



Annual Report – 2022 to 2023



PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (PAD)

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PAD was arising out of the grounded experience and deep research on the life and livelihoods of coastal poor. Later, it expanded its service to other segments of poor living in distressed areas. The founders have had the passion and commitment for the cause of finding solutions to the people living in below the pyramid population.

People's Action for Development (PAD) is a legally registered as 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, livelihoods, 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

Since 2002, PAD has been involved in guiding the marginalized and releasing the human potential in order to address the development and therapeutic needs in Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram Districts of Tamil Nadu, India. PAD with its team of multi-development solution providers and professionals and marine scientists committed to the cause of combating rural and coastal poverty and socio-political imbalances, brought out the best use of existing indigenous knowledge/system and human and other resources. Focusing on the development of coastal fisher folk, small and marginal farmers, landless, dalits, children and women in general, PAD has been trying to inter connect economic and social aspects with conservation, management and sustainable use of natural resources and related ecosystem.

PAD believes in 'Participatory Development' and 'Bottom up' approach to problem solving. Consequently, PAD believes that sustainable development, development that ensures the interests of the weakest sections of the community are truly represented, will only be realized from the adoption of an integrated and holistic approach- an approach that tackles poverty, ill-health, literacy and empowerment through self-governing and self-determining system and democratic organization of, by and for the people.

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 km², 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 its over extraction.

ADOLESCENT GIRL'S EMPOWERMENT AT RAMESWARAM ISLAND

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. 81% (2283) of 1690 children and 593 youth increased their knowledge and identified 113 issues of child rights violation and placed to local authorities.

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. 74% of girls and 68% youths are aware of child rights and protection; 51% of children and youth (1411) are actively

participated in actions for promotion of child rights and protection during pandemic; 53% 2678 of parents and community members were sensitized on child rights and environment protection by 2022.

Area specification of the 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.

Key highlights of the program – 2022-2023

- Life skill trainings have impacted on drop out children on the importance of education and 13 children; 3 child labours and stopped 4 child marriages. They have voluntarily approached school management, parents committee and Community Support Groups to assist them in re-enrolment to continue their education.
- Value based attitudinal changes among the community, especially in Muslim communities. Because, earlier no one female not attend any kind of common meetings. Now, they doing regular meetings and placing the demands to concern authorities and negotiating them to address and solve the issues of children.
- Parents committee and Community Support Group meetings enhanced the awareness on importance of girl's education and they mobilizing the resource to attain the children in technical and professional courses.
- As a result of the orientation training on child rights, participation and gender sensitization children aware on various child protection mechanisms and responsible stakeholders to deal the children issues at village, panchayat, Block and District level. The tendency to place the demands increased and solve the children's issues very positive in manner.

Significant opportunities and achievements

- **Gender:** We identified a Muslim hamlet based on the need assessment and It was challenging to organize the community as per their village ground rules and norms. The objectives of the adolescent's program were well explained in Community, village leaders and Jammath (the local group called as Jammath). Then gradually attending meetings. They were motivated through various meetings, trainings and study support centres, the attendance and participation of the parents committee and Community Support Group (CSG) are very vibrant

and taking children issues and planning village development plan. Now both male and female conducting the meeting togetherness.

- **Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism (CFAM):** After the TOT training 535 children were taken lead at their own village and carrying the information to other children. 173 demands placed by the children to concern authorities and 43 of them addressed. During that time, parents and CSG members were disappointed about the process. Because they thought that, children are intentionally forced to learn about the issues. Then gradually, they realized the real situations and issues happening in and around the villages. Then, they also took part in these processes. The positive approaches enhanced the confidentiality of children in addressing their issues with brave with allied departments.
- **Life skill training:** The apprehension of the pandemic and the protocol of the Government as well as the parents' hesitation; it was challenging to facilitate the trainings. Training was organized and 381 girls were impressed by the topics and methodologies and were able to relate with their day-to-day life complex situations they faced. The girls shared with their peers and parents about the training and the impact of the training. The trainings created a platform to share their challenges, such as, present complex situations at the schools, community and family, and they are aware of the resolving mechanisms the government structures that they have to report. Goal setting was the highlight of the training which the girls owned. Most of the goals were focused on higher education and carrier building, marriage and forced labour was not their priority.
- **Parents committee:** More than 50% parents are aware of the importance of girl's education and higher education. The fathers are aware about the Reproductive roles and acknowledge the injustice caused to women. Long way to go, to change their behaviour in sharing the reproductive roles in their families.
- **Psycho-social support:** Due to regular program, 6131 children are aware of the child protection mechanism and they know the reporting process to address their issues. 40 children were got the counselling support.
- **Study Support Center:** We have created space for children through study support center in 30 villages with minimum of 850 children with all safety protocols. Children are improving their co-curricular skills, reading and writing skills.

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify 1800 adolescent children who are vulnerable to working in textile mills and fish processing units in 30 project villages of Rameswaram Island.

As of December 2021 we have Identified 1865 Adolescent girls from 30 villages. Among the identified, 910 adolescent girls are belonging to the age groups of 8 to 12 and 955 adolescent girls are belongs to the age groups of 13 to 19. According to the effectiveness of the group activities, children strength is increasing in trends.

60 Groups formed from the identified girls: 60 groups formed among the 1865 identified adolescent girls. 30 groups formed from the age groups of 8 to 12 and 30 groups formed from the age group of 13 to 19.

Create 60 social maps to assess lack of accessibility and to understand the factors for dropping out of school in 30 project villages in Rameswaram Island: We have facilitated PRA mapping exercises in 30 villages and 60 maps were completed with 7 tools used, such as social mapping, Resource mapping, Vulnerability mapping, problem analysis, spider web analysis, evacuation map and vision tree. They shared their knowledge and triangulated the information generated by their peer participants. These exercises helped them to understand their villages and the present situations of the adolescent girls. The developed mappings were presented in Gram Saba meetings and Community Support Groups meetings.

Orientation to adolescent children on their rights and the need to participation (with contextual module ready for training) and handholding them towards group maturity in 30 project villages in Rameswaram Island: 1482 Adolescent girl children from 30 villages participated in the orientation programme. Specific contextual modules have been prepared for the training on various topics such as adolescent rights, gender- gender discrimination, goal settings, social norms, social power, protection from sexual abuse, etc.,

Providing life skill education to all adolescent children through leadership development program through 36 camps for 60 groups in 30 project villages in Rameswaram Island: Life skill training program through camp approach given to 277 adolescent girl children. Among them, 141 of them belongs to the age group below 14 years old and remaining 136 children belongs to the age group of 15 – 19 years old.

Involving children in activities through 28 sessions to address the issues that affects their lives through Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism (CFAM): As per the plan, totally 18 sessions completed with 120 TOTs from 60 groups of 30 villages. Children were trained to identify their issues at family, school and community level. Also, they identified the stakeholders to deal the children issues and responsible Laws and policies to protect the children.

Forming 3 cluster level federations consisting of 120 members of 60 groups and an apex body of 15 members from the cluster federations in the Island: 2 times of 3 clusters level meetings has been organized and conducted the meeting. The cluster level forum has been formed and they are ready to form the Island level apex body by forth coming month. 135 core members are participating and sharing the children-based demands and issues.

Establishing 30 study support centers with Multi-Dimensional Learning Space to cater to 850 children in providing tuition support for subjects - English, Mathematics and Science for all the vulnerable children from 8th to 12th standard: So far, 850 children belong to 7th to 12th grade participate in 30 study support Centers in 30 villages. They have motivated with co-curricular skills and analytical skills. Children developed their curiosity to learn more beyond the subjects. The academic performances are documented and the progress is analyzed.

Organize career guidance for the 2500 children: 2649 children were actively participated in career guidance program at Rameswaram Island by this reporting period. They have equipped with subjects, future courses, types of jobs, differences in technical and arts subjects, scholarships and subsidy loan details. They provided with entrance examination details and links to reach the management to get the management seats and reserve quotas seats.

