

ANNUAL REPORT OF ADECOM NETWORK 2022 - 2023



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About ADECOM

ADECOM Network is a Non-Governmental Organization that works to empower women in India. Based in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, we have been successfully organizing and agitating for women's rights in our region for over 25 years. Our goal is to bring universally accepted human rights to women at the grassroots level. Its acronym is Animate, Development, Employment and Communication. ADECOM advocates that change must come from all sides when addressing VAW.

Vision - Emancipation of oppressed society from the exploitation, discrimination and violence that prevents their full participation in society.

Mission - Creating the conditions that will enable oppressed women to enjoy complete economic and social equality.

Objectives:

- **Animate:** create self-awareness and self-confidence among oppressed women
- **Develop:** the promotion of women's political, economic and civic rights.
- **Employ:** enable access to secure, well-paid jobs and create enter-pries opportunities
- **Communicate:** work in partnership with communities, civil society and government to keep women's rights at the top of the agenda



Overview of the year April 2022 - March 2023

This Annual Report accounts for achievements on the activities, challenges, lessons learnt and proposes mechanisms for improvement. The report focuses on the progress in April 2022 - March 2023 of implementation of the project plan. It includes the various projects activities for women and children's advancement, vision, mission, target, achievement of the preceding year. ADECOM Network has been addressing gender equality, domestic violence, and inclusive economic growth for women across the state. Through our regular employability- enhancement programs and workshops, we have enabled many women to secure jobs, to think more progressively and make informed decisions in life, so that they live with self-esteem.

→ In 2023 January Month Onwards ADECOM Network Established a new project in Villupuram district which covers 4 blocks of Villupuram. In the Title of Promoting Gender Equality And Women Rights In India In India This year we were able to reach **10422**

direct beneficiaries and **31266** indirect beneficiaries through three projects, three centers and through various programs, consultation meetings & relief activities. Blocks Covered Under The Projects Tindivanam, Ginjee, Kandamangalam, Villupuram.

- A Violence against women (both sexual and domestic violence) was identified and provided by the psycho legal counseling services.
- Gender equality training and legal awareness to youngster's and CBO members.
- Gender equality pongal festival.
- Access to local resources and fundraising
- Perspective building gender equality and masculinity training to group members.
- Gram Sabha meeting at villages
- Organized the stakeholder consultation meetings through that they were sensitized to support our project and build the good rapport with government officials
- Conducted the capacity building training workshop to CBO's to act VAW in their districts
- Advocacy was given at state and district level to implement the OSC, Home for victimized women, AWPS and etc.,.
- Regular field visit to the working village.
- CBO's have become the role models
- The 16 days campaign was organized at district level with the support of our partner's and government department.
- Employment opportunities was created at villages
- Organized residential workshops for PLV/CBO and Fellow's.
- Mid - evaluation was done for the maitri Project by our Project head Ms. Amogamathi.

Highlights of the year -2022 April - March 2023

The CBO members found a local contribution of Rs. **73,000.00**. With that, they have organized the Women's Day program.

Community group members contributed Rs. **22000.00** to organize the awareness meeting at village level.

Through the local contribution, notes, pens, water bottles, bags, and boxes worth **Rs. 6000** have been given to 40 Buddha night school children in Tulukkanantham village, and **Rs. 5250** have been given to 35 children in G.N. Palayam village. On April 14 Dr.

Ambedkar's birthday **Rs. 5000** was fed to 50 persons through local contribution. **Rs. 2000** worth of relief assistance was also provided to a victim woman of a widow.

170 Domestic violence cases and **112** Sexual violence cases have been identified and provided the social, legal and psychological counselling services.

300 Men, women and youngsters were given their request by identifying village needs during the Gram Sabha meetings. Accordingly, they have been received the road, light, house, toilet facilities, etc., at **31** Community awareness meetings were conducted at 7 districts in Tamilnadu and

Pondicherry. In that, **1808** people have got awareness on government schemes and projects. Of these, **955** women have participated. Out of these **296** women dared to defend themselves from any form of violence.

878 community based group members have got sensitised to identify the sexual violence against women, provide social counselling and to represent behalf the fellows in various places.

Formed the perspective building gender equality and masculinity group members in 7 districts with 40 members. In total, 280 members are involved in the group. Of these, 64 group members incorporated learnings from the sessions.

33 campaign activities in 8 districts in Tamilnadu and Puducherry through which we have created **5220** beneficiaries directly and **15660** beneficiaries indirectly.

