



**Supported by**



# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019 to March 2020

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (PAD)

VEMBAR, VILATHIKULAM TALUK

THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT – 628906

WEB: [www.padgom.org](http://www.padgom.org)



## ANNUAL REPORT – 2019-2020

### INTRODUCTION:

People's Action for Development (PAD) is voluntary organization, which is legally registered under society registration act in the year 1985. It is actively involved in empowering the marginalized sections of the society such as fisher folk, Palmyra tappers, Dalits, landless, women, children in difficult situation and others. The aim of the PAD's intervention is to strengthen the various capitals such as- social, human, natural, financial, physical and information. In general, the belief is that there are 6 capitals to strengthen the livelihood but, in our experience, information is another capital, which also contributes to the empowerment of the community. PAD has its head quarter at Vembar (Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu) and another 3 more units- at Keelakkarai, Rameswaram and the other at Thoothukudi.

### Profile of the area

People's Action for Development is working in the Gulf of Mannar region, which spreads from Rameshwaram to Thoothukudi covering 10500 sq kms. The Gulf of Mannar region is declared as 'marine bio reserve' by the Government of India. The Gulf of Mannar is declared as national bio reserve by the government of India in 1996. Gulf of Mannar region is rich in fishery resources. The primary productivity of the area is comparatively very high. A total of 510 fin fish species, including 125 reef associated fish species, 450 mollusks species, and 17 species of sea cucumbers have been recorded from this region. It is one of the richest sources of marine biodiversity hotspots of the world.

Gulf of Mannar, which has a chain of 21 islands along a stretch of 140 km between Thoothukudi and Rameswaram (N.Lat. 8° 55' – 9° 15' and E. Long. 78° 0' and 79° 16') (Figure), is located along the southeast coast of India. It has been considered for a Marine Biosphere Reserve. The importance of the Gulf of Mannar as PAD's operational area lies in the fact that there are 133 villages and the islands have fringing coral reefs and patch reefs rising from shallow seas. The fringing reefs around the islands have lagoons of 100 to 150 m width and 1 to 2 m depth. The reef area of the Gulf of Mannar accounts for 94.3 km<sup>2</sup>, based on the estimates of data derived from IRS LISS II 1989 & SPOT 1989 satellite information.

Fish production of this region was from 1,05,000 tones to 71845 tons from 1998 to 2011. The increase of population and demand for marine products are major causes for making fisher folk to get involved in the destructive fishing practices and over harvesting which has adverse effects on the fragile ecosystem of the Gulf of Mannar. Gulf of Mannar region is a priority area for conservation because of its richness of species and ecosystems which support livelihood for a large number of coastal people and others. Sustainable management of this fragile resource capital alone will hold the key for real prosperity and wellbeing of this area and the people. The threats to the richness of biodiversity of this area are increasing at alarming rates and if not curbed and controlled now will lead to a situation of no return. The conservation and sustainable utilization of the resources require an integrated approach in management of this area where all stakeholders understand and accept the limitations of resource availability and control their negative interactions with the resources and its over extraction.

## CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD)

#### *Facilitate PHC, VHN, ASHA and Anganwadi workers*

Facilitation of Primary Health Centre, Village Health Nurse, ASHA and Anganwadi workers are very important role players from early childhood to adult. They have opportunities to grow a long-term relationship with patients, to help AN-PN mothers manage their health within their own communities. They are bridging the gap between the Government hospital and people who need the health care service at village level. As per the status of anemic of AN-PN mothers and adolescent girls in Kadaladi, Vilathikulam and Thiruppullani Blocks, PAD has determined to create strong linkages with PHC, VHN, ASHA and anganwadi workers and facilitate them to reach out to the pro-poor.



After the intervention, the linkages helps to collect information of AN-PN mothers in villages. They are very helpful to conduct the mothers' club meetings and can easily get across the

message of the importance of 1000 days. Before this intervention, mothers did not share their health issues and follow up health status. Now staff has got a good rapport and recognition from the local community. Dissemination of information is now possible by the field staff to the community those who are in non-accessible area. Registration of Birth and the certificate issued for the same is now easier than before our intervention.

### ***Mothers' club meeting***

In the current reporting period, 1020 Parents of 34 mothers' clubs were trained on ECD concept with 64 TOTs. Mothers were highly advantaged and clarified their doubts well without any hesitation regarding the child care and development because of locally available TOTs. TOTs focused the particular age group of AN-PN mothers to provide the specific



concepts. After the training, 2 differently abled children were allowed to mingle with anganwadi children. Now they started to speak and writing. Children got membership under the differentially abled welfare scheme at Kannirajapuram village. The participation of male representatives is gradually increasing in trends.

Acquired the knowledge to buy child friendly toys and dolls with different colours and shapes making different voices and movements which will make the children involve enthusiastically. Males have realized that the importance of caring of their wives during pregnancy period. 40% of mothers (32 out of 80) have realized that children feel very comfortable now when they suck their fingers. 94% mothers have realized that the brain development will get matured only in 18 years. Good rapport has been established with anganwadi workers, ASHA and village health nurse. Earlier, the nutrition mix powder was stocked in anganwadi without knowing the importance of it. After the training, there is no stock in Anganwadi centers because of the mothers are regularly receiving the powder.

### ***Adolescent girls – health education program***



By this reporting period, 940 adolescent girls were trained in 14 Schools. Earlier they would not swallow the nutrition tablets. After training, they are regularly taking with the motivation of teachers. The families hesitated to cook moringa (Drumstick) related dishes. But now adolescent girls are voluntarily asking their mothers to prepare the dish / soup, to improve their

health status. The health nurse handed over the health-related supplies to anganwadi workers. They were not delivered to the members of the adolescent groups. Now, they are directly supplying it to them right after the program.

Adolescent groups have selected their leaders now to disseminate the health-related information and distribute the nutrition and sanitation supplies at Periasamipuram and Vembar villages respectively. Joint actions with Vembar PHC, 52 children were screened and 13 were referred for higher treatment due to nutrient deficiency.

### ***Traditional seeds to families and School.***

25 Variety of traditional seeds were distributed to 300 families to start the bio intensive gardening to produce organic vegetables and improve their nutritional status. Schools gardening have been established in 5 Schools with the support of SMCs and youth groups. They involved in leveling, conditioning of lands, bed preparation and watering process.

