

Annual Report

2023-2024



RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE

DEEPAM, THUMPALY, IRENIPURAM - 629 162.
KANYAKUMARI DT, TAMIL NADU.

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It gives me great pleasure and joy to present the brief report of Rural Uplift Centre's activities and its results during the financial year 2023-2024.

Programs implemented during 2023 -2024 are:

1. Children's Development programme: Running of crèches for children of poor agriculture labour-families and beedi worker-families.
2. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor.
3. Improving the infrastructure facility in KDVP Govt School, Kottar.
4. Organic farming for increasing productivity and profitability of small & marginal Farmers.
5. Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence and to get legal aid.
6. South Tamil Nadu Flood relief activities.
7. Co-ordinating & monitoring the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.
8. Strengthening the network and coordination of NGOs.

1. Children's Development programme: Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agriculture labourer families and beedi worker families

Rural Uplift Centre is conducting 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 & Government of Tamil Nadu Sisters of Holy Family - UK as detailed below.

S.No.	Centres	Boys	Girls	Total Children
1.	Elankulam	15	16	31
2.	Kallathy	20	10	30
3.	Thalapathysamuthram - 1	11	14	25
4.	Thalapathysamuthram - 2	12	13	25
	Total	58	53	111

The preschool centres are functioning from morning 9.00 a.m. to evening at 4.00 The children are imparted preschool training through the play-way method with the help of trained preschool teachers. Due to the lack of children, Thalapathysamuthram-II centre was closed from 1st of January, 2024.

The activities of the pre-school training are focused on intellectual development, Language development, Motor development, physical development, social development, and Knowledge development. The children are provided with nutritious noon meals at 100. 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. During these meetings, measures to prevent diseases and to prepare nutritious meals with locally available food materials are 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.

2. 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 enroll themselves under the regular insurance schemes. One thousand and seventy-six hundred policyholders enrolled as micro-insurance policyholders. Seventeen policy holders paid Rs:19,450 and reactivated their policies. Thirty-five policy holders received an amount of Rs:8,65,00.00 (eight lakhs sixty-five thousand) during this financial year.

Results: Ensured life safety from risk through micro-insurance for eligible poor families. This also enhanced the savings habits of the poor.

3. Improving the infrastructure facility in KDVP Govt Primary School, Kottar.

The school infrastructural facility improvement project was implemented at KDVP Government Model Higher Secondary School under the Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme of Guide house, India. Permission from the Government of Tamil Nadu was obtained for the construction of the toilet facility, through the Chief Education Officer and the District Collector of Kanyakumari District. RUC constructed the twelve urinal facilities (twelve chambers) having 340.75 square feet plinth area, provided water facilities by carrying out required plumbing works, installed overhead water storage, and required water taps. Electric lights in and around the toilets are installed to use the Urinals even at night. The floor is fixed with glass tiles and the interior walls are fixed with Glass tiles for five feet height to clean the interior easily and to remove stains and bad smells. The walls are painted for durability, good looking, and to impress the students.

Mr. Arun, Manager of Human Resources, handed over the toilet facilities to the Head Mistress of the School. Mrs Laksmidevi delivered a guest lecture on the importance of toilets and disease-preventive measures. CSR committee members of Guidehouse Mr. Vijayakumar, I.T. Manager, Mr. Arjune, Mr. Iyappan, Ms. Anuratha, Ms. Benis, Ms. Sreemathi and Mr. Jegatheesh felicitated during the handing over function.

Results: Two thousand and seventy children of KDVP Govt Primary School, Kottar and Government KDVP Model Higher Secondary School, Kottar have access to clean toilet facilities. The students are aware of health and sanitation practices for preventing diseases.

4. Organic farming for increasing productivity and profitability of small & marginal farmers in Muzhukodu panchayat & Kadayal Panchayat tribal hamlets.

Five hundred small & and marginal farmers including three hundred tribals are identified to impart organic farming capacity-building training to enhance twenty-five percentage yield and increase twenty-five percentage income within the five-year project period. The Five hundred small & and marginal farmers are grouped into twenty-five farmers each.

We conducted ten days of Organic farming capacity-building training to five hundred small and marginal farmers including 300 tribal area farmers on improving soil fertility measures, preparation of green manure, mulching, various types of compost making (compost preparation using farm waste, compost preparation using earth warms-vermicompost, compost preparation using yielding coir peat compost), preparation of fourteen kinds of plant growth tonics, preparation and usages of traditional Effective Micro Organism for soil fertility improvement, pest control and disease control preventive measures, preparation of Bio-fertilizers, other Plant Growth

Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR), Intercropping, multiple cropping, seed production technology and Seed selection, Identification of diseases, disease prevention and control, pest control, and water conservation. Field-level demonstrations are conducted to prepare various compost, plant growth tonics, and pest repellents.