The state level advocacy and lobbying on Prevention, Protection and Redressal on violence against women (A Consultant Meeting) in Pondicherry. There are 65 members who participated in this consultation. Such as, District collector and district judge-1, Secretary-1, IGP-1, Director of Women and child development department -1, Deputy director of WCDD -1, Sub inspector -1, Protection officer -4, former public prosecutor-1, DLCC member -1, law professor -1, Human resource development specialist -1, Chairman of CWC -1, CWC member-2, advocate 7, DWCD member -1, NGO representatives -15, media persons- 10, ADECOM staff members - 15. Women KABADI Team was formed with 25 girls in working village

PROJECTS

1. Enhance Gender equality for women development through CBO's Sustainability

The centrality of gender equality, women's empowerment and the realization of women's rights in achieving sustainable development has been increasingly recognized in our working villages through this project implementation. It has promoted gender equality, social activities of women, empowering women living with dignity, contributing as equal partners in developing an environment free from violence and discrimination.

Major achievements

1. Our CBO Ms. Bharani, Mr. Viknesh - Naththapattu Village, Ms. Alamelu, Mr. Kesavan -Thookkanampakkam

village, Ms. Manikandan, and Mr. Ilaiya Perumal - Pakkam village, Thiyakunagar - Selvi, Panankadu -

- Kavitha & Sithalakshmi, Ms. Nathiya - Thirubhuvanai have become qualified people to take training on gender equality. Since 2019, they have participated in 5 pieces of training on gender equality taken by Dr. Sivakumar, Dr. Aruna, Ms. Lalidamballe, Mr. Perumal, and Mr. Sathishkumar through the ADECOM Network. Also, they were provided with the training manual written by Dr. Sivakumar about Gender equality. They are practicing gender equality in their day-to-day life.
2. The 37 CBO members have legally trained in the DV act, POCSO act, and Child marriage act. During the reporting period, the CBOs have identified 30 cases of domestic violence victims in their area/village or by a known person. They can find out the various violence against the women such as Physical violence, Verbal violence (including hate speech), Psychological violence, Sexual violence, and Socio-economic violence. They are the first people to meet the victim and provide social counseling to them. After that, they are referring the cases to the field coordinator.
 3. 170 cases of domestic violence have been detected by Team members, CBOs, Anganwadi teachers, Police, protection officers, and Volunteers, and social counseling was provided. Out of which **20** cases have been resolved through counseling. **40** cases are being followed up. **15** cases have been given legal advice. **4** cases have been given psychological counseling.
 4. In all the villages where our fieldwork is carried out, their needs were identified and a demand petition was given during the **GRAMA SABHA** meeting through the leaders of the women's parliament movement and People's Republic Movement. Based on that, The following facilities have been provided to the people through the Panchayat.
 - ★ Thiyakunagar Village - Road facility
 - ★ Naththapattu Village - Temporary water facility
 - ★ Kondur village - cremation facility, Karumathi shed, cement road facility and House - 2
 - ★ Mandagapattu - Canal facility
 - ★ Kothambakkam village -Canal facility, pond cleaning was done, House - 6
 - ★ Pakkam Village - cement road facility
 - ★ Tulukkanantham village - cement road facility, House - 2
 - ★ Vadukkuppam - Water Tang facility, House - 4
 - ★ Palliputhupattu - Anganwadi, Karumathi shed
 - ★ Kuttiyankuppam - Playground
 - ★ Nanamedu & Subauppallavadi - Water facility
 5. Our CBOs Ms. Pushpa and Ms. Sulochana have been appointed as a member of the women and child protection committee at the

panchayat level in the village of Nanamedu.

6. The 40 members were provided training on how to raise the local contribution. Accordingly, the CBO members find out the local contributions of **22,000 rupees in the Cuddalore, Villupuram, and Pondicherry districts.** With that, they have organized various meetings with the CBO members.
7. Through the local contribution, notes, pens, water bottles, bags, and boxes worth **Rs. 6000** have been given to 40 Buddha night school children in Tulukkanantham village, and **Rs. 5250** have been given to 35 children in G.N. Palayam village.
8. On April 14 Dr. Ambedkar's birthday **Rs. 5000** was fed to 50 persons through local contribution.

9. **Rs. 2000** worth of relief assistance is also provided to a victim woman or a widow.
10. There are **25** youngsters who achieved the perspective of building masculinity on gender equality. They share domestic work with their families such as giving equal opportunity while decision-making at home, Giving space to share their opinion on children's education, Washing the wife/mother/daughter's clothes when they are not feeling good, Cooking the food at night time, and giving space to choose their partners, thinking for her sister and mother safety in their workplace.

[KARUNA Progress Report April to September - 2022 .docx](#)

2. Effectively combating Violence Against Women in India

கடலூரில் “சாதிக்க வா பெண்ணே” தலைப்பில் மகளிர் தின நிகழ்ச்சி

கடலூர் மன்றம், 15-ஆவது மாஸ்டம் உச்சிமேடு சமுதாய நல கூடத்தில் அதேகொம் பின்னகம், மைத்திரி தேசிய பெண்கள் கூட்டமைப்பு, அன்னை மீனாம்பாள் கிராம பெண்கள் முன்னேற்ற அறக்கட்டளை கடலூர் ஆகியவை ஒருங்கிணைந்து நடத்திய “சாதிக்க வா பெண்ணே” சர்வதேச உலக மகளிர் தின நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெற்றது.

