

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (PAD)

VEMBAR, VILATHIKULAM TALUK

THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT – 628906

WEB: www.padgom.org



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Strengthening Communities

INTRODUCTION:

People's Action for Development (PAD) is a legally registered voluntary organization 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, having its head quarter at Vembar (Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu), has 3 more units at Keelakkarai, Rameswaram and at Thoothukudi.

Profile of the area

People's Action for Development is working in the Gulf of Mannar region, which spreads from Rameswaram 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 km², 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)

Mothers' club meeting

In the current reporting period, 864 Parents of 34 mothers' clubs were trained on ECD concept with 30 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, parents view about the children and their brain development changed. As a result, parents', mainly mothers', attitude changed and they started applying the concepts they received from the training. Above all the trend of participation of male representatives is increased - 36% of male participated in the mothers' club meetings. It was used to be 2 or 3 percentage.

By the acquired knowledge they buy child friendly toys and dolls with different colours and shapes making different voices and movements which will attract children and make them play enthusiastically besides using the household articles. Males have realized that the importance of caring of their wives during pregnancy period. Mothers 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.

Testimonies of ECCD beneficiaries

- **Sujitha**, mother of four children belongs to Velayuthapuram village, declares that she used to restrict her children go out and play with the neighbourhood children to avoid unnecessary quarrelling with the neighbours. But now she allows her children because she found that it is important for the interpersonal development of her children. She adds that because when she breast feeds her baby there has been a physiological change taking over, she stopped watching television, unconcernedly looking at the surrounding or talking with the neighbours when suckles her baby.
- 29 years old **Kanagavalli**, mother of three 0-6 years' children belongs to Vembar village, says that one should not watch the mobile while taking care of the baby; having the mind on the television should not forget to feed the children; and should not meddle the mobile while feeding the baby. In essence, I am transformed in such a way that when I take care of the baby, mobile has no place with me.
- 26 years old **Umamaheswari**, mother of two young children belongs to Vembar village, astonishes how true that we have to point an object, telling the name of the object, and ask the child to bring it. She was excited when her baby brought the pitcher and the tumbler instantly.
- 36 years old Muniyammal, mother two children, proudly says that her child could play with the cost free toys in the form of household utensils as she cannot afford to buy toys and dolls.
- Mrs. Easter Ponnarasi, a 34 year old mother of a 4 year old boy of Kunjeyapuram, contrasts the status of her son, by seeing the changes she finds after applying the ideas proposed at the ECCD meetings. She began to introduce the house hold utensils as play materials for her son; allowed her son to play in the street, to interact with the other children irrespective of the ages; and she spends much time talking with him while at home or elsewhere. As a result, the boy began to

meddle with the sand while playing at the street and got interested in making different objects with the wet sand all by himself. He began to take his food all by himself without seeking mother's help. He even learnt names of many colours and directions. If one asks him where the sea-shore is, he will nonchalantly say, 'it is on the southern side'. He is able to tell the numbers and to count the number of articles or items. He is well versed in riding bicycle, playing 'Thayam' (dice) and 'Pallanguli'. Above all, he speaks; speaks wonderfully with everyone, never remains quiet.

- 28 years old mother of three children of Masanapuram exclaimed that when she was called to attend the mothers club meeting, she attended the meeting thinking that they would be talking about the children and their education. But to her astonishment nothing of that sort happened there. Instead, they discussed about childhood care and protection. She says that because of this training, she prepares the break-fast that her children demands. I let them play together and when they play they eat whatever I give them. I advised them not to waste the time by quarrelling but play happily and amicably. Mainly I will ask them not to pinch or slap each other during the play. Mother feels happy when they play tearing the papers while they play; she enjoys seeing them making clay dolls and letting them dry in the sun so that they can play using them in the following days.
- Oviya, a mother of a three years old son, of Masanapuram says that the training at the mothers club had changed her attitude to a great extent. She never punish or abuse her children at any instant even if they were wrong in doing something. She does not behave in way that may hurt the feeling of her son and hence she always discuss the things with the child in a child friendly way and atmosphere. She cooks varieties of greens and ragi dosai for her son to add minerals and vitamins to her child. When the child acts too much to eat she points the animals like crows, sparrows, cows, parrots, cats or goats, whichever is visible at that time. Thus, she manages to make her child takes the food regularly.

Creative Learning Center

Amidst the issues of Corona restrictions and relaxations, keeping the education of children at the fore front, 7 creative learning centers are conducted in Vilathikulam Block following the Corona precautionary measures. Children were asked to attend batch by batch on alternative days - each batch having 4 to 6 children depending on the total numbers of children attending each center. The facilitators made it sure that the children wear face mask, keep social distance and do not share their study materials. Facilitators used play way methods, digital tools and TV channels to make the learning desirable.

Testimony of Kiroshini of Chinnaerwadi:

I am Kiroshini from Chinna Erwadi village. It is one of the PAD working village. Kiroshini is one among the children of "Children creative centre ". I am studying 8th grade. I was the first rank holder in the class. I am very happy and sharing my happiness with my friends and my parents. My father is a fishing collie labour. My mother is a house wife. Earlier we had no centers in my village. After the PAD intervention they had started the Children creative centre. I have been attend the centre regularly. When I joined the centre I am very happy with friends and learn not only the subject but also awareness song, dance, Storytelling and games. Before go into this centre I was very shy type. Now I am very confident. I have been learning my subject



very well and also improved my extracurricular activities. I attended the speech competition which is held my school at Independence Day. I got a first prize at District level. Also I participated in the District level quiz competition and won second prize from the District Collector. During the COVID situation, I participated in online drawing competition and won second prize.

GO Care Volunteer, Field coordinator and Sponsor relationship officer helped me to improve my talent in all sectors. I am very thankful and grateful to PAD and CB for providing this lovely chance. Surely I will achieve more in my future.

Adolescent girls – health education program

83% of adolescent girls are anemic reported by NFHS, 2018. Hence, PAD and CB decided to strengthen the adolescent health education program to improve the health status of adolescent girls. On the basis of the available data, this program is designed for 4042 adolescent girls.

With the joint action of Health education department, the health education program consisted of the following five elements:

1. Sanitation awareness
 2. Basic health check-up by ASHA worker
 3. Nutrition day
 4. Health check-up by medical officer and
 5. Cultural day by the PHC.
- By this reporting period, 3811 adolescent girls were covered in 21 Schools by adolescent health awareness and health campaign.
 - After the program 25 girls were selected as TOTs by the health department and they were trained on adolescent health education and they are mentoring their peer age groups in health and menstrual hygiene practices.
 - According to the health education program, 80% of girls were not aware about the puberty before they attempted.
 - Reproductive biology or menstrual cycle topics was never taken by the teachers. After the program, girls are insisted and taught the subject by teachers in 8th and 9th standard.
 - Adolescent girls easily adore the hand washing habit during this COVID crisis because of the earlier inputs of health education program.
 - After the intervention, the PHC established the proper machine for proper disposal of sanitary napkins in Vembar Higher secondary School.
 - 2 girls are referred for major operation due to the heart problem. They have recovered from the critical situation after the health campaign.
 - Earlier, 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.
 - Joint actions with Vembar PHC, 52 children were screened and 13 were referred for higher treatment due to nutrient deficiency.
 - 65 girls were screened by eye camp and 13 of them were recommended for higher treatment. Parents and children were given training on care of eyes, nutrition to improve the vision, food habits and counseling them to relieve from addict of TV and mobile phones.
 - Earlier they would not swallow the nutrition tablets. After training, they are regularly taking with the motivation of teachers.
 - 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.

- 2850 deprived girls received sanitary napkin pads
- Because of this program adolescent girls insist their mother to prepare dishes and soup of drumstick leaves and fruits to which they had an aversion earlier.

Testimonies of selected adolescent girls

- Surekha, a 14 years old adolescent, sister of an elder brother and a younger brother, daughter of a labour family of Keelashanmugapuram, exclaims that the training she had on sanitation, personal health and hygiene, nutrition, and regular health check-up by medical officer changed her life extremely to a new dimension. For instance, every Thursday, she takes multivitamin tablets provided by the government. She says “I used to rush to school in a hurry skipping the break-fast anxious to reach school on time But, now, I get ready earlier and have my break-fast before take my journey to school. Never do I skip the breakfast now a days! **Contrary to my prior habit of disregarding the medical check-up, I volunteered to get the check up to keep my health intact**”. I have had a secret raw wound in my leg, but because of the training, I met the doctor and got the treatment and got it cured within two days. The doctor also advised me to not to hide anything from my mother. As a result, I disclose even an insignificant thing to my mother.
- Muthumari, a 13 years old adolescent, sister of a younger brother, and daughter of a salt pan labourers of Kunjeyapuram, muttered that there has been a U turn in her life after the training she had on sanitation, personal health and hygiene, nutrition, and regular health check-up by medical officer which changed her life extremely to a new dimension. She wonders why her did not tell anything about the menstrual period and what all the things she had to during the menstrual period. She feels happy that she has learnt to change the napkin so easily and does not feel anything peculiar about it. She says it because, she use to feel awkward and uneasy during those days. She had an aversion to vegetables, but now she began to like vegetables. She also learnt that she has to eat lots of fruits. She eats the cooked leaves of drumstick plant. In all, she never dislikes anything that her mother prepares.

