



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

**KOTTAYAM SOCIAL
SERVICE SOCIETY**



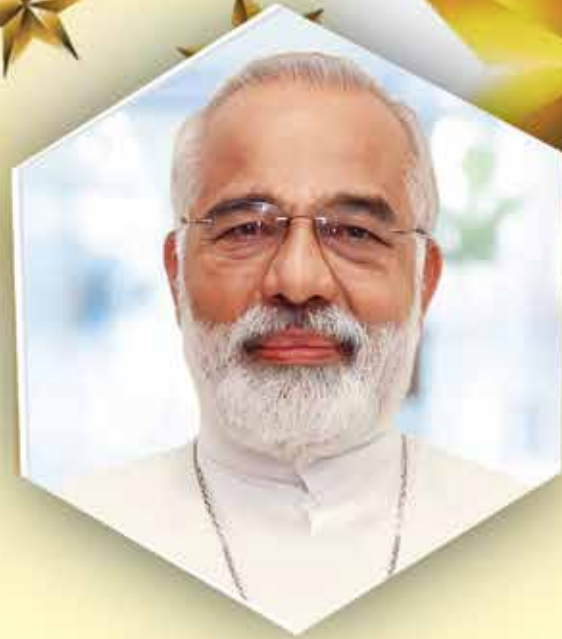
KSSS ANNUAL **Report** 2022-23



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PATRON MESSAGE



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). As we reflect upon the milestones achieved in the past year, I am filled with gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our cause. In the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, our NGO – KSSS – faced unprecedented challenges in delivering essential services to our communities. I feel honored and privileged as a Patron of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) that it is doing wellbeing a non-political and non profitable organization. As we all know that, the annual report is a testament to the collective efforts that have empowered individuals, uplifted families, and fostered sustainable development.

The collaborative efforts with state, national and international agencies during the post Covid era gave us new opportunities. Through collaborations, we have worked towards rebuilding communities, strengthening healthcare systems, and promoting sustainable solutions that extend beyond the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. Being a development partner, it has ventured to promote an intellectual society that is based on values of humanity and social justice, exchanges and

acceptance of ideas and stand against prejudice and suspicions. There is no denying the fact that KSSS has an appropriate plan of action and a team of experts who have a multi-disciplinary approach for achieving their assigned targets.

I am satisfied that along with my President and administrative team, we were able to promote a friendly atmosphere and a peaceful society through action, dialogue, debates and discussions amongst the various communities and religious groups. I sincerely appreciate Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor and his team for their selfless service going beyond the boundaries of caste and creed. As a Patron, I am proud to be associated with this NGO that not only dreams of a better world but actively works towards turning those dreams to reality. We look forward to continued cooperation with state – national – international organizations in shaping a more resilient and inclusive future. Once again, congratulations on a stellar annual report. May your continued success serve as an inspiration to others and propel your organization to even greater heights.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Mar Mathew Moolakkatt
Metropolitan Archbishop
of Kottayam



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MESSAGE

As we approach the culmination of another impactful year at KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY, it's time to reflect on our achievements, challenges, and the transformative work we've undertaken together. Winston Churchill once said that "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) started its work in 1964 as the Archdiocesan organization for development concerns. Since then the organization has come a long way. The annual report serves as a crucial tool to communicate our progress, engage stakeholders, and inspire continued support.

Our operational areas consist of the geographical areas of Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts of Kerala state. Our work among communities has resulted into strengthened and capacitated people in terms of information and knowledge. We make the people aware about their own strengths and qualities. It has been a joy to KSSS to form, strengthen, and facilitate members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) of citizens to become self reliant.

We conducted our 23rd 'Chaithanya Karshika Mela', it is our annual meet up of Self Help Groups of KSSS and farm fest. It is also a platform for farmers to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and access the latest advancements in agriculture. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, fostering a sense of community and empowerment among our farmers. Self – Help Groups (SHGs) are the catalyst for positive change, creating a ripple effect of economic upliftment within our community.

Jubilee celebration of our CBR was our one of the main event in this year. Community – Based Rehabilitation providing essential support and services to individuals with diverse needs. Agape Bhavan of KSSS gave its services to mentally retarded children and their families. Whereas Good Samaritan Resource Centre at Cherpunkal gave special attention to people with deaf and blind. KSSS also runs day care centers in Kumarakom and Kaippuzha region. These centers served as safe havens, nurturing the well-being of individuals of all ages and abilities; especially it is focused children and adolescents. It provides some vocational training for them which leads to more compassionate and resilient community.

As the Executive Secretary of KSSS, I am proud to say that my office and field team has worked with full dedication, sincerity and honesty. Let's aim for a document that not only informs but also inspires, capturing the spirit of collaboration that defines our NGO. By addressing pressing social issues, we strive to build a foundation for a more equitable and harmonious society. We are fully aware that we are not alone in our efforts to uplift the marginalized and the economically backward people. The backbone of KSSS is our development partners, the General Body, the Archbishop of Kottayam, SHG members, Federations, Volunteers and well-wishers.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I eagerly anticipate another year of shared accomplishments. Together we can create a report that resonates with our community and fortifies our mission.

Best Regards

Fr. Sunil Perumanoor

Executive Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Very Rev. Fr. Michael Vettickat
President



Fr. Sunil Perumanoor
Executive Secretary



Rev Fr. Sijo Aalparayil
Asst. Secretary



Sr. Sheeba SVM
Treasurer



Dr. K. J. Joseph
Member

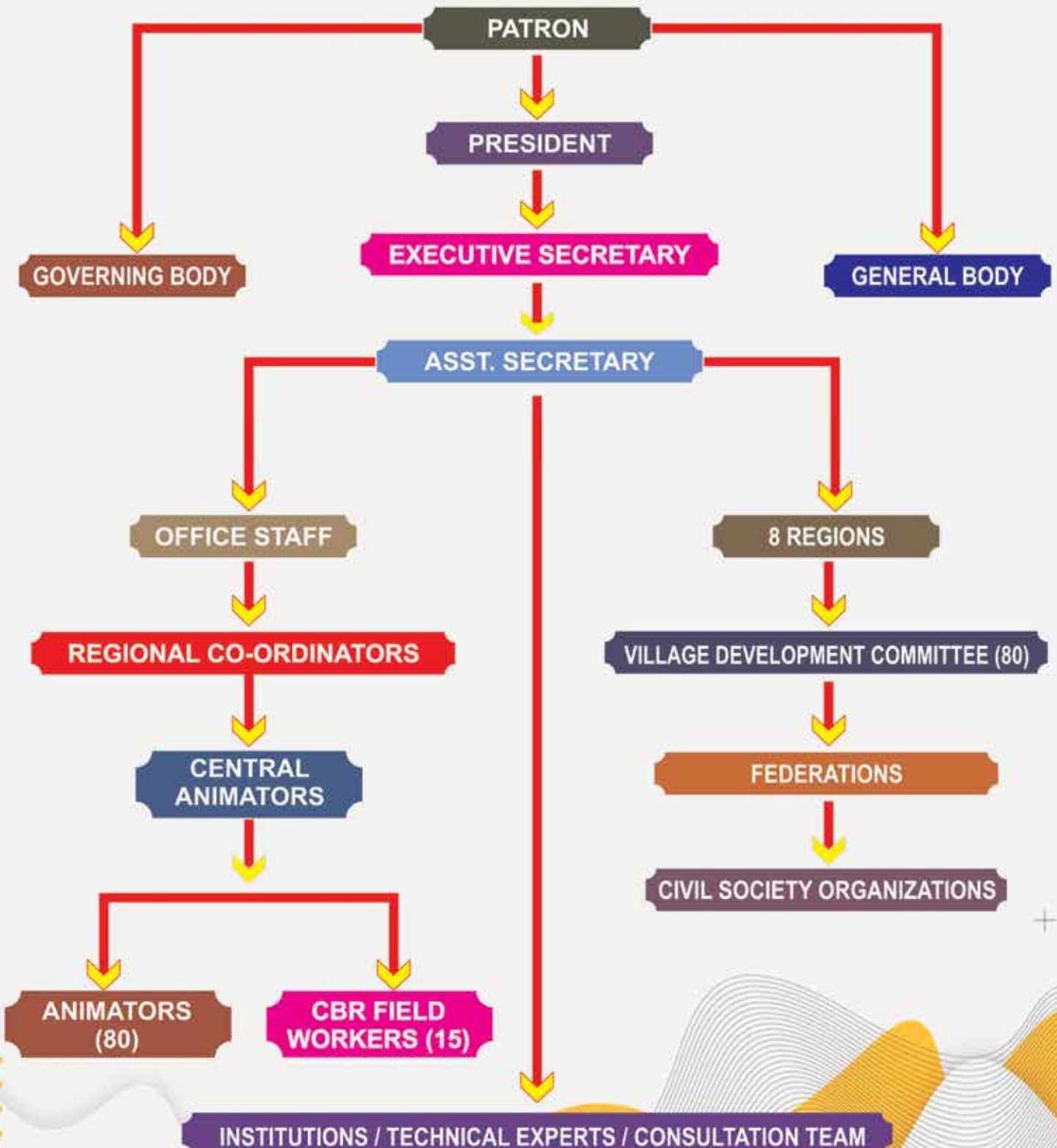


Mr. Johnny K. M.
Member



Mrs. Ancy Philip
Member

KSSSS OrgChart



Vision

Establishment of a just society where all enjoy equality, fraternity, peace, and happiness

Mission

To motivate and empower the backward to accelerate their own development so that they decide their own destiny and they live with dignity

Objectives

Facilitate sustainable management and use of the natural resource ensuring co-existence of man and nature

Facilitate empowerment and sustainable development of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society

Develop capacities and skills of the poor and the marginalized for generating sustainable livelihoods and means of subsistence

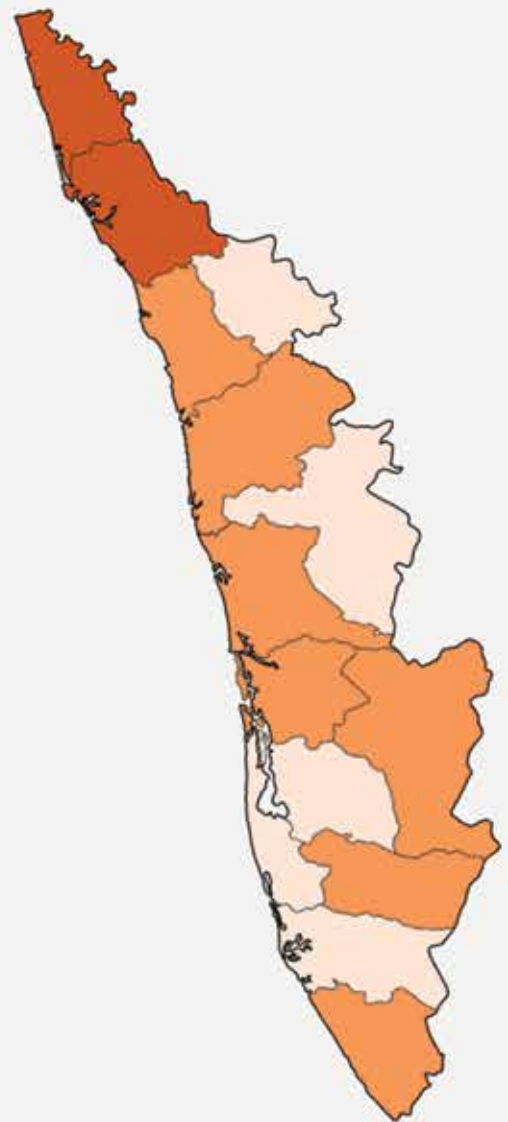
Promote the use of non-conventional energy sources through the propagation of eco-friendly and appropriate rural technologies

Promote and establish functional networking and resource sharing among the stakeholders and actors in development

Rehabilitate the victims of natural and man-made calamities and of the Persons with Disabilities

SILHOUETTE

Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) is a registered charitable organization (Reg. K-15/1964) under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies' Registration Act XII of 1955. The organization was registered in the year 1964 by the Archdiocese for delivering its social ministry. The activities of KSSS are spread mainly in the five districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Alappuzha and athanamthitta covering 80 rural villages. The main focus of the organization is the empowerment and improvement in the quality of the poor and other vulnerable sections in society. It has now completed five decades of dedicated services in the development sector and has a rich experience in facilitating capacity building, community health, promotion of grass-roots level organizations, watershed development and other community level organizations for social change and transformation. More than 56000 families are directly linked with the organization through its network of Community Based Organizations.



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

K.S.S.S initiates 'Njangalum Krishiyilekku' Project



Agriculture impacts society in many ways, including, supporting livelihoods through food, habitat and jobs; providing raw materials for food and other products; and building strong economics through trade. As part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, KSSS in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare is implementing the Njangalum Krishiyilekku project. The Minister of Agriculture, Shri. P. Prasad, inaugurated the program by planting a vegetable sapling at Chaithanya Pastoral Center, thereby extending the ongoing farm management activities at KSSS.

As a component of the project, a farm model will be maintained on the premises of Chaithanya. Additionally, the Kottayam Social Service Society is eager to implement the project through the KSSS Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of farmers from the districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam.

Those present during the event included Sri Subhash T. V., IAS, Director of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department; Smt. Soniya V. R. and Sri. George Sebastian, Additional Directors of the Agriculture Department; Mr. Sunil Kumar, Principal Information Officer Farm Information Bureau; Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary Fr. Mathews Valiyaputhenpurayil, Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Beena George, Principal Agricultural Officer, along with the Minister.

Kitchen Garden Extension Project of KSSS

With the aim of ensuring food security along with the production of organic vegetables, Kottayam Social Service Society has started a kitchen garden extension project. Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam has inaugurated the project at a function organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. As part of the project, about 2500 families were provided units containing grow bags along with seeds of



various types of vegetables like tomato, green chili, lentil, spinach etc. This project also aims to increase the cultivation area for home-grown produce, enhancing self-sustainability.



Farmer's Day Observations and Honoring Of Exemplary Farmers

"A farmer is a magician who produces money from the mud." -Amit Kalantri

A day of honor is very much deserved to all of the hard-working farmers. Every year farmer's day is celebrated in Kerala on August 17th to pay tribute to all the farmers' through-out the state. Both Men and Women farmers from KSSS Self-help Groups united together at Kottayam Social Service Society on the special event to observe Farmer's day. This Day which is considered as New Year Day according to the Malayalam Calendar is an auspicious occasion, especially for farmers as it demarcates the beginning of a season for farming. Shri. V. N. Vasavan, Minister for Co-operation and Registration inaugurated the event during which Mr. George Joseph from Kidangoor region, Mr. Lancy Kurian from Edackat region, Mr. Baby Xaviour from Malankara region, Mr. Anil Kumar MP from Uzhavoor region and Mr. Joy Mundackal from Kaduthuruthy region selected exemplary farmers from SHGs

were honored. The Key note address was delivered by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA. Other dignitaries who graced the occasion included Mrs. Nirmala Jimmy (Panchayat President, Kottayam), Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Fr. Cyriac Ottapallil (Asst. Secretary, KSSS), Smt. Arya Rajan (President, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat), Smt. Bincy Sebastian (Municipal Chairperson, Kottayam), Smt. Lovely George (Chairperson, Ettumanoor Municipality), Dr. Rosamma Sony (Member, Kottayam District Panchayat), Sri. James Kurian (Vice President, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat), Smt. Alice Joseph (Vice President, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat), Sri. Sabu Mathew (Municipal Counselor, Kottayam) and Adv. Nidhin Pullukadan (Government Pleader).

On this day, a seminar was led by Mrs. Smt. Sherly Zacharias, Assistant Director of Kottayam District Soil Testing Laboratory. Moreover, farmers competed enthusiastically in the arecanut leaf cap making competition arranged as part of the event. The first position was bagged by Mr. Rajan P.R. (Uzhavoor village), second by Mr. Baiju Kurian (Edackat village) and third by Mr. Baby Xavier (Malankara village). Banana seeds were distributed to all the farmers.

'Empowering Rural Livelihoods: Financial Support for Sustainable Goat Farming'

KSSS in collaboration with LACIM France, KSSS is proud to launch the initiative, providing financial assistance for goat farming among Self-Help Group (SHG) members. Shri Saji Thadathil, President - Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat has inaugurated the function. Recognizing the invaluable expertise and support from KSSS partners at LACIM France, this joint effort aims to blend international collaboration with grassroots empowerment. Through this unique initiative, KSSS strive to not only enhance the economic prospects of SHG members but also promote sustainable agricultural practices in goat farming. By combining the local knowledge and commitment of KSSS with the global perspective and assistance from LACIM France, KSSS aspire to create a synergistic impact that fosters economic resilience, community development, and cross-cultural exchange.



