

# Strengthening Communities



## Annual Report 2021-2022

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## Annual Report – 2021- 2022

### 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

Peoples Action for Development (PAD) has been working with the coastal villages of Gulf of Mannar (GoM), located on the southeast border of India's southernmost maritime state Tamil Nadu since 2002. The main target groups selected are (a) Dalit community, (b)the fisher community, and (c) the Palmyra tappers. In terms of economic categories target group includes coastal poor, small and marginal farmers, landless, children and women in general, in these villages. It is important to note that all members of the fisher community and the Palmyra tappers are part of the target group, though there could be variations in the economic status of different families in the same community.

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

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

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 it's over extraction.

## CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Towards dismantling the barriers to education

#### Creating equal access to quality ECCD:

- ECCD program contributed that, ensured the dry ration support regularly for 1765 anganwadi children and 5573 school children to ensure the food security during the pandemic.
- 934 new babies born in this reporting period and ensured the birth certificate because of the impacts of ECCD program motivated the parents to get the certificate without any delay.
- 626 children were ensured the vaccination, vitamin A for nutritive strengthening through the ECCD program.
- Health education inputs given to 740 adolescent children about nutritious food, demo on traditional cereals and millets, fruits and vegetables and provided to them.
- Totally 421 parents were participated in ECCD training by this reporting period (male 126 and female 295).
- More reproductive role increases gradually among fathers. They are educating the children, taking the children outside and providing option to family members for decision making.
- Ensuring the importance of children's option, even, they want to play with mobile phone, they encourage the education-based video, good touch and safe touch. The message also easily understood by the children.
- Capacitating children in terms of dance, song, story-telling and other arts and transfer the skills. Moreover 26% of parents procured pre-primary subject books and teaching them. They also refer more teaching methodology application through mobile phone.
- Traditional and herbal gardening initiated and maintained in their back garden and harvesting fresh and organic vegetables. Parents engaging the children in gardening and teaching them about the types of herbals, vegetables and fruits with live examples.
- Even though schools were not open during the Corona curfew, 55% of the children learned to read and write Tamil and English because our creative learning center were operational. The children learned to create new words using the process learning card, learned formula, addition and subtraction. 64% of children learned to read and write through the ABL (Activity Based Learning) method. As a result of training through process learning using cards, children learned to form new words. 2 children in Sinna Erwadi village have received Rs. 5000/- scholarship with the guidance of CLC.

### **Creating equal access to quality primary education and secondary education:**

- The gadgets which we provided to the creative learning center plays an important role in education, digital learning and creative thinking.
- Among 216 children, 78 girl children were prepared and attended National Means-cum Merit Scholarship Examination. They have written the exam by participating in competitive exams like National Performance. Among them, 16 of them were passed out and recognized by the school management.
- 18 CLC facilitators are selected as mentors for “Illam Thedi Kalvi” and promoting education in our target areas.
- More than 76 children, especially 11 girls improved their skills in “Silambam” “Karate” and self-defense mechanism skills and recognized with District and State level.
- 93 pro-poor children got education support and directly got the support from CB-PAD, parents committee and various networks.
- Block level TOT training given to 89 adolescent girls and they are leading the health education among the peer groups and reached 848 children. Especially during the pandemic, this TOT training provided good knowledge on nutrition and menstrual hygiene management. Children improved in taking with this subject without any hesitation among this groups. Direct contact and consultation with local health nurses increased regarding the hygiene management. They have formed the WhatsApp group with VHN and health department workers.
- 6 School management responded after this adolescent health education program and displayed the communication number of VHNs and health workers.
- Even anganwadi also not opened during this pandemic. Both parents got the pre-primary subject books from outsource and taught to their children. Even parents engage their children in creative learning center also for learning purpose. Collecting reference from social media and teaching the children in dance, songs, story-telling and speech therapy.

### **Creating equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education:**

- 30 Creative learning centers ensured the quality learning to 950 children during pandemic. The CLC facilitators were mentored regularly and learned to collect the technical inputs to share the trendy information towards the quality education of children.
- GO CARE program has been enhanced the education part and bridged the gap of un access of physical classes by schools. Facilitators also technically learned and mentored children to involve in creating locally available low-cost materials.
- 11 Government teachers voluntarily forwarded and helped facilitators to evolve technical based curriculum to make children understand easily.
- CLC children approached palmyrah sangam with the help of youth representatives and got the computer knowledge with instruments. The palmyrah sangam provided ECD knowledge to 260 palm tappers families of 6 villages those who migrated for palmyrah tapping.
- 165 CLC children improved their skills and attended in talent examination and various competitions. 5 children won prizes such as computer, tablets and gadgets.

- Children of Sinna Erwadi CLC are performed and got 55-inch LED smart TV.
- TBI program enhanced the children’s debating skills, thinking capacity on various native topics. Parents also helped them to talk about this. Self answer mechanism, asking questions, answer, interactive skills, cross learning improved and they also seeking this as innovative opportunity.
- E-Service started after provided the gadget (birth certificate, e-shram (2455), Aadhar update, income certificate, community certificate).
- Children with the help of facilitators adopted the Mathematical methods from YouTube. Because, the school teachers who taught was not understood. Now they accessing through YouTube for short cut methods.
- Children they capacitated to search their subject materials through IQESS program and this will help during the pandemic without teachers’ inputs and regular school education.

#### Creating education to contribute reduce or eliminate the discrimination:

- Youth club members realized the importance of girl’s education and voluntarily motivate the parents to give the preference to girl’s education. Otherwise they would be been taking the responsibilities of household work.
- 51 pro-poor children got education support from parents committee (male – 14; 37 female). Girl children’s education barrier rectified in our target area and more than 75% of girls attending higher education after 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Parents they were allowed their girls only to Women’s college. Now they allowing to study at co-education college and hostel facilities too after the program intervention.
- Male parents are engaging their time with children and teaching about the skills, physical activities and games. The bondage between children and fathers are increased after the ECCD process. Based on the positive response, nearby families also gradually changed their attitudes and engaging with the children for better learning. The elders are much more appreciated the involvement of young fathers.

#### Creating education to contribute to more inclusive and safe school:

- The new vibrant School Management committee has been formed and got the training by CB and PAD on RTE, child rights and participation. Based on the rapport and capacity building, the members were supported 1135 anganwadi and 5573 school children to get the dry ration regularly to ensure the food security during the pandemic.
- The 17 school management committees and parents committee encourage the children to attend the National talent examination and 45 children were participated in our target area and among them, 21 children were selected to get the education support.
- 52 Anganwadi staffs and 27 primary school teachers supported for online education to the children with the help of parents. They formed WhatsApp group and shared the educational information regularly.

#### Education Reach

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Total Reach**</b>     | <b>11462</b> |
| <b>36-59 months male</b> | <b>840</b>   |

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>36-59 months female</b> | <b>925</b>  |
| <b>6-14 male</b>           | <b>2731</b> |
| <b>6-14 female</b>         | <b>2842</b> |
| <b>15-24 male</b>          | <b>1980</b> |
| <b>15-24 female</b>        | <b>2150</b> |

### **Anecdotes and Quotes:**

I Aishwarya aged 14 belongs to Keelashanmugapuram village and I attend the Child Creative Learning Centre (CLC) every evening regularly. The creative learning centre by providing the laptop and internet connection, makes my learning activities easier as I can learn those lessons through the YouTube channel videos. It was quite easy for me to learn the GCD (Greatest Common Factor) and HCF (Highest Common Factor). Hence, PAD organization has been making our learning skills easier through the CLC and the learning apparatus provided at the Center.

**Muthumariyal** have been a member of the mothers' club for the last three and half a year. 30 mothers in her village attend this meeting every month. During the meetings they explained how to bring up the babies from 0 to 6 years. These demonstrations have been very helpful to her.

By attending the mother's club not only I learnt parenting but I began to teach them to all my close relatives. Moreover, I could spend a lot of time during the lockdown period. My in laws are close by ours where parents and siblings of my husband live. They are a joint family. I played 'hide and seek', 'carrom board' and 'thayam' with the children besides helping them learn read and write. I bought many colour pencils and kept with me. Using these pencils, I helped them write and draw. I also helped them learn hand crafts.

### **Case stories**

**Creative Learning Centre: Monica**, aged 14 belongs to Chinnaerwadi village is located on the sea-coast of Erwadi panchayat in kadalady Taluk in Ramanathapuram district. PAD organization has been working in this village from 2006 onwards. In 2009, PAD began to run Child Creative Learning Center (CLC) in Chinnaerwadi. Through this center, the three Rs of children are improved a lot. One such child is, Monika of Chinnaerwadi.

Monika's father is a fisherman and mother, a home maker. Monika has an elder brother who studies 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Monika herself studies 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the panchayat union middle school in Chinnaerwadi village. Monika never took part in any competitions before her entrance in to CLC. Moreover, she would feel shy to speak with others. She began to attend the CLC and kept attending CLC and improved her skills in school subjects, writing short poems, singing songs, telling stories, playing various games with the friends, performing dance and drawing with the children attending CLC.

Monika taking part in an elocution contest at school during the Independence Day celebration. That was the first time she took part in a competition. But she could not win in that competition. Following that she participated in a block level essay writing competition

when she won the first prize. She also won first prize in block level wall drawing competition. Then she won first prize in district level essay writing competition. She received a shield from the district collector in that competition. This incident was published in the daily newspapers. She, being excited to see her success published in the newspaper, showed the newspaper her parents, teachers, friends and relatives.

Many block level and district competitions were held during the Corona period. She took part in them. Because of her success, her school was presented with a 55' LED television. Because of this her school became the first school to receive block level prize. Monika was the main reason for the school to get this prize

## Ensuring children are living in healthy and empowered

### Creating access to and use of new born and maternal health care services:

- 1210 AN-PN mothers were supported and ensured the periodical support for vaccination, deliveries and social security schemes with the support of PHCs, ASHA workers and anganwadi workers.
- Stage/age wise capacity building provided to all AN-PN mothers. Based on that they adopted and follows the access and services of health department.
- Created link with link with ASHA workers, VHN, health inspector and community easily access the health schemes and getting rapidly.
- Health department keeping good monitoring system for children and mother height and weight. Based on they recommending to improve the nutrition status and food practice.
- Increasing breast feeding duration after the ECCD intervention (minimum 6 months and maximum 1.5 years; rarely 2 years). Among the 240 PN mothers, 28% fed for only 6 months; 63% fed for up to 1 and half year and 9% of them continues for 2 years.

### Contribution towards improved nutritional intake practices:

- Health education program through ECCD and joint action of health department, the parents changed their using practice to intake of food especially ground nut, peanut candy, raggi, dates, pulses, cereals, green leaves and home-made traditional food items instead of packed commercial food items.
- The program contributed young parents' knowledge that increased the gap between back to back deliveries. Earlier it was 1 to 2 years. As per the survey among 240 couples 64% of them maintained gap for 2 to 3 years. And 36% of them maintained 1 to 2 years.
- Assisted nutrition kits to 234 AN mother through health department.
- 11620 members got immune booster liquid with the support of PRI members and health department by this reporting period.
- 300 families provided with BIG and existing 42% of families are continuing BIG and ensuring the nutritive food to the children.
- Adolescent health education conducted with 1663 children and they following mid day meals at Schools since they are providing more vegetables. 35% adolescent girls reduced to consume the junk food and increased the tradition food like cereals and pulsus.

- The program contributed young parents' knowledge that increased the gap between back to back deliveries. Earlier it was 1 to 2 years. As per the survey among 120 couples 71% of them maintained gap for 2 to 3 years. And 29% of them maintained 1 to 2 years.
- COVID Vaccination at Kadaladi Block level and covered 21555 (10298 male and 11257 females) members. Among them 4278 members got 2nd dose vaccination (2111 male and 2167 females) with the involvement of youth volunteers.

#### **Contribution towards creating access to portable water and sanitation facilities:**

- At Keelamundal village, the VLCPC decided to ensure the safe drinking water and utilized the project CDG and they mobilized the additional resources and ensured 6 water tank for drinking purpose at school.
- PAD created network with PHCs, anganwadi, school management and health department with local panchayats. Due to the frequent formal and non-formal meetings with 9 panchayat representatives, 5 PHCs ensured to access portable water and sanitation facilities. They assisted the MNREGA workers to keep the sanitation facilities and ensured water supplies.
- Health departments assisted to create COVID 19 awareness in Gulf of Mannar area especially with parents, adolescents, youth members by vehicle awareness program with 10000 pamphlets and reached 21550 community members.
- The program ensured the 60 volunteers including facilitators that communicated directly to health department about COVID test, vaccination and COVID affected members.
- Adancherry: School Management Committee placed the demands to ensure the drinking water facilities at school and 2 places of village.
- Keelamundal: For drinking water purpose, panchayat established 5000-liter water tank to ensure the water facility and 312 households got the scheme "Swachh Barath" for proper solid waste management.
- Through "Jal Jeevan" mission, the drinking water facilities established at 14 villages.
- Kuthiraimozhi: Over head tank established by the Panchayat to ensure the drinking water facility.
- Youth and panchayat taken initiatives to rectify the water logging area by filling sands at Vellappati.
- Youth members given the demands to rectify the water logging area at Mangaleswarinagar by favour block.
- Vivekanathapuram and Barathinagar VLCPCs organized the sanitation camp with the help of Health department to create dengue awareness.

