LIVELIHOOD TRAINING FOR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF IRULAR WOMEN AT PALAVAI, TINDIVANAM.

Project Context:

PALAVAI (Pedagogy and Action for Livelihood Availing Entitlements Village Leadership and Advocacy of Irulars) has been working for the empowerment of these IRULAR Tribal Communities in and around Villupuram, Kanchipuram and Tiruvannamalai districts since 2014. It has reached to 55 Irular villages that cater to 8500 families. The Irular Tribal Communities, once reliant on snake trapping for their livelihood, now significant economic hardships following a government ban on snake catching. This project aims to help them become self-sufficient by providing education, skills, and resources to improve their living conditions. These communities experience seasonal unemployment, low wages, and lack basic resources like healthcare, education, and clean water. Prioritizing their needs is essential to alleviate poverty and ensure their overall well-being and access to social services.



Rationale

In light of these challenges, there is an urgent need to address the socioeconomic disparities between the Irular tribal community and the non-tribal population. The primary objective is to bridge the gap and integrate the Irular tribes into the broader economic and social development framework. By reducing the disparities in economic opportunities, educational access, and social status,

it becomes possible to uplift the Irular community and enhance their overall well-being. The goal is to provide them with equal opportunities for education, sustainable livelihoods, and social empowerment, ensuring their inclusion and participation in the larger development processes. Efforts to integrate the Irular tribe into mainstream society are essential for preserving their cultural heritage, empowering their community, and enabling them to lead dignified lives. Through targeted interventions, inclusive policies, and initiatives that address their specific needs, it becomes possible to create a more equitable and inclusive society.



Beneficiaries:

Irular community women in 55 Villages of 4 districts.



Objective of the project:

- → Create sustainable income-generation opportunities for Irular women.
- Empowerment by creating access to resources, education, entrepreneurship development and employment.
- Skills for socio-economic empowerment of Irular women.
- → Strengthening of SHGs and Formation of District and Inter-District Irular Women Federation to make them self-reliant.

Activities of the Project:

- Conduct leadership training and participation programs.
- Promote collective farming initiatives to enhance income and food security.
- Support cow rearing as a viable source of livelihood.

Expected outcome of the Project:

→ Women achieve financial independence, contributing to improved social dignity and respect within their communities.



Possible Collaboration:

- Provide livestock to support women's livelihoods.
- → Volunteer expertise and knowledge-sharing in farming techniques and best practices.
- Donate farming tools and equipment to empower women farmers.
- → Partner through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to expand and sustain the project's impact.