OBJECTIVE 2: Formation of parents committee in 30 villages of Rameswaram Island

There are 30 parents' committees organized with the membership of 2884 (Male 1368 and 1516 females) from 30 villages. The importance of positive parenting and the importance of girl's children education are being discussed in every meeting. Therefore, there will not be a drop out among girls, no early marriage or forced marriage, no child labor etc., These topics generate constructive discussions and realization. As a result, they placed 74 demands with the authorities. Among them 2 were solved.

Organise 30 Community Support Group (CSG): There are eight CSGs formed in 30 villages with 456 members. There are 145 male and 311 females. After the formation of CSG, the rights of children, especially their protection, participation and development aspects are being discussed. The CSG members who are the elected panchayat representatives, traditional leaders, school teachers if any, anganwadi teachers etc., They will play a role of monitoring their village children from dropping out, child marriage, distress migration, trafficking etc., and report to the authorities for rescuing and reenrolling in the school. As a result, totally 42 demands placed to the concern authorities and 14 of them resolved.

Conduct training and orientation sessions with the Village, Block, and District level child protection committee members: There was one panchayat, Block and District level child protection committee established and meeting conducted with 48 members. We have discussed about ensuring education up to 18 years, child marriage and child labour free panchayat, child friendly panchayat and roles and responsibilities of the committee. This committee is recognized by the District Child Protection unit and approved to be in the child protection structure.

Encourage and support CSGs to maintain a children's migration register: CSG members are encouraged to maintain tracking register of out of school children, migrant, immigrant children from our working villages. 30 CSGs are keeping the register with the details of adolescents.

Identify drop out children for mainstreaming back to school through financial support from CSG: CSGs, children and parents committee members have identified and provided the education materials and supports to 57 dropout children from 30 villages. They are continuing their education without any interruption. The parents committee, Community Support Groups and adolescent groups are monitoring them to continue their studies.

Placing demands before authorities: Placing demands is one of the tools used to advocate for adolescent rights, to increase the participation on community-based groups to promote adolescent

rights. As a results 114 demands were placed among 34 of the demands were resolved. Out of 114, 41 demands placed by adolescent clubs, 73 demands by CSGs and parents committee members.

OBJECTIVE 3: Psycho social awareness to school children

Psycho social awareness provided to 3138 school children and 123 teachers. As per the proper permission from education department, psycho-social support and awareness program is reaching effective in manner among the children and teachers. After the COVID-19 situation, children, adolescent and community members are gradually relieved from their mental depression and economic crisis.

Counselling Sessions: 77 students accessed the counselling sessions from 13 schools. The stressed children are being referred for counselling by the class teachers and the school head masters. There were 26 male children and 52 female children counselled. It was helpful to them.

Teachers training programme: Training to teachers on breaking gender barriers and adolescent friendly schools was covered in 4 schools and 123 teachers actively participated in this program. It has created a positive relationship between students and teachers.

Significant change story 1

Name : Nalini
Class : 10th Class
Parents : Rama and Bhumadevi
School : Government Higher Secondary School, Pomban
Address : Akkalmadamkalani, Pomban.



family background: My name is Nalini. There are three girls in my house. I am the third girl child. Both the sisters are married. The second sister had a child marriage. Within a few months of marriage, my second sister committed suicide and it affected my mind a lot. Since childhood, my parents thought that I should be born as a boy, so they brought me up as a boy. I don't have long hair and I don't want to. Even though I am now 15 years old, I don't want my styles to bring about a change in clothes. As we don't have our own house or land, we live in a rented house. Father is doing fishing and my mother is engaging in MNREHA scheme. I am studying in Govt High School. Even though everyone knows me as a girl, I look like a boy to new viewers.

Affected Status: In such a situation, I was living with great mental depression, without good friends or relations, and with great sadness. There is no one to tell me about my personal problems or to clarify them. Also, I have been criticized by many people even about my right to dress. Living like this

is wrong and it is not good for your future. Even though I spoke well in school and voiced my opinions, I felt marginalized and undervalued.

Program Intervention: In such an environment, I came to know that PAD organization is working in my village. When students at school talk about adolescent programs and activities and what they have learned, I am also interested. But I don't know how to connect and whom to contact. After that, PAD staff met me at my home. They thought I was a boy because I was dressed a little differently and looked like a boy. They spoke to my mother and father. I was waiting for the opportunity came to look for a house. I immediately agreed. My parents also had no objection to my decision. From that month, I started attending monthly meetings. I took part in village level meetings and focused my attention on educational support center held in the evening. I took part in life-giving trainings. I took part in village level meetings. Thus, I participated with interest in every important event of adolescent program. My mother is also a member of the parent group. Attends monthly meetings.

Recovery from issue: Thus, participating in monthly meetings for adolescent girls by life skills training and village level meetings, I saw the positive impacts very soon. I was born with the courage to boldly express my views in front of anyone and without fear of anything. I liked learning with great interest what are the negative and risks of child marriage and how to prevent child marriage. If I had known the operation of this organization earlier, could I have saved my sister. A fear emerged in me. Apart from that, I have made some progress in mathematics and English because of going to the study support center. I struggled to pass, and I got 15 marks more than the passing mark in this half-year exam. I attended orientation sessions at a monthly meeting for young women. So, I learned about sex and gender differences. I feel very happy that I am living according to that right. At the end of the orientation, I shared my innermost fears and doubts with the trainer when they asked me to share your thoughts, either publicly or privately. I also got a proper explanation for it. Also, I should study well and support my parents. They advised me not only to dress like a boy, but also to be better in morale and education.

Current status: Now, although there is not much child marriage, if there is any arrangement or information about child marriage, I am now aware of what should be done to prevent it immediately. Apart from that, I have never participated in the Gram Sabha meetings. But from the day I joined, in the Gram Sabha meetings, I attend and I have submitted a petition along with my peer group. As a result, traditional arts (Kind of safety art like Karate) is currently held at the municipal council office, two days a week. I am also a member of that. I am very happy that PAD organization has created an opportunity to learn the co-curricular skills with free of cost for children like me who are unable to pay for that due to poverty. Although being a woman is something that cannot be changed, I am proud to be bravely changing the social constructs, bondages and defined unwanted norms. I have been taking other people's problems as my problems and getting advice on what to do to fix them

through CFAM meetings. I will apply what I have learned better. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to PAD for providing such great opportunities and trying to solve the problems of my village.

Significant change story 2

Name : S. Abhinaya
Grade : 9th Standard
School : Government Higher Secondary School, Pomban
Parents : Kannan and Jayanti
Address : Akkalmadam Colony.



Family background: My name is Abhinaya. I am studying in 9th standard in government high school. I have only one brother. Mother goes to work in sea food processing company. Father also working as fishing coolie. I am the only girl in the house. As we do not have our own house, we are living in a rented house in Akkalmadam Colony area. Our family is living in extreme poverty. Father often gets sick.

Thus, it has become a regular situation for me to be mostly alone at home. Most of my time is spent with my neighborhood friends.

Affected condition: I don't know much about being alone like this. But it was only after being disturbed by the person across the house that I realized how bad the situation was. He and his wife are in the family of the person across the house. His wife is differently abled. He is a tailor. All the kids and girls on my street know him well and call him Grandpa Taylor. It was a good family to the extent that both of them exchanged cooking. In this environment, I noticed a big change in grandfather's activities during the last six months. As his wife also fell down, his sister stayed at home to take care of him. After that when he goes home to sew the clothes, he would ask me to wear it to make sure it fits, but I would refuse. I don't like his behaviour of trying to touch and talk too much, talking too much with kind words. Also, he misunderstood what I was talking to my friend on WhatsApp. He threatened me. He used to scare me every day. I also informed my friend about this. That was causing me mental distress.