#### **Health Reach:**

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Reach**</b>     | <b>4066</b> |
| <b>0-5 months male</b>   | <b>1046</b> |
| <b>0-5 months female</b> | <b>1213</b> |
| <b>Pregnant Women</b>    | <b>388</b>  |
| <b>Lactating mothers</b> | <b>657</b>  |
| <b>Young fathers</b>     | <b>762</b>  |



### Nutrition Reach:

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| <b>Total</b>        | 7222 |
| <b>0-5 male</b>     | 1046 |
| <b>0-5 female</b>   | 1213 |
| <b>6-14 male</b>    | 497  |
| <b>6-14 female</b>  | 684  |
| <b>15-24 male</b>   | 606  |
| <b>15-24 female</b> | 702  |
| <b>Adult male</b>   | 1032 |
| <b>Adult female</b> | 1442 |

### Anecdotes and Quotes:

**Bio Intensive Gardening:** I Pitchammal aged 35 belongs to Siluvaipuram village and I have two daughters. Having been from a poor family we had difficulties getting healthy food and vegetables for the family. PAD organization has provided organic vegetable seeds for the families so that they may develop a home garden in their yards. I too grasping the opportunity, got the seeds from the organization and developed a vegetable garden in our yard. As a result, for the last three months this garden has been supplying organic vegetables to my family. Hence, my daughters get healthy vegetables otherwise we would not be able to buy from the market. Besides these we also have water melons which will be useful for us during the summer days. My daughters are strong and healthy because of this option.

**Mothers club:** Mrs. Easter Ponnarasi, a 34-year-old mother of a 4-year-old boy of Kunjayapuram, 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. 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 articles or items. He is well versed riding bicycle, playing 'Thayam' (dice) and 'Pallanguli'.

### Case-study/ Success-Stories/ Best-practices: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)

I, **Neeelakandan**, live in Keelamunthal in Kadaladi Taluk in Ramamanathapuram district. My wife is Saktheeswari. We have a baby girl already and three months ago my wife gave birth to a baby boy as well. We live in a joint family. The main occupations of my village, Keelamunthal, a coastal village, are fishing and palm tapping. I do both fishing and palm tapping. Hence, I could not help his mother while she was carrying our first child. Whether it is for vaccination or for general check-up either her mother or her younger sister accompanied her to the hospital and assisted her. I only provided the financial support. I only

buy groceries and other articles from the shop and engulfed in my works paying no attention to any other needs of my wife. When I returned from work, I play cards with others or do something at the beach related to fishing.

I thought my work is to only earn the livelihood for the family. Because of PAD I had an opportunity to attend the monthly young fathers meeting held by them. I did not like attending these meetings. Yet by the persistence of my wife I kept attending the meetings. As the days went by and my attendance increased, and I began to understand many things and that brought many changes in my life. I began to understand the struggles that a woman faces when she carries a baby and give birth to the baby. As a result, I put all my effort to take care of my wife while she carried the second child. I took her to the hospital, on the right time and day and fed her with healthy food in accordance with the guidance of the nurses. I did this because of the trainings I had at the young fathers' meetings held by PAD. I took notice of the weight of my wife and the foetus. Watching each of my activities, all in my family were astonished and wondered how I took care of my wife.

When I leaves to sea, I assure my daughter that I will soon return from the sea and meet her. As I promised my child, I would do all my work as quickly as I can, and then I return home and meet my child whose face will be bright with joy and comfort. I too feel happy at such time seeing the joy in my child's face. Seeing this, my wife will be happier than me. As for as I and my wife are concerned, there has been no complexes existing between us. He wants to thank PAD for bringing such a transformation in his family.

#### **Mothers club meeting (ECCD):**

Myself Vijaya, aged 25 and belongs to Siluvaipuram village and I have been attending the mothers club ever since I got married. These meetings have been a great help to my family life. Why I say that it has been very useful to me is because from these meetings I learnt how a woman should behave as soon as she realizes that she is pregnant. When to take the immunization and the type of foods she should take etc. besides keeping talking to the baby in the womb often. I would tell my baby that your mother is going to take food like fish curry and carrot fry, your mother is going to take bath now, your mother is going to visit your grandmother and so on. I would tell my baby that I am going to listen to melodious music, whether my baby likes listening that etc. When I speak like that, I can feel the movement of the baby in my womb and the bulging and moving at the stomach from the outside. I would be excited and spellbound seeing those movements. At such times I would call my husband and show the movements to him. Understanding that the baby must be fed exclusively with breast milk till 6 months, I strictly followed it and still continues feeding breast milk.

My son had kept crying for the first one and half a month hence, my mother believing that something wrong with the baby and insist me to visit the Masque where the Imam would do some kind of utterances. But because I understood that the situation now, is 'that is being

born in the world' different from the situation in the womb hence the baby might feel uncomfortable and hence weep and cry, I did not visit the Imam at the Mosque. He became normal soon and stopped weeping and crying. To enhance the development of his brain we bought many balls of different colours. Pointing a particular ball, I would teach him that this is a blue ball and so on. I also bought rattle and tied it at the bar on the cradle. Besides that I would take my baby outside to get him acquainted with the neighbours. My husband on his part would also take him out when he goes out. When he takes him out, he would tell him about all the places and points where they go. Hence, he likes his father a lot. Hence, he is very active and dynamic. After six months, I prepared ragi mix with palm jaggery crystal and fed him. All these are possible because I attended the mothers club meetings regularly. In general, my child and I are greatly benefitted by the information I received from these meetings.

### Advancing child rights, child participation and protection

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 to the UNCRC.

#### Contribution of child rights and child protection program:

- 23 child marriages stopped by PRIs, parents, VLCPCs, children and youth club members by this reporting period since they were sensitized well.
- Even the pressure from families and relatives to do the forced marriage, children also directly communicate child help line and other formal and informal child protection mechanisms based on their awareness.
- The CBOs and PRIs analyzed the vulnerable situation and awareness level of community of Kuyilkuppam, Vembar panchayat organized special awareness by child line. After that the forced marriages and child labor system completely reduced.
- The VLCPCs identified the children those who engaged in local based livelihoods and discussed among the committee and make the parents committee to help them to continue their higher education and 14 of them got the financial support and continued their higher education and relieved from labor system.

- Continuous awareness on care and protection by child line among the children of creative learning center of 30 centers enhanced the knowledge. Moreover, awareness created about 181 to reduce the violence to adolescent and women in our target area.
- School management voluntarily requested and organised training on POCSO Act to children at Vembar school by this reporting period.
- Government discussed about the child marriage prevention Act and the hike the age from 18 to 21 which already been created as an awareness among our target community to ensure the protection.
- Block level Child Protection Committee decided and did the minute as child marriage free Blocks at Kadaladi.
- Continuous awareness and capacitation given to 485 CFAM children on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and child protection Acts.
- Suggestion box which established at all Government schools to reduce the violence and ensure the protection of children.
- Continuous education support and vocational skill supports leads minimize the dropouts, child labor and child marriages at our working area.
- SMCs and VLCPCs are reenrolled 5 drop out children by this reporting period.
- Gram saba meeting participated by various CBOs such as VLCPCs, youth clubs, Parents committees, SMCs and Livelihood group members since the awareness on child rights, protection and participation to reduce all forms of violence.
- Even the pressure from families and relatives to do the forced marriage, children also directly communicate child help line and other formal and informal child protection mechanisms based on their awareness.

#### **Engagement in protecting children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence:**

- After the school closure, boys addicted with mobile and adopted for unwanted videos. After the special classes started for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, their approaches and their perception on girls and women were completely changed. Based on their threatening attitude, the management demanded to conduct the awareness and special mental health refresh sessions and conducted by child line and DCPU with the participation of SMCs, VLCPCs and parents.
- VLCPC and PLCPCs realized their responsibilities and suggesting PRIs to keep monitoring the migration register to stop child marriages, trafficking, child labor system.
- 15 drop out children were reenrolled with the help of PRI members, SMC and VLCPCs and those children are continuing their education.
- 3 children got Rs.3,00,000/- with the help of PAD and CB intervention for COVID relief fund since his father expired by COVID 19.
- 2 children were assisted with education materials with the help of child line.
- Free patta certificate for own land provided to 68 families at Erwadi panchayat by organizing camp.
- PAD organized the joint awareness with District Child Protection Officer and created panchayat and village level meetings on early forced marriages, drop outs and child labor

system. So, the VLCPC and PLCPCs realized their responsibilities and suggesting PRIs to keep monitoring the migration register to stop child marriages, trafficking, child labor system.

### Grassroots function provided child care or protection from violence against children:

- PAD and CB initiated the psycho-social support for the vulnerable people those who depressed in pandemic. About 38 psycho-social supports given. Based on the service, the staff members were linked District level COVID second wave service at Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram District. The health department and ICDS recognized the counseling service. Child help line also access the counseling support where they not able to reach.
- Ebron, aged 14 at Vembar addicted with mobile phone games with friends and also dropped out. CRC children helped to identify and counsel him by CBOs and counselor and reenrolled to continue his education. Now he is studying 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- PAD and CB initiated the psycho-social support for the vulnerable people those who depressed in pandemic. About 42 psycho-social supports given. Based on the service, the staff members were linked District level COVID second wave service at Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram District. The health department and ICDS recognized the counseling service. Child help line also access the counseling support where they not able to reach. The trained staffs in Psycho-social support selected as District level court to provide domestic violence-based counselling.
- Joint initiatives and joint child labor ride conducted wit allied system such as child line, District Child Protection Unit, Labor department and SSA. After this joint initiative, 6 of the child labors rescued and ensured to continue their education in Vilathikulam Taluk of Thoothukudi District.

### Total program reach

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Reach**</b>     | <b>2170</b> |
| <b>0-5 months male</b>   | -           |
| <b>0-5 months female</b> | -           |
| <b>6-14 male</b>         | <b>816</b>  |
| <b>6-14 female</b>       | <b>912</b>  |
| <b>15-24 male</b>        | <b>202</b>  |
| <b>15-24 female</b>      | <b>240</b>  |

### Anecdotes and Quotes:

**Creative Learning Center:** I am Kiroshini from Chinna erwadi village studying 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I was the first rank holder in the class. 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 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.

**Children and youth development:** Myself Parthasarathy and I from Vellapatti. My father is a palm tapper and mother look after the household activities. I am the eldest son of my parents and I have three younger sisters. I attend the youth club meetings organized by PAD. Hearing the job opportunities available in the government, I wanted to get appointed in a government job. Therefore, I wrote recruitment examination called for the post of police man. Having passed in the examination, I am appointed as a police man and now I work as police. I did not like attending the youth club meetings at the beginning. But PAD organization persisted me to attend the youth club meeting and brought me a great change and success in my life. Therefore, I would like to thank PAD for this great support.

### Case-study/ Success-Stories/ Best-practices:

**Creative Learning Centre (CLC):** There are about 150 villages in Kadaladi block of Ramanathapuram district and Vilathikulam block of Thoothukudi district. The main occupation of these villages or either fishing or palm tapping. Since both of these livelihood options are seasonal lasting to five or six months in a year. People has no other constant livelihood option during the off season. Therefore, most of the families are below poverty line. PAD establishing creative learning centres (CLC) for children in 30 villages among these 150 villages and appointed facilitators for each of these centres. These centres are functioning wonderfully for the development of children. There are about 765 children attend these centres.

These centres begin at 4pm and close around 6pm every day. These centres are run with the intention of providing a free space and opportunity for the development of the skills of each child - skills otherwise might remain under-developed throughout their life. To realize these developments among the children, they are provided a particular training in each day of the week as follows:

|                  |                      |                    |                 |                   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Hand writing         | Reading news paper | Telling Stories | Essay writing     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Hand-crafts          | Singing            | Writing Poems   | Reading           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | General knowledge    | Spoken English     | Riddle          | Puzzles           |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Local history        | Letter writing     | Filling forms   | Comp. application |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Learning about herbs | Essay writing      | Drawing         | Painitng          |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Games                | Dance              | Acting          | Exerecise/Yoga    |

The facilitators teach hand writing, reading, singing, telling stories, drawing and traditional games etc. at the centre. They take much care attention to identify the latent talent of each child without their knowledge and then work out to develop that talent or skill by providing space and time for them in that skill. To encourage the attendance of the children, organization provides uniform, note-books, lunch-box, play materials etc. Hence, children are eager to attend the creative learning centre.

