marriage Assistance Scheme.
- Three persons received 3 cents land with patta at Chinthamani
- 150 persons received Flat houses at Esanthimangalam Panchayat under Prime Minister Housing for all Scheme
- Seventy-eight unorganized workers received Identity Cards.
- Ninety-seven persons benefitted from the PM Kissan Yojana Scheme.
- Thirty-two persons received Smart cards in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari District.
- Five persons' smart cards has been changed from NPHH to PHH in Muzhanguli, Vettuveni in Kanyakumari District.
- Three persons received Suction pit pipe worth Rs.32, 000/- each.
- Two persons received Rs.56, 000/- for the purchase of a cow
- Five farmers received crop loans worth Rs. 1,00,000/- each..
- Ten women received a Sewing machine through the Forest Department
- Hundred women received loans of Rs.50, 000/- each through Woman's Self-Help Groups

Relief, Justice and compensation through Legal intervention::

- Four families were united
- Jewels worth Rs. 4, 00,000/-(Four lakhs), Cash Rs: 2, 00,000/-(two lakhs) and household articles worth Rs1, 75,000/-(one lakh seventy five thousand) were received back by the victims in three cases.
- 250 Sovereign Jewels and Cash Rs: 11, 00,000/- (Eleven lakhs) were settled in 6 cases.
- Two families got divorced.

4. Improving the infrastructure facility in Government High School, Veeyanur.

The Children of Government High School lacks proper toilets, as the existing toilets were damaged by cyclone Ockhi on November 30, 2017. The Chief Education Officer, Kanyakumari District & Rural Uplift Centre requested Guide House India to provide support for the construction of toilets for boys and Girls at Government High School, Veeyanur. Guidehouse India has extended support for the construction of toilets for boys and Girls at Government High School, Veeyanur.



Toilets constructed at Government High School, Veeyannur.

RUC submitted the request for permission to construct the toilet at GHS Veeyanur to Namma School Foundation, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Namma School Foundation issued permission through the District Collector of Kanyakumari District. The construction of the toilet at GHS Veeyanur is about completion and will be handed over soon for the use of students.

Result: 200 students and ten teachers had access to a toilet facility which improved their health and prevented diseases.

5. Organic farming for rehabilitating the communities affected by Covid-19 in Kanyakumari District

RUC organized seven one-day capacity-building training programs for 150 small and marginal farmers of Moolachel, Marthandom, Kadayal, Kulasekaram, and Pampanvilai during this financial year. The participants were given training in increasing soil fertility by using various types of composts and green manure, selecting and processing seeds, preparation of nursery, manure management, weed management, plant growth-tonic preparation, pest-repellent preparation, bio-pest control measures, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, three-tier cropping, and water conservation measures. They were also given sufficient information on the Government schemes for organic farming, livestock management, beekeeping and backyard poultry farming. These 150 farmers acquired knowledge on organic farming to produce organic food crops. 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 like the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Fifty selected farmers were sent for an exposure visit to organic farms at Coimbatore and Kothagiri from the 13th to the 15th of July, 2022. They have learned the application of various machines and technologies.

Conducted an exhibition on organic Farming strategy at Kuzhithurai Municipality for twenty days. Nearly twenty-five thousand farmers visited the stall. The Municipality awarded an appreciation award for the best stall in the exhibition.

Facilitated to avail Government welfare measures for organic farming. Twenty farmers received two bee hives each from Krishi Vigyana Kendra, twenty farmers received Farmer's identity cards and ten farmers' groups received rupees five lakh each worth of farm equipment as a subsidy.



Mr.Christopher conducts organic farming training at Kulasekaram



Mr.Micheal an organic farming expert conducts Organic Farming capacity-building training at Marthandam.

Results:

Small and marginal farmers of Kanyakumari District numbering 150 have acquired alternative skills in organic farming to achieve resilience to disasters like the Covid-19 pandemic. The hitherto alienated organic farming technologies have now become their 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 150 farmers have cultivated various disaster-resistant crops by adopting organic farming practices.

6. Organic farming for increasing productivity and profitability of small & marginal Farmers in Muzhukodu panchayat and Kadayal Panchayats.

