

## VASANTHAM PENGAL SANGAM – V P S

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### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020

#### **Preamble:**

VASANTHAM PENGAL SANGAM shortly known as VPS is a registered Society under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975. It holds 12AA, 80G, Pan Number, FCRA registration and Darpan registration. VPS is by the women, for the women and of the women. The members of the VPS belong to rural community and have good rapport with the community specifically children, youth, women, farmers and other peripheral workers. VPS is working for the poor communities to improve their socio-economic, cultural, education and health conditions. We are working in Manachanallur, Lalgudi and Turaiyur blocks of Trichirappalli District of Tamilnadu. It is involving its volunteers in developmental activities.

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

#### **Activities of the organization:**

- Formation and strengthening women self help groups through training programs,
- Organizing skill trainings, workshops, seminars and conference for rural communities, Running evening tuition centers for improving learning skills of children,
- Organizing campaigns on environment, child rights, health, education, social security and development rights campaign,
- 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, hand wash and
- Promoting producers groups for fair price food markets,

#### **Working area:**

Country : India  
State : Tamilnadu,  
District : Tiruchirappalli  
Blocks : Manachanallur, Turaiyur and Lalgudi  
Total villages : 36  
Total families : 6000

## **Activities, outcome and impact for the year 2019 -2020:**

### **1. Project of Nutritional Behaviour Change:**

We have a novel partnership with VGIF now it is WomenFirst International, USA in the month of September 2018 to bring Nutritional Behaviour Change among the girl children, women and family members. The main object of this project was to motivate them to improve their dietary habits through cultivating vegetables, green leaves and fruit trees to include in their diet to improve their health and well being. This project was implemented in 20 villages in Manachanallur block in Tiruchirappalli district, Tamilnadu. VGIF supported INR 415,030 to this project and the project period is November 2018 to October 2019.

#### **1.1. Training of Trainers:**

Followed to the trainers training, we have organized a follow-up meeting for the 5 experienced volunteers who participated in the trainers training. During that meeting we gained information from our volunteers on the implement status of the project. Mostly we get positive information from them. Through the meeting the volunteers shared that the growing culture of vegetables and green leaves is increased in the project and it also reflect to the other families. We have 85% results in the kitchen garden promotion. Average in each family they are harvesting 300 grams vegetables or green leaves daily. This will enough for a family to keep their health. They regularly distributing the BCC materials, visiting the door steps of the beneficiaries and guide them to continue the activity. Further the hand was program has good impact among the girls and children in the families. They wash their hands atleast 3 times in a day. People realizing the importance of the hand wash in the Covid 19 period.

#### **1.2. Regular motivation at household and group levels:**

The volunteers visited the families regularly. They visited the 1000 families and help them to keep the kitchen garden live. They regularly motivated the beneficiaries on ten food groups, importance of consuming a minimum of 5 food items from 5 food groups out of 10 food groups. They regularly conducted the group meetings every month along with the Self Help Group meetings. They interacted with the beneficiaries and guide them in cultivation and documentation process. Average 40 women were participated in the village level meetings.

#### **1.3. Follow-up Training on organic kitchen garden:**

The volunteers participated in the monthly group meetings and provide the follow-up support to the beneficiaries. They covered all 1000 beneficiaries. They provided regular input on use of kitchen wastes, waste water for keeping the garden alive. Further they distributed additional seeds who need it additionally. Eventhough we covered 1000 beneficiaries only 740 beneficiaries are in regular care of their kitchen garden. The average output of vegetables per family is around 7 to 8 kg in a

month. Men and boys too participated in the kitchen gardening activity on their own since it gave a source of income to the targeted beneficiary-families.

#### **1.4. Training on hand wash:**

We organized hand washing and demo on adding iodine to salt in 20 villages. Children also participated. During the hand washing session, the TOTs conducted a demo on the methods of washing hands five times a day – after going to the toilet, before taking bath and three times before taking meals. Now they started to buy hand wash materials for their family. It is remarkable impact on hand wash program. Children and women are now adopting 5 times hand wash before food and after toilets.

#### **1.5. Distribution of posters on hand washing and sample soap:**

The TOTs distributed hand washing posters and paste the poster in a noted place. The beneficiaries still keeping the posters as a learning materials at their homes. We educate further to construct toilets with support of State Government under its scheme of Total Sanitation and Swachh Bharath Scheme (Clean India) of Government of India.

#### **1.6. BCC campaign materials:**

The BCC campaign materials on food groups, door stickers, hand book was given to 1000+ families in 20 villages. The beneficiaries are reading the materials in the leisure time. The ten food group poster has good impact among children. This project increased awareness and knowledge on ten different food groups, hand wash, kitchen garden among the community.