As there has been Corona curfew declared in Tamilnadu, the schools remain closed. Hence, the primary and middle school students have no way of learning their subjects while the higher-grade students learn their subjects through the on-line classes. Because children cannot attend and learn the school lessons, their proficiency level in reading and writing may fall below the minimum. But the CLC fills this gap and helps the children retain their proficiency.

CLC not only provide education but identify the latent talents of each child and encourage the children to concentrate in those fields for practice and development. CLC also teaches traditional games and other games like carom board, chess which enhance brain development. To support this, PAD provided sufficient play materials to all CLCs, where all the children in the villages can be benefitted.

Children at Kamarajapuram CLC, learnt to draw pictures using various grains, and hand-craft using egg-shells, paper and coconut shells. Taking part in the drawing competition held by Government museum Ramanathapuram on the topic 'Marine living organisms and Corona awareness, 4 children sent their drawings to the authority. In return, the authority congratulating the children, honoured them by providing valuable certificates. Selvi. Surophika wrote and recited a poem on the concept 'education awareness' where as Master Nithish, a poem on Mr. Ramanujam. Selvi. Kanishka, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student and Master. Harishkumar, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, became well versed in mathematics after their entry in to CLC.

Children's capacity in paper craft and art enhanced among the children who attend CLCs. 7 Children at Mookaiyur decorated the whole church, the school and the podium with their paper craft.

19 children from Mookaiyur took part in the drawing competition held by Government Museum Ramanathapuram on the topic 'Marine living organisms and Corona awareness and sent their drawings to the authority. In return, the authority congratulating them children, honoured them by providing valuable certificates. A girl named Venesa, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, had trouble in writing and reading, began to read and write wonderfully when she began attending CLC. Similarly, Kannivel of Kannikapuri began to identify some of the Tamil letters which were of great difficult for him to identify prior to his entrance to CLC. There are many children who began to read the alphabet only after attending CLC.

Children named Harendran and Somalai of Kannikapuri are learning drawing at CLC with much involvement as drawing is their hearts desire. Another boy named Muneeswaran get trained

in origami as it his desire. The facilitator at Kannikapuri uses riddles to sharpen the minds of the children attending CLC.

Parents and children alike say that witness that the individual skills of children are developed a lot because of the activities in CLC. At the present situation, when the schools are closed continuously for almost two years, our CLCs plays an important role for the children to have a continuous touch in their studies. If not for the CLC, the lower grade children might have forgotten the alphabets and the basics of alphabets – the consonants and the vowels itself. The Head Master of Vellpatti says if the CLCs have not been functioning continuously, there might have arisen a situation where many drop outs in the villages which will result in many child labours.

**Child Protection:** I, Vijayarani, live with my father, a fishing labourer, mother, a salt pan labourer, elder sister, a college student, younger sister, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, and a younger brother, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in the village called Manickanagar.

As my family members were all restricted to stay home because of Corona curfew, my father could not go to sea as usual to earn the livelihood for the family and my mother, to the salt pan as the salt pan workers were affected by Corona. Therefore, they were in a difficult situation to find the bread for the family. To add to this difficulty, they had to pay the interest for the loan they took to get admission at the college for my elder sister.

Seeing the difficulty that my family is in, I resolved to find a work somewhere to support my family. To my luck I found a job at a fancy store in the close by town called 'Sayalgudi'. I agreed to join the work for a monthly salary of rupees 4500.00, though I had to stand for 12 hours nonstop from 8am to 8pm. I agreed because of the difficulties my family faces then. But when the schools were opened after the Corona curfew, though I liked attending school, I continued working in the store with the heavy heart because of my family situation.

When the youth group members came to know about my absence at school, they informed ChildLine about it and in turn ChildLine met my parents and discussed with them and took steps to put me back in school. But when we approached the school, they denied giving me admission because 11<sup>th</sup> grade admission was already over. Again, we approached ChildLine and PAD organization to help me get admission in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore, ChildLine and PAD organization approached the school authority and got me admission in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

As a result, at present, I learn my lessons through on-line classes and continue my studies happily. Moreover, I attend the child creative learning centre where I learn drawing and hand-craft along with the regular lessons.

I want to thank PAD for helping me continue my study at school.

**Child Participation:** I, Mariselvi, live in Uraiknaru village in Kadalady taluk in Ramnathapuram district. I was enrolled in the sponsorship program in PAD organization while I was studying 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.



My father is a palm tapper and mother while supporting him in palm tapping, does casual labour as well. I have an elder brother and a younger sister. My family is a poor family. I regularly attend the child creative learning center run by PAD organization. I attend this center with my friends. There the facilitator taught me moral stories, awareness songs, drawing, etc. Hence, I learnt all these at my young age itself.

Having enrolled in the sponsorship program I developed my letter writing skill by writing letters to my sponsor very often. Playing with my friends at the center, I had good fellowship the friends. Parents committee was formed in my village by the intervention of PAD organization. My mother became a member of this committee. Following this Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF) was introduced and I became a member of this Forum. I attend the CRP meeting every month. In these meetings I learnt about the laws existing for the protection of children and child rights.

As a follow up work of this forum, they transformed CRPF into Child Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM) and I became a member of this Forum. Being a member of this group, I had the opportunity to visit the stakeholders of Child rights and protection at Ramanathapuram, the district head. I went to the district collector's office, and saw what type of work each department officers have doing there. Through this event, I understood a lot about child rights and the laws for the protection of children. Moreover, I came to know about the stakeholders of Child Rights and Child Protection. I also came to know who to approach for a particular issue. How can I get my rights fulfilled meeting the right stakeholder?

Above all the yearly program called 'Arumbukalin Sangamam' through I had an opportunity to develop my individual skills. Parents and children from all the program villages gather in a place and celebrate this event in which every child can express its skill. Because I had practiced a lot for this event, I always take part in events like dancing, sports, singing etc. at school. I used to be a reserved type girl living to myself but never liked to participate in any events like this.

Meanwhile my sponsor also kept sending me CDG. This CDG money had been very useful for me to pay the college fee for my B. Com degree course. Besides the CDG money I also got support from the education fund with the parents committee. Having completed B. Com degree, I work as an accountant in a driving school. The emolument I receive from my work has been very useful for me and my parents.

Therefore, I want to thank CB and PAD from the depth of my heart.

## Promoting Equality for Girls

**Goal:** PAD programs have facilitated the creation of spaces for young women and mothers to ensure that their voices are heard in societal decision-making process that affect their lives.

**Effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership:**

- After the gender training and inputs given to parents committee members, VLCPCs, youth club members, CLC children, CFAM club members and women PRI members, most of the village meetings, women participation and leading role increased.
- Earlier the elected women PRI representative not taken any responsibilities and standing back to their husbands and relatives. Now, the situation changed and claim their responsibilities and leading their role where ever needs.
- After the gender training and inputs given to parents committee members, VLCPCs, youth club members, CLC children, CFAM club members and women PRI members, most of the village meetings, women participation and leading role increased. 30% of the villages, the decision taken after the consultation of women. Especially in Keelamundal, the village committee led by women only.
- Higher education support has been focused exclusively for girl children. So that, higher education status is equal (more than 75%) to male children right now in our target area.
- Participation of women in Gram Saba meetings are increased and their suggestion are accepted by the local bodies.
- 50% of CFAM TOTs are female children and they have capable to express the concept among their peer groups and families.
- Good recognition for girl children education. Majority of the higher education priority given to girl children. By this reporting period PAD and CB supported higher education for 19 girls and parents committee supported for 13 girls.

**Improved adoption and enforcement of gender sensitive policies, legislations or strategies:**

- Higher studies were very challenging to girl children earlier. But now, the community realized the importance of girl's education and make them reach the higher education. Even, the girls are not only reached the education, they moved out of their native villages and got the jobs, earning and contributing to their family's economic situation.
- Earlier the family priority was to get male baby. Now the attitude gradually changed and acceptance of girl children increased by parents because of girl children will be more responsible than the male children.
- Earlier the elected women PRI representative not taken any responsibilities and standing back to their husbands and relatives. Now, the situation changed and claim their responsibilities and leading their role where ever needs. Among the 9 panchayats in our working area 5 of them are women PRI representative. Regularly they are attending the meeting without any male interference.
- After the gender training and inputs given to parents committee members, VLCPCs, youth club members, CLC children, CFAM club members and women PRI members, most of the village meetings, women participation and leading role increased. 30% of the villages, the decision taken after the consultation of women. Especially in Keelamundal, the village committee led by women only.
- Good recognition for girl children education. Majority of the higher education priority given to girl children. By this reporting period PAD and CB supported higher education for 3 girls and parents committee supported for 16 girls and 4 boys.

### **Contribution towards empowering women's participation and equal opportunities:**

- Children also preparing to participate in regional / district level competitions by training and developing their skills in the high-quality game of chess and carrom board. 47 girl children were prepared and attended National Means-cum Merit Scholarship Examination. They have written the exam by participating in competitive exams like National Performance. Among them, 16 of them were passed out and recognized by the school management.
- Village level regular monthly meeting happened at 26 villages with separate participation of male and female. After the PAD-CB intervention, village meeting also happening together of male and female in 7 villages. Initiatives led by the Island trust and Samudra umbrella CBOs.
- Girl children continuously motivated to improve the co-curricular activities. More than 30 children were participated District level competition and 18 of them won the price during this reporting period.
- The traditional game such as "silambattam" learnt by more than 40 girls in our target area and they also performing equal to the boys.
- 13 villages of parents committee members, VLCPC members and PRI members recognized by village committee and accept the decision making.
- Good recognition for girl children education. Majority of the higher education priority given to girl children. By this reporting period PAD and CB supported higher education for 21 girls and parents committee supported for 7 girls.
- After the ECCD intervention, the young fathers realized the reproductive role actively contributed in care and protection of their children during the pandemic. Though the males are working and earning money, they understood how the women engages themselves and managing the daily basis work at home from early morning to late evening without any remuneration. So, the men also gradually changed their attitude and contributing their care and protection of children.

### **Contribution to improve adoption and enforcement of gender sensitive policies, legislations:**

- 64 members of livelihood groups got Rs. 16,40,000 of credit linkages from bank to manage the COVID pandemic which covered sponsored children and CLC children's education and food security.
- After the PRI members training and SDG, the trained community members raised their voices in Gram saba meetings, panchayat and village level meetings about the child budgeting and women welfare. The trained members given the inputs to current active PRI member to proceed the panchayat level budget effectively for women and children as per the norms.
- 72 members of LG members got bank linkages with the help of program intervention and got Rs.9,72,000 from bank linkages to manage the COVID pandemic which covered sponsored children and CLC children's education and food security.
- 64 members of livelihood groups got micro grant from other network to manage the COVID pandemic which covered sponsored children and CLC children's education and food security.
- Women gradually aware the laws and parents also response their needs and allots the properties and assets to girl children.

- Women PRIs and community members mobilized COVID relief fund Rs. 51000 and sent to CM care. The process completely led and contributed by women.
- 15 members of LG members got micro grant from other network to manage the COVID pandemic which covered sponsored children and CLC children’s education and food security.

**Program Reach:**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Reach**</b> | <b>6081</b> |
| <b>6-14 male</b>     | <b>1014</b> |
| <b>6-14 female</b>   | <b>1343</b> |
| <b>15-24 male</b>    | <b>1440</b> |
| <b>15-24 female</b>  | <b>1541</b> |
| <b>Adult male</b>    | <b>302</b>  |
| <b>Adult female</b>  | <b>441</b>  |

**Anecdotes and Quotes:**

**Gender Equality:**

I am Gayathri from Keelashanmugapuram. My parents allow my elder sister and younger sister to go out but they never permit me to accompany them or to go out alone. They make me involve in the house hold activities. At this juncture, hearing that the adolescent girls’ meetings are being held in my village, wanting to attend those meetings. I learnt that we have to face the problems boldly and find a solution. That is there is a boy who has been eve teasing me whenever I go out to attend the meeting. Therefore, I kept weeping within myself without revealing it to others. But I got the courage to face it directly and once when the boy eve teased me, I got angry with him and scolded him boldly on his face. That was the last time he came across me. I also handled my parents properly.

**Gender Equality:**

Palkani is from a fishing family. Her husband does fishing as their livelihood option. They have a daughter who studies B.Sc. nursing second year at Palani.

She was successful in cleaning the road to the village with the support of the VLCPC, helping the community in need, overseeing the renovation of 182 individual toilets and keeping the common place and clean. She takes initiatives in the community-based federations and taking the government schemes to the community. She was awarded second prize in the panchayat for her involvement in social service.

