

MADURAI MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY – MADURAI
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE YEAR 2023 – 2024

Based on the saying “In Solidarity with the Oppressed...,” we are implementing activities of MMSSS through the People’s Organizations created by our Society, which aims to uplift those who are economically disadvantaged and marginalized Communities, guiding them towards Self-reliance. Additionally, the Women are empowered through Capacity Building Training, transforming them into Self-contained individuals by improving their lives through providing Skill training in Tailoring and Computers. With this context, we take great pleasure in presenting this Annual activity report of the Society for the year 2023-2024.

Self-Help Groups:

Self-help groups (SHGs) have a special role in empowering Rural Women to create a faster, fair-minded, and more sustainable Socio-Economic status for them. Access to financial stability through group savings and lending to members allowed women to become increasingly involved in economic activities to enhance their family income and have transferred the real economic power into the hands of Women and considerably reduced their dependence on Men. During the Year 2023, around 265 beneficiaries have undertaken various development programs aimed at transforming marginalized and vulnerable individuals into self-reliant People. These initiatives have created a significant impact, particularly in enlightening Socio-economic and sustainability through Vocational training and Community development.

S. No.	District	Region	Groups	Group members
01	Madurai	Madurai	23	242
02	Virudhunagar	Aruppukottai	50	675
		Srivilliputhur	08	092
03	Theni	Theni	76	951
		Uthamapalayam	29	337
04	Dindugal	Batlagundu	40	515
		Kodaikanal	43	553
	Total Groups and Members		265	3365

Key Achievements:

- Skill Training in tailoring and computer knowledge has positively created an impact with a total number of 2,000 Women and individuals, leading to better livelihood opportunities.
- Continued efforts on empowering women through skill development, thereby improving their overall Socioeconomic prospects.

With gratefulness and confidence, we look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming year, based on the achievements completed accordingly."

Credit Union:

The Credit Union was established with the principled aim of "People's Money for the People." This initiative operates as a group of credit unions across 6 regions in Theni, Kodaikanal, and surrounding areas and functions as a collective initiative with 265 groups. Through the activities of the Federated Credit Union, members can access internal loans on need-based for Education, Healthcare, Small Income Generation activities, and Agriculture, thereby empowering them to achieve economic progress and development and avoid falling into the traps of Moneylenders and Microfinance Companies.

Bank Loans:

In the Districts of Theni and Dindigul, the members of the Self-Help Groups have been facilitated to benefit loans through the Credit Linkage Program - (Joint Liability Group – JLG) from the Cooperative and Canara Banks to start businesses nearer to the tune of Rs. 2 crores.

Caritas India:

A three-phased Cancer Care Campaign with the saying "Ezhuvom Iyakkam" was supported by Caritas India from 2020 to 2023, to create awareness among the Community by providing Cancer Awareness programs and Screening Camps. For a better understanding, the Involvement of different types of stakeholders like Community, Academic Institutions, Churches, Government / Private Hospitals, and the Promotion of Volunteering was followed during the implementation of the program. Networking and Advocacy initiatives were adapted to leverage the effectiveness of this program sharing within the Communities. With the support of Medical Professionals, Cancer awareness programs were arranged for the Adolescent School children, SHG Members, and the Community. Following this, we also guided them to approach the Government Hospital where they can avail of advanced Cancer treatments and financial support through the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Scheme. We have also identified around 45 Cancer-affected Patients in our Target areas and provided them with nutritious food packets worth Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand Only).

In commemoration of the 25th Jubilee Celebration of our Archbishop and the President of the Society, we have selected 20 Surviving Cancer Patients and supported them with Financial Assistance of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) during the Christmas Celebration of 2023. As a continuation of the First Phase, an Addendum to the Project Contract Agreement with effect from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022 was signed for the Second phase of the project. Further to the continuance of the Second Phase, a Project Agreement was signed for the Third Phase with effect from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023. Upon completion of the third phase of the audited statement of Accounts and Completion report submitted to Caritas India upon completion of the Project.

Details of Cancer Awareness Camps:

S. No	Date	Place
1	21.07.2023	Madurai Central Office
2	11.08.2023	Sirumalai Regional Office
3	19.08.2023	Palayam Regional Office
4	25.08.2023	Kodaikanal Regional Office
5	05.09.2023	Palayam Region
6	09.09.2023	T.Sinthalacheri
7	18.09.2023	Periyakulam
8	21.09.2023	Theni Regional Office
9	25.09.2023	Chinnamanur and Arul Nagar
10	28.09.2023	Sivakasi DB Tech

Lenten Day Pilgrimage of Madurai South Vicariate: On 17.03.2023, the Lenten Day Pilgrimage was observed at St. Britto School, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Jerome Eronimus, the Vice President of the Society, by focusing on the “Campaign Against Hunger and Diseases with the Slogan Fraternity in Humanity – Together with Everyone. A poster promoting the message of Brotherhood in Human Dignity, highlighting the importance of alleviating hunger and Disease, and to need to address poverty and disease, was released among the public. The parishioners of the South Vicariate and the Staff of MMSSS took part in the program.

