



BLESS

AN EMPOWERING ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



 admin@bless.org.in

 **Pondy-Cuddalore Road
Reddichavady-607402
Cell: 91+ 9750365723**

INDEX

From the Director's Desk	3
About BLESS	5
Projects of BLESS	6
Linsi Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Focused Village Development Program• House Foundation• Fengal Cyclone• Impact Assessment	7
Special Adoption Agency	19
NABFINS	21
Children Activity Center	22
Elderly Care Support	23
Rehabilitation Center	24
Cycle Fish Vendor Project	25
BLESS as a Host....	28
Financial Overview	29

From the Director's Desk

It gives me great pleasure to present an overview of the BLESS Project and the meaningful impact it has created among vulnerable families and deserving communities during the financial year 2024–25.



Mr. L.S. Anthony Samy
Founder, Executive Secretary

This year, we remain deeply grateful to our donors whose unwavering support has enabled us to implement our planned programmes effectively. Our sincere thanks go to our primary donors; Linsi Foundation (Switzerland), Azim Premji Foundation, the Tribal Welfare Department (Chennai), NABARD and to the many philanthropists who have stood by our mission. Their trust strengthens our resolve to pursue sustained greater social transformation.

A significant milestone this year has been the formation of a Cooperative Society for Cycle Fish Vendors, a pioneering initiative aimed at integrating an unorganized workforce into a structured system. This community based organization, now transitioning into a cooperative, currently supports 1,200 cycle fish vendors across Cuddalore District and the Union Territory of Puducherry. This model reflects our commitment to enhancing dignity, economic stability and collective strength among marginalised groups.

We also reviewed our policy for overseas volunteers. The nominal charges introduced for food and accommodation led to a decline in volunteer participation. After careful consideration, we have reverted to our earlier practice of offering these facilities free of cost to encourage greater engagement.

Another noteworthy achievement is the partnership with the Sisters of the Cluny Congregation, Tiruchirappalli Province, in strengthening our Special Adoption Agency (SAA) Programme. Three sisters now reside on our campus and provide compassionate care to the infants. We were honoured by the visit of the Mother General of the Cluny Congregation from Paris, who expressed immense joy in collaborating with BLESS. We also take this opportunity to appreciate the dedicated Cluny staff team; many of whom are young social work graduates. It is essential that we continue investing in their capacity building and professional development.

From the Director's Desk

Our collaboration with NABFINS continues to empower women through microcredit, enabling them to undertake cottage based enterprises and generate sustainable income for their families.

This year also brought change. The AEM has announced the withdrawal of its partnership in our children's development programme due to funding constraints overseas. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to AEM for more than eight years of committed support. This development underscores the need for us to identify new donors, particularly to continue supporting educational and developmental needs of children in our project villages.

As we move forward, it is timely to revisit and strengthen our organisational vision and mission so they remain aligned with our current interventions and our expanding work with Linsi Foundation, corporate partners, and other stakeholders in the development sector.

We were delighted to host several NGOs; including partners of Linsi Foundation and Happy Miles Foundation, who visited our project villages to learn from our innovative rural development practices. We are proud to showcase replicable models that inspire others.

In the coming years, we aim to focus more on climate resilience, innovative livelihood models and equipping community based organisations to address emerging climate related challenges.

All our achievements this year are the result of collective effort. I extend my sincere gratitude to our Board Members, Donors, Philanthropists, Friends, Staff, Volunteers and the Communities we serve. Your support, commitment, and partnership continue to strengthen our journey.

We look forward to continuing this mission with dedication, hope and to sharing greater milestones in the year ahead.

With Sincere Thanks
Anthony Samy
Executive Secretary, BLESS

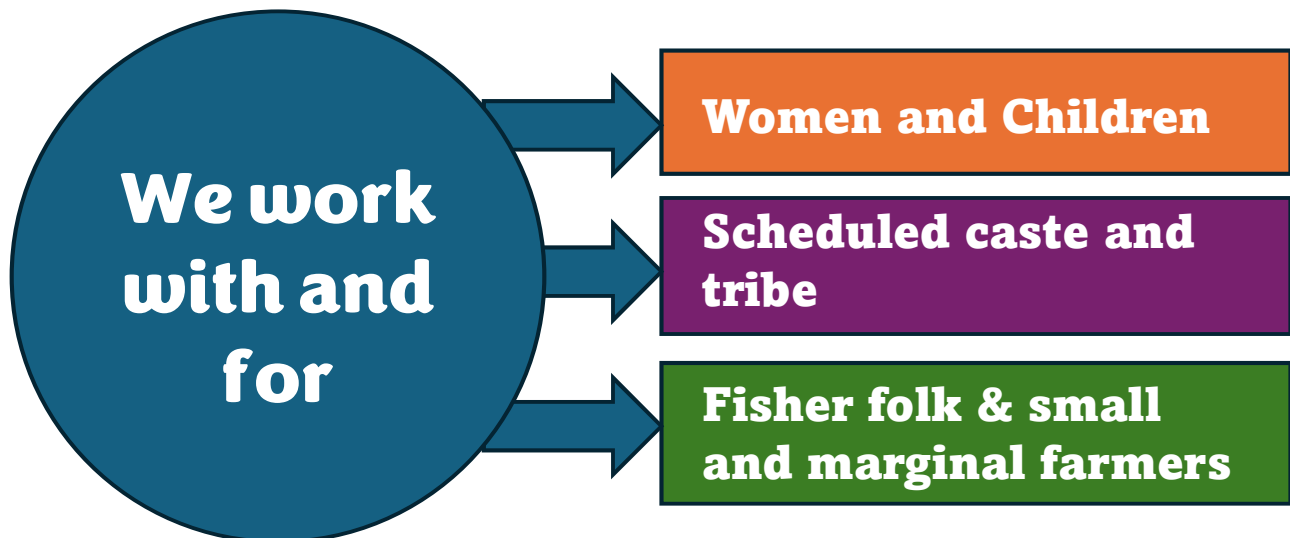
About BLESS:

VISION

- **GREATER SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

MISSION

- **SELF-RELIANT VILLAGES WITH A STRATEGIC FOCUS ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VULNERABLE CULMINATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**



BLESS is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu, South India, by Mr. L.S. Anthonysamy. He has tremendous experience in village development by working as a volunteer in VRO(Village Reconstruction Organization) under the guidance of late Fr. Windy 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 register number 35/89. It's entitled to receive foreign contributions for its program/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)

OUR PROJECTS

PROJECTS	DONOR
Family Focused Village Development Program (FFVDP)	Linsi Foundation
Elderly Care Support	Art Et Solidarit Warli
Rehabilitation of Alcoholics	Art Et Solidarit Warli
Special Adoption Agency	Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) State Adoption Resource Authority (SARA)
Children Activity Centre	Le Amis Des Enfants Du Monde
Inland Fish Vendor Project	Conferenza Episcopale Italia (Italian Bishop Council)
Enterprise Formation, Promotion and Financial Linkage	NABFINS (NABARD FINANCIAL SERVICES)



**Linsi
FOUNDATION**

FAMILY FOCUSED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

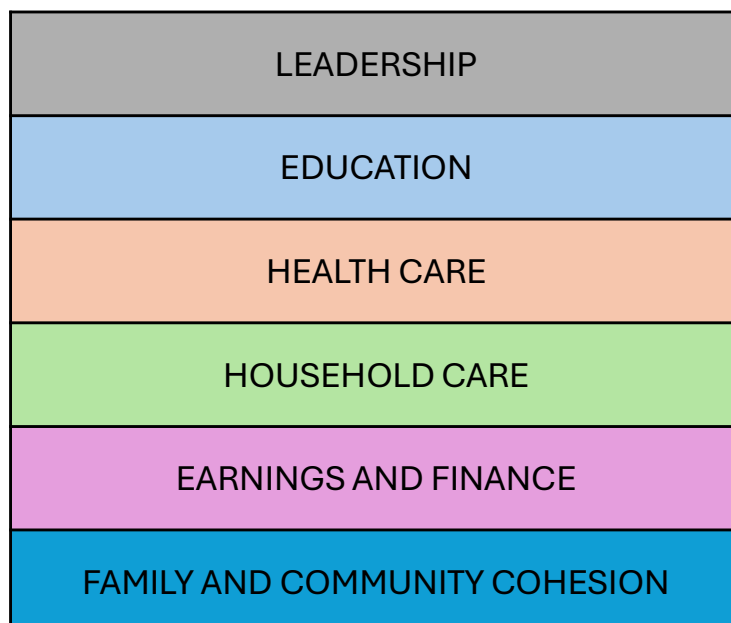
This project aims at the total development of the selected scheduled tribe and scheduled caste families in the target areas. Once the community becomes self-sufficient in the present target areas, we move on to select new areas. This project is supported by Linsi Foundation, Switzerland.

VISION

Strong families and self-responsible and supportive communities

MISSION

We work with Tribals and Dalits and other marginalized or disadvantaged communities in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to develop family focused villages through



VILLAGE DETAILS

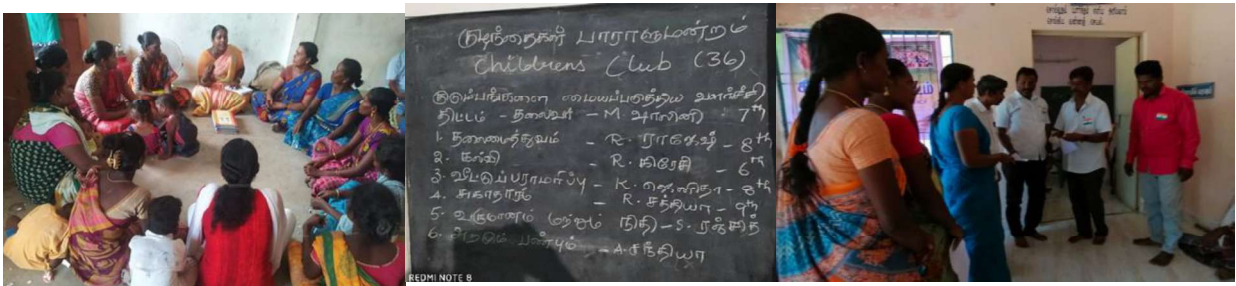
NAME OF THE VILLAGE	NO. OF FAMILIES	POPULATION
KOLPING NAGAR	35	113
PALAKKARAI	30	88
TS PETTAI & MELAKKARAI (Scheduled Tribe- Irular Settlement)	62	209
Total Number of families & population	127 Families	419