'Coins to Commerce'

Embarking on a small scale business journey requires astute financial planning. KSSS offering a roadmap for turning entrepreneurial dreams into reality and guiding aspiring entrepreneurs toward prosperity. Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese, Mar Joseph Pandarasseril has inaugurated the function and distributed the money to the beneficiaries. Funding was made available for undertaking various entrepreneurship schemes like, goat farm, cow farm, confectionary manufacturing unit, tailoring unit, poultry farm, collective farm etc.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KSSS Environmental Day: Honoring Activists and Raising Awareness for a Healthier Planet”



Environment day, celebrated globally serves as a crucial annual event to raise awareness about environmental issues and advocate for positive change. KSSS organized an awareness program and honoured environmental activists. Environmental activists are at the forefront of this battle for a healthier planet. Shri. V N Vasavan, Minister of Cooperation – Registration, has inaugurated the function and honoured six environmental activists

(Dr. Jayakumar T K, Dr. Punnen Kurian Venkedath, Prof. S Shivadas, Prof. Dr Jomy Augustin, Dr. Jacob George Ozthathil and K. Binu) in Kottayam district. More than 700 participants from Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam districts were attended the seminar and function. KSSS also provided them with vegetable seeds and other kits.

‘Green Horizons: Empowering Eco-Friendly Lifestyles’

As delve into sustainable practices, environmental awareness and the promotion of a greener future, Kottayam Social Service Society has organized three-day camp on the theme of eco-friendly approaches and lifestyle promotion. The concluding session of the three-day camp jointly organized by the Indian Council of Social Welfare, Kerala and KSSS at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre in collaboration with the US Embassy in India. Adv. Mons Joseph MLA inaugurated the camp. As part of the camp, experts conducted classes on eco-friendly approaches, green audit and role of volunteers



in eco-friendly activities. About 50 representatives from various organizations participated in the study camp.

'Empower Tomorrow: Illuminating the Path to Sustainable Energy with the Energy Management Centre'

The awareness session conducted by KSSS, that seeks to shed light on the critical need for power saving and its profound importance in building a sustainable future. Shri. Saji Thadathil, President of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat has inaugurated the session. Through this session, participants will gain valuable insights into the current energy landscape, understanding consumption patterns, and the environmental impact of our energy choices. Collaborating with the Urja Kiran 2022 Project of Energy Management Centre, KSSS aim to explore practical and innovative ways to optimize energy use in homes, workplaces, and communities. The session will emphasize the power of conservation, showcasing how small, mindful actions can lead to significant energy savings and a reduced carbon footprint.



Energy Conservation Awareness Campaign



To create awareness among the general public and equip them for efficient management of energy, to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation, KSSS organized Energy Conservation Awareness Program in association with Energy Management Centre, Kerala and Centre for Environment and Development at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The sensitization program was inaugurated by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS). Fr. Sijo Aalpparayil (Asst. Secretary, KSSS) and Sri. Alice George (Grama Panchayat Vice President, Athirampuzha) graced the occasion with their presence. The session was led by Mrs. Jayamol Jacob Chembola (Resource Person, Energy Management Centre, Kerala).

Urjakiran Awareness Campaign



KSSS in association with the Energy Management Center (EMC), Kerala conducted 'Urja Kiran' energy conservation awareness campaign. The campaign took place at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom and was inaugurated by Smt. Arya Rajan (President, Ettumanoor

Block Panchayat.) Participants were provided with leaflets on energy conservation. The session was conducted by Jayamol Jacob Chembola (Resource Person, Energy Management Centre, Kerala). Around 100 people actively participated in the campaign.

HUMAN AND INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

Employment Scheme for Rural Youth under DDU-GKY Project of KSSS

Kottayam Social Service Society ensures job opportunities along with quality skill training for rural youth under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY project). The project implemented with the support of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Kerala Government Kudumbashree Mission has successfully completed two batches in Sales Person Retail. Out of 32 total number of students, 28 students were placed. The training is being conducted at Good Samaritan Resource Centre, Cherpunkal. The placement cell of DDU-GKY project ensured job opportunities to the 240 students who completed retail course. The three month course is being provided totally free and those who successfully completed the course would get placed.

Yuvakeralam is a placement linked Skill Training program funded by Govt. of Kerala implemented through Kudumbasree Mission. The project aims to impart placement linked skill training to Kerala's 10,000 youth; the youth of Kerala economically independent and global relevant work force. Yuvakeralam Project



component under Athijeevanam Keraliyam Scheme that was announced by Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan on 27 August 2020. The state govt. has sanctioned around Rs. 60 crores for this scheme. In this Yuvakeralam Project component, the beneficiaries would be members of poor families between the age group of 18 to 35 years. However, people from Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Differently Abled (PH) category can join up to the age of 45 years. The Yuva Kerala Project plan includes 100% free training, travel, accommodation, meals, uniforms, post-placement support, counselling and tracking for a duration of 1 year.

KSSS ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEET

The Annual General Body Meeting was summoned by Mar Mathew Moolakkat, Patron of KSSS and Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam. In all 21 members participated in the meeting. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor briefed the status of various ongoing projects including the audit report. An evaluation of the activities carried out by KSSS during the previous year and the future action plan was discussed.



FIELD WORK AND BLOCK PLACEMENT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

KSSS facilitates opportunities for Fieldwork and Block Placement of Social Work students from various colleges. KSSS expands the opportunities for students to have an in-depth learning experience in diverse settings and to involve in community development projects for the welfare of society. In the year 2022 - 2023, Block Placement/Field work - Internship Services were extended to 123 students from various educational institutions from in and out of Kerala especially from Social Work Colleges and Law colleges.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

KSSS periodically organizes training for animators, fieldworkers, federation members, SHG Leaders, Village Development Committees members etc, to update them with skills and knowledge required to discharge their duties and responsibilities efficiently. The training focuses on instilling the vision of the SHG programme and imparting knowledge about SHG concepts and facilitation skills. It empowers them and trains them on conducting various developmental activities, maintaining various books, financial transactions etc.

The new animators who join KSSS in between are trained to acquaint them with the organization, its salient features, SHG concept and its working systems etc. These animators are responsible for facilitating rural SHG members to be dynamic, ensuring their participation and motivating them to take up Income Generation activities.

Legal Awareness Program for KSSS Staff Members & Volunteers



Legal awareness is very inevitable for a citizen and crucial as it empowers individuals to understand their rights, navigate the legal system, and make informed decisions. KSSS organized a program for legal awareness for the members and volunteers of KSSS. It mainly focused on POCSO Act and its relevance in the society. Smt. Lovely George, Chairperson - Ettumanoor Municipality has inaugurated the function at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. Sr. Adv. Jyothis P Thomas, Member – Child Welfare Committee Kottayam, has taken over the session. The session fosters a just society by promoting accountability, safeguarding rights, and preventing legal injustices through informed citizenry.

'Empowering Women: Navigating Legal Safeguards and Protections'



KSSS has organized a legal awareness program for women with the collaboration of Service Providing Centre, which is working with Social Justice Department. Dr. Prof Rosamma Sony, Member – Kottayam District Panchayat, has inaugurated the meeting of legal awareness seminar organized for Anganwadi teachers under Ettumanoor Municipality. The session led by Smt. Leebamol T Rajan, Legal Advisor, KSSS. The seminar aims to enlighten participants on legal frameworks designed for the protection and empowerment of women. Through the Service Providing Centre, KSSS has providing free legal aid and counseling services for women.

'Swasraya Mithra 2022: Leadership Training and Strategic Action Planning for Sustainable Community Growth'



Swasraya Mithra 2022 was a comprehensive leadership training program designed for Self-Help Group (SHG) members, focusing on equipping participants with essential skills for effective leadership. Shri. Roshy Augustin, Minister of Irrigation has inaugurated the program. The

program emphasizes the formation of new action plans, fostering strategic thinking and collaborative initiatives within SHGs. Through this initiative, KSSS aim to empower communities, fostering sustainable growth and development.

Legal Awareness Campaign



KSSS, in collaboration with Caritas College of Nursing and Little Lourdes College of Nursing, Kidangoor organized a legal awareness seminar with the objective of creating a secure environment for children, protecting them from violence and discrimination at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The inauguration of the seminar was presided over by Mrs. Nirmala Jimmy, President of Kottayam District Panchayat. The seminar delved into subjects such as the POCSO Act, violence against children, and child protection laws, with Sr. Adv. Jyothis P. Thomas, a former member of the Child Welfare Committee, serving as the lead speaker. A total of 40 students participated in the program.

Sajeevam Anti-Drug Campaign



KSSS in partnership with Caritas India KCBC and the Kerala Social Service Forum, a Sajeevam Anti-Drug Campaign was conducted. The campaign was officially inaugurated by Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam and Shri. C. John, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Narcotic Cell, Kottayam). As part of the campaign, participants pledged against drug use. Additionally, Mr. Shaiju Mathew Kochupadapurackal was recognized for his heroic act of saving a child from drowning during the KSBC Pro-life day. The primary objective of the campaign was to establish an Anti-Drug Task Force through the awareness program.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMMES

'Mazhakuda' Health Awareness Campaign of KSSS



'Mazhakuda' was an awareness session about the monsoon diseases, which conducted by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS). Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP inaugurated the awareness campaign organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Kottayam has presided over the meeting. Shri James C J, District Deputy Education Media Officer, took the seminar on monsoon diseases and its preventive measures in connection with the awareness campaign. By promoting awareness, communities can adopt proactive measures to mitigate the impact of monsoon - related diseases and safeguard public health.

"Karkidaka Kanjikkoottu: Empowering SHGs with Nutrient-Rich Food Kits for Sustenance and Growth"

KSSS for the past ten years has been distributing Karkidaka Kanji kit among SHG members. This has especially helped the senior members of the group in rejuvenating themselves. This year also, KSSS continued with the practice. The distribution of food kits during the monsoon period holds significant importance for Self-Help Group (SHG) members - in Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam districts - aiming to empower and support them during challenging weather conditions. President - Kottayam District Panchayat, Smt. Nirmala Jimmy has inaugurated the func-

Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign



Breast Cancer Awareness Month has been celebrated every October since the nineties. It is called 'Pink October' as people around the world adopt the pink color and display a pink ribbon to raise awareness about breast health. In this context, KSSS in collaboration with Caritas Hospital organized Breast Cancer awareness campaign at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) inaugurated the program. Dr. Sharon Raj, a Senior Specialist from the Community Medicine Department at Caritas Hospital conducted the session.



tion. The initiative of KSSS, successfully addressed the nutritional needs of SHG members during a critical period, fostering community strength and resilience. The collaborative efforts of stakeholders and the active participation of SHG leaders contributed to the success of the program.

Cancer Day Celebration

In the spirit of compassion and resilience, the Ashakiranam Project of KSSS in collaboration with Caritas India, is set to illuminate the journey of those affected by cancer on the special Cancer Day celebration. Shri V N Vasavan, Minister of Registration & Cooperation has inaugurated the function. The initiative not only commemorates the strength and courage of individuals facing cancer but also marks a significant milestone in the ongoing commitment to providing crucial treatment assistance. Together, these two organizations stand as beacons of support, extending a compassionate hand to those in need. Through a combination of awareness, advocacy,



and assistance programs, it aims to spread awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and the importance of emotional support throughout the treatment journey.

Cancer Awareness and Free Medical Camp



In collaboration with Caritas Hospital, KSSS organized a Cervical Cancer Awareness and Medical Camp at St. Michael Church Hall, Veliyanad. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Mrs. M. V. Priya, the

Chairman of the Panchayat Educational Standing Committee. The medical camp featured the expertise of Dr. Sunny George from the Gastroenterology department, Dr. Maria from the Cardiology department, Dr. Sharon Raj from the Community Medicine Department and Dr. Zayana from the Neurology Department. Alongside the camp, complimentary check-ups for ECG, ECO, blood pressure, and sugar were provided, accompanied by the distribution of medicines.

Healthcare Harmony; A Medical Camp for Migrant Workers by KSSS (1st Batch)



In a heartfelt endeavour to address the healthcare needs of our unsung heroes, KSSS organized a poignant initiative for migrant workers. This impactful medical camp was specifically tailored for migrant workers, acknowledging the unique challenges they face. Project Manager of Kottayam District AIDS Control Society, Sri. Baiju Janardhanan has inaugurated the program. The event aimed not only to provide essential medical services but also to create an atmosphere of empathy and understanding. Dedicated healthcare professionals volunteered their expertise, offering a range of services from basic check-ups to specialized consultations. Through this noble undertaking, KSSS not only addressed immediate health concerns but also emphasized the importance of compassion and solidarity in ensuring the holistic well-being of our resilient migrant workers.

'Hygiene Kits Distribution and Empowerment Session for Differently-abled Families'



The program focused on the distribution of hygiene kits tailored to meet the specific requirements of individuals with diverse abilities. Beyond the provision of essential hygiene supplies, the initiative of KSSS went a step further by incorporating comprehensive awareness sessions. Shri. Saji Thadathil, President - Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat has inaugurated the program. These sessions were designed to empower families with knowledge and skills to navigate the challenges associated with maintaining hygiene for differently-abled members. Through the program KSSS aimed not only to provide tangible support but also to foster a sense of community, understanding, and resilience among these families, reinforcing the belief that everyone deserves access to resources that enhance their overall well-being.

Medical Camp and Awareness Program for Migrant Workers (4th Batch)



KSSS led a significant portion of the COVID prevention efforts for the Archdiocese of Kottayam in collaboration with Caritas India, the social service arm of the CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India). An awareness class was conducted for migrant workers in the Kottayam district. Approximately 75 migrant guest workers received free medicines as a crucial component of the campaign.

'Empathy in Action: Nurturing Social Awareness in Nursing Students'



KSSS conducted an awareness session for nursing students from Mar Sleeva College of Nursing, Cherpunkal. The program was inaugurated by Shri. V N Vasavan, Minister of registration & Cooperation. It embarks on a transformative journey with aspiring nurses. Beyond the clinical skills and medical knowledge, we delve into the profound importance of social awareness in healthcare especially in the case of differently-abled people. This unique program equips students with the tools to understand and address the diverse social determinants that impact health outcomes. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and real-world scenarios, KSSS fosters a deep sense of empathy and cultural competence. Our goal is to empower the next generation of healthcare professionals to not only heal bodies but also uplift communities.

Medical camp and Awareness Program for Migrant Workers (3rd Batch)

In collaboration with Caritas India, Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) arranged a Medical Camp and awareness program for migrant workers at KN construction site in Athirampuzha as part of post - COVID activities. The inauguration of the program was conducted by Mr. Baiju Janardhanan (Project Manager of Kerala AIDS Control Society in Kottayam).



The camp included complimentary check-ups and the distribution of medicines. Around 100 migrant workers attended the camp.

COVID 19 PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

Loan Mela for Budding Entrepreneurs

With the aim of providing passive income opportunities along with Covid survival, loan distribution for Entrepreneurs being conducted



by KSSS in collaboration with Kerala State Backward Development Corporation was carried out at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre. The program was inaugurated by Shri. V. N Vasavan, Minister for Cooperation and Registration. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs was

made available under the scheme being implemented as per the rules and regulations of Kerala State Backward Development Corporation.

Empowering Migrant Workers through COVID 19 Challenges

Kottayam Social Service Society has planned and implemented COVID survival activities for migrant workers.

As part of the welfare activities carried out in collaboration with Caritas India, various activities like COVID vaccination drive,

awareness activities and health insurance schemes were planned and implemented. The program was organized in Chaithanya Pastoral Centre-Thellakom and inaugurated by KSSS Executive Secretary, Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor. This project was mainly for the migrant workers in Kottayam district.



Awareness Program and Distribution of Hygiene Kit

As a component of the COVID prevention initiative, KSSS conducted a health awareness program and distributed hygiene kits. The inauguration of the awareness program and the distribution of hygiene kits which included soap, towels, detergent and masks, were carried out by Shri. Johnys P. Stephen (Grama Panchayat President, Uzhavoor).