Kolping India:

Under the Climate Change and protecting the Natural resources, Kolping India is actively involved in creating awareness among the members of the Kolping Groups and empowering them to become entrepreneurs and increase their income through Capacity Building Training and Livelihood activities. Kolping India is focusing on the areas of women's empowerment and enhancement of Socio-economic initiatives by integrating environmental awareness and creating livelihood activities. The National level Coordination Meeting of Kolping India's Collaborating Partner Organization was organized for two days on 6th and 7th June 2023 at ICOSA Paripurna Centre, Manapakkam, Chennai. Msgr. Christopher Huber, the General Praeses of Kolping International, was the Chief Guest for the Occasion. The Director of the Collaborating Partner Organization and the Kolping Coordinator participated in this Coordination meeting.

Project Support for Kolping Group members:

Disbursement of Project support for the Kolping Group members on the Socio-Economic Promotion and Enhancement of Well-being was held on 11th August 2023 in the presence of the Vice President of the Society, Rev. Father Jerome Eronymous at the MMSSS's Central Office. The Secretary and the Treasurer welcomed the selected beneficiaries. They explained the purpose of the project support and the importance of the regular repayments that will further help other beneficiaries to avail of this support. 20 beneficiaries were selected from different Regions and a total amount of Rs.3, 55,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs and Fifty-Five Thousand Only) was disbursed per the details below.

- 03 Beneficiaries for Housing Support Project.
- 09 Beneficiaries for the Milch Animal Project.
- 07 Beneficiaries for Sanitation Assistance Project.

Awareness Campaign on Solid Waste Management Environmental Protection:

The program on Solid Waste Management was conducted at Periyakulam in Partnership with Jeyaraj Annapackiam Women's College on 29.08.2023. Mr. K.S. Saravanakumar, the sitting MLA of Periyakulam, was kind enough to preside over the program and to inaugurate the Rally along with Mr. S. Paulpandi, Municipal Chairman of Thamaraikulam. Rev. Sr. Dr. Jesurani, Principal, Jeyaraj Annapackiam Women's College, Periyakulam, was generous enough to utilize the College Auditorium for the Program, permitting the College Students and endorsing the NSS Director to coordinate the program and to participate in the NSS Volunteers in the awareness Rally. Around 2000 Students participated in this program with an address on the Environment by a renowned Resource Person and Environmentalist, Mr.Green Bose.

A Vehicle fixed with Awareness Banners on the Front and both sides with an Audio system, and the Rally was inaugurated by the MLA, Municipal Chairman, and Principal of the College at 11.30 am at the main gate of the College. The NSS Students, members of the Panimayamadha Kolping Federation, and the Kolping Group Members at Periyakulam participated in the Rally carrying Awareness Banners, Placards, Kolping Flags, and Slogans on Environmental issues and concluded at Thasildar Nagar by 12.30 pm with Tree Plantation. The Police Personnel provided their support and cleared the Traffic movements. Following this, the Rally was dispersed and the Vehicle moved to the adjoining areas at Matha Kovil Street, St. Xavier's Street, Muthuvel Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Thenkarai, and Vadakarai in Periyakulam. The Kolping Coordinator and field Staff of MMSSS accompanied the vehicle delivering awareness slogans and distributing the pamphlets.

National-Level Coordination Meeting of Kolping India:

The National **Level Coordination Meeting** of Kolping India's Collaborating Partner Organization was held on **10th & 11th January 2024** at **ICSA PARIPURNA CENTRE**, Manapakkam, Chennai. The Director of Madurai Kolping Region and the Kolping Coordinator participated in this two-day meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the details of New Initiatives to attract new members, Strengthen the Existing Groups, and the outcome of the BMZ Project on Ecological conservation on Solid Waste Management.

Due to time constraints, only 08 DSSS partners were selected to present their PowerPoint presentations on 10th January 2024, and Madurai Kolping Region was one among them. On 11th January 2024, the previous day's activities were reviewed, followed by a discussion on the progress of the activities implemented during the Year 2023, and four groups were formed to propose plans of activities for the Year 2024. The groups focused on issues such as the Drug menace among the Youths, Environmental protection, eradicating plastic usage, promoting Widow Empowerment, and safeguarding land and Natural resources. These recommendations were accepted by the National Director to plan for the proposed activities.

Special Activities of Kolping India Program:

A special effort was made to prepare a fact-finding report on the defaulters and outstanding repayment of the Kolping projects supported from 2017 – 2020, with the help of the Assistant Secretaries, Kolping Coordinator, and the field staff of Theni, Palayam, Batlagundu, Kodaikanal, Madurai, and Srivilliputhur to meet the defaulted beneficiaries at their respective places. Based on the personal visits made to them, they identified the total outstanding loan amounts and prepared a detailed report for the default and the reasons for which beneficiaries were unable to repay their loans.

