

**RURAL UPLIFT CENTRE,
“DEEPAM”, THUMPALY, IRENIPURAM - 629 162.
KANYAKUMARI DIST., TAMIL NADU.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

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 2024-2025.

Programs implemented during 2024 - 2025 are:

1. Children's Development Programme: Running of crèches for children of poor agricultural labour-families and beedi worker-families.
2. Prime Minister's Micro Insurance Scheme for the Poor.
3. Organic farming for increasing productivity and profitability of small & marginal Farmers.
4. Enabling women to get relief from poverty, security from violence and to get legal aid.
5. Coordinating & monitoring the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.
6. Strengthening the network and coordination of NGOs.

1. Children's Development Programme: Running of crèches for children belonging to poor agricultural 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 in Nanguneri Panchayat Union limits of Tirunelveli District. Fifty three 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 as detailed below.

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Centres</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total Children</i>
1	Elankulam	14	13	27
2	Kallathi	13	13	26
	Total	27	26	53

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

The activities of the pre-school training are focused on knowledge development, Language development, Motor development, physical development, social development and emotional development. The children are provided with

nutritious noon meals at 100. P.M. Medical facilities are also provided to them. Monthly orientation meetings on childcare are organised 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 the creche centres to animate and monitor the functioning of the crèches.

Results: All fifty-three 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 enrol themselves under the regular insurance schemes. Three policyholders reactivated their policies. Five policyholders received a maturity amount of Rs: 1,69,000/- (one lakh sixty-nine thousand) directly from LIC of India during this financial year. Due to a lack of volunteers, no new policy was enrolled during this period.

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

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

Seven hundred small & and marginal farmers, including five 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 the five-year project period. The seven hundred small & and marginal farmers are grouped into twenty-five farmers each.

Capacity-Building Training for Farmers on Organic Farming skills:

We conducted ten days of Organic farming capacity-building training for five hundred small and marginal farmers, including 500 tribal area farmers. The training on improving soil fertility measures, preparation of green manure, mulching, various types of compost making (compost preparation using farm waste, compost preparation using earth worms-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 were conducted to prepare various composts, plant growth tonics, and pest repellents.

Exposure visit:

Three-day exposure visit and training conducted by Killikulam Agri Business Incubation Forum. 300 farmers participated.

Exhibition:

Horticulture Research Station Pechiparai conducted a regional-level agricultural exhibition. Twenty farmers from Kadayalomoodu Panchayat participated in this exhibition.

Government Scheme Awareness Trainings:

Eight days of training were conducted for 500 small and marginal farmers belonging to the tribal area of Kadayal Panchayat and 200 small and marginal farmers of Muzhucode Panchayat. They were helped to upload their applications in the Ulzhavan App to avail the welfare measures.

Trainings conducted jointly with Government departments: (Rubber Board-Govt of India, Horticulture Research Station-Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Spices Board-Govt of India):

- Three days of training for 15 farmers were conducted in collaboration with the Rubber Board on enhancing rubber latex.
- Three-day capacity-building training organised by the Spices Board was held at Kulasakaram, which benefited forty farmers. Forty farmers benefited from the exposure programme conducted by the Horticulture Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University.

- An eight-day training on Rubber tapping technology was conducted for rubber growers in collaboration with Rubber Board trainers. 15 rubber tapping farmers were trained on rubber tapping technology.

Establishing Demonstration Farms:

Provided equipment and tools for establishing seven organic demonstration farms to seven tribal farmers in the tribal villages to get direct experience on various organic farming skills

Livelihood Improvement:

Goat supply: 300 goats were supplied to 300 tribal families to enhance their livelihood means and to get one of the raw materials for preparing organic compost manure.

Chicken distribution: 1200 chickens were distributed (6 chickens each) to 200 beneficiaries in Muzhucode panchayat through a Savings Programme

Formation of Organic Farmers Associations:

Twenty-eight Organic Farmers Associations were formed to link them with banks, to avail welfare measures from the Government and to evolve the Organic Farmers Producers Association in the near future.

Exhibition at Kuzhithurai Municipality during the Vavubali:

Rural Uplift Centre and the Kanyakumari District Organic Farmers Association jointly conducted a twenty-day exhibition on the Organic Farming system and popularised the usage of traditional seeds. The office bearers and the volunteers of Kanyakumari District Organic Farmers Association, Marthandam branch did all the logistics and management of the exhibition.

Results:

- Twenty-eight farmer groups formed. Seven hundred small and marginal farmers learned organic farming procedures. These farmers are producing organic manure, plant growth tonics, and pest repellents by themselves and have 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.

