

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Social Action Centres



JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE

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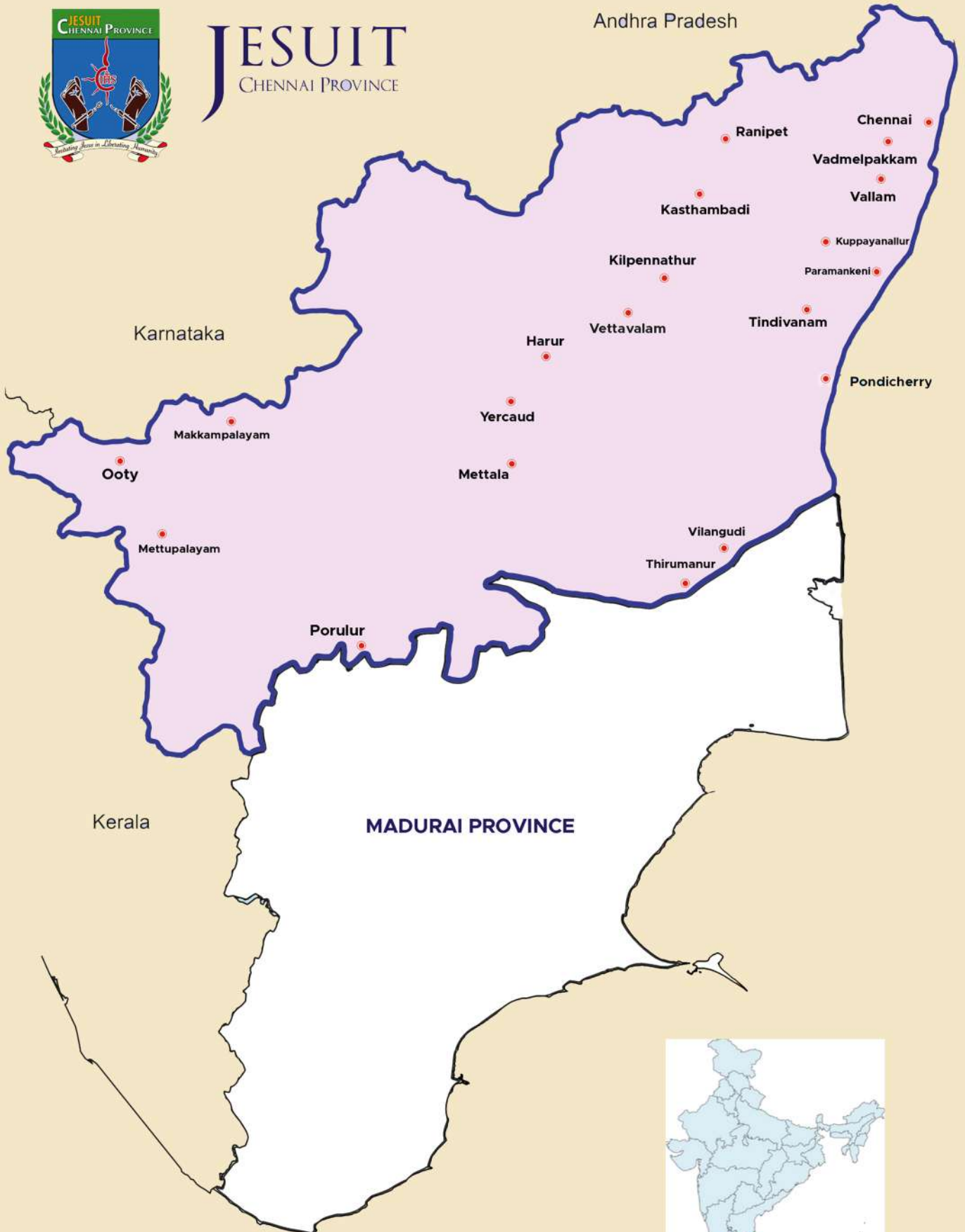
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JESUIT

CHENNAI PROVINCE

Andhra Pradesh



Karnataka

Kerala

MADURAI PROVINCE




Vision

Marching with the marginalized for a world of reconciliation and justice, as companions of Jesus

Mission

The distorted world today, impels us to respond with an Ignatian generosity, to the mission of reconciliation with God, with one another and with creation, through empowering the marginalized and disadvantaged groups; preserving and protecting the environment; providing holistic formation to youth; promoting peace, harmony, justice, reconciliation and secular values, and forming our men and women to be rooted in Ignatian Spirituality

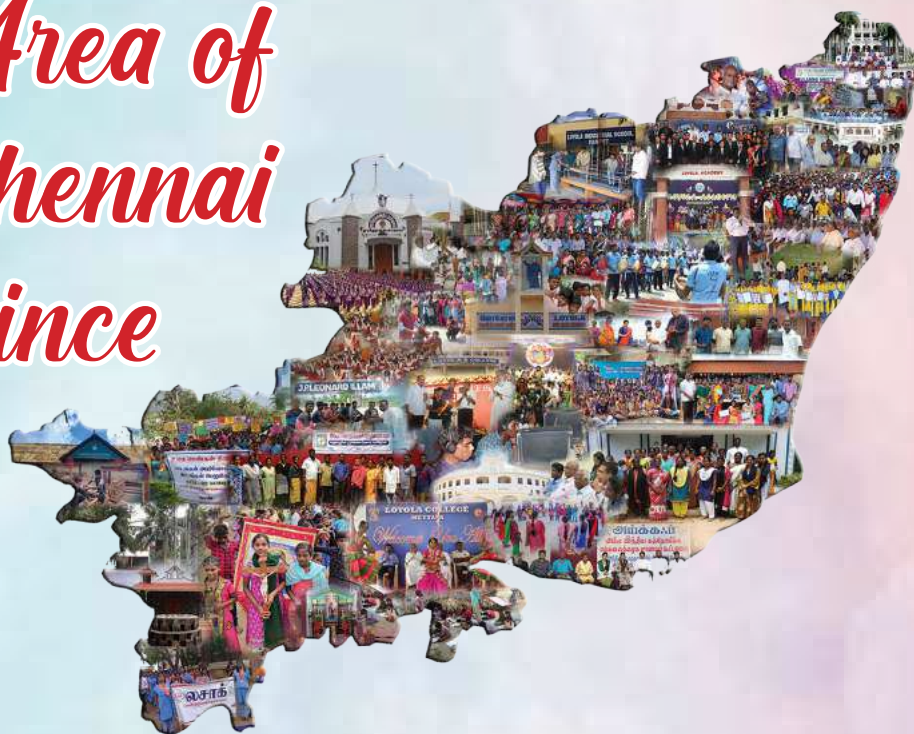
JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE



**APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES
2019 - 2029**

- 1** Empowering Dalits, especially Dalit Christians, tribals, refugees and other marginalized and disadvantaged groups.
- 2** Preserving and protecting the environment and safeguarding the rights of those affected by environment degradation.
- 3** Providing Holistic and integral formation to youth to be agents of social transformation.
- 4** Promoting Justice, peace, reconciliation and secular values in response to all forms of fundamentalism and casteism.
- 5** Forming our men to be rooted in Ignatian Spirituality and credible in life and mission.

