

NEWSLETTER

# All Lives Matter

PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



**JESUIT**  
CHENNAI PROVINCE

VOL-4 / 2026



# PARAN

Nurturing Hope,  
Nourishing Dignified Lives



## *Fr. Provincial Speaks...*

**Dear Friends, and esteemed Partners,**

**PARAN** (Pedagogy and Action for Rights of Adivasis in North Tamil Nadu), established in 2013, at the foothills of the serene Sathyamangalam Reserve Forest, has remained steadfast in its mission to empower the families of Urali tribe through education, advocacy, and rights-based engagement. Anchored in the values of justice, dignity, and collective action, PARAN walks alongside indigenous people, ensuring that their voices are heard, their cultures are respected, and their constitutional rights are protected. Our work is not only for the people, but with the people, rooted in trust, participation, and shared hope.

Over these years, we have witnessed PARAN walking with first-generation learners, empowering women, strengthening Urali Makkal Sangam, ensuring youth leadership, and promoting cultural preservation. Each of these efforts reflects our conviction that sustainable change originates at the grassroots, driven by education, cultural pride, and environmental stewardship.

Among all these initiatives, education remains closest to our hearts. Education has become a bridge connecting Indigenous children to opportunity, confidence, and self-determination. It is through learning, young minds begin to dream beyond limitation, reclaim identity, and shape a future rooted in dignity.

This magazine is not merely a historical record. It is a testament to resilience, hope, and collective strength. It carries the stories of communities who refuse to be invisible and of children who rise with courage despite adversity. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our children, families, staff, volunteers, partners, and well-wishers who journey with us. Your solidarity strengthens our resolve and reminds us that meaningful change is possible when compassion meets action.

Together, let us continue to stand for justice, nurture learning, protect Indigenous heritage, and proclaim through our action that ALL LIVES MATTER.

**- Fr Britto Vincent SJ**

*- Fr Kennedy SJ*





## PARAN *Director Speaks...*

**Dear Friends and Supporters,**

As I look back on the journey of PARAN Tribal Society Kadambur, I am filled with pride. What began with immense challenges, limited communication, difficult transport, and hesitation from the community has now blossomed into a mission of hope and transformation. Taking office as Director since June 2022, I continue to learn and understand the unique psychological and cultural background of the Urali people. Their slow responses to training and empowerment programs remind us that true change takes patience, persistence, and compassion. Today, we see remarkable progress. Education has opened doors for our Urali tribal children, economic opportunities have strengthened families, and our initiatives accompany people through every stage of life, from birth to old age. PARAN has become a trusted companion, walking hand in hand with the community toward holistic empowerment. Yet, our work is far from complete. Despite these achievements, many areas still require deeper accompaniment and support. On behalf of the PARAN Tribal Society, Kadambur, once again, I express sincere gratitude for your generous support and accompaniment. I invite you to join us in this mission. Your generosity fuels transformation, and your solidarity ensures that the Urali tribals move forward with dignity, strength, and hope.

**- Fr Kennedy SJ**



**ALL LIVES MATTER**

# Overview of **PARAN**



The PARAN Tribal Centre, located at Kadambur, is a Non-Governmental Organisation committed to the holistic development and empowerment of tribal communities in the Kadambur and Thalavadi Hills and the Sathyamangalam forest region of Tamil Nadu. Inspired by a deep apostolic vision and guided by Jesuit social commitments, PARAN has been working consistently with indigenous communities since 2013, responding to their social, educational, economic, and cultural realities through sustained grassroots engagement.

Over the years, PARAN has expanded its outreach across six village panchayats and 85 tribal hamlets in the Kadambur and Thalavadi Hills. The Sathiyamangalam forest area contains over 120 tribal villages region. These regions are marked by difficult terrain, geographical isolation, limited access to public services, and restricted livelihood opportunities, all of which continue to adversely affect the quality of life and development prospects of the tribal population.

According to the 2011 Census of India, Tamil Nadu has a population of 72,147,030 of which Scheduled Tribes constitute approximately 1.10%. The Government of India has notified 37 tribal communities in the state. Among them, the Urali and Sholagar tribes are the predominant indigenous groups inhabiting the Kadambur and Thalavadi Hills of Erode District. These communities possess rich cultural traditions, indigenous knowledge systems, and a deep ecological relationship with forest landscapes.



Tribal life in this region is traditionally rooted in values of equality, collective living, freedom, and harmony with nature. However, increasing forest regulations, wildlife-related challenges, land alienation, and growing socio-economic exclusion have intensified their vulnerabilities. As a result, many families face persistent poverty, food insecurity, limited educational access, and erosion of cultural identity, placing their traditional way of life under significant strain.

Recognizing both the inherent strengths of tribal cultures and the structural challenges they face, PARAN adopts a participatory approach to development. Our interventions address multiple, interlinked issues. Through PARAN, our commitment to social justice is translated into concrete action aimed at strengthening community institutions, nurturing indigenous leadership, preserving cultural identity, and fostering self-reliant and sustainable development among tribal populations.