- 700 small and marginal farmers from Muzhucode and Kadayal panchayats are now aware of Government welfare measures and how to avail them.
- 40 farmers learned about value addition in crops (nutmeg, pepper, cloves), livestock diseases, and pepper cultivation methods.
- Farmers learned these steps for business registration. Seven farmers have registered businesses.
- 15 beneficiaries received Rubber board equipment. (Rs. 1500/head, Total Rs. 22,500). 30 farmers were shown how to use a smokehouse to improve rubber sheet quality.
- 40 farmers received compost kit support worth Rs. 30,000/-.
- 20 farmers received pepper seedlings worth Rs. 30,000/-.
- Five farmers received pepper seedlings worth Rs. 7,500/- in Muzhucadu Village.
- 15 farmers received equipment worth Rs. 22,500/- from the Rubber Board.
- 22 farmers received clove seedlings worth Rs. 17,600/- from the horticulture department.
- 300 farmers received cocoa seedlings subsidy worth Rs. 1,20,000/-.
- 20 beneficiaries received Coconut fruit medicine/seedlings (Rs. 250/head, Total Rs. 5,000).
- The beneficiaries achieved a 25% increase in income and 13 % increase in yield in rubber, pepper, clove, nutmeg, coconut, banana, roots and vegetables.

4. 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 and A. Maria Stephen, Adv. P.M. Murugan and Adv. J. Helen Johnsi Bai, along with the paralegal workers, Mrs P. Lakshmidevi and Mrs S. Annammal, and Mr P.Muthukumar, organised paralegal literacy programs, campaigns and Legal aid to women victims during this financial year.

Residential paralegal literacy workshop for women leaders:

We conducted two five-day each residential Women's Rights Education workshops for the women leaders in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts. Seventy 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.

paralegal literacy training Programme for Rural Household Women

Forty two legal awareness one day training programmes in fourteen villages (First batches are Kakkotuthalai, South Ethencadu, Annacolony, Pambanvilai, Killiyoor, Nattalam, Kurunthencode in Kanyakumari District and Puthukulam, Parappadi, Chithambarapuram, Kallathi, Chinthamani, Donavoor, Veppankulam in Tirunelveli District) benefitting 560 rural women on 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 and labour welfare laws.

District Co-Ordination meeting of Women Rights monitoring Cell:

Four one-day district-level trainings were held for 165 women representatives to educate them on the ways and means to monitor women's rights violations and report them to the government in Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts.

Celebration of International Women's Day:

Participated in the International Women's Day programme jointly organised by various women's organisations at Nagercoil, on 8th of March, 2025, followed by a campaign rally. Two thousand women participated and celebrated International Women's Day.

Formation of the Women's Rights Monitoring Cell:

Four Women Rights Monitoring Cells have been formed in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts, and each of these cells has an average membership of twenty women. Twenty-six follow-up meetings were conducted to facilitate their articulation of their grievances to the appropriate authorities and to avail the welfare measures from the Government.

Review of Internal Complaint Committee on Sexual Harassment (ICC):

A new Internal Complaint Committee was formed at the RUC for the safety of Women employees in Kanyakumari District and Tirunelveli District.

Results:

The entitlement of welfare measures in education helped to avail the following welfare schemes received from the Government:

- Seventeen families received housing facility Rs.2,70,000/- each in Kanyakumari District.
- Ten families received housing facility Rs.2,70,000/- each in Tirunelveli District.
- Eight families received housing facility Rs.70,000/- each in Tirunelveli District.
- Three persons received Widow Pension of Rs.1000/- each.
- Two persons received the Old Age pension of Rs 1000/ each.
- Two persons received a baby gift box worth Rs 2000/- each at Kallathi.
- Fourteen persons received dairy cows worth Rs 25000/- each at Kallathi.
- Four persons received Rs. 90,000/- each for taking care of the cow at Kallathi.
- Four Sodium lamps fitted worth Rs.. 500/- each at Kallathi and Eduppoor.
- Two Anganwadi buildings constructed for Rs 10. 00,000/- each at Kattuvilai and the Friday market.
- The community hall is constructed for Rs. 9,00,000/- at Valiyaneri in Tirunelveli District.
- The Ration shop is constructed for Rs. 5,00,000/- at Ariyakulam.
- Melakoduppakuzhi well has been dredged at a cost of Rs 5/- (five lakhs) in Kanyakumari District.
- Allenvilai Pond has been dredged for Rs 4 lakhs in Kanyakumari District.
- The Anganwadi building maintenance work is worth Rs.3.00,000/- at Sethuvor.
- Interlock bricks Street road work carried out for 1045 meters in Valiyaneri, Seelathikulam(Amman coil street & Kamarajar nager), Chithambarapuram (Rajaputhuoor nager and Sethurayar colony), Worth Rs 12,00,000/- in Tirunelveli District.
- Interlock bricks Street road work carried out for 100 meters at Uzhaguvilai and 80 meters in Allenvilai Sasthan Kovil Street, worth Rs 2,50,000/- in Kanyakumari District.