Based on this fact-finding report, the Director of the Collaborating Partner Organization - Madurai Kolping Region, requested Rev. Fr. Mariasoosai the National Director of Kolping India, for a financial reconciliation of the long pending defaulted and outstanding loan amounts disbursed before 2020. Based on the request, he visited Madurai Kolping Region on 23.02.2024 along with the Program Manager and Audit Manager to assess the Financial Status of the Program Funds supported by Kolping India. A detailed list of beneficiaries for the disbursements and non-repayments of the defaulters under the Projects of IIGP, MAP, HSP, and VTP was submitted with a genuine and valid reason for writing off the defaulted outstanding loan amounts for his consideration. By carefully going through the defaulted and outstanding list, he stated that he needs some more time to reconcile this issue and to consult with the Auditor. In the meantime, he suggested sending the program-wise repayments collected as of February 2024 to the National Office from 2020 onwards, and the same was sent by Cheques on 05.03.2024.

ASOSS:

To maintain and retain the integrity and Dignity of Migrants Individuals and Families and to support their livelihood initiatives undertaken for Income Generation Activities. To achieve this, steps were taken to identify the inhabited migrant individuals and Families. The identified migrants were given an orientation for their rehabilitation in Livelihood by providing Life Skill training in Tailoring. Tailoring Institutes were set up at Arul Nagar, Palayam, and Aruppukottai by appointing well-trained Tailoring Instructors and providing a three-month Course, facilitated with Training Certificates upon completion of the Course. Additionally, training on Safeguarding was imparted to all the Directors of all the Diocesan Social Societies. World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated annually on the last Sunday of September. This year, it falls on September 29th, and the theme of the Holy Father's message is "God Walks with His People. "In preparation for this significant occasion, an online meeting was conducted for all Regional Secretaries under the Presidentship of TASOSS Chairman, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Aquinas, on *August 26th, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.* The same was celebrated on 24.09.2024, at Madurai Railway Colony, Pakkiyanathapuram, Ayyampalayam, Sirumalai, Kodaikanal, and Chinnamanur.

Tailoring Institutes - Distribution of Certificates and Inauguration of New Batches.

12.04.2023	The distribution of the Course Completion Certificates of the Second batch of Tailoring Students and the inauguration of the Third batch were held at Palayam Regional Office. Around 35 Students participated in this program. Following this, a decision was taken to start a Federation for Tailoring Students, and 15 were selected to function as the Federation.
16.07.2023	Course Completion Certificates of the Tailoring Students were distributed at the Aruppukottai Regional Office, and the Trained participants shared their experiences. Aruppukottai Parish Priest Fr. Edison participated in the occasion and delivered a congratulatory message to the Participants.
17.07.2023	Course Completion Certificates of the Tailoring Students were distributed at the Arul Nagar Regional Office, and the Trained participants shared their experiences. Representatives from Mass Social Service Organization, an NGO, participated in this occasion, discussing and sharing the opportunities for self-employment for the Trainees.
26.07.2023	The distribution of the Course Complete Certificate for the Third batch and the inauguration of the Fourth batch took place at the Palayam Regional Office in the presence of the Special Guest Professor Dr. Varghese Jayaraj, who delivered a congratulatory message to the participants.

New Tailoring Institutes:

New tailoring Institutes were opened at the Theni and Kodaikanal Regional Offices on 01.08.2023, and Trained Instructors were appointed for these Two Centers to train more Women candidates interested in Tailoring and Aari Design works. Additional tailoring machines were procured for the Aruppukottai Tailoring Institute Center, and the handing-over ceremony was on 12.08.2023 during the inauguration of the next phase of training.

Beneficiaries' details of the Tailoring Institutes:

- **Aruppukottai Block:** 22 Candidates
- **Palayam Block :** 23 Candidates
- **Theni Block :** 24 Candidates

The initiatives taken in establishing the tailoring Institutes, and training the Women and individuals have created self-employment opportunities, thereby helping to improve the livelihoods of migrants, particularly women, by enhancing their skills and providing them with opportunities to be involved in creating Income-generating activities.