**To empower Urali tribal people to lead and build self-reliant, just and dignified lives.**



**PARAN engages in strengthening cultural identity, securing forest and land rights, and improving access to entitlements for the Urali tribe through education and community organizing, in partnership with like-minded organizations, people's movements, and government agencies.**

**ALL LIVES MATTER**



## Thematic Pillars

1

**Empowering Young Minds**  
Through Education

2

**Empowering Women,**  
Transforming Society


3

**Accompanying Youth**  
Through Guidance and Care

4

**Federation (Urali Makkal Sangam)**  
A Step Towards Self-Reliance

## Strategic Directions

- **Quality Education:** Running Evening Study Centres that support first-generation learners through academics, values, and holistic development.
  - **Capacitation:** Building life skills, confidence, and leadership through creative learning, exposure programmes, and child-led platforms.
  - **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Organising women into strong collectives that promote savings, solidarity, and financial independence.
  - **Capacitation:** Strengthening women's leadership and livelihoods through skill training, entrepreneurship support, and exposure visits.
  - **Care & Career Guidance:** Mentoring youth through counselling, higher education support, and vocational and employment guidance.
  - **Health & Wellness:** Promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles through sports, awareness, and preventive health initiatives.
  - **Leadership:** Nurturing responsible youth leaders through training, civic engagement, and cultural participation.
  - **Cultural Emancipation:** Reviving and promoting Urali culture, traditions, and identity through collective cultural platforms.
  - **Sensitisation:** Creating awareness on constitutional values, forest and land rights, and government welfare entitlements.
  - **Accompaniment:** Walking alongside the federation by strengthening leadership, advocacy, and engagement with governance systems.
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# 1. NURTURING THE DREAMS OF CHILDREN

For decades, children of Urali have faced enormous barriers to education, such as remote schools, transportation issues, early dropouts, and limited family support. To break this barrier, our educational empowerment programs aim to ensure that every Urali child learns, dreams, and grows in an environment of encouragement and care.

## A. Evening Study Centres (ESCs)

The Evening Study Centres (ESCs) was created to build young minds and ensure that every child has a supportive space to learn beyond school hours. Today, we run 55 centres that operate for two hours each day, offering homework support, language and math lessons, and moral education. These centres were established especially for children from lower-income families who lack basic facilities such as lights, proper study spaces, or guidance at home.

Each centre is led by volunteer animators, many of whom are educated Urali youth committed to nurturing younger learners through joyful learning methods. These methods focus on holistic growth helping children develop mentally, emotionally, and socially. They also teach children about their rights, responsibilities, and core values through fun and creative activities like games, art, music, and storytelling which makes learning enjoyable, while hands-on projects, problem-solving exercises, and team activities build practical skills. Most importantly, the centres encourage curiosity by inviting children to ask questions, explore freely, and think critically.



Parents share that these centres have reduced school dropouts and improved academic performance. “My son never missed the ESC. His marks improved, and now he wants to become a teacher,” says Lalitha, a proud mother from Kadayampatti.





## ***B. Children's Day Celebration***

Every year, the Children's Day celebration brings together more than **300** children from the villages where our study centres are active. The event is filled with joy and excitement as children take part in games, songs, and group activities that encourage learning and togetherness.

Through interactive sessions, children learn about important topics such as their rights, leadership, the prevention of child marriage, and protection from drug abuse. These activities help build awareness and confidence in a friendly and supportive environment.

The celebration concludes with cultural performances that highlight childhood, teamwork, and pride in tribal identity. With the participation of boys and girls, the Children's Day event stands as a meaningful platform that supports learning, expression, and the overall development of children.



## C. Children's Parliament

The Children's Parliament is a child-led platform where children come together to discuss community issues, learn about their rights and responsibilities, and share their ideas. It functions like a small government, with elected child "ministers," and follows participatory methods such as sociocracy to ensure that every child has an equal and meaningful voice.

Children's Parliaments are active in all ESCs, where they help children develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. To strengthen this process, two residential training programmes are conducted every year for about **100** elected members one at the beginning of the academic year and another mid-year. These trainings support both children and animators by building the skills needed to run the Parliaments effectively.



Regular follow-up by animators and coordinators encourages children to express their views and take part in decisions that affect their lives. The Parliaments focus on key issues such as education, health and nutrition, sanitation, child rights, environmental protection, and social justice. Children also participate in village-level Grama Sabha meetings, which helps them understand local issues and develop civic responsibility.

This participatory approach strengthens democratic values within the Urali community and supports responsible citizenship from a young age. A strong example is Chandran from the Arigyiam Tuition Centre, who actively participates in discussions, speaks with confidence, understands leadership roles, and takes initiative to introduce positive changes in his village.





