



AHAL

அறவு விடுதலைக்கே



Action for Human Rights And Liberation

WHO WE ARE



We, the Jesuits belonging to the Jesuit Chennai Province are missioned in central part of the Province opting to work among the most neglected Arunthathiyars (**Dalit Untouchables**) of Northern Tamil Nadu since **1999**.



WHERE WE ARE



AHAL centre is located at Kilpennathur in **Thiruvannamalai District** working in **80 Villages** of **2 Civil Districts (Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai)** and making periodical interventions in other Districts too.



OUR GOAL



To ensure Arunthathiyar people a dignified, decent life and equal rights and to make them assertive and **self-reliant**.



HISTORY

The Arunthathiyars of northern Tamil Nadu, especially at Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts are few of the most neglected, despised and vulnerable groups among the Dalits. They are triply exploited by the dominant caste groups, by the Government and by the Church. They have neither property nor permanent income nor education nor political power and authority nor even any human dignity. Since, quite a number of them are Roman Catholics, the Indian Government considers them as Backward Caste (BC) and they do not get any benefits from the Government unlike their Hindu brethren. The educational situation among these people is dismal in nature. They have been discriminated in every sphere of life.



Fittingly, the Jesuits of Madurai Province initiated a new mission called 'Sahaya Matha Mission' in **1999** for Arunthathiyars in Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts. A Social Action Team (**AHAL- Action for Human rights And Liberation**) and a Parish were born in order to work among the Arunthathiyars. At present, there are **60 villages in 9 Unions**, namely Chengam, Thiruvannamalai, Kalasapakkam, Polur, Vettavalam, Kilpennathur, Chetpet, Vandavasi, Melmalayanur, Gingee and Mailam.

OBJECTIVES



- To promote Corporate Community Leadership.
- To empower women with gender justice.
- To build people's movement to fight for their cause.
- To assist the children to obtain quality education.
- To facilitate the people to access their basic livelihood rights and needs.
- To intervene in the issues of caste discrimination and violence against Arunthathiyars through Legal Aid.
- To create employable opportunity to youth and women.

STRATEGIES



- Creating awareness through cultural troupes and capacitating through training programmes.
- Providing formal and non-formal education.
- Enabling them to participate and make decisions for their own destiny.
- Forming people's movement and be linked with the other movements.
- Advocacy and Lobbying.
- Developing knowledge, skills and perspectives to Community Leaders.

TARGET PEOPLE

From the beginning, the AHAL Jesuits had been working for the Arunthathiyars especially for the Christian Arunthathiyars and have been extending their services to Puthirai Vannars (**The Washer Community for the Dalits**), the Gypsies, Thombars (**Pig-rearers**), Irulars and other marginalized Groups in the Vicinity. In all our ventures, women, youth and children are the focal point.

IMPACTS

Through our intervention for the past twenty four years, there is a strong social and political awareness created among the youth, women and children. Educating the children has become the prime concern among the people. People's readiness to collaborate with other like-minded groups and political parties on various issues related to their welfare has increased. Our commitment in building houses for these people has really given them self-dignity. Our presence and accompaniment helps them move slowly and steadily towards self-reliance, self-governance and self-respect.

FUTURE PLANS

- Identifying Potential Leaders and Cadres among men and women
- Creating Corpus Funds for education, women empowerment, training on human rights and legal issues.
- Ensuring employability to all the unemployed youth and women.
- Strengthening the unorganized people through networking and Trade Union.
- Combating caste and gender issues at various levels.

OUR UNITS

- Social Action Centre
- Arupe Boys Hostel
- Loyola Driving School
- Skill Development Centre
- Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Parish

1. SOCIAL ACTION CENTRE

History



The Jesuits who came for their formation experience to the backward districts of Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram personally witnessed the discrimination done to Arunthathiyars by the dominant caste groups and the deprivation of education, political ostracization and social exclusion. They felt that it was the opportune time for the Jesuits to mission themselves for the cause of Arunthathiyars in a tangible way by founding a Social Action Centre in Kilpennathur where the target people are thickly populated. AHAL Social Action Centre was started in 1999 spearheaded by Frs. Joseph Michael, Eugene Muthu and Arockiaraj Raphael. The main thrust of starting a Social Action Centre was to empower Arunthathiar women, youth and children.

Aim

- To empower the target group through our accompaniment and empowerment programmes and trainings. To fight for their own socio-economic and political rights and needs.
- To foster first layer and second layer community leadership through active peoples movement.