Two days of training were conducted for the two hundred small and marginal farmers on Government welfare measures and the ways and means to apply for the schemes for Muzhucodu panchayat beneficiaries.

Two days of training were conducted for the tribal area small and marginal farmers on goat rearing for tribal area beneficiaries.

One-day training conducted for the two hundred small and marginal farmers on Beekeeping for Muzhucodu Panchayat beneficiaries.

RUC and Kanyakumari District Organic Farmers Association jointly distributed the organic vegetable seeds and vegetable seedlings produced by twenty-two farmers to more than five thousand farmers through the stall established during an exhibition organised by the Kuzhithurai Municipality, at Kuzhithurai.

The farmers are also motivated in organic farming through exposure visits to the farms of expert organic farmers Mr. Louisan and Mr. Micheal of Melpuram Panchayat Union and Muzhucodu YMCA Farm. Ms. Maitreyee Ghosh, the head of the small & Farmer's division of Ajim Premji Philanthropic Initiative visited the beneficiary farms and held a meeting with them.

Results: Twenty farmer's groups formed. Five hundred small and marginal farmers learned organic farming procedures. These farmers are producing organic manures, plant growth tonics, and pest repellents by themselves and reduced the input cost considerably. They have converted their existing rubber estates, banana, coconut, pepper, and vegetable farms into organic farms and are getting more income.

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

The advocate team of Rural Uplift Centre consists of A. Maria James, A. Maria Stephen, Adv. Murugan, Adv. Helen Johnsi Bai along with the paralegal workers, Mrs. Laksmidevi, Mrs. Annammal and Mr. Muthukumar organized legal awareness training programs, campaigns and policy advocacy initiatives during this financial year.

Residential workshop for women leaders :

We conducted two Five Days each residential Women's Rights workshops for the women leaders in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts. Sixty-four women's group leaders are made aware of Indian Penal Code, Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872, Muslim Marriage Act 1937, 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. Three days of refresher training were conducted for 45 women each in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari District.

Capacity Building Training Programme on Women worker's rights

Conducted – One hundred Eighty trainings @ one day each in 12 villages of Tirunelveli & Kanyakumari Districts on the rights of women beedi workers and agricultural workers. Five hundred and ninety-eight women beedi rolling women & agricultural labourers are aware of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, The Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Divorce Act 1869, Family Court Act, 1984, the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, Protection of Women from Domestic Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 1998, Violence Act, 2005, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961,

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act 2003, Convention on the "Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women", Criminal procedure code & amendments. Indian penal code, National Human Rights Commission Act, The Beedi & Cigar Workers Act, Payment of Wages Act 1936, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Bonus Act, 1965, The Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923, The Gratuity Act, Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, Payment of Minimum Wages Act 1948, Abolition of Bonded Labourer Act 1976, The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Social Security (Minimum Standard) Convention, 1976, Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and tri-patriate consultation (International Labour Standard) convention, 1976.

Fact-finding mission on inequality inflicted on Dalit school boy:

A fact-finding mission to know the real truths and facts about the gruesome incidents of heinous crime against a Dalit boy and his family. The team members consist of Advocate Mr. A. Maria James, Secretary of RUC, Advocate A. Maria Stephen Legal consultant of RUC, Former Member of Legislative Assembly Mr. S.V. Krishnan, and Dr. KT. Arasu, a Social Researcher with long standing grassroots experience. The report was submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the one man Commission/Justice Chandru Commission for initiating appropriate action.

Celebration of International Women's Day:

Conducted a one-day seminar at Arulmigu Pannirupidi Ayyan College of Arts and Science at Vagaikulam on 08.03.2023. Eighty three students and eight professors participated in the celebration of International Women's Day. RUC also collaborated with all Women's associations of Kanyakumari District in the rally and the public meeting organised for the celebration of the International Women's Day.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women :

We conducted a one-day seminar on the Elimination of Violence Against Women at Scott Christian College on 21.11.2022, a one day programme on the Elimination of Violence Against Women at St. Joseph College, Kalakkadu on 24.11.2022 and two one day each programme held at the community level. Two hundred and ten Girls, 12 teachers and 80 rural women participated in the events.

