

Vasantham Pengal Sangam

Mannachanallur, Trichirapalli district, Tamil Nadu, India

Annual Reports for the year 2022_2023

Introduction

It is our pleasure to present the reports of Vasantham Pengal Sangam for the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 to our members. We thank our members, both the members of General body and the members of Executive Committee for their support, guidance and time to build the organisation to reach more and more people and villages through the projects and activities.

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

1. Alternative Marketing for socio-economic empowerment of poor women through development of sustainable micro enterprises

This project is being implemented in partnership of Women First International Fund, USA.

Three **Makkal Kadai**(People shops) that are being started last year, are running well with a profit of 15%.350 women are benefitting from these shops. Rice, Pulses, Cattle feed, and groceries were sold at these shops. These shops are now selling point for the farmers who are sell their produce through these shops. The

value added products produced by the women groups were also marketed at



these shops.

Meetings were organized at target villages to enroll more women into the project. 250 new women were enrolled into this project during this year. 15 village level meetings were organized to educate the women in the target villages on Government schemes, projects and support to start small businesses by the Staff members.

71 Members of women groups were trained to take leadership positions at Panchayat Level Federation, School Management Committee, and taking leadership in Farmers Producers Councils. Leadership skills training were organized in which women learnt the leadership skills, qualities, styles of leaderships, digital leadership, online trading. 50 women were trained in Entrepreneurship skills to create women entrepreneurs during the year under review.

One shop has been opened and it sells rice, groceries, detergents, soaps, at Sirugudi.

Value addition training of agriculture produce was given to 30 women in partnership with Department of Agriculture. As a result of 5 women are doing selling value added products Murukku, Nutrient Flour, Herbal powder, Paruppu Urundai, Pearl Murukku made out of Pearl Millets, Red Grams,

15 women undergone training in the production of detergent powder, bathing soap, washing liquids organized by the District Administration, Trichirapalli. Trained women are now marketing their washing and bathing soaps, detergents, liquids at exhibitions, local shops and among women group members.

40 women benefitted through eco friendlier bags production using Jute fiber, Paper and Cloth Wastes to produce door and floor mats training. 5 women are now doing paper envelopes and make their livelihood.

Exposure visits to women participants were organized to Agathiyar Farmers Producers Company, Musiri, and Aiyanthinai Farmers Producers Company – Salem. 20 women participants were benefitted from this exposure visits.



Awareness made among 5000 school going children in Government Higher Secondary Schools on Self Esteem, Gender Equality, Environment conservation, leadership, How to Achieve Success etc. Public procession against tobacco, alcohol and drug abuses were held in 2 schools.

Orientation cum awareness on Government Schemes, projects, subsidized loan assistance to women entrepreneurs were done with the help of Department of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu Women Development Project, Department of Labor, and Bank officials.

International Women's day was celebrated at Keelapatty village **on March 8 2023**; in which speeches on equality, cultural events and competitions to women participants were held as a part of women's day celebrations.

Annual Conference of women participants were organized on March 14, 2023. 250 women participants attended the conference. Officials from Revenue, Agriculture, Labor, Mahalir Thittam, Police, Environment, District Child Protection Unit, Judiciary, and Bank officials interacted with women participants, oriented the women participants about their department services to women for their economic empowerment and development.



2. Income generation through Goat rearing to Rural Women

In partnership with Associated Country Women of the World, UK, VPS implemented income generation through Goat rearing to rural women in 10 villages of Mannachanallur block, Trichirapalli district, Tamil Nadu.

The project was meant for the economic development of the Dalit Arunthathiyar Caste women who are living in marginalized conditions and put under low caste category for generations.

100 women were trained in goat rearing activities. They learnt in the fodder management, diseases control measures. Veterinary Doctors and assistances

oriented the women on goat rearing, fodder development, diseases control measures during the training.

50 women were given Rs.10000/- towards goat rearing activities. Through this goat rearing, 50 women are getting an increase of Rs.6000 per annum in their



annual income.

3. Strengthening of women groups and their group management skills

Office bearers and the key members of the women groups, were given regular trainings, orientations, follow up to build and strengthen their groups and their skills to facilitate the groups during the year under review. These trainings were organized on April 15, 2022, June 16, 2022, July 20, 2023, December 8, 2022 and January 31, 2023, at Sirugudi, Chennakarai, Kuruvampatti and Kalipalayam villages of Mannachanallur block, Trichirapalli district during the year.

Inputs viz. Group formation, rules and regulations, book keeping, savings, credit linkages, collective endeavors. Rotation of leadership, collective decision making, mutual support and guidance, Starting, registration of farmers' producers companies and its benefits to members etc.