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.

Testimonies from school children and teacher on School Garden:

- Master Aravind (10) and Gayathri (10) of Manickanagar, joyfully came forward to reflect on the school garden they maintained at the school campus. They said that the garden was maintained by all the children at the school. It was a joy for them to draw water for the plants in the garden. They said, in fact, that it had been a great joy for to have a break from the regular lessons and they all liked it. They cultivated varieties of greens, tomato, cucumber and lady's finger. Above all, they enjoyed having them at the lunch table. They never had such lunch in the history the lunch served at school. They also shared the greens with the poor cook so that her family also can relish it. More than that, they enjoyed eating the raw cucumber from the school garden. When their teachers asked them to take care of the school garden, they all together accepted it and had a good time at maintaining the garden. As a result of this new experience, they all cultivated a dream, a dream to cultivate school garden every year and to have a healthy lunch at school.
- Balasnadhya, a 30 years old teacher of Panchayat Union Middle School of Pachaiyapuram says that that they never had a school garden in the past. Because they could prepare a school garden with the support of PAD, they, now have a longing to farm one in the following years as well. This

garden paved a mean for the children to see and find the growth of plant until they yield and then had the joy of eating them. They not only shared the raw cucumber with the children but used the tomato, beans and lady's finger for the children's lunch. Seeing the happiness in the face of the children who plucks the vegetables for the lunch. This made them to bring kinds of spinaches and cultivate them in the same garden so that they also can be used at the lunch.

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.

- Parents were against the view of boys and girls of youth groups merging them in to one single youth club. But after seeing the versatility of the merged youth club, they felt embarrassed that they were against such a useful function.
- Since there has been caste discrimination at the Gram Sabha, no one likes to attend it. Even if any youth attended the meeting and asked some clarification, adults would not listen to youth. But now the youths, having education and knowledge, handle the issues properly. Hence the adults have to change their attitude and consider the voice of the youths. Youths attend the Grama Sabha meeting and listen to what the adults talk and decide. Youths are capacitated to go to the District collector's office and place their demands as petitions.
- A youth club girl says, "We could come out of this caste discrimination only with the support of PAD – CCFC. We were neglected by the Gram Sabha because we are from a lower caste. But with the support of PAD-CCFC we overcame this obstacle".
- Adults from the community teased and derided the youths saying, 'why are you wasting your time sitting idle here, go and do something else positive for the family'. But, when youth's activities brought something good for the community, they became interested in youth group activities and began supporting youth in their activities

Testimony of Umadevi, a Dalit girl from Manickanagar.

I am Umadevi from Manickanagar. My father is a casual labourer and my mother does cutting *Prosopis* plants for the livelihood. I have three elder brothers. I have completed my Under Graduate (B.Sc., Physics). I have been enrolled in the sponsorship program when I was in 5th grade. I attended and learnt my lessons at the creative learning center that initiated by PAD and Children Believe.

I also learnt much about child rights and many moral stories. The contests like drawing and elocution were very useful for me to improve my skills and talents. In fact, this center gave me free space to bring out the latent talents in me.

- When I was in 12th grade in the government higher secondary school, the management distinguished the students as fast learners and slow learners by making them sit in separate groups. This way of distinguishing students had been a great insult to me. Our village students and I approached the management for justification with the help of Child line and the management changed their approaches in a positive way without any partiality.



- On the way to the main road from our village where located the TASMACH, hence, we used to feel afraid while walk along the path. Therefore, myself and youth club members staged a strike sitting on the road. As a result, the shop was shifted to other place.
- I learnt much about child rights and the roles and responsibilities of youths in a village after the youth camp. We all created a vision mapping about the development of our village and I organized everyone to form a youth group in our village and played an important role in the development of my village.
- I led the youth group and formed a village garden and with income from this garden we supplied note-books, stationeries and geometry boxes etc. to all school going children.
- I led the community to dig a well to supply potable water to the whole community while there had been a water scarcity in our village.
- I took the initiative to laying streetlights all along the road to length of 2 km.
- Mending the road, installing taps at the doorsteps etc.

Across the globe

- Antony Selvi, 21 age old female youth who is doing 4th year Law in Government Law College, Thirunelveli. She was dropped out when studying 10th standard. After one year break up, PAD has intervened and reenrolled her in 10th. After completed 12th grade, there was no support and guidance from her family due to vulnerable situation and poor financial crisis. She has attended the carrier guidance program which organized by PAD and decided to do Law. With the higher education support of PAD and CB, she has attended entrance examination and got admission in the course. Now she is doing responsibilities in rights and protection of children and women and coordinating the youth clubs of nearby villages.
- Balamurugan, 22 age old youth male who is doing job as mechanical engineer at Hitachi Company, Trichy. He was dropped out when studying 8th standard. 3 and half years he was a child labour at Andhra Pradesh due to vulnerable situation and poor financial crisis. PAD has motivated and reenrolled him and completed Diplomat in Government ITI. After completed 8th grade, he has attended the carrier guidance program by PAD and CB and completed Diploma. Now he is doing responsibilities in development of village, rights and protection of children and women. Linking welfare schemes to the villagers.

Village Level Child Protection Committee

By this reporting period 22 village level child protection committee meetings have been conducted and discussed on enrolment, stopping child marriage, CFAM approach, child rights.

Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) from its inception has been evolving village development plan and kept working on realizing the plan for the villages. These committees consist of the important people and leaders of the community. As a result, no one is there to discuss about the children issues and hence no focus given to the child related issues earlier.

But, because the outlook of the VLCPC changed by the intervention of Child rights and child protection training, the committee began to realize the issues of children as a serious one and they became keen on addressing those issues. Therefore, the committee decided to include the representatives of the children and youth of both gender to get the opinion of them regarding the issues those children face in the village. In fact, the VLCPC included child representatives, a male child, a female child, a male youth and a female youth in the committee and transformed its name in to Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLVPC).

These representatives brings the issues of the children those are discussed at youth clubs and children club meetings to the VLCPC where the issues are discussed and worked out solutions by the VLCPC. Even the type of issues those children hesitate to discuss with their parents and elders are discussed at the youth clubs and children clubs and from there, by the VLCPC representatives, taken to the VLCPC.

- In this way, the school campus was constructed in Uraikinaru.
- 7 adolescent girls are rescued from being bonded labours at textile mills.
- 13 adolescent girls are prevented from getting in to bonded labour system.
- The head master of the Middle School at Uraikinaru had been in the habit of collecting money from the children under the pretext of collecting various non-existing fee said to be paid by the students, besides many underhand activities at the mid-day meal scheme. Hearing this, the VLCPC had a discussion with the HM along with the SMC and issued a warning to the HM. Following this, the HM began to behave properly.
- Keeping the interest of the children in the fore front, the VLCPC, cleared the surroundings of the school area which was covered with dense Prosopis Juliflora plants.
- Girls felt unsafe to walk alone to school under the dense covering. They removed and established the fencing.
- Raised fund to provide sports materials and install a gym for the youth;
- The VLCPC mainstreamed 4 drop outs this year.
- Hearing about the information of child marriage from the children representatives, stopped two child marriage and finally.

GENDER

84 girls, women and PRI members from 42 villages were organized and trained on understanding the concept of power, gender, patriarchy and sexuality.

The concept that besides the basic biological and physiological differences between male and female sex, there is no difference between man and woman. It also explains that patriarchal beliefs of male, heterosexual dominance and the devaluation of girls and women lie at the root of gender-based violence. Patriarchy is a structural force that influences power relations, whether they are abusive or not. Power sets the agenda for patriarchy. But, conflating it with abuse or masculinity is problematic and we need a more complex analysis of the typical power and control explanations. Feminism, which is about women claiming their rights to self-determination and equality, confronts gender conformity and aims to replace relationships of power with relationships of meaning. To offer a more effective route to accountability and transformation this concept plays an important role.

As a result of this training the morale of the girls and Dalits is upgraded. They acquired the capacity to mingle with the general category women during all kinds of public participation. Dependency of males for every things is minimized among these participants. Moreover they take these concept to the other girls and women as well. Elected women PRI members enabled to take decision all by themselves without depending on others.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

Sixteen children, 9 girls and 7 boys from 16 villages, from pro poor families are enabled to attend college by providing higher education support. These 16 children could not have joined college without this support. They might have lost their right to education at this younger age and became a low level labourers earning low income throughout their life.

Testimony of Sathya M

I am Sathya, first daughter of Mr. Manuel (45) and Mrs. Ayyamal (42) of Velayuthapuram completing 12th grade was forced to child labour without continuing my higher studies. I have two younger sisters aged 15 years and 14 years and a younger brother aged 9 years.

My father is a casual labourer and mother, a house maker.