Gulf of Mannar area is very rain shadow and drought prone area. Moreover, the fishing and palmyrah tappers families are not much familiar in agriculture process and gardening. For the last 30 to 40 years, the entire agriculture processes have been lost due to the low rate of monsoon and water scarcity. Most of the families are having non balanced diet in their regular food habits. As per the statistical data, 83% adolescents are anemic. Anganwadi report also confirms the existence of underweight children in the community.

Hence, we selected 300 families under this category. According to the geographical situation vegetable cultivation is very low due to the drought and salinity of water resources. But this year

there is a good monsoon widely in Gulf of Mannar region. Hence, we initiated to distribute 25 varieties of traditional seeds to these 300 families and 5 schools to start the bio intensive gardening to produce organic vegetables to get needed organic vegetables to improve the anemic status. The proper organic Bio Intensive method has been explained to the target families.

By this year, luckily the Gulf of Mannar area has got the moderate rain fall and that also influenced them well to maintain the gardening. Children show much interest in home gardening. In an average there is a yield of 75% through this endeavor.

40% of 300 families were getting an average of 250g of fresh vegetables per day from their gardening. (Tomato, brinjal, beans, spinach, moringa, pumpkin, cucumber, bitter gourd and snake gourd). These people used to buy vegetables from the market only. This is a new experience for these families getting fresh organic vegetables from their back yard at no cost. The harvested vegetables are exchanged between the neighbors. Sharing these vegetables with others create a situation where every family gets all varieties of vegetable which will be a great supplement for all of them. 22 families are selling a bunch of spinach for Rs.10. Each family has been selling minimum 2 bunches every day. Particularly this trend is high in Manickanagar and Perisamipuram.

There has no strategy to control the pest infection on the plants till now. Mrs. Thangarani says that the vegetation is rich and lush; families are quite interested in controlling these pests by applying the natural bio control methods. Mrs. Muthumariyal of Kunjeyapuram, having no experience in gardening did bio- gardening in a careless way says seeing the prosperity of the garden, says that she will clear the area where she has unwanted thorny plants and extend the garden and get more vegetables for the family and neighbour's use and additional income for the family.

When mothers pruning and maintaining the garden in the morning, they pluck the cucumbers and give to their children. It is a wonderful sight to see the happiness in the face of the children getting the cucumbers. Mrs. Saveriyayee of Periyasampuram has this experience every morning. If she has to buy at the market she has to pay more than rupees 20 every day. **“Mrs. Thangarani, Pachiyapuram says that she sees the wonder of the ribbon beans in her life for the**



first time and she is overwhelmed by this experience. It is a wonder to see the beautiful flower of these plants. She asks us how to cook this bean since she has never cooked this before. Her husband, Dasnavis wonders saying that what a lot of flowers and no flower falls but yields". In School gardens, the vegetables are harvested and utilized for hostels and mid-day meals. The habit of ownership among the children increased at school. Each child says that this is my plant pointing a particular plant each likes. Children are owning the watering, pruning, harvesting and applying manure process in the morning and evening hours. At school, because of the availability of varieties of good vegetables, they use more vegetables now along with the prescribed dhal.

### CHILD RIGHTS, PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION

#### **Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism (CFAM)**

To contribute to the SDG goal 16.2, on child friendly accountability mechanism, PAD works with the guidance of CB in the Gulf of Mannar region implementing the concept with three phased approach - assessment, analyze and action. PAD formed 35 children’s club in 35 villages. 70 children were selected by the clubs for a TOT training on CFAM approach. These TOTs take this approach to other children in the village. Children clubs



existed only for the rights of education in the past. But now children are enabled to identify the issues they face at home, school and in the society. They also identified the duty-bearers/stakeholders who are responsible to solve these issues. Children have gained the courage to express their views and issues at any platform. CFAM activities have brought them to this status to them. They also obtained the knowledge and power to interact with the district level stakeholders those who are working for child protection. Parents who were alarmed by the CFAM process, now they feel proud of their children,



because they raise their voice for their rights according the UNCRC.

- CFAM club members placed 28 demands through youth and VLCPC members (Demands like push outs, child marriage free village, drinking water, compound wall for school, transport, child labor, toilet facility, library, facility and Barry guard).
- 13 drop outs were identified 9 of them were reenrolled with the help of VLCPC and 4 of them got and skill development.
- CFAM clubs in 35 villages have strengthened their active role in claiming their rights through youth and VLCPC members from the duty bearers.
- Children developed courage to express the issues they face in reality after the stakeholders interview at Ramanathapuram.
- As per the demand of CFAM club, the damaged iron fencing of water tanks has been removed in Uraikinaru village.
- CFAM children of Kunjayapuram approached PHC and mobilized 200 pamphlets and created awareness on COVID 19.
- CFAM children participated in Gram Saba meet and resolution passed on withdrawal of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> public examination.
- CFAM campaign conducted with 10,000 post cards to implement child protection mechanism with effectiveness to the National Child Protection Committee for Rights of Children (NCPCRC).
- Children developed courage to express the issues they face in reality after the stakeholders interview at Ramanathapuram.
- The School management committee has honored the children in assembly regarding the stakeholder's interview.
- 5 of the CFAM children those who studying in College were explained on CFAM to other students and gave special orientation to the classes with the permission of management.
- With the help of youth, CFAM children were demolished the damaged well and levelled as ground at Kunjayapuram.



- Based on the demand of CFAM children, the VLCPC contributed Rs.10,000 for school toilet in Vethakaranvalasai. Government supported and constructed the toilet for children.
- After the NCPCR meet at Ramanathapuram, the school compound wall has been sanctioned and concern department members also visited the school at Uraikinaru.

### ***Suggestion box***

- 2 drop outs were reenrolled through the petitions dropped in the complaint box kept at Kilakarai village.
- In Masanapuram village, children were teased and verbally abused by youth from nearby villages. Based on the complaint from the box, VLCPC and youth club took action and warned the members of other trouble making youth who teased the children.
- Several Issues were addressed and redressed through the petitions received from box, like the demolition or replacement of damaged electric pole, protection from electric shock, library facility and street light facility. Etc...

### ***Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)***

298 youths are trained by youth leadership development program. After camp, youth developed well-versed village development plan. Regularly follows the monthly meeting, sharing, interaction with VDC, parents committee and CRPF. If any needs, they meet Panchayat and Government departments. Attitude change on giving respect to girl children and women. Environmentally implementing more conservation process which gives good feels about good changes in villages. VDC, parent committee, panchayat and CRPF also trust the youths and youth



leadership. Some villages' handover the responsibility to youths on village level implementation. The youth leadership program is a very good tool to link the whole community. Because, before taking part in this program, their attitude and behavior created problems and unrest in the community. But the approach of camp changed the thinking of youth and they understood that living together opportunity helps to reinforce new values and attitudes. The safe place away from our daily routine is the foundation for unlearning and learning. The leadership development program gave the knowledge on power of positive attitude, social analysis skill, competence, confidence, problem solving, team building, ecological rights, vision mapping and youth-based village development plan.