“She reiterates that development can be achieved only by the transformation of each individual and adds that we can succeed if we unite in our purposes. She says that each one must act with selfless intention”.

“She states that the Government must make the registration process of people’s federation simple and make ways to bring the government welfare schemes through the community.

Villages must be transformed as child labour free and child marriage free villages. Above all the government must make arrangements for the community federations function unitedly”.

**Gender Equality:** "Muthulaxmi" says yet men did not allow us to attend the Grama Sabha meeting. We insisted that let us participate once and allow us to give our opinion, then you decide whether we can participate in the meeting or not. In the first meeting we participated, we opined that we must give a petition to the panchayat leader to construct an overhead tank for our village. Listening to our opinion, we all prepared a petition and submitted it to the Panchayat. After 8 months the panchayat constructed an overhead tank in our village. [I take the in charge to open the water at a prescribed day and at the prescribed time promptly. I always take part in all the meetings held by the panchayat. In fact, women never miss any of the meetings contrary the earlier days.](#)

At present, on the first day of every month women participate in the Gramasabah meeting promptly. [We not only participate but, give our opinion on various issues. The men in the meeting heeding us is a great change for us.](#)

### **Case-study/ Success-Stories/ Best-practices:**

#### **Empowering and leads the women group:**

Our village Mothivalasai is locate at a distance of 2km from Thinaikulam panchayat in, Thirupullani taluk in Ramanathapuram district. Palm tapping is the main occupation of my village besides fishing and casual labour. In particular, women are involved in NREGA scheme. My name is Jeevitha Karuppaiah. My husband is a fisherman. I have two daughters. One of my daughters is a sponsor child under the sponsorship program in PAD organization. My husband will never allow me to go out of home. Yet I remain as a member of the parents committee organized by PAD committee as he has allowed me participate in this committee meetings. At a time like this they selected me to participate in a gender equality training organized by PAD. But I could not get the permission from my family. But after nudging that it would be good for me and the family then only, I got the permission to attend the training. Because of this training I understood how male domination exists in the world now and I shared this with other women as well in my village. I also participated in the training about child rights, the existing laws to get the women free from domestic violence. All these trainings provided me a lot of learning.

Following this we women sit together and think about the business suitable for us, woman. Most of the woman in our village are skilled in making palm leave mats. We used to weave palm leave mats and give it to the stores close by and buy things needed for the kitchen. We decided why cannot all the women who knew mat weaving unite together and not only weave mats but other things as well. Hence, we began making mats, toys, rattles, baskets, winnowing fan, hand-fan, hat, ropes from the fibre of palm leaves stalks, cot, etc. We paint it to look attractive. In the palm leave baskets we can store palm jaggery, eatables, rice, grains and millets. Palm trees are aplenty in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu like Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Madurai, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and

Kannyakumari. Therefore, the baskets, mats, toys, rattles, baskets, winnowing fan, hand-fan, hat, ropes from the fibre of palm leaves stalks, cot, purse, etc. have been made in all these districts prior to our effort.

It is believed that fruits, grains and other millets remain unaffected from worms and infection for a long time. Moreover, it has been considered as a great social strategy to use palm leaves baskets and when providing things to brides during marriage function. It has been a great joy for us that we are preparing such a prestigious article in our village.

Moreover, articles made out of palm leaves are valued highly not only in India but in foreign countries as well. Because of our products people try to avoid using plastic bags but uses baskets made out of palm leaves. Above all we are excited because our products are exported to other countries as well.

**Gender equality:** I am Muthulaxmi live in Mothivalasai, a hamlet in Thinaikulam panchayat in Ramanathapuram district. The major occupations of my village is palm tapping, fishing and cutting woods. Besides these, women attend the MNREGA scheme as well. There are 130 families living in this village. I have two children; two daughters and a son. It is in born nature that I must teach everything to others and support others. Apart from this I have the tendency to praise someone for the good action that is taken by them and question, the bad deeds. It was the culture of my village to let women go out and work before PAD entered our village. Women cannot take part in any common functions and express their opinions.

PAD stepped in to our village in 2006. At the outset, they formed Livelihood groups, Village level Child Protection Committee, Adolescents groups, Youth groups. Joining as a member of the women livelihood group, I got connected with the organization. In 2009, my daughter was enrolled in the sponsorship program in 2009. Through sponsorship program, parents committee was formed. I was selected as the secretary of the parents committee. Which made me happy and confident.

PAD planned to train women. But men were against this idea. Following this, men were pacified by explaining about the training in detail. Thereafter, I participated in gender training. But that training brought me sorrow. I felt sorry for the women who are ill-treated by the society. In fact, they had been under the bondage of men. Therefore, I decided to change this in my circle. I thought that women must be in the same level with men in all walks of life. We discussed about the issues and basic needs of the village. Realizing that we are urgently in need of road facility to our village. Hence, we submitted a petition to the collector on this regard. Within six months of time, road was laid to our village. This brought us joy and confidence in us. We women thought and did what the men did not think and do.

Gramasabha in our village takes place on first of every month. In those days only men are allowed to participate in this meeting. Men would not allow women to stay there are open their mouth there telling that women should not speak in the meeting were men are present. But when, we brought road to our village by submitting a petition to the collector, they began to believe us and trust us. Apart from this we, women, took initiative in digging common well

for the village, mending and installing street lights and planting trees etc. I am happy that all these development activities took place because of women in our village.

Our hamlet comes under Thinaikulam panchayat. In that village they opened a TASMAL shop. Because of this, many men in our village acquired the habit of drinking diverse alcohols. Therefore, we women from 9 villages under Thinaikulam panchayat organized all the women and placed a petition to the collector during the weekly grievance day. There has been no replay for our petition for some time. Following this, the tahsildar called us and discussed with us. Even then we did not get any proper reply for our petition. Therefore we women and men decided to stage a strike in front of the TASMAL outlet at Thinaikulam and staged a strike. Hence, the shop was removed from that area. It was a great success and a change for us.

We women approached the panchayat and taluk office and availed old age pension to 15 old age people and disabled subsidy for 5 disabled people. Hence, the people in my village trusted me a lot. We also worked to avail fishermen subsidy to everyone in our village through fishermen cooperative society.

Yet men did not allow us to attend the Grama Sabha meeting. We insisted that let us participate once and allow us to give our opinion, then you decide whether we can participate in the meeting or not. In the first meeting we participated, we opined that we must give a petition to the panchayat leader to construct an overhead tank for our village. Listening to our opinion, we all prepared a petition and submitted it to the Panchayat. After 8 months the panchayat constructed an overhead tank in our village. I take the in charge to open the water at a prescribed day and at the prescribed time promptly. I always take part in all the meetings held by the panchayat. In fact, women never miss any of the meetings contrary the earlier days.

At present, on the first day of every month women participate in the Gramasabah meeting promptly. We not only participate but, give our opinion on various issues. The men in the meeting heeding us is a great change for us.

## Partnering With Children and Youth for Change

**Goal:** PAD programs have established new network, entered collaboration and consolidated the work of youth /child agencies

### Contribution of children and youth for change:

- According to the knowledge gathered from CFAM process, children ensured dry ration support to 50 pro-poor and COVID affected families with the help of local inspector.
- CFAM children approached child line and secured food and dry ration for 26 families.
- Children and youth raised their voice at parents committee and applied higher education support for 38 members. Among them 6 members selected and provided 100% education fee from Abdul Kalam trust.

- Earlier child protection issues were dealt not effectively by BLCPC because of no local community representation. Based on the challenges, children and youth clubs suggested community representatives to lead as chairperson. Their voices raised among PRI members. PRIs decided and selected union chairman as chair-person. So that the communities could able to access and share the children issues. Resolution also passed to act immediately for care and protection of children.
- Children/youth friendly legislative and policy measures enacted and key institutions capacity strengthen to promote right of every child to be heard.
- Increased child line cases due to awareness and capacity building increased among the CFAM children. 16 cases reported by CFAM children (Child marriages, child labor, drop outs, nutrition support, education support and verbal abuses).
- Teachers also recognized the children those who are well known about the child protection mechanism and response holders.
- Relationship between children and stakeholders increased since the demands reached to them from children and continuous joint action program.
- Post card campaign conducted and led by the CFAM children and they completed 3000 and sent to Prime Minister to ensure the child protection Laws and policies to be add in their regular subjects.
- Relationship between children and stakeholders increased since the demands reached to them from children and continuous joint action program.

#### **Social attitudes and cultural norms affect children's participation:**

- Conflict between two villages based on their existing culture leads children could not able to access education, CLC and children-based events.
- After COVID, children heard more colloquial and vulgar languages from parents and neighbors and using among their peer groups. These situation leads challenging attitude among the children. This pandemic will be persisting, the situation will be severe.
- Inter-caste marriage leads the couples are neglected by the community in common events. The couple/ youth members are cornered by the village administration. They are not allowed to participate even death has happen in their family too.
- Still more controlling mechanisms and pressure to the girls to attend any meetings and events in and around their villages.
- When the girl children attain puberty, immediately parents are keeping her at house itself for more than 10 to 20 days since they are following the superstition. So, the education is affected to those children.
- If the abuse/violence happen to children, the whole villagers keeping the girl children in house itself and they do not allow to go anywhere and space not provided to the children.
- Due to more awareness, parents also giving more pressure to girl children.



- Due to lockdown and school closure, children and youth are not following the timing food. Most of the time, they spend rounding around the village for playing, hunting, fishing, playing cards and enjoying with friends.
- Due to school closure, children are staying at home and spending more time to chat with their peer groups. Especially the adolescents under the clutches of cinema, serials and even in porn videos. Since, these situations, elopements happen and with the help of child line, they rescued and handover to their parents.
- The continuous local village festival induced the children and youth to establish the banners culture and disseminate the caste related information on that and creating the conflict with the nearby villagers and other caste communities.

### **Strengthening children/youth agencies' capacity**

- Girl child of Manickanagar neglected during admission at school because of economic crisis. Youth club members taken the issues and informed to child help line claimed the rights through Chief Education Officer and got admission and continuing her education at government schools.
- Due to lockdown and school closure, the nearby agents approached the families those who struggle with economically to engage their girl children in sea food companies, textile industries and salt pans. Youth members taken action against the agents and informed to labor department and child line. They were inspected themselves and revert back 4 children and they are continuing their education.
- CFAM children written letter to Chief minister that to be include the children protection mechanism as a separate subject not as a syllabus.
- CFAM children of Siluvaipuram and Kunjayapuram placed demands for establish library with the help of youth club and sent to Districts collectorate.
- CFAM children of 6 villages placed demands for establish library with the help of youth club and sent to Districts collectorate.
- CFAM children participated in Gram Sabha meetings in Narippayoor, Vembar, Mookayoor, Thinakulam and Erwadi Panchayats and placed the demands to ensure the child friendly schools with safe during the pandemic.
- Youth members established surveillance camera to ensure the children and women safety, because, earlier they teased by the local members. So, the dropouts of girl children increased among that area. CFAM children were addressed these issues and informed to youth club members. Now the safety increased by the establishment of surveillance camera.

### **Contribution towards influence policies to their rights, wellbeing and growth**

- Conducted training on gender and government schemes to 60 youth members to improve their accessibility with government department and claim their rights.
- CB and partners conducted the survey on breaking barriers to education in favor of children to connecting policies with practice for social transformation.
- CB and partners conducted the research and did the summary on learning and living during a pandemic.

- The study which helps to involve the children to help to conduct the joint child labor ride at Thoothukudi District to identify the dropped-out children effectively.
- Oximeter and thermometer provided to Panchayat level COVID 19 monitoring system. They suggested to appoint PAD youth volunteers and community organizers by Block Development Officer to serving communities.
- Youth club members desilted the ponds since the monsoon will start and they got the transformer to fulfill the electricity in Vethakaranvalasai village.

#### Total program reach:

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Reach**</b> | <b>4768</b> |
| <b>6-14 male</b>     | <b>894</b>  |
| <b>6-14 female</b>   | <b>1289</b> |
| <b>15-24 male</b>    | <b>1209</b> |
| <b>15-24 female</b>  | <b>1376</b> |

#### Anecdotes and Quotes:

**CFAM:** Gurudevi, a girl child, studying 10<sup>th</sup> standard belongs to Manickanagar village, said that there is no toilet facility in their school, complains about using the open space for urination. She feels awkward about the boys who eve tease and insult them by singing songs which has the words about napkin pad, while they urinate in the open pace. CFAM children discussed about this in their meeting and informed it to child line and school management. As result, they have built two separate toilets and two separates urinary for girls with water facilities at Narippayoor school.

**Gurudevi says,** “I never thought that we would be feed safe in sanitation facilities especially in the menstrual time. Now we feel secure and avoided the eve tease from the boys. Well, It all because of the encouraging words and the space provided by Child Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM) brought to us by PAD organization.”