Program Intervention: For the last one year, I have been working with PAD and participating in its activities. But I did not fully share in it. I will attend meetings from time to time. I will not go much out of curiosity. PAD staff advised me that only if I attend meetings properly, I can get proper knowledge and learnings. Accordingly, I started attending all the meetings properly. I also participated in life skills training and village level meetings. Apart from that, in the evenings, I also went to the study support center and started studying carefully. In subjects like English, Maths,

Science, etc., I cleared my doubts there. During orientation training at our center, the PAD staff clearly explained about right touch, wrong touch, abuse, etc. From that, how to protect ourselves and how to act with awareness about it, they also conducted clearly. He also shared his life experiences with us. They clearly said that it is not wrong to be vulnerable, it is to hide the vulnerability, which causes great harm and danger. Apart from that, if you have any problems or problems in your life, in general or personal ways, you can share them with me, they concluded.

After Intervention: After the orientation session was over, I met the PAD staff alone. I reluctantly told him my thoughts and my problems and how to tell my mother about it. She thoroughly listened to my problems and asked me exactly what the truth was. She confirmed that I had spoken to my friend on WhatsApp, that I had spoken to her brother, and that he had been threatening me with a text message on my phone as proof. Then she advised me to tell my mother first. I told him that if my mother doesn't trust me, I will have to take perverse decisions. Accordingly, that night I boldly told my mother about my problem. The next day the PAD worker also came and met my mother. They made my mother understand very deeply that we should trust our child first. Me and my mother discussed clearly. Thus, I was very happy that the PAD worker acted as a bridge to express my problem from my heart to my mother. That day my mother directly told him that it is not right for you to treat my child like this and if you continue to harass and scare my child in this way, I will have to take other legal action and leave him. Accordingly, today I am going to school as usual with my friends and with the support of my mother without any distress or fear.

Present status: Now I don't have any worries or problems. By, attending Orientation, I understood who to take my problem to first and how to fix the problems before they mature. Also, by attending life skills trainings and village level meetings, I learned the good things to know and the precautions to be taken as a young adult. Now I am also attending village council meetings. As a result of the traditional protective mechanism (Karate) petition given by the adolescent group in our area in the village council meeting, I have been going to the traditional safety art training every day at the Panchayat council office. Now I am concentrating on my studies as well. I have also fixed my internal problems. I would like to express my sincere thanks to PAD for making such a great change in me.

ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT AT KADALADI BLOCK

PAD is actively working for development of 133 villages covering Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu. Because the school dropout rate is high in Ramanathapuram district PAD is collaborating as well as advocating with the Government system to make the primary and compulsory education extend up to secondary level. Recent increase of incidences of child labour and child marriages are the fall out of denial of basic education for children and livelihood for parents and that has been aggravated in the COVID pandemic. This project will focus in on recovery efforts in 30 villages in Kadaladi Block, a particularly vulnerable area.

According to the Human Development Index, Ramanathapuram District ranks 20 out of 32 Tamil Nadu districts and in terms of Food Security Index, this district is 28th out of 32 districts. As per the HDI values, out of 11 blocks in the district, Kadaladi is the block in the bottom most level. Secondary school gross enrolment is very poor and dropout rate is high in the Kadaladi Block- only 57% of children are enrolled in secondary education- and this has likely worsened due to school closures for more than one year due to COVID outbreak. In addition, PAD has heard many reports of early forced marriages during the lockdown period, because of the families struggling to manage without livelihood and in financial crisis.

Component 1: Children's Education/well being

Education support to children: 85 vulnerable children received education support with the help of CSG and SHG. Thus, PAD prevented drop outs and children entering into exploitative labour in sea fishing activity, agricultural, salt pan and fish processing companies. Among them, 37 joined in the college 1st year.

Community Resource Centre: 926 children were ensured to sustain their education in 30 CRCs. Reading and writing skills improved among the children. They developed co-curricular skills such as drawing, speech, essay writing and puzzles to improve their mental ability. Flash card and alphabets have stimulated their interest in learning.

Their sports aptitude has seen qualitative improvement, participated in Kabadi, Marathon and Carom etc. Children were selected to sports competitions at the district level- in Carom, 2 children; in Kabadi – 9 children and 1 child selected for participation in a marathon.

34 children were participated National Means cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS) and 2 of them selected with monthly Rs.2000/- assistance. 7 children attended Tamilnadu Rural Student Talent examination (TNRST); 13 children got Science Scholarship. Reading, writing, singing, stories, drawing and co-curricular skills improved by read along application. Shyness and hesitation reduced and confidence increased. 102 children participating Silambam and Karate. Girls also actively

participated in Kabadi game. 275 children got the education aid materials with the support of youth clubs, Nandi foundation, CSGs and parents committee.

Children improved their arts and cultural action skills in handicrafts, awareness songs, picture drawing and traditional games. 152 children participated in art programs during Kamaraj's birthday and 75th Years of Independence Day celebrations. They participated in essay competition, singing and dancing, using local materials.

Children are aware of child rights and the UNCRC- specifically learned about “there should not be gender disparity against girls”. Since learning about gender equality, they play in school sports without discrimination. Children of Chatram village conducted stage performance on importance of “girl child education “in Sayalkudi School. Staffs and school management committee appreciated their spontaneous skills in creating concepts, debating and drama.

Quote: Community Resource Centre – Library Reference Materials give scope for claiming governance space through competition

Mr. Shanmugasundaram living at Keelakidaram village and having elder and younger Brother and a younger sister. He has completed engineering graduate. He is belonging to Dalit community and neglected by the community members in various places in terms of education and participation.



Their parents are doing the laundry work in their native village. So, there is no recognition and responsibility from the villagers since they are belonging to Dalit. Even the income also not sufficient to fulfil the basic needs of their family. So, his parent is doing 100 days 'work to earn their living. They have four children out of which three boys and one girl the first son is working in a private company and the second son is Shanmugasundaram who has qualified in Group 2 exam and scored 175 marks. He has written Group 4 exam. He bought and read the TNPSC book set according to the 2021 syllabus provided by the PAD_BAT organisation and passed the Group 2 exam. He is looking for a government job. If he gets a job, he says that he got a job because of our

project and community resource centre materials. Also, he is very happy to share the information anywhere about the motivation of PAD and CRC centre in terms of his achievement. He said that he should succeed in the exam and get a job. He said that **“in future, I will create such an opportunity to children to referring more to avail the competitive examination and succeeding the job, especially to the pro-poor sectors”**.

Case story: Case Study – Kaviya (Kuruvadi): Myself K. Kaviya studying 9th grade in Government high School, Kuruvadi, Kadaladi Block, Ramanathapuram District. I have an elder sister doing 11th standard. My father is a construction worker and my mother is working as a cook in Kuruvadi school.

Before intervention of Community Resource Center (CRC), we did not have any kind of opportunity in engaging co-curricular skills, reading and writing practices. Even, we don't have any guidance in clarification in our school subjects. Without guidance, most of the girls were not interested to continue their higher education after 10th. So, more drop outs was in our village and some of our friends engaged in part time works with their parents.



By that time, PAD organization approached our village, and conducted the meetings with village leaders, parents and our children. Based on our request, they established the CRC in our village. Now, there are 27 children participating regularly. It was new opportunity to us to learn daily subjects and new ideas with the help of centre facilitators. Through that how we can develop our skills by participating in various event. They taught us, how to speak without fear, engaging in traditional games, celebrating every important day like science day, world water day, national girl child day and teacher's day.

We developed our co-curricular skills such as handicrafts, dancing, acting, singing, elocution, debates and silambam, etc. Participating in such a way made us eager to speak boldly without fear. After the establishment of CRC and Adolescent Girls Group (AGG) meetings, we developed and fixed our goal. We have set clearly and explained what activities we have to do to achieve that goal and thus it helped me to set my goal. At first, I was not interested in joining any competition now after joining the centre, I want to join even if I lose. We formed and practiced dance as a group. I got interested in dancing by participating in various competitions one by one. Later I also participated in painting competitions and essay writing competitions. In our school, they took me to participate District level book exhibition at Ramanathapuram and I performed well. The district collector praised me for dancing well and asked me what I wanted to be. I wanted to be an IAS as soon. Immediately, he gave me lot of books according to my goal with lot of appreciation. It made me very happy. The incident was also reported in the newspaper. They took that paper and put it on the notice board in my school which makes me very proud.

