

CHILD VOICE

Annual report - 2015-16

2015-16





EMPOWERING WOMEN TOWARDS GREATNESS

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Enabling young women to build "abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enables them to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life".

VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Enhancing opportunities to develop vocational skills of young girls to pursue their dream of economic sustainability

EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING

Educate and support girls from vulnerable communities, empowering them to break away from their shackles, regressive traditions and to strive for a better tomorrow

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Facing Challenges and Achieving Small but significant Changes, One step at a time

Built Community School complex for Paliyar tribal community in Perungadu – Kodaikanal

Collected over 1 lakh rupees worth of relief for Cuddalore flood relief initiatives

Conducted 4 Spots competition for the children in the community with the help of

Community support groups(CSG) and Adolescent Action Group (AAG)

Provided Educational Support for 8 girls, enrolled them in various schools, and distance education programs

Awareness on Environment in Collaboration with Department of Education and **NEAC**

Conducted cultural awareness rallies using traditional folk art in 23 communities

Life skill training benefiting over 345 girls from 23 communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

55 Camp coolie Victims are provided with various support services for better social, economic and cultural status.

Formed 96 Community Freedom groups in 30 communities.

Counselling and guidance training held for 120 girls in **“Move towards Greatness”**

Conducted over 16 school level awareness programs benefiting 534 students on various subjects concerning their welfare and development

Addressed social issues such as non-availability of drinking water in Perungadu, harassment of young girls in rural communities, transport access to Seethapuram, Ethilode and Avayampatti.

Initiated **“CHILDREN AGAINST TOBACCO”-CAT** Program to create awareness on tobacco consumption among children. 20 groups in 18 communities formed in 2015-16.

Partnered with Mother Teresa University- Department of women Studies to provide various Social and welfare programs to promote education, welfare and development of young women in Nilakottai block and among tribal women in Kodaikanal block

Initiated Community Supported Development programs and started a training centre in Thumallapatti to provide training and support services for young women from 4 communities.



“As a part of empowering the community members in rural areas and to establish effective panchayath Raj system of local governance, government of India had ordered every panchayath to conduct Grama Saba meetings 4 times a year. During these meeting, the elected representatives of panchayath Raj and the village members sit together in a common platform to discuss issues that is of common concern.”



Panchayath Raj is one of the most important stakeholder in upholding the nation's democracy. The role of elected panchayath Raj representatives in developing the village is, immense, important and crucial. Panchayath representatives are chosen from the community and do know the issues faced by the community first hand.

There are several means of taking the grievances to the panchayath, once such forum, where the elected panchayath representatives and the community members address the issues openly is

through Grama Saba Meeting that is held 4 times a year. CHILD VOICE has attended 2 such meetings to highlight the issues of young girls in the community.

During these meetings, children safety. Their education, growth and development etc were discussed and some of these complaints were the demands were entered into the minutes of the same in the Panchayath register. All 10 panchayath where child voice has its presence have acknowledged these issues and have promised to take necessary actions.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

WE CAN

Empowering Communities to Protect Girls at Risk

Communities need to identify problems, and work towards finding a stable solution within themselves. Child Voice Strongly believes that a well-informed community can face challenges and work together to overcome those challenges that bother them. Our Project focus is to empower communities to protect children and young girls who are at risk of financial, social and economic exploitations by various forces.

Child Voice raises several social issues that affects the growth and development of communities and the children. We strive to build a sense of awareness among communities on the issues concerning their welfare and development. Importance of girl child education, higher studies, safe and secure school environment, health, hygiene, sanitation, environmental awareness are some of the many subjects that Child Voice works on to create awareness among the community members.





UNITED WE CAN

Every step we take, every change we dream of, every growth that is necessary should be with the involvement of the community, because the fruits of the seed we put today will be harvested by the community tomorrow

SCHOOL LEVEL TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAM

School children play an important role in Child voice Programs. We believe that, being the primary beneficiaries, and the stakeholders, children should be made aware of the various factors that are affecting their welfare, development and rights. CHILD VOICE had conducted over 24 School level training programs benefiting 1405 children. These school level training includes career guidance programs, menstrual health and hygiene, education, environment, child labor, girl child education, leadership and social awareness etc.