**CFAM:** Mugesh studies 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Panchayat Union Middle School in Chinnaerwadi. He has an outstanding skill in sand sculpture. He, being extra-ordinary in his talents, was selected as a member of the children club in his village.

I was given an opportunity to do a sand sculpture at Chinnaerwadi beach during the ‘International Day of the Girl Child’ celebration. I was elated when I saw my hand work was published in the newspaper and broadcasted in television the next day. In fact, this event encouraged me a lot and boosted my confidence.

**Mugesh says,** “I never thought that I would be in the limelight at this young age. Well, It all because of the encouraging words and the space provided by Child Friendly Accountability Mechanism (CFAM) brought to us by PAD organization.”

### **Case-study/ Success-Stories/ Best-practices:**

**Child labour:** I, Vijayarani, live with my father, a fishing labourer, mother, a salt pan labourer, elder sister, a college student, younger sister, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, and a younger brother, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in the village called Manickanagar.

As my family members were all restricted to stay home because of Corona curfew, my father could not go to sea as usual to earn the livelihood for the family and my mother, to the salt pan as the salt pan workers were affected by Corona. Therefore, they were in a difficult situation to find the bread for the family. To add to this difficulty, they had to pay the interest for the loan they took to get admission at the college for my elder sister.

Seeing the difficulty that my family is in, I resolved to find a work somewhere to support my family. To my luck I found a job at a fancy store in the close by town called 'Sayalgudi'. I agreed to join the work for a monthly salary of rupees 4500.00, though I had to stand for 12 hours nonstop from 8am to 8pm. I agreed because of the difficulties my family faces then. But when the schools were opened after the Corona curfew, though I liked attending school, I continued working in the store with the heavy heart because of my family situation.

When the youth group members came to know about my absence at school, they informed ChildLine about it and in turn ChildLine met my parents and discussed with them and took steps to put me back in school. But when we approached the school, they denied giving me admission because 11<sup>th</sup> grade admission was already over. Again, we approached ChildLine and PAD organization to help me get admission in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore, ChildLine and PAD organization approached the school authority and got me admission in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. As a result, at present, I learn my lessons through on-line classes and continue my studies happily. Moreover, I attend the child creative learning centre where I learn drawing and hand-craft along with the regular lessons.

I want to thank PAD for helping me continue my study at school.

### **CFAM addresses child marriage**

When the members of the youth committee of Mariyur village in Kadalady taluk in Ramanathapuram district hearing about the marriage arrangements of a 17 year old 10<sup>th</sup> grade dropout girl, they immediately contacted 1098 for immediate help in this regard. They took this action because they were informed in the previous meetings the existence of Child Line-1098 and its purpose. They were told that when a child is in a difficult situation and help is needed 1098 can be contacted for immediate support. On the basis of this knowledge, they contacted 1098.

As a result of their information, Childline team member reached the spot and enquired about the girl. During this enquiry, the Childline team member found and confirmed that Malathy, who is not 18 years old, daughter of Mr. Jeyaraj and Mrs. Muthulakshi of Mariyur is all prepared to get married with a youth in Sayalgudi.

Confirming this marriage preparation, the information was immediately passed on to the Child Marriage prevention officer. Following this the Childline-1098 team member along with

the ChildLine Coordinator and Child Marriage prevention officer visited the parents at their home and warned them about their intention of giving their daughter in marriage as she is a child. They informed that it is against the law to give a girl below 18 years old to be given in marriage. If violated severe action will be taken against them.

### **Children and youth development:**

Abhinaya live in Vivekanadapuram in Mayakulam panchayat in Thirupullani taluk in Ramanatahpuram district. She is 23 years old and completed M.A., B.Ed. Her father is Murugesan and Mother, Mallika. Abhinaya has been a member of the youth club in his village. She regularly attends the monthly youth meetings. She has been doing things having much concerned about the welfare of the children and the community. She always talks about child rights with whoever she meets. She has a thought that children must have their rights in their mind and act courageously to obtain it in life.

She acted as a mentor to all other children in the village. She seeing the path leading to the fish landing spot being full of sand making the people struggle to dispatch their catches to the market.

Therefore, she along with some other youths, submitted a petition to the district collector on the grievance day to lay a tar road to the fish landing spot. As a result, tar road is laid making the work easier for the people and thereby making the community happy particularly, Abhinaya.

Abhinaya, being well versed in drawing, teaches the children at the Child Creative Learning Centre (CLC) the basics of drawing. As a result, children also became interest in drawing and keep learning this skill from Abhinaya. Many children won many prizes at drawing competitions in their schools. In particular, 13 years old Madan and 10 years old Keethika became skilled artists.

Abhinaya takes part in all activities conducted by PAD organization. Getting trained in gender training and government welfare schemes, she trains the other members of youth group in updating the Aadhar Card, applying for income certificate and caste certificate etc. online. As a result, the whole community is benefitted by this.

Abhinaya acts promoting the gender equality concept and hence she remains a mentor to the other children of the village. She keeps a watch on all the school going aged children and checks whether they are all attending school. If not, she will get the child attend the school regularly. She also gives awareness on child rights and ChildLine 1098 for immediate support in case of child abuses. Therefore, the children are enabled call ChildLine when they face a problem in their lives.

Above all, Abhinaya showing much interest on the welfare of the orphan children and single parent's children, she works for the safety and protection of such children. One such child is "Nambudevi". Nambudevi is in a desperate situation. Having her father died and mother left the children helpless and went away. Nambudevi has three siblings. All of them are girls. All the girls having lost the love and kindness of parents, live with their grandmother. Abhinaya contacted ChildLine and informed the pathetic condition of the 6 such children and asked for

help. After the verification by the ChildLine, first they were provided relief support and they were placed in a well-furnished children home and attend school and studies happily. Thus their safety and protection are ensured.

Moreover, Abhinaya worked for two 12<sup>th</sup> grade students get the subsidy for them. By her effort, one among the two called Sadha got higher education support from APD organization and continues her higher studies. Sadha's father died a long ago. Her mother works as a domestic helper to earn the bread for the family. There is also another girl named Umalakshmi who continues higher studies with PAD higher education support.

Abhinaya helped 12 old age people get Old Age Pension by registering them through the right channel. All these 12 people are very happy now. She also helps the people get their name registered through e-shram to get the government Scheme.

She also participates in all the village meetings and shared her opinion on the needs of the village and community boldly. Because of her, many families' needs are being fulfilled one by one gradually. Abhinaya gets the needed data from various resources and provide the children who participate in competitions. As a result, many children have won many prizes in competitions. Abhinaya functions in such way to provide the necessary data and information to children, youths and adult in the community.

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

The community-based structures in the villages have been reached its recognition. Community Organisation is the base for sustainable livelihoods development. There are several structures such as Livelihoods Groups, Village Development Committees, Child Rights Protection Forum, Youth groups, and School Management Committees. The proper coordination is important. During this reporting period the coordination and converging process are carried out. 792 children of 72% of girls and 266 youth of 69% girls are aware of child rights and protection particularly on COVID prevention; 49% of children and youth (1372) are actively participated in actions for promotion of child rights and protection during pandemic; 52% 2639 of parents and community members were sensitized on child rights and environment protection by 2021.

Children and youths formed as groups and they involve themselves into community development and functioning as a watch dog committee to protect children from abuses, especially girl children. The civic sense has improved among youths who are part of youth group. The youth groups (18 to 25 age) should be trained further to take right decisions for themselves, considering the social, environmental, women and children's issues. 78% (2199) of 1580 children and 619 youth increased their knowledge and identified 70 issues of child rights violation and placed to local authorities.

Covid 19 as pandemic impacted inversely in life of fisherfolk socially and economically. The program approach helps to 2058 children and 686 youth increased their knowledge on

preventive measures of COVID 19; 98% of 2760 vulnerable children and youth were ensured and benefitted from COVID prevention measures; 96% of 308 children, especially 195 girl children are continuing education by this 2021; 1370 girls' children are enrolled in schools and continuing education with the support of education support centers and community members.

38% of trained school teachers and study education center teachers continuing the integrating interactive pedagogies and the 34% parents committee members aware of the importance of girl's education especially on higher education.

### **Situation in the country and area of intervention**

Rameswaram Island, surrounded by seas all around, is mostly inhabited by fishing community. Thanks to the existence of Ramanathaswamy Temple, dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, which is located at the center of the town. This temple, being is closely associated with Rama, is being considered a holy pilgrimage site for both Shivas and Vaishnavas. Hence, it is a significant place for both pilgrims and tourists. There are number of lodges, hotels, tea shops, fancy stores, etc. Rameswaram, being a pilgrimage sanctity, it is ecologically fragile.

Being an island area, the traditional occupation of the dwellers is naturally fishing. Apart from this, it being a pilgrim town, the migrated population is also involved through tourism industry, besides the allied trades and services. One third of total coastline in Tamil Nadu exists in this district. The district has 271 km long coastline. The dependency of people on fishing is obvious due to arid condition of cultivable lands and frequent failure of monsoons. Hence, vast majority of population depend mainly on fishery. Since fishing is a seasonal occupation, the income for fisher folk is irregular. The women and children are the worst victims of this situation. Lack of alternative livelihood opportunities paves the way for exploitation of women and children as underpaid laborers.

Fisher folk live a life of hand to mouth existence even though they daily venture bravely into the sea, stay, and search, spend even nights, take risks, catch fish, and bear uncertainties. 70% of fisher folk have no income assets and work as wage laborers. They continue fishing by traditional methods whereas the mechanized trawlers deplete the marine resources. Their struggles to come out of poverty remain unnoticed. The magnitude of their poverty is aggravated further by unscrupulous exploitation of and depletion of marine resources thanks to mechanization and globalization and atrocities by Sri Lankan navy resulting in strikes and fishermen get hardly 50 to 60 days of fishing chance in a year.

The costs for fishing such as nets, repair and maintenance of boats, wages, diesel, freezing fee, ice boxes and others is spiraling up witnessing cascading effect from time to time. They receive poor price for their catch mainly due to formation of cartel by fish merchants and

trapping them by giving them advances/loans to tide them with their catches. These poor fishermen also lack marketing abilities.

India is currently undergoing the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of COVID-19 and it is sweeping through every part of India at pace that has staggered everyone in the country. According to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as on December 31, 2021 (8AM), the total number of daily and cumulative COVID cases, discharged/cured and deaths in the states of Tamil Nadu are:

| <b>State/District/Block</b>    | <b>Total cases</b> | <b>Active cases</b> | <b>Cured/discharged</b> | <b>Deaths</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Tamil Nadu</b>              | 2739229            | 8816                | 2693629                 | 36784         |
| <b>Ramanathapuram District</b> | 20691              | 135                 | 20197                   | 359           |
| <b>Mandapam Block</b>          | 2,224              | 21                  | 2142                    | 61            |

“Standalone provisions, grocery and vegetable shops can operate only till 12 noon without an air conditioning facility. Tea shops can also function only till 12 noon. Medical shops, milk vendors and other essential services can operate as usual. All government and private sector offices shall function with 50 per cent employee strength. Buses, cabs, passenger and metro trains, and auto rickshaws will be allowed to play at half of their seating capacity.

These measures are likely to result in further crippling the economy and livelihood of the vulnerable communities who are already marginalized. The economy that was showing gradual recovery from the first wave lock down will be challenged due to the 2nd wave lockdown measures. The people’s vulnerabilities will be further deepened as their livelihood has already been challenged and crippled.

Children are struggling Rameswaram Island area for basic education, food security, mental health, reproductive pressure, physical and verbal abuse, child labor, child marriage and drop outs. High Borrowing during the pandemic had pushed many families into the vicious cycle of poverty. Hence many children are forced to work even after the lockdown.

Schools have been closed for almost 15 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and while that has surely caused a great deal of learning loss, it has also caused some societal evils to increase as well. Researchers and Child Right activists worry that the number of child marriages will increase, even more than last year, in Tamil Nadu along with the rest of India. The major reasons for the rise in Tamil Nadu have been the sharp increase in abuse, leading to parents marrying them off early, to the reduced cost of marriages owing to governmental restrictions.

UNICEF-CRY child marriage prevention project in Tamilnadu, had sought details under the RTI from the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment recently regarding reported child marriage cases and FIRs registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. The reply revealed that the number of child marriage cases prevented increased steadily, from 1,209 cases in 2015 to 3,208 cases in 2021 in Tamil Nadu in 32 districts (Reference: The New Indian Express, August 2021).

The impacts of continuous pandemic lead arrangement of 8 early forced marriages and stopped in Rameswaram Island level with the help Child Help line 1098 (January to December 2021), police department, District Social Welfare department and District Child Protection Unit. Among these, 2 of the child marriages informed by the youth club members who belongs to Ramakrishnapuram informed to child line and did the joint action with the allied department. One of child marriage stopping mechanism initiated by the children club of Pomban and 2 of the child marriages stopped by VLCPCs of Soosaiyapparattinam and Sambai villages. VLCPCs discussed with the parents and oriented about the importance of girl children's education and convinced them and stopped the marriages.