S. No.	Region	Training Phase	Training Period	No. of Beneficiaries	Total
01	Bathlagundu	2 nd Phase	March 23 to June 23	20	55
		3 rd Phase	July 23 to Dec 23	15	
		4 th Phase	Jan 24 to June 24	20	
02	Kodaikanal	1 st Phase	Aug 23 to Dec 23	24	49
		2 nd Phase	Jan 24 to Apr 24	25	
03	Palayam	3 rd Phase	May 23 to July 23	22	60
		4 th Phase	Aug 23 to Oct 23	24	
		5 th Phase	Nov 23 to Apr 24	14	
04	Theni	1 st Phase	Aug 23 to Nov 23	27	43
		5 th Phase	Dec 23 to Mar 24	16	
05	Aruppukottai	1 st Phase	Mar 23 to June 23	16	57
		2 nd Phase	Aug 23 – Feb 24	22	
		3 rd Phase	Apr 24 -	15	
		Special	Summer Courses.	04	
		Total Candidates Trained		264	264

Computer Center:

Currently, the second phase of Computer Training is conducted at the Theni Regional Office. A total of **35 candidates** are undergoing this training, including those who had previously discontinued their Training and those who are currently pursuing their Training Courses. Summer courses in Computer Training were conducted during May with **45 School students**. The inauguration of the *Katherine Computer Training Center at Kodaikana Regional Office* was held on 26.01.2024, supported by the Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society, in the presence of Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel, the Secretary and Treasurer of MMSSS, and delivered a keynote address on the importance of computer courses for the future generation of our Country.

S.No.	Region	Training Phase	Training Period	No. of Candidates	Total
01	Theni	Summer Course	March 23 to June 23	28	107
		2 nd Phase	June 23 to Aug 23	30	
		3 rd Phase	Sep 23 to Dec 23	25	
		4 th Phase	Jan 24 to Mar 24	24	
02	Kodaikanal	1 st Phase.	Jan 24 to Mar 24	04	20
		Summer Course	Apr to May	16	
		Total Candidates Trained		127	127

Child Line India Foundation – 1098:

CHILDLINE 1098 is a National 24-hour free, emergency telephone helpline & outreach service for Children in need of care and protection. It is supported by the Ministry of Women & Child Welfare from the Government of India. It not only responds to the emergency needs of children but also links them to services for their short & long-term care and rehabilitation. CHILDLINE reaches out to children from 0-18 years and in extreme emergencies to young adults with a special focus on all children in need of care and protection, especially the more vulnerable sections in distress and Crisis. **Intervention through Identification:** Children identified through referrals (or reports via the helpline) are provided with necessary support and intervention, and work closely with Local authorities and Child welfare agencies to ensure that children in need of protection and care are not left without support. Until last year, the Union Government-funded 1098 was run by Child Line India Foundation with other Partner NGOs. In August 2023, it was taken over by the State Government on the order passed by the Union Government.

Reception Home:

The Children's Reception Home is functioning at Gandhi Nagar, Virudhunagar, the District headquarters, through the Social Welfare Board and supported by CWC – Child Welfare Committee. The inmates admitted here are given psycho-social counselling, health care with food, and accommodation with love, care, and protection. Short-term training is provided to the inmates on making door mats, decorative flowers, flower stands, tailoring, and embroidery. The government has permitted the accommodation of around 16 inmates in the home.

Don Bosco Tech Society– Skill Development Center:

Don Bosco Tech (DB Tech) is a network of more than 300 Institutions that provide Formal, Non-formal, and short-term training. As part of Corporate Social Responsibility – CSR, Don Bosco Tech has taken the lead as a CSR Initiative in Partnership with Accenture, and signed an MoU with MMSSS to have a Center at Sivakasi, creating employment opportunities through free Computer Education and providing Skill Training in DDEO - **Domestic Data Entry Operator**, CCEDNV - **Customer Care Executive Domestic Non-Voice and Spoken English** to the young Men and Women between the ages of **18 to 30** from surrounding areas of Sivakasi. On successful completion of the Training, they are placed in Mobile and Textile showrooms, Supermarkets, and Computer Centres.

Details of Beneficiaries:

Centre	Batches	Course Trained	Duration	Male	Female	Total
DB Tech Sivakasi	B1	Domestic Data Entry Operator - DDEO	15.05.2023 12.08.2023	9+9	21+21	30+30=60
	B2	Customer Care Executive Domestic Non-Voice	15.05.2023 12.08.2023			
	B3	Domestic Data Entry Operator - DDEO	14.08.2023 11.11.2023	5+5	26+26	31+31=62
	B4	Customer Care Executive Domestic Non-Voice	14.08.2023 12.11.2023			
	B5	Domestic Data Entry Operator - DDEO	20.11.2023 17.11.2023	8+8	22+22	30+30=60
	B6	Customer Care Executive Domestic Non-Voice	20.11.2023 17.02.2024			
		Total Students Trained		22+22	69+69	91+91=182

APRIL:

The distribution of the Course Completion Certificates of the Second batch of Tailoring Students and the inauguration of the Third batch were held at Palayam Regional Office on 12.04.2023. Around 35 Students participated in this program. The function was presided over by the Assistant Secretary Fr. Rajan. The Assistant Secretary, with a welcome address by Ms. Ambika and a sharing of the experiences of the Tailoring courses by Ms. Nisha and Ms. Mahalakshmi. Following this, a decision was taken to start a Federation for Tailoring Students, and 15 were selected to function as a Federation with the guidance of the Coordinator and the Staff of Theni Region.

