

# BLESS - FFVDP

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



**Bless Learning Estate,  
Pondy - Cuddalore Main Road,  
Reddichavady, Cuddalore - 607402**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Bless on its 34<sup>th</sup> year of journey, accomplishing the planned activities in the financial year 2022-2023. Bless reinforced its bonding with its target communities. Today moving forward as an NGO with no easy walk to reach the unreached, there are several barriers to overcome. Now the present trend of development does not support the downtrodden to uphold mainstream but development has rolled many things. As a development organization, the priority is vulnerable communities and vulnerable families. Moreover, as a grassroots-level agency and locally from the Cuddalore district enables us to reach the faceless, voiceless, hopeless, powerless, and helpless.



LS ANTHONY SAMY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In the same line of the above context our long-term Donor **Linsi Foundation, Switzerland** has already conceived, coined, and fine-tuned the ongoing FFVDP (Family Focused Village Development Programme) able to support around 280 families, spreading in six villages. FFVDP has created a remarkable change among vulnerable families and communities. While marching with the target communities to the top, the well-wishers, Philanthropic, friends, and Donors come with the resources but with different subjects joined and extended assistance, to different vulnerable communities, take the privilege to mention the other donors;

**AEM-France** supports the Children Home, Sponsorship Programme

Supplementary Education Programme in Five villages

**ART ET Solitaire WARII- France** Rehabilitation support for Drug addicts and

**Bob Tabor- USA** Construction of after-school; study center

**CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE ITALIA**-Rehabilitation support for the cycle Fish vendors under climate Context

**State Adoption Resource Agency** –Support for Bless Special Adoption Agency

**Native Media Charitable TRUST-Coimbatore-** Pondicherry Tourism Promotion Activities.

**Eicher Group of Foundation** (Royal Enfield) Support the Sea Turtles

**NABFINS Limited**-Micro credit support to Women Self-help Groups

**Jones Rachel-UK** Volunteers General Support

We appreciate the staff team rendered tireless service to reach the target communities and lead them towards the mission. The Board members are highly concerned about Bless's response and are involved whenever they have got opportunity. The Donor's visit and their Indian counterparts visit and guidance have helped us to sharpen our Mission.

## ABOUT BLESS



BLESS is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 in the Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu, South India, by Mr. L. S. Anthonymsamy. He has tremendous experience in village development by working as a volunteer in VRO (Village Reconstruction Organisation) under the guidance of the late Fr. Windey SJ, a Belgian Priest, a pioneer in the development sector who established VRO in Andhra Pradesh. BLESS is registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Act 1975, with registration number 35/89. It's entitled to receive foreign contributions for its programs/activities.

BLESS acquired professional experience in disaster management including disaster-risk reductions as Cuddalore, its main area of intervention, is a disaster-prone location. Another core competency of BLESS is WaSH (Water and Sanitation Hygiene).

## PROGRAMS

- FFVDP
- Water and Sanitation
- BLESS Special Adoption Agency
- Bless Children Home
- Livelihood support to Inland Cycle Fish Vendors
- Self Help Groups/Women Empowerment- NABFINS Micro Credit
- After School study centres
- Responsible travel in ECR
- Royal Enfield Toilet renovation
- Conservation of Olive Ridley Turtle



LINSI  
FOUNDATION

FFVDP (Family Focused Village Development Program)

The FFVDP program is being implemented across three states – Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, in partnership with local NGOs that already have a presence and a track record of effectively addressing issues of livelihood, advocacy and gender justice.

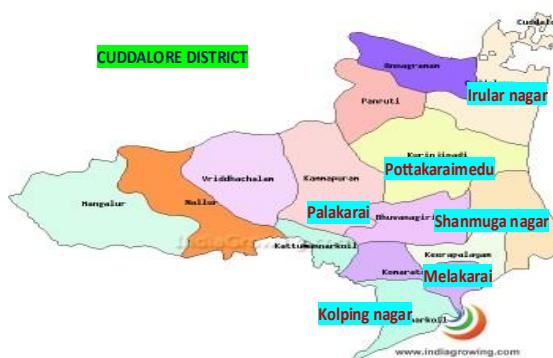
The FFVDP – Family Focused Village Development Program aims at the total development of the selected scheduled tribe and scheduled caste families in the target areas. Once the community becomes self-sufficient in the present target areas, we move on to select new areas. This program is supported by Linsi Foundation, Switzerland.