### ***D. “Jaithu Kattuvom” – Motivational Programme for Studentsment***

As exams approach, fear and anxiety often challenge first-generation learners. Jaithu Kattuvom (“**We Shall Win**”), launched in **2022**, supports students of Classes **10 to 12** by building confidence, encouraging regular attendance, and reducing dropout rates through interactive sessions and guidance.

A shining example of the programme’s impact is Geeta from the Kurumbur Tuition Centre. Once nervous and struggling to pass, she embraces the support offered by Jaithu Kattuvom, grows in confidence, and excels in her final exams, scoring **75%**. Today, she pursues a B.Sc. Nursing degree in Coimbatore, a testament to how determination, guidance, and encouragement can transform a student’s journey.

Through stories like Geeta’s, Jaithu Kattuvom continues to inspire children to face challenges, strengthen their study habits, and approach exams with a positive mindset.

Before the programme began, many students especially first-generation learners struggled with fear, stress, and irregular attendance. After participating in “**Jaithu Kattuvom**,” children showed higher confidence levels, stronger study habits, better exam preparation, improved attendance, and a noticeable decline in dropout rates.

### ***E. International Girl Child Day Workshop***

Every year in October, the International Girl Child Day comes alive in the Urali community with a two-day celebration dedicated to empowering girls. The programme focuses on girls’ safety, menstrual hygiene, and legal rights, addressing the challenges that tribal girls often face.

Through role plays, interactive discussions, and inspiring stories from women leaders, the event breaks taboos and encourages families to support girls’ education. Over time, the community begins to respect the girl child more, and the rate of child marriage shows a noticeable decline. Initiatives like this continue to inspire the next generation of tribal girls to dream bigger, stay confident, and claim their rights.



## **F. Summer Camp and Volunteer Orientation**

Every year, the residential summer camp, launched in **2017**, brings children aged **5** to **18** together for a week-long experience that promotes discipline, curiosity, and pride in their tribal heritage. The camp also helps prevent school dropouts and reduces the risk of substance use through engaging awareness sessions, keeping children meaningfully connected to their studies during the vacation.



Children participate in a wide range of activities, including skill development, language learning, cultural arts, and sports. To ensure a safe and enriching experience, **51** youth volunteers undergo a two-day orientation on child safety, teamwork, and first aid before the camp begins.

The impact of the camp is visible each year. Many children who were previously disengaged or at risk of dropping out return more motivated, disciplined, and aware of health, safety, and the value of their culture. A shining example is Nishanth from the Gundri Kilur Tuition Centre, who grows in confidence and discipline through skill-building sessions, sports, and cultural activities. He also develops a stronger interest in his studies and eagerly shares lessons on teamwork and child safety with his peers.

With nine successful camps held so far, this annual initiative continues to shape young

minds, strengthen character, and celebrate the cultural identity of the Urali community year after year.

## **G. Scholarship Support and Parent Meetings**

Education dropouts remain a major challenge in the Urali community, and to ensure children continue learning, a higher education scholarship programme launches in **2022**. Since then, **44** Urali students receive scholarships, enabling them to pursue diverse fields of study across multiple colleges. The initiative not only supports their academic journey but also engages families through regular parent student meetings, where progress is celebrated and future goals are discussed.

At the beginning, the programme faces several challenges. Many parents lack awareness about the importance of higher education, financial constraints make families hesitant, and some students struggle with low confidence or limited academic preparedness. Concerns about distance, travel, and hostel arrangements further discourage families. Despite these hurdles, the scholarship programme steadily builds trust in the community, creating opportunities for young learners to break barriers and dream bigger.

Through initiatives like this, the Urali community witnesses how education can empower its youth and transform aspirations into achievements.





## 2. STRENGTHENING WOMEN FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The Urali women are the soul of their families, yet they often face limited access to income, leadership, and rights.

So, our program focuses on building women's confidence through financial independence, skills training, and collective solidarity.



### A. Strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are small, voluntary associations of women from similar socio-economic backgrounds who pool their savings to support one another financially. Their main goal is to reduce poverty and promote economic empowerment within the community. Today, around 30 SHGs are active across the villages, each with 15–20 women who meet weekly to save, lend, and discuss family or community matters.

To strengthen their functioning, a monthly leadership and management training equips members with skills in bookkeeping, meeting facilitation, and participation in Panchayat-level Federations (PLFs), helping women gain confidence and a stronger voice in local governance. While SHGs existed before, they are formally linked to PLFs in 2023, marking a major step toward collective empowerment.

In the early stages, challenges such as irregular attendance due to household responsibilities, limited financial literacy, and hesitation to participate in decision-making arise. Despite this, the SHGs achieve transformative outcomes. Women gain financial independence through consistent savings and lending, enhance their leadership skills, and participate more actively in community and Panchayat-level discussions. Most importantly, the SHGs foster strong social bonds, creating networks of mutual support and cooperation among women across the villages.