Celebration of the 132nd Birth Anniversary of Dr.Ambedkar and release of “***Samuga Vizhigal***” (Quarterly magazine of MMSSS) was held on 15.04.2023 at Chinnamanur with the participation of 189 SHG Members in the presence of Fr. Rajan. Fr. Eddy Dharmananth, the Parish Priest of Chinnamanur, released the magazine, sharing of few words about Dr.Ambedkar while Mr.Bharathan explained Dr.Ambedkar's capability and knowledge, and Fr. Rajan compared Dr. Ambedkar with Jesus, both having a common vision and Goal.

A short play titled “***Nan Mauna Saatchi Allen***” (“I am not a Silent Spectator”), a biography of Rev. Fr. Stan Swamy, written directed, and enacted by a group of Religious Brothers and Sisters on 19.04.2024 at the Central Office of MMSSS in the presence of Rev. Fr. Benedict Barnabas the Director of the Nobile Pastoral Center with the participation of MMSSS Staff and SHG members and welcomed by Fr. Rajan, Followed by the introduction the Team thanked MMSSS for allowing to enact the about the life and witness of Rev. Fr. Stan Swamy. In his concluding message Fr. Rajan said that Social Work means raising a voice in the context of oppression and coming forward to help each other. With the sharing of the participants on the play and the concluding observations of Mr. Rajan, a Social Activist with an obligation to take home the messages received through this play.

MAY:

Two public toilets were constructed with the support of MMSSS at Shenbaganur in Kodaikanal for the public. And was opened on 19.05.2023 with the Welcome by Rev Fr. Apoline, the Parish Priest of Shenbaganur. The Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. Fr. Gabriel, gave an overview of the project's need and the purpose of public toilets and maintaining them properly, which have to be used by others too. Assistant Secretaries Fathers Rajan and Stalin, along with the Administrative Officer, Staff of Kodaikkannal, and the people of Senbaganur, participated in the occasion.

JUNE:

The 55th General Body Meeting for the Year (2022 -2023) of the Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society was held on 23.06.2023, at the Society's Central office by 11:00 AM, chaired by the President of the Society, Archbishop Most. Rev. Antony Pappusamy, with the participation of the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, Assistant Secretaries, and the members of the General Body. The meeting began with a prayer led by Fr Stalin and welcomed by the Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. Fr Gabriel. The discussion started with the matters discussed during the previous Year's General Body meeting, the appointment of an Auditor, activities undertaken in the past year, and plans. The June edition of the quarterly newsletter, ***Samuga Vizhigal***, was released by the Society's President, and the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by Fr. Rajan.

A Team-building session was organized for all the staff members at the Regional Office on 30.06. 2023. The session on the "EDP - Entrepreneurs Development Program " was conducted by Mr. Chellapandi, the Project Officer of Mahalir Thittam (Project for Women) of Dindigul District. Following this, a farewell function was arranged to honor Mrs. Loretta, who had been an integral part of MMSSS for the past 38 years. As a part of her settlement, an amount of Rs. 5,75,203.00 was handed over to her towards her savings through the staff welfare schemes. Mr. Morris, the Administrative Officer, also bid farewell to MMSSS, stating personal reasons for his resignation from the service.

JULY:

A new building for the R.C. Primary School in Panakudi, in Kariyapatti Village, was constructed with two classrooms supported by the well-wishers and the efforts taken through Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel, MMSSS, and with the contributions of the Teachers working in the same school. The new building was inaugurated on 04.07.2023 in the presence of the Most. Rev. Antony Pappusamy. Rev. Fr. Arulrajan, Vicar Foraine of Virudhunagar, and Rev. Fr. Amalan, the Parish Priest of Kariapatti, took part in the program.

On 16.07.2023, a disaster relief support program was held at the Aruppukottai Regional Office to support the victims of the damage caused by strong wind and rain at Sathiavanimuthu Colony, which resulted in damage to five houses. The Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, along with the Parish Priest of Aruppukottai Parish, Fr. Edison, and those who requested disaster relief, participated in the program. Assistant Secretary Fr. Rajan shared about the damages caused by strong wind and rain in the Sathiyavani Muthu Colony and assured that the MMSSS would provide financial assistance to the possible extent and distribute relief assistance to the victims. In the evening, a protest meeting and Rally were held against the ongoing Manipur incidents under the leadership of the Archbishop,

AUGUST:

A training session on **Group Dynamics** was conducted for all the staff members in **Sirumalai** on 02.8.2023. Following the training, a farewell function was held to facilitate Mr. Chinnappan, who retired after 38 years of service with the Society in various capacities. He was honored along with his family at a special mass. As a part of his settlement benefit, an amount of Rs. 6,75,743 was handed over towards his savings through the staff welfare schemes. A Public Speaking Training session was held at the Madurai **IDEAS Centre**, for which the Field staff of MMSSS, Mrs. Maria, Geetha, and Eswari participated in the training program from **09.08.2023 to 13.08.2023**. A one-day training program was conducted for BSW students of Kaveri College, Trichy, on 31.03.2023 in the Presence of Fr. Rajan.