In my school they gave me the topic of road safety and I had to make a painting on it and I won the first prize in that painting. And I participated in the essay competition related to drug addiction and won the second prize. When I told this to my parents, my parents were very proud. I was happy because of this I have an idea of what day of the competition I want to participate, whether win or lose, but I should join even small competition.

I thankful and grateful to my facilitator Kanakavalli and PAD who always giving information from various sources. It was very helpful for me how I bravely participated in many competitions and dances.

Career guidance: 11 career guidance programs conducted and 1270 children were participated. It was timely delivery of service for the students and teachers also lauded this as needy service. The staffs, Community Support Groups and School management committees mobilized the local resource and resource persons to cover more children to get the educational support. So, the 150 reference materials were also provided to schools and community resource centres (CRC).

Importance of girl's education: 1789 parents aware of the importance of education and career guidance and more on girl's education. So, girls have been studying until college, because their parents are more aware of the importance of education. Scholarships were helpful. After creating awareness, Kanikkoor – 3 children; Siraikulam – 2 children; Mariyoor – 5 children and Peikulam colony – 2 children were encouraged to access the College in first time in those villages. CSG members conducted the awareness program at Mariyoor and Keelamundal villages in-terms of importance of higher education and girls' education. CSGs started to mobilize the common higher education fund to ensure the girl's children education.

Enrolment of school children: 32 vulnerable dropped out children- from 8th and 11th due to disinterest on education but interested in going for work and earning money instead of learning. However, they were re-enrolled in formal education and now have a reduced risk of falling into labour exploitation.

Supporting adolescent girls' groups: 398 adolescent girls of 30 groups in 30 villages gained cross learning and sharing space to share as well as care and they attain personality development with close interaction and relationships. They learned about adolescent health education, personal and menstrual hygiene management, goal setting, self-care, rights, safeguarding, participation and protection of children and responsible stakeholders.

Adolescent girls were eager to train other children in schools without any hesitation as they have learned through AGG and capacity enhancement programs. Children of Peikulam have taken a class on menstrual hygiene in the school. The school teachers praised them for bold assertion in the classroom without shyness. They knew about the problem of menstruation now with scientific information and facts. This clarity prompted them to start talking to their parents. They have also received medical assistance for this. They eat peanuts and sesame sweets instead of the junk foods.

“Nam Valkai Nam Kaiyil” module enhance the children's capability to face the problems and solving mechanism, find out the root cause and reducing examination fear. AGG children are stopped 4 forced marriages at Kavakulam and Avathandai.

Case story: Case story - Child marriage

Muneeswari, aged 17 belongs to Avathandai village, Kadaladi Block, Ramanathapuram District. There are about 220 families living in Avathandai village in which most of the people belong to the agriculture-based community and some people are working as charcoal making laborers.

Mayalaku - Savitri couple have two sons and a daughter (Muneeswari). Her mother was suffered by breast cancer and her father is suffering with leg cancer. Her family was living in poverty. She completed her 12th grade by this current year. Her elder brother is married and lives alone abroad. He does nothing to help the family. The younger brother has written the 11th grade exam.

Without any help from her elder brother, she had to meet out the family commitments such as treatment of her father, study of younger brother and her higher study. She struggled with multiple vulnerable situations.

Her maternal uncle has taken advantage of their poverty to look for a groom in the same village and made the wrong decision to get out of your difficult situation since her brother does not take care of the family despite the absence of parents.

But she has refused the decision, because she has learned about child protection, early marriage and the problems it causes by attending a group of adult health education program, Adolescent Girls Group meetings.

She has twice trained in gender equality and is well versed in understanding it, so she has told her uncle about the physical and psychological harms of early marriage. She also told his colleagues about this early forced marriage and told the village level child protection committee to pursue her higher education.

She also said that bravely **“If arranges a marriage before the age of 18 to persons who have arranged marriage for young age, it is punishable under the Child Marriage Prohibition Act for all those who accompany it. So, I have been told that I have the rights to decide my career”**.

The Community Support Group members warned her maternal uncle to avoid this kind of steps and advised him encourage the higher study of Muneeswari. Now she is relieved from the issue and decided to engage in local based livelihoods in part time basis for family commitments and there is no one to protect and support the family, she goes to work on the farm (picking chillies and weeding – local based agriculture work). She used the income to keep his brother educated, took care of the family expenses and saved the rest for his higher studies.

The Community Support Group helped her to assist higher education support through PAD-BAT with Rs. 5000. She has applied in Paramakudi to study Diploma in Nursing in this academic year.



“I came to know the importance of girl’s education and awareness about child marriage, gender inequality, child help line – 1098, only because I participated in the training session for adolescent girls group meetings conducted by PAD. Thanks to that, I was able to study in the medical field that I wanted when I was born. I wish that the guidance that I have received can also be available to village students like me”.

Supporting adolescent boys’ groups: 347 adolescent boys of 30 groups in 30 villages, have a space which brought adolescent boys to a controlled atmosphere to discuss the pressing issues that adolescent boys are facing. They realized the importance of groups and got involved in village development activities. They are able to identify the issues of children substance abuse, infatuation etc and express their thoughts to the community support groups. Adolescent boys have highlighted the importance of girl child protection in the plan for village development. They also changed their attitude and are supporting parents in household work. The boys ensured that 4 children, who were not prepared to appear 10th examination, re-enrol to write the board examination. 10 children were given educational assistance through Child Line. The Adolescent boy’s group of Manickanagar tidied the area around the Aanganwadi and submitted a memorandum to declare it open and allow children to use ICDS centre. Children were made aware of the safe touch and understood how to report inappropriate behaviour to Child line.

They mobilized the local resources from CSGs and youth club members and conducted the children festival with various entertain games during Christmas and Pongal holidays. At Vagaikulam village, ABG supported to establish ration shops with their manual support. At Ilamchembur village, they mobilized the resources to establish the fencing at school.

Based on the gender awareness, the community members allowed to play mixed kabaddi match at Puthenthal and Poolankulam villages. Boys voluntarily asked the personal hygiene management training and disseminated the information to their peer groups.

School Management committees: Facilitators are the core members in school management committee in most of the schools which is supporting to take the children issues at schools’ level and helped to resolve those issues within the stipulated time. At Kannikapuri village, one of the CSG member who is part of SMC and helped school with public address system with his own contribution. A petition has been given through the School Management Committee (SMC) for 5 schools that do not have toilets. Now, the renovation has been completed and children are accessing the facilities. Based on the demands placed by SMC to demolish the old and damaged buildings at Kanikoor, Keelamundal, Ilamchembur, Uraikinaru and Karisalkulam, the demolishing process completed and safety has been ensured to the children.

Supporting Community support groups: CSGs of 30 villages planned and prepared the village development plans locating 375 unresolved issues. They identified the needs of the villages and

prepared for approaching the government welfare schemes. They prioritised 135 demands and submitted petitions to the district collector, which followed it up continuously. Conducted medical camps, grievance redressal camps, awareness camps and Kisan card camps in the villages. Petitions with demands also submitted to the government officials in the interface meetings. As a result, they have received 815 government welfare schemes.

Being a member of the School Management Committee, CSG members were responsible to ensure the safety of the children in the school. Gifts were distributed to the children of the Village Resource Centre proactively to encourage children. 8 children have been provided with educational scholarship by the CSG members.

CSG members mobilized education fund and provided to 5 pro-poor girl children. Also, they helped 5 girl children to join the higher education with the negotiation of college management at Mariyoor village. CSG members of Poolankulam helped to 2 girls to get 1,00,000/child as educational loan.

Assisted to get the worker's welfare schemes to 10 families. Among them, one family got the education support from the welfare scheme.