கூட்டத்தில் உச்சிமேடுபஞ்சாயத்து தலைவர் திருமதி. காந்தாமணி கன்னன் தலைமை தாங்கினார். அன்னை மீனாம்பாள் கிராம பெண்கள் முன்னேற்ற அறக்கட்டளைகளுக்கிடையிலான மகேஷ்வரி அனைவரையும் வரவேற்றார். மைத்திரி தேசிய பெண்கள் கூட்டமைப்பின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் லலிதாம்பாள் மகளிர் தின விழா கொள்பாடுவதின் பின்னணியை பெண்களுக்கு விளக்கினார்.



இந்த விழாவில் கஜலட்சுமி மாஸ்டம் குழந்தைகள் பாதுகாப்பு அதிகாரி முன்னிலை வகித்தார். முன்னாள் அரக குற்றவியல் வழக்கறிஞர் செல்வப்பிரியா குழந்தைகள் நலக்குழு தலைவர் ஹென்றி லாரன்ஸ், அரக மருத்துவர் ஐதரன், முன்னாள் குழந்தைகள் நல குழு உறுப்பினர் தூர்கா, கனகதாரத்தறை மேற்பார்வை யாளர் கதிரவன், சைல்டு லைன் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் முகுந்தன், அதேகொம் பின்னகம் பொறுப்பாளர் உள்மன், அன்னை மீனாம்பாள் கிராம பெண்கள் முன்னேற்ற அறக்கட்டளை களப்பணியாளர் கமதி ஆகியோர் பெண்களுக்கு பெண்களின் வழித்தொடரை தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டனர். கூட்டத்தில் பெண்கள் அனைவரும் தலைமைத்துவ மோடு செயல்பட வேண்டும் என்று ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் லலிதாம்பாள் வலியுறுத்தினார்.

இக்கூட்டத்தில் நத்தம், பனங்காடு, உச்சிமேடு, ஞானமேடு, பெரியகங்கண குப்பம், சுப உப்பலவாடி, தாக்கனாம்பாக்கம், உள்ளேமீட்டு, பள்ளிமீட்டு, கங்கன்நாள், வள்ளல்மீட்டு, குட்டியாங்குட்டம், கோண்டி, கிராமத்திலிருந்து பெண்கள் புகுத்திவிட பாராளுமன்ற தலைவர், உறுப்பினர்கள், மக்கள் குடியரசு இயக்கத் தலைவர்கள், அவர்கள்வாடி ஆசிரியர், தன்னார்வலர்கள் என 150-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

நிகழ்ச்சியினை அன்னை மீனாம்பாள் கிராம பெண்கள் முன்னேற்ற அறக்கட்டளையின் வழி நடத்துபவர் கதா தொகுத்து வழங்கினார். பெண்களை ஊக்குவிக்கும் விதமாக பெண்களுக்கு கபடி, மியூசிக் தேர், உரி அடித்தல், கோலப்போட்டி என விளையாட்டுக்கள் நடத்தப்பட்டது.

நிகழ்ச்சியில் சிறந்த தலைவர்களுக்கான விருது வழங்கப்பட்டது.

முடிவில் அன்னை மீனாம்பாள் கிராம பெண்கள் முன்னேற்ற அறக்கட்டளை களப்பணியாளர் தபிச்செல்வி அனைவருக்கும் நன்றி தெரிவித்தார்.

The Maitri Network aims to enable women from marginalized groups in India to live free from violence, with equal rights and legal security. Maitri works in 8 districts in Tamil Nadu through ADECOM Network. Providing social and legal support for VAW, strengthening self-help structures, and engaging in advocacy work and in raising public awareness, thus helping to ensure that women from marginalized groups in India can live free of violence, having equal rights and enjoying legal security.

The target that this project achieved this year sounds quite stupendous. This could be made possible only because it got significant support from a wide range of CBOs, Stakeholders, and other volunteers.

Major achievement of this project

878 CBO's members are trained and strengthened to combat violence against women. The CBO's are going to the police station in their district and file a first information report to support the victim. All the **112** cases detected during the reporting period referred by the CBO's.

70 paralegals are trained and active in their district. The PLV member's are helping the fellows while visiting their taluks/area's to follow up the cases. The PLV's are providing the legal support to victim's family members by explaining the court procedures. They are helping to organize the awareness meeting at the village level. The PLV member's are supporting forming the masculinity group in their villages.

437 state actors reached in the month of April 2022 to March 2023.