Focus Area of Jesuit Chennai Province



The Jesuit Chennai Province has its focus on the service for the marginalised people, namely, the poor Dalits, the migrants, the tribals, the women, the youth, the gypsies, the trans-genders, the refugees, the daily-wage workers, the domestic workers, the elderly, and the differently-abled etc. The geographical area of our Province comprises of 21 civil districts / 9 Dioceses in the northern Tamil Nadu, India We serve our people through



SOCIAL ACTION	14
EDUCATION	14
INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE	1
SPIRITUAL ANIMATION	2
SOCIO-PASTORAL MINISTRY	6
FORMATION	4
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Dear Friends,

The Jesuit presence in the land of Chennai Province dates back in history to the arrival of Saint Francis Xavier, the most cherished companion of Saint Ignatius, at Chennai, in the year 1542. Ever since, many stalwart and saintly missionaries like Robert de Nobili, Constantine Joseph Beschi, John de Brito and a large crowd of unsung heroes of both the old and new Madurai Missions, sanctified this land of Tamils, by their spiritual and sacrificing presence.

The Society of Jesus, like in any other part of the world, has made a huge impact on the lives of people also in India, more especially in the state of Tamil Nadu, right from the time of Saint Ignatius himself. The Jesuit accompaniment in the joys and struggles of people have always brought a rich harvest in the Lord's vineyard, here in our land. The historical Jesuit Madurai Province, our mother Province, was never off-sight of the needs of the time, and she always encouraged her sons to reach out to frontiers and serve the needy. Thus were born the Kerala and Andhra Jesuit Provinces in the past, from the womb of Madurai Province.

Sensing deeply and feeling closely with the struggle of the downtrodden, in the northern Tamil Nadu in particular, Chennai (Chengai) Mission was created in 1990 to initiate new ministries for our people. For greater apostolic effectiveness, the idea of the creation of a new Province was envisaged and that became a reality on 28 December 2019, when the Jesuit Chennai Province. The baby Province, though in its nascent form still, has, however, been able to steadily grow in its love and commitment for the people who are at the peripheries. The sole aim of the Province is to journey closely with the rejected lot in order that they are raised to a level of higher happiness and broader dignity in life.

This annual report of our social action ministries will give you a clear picture of our steady growth of our involvement with the marginalized towards social transformation. We are extremely happy that you are also journeying with us as part in the process of the development of our social action ministries. I appreciate and congratulate Fr. Vasanth, Province Development Director of our Province, for this creative presentation and all those who are involved in social action ministries for their tireless commitment. We continue our march with our complete trust that the One who began this good work in and through us will also ensure its further fruition in the coming years. May the Lord of hope and history walk with us always!

Thank you.



Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ

Provincial

Jesuit Chennai Province

Centres of Social Action

Our centres of social action are the instruments of social change. The poor, the oppressed, the Dalits, the tribals, the refugees, the migrants, the women, the youth and the children are identified and given opportunities to explore ways for growth and development through education, awareness, skill development, women empowerment, economic development, training programmes to become future leaders and to exercise their fundamental rights.

To identify and uplift the lives of the vulnerable sections, the Jesuit Chennai Province works in 14 different places through the following social action centres:



PAATHAI - Training Centre at Vallam in Chengalpet (1996)



AHAL - Action for Human rights and Liberation centre at Kilpennathur (1999)



DHRC Dalit Human Rights Centre Chengalpattu (2003)



Social Watch-TN in Chennai (2003)



Fr. Ceyrac Girls Hostel Tindivanam (2007)



JMAADD - Jesuit Ministry to Alcohol And Drug Dependents in Kuppayanallur (2011)



Mother Teresa Women Empowerment Centre at Pondicherry (2011)



PARAN - Pedagogy and Action for Rights of Adivasis at Makkampalayam (2013)



PALAVAI - Pedagogy and Action for Livelihood Availing Entitlements Village Leadership and Advocacy of Irulars at Tindivanam (2014)



JMMEx - Jesuit Migrant Ministry External in Kasthambadi (2014)



JMS - Jesuit Migrants Service (Internal) in Chennai (2014)



LIFT - Loyola Integral Formation Training Centre at Harur (2015)



TECH Loyola at Loyola College campus, Vettavallam (2017)



ARCALI - Accompaniment for the Rights of Coastal Areas through Leadership in Paramankeni (2020)

Our strategies to realize our goals

THEMATIC PILLARS

All our social action centres have their own specific target people and works, though at the same time all of them have something essential in common, i.e. they work for the empowerment of the people. This focus on empowerment of our option people is realized through the following thematic areas in our social action centres.

Educating Children



Beneficiaries: 13,000

Creating leaders



Beneficiaries: 1,200

Empowering Women



Beneficiaries: 5,250

Fighting for Justice through advocacy & lobbying



Beneficiaries: 240 Villages in Northern Tamil Nadu

Skilling Men and Women



Beneficiaries: 3,310

Caring for migrants



Beneficiaries: 10,530

Accompanying Youth



Beneficiaries: 6,900

Journeying with Alcohol and Drug Dependents



Beneficiaries: Direct - 450; Indirect - 150 Families

1. EDUCATING CHILDREN

Education of children is one of the primary focuses of our social action ministry. We strongly believe that by providing education we can empower all the sections of the marginalized people whom we are serving. We accompany the children and the students in schools through evening study centres, scholarships and personal guidance to bring the best from them.



Objectives

- ✓ To encourage children to learn
- ✓ To bring out the children from their bondage of being illiterates
- ✓ To reduce the school drop-out rate and encourage them to study
- ✓ To exercise the fundamental right to education
- ✓ To identify and rescue the child labourers below 12 years
- ✓ To avail school admission for rescued children and provide vocational training
- ✓ To provide affordable and accessible educational facilities
- ✓ To avail nutrition supplements from the Government for children below 5 years
- ✓ To encourage children to participate and showcase their talents and interests
- ✓ To support and give capacity building to Animators and staff in the social action centres.
- ✓ To empower the deprived sections through education and the other extra-curricular training programmes

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries (Children)	Male	Female	Total
1	Total No. of Children in Evening Stdy Centres	3,750	4,250	8,000
2	Total No. of Children Recived Scholarship	2,250	2,750	5,000
3	Grand Total	6,000	7,000	13,000

Significant programmes

a). Evening Study Centres

The focus of the evening study centres is to bring the children together for learning, transforming and encouraging to be civilised citizens in future. Every day, the children come to the evening study centre in their living areas. The animators and teachers encourage them in the curriculum and give special attention to all the



students to read and write. Extracurricular activities are encouraged in the station centres. In fact, students are given enough opportunities to exhibit their different talents through many activities. Childrens' parliament in evening study centres make them responsible citizen from their early childhood.

b). Scholarship

Scholarships were given to school and college students of Urali tribe at PARAN centre; IRULAR tribal children at PALAVAI centre; students of migrant families at JMS and JMMEx centres, and the Dalit children at AHAL, PAATHAI and ARCALI. This year, due to covid issues, we supported only 5000 students. We also supported these students with study kits to sustain their interest in learning and to ease the financial burden of their parents.



c). Summer and Winter Camps

During Covid-19 lockdown Jesuit Migrants Service organized Summer and Winter Camps for migrant children in different villages. They were given activities to enhance their reading and writing skills in Tamil. Some fun games were part of the day. Children were always keen to learn. The local people helped the events.



d). Motivation given for 10th and 12th standard students

A motivation cum orientation program was organized for 10th and 12th standard students in evening study centres at PALAVAI. 150 students participated and benefitted from the event which focused on motivating them as they were to re-join the school after the covid-19 lockdown, due to which many were driven to work as child labourers in brick kilns, sugarcane fields and as daily-wage workers.

e). Competitions- GK Exam/ Memory and story competitions



To reach out to all the children, we conducted a competition on General Knowledge as 800 copies of 250 questions were printed and distributed to the children between 6th – 12th standards in 15 fishing villages. After one month of preparing for the GK Exam, written exams were held in 15

villages. The centre was surprised to witness the remarkable participation and performance of the children. As a result, we gained a good relationship with students and identified the actual needs for future interventions.