I forced to work in a fish processing unit by the poverty of my family after the lockdown as a result I was depressed. I kept thinking whether I will be able to continue my higher studies or not.

Having these thoughts haunting my mind, I contacted, Mrs. Rajeswari, a field worker from PAD and poured out all my worries to her. Hearing my worries, Mrs. Rajeswari, having great compassion on me met my parents and had a personal talk with us about my career besides giving bountiful counseling.

At present, I was encouraged and brought to a point to make my parents understand the situation and relieve me from child labour and I could claim my rights. My parents after the discussion and allowed me to get admission in first year B.A. in Tamil with the support of the financial assistance from PAD. Now I learn the lessons through online.

“Now I am very happy because I can continue my studies like other children. Moreover, I assure that, if I kept working as a child labour, I would have ended up in a child marriage case”. Therefore, I boom now that I am free from both child labour and child marriage.



Empowering Women

Jeyanthi is from a coastal village called Vembar. Her husband is Mr. Thangathurai (47). They have 2 daughters and 2 sons. The names of their children are: Pavithra (22) married, Abinayasri (19) studies B.Sc. 2nd year Physics, Sabarilingam (14) studies 10th grade and Manikandan (13) studies 7th grade.

Jeyanthi got interested in Social work because of her intervention with PAD and its activities. At the outset, she became a member of parents' committee (PC). By attending the PC meetings, she cultivated the habit of doing something for the village. After some time, she became the leader of PC and took part in the common activities of the village and took interest in solving the issues in the

community. Because, she attended the awareness meetings conducted by PAD, she got connected with the government officials.

- She was successful in availing OAP to five persons in the beginning of her involvement in the social work.
- She worked to get the 'Patta' for more than 15 families. Her involvement in her street encouraged her to work for the other people in other streets in the village.
- She was the key person to complete the individual toilets for 72 families with the monetary support from PAD and the government -1000 rupees from PAD and 2000 from the panchayat.

She says that she could complete only 8th grade and her husband did not have any schooling experiences and hence, she understood the importance of education, she meets every child in the village to encourage them to continue their education.

She is very interested in children concern and service for welfare of children. She has attended gender training and domestic violence to know the rights of women and children. After attended these trainings she has



disseminated information to their parents committee and Village development committee. Because of her activities, the whole village was about to place her as the panchayat president without any opposition yet there was two persons who were contested for the same post, yet, Jeyanthi won the election and became the panchayat president.

- She was very much against the child marriage and hence she took steps to stop child marriages. In particular, a girl named Sathya, a 16 years old girl, who was to be given in marriage to a man at Rameswaram, felt that someone must come to rescue her. Hearing the story of the girl, Jeyanthi met her parents and had a talk with them explaining everything about the evils of child marriage and stopped the marriage to take place.
- She transformed in to this state and acquired the courage and knowledge because of the experience she had at the meetings organized by PAD she attended.
- She has been the member of the VDC, a member CBDRM, a barefoot veterinary and worked for youths.
- She has motivated 7 women from parents committees and VDCs to nominate the ward member. Among them 4 of them nominated as ward member.
- After the nominated as Panchayat president, her husband is doing the reproductive role in their family. He is preparing their children to school. The gender role shift has been ensured.
- She took steps to stop the effluents from a wedding hall flow in to the streets making the surroundings dirty and stinking. She supported to place soak pits in 7 houses and to place water outlet taps in Rochepalayam;
- Helped to allow water supply to govt. higher secondary school and had been a great support in renovating the storm building to accommodate 40 navy personals;
- Availed identity cards for 6 disabled persons.

She also very much interested in environment. She has attended regular Taruvai management committee meeting to rejuvenate the fresh water system in Gulf of Mannar area.

- Recently she met the District Collector to enquire the whereabouts of getting potable water from the wet land and the 'Tharavai'.

- She also has taken steps to make the solid waste management active; cleared the wood with dangerous prosopis plants which is a disturbance to the community.
- She has developed and action plan to provide potable water, street lights and good sanitation to the community.

Due to the COVID situation, she has discussed with various departments, allied system, PRIs, CBOs like parents committee, VDC, VLCPC, youth group and children club to know the situation and rectify the issues.

- She has utilized Panchayat common fund Rs. 1,50,000 for sanitation and solid waste management.
- She has mobilized Rs.25,000 and provided the sanitary kits to the sanitary workers including uniform, mask, ghouse, sanitizers and hand washing liquids.
- She has motivated VLCPC and parents committee and mobilized Rs.5000 and provided immune booster liquid to 500 families.
- She has ensured dry groceries and vegetables worth of Rs.1,50,000 to 300 families with the help of Block Development Office and Tahsildhar.
- She initiated the COVID awareness program with bit notice, auto awareness with Primary Health Centre and Police department not only in her Panchayat and 5 of surrounding Panchayats.
- She has identified and listed the most vulnerable women headed families, widows, families with disabled, families with more than 3 children and supported dry rations to 150 families' worth of Rs. 75000 by education department.
- She has ensured the social security schemes to 750 families due to the COVID.
-

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING COVID19 PANDEMIC

1. Awareness

- a. District level awareness conducted using 4 wheelers with the participation of district collector reaching 50000 people, distributing 6000 pamphlets
- b. Wall writings in 30 common spots in 22 villages in 9 panchayats.

2. Child protection

- a. 67 child marriages stopped in Thoothukudi and Ramanad districts. Among these 67 child marriages, 13 are from the CB target villages.
- b. Because of the lockdown and the educational institutions being closed, many of the adolescent girls and boys started working in the local fish processing units and cement factories. 39 such girls and boys were identified, rescued and streamlined. Among the 39 children, 17 completed 10 standard. Among those 17 children, 11, got admission to 11th standard, 2, in nursing and 4 skill development courses like tailoring.

3. Relief

- a. By rendering Covid19 rehabilitation support to 2428 sponsor children families and 611 Anganwadi children families through CB, 65 sponsored children families through other networks, 27 sponsored children families through 'Shout for Freedom', 2000 families through 'Freedom Fund', 13 sponsored children families through Child line and 45 sponsored children families through local MP, 5216 families in the target area were supported during the dire situation besides 'Burevi' Cyclone relief supply to 300 affected families

4. Social security Scheme

- a. Rupees 7,800,000 is mobilized through bank linkage to 215 group members of 17 Livelihood groups. Among these, 26 LG members of 2 livelihood group availed full subsidy of rupees 25000 each.
 - b. Rupees 30000 was mobilized from the government for the cattle sheds for 7 households.
5. **Sanitary kits**
5000 deprived children are provided with sanitary kits like face mask, soap, sanitizer etc. besides the regular supply nutritional supplement to 300 malnutrition children.

CHANGES IN THE PROJECT, IN RAMESWARAM ISLAND, OVER COVID- 19

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which originated in the city of Wuhan, China, has quickly spread to various countries, with many cases having been reported worldwide. India, with a population of more than 1.34 billion—the second largest population in the world—will have difficulty in controlling the transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 among its population. Multiple strategies would be highly necessary to handle the current outbreak; these include computational modeling, statistical tools, and quantitative analyses to control the spread as well as the rapid development of a new treatment. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India has raised awareness about the recent outbreak and has taken necessary actions to control the spread of COVID-19. The central and state governments are taking several measures and formulating several wartime protocols to achieve this goal. Moreover, the Indian government implemented a 55-days lockdown throughout the country that started on March 25th, 2020, to reduce the transmission of the virus. This outbreak is inextricably linked to the economy of the nation, as it has dramatically impeded industrial sectors because people worldwide are currently cautious about engaging in business in the affected regions.

Change in Education Policy

Previously Government has announced that, the students those who are pursuing standard 1 to standard 9 are all pass and they can go to next grade without writing the exams.

As a result of Covid-19, there was lot of changes we made in our project; it has changed the perspectives of the project. We had changed our methodologies, approaches towards achieving our objectives during Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result of New educational Policy implemented by central government over board exam for standard 5th and 8th standard, the children as young as nine years old will be walking into big exam halls to take public exams. The Tamil Nadu government's Tamilnadu government postponed examinations for 10th and 11th standard (only one) exams frequently due to lockdown over COVID-19. Due to this students were forced to stay alert all the time as the government kept postponing the exams frequently. During this period there was a pressure for both students and parents.

recent announcement of public exams for Class 5 and 8 students has surprised most academics and educationists who see it as an unwise move. It has created many problems among young students some of them were, one the board exams will cause excessive stress on children, Two, board exams are not indicator of actual learning, Three, young children may not even be ready for a public exam, Four, public exams lead to stigmatization of children, Five, public exams are unfair to rural and poor children. Due to these factors students from our working villages were in stress. Especially all of them are from rural background. So that they couldn't bear these changes both physically and mentally.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic government has announced lockdown at the end of March 2020 to safeguard all its citizens. But it wasn't over but extended again and again. It has led to closure of schools, changes in day to day routine, lack contact with their peer groups, domestic violence, child labour and child marriage etc., are the problems faced by children during the lockdown. Even our staffs couldn't meet the children directly due to immobility.