**Objective:** To create strong families and strong communities.

## MISSION TOPICS



## TARGET VILLAGE PROFILE



1. Irular Colony
2. Kolping Nagar
3. Melakarai
4. Palakarai
5. Pottakaraimeedu
6. Shanmuga Nagar

### IRULAR COLONY

- Community: Scheduled tribes
- Family size: 30 Population size: 92
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, MGNREGS

### KOLPING NAGAR

- Community: Scheduled caste
- Family size: 35 Population size: 113
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, MGNREGS

### MELAKARAI

- Community: Scheduled tribes
- Family size: 19 Population size: 69
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, Daily wage labour

### PALAKARAI

- Community: Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribes, Most Backward classes and Backward classes
- Family size: 30 Population size: 87
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, MGNREGS

### POTTAKARAIMEDU

- Community: Scheduled caste
- Family size: 66 Population size: 214
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, Fishing, Fish vendors, Migrant workers

### SHANMUGA NAGAR

- Community: Scheduled tribes
- Family size: 93 Population size: 314
- Main livelihood: Farm worker, Backwater fishing, Construction, Goat rearing



## MISSION TOPIC 01: LEADERSHIP

**MISSION:** Families and communities have increased capacity to access and enjoy their rights and entitlement to develop their village holistically and equitably.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

Village Development Committee's exposure visit to LITDS, providing chairs to VDC, conducting cluster level meetings and Contributing to the government for road connectivity.

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 2,81,400</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 1,14,997</b>

- Meetings of village development committees were held every month in all the villages, where, among other things, the main discussion was around the aspects of the mission.
- Cluster-level meetings with the participation of all 6 village VDC members were held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 22, 24<sup>th</sup> September 22, 28<sup>th</sup> December 22, and 18<sup>th</sup> March 23. Knowledge and bottlenecks were shared and the beneficiary for credit support was selected during the meeting.
- Refresher training for the members of the Village Development Committee on the FFVDP mission topics took place on various dates for each village. Viz) Irular Nagar: 25-01-2023 & 18-02-2023, Kolping Nagar: 28.01.2023 & 14.02.2023, Melakarai: 09.09.22 & 25.01.2023, Palakarai: 30.09.2022 & 25.02.2023, Pottakaraimeedu: 11.10.2022 & 21.12.2022, Shanmuga nagar: 12-12-2022 & 28-01-2023.
- The Family Development Group (FDG) in each village met every month and whenever needed and had discussion on issues related to the intervention topics (family issues, entitlements to be reached for each family, financial issues etc).
- 10 chairs were provided to all the Village Development committees except Melakarai to enhance their office functional ability.
- Shanmuga Nagar, Pottakaraimeedu and Kolping Nagar villages have road facilities connecting their villages with the nearby main road. Some of the members of all villages who had been left out from entitlements have obtained their entitlements like Aadhaar card, community certificates, old age pension, inclusion in MGNREGA scheme etc. Families in these villages had obtained land titles, household electrification and drinking water facilities.

Entitlements/ Govt Scheme Particulars	Family or Individual reached prior to the reporting period	Family or Individual reached during the reporting period
Access Road	9	3
Street Light	39	15
Drinking Water Facility	83	86
Household Electricity	236	0
Aadhar	765	29
Caste certificate	340	125
Old age pension	22	2
MGNREGA	178	6
Labour Welfare card	249	1



Melakarai villagers with the newly obtained community certificates

## PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



### BEGINNING OF A NEW HOPE

My self Indhira living with my family in Pottakaraimedu. I am the second wife of my husband. I have two children and one out of them is mentally retarded. Due to misgiving, as a reactionary gesture, my husband did not allow me to speak to anyone in the village. Our family members did not obtain any government entitlement. On such course, the regular house visits of the staff of FFVDP program, made me to come out of the restrictions imposed by my husband. I was also taught about the importance of obtaining the Government entitlements. As a reaction, I approached the line departments concerned on my own and obtained all the entitlements including the disability certificate for my daughter. I have also obtained the death certificate of my husband who passed away during the month of June 2022.

