Skill development of Arundhadhiyar women through Bag Production unit at AHAL, Kilpennathur.

Project Context:

AHAL – Action for Human Rights and Liberation. one of fourteen social action centres of Jesuit Chennai Province, was established in the year 1999. For the past two and half decades AHAL has served as a driving force for the empowerment of Arundhadhiyars in two civil districts, namely Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram spanning approximately 84 villages. This denial is because their livelihood is dependent on leather-based objects. They have been denied basic rights. The Arunthathiyars of northern Tamil Nadu, especially in the Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts are a few of the most neglected, despised, and vulnerable groups among the Dalits. Especially in the town of Kilpennathur, where the majority of Arundhadhiyars were targeted towards oppression and suppression by others. They have neither property, permanent income, education, political power, authority, or even human dignity.

Rationale:

This project aims to uplift the Arunthathiyar community by creating a pathway for a brighter and more prosperous future for its women, fostering solidarity and empowerment. These initiatives encourage entrepreneurial skills and motivate young people to start their businesses. By enhancing productivity and competitiveness, our skill development efforts empower individuals to create better and more

fulfilling lives. In the year 2023, 74 female students enrolled in our Tailoring class (Sewing Machine Operator) learning blouse stitching, top creation, pants tailoring, and saree petticoat making. A total of 74 students earned recognition as certified tailors through the completion of the SMO course and were provided with a free tailoring machine. As a ray of hope in improving their livelihood with employability, and financial stability we are establishing a bag production unit for trained women. Establishing a Bag Production Unit is a strategic move to create sustainable employment opportunities for skilled women who have completed training programs. By offering stable employment and income, this project aims to uplift these women economically and provide them with a means to support their families with dignity.

Beneficiaries:

- **74 Women**
  (Arundhadhiyar women their families and community)

Objective of the project:

- To create sustainable employment opportunities for skilled women that lead to financial independence.
- To enable decent work and ensure decent pay for rural skilled women and earn a decent living.
- To foster social inclusion, and social protection and promote gender equality by creating avenues for women's participation in economic activities and decision-making processes.
- To build stronger community ties by leveraging the collective efforts of MSHGs in production, marketing, and sales.

Activities of the Project:

- Establishing a production unit.
- Capacitating women in different types of bags for better productivity.
- Appointing marketing personnel to boost visibility and marketing.
- Procuring raw materials for production unit.

Possible Collaboration:

- Support our efforts to empower communities by collaborating on skill development initiatives.
- You can contribute by purchasing or promoting goods we produce Volunteering your expertise in areas like bag manufacturing, and marketing.
- Donating essential machinery and materials, or partnering with us to design and implement impactful programs focused on livelihood and women's empowerment.

Expected outcome of the Project:

- Women gain confidence and hope through regular income from Income Generation Programs.
- Enhanced and sustained income for women and their families, enabling them to support their households and take on leadership roles in decision-making processes and reduce dependency on traditional employment.
- Increased self-confidence and self-reliance among migrant women, regardless of their level of education.