Students those who are studying 10th and 11th standard were in stress over uncertainty in exam dates. First the Government has announced that date for exam then extended the date. They were doing this again and again. It makes students cry harmed them physically and mentally.

Out stakeholders' children, youths, VLCPC members given petitions against the 5th and 8th public exams at Grama Shaba meeting. Some of them appreciated and some of them criticized our stakeholders.

All know that education is the most powerful tool to eradicate most of the social evils faced by the community members. So that, we are ensuring education of the children from our working villages through Education Support Centres. Students from our education Support centres learning toughest subjects like maths, English, Science with the support of our teachers. Our centre became the platform to many children to show up their skills and talents. One of the child from Light House village participated in district level speech competition and won 1st prize. From that, it is evident our centre was the base for many children to show up talents. Training was given to 35 who were pursuing 10th standard and 23 students who were pursuing 11th standard for their board exam.

SMC- School Management Committee is a stimuli to most of the schools to keep the school management active. Through the support of SMC members, school development plan was prepared and taken action to make it effective. We have Seven SMC from our working villages Natarapuram, Sambai, Vadakadu, S.K.patti, Erakadu, Light House and Chinnapalam. As per School development plan, renovated school toilet with fund maintained at Natarapuram.

As per RTE act formed Children Parliament Natarapuram Government Middle school, through this children formed the ministries based on the needs and selected the ministers in a democratic way. Students solving their problems by Children parliament. It was evident that, there was no teacher for English and science subject at the school. Children were given complain to the representatives children parliament especially to education minister. Education minister took this issue to Children Parliament and informed to concern officials, immediately they took action and temporarily appointed teachers for both subjects. And there was a problem in the food which was provided by the school through mid-day meal program. Students who represent ministry of food in the children parliament, took this issue to concern officials in the school through Children Parliament, then they took action and hence the problem was solved. As a result of this, children became happy and understood the power of children parliament. They could relate it to the power of parliament members in the parliament.

Study Support Centre

Our TDH- PAD study support centre in Natrajapuram, Rameshwaram champion the children who are deprived, single headed family, living under below poverty line, destitute, members of coolie (daily wage labour) family.

Totally 45 children from our target area Natrajapuram, Rameshwaram utilizing our study support centre. All these 45 children are belonging to deprived, single headed family, living under below poverty line, destitute, members of coolie family and also having poor economic background.

Our study support centre provides excellence in learning especially in Mathematics, Science, and in English that helps the children to learn effective and easy. We can say this from its impacts on children's progress on their learning.



Twenty children from our Study Support Centre were attended the public exam (SSLC), all of our students were passed in the exams and 8 were scored above 350 out of 500, among them 2 scored above 400 with distinction.

Children from our study support centre thanked TDH- PAD project, for the programs implemented in their area and also said it is not possible without TDH- PAD study support centre, especially for us who can't afford tuition fees privately. Now, all these children continuing their higher secondary education in various schools with hope of change in their lives.

TESTIMONIES UNDER THE COMPONENT OF EDUCATION

1. I am Kaleeswaran, M, Studying 12th grade, I live in Natarajapuram village, Rameswaram. My father Mr.Namburajan is a fisherman and my mother Mrs.Rajeswari is a house wife. Our family belongs to vulnerable group. My school was closed from March 2020 due to covid 19 pandemic. I couldn't avail the lectures of my teachers due to closure of school during lockdown which effects from COVID 19. There is some online learning but is not impact in me like direct learning. There no option for clarifying my doubts in online learning. Even our study support centre at village also closed from March to July 2020. I am worried lot about my studies because I should write my public exam at the end of this educational year. Meanwhile, I was informed by my study support centre teacher, I can resume my learning at the study support centre from August by strictly following COVID-19 precaution measures.

Now the centre teachers are teaching mathematics, physics, chemistry and English. And they are giving homework and conducting test on regular intervals. If have doubts then I can ask them directly and they are clarifying it immediately but it is not possible through online learnings. Hope I will get good marks in my public exams even my school locked until end of this educational year. I am very thankful to TDH for giving me such opportunities.

2. Mathikurpandiyan, a 9th grade student, is the eldest son of Rajendran and Muthukala, one of the fishing folks from Ramakrishnapuram, Rameswaram. My Father ventures in to the sea and mother involves in beach seine activities at Dhanush Kodi. Siblings studies in the government elementary school.

While I have been studying 8th grade in 2018, I was entwined with some of the nonchalant friends who neglect school and wander in woods involving in various carefree activities like catching birds etc. and playing games evading school. Having entangled by them, I gave importance to hang out with them than to attend school. My parents had no time to take care of my whereabouts. But my relatives who found me with the care free friends kept telling me to attend school. Not heeding to their advices, I missed the school for three months.

After three months, Mrs. Malairani, the treasurer of PASI, a community-based Federation, Mrs. Seeniammal, a member of PASI and Mrs. Jansi, one of the PAD-TDH staff met the school HM and had a discussion with him about me and streamlined him in 8th grade. Following this, I completed 8th grade and moved on to 9th grade. When I was in 9th grade for about a month, I am again dropped school and almost a year I have been out of the school. At this juncture, the pandemic situation came in and I have been with my paternal aunts. During the pandemic breakout, four youths from Chennai visited them so that they can visit the areas in and around Rameswaram. When those boys

realized the situation of me, they explained me about the importance of education. Seeing their dress style, movements, decorum, conversation and the use of the mobile phones I was astonished. Their interaction ignited me and inspired me that I should transform like them. Therefore, the desire to continue my study became live in my mind. Having the desire burning in my heart, I contacted Satyapraha, a member of the youth federation. In return, Satyapraha contacted Jansi, one of the TDH-PAD staff, who in turn contacted ChildLine 1098. Childline team member contacted the HM of the school where I studied earlier and discussed so that I can be streamlined. I was streamlined with the submission of an apology letter. I want to thank TDH-PAD organization for supporting me gets the chance to study once again.

3. I am Shahana, 18 years old, completed 12th grade in March 2020. My father involves in fishing and mother looks after the household activities. Being the only child to her parents and I has been their darling. Hence, my parents brought her up showing unusual kindness and consideration.

While I was in the school, one of my friends had a love affair with a boy which was brought to the notice of the headmaster. When the HM enquired about the issue, my friend involved me in the issue saying I am the root cause of this issue. When my father was told about this, he without looking in to the issue or asking anything to me, he slapped me in his anger. I could not bear that my father slapped me without knowing the truth. I could not digest the incident that a kind and considerate father slapped me for the first time. Unable to bear the embarrassment, I decided to commit suicide. Looking for some means to kill me, finding the Super Vasmol oil-based hair die, took the bottle and gulped the whole content of the bottle. Having drunk the content, I became very weak and unconscious and almost reached the verge of dying when they took her to Aravind hospital at Ramanathapuram. I was hospitalized for 15 days and saved her. Yet my condition had been weak and could not go to school for about 4 months.



Testimony of Miss. Listica

I, Miss. Mistica, Daughter of Mr. Anandan and Mrs. Karpukarasi, am from Rajeev Ghandhi nagar and currently acting as a head of the women's youth club which was formed by PAD – TDH. Before I became the part of the group, I were not allowed to go out of my house on my own. I used to go out with the presence of my family members. Once I joined the women's youth group, I was capacitated on various topics such as social issues, rights of a children and an individual and etc., Then, I became more confident and make my parents to know my roles in the society to improve it. Now they are allowing me to go out on my own to address community problems. Last time I was attended in the Grama Shaba Meeting which was held on OCT 2, addressed many issues in my villages through a small talk and through petitions in front of government officials, heads of various organizations and community members who all are older than me. I got appreciations from the participants of Grama Shaba meeting then they recognized as an individual to take part in society. Now I am well known activist in my

village. I want to act as a role model to all the girls whose rights are denied in my village. I Thank PAD-TDH to molded me as influencing social activist at my village level.