- Bore well constructed worth Rs.. 100,000/-each at Puthukulam and Eduppoor, and another one overhead tank constructed worth Rs..3,00,000/- in Seelathikulam in Tirunelveli District.
- Water tank (60000 litre capacity) constructed worth Rs.14,00,000/- at Sethuvor in Kanyakumari District.
- Water tank (10000 litre capacity) constructed at a cost of Rs.5,00,000/- at Valiyaneri and Mini tank repair work worth Rs.50.000/- at Chithambarapuram.
- Sewage stream facility worth Rs.4, 00,000/ constructed at Friday market 150 meters & Chennapalli 150 meters.
- Pond maintenance work carried out worth Rs 2,00,000/- at Kannamangalam.
- Received 18 lakhs loan from the bank to a help group to start a small business.
- Bus stop constructed for Rs. 2, 00,000/- at Seelathikulam.
- Three bridges worth Rs. 10,00000/- were constructed in Lethikulam to Theivanayagamperi, and three Small bridges worth Rs.. 15,00,000/- were constructed in Kumbikulam, Vaikundapuram, and Seelathikulam.
- Concrete Street road work carried out for 700 meters in 2 villages (Elangkulam, Seelathikulam) for Rs.22, 00,000/- in Tirunelveli District.
- Concrete Street road work carried out for 435 meters in 4 villages (melakoduppakuzhi, Asarivilai, Allenvilai, Pattanvilai) worth Rs.17, 00,000/- in Kanyakumari District.
- 15 street lights have been rreplaced for two villages in Elangkulam and Chithambarapuram.
- Two Electric poles were installed, worth Rs. 10,000/- each at Pothayadi Alangkulam.
- Four flood-affected families received Rs.2.00,000/- each for the construction of houses at Koonthenkulam.
- Fifteen waste water disposal pits have been set up in the village of Elangkulam, Chinthamani, Sreerengarapuram for Rs. 16000/- each in Tirunelveli District.
- Twelve women received loans of Rs 10,0000/- each through the Women's Self-Help Group in Tirunelveli District.
- Twelve women received loans of Rs.. 50.000/- each through the Women's Self-Help Group in Kanyakumari District.

Legal Aid to victims:

During the financial year 2024-2025 Sixty-nine cases were taken up to assist the victims to various types of crimes to get justice and compensation:

<i>S.No</i>	<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
1.	Death cases in foreign countries	1
2.	Dowry dispute	5
3.	Dowry harassment	5
4.	Domestic violence	6
5.	Property Dispute	2
6.	Land cheating cases	2
7.	Police Custodial Torture	2
8.	Labour cases	3
9.	Money Cheating Case	3
10.	Criminal case	4
11.	Charging an exorbitant rate of interest	3

Legal aid and counselling through the Social Welfare office:

Rural Uplift Centre was appointed as a Counsellor in the Dowry Advisory committee under the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 for Kanyakumari District by the Government of Tamil Nadu. RUC, along with the District Social Welfare Officer-cum-Protection Officer, conducted conciliation for twenty-three dowry harassment cases and ten Domestic violence cases.

Relief, Justice and compensation through Legal intervention:

- Twelve families were united.
- Rescued five women from domestic violence cases.
- Jewels worth Rs.16, 40,000/-(Sixteen lakhs forty thousand), Cash Rs: 7, 00,000/-(Seven lakhs) and household articles worth Rs1, 75,000/-(one lakh seventy five thousand) were recovered to the victims in Six cases.
- Four families got divorced, even after several counselling sessions.

5. Coordinating & monitoring the Government of India welfare schemes in Kanyakumari District.

Participated in three quarterly review meetings of the DISHA committee organised by the District Collector under the chairmanship of the Member of Parliament Mr.V.Vijay Vasanth at the Kanyakumari District collectorate, Nagercoil and suggested recommendations for agriculture, Children's development, School education, Environment protection and infrastructure improvement in Kanyakumari District

Networking & co-ordination:

District-level coordination:

The Social Action Movement, Kanyakumari District and RUC jointly organized four meetings-cum-workshops during the financial year 2024-2025 on resource mobilisation 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 Capacity Building Training for NGO:

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 Interagency coordination:

Participated in the State level Inter-Agency(Network of humanitarian agencies) Coordination meeting held at Trichy and Palayamkottai and reviewed the Tamil Nadu strategy document for IAG, Tamil Nadu.