FLOOD RELIEF INTERVENTIONS

'Emergency Care Kits: Supporting 150 Families with Elderly Loved Ones amidst Floods'



In partnership with Help Age India and the Cipla Foundation, KSSS's joint endeavour, seeks to extend a helping hand to communities facing the challenges of flooding. Through the collective efforts of Help Age India's expertise in elderly care and the Cipla Foundation's commitment to healthcare, we have crafted 150 Emergency Care Kits. These kits are tailored to meet the specific needs of families with older members, containing crucial items such as medications, medical supplies, non-perishable food items, hygiene essentials, and comforting items. Our collaborative initiative is not only a testament to the power of community support but also a commitment to ensuring the well-being of elderly individuals and their families amidst the uncertainties of flood-related emergencies.

Awareness Program and Installation of Water Filters

The WASH aspects of the communities in Veliyanadu, Ramankari, Pandanadu, Thiruvanvandoor, Muttar and Thalavadi villages of Alappuzha district had totally collapsed during the floods. The water bodies were polluted, drinking water became scarce, and waste management was not proper. At this point KSSS initiated the promotion of WASH aspects in these flood affected communities with the help of OXFAM India. Awareness programs were conducted at the community level, school level, and SHG level. KSSS installed water filters in the villages, distributed sanitation kits and cleaning kits to the households, sent trained volunteers to the flood affected villages to clean their houses and premises. Also, KSSS chlorinated 540 wells.

Water Purifying Units

In the aftermath of the floods KSSS in association with OXFAM India provided water purifiers (AP 700) to the needy in Kumarankari, Pulimukkam in Veliyanad block of Alappuzha district. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Mr. Sharath Chandra Naik (Public Health Promoter, OXFAM), Mr. Paremashwar Rao (Public Health Engineer, OXFAM), Ms. Shiny Laloo, Ms. Leena Sibichan, Ms. Sheeba Joseph and self-help group members were present during the distribution.

Distribution of Portable High-tech Water Purifier

KSSS in association with German Medical Aid Organization and Andheri Hilfe distributed Portable High-tech water purifier units at Kumarakom, Olassa, Peroor and East Nattasseri in Kottayam district and Veliyanadu and Kannamkara in Alappuzha district as part of its flood rehabilitation activities. Mar Mathew Moolakkattu (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam and Patron of KSSS) inaugurated the distribution. Each unit has the capacity to purify 1200 liters of water per day without the help of electricity and chemicals. KSSS also distributed micro filter units for households on the occasion.

House and Toilet Construction and Maintenance

The flood had severely damaged the dwelling structures of many houses in the operational areas of KSSS. KSSS in association with Stitching Anand Bhavan Netherlands supported 25 families to repair their homes and build new toilet. The fund for infrastructure development was allocated by Geevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Diocese. Mrs. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson delivered presidential address. Speeches were also given by Fr. Sunil, KSSS Executive Director and Mrs. Mercy Stephen, Coordinator.



'Hope in a Box: Empowering Lives through Flood Relief Kit Distribution'

The impactful initiative of KSSS, Help Age India and Cipla Foundation has undertaken to provide aid and support to victims of flood through the distribution of relief kits. Smt. M V Priya, Chairperson – Health-Education Committee, Alappuzha District Panchayat, has inaugurated the function which conducted at St Michael's Church Parish hall. The primary objective of the project was to address the urgent needs of flood victims by providing them with essential items necessary for survival and recovery. The distribution of relief kits was designed to offer not only material assistance but also a symbol of hope, resilience, and community solidarity.



Launching of Proto type Toilets

As part of its flood rehabilitation programs, Kottayam Social Service Society in association with Oxfam India provided fifty proto type toilets to the people who are affected by flood in Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala.

LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

KSSS Advances Food Security and Entrepreneurship through Successful Fish Farming



The practice of fish farming has yielded profitable outcomes for KSSS, contributing to their goal of ensuring food security and implementing a comprehensive entrepreneurial model. KSSS is cultivating various fish species including Tilapia, Catla and Rohu. Shri. P. Prasad (The Minister for Agriculture) enjoyed a successful harvest from the pond at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre. The fish farming unit is now accessible to the public. Notable attendees at the event included Shri. Subhash T V, IAS (Director of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department), Smt. Soniya V. R. and Shri. George Sebastian (Additional Directors of the Agriculture Department), Mr. Sunil Kumar (Principal Information Officer at Farm Information Bureau), Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary), Fr. Mathews Valiyaputhenpurayil (Assistant Secretary, KSSS) and Mrs. Beena George (Principal Agricultural Officer).

KSSS initiated the fish farming unit as part of their ongoing activities which encompass fish farming training for Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam districts, the distribution of fry (baby fish), the establishment of fish marketing outlet and exhibition and sale of ornamental fish.

Financial Assistance to Small Income Schemes

Financial assistance is a crucial for small income schemes as it provides a lifeline for individuals with limited



resources. Kottayam Social Service Society has distributed financial assistance for small income projects with the aim of creating opportunities for self-sufficiency along with COVID survival. Shri Thomas Chazhikadan MP inaugurated the distribution of financial aid in a function organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. As part of the scheme, financial assistance of RS. 25000 each was made available to 50 families for undertaking various self-employed entrepreneurship projects. It empowers them to invest in essential tools, education, fostering economic growth, stability and self-sustainability within local communities.

LACIM Visit

KSSS has been teaming up with LACIM France for the past 9 years to promote Income Generation Programmes in the backward areas and mainstreaming the SHGs. A group of philanthropists in France support various income generation activities of the SHG members. The utilization of the fund is closely monitored and the follow-up is done by the LACIM committee.

Accordingly, a two day IGP visit was conducted by Mr. Carlton Fernandez (Regional Coordinator, South India) on January 15th and 16th 2019 to evaluate the development of the beneficiaries in the project villages of Vechoor, Palathuruthu, Kumarakom and Veliyanadu. The poor and marginalized are enabled through this programme to become responsible and responsive towards their development.

The Crafted Canopy: Mastering the Art of Umbrella Making (1st Batch)



KSSS organized umbrella making training with the aim of creating opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship along with the promotion of alternative lifestyles through self-help groups. The training was organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom with the aim of providing an opportunity for those who want to earn income through umbrella making. Rev Fr Cyriac Ottappallil, Assistant Secretary, KSSS has inaugurated the training program. Representatives of KSSS self-help groups participated in the training. Participants learn essential skills in material selection, frame assembly, and creative design, making it an engaging and informative session for both beginners and enthusiasts.

Crafting Rainy Day Essentials: Mastering the Art of Umbrella Making (2nd Batch)



Training for umbrella making in Self-help Groups can empower individuals with valuable skills for sustainable livelihoods. It emphasizing quality control, marketing strategies, and financial management can contribute to the overall success of the umbrella-making enterprise within SHGs. The training program was conducted in Chaithanya Pastoral Centre and inaugurated by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA. Master trainers, Ansamma Biju, Laila Philip, and Suja Reji led the session.

'Fashioning Elegance' (1st Batch)



A two-day training was organized as part of promoting tailoring related jobs for women, which is being implemented under the leadership of Kottayam Social Service Society with the aim of providing more scientific training to those who have knowledge in the field of tailoring and creating opportunities for self – employed entrepreneurs. Training program was conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre and inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George, Chairperson – Ettumanoor Municipality.

Threads of Empowerment: Bridging Opportunities for Women with Tailoring Units (2nd Batch)



Through the art of sewing, it stitches together not just garments but also opportunities, fostering economic independence and self-sufficiency. As part of self-employment promotion activities, sewing machine units were distributed under the leadership of KSSS. Rev. Fr Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary – KSSS, has distributed the sewing machines as part of 'Thayyal Mithra' project of KSSS. This initiative aims to weave a fabric of empowerment by providing women with tailoring units.

Thayyal Mithra: A Comprehensive Training Guide (3rd Batch)



Tailoring is a craft that demands precision and creativity. The program aims to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the field of tailoring. Smt. Lovely George, Chairperson - Ettumanoor Municipality, has inaugurated the two-day training program conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. The sessions covers a wide range of topics, from basic sewing techniques to advanced garment construction. It also provides a well-rounded education for aspiring tailors.

Mastering Beauty: A comprehensive Beautician Course (1st Batch)



The remarkable initiative of KSSS focuses on enhancing the skills and economic opportunities for Self-Help Group members through a specialized beautician training program. President - Ettumanoor Block Panchayat, Smt. Arya Rajan inaugurated the training program. By equipping participants with essential beauty techniques, entrepreneurial skills, and industry knowledge, the training aims to empower SHG members to create sustainable livelihoods.

Crafting Unity: Umbrella Making (3rd Batch)



In a remarkable display of collaboration and skill, 3rd batch of KSSS - umbrella making unit has completed the training and they wove together threads of empowerment and craftsmanship through their journey in umbrella making. KSSS Executive Secretary, Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor has inaugurated the function. This endeavour not only shelters us from the rain but also symbolizes the strength and unity forged within our community. This venture is more than a craft; it's a testament to the power of unity, skill, and the indomitable spirit of SHG's 3rd batch.

Needle & Thread Empowerment: Tailoring Training for SHG Mastery (4th Batch)

Two-day tailoring training program for SHG members aims to empower individuals with essential skills in the art of tailoring. The program was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary, KSSS. The program not only equips SHG members with a valuable skills set but also fosters economic independence and community development. It serves as a catalyst for personal growth and sustainable livelihoods within SHG community.

Beautician Training (2nd Batch)



KSSS offers income-generating opportunities for members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) through skill training initiatives. The second batch of beautician training took place at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom with the inauguration led by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary. The training program covered various skills including threading, bleaching, facials, makeup application, dress costuming, pedicure and oil massaging. The training sessions were conducted by skilled practitioners, Mrs. Leena Binu and Mrs. Mini Joy.

Empowering SHG Members through Two-Day Tailoring Training (6th Batch)



Kottayam Social Service Society has conducted a training program for SHG members which aims to equip participants with essential tailoring skills, from basic stitching to advanced garment construction. The two-day training program was inaugurated by Rev Fr Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary, KSSS. The hands-on training provides a unique opportunity for SHG members to enhance their capabilities, fostering self-sufficiency and economic empowerment.

Umbrella making Training (4th Batch)



Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized an umbrella making training program at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The training aimed to teach representatives of self-help groups how to make umbrellas at a low cost for their family members during the rainy season. It also provided an opportunity for self-employment. The program was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph, MLA, and was attended by Mrs. Nirmala Jimmy (Panchayat President, Kottayam), Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Dr. Rosamma Sony (Panchayat Member, Kottayam), and Mr. Biju Valiyamala (Grama Panchayat President, Kottayam). The training was conducted by Mrs. Anamma Biju, the master trainer. This was the 4th batch of training completed by KSSS.

Tailoring Training Program (5th Batch)

The objective of the program is to train candidates with practical knowledge of Sewing and Tailoring; the defined content will provide the techniques of tailoring day to day used apparels giving sufficient opportunity of sustainable employment. In collaboration with St. Mary's Knanaya Catholic Church in Chicago, USA, KSSS organized a two-day advanced tailoring course under the project 'Thayyal Mithra' to empower economically disadvantaged women through self-employment and income generation activities.

The training was specifically designed for women selected from Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The program was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph, MLA and the presidential address was delivered by Smt. Nirmala Jimmy (Panchayat President, Kottayam). Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Dr. Rosamma Sony (District Panchayat Member, Kottayam) and Shri. Biju Valiyamala (Grama Panchayat President, Athirampuzha) also gave speeches. Mrs. Mini Johnson provided training to the participants.

Building Beauty Skills for Sustainable Livelihoods in SHGs (3rd Batch)

Unlocking the door to empowerment, training program of KSSS aims to bring a transformative wave of change to Self-Help Group (SHG) members through



comprehensive beautician training. In this initiative, KSSS equip participants with the skills and knowledge essential for a career in the beauty industry, fostering not only personal growth but also economic independence. The session was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary. Our commitment extends beyond makeup brushes and skincare routines; it is a dedication to nurturing dreams and fostering a sense of pride in one's abilities. Together, we are sculpting a future where every stroke of a brush becomes a symbol of empowerment and resilience for SHG members.

'Crafting Elegance: A Woman's Guide to Mastery in Hand Embroidery'

KSSS offering a comprehensive guide for women seeking to elevate their skills in the art of hand embroidery. KSSS Executive Secretary, Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor

inaugurated the program. From basic stitches to intricate patterns, it imparts the wisdom



required to transform a simple piece of fabric into a canvas of exquisite beauty. Beyond technique, the training also explores the therapeutic and empowering aspects of embroidery, encouraging women to embrace this timeless craft as a form of self-expression and mastery.

Mastering the Art of Umbrella Crafting: Empowering SHG Members (5th Batch)

In the vibrant tapestry of skill development and community empowerment, the 5th batch of umbrella-making training for KSSS - Self-Help Group (SHG) members stands out as a testament to resilience and creativity. As these members delved into the



intricacies of crafting umbrellas, they not only honed their technical expertise but

also forged bonds that strengthened the fabric of their shared aspirations. The training session was inaugurated by Ettumanoor Block Panchayat President, Smt. Arya Rajan. It became a canvas for collaboration, where hands-on learning and collective wisdom interwove to create a masterpiece of empowerment. As these newly skilled artisans unfurl their creations, they bring forth not just umbrellas, but symbols of empowerment and economic independence, casting a protective canopy over their collective journey towards a brighter future.

'Tailoring Training and Machine Distribution in Collaboration with Usha International'

In a transformative initiative aimed at fostering self-reliance and empowering communities,

KSSS has joined forces with Usha International to launch a ground-breaking



program. This initiative revolves around providing free tailoring training sessions to 15 selected members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). It was inaugurated by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA. These individuals, representing the backbone of their communities, will not only undergo comprehensive training but will also be equipped with tailor-made Usha International sewing machines. The synergy between the NGO and Usha International seeks to catalyse a ripple effect of skill development and economic independence, ultimately weaving a fabric of empowerment within these communities.

'Empowering Culinary Skills: A Cooking Journey for SHG Members'



Embarking on a culinary adventure, members of KSSS - Self-Help Groups are unlocking the flavours of empowerment through a unique

training program. In this gastronomic journey, participants delve into the art and science of cooking, honing their skills to create delectable dishes that not only tantalize the taste buds but also serve as a source of pride and independence. KSSS Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor has inaugurated the program. From mastering essential kitchen techniques to exploring diverse cuisines, the SHG members are cultivating a rich tapestry of culinary knowledge. This initiative not only nourishes the body but also nurtures a sense of community, collaboration, and self-reliance among its participants.

Tailoring Training Program (7th Batch)

Skill training is one of the most important factors for economic development; it provides opportunities for



employment and income generation. With the aim to encourage self-employment and enhance towards empowerment, KSSS organized Tailoring Training Programme under the project 'Thayyal Mithra'. Mr. James Kurian (Vice President, Block Panchayat, Ettumanoor) inaugurated the program. Beneficiaries for the program were selected based on their interest to choose tailoring as a means of livelihood and there by achieving self-sustainability.

Beautician Training (4th Batch)



KSSS offers skill training to individuals from self-help groups (SHGs) who are interested in pursuing self-employment opportunities. In response to market demand, beautician training was provided as part of an Income Generation Program. The fourth training batch was inaugurated by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS). The participation of trainees showed an increasing trend.

One Month Advanced Training in Sewing (8th Batch)

Kottayam Social Service Society and NABARD collaborated to conduct a one-month advanced tailoring



course aimed at empowering economically disadvantaged women through self-employment and income-generating activities. A total of 30 women were selected to participate in the program. The training sessions capacitated the trainees in machine repairing, stitching of cloth bags, churidars, frocks, pajamas, blouses, kurtas, pants, shirts, skirts etc. The event was inaugurated by Shri. Reji Varghese (Development Manager, Kottayam). Certificates were distributed and financial aid for setting up sewing machines also provided. At the end of the course, certificates were distributed to the participants and financial assistance were provided to help them set up their own sewing machine units.

Beautician Training Program for SHGs (5th Batch)

KSSS conducted a self-employment training program aimed at empowering members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The participants underwent training in threading, bleaching, facial treatment, makeup application, costume designing, pedicure, and oil massage. Mrs. Leena Binu and Mrs. Binu Joy (Coordinators) lead the programme.

Culinary Mastery in Snack Creation for SHG Members (3rd Batch)

Embark on a delectable journey with our culinary training program, designed exclusively for KSSS - SHG



members. The program aims to empower SHG members with the art and science of creating delightful snacks. Vice-President, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat, Smt. Alice Joseph has inaugurated the program. Participants will delve into the secrets of flavour combinations, learn innovative techniques, and master the craft of snack creation. Through hands-on sessions, our experienced instructors will guide SHG members in unlocking their culinary potential, fostering a deep appreciation for the culinary arts. This unique training not only enhances practical skills but also promotes creativity and entrepreneurship within the SHG community.