Through these initiatives, SHGs not only empower women economically but also strengthen their confidence, leadership, and community engagement.

### ***B. Entrepreneurship and Income Generation Training***

Launched in **2023**, the entrepreneurship development initiative is helping women in the Urali community create sustainable livelihoods. Through practical sessions on financial planning and government entrepreneurship schemes, participants learn to recognize opportunities, innovate, take calculated risks, and run small businesses successfully. Mentorship from accomplished tribal women entrepreneurs encourages them to explore a variety of ventures, including tailoring, goat-rearing, food processing, and herbal products.

The journey is not without challenges. Many women begin with little experience in business or financial management, and hesitation to invest or take risks can slow progress. Juggling household responsibilities alongside new enterprises also demands careful planning. Yet, the results are inspiring: women develop strong business skills, build confidence, and gradually take charge of sustainable income-generating activities.



Today, many participants run thriving small enterprises, contributing to both their household income and the wider community. As a currently running initiative, it continues to be a powerful force for economic empowerment, self-reliance, and leadership among Urali women.

### ***C. Tailoring Unit – “Kadambur Queens Fashion”***

A meaningful milestone for the Urali community emerges in 2024 when a group of five young women launches a tailoring venture, symbolizing hope, independence, and collective determination. With dedicated training, sewing machines, and marketing support, they learn to create quality school uniforms and household garments for local communities. Their products quickly gain popularity, and the steady income now supports their families while inspiring other women to explore similar opportunities.



The journey is not without challenges. As first-time entrepreneurs, the women overcome hesitation and build confidence in their abilities. Coordinating production and sales as a team requires patience and trust, while learning marketing and reaching local customers involves continuous effort. Balancing work, training, and personal responsibilities is another hurdle. Yet, through perseverance and shared commitment, the group turns these challenges into stepping stones.

Today, the venture continues to run successfully, standing as a proud example of women-led progress and economic empowerment in the Urali community.

### ***D. Women's Day Celebration***

Women's Day Celebration Coordinating production and sales as a team requires patience and trust, while learning marketing and reaching local customers involves continuous effort. Balancing work, training, and personal responsibilities is another hurdle. Yet, through perseverance and shared commitment, the group turns these challenges into stepping stones.

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### ***E. Exposure Visit to Kalangarai, Nagapattinam***

A group of 20 SHG leaders visited Kalangarai to learn from successful rural women entrepreneurs and understand how cooperatives can help scale small businesses. The visit offered them a firsthand experience on how rural enterprises operate and the strategies that contribute to their success.

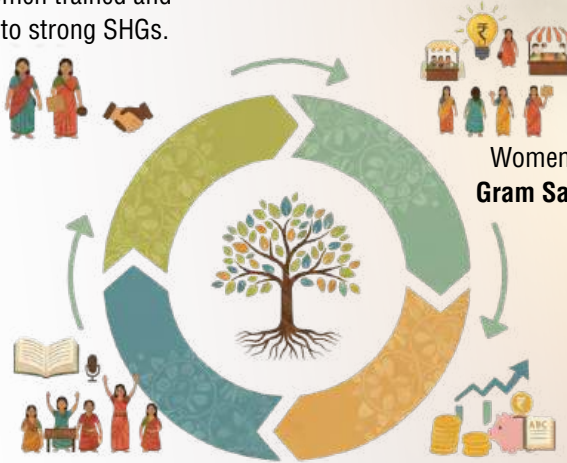
During the visit, the leaders gained practical insights into managing small businesses, effective teamwork, and marketing techniques. They also developed the confidence to initiate and improve income-generating activities within their own groups.

Inspired by the sustainable livelihood models they observed, the SHG leaders returned to their villages motivated to replicate these approaches, aiming to empower more women and strengthen entrepreneurial efforts in their communities.



# Impacts

**300** Urali women trained and organised into strong SHGs.



Women actively participate in **Gram Sabha** and **PLF** meetings.

**10** women entrepreneurs launched small-scale ventures.

Family income and financial literacy significantly improved.



## 3. GUIDING YOUTH TOWARD LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

With the right guidance, tribal youth can become leaders who blend tradition with innovation. Our youth empowerment programs create avenues for leadership, social responsibility, and community pride.

### A. MAGIS 25 Volleyball Tournament

Since 2023, the annual two-day sports festival brings together 20 youth teams, each with 12 boys, in a lively celebration of fitness, discipline, and drug-free living. Beyond the thrill of competitive matches, participants engage in interactive sessions on teamwork, leadership, and substance abuse prevention, turning sports into a platform for awareness and community building.

The festival helps youth develop important skills such as discipline, leadership, and sportsmanship, while boosting confidence, communication, and peer connections. It inspires them to embrace healthy lifestyles, take responsibility for their actions, and strengthen bonds within their communities.

More than just a sporting event, the festival fosters unity, encourages regular participation in physical activities, and highlights the importance of health, wellbeing, and responsible living among young people.