More than 80% of the children had stated that they started working due to the financial crisis in their house and family pressure. These children are also not attending online classes due to various reasons, including non-conductive atmosphere at home, need to work, lack of smartphone and lack of psycho-social pressure.

### **Children Youths and Community members are sensitized on child rights and have adopted COVID 19 preventive Behaviour to cope with the effects of pandemic.**

- Awareness of community members children, youth team members on covid-19 prevention as per WHO recommended health measures focusing especially on testing isolation and vaccination any other government schemes and mechanism was given in 11 villages 1002 community members benefited including 369 children, 161 youths and 472 adults.
- Covid 19 precautionary safety kit has been distributed to vulnerable children, youth and adult. More than 60 fishing hamlets in Rameswaram Islands including working villages, schools Churches, temples, masques and other tourist spots. Through this mass mask distribution campaign around 9635 people were benefited including 3835 school children and youth club members and the e program led by youth club members.
- Handwashing stations along with foot bedel sanitizer dispenses installed in 8 of our children's club located. As a result, 222 children are availing hand washing stations, they are motivated to wash their hands before and after access the clubs.
- Community members has been sensitized by 263 children and 28 youth members on covid safety measures by their performances such as dance, poem, drawings, speech, drama, and songs. 1018 adults and youths to be protected them by following covid safety measures.



- The term 'climate change' is most often used to describe changes in the Earth's climate driven primarily by human activity. In order to stabilize the climate change, 110 adults, 141 children and 118 youth members wanted to do something by involving in environment protection action by 57 tree plantations with fencing and by cleaning coast by collecting non-degradable wastes from the sea shore.
- Nutritious food support given to 250 families as covid relief relief package those who are most vulnerable to covid situation. TDH supported by providing dry ration support which includes 24 types groceries fulfilled their nutritious needs, stayed away from hunger at least for 2 to 3 months.
- State and central government are providing many schemes to increase the wellbeing of people. Even covid pandemic increased the vulnerability due to unemployment. So that, the 172 members from 12 LG/ SHG members were sensitized on available government schemes and available livelihood opportunity. From these sensitizations we foresee, the beneficiaries of these program will apply for government schemes to improve their livelihood opportunities.
- Placing demands is one of the tools used to advocate for the people especially for the problems faced by children, youths, adults and LG/SHG members. As a result, 180 members from 13 LG's /SHG's capacitated on identification of local issues and formulation of demands. After attending this capacity building 14 demands were submitted LG members those who attended in the training session.

### **Reducing COVID 19 impacts on children and youths: Ensure continuity of essential education and child protection in COVID affected areas.**

- Awareness given to members of parents committee members on continuation and importance of girl's education, gender discrimination and how to overcome from the structured gender barrier especially from their households itself. Overall, 74 members sensitised on the importance of girl's education.
- Covid 19 as pandemic impacted inversely in life of fisherfolk socially and economically. As results many of the fisherfolk lost their employments, few children became orphan. So, some the parents and children they couldn't pay the school fees. That leads to school dropout. So that we found 13 of the children having the chance of being dropout. 4 dropout children out of 13 children has been re-enrolled. in schools and remaining Counselling was given to all the 13 of them. Their needs and minutes of the parents committee has been collected. Required materials will be procured next year and it will be handed over to them when the school is open.
- More than 80% of the children has the reduced their skills in writing, and reading. But after school reopening literally their writing skill and reading skill has improved. Overall, 40 youths were involved in individual follow up of children through regular assessments of 122 children's learning level.

- Teachers from public school, education centres and facilitators from child club trained on interactive pedagogy and contextualized learning This training imparted the main idea of interactive pedagogy, contextual teaching that is teaching is making students to think on their own, make them to write them own, make them to increase the thirst of learning, to make them to create interest on learning. Overall, 48 teachers participated in the training.
- Interactive learning will help the student's thirst while they learn, it also increases the interests while they learn. So that, our children club developed the teaching learning materials that help the teachers to teach the student through interactively and also make the students to learn interestingly. As a result, foresee, there will be a development in regular attendance, teacher's efforts to teach will be increase, student's thirst to learn will increased.
- Awareness on children's rights and protection issues in clubs including identification of risks, existing protection mechanism and demand generation given to children and youths. They prepared by participated methods such as spider mapping, vulnerability matrix. Active children and youths selected from 12 villages participated in awareness program. Overall, 199 children, youth and 10 adults.
- To advocate children's issues, children and youth consultation used as a tool for advocacy by formation and submitting demands to stakeholders of child protection mechanism. Children and youth consultation program have been held in 9 villages and they have submitted 12 demands before the authorities. Overall, 289 were part of these consultation including 166 children, 115 youths and 8 adults who assisted children and youths.
- 122 Individual children regular regularly assessed of their learning level by 40 youths' members by home visits.
- Sensitization of 115 parents and village level child protection committee members on child rights, child protection held in 5 villages and they sensitized on child rights, child protection and available child protection mechanism at village, block and district level.
- Placing demands is one of the tools used to advocate for child rights, to increase the participation on community-based groups to promote adolescent rights. As a results 100 demands were placed. Out of 100 demands 51 demands placed by adolescent girl children from adolescent clubs, 17 demands were placed by village level child protection committee and 32 demands were placed by parents committee members.

### Outcome 1

- 792 children of 72% of girls and 266 youth of 69% girls are aware of child rights and protection particularly on COVID prevention.
- 49% of children and youth (1372) are actively participated in actions for promotion of child rights and protection during pandemic.
- 52% 2639 of parents and community members were sensitized on child rights and environment protection by 2021.

- 11 initiatives actively participated to sensitize the community members from 12 villages led by children and youth members by 2021.
- 78% (2199) of 1580 children and 619 youth increased their knowledge and identified 70 issues of child rights violation and placed to local authorities.
- 2058 children and 686 youth increased their knowledge on preventive measures of COVID 19.
- 98% of 2760 vulnerable children and youth were ensured and benefitted from COVID prevention measures.

## Outcome 2

- 96% of 308 children, especially 195 girl children are continuing education by this 2021.
- 1370 girls children are enrolled in schools and continuing education with the support of education support centers and community members.
- 38% of trained school teachers and study education center teachers continuing the integrating interactive pedagogies.

## Evaluation of the intervention

There is a change in monitoring system within the organization, because of the participation of children and youth in project management cycle assessment. It has been realized by the organization that the children and youth participation is inevitable in organization's activities such as project management cycle. Hence, a decision has been made by the organization that the youth representatives be appointed as board members in the next annual general-body meetings, so that they can see what happens in the project.

Moreover, in COVID 19 relief support the local civil society organization (PASI federation) completely taken the responsibilities on beneficiary selection, grocery item selection, getting quotation, comparative analysis, purchase and distribution process.

Youth members did the well action plan for mass mask awareness program among the Rameswaram Island. They have planned to cover more than 30 villages and more than 30 members involved in distribution in various spaces.

## Advocacy and networking

PAD has strong network with block and District level institutions, CBOs and civil society organization. Moreover, PAD formed more than 78 youth groups in Gulf of Mannar area to ensure the children's education, rights, participation and protection. With the involvement of local community-based organization in Gulf of Mannar area, conducted the network meeting for youth empowerment and fulfil their rights. Most of the vulnerable areas, the adolescent girls and youth girls are targeted for the child labour system and migrant labour system. Context assessment process has been conducted among the children and identified the issues

at family, schools and community level. The tools enhanced the children to express their needs and challenges, to whom they should report; roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to deal the child protection mechanism.

Children and youth members were making them aware on village, panchayat, block and District level stakeholders to strengthen the child protection mechanisms.

## Case studies/Success stories

### Children club and Child rights training:

**Background of the family:** S. Paraloaha Periyanyahi, 14 years old girl, is studying ninth standard in the Government higher secondary school in Ramanathapuram. She lives with her younger sister, Sahana, her younger brother, Israel, and her mentally affected mother, Motcharani.



When her father Mr. Sahayaraj committed suicide four years ago, her mother became mentally imbalanced. As a result, the future of

Paraloaha Periyanyahi's family has been in a dire situation. Getting no graces from any of the relatives, all the three young children were having no source of income to meet the basic needs of their lives, and to treat and handle their sickly mother. Yet because of the kindness that their maternal uncle demonstrated, they survived until today.

**Distress situation:** As a result, the whole family became a child headed family. Her home, the hut, being open to sun and rain became prone to all sort uncomfortable like water leaking through the roof during the rainy days, sun shining in to the room during sunny days and dangerous insects and creepers invading their home at their free will. Moreover, the hut does not even have a fencing. The children always felt unsafe and terrified at nights. They always depend on someone else for food, transport, nutrition and other basic needs.

**Intervention of program:** When PAD and TDH conducted children club at her village, she became one of the members of that club. Then, by attending the monthly meetings, she became aware of the child rights and came to know about the child protection mechanism functioning in each



district. Therefore, she decided to approach a solution for her family issues. When she interacted with the staff members, they guided her to submit a petition to the district collector through 'Childline.

**Results:** Getting the petition from Paraloaha Periyanyahi, a team of officials from the collector office visited her at home and enquired about the situation. After the enquiry, the officials put the three of the children at the government higher secondary school at

Ramanathapuram and got them a safe boarding and lodging at a Government supported rehabilitation centre called “ANBU ILLAM”. As a result, all the three of them Paraloha Periyanyahi, Sahana and Israel are continuing their studies staying in a safe place.

**Current status of the child:** Now she is residing safely with her siblings at the same place, getting nutritious food, and continuing her studies. Due to our intervention, she and her siblings receive their basic needs. She is grateful to PAD and TDH for the remarkable work done for her.

### **Dropout child and enrolled and continuing study**

**Background of the family:** Paraloga Jesmitha, 13 years old, female, lives in Soosaiyapparpattinam, and her parents Mr. Adaikala Doss fishing coolie and her mother Flortha Home Maker. She live with her parents in a tsunami house provided by the government.

She has two elder brothers, first one married and her second brother dropped out from school at the grade of 9. Her family was living in poverty. Because her father is fishing coolie never bring his earnings to home and he addicted to alcohol and spend all his money for liquor. The whole family completely depends on his second brother’s income. He brings crop/ fish to cook food. Sometimes the owner pays Rs. 50 to 100/day.



**Distress situation:** She was studying 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Prince of Prince School which is little far from her area, none of the other kids in her area studied at that school. One time she realized she is the only one going to that school and reluctant to go to school and she dropped out.

In this situation because of low financial status of her family, she decided to go to fancy store and earned hundred rupees a day as wages and her working hours was from 8 am to 8 pm. She used to stand and work due her work nature affected her much physically. She does not even share her mother about these problems due to poverty.

**Intervention of program:** She used to attend in the children’s club, at Soosaiyapparpattinam. They taught her on the importance of self-awareness, ambition, decision-making ability, self-confidence, and perseverance and the importance of girl’s education. At that time, she realized that she could accomplish anything though. She also realized that it was wrong not to study and she should not go to work at this age. And she also developed in her heart that she should study and become a nurse.

She conveyed her desire to continue her education to the PAD staff. Then they linked her to the school head master of with the support of child line.

**Results:** After the PAD’S intervention she joined in Government Higher secondary schools at 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Now she feels that she can study well and she compete with her peer students even she goes to school after a gap. She has gained self-confidence and she is also clear on her decision-making ability that will help her to achieve her dream.

**Current status:** Currently she is continuing her education at the government higher secondary school which located in Thangachimadam with confidence and desire to achieve her goal to become nurse.

And she also expresses her gratitude to TDH – PAD for the help they done to set her goal, bringing her the confidence to achieve it and showed her the way to continue her studies.

## ADOLESCENT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

The State government announced the lock down to control the COVID 19 during the first wave. The local livelihoods and economic crisis were down in our target area. Towards that situation, the second wave of COVID 19 also continuing and making the target communities troubles. Those who engaged in daily wages, migratory work was lost their opportunity and mentally disrupted to manage the family commitments. Their entire family was depended on the livelihood sources. At the same time, there is no alternative livelihoods to ensure their daily life.

Gradually the target communities are engaging their livelihoods. Even though, they couldn't able to fulfill the needs of education and health of their children. Many children are under pressure to engage in local based livelihoods based on the pressure of their parents due to the school closure. This situation leads child labor and forced marriages among the communities. According to the child help line data during the pandemic which states that 124 child marriages stopped.

Regarding the education, children are not able to follow their education, since the online education system. But more than 65% of children were not able to access the smart phone to follow the online classes. The quality education is very challenging and questioning in our target area than the situation before pandemic.