Cooking Class (4th Batch)

In an effort to enhance income-generating opportunities for Self-Help Group (SHG) members, cooking classes are being offered. This initiative has opened up avenues for numerous individuals in the community to generate income. Throughout the classes, a resource person instructs participants on preparing various types of snacks.

Cooking Class for SHG members (2nd Batch)

In order to promote and endorse cooking as a sustainable Income Generation Program, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) received instruction on preparing Chilli Bajji, Potato Bajji, Egg Bajji, Onion Bajji, Bonda, and Tomato Sauce. The cooking class was conducted by Mrs. Leena.

'Feathers of Hope: Empowering Families with Disabilities through Hi-tech Poultry Distribution'



In a heart-warming collaboration, KSSS and Pizza Hut have joined forces to make a remarkable initiative aimed at empowering families with disabled members. As part of this initiative, KSSS distributed units of its high-quality poultry products to these deserving families, providing them with a sustainable source of nutrition and income. Smt. Alice Joseph, Vice-President of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat has inaugurated the program.

Pizza Hut, renowned for its commitment to community well-being, will contribute by incorporating KSSS's poultry into special menu offerings. This collaborative effort not only supports local farmers but also fosters inclusivity by enhancing the lives of families facing unique challenges. It exemplifies the power of partnership and underscores the importance of businesses coming together to make a positive impact on the communities they serve.

‘Project Thayyal Mithra (9th Batch)

In a transformative initiative aimed at fostering self-reliance and economic empowerment, KSSS has joined forces with ‘Stitching Anandabhavan, Netherlands’ to distribute sewing machines to Self-Help Groups. Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP has inaugurated the function. The collaborative effort seeks to break the chains of financial dependence and empower women by providing them with the means to generate income through the art of sewing. These sewing machines serve as tools of independence, enabling members of SHGs to embark on entrepreneurial journeys, create



sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to the economic growth of their communities.

Transformative Beautician Training for SHG Members by KSSS (6th Batch)

Embarking on a journey of empowerment and skill development, KSSS proudly conducted a specialized beautician training course tailored for selected SHG members. The training program was inaugurated by Smt. Bincy Sebastian, Chairperson-Kottayam Municipality. The initiative aims to provide a transformative learning experience, equipping participants with the knowledge and expertise needed to excel in the beauty industry. Through a carefully curated curriculum, participants will engage in hands-on training sessions, honing their skills in skincare, makeup application, hair styling, and salon management etc.



Tailoring Training & Certificate Distribution (10th Batch)

Kottayam Social Service Society and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) organized a free 60 days tailoring training programme for empowering women entrepreneurs within the community space. Under this programme, 30 selected members from KSSS operational areas derived training in machine repairing, stitching of churidar, frock, pajamas, blouse, kurthi, pants, shirt, midi and tops, cloth bags making and embroideryworks. Smt. Lovely George (Municipal Chairperson, Ettumanoor) distributed certificates to those who successfully completed the training.

Beautician Training Program (7th Batch)

KSSS arranged a beautician training program with the aim of fostering self-employment and income-generating opportunities for economically disadvantaged women. The program was officially inaugurated by Dr. Rosamma Sony (District Panchayat Member, Kottayam). The training curriculum included topics such as threading, bleaching, facial techniques, makeup application, dress costuming, pedicure, and oil massaging. Mrs. Leena Binu and Mrs. Mini Joy spearheaded the tailoring class as part of the initiative.



Family Development Program

A Family Development Project is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing the overall well-being and cohesion of families within a community. These projects typically involve a range of activities and interventions designed to address various aspects of family life, including education, healthcare, economic stability, and interpersonal relationships. The primary goal is to

create an environment that supports the holistic development of each family member, fostering a sense of unity, resilience, and self-sufficiency.

Family development projects may encompass initiatives such as parenting workshops, educational programs for children and adults, access to healthcare services, financial literacy training, and community-building activities. By focusing on the

strengthening of family units, these projects contribute not only to the immediate welfare of individual families but also to the overall social fabric of the community, promoting long-term sustainability and positive outcomes for all members involved.

Awareness Programme



KSSS in collaboration with SAFP organized awareness class for newly active partner families. A meet of the new members of the Family Development Programme (FDP); a programme being implemented by KSSS aiming at the overall development of poor families was conducted. The programme was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Diocese. Over the duration of this six year program, the selected families will receive assistance and guidance to start sustainable income generating activities, constructing safe housing and sanitization facilities, accessing safe drinking water, education of children and other basic human requirements.

Family Day Celebration and Stakeholder's Gathering of Family Empowerment Project

On the occasion of International Family Day, Kottayam Social Service Society has organized a family day celebration and stakeholder's gathering of family empowerment project. Gheevarghese Mar Aprem,



Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Kottayam, has inaugurated the function at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. As part of the celebration, KSSS conducted awareness classes, project reviews and planned for coming projects. KSSS is implementing the family empowerment project in collaboration with 'Save a Family Plan' project. It gives importance to various areas such as sustainable income generation programme, infrastructure development, education, health, food security, entrepreneurship, employment and moral development. The classes were conducted by KSSS coordinator Smt. Bessy Jose.

Family Empowerment Plan – Partner Families’ Meet



KSSS, through the FDP Program of Save A Family Plan has successfully improved the lives of many individuals by prioritizing the improvement of families’ economic and social self-sufficiency. As a component of the Family Empowerment Plan by Save a Family Plan, KSSS arranged a gathering for partner families and developed a comprehensive action plan. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Arya Rajan (President, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat) at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The selected families receive monthly financial assistance for a period of 6 years.

‘Save a Family Plan: Uniting Beneficiaries for Action Planning and Progress’



The beneficiaries of a transformative family empowerment project – Save a Family Plan- recently

gathered to collectively shape their futures and reinforce the bonds of community. Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP has inaugurated the meeting. The air buzzed with optimism and shared determination as individuals, each touched by the empowering initiatives, exchanged stories of progress and resilience. The scheme is implemented in such a way that the families selected for the scheme get monthly financial assistance for six years, and achieve progress in various areas such as education, health, income, job skill development, infrastructure development etc. The dynamic meeting not only fostered a sense of solidarity but also ignited a collective commitment to realizing their aspirations.

‘Empowering Families: A Journey of Awareness and Annual Action Planning with Save a Family Plan’



Embarking on the mission of social change, KSSS in collaborated with Save a Family Plan project introduces an invigorating initiative. This transformative awareness session is designed to enlighten families about the pivotal role they play in shaping their destinies and communities. Auxiliary Bishop of Archeparchy of Kottayam, Gheevarghese Mar Aprem has inaugurated the function. Through interactive discussions and insightful presentations, participants will gain a profound understanding of key issues impacting their lives.

The session doesn’t stop at awareness; it seamlessly transitions into the crafting of an Annual Action Plan, fostering a proactive approach to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities. By empowering families to take charge of their future, this initiative aims to create a ripple effect of positive change, uplifting communities and building a brighter tomorrow for all.

Self-Reliance Awareness Program

An awareness program was organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom for partner families under Save a Family Plan project of KSSS with an aim to build self-sufficient communities by empowering families through timely support and financial assistance. Each partnering family is aided for a period of 6 years. The program was inaugurated by Shri. Saji Thadathil (Grama Panchayat President, Athirampuzha). The event included the formulation of an action plan, and the awareness session centered on the theme of ‘Self-Reliance’ with a focus on the economic empowerment of the beneficiary families.



“Some people want it to happen. Some wish it would happen. Others make it happen.”

Mrs. Thankamani T is residing at Veliyanadu village with her husband and her two sons. Her husband, Mr. John N. a daily wage labourer due to his poor heart condition he is unable to go for work regularly. He requires monthly treatment and medicines for his better health. Thankamani has two sons, Mr. Sidharth and Mr. Anirudh. The younger son, Mr. Anirudh is a differently abled child and he is dependent on his mother for all his needs. Consequently, Mrs. Thankamani cannot pursue employment as she stays back in home taking care of her differently abled child.

Therefore, she was struggling to meet the medical expense of her husband and the educational expenses of her elder son. In this situation KSSS animator visited her and enrolled Mrs. Thankamani in the ‘Save A Family Plan’ programme since 2017 and KSSS supported the family through Livelihood Development Programmes.

The initial monthly assistance from KSSS enabled Mrs. Thankamani to start a cloth business. She purchased fabrics in bulk at wholesale prices and utilized her sewing machine to stitching nighties, kurtas, churidars, etc. which she then sold in nearby areas. With the second monthly assistance, she invested to purchase two goats, complementing her cloth business by also engaging in goat rearing.

However, fate dealt a harsh blow to her life when her husband met with an accident, resulting in the complete loss of vision in his right eye. Consequently, he could no longer work. This circumstance left Mrs. Thankamani with the



sole responsibility of managing the medical expenses for her husband and differently-abled child as well as covering the educational costs for her elder son.

Despite her elder son’s academic proficiency, she struggled to provide him with adequate educational facilities. During this challenging period, her cloth business served as her primary source of income, but it proved insufficient to meet the overall expenses. Once again fate took a challenging turn for Mrs. Thankamani as the situation worsened with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. It caused her cloth business to shut down gradually. The decline in orders and stitching works made her life increasingly difficult. However, Mrs. Thankamani refused to succumb to failure and remained confident in moving forward.

Eventually, her life took a positive turn with the acquisition of two goats funded by KSSS. She cared for these goats with love, treating them like family members. After a month, one of the goats gave birth to two lambs and the mother goat’s milk production increased from ½ litre to 1 litre per day. Recognizing the nutritional value of goat milk which is beneficial

for respiratory diseases and cancer patients, Mrs. Thankamani found a high demand for it in the market and began selling the milk to nearby households, thereby earning income.

Undeterred by challenges, she embraced the Income Generation Program wholeheartedly, working diligently to ensure the happiness of her family members. In addition to goat rearing, Mrs. Thankamani initiated a kitchen garden in the available space of the backyard of her house and cultivated vegetables. She utilized goat dung as manure for the crops. The harvest, including peas, bitter melon, snake melon, etc. was sold at a nearby shop, providing an additional source of income.

Through her determination and hard work, she was successful in taking care for her family and restoring smiles to their faces. One of the goats reached maturity and she successfully sold it in the nearby market, resulting in her current possession of three goats. With the monthly assistance from KSSS, Mrs. Thankamani has devised a plan to acquire two more goats. Her knowledge and expertise in goat rearing have significantly increased, enabling her to generate a substantial income from this venture.

Mrs. Thankamani is characterized by her strong work ethic and unwavering confidence in facing life’s challenges. Possessing the resilience to overcome crises, she expresses deep gratitude to KSSS for the positive transformation in her life. KSSS has not only brought about significant changes but has also restored joy and smiles to the faces of her family members.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

KSSS started its civil society organizations in 1964. It was in 1994 that the first SHG was formed under KSSS. Since then the Self Help Groups have come a long way. Today the strength of the SHG members stands

at 2964. It is ever growing. The civil society organizations have acted as a catalyst for social change and development among the SHG members. KSSS through its SHGs organize training and awareness programs by means

of which the members become aware of their strengths and weaknesses and thereby emerge as enlightened and empowered individuals.

Details of CSOs of KSSS

Sl. No.	Group	No. of SHGs	Total Members
1.	Women SHG	1956	49264
2.	Farmers Club	14	386
3.	Male SHG	34	2186
4.	Senior Citizen	44	1988
5.	Smart	32	1710
6.	Navomi (Widows)	52	1820
7.	CBR for Differently-Abled	74	2526
8.	Youth	23	564
	TOTAL	2229	59880

GRAMA VIKASANA SAMATHI

It is the top most governing body at the village level. The President of the SHG groups represents them in the Grama Vikasana Samathi's (GVS) monthly meeting. GVS of each village include GVS president (Parish Vicar), animator of that particular village, SHG President and local KSSS. The group leaders review loan applications received from various SHG groups for various purposes and checks and verify the track record of the individual applicant as well as the SHG with which she/he is affiliated. The application is scrutinized for completeness and authenticity and if founds satisfactory, is recommended to the federation for loan disbursal. The completed application is received at the central level office at KSSS, duly backed up by signatures of the SHG members with which the applicant member is affiliated and the GVS President.

SAVINGS AND CREDIT FOR SHGs

KSSS has been working towards the facilitation of microfinance to the underprivileged SHGs. Under this scheme after the monthly collection of savings, the group members can opt for small credit which can be used for personal as well as for income generation purpose in times of need. The members' according to their urgency and alternatively taking turns borrow small loans from their self-help groups and this frees them from their dependency on traditional money lenders for petty credit needs. This amount has to be paid back within three months. The decision as to who should be given the loan is decided by the group members themselves looking at the track record of the deserving members.

Loan Mela for Budding Entrepreneurs



The loan distribution for Entrepreneurs being conducted by KSSS in collaboration with Kerala State Backward Development Corporation was carried out in March, 2023. As part of the project 'Chaithanya Samrambhaka Nidhi', loan were provided at low rates of interest for carefully scrutinized self-help group members living below double the poverty line to start self-employment programs. An amount of Rs. 12, 50,000 was made available under the scheme being implemented as per the rules and regulations of Kerala State Backward Development Corporation. The main aim is to promote a culture of entrepreneurship which can generate income and self-employment or wage employment leading to sustainable livelihood for target group population in the country.

Workshop on Disaster Management

Kottayam Social Service Society hosted a pivotal disaster management workshop with collaborated with the Department of Social Work, BCM College Kottayam, which reinforcing commitment to community resilience and preparedness. Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA has inaugurated the function. Ex Hazard Analyst of



Disaster Management Authority, Smt. Athulya Thomas and Humanitarian Consultant, Mr Siby Paulose took the sessions. The disaster management workshop stands as a cornerstone in our ongoing efforts to build a resilient and prepared community.

Training Program for SHG Volunteers



Kottayam Social Service Society with the aim to grow the leadership qualities organized a leadership training program for self-help group volunteers. Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam has inaugurated the training program organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. As part of the program, Shri P. U. Thomas interacted with the volunteers. Volunteers of self-help groups from the districts of Kottayam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam were participated in the training program organized with the objective of giving new direction to SHGs & their activities and devising the action plans by incorporating the changes of time.

SMART SNEHOLSAV 2022

Smart Sneholsav 2022 was organized for the children of Smart Group working under the leadership of Kottayam Social Service Society with the aim of comprehensive development of children studying in classes 5, 6 and 7. Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President of Kottayam District Panchayat has inaugurated the program. Awareness classes for children grounded in morals and values provide a foundation for ethical decision making. These classes instilled leadership skills, individual development, promoting the importance of empathy, cooperation, and integrity. Along with this, KSSS conducted various cultural and sports activities for the children of smart group from Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts.



'Nurturing Leadership in Self-Help Groups'



The comprehensive leadership program aimed at equipping members of self-help groups with essential skills for effective leadership. Shri. V N Vasavan, Minister of Cooperation & Registration, has inaugurated the programme. The meeting was coordinated by the self-help group members from Kidangoor Region. Election of office bearers of the self-help group and representatives of region - federations were conducted after the meeting. The meeting was conducted with an aim of giving new direction to the activities of SHGs and planning innovative action plans. KSSS coordinators – Bessy Jose and Mercy Stephen presided over the program.

'Swasrayam 2022 – Unleashing Growth through Self-Help Groups'



Self-Help Groups play a pivotal role in fostering overall development of the community by providing individuals with a platform for mutual support, encouragement, and shared learning. So KSSS organized a training program for its SHG members. The program was inaugurated by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA. In connection with the training program was organized under the leadership of KSSS Kaipuzha Region, the election of office bearers of the SHG – Region federation was also held. KSSS coordinators, Smt. Bessy Jose and Smt. Mercy Stephen led the event.

'Protecting Innocence: Empowering Communities through Awareness'

KSSS has organized an awareness session based on POCSO Act. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the 'Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act' 2012, recognizing its pivotal role in safeguarding children from sexual exploitation. Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President



– Kottayam District Panchayat, has inaugurated the meeting. Sr. Adv. Jyothi P Thomas, Member – Child Welfare Committee (CWC), has lead the session. The primary objective was to educate community members about the provisions of POCSO Act, fostering a better understanding of child protection laws and encouraging a proactive approach to prevent and report instances of child sexual abuse.