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 in the virtual meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction measures.

Staff capacity building training:

Mrs.Laksmidevi participated in the three-day capacity building workshop on Crimes against Women and Children organised by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Govt of Tamil Nadu at Nagercoil. Kanyakumari District Collector and Kanyakumari District Social Welfare Officer appreciated Mrs Laksmidevi for her best performance on the Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child programme 2024-2025. 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 in Bangalore. Mr Maria Stephen and Mr Maria Stephen attended a day workshop at Hyderabad on local resource mobilisation. Mrs Laksmidevi, Mrs Annammal and Mrs Helan Johnsibai attended three days of training on counselling skills at Coimbatore, KKFD.

6. Income & Expenditure account:

During the financial year 2024-2025, an amount of Rs: 3965440/- (rupees thirty-nine lakh sixty-five thousand four hundred and forty) has been received as income, and an amount of Rs:6155064/- (rupees sixty-one lakhs fifty-five thousand and sixty-four) has been utilised for the charity activities detailed in this activity report.

7. 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 2024-2025. Thanks to Misereor- Germany, Azim Premji Philanthropic Foundation-Bangalore, Guide House India-Thiruvananthapuram, Sisters of Holy Family- United Kingdom, Ministry of Women & Child Welfare of the Government of India, and Mr Appavu. M.L.A., Speaker of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Mr Manothankaraj M.L.A., Honourable Minister for Daily Development, Govt of Tamil Nadu, Mr V. Vijay Vasanth, Member of Parliament, Kanyakumari, Mr Robert Bruce, Member of Parliament-Thirunelveli, Members of Legislative Assembly, Mrs Tharagai, vilavancodu, Mr.Ruby Manoharan in Nanguneri. , Director of Integrated Child Development Services, Govt of Tamil Nadu, District Collectors of Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts, M/s.Thanupillai & Co., Audit firm, 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.



Annual General Body meeting in Progress at RUC Parvathipuram



Children of Elankulam Centre – preparing Children for Primary Schooling



Dr Nagarajakumar distributes vitamin solution and medicine to 300 tribal women beneficiaries who received Goats from RUC.



Value addition on banana products for the tribal, small and marginal farmers was held at the Horticulture Research Station, Pechiparai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University



Value addition on spices for the tribal, small and marginal farmers was held at the Horticulture Research Station, Pechiparai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University



Expert Organic Farmers of Marthandam zone proudly showing the appreciation Award received from the Kuzhithurai Municipality for the best Organic Farm stall established during the Vahubali Exhibition.



Guest lectures by Dr Jeyasing on nursery raising during the training held for the tribal, small and marginal farmers at the Horticulture Research Station, Pechiparai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



Mr. Maria James, Secretary of RUC is conducting leadership training for the tribal women leaders at Pathukani



Mr.Christopher conducts organic farming training for women small and marginal farmers at Methpancodu



Mrs.Juliet, president of Kadayal panchayat, explains the welfare measures of Govt to tribal women organic farmers at Arukani



Mrs.Kalaivani conducts the organic farming training for Orunooramvayal tribal women Organic Farmers.



Mr.A.Maria James distributes six chickens to 200 women small and marginal farmers of Muzhucodu Panchayat



Mr.A.Maria James distributes equipment for the pilot tribal Organic spice Farmers



A.Maria James, Secretary of RUC, is supplying goats to thirty Orunooramvayal tribal women organic farmers as part of the Goat distribution to 300 tribal women organic farmers in Kadayal



Supplying horticulture nurseries to 200 women small and marginal farmers of Muzhucodu Panchayat, along with Muzhucodu area volunteers Mr Surendran, Mrs Rathakumari, Mr Ramesh and Mr.Sanalkumar.



Adv. Murugan conducts Women's Rights Education training for women at Marthandam



Mrs Laksmidevi, a women's rights trainer, conducts a meeting of the District Women's Rights Monitoring Committee at Parvathipuram



Mr
P.

Muthukumar, a paralegal worker, conducts a women's rights monitoring cell meeting at Palichanvilai.



Women's Rights Education training for women was held at Nanguneri.



Adv. Maria Stephen conducts a five-day residential workshop on Women's Rights Education for women social workers at Nagercoil.