f). Nutritious food to children:

The tribal children were affected very much during this pandemic as they could not go to school and get their mid-day meals. This resulted in deterioration of their health conditions. Children between 4 to 14 years of age from the evening study centres of 20 most deserving villages in the hills, were selected and nutritious food was served to them to boost their immune system.



g). Workshop on Art of Writing:



Three-day workshop on “The Art of Writing” was organized for college going students. Mr. Adhirai, a film director and writer was the resource person. The students actively participated and learnt some of the creative ways of writing stories, poems and essays. They also made an attempt to write their experiences and thoughts in the above-mentioned forms which

were very moving. The team decided to publish them in a short magazine form.

h). Sports Day:

All the social action centres organise an event called ‘Sports day’ for the children in the centres. According to their classes, they participate in various competitions organised. The children who were regular to the centres were the participants. The Sports Day was organized at cluster level according to the village level in each centre. Intensive planning, to give equal opportunity for all the participants, was done. The children felt enthused and encouraged and expressed their joy and happiness for participation and thanked the organisers in their centres. This caused an adverse increase in attendance at the centres.



i). Children's day celebrations

Celebrating the lives of children and helping them to reach heights in life through education is our dream. During the National Children's Day celebrations, held in all our centres, the staff motivated the parents to send their children to schools without fail.

Impacts

These programmes for children through the evening study centres brought many positive changes and impacts like

- Increase in the attendance of regular students
- Increase in the interest to read and write
- Involvement of children in acquiring more knowledge and new skills
- happiness of parents as their children become first-generation learners
- Identification and acknowledgment of children's interests, their talents and potentials
- Increase in the participation of children in study programmes

2. EMPOWERING THE WOMEN

In a country like India, women are exploited in numerous ways. Especially the women from the marginalised society are very vulnerable for they face a lot of physical, psychological, socio-economic and cultural disparities all through their lives. A survey that was done in the past revealed that the deprived WOMEN had been experiencing the denial of livelihood opportunities and found unsustainable livelihood options that helped them become economically viable for themselves and to their families. They are mostly engaged in domestic works. Around 80% of them are unskilled labourers and engage in menial jobs and are willing to undertake any job that would feed their hunger. The number of problems, faced by these women, are listed hereby: • Violence, brutality, prejudice and oppression • No rights to property • Poor or lack of training skills • Male domination • No reproductive rights • Problems like early aging and death, anaemia and malnutrition • Maternal depletion - lack of adequate healthcare and medical facilities, inadequate diets, premature pregnancy • Early marriages • Excessive overload of work. • Maternal morbidity and mortality rate. To address all these issues, women are given inputs in our ministry places so that they are empowered.



Objectives

- To lay a platform for women to raise their voices for their needs and rights
- To empower women to live independently
- To encourage women to grow in leadership

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Total Number
1	No. of Women Helped through Self-Help Groups	5,250

Significant Programmes

a). Awareness Programme:

The social action team organized many awareness programmes on different themes based on the need assessment. Programmes on • 'Health and Hygiene', • 'Role of women in society', • Importance of nutrition, • 'Women health management', • 'Maternal care' • 'Importance of education' • 'Risks involved in child marriage and legal issues' and so on were held. These programmes for women were



organised in their Self-Help Groups through our social action centres. For every programme, the agenda used to be discussed prior to the meeting with participants. The resource persons are usually experts in respective fields like medical professionals, advocates etc. They address women in their self-help groups. During the Covid-19 crisis, the women were sensitized on Covid SOPs, and myths related to Corona novel virus. The tips provided were beneficial to them as most of them came to know about COVID-19 for the first time and their fear and anxiety were much reduced.

b). Women's Day Celebrations:



Every year, on 8th March, the social action centres organise programme exclusively for women. This programme focuses mainly on acknowledging the rights and status of women in the Society. Notable chief guests are usually invited to address the gathering to sensitize the strength and the power of women. They motivate and empower the women.

c). Revolving fund for the self-help group to be used for their benefit:

This is a revolving fund which is saved and collected from the self-help groups, and this fund, which is to be repaid by one year, is shared among the members of the group. This helps the members not to take loans from high interest money lenders. This process teaches them to save money and also they learn to live independently by making appropriate plans to lead a dignified life.



d) Entrepreneurship training:

This programme was organized for self-help group representatives. The main objective of the program was to instil in them the thirst to become entrepreneurs and manufacturers of home products. Small scale income generative products were introduced and practical sessions were held. The members eagerly took part and showed a lot of interest in learning. It was a great success although it was organized during the lockdown.

e). Inland Fishing Women:

ARCALI works for two groups of people. One is the traditional marine fishing group (19 villages) and the other is inland fishing group (15 villages). In inland fishing villages, we concentrate on women. Creation of Keetru Mudaivor Kuzhu: In November at Kottaikadu village, we organized 15 women into an entrepreneur group. We gave them Rs.4000 each. With that capital they are



now engaged in “Keetru Mudaithal business’ (business on basket making)

Consultation with Inland Fishing Women: In the month of January, we organised consultation meeting with women from all the 15 inland fishing villages. 45 women participated in it. It was an open forum where they shared their trials and challenges in the society. The impact was 15 women have some regular income.

f). Common Celebrations:

There are common programmes like national festivals which are celebrated to make the option beneficiaries feel that they are valued. The centres celebrate festivals like Pongal (harvest festival of Tamils), Christmas and other important days like Women’s Day, Independence day, Literacy Day, Tribal day, Migrants Day, Human Rights Day, Farmers Day, Pongal etc.,



Impacts

- ✓ The women felt empowered and expressed their gratitude to the organisers after every programme they attended.
- ✓ The women understood their value in the society and felt good
- ✓ The domestic violence at home has decreased as men understood women better after the women's congress.
- ✓ Women learned to raise their voices for their needs
- ✓ Many women are now willing to make savings
- ✓ They started to share the value of training with others
- ✓ They expressed their desire to become entrepreneurs
- ✓ They understood the importance of education and decided to make their children study.

3. SKILLING MEN AND WOMEN

Unemployment is one of the major problems in India at the moment. We take steps to eradicate this unemployment in the places where we work.

In this competitive world, our option people find difficult to get jobs because they are mostly uneducated and lack skill to be employed in companies. This leads to a huge unemployment problem. In order to address this issue, we, the members of Jesuit Chennai Province, commit ourselves to empower them with life scoping skills and technical skills. We encourage our people not to depend on others for job instead of being able to find their own.