Working area

Districts - Thiruvannamalai & Villupuram

Area of Intervention

Number of Taluks	: 07
Number of Unions	: 11
Number of Panchayats	: 18
Contact Villages	: 80
Number of Households	: 12000

- Educational Empowerment
- Economic Development
- Social enhancement
- Political Advocacy and Lobbying

Sub - sectors

- Social Education Centre
- Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangam
- Training Programmes
- Special Programmes
- Camps
- Meetings
- Legal Assistance
- Welfare Programmes
- Scholarships
- Relief Work
- Publications



Social education centres (SEC)

- Number of Social Education Centre (SEC) = 54
- Non Formal Education
- Social Education Day
- Eco-Club
- Children Parliament
- Monthly Competitions
- Educational Tour
- Celebrations
- Leadership Training

Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangam (Arunthathiyar People's Welfare Association)



- Year of Establishment - 2019
- Number of Sangams - 25
- Bi-monthly Meetings
- Economic Empowerment through Micro Credit Savings
- Social Empowerment through Legal Intervention
- Political Involvement (Panchayat Elections)
- Issue Based and Right Based Interventions

Welfare programmes

Scholarships



BRO. ROBERT'S SCHOLARSHIP 2016-2017, AHAL Centre - Kilpennathur.						
S. No	Name	Class/College studies	Address & Contact details	Amount given Rupees	Stamp size PHOTO	Signature
1.	P. Piyangon	B. Sc. Nursing Biyam, E. S. College of Nursing	Post-Box, Malesher (PO) Gingee, T.N., Villupuram Dt. - 605 206.	4000/-		P. Piyangon
2.	P. Dhinesh Babu	B. Sc. B.A. (Hons) 1 year Dossal H. Govt. College Thiruvannamalai	Val., Perambur Kodi Street, Gethiyampur, Valluvarpet, Vellore, Dt. 686391.	4000/-		P. Dhinesh Babu
3.	S. Jayakumar	J. T. I. 10 year Chennai Central	Arundhati Dalgagan Chattopadhyay Thiruvannamalai Dt.	4000/-		S. Jayakumar



Relief Work

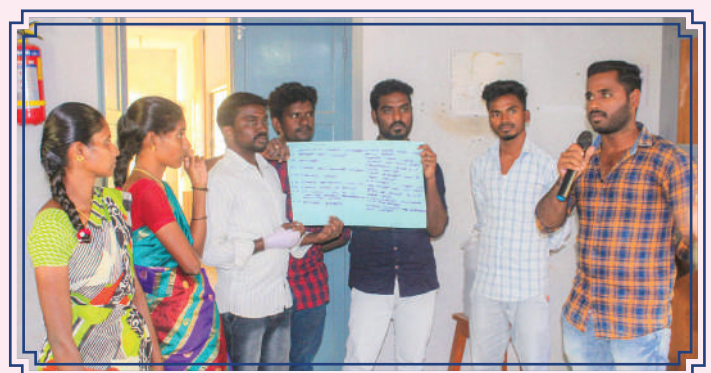
முக்கிய செய்திகள்

திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்டம் கீழ்பென்னாத்தூர் அகல் தொண்டு நிறுவனம் சார்பில் 200 ஏழை எளிய குடும்பத்தினர்க்கு கொரோனா நிவாரண உதவியாக அரிசி மூட்டைகள் வழங்கினார்கள்.

5/4/2020
கனம் நிருபர் மூலி



Monthly Training Programmes



- Animators Training
- Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Staff Capacitation
- Cyber/ Soft/Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- AHAL Cultural Troupe Training
- Budding Writers Training
- Exposure Programme for the Staff
- Leadership Training
- Competitive examination Training

Camps



- Residential Camp for 10th and 12th standard students
- Study Skills Development Camp
- Spoken English Coaching Camp
- Summer Camp
- Dalit Leadership Camp
- Village/Rural Exposure Camp
- Career Guidance Camp
- Competitive Exams Camp
- De-addiction Camp
- Me Too Awareness Camp
- Medical Camp
- Music Camp
- Part-Time Employable Opportunity Camp
- Residential Camp
- Special Coaching Camp
- Study Skills Booster Camp
- Transit Camp
- Vocation camp

Celebrations



Pongal Cultural's Day



Arunthathiyar Convention



Women's Day



Sports Day

- Women's Day Celebration
- Vocation Promotion Day
- Christmas Celebration
- Constitution Day
- Ignatius Feast
- Birthday celebrations (Jesuits, Staff & Students)
- Childrens day Celebration
- Teachers Day Celebration
- Zero Discrimination Day
- Dalit Liberation Day
- World Peace Day
- Anti - Children Labour Day
- Human Rights Day
- Periyar Birthday
- Ambedkar Birthday
- Nelson Mandela Birthday
- Republic Day
- Independence Day
- Social Education Day
- Education Development Day
- Karthigai Deepam
- Farewell Celebrations
- New Year Celebration
- Ayutha Booja
- SDC Family Day Celebration