- The stakeholders were immediately responding to fellows while enquiring the case details. They willingly attended our entire awareness program conducted by fellows and CBO's.
- Fellows have given the advocacy during the meeting. They were given assurance to take the immediate action.
- Fellows can able to collect the victim further court proceedings

The project fellow is soon to advocate the demands for immediate implementation,

- The laws for women and girls are strict. There is a problem with implementation of laws and policies. This kind of consultation should be conducted to get rid of it and advocacy should be given to the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- The first information report for domestic violence cases should be duly recorded and action taken. In which the authorities should not be negligent. This is because sexual violence against many women is caused by family members. So the authorities should take it seriously and take action.
- A monitoring committee headed by the district collector should be formed and all departmental officers should be appointed as members. Particularly, the Police department, DLSA, Social welfare, OSC, Child line, CWC, Women and child development department and local NGOs) they should hold a consultation once a month on how to expedite the cases of women victimized by them.
- Additional police officers should be appointed in all-women police stations. Because of their workload, they were unable to pursue the case.
- Help center for women (Maghila Desk) should be created in all

police stations and it should be advertised to the public.

- Police stations should identify voluntary organizations in their jurisdiction and come forward to conduct various awareness meetings.
- Tamilnadu Police Officers should promote awareness about the KAVALAN SOS app specially developed for women in all police stations and public places.
- 7 One Stop Service Centers are operational. During the reporting period fellows have visited 168 times in one stop service center in the 8 districts. They have been discussing the details of the case, current status of the case, counseling details, registration of first information report, follow-up of the case, relief assistance, awareness meeting, stakeholder consultation and invitation as a special invitee to the CBO's training workshop.

Outcome:

- Arrangements have been made to provide necessary assistance to the victim after considering the status of case situations.
- Additional Case Worker, Counselor, Multi purpose worker and security cum driver are to be appointed in all OSC in Tamil Nadu. Through this, quick action can be taken for the victim.
- It was found that the OSC staff needed additional training to handle the victim women.
- Project fellows met and gave the advocacy to the district sub collector in person and demanded the immediate establishment of a separate one stop service center

for the affected women to take immediate action for justice and prompt action in Karaikal district.

112 cases supported and women are provided psycho socio & legal counseling. Complaints from DA women and being processed in police stations in 7 districts. Of these 19 cases were below 16 years old. Hence, It was not shown the table but the case details were given in the spreadsheet. A First Information Report has been registered for all those 19 cases. Fellows have visited their home and provided counseling services to them. Also, 10 people have been given relief. 7 cases were referred to DLSA to get the interim benefits of the victim.

80% of masculinity team members trained to follow the gender equality

82 cases have been receiving the family support out of 112. Most of the fathers, brothers and relatives are against the victim. They treat victims as perpetrators. They think that their family has been humiliated in the society.

Example 1, The victim's father and her brother did not support her. But after the advice of the project fellow, her father has come to the support of the victim. His father takes her to court for the hearings. Also, her mother kept her at the victim's aunt's house fearing her father as she was sexually assaulted. But after counseling the fellow, Now the father has realized it was not her fault and has changed his mind and brought the victim to his house. Also, he stopped scolding her.

955 women are sensitized and strengthened against gender discrimination and sexual violence. Of

these, 296 women are women who dare to defend themselves against violence. They made sure to come out boldly when it came to sexual problems for themselves or their relatives.

Special court

- Special courts for women, POCSO, and SC/ST POA are established and functioning in 5 districts of Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore, Villupuram, Chengalpet, Thanjavur, and Thiruvannamalai). Fellows have identified the special courts in their district. They had visited them and gathered information about the present judges of Mahila/POCSO/SC/ST court. The fellows also liaised with a special public prosecutor for these special acts.
- In Puducherry, Karaikal the separate court was not established. And Villupuram districts have found that the vacant post is not yet appointed for a special Judge. Therefore, the request for immediate appointment of judges to these special courts will be given through the newspaper so that justice can be made available soon to the affected women and children in the coming days.
- In Kallakurichi district, the cases are proceeding in Villupuram district because it was separated from the Villupuram district.
- Suggestions were provided by the stakeholders during the state level consultation I,e,. Infrastructure in judiciary mechanisms is very less, understaffing of court officials and other judiciary methods is felt in the slow pace of justice.

Advocacy on district & State level

- **TO IMPLEMENT THE OSC:** On 08.06.2022, Project fellow met Mr. Basker, Sub collector, Karaikal in person and demanded the immediate establishment of a separate one stop service center for the affected women to take immediate action for justice and prompt action at Karaikal district.
- **TO IMPLEMENT THE AWPS:** On 11.08.2022, The project Fellow met Mr. Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, member of the taluk council in Kattumannarkoil. She demanded that an all-women police station be set up in the Kattumannarkoil Taluk. Because there is no all-women police station in Kattumannarkoil area, the cases of women and girls are sent to the all-women police station at Sethiathoppu in SriMushnam taluk. As a result, the affected women hesitate to file a complaint. Also, they have to travel more than 20 kilometers by bus to pursue the case filed and they are forced to abandon the case. Also, when the affected women come to the police station with their children, the expenses like food and travel expenses are high for them. Moreover, vulnerable women go to work daily, making it very difficult to cover this cost. Therefore, a petition was given that an all-women police station should be set up immediately in the Kattumannar temple area. Mr. Sinthanai Selvan, MLA, said that he would write a letter to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and speak to the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu C. Shailendra Babu regarding the immediate set up of AWPS

16 days campaign activism:

Conducted 33 campaign activities in 8 districts in Tamilnadu and Puducherry through which we have created 5220 beneficiaries directly and 15660 beneficiaries indirectly.