#### **1.7. Outcome:**

- ✓ The TOTs trained 1000 beneficiaries on organic kitchen gardening at the household and village levels,
- ✓ The TOTs distributed vegetable seeds and fruit bearing seedlings and saplings to 1000 beneficiaries,
- ✓ 740 kitchen garden was promoted with vegetables and green leaves,
- ✓ The beneficiaries harvested 20 kg to 30 kg of vegetables in a month and used them for family consumption,
- ✓ Improved sanitation and personal hygiene among 740 household beneficiaries in 20 target villages,
- ✓ No major reports on infections and communicable diseases among the beneficiaries in 20 villages,
- ✓ The trained ToTs continued their services at the villages,|

## **2. Income Generation Program for Poor Women:**

We have credible partnership with **Right Sharing of World Resources** (RSWR), USA, from 2014. They have supported three projects for sustainable income development of women. In total we have supported 83 poor women for their income

generation activities. During this year we have implemented the income generation project in Andipatti village in Oothankarai block, Thiruvannamalai district. We have supported for 30 women to establish petty shops and flower vending activities. RSWR supported INR 296,929 in January 2020 for this project. We have conducted orientation training for the beneficiaries and arranged the grant distribution function at the same village. We have implemented this project in association with “Welfare Trust” which is functioning in that area. Let us go with the details.

### **2.1. Project Orientation and Entrepreneurship skill training:**

VPS organized one day orientation for 30 women beneficiaries on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Mettupatti village on entrepreneur skills development. We empowered the women on the trade that they selected, purchase and sales, financial management, savings, customer service, profit fixing and documentation. Mrs. Padma, Project Director of VPS and Mrs. Geetha, Project Director of Welfare Trust has given the input to the women beneficiaries. Both they explained the objectives of the orientation program, activities taken under this scheme, further training programs and grant distribution for their capital investment. The beneficiaries participated with enthusiastically and shared their experience in the past, and opened the possibilities for their trade for their income.

### **2.2. Grant Distribution function:**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020, we have organized the grant distribution function. All the beneficiaries were participated with their identity. Ms.Sarah from Right Sharing of World Resources, Dr. Kannan, Consultant, RSWR, Mr. Purusothaman, trainer, Mrs. Padma, and Mrs. Geetha were participated. They motivated the beneficiaries to gain knowledge and information on entrepreneurship skills on their respective trades. After the input session, we have distributed the grant to 30 women beneficiaries. 15 women received grant for “petty shop” and another 15 women received for “flower vending” each Rs. 9000. We have distributed the grant through cheque and in total we distributed Rs. 2,70,000 to the beneficiaries.

### **2.3 Follow up Training:**

As on follow-up program, we have organized one day sharing program on 21<sup>st</sup> March in which 28 beneficiaries were participated. They shared their experience faced in the business. It was nice and everyone happy to say that they are one of the bread winners in the family. Thanks to RSWR.

## **3. Impart employable and entrepreneurial skills to promote micro enterprises for women:**

Presently we are implementing a project entitled “Alternative Marketing for socio-economic empowerment of poor women through development of sustainable micro enterprises” in 30 villages in Manachanallur block, Tiruchirappalli district. This project was started in November 2019 and ongoing now. This project is supported by Women First International, USA. The main object of this project is to impart

employable and entrepreneurial skills to increase micro enterprises for employment opportunities to rural women. Under this project we have conducted the following programs in 30 villages among 3000 women.

## **1. Survey:**

We have conducted a questionnaire survey on “purchase and consumption of food materials” among 960 members of SHGs in Manachanallur block covering 22 villages. A sample format was developed and our volunteers collected the data in January and February 2020 and it was consolidated. We have also conducted interview with 22 women and 7 focus group meetings. The findings are;

## **2. Sensitization Program:**

### **2.1. Village level meetings:**

Inorder to sensitize the beneficiary women on the objects of the project, we have conducted village level meetings in 22 villages. Average 35 women were participated. Mrs. S.Padma, and Mr. V.Franklin facilitated the program. The main input of the meetings was on the concept promotion, capacity building on financial literacy, present market system, alternative market promotion, analysis of purchase of food and provisions materials, strengthening savings and lending in the groups and networking of women SHGs for promotion of women movement in future. The village level meeting went on good sprit and help people to understand the present market system which is pricing abnormal profits.

### **2.2. Stakeholders meeting:**

The main stakeholders of this project is women, local women associations, Panchayat Raj Institutions members, NGOs, other community based organizations promoted by VPS, local retailers. VPS has organized two stakeholders meeting in which average 22 members were participated. We shared the objects of the project, importance of alternative marketing, and seeking support from them. Everyone realize the importance for alternative market and promise to support in future for our efforts.

### **2.3. Workshop for NGOs:**

We have organized a workshop for the NGOs working in the region. We have organized this workshop at our office. 14 NGOs were participated in the meeting. The dialogue went on present market system, adulterated products and need for alternative marketing evolve from the community. Every one participated in the dialogue and shared their views. This is new effort among the community by the NGOs.

### **2.4. IEC materials:**

We have printed the training materials – booklet on alternative marketing and circulated among the women for wider reading and future support. It was also read at the women group meetings. The content was in local language. We circulated the books to the women groups and key volunteers of the project area.

## **2.5. Networking of SHGs:**

We have initiated the networking of community based organisation promoted by the VPS. The dialogue reached among the all the women SHG members and we are collecting the feedback from the key leaders. We hope it will get a shape in coming year.