## *B. Youth Leadership Meetings*

Since **2024**, monthly gatherings offer a supportive platform for **64** young men and women, aged **20** to **31**, to explore educational pathways, employment opportunities, and government welfare schemes. Guided by **64** experts and alumni who actively participate, these sessions provide mentorship, inspiration, and practical guidance, motivating youth to pursue skill enhancement and career growth with confidence.



Through these gatherings, **15** participants enroll in technical and vocational training programmes, reflecting a growing interest in hands on skill development. Participants gain valuable insights into government schemes and employment options while strengthening leadership, decision-making, and communication skills.

Beyond practical learning, the sessions nurture confidence, ambition, and peer learning among the youth. By increasing awareness of opportunities and offering consistent guidance, the gatherings empower participants to make informed career choices, plan their futures effectively, and take proactive steps toward personal and professional growth.

Overall, these monthly initiatives continue to serve as a strong foundation for youth development, inspiring young people to build meaningful careers, embrace lifelong learning, and contribute positively to their communities.

## *C. Cultural Engagement – PARAN Troupe*

The PARAN Cultural Troupe, comprising **22** talented Urali youth aged **12** to **25**, uses vibrant street plays, songs, and dances to convey messages on education, gender equality, and child rights. Alongside raising social awareness, the troupe actively celebrates and preserves tribal music and dance, ensuring that this rich cultural heritage continues to thrive for future generations.



Being part of the troupe helps young members build confidence, strengthen teamwork, and enhance their communication skills. Through each performance, they share powerful social messages while deepening their connection to their roots, inspiring peers and communities, and discovering how art can drive positive social change.

## *D. Civic Awareness & Constitution Day*

On Indian Constitution Day, the spirit of democracy comes alive as **50** enthusiastic young participants gather to explore their rights, duties, and the values that shape the nation. The occasion creates a meaningful space for youth to connect with the Constitution, understand their responsibilities, and recognize the importance of active and informed citizenship.



## Services Facilitated

-  **Community Certificate**
-  **Birth Certificate**
-  **Death Certificate**
-  **Income Certificate**
-  **Aadhaar Card**
-  **Bank Account Opening**
-  **PAN Card**
-  **Widow Certificate**
-  **Housing Patta**

Through interactive sessions, lively discussions, and engaging quizzes, participants deepen their understanding of democratic rights and responsibilities. The experience strengthens civic awareness, builds respect for constitutional values, and motivates young people to take part in community initiatives and decision-making processes.

More than an awareness programme, the day inspires youth to see themselves as responsible citizens, ready to contribute thoughtfully and positively to society.

### **E. Social Entitlements Support for Urali People (2018–Present)**

Access to basic social documents and government welfare benefits remains a major challenge for the Urali community due to remote locations, limited awareness, and administrative barriers. To tackle this, PARAN runs a dedicated Social Entitlements Facilitation Programme, launched in **2018**, ensuring that every Urali family can obtain essential documents for education, healthcare, employment, housing, and social security.

Through regular field visits, community camps, and close coordination with government departments, PARAN staff help villagers apply for and receive these vital documents. The programme strengthens the community's confidence, improves access to rights and opportunities, and ensures that families can fully participate in social, economic, and educational development.

This systematic support enables families to gain official recognition, access scholarships, secure employment, receive welfare benefits, and claim housing rights. The programme continues to bridge the gap between the Urali community and government services, reinforcing dignity, inclusion, and equal access to public entitlements for all.



# Impacts



## F. Environmental Action

On World Environment Day and Human Rights Day, 60 enthusiastic youth come together for a tree plantation drive that promotes ecological responsibility and strengthens awareness of environmental protection. The choice of these observances highlights the intrinsic link between a healthy environment and the realization of human rights. Through hands-on participation, the youth gain practical experience in planting and nurturing saplings, while also deepening their understanding of plastic reduction, climate change mitigation, and sustainable lifestyle practices.



The initiative fosters teamwork, community participation, and collective action as the youth collaborate to create a visible and lasting impact in their surroundings. Beyond acquiring practical skills, participants develop a heightened sense of environmental stewardship and recognize the power of individual and collective efforts in protecting the planet. Engaging in meaningful discussions on climate challenges and sharing ideas to spread awareness within their communities, they leave inspired to continue advocating for sustainability. By the close of the programme, the youth not only plant trees but also sow seeds of change emerging as committed ambassadors for environmental protection and responsible living.



## 4. REVIVING AND SUSTAINING TRIBAL CULTURE AND WELFARE

### *Pazhangudi Urali Makkal Sangam (PUMS)*

The Pazhangudi Urali Makkal Sangam (PUMS), initiated in 2016, stands as a collective expression of the community's resolve to unite its members and strengthen their voice in social and political spaces. Established to safeguard rights, preserve cultural heritage, and ensure access to government welfare schemes, PUMS continues to evolve as a powerful platform for empowerment and advocacy. Prior to its formation, community members experience limited awareness of their rights and minimal exposure to leadership or political participation. Through sustained training and collective action, PUMS reshapes this landscape by building confident leaders, fostering unity, and promoting active civic engagement while upholding the community's cultural identity.