- All the campaign activities were done in collaboration with the government department, local NGOs, schools and colleges. This will ensure that the campaign reaches the target audience quickly.
- During the campaign 3 DV cases were received from participants, 2

Mid-Evaluation by Project Head: Mid - Evaluation process was done by Ms. Amogamathi, Project Head. She met the

DV cases referred by Doctors and 2 girl children came and shared that they don't have a peaceful situation in her home to study. Because of domestic violence happens for her mother

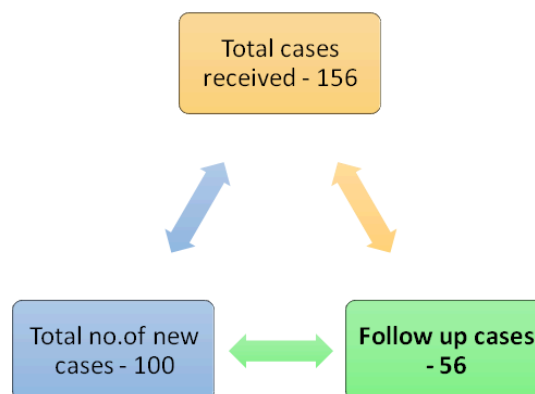
- A youngster from a nearby village asked us to keep the awareness banners in the villages.
- During the activism, we have identified 4 local NGOs and 5 Volunteers from our working district.

survivors of 7 districts, CBO's, Stakeholders and OSC in Thiruvannamalai district.

- [Maitri N Reporting format Annual Report 2022 english.docx](#)
- [Audit Report - Maitri \(Jan to Dec 2022\).docx](#)
- [16 days campaign report - 2022.pdf](#)
- [ADECOM Case Template - Jan to December 2022.xlsx](#)
- [PLV Training Report - 2022.pdf](#)
- [SHM - Karaikal](#)
- [SHM - Cuddalore](#)

3. Service Provider

Pen Oli Kudam acts as a guiding force for affected women. It offers free family counseling, legal counseling, Guidance and career counseling, Rehabilitation counseling, Mental health counseling, Substance abuse counseling to women who have been victims of domestic violence, spouse abandonment, Women who suffer from property issues and etc, Women who come from far and wide to find solutions to their problems in ADECOM Network. We are providing the accommodation and food at free of cost in ADECOM Network office. If the case is



unresolved through family counseling and legal counseling, as a next step, their cases will be filed in Pondicherry Court.



Skills development Activities

Sewing Training: In Cuddalore, Villupuram and Pondicherry districts, free sewing training is being provided to women victims of domestic violence and poor women living in rural areas. They are certified 3 months after class. In this way they create employment for themselves. Most of them have bought their own sewing machine and become entrepreneurs. A few people get orders from outside shops to sew bags and earn a living from it. There are more than 16 women who trained last year at three center's.



Children advancement at gross root level

- ❖ In view of the safety of women and children, a petition has been given in the Gram Sabha meeting for toilet facilities in rural areas and written in a resolution note.
- ❖ Our CBOs Ms. Pushpa and Ms. Sulochana have been appointed as members of the women and child protection committee at the panchayat level in the village of Nanamedu.



- ❖ Our staff participated in a discussion on how to give the advocacy and lobbying for women and child protection held in Madurai organized by Goodspeard NGO, Coimbatore.

- ❖ Our staff members spread awareness about the KAVALAN SOS app at the village level. Also raised awareness through cybercrime police officers on security measures on how to protect themselves from cybercrimes.

- ❖ Awareness meetings were held at the village level in collaboration with the

Night Tuition center: Buddhist night schools have been started in the working villages and classes are being conducted by educated volunteers in that village. Through it the children are reading well. They were also given notebooks, pens, pencils, lunch boxes and water bottles for

their studies.

Extracurricular activities: The children are invited to attend our centers every Saturday. There they will be given sports materials, fairy tales story books and also conduct various competitions like drawing, writing, speech etc., The prize will be awarded to the children.



[Report on Child Safety Week - 2022.pdf](#)

Success Story - 1 (Our CBO member became Role model)

Background:

Ms. Bharani, is a leader of Naththapattu Annal Ambedkar Women's Parliamentary Movement. She has studied up to the 8th standard. She is now 40 years old. She lives in Mariamman Kovil Street, Nattapattu Village, Cuddalore District. She has 2 sons and a daughter. Her husband is a lorry driver. Her 2 sons are working in private companies. Her daughter is studying nursing. She belongs to the Hindu religion and scheduled caste. She is a typical housewife. She used to stay at home doing housework. she will not go out anywhere. She will stay at home. Even if she wants to go somewhere, she goes out only with the help of her husband and sons.