Objectives

- To enhance the skills of an individual to get a job or to start a new business
- To empower the marginalised for decent work atmosphere
- To instil in them the thirst to become entrepreneurs and manufacturers of home products
- To network with other stakeholders for support for technical guidance

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Total Number
1	No. of Men through Driving License	60
2	No. of Women through Tailoring and Computer	250
3	No. of Women through entrepreneurship Training	3,000
4	Grand Total	3,310

Significant Programmes

a). Awareness Programme:

We organize job opportunity campaign so that men and women who are jobless are able to find their jobs. The importance of skilling oneself is emphasized in our meetings and we encourage our youth, both men and women to learn some skills, so that they can lead a better life.



b). Skill training centres:

In order to either get a job or for self-employment, one needs skills. They are also needed to increase one's self-esteem. A proper skill training is given to women through our skill training centres. We have Mother Teresa skill training centre at Pondicherry; Loyola skill training centre at Harur; and AHAL skill training centre at Kilpennathur. In all these skill training centres, women are given opportunities to learn tailoring, embroidering and computer basics. These trainings surely help our women find jobs in companies.



c). Training for Entrepreneurship:

Entrepreneurship training programme, at Jesuit Migrant Service External (JEMMEx) was organized for representatives of 28 self-help groups. A few experts from the Government sector and Jesuits were resource persons. The main objective of the programme was to instil in them the thirst to become entrepreneurs and manufacturers of home products. Small scale income generative products were introduced and practical sessions were held. The members eagerly took part and showed a lot of interest in learning. It was a great success although it was organized during the lockdown

d). Organic Farming and Natural soap-making for migrants:

One of the main activities of JMM(Ex) for migrants is promoting entrepreneurship development. There were trainings on natural soap-making in each MSHG group to encourage migrants to become entrepreneurs. An exposure visit of multi-layer farming and poultry farming was

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arranged to Jawadhu Hills for entrepreneurs of Vettavalam MSHG entrepreneurs on 11 March 2021. 4 Entrepreneurs from MSHG of Vettavalam (Mr. Savarimuthu, Mr. Syed Baai, Mr. Kalaam Baai, and Mrs. Mubin) who were given loan by JMMEx earlier were taken to Jawadhu hills for exposure visit of a multiple farm initiatives, maintained by the Salesians. It was a motivating experience for the migrants and they said that they learned a lot from the exposure visit.



Impacts

- Got the opportunity to come together and share their thoughts, interests and feelings
- Gained new experience and felt empowered through the awareness programmes
- People are skilled and 70% of them found jobs after the skill development programmes
- 140 women acquired tailoring skills every year
- 90% of these women will be able to lead their families and involve in the decision-making process in the family. Women are liberated from the domination of men in their families and as a result, there will be a social transformation in the larger society.
- 80% of these women would support their families financially and help their children improve their education.

4. ACCOMPANYING THE YOUTH

Today's youth are distracted in many ways. They really need proper guidance and encouragement to find meaning in life.

Objectives

- To encourage the youth in our work to continue their studies
- To place the youth who have stopped their schooling in Technical Schools
- To avail equal and alternative job opportunities
- To give skill training to our youth
- To give awareness to our youth on the burning issues of the present world



Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total Number
1	No. of Youth	300	390	690

Significant Programmes

a). Awareness Programme:

In our centres, youth meetings are conducted once in two months. The youth who are in the colleges, technical schools and at home are invited for these meetings. The different topics that were dealt with last year were importance of education, proper use of media, how to handle difficult situations in life, job opportunities and how to become entrepreneurs in life. These awareness programmes helped them to get oriented properly.

b). Trainings for Youth:

Capacitating our young people is the only way to help them shine in their lives. We organised many training programmes to the youth on different areas: training in leadership skills made them understand the importance of leadership and know about their potentials to become self-confident; capacity building to youth helped them realize that their life is precious. Many expressed that they never had an opportunity to these sorts of trainings in their lives.

c). Cultural training to youth:

The interested youth are chosen to form a cultural troop. They are trained in different art forms like dancing, acting and speaking. The cultural team is being trained by professional trainers, choreographers. They also attend the social awareness training which gives them the analytical knowledge of what is happening in the society. Our AHAL and PALAVAI cultural troops staged many awareness programmes in different places on Corona virus and the importance of hygiene.



Impacts:

- The youth gained confidence to face the world against social evils and discriminations individually and collectively
- The youth who are in the colleges were motivated to continue their studies and most of them excel in their studies.
- Regular youth meetings instilled a different culture in the minds of our youth and their parents. 10 girls who were about to stop their studies now continue to study.
- Created awareness through cultural programmes

- The youth were inspired to start some kind of entrepreneurial initiative to become entrepreneurs
- They believed in themselves that they could produce a good amount of income through their systematic efforts and initiatives

5. FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE THROUGH ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

The Indian Constitution guarantees equal treatment before the law for all its citizens. Article 39A of the Constitution of India states that the state shall provide free legal aid, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. Sadly, our target people like the Dalits, the tribals, the migrants



and other sections of the marginalized group are denied justice in India. They are vulnerable in demanding for their rights. They need really a helping hand to fight for their rights. We, through our social action centres, accompany them in their struggle for justice.

Objectives

- To avail the entitlements from the Government
- To protect the fundamental rights of the marginalized
- To organise a campaign of MY LAND MY RIGHT
- To do advocacy and lobbying for Government for executing land rights
- To disseminate the knowledge on Article 19 of the Indian Constitution
- To sensitise on various schemes on land

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Total Number
1	Total No. of Villages Serve by our Social Action	540 Villages in 21 District

Significant Programmes

a). Awareness Programme

All our social action centres play a vital role in availing the services and advocacy for the rights of the marginalised sections especially the Dalits, the tribals and the migrants. Tamil-Nadu Social Watch has taken steps during this lockdown to creat awareness among people. To achive this goal, they have organised many webinars and zoom meets.

Awareness and exchange of ideas

SW-TN was part of the 10th World Human Rights' Cities Forum (Online) under the theme of "The Future of Human Rights Cities - Local Memories and Global Sharing" in Gwangju, South Korea; hosted by KOICA, UN-Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Human Rights; co-organized by UCLG, Raoul Wallenberg Institute and extended solidarity to the Human Rights Council's 46th Session - Side Event on "Protection for Human Rights Defenders in Asia: At the Frontlines of Movements for Human Rights and Democracy"

Awareness through Webinars and Zoom meets

SW-TN in association with Loyola IDCRC, organized a Zoom meet on 'Indian Constitution: Human Rights Perspectives', 'Rejecting Casteism in the Church' and the Commemoration programme for 100 days of incarceration of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ, State Level Virtual Workshop on UN Human Rights Mechanisms with a special focus on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with specific reference to children" was held and we also organised a semi virtual discussion on "People's Democracy and our role in Elections" and "Development, Democracy and Constitutional Rights in Contemporary India"



b). Protests:



Protest against Farmer's bill and the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy: we expressed our solidarity with the affected and also highlighted our social responsibility for some cause disparities by the Farmers' bill. Petition is filed to RTI Officer at different villages for different needs. This helped to acquire the needed data

c). Land rights:

The lands of Dalits have been grabbed by upper caste people over the years. By our legal and Meta legal interventions we have created awareness regarding the land rights of the Dalits. We have reclaimed 2000 acres of land and distributed to them. This has an impact over the state.



d). Human Rights Publications:



For the past 20 years continuously, our Human Rights Magazine has been published which protects the the Dalits, the tribals, the women, the children and the other victims of injustices. This is the only Dalit magazine which has a wider circulation and a large number of readers.

e). Legal services:

DHRC conducts an average of 20 cases per year. We train and equip young lawyers to commit themselves for social causes. We have a team of lawyers to attend to the needs of the poor. An average of 50 people visit our office every day for various helps and consultations.



f). Tribal Welfare Cards for 130 families:

PARAN centre has supported the Urali Makkal Sangam's leaders to apply for the tribal welfare cards to the Government. We had collected the petition from 600 families for the tribal welfare cards. 130 families received tribal welfare cards from the Government and that was one of the important achievements of PARAN. People from a village called Gundri were happy to receive the welfare cards with the support of PARAN. The local tribal community leaders were supportive of the event. The benefit of the welfare cards were well explained to them.



Impacts

1. Our option people have learnt their rights and duties
2. People gained confidence to meet the Government officers and demand for their rights
3. Tribal welfare cards were received for 130 Urali tribals
4. Human Rights Magazine make a great impact on people and make them socially responsible
5. Nearly 300 people of Irula tribe received ration cards through the help of PALAVAI centre and the Jesuit Migrants Service.