'UNARVU: SHG Volunteers Meet and Action Plan Formulation'

Gathering of volunteers from SHGs marked a significant moment in fostering self-reliance and community development. KSSS conducted a meeting for the volunteers from KSSS-SHGs and focusing for the formulation and enhancement of a comprehensive action plan. Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President – Kottayam District Panchayat, has inaugurated the function which led by Edackat Region of KSSS. The primary goal of the meeting was to bring together volunteers from various SHGs to exchange ideas, share experiences and collaboratively design an effective action plan for sustainable development.

'Patharunna Pilathose' - Unveiling a Literary Revelation



Kottayam Social Service Society witness a book revealing ceremony, which was written by Rev. Fr Abraham Mutholath, Vicar of Sacred Heart Knanaya Church, Chicago. The book titled "Patharunna Pilathose" was released by Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President – Kottayam District Panchayat. It opens the door to timeless teachings, inspiration, guidance, and fostering a deeper understanding of faith and enriching our spiritual path.

'Silver Unity: Senior Citizen Group Meet'

KSSS conducted a meeting and awareness classes for 'Senior Citizen Group', it was a heart-warming and enriching experience, bringing together a community of seniors committed to mutual support, empowerment, and shared growth. Chairperson – Ettumanoor Municipality, Smt. Lovely George inaugurated the meeting. Participants, each with a wealth of life experiences, engaged in lively discussions, exchanging stories, and offering insights on various aspects of senior living. Expert speakers were invited to share valuable information on these subjects, providing practical tips and resources for the seniors to enhance their quality of life. The meeting also showcased the strength of community-driven initiatives, with members actively participating in group activities, collaborative projects, and sharing success stories of how the SHG has positively impacted their lives.

'Empowering Voices: SHG Leaders Confluence'



The meeting of SHG members from Uzhavoor Region was conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. It serves as a pivotal gathering, fostering collaboration and empowerment within the Self-Help Group network. The meeting provides a platform for leaders to share insights, strategies, and successes, ultimately contributing to the collective growth and impact of the community. Rev Fr. Abraham Mutholath inaugurated the meeting and interacted with them.

One Day Leadership Training Program

A one-day Leadership Skills training program for Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the Chungam Region was conducted at St. Mary's Forane Church, Chungam. The objective was to provide a fresh perspective to their activities and empower them to develop an innovative action plan. The participants actively engaged in formulating an action plan during the program. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Rev Fr. Jose Arichira, who serves as the Vicar of St. Mary's Forane Church, Chungam and the President of the Village Development Committee. During the event, members for the SHG Regional Federation Committee were elected and special recognition was given to students who achieved A+ Grade in the SSLC exam.



Leadership training for SHGs



Kottayam Social Service Society in association with Malankara Region organized leadership training for SHG members at St. John's Syrian Knanaya Church, Chingavanam. The program was inaugurated by Mrs. Lissy Manimala (Municipal Counselor, Kottayam). The presidential address was delivered by Fr. Bobby Cheriyl (Village Development Committee President, KSSS). During the program, the election of office bearers for the Federation also took place. The objective of the program was to provide SHGs with a fresh direction for their activities and empower them to develop innovative action plans.

Gathering of Elderly People



‘The more we can get together and talk about various perspectives, feelings, beliefs, and the better.’

Kottayam Social Service Society facilitated the gathering of SHGs of elderly by conducting a get together and an awareness program. The program was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph MLA. Dr. Rosamma Sony took the seminar. In the end, people walked away with new friends, and the boost they needed to continue building lives that would be very different from what they had planned.

Payasam Kit Distribution Program



In line with the Onam celebrations, KSSS took the initiative to distribute Payasam kits at a highly affordable price. These kits were provided to members of Self-help Groups in various districts including Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam. The program was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary of KSSS in the presence of Rev Fr. Cyriac Ottapallil, Assistant Secretary of KSSS, and dedicated village-level volunteers.

Central Level Federation Meeting

Elections are held every two years at KSSS to decide the Central Federation Bearers. Central Level bearers are selected to the post of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer. Central level federation members were also elected for the period 2022-2023. The program was inaugurated by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP and the presidential address was delivered by Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President – Kottayam District Panchayat. During the elections, Mrs. Lissy Lukose was elected as the Women Central Federation President, Mr. Thomas Ouseph Selected as the Farmers Group Federation President, Mrs. Aniamma Mani Olassa as the Navomi SHG President and Mrs. Aleyamma George Muttam as the Senior Citizen SHG President. SHG members from different regions of KSSS participated.



KSSS Loan Mela



Entrepreneurship always plays a catalytic and important role in the economic development. Small businesses provide opportunities for entrepreneurs, jobs for neighbours and gathering places for communities. They're rooted in the landscape where they grow, and they give back vitality and sustenance. In this context, KSSS organized loan mela under the project Chaithanya Samrambhaka Nidhi. Smt. Arya Rajan (Block Panchayat President, Ettumanoor has inaugurated the program organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Rev Fr. Sunil (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Mrs. Mary Philip and Mrs. Biji Jose (Coordinators) addressed the gathering. An amount of Rs. 25, 00,000/- was distributed among 100 families selected for the project.

'Empowering Caregivers: POCSO Act Awareness Session for Nursing Students'

Empowering caregivers is a crucial aspect of fostering a safe and supportive environment for vulnerable populations. In an effort to equip nursing students with



essential knowledge and skills, an awareness session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was organized. It was inaugurated by Smt. Nirmala Jimmy (Kottayam District Panchayat President). The session aimed to educate future caregivers about the legal framework in place to safeguard children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Nursing students, as frontline healthcare providers, play a pivotal role in identifying and addressing the needs of young patients who may be victims of abuse. The initiative of KSSS not only reinforces the commitment to ethical caregiving but also contributes to the creation of a safer and more protective healthcare environment for children.

'Building Dreams, Inspiring Change: Celebration on Foundation Day of KSSS'

On the auspicious occasion of our KSSS Foundation



Day, members and volunteers of our dedicated NGO and the vibrant Self-Help Group (SHG) come together in a spirit of unity and shared purpose. Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA has inaugurated the function. As we reflect on the journey that brought us here, there's a palpable sense of achievement and gratitude for the positive impact we've collectively made in the community. The meeting serves as a unique platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and aspirations, fostering a sense of camaraderie that strengthens our collaborative efforts.

CHAITHANYA SAMRAMBHAKA NIDHI

Chaithanya Samrambhaka Nidhi, another micro-credit program of KSSS is implemented with the financial scheme under Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC). The loan amount is distributed to the SHG members at minimal interest and it helps them to undertake a self – employment venture and in turn makes them economically independent. KSSS was able to distribute Rs.25, 00,000/- this financial year.



November 3 - Federation Meeting for SHG Leaders



KSSS organized Federation Meeting for SHG leaders at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) inaugurated the program.

The meeting primarily centered around developing an action plan to ensure the long-term viability of the Self Help Groups, as well as planning for the 23rd Chaithanya Agricultural Fest and the Annual Get-together of SHGs organized by KSSS.

A Social Awareness Session for Nursing Students on Differently-Abled Perspectives



In the illuminating session of KSSS has tailored specifically for nursing students from Sacred Heart College of Nursing, Kottayam, and the focus is on fostering a heightened awareness of the experiences and needs of differently-abled individuals within the healthcare system. Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson, Smt. Lovely George has inaugurated the program. This session aims to empower future nurses with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide compassionate and inclusive care to patients with diverse abilities. Through engaging discussions and real-life scenarios, students will gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and explore practical approaches to create an environment that promotes equality and accessibility in healthcare settings.

'Empowering Women Together: A Collaborative Journey in Awareness for Self-Help Groups with the Women & Child Development Department'



In a remarkable initiative aimed at fostering empowerment and community development, the Department Women & Child Development has joined forces with KSSS - Self-Help Groups to conduct an insightful awareness class. This collaborative venture seeks to impart knowledge and awareness, equipping women with valuable tools for personal and collective growth. The program emphasizes the vital role of SHGs in fostering economic independence and community well-being. Through interactive sessions, participants will delve into topics ranging from financial literacy to health and education, fostering a holistic understanding of empowerment.

'Harmony in Action: KSSS Volunteers Unite Meetup'

Dedicated individuals from all walks of life are converging to share their passion for making a difference. The meetup goes beyond mere volunteering; it's a



celebration of unity and collective impact. The program was inaugurated by Rev Fr Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary. The join hands under the banner of the KSSS's mission, we become a symphony of goodwill, creating harmonies that resonate far beyond the boundaries of our immediate surroundings. Each volunteer brings a unique note to this collective composition, and together, we strive to create a melody that resonates with the very essence of positive change.

'Empowering Change - Annual General Body Meeting of KSSS'



The Annual General Body Meeting of KSSS resonated with a spirit of unity and purpose as members gathered to reflect on the organization's impactful journey and chart the course for the future. Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, has presided over the meeting. Against the backdrop of shared commitment to positive change, attendees engaged in dynamic discussions that ranged from reviewing successful initiatives to exploring innovative strategies for greater community impact. The meeting underscored the strength derived from collective efforts and reaffirmed the KSSS's dedication to its mission. Participants left inspired and energized, carrying the torch of hope and collaboration as they work together towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

Chaithanya Samrambhaka Nidhi Disburse



Chaithanya Samrambhaka Nidhi is a micro credit program initiated aiming economic independence. A loan amount is distributed to the SHG members in minimal interest and it supports them to undertake micro enterprises to generate income for the family to attain financial independence. An amount of Rs. 12 lakhs was distributed for the 50 selected SHG members for undertaking entrepreneurship activities. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George (Municipal Chairperson, Ettumanoor). The supports given for SHGs in regard with income generation programs are cow rearing, goat rearing, poultry farming, tailoring, food unit, group farming and petty shop.

Cancer Awareness Campaign



In observance of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, KSSS partnered with Caritas Hospital to organize an awareness

program for KSSS Village level Women Volunteers. Smt. Alice Joseph (Grama Panchayat President In-charge, Athirampuzha) inaugurated the program. Dr. Sharon Raj, Senior Specialist, Community Medicine Department, Caritas Hospital led the session. The program aimed to raise awareness about cervical cancer and HPV vaccination and informational leaflets were distributed to the participants. This initiative is part of the ongoing Ashakiranam project, which focuses on the prevention and care of cancer and is supported by Caritas India, the national organization of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) for social services.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION OF DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

Inauguration of KSSS CBR Silver Jubilee Celebration

The 25th anniversary celebration marking a quarter-century of dedicated service to persons with disabilities have commenced. The inaugural events focus on implementing welfare programs for underprivileged families associated with differently-abled.

KSSS initiated the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program for physically and mentally challenged individuals in 1997, setting a model for the state of Kerala. This initiative aims to reintegrate individuals into their own families and communities, fostering collaboration among family members, the community, and utilizing available resources.

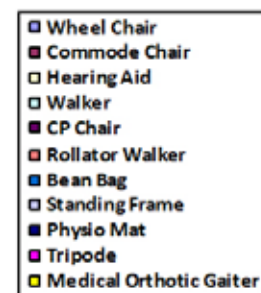
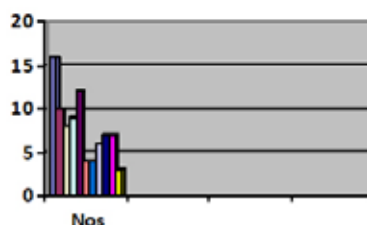
In 2011, the extended wing KSSS started functioning as the State Learning Centre for Deafblindness in Kerala for Rehabilitation Programs for the Persons with Deafblindness. A fully equipped State Resource Center for Deafblindness with specialized adaptations is functioning under KSSS for their Training and Rehabilitation programs for the persons with deafblindness and parents. KSSS also runs four Day - Care Centers called Agape Bhavan and a Vocational Training Centre for differently abled children and adults in the CBR groups of KSSS.

The program underscores the importance of focusing on individuals' abilities rather than disabilities, providing training that enables them to live independently and work according to their capabilities. The ultimate goal is to empower disabled individuals to become valuable contributors to both their families and society at large.



Distribution of Assistive Devices

1	Wheel Chair	16
2	Commode Chair	10
3	Hearing Aid	8
4	Walker	9
5	CP Chair	12
6	Rollator Walker	4
7	Bean Bag	4
8	Standing Frame	6
9	Physio Mat	7
10	Tripode	7
11	Medical Orthotic Gaiter	11



Benefits Received from Government

1	Registered in Special Employment	6
2	IGA Support to Family	32
3	Medical Support	25
4	Aashraya Padhadhi	18
5	House Maintenance	14
6	Rail/Bus Concession	39
7	Voters ID	234
8	MGNREGA	123
9	Ashwasakiranam	628
10	Cochlear Implantation	8
11	Guardianship	129
12	COVID 19 Vaccination	766
13	NIRAMAYA	466
14	Panchayat Health Card	1120
15	Pradhan Manthri Jeevan Jyothi Bhima Yojana (PMJJBY)	84
16	Disability Certificate	1667
17	Disability Pension	1661
18	Scholarship	544

Training for the Practitioners involved in Disability Welfare



As part of the CBR project, Kottayam Social Service Society organized a one-day training program at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The training targeted practitioners involved in disability welfare with the goal of fostering the integral development of individuals with disabilities. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, the Executive Secretary of KSSS has inaugurated the program. Sr. Simi DCPB and Mrs. Preethi Prathapan led the training, aiming to enhance participants' knowledge about disabilities and familiarize them with effective training methods, ultimately enabling them to offer improved services to individuals with disabilities. The training program was attended by KSSS - CBR staff.

Right Based Approach

1	Inclusive Education	1120
2	Physiotherapy Services	84

'Bodhanam 2022: Awareness Program for Social Work Students'



Kottayam Social Service Society in collaboration with B.C.M College organized an awareness program, Bodhanam 2022 for social work students at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was inaugurated by Mrs. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson. The presidential address was delivered by Smt. Alice Joseph, Vice President of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat. Other notable speakers included Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary of K.S.S.S), Fr. Mathews Valiyaputhenpurayil (KSSS Assistant Secretary) and Sr. Sheena M. U. (Faculty in Social Work Department of B.C.M. College, Kottayam).

The objective of the awareness program was to provide insight into the importance of social work and to raise awareness about the community-based rehabilitation program of KSSS. The sessions were conducted by Mrs. Babitha T. Jessil, the program officer and Sr. Simi DCPB, special educator.

Launch of Physiotherapy Service

"It's not about what you can't do. It's about what you can do with what you have."

Physiotherapy is not just about healing the body; it's about empowering the patient to take control of their own health. KSSS aims to enhance health services for children with disability through this initiative. With this goal in mind, KSSS provides both home-based and center-based services. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary has inaugurated the regional center-based physiotherapy training program. The program was attended by Mrs. Shaila Thomas, KSSS Program Officer, Ms. Jingle Joy, Physiotherapist and KSSS - CBR staff.

Distribution of Essential Medicines to the Differently Abled



As part of the 'Karunyadoothu' initiative, the Kottayam Social Service Society distributed essential medications to promote the comprehensive development of individuals with disabilities. The neurological medicines are given every month to the children after consultation by Neurologist. The aim of the programme is treatment as well as regular follow up of the treatment. It helps to ensure continuous intake of medicines and resulting reduction in incidence of seizures or severity of seizures.

The program was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, the Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese. Mrs. Lovely George, Chairperson of Ettumanoor Municipal, delivered the presidential address and additional speeches were given by Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, the Executive Secretary of KSSS as well as volunteers Mrs. Bessy Jose, Mrs. Mary Philip, and Mrs. Chinnamma Rajan. Approximately 100 individuals with disabilities from Kottayam and Ernakulam Districts received the essential medications.

Neurological Medical Camp

The CBR Neurology camp provides an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to receive check-ups, medications, and various therapy services as part of the CBR Project by KSSS. This camp is conducted free of charge every quarter at the Chaithanya Pastoral Center, Thellakom. The medical camp was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) and attended by individuals with disabilities. Consultations are provided by Dr. Gracykutty.



'Silver Jubilee Celebration of CBR Project Of KSSS - Paving Paths for a Unified Tomorrow'



Community-Based Rehabilitation project of KSSS is mainly for the welfare of people with disabilities. KSSS celebrated CBR Silver Jubilee at Good Samaritan Resource Centre, Cherpunkal and it was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph MLA. With a focus on building bridges to a unified future, KSSS project strives to empower and uplift the lives of those with unique abilities, fostering a society where everyone can thrive together. KSSS also gave medicines & equipment for differently abled and sewing machines for their family members in collaboration with the parish of Sacred Heart Knanaya Church, Chicago.

Assistive Devices for Differently-abled



KSSS provided assistive devices to children with disabilities. The program, held at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom was inaugurated by Mar. Mathew Moolakkattu, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam. During the program, CP chairs, Pediatric CP chairs, and Commode chairs were distributed to differently abled people.