With the active involvement of over 1,000 members across 22 sub-federation groups, the initiative delivers significant and ongoing outcomes. It nurtures leadership from within the community, strengthens unity and a collective voice in social and political matters, and preserves as well as promotes tribal culture, traditions, and identity. At the same time, PUMS encourages informed civic participation, increases engagement in local governance, and enhances awareness of rights and government welfare schemes contributing to a more empowered, informed, and self-reliant community.



### *1. Capacity building and awareness for Sangam leaders*

A training programme is conducted once every month for Sangam leaders, as the federation is in its initial stages and members may require greater clarity about their roles and responsibilities. These sessions focus on strengthening leadership qualities, including communication skills, decision-making abilities, and collaborative working practices.

In addition, the programme places strong emphasis on awareness sessions covering key themes such as tribal rights, forest rights, and constitutional values, enabling leaders to guide their communities with confidence and informed understanding.

### *2. On field exposure for Sangam leaders*

A key initiative of the Sangam centers on continuous and meaningful engagement with government authorities, including the Director of the State Tribal Welfare Department in Chennai, the district collector, local panchayat leaders, and forest officials. Through these structured interactions, the Sangam builds direct channels of communication between the community and the administration, helping members gain clarity on government processes, welfare schemes, and legal provisions.



This engagement empowers community members to confidently assert their rights, address local concerns, and strengthen their role as informed representatives within their villages.

In parallel, the Sangam observes Constitution Day and Human Rights Day as important platforms for learning and reflection. These occasions are marked by interactive group activities, discussions, and participatory exercises that deepen understanding of equality, justice, fundamental rights, and civic responsibility. With the active involvement of 70 members, the initiative combines exposure to governance systems with experiential learning, fostering awareness, leadership, and a sense of collective responsibility. Together, these efforts contribute to building a confident, informed, and engaged community capable of participating meaningfully in democratic and social processes.

### 3. Tribal Day Celebration

The annual Sangam gathering is a vibrant celebration that brings together around 570 participants, including Sangam leaders, women from self-help groups, and children from evening study centres. The event is alive with the rhythm of traditional dances, the melodies of tribal songs, and the captivating art of storytelling, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the community.

Alongside these cultural performances, the gathering includes informative sessions on rights, land laws, and government welfare schemes. Government officials participate to provide guidance, answer questions, and share details about available benefits and programs, helping the community navigate administrative processes more effectively.

Beyond entertainment and learning, the Sangam gathering strengthens social bonds and fosters a sense of collective identity. It serves as a powerful platform for tribal

unity, enabling participants to celebrate their heritage, assert their rights, and collectively envision a more empowered, informed, and inclusive future for the Urali community.

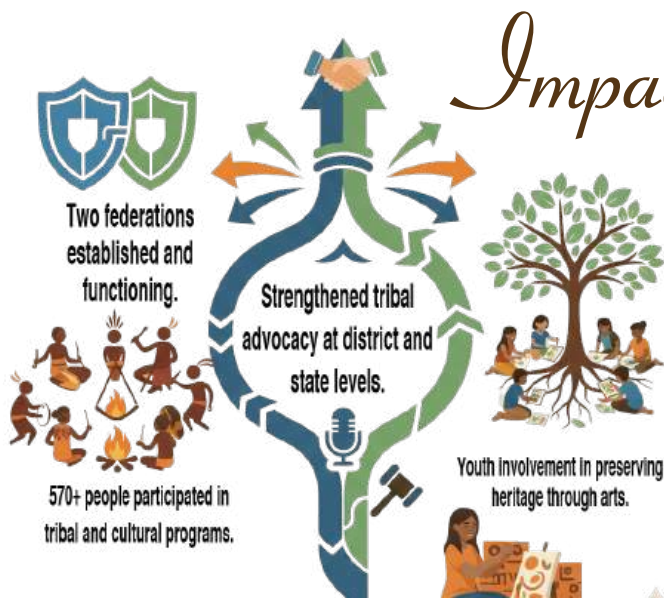


### 4. Safeguarding environment

On World Environment Day, a special initiative focuses on preserving forest reserves. An awareness programme is conducted by the local Forest Ranger and PARAN staff, highlighting conservation, forest safety, and climate adaptation, while connecting traditional ecological knowledge with modern sustainability practices.

In addition, an herbal garden is maintained with a strong emphasis on the medicinal values of plants, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of indigenous communities. This initiative combines environmental awareness with the preservation of cultural heritage, inspiring the community to care for both nature and traditional wisdom.















