

VASANTHAM PENGAL SANGAM – V P S

Reg No : 148 / 2005

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Manachanallur Post, Tiruchirappalli – 621005, Tamilnadu, India

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017 - 2018

Preamble:

VASANTHAM PENGAL SANGAM shortly known as VPS is a registered Society. It obtains its legal entity under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975 (vide Registration No. 148 / 2005 dated Oct. 7th 2005. It is exempted under 12AA and 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961. It is also registered with Ministry of Home Affairs under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. Further it registered with NGO Darpan.

VPS is a women's organization having membership mostly from rural background women. It aims at improving the living standards of rural poor, specifically children, youth, women farmers and other women peripheral workers. VPS concentrates its activities in villages coming under the jurisdictions of Lalgudi, Mannachanallur and Thuraiyur blocks in Trichirappally district of Tamilnadu, India. It works with limited paid staff and mostly work through its volunteers spread all over the target villages.

Vision: *“Improved quality of life of children and women in an empowered community”*

Activities of the organization:

- ✓ *Promoting and strengthening women self help groups in the rural areas,*
- ✓ *Organizing skill training, workshop, seminars and conference for women,*
- ✓ *Running evening tuition centers for the poor school going children,*
- ✓ *Organizing environmental awareness campaign and tree plantation program,*
- ✓ *Working with small and marginal farmers for promotion of organic farming,*
- ✓ *Helping young girls for their employment & Helping the children for education,*
- ✓ *Promoting awareness on water and sanitation in the rural area,*

Working area:

Country : India
State : Tamilnadu,
District : Tiruchirappalli
Blocks : Manachanallur, Turaiyur and Lalgudi
Total villages : 36
Total families : 5000

Activities, outcome and impact for the year 2017 -2018:

1. Continuing activities of RSWR, USA supported projects:

We have credible partnership with *Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), USA*, in the year 2014 and completed two projects for sustainable income development of poor women. We have supported more than 53 poor women through this projects. The beneficiaries are involving in vegetable vending, flower vending, mini food shop, petty shop, coconut thatches making, coir ropes making and cover sheet production.

Average the beneficiaries are earning Rs. 4000 in a month and spent the money for their group savings, health management, and children education and relieve from debt bondage. Thanks to RSWR for their kind support in empowering women in economic development though income generation support activities. VPS is providing counseling, marketing management skills, finance management and empowering women in socio, economic activities.

2. Self Help Group Members Training:

“Vasantham Pengal Sangam” has been working with women for their socio, economic, educational and cultural development in Manachanallur block villages of Tiruchirappalli District. It has been promoting and strengthening community based organizations to pave a strong platform to discuss and address the socio, economic conditions and relief from them. So that, the children, women and farmers come together, discusses together and address their problems together.

As far as women are concerned, VPS is promoting women Self Help Groups ie SHGs, in the target villages. So far it has promoted 66 women SHGs and the total membership is 1030. VPS conducted need-based training programs like group management for effective functioning of SHGs with democratic principles. These SHGs involve in their routine works like, conducting monthly meetings, savings and credit mobilization, bank linkages, participating in training programs and other rural development programs. During this reporting period, VPS conducted three training programs on SHG management on 12 July 2017, 11th November 2017 and 12th February 2018. 93 women leaders participated. It trained them on the following aspects.

- ✓ Women self help group, formation of producers’ groups, code of conduct of group members, monthly meetings, bank linkages, record maintenance, etc.
- ✓ Roles and responsibilities of group members, conflict resolutions, maintenance of various records, etc.

Mrs. S. Padma, Project Director of VPS, Mrs. P.Shantha, Member of VPS trained the group members. The training program helped women leaders to build their capacities on autonomous functioning of groups, build their unity and helped them to access bank finance for their livelihood activities.

3. Hand embroidery Training for Young women:

In order to improve the employable skills of poor young rural women, VPS organized 5 day training on hand embroidery and tailoring. VPS identified semi-skilled women on tailoring and organized this training program to equip them on hand embroidery in addition to tailoring. VPS organized the training at Manachanallur on 12th May 2017 and 24 women were participated. Mrs. Lilly Praba, Arts and Crafts Trainer, Manachanallur trained the women on various methods of hand embroidery and tailoring. She conducted the training with demo and clears the doubts of the participants on the training spot. Home works also given to the trainees to gain full knowledge on hand embroidery.