### A HAND OF HOPE

My name is Arikeshmani, a resident of Shanmuga Nagar. I am 28 years old and a member of VDC. I have always had the desire to help and improve my community. Being a member of VDC, I took the chance to materialize my desire. Being a member, I took the initiative of obtaining community certificate that in which the members of my village faced difficulty to access. With the support of fellow VDC members, I helped those deserving and needy to apply for the community certificate online. I went to Taluk office in this regard for follow up and explained in detail for the query made by the officials. Through these activities 80 of my villagers got community certificate. Now I am sure our community can access any scheme that in which helps them to have a good life.



## PHOTO GALLERY

### CLUSTER LEVEL VDC MEETING



### FDG MEETING



### VILLAGES GOT ROAD FACILITY



### VILLAGERS WITH OBTAINED ENTITLEMENTS





## MISSION TOPIC 02: EDUCATION

**MISSION:** Rural children and youth have quality education, with employable and leadership skills resulting in decent and dignified employment and/or self-employment.

### Activities planned:

Providing book rack to remedial centres, electrification of remedial centres, remedial children training material (cursive notes), talent contest for remedial class children, library renovation, education tour to planetarium, nutritious snacks to remedial class children, Breakfast provision to school children in Irular colony & Shanmuga nagar, providing cycle for school going children in Pottakaraimeedu, common toilet and extension of remedial centre remedial centre in Pottakaraimeedu, providing sports materials to the youth of Pottakaraimeedu, Vocational training, fencing and gardening of library entrance, training the youth in animation by DBRITE and adult literacy training program.

- Balwadi centres in Kolping nagar and Melakarai got new enrolment with 11 children. Nutritious food provided to the new incumbent and all the children of six villages.
- Balwadi in shanmuga nagar had been renovated and equipped with necessary materials.
- Old balwadi building in Shanmuga nagar repaired and converted into library setup.
- Breakfast (Idly) provided to all 77 remedial class students of Shanmuga nagar, Melakarai & Irular colony.
- Remedial classes functioned six days in a week. Remedial class specific syllabus had been prepared and enforced to teach and analyse the reading, writing, speaking and comprehensive skills of the children. Nutritious food such as groundnut cake, sesame cake, green gram provided to all the 139 remedial class children across the program villages. The children were oriented on vegetable garden.
- Writing materials (Cursive note) provided to 129 children in all villages.
- Remedial class children in Irular colony, Palakarai, Pottakaraimeedu were provided with a total number of 294 books containing the life history of National leaders, word dictionary, moral and story books. The newly setup library in Shanmuga nagar was provided with 36 books containing the life history of National leaders, word dictionary, moral and story books.
- For the sake of learning new things and knowledge development, 135 children were taken to various places in Pondicherry (Arts & crafts village, Pondicherry airport, science centre, beach etc)
- 46 children participated in talent show contest and prizes were distributed to the winners.
- Reading and writing skills literacy imparted to 91 adults. The Shanmuga Nagar remedial centre which consists of 31 adults were supported with teaching and learning materials by the Government of TN.

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 10,15,785</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 8,04,293</b>

- 40 bicycles were provided to the school going children in Kolping Nagar, Pottakaraimeedu and Shanmuga Nagar
- 27 students who had been absent for a long time were counselled and sent back to school. Enabled 2 Undergraduate students and 2 Post graduate students to avail scholarship.
- Enabled 2 college dropouts to re-enrol in their respective colleges.
- In coordination with DBRITE an awareness cum motivational program for 42 youth from all villages had happened on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 at DBRITE campus
- Youth clubs in Shanmuga Nagar and Pottakaraimeedu were offered sports materials such as football, volley ball, throw ball, carrom, ring ball, etc.

## PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



### FEELING LIKE A COMPLETE MAN

My name is Susairaj. I belong to Kolping nagar and the current leader of the Village Development Committee. Although I did not know to read or write and sign as well, the people of my village made me the Leader of the Village Development Committee. But I had the longing to get a basic literacy skill. My desire and longing to get the basic reading and writing skills ended at the FFVDP adult literacy program. I regularly attended the adult literacy program and eagerly learnt. The capacity training and many meetings made me learn more. With that curiosity, I learn to sign and was in the process of reading. Now as a VDC leader, I used to meet MLA, Counsellor, VAO, BDO, and RI for Road Connection, Water facilities, toilet construction, Patta, and street light. Though I'm the only male member in the VDC, villagers used to say that I simply take the VDC women here and there just for nothing. But now we have made a road connection for our village with the help of FFVDP. We are working on getting tar road facility for our village and hope we will achieve it soon.