Celebration on Human Rights Day:

RUC celebrated Human Rights Day at Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, Joseph's college Kalakadu, Ramakrishnapuram, Kurunthencode, Seelathikulam and Sethur with the participation of 400 students and Women

Results: All the paralegal training beneficiaries are aware of rights guaranteed through various women's welfare laws. Rural women asserted their rights through the Social Welfare Department, Revenue Department and Courts. The rural communities received various Government Welfare schemes for their individual family development and community infrastructural facilities.

Legal aid to the victims:

Fifty-two families benefitted from the legal consultancy and the intervention of the RUC advocates team.

S.No.	Case type	Number of cases
1	Death cases in foreign countries	2
2	Dowry dispute	5
3	Dowry harassment	8
4	Domestic violence	2
5	Property Dispute	8
6	Land cheating cases	15
7	Police custodial Torture	1
8	Communal Tension	1
9	Labour cases	3
10	Money Cheating case	5
11	Criminal case	1
12	Charging an exorbitant rate of interest	1

Results: Gold Jewels worth 816 grams, and cash of Rs.17 lakhs received by the victims in six cases. Four families were united. The remaining cases are pending in various courts.

6. South Tamil Nadu Flood relief activities:

The heavy rain (minimum 39 cm – maximum 116 cm) under the influence of an upper air cyclonic circulation hit Tamil Nadu from December 17 and 18, 2023 in Kanyakumari, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, and Tuticorin Districts affected the entire population of these four Districts. RUC did the flood damage assessment report on behalf of Inter-Agency Group, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry.

The immediate expectations of the internally displaced people's demands were:

- 6.1 Immediate pumping out of the water from the roads & streets, cleaning of drainages, restoration of electricity supply, restoration of water supply, repairing of road & streets, restoration of Transport facility & communication facility, and enhanced compensation for replacing/repairing of household articles and two-wheelers.
- 6.2 The people living in the water-inundated hamlets are expecting rice, groceries, cooking oil, clothes, bedsheets, Dettol liquid, etc from the philanthropists.

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 designated by Mr. Vijai Vasanth, M.P. (Lok sabha). A. Maria James, Secretary of RUC, has participated in four Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee meetings held at the Collectorate of Kanyakumari District at Nagercoil, and he submitted various suggestions and recommendations on Tribal development, Farmers

development, Children development, environment protection and infrastructure improvement.

8. Networking & co-ordination:

District - level coordination:

The Social Action Movement Kanyakumari District and RUC jointly organized four meetings cum workshops during the financial year 2023-2024 on resource mobilization strategies, Compliance with Government regulations governing NGOs such as FCRA (amendments), Income Tax (amendments), The Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Act and Employees State Insurance Scheme. These workshops have helped the NGOs to comply with regulations and enhance their governance capacity.

State-level coordination:

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 & and reporting under Income Tax amendments and FCRA amendments.

State-level conference of NGOs on Nation Development in a Social Justice Perspective

Conducted a state-level conference of NGOs at Chennai on May 29th in collaboration with the member NGOs of Social Action Movement Tamil Nadu. (Network of NGOs in Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry). The topic discussed was the role of NGOs in the Development of the Nation from a Social Justice perspective. The Speaker of Tamil Nadu Mr. Appavu. M.L.A, Honourable Minister of Dairy Development Mr. Manothankaraj, M.L.A, Tamil Nadu Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dr. Jayarenjan, Former Vice Chancellor of Madras University Dr Athereya, Various NGO leaders and Peoples movement leaders presented their views on the Development of the Nation with a Social Justice perspective.

Participated in the State level Inter-Agency (Network of humanitarian agencies) Coordination meeting held at Tuticorin and Palayamkottai and revived the flood relief activities and also participated in preparing the Tamil Nadu strategy document for IAG, Tamil Nadu.

National-level coordination:

Participated in the Indian Social Forum event held in Patna, Bihar and campaigned for the evolving impartial social order in India.

International Coordination:

Rural Uplift Centre is one of the members of the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Risk Reduction(GNDR). Mr.A.Maria James participated as one of the resource persons in the three-day GNDR Global meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

9. Staff capacity building training:

Monthly staff capacity meetings conducted at RUC. A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC and Mr P.Muthukumar attended two two-day resource mobilisation workshops held at CNI, New Delhi and learnt the resource mobilisation strategy.