SEPTEMBER:

IDEAS Madurai Center conducted a Paralegal Training Program for Social campaigners at Vaadipatti Divine Mission Home, encompassing a six-stage level of Legal Assistance. The program emphasized the importance of bringing laws that are common and equal for all people and how social campaigners can practice the law to resolve the issues and circumstances faced at the grassroots level. The final stage of the training was concluded at Kodaikanal's Sacred Heart College, where participants were awarded certificates upon completion. Staff of the Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society participated in and completed the training.

Mrs. Eshwari, Geetha, Porutselvi, and Gnanam participated in a special training on the Millet Year held at Nagercoil on the 16th and 17th of September 2023. Through the participation of this training, they were able to gain knowledge about the cultivation and usage of the millet and to create awareness among the SHG members of using the traditional millet that is nutritious content.

A “Social Intervention Camp” was held for three of the Seminarians in the Second Years of Theology from St. Paul’s Seminary, Tiruchirappalli from 18th to 30th September 2023. During this Camp, they have gained knowledge about MMSSS and its area of functioning by involving themselves in learning through community-level participation, Case and Group work, and visits to different SHGs and have acquainted with various activities of our organization. The Field level of Practical insights and interaction with the community motivates and strengthens them towards instigating the community-level initiatives of their Pastoral Ministry.

OCTOBER:

On 17.10.2023, a Special interim General Body meeting of the Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society was held at the Society's Central office in the presence of the President of the Society and the Most. Rev. Antony Pappusamy by 11.00 AM. The meeting was attended by the Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, and the Members of the General Body. The meeting began with a prayer led by Sister Bruno and welcomed by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Rev. Fr. Gabriel.

The discussions were based on the ongoing activities of the Society, the plan for Christmas celebrations, and the upcoming Silver Jubilee celebrations of the President. The Birthday of the President and the foundation of the Society were celebrated and the Quarterly Magazine “Samuga Vizhigal” was released with the center of the theme, “MMSSS’s contributions towards small grains and millets on starvation.”

NOVEMBER:

On 20.11. In 2023, Mr. **Venkatesan S**, the Assistant Professor, School of Human Excellence (SHE) from Loyola College, Chennai, conducted a Training on “Capacity Building” for the SHG Members from Theni District at the Regional Office. His deliberation on the “Capacity Building Training” has enhanced and motivated the SHG members’ commitment towards the better functioning of SHG Groups, and the members were content with his commitment in the area of “**Human Excellence**”. The Representatives of the groups are guided and motivated in Team-building activities, challenging problems through teamwork and concentration. He emphasized that information systems need to adapt according to the changing circumstances.

As a part of Commemorating the Indian Constitution Day, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons, in association with an NGO - *LEAD*, conducted Speech, Quiz, and Reel competitions for the School, College, and SHG Members on 4th November at St. Joseph’s High School. The staff members of MMSSS, Ms. Eswari, Sasikala, Thavamani, and Jenifer, participated in the quiz and speech competitions. Ms. Thavamani and Jenifer were selected for second place and facilitated during the seminar on the Indian Constitution held at Fatima Women’s College, presided by the Chief Justice of the Madurai High Court, and prizes were distributed to all the winners on 25.11. 2023.

DECEMBER:

The awareness program on World AIDS Day was conducted with the theme “Let Communities Lead” - World AIDS Day 2023 on 1st December that, the world can end AIDS, with communities leading the way. World AIDS Day brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity. The participants were recommended to support and care for those affected by HIV/AIDS, rather than stigmatize them. It was emphasized that providing Love and Care to those affected by the disease can significantly improve their well-being. The participants were also encouraged to guide the person affected with HIV- Positive to seek precautionary and necessary medical treatment and moral support and Love.

Christmas Day was celebrated on 20.12.2023 in the presence of Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Arch Bishop of Madurai Archdiocese, and the President of the Society by Blessing of the Crib in the Office premises of MMSSS, and lighted the fourth Candle (LOVE) of the Advent Season and the Holy Mass was celebrated at St. Paul's Church, Bastin Nagar. Followed by the mass the Christmas Day Celebration started in the Parish Hall. The President of MMSSS Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy along with the Vice President of the Society and Vicar General Rev. Fr. Jerome Eronimus, the Secretary and Treasurer of MMMSS Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel, Assistant Secretaries, Parish Priests, Members of the General Body, Staffs of MMSSS / Regional Offices and the public participated in the Celebration.

Financial Support to the Credit Unions of Kodaikanal Region: As a part of this Celebration a booklet on the Rules & Regulations of the Credit Union was released by the President and the First copy of the booklet was received by Rev. Fr. Antony John Kennedy the former Secretary and Treasurer of MMSSS and the Second copy was received by the Auditor Mr. Charles Fernando. Further to encourage and support the Credit Unions that are functioning very well in the Kodaikanal Region an additional loan amount of Rs. 10, 00,000/- (Rupees Ten lakh only) was disbursed to four of the Federations.