**Community Support Groups are functioning effectively and involved in addressing the issues of young workers, especially acting to prevent risky recruitment and to uphold workplace rights of local young workers**

### **Community Support Group (CSG)**

After the formation of CSG, they aware and got the knowledge on rights and participation of children even adults. Based on that, last local body election 5 panchayat leaders and 21 other PRI representatives selected and actively doing their services to the children and women. Especially the CSG members who are in panchayat representation leads the community in selection of vulnerable and needy families, making them to meet the allied department members and placed the demands. They have ensured the child protection, re-enrolled the drop outs, stopping child marriages and doing the lobbying with the government department members for strengthening the village development plan.

The Panchayat representatives who came from CSGs are regularly monitoring and maintaining the migration register for migrated workers in our target areas.

They are motivating the community members on government schemes and social securities and make them to get during their needy time.

Kadaladi is registered as high early forced marriages stopped block, since the CSG members, children and adolescents are aware well and informed to child help line. So, the internal conflict among the communities were increased due to the lack of understanding the child rights, physical and mental health of children. So, they have created problem to the staffs and volunteers. CSG members make them to understand and lead problem solving process.

- There are 466 CSG members in 30 villages continuously involving in ensuring the protection of rights of children. They ensuring to function of CRC centres virtually/ batch wise.
- Regular Grievance Day petitions placed with community and individual demands with district administration. Totally 112 demands placed and among them, 72 rectified and 40 are under the process.
- Eg. Keelakidaram hamlet not proved with electric supplies for the last 15 years. They were approached and failed to get the facilities. After forming CSG, the aware the formal approaches and allied systems and placed the demands for electricity issues. Now the department members visited and analyzed the situation and ensured the electricity after 15 years with the continuous efforts of CSG members.
- At Sethurajapuram and Keelamundal villages, with the efforts of CSG members, increased the water supply areas in all the streets instead of single access area. So, the impact reduces the vulnerability of women, waiting, conflict, distance reduces and community clashes.
- At Siriakulam village, the damaged drinking water tank informed to the government and immediate response taken and renovated and ensured the safety of water tank. This is the first-time entire community-based effort to gain the rights with the motivation of PAD-FF project.
- At Avathandai village, CSG took efforts to ensure the education and safety of school environment. They mobilized resources and approached the government department and community people supporting and involved to giving petitions. The compound wall construction completed and improved the infra-structure. So, the admission has been increased by this year.
- CSG members supported internet and gadgets to access the children those who not able to get the e-learning during the pandemic to improve the education status at 20 villages.
- At M. R. Pattinam and Velayuthapuram villages, 13 dropped out children those who involved in local based livelihood were reenrolled by CSG members with the support of facilitators by 2019-2020. Due to the pandemic, they have completed higher secondary school now. They recognized and thankful to the CSG members, facilitators and adolescent empowerment program. Now they realized the value of education.

- At Kidaram village, placed the demand regarding the community garden, common path room and women specific building to conduct meeting. The Deputy Collector visited and estimated the prioritized needs and sanctioned the access. Now they establishing the community garden with all required things.
- CSGs of Velayuthapuram and Mariyoor, suggested to ensure the COVID test and Vaccination to mill workers those who belongs to these villages through the agents.
- CSGs of 11 villages advocated the parents those who struggling with COVID crisis and increase the Government school access, motivated the parents to admit their children at Government schools. The strength of children also increased.
- CSG members approached the PRI members to ensure the sanitation process at entire villages to keep the safety of children and adult in Pandemic.
- Parents forced children to go textile industry to due to pandemic, school closure and economic crisis. CSG members immediately reacted and convinced their parents and stopped the process. The children are ready to forward to the higher education at M. R. Pattinam, Kummasalai and Kavakulam villages.

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

- Totally 1838 Members participated and got awareness on Women's Day, Girl children day, Anti- slavery day and Labour Day. CSG encouraged children and contributed and honored children with prizes at CRCs during pandemic. Children also improved their skills on essay writing, drawing, singing, hand art, speech and puzzles.

#### **Livelihood and Educational Development of Cotton and Textile Mills:**

- CSG members motivated the parents of adolescent girls and young women mill workers to get skill development through computer course and tailoring courses. Last year 24 members benefitted and completed the courses.
- We have helped Five mill returnees to enrolled in Computer Course and Tailoring Course.

**Adolescents are actively engaged in group activities, have improved access to quality health and education services and are empowered to protect themselves from risky recruitments.**

#### **Development among the adolescent girls and boys.**

- There are 462 adolescent girls in AGG and 437 adolescent boys in ABG in 30 villages
- Based on the awareness created about the child rights with joint action with child help line, children claimed the food security and ensured for 23 vulnerable families.
- After the intervention of "Unnai Nee Arivai" life skill development module helped 80% of adolescent girls. They evolved action plan for daily based activities for effective learning and update their knowledge for career guidance.
- After the sticker awareness on "stop child marriage" helped to improve the knowledge of children on child rights. Even the parents suggested or forced to do marriage at earlier stage, children could able to oppose and claim their rights on time. They have taken the



strong decision and informed to child help line and other allied system those who working for children care and protection. Totally 11 forced marriages have been stopped by the adolescents. Even adolescent boys also given opinion to the parents regarding the maturity, early pregnancy impacts, physical and mental preparedness, education and future scope.

- Usha, the adolescent girls from MGR colony strongly taken the decision against the parent's decision that forced to go mill work. She has been clearly explained her parents and make them understood the impacts of child labour system and spoil of adolescent age. Now she has completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Even the pandemic situation, 74% of adolescent girl discussing among their groups on health hygiene, mental health and preparedness, menstrual hygiene, nutritive food, and precaution methods against COVID crisis. They have created good rapport with local VHNs, ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers and got the regular iron tablets and sanitary napkins.
- Adolescent girls are providing awareness on COVID precaution such as those who entry as new, they suggested to follow wearing masks, hand washing and using sanitizers. They assisted to conduct the COVID test and campaign. They acted as good mediators to bridge the parents and adults to aware the positive impacts of vaccination and COVID test.
- Adolescent girls created awareness among the parents, children, youth and livelihood groups about the on-line safety and digital awareness to safe handling the mobile. Especially given the awareness on paid game, advertisement and online shopping.
- AGG meetings helped to realize the vulnerable situation of families and how to relieve from those issues. The given book materials helped to know the situation and helped girls comes out program the mental depression during the pandemic. Parents forced to engage in local based livelihoods and these book materials helped to learn more about the career.
- Girl children are motivated to improve the co-curricular activities. More than 75 children were participated District level competition and 13 of them won the price during the pandemic. Among the children 3 of them got gadgets such as laptops, smartphones and tab for e-learning.
- 62% of adolescents realized their responsibility in house, school and community level and improved their confidence level to share their views and suggestions in common forum with their decision.
- Child line / stop child marriage Door sticker
- Adolescent boys created awareness videos about the environment after the library book facilities and access. They shared among the children, youth and adults to conserve the nature.
- Adolescent boys supported drop out children to re-enrolled and continue their higher education during the pandemic. They helped to children by sharing mobile phone, wifi, internet facilities to other non-accessible children.

### **CRC Activities:**

- 1122 were ensured their education without any dropouts by CRCs even the pandemic is continuing.
- The facilitators teach hand writing, reading, singing, telling stories, spoken class, drawing and traditional games etc. at the centre. They take much care attention to identify the latent talent of each child without their knowledge and then work out to develop that talent or skill by providing space and time for them in that skill. To encourage the attendance of the children, organization provides uniform, note-books, lunch-box, play materials etc. Hence, children are eager to attend the creative learning centre.
- As there has been Corona curfew declared in Tamilnadu, the schools remain closed. Hence, the primary and middle school students have no way of learning their subjects while the higher-grade students learn their subjects through the on-line classes. Because children cannot attend and learn the school lessons, their proficiency level in reading and writing may fall below the minimum. But the CRCs fill this gap and help the children retain their proficiency.

### **Vocational training:**

- Totally, 24 persons benefitted out of Vocational training support. Among them 19 persons have joined tailoring course and 05 for Computer Course. Among them 05 are survivors.

**Vulnerable families and survivors benefit with improved access to government schemes and entitlements and self-help groups strengthen their operations and performance in thrift and savings, improving access to alternative sources of household income.**

### **Government Schemes**

1112 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, etc...

### **VLCPC Village**

- According to demands placed by children regarding safety compound walls at school, renovation of anganwadi building and desilt the well with safe coverage have been resolved with the help of Block Development Officer.
- VLCPCs of Kanikoor, Mariyoor and Keelakidaram placed the demands to establish new anganwadi center. Based on the demand, the Government allotted and sanctioned the budget.

- VLCPC of M.R.Puram ensured the school safety by constructed the new compound wall, removed the prosopis plants, pruned the vulnerable trees and rectified the damaged road with the help of Block Development Officer.
- Due to the political problem, the new constructed primary school was not functioning and staff also not allotted. The CSG taken step and placed demands to recruit teachers and function the school. Based on that, government sanctioned and recruited staffs and running currently. Children also accessed the school for getting dry ration.
- 17 VLCPCs are actively participated in pandemic than the earlier period. They took responsibilities and did the connection to the local communities with the allied system.

### Livelihood group:

There are 426 members are in 27 SHG groups in 25 villages. 10 vulnerable persons of the poorest of the poor families belonging to 03 women livelihood groups are supported with MED. These 10 people are involving in dry fish selling, Charcoal making, tailoring and goat rearing

## Success stories/case stories

### Case story 1

Child Name: M.Mahalakshmi

Age: 15

Standard: 9<sup>th</sup>

Parents Name: Muniyasamy - Valli

Siblings: Elder sister, Pavithra (age 18) completed 10<sup>th</sup> standard and works in Sayalkudi electrical shop; younger sister Poovendini is studying 7<sup>th</sup> standard in Chattram Panchayat Union Middle School.

There are 431 families in M.R. Puram village of Kadukusanthai panchayat in Kataladi Block of Ramanathapuram District. Mahalakshmi's father does not go to work and pays for the family due to alcoholism, while his mother works for Rs. 200/ day in a brick work. Thus, due to family poverty he drops his children's education and sends her to work.

Mahalakshmi, a young girl, dropped out of 8<sup>th</sup> class in 2019. Due to COVID, she did not go to school because of the curfew and schools were inactive. As soon as the school was operational in 2021, Amudasurabhi, adolescent girl group member found out that Mahalakshmi was also ready to go to work due to family poverty without going to school. Then she went to Mahalakshmi's house and explained the importance of education to parents and Mahalakshmi. Now she has been re-enrolled and currently studying 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Case story 2

Name: Manju

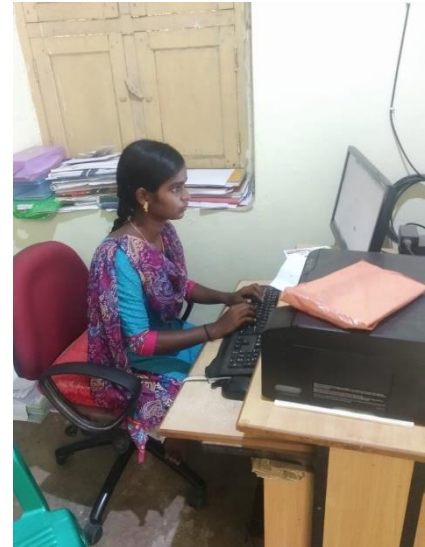
Age: 20

There are 736 families in Kavakulam village belongs to Keelakidaram panchayat of Ramanathapuram District. All the people in the village are engaged in agriculture, salting and

palm farming. Kavakulam village having agriculture and wetland eco system. The villagers are living in a situation where they can earn by farming only if the monsoon is good. Due to the lack of facilities like transport and being a very backward in education and livelihoods. The youth are in a situation of working as laborers in the textile industries in Coimbatore, Kovilpatti and Tirupur.

Manju studied 12<sup>th</sup> standard in a government high school in Erwadi. Her parent are Usha and Karuppasamy and they are doing labor work at salt pan at Kavakulam village and engages in MNREGA. The couple has two daughters. The eldest daughter's name is Vinodini and the second daughter's name is Manju. She is naturally good in her study and energetic. Her sister Vinodini was eager to start college carrier after finishing Class XII.

Their father had been working in salt pan and could not afford to send his child to school with the lower income. Their income is not fulfil their basic needs. Elder sister was applied to study Computer science. Manju went to work at the Valli textile mill in Kovilpatti as the family environment was not sufficient for both of them to study. Manju kept the income from her work and sent his sister Vinodini to study B.Sc.



Jayasakthi and Periyasamy, members of our Village Community Support Committee, who are well aware of Manju's illiteracy due to poor family. They discussed with Manju's parents' and revert back her from textile industry and send her for computer training provided by PAD. Manju completed the training with the help of PAD and Freedom Fund program. CSG member Periyasamy told the panchayat chief about Manju's family situation and offered him a job in the panchayat office. she got the local based job at banks and financial institutions and earn extra income. Muthoot had applied for a job at an accounting firm.