## TOWARDS TIREDLESS BETTER EDUCATION

Myself Ashwin aged about 17 and living with my parents in Kolping Nagar. My parents are daily laborers. My school is situated 4 kms away from our village and I had to walk for nearly half an hour to reach the school daily on school working days. For this reason, many days I did not attend the school and so faced scolding from my parents. Walking one hour up and down daily gave me leg pain and made me tired which did not allow me to concentrate on my studies. Hearing and observing this issue, the FFVDP staff took steps to ease my transit to school. As a result, I got a bicycle from the FFVDP. Now I am going to school every day with a reach in 10 minutes that in turn helped me to concentrate on my studies.



## PHOTO GALLERY

REMEDIAL CLASS	NUTRITIOUS SNACKS TO CHILDREN
	
CHILDREN WITH AIDED CURSIVE MATERIAL	ADULT EDUCATION
	
CYCLE ASSISTANCE	
	



## MISSION TOPIC 03: HOUSEHOLD CARE

**MISSION:** Families live in a safe and secure life, clean and green environment and have food security.

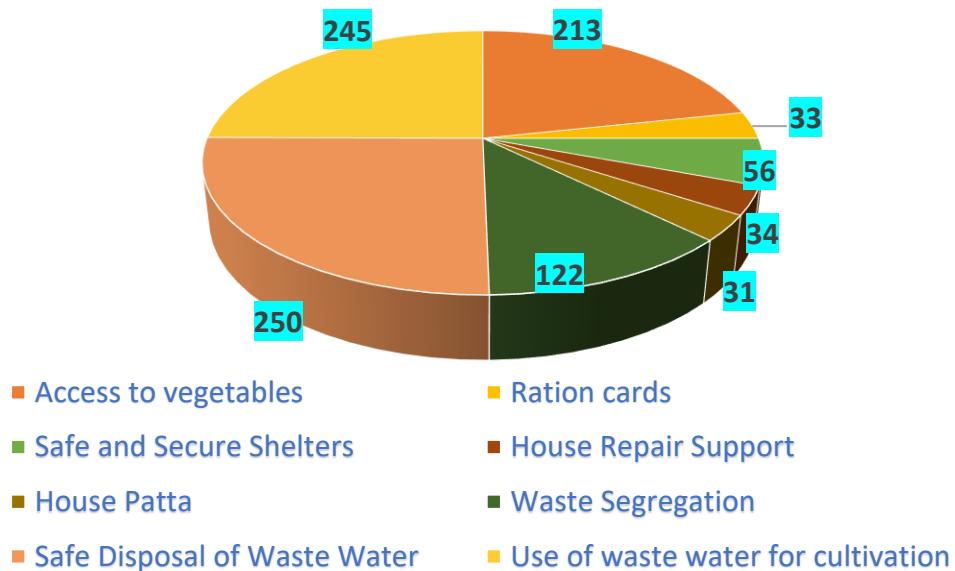
### ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

Conducting food mela, Distribution of seeds, grow bag and plant saplings, Shelter repair activities.

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 4,88,340</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 4,85,440</b>

- Kitchen garden vegetables distributed to each family and awareness created on the consumption of vegetables
- Food mela on traditional food to showcase the cooking talent of women conducted in each village and participants trained on the preparation of nutritious food. The toppers were distributed with prizes.
- 19 varieties of seeds and plant saplings such as tomato seed, brinjal seeds, cluster beans, ladies finger, radish, 6 varieties of lettuce, beans, snake guard etc distributed to each household and different variety seeds were sowed in the common kitchen garden.
- Efforts made and administrative sanction order received for the construction of 14 houses
- In Palakarai, one beneficiary constructed his house until window level with the Government support and laying foundation was supported with Rs. 20000/ by FFVDP.
- 10 poor conditioned shelter roofs had been repaired in Shanmuga nagar.

No. of families accessed to Household facilities/support/resources



## PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



### HEALTHY AND SATISFIED LIFE

My name is Vasantha, living with my husband in Pottakaraimedu. My two sons were married and living in an outside area. We have not had a single plant in our own space around our home and it looked very vague. In this scenario, FFVDP staff looking after our village distributed us vegetable and fruit seeds to nurture around my house. Along with the seeds bought on my own, I sowed all those received seeds in our own space and taking proper care. Now my garden has 11 varieties of plants and trees such as yam, pomegranate, mango, papaya, amla, guava, banana, eggplant, tomato, chili, moringa, sugarcane, and all types of lettuce. We consume the vegetable grown in our garden and also share the excess to our fellow villagers. Having a well grown garden gives me satisfaction. I feel proud that I can able to contribute to my society and spreading the greenery towards environmental protection.