Child Protection Testimonials

- I am Chandraleaga, a girl of 15 year's old studying grade 10. I live in the village named Chinnapalam, Pamban. My father is a fisherman. In my village the whole family including my mother used to go to sea for catching fish. I have one younger brother. I didn't go to school due school closure which effects from COVID 19 pandemic. I was used to stay at home lonely because my parents and my younger brother are resided at the nearby Island and they used to come home once in four days then they will go back to the Island. I have to do all the works including cooking, cleaning, and household chores during the absence of my family members. Meanwhile my cousin to came to my home frequently and took care of me, he also brings food and snacks. I was fond of him. I felt, I will be good if I marry him. So that I left from my home to his home when my parents are not in my home. After few days, one of the TDH Suisse staff along with Child Helpline member came to my Cousin house and given counseling to me on physical, emotional and psychological effects of early marriage. They also counseled my cousin separately. Then they counseled both of us on legal problems in child marriage. They also said I can marry him once I complete 18 years old on the approval of both myself and my cousin. Then I decided to go back to my home. They do follow-up with the support of Village Level Child Protection Committee which was formed by TDH Suisse. Now I am attending online classes happily from my home.
- I am Yovanciya, F, 15 years old, live in Soosaiyapparpattinam, Thangachimadam. My father name is Kanistan and he is a fisherman. My mother name is Jeyamala and she is a home maker. I have four elder sisters and I am the last born in my family. Basically we are economically backward family. Due to the poor economic background my parents forced themselves to found a groom for my sisters before attaining the age for marriage. All my sisters married before 18 years old. I am a member of children club which was formed by TDH Suisse from 2010. I learned about child rights including the four types of rights which are mentioned in UNCRC. But couldn't do anything when my sisters getting in to early marriage. Covid 19 pandemic makes my family most vulnerable. During the lockdown period, government has announced no one is supposed to go for fishing. My father is only a breadwinner of my whole family. So that he couldn't earn single penny. He also became sick. So that we were in lot of trouble. Meanwhile my grandmother found a groom for me from nearby village namely Antoniyarpuram and he is 30 years old. I refused to marry at the age of 15 but my parents and my grandmother said you don't know anything and do what we say. I became helpless. But my friends from children club informed this to the club teacher and club teacher informed to TDH Suisse staffs. They came along with childline officials gave me counseling to me, my parents, to the groom I engaged and his family members. Then all of them accepted not to marry before 18 years old. Now I am happy attending child club.

Livelihood

PAD has formed many community based groups such as Children clubs, Youth groups, Livelihood groups, Village level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) to ensure the rights of the children. These groups work unitedly in development of the villages through effective participation. There is a group of people from Chinnapalam village used to sell drinking water using the ground water as the water

resource. Seeing this, our VLCPC member given petitions to the concerned officials against that group who are illegally selling drinking water for money making purpose. Receiving the complaints and finding that this will affect the environment adversely on investigation, government officials sealed the project. It was because of the initiative took by the VLCPC members.

The Livelihood Groups gives small loans to its members from their savings. In 2020, 5 livelihood groups were formed in 5 villages all are female groups, Repayment also collected from previous groups who received credits from PASI. At the month of January 2020, 6 groups has paid repayment amount Rs.109,000, and from the month of February Rs.114,500 paid as repayment including subscription fee annual fee.

PASI executive body meeting held on 10.03.2020 at newly vacated office at Thangachimadam. Decided many issues/ functions of PASI for the forthcoming months. Cheque Rs. 120,000 handed over to New LG group "Yegova Nissi" from Victoria Nagar through PASI on the same day.

Through our linkage with District Veterinary University Research Centre, has given 10 one month old ducks to 10 under privileged women from our working villages namely Chinnapalam and Light House as an income generation activity. They also given training to 50 under privileged women from Sambai and Vadakadu village on "How to cultivate ASSOLA feed for Cattles".

Gender Equality

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 TASMALC 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.

Activities during COVID 19 Pandemic:

31 petitions or demands were submitted to the newly elected panchayat representatives during the first half of 2020. From that 14 demands were given by VLCPC members among that 4 of them were solved remaining and 10 are under process; 4 demands were given by children 3 of them were solved and one is under process; and 13 demands were given by youths among which 7 demands are solved and the remaining 6 are under process. There will be a continuous follow up on the petitions. After the lockdown over COVID 19 no petitions could be submitted by our stakeholders due to immobility. The petitions are shown in the table above.

PAD has initiated many activities to fight against COVID-19 pandemic as per the direction from our partner organization TDH. We had focussed on four objectives such as Sensitization on COVID-19, Education, Protection, and Participation.

Post lock down achievements

- Once the lockdown is over we continue with our regular activities such as Study support centers will work regularly. Next batch of 10th, 11th, 12th standard students comprising of 121 students will be taken care to write their exam.
- One model school with all RTE components will be formed in a village. Demands from SMC members will be in follow up action. VLCPC members will continue their duty in protecting children and they will follow the status of demands placed in district administration.
- Interface meeting with SMC members along with respective authorizes will be done for the effective functions of schools.
- There will be meeting to our youth federation members to monitor the development of their area where they belongs to.
- Due to changes we made over fight against COVID 19, PAD planned to distribute Hygiene and hand-washing kits (SEC, CC,) to the children Club and study support centre. We planned to provide sanitizers and masks to each child those who are availing both.
- Distance education and monitoring of students (telephone and internet, distribution of homework)
 - We will continuously monitoring the progress of children those who are availing Study support centres and Children Club.

- Teacher training- Training will be given to our study support centre teachers based the requirement during pre-covid, during covid and post covid approaches on children education
- Purchase of Study Materials- study materials will be purchased for the children those who are availing study support centre especially to 10th, 11th, 12th standard students. It will be books and guide materials
- Violence prevention campaigns during confinement, support system for victims of violence (telephone and internet for support from psychologists)
- Wall Painting Campaign at Panchayat Buildings- painting awareness will be given to the general public over self-hygiene and emergency preparedness over COVID-19 pandemic.
- creative contests, support for young children through peer to peer approach- Prize distribution(Drawing, essay writing, Poem, Elocution, Tamil Literature- "Thirukural")

ADOLESCENT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Government declared nationwide restricted unlock process from the previous complete lockdown because of the spread of Corona virus. Hence, the public transports began to function for the last three months. As a result, village population began to move to the other places for the livelihood.

Since the schools are still closed, adolescents began to work either in the spinning mills in the distance towns or as daily wages labourers in the close by villages. As a result of this, we could not even conduct awareness meetings. Moreover, because of the Cyclone, "Burevi", planned activities in November and December could not be completed according to the plan and hence got delayed.

The occupations of our target area are: agriculture, fishing, palm tapping, wood cutting and charcoal making. Because of the untimely rain and the impact of Corona, institutions function with a smaller number of workers. Hence, most of the parents lost their jobs. Hence, there is a hike of 40 % among the adolescent girls who invaded the spinning mills or textile mills. Dropout children could not be streamlined in the educational institutions.

- Since the public transports began to function because of the relaxation of the Corona lockdown, parents are seeking to send their daughters to the spinning or textile mills to manage the economic break down they met during the extensive lock down period. Meeting such parents and girls, CSG members, explaining about the vulnerabilities at the spinning mills, were able to stop 31 girls ending up in spinning mills. They made the adolescent girls and parents see the short film called "Call Me Priya".
- The resolution, that if any children, below 18 years, goes to work because of the family situation they must register their names and the information about the institution where they work in the register at their panchayat office, is being implemented in all the panchayats. This is being implemented by the CSG members in union with the panchayat presidents.
- CSG members, calling the parents who send their children to work and the agents who take the children to work to the CSG meetings and ask them about the name of the mill, the location of the mill, wage details, the method of delivering the wage, deduction of provident

fund, apprenticeship details, miscellaneous expenses, leave availability, safety, security, food and sanitation etc. at the hostel.

- Talking with the parents of the girl children whose marriages were arranged which was caused by non-functioning of schools, CSG members stopped such marriages. Stopping the marriage, they ensured that those children continue their studies. They helped the children, who did not want to attend college, join a professional course.
- Discussing with the parents of the children who returned from spinning mills about the education support from our project, CSG members helped such girls get higher education support and continue their education.
- Meeting the parents who work in spinning mills and women who returned from mills, and encouraging them to stay at the village and involve in some income generating activities, CSG members selected such women to form in to livelihood groups.
- Analyzing whether the class rooms, campuses, mid-day meal center, paly ground, toilets etc. are safe and friendly for the children and renovating them.
- Restored the play ground and the school campuses and the paths by removing the unwanted plants, thistles and thorns to prevent the invasion of poisonous creatures, with the support of the NERGA workers
- Talking with the parents of children who do not have the facility to learn online classes and the children who show no interest in education, CSG members advised those children to attend the Social resource center regularly to involve in reading and writing, reiterating them that then only they will be able to cope up with the other children when the school reopens.
- CSG members take part in conducting competitions to the students and give prizes to the winners when observing the important days.

There are 466 adolescnt girls and 444 adolescent boys in the adolescent groups in all the 30 villages.

- By regularly attending the meetings, adolescent girls have improved their self- confidence. They became aware of government laws, child rights and protection, women development and safety of labourers.
- Having seen the fifteen minutes film, 'Priya' which graphically explained the hardship that their elder sisters face while working in the spinning mills, the adolescent girls insisted their parents that they should not send them to work in mills in the future.
- Adolescent girls discuss about the issues of their uterus and found solution through the medical treatment.
- They now have clarity about gender discrimination. After watching the film "Call me Priya", the adolescent boys are aware of the difficulties the adolescent girls face in the work place. There is a great advancement among the adolescent boys about protecting, respecting and honoring women.
- The adolescent boys are aware enough to ask their parents not to send the girls from their family to work and support them.

- They are aware that child marriage should not happen.
- Having understood the sexual abuses those the adolescent girls face in the work place by watching the film “CALL ME PRIYA”, adolescent boys make their parents call their sisters and check that they are safe. Moreover, they are resolved that in the future they should not send girls to work the spinning mills.
- Adolescent youths and boys are resolved that whatever may be the family status, they will go to work only after completing the college education.