## 5. **PARAN HEALTH CENTRES – MAKKAMPALAYAM & ARIGYIAM**

The PARAN Health Centres in Makkampalayam and Arigiyam provide essential health support and promote overall well-being for the local communities. The centres focus on preventive care, offer regular health check-ups, and conduct awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, and common illnesses.

Through these services, community members gain practical knowledge about healthy living, early detection of health issues, and ways to maintain their well-being. The centres play a vital role in ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible, while fostering a culture of awareness, prevention, and self-care among the people.

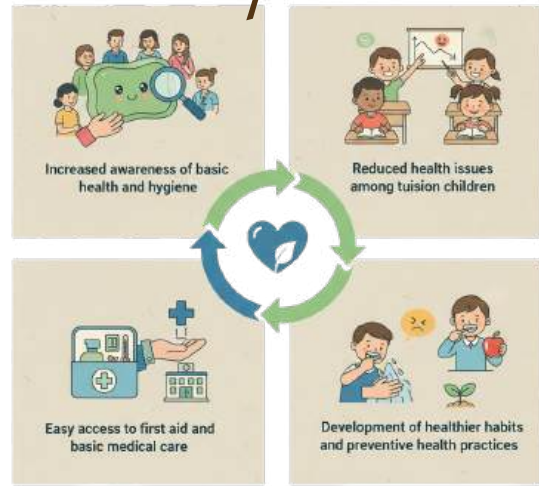
## *Key Services Provided*

-  Basic health screening (BP, temperature, weight, general health)
-  Early identification of common health issues
-  Regular check-ups for tuition children
-  Tracking growth, nutrition, and overall well-being
-  Immediate care for minor health concerns
-  Basic medical support and first aid
-  Essential medicines for minor illnesses
-  First aid during emergencies
-  Health awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, menstrual health, and seasonal diseases
-  Awareness programs for children, parents, and youth










# Impacts



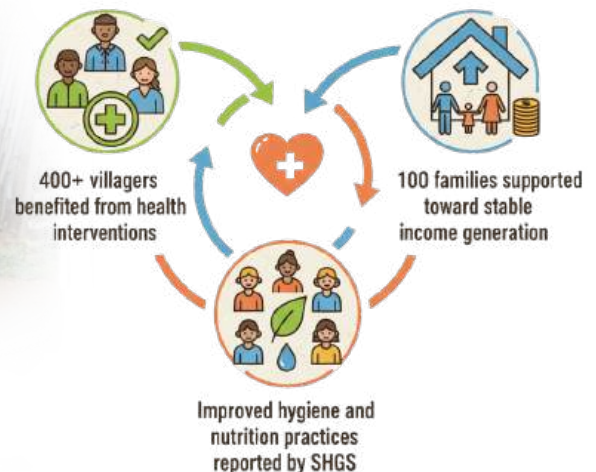
## 6. WELL-BEING AND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

To ensure holistic empowerment, health and livelihood are integrated into all activities. Families receive practical support to live with dignity and stability.

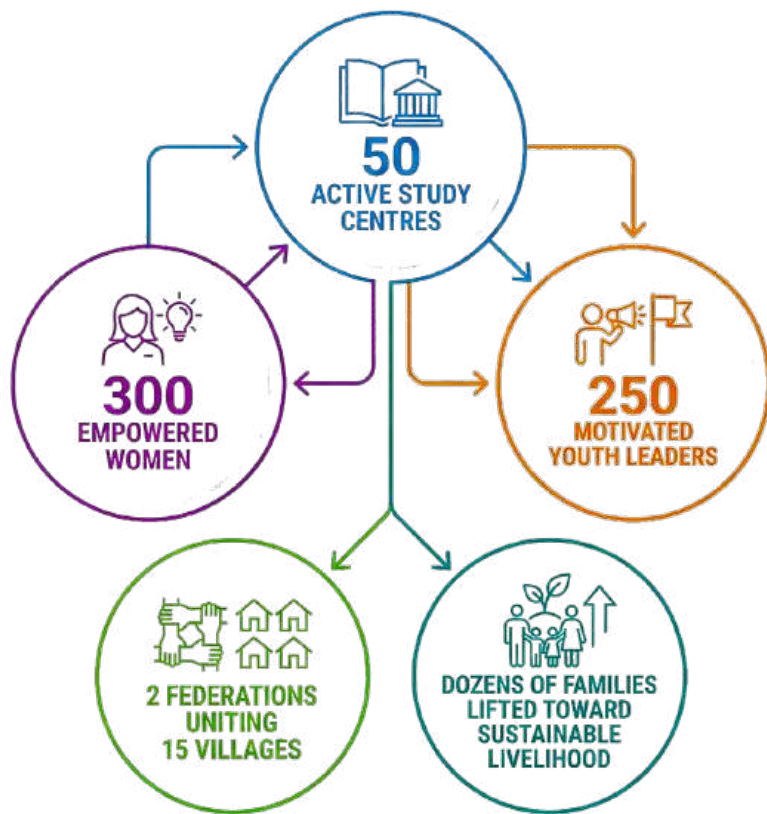
# Key Initiatives

-  Village Well-being Centres serve as hubs for health education, counselling, and referrals
-  Medical Camps held quarterly provide free check-ups, medicines, and eye or dental care for over 400 villagers
-  Health Awareness Sessions focus on nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, and disease prevention, particularly among children and women
-  Employment Linkages: Youth are connected with industries, skill centres, and government job fairs
-  Self-Employment Guidance: Families receive help in accessing government loans, subsidies, and training to start micro-enterprises such as livestock, food stalls, and tailoring units