6. CREATING LEADERS

Objectives:

- To identify and form 1200 leaders from the local communities.
- To capacitate the staff and the newly formed leaders.
- To create and strengthen the different federations of movements.

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Men	Women	Total Number
1	Total No. of Leaders Trained	800	400	1,200

Significant Programmes

a). Training for Community Leaders:

The social action centres organised around 10 training programmes for the tribal and migrant community leaders on themes like leadership, welfare plans, land rights, Right to Information Act. These were conducted in order to enhance their capacity to demand their needs and rights from the Government. These trainings were organised in networking with a National programme called LOK MANCH. The SAC conducts the formal Election of Sangam (Movement) Board in the respective villages. This is done to provide identity and show the unity of minds and hearts in all castes and creeds which brings in perspective changes and enables people to come together. Awareness was given through training programmes to community leaders and different leaders of the movements. These trainings have instilled in them the knowledge, skills and change in their perspectives. These trainings have also created a platform to form second layer leadership.



b). Formation of federation of movements:

We have formed the following social movements for the rights and dignity of the people, especially the marginalized. They are well recognised DHRC, AHAL, PALAVAI and PARAN centres took a lot of initiatives to establish village level movements for the Dalits, the Arunthathiyars, the Irular and Urali Tribals . The objective here was to evaluate the efficiency of our work and our strategies in reaching out to the people with regards to Sangam formation. It was also to intensify the role of our staff and animators in this process. Around 500 elected leaders are trained in these federations every year.

- Dr Ambedkar Centenary Movement (IACM)
- Dalit Christians Rights Movement (DCRM)
- Jyothiba Workers Association (JTS)
- Arunthathiyar People Welfare Association
- Irular Tribal Movement
- Urali Makkal Movement
- Traditional Meenava Panjyat leaders



c). Election Campaign for local body elections

Our option people are normally not ready to participate in elections to be leaders. They have the tendency of being governed than to govern. They do not know the importance of contesting



in an election. Many a time, they are misled by the so called people of dominant caste. Last year there was a local body election in Tamil Nadu. Knowing the importance of having local leaders from our option people, almost all the social action centres organized the election campaign. We encouraged our target people to contest in the election. As a result of our

intervention and efforts, nearly, 15 people contested in the election and 5 among them won in the election.

Impacts

- At least 70% of the people who got trained by us in leadership workshops are able to lead the village meetings and approach the Government officials without depending on anyone else.
- 15 of our option people contested in the local body elections and 5 among them won
- Through these federation of movements, many people were empowered to become leaders

7. CARING FOR MIGRANTS

Migration in India is arising out of various social, economic or political reasons. At this juncture of the economic development in the country, especially when many states are undergoing faster economic development, particularly in areas such as manufacturing, information technology or service sectors, data migration profile of population has become more important. According to 2011 census, there are 13.8% of internal migration (from state to state in India) and 2.0% of external migration (Indians in other countries). But in the recent time, this percentage has escalated due to the fast rate of development in India. Since there is a huge number of migration there is also a number of problems that migrants face. Through Jesuit Migrants Service (internal), we serve the migrants from the north India who stay in Chennai and through Jesuit Migrants Ministry (external), we serve the migrants who travel abroad for jobs.

Objectives:

1. To accompany and toil towards a world in which each one lives with identity, dignity and respect.
2. To help the migrant workers have access to legal knowledge and freedom to protect and exercise their rights as migrant workers. Thus they live a dignified and decent life with justice, equity and peace by eradicating discrimination and inequality
3. To identify migrant labourers, repatriated during the covid lockdown and to meet them in person for closer accompaniment in the future
4. To enhance the economic condition of migrant families through entrepreneurship skills and trainings
5. To represent and voice out the needs and struggles of migrants in political and civil gatherings
6. To identify NGOs working for migrants and to take collaborative ventures for the betterment of migrants



Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total Number
1	Beneficiaries of Jesuit Migrants Service (JMS) for Internal Migrants	4,000	2,750	6,750
2	Beneficiaries of Jesuit Migrant Ministry External (JMMEEx)	2,280	1,520	3,800
3	Grand Total	6,280	4,250	10,530

Significant Programmes

a). Pre-Departure Awareness Programmes:

The Commissionerate for Rehabilitation of Non-Resident Tamils and Refugees, Chennai had appointed JMMEEx and NDWM to create awareness on safe-migration in all the taluks of Thiruvannamalai district. The resource persons were Sr.Valarmathi ICM from National Domestic



Workers Movement and Frs. Prabu Francis SJ and Velankanni SJ from JMMEx. The team went to all the taluks of Thiruvannamalai district campaigning for safe migration.

The following are the details of the awareness campaigns

DATE	PLACE	BENEFICIARIES
21 JAN 2020	Thiruvannamalai and Avoor	195
28 JAN 2020	Thandrapattu and Chengam	125
29 JAN 2020	Jamunamarathur and Polur	225
30 JAN 2020	Arni and Kalasapakkam	230
06 FEB 2020	Vembakkam and Cheyyar	450
07 FEB 2020	Vandavasi and Chetpet	260

b). Rescue and Death Interventions:

One of the main issues faced by migrant labourers is getting caught up in the destination country or being cheated by fake agents while going to foreign countries in search of jobs. JMMEx has been extending its services to rescue the migrants who were caught up in destination countries and bring back to the native the mortal remains of migrants, if died in the destination country.



The following are the details of rescue and death interventions in 2020-21:

DATE	NAME OF MIGRANT & DISTRICT	COUNTRY	RESCUE/DEATH
27 Feb 2020	Mrs. Sasireka, Dharmapuri	Kuwait	Rescue
14 May 2020	Mr. Rajakumar, Kanyakumari	Dubai	Death
01 Jul 2020	Mr. Settu Sanyasi, Thiruvannamalai	Saudi	Death
22 Jul 2020	Mrs.Kavitha, Thiruvannamalai	Kuwait	Rescue
25 Aug 2020	Mr. Periyasamy, Cuddalore	Dubai	Death
10 Oct 2020	Mrs.Chitra, Thiruvannamalai	Kuwait	Rescue
25 Nov 2020	Mrs. Arockiya Juliet Mary, Trichy	Kuwait	Rescue
01 Jan 2021	Mr. Gnanaguru, Cuddalore	Oman	Rescue
28 Jan 2021	Mr. George Vinoth Antony, Vellore	Kuwait	Death
15 Mar 2021	Mrs. Asiya Begam, Karur	Kuwait	Rescue

Rescue by JMS:

Rescued a young migrant family which was forcefully chased out of the construction site at Perambur, Chennai / Mr Hachibul, along with his pregnant wife, Mrs Sarika Katun and their 2-year-old son, Ibrahim were at Egmore railway station.

c). Repatriated Migrants Survey (Phase I, II & III):

During the lockdown in the destination countries due to Covid, there were many migrant labourers, who repatriated to their home land. JMMEx in collaboration with Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and other NGOs made timely assessments and surveys about the repatriated

migrants. The migrants were also helped with relief materials. We were able to contact 159 repatriated migrants from various countries during the lockdown and collected the data for the better accompaniment of the migrants in future.

d). Medical Camps:

Medical Camps are organised every month periodically for migrants in Chennai who are not offered to pay for their medical needs. The women, children and senior citizens are given special focus in these camps. During the lockdown, nearly 30 migrants were helped financially to meet their medical needs.



e). Counselling for Migrant couples:

JMS, social action centre organized 'counselling for Migrant couples' at RCM School, St. Thomas Mount. There were couples and unmarried men and women who attended the counselling session.