## PHOTO GALLERY

### KITCHEN GARDEN



HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

HOUSE REPAIRING

	
<b>FOOD MELA</b>	<b>HOUSE REPAIRING</b>
	

	<b>MISSION TOPIC 04: HEALTH CARE</b>
<p><b>MISSION:</b> <b>Families have safe water, functional toilets, practice hygiene behaviour including menstrual and reproductive health</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES PLANNED:</b> Installation of hand pump, Installation of water tank with pipeline, awareness creation on menstrual health and hygiene, toilet construction with the government funding support, repairing hand pump</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 families in Irular nagar got household drinking water connections under the Jal Jeevan mission.</li> <li>• 55 toilets in Pottakaraimedu had been renovated, 10 out of this repair work was supported directly by the FFVDP and other 45 toilets were renovated through local contribution.</li> <li>• 168 women and adolescent girls were oriented on menstrual health and hygiene. Making reusable sanitary pads were also taught to the participants.</li> <li>• Community in all the villages were sensitized on WASH behaviour and water handling techniques.</li> <li>• Remedial centre students in Shanmuga nagar and Palakarai. were sensitized on the</li> </ul>

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 1,38,880</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 1,35,970</b>

collection & segregation of biodegradable waste for the use in kitchen garden

- One time a month health check-up visits made by Village Health Nurses
- 1 common drinking water tank with 1000 litres capacity installed in Kolping Nagar
- 1 existing common toilet in Pottakaraimdu had been renovated and in use.
- 8 Government (Rs.12000) cum FFVDP (Rs. 5000) supported toilet constructed in Shanmuga Nagar.
- Family Development Groups trained in water handling and hand washing techniques in all villages
- 18 participants (both men and women) of Palakarai were trained on solid waste management

## PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



### A PATIENT TURNED HEALTH ADVISOR

My name is Kanniparuvam and I hail from Pottakaramedu. Years back BLESS helped me to build a household toilet. Despite having a toilet, I never used it and accustomed to open defecation. Even though my children insisted on using the toilet, I never listened. As a result, I got health issues such as fever, headache, stomach pain, and body pain all at a time and became bedridden. I had been admitted to the hospital. The doctor's report mentioned it as an intestinal infection caused due to open defecation. I was forced to avail revolving fund from the VDC to meet out the medical expenses. Later I fully understood what the staff said about the necessity of using the toilet and started using it. Few months back my household toilet has been repaired with the support of FFVDP fund. I am now using the toilet regularly and also advising the adults in our village to use the toilet.

## PHOTO GALLERY

DRINKING WATER PIPE LINE WORK  
IN USE



HAND PUMP INSTALLED & IN  
USE



SENSITIZATION OF  
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE & MANAGEMENT

TOILET CONSTRUCTED &  
REGULARLY USED



**ACTING TOWARDS A CLEAN VILLAGE**



**VHN VISIT TO VILLAGE**



## **MISSION TOPIC 05: EARNINGS & FINANCE**

**MISSION:** Families have sustainable and decent income and do safe and productive investment

**ACTIVITIES PLANNED:**  
Livelihood support (goat & Quail) and livestock training and creation of livelihood support fund

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 7,32,559</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 6,38,655</b>

- 11 families bought 5 goats each, 11 families got a dairy cow and 1 family got a cow with a calf. One family assisted to start small snack unit (murukku business).
- Livestock and disease management training delivered to the livestock beneficiary.
- Families in all the villages were visited and sensitized on financial literacy
- Revolving fund and livelihood support reflects in the economy of the families. Savings become regular among the SHG members. SHG members save Rs. 100/ per month which improves their group savings and number of members accessing revolving fund. The group savings of two SHGs in Kolping nagar has gone up as one of them the

- SHG have Rs.11,400/- as savings and the other has Rs. 1,60,000/- as savings.
- VDC Revolving fund resulted in clearing debt and further improves their family income.