During **2024–25**, **BLESS**, in partnership with the **LINSI Foundation**, implemented the **Family Focused Village Development Program (FFVDP)** with a holistic approach. The program addressed **education, household care, health care, earning and finance, and family and community cohesion**. Through community engagement and institutional strengthening, families were supported to improve well-being, access entitlements, and actively participate in village development processes.

LEADERSHIP

Under the Family Focused Village Development Programme (FFVDP), BLESS played a significant leadership role in strengthening community institutions and promoting participatory local governance across the project villages. A key leadership intervention was facilitating the registration of the Youth Club of Kolping Nagar with the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK). This formal recognition provided youth with an institutional identity, encouraged active participation, and enabled access to government-supported youth development platforms, thereby nurturing local youth leadership.

In addition, BLESS focused on the reformation and capacity building of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in TS Pettai, Kolping Nagar, and Palakkarai. Through consistent handholding support, leadership orientation, and structured community meetings, these CBOs were strengthened to function democratically, represent collective community concerns, and take informed decisions related to village development. This process enhanced accountability, inclusiveness, and ownership among community members.



A major outcome of these leadership efforts was the facilitation of access to essential government entitlements for vulnerable families. With the active involvement of community leaders and Village Development Committees (VDCs), families were supported to obtain Community Certificates, Aadhaar Cards, Old Age Pensions, and Labour Cards, contributing to improved social security and inclusion within formal welfare systems.

The VDCs emerged as active platforms for community-led action. Members regularly participated in Gram Sabha meetings, raised village-level concerns, submitted petitions to relevant line departments, and mobilized local resources to address priority needs. These initiatives reflect a positive shift from dependency-oriented expectations towards participatory leadership, collective responsibility, and sustainable community development.

EDUCATION



Across the three villages, reaching a total of 75 students through After-School Study Centres. These centres provided academic support and a safe learning environment, resulting in improved educational outcomes and increased student confidence. Children actively participated in school competitions and won several certificates, reflecting enhanced academic and co-curricular engagement. To further support students, an Education Fund was created in Kolping Nagar, and stationery, school bags, and sports materials were provided to students in TS Pettai. Nutritious snacks were also supplied to children attending the After-School Study Centre at TS Pettai to promote regular attendance and better concentration.

In addition to academic support, efforts were made to strengthen learning infrastructure and community involvement. The Community Hall at TS Pettai was repaired and furnished for educational use, while a Community Centre was constructed at Kolping Nagar to support student and community activities. An awareness programme on the importance of education was conducted for students and parents in TS Pettai by MSW fieldwork students from St. Joseph College, Cuddalore. At Palakkarai, the Village Development Committee (VDC) led a creative painting initiative at the After-School Study Centre, reinforcing community ownership and creating a child-friendly learning environment.



HOUSEHOLD CARE



Mrs. Maragadham, a widowed woman over 60 years old from Palakkarai living alone on an old age pension, was supported with a safe shelter after her dilapidated house was demolished.



BLESS supported vulnerable families through critical household care interventions aimed at ensuring safety and dignity. In TS Pettai, temporary thatched roof shelters were provided to 19 families to ensure smoother shifting from Melakkarai to TS Pett, each measuring approximately 10 × 11 sq. ft. with concrete flooring, to support families relocated from unsafe living conditions. In Palakkarai, two unsafe houses were completely demolished and replaced with sheet houses, ensuring safe and secure shelter for the affected families. Further strengthening the quality and sustainability of housing interventions, a Civil Engineer was appointed following the receipt of House Foundation support from LINSI Foundation to oversee and guide house construction and repair works across TS Pettai, Kolping Nagar, and Palakkarai, ensuring structural safety, quality standards, and effective utilisation of resources.



HEALTH CARE

Targeted health interventions led to improved well-being across project villages. Healthcare and nutrition support for children like Vetrimaran (Type 1 diabetes) and Arockiya Punitha Mary from Kolping Nagar resulted in better health outcomes, regular school attendance, and improved nutritional intake. Trained young women leaders conducted peer awareness sessions for adolescent girls and young women during CBO meetings in Kolping Nagar and TS Pettai. Access to safe drinking water improved with the functional RO plant in TS Pettai, saving time and effort previously spent walking 750 metres for water. Sanitation facilities were strengthened through the repair of 15 toilets benefiting 63 individuals in Palakkarai, provision of reusable napkins to 89 women in TS Pettai and Kolping Nagar through Gramalaya, and construction of toilets for 6 families in TS Pettai with government support of ₹12,000 and FFVDP contribution of ₹8,000 per family.