Most of the couples were very happy to look back their life as couples; many of them opened up themselves and shared their problems with the counsellors. Many were consoled and guided by this session to move forward in life as a true couple in Christ. It helped them reconcile with their families too. This session paved way and provided an opportunity for the young couples

to rectify their marriage certificates legally and help them proceed with the procedures needed.

f). Health camps at Loyola Shelter homes:

Health camps were conducted regularly in Loyola Shelter homes at Koyambedu & Chepauk, Chennai. These medical camps were for the residents and it was organized in collaboration with the Greater Chennai Corporation. Common ailments are generally addressed to in these camps. Further follow up is also done in case of severe ailments.



Impacts

- The ordinary and the uneducated in rural villages were enlightened about safe-migration and the cheatings of sub-agents.

- The awareness campaigning journey brought in contacts of officials, who promised to facilitate from each taluk to help the migrants with a special consideration.
- Because of the awareness programme in collaboration with the Govt. there came many issues and cases of rescue operations and unpaid salary issues in the destination countries.
- The target people in our visiting villages have gained confidence in the activities of JMMEx.
- People and specifically migrants have come to know that there is 'someone' (JMMEx) to help at the time of crisis.
- At least 20% of migrants from the rural villages have been made aware that they should not go abroad for work through tourist visa. They need to have proper documents of their promised work, salary, passport etc.,
- Migrants, who were rescued from abroad or the family members of dead migrants feel grateful for the works, rendered to migrants at large.
- Medical camps helped the migrants to identify their major sickness and attend to it swiftly.

8. JOURNEYING WITH ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENTS

Due to alcohol and drug addictions, many poor people / Dalits in Kuppayanallur area are not



able to lead a dignified life both socially and economically. They want to come out of these addictions to lead a meaningful life. The children and the youth are influenced directly by the alcoholics/drug addicts. The atmosphere they live in misleads them. They want to have a clear knowledge about the ill effects of the addiction. The wives of the alcoholics/drug addicts are one of the vulnerable sections of the people. They are

uneducated and they do not know how to handle their husbands. They want to be guided and educated on how to deal with their husbands who are addicts.

Objectives:

- To do away with all forms of addictions and to initiate a sober and serene societal life and ongoing Recovery Programme has to be made accessible to suffering alcoholics and active addicts in rural Dalit villages of our mission area: by April 2021 nearly 100 suffering alcoholics/drug addicts will be the total number attaining sobriety, abstaining from alcohol and drugs
- Follow ups as Recovery Support to the Recovering Alcoholic Patients
- Ongoing Monthly Training to Staff
- Recovery Programme to suffering Alcoholic Patients.

- To promote awareness among children

Beneficiaries

S.No	Beneficiaries	Total Number
1	Total No. of MEN	200
2	Total No. of Families	150
3	Total No.of Children	250

Significant Programmes

a.) Regular village visits in the evenings, to extend after-care to Recovering Alcoholic Patients; as a result, nearly 65 recovering alcoholics in Uthiramerur Taluk are able to stay sober and prevent relapses

b.) AA meetings:

- Every Wednesday evening, AA Meeting is being convened, wherein ten to fifteen recovering alcoholics turn up.
- Our inpatients are being exposed to AA Meetings held elsewhere in Kuppayanallur church, Schools (2) in Vandavasi, CSI Church & schools in Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu, as well.
- These meetings have indeed an effective therapeutic value for the recovering alcoholics towards their staying sober

c.) Monthly Reunions are being organised regularly for which 30 to 40 families of recovering alcoholics participate in turns. Such gatherings are very helpful to foster unity among these families and to serve other suffering alcoholics too.



d.) Registration Process to obtain license for our JMAADD Centre was completed and we have now been given the Provisional Registration Certificate for our De-addiction Centre



e.) Counselling and intervention through phone calls: though we receive phone calls from at least 20 families in a month, only five or six alcoholic patients turn up to take the recovery programme; others just postpone owing to the denial as the symptom of alcoholism, the incurable disease and due to the increase of craving to consume alcohol more and more.



f.) Month long recovery programme has been conducted for an average of 5 or 6 alcoholic patients per month. As elsewhere, our success rate is sixty percent.

g.) Auricular Acupuncture Therapeutic Sessions are being arranged every month for the patients in our Recovery Programme. Dr. Sr. Regina Mary of the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters of (Coimbatore) Presentation of Mary is our Resource Person. We have a tie up with their Franclare Health Centre in their Provincialate in Sathamai village near Madhuranthagam.

h.) Every other week, Awareness on Alcoholism and other drug addictions is being given in the neighbouring Parishes, after the Sunday Mass. We have gone around to almost all the ten parishes in our vicariate.

Impacts

- Almost 60% of our clients stay sober, abstaining from alcohol, and drug addictions. They take care of their family and educate their children
- More than 80% of the potential addicts among children [addiction, being a hereditary disease too] keep themselves away from such addictions
- 75% of the co-dependent wives of the addicts were to handle their husbands without getting back to the addiction once again.

New initiatives

All the social action centres initiated various new initiatives this year by identifying the needs of the people whom they serve. The initiatives they came up with are as follows:

1. Revolving fund for the self-help groups was introduced and internal lending was encouraged among self-help groups
2. Supported women to start small business units.
3. Encouraged local women and men to contest in local elections.
4. Staff – capacitating programmes were organised.
5. Staffs were motivated to prepare monthly planning and reports.
6. Some of the centres organised village camps to reach out to students during Covid lockdown.
7. Helped women groups to sell grocery for a nominal price to support the poor tribal women at PARAN.
8. PARAN centre opened new branches of ‘Urali Makkal Sangam’ in three villages.
9. PARAN centre supported tribal and poor students to attend online classes from PARAN centre, by providing food and accommodation.
10. Counselling for migrant couples was organised
11. Leadership training for migrant youth was held
12. Medical Camps for inter-state migrants, intra-state migrants (Tamils of Irula tribe), migrants at construction site, migrants at briklines, were conducted

13. Jesuit Migrants Service extended its service to new villages where Tamil migrants of Irula tribe (Intra-state migrants) & interstate migrants are present.
14. Entrepreneurial training was given to migrants and homeless men at Chepauk and Jai Nagar, in Chennai.
15. Drop out reintegration in psycho-social care of the migrant children, women, youth and workers was executed.
16. Shelter for the homeless migrants, to facilitate a dignified and decent living for them, and to ensure their health and hygiene, basic needs, safety and non-hazardous working environment was thought of and executed.
17. Seminars and Programmes - awakening of migrant workers on labour laws, labour code and policies was carried out.
18. Empowerment of migrant women to help them become entrepreneurs through life scoping skills and become decision makers of the society and family, was given
19. Virtual Animation Programmes(VAP) conducted on different themes like laws and policies, constitutional rights of inter-state and intra-state migrants were of great help.
20. Programmes were conducted on Human Rights Day, International Migrant's Day, Independence Day, Social Justice Day, World Water Day & World Environment Day.
21. Rectification of marriage for the catholic migrants was also done.
22. Joining with likeminded NGOs to pressurize the local Government to safeguard the special welfare board for the unorganized sector workers and to oppose the social security code initiated by the Central Government.
23. Updating the profile of the migrants, animators and staff of Jesuit Migrants Service.

Collaboration and Networking with Others

The Jesuit Chennai Province believes that every one of us has the ability to make a meaningful contribution. No matter from which walk of life one comes from, by leveraging one's unique skills and talents, everyone can help the other. We, as a Province, have already joined hands with the people of goodwill to realise the dreams of our option people. We work in collaboration with other like-minded NGOs, Religious (both men and women), volunteers and lay people.