## **4. Self Help Group Members and Animators and Representatives Training:**

“Vasantham Pengal Sangam” has been working with women for their socio, economic, educational and cultural development in Manachanallur block of Tiruchirappalli District. It has been promoting grassroots-based community based organizations enabling children, women and farmers to come together, to discuss together and to address their problems together.

As far as women are concerned, VPS is promoting women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages. So far it has promoted 178 women SHGs and the total membership is 3010. 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 two training programs on SHG management at Keelapatty and Kalpalayam villages respectively and on Animator and Representative training at its office Manachanallur. In all the training programs 98 women were participated. The main input in the training was; .

- ✓ 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, Mr. K.R. Raju, Project Director of VDC 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. SHG management training was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and the Animators and Representatives training were organized on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## **5. Adolescent Girls Health Education Training:**

We have organized a training program for the adolescent girls at Meelaseedevimangalam on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the community center. 27 girls were participated. The main purpose of the training was to educate the girls on general health management. Mrs. S. Padma, Project Director, VPS, Mrs. Kavitha, Staff Nurse and Mrs. Sindu, MSW, Mahalir Thittam, Government of Tamilnadu trained the girls on general health management. They explained menstrual problems and remedies for the same.

## **6. Environmental Awareness Campaign:**

Women plays major role in agriculture. They are involving in majority activities in agriculture. To educate them on organic farming cultivation, we have organized a training program on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Keelapatti village in which 24 women farmers were participated. We have organized the program at the community center. Mr. Jayaraman an organic farmer from Ayyampalayam village trained the group on organic farming activities. We gave input on dry land agriculture and it's important for producing the minor millets. The cultivation of minor millets is reducing because and it plays major role in providing fodder for the cattle. So, we encouraged the farmers to involve in minor millet production and to rear cattle for home and farm needs.

## **7. Farmers Training on Water Management:**

VPS organized a training program for farmers on water management and harvesting rain water at their farm lands. We have organized this training program on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Konalai village at Mrs. Sesurani farm. Mr. Manoharan, Retd officer, Agricultural Department, trained the farmers on the importance of water savings at the farms through farm ponds. He conducted a demo session on water harvesting methods. The farmers actively participated in the learning process. Due to severe drought conditions prevailing in the state we have conducted this training program.

## **8. Evening Tuition Centre and Educational tools to students:**

VPS is conducting an evening tuition centre for the rural children at Melaseedevimangalam with support of a volunteer. Mrs. S. Dhinifa from Melaseedevimangalam village is working as Tuition Teacher. VPS gave her incentive for the teacher. Through this centre is helping the students to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Further VPS organised and conducted educational and health sessions on morality and health. It also organized sports programs for the students. 23 Students bellow 12 years are studying in this centre. We run this centre from 5 pm to 7 pm. We have supported educational materials to the students.

## **9. Women's Day Celebration:**

VPS has been organizing Women's Day Celebrations every year. This year too we have celebrated the day at Meelaseedevimangalam village in association with Village Development Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Women group members from different villages around 600 women were participated. The resource persons Mr. Sadish, Branch Senior Manager, UCO, Assistant Manager Mr. Senthilkumar, BOB Bank, Mrs. G. Tamillselvi, Managing Trustee, WE trust, Trichy and Mrs. Sindu, Mahalir Thittam, Trichy were facilitated the meeting on gender, livelihood and health perspectives. Mrs. Padma, Project Director, VPS sensitized the women on economic empowerment. The meeting went with good sprit. The women who win in the competitions were awarded by the Chief Gust.

## 10. 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.

## 11. VPS board meetings:

During the reporting period, VPS had 3 Executive Committee (EC) meetings and one General Body meeting. The EC discussed the on-going projects, policies, finance and future plans of action. The Secretary Mrs. S. Padma worked as the Project Director with monthly consolidated travelling allowance of INR 8,000 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:

<b>Name of the Board Member</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Mrs. N.Thenmozhi,	President
Mrs. R. Kanjana	Vice President
Mrs. S.Padma	Secretary
Mrs. M.Bakkialakshmi	Joint Secretary
Mrs. R. Abirami	Treasurer
Mrs. P.Shantha,	EC Member
Mrs. V. Malar	EC Member

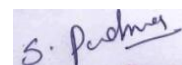
## Acknowledgments:

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed their time and energy for the empowerment of rural poor. VPS express its sincere thanks to RSWR, USA, Womenfirst International, USA, Pollination Project, USA, who contributed grants for the empowerment of poor and Mrs. Lakshmi, Kaizen Surya Associates, Mr. Kannan, Mr. Purushothaman, RSWR and Mr. Franklin who contributed their time and energy for the empowerment of the rural community. We further acknowledge our staffs, resource persons, donors, government officials, volunteers, bankers, mass media professionals, NGOs and key stakeholders who supported it for the welfare of the downtrodden.

Thanking you.

Signature

Date : /9/2020



Place : Manachanallur

(S. Padma, Secretary, VPS)