4. Marketing of the Value Added Products by Women groups and Farmers Producers Company

Our women members of women groups, farmers producers company are producing value added products out of millets, rice, and other farm produce viz. Nutrient flour, refreshments such as Murukkus, millets laddu, Athirasam(dough nuts), Chilly, Coriander powder , Sambar powder, Tea powder.

Women market their produce at the Government run exhibitions, stall, markets, shops and other important functions and festivals. Efforts are on to get their brands registered and also get Food Safety Certificate for their produce to market



the same successfully.

5. Financial literacy skills to women groups

VPS organized financial literacy skills program to the office bearers, leaders of the women groups promoted by our organization in Mannachanallur block on June 16, 2022. Mr. **Senthil Kumar**, the Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda, Mannachanallur facilitated the training. Women learnt about the important aspects of financial management, savings, personal savings, bank savings, hand cash, savings in groups, optional savings in group, book keeping, maintaining the group records, documenting their economic activities to track the profits, tracking their monthly income etc.

6. Awareness among school going adolescents

There are 5650 students studying in the High and Higher Secondary Schools located in the entire Mannachanallur block, Trichirapalli district, Tamil Nadu. VPS took intensive efforts to educate the students both girls and boys in the schools on the importance of education



for empowerment of the students from poorest families, opportunities before them in education and jobs, adolescence, girl children safety, Gender equality, and avoiding drugs and alcohol etc.

We organized competitions on September 20, 2022 and October 2, 2022, on these topics among students, prizes and certificates of appreciation were given to the participant



students

7. Mother and Child Health Education and promotion

VPS organized mother and child health promotion education program on February 20, 2023, among mothers in Sree Devi Mangalam and Poonampalayam. Mrs. Shyamala, Village Health Nurse facilitated the training program for the mothers. 90 mothers took part and benefitted in the training program.

8. Personal Hygiene and safety awareness to Sanitation workers of Village Panchayat

Vasantham Pengal Sangam, organized health, hygiene and safety program to 42 sanitation workers, Mannachanallur Town Panchayat on September 26, 2022. They were educated on their safety, health, safety precautions while they do cleaning, collecting wastes from the houses and getting wastes collection from shops and other premises, using safety kits and gloves, shoes, and having face masks to keep them from infected from the wastes etc. They were given safety



kits, face masks, hand gloves, sanitizers at the end of the program to use during the sanitation works in the



town.

9. Sensitizing the Target groups on Gender Equality

VPS sensitizes its target people, groups, leaders, and volunteers on Gender perspectives, Gender Equality and equity with examples such as the practices against female child, infanticide, child marriages, providing poor nutrition to girl children, investing in boys than girls in education, treating housewives who work in houses to do household duties, thankless and unpaid jobs very lowly, and the laws to ensure equal treatment to girls and women from families to larger society. We utilize every meetings, training, orientation, conferences to sensitize the target people and groups. These workshops were held on May 5, 2022 and March 30, 2023.

10. Monthly planning and reviews

VPS organizes every month planning at the start of the month and review meetings with staff and volunteers to assess the monthly activities, progress, challenges at these meetings regularly to keep track the activities and the outcome, impact of the projects and activities then and there.

11. Convening of General Body (Annual) and Executive Committee Meetings

Vasantham Pengal Sangam convened and held Annual General Body meetings once in a year, approves Budget, schemes, staff, chartered Accountant, Audited Statement of Accounts and the Annual reports at the meeting.

12. Executive Committee Meetings

We convene and hold Executive Committee Meetings twice in a year to discuss important projects, take decisions, and authorize the Secretary and Treasurer to represent the organisation with Government and Donor organizations.

13. Memberships in Networks

Vasantham Pengal Sangam is the member in Social Action Movement, Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, Chennai, Thozhi, Guidestar and Child Welfare Committee, Trichirapalli district. VPS is doing development works,

awareness creation works in the district in partnership as a member of these networks.

Chartered Accountants: Mr. S.Kalaimani, CA, No 20 Uma Illam, Malar Salai, Thillai Nagar, Trichy – 620018.

Conclusion

We express our sincere thanks to our target people, groups, farmer Producer Company, staff and volunteers, local leaders who stood with us during these months to implement the activities, projects and other activities successfully to reach the intended people in time and reach all.

We thank our valuable funding partners; **Women First International Fund, USA, RSWR, USA, ACWW, UK, The pollination project, Bank Officials, elected people leaders, council members, Government officials, Police, Revenue Social Welfare, Mahalir Thittam, NABARD, TADHCO,** in Trichirapalli district, for their support and guidance.

S. PADMA
Secretary