CSG members realized the importance of children and stopped 4 forced marriages and reenrol a girl to continue her education. As per the existing demands created by CSG to get the ration supplies in their own village, now got the order. But they don't have specific common building. So, immediately CSG members collected the local funds and established the building and supplies are ongoing process and communities are accessing the ration supplies.

In Puthenthal village, to strengthen the water storage bond, they placed the demands. Now, the government issued the order, visited, made value and initiated the process. At Melakidaram village, the community toilet schemes established with the contribution of CSG. In Periyakulam village, CSG member supported to get the bank loan to strengthen the self-help group economic status.

CSG members organized the various camps such as Kissan card, Aadhar card update, medical card, patta change and crop insurance. 26 CSGs completed their bank account process. Road facilities created in 5 villages (Keelamundal, Kuruvadi, Mariyoor, Pappakulam, Senjadainathapuram and T.M.Kottai).

In Karisalkulam village, CSG ensured school building, panchayat office and anganwadi building. Participation of CSG members in gram saba meetings improved. Kadaladi Block level CSG federation has been formed and they contributed to conduct the regular meetings and well aware about SMC and RTE Act. Also, they contributed in career guidance program, Block level TOT on adolescent health education and anaemic camp.

Case story

Community Support Groups (CSGs):

There are more than 120 families living in T. Pichaiyapuram village which belongs to T. Karisalkulam Panchayat, Kadadadi Block, Ramanathapuram District. All community members are doing agriculture as their main occupation and some families are working in Coimbatore and Tirupur when there is no agricultural work.

Gadambam Community Support Group (CSG) has been formed in this village under the guidance of PAD and they are working on village development, child protection,



education, health, women empowerment and informing the villagers about the welfare schemes of the Tamil Nadu government for the people and selecting the right beneficiaries and giving them information about the scheme and how to benefit from it.

The cost of expenses in agriculture is 15000 to 20000 rupees/acre. In this farming season, the marginal farmers are doing agricultural work by barrowing advance from local money lenders or traders who buy agricultural produce with huge interest. According to the saying, "Uluthavan kanakku paarthal that kambu kooda minjathu" that farmer will not get any kind of single profit from the agriculture process based on these expenses. The money left in agriculture is given as interest to moneylenders and traders. Farmers who are afraid of borrowing leave their land fallow without cultivating it and go to other places to work as millet or outside work.

Government of Tamil Nadu focusing the agriculture community for crop insurance and subsidy loans to improve the monsoon-based agriculture process. For that, the local farmers have based on the crop cultivated and get a certificate from the Village Administrative Officer to avail Rs. 25,000/ acre. It has been a practice to give crop loans, without giving proper notice to the people, giving interest-free loans only to the dominated caste and wealthy families, politicians, and those connected to cooperative societies, leaders of cooperative societies, relatives of workers, and selling agricultural products.

The Tamil Nadu government announced that it would give interest-free loans to farmers for crop and animal husbandry. This information was given to the community support group held every month in the village through field workers and volunteers. Documents to the village administration officer and get proof of the crop, including chillies, paddy, cotton, etc., To get interest-free loan for animal husbandry, CSG members-maintained savings account should in the Agriculture Cooperative Bank.

60 marginal farmers in T. Pichaiapuram village benefited from community support group members informing the people about crop/livestock loan and the methods of availing it. Totally



Rs.1,20,00,000/- crop loan and 30,00,000/- for livestock loan in 10 villages. As a farmer named Pokusamy says, I farm up to 4 acres, ploughing, fertilizing, sowing, tilling and harvesting these 4 acres cost 15,000 to 20,000 thousand. Let's just say, this year we got an interest-free crop loan from the Tamil Nadu government, so after getting a good price for the AC cotton in our neighbourhood, I will sell it, so I will make a profit of 40,000 to 50,000/100 kg. I am happy to think that no one is involved in the cost of agriculture. I would like to express my gratitude to the PAD company and the employees of the company for telling us about the interest-free crop loan program of the Tamil Nadu government and telling us the way to increase the loan.

T.M. Kottai Agriculture Cooperative Union Secretary Mr. Mr. Karunakaramurthy says that in the last financial year we had given crop loan of 85 lakh rupees through agriculture cooperative Society. But this year 2.25 crores have been given interest free loan for crop/livestock raising. I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of the PAD Institute and the employees of the T.M.Kottai cooperative who have been of great benefit to all the people by creating awareness about the Tamil Nadu government's crop/livestock loan.

Migrant register: 162 migrants registered by Community Support Groups- CSGs and Panchayat Raj Institutions-PRIs. Identity was gained by migrant workers and PRIs also recognised their presence.

Observation of important days: 3105 members participated in various important days by this reporting period. During Kamarajar birthday, more children participated in competitions and won prizes. Thus, children participate without shyness. 5 selected children have participated in speech

competition held at Block and District level. Children those who access the Community Resource Centre know well about important days like Human Trafficking Day, Yoga Day, Science Day, Internet Day, National girl children's day, women's day and Independence Day. They celebrated Environment Day and Labor Day

Component 2: Health Services

Adolescent health camps: An adolescent health camp was conducted for 327 children. They were examined and among them 112 children were found to be anaemic and provided with medical kit (gooseberry, cardamom leaf, drumstick powder, honey) through Siddha Medical unit -Kadaladi. They are under constant health monitoring. 146 girl children participated in a medical awareness camp on anaemia and nutritious food items at Sayalkudi Government Higher Secondary School. After check-up, iron tablets were given. (In the survey we found that 8th to 10th class girl children not aware of menstruation, hence encouraged to participate). The Government health department openly acknowledged that, they never conducted such a medical camp before and it was possible due to the cooperation of PAD. Parents of children who missed the camp are requested to get their children tested too. Relationship with doctors, village health nurses and health department strengthened.

By this reporting period, 59 adolescent girls were identified by CSG members and trained as TOT in health at Block level. The Government health department openly acknowledged that, they never conducted such a medical camp before and it was possible due to the cooperation of PAD.

Interface meeting with govt stakeholders: 136 CSG members, PRI members and allied department members participated. The Village Development Plan prepared by the Community Support Group was submitted. People placed their demands and Government officials responded directly to the people.

Component 3: House hold Economic Recovery

Training on Enterprises: 151 members of SHGs and women who have interest to do small businesses were participated in the training on women entrepreneur development program. Training inputs given on goal setting for business, business model, resources, financial feasibility, finance management, branding. They learned how to prepare project proposals for businesses- Poultry, Animal Husbandry, organic manure farming, and value addition of palm products, agriculture, fish pickling and setting up an online store.

Support to start Micro enterprises: Totally 525 women SHG members are being part of SHGs in our target area. Among them, 76 members got the bank credits Rs. 10,58,500/- for charcoal making, agriculture, palm tapping, fishing and petti shops and street vending.

20 women SHG members supported to start micro enterprises. 12 got training and 2 started herbal tooth powder and bath soap and earn new income. They are supplying to self-help groups, student's hostel and MGNREGA workers. Regularly they are getting income of Rs.150 to 250 per day.

Support to start Micro enterprises: 15 women self-help group members linked with credit linkages through "Puthu Vaalvu Thittam" – "New Life Scheme" with 100% subsidy. (Free loan for (Scheduled Caste - Rs.1000/head)

Vocational training course: 33 girls completed the vocational training course (Tailoring) and ensured with certificate. Now 12 of them are doing the tailoring at their home itself.

Ensure Social Security Schemes: 4 children from vulnerable families got the educational support Rs. 4000/head from labor welfare scheme. 25 members ensured OAP by this reporting period. The interface meetings are very helpful to allow Government officials to explain conditions attached with the scheme to the potential participants.

By this reporting period, 1469 members ensured by various social security schemes such as PMJDY – 16; PMJJBY – 6; PMSBY – 8; APY – 2; OAP – 21; Government schemes – 447; Selvamahal – 4; Tailoring – 1; Medical card – 712 and voter ID – 252. Among them, 6 of OAP holders and a different abled receiving their benefits regularly. According to the existing workers welfare scheme, one child got education support.