CULTURAL TRAINING

Child voice Conducts regular cultural training for Young girls from all 30 areas in Nilakottai block that it works in. In addition to this, a children's cultural team is already established in Kodaikanal block. 101 girls underwent a series of cultural training provided by Folk and Traditional performance artist Mr. Manimaran. 20 girls were chosen from the trainees and CHILD VOICE CHILDREN'S CULTURAL TEAM was formed. This all girl team conducted several awareness programs in various places including the district level Young Workers conference held in the

District Capital, Dindigul. Over 675 children and community members participated in these cultural awareness program which also played support roles to various other campaigns such as Bit notice campaign, Door to door awareness campaign, Health awareness camps and rallies

Overall the cultural team has proven to be an effective means of spreading the message of awareness. Through musical performance, songs, dance and drama. We are able to reach out to the rural communities and to spread the intended message.

ART SPORTS AND CULTURE

Child Voice periodically conducts art, sports and cultural competitions for children from rural communities, these events are aimed to promote social understanding among children as well as give them an opportunity to showcase their talents. 4 such events were held in 2015-16 benefiting 213 children. Best performers are often given due acknowledgements, and are presented with prizes and Memorabilia.

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Child Voice has formed Volunteer groups in 24 villages, including Pe-

rungadu tribal Settlement, Vilpatti, Kovilpatti and Palani. These volunteer base provides support for various program related activities. They also play a vital role in enhancing community support, provide support for auxiliary services such as Child marriage monitoring, Children against Tobacco- CAT. Voluntary Health Movement, Para Legal Wing etc.

JOB MELA

Economic sustainability for rural youth is one of the important goals of Child Voice. We strongly believe poverty and lack of economic opportunities is one of the important reasons for child abuse, child marriage and child labor. CHILD VOICE frequently seeks to connect the need for employment and need for employees. On 15th February 2016, CHILD VOICE conducted a Job Mela for the boys and girls from our 30 Target communities. 54 boys and girls took part in the mela. Recruiters from a leading Micro finance institute conducted this job Mela. 8 candidates were selected for secondary interview.

Overall 15 children were given employment in various sectors enabling them towards economic sustainability.

VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Adolescents from rural communities sometimes do not have access to mainstream education due to various socio economical reasons. Poor employability, lack of inclination towards mainstream education, Poverty are some of the reasons that force many young boys and girls drop out of their school and between class 8th to

12th standard. Most girls who dropout end up as child brides. The boys often due to lack of employment fall prey to undesirable activities and become non productive citizens.

CHILD VOICE engages with children from rural and tribal communities to train them on various income generating short term course such as cellphone repairing, garment making,

computer hardware and software maintenance and service courses. In Nilakottai block. Preference are given to survivors of Camp Coolie system of modern Slavery, Working girls and unemployed youth. 44 girls have graduated from the various income generating training programs. 16 girls have gained employment and 15 girls have pursued self employment initiatives.



LEADERSHIP and SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In a society which believes that girls are second class citizens, who cannot be seen or heard but expected to do whatever the men in the family or society expects. Most girls in such backgrounds lack self confidence, drive to excel and do not possess a desire to choose. Over the period of time, due to dependence on others to choose for them, they lack essential skills to handle crisis. As a result, when faced with challenges, they are unable to cope up with pressure and sometimes, are forced to take wrong decisions which has lasting effects.

CHILD VOICE understands the need for life skill education for young girls and have committed itself to provide, such necessary training for girls at various levels. Mill working girls, survivors of Modern Slavery, school children, girls from oppressed environment are given periodic life skill development training by trained experts in the field.

These training are aimed to improve problem solving ability, focused decision making capacity, expression of views, thoughts and opinions, team work and other necessary skills that are essential for holistic development of herself. Child Voice has conducted 7 life skill training benefiting 342 girls from marginalized and tribal backgrounds.

Leadership qualities, role of women in the society, children's role in social development, education, career focus etc. were the subjects of these training.