Staff Intervention:

In 2019, our staff went to Nattapattu village to do a field visit. During that visit, she created awareness among people about our project and gender equality. There she met Bharani and explained our project activities. Our staff members used to conduct awareness meetings in the village. Bharani also participated in it and became aware of Gender-based violence and gender equality. Whenever there is an awareness meeting, Bharani always attends.

Sensitized her family members:

She comes and participates in the discussion with great interest. She also brought her husband to participate in the meeting based on gender equality. Slowly daughter to attend the meeting. They also achieved an understanding of gender equality. She has changed her mentality that women should only do household chores men should not do. She realized that men and women are equal at home. Men and women should share household chores. Her family members were sensitized. Whenever she was not able to cook. Her husband and sons help her with cooking and other chores when she is unable to do housework.



Training Attended:

- She attended the 10 days of masculinity and gender equality training workshop conducted by Ekta at the initiative of our staff members in Madhurai from 10.11.2021 to 20.11.2021.
- Attended the Legal Awareness Camp on Prevention, Reduction, and Redressal of Violence Against Women held at Koonimedu from 14.07.2022 to 16.07.2022.
- Participated in monthly discussions on gender equality for community group members and delivered a keynote address on gender equality. She also brings other group members to attend the meetings.

Group Formation & Registration:

The group was started under the name Nattapattu Women's rational movement. She accepted the request of our staff member to start an Annal Ambedkar women's rational movement in Nattapattu village and accordingly she spoke among other members to form a committee. Later, Bharani herself was appointed as the leader of the committee. This group was started in 2019 and the group members were made aware of gender equality. 34 women were included in this group. This group members have clarified the purpose of registration. They have collected Rs. 200 from all 34 members and registered the group.

In 2021 under the name **Annal Ambedkar Pengal Narpani Sangam** on 07.07.2021 this group was registered under Govt along with Nehru Yuvakendra.



Gram sabha Meeting:

She was encouraged to attend the Gram sabha meeting. She has identified the needs of the village. And, a demand petition was given during the **GRAMA SABHA** meeting with the support of community members. Based on that, The Temporary water facility has been provided to the people. She has also petitioned for an art gallery, community hall, library, mini water tank, and road facility.



Motivating Youngsters:

On 28.12.2021, She invited the girls from Nathappatu village to participate in the essay competition held at the Nehru Yuva Kendra office. A woman from the village won the first prize. The Member of the Cuddalore Legislative Council, Mr. Ayyappan has given prizes to her. Also, she provided sports equipment to the youth of his village through Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Relief Assistance:

During the Heavy rain and flood, people were unable to go to work and stayed at home. She spoke with Ekta, the Madurai organization, and with the support of ADECOM Network, she was able to help 200 people get rice and groceries.

Became Role Model:

Since last 2019, she has joined our project and is creating awareness among the people in the village where she lives. She is willing to travel to another district to attend the meeting



and training workshops to enhance her knowledge. She sensitized her family members. Recently, she sent her son and daughter to attend the legal training program which was conducted for 4 days. Now, she has become a role model for gender equality in this village.

Success Story - 2 - The change will not be easy

During the initial period of this training implementation, It is very difficult to convey the essence of this training among men and boys brought up by patriarchy. Because this society has created too many privileges for men. The fact is that they cannot accept it when they try to change it. Even though it's difficult to understand this concept, well-educated people are also.

But, Now slowly people are understanding. We were able to see through their feedback.

For example,

Mr. Anandraj is a 26-year-old member of the Masculinity group in Thalateru, Karaikal district. He is a regular attendee



of the masculinity sessions that Adecom and Maitri Network are taking in the villages. In this village, Adecom took one session on perspective building on Gender Masculinity followed by the other two sessions, Son preference and work preference on gender. After attending these 3 sessions, he started exploring various aspects of gender discrimination in the family in which he and other family members were practicing. Initially, it was getting difficult for Anandraj to change the male-dominated practices. But, after every session, his understanding increased. He said, "I used to think that it was only their right to fulfill the needs of women. But after this training, I feel that even the smallest things that are built by men in houses are suppressing the rights of women. I work as a cook and run catering services. But even if my mother is sick at home, I will not prepare a meal for her. Because that's their job, I thought men shouldn't do it because my mom grew up that way. She sacrificed many things including food, clothes, etc., But, I realized now. He said that he understood that gender equality is not only about meeting their needs, but also about giving them freedom of making decisions and breaking restrictions on education, food, and clothing. Especially, the right to choose their life partners. He said-'I have a younger sister, if she loves anyone I will definitely support her to marry him.' Now Anandraj is supporting his mother in household activities like cooking, washing clothes, cleaning the home, etc. He is now becoming a role model for other men in the community.