Five hundred small & and marginal farmers including three hundred tribals are identified to impart organic farming capacity-building training to enhance twenty-five per cent yield and increase twenty-five per cent income within five years from August 2022. A preliminary baseline survey was conducted to learn the present situation of the farmers. The small and marginal farmers are grouped into twenty-five farmers each. RUC organic farming trainers team along with the ten volunteers conducted ten days each capacity building training on group governance, Organic farming skills such as improving soil fertility measures, preparation of green manure, mulching, various types of compost making (compost preparation using farm-waste, vermicompost, yielding coir peat compost), preparation of fourteen types of plant growth tonics, preparation and usages of traditional Effective Micro Organism for soil fertility improvement, pest control and disease control, preparation of Bio-fertilizers, other Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR), Intercropping and selection of intercrops to be cultivated with various main crops and multiple cropping, seed production technology/Seed selection. Identification of diseases, disease prevention, and control, pest control, water conservation, and Government schemes to promote organic farming. A resource book on organic farming skills was prepared and supplied to all the trainees. The farmers are exposed to expert organic farmers in the district.



Compost preparation training at Kalaravayal tribal hamlet for small & marginal organic farmers.



Beekeeping training at Muzhucodu for small & marginal organic farmers.

Result:

All the beneficiaries have acquired knowledge and skills in organic farming. They have started to produce composts and plant growth tonics and started cultivating organic food for the consumption of their family members and the community.

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

RUC has been appointed by the District Collector of Kanyakumari District, as one of the members of the “District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee” for coordinating and monitoring Central Government programs implemented in Kanyakumari District as nominated by Mr.Vijai Vasanth, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). A. Maria James, Secretary of RUC, has participated in three Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee meetings held at the Collectorate, of Kanyakumari District at Nagercoil, and he submitted various suggestions and recommendations.

8. Networking & co-ordination:

The Social Action Movement Kanyakumari District and RUC jointly organized five meetings-cum-workshops during the financial year 2022-2023 on resource mobilization strategies, Compliance with Government regulations governing NGOs such as FCRA (amendments), Income Tax (amendments), The Employees Provident Fund & Misselenious Act and Employees State Insurance Scheme. These workshops have helped the NGOs to comply with regulations and enhance their governance capacity.

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC has attended two days of planning meetings at Y.M.C.A, New Delhi for planning the criteria for membership with START network -the United Kingdom, a humanitarian organization.

A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC has been elected as one of the State Convenors of Social Action Movement Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry. He has participated in two state-level Executive meetings and three State-level State convenors meetings and conducted orientation on the compliance & reporting under Income Tax amendments and FCRA amendments.

9. Income & Expenditure account:

During the financial year 2022-2023 an amount of Rs: 7616265/- (seventy-six lakh sixteen thousand two hundred and sixty-five) was received as contributions, bank interest, and also from various other sources, and an amount of Rs:6420823/-(Rupees sixty-four lakh twenty thousand eight hundred and twenty-three) only for the charity activities detailed in this activity report. The detailed audited statements of receipts and payments, income and expenditure, and the balance sheet as of 31-03-2022 are attached for reference.

10. Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners:

We, the members, staff, and beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre (RUC), wholeheartedly thank Misereor-Germany, Azim Premji Philanthropic Foundation-Bangalore, Guide House India-Thiruvananthapuram, Jesuit Mission-Germany, Sisters of Holy Family- United Kingdom, Ministry of Women & Child Welfare of Government of India, Mr.Appavu, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Mr.Vijay Vasanth, Member of Parliament, Kanyakumari, Mr.Gnanathiraviyam, Member of Parliament-Thirunelveli, Members of Legislative Assembly in Kanyakumari and Thirunelveli Districts, Director of Integrated Child Development Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, District Collectors of Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts, Mr.A.Kulathooran Pillai, Auditor, Nagercoil, Members of the Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Members of Inter-Agency Group, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Members of Sphere India, Volunteers of Rural Uplift Centre and Print and Electronic media personnel for their valuable co-operation and support in implementing the charity activities during the year 2022- 2023.