#### External Loan Repayment

**Impact of Revolving fund and Livelihood support:** Loans taken from private moneylenders were repaid that results in fall in debt burden for 25 families

#### Savings

**Impact of Revolving fund and Livelihood support:** Monthly savings of 71 Self Help Groups and/ Family Development Groups have increased

#### Financial Literacy

**Impact of Financial Literacy:** Smart handling of earned money among 176 families. Responsible spending increased with preplanned budgeting to achieve seemingly unachievable goals.



## PROGRAM REFLECTIONS

### **A RELIEF THROUGH HANDS ON SUPPORT**

Myself Rajamanickam hailing from Palakarai. My wife is a physically challenged person (deaf). We have no children and was depending only on the income from Old Age Pension scheme. I used to save Rs.200/ month in FDG with that income. I am chronic to asthma and so often fell sick. I had availed the livelihood support from the FFVDP project previously. The support I availed helped me to earn income. Now the severity of my sickness increased and could not get rid of it. To cure my ailment, I took Rs. 5000/ loan from the FDG savings. I had again been supported by the FFVDP with the livestock (goat) assistance. Now both the livelihood support and the loan I took from the FDG helps to get health treatment and to run my family life in a smooth way.



### **PHOTO GALLERY**

#### **LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT**



**LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT  
TRAINING**

**LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT**



**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT TRAINING**



**MISSION TOPIC 06:  
VALUES & ETHICS**

**MISSION: Families and  
communities live with**

- National days and Special days such as Independence Day, Republic day, Women's day, Dr. Ambedkar birthday, Kamarajar

### **values and in peace and harmony**

Individual family counselling, celebration of women's day and Pongal day, awareness creation program on alcoholism was planned.

<b>Amount Allotted</b>	<b>Rs. 73,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Rs. 48,300</b>

birthday, Vinayagar chathurthi, Women's day, World Water day, World Dream day and Children's day celebrated

- Pongal day which is termed as Tamil's festival celebrated in all villages.
- All families dined at least once a day together and in Kolping nagar, Shanmuga nagar and Pottakaraimedu.
- The members of each family in all villages dine together at least ones in a day
- Child rights made known to the children
- Youth engaged in community development work
- Issues such as domestic violence and child marriage were counselled through family visits and through VDC.
- Awareness created on alcoholism by Police department

## **PROGRAM REFLECTIONS**

### **A LIFE CHANGING DAWN**

Myself Bilal a resident of Shanmuga nagar village. I am 45 years old, married and having three children. I was a chain smoker and used to have alcohol daily. My addiction to drugs created havoc in my family. My children used to beg me to quit and free from such habits. But I never listened to them and continued my habits. Meanwhile the VDC had been dissolved as a follow up to the quarrel between the VDC and the Village Panchayat. This time the staff of FFVDP took steps to recreate the VDC. Then it has been recreated by the FC & CO with new members. I used this chance and volunteered to take up the Earnings & Finance member position in VDC. Since then, I stopped consuming the alcohol and smoking. Being a member of the VDC, I wanted to show that I am a responsible person and worked hard towards a role model for others. I am now working hard towards making my village as a model village.



## **PHOTO GALLERY**

### **CELEBRATION OF SPECIAL DAYS**



**IN  
COMMUNITY DINED A DAY  
TOGETHER**

**FAMILY MEMBERS DINED ONCE  
TOGETHER**



**PONGAL DAY CELEBRATIONS**



## CAPACITY BUILDING



### STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

- The Director, BLESS and all the FFVDP staff attended and benefitted from the Capacity Building program organized at Kodaikanal and Chennai. Two laptops were procured for the usage of field staff. Staff's capacity periodically refreshed on the Mission topics and on the requiring aspects as per the need of the program for its successful implementation. The dates of BLESS level staff capacity building is as follows: 08.11.2022, 03.12.2022 & 05.01.2023
- Staff capacity on the concept of children parliament was held on 24.11.2022.



**@Kodaikanal**      **@ Kondaikanal**      **@ Chennai**      **Laptop**

**CB training Topic :**  
**Mission Topic and Roles & Responsibilities**  
**Attended and Benefitted by :** Field Coordinator & Community Organiser

**CB training Topic :**  
**Mission Topic and Roles & Responsibilities**  
**Attended and Benefitted by :** Field Coordinator & Remedial Teacher

**CB training Topic :**  
**Mission Topic, Roles & Responsibilities and Digital documentation**  
**Attended and Benefitted by :** Director, Field Coordinator & Accountant.