FORMATION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL



TEACHERS
RETIRED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
HEALTH WORKERS
YOUTH GROUPS
SOCIAL ACTIVIST
COMMUNITY'S IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES
CBO'S
ELECTED PANCHAYATH REPRESENTATIVES



'CSG'S

Identifies girl in need

Recommends ChildVoice to provide assistance

Monitors the Adolescent Girl's Development

Acts as a Guardian of the Young Girls in the community

Takes Responsibilities and follows up



IN ONE BLOCK

extending to
10 PANCHAYATH

with
30 GROUPS

consisting
435 MEMBERS



Children, when given opportunities to express themselves, often give the most intelligent solutions for their problems and challenges



PALANI HILLS TRIBAL STUDIES

CHILD VOICE has initiated a study to understand the education status among tribal children in Palani hills. This study is to understand the Socio economic conditions of paliyar tribes in Palani hills, reasons for their economic situations and factors affecting children's education in the region.

EDUCATION FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN

CHILD VOICE always believes that education is the only efficient tool to break the shackles of poverty and oppression. In order to engage children into mainstream education, CHILD VOICE has undertaken various steps to bridge the knowledge gap suffered by children, especially from tribal communities.

These measures include bridge courses, education exposure awareness, evening study centres, village libraries, counselling, and interaction with government departments such as **SSA** to bring education to the most distant communities.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Nutrition deficiency is one of the major hurdle faced by the children during their growing phase. Lack of awareness and non availability of nutritional food is a standard situation among all tribal communities in Palani hills. CHILD VOICE both provides awareness as well as nutrition supplements for the tribal communities.



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

Welfare, growth and development of Scheduled Tribes is a priority

PERUNGADU

CHILD VOICE has undertaken and completed the construction of School Complex in the tribal hamlet of Perungadu, Kodaikanal. The complex would benefit 39 tribal children of Perungadu in undergoing bridge course education program for children who have never attended school. This program also addresses the nutrition needs of the children and adolescent boys and girls. In addition to this, child voice has lobbied with the government to provide electricity to 32 households. We are also working with government agencies to provide safe drinking water, access to sanitation in the community.

CHILD VOICE is providing mid-day meals for the children as a part of nutrition restoration program, conduct training on gender, women, health, hygiene and prenatal- post natal care for the community members with the help of Mother Teresa University- Department of Women Studies- Pallapatti.





SOCIAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Social Awareness for Community Members

CHILD VOICE works with communities that do not have access to development thoughts. Some of these communities are stuck up in regressive attitudes such as pro child marriage, discrimination of women, castesism, superstitious beliefs. We believe social change can be achieved through inclusive awareness and only possible with the community involvement



CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Awareness through Cultural training

Children from the Adolescent Clubs and Volunteers are given cultural training in folk and traditional dances enabling them to spread the message of awareness on child marriage, modern slavery, education, gender, girl child and various other social issues and concerns. Street plays, rally's, musical performances etc are conducted regularly



CHILDREN PARTICIPATORY TRAINING

Children from Schools and community are given opportunities to showcase their talent

Children from rural communities are often not allowed to express their thoughts and ideas. This is largely due to lack of awareness, lack of opportunities to showcase their talent. Our school systems do not encourage activities that are not academic in nature. CHILD VOICE attempts to promote children's participatory rights by creating platforms to showcase their talents, and abilities.

IMPORTANT DAYS AND EVENTS

Menstrual Awareness training

Menstrual awareness training for young girls are conducted regularly to ensure period related hygiene among young girls

Health, Hygiene and Nutrition

Training for school children to ensure their health, clean hygiene practices and creating Nutritious food habits among children

Environmental awareness rallies

Concern for environment is an important agenda of our programs. We provide awareness to schools, institutions, teachers community members and adolescent action group members on various environmental concerns such as global warming, pollution and waste management.

- World Water Day
- International Children's day
- World Environment Day
- Anti Child Labour Day.
- Women's day
- Anti Tobacco Day
- Swachh Barath Campaign

School level awareness training

School Students, especially children from rural communities play an important role in achieving our objectives. We strive to include children, and create platform for them to take leadership positions, becoming agents of change in this modern world.

Various child development, programs and awareness are conducted in schools regularly.