### ***Village, Panchayat and Block Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC, PLCPC and BLCPC)***

- By this reporting period 32 village level, 9 Panchayat level and 3 Block level child protection committee meetings have been conducted and discussed on enrolment, stopping child marriage, CFAM approach, child rights and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCRC.
- Muthirayarnagar – The committee placed the demand for accessing Kaveri drinking water facility channel as the said water line had been encroached by the private parties. Now the encroachment has been resolved and the community is able to access kaveri water. Pipeline.
- Narippayoor: The PLCPC has agreed and has initiated to establish the child marriage free and child labour free panchayat awareness board at the village bus stop.
- Muthunagar: 5 dropout children were reenrolled and were helped to continue their schooling by VLCPC.



- The block level child protection committee discussed the demand to make the Kadaladi Block as child friendly panchayat. For that, they agreed to a proposal to support Mookayoor panchayat and decided to initiate the process with the Block level Government officials.
- Krishnapuram: VLCPC gave 5 petitions for road facility, high beam light, ration shop, early warning center, replacement of electric pole and water facility.
- Indiranagar: VLCPC shifted the freezer unit and established it at the early warning center.
- CFAM tools were discussed and a resolution was passed on stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in VLCPC and PLCPC.
- Demand to panchayat to remove the sewage and garbage on river bed, because of health issues to AN-PN mothers and children.
- 23 demands place to the concern authorizes by this reporting period (health issues of children, education facilities, road facilities, sewage, water facilities, education support, child labor and child marriage awareness campaign, EB, ICDS and plantation),
- Approached panchayat and supplied drinking water for 120 families in Kannirajapuram.
- Mobilized resources for awareness board on stopping child marriage at Kannirajapuram.
- 2 ceiling fans provide to anganwadi center by VAO after the VLCPC demand at Vembar.
- Dropped out 12<sup>th</sup> grade girl due to love affair, and special permission for public examination with special permission of CEO approached by VLCPC.
- Resolution passed for to control the child marriage and child labor with age limit 18.

### ***School Management Committee***

Formerly, the existing SMCs were functioning for the sake of records only. The school heads got their signatures as if the SMC meeting had taken place. There was no accountable mechanism existed.

- To bring about a change in the functioning and to realize the role of SMC, PAD revived 8 SMCs consisting of 112 members through orientation



and training on RTE Act, such as Roles of SMC, Child protection, Child participation etc., by this reporting period. PAD kindled a spirit among these SMC members to take part in the meetings and have a school development plan to address the school infrastructure issues and other issues related to child friendly school atmosphere.

- By this reporting period the SMC of Sinna Erwadi contributed for wall painting on child rights, importance of education, freedom fighters, former political leaders and sanitation in School compound wall.
- In Mangaleswarinagar, SMC mobilized resources and established drinking water facility. In Barathinagar, the school level bridge course fee Rs. 1000/- was utilized for facilitator who recognized her as a talented person by SMC. In Vembar, Uraikinaru, Periasamipuram, Surankudi, Thangamalpuram and Kannirajapuram SMCs supported and conducted the District level sports 'events with the supply of sports materials worth Rs. 20000/. In P.M.Valasai, SMC gave petition to demolish a damaged school compound wall and construct new compound wall and in Kalimankundu, SMC discussed the effective use of MDLS and to be allowed to be accessed by the lower-class students too.
- In Uraikinaru, they supported to rescue the girl from textile industry and supported her to procure notebooks, uniform and stationery and got her enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> standard.

#### **PAD ALONG WITH TN STATE COMMISSION - SUBMIT THE FINAL POLICY GUIDELINES**

A State level policy to safeguard the interests of the women workers in the textile mills was envisaged by the TNSWC with initiatives of PAD and Children Believe and hence this policy. It is hoped that there will be a zero tolerance policy for any form of violence, harassment and abuse in the workplace and treat all such incidents of violence, harassment and abuse seriously and promptly investigate all complaints and provide redressal to the aggrieved and punish the perpetrator.

- To create for women and girls in the textiles and garment industry a workplace environment that will provide safety, security, equality and dignity to every worker.



- To create mechanisms for effective implementation of the existing laws and policies for women and girls to work with safety, security, equality and dignity in the workplace
- To address the existing gaps and formulate remedial measures
- To ensure that there is strict and effective monitoring of implementation of existing laws and policies



The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women (TSCW) suggests the draft framework for policy intervention that requires convergence from other departments, including Labour and Employment , Directorate of Industrial Health and Safety, Department, Department of Social Welfare, Department of School Education, Department of Health, Department of Industries and Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj that are relevant for the welfare of the women and girls working in the textile and spinning mills in Tamil Nadu.

## GENDER

By this reporting period, gender sensitization has been focused among parents, youth, mothers' clubs, children and adolescent groups. Based on that, 82 adolescent girls and boys were trained in camps, 60 women and 80 girls were trained here. Moreover, the gender concept has been shared in various forums. After this intervention, especially youth from Dalit villages are aware of and have realized the gender aspects. Girls understood that the language and gender disparities have been purposely and systematically developed by patriarchal society. They realized and shared the proverbs which have been developed positively for male and negatively for female. Girls and women are gradually shifting their reproductive role to male in their

families. After this intervention, 82% of girls mentioned that, groom should be based on our choice instead of our family choice.

According to SDG goals 5, 6, 10 and 14, need to achieve gender equality and empower all women rights, need to reduce inequalities within among communities. In General women and children play an important role in developing the community.

By this reporting period, gender sensitization has been focused among parents, youth, mothers' clubs, children and adolescent groups. Based on that, 212 adolescent girls and boys were trained in camps, 60 women and 80 girls were trained here.