# Impacts



# Cumulative Achievements

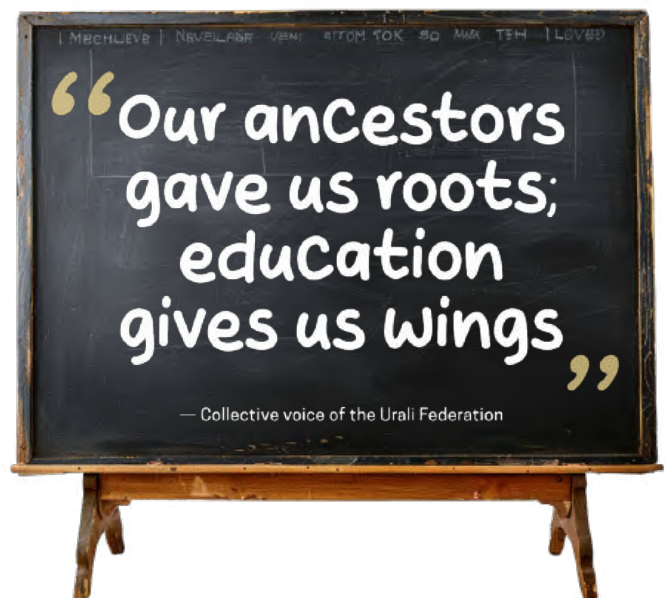


## THE ROAD AHEAD

The collective journey in education, women's leadership, youth engagement, and cultural revival is reshaping the Urali community from within. Each initiative strengthens the other, weaving a living network of knowledge, confidence, solidarity, and action that sustains transformation across generations.

As PARAN moves forward, the focus will be on deepening community ownership, nurturing rooted leadership, expanding access to opportunities, and safeguarding cultural and ecological heritage. The Urali people walk ahead not as recipients of development, but as co-creators of their future organised, self-reliant, and grounded in dignity, identity, and hope. Their journey affirms a shared conviction: when

communities rise together with awareness and purpose, lasting change becomes possible.





# Development Director Speaks...

**Dear Friends and Collaborators,**





*With deep gratitude and joy, I write to you on behalf of the Jesuit Chennai Province in my capacity as Development Director. We are profoundly encouraged by the growing solidarity and support surrounding the mission of the PARAN Tribal Centre.*

*Over the years, it has been heartening to witness individuals and groups stepping forward with commitment. Volunteers offering their time and skills, mentors providing guidance, and well-wishers extending tangible support through employment opportunities and resources. Such gestures of solidarity affirm that this mission is truly shared.*

*We gratefully acknowledge the valuable collaboration of our NGO partners, our existing supporters, individuals, organizations, and institutions, whose continued encouragement has made this journey meaningful and impactful.*

*Our special thanks to all the benefactors of **Aktion Indian e.V.**, Hildesheim, Germany, and **Jesuitenweltweit**, Nuremberg, Germany, for their constant support of this mission.*

*The work of the PARAN Tribal Centre is guided by clear thematic pillars that shape our engagement with the communities we serve:*

-  *Empowering Young Minds Through Education*
-  *Empowering Women, Transforming Society*
-  *Federation: A Step Towards Self-Reliance*
-  *Accompanying Youth Through Guidance and Care*

*These focus areas continue to progress meaningfully, encouraging us to expand our scope of work and deepen our long-term impact.*

*As we March forward, we seek to broaden our circle of collaboration and warmly invite readers of this Newsletter and well-wishers who resonate with this mission to join us. Whether as volunteers, professional guidance, institutions, organisations, companies, and NGO's providing educational support, employment opportunities, livelihood assistance, or individuals offering acts of fraternity and solidarity, your involvement can make a lasting difference. Please feel free to contact us. We would be delighted to engage with you as we continue this mission together.*

**If you are interested in contributing or collaborating in any capacity,  
please feel free to reach out to us.**

**- Fr Vasanth SJ**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## ACCOUNT DETAILS

- Name of the Account - The Society of Jesuit Chennai  
Province-Donation Fund
- Name of the Bank - South Indian Bank
- Branch - Nungambakkam
- Account Number - 0110053000020844
- IFSC CODE - SIBL0000110

**Digital Edition**  
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