The training included hand embroidery work in blouse, saree, chudidar, children dress and stitching of blouse and chudidars stitching for women and girls. It helped women to understand the basics of hand embroidery and tailoring work, designing, marking, and mapping, colouring and cutting and stitching methods. VPS hopes that this training will equip women with employable skills to get employed or self-employed and thus increase their income. The trainees were met their training costs.

4. Adolescent Girls Health Education:

On September 21st 2017, we have organized a training program for the adolescent girls at Manachanallur village. 22 adolescents were participated in the training. Mrs. Kavitha, Staff Nurse trained the adolescent girls on basic health care and it included self health care, methods of using sanitary napkins, importance of hand washing, importance of organic and minor millet foods for basic health improvements. She suggested the girls to have good nutrition and worthy food like green leaves, fruits and vegetables. The program went on good sprit and the girls looks it very important training for them.

5. Prevention on water pollution:

As an environmental activity, VPS organized an awareness camp on water pollution. VPS has been working in villages where the Cauvery canal is passing though. We organized this program at Meelaseedevimangalam village where the canal Peruvali canal is passing through this village. Members from our women self help groups were participated in the training program. Mr. Manoharn, Retd, Agricultural Department gave lecture on the importance preventing water from pollution. People dumping the waste in the canal and in affected during the water flowing season. The capacity of water is reduced and people use the polluted water and it affects their skin. The orientation help the participants to prevent the dumping the waste in the canal and we form a monitoring committee with members of our women groups. We organized this training on 12th August 2017 at Meelaseedevimangalam village.

6. Training on Minor Millets:

In rural areas of Tiruchirappalli district farmers' cultivated minor millets in the dry lands. Due to unseasonal rain for the past two decades the minor millets cultivation area was shirked and almost all the minor millets become endangers. Only few farmers are still keeping the seeds and availability of minor millets are under crisis. Due to generation gap the new farmers in the family are not aware on minor millets and they feel to sell the land. In order to promote minor millet cultivation in the project area we have organized a training program for the dry land farmers at Keelapatti village on 3rd October 2017 in which 24 farmers were participated.

Mr. Subramaniyan, GVN Trust, Pudukkottai facilitated the training program. He educated the farmers to identify the availability of traditional minor millets in the district and to collect the same and to promote a traditional minor millets seed bank for cultivation and multification. We demonstrated few varieties of minor millets to the farmers and its cultivation methods. The farmers decided to involve in minor millet cultivation for their family and to propagate to other farmers in the project area.

7. Evening Tuition Centre:

For the past 8 years VPS has been running two evening tuition centre for the poor rural children at Rasampalayam and Melaseedevimangalam with support of volunteers and local donors. Mrs. Arivuvzhi, from Rasampalayam village and Mrs. Seetha from Melaseedevimangalam village are working as Tuition Teachers. VPS gave them Rs. 2000 as incentive / honorarium for the teachers. Through these centres, the teachers are helping the students to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Further VPS organised conducted sessions on morality and health. It also organized sports programs for the students. Students bellow 11 years are studying in these centres and the centres are conducted from 5 pm to 7 pm.

8.2. Children Drawing Program:

VPS conducted a drawing program for the tuition centre students on 29th April 2017 and 30 children were participated. We provided the drawing materials and gave topic nature. The students draw trees, animals, nature and effects of tree cutting. It was a nice program for the students to understand the nature.

8.2. Children education support:

VPS collected donations to support for the poor children to purchase education materials. We supported note books; pen and pencil to the students and it reduce the burden of the parents little bit. We distributed the materials on 27th June 2017 at the both villages.