- After this intervention, especially youth from Dalit villages are aware and realized the gender aspects.
- Panchayat level leadership by women increased from 35% to 55%.
- By this reporting period, 424 pro-poor women and 148 schedule caste and Schedule Tribe were benefitted the Social welfare schemes.
- Women participation has increased in Gram saba meetings.  
Reproductive roles of girls and women shifted to male from 12% to 34% according to the gender tool applied with 245 male and 282 female youths.
- After this intervention, 82% of girls mentioned that, groom should be based on our choice instead of our family choice.
- PAD has approached young fathers and succeeded 35% of male participation in mothers club. According to the survey among young fathers, 22% of them realized that father's role equally important like mothers. (Surveyed 178 young fathers); 65% males have realized 40% of males have cared their wives during pregnancy period.
- Women TOTs are taking training on ECD with the presence of male without any hesitation and responding them based on their inquiry.
- Allowing girls age group of 15 to 24 to long travel/distance has increased (40% to 60%) by the parents.
- Girls understood that the language and gender disparities have been purposely and systematically developed by patriarchal society. They realized and shared the proverbs which have been developed positively for male and negatively for female.



- The CBOs given importance to girls' education and supported higher education loan to 58% (52 girls) and 42% (38 boys) to boys.
- 7 early forced marriages stopped by youths, CFAM children and VLCPC after the intervention of gender sensitization.
- 4 caste and gender based verbal abuse issues were inquired by the SMC and VLCPC with the support of child help line.
- Parents committee gave petition to District collector to shut down TASMAL liquor shop and the district administration took immediate action and the shop has been closed now at Thinaikulam village.
- 13 girl children were relieved from textile industries in Gulf of Mannar area after the gender sensitization to local CBOs.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN (EPP)

The aim of the intervention is to build the resilient community in the coastal villages who are vulnerable to natural disaster such as cyclone, tsunami, heavy wind and flood. The region often witnesses severe cyclonic rain, and heavy wind, which affects the life of the coastal community. The after math of tsunami 2004 shook the civil society organization and governments around the



world. Hence the civil society organizations force to realize the important of disaster preparedness. PAD introduced this concept along with its regular development. Moreover, disaster preparedness managed by community. The capacity of the community is built and in turn the community will act for themselves. Thus, we called 'Emergency Preparedness Plan'.

Three types of task forces teams also formed like

1. Early warning team
2. Search and Rescue team
3. First aid team

The committee and task forces were formed the villages are Kuthiraimozhil, Kannikapuri, Siluvaipuram, Masanapuram, Kalimankundu and Muthirayarnagar.

## SPONSORSHIP

### *Successes*

- CBOs took responsibilities to link the allied system to provide the social security schemes to the vulnerable sponsored children's families.
- Youth club members and Ex-sponsored children are helping to link the children with correspondence process.
- Youth club members are voluntarily helping the correspondence process.
- Ex-sponsored children are initiated to help the correspondence process.
- Parents are realizing the importance of correspondence and encouraging the children to write the letter in right time.
- Good intra personal relationship among the children.
- Increased the higher education status.
- Children are owning the CDG amount and continue their higher education.
- Children were knowing their rights.
- Children who can able to ensure their rights.
- They find out the solutions for their issues with/without the help from other CBOs.
- Children motivating and encouraging their parents to involve and engage in parent committee meeting and activities.
- Children feel better and happy when they communicate with donors through letter writing.
- This is the opportunity to express the children's talents, innovation, interest and feelings.
- Through creative learning centre, children know more extracurricular activities, child rights and conserve environment.

## **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES RESOURCE USE AND LIVELIHOODS OF RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN RAMESWARAM ISLAND**

Elections to Local bodies in Tamil Nadu were held in two phases in rural areas in the month of December 2019 viz. 27 December 2019 and 30 December 2019 for 27 districts. India's top court also holds the election for remaining 9 newly formed districts from the four existing districts. It is also stated that Election Commission should conduct proper frame rule with the reservations for Women and SC/ST for the newly formed districts and shall conduct the elections for remaining 10 districts.

Over the past year, Tamil Nadu has been a witness to several events, from the mass police shooting of civilians to a destructive natural calamity. Actors' fan-clubs turned political-groups and activists working on various environmental issues have sparked a spirited discourse and, in some cases, evoked deafening silence. The death of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M. Karunanidhi brings down the curtains on an era in Tamil Nadu politics dominated by the rivalry between J. Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi.

The deaths of the two charismatic leaders now leave a void that is for anyone's taking, but despite the odds, the two Dravidian parties, the DMK and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Having served as the President of the DMK from 1969 until his death, his death paved way for his MK Stalin to finally be elected President, and take full control of the party. Having worked his way up the ranks for over 40 years, Stalin inherited a party with a historic legacy and widespread grassroots cadre network. After Ex- Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalitha's (AIADMK) death Edappadi Palaniswami became and O. Panneer Selvam became Deputy Chief Minister after a long battle for position between them.

The rise in diesel prices has had a strong impact on Rameswaram fishermen's lives. Most of them were seen having skipped going to sea for about 5 days due to rise in prices of fuel. Fishermen along the coast of Tamil Nadu have raised concerns regarding the raise of fuel prices and its effect on their livelihood. Fishing associations have raised the issue and demanded government or intervention to address the issue.

Over 4,000 Tamil Nadu fishermen were chased away by the Sri Lankan Navy which also snapped the fishing nets of 100 boats for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters off Katchatheevu islet.

The mid-sea incident comes after a spate of detentions of the fishermen on charges of fishing in their territorial waters. As far as the project area was concerned, the atrocities of Sri Lanka navy had continued unabated thanks to inability of both the central and state governments to force Sri Lanka to restrain its navy attacking our fishermen.

### **ENSURE BASIC EDUCATION UP TO 10<sup>TH</sup> STANDARD FOR THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

#### **Sensitization programs for parents on the importance of education with a special focus on Girls education**

One of the most important benefits of education is how it improves personal lives and helps societies run smoothly. In order to get this education to the drop outs and vulnerable, we have conducted seven counseling programs to the drop out children and their parents.

Moreover, we have conducted the sensitization program to the parents with special focus on importance of girls' education in the same seven vulnerable villages such as Natarajapuram, Manthoppu, Soosaiyappar Pattinam, Anthoniyarpuram, Kamarajarnagar, Light House, and Chinnapalam village. During our program we gave more stress on girl's education sine we educate a boy we educate one person. If we educated a girl we educate a family. Girls' education creates impact in decrease in infant mortality and maternal mortality. It enables to reduce child marriage also. Educated women have a greater chance of escaping poverty, leading healthier and more productive lives, and raising the standard of living for their children, families and communities.

#### **Strengthening Study Support Centre with minimum standards**

Three Study Support Centres have been formed at 3 villages' viz., Light house, Natarajapuram and Chinnapalam. It consists of 121 students from these three villages including drop out children who were enrolled in schools. They were given special coaching by centre teachers with pre planned curriculum. Subject wise assessment has been made periodically. Also, the centre teachers and facilitators were given four trainings on various topics such as curriculum and methodology development, skill development, Child rights, children's participation at village level, and UNCRC for effective coaching. Students are very much benefitted through study support centre of PAD and it is creating positive impact among the children. Many of our

children passed in their exams with good percentage and some of them performed extremely well in their examination.