SUCCESS STORY

Health Care Support under FFVDP

Arockiya Punitha Mary, a 12th standard student from **Kolping Nagar**, lost her mother to tuberculosis at a young age and lives with her hearing-impaired father, an agricultural laborer with irregular income. After being diagnosed with **tuberculosis in 2019**, recurring health issues forced her to discontinue studies after Class 10. Through **FFVDP**, Punitha was re-enrolled in school and received **monthly nutrition and healthcare support of ₹2,000**. With regular monitoring, improved diet, and follow-up care at the PHC, her health improved significantly—her weight increased from **35 kg to 42 kg**, respiratory issues reduced, and her menstrual cycle became regular. Today, she attends school regularly, concentrates better, and is confidently appearing for her **board examinations**, reflecting the impact of timely and integrated health support.



EARNING & FINANCE

Livelihood and income-generation activities strengthened financial security among vulnerable families. Animal Health Management Training was conducted in Kolping Nagar for 20 individuals, followed by the provision of cows and construction of cow sheds, with all beneficiary families linked to the Aavin Cooperative for regular income through milk sales and covered under insurance for both cattle and owners. In TS Pettai, 6 Kanna Thoni boats with fishing nets were provided to 6 families from the ST Irular community, distributed through the Assistant Director (AD) and Deputy Director (DD), Fisheries Department, Cuddalore, along with RCs and Inland Fishermen Licenses. As an innovative pilot initiative, honey boxes were installed for these beneficiaries to explore beekeeping in mangrove regions, in collaboration with the Department of Entomology, Annamalai University, diversifying income opportunities.

6 இருளர் குடும்பத்தினருக்கு படகு, வலைகள் வழங்கல்



■ சிதம்பரம் அடுத்த தா.சோ.பேட்டையில் பிளஸ் தன்னார்வ நிறுவனம் சார்பில், இருளர் குடும்பத்தினர்களுக்கு கண்ணாதோணி படகு, மீன்பிடி வலைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

கிள்ளை, டிச. 2-
சிதம்பரம் அருகே
பிளஸ் தன்னார்வ நிறுவ
னம் சார்பில், 6 இருளர்
குடும்பத்தினருக்கு, மீன்
பிடி படகு மற்றும் வலை
கள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

சிதம்பரம் அடுத்த
தா.சோ.பேட்டை மேதா
பட்கர் கனாமி குடியிருப்
பில் வசிக்கும் 6 பழங்குடி

இருளர் குடும்பத்தின
ருக்கு, பிளஸ் தன்னார்வ
நிறுவனம் மற்றும் லின்சி
அறக்கட்டளை சார்பில்,
தலா ரூ. 56 ஆயிரம் மதிப்
பில் 6 கண்ணா படகு, 3
விதமான மீன்பிடி வலை
கள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

கடலூர் மாவட்ட மீன்
வளத்துறை மண்டல
உதவி இயக்குநர் வேல்

முருகன், உதவி இயக்கு
நர் ரம்யா லட்சுமி, பிளஸ்
தொண்டு நிறுவன செயலர்
அந்தோணிசாமி ஆகியோர்
வழங்கினர்.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், பிளஸ்
தொண்டு நிறுவன பணி
யாளர்கள் இளங்கோவன்,
ரிச்சர்டு, கிராம தலைவர்
மாரியப்பன், ராஜேஷ் உள்
ளிட்டவர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர்.

Newspaper clip

**‘Distribution of Kanna Thoni and Fishnets
for the ST Irular families from TS Pettai’**

LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION SUCCESS STORY



In Kolping Nagar, BLESS, with the support of the LINSI Foundation, implemented a livelihood intervention that transformed the income security of vulnerable families through cow and cowshed distribution. A total of 20 families received milch cows along with properly constructed cowsheds, enabling them to adopt dairy farming as a stable and age-appropriate livelihood option.

All beneficiaries were trained in Animal Health Management and provided 100% insurance coverage for both cattle and owners. With strong market linkage to the AAVIN Cooperative, families now sell milk regularly, with an average yield of 3–5 litres per cow per day and monthly sales of 120–150 litres. At an average procurement price of ₹30–₹35 per litre, families earn ₹3,500 and above per month, ensuring a predictable income stream.

Beyond income generation, the intervention has improved household nutrition through daily milk consumption and ensured regular veterinary support through camps and insurance coverage. This initiative has significantly reduced dependence on seasonal agricultural wages and strengthened long-term livelihood security and nutritional well-being for families in Kolping Nagar.



FROM THE HEART OF A CONTENTED BENEFICIARY

“Earlier, we depended only on daily wage work, which was not regular. After receiving the cow and cowshed support, I now earn a steady income by selling milk to AAVIN. We are also able to consume milk daily at home. This support has given us confidence and financial stability. I thank BLESS and LINSI Foundation for helping our family stand on our own.”
— Mrs. Gnanasoundari, Kolping Nagar

FAMILY & COMMUNITY COHESION

BLESS facilitated activities to strengthen family relationships, community awareness, and child protection mechanisms.