Exposure and Study Visit of Nursing Students

A study visit was organized at Kottayam Social Service Society by the Velankanni Matha College of Nursing, Kottayam for BSc Nursing students. This visit provided valuable learning opportunities for the students to understand the social welfare initiatives implemented by KSSS to empower and enhance the quality of life for the underprivileged in society. The students were introduced to various activities facilitated by KSSS that focus on capacity building, skill development, and sustainable development. They were also educated about the rehabilitation activities carried out by KSSS for individuals with deaf



blindness as part of their Community Based Rehabilitation program for differently-abled individuals. This experience provided the students with new insights into the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. The session during the visit was taken by Sr. Simi DCPB, special educator.

KSSS' Karunyadoothu Scheme: Distribution of Medicines for Persons with Disabilities

As part of the Community Based Rehabilitation Program, the Kottayam Social Service Society organized an event to distribute essential medicines to persons with disabilities. The event which was held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem (Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese). KSSS distributed the medicines to around 50 persons with disabilities from the districts of Kottayam and Ernakulam in collaboration with Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Parish Church, Chicago

World Disability Day Celebration by KSSS in Collaboration with Sense International India



In a heart-warming celebration of inclusivity and empowerment, KSSS joined forces with Sense International India to mark World

Silver Jubilee Welfare Activities for Community Based Rehabilitation Project Launched



The inaugural ceremony of the Community Based Rehabilitation Project's Silver Jubilee Welfare Activities took place at KSSS as a part of the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest. The main objective of these activities is to promote the holistic development of individuals with disabilities. The inauguration of the welfare activities was carried out by Shri. V. Shivankutty (Minister for General Education and Labor).

Disability Day. The event was inaugurated by Smt. Bincy Sebastian, Kottayam Municipal Chairperson, echoed the collaborative efforts aimed at fostering a society where every individual, regardless of ability, is embraced and empowered. Attendees from Agape Special Schools and their families witnessed a myriad of inspiring activities, ranging from awareness

campaigns to interactive workshops, all designed to promote understanding and break down barriers. The celebration was a testament to the unwavering commitment of the KSSS and Sense International India to create a world where the diverse abilities of every individual are recognized, celebrated, and integrated into the fabric of society.

'Agape Joy: A Heart-warming Christmas Celebration at Agape Special Schools'



Christmas carols, Agape Special Schools, fuelled by the spirit of love and inclusivity, recently hosted a heart-warming Christmas celebration. The schools, operated by KSSS, radiated with festive cheer as students with diverse abilities came together to revel in the magic of the season. The air was filled with laughter and the warmth of shared moments as teachers, staff, and volunteers joined hands to create a truly inclusive and memorable holiday experience.

From festive decorations to inclusive activities tailored to every child's unique abilities, Agape Special Schools proved that the magic of Christmas knows no bounds. It was a celebration of love, acceptance, and the true spirit of giving, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of everyone involved.

Medical Camp For Differently Abled



The human spirit is one of the ability, perseverance and courage that no disability can steal away. Kottayam Social Service Society organized a neurological medical camp as part of the welfare programs organized for the upliftment of the differently abled. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) inaugurated the program, held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Dr. Gracykutty (Neurologist) led the camp. The occasion was also used to distribute essential medicines. The service of counselors was made available in the program. This initiative is a part of the Community Based Rehabilitation Project's Silver Jubilee celebration welfare activities.

Empowering Independence: Self Job Training for Individuals with Disabilities

In this unique and transformative self-job training program of KSSS in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, individuals with disabilities are equipped with the skills and knowledge to independently prepare wholesome juices and salads. Focused on fostering self-sufficiency, the program combines practical training in juicing and salad making with tailored strategies to accommodate various abilities. The program's empowering approach aims to enhance the confidence and autonomy of individuals with disabilities, promoting a healthy lifestyle and fostering a sense of accomplishment in their daily lives.

25th Anniversary of CBR Project with Special Reception and Deafblind Gathering



KSSS celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Community Based Rehabilitation Project and organized a reception in honor of Mar. Joy Alappat (Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago, USA). The event became even more special with a gathering of Deafblind individuals and their families. The program was inaugurated by Mar. Mathew Moolakkattu (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam) and took place at the Mutholath Auditorium, Cherpunkal. During the event, essential medicines were distributed as part of the 'Karunyadoothu' project and tailoring machines were provided to the family of persons with disability.

Additionally, an award was presented to Ms. Archa Ashok, a member of the KSSS - CBR group who won first prize in the fold dance competition, held by the State Buds School Kalolsavam. As part of the family get-together, Mrs. Reena James (Resource Person) led an awareness seminar, and cultural programs featuring Deafblind children were also showcased. Around 300 people attended the program.

KSSS' Karunyadoothu Scheme: Distribution of Medicines for Persons with Disabilities

As part of the Community Based Rehabilitation Program, the Kottayam Social Service Society organized an event to distribute essential medicines to persons with disabilities. The event which was held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom was inaugurated by Geevarghese Mar Aprem (Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese).



In his speech, he emphasized society's responsibility to ensure vital services for individuals with

disabilities and underscored the importance of fostering an inclusive society.

The efforts of the Kottayam Social Service Society in this regard were commended. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Mr. Sijo (Program Officer, KSSS) and Mrs. Bessy Jose (Coordinator) addressed the gathering. KSSS distributed the medicines to around 50 persons with disabilities from the districts of Kottayam and Ernakulam in collaboration with Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Church, Chicago.

Hygiene and Sanitary Kit Distribution

Teaming up with the Lions Club Changanashery, KSSS collaborated to provide hygiene and sanitary kits at Chaithanya to families with members who have disabilities. This initiative is a part of KSSS' welfare activities for differently-abled individuals with the goal of fostering their comprehensive development. The program was inaugurated by Sri. Johny Thottungal, Grama Panchayat President of Kallara.



Distribution of Tailoring Machines

Smt. Rosamma Sony (District Panchayat Member, Kottayam) inaugurated the distribution of tailoring machines to families with members who have disabilities.

This event is a component of the self-employment promotion initiatives undertaken by KSSS in collaboration with Pizza Hut at Chaithanya, Thellakom. The distributed sewing machines provided by Usha Company were given to families of persons with disabilities on this occasion.



KSSS' Karunyadoothu Scheme: Distribution of Essential Medicines to Person with Disability

The Kottayam Social Service Society organized an event to distribute essential medicines to persons with disabilities, which

was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George (Municipal Chairperson, Ettumanoor). In her inaugural address he called upon our duty to build a strong inclusive culture to help those who belong to vulnerable sections of the society and narrow the

existing disparity through generous social welfare schemes. KSSS collaborated with Chicago Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Church to distribute essential medicines to around 50 persons with disability in the districts of Kottayam and Ernakulam.



Transportation Facility for Differently Abled Children

As a part of the Jubilee celebration of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Project, KSSS arranged transportation services for children with disabilities to support their comprehensive development. This transport assistance was extended to children at the Agape Centre (special school) and Good Samaritan Resource Centre (training center) in Cherpunkal, managed by KSSS. The Echo vehicle, essential for the commute of differently abled children from their homes to the special school, was generously sponsored by Cochin Shipyard Limited as part of their CSR initiatives. The vehicle received a blessing from Mar. Mathew Moolakkattu, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam.



Neurology Medical Camp for CBR

KSSS organizes quarterly neurological camps for differently abled at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre. On an average, 50 differently-abled people attend the camp. The diagnosis is done by Dr. Gracykutty Mathew (Neurologist). Services provided in the camp include free medicine distribution and counseling.

KSSS' DEAFBLIND PROJECT

'INSIGHT: Awareness Program for Social Nursing Students'



Kottayam Social Service Society, in partnership with Little Lourdes College of Nursing, Kidangoor, organized an awareness program titled 'Insight' for nursing students at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The inaugural ceremony was led by Sri. V. N Vasavan, Minister for Cooperation and Registration. The program focused on highlighting the diverse areas and social welfare initiatives undertaken by K.S.S.S to uplift economically disadvantaged vulnerable families in society, including rehabilitative services for deafblind individuals and their associated challenges. The informative sessions were conducted by Mrs. Shaila Thomas, the program officer, and Sr. Simi DCPB, the Special Educator.

Rehabilitation Project for Deafblind and Awareness Program for Health Workers

Kottayam Social Service Society organized an awareness program for the medical and paramedical health workers under the National Health Mission (NHM) Kottayam, as part of the welfare activities implemented in collaboration with Sense International India which aimed at the overall upliftment of the deafblind. Good Samaritan Resource Centre Cherpunkal, a state level learning centre aimed at holistic development of deafblind persons, is working under the leadership of KSSS.

Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Kottayam, Geevarghese Mar Aprem has inaugurated the function. Special educator, Sr. Simi DCPB and Program Officer Smt. Shyla Thomas took the session that based on the difficulties faced by person with deafblind, the need for early detection of the disabilities and various welfare activities for them in connection with the awareness program.

Field Visit and Evaluation of Deafblind Project

KSSS in collaboration with Sense International India conducted an evaluation of the deafblind program along with a field visit. The evaluation session was attended by Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, Mrs. Shaila Thomas, the program coordinator and other project staff. Sri. Sreenivasan Prasannan, the training officer of Sense International India, presided over the session. Following the evaluation, discussions were held regarding the activities to be undertaken. It was followed by the house visit.

May 8 - National Workshop on Deafblind Rehabilitation Project



Rehabilitation for deafblind individuals is crucial as it enhances their independence, communication skills, and overall quality of life. Kottayam Social Service Society organized a national workshop and project review as a part of its welfare activities in collaboration with Sense International India aimed at holistic upliftment of the deafblind. Tailored interventions can help them overcome challenges, fostering a sense of inclusion and empowerment in a world largely oriented towards sight and sound. Along with the mainstreaming of deafblind people, COVID survival activities were also discussed as part of the workshop. KSSS volunteers and special educators participated in the workshop organized by Sense International India for project stakeholders.

'KARUNYADOOTHU' for Differently Aabled – A Project of KSSS

Ensuring equitable medicine distribution to



differently aabled individuals is crucial for promoting inclusive healthcare. So, Kottayam Social Service

Society (KSSS) implemented a project called 'Karunyadoothu', which gives essential medicines for the differently aabled with the aim of comprehensive upliftment. Smt. Nirmala Jimmy, President-Kottayam District Panchayat, has inaugurated the distribution of medicines in a function organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. Essential medicines were distributed to around 100 differently aabled persons in Kottayam and Ernakulam districts.

'Inclusive Beginnings: Navigating a New School Year for All Abilities'



Kottayam Social Service Society has organized a school reopening ceremony for children with differently aabled. They gathered in Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. Volunteers of KSSS welcomed them with balloons, gifts and placards. Smt. Arya Rajendran, President – Ettumanoor Block Panchayat, has inaugurated the ceremony. Differently aabled children and their parents from Agape Special Schools in Kaipuzha & Kumarakom, Agape Bhavan and Good Samaritan Resource Centre Cherpunkal, has participated in the school reopening ceremony. KSSS-led special schools are working with the aim of providing vocational training and entrepreneurship opportunities to differently aabled children and their families.

'MINNAMINNI' Camp 2022

A two-day camp "MINNAMINNI" was organized as part of the

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project being implemented under the leadership of

the Kottayam Social Service Society with the aim of comprehensive development of the differently aabled. Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA has inaugurated the camp. The camp plays a crucial role in fostering inclusivity, providing a supportive environment for personal growth, building self-esteem, and encouraging social interactions through awareness sessions, cultural programs, competitions and picnics.



'Empowering Diverse Abilities: A Journey of Upliftment'



Embracing the unique strengths of differently-aabled individuals, we strive for inclusivity and empowerment. KSSS has organized an awareness program for the parents of differently-aabled children as part of the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project. Adv. Mons Joseph MLA has inaugurated the awareness program organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. In connection with the awareness program, Sri. P U Thomas, Navajeevan Trust has interacted with the parents. KSSS is in collaboration with SENSE International India with the aim of protecting the rights of differently-aabled children and providing opportunities for mainstreaming.

Helen Keller Day Celebration



Helen Keller, the remarkable woman whose indomitable spirit overcame the obstacles of blindness and deafness. The function was conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom and it was led by KSSS and Sense International India for the welfare of deafblind. Geevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese has inaugurated the function. In this day, KSSS honoured deafblind students who have achieved excellent results in the SSLC and +2 examinations. Cultural activities, games and seminars were conducted. Good Samaritan Resource Centre, Cherpunkal is a state-level study centre for deafblind which is working under the guidance of KSSS.

'Fostering Social Awareness and Advocacy for the Differently Abled and Deafblind'



In today's diverse and inclusive society, cultivating empathy and social awareness among students is paramount. The session was conducted by KSSS collaborated with Lourdes College of Nursing, Kidangoor serves as a pivotal platform for fostering a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the differently-abled and deafblind individuals. Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA has inaugurated the program. By providing insights into their daily lives, challenges, and triumphs, the class encourages students to broaden their perspectives and embrace the principles of inclusivity.

August 10 - Awareness Study Camp for Anganwadi Teachers and Health Workers

The Kottayam Social Service Society organized an awareness study camp for

Anganwadi teachers and health workers as part of their welfare initiatives. The main objective of the camp was to promote the overall development and integration of deafblind individuals

into society. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Arya Raj, the Block Panchayat President of Ettumanoor, and the presidential address was given by Smt. Alice Joseph, the Vice President of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat. Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, the Executive Secretary of KSSS and Mrs. Shaila Thomas, the Program Officer also delivered speeches. The sessions on the challenges faced by deafblind people, protection of their rights and welfare activities were led by Sr. Simi DCPB and Mrs. Preethi Prathapan, who are special educators.



'A Tribute to Exceptional Educators on Teachers' Day'



KSSS has organized an event dedicated to honouring the remarkable contributions of our special school teachers and trainers. The celebration was inaugurated by Executive Secretary of KSSS, Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor. KSSS has come together to express gratitude for the unwavering dedication, passion, and hard work that these educators invest in shaping the minds of future generations. Through their tireless efforts, they become guiding stars, illuminating the path of knowledge for their students. This event serves as a platform to acknowledge their invaluable role in nurturing intellect, instilling values, and fostering a love for learning.

'Empowering Health: Inclusive Medicine Distribution Initiatives by KSSS'

In a commendable effort to bridge the healthcare accessibility gap, KSSS has taken a significant stride with this initiative.



Recognizing the unique challenges faced by differently-abled individuals in accessing essential medications, KSSS has embarked on a mission to ensure equitable healthcare for all. Smt. Arya Rajan, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat President has inaugurated the function. By implementing innovative distribution strategies and fostering collaborations with medical providers, KSSS aims to break down barriers and provide seamless access to medicines for individuals with diverse abilities. This initiative not only underscores the organization's commitment to inclusivity but also serves as a beacon of hope for those who often find themselves marginalized in the realm of healthcare.

'A Transformative 3-Day Mental Health Study Camp for Families and Volunteers of Deafblind Individuals'

KSSS in collaboration with Sense International India conducted a ground-breaking 3-day mental health study camp designed specifically for the families and volunteers of deafblind individuals. This transformative experience aims to create a supportive and enriching environment where participants can deepen their understanding of the unique challenges faced by the deafblind community. Smt. Priya Gupta, International - India Psychologist, who lead the sessions.

Through a series of workshops, interactive sessions, and expert-led discussions, attendees will gain valuable insights into effective communication strategies, emotional well-being, and resilience-building for both themselves and their loved ones. It is not just a camp; it's a journey of empowerment, fostering connections, and cultivating a community of understanding and support for those living with deaf blindness.

State Level Advocacy Meet on Deafblind

Deaf blindness is a significant disability that poses immense challenges for individuals affected by it. Unfortunately, there is limited



access to the necessary support and insufficient existing support for deafblind people. To address the rehabilitation needs of individuals with deafblindness and ensure appropriate assistance, K.S.S.S organized a State Level Advocacy Meeting on Deafblind. This meeting conducted both online and offline was held in collaboration with Sense International India and Azim Premji Foundation. The objective was to align with the initiatives of relevant state government departments and civil society organizations to promote the inclusion of individuals with deafblindness. The event at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George (Municipal Chairperson, Ettumanoor). Representatives from Sense International India, Malankara Social Service Society, and Bathery Shreyas were present at the meeting.