### **Training of members of SMC on RTE and Facilitating One Model School with RTE Components**

After the training the SMC members have the ability to articulate the provisions of RTE and they are able to find the issues faced by the children in local schools. They took action to resolve those issues like infrastructure, corporal punishment by teachers through interface meeting between SMC members and respective authorities. As per RTE Act, the a school should have good infrastructure, safety for their students especially girl children, students teacher ratio, regular attendance, have enough study materials and etc., As an impacts of this training SMC plead their demands to the concern government officials and some of their pleas are answered by them in such ways inclusion of poor children in matriculation school admissions, built RO machines at schools, built separate toilets for both boys and girls students by creating model school in their working areas.

### **TO ENSURE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF CHILDREN RIGHTS THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EFFECTIVE CHILD/YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

#### **Parents and community members, LG, VLCPC and PRI are capacitated on child rights and participation**

A mechanism to address child protection and issues connected with it is being strengthened through formation of Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) consisting of 20 members in each committee in 12 villages. The VLCPC has been entrusted with the task of dealing with child related issues in the respective panchayats, curb crimes against children, including abuse and sexual assault and take issues to the appropriate authorities for action. In order to understand the child rights by others, two trainings has been imparted to the LG members, parents, community, VLCPC and PRI representatives. The demands was collected from children have been placed in the interface meeting between VLCPC and children for follow up of action. Then all the demands and issues have been placed with different authorities. In 2019, 90 interface meetings between VLCPC and Children have been conducted. There are 77 demands from children like no safe drinking water, no toilet facilities, corporal punishment, playground

facility, bus facility etc., to VLCPC. Then VLCPC placed these demands to different authorities. Out of 72 demands 35 issues like street light, toilet and drinking water facility, placing garbage bucket at the villages, roads, power supply issues, PHC, removal of liquor shop, requirement of government bus have been solved in our working villages and some of the issues were sent as repetition to Panchayat and Collectorate. The issues in schools are solved through SMC members. The remaining demands are in process.

### **Children and youth have access to the community and authority for protecting their rights**

To create awareness about child rights and environmental issues among their community 3 child led initiatives have been taken throughout the Island area. Children's cultural have also been conducted to promote child rights, child labour, child marriage, UNCRC, POCSO ACT, RTE and protect environmental ecology.

Trained children got chance to participate in community development by giving their demands to the government officials through VLCPC members. Children's from our target villages are eagerly participated in village development by providing demands to solve the community problems through VLCPC. Totally 25 demands was given and some of them are solved remaining are in process.

Some of our children engaged to meet the officials from allied departments such as CWC, DCPU, JJ Board, Lawyers Association, court, DSWO, Superintendent of Police had a dialog with them to resolve children's problems. During this meet children asked many questions to them some was intervention techniques, procedures, roles of the officials, laws that are there for children in Indian constitution and etc.,

PAD has formed 39 youth groups separately for male and female and both comprising of 15 to 20 in each group having age group from 18 to 25 in all the villages. As of now, we have 277 male and 275 female youth members from our youth groups. These youth groups have also worked for child rights and child related issues. PAD has conducted regular youth meeting in the respective villages. In these meeting, there were 26 demands raised from youth like passenger shelter, children's park facility street light, pure drinking water, helped to enrolled dropout



children from their petitions, etc. Out of which 10 demands have been resolved remaining are in the process.

Youth group were given training to protect child rights, environmental issues and child friendly accountability mechanisms. Youth group leaders were made to participate in National Youth Convention 2019 which was organized by Indian Youth Federation, some of our youth representatives attended in UNCRC 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration which was organized by TDH Suisse in Kolkata.

To create platform for youths, By PAD-TDH there was initiative taken formed cluster level youth committee with the Island. All the issues of children, youth and community was discussed and action plan have been prepared and started to work to resolve the issues. Then Youth apex body were formed named Federation for youths in Gulf of Mannar region which consist of youth members from Rameshwaram, Keelakarai and Vembar.

#### **Demands are placed by Children, youths, LG through VLCPC to stakeholders**

As an impact of effective participation of our stakeholders, has been given 121 demands through children, parents, youths, LG members, VLCPC, SMC, community members to the government officials. Out of 121 demands 45 issues like street light, toilet and drinking water facility, placing garbage bucket at the villages, roads, power supply issues, PHC, removal of liquor shop are solved remaining are under process.

#### **Awareness programs are conducted to impart knowledge on child rights and increase the participation our beneficiaries to take part in community development.**

Children's from our target villages are organized children's Mela, during this event children were encouraged to perform cultural programs which targeted about child issues. This program was completely lead by the children, for the children, and of the children. During this event our stakeholders took initiative to help the children to organize the event successful and effective. Children also lead rallies in their respective villages on cluster level, as a result they impart knowledge on child rights to the participants which consist of children, youths, parents, key members, PASI members, village head and etc., And also children's and youths celebrated

children's day with 30<sup>th</sup> year completion of United Nation Convention on the rights of the child. As a result children, youths, LG members, General public aware of child rights and its chapter which are mentioned in UNCRC.

**TO ENSURE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS OF LG WOMEN THROUGH IGPS, CREDIT LINKAGES AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

**Trained women of LG groups improve their living standards through credit linkage and micro enterprises development.**

Livelihood Groups are small groups of poor people. The members of Livelihood Groups face similar problems such as dependency, lack of decision-making power in the family etc., The LG members have been highlighted the LG meetings, (It should be a weekly meeting), participation of members (100% members participation), savings habit (It should be a weekly savings and optional savings instead of compulsory savings), repayment of both internal and external loan (100% repayment), record maintenance and LG involvement in social action programme and community action programme. Moreover, how to get the credit linkage and how to utilize the credit have been emphasized. In 2019, 7 LGs got MED loan of Rs. 987000/- and 106 members have been benefited.

**Strengthened PASI federation address child rights related issues and resolve issues related to credit and civic amenities in 20 villages.**

Now PASI got registration under society registration act and received PAN card also. Annual General Body meeting was conducted by PASI members in the month of December with more than 250 members and 8 chief guests from Ramanathapuram district. Financial management, savings, self-employment, processes and future plan was main content of the meeting.