Awareness programmes were conducted for families on the ill effects of addiction, with a primary focus on alcoholism. During these sessions, community members openly shared the challenges and hardships caused by addiction within families, helping to build collective understanding, empathy, and a sense of shared responsibility to address the issue.

Special focus was given to child protection and safety. All 11 children attending the After-School Study Centre were oriented on the Child Helpline (1098), self-defense techniques, and POCSO safeguards, enabling them to recognize unsafe situations and seek timely support. Strengthening community-based protection systems, Mrs. Suganya, a member of the Village Development Committee (VDC), was nominated as the Palakkarai habitation representative to the Village Level Child Protection Unit at the Panchayat level, enhancing community participation in safeguarding children.



Community Level awareness program on Deaddiction at TS Pettai and Kolping Nagar



Awareness on Child Rights for students and parents at habitation level and formation of Child Protection task force at Village Panchayat Level at Palakkarai

HOUSE FOUNDATION

The House Foundation Program was implemented by BLESS under the Family Focused Village Development Program (FFVDP), with support from the LINSI Foundation. This initiative aimed to provide critical financial assistance to families who had already been granted Government Patta and were beneficiaries of housing schemes under either the State or Central Government.

While government housing support is typically released in instalments—either in phases linked to construction stages or through material supply—many families face financial constraints in meeting immediate construction needs. To bridge this gap, LINSI Foundation provided an additional support of ₹1,00,000 per house, enabling families to continue construction without delays.

During the financial year 2024–25, a total of **19 houses** received House Foundation support through BLESS in the villages Irular Colony, TS Pettai, Palakkarai, Shanmuga Nagar and Kolping Nagar, significantly strengthening the families' ability to complete their homes and improve their living conditions.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT VISIT BY DIRECTORATE INDIA TEAM (Implementing Unit of FFVDP in India)

The Directorate India Team, the implementing unit of the Family Focused Village Development Program (FFVDP) in India, conducted an Impact Assessment Visit to BLESS from 21st to 23rd January 2025. This visit aimed to review program implementation, assess field-level impact, and evaluate the effectiveness of the long-standing partnership between BLESS and the LINSI Foundation. BLESS has been partnering with LINIS Foundation since 2013 and has been a key implementing partner since the program's earlier phase, when FFVDP was known as the Village Development Program (VDP) during 2016–17.

As one of the forerunner NGO partners, BLESS has consistently demonstrated strong institutional capacity, community engagement, and program ownership over the years. The three-day visit included field visits to project villages, in-depth interactions with beneficiaries and community members, and structured discussions with the BLESS project team. These engagements provided firsthand insights into program outcomes, community participation, and the sustainability of interventions at the family and village levels.

The assessment findings reflected positive program impact, effective implementation practices, and strong alignment with FFVDP objectives. Based on the observations and interactions during the visit, the Directorate India Team expressed confidence in BLESS's role as a strategic partner and arrived at a positive conclusion to renew the partnership, reinforcing a shared commitment towards long-term, family-focused village development initiatives.



FENGAL CYCLONE AND FLOOD RELIEF SUPPORT



The Fengal Cyclone caused widespread destruction across parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, severely impacting vulnerable and marginalized communities living in coastal and low-lying areas. In response to the humanitarian needs arising from the disaster, BLESS, with the support of the LINIS Foundation, implemented a focused relief intervention in Cuddalore District and Puducherry. The response covered 20 habitations comprising Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Nari Kuravar settlements, which were among the worst affected due to fragile housing conditions and limited access to basic resources. The relief intervention was designed to address immediate needs related to shelter, food security, health, and education. Affected families were provided with tarpaulins to support temporary shelter, dry ration kits to ensure access to essential food supplies, and blankets to protect them during the post-cyclone period.

Recognizing the impact of the disaster on children's education, stationery kits were distributed to school-going children to help them continue their learning without prolonged disruption. Special attention was given to the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through the distribution of nutrition supplements, supporting their health and wellbeing during the recovery phase.

SPECIAL ADOPTION AGENCY

The **Special Adoption Agency (SAA)** at **BLESS** provides care and protection to vulnerable children from **newborns up to one year of age**, including those who are **abandoned, surrendered, or from other complex and high-risk backgrounds**. The centre functions as a safe, nurturing space where infants receive round-the-clock care, nutrition, medical attention, and emotional support during a critical stage of their early development. Admissions and placements are regulated by the **Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) of Cuddalore district and five other neighbouring districts**, who decide the appropriate adoption centre for each child, ensuring compliance with the Juvenile Justice Act and adoption guidelines.

Since **2018**, BLESS has been entrusted with running this Special Adoption Agency, demonstrating a strong commitment to child protection and ethical adoption practices. Building on this foundation, from **March 2025**, the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny** have taken over the responsibility of managing and operating the centre. Under their care, the agency continues to uphold high standards of compassion, professionalism, and child-centred care, ensuring that every child is safeguarded, loved, and prepared for a stable and permanent family environment through the formal adoption process.