10. Income & Expenditure account:

During the financial year 2023-2024 an amount of Rs: 1,00,63,413/- (One crore sixty three thousand four hundred and thirteen including the advance grant receipt of 35,00,000/- (Thirty-five lakhs) was received as contributions, bank interest, and also from various other sources, and utilised an amount of Rs:79,69,313/- (Seventy nine lakhs sixty nine thousand three hundred and thirteen) for the charity activities

detailed in this activity report. The audited statements of receipts and payments, income and expenditure, and the balance sheet as of 31-03-2024 are attached for your kind reference.

11. Thanks to the Collaborators & Partners:

We, the members, staff and beneficiaries of Rural Uplift Centre (RUC), wholeheartedly thank the following persons for their valuable cooperation and support in implementing the charity activities during the year 2023-2024. Thanks to Misereor - Germany, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative, Bangalore, Guide House India, Thiruvananthapuram, Sisters of Holy Family, United Kingdom, Ministry of Women & Child Welfare of Government of India, Mr Appavu. M.L.A, Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Mr. Manothankaraj M.L.A, Honourable Minister for Dairy Development, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, 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, Govt 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.



Children are provided with nutritious food at noon. A few mothers used to visit the creche during lunch time to feed the children.



Participation of Children in Motor Development, Physical Development and Knowledge Development activities through playway method at Kallathi



Mr. Arun, Manager, Human Resources, Guide House India handed over the toilet facilities to **Kavimani Desiya Vinayagam Pillai Govt. School, Kottar, Nagercoil**



Mrs. K. Kavitha, Head Mistress of Higher Secondary School and Mrs. D. Kamala, Headmistress of Primary School Jointly handed over the new Infrastructure facility completion certificate to Guidehouse and RUC



Honey Bee training conducted at Muzhucodu by Dr. Lazar, Scientist Eminarets, Khadhi and the Village Industries Commission.



Mr. Christopher, RUC conducts organic Farming Training for the small & marginal farmers in Kadayal at Kattuva, a tribal hamlet



Meeting with Tribal People at Arukani regarding housing land title deed land agriculture land rights issue



RUC distributed 210-litre tanks and 50 ltrs tanks for the Small and Marginal Farmers in the Presence of Kadayal President Mrs. Juliet and Forest Ranger Mr Chandra Sekaran at Pennu Tribal Hamlet



Plant growth tonic prepared for applying to pepper plants by Mr. Arjunankani, one of the tribal area farmers



Compost prepared for organic Farming by Ms. Girija



Mrs. Rani, a tribal area organic women farmer explains to Ms. Maitreyee Ghosh, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative and RUC Secretary her additional income earned through Beekeeping.



Ms. Chandiyaleka is happy at her Backyard Organic Garden



Ms. Maitreyee Ghosh conducted interim review of Organic Program training



A. Maria James Secretary of RUC attend the monthly mothers meeting



Adv. Maria Stephen conduct monthly meeting of WRMC leaders at Nagercoil



Adv. Helan Jhonsybai conduct International Human Rights day at Sethuvloor in Kanyakumari District.



Mr. Muthukumar conduct monthly meeting of wrmc at Saral in Kanyakumari District.



Socio-economic analysis training for the community leaders of Tirunelveli District



WRMC leaders training held at Nagercoil. Mrs. Laksmidevi conduct the programme



Mrs. Annammal, RUC, conducts Paralegal training at Madappuram



Adv. Murugan conducts the Dist level WRMC meeting



Mrs. Annammal, RUC, conducts Paralegal training held at Madappuram



Para legal training held at Arumaneri



Rural Women Participants during the International day for the Poverty & violence against women & children at Kurunthencode



Socio-economic analysis training for the community leaders of Kanyakumari District



Fact finding team meeting with the relatives on the caste discrimination inflicted on Dalit School boy at Nanguneri



Mr. M. APPAVU.M.L.A., Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly innagurates the State level Conference-Role of NGOs in Nation Development with Social justice perspective.



State level Conference-Role of NGOs in Nation Development with Social justice perspective. Planning Commission chairman Dr. Jeyaran, Minister Mr. Mano Thankaraj, M.L.A., Former Dean Dr. Athereya were Guest



RUC secretary Mr. Maria James facilitate the Flood relief response planning meeting with NGOs of Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tenkasi and Tuticorin Districts.



Preparation of food at RUC Nanguneri for the victims of flood affected in Nanguneri Taluk.



Participation of Adv. A. Maria James, RUC in the quarterly review meeting of the Government of India welfare programmes during the DISHA committee in Kanyakumari District.



Adv. Maria James, RUC conducts lecture on Community Driven Climate Change Adaptation during the Global annual meeting of GNDP held at Nairobi, Kenya.