Our Future Directions to Strengthen our Ministries

- a. Reaching out to the marginalized in new areas of the other revenue districts through nodal centres
- b. Increasing the number of study centres and strengthening them to address the new normal that is created by the Covid.
- c. Preparing special syllabus for educating our students in evening study centres
- d. Establishing a training and coordinating centre for all the social action centres at Villupuram.
- e. Empowering women and youth to become self-sufficient through trainings on Entrepreneurship.

- f. Reducing the rate of 'girl-child marriages' in our target villages
- g. Creating job opportunities for at least 50 youth in all our option villages.
- h. Intensifying our Public Policy Research and Advocacy for good Governance - towards 'Budgeting for Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGS) and empowering the marginalized in Tamil Nadu.

Success Stories

1. Success Story of Parvathi - student:



My name is Parvathi, coming from Sangeethamangalam, near Villupuram. I am studying 9th Standard at Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary School at Singanur, Tindivanam. I am staying at Fr. Ceyrac Girls' Hostel (Anbukarantal) at Singanur. I joined the hostel when I was doing 6th standard through PALAVAI organization that's working for the Irula tribe. I want to study and complete my graduation but I am unable to proceed due to my poor family background. My family cannot afford to spend more money on educating me. As my father, Mr. Kumar and my mother, Mrs. Shanti are working in a brick-kiln, they are paid very less. My parents sent me to hostel where I was very happy and started to enjoy life. It was my bad luck that the outbreak of Covid – 19 pandemic ruined my happiness of staying at the hostel. I had to leave the hostel. I was staying with my parents and helping them at brick-kiln near Red Hills.

My parents could not feed me with proper food and provide proper security as I attained puberty. I was staying with my grandparents at my own village for a few months. Many girls in my village were being exploited due to Covid lockdown. It was a great agony for my parents to protect me. Therefore, they decided to give me in marriage to one of my relatives' son without my consent. I tried my best to avoid and agitated. Alas! nobody listened to me. Finally, I agreed to marry the person whom my parents had fixed for me. I thought my life and dreams had come to an end and nothing could be done, and I would be like my parents working in the brick-kiln forever.

I was so happy when I saw Fr. Kennedy, Director, and Mr. Sathiyaraj, staff of PALAVAI organization on 30th August, walking in the street in my village. Fr. Kennedy convened the meeting for all the parents and explained to them the disadvantages of early child marriages and also threatened them quoting the punishment of POCSO Act for people who were involved in a crime of this kind. He also talked to me personally and asked my opinion regarding the arrangement of the marriage process. I explained my displeasure regarding the same and I was helped to come out of the entanglement which awaited me. I am happy now because I am back in my hostel and can study now. I am very grateful to PALAVAI Center.

2. Success Story of Mr. Deva - leader

Mr. Deva hails from Azhanganandal which comes under Thiruvannamalai district. He was an inmate of Arrupe Boys' Hostel, AHAL Centre, Kilpennathur from 2006 to 2012. He was reached out to the needy in his village on many occasions. Observing his service-mindedness, the people of Azhaganandal encouraged him to stand in the election. He contested for a ward membership in his village Azhanganandal in the local body election held in 2019 and won the election unopposed. He was also elected as the Vice President for Azhaganandal Panchayat. He continues his services in a wider range now.



3. Success Story of Mrs. Jackuline - entrepreneur



Mrs. Lourdu Jackulin is a member of Migrant Self Help Group of Vettavalam, which is the first MSHG of JMMEx. The initiative of MSHG was started with a view to gather the migrant workers, spread in and around the villages and to instil in them the habit of making savings and to make them entrepreneurs in the source country itself. Mrs. Jackulin from Nallavanpalayam of Thiruvannamalai district in the beginning bought oil in wholesale and was selling it in retail bottles. After having gained the confidence of a good number of customers, she has now bought a wooden pressing machine with the savings and has become an inspiring entrepreneur.

When she was met in person, she said "In 2015, I had the opportunity to participate in an entrepreneurship development meeting held in Trichy. They provided training and guidelines to begin a business and I approached JMMEx for initial financial assistance and guidance. In my village, I was doing a micro enterprise of selling quality coconut oil to a minimum number of people. I had the desire and plan to reach out this service to many. Knowing my desire and realizing my difficulty to execute this plan, the Jesuit Migrants Ministry (external) welcomed me into their entrepreneurship group; encouraged my desire; explained the business strategies and tactics; introduced me to successful business models and persons to learn the practical business skills; clarified all my doubts and offered valuable suggestions to execute and extend my service to the humanity by providing quality and healthy cold pressed oil. Today, per month, I am able to sell around 1000 to 1500 litres of fresh and quality oil, covering four main cities - Chennai, Bangalore, Trichy and Thiruvannamalai. Today the people have become more conscious of food adulteration and prefer to have traditional healthy food. Hence, the demand for cold-pressed oil is high. I couldn't meet all their needs as I was alone do this business. My husband is working abroad. Once he returns home, we have a plan to extend this service to many. Till today through regular meetings, the Jesuits and their team (JMMEx) continue to assess the developments of

my business and offer innovative ideas to enhance it. I am deeply indebted to the team of Jesuit Migrants Ministry (external) for helping me to be a successful entrepreneur. May their service continue to empower the needy.”

4. Success Story of Ms. Santhanalakshmi, shop owner

Ms. Santhanalakshmi, age - 25. “I learnt my tailoring skills at Mother Teresa tailoring centre in Pondicherry from June 2018 till December 2018. I was a graduate in English literature. After my college studies, I did not have any idea about life. I got married in the year 2016. After my marriage, I needed some work to support my family. It was at that time I heard about Mother Teresa tailoring centre in Pondicherry. I approached the Jesuit Fathers to help me get trained to support my poor family. They gave me an opportunity. I made use of this opportunity to the fullest. Hence I started to learn carefully what was taught to us. I learnt to stitch shirt, pant, blouse, baby dress, neck pattern, and hari works. Apart from these tailoring skills, we learnt some life-oriented soft skills which gave me the confidence to start a tailoring shop on my own. With the help of the machine given at the end of our course at our centre, I started my shop. In the beginning, it was difficult to get orders. But once people started liking my work, they were ready to give me orders very frequently. I earned more and I provided an opportunity to one of the women who also learnt tailoring at Mother Teresa tailoring centre in Pondicherry. At the moment, I get a profit of more than Rs.16,000 per month. I am grateful to this tailoring centre which has empowered me and my family.”



5. Struggle for peaceful stay

There are two lakes (Sitheri and Periyeri) in Sathiyamangalam. There are 35 Arunthathiyar and 20 Dalit Muslim households near ‘Sitheri’ lake. There are 111 Telugu Chetti



households living beside the ‘Periyeri’ lake. Six years ago (2014), in order to preserve water bodies in ‘Sitheri’ and ‘Periyeri’, the Government of Tamil Nadu passed an order to remove all the hamlets beside ‘Sitheri’ and ‘Periyeri’ lakes and allotted three cents of alternative land to each family at Rajapalayam. The alternative land given to people of Sathyamangalam was far from the main land. There is neither water source, nor

access to roads and education facilities. So, the people of Sathyamangalam decided to live beside the lake permanently. On 23 Jan, 2020, the Govt. issued a warning notice asking the people of Sathyamangalam to vacate the houses within 21 days. If not vacated within the stipulated time, the Govt. threatened that their houses would be demolished and forcefully removed. It is to notify that more than 50 years, the people of Sathyamangalam are living near these lakes ‘Sitheri’

and 'Periyeri'. They all have ration cards, Aadhaar cards, Voter Ids, Electricity connection and they pay regular taxes for their houses.