Meetings



- Weekly Review Meeting
- Monthly Review Meeting
- Regular Sangam Meeting
- CCFF Meeting
- District Level Meeting
- Office Staff Meeting
- Kitchen Staff Meeting
- LM - Review Meeting
- Govt Officials Meeting
- Emergency / Special Meeting

Quarterly Magazine



Yearly Magazine



2. ARUPE BOYS HOSTEL



History

In Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai districts, for centuries, the Arunthathiyars and marginalized communities are deprived of their education due to their poor economic conditions and social exclusion. Knowing the situation, a thorough study was done by the Jesuits in the locality of the mission area. As a strategy to empower the student community, the Arrupe Boy's Hostel was founded in 2002, which served as a platform to bring them to the main stream in par with others.

Aim

- To provide a platform for quality education to Arunthathiyars and other marginalized community students.
- To instill in them a noble character to uphold the societal transformation.

Activities & Programmes

Parents meeting



Co-Curricular Activities



Hostel day Celebration



Alumini Meet



Children's Day



Orientation Programme



Christmas Celebration



- Parents meeting
- Christmas Celebrations
- Educational tour
- Hostel Day
- Co-Curricular Activities
- Hostel Family Day Celebration
- Orientation Programme
- Training Programmes
- Independence Day
- Teachers Day
- Karthigai Deepam
- Children's Day
- Republic Day
- Celebration of Famous Leaders
- Students Leadership programme - Thalaiva
- Speaking and Writing Skills Training
- Alumini Meet
- Education Development Day

3. LOYOLA DRIVING SCHOOL



History

Among Arunthathians, there are many drop out youth from Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram Districts whose future is bleak and not knowing what to do for their livelihood. Identifying their livelihood needs, the AHAL Team started Loyola Driving School in 2005, primarily to capacitate the youth with driving skills and secondarily to curtail them from antisocial involvement.

Aim

- ✓ To make target youth as a skilled force.
- ✓ To create livelihood or employment opportunity.
- ✓ To improve economic and social status of target youth.

Services Available

- Two Wheeler License
- Conductor License
- Four Wheeler License
- Batch
- Technical Education



4. SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



History

Arunthathiyar women are mostly homemakers without any earning capacity. Being school dropouts, they remain idle without any technical skills. Their lack of skills really handicaps their financial upward mobility. In order to kick start their earning capacity and to develop their skills, AHAL Centre founded Skill Development Centre to capacitate them with technical skills like Tailoring and Computer. The AHAL Skill Development Centre was registered under National Skill Development Corporation in 2019 through Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE).

Aim

- ✓ To provide ample technical skills in Tailoring and Computer.
- ✓ To make women to play supportive role in educating their children and minimizing financial burdens of their family.
- ✓ To ensure the overall personality development of women through Life Coping Skills.

Services Available



Tailoring (Sewing Machine Operator)



Computer (Associate Desktop Publishing - DTP)



Activities and Programmes



- Orientation programmes
- Life Coping Skills
- Technical Education
- Placement
- Training of Trainers (ToT)

Number of Students per Batch

- Tailoring : Minimum 15
- Computer : Minimum 15

Minimum Qualification

- Tailoring – 3rd Standard and above
- Computer – 8th standard and above

Duration of the Course

- 6 Months

Timing of the Course

- 10am to 5pm

Number of Class Days

- Monday to Friday

Course Fee

- Rs. 3000



PROJECTS

1. LOK MANCH

Lok Manch is a platform of Community Leaders and Civil Society Organizations to do advocacy at Panchayat/ District/ State/ National level for the rights of the marginalized communities. It is a platform for empowering Community Leadership and community based organizations for strengthening and sustaining grass-root level movement for contributing to a 'Just, Democratic and Secular society'.



Lok Manch engages itself firstly in proper implementation of existing policies and laws and secondly in demanding new policies, amendments in existing laws and for new laws. Lok Manch also promotes and strengthens collaboration and networking between Jesuits, Religious and Lay Leaders and their organizations.

Vision

Building an egalitarian, just, inclusive, democratic and secular society in India

Mission

To engage in social transformation through training, socially relevant research and policy engagement works aimed at integral development of the marginalized communities, particularly the Dalits, Adivasis/ Tribals, OBCs, women, minorities, unorganized and landless labourers in partnership with like-minded groups, CSOs (Civil Society Organizations), CBOs (Community Based Organizations), Peoples' Movements, Human Rights Organizations and Ecological Movements nationally and internationally.



Goal

Marginalized groups receive the full state social benefits to which they are entitled and local, state and national level government institutions become more inclusive and democratic.

2. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



In 2023, AHAL and ZF Hero Chassis System Pvt Ltd, collaborated to empower the marginalized men and women with employability skills. 138 Students among which 74 female students enrolled in our Tailoring class (Sewing Machine Operator) and 64 students among which 48 female and 14 male students were enrolled in Computer Classes (Associate Desktop Publishing). The curriculum for skill development is chosen carefully to offer ease practical and marketable expertise enabling them to secure employment or establish their own small scale businesses. A total of 74 students earned recognition as certified tailors through the completion of the SMO course and were provided free tailoring machine at the valedictory function in the presence of ZF Hero team and 64 students received certification for completing the basic computer course (ADTP).



This experience provided them employment opportunities on Digital banner shops and Computer centers. As ray of hope in improving their livelihood with employability, financial stability ZF Hero has promised to collaborate in establishing a bag production unit for trained women. Through this course of action, we continue to enrich lives of women from marginalized communities ensuring their self-sustainability by offering them improved livelihood, increased financial independence, Social recognition., economic improvement, emphasizing gender equality and Community development. We like to thank our CSR partner ZF Hero Chassis Private Limited for Collaborating with us in our noble cause.

3. OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH



History

Two or three generations before, the Arunthathiyars of this vicinity embraced Christianity in protest to inhumane caste discrimination they faced with. To safeguard and nurture the Christian faith, there arose a need of separate parish wherein they would be catechized and which resulted in bifurcation from Mekkalar parish. Thus, the Jesuit run parish of Kilpennathur became a parish in 1999 and the first one to become a Parish Priest was Fr. R. Arockiaraj who had toiled in that area for more than a decade and then the parish is managed by the Jesuits. Since the vast majority of the faithful (99.9%) are Arunthathiyars, it was a fitting venture in implementing the option of the Jesuit Madurai Province.



Vision

To give socio-pastoral based overall faith formation to the **Catholic Arunthathiyars**.

Mission

To help the faithful to experience God more clearly, to love God more dearly and to follow God more nearly.

Target group

Catholic Arunthathiyars (99.9%)

Beneficiaries

240 families – 1120 people

Activities and programmes

Scholarships



Youth Animation (YA)



Lenten Retreats



Lenten Pilgrimages



Carols



Celebration of Feast at Parish and Substations



- Scholarships
- Youth Animation (YA)
- Lenten Retreats
- Lenten Pilgrimages
- Parish Council (PC)
- Basic Christian Communities (BCC)
- VBS
- Catechism
- Faith Formation for Alter Servers
- Choir Group
- Carols
- Celebration of Feast at Parish and Substations

Veeramagai Ilampengal Iyakkam (Youth Movement for Girls)



Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangam



Star Ilaignar Iyakkam (Youth Movement for Boys)



Sofa Thozhilalar Nala Sangam Tamilnadu (Sofa Workers Welfare Association Tamilnadu)



PROJECTS

1. Zinette Housing project



COLLABORATION & NETWORKING

ICRDCE	Chennai
Grace Hospital	Thiruvannamalai
PALAVAI	Tindivanam
RDC	Thenkanikottai
PARAN	Kadambur
ASSET	Chengalpattu
POPE	Thalavaikulam
Loyola college	Vettavalam
Loyola ITI	Ranipettai
விடுதலை சிறுத்தைகள் கட்சி	Thiruvannamalai
ஆதித தமிழர் கட்சி	TVM, VPM
ISI Delhi	Delhi, Bangalore
Fire Station	Santhaimedu
Centrio	Chennai
Magis	Chennai
LIBA	Chennai
Social Watch	Chennai
Auditors	Chennai
Inter-Ministerial Collaboration	Chennai
Political Parties	TVM, VPM
Govt Schools, Mel Paapambadi	Kilpennathur
TLM	Gingee
VIDIAL	Sathiyamangalam
RWDT	Salem
DLM	Thiruvannamalai
Loyola College	Chennai
தீன் டாமம் ஒழிப்பு முன்னணி	Thiruvannamalai
ஆதித தமிழர் பேரவை	TVM, VPM
Child Help line	TVM, VPM
தமிழ் புலிகள் கட்சி	TVM, VPM
Nippon Paint	Vellore
Chennai Province Youth Commission	Chennai
AICUF	Chennai

OUR INTERVENTIONS

Social

- Formal and Informal Education
- Educational Support
- Issue and right based interventions
- Formation of Sangams
- Access to individual and community entitlements

Economical

- Enterpreunership Initiatives
- Housing Projects
- Skill Development Training
- Employable opportunity to young and women

Ideological

- Inculcation of right ideology
- Inclusive Perspective
- Justice based approach
- Nuturing democratic values

Cultural

- Upholding cultural identity
- Creating counter culture

Leadership Programme

- Participation in Local body election
- Political Entitlement
- Legal Support



அகல்

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