Type of children	Abandoned	Surrendered	CNCP	Total	Adopted	Restored to biological parents	Transferred
Male	2	12	1	15	13	1	1
Female	2	16	3	21	15	3	3
Total	4	28	4	36	28	4	4



ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT TO BLESS



The Archbishop of Pondicherry Cuddalore Francis Kalist visited BLESS Special Adoption Agency, blessed the campus, children and staff. His excellency was accompanied by Rev Fr. A J Philomine Doss, Procurator of Archdiocese of Pondicherry Cuddalore and Mr. Pushparaja, President of BLESS Governing Board.

An interaction session explaining the activities of BLESS was explained to the Bishop by Mr. L.S Anthony Samy, Executive Secretary.



NABFINS- MICRO FINANCE PROGRAM

The NABFINS Program, implemented in collaboration with BLESS, focuses on strengthening livelihoods and promoting financial inclusion among marginalized and low-income communities. The program operates with the active support of four Cluster Coordinators from BLESS, who play a key role in community mobilization, group formation, capacity building, and ongoing monitoring of enterprise activities. Their close engagement with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and community members ensures that financial services are accessible, responsibly used, and aligned with the livelihood needs of beneficiaries.



Through the NABFINS Program, a wide range of enterprise and income-generating activities are supported to enhance household income and economic resilience. These include goat and cattle rearing, dairy activities, petty shops, vegetable vending, tailoring units, fishing-related activities, food processing, and small trading businesses.

Beneficiaries receive support in the form of credit linkage, guidance on enterprise selection, and basic financial literacy, enabling them to manage their businesses sustainably. The program emphasizes women's economic empowerment by encouraging SHG participation and promoting entrepreneurship among rural women.

Overall, the NABFINS Program has contributed significantly to livelihood diversification, improved financial discipline, and increased self-reliance among participating families.

With the coordinated efforts of NABFINS and BLESS cluster coordinators, the program continues to strengthen grassroots enterprises, reduce dependency on informal lending, and support long-term socio-economic development within the communities served

CHILDREN ACTIVITY CENTRE



During 2024–25, the Children Activity Centres run by BLESS in partnership with Amis des Enfants du Monde (AEM), France, continued to provide safe, inclusive, and nurturing after-school spaces for children from marginalized Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The centres focused on supporting first-generation learners through structured academic assistance, emotional support, and child-friendly learning environments. Emphasis was placed on regular school attendance, building learning confidence, and ensuring that children remained engaged with education rather than being drawn into child labour or other vulnerabilities.

The programme adopted a holistic approach to child development by combining educational support with enrichment activities such as art, culture, yoga, counselling, and recreational play. Special attention was given to slow learners and children requiring additional care through individualized support and play-based learning methods. Teachers were continuously supported through capacity-building initiatives and regular coordination with schools, ensuring alignment with academic requirements and children's progress. Nutritional well-being remained a core component, with healthy snacks reinforcing both physical health and learning outcomes.

Looking ahead, the 2024–25 focus aims to further strengthen community ownership, enhance learning quality, and expand opportunities for children, especially adolescent girls, to envision and prepare for higher education and meaningful futures. By deepening partnerships, investing in teacher development, and sustaining strong engagement with families and communities, BLESS and AEM continue their shared commitment to creating equitable learning opportunities and enabling long-term social transformation for children from underserved backgrounds.

ELDERLY CARE SUPPORT

During 2024–25, the Elderly Care Support – Meal A Day Project aims to continue addressing hunger, neglect, and health vulnerabilities among elderly persons in Ottampattu village and nearby areas. Building on the learnings from the previous period, the focus will remain on ensuring regular access to nutritious meals in a safe and dignified environment. The day-care centre will continue to function as a space of care, companionship, and security for elderly beneficiaries who lack family or financial support, helping to improve their overall quality of life.

The project will strengthen health management and psychosocial wellbeing through regular medical check-ups, preventive care, and timely referrals to public health facilities.



Daily monitoring of health needs, distribution of essential supplements, and increased attention to chronic conditions will be prioritized. Recreational and social engagement activities such as group interactions, traditional games, storytelling, and cultural sessions will be enhanced to reduce loneliness, improve mental health, and foster a sense of belonging among the elderly.

In the coming year, the project will also focus on meeting basic daily needs and improving the overall care environment through community participation and local partnerships. Efforts will be made to mobilize additional support for clothing, personal care items, and simple comfort amenities, while strengthening volunteer involvement and community ownership. Through a compassionate, consistent, and people-centred approach, BLESS remains committed to sustaining and expanding elderly care services, ensuring that senior citizens live with dignity, respect, and care.

Rehabilitation of Alcoholics PUDHU VAAZHVU MAIYAM

The project on treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics and substance abusers and support to their families, implemented during 2022–2023, addressed the deep social, economic, and health challenges faced by marginalized communities in the Keerapalayam Block and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The project was supported by Art et Solidarité Warli, France, whose partnership enabled a comprehensive response to alcohol and substance use disorders and their wider social impact.