Medical Assistant to the Surviving Cancer Patients: In Celebration of the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of the President of MMSSS an amount of Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only) was disbursed towards Medical Assistance of Rs. Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand Only) to each of the 20 Surviving Cancer Patients identified in the Districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, and Virudhunagar the target areas of MMSSS.

APPA Trust: By realizing the importance of the education of deserving Children who are studying in Tamil Medium, a Trust by the name "APPA" was established to support their education. The purpose of the Trust was briefly explained by Fr. A. Ignatius Stalin, the Assistant Secretary. Mrs. Loretta and Mr. Chinnappan were honored and facilitated for their long association with MMSSS. An introduction to the Quarterly Magazine of "Samuga Vizhigal" was conveyed by Mr. Maria William, and five copies of the same were handed over to Rev. Fr. Jerome Eronimus, Rev. Fr. Alvares Sebastian, Auditor Charles Fernando, Ms. Selvarani, GB member, and Mrs. Loretta. The Celebration came to an end by honoring the Arch Bishop with a Gift and Memento from the Staff of MMSSS. JANUARY.

JANUARY 2024:

The first Working Day of the New Year 2024 began with a Holy Mass on the 02nd of January, invoking God's Blessings for a prosperous year. Following the mass, the staff gathered to celebrate a session on sharing Christmas gifts among the Staff members. Fr. Gabriel shared a message about the importance of helping others and spreading hope thereby reminding everyone that by working together with those less fortunate, we gain strength.

On, 15.01.2024, the Pongal festival was celebrated in the Aruppukottai region at Nandhigundu. Ms. Porutselvi welcomed everyone, and special guests were honored with shawls. Members of the group prepared Pongal at the temple, and games were held in front of the school. Mr. Kathiresan, the Secretary of the Youth Association, along with the leaders of the Women's Group, inaugurated the games, and Prizes were distributed to the winners.

The Silver Jubilee celebration of the Arch Bishop of Madurai Archdiocese Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, and the President of the Society was celebrated on 21.01.2024 at St. Britto Higher Secondary School. The Madurai Multipurpose Social Service Society staff were entrusted with the responsibility of organizing and distributing the food for the event with the support of the Volunteers from Palanganatham and Ellies Nagar Parishes.

A meeting on building relationships for the Newly ordained Priests was conducted at MMSSS on 23.01.2024 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Jerome Eronymous, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Madurai, and a welcome message by Fr. Rajan. Following their introduction, Rev. **Fr. Jerome Eronimus** shared the History and Evolution of the Society. Rev. Fr. Gabriel, the Secretary and Treasurer, explained the current projects and recent initiatives of the Society. Fr. Stalin delivered a concluding Thank-you message, emphasizing the importance of Community Service and the Collective responsibilities of the Priests in today's Context.

The Staff Rejuvenation Camp for the entire Staff of MMSSS was conducted for two days from 30 to 31.01. 2024 at St. Mary's Agricultural Farm at Thottiankulam, Aruppukottai with a Training program on Team Building. Fr. Rajan welcomed the special Guests Rev. Fr. Parivalan and Rev. Fr. Sebastian. Rev. Fr. Parivalan began his session with a Team-Building activity and spoke about the challenges that are faced by women, by emphasizing that Women should come out through these challenges and strive to excel in all areas, and encouraged to live with the mindset of achieving success in their lives. Fr. Sebastian shared the importance of working together as a Team by discussing the necessity of partnership and the differences between approaching the tasks individually versus as a group, highlighting the outcomes and benefits that are achieved from collective action. **Mrs. Thavamani** shared insights on the activities of the **Credit Union**, explaining the role of collective economic activities in fostering community development. In addition, focusing on the movie "**The Great Indian Kitchen**", Fr. Parivalan conducted a **film analysis**, which addresses common issues concerning the roles of women. This event was a valued opportunity for the Employees to learn, reflect, and progress with new skills in Teamwork, innovation, and Women Empowerment.

FEBRUARY - MEDICAL CAMPS:

As a part of the Lenten Season, free Medical Camps were organized on 23.02.2024 on the Campus of Sacred Heart Church, Railway Colony, and 03.03.2024 at RC School at Palanganathan in partnership with Lakshmana Multi Specialty Hospital, Pykara, Madurai, with the participation of 260 members from the Railway Colony, Palanganatham, and the neighboring Parishes. The Camp started with the Registration of Outpatient details, followed by Sugar and Blood Pressure checkups. Based on the Sugar and BP reports, Consultation was given by Dr. Vijayaraj, Senior Medical Officer, and Dr. Sharmila Devi, Duty Doctor prescribed medicine and suggested further treatments. Cipla, the Pharmaceutical Company, had arranged for a Breath Free Test for those who had respiratory problems. Fr. Rajan, the Assistant Secretary, informed the gathering that Lakshmana Hospital has the provision of Case Less treatment supported by various Insurance Companies, including the Chief Minister Comprehensive Health Scheme, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Camp was concluded with a note of thanks by Fr. Rajan to the members of the Medical Team, Fr. Deva, the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, and Mrs. Mercy, the Headmistress of RC. School for providing all the support to conduct the Camp.