FBC

- Watching the short film, 1547 Community Support Group members, adolescent girls and their parents in 30 villages, got awareness.
- Parents called back their daughters from the spinning mills and enrolled them in schools and colleges with the help of the Community Support group members. Some of the parents brought their daughters who visited home in holidays, to see the short film ‘Cal Me Priya’ and helped them know about the problems that may arise in spinning mills and availed guidance in this regard.
- They get the details of women rights and protection, basic facilities and wage details from the girls who stay and work in the other districts.
- Even if the children want to go to work at spinning mills, their parents do not allow their children to go to work
- Adolescent boys, learning about the problems that their sisters face at the spinning mills and the importance of women’s education, want to treat them with respect. They have promised to support the girls in their home and others girls who study with them to continue their education.
- Agreeing that addiction to alcohol is the main cause of the poverty of the family, most of the people are committed to finding a solution for this problem.
- Parents are aware that it is imperative to save, and understood that they must come forward to spend money especially for education.
- Understanding that their daughters at the spinning mills are not healthy, parents called back their children from the work at the spinning mills.

Observation of important days:

- Totally 3091 Members participated and got awareness on Gandhi Jayandhi, World teachers day, International Girl children day, Global hand wash day, Children’s day, Universal children’s day, international day for elimination of violence against women, Human rights day, UNICEF day in CRC centers in 30 villages.
- CSG members encouraged the children by conducting sports and distributed prizes to the winners on the children’s day celebration. All 30 villages involved in these celebrations.
- National Girl Child Day was celebrated on 11th October. In this celebration, CSG members reiterated the protection of girl children and the importance of girls’ education. Children performed cultural programs to bring awareness to the parents and the community.

Livelihood and Educational Development of girls rescued from Cotton and Textile Mills:

- CSG members convinced the parents of adolescent girls and women mill workers to get enrolled in Computer Course and Tailoring Course.
- We have helped six mill returnees to continue their formal higher education through colleges.

Development among the adolescent girls and boys.

- In the evening, adolescent girls volunteer to teach their friends and the 10th to 12th grade students who goes to work.
- After watching the short film 'Call me Priya', they are now convinced, whatever situation may arise at home, that they must complete their higher studies and only then they should get married.
- Adolescent boys explain and persuade their peers who are addicted to alcohol to stop the habit at an early age. As a result of this, these boys understood that their addiction to alcohol will cause them to face various family problems in the future.
- 10th to 12th standard attends the Community Resource Center with interest as the schools are not functioning and clear their doubts in the subjects with the help of volunteers.
- After watching the short film "Call me Priya", parents emotionally said that the poverty is caused by father's addiction to alcohol and they understood that the girl children are sent to work because of family's poverty condition.
- They became aware of Child rights which are not taught in schools, government child protection mechanisms, basic laws, and emergency mobile numbers etc.
- They provide awareness during the important days like Women's Day, World Child Rights Day, Labor Awareness Days etc. After watching the short film 'Cal Me Priya' they address the issues in spinning mills and inform those issues over the phone with the women who work in spinning mills.
- They have learned to participate confidently to showcase their talents in all events without hesitation.
- Women who go to work in spinning mills think that their black skin turns to white because of their entrance in to the spinning mills without realizing that is an indication of anemia. Now they realized the true cause of the change of their skin tone. They advised the girls who works in the spinning mills to take nutritious vegetables to stay healthy.
- Menstrual problems: Knowing a lot of unknown information about the importance of keeping their body clean during menstruation, adolescent girls have improved their sanitation.
- Because they attend adolescent meetings they have learnt to converse respectfully with parents, besides keep learning the ethics.
- Adolescent girls have called ChildLine-1098 and stopped child marriages.
- Adolescent girls have learnt, in each session from FBC text book, the good qualities that they need to improve in their lives.
- They speak boldly to their parents without hiding their mental and physical problems.
- They said that it was very useful to know about skills development training and child labor issues during the lockdown period.
- A 12th grade girl expressed her grievance of the gossips about her that she has an affair with a boy in the school to the CSG group. In reply to this, the CSG met the HM and found a solution for it.
- A boy from CRC had complained that he was to obey the teacher out of fear when a teacher forces him to work for him (like buying tea or do some work at his home) every day. Then he called child line and made a petition. As a result, child line team came to the school and counselled the teacher and gave a warning to him. Having gone through the enquiry with the Childline, the teacher became angry and scolded the particular boy for calling the childline. At this time, the CSG group members met the teacher and advised him not to behave like this.

- Girls follow their parents' advices on safety. The common toilets are cleaned regularly, installed streets lights and mended the lights at the toilets so that adolescent girls and women can use the toilets safely at night and constructed changing rooms at the ponds in the villages.
- When parents were prepared to send their children to work when they completed 12th standard, CSG group members advised them to not to send them to work and helped 12 of such adolescent girls to join nursing course.
- Having explained the parents about importance of education for the children, they mainstreamed 24 dropout children.
- The CSG group members verified each child, who attends anganwadi, at their home and ensured whether the meal is supplied to them as per the government order with prescribed quality.
- Though the schools remain closed, text books were distributed in many schools, but the HM of the middle schools and primary schools were not distributing the books to the children. Therefore, the CSG groups' members discussed it with the HMs and made them distribute the books to the children.
- The CSG group members have created internet facilities to the children those who cannot learn through television or online. And ask the local teachers to prepare notes on what to study and distributed these notes to the children
- The CSG group members ensured the isolation of people who came from other place so that the disease may not spread. To protect the new comers they helped the government supplies reach them through their relatives.
- The CSG group members verified the sanitation works in the village and involved in containing the spread of the disease by spraying disinfectant, keeping the village clean, and preventing the youths who move unnecessarily here and there.
- The CSG group members ensured whether all the rehabilitation support (welfare schemes) avail to all the family.

CRC Centre Activities

There are 1192 children attend CRC centers in 30 villages

- Children who attend CRC keep the social distance and wear face mask. Before and after attending the center, children wash their hands and feet with soap and water and keep them neat and clean. Sick children are not allowed to attend the center.
- Volunteers teach the lessons to the students with the support of the HM and the class teachers.
- Just like a school, children learn their lessons and basic tables three hours every day.
- Each student is paying special care in reading, writing etc. and train themselves carefully.
- With the advice of the teachers, the volunteers, conduct the classes to the students of 10 to 12th grade through the online classes.
- Children eagerly learn hand-craft using the available waste materials at home.
- Students prepare and practice regularly so that they can take part in the competitions and they attend the job-oriented government examinations. They voluntarily clean the campus and the class rooms of the school in their village once in every month and water the plants once in every week.
- They maintain flower and vegetable garden both at school and child resource center.
- During the lockdown period, children have learnt the discipline, respect and avoiding bad words etc.
- Children have directly contacted childline and informed their issues and they also have found solution for their problems by taking those problems to the CSG group members.

- Because of the Covid19 lockdown, children learn their lessons either through the education channels in television or through online and mobile phones.
- Since there is a possibility of the spread of disease if the facilitators, convene the children at the center, they meet the children and their parents in their home and give them advices.
- The CSG group members give psycho social advice to the 10th and 12th standard students who remain confused whether the examinations will be conducted or not and whether their parents will send them to work.

Film Based Curriculum

- Parents and adolescent girls had an open minded discussion of the issues those the adolescent girls face in the work place watching the film “CALL ME PRIYA”. Moreover, since their daughters are in the work place because of their poverty, they often contact them over the mobile and keep everything in touch regularly. Parents, now, in union with the CSG members, by improving their local livelihood income and take effort to redeem their daughters from the spinning mills.
- Both boys and girls are sure that they must go to work only after completing the college studies after seeing the short film. They, seeing the demerits of working in spinning mills, promised that they will not allow anyone to go to work in spinning mills and there should be no child laborer in future in their village.
- The adolescent boys and girls are supporting the CSG group members in creating awareness to the ignorant parents about the evils of working in a spinning mill or any other such places and try ensure that no new adolescent girls end up in working in spinning mills.
- The adolescent boys, understanding the physical and mental discomposure of their sisters who work in such mills, are sure that they should minimize the number of girls who end up in mills in future.

Educational Support

Totally, 40 adolescents are benefitted by education support. Among them 25 are girls and 15 are boys. Among them 6 are child labour survivors.

Vocational Training

Totally, 40 persons benefitted out of Vocational training support. Among them 23 persons have joined tailoring course and 17 for Computer Course. Among them 22 are survivors.

Important days

Youth day

- National Youth Day was celebrated by the adolescent boys and girls in 17 villages on 12th January 2020. During this celebration, the following concepts were discussed: Gender discrimination, rights, and importance of education, evils of child marriage, and the issues of present-day young generation.

Science day

- Science exhibition was conducted in 23 children resource centers on 28 February 2020 the Science Day. In this exhibition, students displayed innovative invention models and graphs related to science

Gram sabha

- Gram Sabha meetings were conducted in 17 panchayats on 26th January. In these meetings they discussed about the common public examination for eighth standard. The discussion was about the issues the students will face if they write common examination. And therefore, they

resolved that the government should cancel the common public examination for 8th standard students.