Recognizing that addiction impacts individuals, families, and communities, the initiative adopted a holistic approach combining treatment, counselling, livelihood support, and community awareness to ensure sustainable change. Counselling and medical care addressed both physical dependency and emotional distress, while efforts to reduce stigma encouraged individuals to seek help without fear. Strong partnerships with hospitals and de-addiction centres enabled access to quality healthcare, including regular health check-ups conducted with the support of Arupadai Veedu Medical College. To enhance family stability and recovery outcomes, the project emphasized economic empowerment through livelihood support such as livestock and income-generating equipment. Parallel awareness and preventive education programs in Irular tribal villages helped shift community attitudes and promote healthier behaviours. Continuous monitoring and an end-line impact assessment demonstrated measurable outcomes, including recovery, improved economic conditions, and increased awareness. The intervention also strengthened family relationships and social cohesion by involving caregivers and community leaders in the recovery process. With the support of Art et Solidarité Warli, France, the project fostered resilience, dignity, and long-term wellbeing within the communities served.

IMPROVING AND SUSTAINING THE INCOME OF INLAND FISH VENDORS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Cycle Fish Vendor Program supported by Italian Bishop Council launched by BLESS focuses on strengthening the livelihoods of inland fish vendors by addressing economic vulnerability, social exclusion, and limited access to resources. The program aims to empower marginalized vendors, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable socio-economic development through collective organization, capacity building, alternative livelihoods, and improved access to credit and essential equipment.



The initiative expanded its impact through social protection measures, financial inclusion, policy advocacy, and community wellbeing initiatives. It addressed critical issues such as accident insurance, mobility challenges, alcoholism, and long-term sustainability, using structured scientific assessments, surveys, and interviews to measure improvements in income stability, leadership, climate resilience, and social inclusion among fish vendors.

Fish vendors' livelihood resilience was strengthened through water-body leasing, equipment support, exposure visits, and skill-based trainings. These interventions promoted diversification, sustainability, and fair-trade practices. The program also explored innovative solutions such as prototype battery-operated vending vehicles, emphasizing the need for accessible credit and environmentally sustainable transport to ensure long-term economic stability.

IMPROVING AND SUSTAINING THE INCOME OF INLAND FISH VENDORS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The program enhanced social protection, financial inclusion, and policy advocacy through identity cards, accident insurance, credit linkages, and government-backed loans. Collaboration with financial institutions and policymakers empowered vendors with recognition, mobility, and a stronger collective voice, supporting business expansion and long-term resilience within the community.

Through improved transportation, financial support, de-addiction programs, and future-oriented collective structures, the program strengthened operational efficiency and community cohesion. Capacity-building trainings further improved skills, climate resilience, leadership, and access to government schemes, contributing to family well-being and overall satisfaction among fish vendors.

The program demonstrated significant improvements in governance, savings behavior, market collaboration, and income diversification. Water-body lease assistance, exposure visits, and livelihood support initiatives increased economic resilience and adoption of sustainable practices. However, financial and cost barriers remain for innovations like battery-operated vehicles, highlighting the need for continued training, credit access, and community support.

Initiatives such as Fish Vendor Identity Cards, cooperative society formation, accident insurance, FME loans, lean period compensation, and mini-truck subsidies have fostered economic empowerment, social recognition, and collective bargaining. High community support, structured training, pilot projects, and government collaboration ensure sustainable livelihoods, long-term program success, and continued socio-economic upliftment of fish vendors.



EXPOSURE VISIT FROM HAPPY MILES



BLESS hosted an exposure visit for students from an International School, Bangalore, facilitated through Happy Miles, receiving the group in four well-organized batches with over 100 students in each batch. Each visit began with an orientation by the Director of BLESS, who introduced the students to the organization's journey in social work and development since 1989, helping them understand the depth and continuity of grassroots interventions.

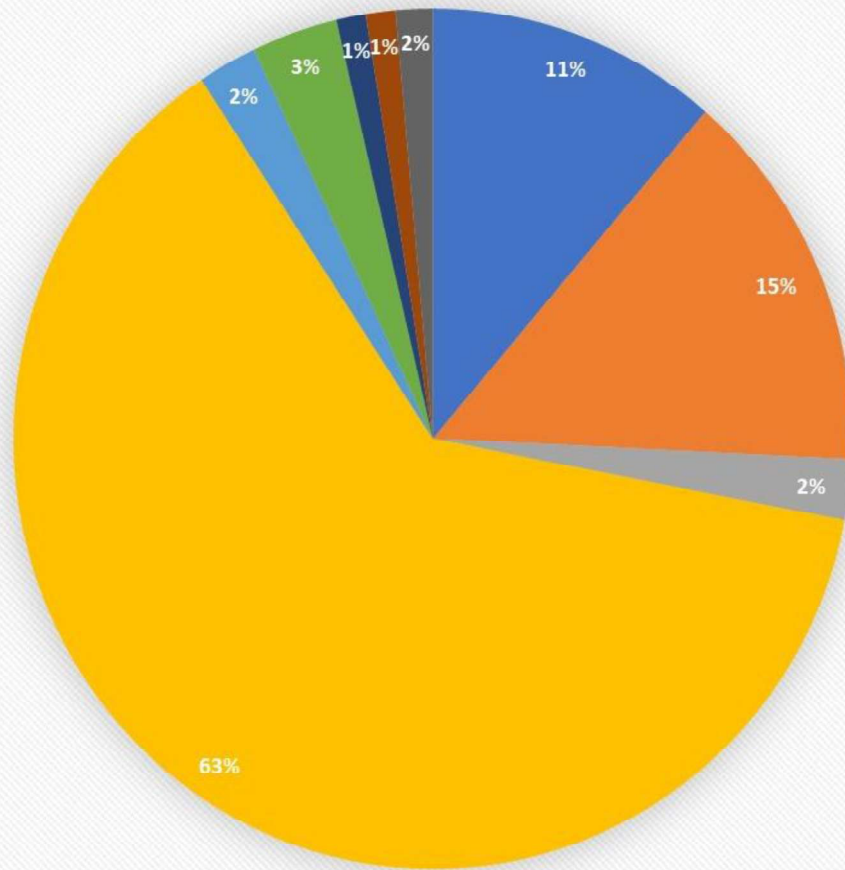
The Program Manager oriented the students on BLESS's current activities and achievements through interactive sessions that generated enthusiasm and curiosity. A guided tour of the BLESS campus by the Director allowed students to gain firsthand exposure to the organization's programs and facilities, reflecting BLESS's strong planning, coordination, and experience in managing large groups effectively.