There were 17 demands which raised like demanding basic amenities like street lights, to stop opening new wine shop, etc. from LG members. Out of which 8 have been resolved and remaining are under process. All the demands were submitted to the Dist. Collector and critically reviewed by the Collector and the LG members were facilitated in six villages. Average Annual income of LGs has become Rs.38321/- at the end of this year.

## OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT

- Child cabinet has enacted in Natarajapuram government school, members of the child cabinet eagerly participated in election especially in campaigning with their manifesto.
- Selected Erakadu government school as a Model school according RTE, got some of the basic amenities which are mentioned in RTE such as pure drinking water, separate toilet for both boys and girls, fencing etc.,
- UNCRC 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration was celebrated throughout our working areas, children's were performed many activities to create knowledge on child rights.
- Cluster level federation was formed in Island which consist of youth members from Rameshwaram, Thangachimadam, Pamban areas as a cluster.
- Federation for Gulf of Mannar region was formed which consist of youth representatives from Rameshwaram, Keelakarai, Vembar areas. Youths are using this federation as a platform to mitigate their problems.
- In the panchayat Raj election, 3 of our youth members, 7 LG members and 1 VLCPC members are nominated in the election. Among 11, 4 of them selected as a ward members in their respective areas.
- Our youth group members contributed Rs.18,000 in our project, gifted study materials, sports materials and tree saplings and our VCPLC members gifted Rs.6,200 to our children's club.
- Our youth members also initiated a social action. In natural calamities at the sea 4 youth were died 3 of them are belongs to our youth group. During this incident government didn't take any action to bring the bodies to the shore. So that, our youth groups formed as a team gathered support from other youth, community leaders, women boycott against the government to bring the bodied who were died in that natural calamities. After this action all the respective government came to area including the district collector. The collector took action and brought the bodies to the land and fisheries department accepted to give 5 lakhs to each youth who died in that incident.

- Through the support of our linkage, Tamilnadu veterinary university adapted one of our target village gifted more than 100 books, book racks, tree saplings and also accepted to built a veterinary centre in that area in future.

### Childhood safeguarding

The vision of Peoples Action for Development (PAD) is to create a safe, supportive and responsive society that upholds the protection rights and dignity of every child in India (as defined by the law). This is to be achieved by establishing effective prevention and early intervention measures, strengthening treatment support services and building partnerships. We do this by engaging with all sectors of society upon whom the wellbeing of children depends, in initiatives that will bring about these changes.

- PAD is committed to the rights and welfare of children in India and opposes all forms of child abuse, especially child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- PAD is committed to upholding the law on child rights and welfare, as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and various legal statutes of the prevailing law in India.
- PAD believes that all children have a right to protection from abuse irrespective of race, social background, age, gender, skin colour, disability, religion, caste or beliefs.
- PAD believes that child abuse and exploitation is not acceptable in any form. Keeping silent and inaction is also wrong, if it is known that a child is being abused or exploited.
- PAD believes in the importance of child protection, so that not only are children protected from abuse by PAD committee (or board) members, staff, donors, and volunteers, but also that preventative measures can be made to protect the PAD staff, and the PAD 's own integrity.
- PAD believes that children have the right to participation through any form of expression (in accordance with their evolving capacities) and be heard. Therefore, where possible children will also be included as stakeholders and in research and other relevant reports/evaluations.
- All committee (or board of directors) members, staff, and volunteers agree to this policy. It will be evaluated and reviewed every year by PAD based on experience and evolving circumstances and law.

- PAD believes that children have the right to participation through any form of expression (in accordance with their evolving capacities) and be heard. Therefore, where possible children will also be included as stakeholders and in research and other relevant reports/evaluations.
- All committee (or board of directors) members, staff, and volunteers agree to this policy. It will be evaluated and reviewed every year by PAD based on experience and evolving circumstances and law.

## **THE FREEDOM FUND – THE ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN 30**

### **VILLAGES OF KADALADI BLOCK**

“Adolescence is not only a pivotal time in the life of a child – the gateway to adulthood. It is also a critical opportunity to make progress for all children. And it is a stage of life in which we must invest more attention, resources and effort today, or suffer tomorrow the social and economic consequences of generation less equipped to become fully contributing members of society”. When the benefits of education are obvious, it has yet to acquire the required urgency in the development agenda of interventions.

Ramanathapuram district had a population of 1353445 as of Census 2011. The district consists of 69.66 per cent of the rural population. The district has a sex ratio of 983 females for every 1000 males and child sex ratio of 961 girls for every 1000 boys in the age group 0 to 6 years as per Census 2011. This district is much better in terms of gender balance of the district in population compared to the State. Share of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe's population in the total population is 18.40 per cent and 0.08 per cent respectively in the district.

Ramanathapuram district is an industrially backward district. Out of eleven blocks, except Ramanathapuram and Paramakudi, other blocks have been categorized as industrially backward blocks by MSME Department. In Census 2011, nearly 25000 people were involved as household workers who are involved in charcoal making and other household industries; it comes around 4.18 per cent of the total workers. This is the only household industry worth the name. Throughout the district, the availability of large and medium scale industries is only six. As per

the HDR. 2017, Government and private sector investment in Ramanathapuram district is very low. Main reasons for lower industrial development are said to be:

- Lack of mineral resources
- Lack of skilled labour availability
- No marketing facility
- Climatic conditions and Water scarcity
- Less connectivity to the ports and railway networks

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS ARE FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY AND INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF YOUNG WORKERS, ESPECIALLY TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT RISKY RECRUITMENT AND TO UPHOLD WORKPLACE RIGHTS OF LOCAL YOUNG WORKERS**

We have 444 CSG group members in 30 villages. These members consist of important leaders who are concerned of child protection and safety, women who returned from textile and cotton mills and parents of adolescents who work in the mills. During the past two quarters, CSG has been very supportive in the welfare and safety of children adolescents.

- Faulty roof and the unfriendly floor of the community building at Kavakulam is renovated by the CSG members at an expense of Rs. 100000/-.
- Renovating 13 Village resource centers, they got power supplies to these buildings and installed light sources as well to make the learning process easy for the children.
- They have cleared the unwanted plants, thistles and thorns in the playground in 6 villages to have a feasible playground for the children to enjoy playing there.
- 7 drop out students, 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, who lost the opportunity of attending schools in the scholastic year 2019-2020, attend the CRC and learn their lesson with the confidence of attending 10<sup>th</sup> grade in the forth-coming scholastic year.
- Since the attendance at the CRC is more than 90, CSG members have appointed an additional volunteer named Muthumari to handle the situation by paying Rs. 1500/ month.
- CSG members, attending the PTA every month, ensure the existence of proper sanitation facilities, of student teacher ratio, quality meal at mid-day, of 100 % attendance of students and finally of the safety of the girls at school.