MARCH: International Women's Day!

MMSSS celebrated International Women's Day 2024 in its operational Regions at Aruppukottai, Theni, Batlagundu, and Kodaikanal on different dates, with the slogan **"Women are the Capital of Progress"**. **On 09.03.2024**, Aruppukottai Region celebrated the Day starting with a Rally at 11 am from MMSSS Regional Office and reached the Venue at St Joseph's Matriculation School. Around 500 SHG Members participated in the Rally, invoking several awareness slogans for the progress of Women. Fr. Rajan, the Assistant Secretary, facilitated the whole program, and Ms. Porutselvi, the Regional Coordinator, welcomed the Special Invitees and the SHG Members. Vidiyal and Art and Cultural Group performed an exceptional awareness program promoting the empowerment of Women. Rev. Fr. Gabriel gave a brief explanation of the purpose of celebrating Women's Day and its significance. Followed by Ms. Ganga, Chairperson CWC, Virudhunagar, Ms. Booma, Sub Inspector of All Women's Police Station, Aruppukottai, Ms. Kavithakumari EDP Trainer, and Ms. Iyerkaiammal, a Research Scholar, shared their knowledge and experiences on the problems faced by Women, Women Empowerment / Development, EDP Opportunities, and Parenting.

MMSSS Theni Region celebrated International Women's Day on 12.03.2024 at the Catholic Auditorium, Chinnamanur, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Edi Dharmaraj. Around 254 SHG members participated in the program. Fr. Rajan, the Assistant Secretary, welcomed the gathering and gave a brief description of the purpose of celebrating this Day, and Mrs. Anuruba delivered a speech about **"Women are the Capital of Progress"**. Following this, Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel, the Secretary and Treasurer of MMSSS, demonstrated that all Women should have Self-confidence, be liberated, and should not be dependent on others. Ms. Farida, a Women's Activist, gave a speech on **"Wake up Women,"** and the program came to an end with a vote of thanks by the Tailoring Instructor of Palayam.

MMSSS Bathlagundu Region celebrated International Women's Day on 14.03.2024 along with the Blessing of the Renovated Regional Office at Arul Nagar with the participation of 200 SHG Members. The Renovated building was blessed and opened by Rev. Fr. Jerome Eronimus Vicar General with the welcome address by Fr. A. Rajan the Assistant Secretary. Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel took the privilege to introduce the Invitees and shared the experiences of the beneficiaries of the Tailoring Institute and the purpose of renovating the Regional Office with a Small Hall that could be utilized by the local people and for any family gatherings and small functions with a small contribution. This will help to maintain the building and to generate income. Rev.Fr. Jerome Eronimus, Vice President of MMSSS, Ms. Ramalakshmi, Inspector of Police, Nilakottai, and Ms. Vasanthi Feminine Activist elaborated on the importance of Higher Education for Girl Children, Prevention of Domestic Violence /harassment / Empowerment and Women and prevention of Female Infanticide. Ms. Arul Dhanamary Counselor of Primary Health Centre, Ammayanayakanur, and Dr. Amutha, Clinical Department of Theni Medical College shared the general information on Women's Health.

MMSSS Kodaikanal Region celebrated International Women's Day on 16.03.2024 along with the participation of 250 SHG members, with a Rally starting from Kurinji Meridian and reaching the Regional Office and homage was paid to the girl child Aarthi, who was murdered due to Sexual Harassment. Ms. Thavamani the Regional Coordinator welcomed the Special Invitees and the gathering. Ms. Amali, Headmistress of St. Johns Primary School gave a brief speech about parenting, and Ms. Amalorpavam, from Help Trust, explained with a quote "We as Women should reinforce our thoughts just as a stone gets a shape after many strokes of the Chisel" and we must strengthen ourselves to create a great achievement in the Society". The members from Moonjikal demonstrated a drama about "Women are the Capital of Progress". Following this Rev. Fr. G. Gabriel elaborated that "Women are the power that strengthens your strength."

Conclusion:

Throughout this journey, MMSSS has placed all its efforts to retain the accomplishment of the activities to the extent and continues to thrive by focusing on the saying "**To Find an Equal Society in the Company of the Oppressed**". Further, we would like to handhold by "**Bridging the Gap**" with all Our Stakeholders, in the implementation strategy, and continue working towards developing the Well-being of the marginalized Community. Through our actions and deeds, we will endeavor to move forward and continue towards achieving an "Equal society" over the period, by achieving the sustainability and progress of the Society, adopting innovative methodologies and systems according to the fluctuating circumstances.

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