Each batch also participated in a field visit to the Irular Colony, a Scheduled Tribe community where BLESS has worked for many years, along with a visit to the local school

These visits helped students understand community realities, inclusive development practices, and the importance of sustained engagement with marginalized groups.

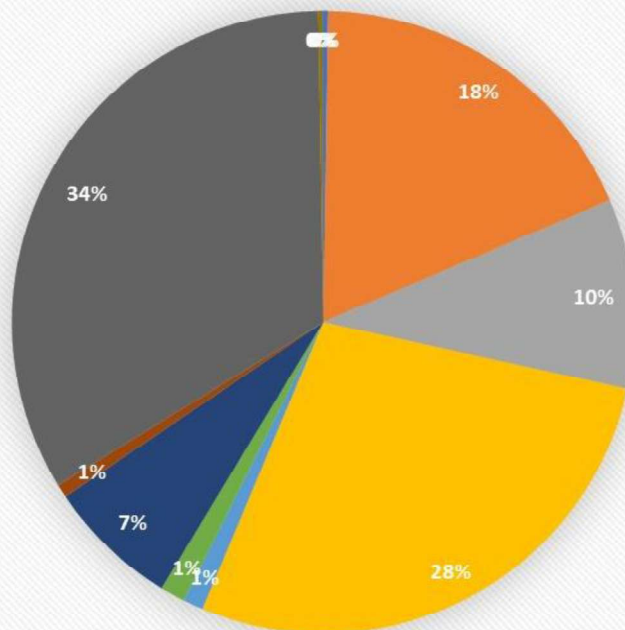
Overall, the exposure visits were conducted with careful attention to safety, ethics, and smooth coordination across all four batches. The structured sessions, clear communication, and meaningful field exposure created a memorable learning experience, highlighting BLESS's strong capacity to host large-scale educational visits and inspire young people toward social awareness and responsible citizenship.

BLESS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FCRA (2024-25)



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ■ Art Et Solidarite Warli | ■ Conferenza Episcopale Italia | ■ ADP, Paroisse St. Francois Xavier |
| ■ U.W. Linsi-Stiftung | ■ Lifeline children services Inc. | ■ Les Amis des enfants du monde |
| ■ Associazione lo Scoiattolo Onlus | ■ Lo Scoiattolo - Ente Del Terzo Se | ■ America World Adoption Association |

BLESS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW LOCAL (2024-25)



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ ACT Dept Grant | ■ Adoption Fees | ■ NABFINS |
| ■ State Adoption Resource Agency | ■ Local Donation | ■ FFVDP Local fund Donation |
| ■ House Construction | ■ FD Interest | ■ FD Closure |
| ■ Bank Interest FCRA | ■ Bank Interest Local | |

Name of the organization	BLESS
Address	BLESS Learning Estate, Pondy-Cuddalore Road, Reddichavady-607403, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India
Telephone	Mobile: +91 9750365723
Website	www.bless.org.in
Details of the executor	Mr. L.S. Anthony Samy Executive Secretary
Legal Status with registration number	35/89 under Tamil Nadu Societies Act 1975
Income Tax exception details	Registered under 12A (AAATB8747RE2021901) 80G(AAATB8747RF2021701)
FCRA registration number	076010115
Registration number with Niti Aayog of the Government of India	Unique ID of VO/NGO:TN/2017/0172004 Reg.date:17-01-2018
Registration number (CSR)	CSR00029132
Name & Address of the bank with phone number	State Bank of India Branch: New Delhi Main Branch
FC Bank Account Number	40125299432
Name(s) oh the account holder	BLESS
IFCS code	SBIN00000691



BLESS

**PONDY-CUDDALORE MAIN ROAD, REDDICHAVADY
CUDDALORE-607403.**

Ph. No- 97503 65723 email ID- admin@bless.org.in