- Prominently, they reiterate and ensure that the vendors at the close proximity to the school do not sell materials like cigarette and processed and sugar-coated betel nuts which affects the health of the adolescent boys.
- Youths train the children in education at the CRC in Vakaikulam,. They help the children learn their lessons.

#### **Health Camp:**

ASHA and VHN workers had been unfunctional in 9 villages. By the intervention of CSG members on this issue, they became conscious of their role and began to attend regularly in the 9 villages. They provide medical checkups and treatments have been conducted in 9 villages. As part of these medical checkups they provided counseling top the children, adolescents and their parents as well.

#### **Observation of important days:**

CSG members encouraged the children by conducting sports and distributed prizes to the winners on the children's day celebration. 122 children in 5 villages involved in these celebrations.

#### **Nutrition week:**

During the awareness program in September, an exhibition of simple, common nutritious food which are available in the village were conducted for the CRC. CSG members cooked 40 varieties of nutritious food and provided to the in this exhibition. This exhibition was facilitated by the CSG members. 1100 children took part in this exhibition program.

#### **Girl Child Day:**

National Girl Child Day was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> October. In this celebration, CSG members reiterated the protection of girl children and the importance of girls' education. Children performed cultural program to bring awareness to the parents and the community.

One of the parents said that because the poverty of my family, I sent my daughter to work. But now I feel sad about it. Another one said that girls are the one who take care of the aged

parents with care and love. Hence, It is necessary that we must provide quality education and freedom with safety and protection. We must be attentive to the girls always.

### **Gram Sabha Meetings:**

CSG members participated in Gram Sabha meetings in 19 panchayats. They had the resolutions noted in the Gram Sabah Minutes notes that the names of adolescent boys and girls, who go to other places to work in cotton or textile mills, should be registered at the panchayat and take steps to confirm the safety of such children. They also had the minutes like that they must take steps to stop school dropouts and child labour and reenroll such children at school. They added that they should oversee that no child should become a child labour in the future because of the poverty of the family.

They placed petitions about the safety in the infrastructures existing in the villages. Though Gram Sabha meetings have been conducted all these days, they never take part in it or worried about it. But, they realizing importance of Grama saba meetings, attending the meetings they inquire about financial status for the village development activities. Livelihood and educational development of cotton and textile mill workers:

- Convinced the parents of 6 adolescent girl mill workers and enrolled them in free computer application training courses.
- 4 drop out girls who were working at textile mills are rescued and enrolled in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades respectively.

**ADOLESCENTS ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN GROUP ACTIVITIES, HAVE IMPROVED ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND ARE EMPOWERED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM RISKY RECRUITMENTS.**

There are 457 adolescent girls in AGG and 436 adolescent boys in ABG in 30 villages. Through the weekly meetings, they come know about the issues those the adolescent girls face in the mills, the minimum wage, Protection and Labour laws, worker rights, child rights, health and hygiene and important of education. They discuss among them about these.

Adolescent girls being aware about the menstrual hygiene they in turn bring awareness to the other girls. School going adolescent girls meet the mill-workers and know about issues they face at the work place. They talk with them about workers' rights, safety and protection in the work place and health and hygiene.

Adolescent girls counselled three mill working girls and helped them to be re-enrolled in schools. Up to recent years girls were not allowed to go out even to school at other places. But, now they attend the adolescent meetings regularly every week. Through these meetings they understand about laws for women and children protection.

Through these awareness meetings, adolescent girls are sure that they will not get married before they attain the age 18 even if their parents insist. They said that they will get married only at 21 after completing the college education. Even if their parents send them to work because of the family economic situation, they will not go to work.

Adolescent girls are aware of their situation as it exists in the community: parent do not believe them, parents discourage them by saying what the use of studying is, and you are not going to do anything with your education. But yet they said that they will continue and complete their education and be a role model to other girls in their village.

#### **Development among adolescent boys:**

A particular boy in Velaythapuram, being a school dropout and having crossed 16 years, had been involved in eve teasing and met many village level panchayats. But now after the intervention of the adolescent boys, he reconciled and attend the meetings and there has been a change in his life.

Having ignorance of girls and adolescent safety, they were not cared about the safety of the girls and women in the past. But, now being the member of ABG, they take steps to make sure that the girls are safe during their transit to school and back to home.

Parents sensitization program: Through this program awareness on importance girl child education was provided. 820 parents were got awareness through this program. There had been a dialogue on whether all the girl in the village attend school. They took decision that no child below 18 years should stay at home or anywhere without attending school and girls below 18 years go to millwork.

### **CRC center Activities:**

1166 children attend CRC centers in 30 villages. Children not only learn the regular school lessons, but involve playing traditional games. They also do the following:

- Learns about rights
- Read Tirukkural and newspapers, articles in the mobiles
- Improving their skills in reading and writing.
- Writing essay, poetry and practice in drawing to develop their individual skills and talents
- Education level improve through the regular weekly tests
- Observe important days like teaches day, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanthi, National Girl child Day, Science Day, Toilet Day, Children’s Day, Mathematics Day and Human Rights Day.

Getting awareness on hand wash day they follow the six methods of hand-washings. They are aware that they must wash hands after the toilet and before each meal. They say that they followed open defecation because of the lack of water. But they assured that they will not go to open place but use toilets at home. They said that since open defecation causes spreading diseases and not safety for the girls, they said that they will ask their parents to provide the needed water at the toilet.

Children love singing the awareness songs about child labour and enjoy doing clap dance along with it at the CRC. CRC center children with the support of the CSG members have planted 50 saplings. Moreover, the youths cleaned the common toilets and brought awareness on the use of toilets and insisted the village to use the toilets.

## **CHILD HELP LINE - 1098**

### **Introduction to Child Help Line 1098**

Child help line 1098 is a national, 24-hour, toll free emergency phone outreach service for children (0 – 18 years) in need of care and protection. Apart from crisis intervention, CHILDLINE also links children to long-term services. Any child / concerned adult can call 1098 free of cost and avail of the service at any time of the day or night. CHILDLINE aims to create a child protection network to reach out to every child.

The Child Help Line 1098 is a Project of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

CHILDLINE has been functioning from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 People's Action for Development (PAD) is the collaborative organization for Child Help Line in Thoothukudi District and sub centre in Ramanathapuram District.

