HANDICRAFTS AND GARLANDS MAKING USING PALM LEAVES AT ARCALI, MUTTUKADU.

Project Context:

ARCALI- (Accompaniment for the Rights of Coastal Leadership Initiatives) 35 coastal Areas through Villages that cover 4 different Taluks of 2 Districts namely Chengalpattu and Villupuram. According to the Survey taken from all the fishing villages of Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Fishery Department, 90% of fishing these namely two Chengalpattu and Vizhupuram found to be below the poverty line. Each village has an average of 200 Being in the literal peripheries of the society that is a coastal belt, the women folk of coastal areas are left with very minimum job opportunities. Moreover, their household responsibilities do not allow them to explore other jobs outside. Whenever we meet them in their villages, the constant request we hear is to show us some way to income generation. We too, after discussions and direct individual encounters with the women folk of coastal villages,

strongly believe that it is an important and urgent need that we should draw up some solid plans to make these coastal women economically independent.



Rationale

This project directly addresses the urgent needs of women in fishing communities, where economic opportunities are scarce.

Although women in many sectors across India have begun entering roles traditionally dominated by men, male-dominated, fishing remains industry boat-based fishing, which is still especially ĪN exclusively undertaken by men. Consequently, women in these communities must look outside the fishing industry for work. This often requires them to travel far from home a difficult task given their household responsibilities. Women bear the primary responsibility for supporting their families, yet often face a lack of job opportunities. Many end up borrowing at high interest rates from local lenders, trapping them in cycles of debt that threaten their financial security and dignity. Young widows face even greater hardship, as they have minimal means to support their families without access to fishing jobs. Some of these women are forced to make difficult choices, including keeping children out of school to help meet basic needs. Introducing sustainable income-generating activities, such as palm leaf craft-making, can transform the lives of these women. This project will create economic independence, allowing them to support their families, escape high-interest debt, and secure a better future.

Beneficiaries:

Fisherfolk women from 35 coastal villages.



Objective of the project:

- → To capacitate the women through various trainings related to entrepreneurship.
- → To avail government schemes related to women's entrepreneurship.
- To make women lead a dignified life.
- → To make them agents of change in their respective villages.

Activities of the Project:

- To Capacitate women on palm-based product-making.
- → To establish a training centre Reaching out to more audiences boost the handicrafts productions.
- Training on gender equality, negotiation and organizing skills for women.
- → Training women entrepreneurs on how to avail government schemes for entrepreneurship benefits.
- Exposure visits to government offices related to women's entrepreneurship.

Expected outcome of the Project:

- Improved livelihood opportunities for women.
- → Makes women strong and established as they get to participate in the decision-making of their household and also in the community.
- Ensuring equal rights for women and equal job opportunities are availed by women.
- Women become catalysts of change-makers in their respective villages.



Possible Collaboration:

- Support the establishment of the training center through funding or resource contributions.
- Provide expertise or volunteer services for training programs and workshops.
- → Partner with organizations to create market linkages for palm-based and other handmade products.
- Facilitate connections with government agencies to streamline access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- → Partner through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to scale project impact and sustainability.