By this reporting period, COVID death family got the compensation Rs.6,00,000 to 2 children by efforts CSG members and staffs at Sevalpatti. 18 members got PMAY scheme and building under construction.

Strengthening and formation 35 SHG: 121 members joined in "Puthu Valvu Thittam" a scheme that aims at rural transformation through strategies that look beyond poverty alleviation by building sustainability and prosperity of rural communities through rural enterprise promotion, access to finance and employment opportunities in the selected blocks of Tamil Nadu. 15 persons have received 100% subsidy grant of Rs.1000 each. It has been used for children's education, medicine, buying fishing nets, agriculture and flour trade. 96 persons have used Rs.10, 99,400.

Component 4: Networking with aligned CSOs to support the hostel staying children.

Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLPC) meeting with govt stakeholders: By this reporting period 7 VLPCs and a Block level child protection committee meeting conducted. 98 VLPC members and allied department members participated. The VLPC members aware their roles and responsibilities in strengthening and ensuring child protection mechanism in village and Panchayat level.

Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism (CFAM): The new innovative child care and protection mechanism initiated in our 24 target villages. Totally 660 children are being part of the program.

The main concept of this program is, children have to do the context assessment, UNCRC, challenges faced in family, schools and community level, vulnerable and risk assessment, rights and participation of children are provided as inputs.

PAD and TRRM conducted a stakeholder meeting to highlight the issues of local and interstate migrant workers staying in hostels. These included lack of space, poor food quality, access to health care particularly menstrual hygiene for young and adolescent workers, forced work and overtime. Through the meeting, networking relationships were forged among different stakeholders' inclusive government, middle level management and likeminded activists.

CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The project setting is unique in many respects by virtue of being the “protected coastal area” with many eco-systems and sub-systems failing within it. They are marine, coastal, salt, Teris (sand mounts with undulating terrain), terrestrial, palmyra, agricultural, charcoal making and wetland systems interweaving, overlapping, interfacing and interacting to make it as a special and bio-rich region. Yet, it is inhabited by mostly poor and distressed humanity of the planet earth. Here, islands of richness amid ocean of poverty are evident, denoting the disparity, inequality and vast living gap between the haves and have-nots.

Towards dismantling the barriers to education

Creating equal access to quality ECCD:

- 316 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.
- Based on the ECCD programs and suggestion given by the PN mothers, ICDS departments informed all anganwadi workers to create WhatsApp group for children and regularly update the learning materials by online due to the lockdown. Regularly did the individual house visit and monitored the leaning status of 1378 children.
- Target communities are realized the importance of girl's education and ensuring up to secondary education. Since the education funds created in parents committee, they supported for 12 children to continue their higher education.
- 30 Creative learning centers ensured the quality learning to 865 children during this reporting period. The CLC facilitators were mentored regularly and learned to collect the technical inputs to share the trendy information towards the quality education of children.
- Creative Learning Centre 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.

- Earlier some parents have not been allowed to go out of home and was kept locked within the home to avoid the child from creating problems and conflicts with the other children. After the ECCD intervention, they allowed the children to mingle with others. After that, the children gradually improved their languages and leaned more words.
- 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.
- The core committee members and umbrella CBOs capacitated with sustainable action plan to take the lead in ensuring the child centric development in all aspects by this reporting period.

Education reach:

Total Reach**	14647
36-59 months male	1376
36-59 months female	1402
6-14 male	3005
6-14 female	4112
15-24 male	2112
15-24 female	2640

Anecdotes and Quotes:

Higher Education support: The village level education fund created with the support of PAD, CB and parents committee, they deposited of special gift money that individual child receives from sponsorship program through CB ensured education of girl children and paved a way for higher education to 84% girls which higher than boys. Hence, **“the usual trend of only boys attending colleges changed and now girls also attend colleges at the towns”**. This trend is keenly watched as a desirable and important change by the villagers.

Success-Stories

Education barrier: My name is Poesakki and I am from the village called Vadakkuseval. I had been attending 10th grade. My father is Mr. Thirumani and Mother, Mrs. Arumugam. There are four girls

and a boy in our family. Our livelihood is palmyra tapping. As there four girls in our family, we had been through a difficult time always. Wanting to find an additional income for the family my parents dropping me from school and put me in a sea processing unit at Thoothukudi as a child labourer. Hence, I became a drop out. But when the youths at the youth meetings and the adolescents at the adolescent meeting heard about my story, they called the toll-free number 1098 and requested them to put me back in the school. Following this Childline contacted me and after verifying the truth, they met my parents and had a lengthy discussion and provided them counselling. Thereafter, after with the support of ChildLine my parents readmitted me in the school and now, I am studying 12th grade. **“If not the youth group and adolescent group did not take steps and contacted ChildLine, I would be a child labour now”**. All the credits go to PAD organization and hence, I want to thank PAD.

Ensuring children are living in healthy and empowered communities

improving maternal, new born, and children health and nutritious intake through increased utilization of maternal/ child health services and reduction of harmful practices in target communities:

- PAD and Children Believe provided 30 weighing machines to 30 anganwadi centers to monitor the weight of children in Kadaladi Block. Through that, we got good rapport and got the support for 12 adolescent girls with health kits to improve the health status.
- 1025 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Assisted nutrition kits to 78 AN mother through health department.
- Still 18% of families are continuing BIG and ensuring the nutritive food to the children.
- The program ensured the 28 volunteers including facilitators that communicated directly to health department about COVID test, vaccination and COVID affected members.

- Joint action with health department and organized camp for COVID Vaccination at 60 panchayats and covered 748 (316 male and 432 females) members. Among them 115 members got booster dose vaccination (98 male and 17 females).

Health Reach:

Total Reach**	4637
0-5 months male	1376
0-5 months female	1402
Pregnant Women	361
Lactating mothers	688
Young fathers	810

Anecdotes and Quotes:

Adolescent health education: I, Priyadharshini, daughter of Mr. Selvaraj and Mrs. Parvathi, attending the adolescent health program meetings held at PAD office understood the nutritious food table for the students. Hence, I can identify the food those are rich in iron. Hence, I began to eat such food. Prior to this, I disliked dishes made with drumstick leaves. But now, I cook these leaves to my liking and take it often. It is only after attending adolescent health program meetings, I began to eat turkey-berry which is rich in iron. Moreover, it is available free from our back yards. Not only turkey-berry, but also, I began to eat pea-nuts as well.

“I also understood that if there is some health issue in my body, I immediately meet the Village health nurse and clear my doubts about the changes in my body”. I would like to thank PAD organization for bringing me a change in my life.

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.

Contribution of child rights and child protection program:

- 6 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.
- After the school closure, boys addicted with mobile and adopted for unwanted videos. After the special classes started for 10th and 12th, 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.
- 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 third 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.
- Moreover, our counselling staffs who have been selected as District level to provide psycho-social support to the vulnerable and mentally depressed.

Program reach:

Total Reach**	78
0-5 months male	-
0-5 months female	-
6-14 male	14
6-14 female	36
15-24 male	12
15-24 female	16

Anecdotes and Quotes:

Participation of UPR: Children from PAD have participated through Forum for Promotion of Child Participation (FCPC) in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which is under the auspices of the Human Rights Council of the UN. Children presented their recommendations such as increasing the age of child labour to 18 years (currently children over 14 years are allowed to be engaged in non-

hazardous work); **We are happy that “what we are suggests/recommend, that will be reflects in Global level”**. This is the good chance/opportunity to us.

Success-Stories

Adolescent groups meeting: There are about 130 households with a population of about 543 live in Manickanagr in Naripaiyur Panchayat in Kadalady taluk and Ramanathapuram district. Main occupation of the community in this village are palm tapping, fishing, salt pan labour etc. The children being from a Dalit community from a remote village, have no support for getting educated. Parents were not on a position to send their children to school away from the village spending money for the travel. There existed no federation to guide the individual or the community. But having formed groups like village level child protection committee, adolescent girls’ group, adolscent boys group and mainly the livelihood groups. The importance of education and especially, girls’ education has been discussed at each one of these meetings and the inportance of child protection and the issues those are faced by the drop out children and how they can get support from Child Line 1098 if there arise a situation where child protection is violated. Because of these initiations school drop outs are stopped now.