### Aim and objective

- To reach out to every child in need of care and protection
- To ensure access of technology to the most marginalized in urban as well as rural area and connectivity of 1098 through government and private exchanges.

### Intervention details of Collaboration, Thoothukudi and Sub center, Rameswaram.

<b>A. Medical</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B. Shelter</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>C. Total- Protection from abuse cases</b>	
a. Child Marriage	90
b. Child Labour	22
c. Child Bonded Labour	0
d. Child Trafficking	0
e. Child Sexual Abuse	35
f. Corporal punishment	56
g. Physical Abuse	95
h. Emotional Abuse	28
i. Child found begging	18
j. Child selling	0
k. Child kidnaping	0
l. Abandoned Child	0
m. Neglected child	0
n. Child Found Begging	0
o. Illegal adoption	3
p. Child with drug dependence	

q. line related abuse	
r. Other PFA cases	65
<b>D. Children in Conflict with Law</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>E. Restoration</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>F. Nutrition</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>G. ES&amp;G</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>H. Total- Education related</b>	<b>0</b>
a. School Dropout	151
b. RTE related	0
c. Others- TC related, special class etc	27
<b>I. Sponsorship</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>J. Support provided during COVID- 19</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Support provided through CHILDLINE budget	0
b. Linkages done- dept/ donor	0
<b>K. Linkages to Services DCPO/ Medical/ Others(regular linkages)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>L. Unclassified</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>M. Custody related</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>N. Any Other intervention</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>858</b>

#### Intervention details of Railway Child Help Desk, Thoothukudi

Type of CNCP	Total
Lost Child	
Missing child	2
Runaway children	21
Abandoned Child	
Working children	3
Children found to be begging	
Possibly Trafficked	



Out of school children who spend their on station premises	4
Elopement/ love affair	
Unaccompanied child	
Child with drug dependence	
Child with special need	
Children in need of Medical Help	
Attraction to city	
Children in need of counselling at station	
Job/ livelihood related	
Any other - MR CHILD	1
Un capacitated Parents	5 (2 follow up)
Drop Out	1
Physical Abuse	1
Abandoned	1
Relief Food	
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

### CASE STUDY 1

**Description of the Case:** Child Marriage

**Date:** 09.10.2020

**ID NO:** 322163

**Intervention Steps taken by CHILDLINE:**

**Child's back ground:** Child's name is Anish Fathima, aged 17 years, D/o Abu bakkar of SP Pattinam village, Thiruvadanai Taluk, Ramanathapuram District. The parents of the Child were arranged marriage with their relation boy Azharudin S/o Junnaithu. He resident is SP Pattinam, Ramanathapuram District. He is 25 years old.

After receiving of propose child marriage information was transmitted to DSWO. Then the age proof of the child was got from the school of the child. The child marriage prevention team (The District Social Welfare officer, the Child line team and Police) were went to the child house and the propose marriage was stopped. Childs parent and relatives were

argued that child is more than 18 years of age but as per school certificate she was only 17 years old. The parents were given advice and they gave an assurance that their daughter's marriage only should be done after her 18 years of age.

**Networking with Allied Systems and their involvement:** DSWO and Police department

**Outcome of the Case:** The proposed child marriage was stopped

**Present Situation:** The parents gave a written assurance to the DSWO that daughter's marriage should be held only after she attains 19 years of age the parent took possession of the child.

**Follow up if any:** The family is under child line team's observation.

## CASE STUDY 2

**Description of the Case:** Child Marriage

**Date:** 05.02.2020

**Intervention Steps taken by CHILDLINE:**

Divya hails from Tharmarajapuram, Kannirajapuram, Kadaladi Taluk. She is 17 years old and studies 12<sup>th</sup> STD at Collage 1<sup>st</sup> Year. Her father is Basker, and mother, Muthurani. Her parents arranged her marriage even before she becomes a major as she was then 17 years old. Child was very much against her marriage as she wanted to continue higher studies. But nothing worked out in her favor. She was unprepared for the marriage and she was under stress due to the threat of her parents. It greatly affected her studies also. The child herself contacted Child Line on 05/02/2020 and informed that her marriage is to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and begged Child Line to stop it. As soon as we received the information, we approached the school where she studies for the age proof. We shared this information to the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), District Child Protection Officer and Human Trafficking police personnel, and VAO. This team planned to approach the issue on a date which is closer to 7<sup>th</sup> February and decided to visit on 7<sup>th</sup> February. On 7<sup>th</sup> February, DSWO staffs, DCPU Staff, with the Child Line team reached the child's home and interacted with the parents about the marriage of their child, Divya on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Parents answered as that their child has completed 18 years of age and displayed the birth certificate which is the as the one that we have. They are of the thinking that when the

child completes 16 years she is 18 and hence she is according to the act fit to be get married. To clear their ignorance we explained them that the child is still a child until she completes 18 years.

**Networking with Allied Systems and their involvement:** DSWO, DCPU, VAO and Child Line

**Outcome of the Case:** We have stopped a child marriage and protected her life from being ruined.

**Present Situation:** Now the child is going to school and the parents have stopped their efforts to get her married as a child.

**Follow up if any:** The child is under child line team's observation.

#### **ACRONYM**

ANC	- Anti Natal Care
AIADMK	- All India Anna Diravida Munnetra Kalagam
AN-PN	- Anti Natal – Post Natal
CCFC	- Christian Children Fund of Canada
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CDG	- Child Designated Grant
CFAM	- Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism
CEO	- Chief Education Officer
COVID	- Corona Virus Disease
CRPF	- Child Rights Protection Forum
CWC	- Child Welfare Committee
CLC	- Creative Learning Centre
DCPO	- District Child Protection Officer
ECD	- Early Childhood Development
EPP	- Emergency Preparedness Plan
ICDS	- Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICPS	- Integrated Child Protection Schemes
LG	- Livelihood group
MED	- Micro Entrepreneurship Development
NCPCR	- National Child Protection Committee for Rights of Children
NREGA	- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

OAP	- Old Age Pension
PAD	- People's Action for Development
PASI	- People's Action for Sustainable Island
PHC	- Primary Health Center
PNC	- Post Natal Care
POCSO	- Protection of Children from Sexual Offence
RTE	- Right To Education
SMC	- School Management Committee
TOT	- Trainer of Trainee
VAO	- Village Administrative Officer
VDC	- Village Development Committee
VDP	- Village Development Plan
VHN	- Village Health Nurse
VLCPC	- Village Level Child Protection Committee
YLDP	- Youth Leadership Development Program