**2 Laptops to Field Coordinator and Remedial Teacher for the better and timely reporting and documentation.**

## PHOTO GALLERY

### STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING



## DONOR & FFVDP PARTNER AGENCY VISITS



### DONOR VISIT

- 09.06.2022 : Ms. Isabelle, Program Manager of UWLs (Linsi Foundation) along with the Directorate India officials visited the two of the existing and one former program villages namely Melakarai, Pottakaraimedu and Velapadi. During the visit to Pottakaraimedu, Ms. Isabelle opened the name board of the village, had interaction with the VDC members, made house visits to check the condition of toilet and its usage, distributed cycle and cursive materials to school children. Ms. Isabelle had interaction with the community in Melakarai and distributed 19 community certificates to the respective persons. Ms. Isabelle in her visit to Velapadi (an exit village) opened the community hall built under the FFVDP support.
- 07.09.2022 : The officials from Directorate of India visited to Kolping nagar and Shanmuga nagar. The visitors had discussion with the VDC, examined through the VDC documents, interacted with the families examined the facilities provided under FFVDP support.
- 11.10.2022 : Mr. Uruban Linsi, Director and Ms. Claudia Linsi, Ms. Isabelle Trustee, Linsi Foundation visited Chennai. The FFVDP staff working with BLESS met the Founder cum Director and the Trustee at Chennai. The visitors had a detailed discussion about the activities completed and the plan for the completion of the pending activities. The Directorate of India officials were also present during the discussion.



### FFVDP PARTNER AGENCY VISIT

- 15.08.2022 : The Village Development Committees belong to the Thekalur JMJSSS program villages visited our field for 2 days. It was an exposure visit. They visited to Shanmuga nagar, Melakarai, Palakarai and Pottakaraimedu and had discussion with the Village Development Committees on their activities, achievements, documents maintained and plans for a better functioning.
- The officials and the Village Development committee members from Gramavikas Peace Foundation (GPF), Guntur had an exposure visit to Shanmuga nagar.
- 25.10.2022 : Loyola Integrated Tribal Development Society (LITDS) Katukapally NGO officials and VDC members visited and had interaction with the VDC members and facilities provided in Shanmuga nagar.

## PHOTO GALLERY

Ms.ISABELLE'S VISIT	DIRECTORATE OF INDIA VISIT
	
<b>LINSI FOUNDATION VISIT TO INDIA TRUSTEES- URBAN, ISABELLE, CLAUDIA</b>	<b>FFVDP PARTNER NGO'S VDC VISIT TO OUR PROGRAM VILLAGE</b>
	

## PROGRAM FUND ALLOCATION & SPENDING BREAKUP

Account head	Fund Allotted	Amount spent
<b>Mission Topics</b>		
Leadership	2,81,400	1,14,997
Education	10,15,785	8,04,293
Household Care	4,88,340	4,85,440
Health Care	1,38,880	1,35,970
Earnings & Finance	7,32,559	6,38,655
Values & Ethics	73,000	48,300
Local contribution	2,72,996	0
Staff Capacity Building	1,54,200	1,37,406

## CHILDREN'S HOME AND CHILDREN ACTIVITY CENTRE

**Objective:** Providing Shelter, Food, and Education to Orphan and Semi-Orphan Children.

**Partnership:** Collaborative effort with Les Amis des Enfants du Monde (AEM), France.

**Impact:** Nurturing vulnerable children in the Cuddalore District, ensuring their holistic development.

### Key Activities:

- Educational Program with Residential Care for Orphan and Semi-Orphan Children at BLESS Children's Home, Reddichavadi Village, Cuddalore District.
- Empowerment and Protection of the Rights of Dalit and Tribal Children through Meaningful Education and Community Participation at Children's Activity Centre.



### BLESS Children's Home:

The Home provides shelter, food, and education to orphan, semi-orphan, and BPL children. Thirty students were reunited with relatives, while 13 remain under our care. We actively monitor their progress and ensure holistic development through moral sessions, counselling, and regular gatherings.



### Sponsorship Programme:

Forty deserving children were sponsored, covering their educational fees. Organized get-togethers served as platforms to review progress and motivate students, fostering a supportive network for the sponsored children.





### Children Activity Centres - Tamil Nadu:

We conducted remedial classes for underperforming students and supported the "Illam Thedi Kalvi" initiative by providing assistance to children and encouragement to teachers.