- Moreover, procedures for child protection and women protection in the villages were also resolved at the meeting. They also resolved that adolescent girls after 10th and 12th should not be sent to work. If any parent violates this decision there will be strict action will be taken against them.
- It was also resolved that there is to be a transformation in the village such that the village exhibits child labour free and child marriage free environment before the next Gram Sabha meeting.
- It was requested that the government should again supply napkin pads to adolescent girls and nutritious mixture at the anganwadi.

Women's day

- National Women Day and Global Women Day were celebrated in all the villages on 13th February and 8th March respectively. 740 adolescent girls took part in these celebrations.

The importance of girl's education were enumerated to the mothers who participated in the celebration. They were requested not to send their daughters to work until they complete the college education. The protection of girl children was also discussed in the meeting. They were encouraged to raise their voice against any issues and were insisted that the CSG group members will be with them to support them at any time. The awareness about the girls who work in the spinning mills were also shared with them besides the awareness on health insurance and Pension scheme. The Panchayat President explained the available government schemes for women.

Government Schemes

1999 members benefitted from various government schemes and entitlements such as PMJDY, PMSDY, PMJJBY, APY, Aadhaar card Renewals and Updation, Smart Card renewals as well as issue of new smart cards, OAP, OAPs for Differently abled people, Enrolment of New Voters, KISAN Card, PAN card etc...

Career guidance

Career guidance was conducted in government higher secondary school at Tharaikudi. 106 adolescent girls and boys from our target villages Sevalpatti, Sethurajapuram, Kattalangulam, Karisalkulam benefitted through this program.

There was a clear guidance on ways and means on what to study after 10th and 12th standards. Besides the college education, many other job-oriented courses were also brought to the knowledge of the students. It was also explained how to prepare for the government examinations while studying college. Moreover, the exercises necessary to get employed through the sports were also explained in this program.

At the closure of this program, adolescent boys seem to be interested in joining the police service and the army and hence, they enquire about it. The girls on the other hand seem to be interested in joining nursing courses and hence enquired about the ways of joining those courses.

VLCPC- Village level child protection committee

- VLCPC Committees have been made to function in 10 villages of Kadaladi Block.
- Ensured that all children received the text books so that can sit at home and study their lessons.
- Getting the permission from the school HM, CSG members resolved to admit children who did not get neither the text books nor the admission till October.

- Resolved to take legal action against the parents who conduct child marriages
- Resolved to monitor the children not to go work as child labour until the schools are opened and to rescue children who already went to work and help them continue their studies.
- Since the adolescent girls themselves want to get married in young ages, it was asked to teach the parents and the children about the importance of education and the vulnerabilities of marriage at a young age.
- Since the children have using the parents' mobile, they began to buy things over the online business. There is a possibility of hacking of the bank account and the popping up of provoking pictures in the form of ads etc. Hence, the parents are advised to be alert when children use the mobile.
- A discussion was conducted with the elders and parents to monitor the children and adolescents who go to the pond to bath.
- Resolved to place petitions to establish Anganwadi centers.

Village Level Child Protection Committee meetings were conducted in 6 villages namely: Uraikinaru, Keelamunthal, Manickanagar, Keelakidaram, Kavakulam and sithudaiyan. Following resolutions were taken in these meetings:

- A request was submitted the HMs that the drop out children must be mainstreamed in the coming scholastic year.
- A resolution was passed that government action will be taken towards the parents who give their children in marriage before the prescribed age for marriage.
- Parents of male children who are involved in social crimes are advised and promised that necessary supports to bring them back to normalcy.
- Usage of mobile unnecessarily brings many unwanted issues to the adolescent girls and hence, parents were asked to take attention about this with their children.
- It was resolved that action will be taken against the parents who send their children after 10th and 12th grade.

Orientation to the formation of CSG Federation:

One day orientation training was organized on 08-12-2020 towards the formation of CSG Federation. By next year, the CSG FEDERATION would have been started functioning and it would undertake the advocacy work relating to the empowerment of the mill workers.

Livelihood group: There are 426 members are in 27 SHG groups in 25 villages.

40 vulnerable persons of the poorest of the poor families belonging to 27 women livelihood groups are supported with MED. These 40 people are involving in poultry farming, dry fish selling, Fish-net sales, petty shops, mini – textile store, tailoring and mini restaurants.

Testimonies

Vijayalakshmi

I, Vijayalakshmi, a fifteen years old girl, live with my father, Karuppasamy and brothers Kanniraj and Tamilselvan in Sevalpatti. Both my brothers and I are studying at Government Higher Secondary School at Taraikudi. I study 10th standard in this academic year. I learn my lessons online with the help of the volunteer at the community support center. My mother left us two years ago due to a family problem and married someone else. My father has been a day wage laborer. He does not care for us and never bring anything to the family. He often gets drunk and creates trouble in the neighborhood. My grandmother, dad's mother, has been taking care of all the three of us, with the meagre income she earns from the NREGA scheme and at sundry income from working as agriculture hands

Before my mother had left us, she borrowed a jewelry from our relative neighbor for the immediate need of money and mortgaged it in bank, which has not been recovered and returned to the owner. Hence, the neighbor would often come and asks angrily to return the jewelry. He would scold us with inappropriate words for this reason. On 26th September, in the last year, my aunt and uncle, who is the neighbour from whom my mother had borrowed the jewelry, broke into our house and demanded money for the jewelry and beat us. And they demanded us to get us out of the house where we were staying. We became very depressed because of this. Our father did not come forward to protect us from this problem, but my grandmother, seeing all this ordeal, was in so much trouble.

I am a member of the Adolescent girls' group in Sevalpatti. I also study attend the Community Resource Center (CRC) there. At the CRC, I heard about the importance of education specially women's education and the safety of women. I became aware of the CHILD LINE that runs for the safety of children and that any child can call 1098 for immediate help. Hearing this, I called 1098 and complained about my uncle and aunt that they have been harassing us to return the money for the jewelry that my mother had borrowed.

Amritham, a child line worker working in the Kadaladi area, came with the help of the police and got a written statement from my aunt and uncle stating that they would neither bother or scold us for the jewelry. I am quite relieved from the issue now. My brothers and I are peaceful without any worry.

At first I was hesitant to call 1098 and tell them about my problem. Because of my experience, other children in my village understood that by calling 1098, they can get protection. Children of my age should not forget to tell their parents if they have any real grievances. I used to think and regret why I should live when my dad and mother aren't there to protect and nurture us. But now, I have learnt that as children I have the right to live and the right to get education. My ambition is to study well in my life and get a good job.

Vilva Kaleeswari

My name is Vilva Kaleeswari. I studied 12th grade in the Municipal Higher secondary School in Ramanthapuram, staying in the hostel there. My mother died while I was just 7 years old. When my mother died, I being a girl I was brought up in my grandmother Rajagur(80). As she became very old, I live with my maternal aunt Mariammal (54) for the last few years. My maternal aunt has two sons, yet her family depend on her income only for everything.

When I completed 12th grade, my maternal aunt could not afford me higher studies. Meanwhile, they were trying to give me in marriage while I completed 10th grade. Generally, it is the habit that girls are given in marriage at the young age in our village. I am a member of the adolescent group facilitated by Freedom Fund organization. I attend the meetings during the holidays. There at the meetings, I learnt about the issues a girl faces when she get married at a young age. I also learnt about women rights, importance of girl's education and many other rights and laws.

At this time as the corona lock down affected the family income, they decided to give me in marriage. But I denied getting married now, hence, my maternal aunt scolded angrily. Unable bear her scolding, I did not want to be a burden to any one and hence, tried to commit suicide. But the neighbours took me to the hosdpital and saved my life. Our village volunteer called the childline and gave me courageous words and counselling.

Following this, the village volunteer and the CSG group members talked to my aunt and got permission to send me to higher studies and gave me counselling. They advised me not to take such rash decisions in the future. With the support of the volunteer, I am doing well now.

I am happy that my aunt promised me that no one will ever talk about my marriage until I complete my studies and get a job, that is till I become 21 no one is going talk about my marriage. With the CSG group m\mber I have applied for nursing course in Muthukulathur. Because of Corona lock down, the

college has not opened yet. At present, with the guidance of the Childline team member, following their advices in my life .

In fact, by my foolish suicidal attempt, I brought great sorrow to my family and hence I feel very sorry for that now. Yet, I am happy that I became a model to the girls in my village. I will be working to prevent child marriages in the coming days.

I want to thank the staffs from PAD and Childline that, providing self confidence in me, they rescued me gave a new life to me. Thanks once again.

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 10th 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.