'Karunyadoothu: Bridging Healthcare Gaps for Differently Aabled Individuals through KSSS' Medicine Distribution Program'

Karunyadoothu - through this initiative, KSSS strive to ensure that vital medicines reach those who require them, irrespective of physical or cognitive differences. Sri Saji Thadathil, President of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat has inaugurated the function. Recognizing the challenges faced by the differently-abled in accessing healthcare, our program focuses on the equitable distribution of medicines tailored to their specific needs.



By collaborating with healthcare professionals, organizations, and communities, we aim to create a seamless network that facilitates the efficient and compassionate delivery of pharmaceuticals. Our mission is not just about providing medications; it's about empowering lives and promoting a society where every individual, regardless of ability, has equal access to the essential healthcare resources they deserve.

A Collaborative Health Awareness Session and Hygiene Kit Distribution for the Differently Aabled

An impactful initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of the differently-abled community by KSSS and partnering organizations like Catholic



Health Association of India and Misereor Germany. The programme was inaugurated by Geevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Archeparchy of Kottayam. The comprehensive health awareness session seeks to raise awareness about the unique health challenges faced by individuals with different abilities.

Through informative sessions and expert talks, we aim to empower participants with knowledge to foster a healthier lifestyle. Additionally, we distributed hygiene kits carefully designed to cater to the specific needs of the differently-abled. The event serves as a beacon of inclusivity, promoting a society where everyone, regardless of ability, can access essential health resources.

'Samagra Shiksha Kerala: Awareness Session for Special Educators'

KSSS aims to equip special educators with the latest insights, tools, and strategies necessary for fostering an inclusive learning environment. Through engaging discussions, case studies, and practical demonstrations,



participants will delve into the diverse needs of students with special requirements, gaining valuable insights into adapting teaching methodologies to address individual learning styles. The session was inaugurated by Sri. Saji Thadathil, President-Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat. The session emphasized collaborative approaches, fostering a sense of community among educators, parents, and stakeholders. By the end of the enlightening program, special educators got empowered with the knowledge and skills to create inclusive classrooms that celebrate diversity and provide equal opportunities for all learners in the unique context of Kerala.

Assistive Device Distribution for Differently-Abled

As part of the silver jubilee of our impactful CBR project, KSSS takes immense pride in reflecting



on the remarkable strides made in enhancing the lives of differently-abled individuals through our assistive device distribution project. The program was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George, Chairperson-Ettumanoor Municipality.

Over the past twenty-five years, our commitment to inclusivity and empowerment has driven us to provide tailored solutions that break down barriers and foster independence. From state of the art mobility aids to innovative communication devices, our project has been a beacon of hope for countless individuals facing physical challenges.

Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), 21st March, is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.



The date for WDS being the 21st March was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2022 is '#InclusionMeans'.

Smt. K. V. Bindhu (President, Kottayam District Panchayat) has inaugurated the event organized by the Kottayam Social Service Society to observe World Down Syndrome Day at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The aim of the programme was to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome. The day was celebrated with lot of fun activities and cultural programs by children with Down syndrome.

PTA Meeting

Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Meetings are organized once in a quarter at Agape Center under Deafblind Project in the presence of Program Coordinator. A quarterly assessment report of the activities and trainings imparted to the children including the status of each child and the areas to be focused or improved is presented.

CASE STUDY

**“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” - Helen Keller**

When you always experience sad situations you give up hope in life. Anaswara Anil Kumar is an 11 year old child and the youngest child in the family. Similar is the situation with Anaswara's mother. She hails from Kanichukulangara village in Alappuzha, Kerala and she lives with her parents and her brother. Her father has a flower shop and mother is a house wife. Meanwhile her brother is pursuing his graduation. The family faces economic hardships and stays in a shed.

In 2019, the KSSS Special Educator, in collaboration with the SSA teacher, identified a child who was bedridden and exhibited delayed development milestones. The child, named Anaswara, demonstrated challenges such as lack of communication, poor motor coordination, impaired vision, and hearing issues. Further medical examination revealed that she was born with congenital rubella syndrome, leading to both hearing and vision problems along with Cerebral Palsy.

Upon assessment by the KSSS team, Anaswara's family was briefed about her specific needs and the necessary interventions for her development. The family received guidance on the importance of specialized training, and psychological support was provided through counseling sessions.

Collaboratively, the KSSS team and Anaswara's parents formulated an Individualized Education Plan. Training sessions were conducted in various areas including Activities of Daily Living (ADL), Motor Skills, Mobility and Orientation, Communication, Education, and Sensory Training. Home-based training was administered by the staff, introducing the family to sensory training, which proved to be a confidence booster for them and opened new avenues for Anaswara.

Under the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK) scheme, Anaswara was successfully enrolled in a regular school. Additionally, she benefited from the Social Security Scheme, obtaining a Disability Certificate, Niramaya Health Insurance, Disability Pension, Scholarship, and Ashwasakaran support. Educational materials and assistive devices were also provided under the SSK scheme.

Consistent interventions and training led to remarkable improvements in Anaswara's life.

Continuous physiotherapy enhanced her motor development, enabling her to stand with support, while her communication skills progressed to understanding and responding to simple commands.

The positive transformations in Anaswara's life brought a renewed sense of hope to her family. Anaswara's mother, who initially faced challenges and societal pressure, expressed her new found confidence and optimism. Grateful for the support from KSSS, Sense International India, and Azim Premji Foundation, the family now envisions Anaswara's journey towards independence.

Anaswara's mother has taken on the responsibility of efficiently conducting Anaswara's training at home. The collective efforts of the KSSS team and the significant progress made by Anaswara have exceeded the family's expectations. Today, she can stand with support, and her mother is confident that Anaswara will continue progressing towards independence. The family expresses gratitude to Sense International India and Azim Premji Foundation for their generous support, turning their dreams of integration and independence into a reality.



SPECIAL EVENTS

World Health Day Observation

'Our Planet, Our Health'

"Happiness is the highest form of health." - Dalai Lama

KSSS in collaboration with the Kottayam District Health Department and Arogya Keralam observed World Health Day on April 7, 2022, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan MLA has inaugurated the program and Adv. Mons Joseph MLA, delivered the presidential address. As part of the World Health Day, a book release function for "Climate Change and Health Problems" published by the Health Department took place. The handbook was released by Adv. Job Michael MLA and the keynote speech was delivered by Dr. N. Priya (Kottayam District Medical Officer).

Other notable speakers included Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary of KSSS, Smt. Arya Rajan, President of Ettumanoor Block Panchayat, Mrs. Bincy Sebastian, Kottayam Municipal Chairperson, Mrs. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson, Mrs. Alice Joseph, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat Vice President, Mr. Ajay Mohan, Arogya Keralam Kottayam District Program Manager and Mr.



Domi John, Kottayam District Mass Media Officer. During the program, Dr. Ajay Mohan, Arogya Keralam Kottayam District Program Manager, conducted a session on Environment and Airborne Diseases and Dr. A. R. Bhagyashree, Nava Kerala Project District Coordinator led a session on "One World, One Health." Additionally, Prof. Vinesh V. Nair, Professor of the Civil Engineering Department at Rajeev Gandhi Institute of Technology conducted a seminar. The program was attended by health workers in Kottayam district and staff of KSSS., emphasizing the theme "Our Planet, Our Health; Clean our air, water, and food."

Earth Day 2022

"We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children."

This year marks the 52nd Earth Day and Kottayam Social Service Society celebrated the Earth Day with enthusiasm. This year's theme, "Invest in Our Planet," was commemorated with an inaugural ceremony featuring Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP. The event included a presidential address by Mrs. Nirmala Jimmy, Kottayam District Panchayat President. Speeches were delivered by Fr. Mathews Valiyaputhenpurayil, KSSS Assistant Secretary, Smt. Sherly Zacharias, Assistant Director of Kottayam District Soil Testing Laboratory; Shri. T. C. Roy, Councilor of Kottayam Municipality and Mr. Sijo Joseph,



the Program Officer. As part of the 52nd Earth Day Celebration, a seminar conducted by Smt. Sherly Zacharias addressed earth conservation and an action plan for conservation was developed. Members of Self Help Groups actively participated in the program.

Mother's Day Celebration

On the occasion of mother's day, Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized mother's day celebration. It raises awareness about women's



rights, challenges stereotypes, and fosters a more inclusive and equitable society. President of Kottayam District Panchayat, Smt. Nirmala Jimmy has inaugurated the mother's day celebration organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. A seminar and various competitions for mothers were organized in connection with the mother's day celebration. It was organized with the participation of representatives of mothers of KSSS self-help groups in Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Ernakulam Districts. Recognizing the significance of women's contributions is essential for progress and building a world where all individuals, regardless of gender can thrive.

'Resilience in Remembrance: Honouring Widow's Day & Observing Strength through SHGs'

The celebration of widow day stands as a poignant



reminder of the strength and resilience exhibited by widows in our society. KSSS sheds light on the empowering initiatives taken through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) - 'Navomi' - to support and uplift widows. Auxiliary Bishop - Archdiocese of Kottayam, Gheevarghese Mar Aprem has inaugurated the widow's day observation and gathering of Navomi group members from Ernakulam, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Alappuzha districts. The meeting was conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Distribution of vegetable seeds and a seminar was also conducted as part of the function, which was led by Dr. Prof Rosamma Sony.

Independence Day Celebration



The Kottayam Social Service Society took great pride in commemorating the 75th Independence Day with profound respect and honor. This occasion held special significance as military ex-servicemen joined in

the celebration. Shri. V. N Vasavan, Minister for Co-operation and Registration inaugurated the event during which 96 veterans were acknowledged and felicitated for their dedicated service to the

nation. As part of the Independence Day festivities, Dr. Rosamma Sony, Member of the Kottayam District Panchayat led a seminar. Around 500 SHG members attended the program.

'Harvest Joy: Onam Celebrations in Full Bloom'



KSSS and Chaithanya Pastoral Centre conducted onam celebration, which was a vibrant and joyous occasion that brings together the spirit of unity and cultural diversity. As an organization committed to social welfare, KSSS believe in fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity among KSSS members and the community. The joyous laughter, vibrant colours, and shared meals during the Onam celebration exemplify the values of togetherness and compassion that are at the core of KSSS's mission. Through such cultural festivities, KSSS aim to create a sense of community, foster understanding, and celebrate the richness of our shared humanity.

Celebrating Migrant Workers' Day



Migrant Workers' Day serves as a poignant reminder of the invaluable contributions made by individuals who traverse boundaries in search of better opportunities and livelihoods. This annual celebration of KSSS in collaboration with Caritas India was inaugurated by Dr. Kurian Joseph, Medical Officer Kottayam PHC, honours the resilience, dedication, and cultural diversity that migrant workers bring to societies worldwide. On commemorate this day, KSSS reflect on the challenges faced by migrant workers and advocate for fair treatment, equal opportunities, and the protection of their rights. By fostering a global environment that recognizes and values the significant role played by these individuals, we can work towards building a more inclusive and compassionate world for everyone, regardless of their place of origin.

ELDERLY DAY CELEBRATION



It is up to our elders to predict the future, as they have lived the past and know what it takes to make the world stronger. As part of International Day for elderly people, Kottayam Social Service Society celebrated it in a traditional way with an aim to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that the older people make to our society.

The programme organized at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem (Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese). As part of the elderly day celebration, a seminar was conducted which was led by Dr. Rosamma Sony (Member of the Kottayam District Panchayat). KSSS support for the aged can make a difference as the elderly have helped us in the past. It is up to us to help them out just as well. Around 150 elders participated in the program.

'Harmony in Action: Social Justice Day Celebration by KSSS'

In commemoration of Social Justice Day, KSSS proudly celebrated the principles of equity, inclusivity, and advocacy for a fair and just society. The program was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Executive Director of

Kerala Social Service Forum.

The event serves as a platform to spotlight the collective efforts of

individuals and communities dedicated to addressing social injustices. The session was led by K U Marykutty, Ex-Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Kottayam. Through engaging activities, insightful discussions, and impactful initiatives, we aim to foster a sense of unity and empowerment.



A Christmas Celebration Uniting Hearts and Families with KSSS

In the spirit of love and togetherness, KSSS orchestrated a heart-warming Christmas celebration that transcended traditional boundaries, bringing together not only the dedicated team but also the cherished families that support KSSS. Auxiliary Bishop of Arch eparchy of Kottayam, Gheevarghese Mar Aprem was inaugurated the celebration at Chaitanya Pastoral Centre. The celebration was not just a festive gathering; it was a testament to the power of unity and compassion. Laughter echoed through the halls as families, side by side with our KSSS members, shared the joy of the season. From decorating the Christmas tree to crafting handmade ornaments, the atmosphere was filled with warmth and creativity. Together, we embraced the true meaning of Christmas – a time for generosity, gratitude, and the joy of being surrounded by loved ones.



World Women's Day Observation

The United Nation's theme for International Women's Day-2022 is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" in recognition and celebration of the women and girls who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation and response and to honor their leadership and contribution towards a sustainable future.

Women Empowerment being one of KSSS' major thrust areas, Women's Day programmes were organized in an extensive manner in the Regions of KSSS with huge participation. The function was jointly inaugurated by Ms. Liz Jaimon Jacob (Miss Kerala 2022), Ms. Annie Babu (Director of Santhwanam, Kottayam), Ms. Nisha Snehakoodu (Director of Snehakoodu Abhaya Mandiram, Kottayam) and Ms. Jilumol Mariot Thomas (a person with disability). The distinguished inaugurators who are achievers in different spheres of the society were honored with ponnada and memento by Mar Mathew Moolakkatt (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam). In addition women's scooter slow race and arm wrestling competitions were



International Water Day - 2022

Theme 2022- Groundwater: making the invisible visible



World Water Day is held annually on 22nd March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. To emphasize the significance of freshwater, KSSS commemorated Water Day on March 22nd, engaging stakeholders to raise awareness about the conservation and management of water resources. The event was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George (Municipal Chairperson, Ettumanoor) in the presence of Rev. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Shri. James Kurian (Block Panchayat Vice President, Ettumanoor), Shri. Jonnies P. Stephen (Grama Panchayath President, Uzhavoor), Shri. Thomas Kottoor (Block Panchayat Member, Ettumanoor) and Fr. Sijo Aalparayil (Asst. Secretary, KSSS). Dr. Rosamma Sony led a session during this event focusing on the theme 'Save water today, secure your tomorrow' in the midst of this urgent hour.

Chaithanya Agri Expo and SHG Fest 2022

KSSS JEEVAKARUNYA NIDHI COMMUNITY FUND

Each year KSSS conducts the 'Chaithanya Agriculture Fest'. As part of the program, KSSS through its animators mobilizes a fund through the sale of coupons. The fund thus collected is utilized to assist the poor and deserving patients suffering from chronic illnesses such as cancer, heart and brain diseases in the operational villages of KSSS.

Unveiling Of KSSS' Annual SHG - Fest & Chaithanya Karshikamela Logo

The logo for the 23rd KSSS Annual SHG - Fest & Chaithanya Karshikamela was unveiled by, Shri. K. Krishnankutty, Minister for Electricity - Govt. of Kerala. The SHG cum Agricultural Fest which is a blend of celebrating social relations and communal harmony embraces agriculture, environment protection, health, food safety, entertainment, animal husbandry, charitable works among several others, is being conducted from November 20th to 26th at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom.

Grand Pre Launch Events for Chaithanya Agricultural Fest 2023

The 'Vilambara Sandesha Yathra' event which served as a precursor to the Chaithanya Agricultural Fest was a delightful pre-launch event organized by the Kottayam Social Service Society. The flagging off ceremony was held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom and officially flag off was done by Adv. Mons Joseph, MLA. Notable individuals such as Smt. Nirmala Jimmy (District Panchayat President, Kottayam), Rev Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS), Smt. Bincy Sebastian (Municipal Chairperson, Kottayam) and volunteers from KSSS participated in the function. The Food Security Campaign vehicle travelled across villages in the operational areas of KSSS in five districts; Kottayam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Ernakulam, and Pathanamthitta.



23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Get-Together 2022: Tent Raising Ceremony

Under the auspices of KSSS, as part of the preparation for the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Get-together held from 21st to 27th in collaboration with State Agricultural Department, successfully completed the tent raising ceremony for the exhibition and sales booths presided over by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan MP.