9. HIV/AIDS awareness camp:

In the project area the majority of the beneficiaries were under employed in the sector such as rice mills, banana plantation, construction work and artificial gem polishing work. Through the organization's regular monitory, over consecutive years, it was identified that

some of them were infected with HIV/AIDS and affected with STD. To create awareness and to reduce the stigma among the target population, the organization organized a camp for the workers. Mr. R. Dhanaraj, Development Consultant participated and presented a detailed lecture on HIV/AIDS, STD and other communicable diseases. The session was with interactive and many raise their own doubts and got cleared. Also explained the various schemes and welfare measures which available in Government Hospitals and Primary Health Center for men, women and children. VPS, also tries to utilize the available resource in order to increase their livelihood and live a healthy and peaceful life. We organised this program on 1st December 2017.

10. Coir rope workers training:

During the last year, we have supported grant for the coir rope workers to involve in the business. They are doing the business with good spirit. To improve the business skills of the workers we have organized training for the coir rope workers at Rasaiyan Kovil (Samayapuram) on 5th January 2018. Mr. K.R. Raju, Director, VDC facilitated the training program. 18 women workers were participated in the training. They are trained on the business skills, like accounting, purchasing, profit fixing, marketing technologies and further investment in their business. This training helped the workers to understand the business techniques.

11. Fish vendors study:

Fish and dry fish vending is the business of some men and women in the project area. They purchase the fish and dry fish in the Trichy market on daily and weekly basis and trade it daily in the road sides and few people vending it in the streets. Some of our SHG members and their family members are involving in the work. To understand the small trade and its income, health aspects we conducted interacted with few traders and conducted a small study. The study reveals that majority of the vendors and indebtedness among the moneylenders. They face minor skin problems. Disposal of waste is a problematic one. We continue our work among these vendors. We organized the mini study in the month of January 2018.

12. Women's Day Celebration:

VPS has been organized women's rally on 8th March 2018 at Manachanallur in association with Village Development Centre, Nabard Financial Services Limited, Social Action Movement and Campaign Against Child Labour. We organized a rally from the Town Panchayat Office and the rally was inaugurated by Mrs. Parameswari Murugan, MLA in the presence of Mrs. Parameshmery, Executive Officer, Manachanallur Town Panchayat. The rally went with slogans on women rights and concluded at the bazaar. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Lecturer, Chidambaram Pillai Women's College, Mannachanallur gave a wonderful lecture on women rights and atrocities at work place and recent acts on women atrocities. More than 300 women were participated. The rally and lecture helped the women to understand their development rights and to face on crisis situation.

13. Auditor

VPS appointed Mr. S. Kalaimani, Chartered Accountant, Uma Illam, Malar Salai, Tiruchirappalli as the Auditor for the financial year to audit the accounts of VPS.

14. Staff and volunteers:

At present, 2 Tuition teachers and 1 Project Coordinator is working in the organization. VPS engaged 22 volunteers at village level to execute its programs and projects. The organization paid honorarium for the staffs. The highest amount of Honorarium was INR 4,000/- pm and the lowest amount of honorarium was INR 3000/- pm. VPS conducted monthly meetings for the staff to develop their capacities.

15. VPS board meetings:

During the reporting period, VPS had five Executive Committee (EC) meetings and one General Body meeting. The EC discussed the on-going programs, projects, policies, finances and future plans of action. The Secretary Mrs. S.Padma worked as the Project Director with monthly travelling allowance of INR 1,500 with the approval of the EC. The EC Members were also given travelling expenses to meet their travel expenses to attend the EC Meetings and were not paid any remuneration / salary / honorarium by the organization during the reporting period.

The present Board Members of the organization are:

Name of the Board Member	Designation
Ms. N. Thenmozhi	President
Ms. V. Rajamani,	Vice President
Ms. S. Padma	Secretary
Ms. V.Malar,	Joint Secretary
Ms. R. Abirami	Treasurer
Ms. T. Vasantha	EC Member
Ms. P. Shantha	EC Member

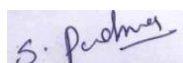
Acknowledgments:

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed their mite in terms of time and energy for the empowerment of poor women. VPS expresses its sincere thanks and acknowledgment to its staffs, resource persons, donors, government officials, volunteers, NGOs and key stakeholders who supported it for the welfare of downtrodden women.

Thanking you.

Signature

Date : 2/8/2018
Place : Manachanallur


(S. Padma, Secretary, VPS)