It was discussed that if the children became drop out, they will end up in domestic helping workers as child labours. And those drop out children will be mentally disturbed and their future is going to be a darkest place for them. And at the meetings of these federation a film named “adolescent education” has been screened to describe how a drop out child is affected in life especially the sexual abuses faced by such drop out children. When the child stays home alone without attending school, they are prone to be sexually abused even by the close relatives at home. The group members are explained that only when a child gets educated, they might have a dignified life in future. At one such meetings, Tamilarasi and Mahalakshmi told that three girls named Kavitha, Anjali and Vaideki are drop outs then. Hearing this information, the group members ensured at the meeting that they will work out to get them all the three back in school. Therefore, their parents are met and discussed about the importance education for their daughters.

The first girl Kavitha was met by the adolescent girls, she said that she has no interest. Mahalakshmi explained Kavitha about the importance of girl’s education and contacted Chid Line 1098 and helped Havitha attend 7th grade in Baratha Matha High School in Narippaiyur.

The second girl Anjali was met she said that her parents are doing palm tapping staying in the palm grove in a distance place and she wanted to stay with her parents instead of attending school as she lost interest in studying. Adolescent girls made her attend the meeting and each one of the members talked and explained her about the importance of education. Therefore, Anjali promised that she herself will join the school. As promised, she now studies 8th grade in Bharata Matha High School in Naripaiyur.

The third girl Vaideki said to Monisha, a member of Adolescent girls’ group that as she does not like to attend school and study, she keeps working in a Sri Vijayalakshmi ginning factory in

Sankaralinkapuram. Therefore, the adolescent girls' group members decided to meet her parents and discuss with them and get Vaideki back at school. Vaideki said that she is afraid to attend school as she missed school two months. But, Deepika one of the group member, Deepika helped Vaideki get admission in 8th grade in Hindu Ksathriya Nadar Middle school in Kannirajapuram. Hence, Vaideki studies 8th grade now.

Because of the efforts of adolescent girls' group three drop out girls are streamlined back in the schools. As of Manickanagar, the community will attain a higher level in the community by getting quality education. This has been the dream of the community and the Organization.

Promoting equality for girls

Creation of spaces for young women and mothers to ensure that their voices are heard in societal decision-making process that affect their lives.

- Elected women PRI representative not taken any responsibilities and standing back to their husbands and relatives where their responsibility to be ensured. 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.
- Earlier more violations such as liquoring, verbal abuse, beating family members, dowry, punishment to children happened. According to the gender sensitization and domestic violence Act training by PAD and CB the trend has been changed and providing response to them. Women and girls are making them understand the family situation instead of fighting with them.
- 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 8 girls and 4 boys.
- Presently girl children are got more score and attain the higher education than the boys by this reporting period.
- Girl children are motivated to improve the co-curricular activities. More than 60 children were participated District level competition and 9 of them won the price during the 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.
- Women gradually aware the laws and parents also response their needs and allots the properties and assets to girl children.

- 42 members of LG members got micro grant from other network to start the micro entrepreneur which covered sponsored children and CLC children’s education and food security.

Program reach

Total Reach**	330
6-14 male	-
6-14 female	-
15-24 male	72
15-24 female	141
Adult male	60
Adult female	57

Anecdotes

Gender equality: We understanding the necessity and importance of the growth of gender equality among the present generation. As a result, boys and girls discuss together in children club and youth group meetings and take decisions. This is predominant in the youth group meetings where it is unacceptable by the community for boys and girls sit together in meetings and discuss things. **“This trend of youth group boys and girls sitting together and conducting the meeting began in a village in the outset, spread to 22 villages at present”**. “The beauty in it is that the parents who were once vehemently opposing anything of this sort allowed it and cooperated with them providing full support”.

‘An impossibility is fulfilled in our village – boys and girls sit together at the youth meetings regularly, discuss about the issues and work for a solution. The wonder is that parents who were against it, encourage us to do work together for the development’.

Success-Stories

Ensuring equal opportunity, income generation with young women rights:

There are about 642 households with a population of about 2568 living in Keelamundal in Kadaladi taluk and Ramanathapuram district. Main occupation of the community in this village is fishing. They also work in the NREGA scheme or in salt pans. Having no federations or interested people in the village to guide the community towards a brighter future, the community found it hard to approach any one for the development of the village. At this juncture, PAD entered this village and guided them to form livelihood groups and lead them in the development activities. These groups identified the needs of the community and submitted the petitions to the district administration office.

Following this, they began to identify issues of children, women and adolescent girls and address those issues. When they began to identify issues, they found most of the children became dropouts and ended as child laborers in textile mills in towns away from the village. During the discussion, it touched on the problems of adolescent girls at the lodging provided by the mills. Therefore, to avoid adolescent girls to go as child laborers, the group thought of establishing an income opportunity for the mothers in the community itself. They thought of starting a sewing class for them in the village itself instead of travelling a long-distance wasting money and time. When the women and adolescent girls approached the local Panchayat president and the counsellor to provide a common building to conduct the sewing classes. They in turn found a common building and decided to conduct the training in that building. They were presented 5 sewing machines by “Thanvanthri Trust”. The training has been going on for 40 adolescent girls and women. As a result of this, numbers of women who have to work in other place as well as staying in the lodging provided by the companies have stopped.

Partnering with children and youth for change

- According to the knowledge gathered from CFAM process, children ensured education support to 14 pro-poor families with the help of child line.
- Children and youth raised their voice at parents committee and applied higher education support for 12 members.
- Village Level Child Protection Committee members did the action plan with children and youth and they consolidated that Block level and submitted to the Block level stakeholders.
- The continuity of COVID effects and mind set, parents are not allowing girl children to go anywhere with their friends. Monitoring mechanism and perception on adolescents are completely dominated and it leads more pressure to the girl children.
- 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.
- 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 acted against the agents and informed to labor department and child line. They were inspected themselves and revert back 7 children and they are continuing their education.
- 4 of the children from Manickanagar neglected during admission at school because of Dalit and 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.

- CFAM children written letter to Prime minister and Health Minister to ensure the COTPA (Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act) Act 2020 to control the tobacco usage.
- 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 have been organized the special camp to improve the skills of girls, especially they encourage them in “Silambam” and they participated in District and State level.

Program reach

Total Reach**	1090
6-14 male	421
6-14 female	333
15-24 male	216
15-24 female	120

Anecdotes

Child Friendly Accountable Mechanism: Thamilarasi, a girl child, studying 10th 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.

Thamilarasi 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 – CB organizations.”

Success story

Drop out: There are about 120 households in Vettukkadu in Kadaladi taluk in Ramanathapuram district. Palm tapping is the main occupation of the community in this village. When there was

limited scope for the livelihood, people move to Coimbatore, Tiruppur, or Chennai in search of livelihood and live there.

Manimegalai is the 3rd daughter of Mr. Chinnapogusamy and Mrs. Umaiyaparvathi. Completed primary education in the local Panchayat union primary school in her village. And then joined high school in the government high school in kannirajapuram. But she could not complete 10th grade because of the poor economy of the family and became a 10th drop out.

As her family has been through an economic crisis, Manimegalai and her sister Ambika became laborers in a textile unit called S.P. Apparels. They visited their family during the festival days only. They spent three years in that unit. Whenever Manimegalai visited the village, she participated in the adolescent girls meeting and shared her experience at the textile unit. She would have talked about her wage, PF and ESI and above all she painfully talks about the lodging and the food that she used to get there.