He is currently earning Rs 6000 per month. She says that doing job locally enable to take care my parents' health and serve the local people without the cost of transportation. I could not sleep properly because I worked 12 hours while working in the mill. Eye irritation led back pain. She said that the task I am currently doing is only 6 hours and without much physical exertion the villagers are very happy to serve our villagers with other tasks like MNREGA scheme registration and salary deposit and transaction, etc.,

### Case story 3

Name: Muneeswari

Village: Keelamundal

There are about 1038 families living in Keelamundal village of Valinokkam panchayat in Kadaladi Block, Ramanathapuram District. The Ganesan Muthunachchi couple live in the village of Keelamundal. Ganesan has been in the fishing and her wife helping with the fishing by making small aids such as net weaving and moss picking. They have two children. The first child Muneeswari is studying in the 9<sup>th</sup> standard and the second child Jagadish is studying in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Both are studying at the Panchayat Union Middle School.



Muniswari learned all the textbooks like essay and story from home when the schools were not functioning for the last two years due to the COVID pandemic. He learned and aware many things from “Call me Priya” and learned to be as confident and courageous as Priya and Radha.

Through this the teachers informed her to conduct an essay competition in her school while she was in the eighth grade. Muneeswari participated in this and won the first prize by writing an article titled "My Dream Library". I had been reluctant to participate in any competition before but now I have had the opportunity to showcase my talent in a group meeting with young women and discuss it with other students. So, I am very happy to have won the first prize by participating in the essay competition for the first time. She said that she was very happy to participate in many more competitions like this and would attend better like this.

### CHILD HELP LINE – 1098

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

The Child Help Line 1098 is a Project of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). CHILDLINE has been functioning from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 People’s Action for Development (PAD) is the

collaborative organization for Child Help Line in Thoothukudi District and sub centre in Ramanathapuram District.

### Aim and objective

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

### Intervention details of Collaboration, Thoothukudi

| Cases Intervened   | Total |
|--|-------|
| Medical support  | 0     |
| Seeking Shelter  | 29    |
| Nutrition (Mal nourishment) and health(physical/mental)                  | 11    |
| Restoration (within the country)   | 0     |
| Missing and runaway children   | 19    |
| Child lost and found   | 2     |
| Children in contact with the street                                      | 0     |
| Protection from abuse (Please fill up the table below for PFA case break |       |
| Child Marriage   |       |
| Child labor including bonded & agricultural labor                        |       |
| Child Sexual Abuse including commercial sexual exploitation              |       |
| Child Trafficking/unsafe migration                                       | 1     |
| Children found Beggary   | 1     |
| Physical abuse, Emotional abuse, Corporal punishment, Neglect            | 13    |
| Children affected by addiction/Substance Abuse                           | 2     |
| Children affected by Disaster and Civil Unrest                           | 0     |
| Child selling and illegal adoption/Abanded child                         | 0     |
| Information  |       |
| Education (including dropouts)   | 15    |
| Discrimination   | 0     |
| Cyber security and online safety   | 0     |
| HIV affected children  | 0     |
| Child in Conflict with Law   | 0     |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Sponsorship                             | <b>26</b>  |
| Referral to services                    | <b>22</b>  |
| Parents Asking Help                     | <b>9</b>   |
| Lack of basic amenities/service/support | <b>0</b>   |
| Children affected by disaster           | <b>0</b>   |
| Emotional Support & Guidance            | <b>105</b> |
| Other Intervention                      | <b>27</b>  |
| Unclassified                            | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>Total Interventions</b>              | <b>391</b> |
| Case received from outreach             | <b>40</b>  |
| Case received from Open house           | <b>0</b>   |
| Cases received from 1098                | <b>351</b> |
| FIR (Missing FIR)                       | <b>12</b>  |
| FIR (Other FIR)                         | <b>41</b>  |
| GT                                      | <b>53</b>  |
| CWC Production                          | <b>76</b>  |
| CWC Information                         | <b>76</b>  |

**Intervention details of Sub center, Rameswaram.**

| Cases intervened                | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>1. Protection from Abuse</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Sexual abuse                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     | 2     |
| Physical abuse                  | 1   | 3   |     | 1   |     | 4   | 1   |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 17    |
| Corporal punishment             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 7     |
| Emotional abuse                 | 1   | 4   | 3   | 1   | 2   | 4   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 29    |
| Child labour                    | 4   |     | 1   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 2   | 1   |     |     | 1   |     | 14    |
| Child trafficking               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1     |
| Child selling                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Child marriage                  | 3   | 1   | 2   | 6   | 5   | 5   | 1   | 4   | 3   | 3   | 4   | 2   | 39    |
| Child beggary                   | 1   | 1   |     | 1   | 3   | 2   |     | 2   |     | 3   | 2   | 1   | 16    |
| Total PFA                       | 10  | 9   | 6   | 10  | 14  | 16  | 7   | 9   | 8   | 9   | 12  | 12  | 122   |
| <b>2. Other intervention</b>    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Drug abuse                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Substance abuse                 |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1     |
| Neglect                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Restoration                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Shelter                         | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 2   | 6     |
| Medical                         |     | 1   | 1   | 2   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     | 6     |
| Nutrition                       | 1   | 5   | 32  | 8   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 50    |
| Drop out                        |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 3   | 4     |
| ES & G                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 1   |     | 5   | 2   | 10    |
| Parents asking Help             |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 2     |
| Child Found                     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     | 2     |
| Un Classified                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Total other intervention        | 2   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 8   | 3   | 14  | 6   | 14  | 4   | 3   | 5   | 79    |
| TOTAL                           | 15  | 21  | 54  | 25  | 28  | 23  | 32  | 25  | 29  | 19  | 34  | 24  | 330   |
| Case received from outreach     |     |     | 2   |     | 2   |     | 8   |     | 3   | 3   |     |     | 18    |
| Case received from Open house   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Cases received from 1098        | 15  | 21  | 54  | 25  | 26  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 16  | 34  | 24  | 312   |
| FIR (Missing FIR)               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| FIR (Other FIR)                 |     | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1   |     | 1   |     | 5     |
| GD                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| CWC Production                  | 1   | 3   | 4   |     | 2   | 5   |     | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 1   | 30    |
| CWC Information                 | 2   | 4   | 48  | 5   | 6   | 8   | 12  | 9   | 10  | 6   | 14  | 6   | 120   |

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



| <i>Types of calls</i>                      | <b>Apr</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>Jun</b> | <b>Jul</b> | <b>Aug</b> | <b>Sep</b> | <b>Oct</b> | <b>Nov</b> | <b>Dec</b> | <b>Jan</b> | <b>Feb</b> | <b>Mar</b> |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <i>I. Interventions</i>                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Medical help                               |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Shelter                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Repatriation                               |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Rescue                                     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Death-related                              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Sponsorship                                |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <i>II. Missing children</i>                |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Child lost                                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Runaway                                    |            |            |            |            |            | 4          | -          | 2          | 1          | 2          | -          | 2          |
| Parents asking help                        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <i>III. Emotional support and Guidance</i> |            |            |            |            |            | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          | 1          | -          |
| <i>IV. Others</i>                          |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Did not Find (DNF)                         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Total</b>                               |            |            |            |            |            | <b>4</b>   | <b>-</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   |

### Case study -1

#### Child Sexual Abuse

Child name : Esakki Sanjana  
Age : 5  
DOB : 05.12.2016  
Father Name : Aarumugaperumal  
Mother name : Aathikani  
Address : No. 6/89, Anna nagar, Angamangalam village,  
Kurumpoor (po), Thiruchendur Taluk, Alwar Block,  
Thoothukudi district.  
Abuser name : Muthukumar, Age -40  
Angamangalam village, Kurumpoor (po), Thiruchendur  
Taluk, Alwar Block, Thoothukudi district.  
Case ID : 480441  
Open date : 18.09.2021

**Contact with child line:** According to information received by Thoothukudi Child line-1098, on 18.09.2021, reported by Child Father.

**Background of the child:** Father and Mother both are earning. The girl is Angamangalam – Ankanvadi center. One younger sister, age -

**Intervention of Child Line:** According to the information received on 18.09.2021, when I met the girl in person, the girl said, "I went to Sukumar's house to play. Then his father went to the shop. After Sukumar played with me for a while, he went to play with other boys. He put it in his mouth and told me to take it and play and if I told him at home I would kill him. After that, when I inquired with the girl's mother, my daughter came home from Anganwadi at 3pm and Aunt went home to play. Her aunt went to the mother's house for childbirth and she would always play with her son, which is when my daughter was abused. The first day she did not tell me, she told the children at the place where she was playing, they came to me and told me, only then did I ask my people. She told me what happened. Then I told my husband about it. He immediately went to the police station next door and lodged a complaint. But they called him and sent a warning. It was only after that that we were told to call 1098. He was then told to lodge a complaint to register the first information report at the Srivaikuntam police station and all the above information was reported to the police station. The first information report was then recorded.

Cr. No. 16/2021, U/s. 5(m), 6 of POCSO Act 2012 and 506(1) IPC.  
Srivaikundam AWPS.

**Allied department involved:** AWPS - Srivaikundam

**Present status of the child:** Child Presently living with Parents.

## Case study -2

### Child marriage

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Child name  | : Rathika   |
| Age         | : 15  |
| D.O.B       | : 04.02.2006  |
| Father Name | : Ganasgan  |
| Mother name | : Mangalasanthari   |
| Address     | : North street, Ilandhapatti, Kayathar Taluk, Thoothukudi |
| Case ID     | : 502778  |
| Open date   | : 24/11/2021  |

**Contact with child line:** According to information received by Thoothukudi Child line-1098, on 24.11.2021, reported by Anganwadi teacher.

**Background of the child:** Father and Mother both are living. The child has one younger brother. She was studied polytechnic in kovilpatti.

**Intervention of Child Line:** On 24.11.2021, our office received information that a 15-year-old woman from Ilandapatti village in Kayathar taluka was married to a 26-year-old man from the same street. According to the information, when the team member also went to the police and the settlement officer and inquired, it was revealed that the girl had been in love with the boy for 2 years and was 3 months pregnant and on 10.11.2021 the girl and the boy got married without the knowledge of the parents. After that the girl was given comfort and the

village officer lodged a complaint at the Kovilpatti All Women's Police Station and the F.I.R was registered. The girl was handed over to the Child Welfare Board.

Cr.no 18/2021, U/s Child marriage Act 2006.

**Allied department involved:** Social welfare And Kovilpatti AWPS

**Present status of the child:** Child Presently living in Child welfare committee

### Case study -3

#### Child Sexual Abuse

Child name : Jerina beevi  
Age : 11  
Father Name : Samsudeen  
Mother name : Saila Banu  
Address : Sunami Colony, Siluvaipatti, Thoothukudi Taluk,  
Thoothukudi District.  
Case ID : 455833  
Open Date : 08/07/2021  
Step Father Name : Jelandhar, Age: 34

**Contact with child line:** According to information received by Thoothukudi Child line-1098, on, 08/07/221 reported by Child neighbor.

**Background of the Child:** Child father was left. Mother married to another person. The child was studied 6<sup>th</sup> std. The girl's mother has a habit of taking pills every day.

#### Intervention of Child Line:

On 8.7.2021, at 10.30 pm, the caller was not able to contact the 11-year-old girl living in the Tsunami Colony, Chiluvaipatti, Thoothukudi District, who was sexually harassed by her second father. The caller was questioned by the caller on the morning of 9.7.2021. The mother of the child said that all the women had gone to the police station to lodge a complaint and had sent word to the mother of the child, telling her where your husband was, that she would take further action after his arrest. Immediately after that, when I went to the child's home and spoke to him, the child said that my father had misbehaved with him when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> Standard. The child is currently studying in 6<sup>th</sup> standard. After that he went to AWPS with the parents of the child and filed a complaint. The child was handed over to the CWC that night and the FIR was filed on 11.1.2011. Cr. No: 22/2021 U / S (5) L, (m) R / W 6 of POCSO Act 012 and 506 (2) IPC. The case has been registered.

**Allied department involved:** AWPS

**Present status of the child:** Child Safe and stay on CWC.

## ACRONYM

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| ANC   | - Anti Natal Care  |
| AN-PN | - Anti Natal – Post Natal                                    |
| CB    | - Children Believe   |
| CBO   | - Community Based Organization                               |
| CDG   | - Child Designated Grant                                     |
| CFAM  | - Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism                       |
| CEO   | - Chief Education Officer                                    |
| COVID | - Corona Virus Disease                                       |
| CRPF  | - Child Rights Protection Forum                              |
| 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