During 2015-16 CHILD VOICE conducted 31 school level program to spread awareness on various subjects



CHILDREN AGAINST TOBACCO

Fighting the evils of tobacco

CAT- CHILDREN AGAINST TOBACCO

CAT – is a statewide Initiative headed by MACT- Trust Chennai. Through CAT, we aim to establish a tobacco free society initiated by the children. Child voice is one of the leading southern Partners to this initiatives. Village level children's clubs are formed and trained on tobacco and its effects, these children would form the area level vigilance committee to identify and report any tobacco related violation. (E.g. selling tobacco products to school children).

CAT will engage in various tobacco awareness programs such as tobacco awareness rallies, bit notice Campaigns and school awareness programs at school, village and block level.



MOTHER TERESA UNIVERSITY

A Partnership for the girls

Department of Women Studies- Mother Teresa University

Department of Women Studies is one of the important department of its kind that works exclusively for the growth and development of women and children.

Through this department we can gain access to life skill training, entrepreneurship development, personal and menstrual hygiene, and overall development of women. During our interactions and sharing of information, with the director of the Department, who was impressed with the work and activities of child voice, promised the department's support and cooperation for women development. We have planned a series of training and workshops with the university academicians

To initiate the training, CHILD VOICE conducted a health training for adolescent girls in Thumallapatti to give awareness on Health and menstrual hygiene. Following this



ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY

Education No longer a Distant dream

On 8th January 2016, Child voice and Annamalai University representatives of distance education conducted a training for working girls in education opportunities for school dropouts and survivors of spinning mills. 16 girls' participated in the program. Information about diploma, degree courses were given to the girls. Later they girls were given individual counseling and were suggested for different streams of education courses.

EKAM FOUNDATION

Healthcare for everyone

EKAM FOUNDATION

EKAM FOUNDATION is one of the leading NGO involved with providing Health care related services to the community. EKAM has tie up with Tamilnadu government Health and Medical insurance departments. They provide free medical treatment for heart related ailments for all children under 18.

Through EKAM we have provided medical related assistance to 2 individuals suffering from serious ailments.

Joining hands to create
ripples of changes



Adolescent Action Groups

AAG

ADOLESCENT ACTION GROUPS

Adolescent girls are our primary stakeholders who are also the primary beneficiaries of the program. Girls from vulnerable communities are formed into groups of 20 members and are trained to identify and seek redress for issues that concerns them.

These Adolescent action groups- AAG conduct regular meetings, discuss issues and take their grievances to the established venues for problem solving such as village panchayat, Community support groups, Child line, School Management committee etc. through the initiatives of AAG which are formed in 30 communities, more than 45 girls have been recommended and received support for education and vocational training, more than 7 girls have received medical assistance. 2 child mar-

riages were stopped due to direct action of AAG. Both the marriages were identified by AAG members, matter taken to the appropriate forums and resulted in stoppage of the marriage. AAG members also identify school dropout children in the community and convince them to attend school. 3 girls were enrolled back to school due to the efforts by AAG members.

45 AAG groups function in 30 communities. In addition to this, 6 children sangams function in Vilpatti, Kodaikanal and one sangam operate in Perungadu, Kodaikanal.

AAG members regularly conduct social awareness programs such as rallies, cultural campaigns, and awareness programs both in the community level and block level. These young girls form the backbone of the activities in the

community and have over the period of time has shown positive results in addressing the needs of the young girls.

One notable success of these Groups is to influence young girls in taking Iron tablets provided by the health department and enhanced awareness on menstrual hygiene.

AAG members from all 30 areas attend regular training on Health, Hygiene, Legal rights, menstrual hygiene program conducted by child voice. They also take part in organising medical camps in the community.



Dreams towards Victory Adolescent Girls capacity building and training program

On 15th October 2015, CHILD VOICE conducted a half day program at Anaipatti Govt Kallar Higher secondary school on the day of former President Shri A.P.J Abdul Kalam's 79th birth anniversary. CHILD VOICE aimed to inspire young girls in the school to continue their education, and have goals in life. Earlier, Community support group member volunteers had requested CHILD VOICE to conduct such a program since, there is more dropouts, who, mostly get married or sent to work in spinning mills as camp coolies. The children in the school also

suffer from depression, and relative psychological problems because of social stress that they are subjected to at an early age.

The program with 3 prong approach with first being inspiring young girls to continue their education, and aspire, to have heroes and role models towards growth, thereby avoiding unnecessary distraction and loss of direction during their adolescent age.