Last time as usual, she attended the adolescent girls meeting when visited the village during the village festival celebration. During this meeting, there was a discussion about the sewing classes which were going to be held freely for the adolescent girls. Hearing this, wanting to study sewing, she talked about this to her parents. Her parents in turn approached the Village Level Child Protection Committee member and requested them to allow her daughter to join this training. Having been selected by the VLCPC members, Manimegalai got admission in the sewing classes. Having joined the sewing class, she completed the course in three months of time. At present, having no sewing machine at home, she borrowed a sewing machine from one of her relatives and began to stitch clothes for her family members to begin strengthening her skills in sewing. She also made black-board duster for the school where she studied primary classes.

Her father, Chinnapogusamy, had heard about the government scheme in which they provided sewing machines to below poverty line families. Getting the information from the PAD staff he first of all applied for the required documents like income certificate, nativity certificate and got them all ready at hand and is going to apply for the free sewing machine from the government. He proudly says that his daughter has learnt a skill and she will earn for her life and have a peaceful life thereafter. Therefore, he wants to thank the PAD organization and all others who worked for the changes in Manimegalai's life.

CHILD HELP LINE - 1098

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

The Child Help Line 1098 is a Project of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). CHILDLINE has been functioning from 10th March 2012 People’s Action for Development (PAD) is the collaborative organization for Child Help Line in Thoothukudi District and sub centre in Ramanathapuram District.

Aim and objective

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

Intervention details of Collaboration, Thoothukudi

Types of Calls	Total
I. Interventions	
Medical help	2
Shelter	25
Repatriation	0
Rescue	0
Death-related	0
Sponsorship	30
Child conflict with law	1
II. Missing Children	2
Child lost & found	6
parents asking help	6
III. Emotional support and Guidance	99
IV. Others	
Child marriage	63
CSA	29
Child labor	7
Begging	3

Physical abuse	12
Dropout	53
Corporal punishment	11
Emotional abuse	9
Educational help	20
Family/Custody issue	16
Home issue	4
Verbal abuse	2
Drug addict	5
Eve teasing	3
Cyber bullying	3
School /ICDS issue	9
Elopement	3
Runaway	7
Trafficking	1
Malnutrition	1
Illegal adoption	1
Abandoned Children	1
Did not find (DNF/DNI)	161
Information & Referral to service	41
Total	636

Intervention details of Railway Child Help Desk, Thoothukudi

Types of Calls	Total
I. Interventions	
Medical help	0
Shelter	0
Repatriation	0
Rescue	0
Death-related	0
Sponsorship	0
II. Missing Children	
Child lost	0
Run away	34
parents asking help	0
III. Emotional support and Guidance	0
IV. Others	0
Did not find (DNF)	0
Total	34

Intervention details of Sub Center, Ramanathapuram

Cases Intervened	Total
Medical support	2
Seeking Shelter	1
Nutrition (Malnourishment) and health(physical/mental)	0
Restoration (within the country)	0
Missing and runaway children	7
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 up)	93
Child Marriage	21
Child labor including bonded & agricultural labor	3
Child Sexual Abuse including commercial sexual exploitation	3
Child Trafficking/unsafe migration	0
Children found Beggary	7
Physical abuse, Emotional abuse, Corporal punishment, Neglect	49
Children affected by addiction/Substance Abuse	0
Education (including dropouts)	10
Sponsorship	7
Parents Asking Help	2
Lack of basic amenities/service/support	0
Children affected by disaster	0
Emotional Support & Guidance	2
Other Intervention	0

Unclassified	0
Total Interventions	209
Case received from outreach	6
Cases received from 1098	203
FIR (Missing FIR)	0
FIR (Other FIR)	2
CWC Production	26
CWC Information	144

Case Studies – Educational Help

Child name	:	Mariya Sahaya Abi
Age	:	17
Father Name	:	Thatheus
Mother name	:	Marry
Address	:	77/1A, 5 th street, Poobalrayapuram, Thoothukudi.
Case ID	:	563650
Open date	:	23.05.2022
Closing date	:	23.05.2022

Contact with child line:

According to the information received on 23.05.2022, the teachers did not allow the girl to go to the school to write the exam after she was treated at the hospital due to the scolding of her mother by the mother.

Background of the child:

The girl's father is a seafarer, the mother is the head of the family at home and the girl's elder brother is a seafarer after 12th class. The girl is studying 11th standard in a government recognized school. The mother had beaten her because she was looking at her cell phone without reading the exam, and the girl did not expect this, and the mother never drank, so she drank super vasmal, so the girl has been receiving treatment at the hospital.

Intervention of Child Line:

He then told the headmaster of the school that the girl had been denied permission to write the exam at the school, adding that he had asked the girl to write all the subjects in the tutorial and then come back to the school next year. After that, according to the current education law, the girl can continue to write the remaining exams in the school, so he agreed and asked the girl to come to school and write the exam. The girl and mother was given Counselling.

Allied department involved:

Nil

Present status of the child:

The girl has written the remaining two exams.

Case Studies – Child Sexual Abuse

Child name	:	Srivaishnavi
Age	:	10, 5 th std
Father Name	:	Raja Annamalai
Mother name	:	Jeyasri
Address	:	Krishna Nagar west, Muthiahapuram, Thoothukudi district.

Case ID : 603849
 Open date : 14.09.2022
 Closing date : 15.09.2022

Contact with child line:

After inviting the girl from the All-Women Police Station to come along for questioning, they went with them and spoke to the girl.

Background of the child:

The girl's father works as a laborer and mother stays at home. Siblings Sister is studying in 11th standard and brother is studying in 9th standard. The girl is studying in class 5 in AVS primary school at Muthiapuram.

Intervention of the Child:

On questioning the girl, she said that her school headmaster had touched her private parts with his hands and that the incident happened last year when she was studying in 4th standard. Hearing this, the mother and relatives went to the girl's school and beat up the teacher, which was reported to the All-Women Police Station by the people there. Counselling was then provided to the girl. Parents were informed of legal proceedings. First Information Report was registered at Tuticorin All Women Police Station

FIR No.28/2022, U/s 9(f), 9(l), 9(m) r/w 10 of POCSO Act 2012.

Date: 14.09.2022

Allied department involved:

1. AWPS - Thoothukudi

Present status of the child:

Currently child living with parents.

Case Studies – Child Marriage

Child Name : Gayathri
ID Number : 568877
Date and Time : 07.06.22, 6.15pm

Background of the Child:

Gayathri is from Sevalpatti in Kadaladi taluk. Her father is Soundrapandiyan and mother, Rajalaxmi. Gayathri studies 12th grade and she is 17 years old child.

Distress situation/stress circumstances:

Her parents arranged her marriage even before she becomes a major as she was then only 17 years old. She was very much against her marriage as she wanted to continue her studies up to college level. Parents decided to give their daughter in marriage to a relative boy in Sevalpatti. But nothing worked out in her favor.

Impact on Child:

She was unprepared for the marriage and she was under stress due to the threat of her parents. It greatly affected her studies also.

Contact with Child Line 1098:

An unknown person from her area informed Childline on 07/06/2022 and informed the situation that the marriage is to take place on few days in which she was.

Child Line 1098 intervention:

As soon as we received the information, we contacted the school where she was studying and made it sure that she was just 17years old. We shared this information through letters to the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO). District Child Protection Officer. On 09/06/2022, MS, DCPU, Police and ChildLine team visited her house with other officers who were coordinated by DSWO. They met her parents and informed them the ill-effects of child marriage and warned them the legal actions that would follow if the child was forced into a marriage. The parents accepted the arguments and promised not to force the marriage through a letter.

Child Line 1098 Impact:

We have stopped the child marriage and protected her life from being ruined.

Present situation:

She remains happy at home and her parents have dropped their efforts to get her married as she being a child.

ACRONYM

ANC	- Anti Natal Care
AN-PN	- Anti Natal – Post Natal
AWPS	- All Women Police Station
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
DCPU	- District Child Protection Unit
DSWO	- District Social Welfare Officer
ECD	- Early Childhood Development
EPP	- Emergency Preparedness Plan
FBC	- Film Based Curriculum
FIR	- First Information Report
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
VLPCPC	- Village Level Child Protection Committee
YLDP	- Youth Leadership Development Program