Case Study - I (Our CBO member identified the DV case)

Background:

Name: Sasikala

Age: 25

Education: Class IX

Address: Mariamman Kovil Street, Pacham Villupuram District

BACKGROUND:

Above mentioned Sasikala belongs to Pakam village and she has been married for 15 years. Her husband's name is Malini, 37 years old. He is a painter. She has a son, aged 14 years studying 9th std. A daughter namely, Neshika aged 13, studying 8th standard in a government school. Her husband has been married for 5 years and has been very happy. After 5 years, a misunderstanding started between both of us. The problem is on a large scale and they have managed it to some extent. Slowly, it started affecting their children's education.



OUR INTERVENTION:

Our staff members have given training to the community group members to deal with domestic violence cases in Pakkam village through the CRS Kondur office, Villupuram district. Vennila is a leader of the women's parliament movement in Pakkam village. She has

invited Sashikala to the office of the CRS, which is working in Kondur to attend the meeting on gender equality. There, she expressed that she was facing domestic violence from her husband. Then, our staff listened to her problem and provided social counseling. It was found through counseling that the counselor understood that the age difference between husband and wife is the reason behind the issues.

After that, our staff asked her husband for a counseling session. He came to attend the counseling. Then, social counseling to both husband and wife. He kept his wife and children happy for a few days and after three months the problem started again Sasikala went to work for the company due to a family situation and the problem started due to this. So, our staff asked her to bring her husband to the office, and then one day she brought her husband to the office. Again, counseling was given to him.

LEGAL COUNSELING:

The case was not able to be sought by social counseling so our staff referred to Mr. Perumal, an advocate for Legal Counseling. He gave them legal advice and informed them about the functioning of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2005 and gave them some advice. After the counseling session, he promised her wife that she will not create any problems. But, after a few days, Sashikala's husband beat her in front of her children. Due to that, their children cried during the class. So, the headmistress contacted her over the phone and inquired what



was the problem. Then she said that she is suspecting me and beating me. Immediately the headmistress advises her to file a complaint against her husband at the police station.

Hence, She brought the children and went to the Kandamangalam police station along with Vanilla and filed a complaint that her husband was harassing her and told them to investigate. Then the police officer called and gave a warning to Mr. Malini. After that, he was given the assurance to take care of her family. Currently, Sashikala is working in a company. Her husband also goes to work regularly. Therefore, she expressed gratitude to our staff members for guiding her in the proper way.

Case Study - II (Victim Prabavathy)

Family Background:

The victim's name is Prabhavathi (Name changed). She is 17 years old. Her father's name is Subramani, age 42. He works as a lorry driver to import goods. He earns Rs 6000 per month. Her mother's name is Thanjammal (let). The victim mother committed suicide when she was 1 year old. So her father got married a second time. Her name is Rajeshwari, age 38. She is a daily wage laborer. Her monthly income is Rs 2000. She has one elder brother and one younger sister. Her brother's name is Gopi, age: 19. He works as a lorry cleaner in Chennai. His monthly income is rs. 5000. Her younger sister's name is Sandhya Age 12,

currently studying in 6th standard. She lives in No: 4/324, Padasalai Veedhi, AK Kuchipalayam, Kallipattu, Villupuram District. Her father contacted No: 8344352677.

Nature of the case:

The victim is studying first year of Diploma Nursing at JNF Institute in Panruti Taluk, Cuddalore District. On 03.12.2021, Nisha @ Bargat Bivi, who is running the institute, told the victim and her friends Suganya and Akneesh Benita that she should go to Yercaud for a camp on 03.12.2021.

The victim denied that her parents would not allow this at their house. But Nisha said that she talked to their parents and got their consent. On that night at 11 o'clock the victim, their friend Suganya, Akneesh Benita and their teacher's David Ashokumar, Anbazhagan, Premkumar and Nisha @ Barkat Bivi went to yercaud at 6.30 am on 04.12.2021. They stayed in a large room in a lodge. Everyone is sleeping in the same bed. At around 11.00 that afternoon, David, Anbu, and Prem along with Nisha forced all three of them to drink alcohol. Even when they refused, the four were forced to drink alcohol. Later, Anbu sat close to the victim and kissed her on the cheek and pressed her hand on her breast. The victim refused by knocking his hand.



The victim refused by knocking his hand. But Anbazhagan again violated her. The victim was intoxicated and could not do anything. In this, David and Prem get involved with her friends Suganya and Akneesh Benita. Nisha was nearby as an accomplice. Then, the next day on 05.12.2021 at dawn, they all left for the city by car. Then Nisha told the three of them not to tell anyone in the house what happened.