The Lok Manch capacity builder, campaign facilitator, community leaders and staff from AHAL centre conducted Arunthathiyar People's Welfare Association meeting on 24 Jan, 2020, with Arunthathiars at Sathiyamangalam and took four important decisions.

1. To mobilize the people of Sathiyamangalam (Muslims, Chettiars and Arunthathiyars) to fight for their rights. (A collaborative venture)
2. To meet Mr. Masthan, the M.L.A. of Gingee constituency.
3. To participate in Gram Sabha meeting and pass resolutions on 26 Jan, 2020.

As per the plan, the people of Sathiyamangalam met the M.L.A. Mr. Masthan on 25 Jan, 2020, and filed a petition. The M.L.A. promised that he would solve the problem as soon as possible. As per the plan, the people of Sathiyamangalam participated in Gram Sabha meeting on 26 Jan, 2020, and proposed the demand but it was rejected due to a legal problem. The Gram Sabha proposed an alternative solution that it would provide basic facilities and amenities in Rajapalayam itself. On 27 Jan, 2020, the people of Sathiyamangalam filed a petition at Villupuram collectorate. On 14 Feb, 2020, Mr. Masthan, the M.L.A. visited Sathiyamangalam and assured that the living houses would not be demolished and displaced. The surveyors measured two lakes on 04, 05, 06 March, 2020. Now the people are living in a state of uncertainty.

6. PALAVAI - transformed - women to voice out for their needs

I am Akila Thamarai and I am the leader of the self-help group of Irula tribe. I used to be introvert, felt low and was ignorant of the benefits around me. The PALAVAI social action centre gave orientation about self-help groups and its functions, as I joined the group. I equipped myself by attending all the training programmes organized by PALAVAI which inculcated in me the knowledge of a better living. PALAVAI also enhanced my self-confidence and self-esteem and I decided to help my fellow beings. I also learned that community certificates were very important to avail the benefits & entitlements of the Government schemes.



I came to know of 89 people (including women, youth & children) who needed community certificates for their education and so I collected their details and submitted the same to the District Collector. In this process, I faced a lot challenges, barriers from the Government officials and others who refused to give us the certificates. Despite all the hardships, I was able to get the community certificates for those who were in need of them. I thank my husband who encouraged and helped me travel to the Government offices at all circumstances. On 22 Sep, 2020, we were able to get 79 certificates which I consider as my accomplishment: All the people whom I helped are happy and grateful to me and I feel so happy and proud that I could be of some help to them.

7. Tribal Welfare Cards for 130 families



PARAN centre has supported the leaders of 'Urali Makkal Sangam' to apply for the tribal welfare cards to the Government. Petitions from 600 families were collected for the tribal welfare cards and PARAN staff along with the leaders of the tribal community submitted the petitions to the Government officers at Sathiyamangalam. After a few weeks, the staff and the leaders went to enquire about the petition and they were asked to wait for the arrival of the welfare cards to the local office at Sathiyamangalam from Chennai. To speed up the process of receiving the welfare cards for the tribal family, the leaders met the District Collector and gave a petition demanding for the welfare cards. This resulted in the arrival of welfare cards at the local office in a month or so. The local Thasildar called the leaders and asked them to arrange a day for distribution of the welfare cards in Gundri area. The local leaders and PARAN centre made the arrangement and about 135 families received the tribal welfare cards from the Government. This was possible because of the commitment of the local leaders to the tribal community.

8. Medical aid - Success story of Mrs Anima

Mrs Anima stays at Ambathur at present, but is originally from Assam. She and her family had been in contact with JMS for the past five years. Mrs Anima had a small cyst growth in the left side of her breast and had pain. So she requested JMS team to accompany her for further treatment.

On 29 Nov, 2019, when she was taken to St. Thomas Mount Hospital, the doctor said that she was found to have the sebaceous cyst growth. So, she was advised to go for removal of the cyst by Dr Alala Sundaram. On the same day immediately after the test, the sebaceous gland was removed and after three days, she was asked to come for review. The stitches were removed from the sebaceous cyst gland on 13 Dec, 2019. Nearly 20 days, JMS helped her be in good health and suggested to her not to carry heavy objects and prescribed food habits also. The doctors suggested her not to take dry fish, eggplant, and any food that would cause itching. She was very particular in following the food habits and having tablets. The reports are attached in the last.

Mrs Anima once again had a cyst growth in the breast in Feb 2021, and she was taken to the same doctor. The cyst was sent for the biopsy and it was confirmed to be skin cancer. Then she was taken to Royapuram Government hospital for further treatment under the guidance of Dr Kannan from St Thomas Hospital, who also works in Royapuram as an oncologist. Till the end of March, Mrs Anima was accompanied by JMS until her surgery and review were over.



Mrs Anima now enjoys good health and goes to work as usual. JMS team accompanied her throughout her treatment and further follow up is done.

9. Risked to Rescue and Restore Irulars as brick lime chamber contract workers during the Covid lockdown

PALAVAI took risks to save the lives of 40 Irular brick lime chamber contract workers from Padapai and Kanchipuram districts. They had earlier left their homes and children from four tribal



villages near Gingee to earn their livelihood. As the unforeseen lockdown got effected due to Covid 19, the condition of the contract workers became worse. Fearing for life and in danger of Corona, these unsupported people cried out for a help to reach their homes to be with their family, but no one listened to their

cry. Having suffered a lot in such hopeless conditions, all of them took the risk of walking miles to be back home. On the call from the relatives of these workers to PALAVAI, we came to know about the pathetic conditions and difficulties of these workers, and a team with the nod of the Director, hastened to arrange a vehicle to take them safe to their respective villages. Thus, they all reached their places safely, being 'Corona' negative. While talking to the media, a lady worker said that their suffering, on the way, was more psychological than physical. She said that it was unbelievable that they reached home quick and with no trouble, thanks to the generous help, care and concern of the PALAVAI teams. She also expressed her gratitude on behalf of everyone, to all who helped in the process of bringing them safe. PALAVAI teams were very keen to address the pain of our target groups instantly without having alternative thoughts about anything else and provided them with basic needs and sufficient accompaniment.



10. 1000 MILES OF JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE SINGLE STEP

I am Monika, daughter of Murugan, from Bethur of Harur Taluk in Dharmapuri District. I am doing my 5th standard in the Govt. School. Both my father and mother are daily wage earners. Though I am from a poor family, I can study and score good marks in exams. It was my ambition to become an orator. I did not get any opportunity in my school to be trained in oratory. All the more, I was also feeling afraid to face a large crowd.



Fortunately, in my village, we have an evening tuition centre, called Loyola Evening Study Centre. It is being run by the Jesuit Fathers. Diverse competitions are conducted often for the students there. Since competitions are conducted with a small number of students, many students acquire skills like drawing, art-work, singing, oratory, etc. I do go for the evening tuition centre regularly and gradually I begin to participate in all the competitions that are conducted there. I also get prizes many times and this gives me the courage to become a good orator. Now I am confident that I can be a great and successful orator. Hence, I am thankful to the Jesuit Fathers and the teacher for giving me the confidence and acquire more communication skills.



*You Touched us
We Grow...
We Glow...*







These smiles are not simple smiles

They speak of your generosity

They are the witnesses of your magnanimous hearts

Don't their smiles speak louder than words?

**Kindly join us, therefore,
to gift these smiles
on a permanent basis,
for glory of God, and
For love of humanity !!!**



**“LOVE OUGHT TO MANIFEST ITSELF MORE
BY DEED THAN BY WORDS.”** *(Spiritual Exercises. 230)*

- St. Ignatius of Loyola