A Pavilion for Crop Exhibition

The pavilion at the 23rd agricultural fest and grand fest of self-help groups showcased a diverse range of crops, capturing the attention of visitors and highlighting the immense farming potential in Kerala. The pavilion featured a vast collection of commonly grown crops in Kerala, and it was inaugurated by Adv. G.R. Anil (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies). Notable individuals such as Gheevarghese Mar Aprem (Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese), Mrs. Nirmala Jimmy (District Panchayat President, Kottayam), Dr. P. K. Jayasree IAS (District Collector & Patron, Chaithanya Karshikamela 2022), and Rev. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) participated in the event to witness the impressive display of crops. The pavilion was organized by different regions of the Kottayam Social Service Society.



23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Get-together

Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) has been conducting Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest since 1998 onwards. It is one of the best-conducted Annual Agricultural Fests in the central part of Kerala. The number of participants to the Chaithanya Karshikamela has been increasing year after year due to the wide publicity and quality of programmes conducted. The fest serves as a platform for the poor and marginal farmers to exhibit and sell their agricultural products in front of a wide public. Various agricultural competitions, Exhibition and sale of agricultural crops, seminars, quiz programmes, participation of Government and Non-Government organizations etc. are some of the specialties of the Chaithanya Karshikamela. During the last eight years, KSSS conducted the Agri-Fest in collaboration with the Government of Kerala and Agricultural Ministry.



KSSS Annual SHG Fest and Chaithanya Karshikamela is a peoples' movement as it is



organized, driven and celebrated by the people. Around 5 lakh people attend the fest which is a confluence of traditional and cultural events and competitions – a venue for information, entertainment and harmony. KSSS has successfully conducted Annual Agricultural Fest and get together of Self Help Groups over the last 22 years. KSSS was privileged to have Bharat Ratna, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to inaugurate the Karshikamela in 2012.



This year the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG get-together was conducted from 21st to 27th November, 2022 at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Diverse and novel programmes have been included in this 23rd Agricultural Fest. Educational seminars, quiz programmes, crop exhibitions, Government Department exhibition stalls, agricultural competitions, cultural programmes, over 200 Exhibition cum sales stalls, traditional food stalls, amusement park, exhibition and sale of exotic varieties of plants, animals, birds, fishes etc. Best crop exhibition competition, sale and display of seeds and saplings, inauguration of social development programs of KSSS and presence of prominent personalities in the socio - political - religious realms among others, shall enrich the seven days of the fest.



Rev. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS) hoisted the flag on 22 November which was observed as Sarga Sangamam Day. The second day of the fair was dedicated to promote the welfare of the differently – abled and help them lead a comfortable life. Cultural programs of CBR group members of KSSS for differently-abled were staged on this first day of fest. The inauguration of the fest was conducted by Shri. V. D. Satheesan (The Hon'ble Opposition Leader, Kerala). The day also included seminar on 'Food Security through Organic Farming' and cultural programs conducted by Uzhavoor Region.



The third day of the fest was observed as Food Security Day and was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Sabu Thomas (Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University) in the presence of Smt. Arya Rajan (President, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat), Smt. Bincy Sebastian (Municipal Chairperson, Kottayam), Rev. Fr. Jacob Mavunkal (Executive Director, Kerala Social Service Forum), Shri. Reji Varghese (District Development Manager, NABARD, Kottayam), Shri. Abhilash K. Divakaran (Kudambashree Mission Coordinator, Kottayam), Rev. Sr. Karuna SVM (Superior General, Visitation Congregation), Rev. Fr. Sibin Koottakallungal (Director, Malabar Social Service Society), Shri. T.C Roy (Councilor, Kottayam Municipality), Shri. Tomy Nannikunnel (President, St. Vincent De Paul, Kottayam), Shri. Johnys P. Stephen (Grama Panchayat President, Uzhavoor) and Rev. Fr. Chacko Vandankuzhiyil (Coordinator, Chaithanya Commission). The cultural program was conducted by Kaipuzha Region. Other than the agricultural and stage competitions, Mutholath Foundation Award for the Best SHG was presented. The day's program was closed with the Drama 'Mookkutthi' presented by



Kozhikode Rangabhasha.

The title for the fourth day of the fest was 'Paristhithi Sauhardha Dinam' (Environment Friendly Day) and official meeting was inaugurated by Shri K. Krishnankutty (Hon'ble Minister of Electricity, Kerala). The presidential address was delivered by Adv. Mons Joseph MLA. The third day was dignified by cultural events presented by Kidangoor Region and competitions like 'Ulli Polickal', Weight Balancing and Malayalee Manka. Rev. Fr. Kurian Thadathil (Chief Editor, Deepanalam) led a seminar on the topic 'Ripple Effects of Substance Abuse in the Society'. The third day gracefully ended with folk song visual display, Thurishumma Koontharo and mega talent show presented by Caritas College of Nursing and Pharmacy & Kidangoor Little Lourdes College of Nursing, Kottayam.

The fifth day observed as Swasrayasangama Day was inaugurated by Smt. J. Chinchurani (Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry). On the fifth day of the fest, various agricultural and stage competitions were held. The cultural programmes in the morning and afternoon were showcased by the SHG members of Edackat Region.

The sixth day of Karshikamela which was observed as SHG Skills Development Day (Naipunya Day) was inaugurated by Dr. N. Jayaraj (Govt. Chief Whip, Kerala). The competitions held for the day were kappa polikkal, Thakida Thakadhimi - fusion dance and the most attention grabbing event was Raja-Rani - couple dance competition. The stunning day ended up with mega comedy musical and dance night presented by television and cinema fame comedy super stars.

The seventh day of the fest was exclusively for KSSS Farmers' Meet. The last day of the fest was inaugurated by Shri. V. N. Vasavan (Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation, Registration, Culture, Cinema, Kerala). There was an array of cultural and agricultural programmes, competitions and cultural programmes. Finally, the winner of the Chaithanya Jeevakarunya Nidhi gift coupon was selected by lucky draw as announced.

The family day out at the amusement park was truly enjoyable. The roller-coaster rides provided an exhilarating experience and for those seeking family-friendly options, there were numerous rides and attractions to choose from. There was something for the little ones to delight in as well.

At the Karshikamela, every onlooker relished the food stalls nearby and the welcoming atmosphere. Numerous stalls focused on agricultural methods and techniques, aiming to raise awareness among farmers about both new and traditional approaches. The stall



showcasing organic products featured a variety of organic fruits, vegetables and crops cultivated by Self-Help Group (SHG) members, serving as a focal point of attraction at the fair.

Cultural events featuring each region of KSSS were arranged during the festival days. The fest also drew a significant crowd of local residents, school children, college students and professionals.

The involvement of both Governmental and Non-Governmental entities, along with exhibitions, sales, evening cultural programs, and amusement rides, transformed the karshikamela into a space that offered education, entertainment, and harmony for families and society as a whole.

The Best Ksheera Karshaka Award of Fr. Abraham Mutholath Foundation in the dairy farming sector was awarded to Mr. Leo James for his outstanding contributions in the field, at 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest organized by KSSS on 25th November 2022. The event was addressed by Smt. J. Chinchu Rani, Minister for Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development. The state's Best Ksheera Karshaka Award carried a cash of Rs 20,000.

Snake Master Vava Suresh Made a History in Agriculture Fest



Vava Suresh, an Indian wildlife conservationist and snake expert from Kerala, delivered an engaging and informative session on snakes in collaboration with the 23rd Chaithanya Agri Fest and the Annual Self-Help Group Get-Together organized by Kottayam Social Service Society. The awareness program transported the entire audience into the fascinating world of snakes, sharing numerous amazing

facts. His presentation emerged as the highlight of the Agri Fest and his captivating performance with venomous snakes left the spectators thrilled. On the seventh day of the Agri Fest thousands of people flocked to the venue to



witness this adventurous event.

Kottayam Family Receives Prestigious Kerala State Family Farming Award 2022

Mr. Pradeep Kumar and his family from Kottayam were honored with the Kerala State Family Farming Award 2022 by Mukalel Mathai - Leelamma for their exemplary agricultural practices. The award presented by Shri. V. Shivankutty (Minister for General Education and Labor) was a part of the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest organized by KSSS. The prestigious accolade for the Best Family Farming in the state included a cash prize of Rs 5,000.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) Award Function

The KSSS organized an awards event on November 23, 2022 to recognize and honor the exceptional performance of Self-Help Groups. The event coincided with the observance of Food Security Day during the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest. The prestigious Best Self Help Group of KSSS award was presented to Kripasouhridavedi Men SHG from Arunoottimangalam and Ezhumanikattu Men SHG

from Ettumanoor. The awards were conferred by Fr. Abraham Mutholath Foundation. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Sabu Thomas, Vice Chancellor, MG University.

Captivating Culture Night Showcases Spectacular Performances at 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest

As part of the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela and Annual SHG Fest, a captivating culture night was organized, offering a splendid display of various programs. These programs included cultural performances by KSSS - Self Help Groups, the drama 'Manju Peyunna Manasu' presented by Vaikom Malavika, "Mookkutthi" presented by Kozhikode Rangabhasha, a mega talent show presented by Caritas College of Nursing and Pharmacy & Kidangoor Little Lourdes College of Nursing in Kottayam, the dramatic magic show "Magic Palace" presented by Alappuzha Magic Vision and the "Comedy Musical and Dance Night" featuring renowned television and cinema fame comedy super stars. Additionally, there was a folk band music show presented by Karalapathy folk band from Cherthala. The Culture Night was inaugurated by Shri. Roshy Augustine (Minister for Water Resources).

'Gift Cascade: Celebrating Winners with a Symphony of Surprises'

In the spirit of joy and generosity, our 'Chaithanya Karshikamela' gift-coupon winners experienced a delightful cascade of surprises as we orchestrated the distribution of their well-deserved rewards. Picture a symphony of happiness, with each gift being a unique note contributing to the harmonious celebration of our fortunate recipients. From carefully curated selections to personalized tokens of appreciation, the distribution process was a crescendo of excitement, ensuring that each winner felt the warmth and thoughtfulness behind their special gifts.

'Gift Distribution Extravaganza at the 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela'

The 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela unfolded with an air of anticipation and festive fervour, culminating in a heart-warming through a grand gift distribution extravaganza. As attendees revelled in the agricultural marvels showcased at the event, the spirit of benevolence took centre stage. Organizers, sponsors, and volunteers joined hands to orchestrate a memorable distribution of gifts, symbolizing gratitude for nature's bounty and communal unity. The 23rd Chaithanya Karshikamela will forever be remembered not just as an agricultural showcase but as a testament to the generosity that flourishes when a community comes together in the spirit of harvest and happiness.



Kottayam Social Service Society

Balance Sheet as on 31.3.2023

Opening Balance as on 01.04.2022	Liabilites	Additions/ Deductions	Closing balance as on 31.03.2023
2,34,21,793.21	Capital Account		
	Add- Excess of income over expenditure	1381073.58	2,48,02,866.79
11,38,41,819.00	Corpus donation received		11,38,41,819.00
50,000.00	Staff welfare fund		50,000.00
1,67,42,180.00	Jeevakaruniya Nidhi Fund	590500	1,73,32,680.00
2,00,000.00	Karshaka Award fund	-25000	1,75,000.00
	Current Liabilites		
65,89,302.81	Project Money Pending Utilization (FC)	572223.1	71,61,525.91
35,87,768.00	Loans,Advances,Expenses payables	23331	36,11,099.00
	Loan from KSBCDC for Micro Credit to Backward		
1,08,64,027.00	and Minority	-4075765	67,88,262.00
17,52,96,890.02	Total		17,37,63,252.70
Opening Balance as on 01.04.2022	ASSETS	Additions/ Deductions	Closing balance as on 31.03.2023
10,82,39,775.00	Fixed Assets	174948	10,84,14,723.00
	Current Assets		
77,800.00	Deposits for services		77,800.00
80,13,276.00	Loans & Advances Given	848924	88,62,200.00
89,02,450.00	Micro Credit Loans to SHGS	-3668257	52,34,193.00
5,37,016.00	Income tax TDS refundable	160206	
	Less-Refund Received	-537016	1,60,206.00
4,67,960.00	Advance -Granny Granded Scheme		4,67,960.00
1,18,000.00	Income Tax Appeal deposit		1,18,000.00
22,51,667.00	Housing Scheme -Excess Expenditure		22,51,667.00
13,39,419.93	Advance to Agape Center Cherpunkal	13653	
	Less Excess Of Expenditure	-133825	12,19,247.93
1,27,59,526.36	Advance to SRC -Cherpunkal	-955000	
	Add:Excess of Income	446789.94	1,22,51,316.30
1,16,492.00	Advance -Suppliers , Individuals and Staff	136946	2,53,438.00
	Cash & Bank Balance		
2,69,49,207.00	Fixed Deposit		2,96,61,308.00
54,41,862.73	Bank A/c		47,41,489.47
82,438.00	Cash		49,704.00
17,52,96,890.02	Total		17,37,63,252.70

Kottayam Social Service Society

Income & Expenditure For the year ended 31.03.2023

Particulars	Income	Expense
Project Donations & Exp		
Awareness and Exhibition Programme	17,29,850.00	11,14,302.00
LSCIM Income Generation Programme	3,84,836.00	3,87,370.00
Donation for IGP Aid for CBR Families	2,50,000.00	2,50,000.00
Donation for Medical support for CBR Children	2,40,000.00	1,20,000.00
Tailoring machine for CBR families	1,87,500.00	73,650.00
Tailoring Training Programme-USHA International	1,43,200.00	1,04,550.00
Donation Received for Community Based Rehabilitation programme	1,42,813.00	84,834.00
KSWWB service project Grant	98,103.00	1,17,819.00
Donation for Assistive device for CBR Children	84,630.00	
India Donates Project for Children with Deaf /Blinds	83,520.00	62,939.00
Skill training Programme in advanced Sewing -NABARD	78,000.00	3,47,715.00
Energy Management Centre Grant	24,418.00	18,418.00
Deaf and Blind Training Programme	20,988.00	32,963.00
Housing aid project	5,54,298.00	8,88,395.00
Deaf blind project(Sense International)	23,78,664.00	23,78,444.10
Holistic development of DB Children(Kindermission)	29,54,863.64	35,75,057.00
Income Generation Programme-Workshop running	7,54,300.00	10,87,152.00
Donation for General Charitable Activities	10,86,694.71	
Yuvakeralam project Expenses		5,64,224.00
Other Social & Rural Development Programmes	52,53,513.00	15,84,197.00
Administrative Income & Expense	24,54,468.00	37,57,193.51
DDUGKY Project expense		7,15,105.00
Excess Income/Expenditure of Departments:-		
Samaritan Resorce Center -Cherpunkal	4,46,789.94	
Agape Bhaven -Cherpunkal		1,33,825.00
FC Project money to be utilized transfer from balance sheet		5,72,223.10
Excess of Income over Expenditure		13,81,073.58
Total	1,93,51,449.29	1,93,51,449.29



WORD OF GRATITUDE

Dear esteemed supporters and community members,

'Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow' said by Melody Beattie.

As we reflect upon the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication that has fueled our mission at Kottayam Social Service Society. As Assistant Secretary, I am honored to convey our heartfelt thanks for your collective efforts that have truly made a difference in the lives of those we serve. In the face of unprecedented challenges brought on by the global pandemic, the strength of our community emerged resilient.

Together we navigate through uncertain times, and the commitment to social service became a beacon of hope. Despite the adversities, KSSS continued its essential work, adapting to the evolving needs of our beneficiaries. Throughout the pandemic era, our dedicated team and volunteers stepped up to the plate, demonstrating unparalleled compassion and determination. Your support allowed us to extend a helping hand to those most vulnerable, ensuring that no one left behind.

The heartwarming stories of impact echo the spirit of our collective efforts. Families facing economic hardships received vital assistance, children accessed remote education resources, and isolated individuals found solace through our virtual community initiatives. These achievements are a testament to the power of community and the shared belief that we can create positive change, even in the most challenging circumstances.

The tireless commitment of our team and the generosity of our donors have been instrumental in sustaining KSSS vital programs. Your continued support will enable us to expand our reach, amplify our programs and innovate in response to emerging needs. Together we can build a future where compassion and community prevail, ensuring a brighter tomorrow for all. As we express our gratitude, let us also acknowledge the collective strength that lies in our shared commitment to creating positive change.

Once again thank you for being the driving force behind Kottayam Social Service Society's impactful journey, and we look forward to another year of making a meaningful difference together.

With heartfelt thanks

Rev Fr. Sijo Aalparayil

Assistant Secretary, KSSS

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KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Chaithanya, Thellakom P.O.

Kottayam - 686 630

Kerala, India.

Director Phone Number - 9495538063

Telephone: 0481 2790948, Office: 9400331281

kottayamssociety@gmail.com, ksss@ksss.in, info@ksss.in