She also said that she will send all three of them to a good hospital for training. Also, since they are all children of poor family members, they have said that they will arrange their better future and take care of the expenses themselves. Therefore, they have said that this matter should not be told to anyone. So, the victim also hides it without telling anyone about it. Then, after one month again on 02.01.2022, Nisha mam came to them and Anbu, Prem and David sir invited all three of them to go back to the camp. They have said that they will take care of the cost. Along with the three, they have also invited a girl named Thanalakshmi who is studying with them this time. The victim refused as she had previously taken the name of camp and sexually harassed her. She also stopped Dhanalakshmi by



explaining all the incidents that happened before in the name of camp. After knowing this information, she told all the incident to the victim's brother Gobi on 11.01.2022. Later, he questioned the victim about the incident. She also explained about what happened before. Her brother has reprimanded the victim. All the incidents have caused great distress to the victim.

Later, the victim went to the institute. However, as this incident which happened to her caused repeated distress, she decided that she might die and on 12.1.2022 at around 10.00 am, at Panruti railway station she climbed the railway flyover on Chennai Road and jumped down from there. The people around there rescued her and took her to Panruti Government Hospital in 108 ambulance and treated her. From there they have been sent to Cuddalore Government General Hospital for further treatment.

After receiving the information, the sub Inspector of Panruti All Women Police Station interrogated the victim and recorded the first information report at around 9.00 that night. Crime No. 03/2022 was registered and the accused were arrested. And the case was referred to POCSO court.

Direct field visit by Project fellow :

On 13.01.2020 this case was brought to the notice of the fellow by the CBO in Panruti area. The Project fellow went to the All Women Police Station to collect the victim's details. Police Constable Sudarmathi who was in charge of the station that day. When Sudarmathi met with them, she said that the victim had sustained severe injuries and was unable to walk due to a broken leg and was in the emergency department of the Cuddalore General Hospital. Also, the victim's father's phone number and home address were obtained from her. The victim was admitted to the emergency department and could not visit her directly. His father was spoken to over the phone. However, he was not able to give any proper information as the events that happened to his daughter were so shocking to him.

Enquiry with Inspector of Police, AWPS, Panruti:

On 02.02.2022, Police Inspector Mr. Bhavani was consulted regarding the details of the victim. Fellow received the FIR copy from the inspector of AWPS, Panruti. She said that it would be great if they could help her because they belonged to a very poor family.

And, Given requisition letter to get FIR copy of victim.



Family Counseling & Relief Assistance:

On 24.02.2022, the victim's step mother, Rajeshwari, was asked to come to the All Women Police Station, Panruti. There she was given family counseling by the project fellow. Also, relief items were distributed on behalf of the Maitri scheme through the Inspector at all women police stations, Panruti.

Home visit & Social counseling to Victim:



The information was received from the victim's father over the phone that she had come home from the hospital. Based on that, on 14.05.2022 direct field work was done at the victim's house. A direct meeting with the victim was discussed. The details she said then are given in the nature of the case.

The survivor completed her 10th standard and worked in a shop in Panruti for 1 year. After that, she started studying at a nursing college. The victim has no mother. Raised in the embrace of her stepmother. She also goes to daily wage work. As her younger sister is a little girl studying in the sixth standard, she was in agony because she could not tell her about what

happened to her.

She was afraid that if she tells her father and brother what happened to her, she will not be able to continue in college and her studies will be ruined. So she hid the incident without daring to tell anyone. She said that she had taken this decision due to great stress. She also said that she took this decision out of fear as her brother got to know about the incident and hurt her. At present the victim is unable to walk and said that it is her father who carries her to the toilet and her mother and younger sister help her in other matters. She also said that she is receiving treatment at the government hospital.



The fellow counseled her should not be disheartened by what happened to the victim. Don't take this kind of wrong decision from now on. If you can't tell about the harm that happened to you at home, if you had contacted All Women Police Station, 1098 Childline, Child Welfare Committee or 181 Women's Free Helpline they would have taken appropriate action. Also, after this, if you want to share or talk feel free to contact my phone number. Fellow shared her number.

Family Counseling:

The victim's father and mother were spoken to separately. It was requested to speak to the victim and support them till justice is served. Both her father and mother are fighting justice for the girl. But the girl did not get her brother's support. At present, her brother is staying in Chennai and is working, so he could not talk to him. It was said that she would visit him personally and give advice even when he came home.

Court Proceedings:

Panruti All Women Police, Crime No. 3/2022 for girl victim under Section 7 r/w 8 of POCSO Act & 25 JJ Act u/s 164 (5) Cr. The victim is directed to appear before the Panruti Court at



12.00 noon on 03.02.2022 as the Police Inspector Panruti All Women Police Station is required to record a confidential statement under P.C. Accordingly, the victim took the auto to the court with the help of her parents. Because she couldn't walk there, he picked her up. And a confession has been obtained by putting a chair on next to the judge.



Follow Up:

1. The fellow should enquire to the DLSA to get compensation.
2. The victim said that she will not study after her health recovers. She should be counseled and given the opportunity to get education or vocational training.



STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION
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