### Children Activity Centres - Pondicherry:

Five centres were established to provide after-school support to tribal students, focusing on education, art, culture, counselling, and nutritional assistance. Robust monitoring ensures effective implementation.



## INLAND CYCLE FISH VENDORS EMPOWERMENT

### Project Focus:

The project aims to "Improve and Sustain the Income of Inland Fish Vendors" by addressing the challenges they face, particularly those exacerbated by climate change.

### Approach:

The primary strategy involves forming Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and providing essential resources to enhance livelihoods.

### Target Population:

Marginalized fishing communities experiencing difficulties due to climate change.

### Key Activities:

#### Capacity Building Training:

- Conducted four times annually covering project objectives, climate change adaptation, and leadership.
- Participants received materials, accommodation, and travel allowances.
- Formation of 35 new JLGs with training sessions on cooperative operations and government schemes. consisting a Total Number of 525 Fish Vendors.
- Financial support provided to JLGs.



### JLG Executive Committee:

- Ensured diverse representation with 10 women and 5 men.
- Organized bi-annual capacity building sessions.
- Managed resources and facilitated strategic planning.



### Water-Bodies Lease Assistance:

- Financial aid extended to three beneficiary groups to diversify livelihoods and enhance economic resilience.



### Livelihood Support:

- Essential items provided to 245 fish vendors in Mettupalayam, including ice boxes, raincoats, torches, weighing machines, solar dryers, and customised cycles.
- Working conditions improved, and product quality enhanced.



#### **Exposure Visits and In-house Training:**

- Two-day visits equipped fish vendors with essential knowledge, including practical training on solar dryer functions, ice cube production, and digital weighing machines operation.

#### **Prototype Fish Vending Two-Wheeler:**

- A battery-operated vehicle designed for fish vendors, with exploration of credit linkages with NBFCs for affordability.



#### **Fish Vendor Identity Cards:**

- Issuance of Government-Identity Cards to create inclusivity and access to welfare schemes.



### Accident Insurance:

- 245 fish vendors are covered by accident insurance through LIC, with monthly premiums paid by BLESS.

### Loans under PM FME Scheme - UCO Bank:

- Loans provided for Technological advancements and Business expansion.

### Meeting with Cabinet Minister:

- Discussion held on compensation for fish vendors during lean periods, with assurances of necessary action and consideration for compensation.



### Loan Sanction for Mini Truck Purchase:

- JLG Bharathiyan secured a loan of INR 14 Lakh with a 60% subsidy for a four-wheeler.

### Addressing Alcoholism among Vendors:

- BLESS initiated community-based programs and established a De-Addiction Centre.

### **Significance:**

- Focus on sustainable livelihoods, institutional strengthening, climate resilience, financial inclusion, policy advocacy, safety, empowerment, and awareness among inland fish vendors for systemic change and long-term impact.

## **Elderly Care Support**

**Project Name:** Elderly Care Support

**Location:** Ottampattu Village, Gingee Tk, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, India

**Support:** Supported by WARLI, France

**Initiatives:** Providing support to elderly individuals in need of food, medical care, and personal attention.

### **Objectives Accomplished:**

- Decreased hunger among senior citizens through daily nutritious meals.
- Improved health status via monthly health check-ups and vitamin supplements.

### **Key Activities:**

- Daily supply of nutritious meals.
- Establishment of a functional kitchen.
- Monthly health check-ups by medical professionals.
- Recreational activities for social interaction.
- Provision of basic necessities like clothing and toiletries.

### **Conclusion:**

The project significantly improved the quality of life for elderly beneficiaries through nutrition, healthcare, and social activities. BLESS remains committed to supporting the elderly in Ottampattu village.

## **Microfinance and Economic Empowerment**

**Collaboration:** Partnership with NABFINS (National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development Financial Services).

**Objective:** Supporting Micro-Credit Programs for Women's Self-Help Groups in Cuddalore District.

**Impact:** Providing Soft Loans for Livelihood activities, Liberating Women from High-interest loans from Moneylenders.

## **Community Engagement and Committees**

**Objective:** Active engagement with Governmental bodies, serving on committees such as the Child Labour Committee, District Task Force Committee, District Child Protection Committee and State-Level Adi-Dravida Welfare and Tribal Welfare Committee.

**Significance:** Reflects BLESS's dedication to Policy Advocacy, Community Representation and ensuring a Voice for the Marginalized