A. Medical	9
B. Shelter	40
C. Total- Protection from abuse cases	0
Rescued	53
Repatriation	212
Sponsorship	37
Lost and found	8
Parents asking help	26
Referral to services	5
PFA cases	145
Emotional Support and guidance	6
PFA –others	3
Substance abuse	6
Nutrition	20
ES& G	73
Family issue Custody issue	9
Run away	18

Educational related	3
Did not Find (DNF)/did not respond	88
Others	344
Total	1105

Intervention details of Railway Child Help Desk, Thoothukudi

Type of CNCP	Total
Sponsorship Covid -19 Relief Food	50
Lost Child	-
Missing child	-
Runaway children	2
Abandoned Child	-
Working children	-
Children found to be begging	-
Possibly Trafficked	-
Out of school children who spend their time at station premises	-
Elopement/ love affair	-
Unaccompanied child	-
Child with drug dependence	-
Child with special need	-
Children in need of Medical Help	-
Child labour	5
Children in need of counselling at station	5
Job/ livelihood related	-
Any other - MR CHILD Un capacitated Parents Drop Out Physical Abuse Abandoned Relief Food	-
Total	62

CASE STUDY 1

Description of the Case: Child Marriage

An eight year old girl fights back and escapes a man who almost abused her sexually.

An eight year old girl, Ahalya, daughter of Ramesh and Kokila of Nalatinputhur, Kovilpatti, Thoothukudi, has been sexually abused by one Mr. Maheskumar, a distant relative as a grandfather, of Muduku Meendanpatti. Hearing the incidence, CHILDLINE immediately rushed to the spot and

registered an FIR at All women Police station, Kovilpatti. Thereafter, the team collected the background of the case.

According to the statement of the affected girl, girl's father has been working as a labourer in Mumbai in a private company. Hence, mother lives alone with her two children, a boy and a girl. At this juncture, Maheskumar, one of her uncles began visiting them often. At such visits, he gradually began to tease and joke with her daughter.

As usual, he visited them on 28th May 2020 when her children and she were watching television. She was afraid because he was fully drunk. Hence, she tried dialling her elder brother who lives in the next street, but failed to connect, as the network failed. Therefore, she went out through the back door and tried to make the call. During this gap Maheskumar began teasing her daughter and tried touching her. Fearing his wicked action, the girl run into the other room and locked the door from inside.

Following her footsteps, he began tapping the door. Not knowing that it was, he, whom she wanted to avoid and hence locked the door, is the one who is taping the door, her brother, she opened the door to let her brother in and be with her. Alas! The enemy entered the room and locked the door from inside. Locking the door, not wasting the time, he made the girl lie on the cot and took hold of both her arms.

The girl began to cry. Hearing the cry, mother ran to the door from the backyard and began tapping the door but the door was not opened. During the ordeal with the man, the girl got the strength and stamina to kick the man forcefully on his stomach. As an impact of her kick, the man stumbled and fell down because he was imbalanced and unstable condition due to the alcohol.

Seeing the man falling, the girl jumped to the door, opened it and galloped out of the room. She was weeping and shivering. Immediately, her mother informed it to her parents and brother. Reaching the spot they told her not need to complain with the police as she has been living alone there. Hearing this the child line team counselled the mother and the girl. After the counsel, mother agreed to come to the police station, the next day that was on 29th May 2020. Hence, FIR was registered on 29th May 2020.

FIR No: 214/2020, Date: 29.05.2020.

U/S: 9(m), 10, 506(2)

AWPS – Kovilpatti.

CASE STUDY 2

Description of the Case: CSA

Intervention Steps taken by CHILDLINE:

Daughter of Mr. Madasamy and Ms. Devakani of Thanka,,alpura, Vilathikulam, Thoothukudi, selvi. Seetha, a fourteen-year-old girl has become an AN mother carrying 8 months old fetus, because she was sexually abused by on Mr. Anbudass of Atrankarai in Vilathikulam Taluk. This case been inquired and an FIR is filed in All Women Police station at Vilathikulam.

As soon as the information received, the ChildLine team reached the spot and found the girl out of station. When asked her mother she said that she has been to her relative's place. When Asked about the case, she was hesitating in the beginning. But when we said that we have come to help them, she began to relate the incidence.

According to her statement, the girl was studying 8th grade in the High School at Thangammalpuram. Father and mother are palm tappers. They have three daughters. Eldest daughter works in a mill, the second one has just completed 12th grade and the third daughter is Seetha.

She added that, their daughters have the habit of visiting her mother and children's grandmother at Atrankarai which is nearby Vilathikulam during the holidays. As usual her daughter, Seetha made a visit there on Diwali. At that time, Anbudass, an uncle, aged 20 years, have sexually abused her. This happened because they are relatives and there are many girls of Seetha's age, she went there to play with them.

On that incidental day, while Seetha was walking to reach the house of another grandmother (Grandmother's sister), Anbudass, standing at the entrance of their store house where the cattle's fodder is stored, located away from the main house, called Seetha. Not knowing the danger and the intention of the call, she went to him. As soon as she went there, he holding her mouth and carried her in to the room and sexually abused her.

Mother has come to know about it just 15 days ago. That only seeing her stomach being swollen and asked her about it. Then only she came to know that her daughter has been carrying a baby.

When asked about how it happened, she said about Anbudass. She added that there has been no medical test taken till that day.

Following this, discussing with her to get justice, to maintain the health and the proper growth of the baby of the girl and the importance of the need of medical test, we asked her to file an FIR with the Police. She agreed to come to the police station on 26th June to file a case. As a result an FIR has been registered with the complaint from the mother of the girl.

FIR No: 6/2020, Date: 26.06.2020.

U/S: 5(I) 5(J)(ii),6,Child from sexual offences Act, 2012.

AWPS – Vilathikulam.

CASE STUDY 3

Description of the Case: CSA

Intervention Steps taken by CHILDLINE:

A 14 years old girl named Vinitha, from Chennelpatti, Puthur, Vilathikulam, completeing 8th standard and all prepared to attend 9th standard, is found to be 6 months pregnant mother by incestual sexual abuse by her own father. She is the daughter of Mr. Karuppasamy and Mrs. Thangaponnu.

Her mother is an agricultural handmaid and father, a labourer in the charcoal producing units. Vinitha's mother Thangaponnu is the second wife of Karuppasamy. Having his first wife, elder sister of Thangaponnu, left him not liking to live with him and lives separately in a different house with their two children, meanwhile Karupasamy worked out to marry her younger sister Thangaponnu and succeeded in it. Vintha is the daughter of Thangaponnu and Karuppasamy.

It is found that the girl has been abused for the last one year continuously. The girl kept quiet because her father threated her not to reveal this affair with anyone, even to her mother.

Recently, she had stomach pain and hence, her mother took her to the PHC, Puthur. The physician at the PHC told her to take the girl to Thoothukudi, General hospital as the girl is pregnant and very weak. The girl was taken to the Thoothukudi government hospital by 108 ambulance.

The doctors at the hospital after the diagnosis discovered that the girl is pregnant and the growth of the foetus is 6 months. Since the girl is weak, they admitted the girl as the inpatient as she needed immediate treatment.

After admitting the girl, they called childline1098 and informed it. When the childline team arrived the hospital, the girl was being in the process of blood transfusion.

Hence, the Child line team enquired the mother and noted down the information. Following this when the blood transfusion was completed, we enquired the girl. The girl said that that her father has been abusing her for the last one year or so. And when asked why did she not tell it to her mother. The girl said that she told her mother when her period was missing for two months and the cause of it. Thangamma having a simple women not knowing what to do, she told it to her elder sister, girl's aunt. Her aunt some how acquired medicines to regularize the mensus cycle. The girl took those medicines regularly. But it did not helped the purpose. Therefore, they left the girl as she was. Now, having stomach pain, she was taken to the Puthur PHC, from there, she was sent to Thoothukudi government hospital and she is being admitted as an in patient there.

Having all these information passed to the All women police station, Vilathikulam, a complaint was submitted and hence an FIR was registered by the police. The accused, Karuppasamy, father of the girl was arrested and remanded in the jail by the police.

While things were like this, the girl was having a sudden sharp cutting pain and the foetus was aborted. It was concluded this happened because of the medicines those her aunt administered her earlier.

At present after proper treatment, the child is normal and is brought to the regular ward. All these proceedings are made known to the District Child Protection Officer.

FIR No: 7/2020, U/s 5(n)5(l)5(j) (ii), 6 of Pocso Act 2012. 506(2) IPC.

Police station: Vilathikulam AWPS.



ACRONYM

ANC	- Anti Natal Care
AN-PN	- Anti Natal – Post Natal
CCFC	- Christian Children Fund of Canada
CB	- Children Believe
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CBDRM	- Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CDG	- Child Designated Grant
CFAM	- Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism
CEO	- Chief Education Officer
COVID	- Corona Virus Disease
CRPF	- Child Rights Protection Forum
CSG	- Community Support Group
CWC	- Child Welfare Committee
CLC	- Creative Learning Centre
CRC	- Children Resource Centre
DCPO	- District Child Protection Officer
ECD	- Early Childhood Development
EPP	- Emergency Preparedness Plan
FBC	- Film Based Curriculum
HM	- Head Master
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
SSC	- Study Support Center
SSLC	- Secondary School Leaving Certificate
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