The second focus being giving the young girls a clear understanding on Sumangali scheme and its physical and psychological effects on girls working in spinning mills. The final focus of the program was aimed at providing welfare support for the children. On the day, Child

Voice provided with 123 participants with brand new school shoes. These shoes were of a good quality. It was given to the children in an aim to stop them from going to school barefoot.

The program saw the presence of chief guests who are leaders in their respective fields. The program was chaired by Mr. Joseph Victor, National Convener-Campaign against Child Labour (CA-CL) New Delhi, Dr. Charles, leading Psychiatrist-Madurai and Mr. Annadurai-CHILD VOICE Managing trustee, Mr. Henry Sahayaraj, Project Director-Child Voice. Anaipatti school SMC members, Panchayath representatives were also present in the event.



On 21st November 2015. CHILD VOICE, a non-profit welfare and rights based organization working for children and adolescent girls in Dindigul district, conducted a workshop for community members, volunteers, adolescent action group members and social activist at B Sekar Dhanvalli Mahal, Nilakottai. The event titled "empowerment of communities to protect girls at risk" stressed the importance of protecting young girls in the community.

Young girls as young as 11 years old are found to be employed in spinning mills under different disguises commonly known as "SCHEME", or Sumangali thittam, thangamagal Thittam, Mangalia Thittam etc. girls from poor and marginalized backgrounds are

lured into working in spinning mills for 3 to 5 years. This form of bonded labour largely affects young girls from rural and marginalized backgrounds.

Child voice aims to create awareness among the community members, encourage them to form community support groups to protect and prevent young girls in their Communities to be exploited under this modern form of slavery

The program was presided by the presence of chief guests Thirumathi Pandiammal, Police Department Nilakottai, who inaugurated the program along with Mr. Sunderaswaran, District Project Manager- Puduvalzvu and Mr S. Annadurai- Managing Trustee Child Voice. Mr. Henry Sahayaraj –

Program Director, Child Voice introduced the project to the community and Mr Rajesh Mani Project Manager, Child Voice called for collective action of the communities to protect young girls from exploitation.

The major aim of the organization is to protect young girls from dropping out from schools, reintegrate previously dropped out children back to school, provide life skills training, conduct employment generation courses for young adults with an aim to create alternative employment opportunities for the young girls, protect and prevent young girls from being enslaved into camp coolie system known as Sumangali Thittam.

COMMUNITY FREEDOM GROUPS

CHILD VOICE COMMUNITY FREEDOM GROUPS

Child Voice Holds its vision of creating an society that is equalitarian, developing environment that will provide safe and secure environment for complete development of its children.

In pursuing this vision, child voice acknowledges the roles and responsibilities of the communities that it works with in addressing the needs of the children and strongly believes in developing these com-

munity groups into effective child protection mechanisms.

Child Voice has formed various community Freedom groups such as

Village level Community Support groups- group of 15 member community stakeholders, taking the responsibility of addressing the needs of children and young adults in the community.

These community support groups also are trained to identify problems,

and seek the necessary solutions for the problems, conduct regular meetings, and maintain a record of children and young adults in the community, address the needs of vulnerable children and work with child voice to meet up to their needs.

Community Support groups also are the primary respondents of issues faced by children in the community and the custodians of the welfare of the children in the community.



PRESS AND MEDIA



Financial Statement

CHILD VOICE, DINDIGUL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2016

PARTICULARS	Annx. No	RS.	P.	RS.	P.
Opening balance :-					
Cash in hand :-					
FC Account					
Local Account		7,803.00			
Cash at bank:-					
FC Account		776.64			
Local Account		561.25		9,140.89	
RECEIPTS					
To Foreign Contribution Received					
* Local Contribution received		36,26,504.47			
Bank Interest :-		6,72,000.00		42,98,504.47	
* F.C.Account					
* Local Account		15,182.00			
* Programme Advance of Annadurai		203.65		15,385.65	
* Sale of Machinery & Tools				8,716.36	
* Rent Advance				40,000.00	
				50,000.00	
PAYMENTS				44,21,747.37	
By Foreign Contribution Expenses	I			17,52,271.26	
* Local Contribution Expenses	II			5,10,733.50	
* Capital Expenses	III			1,55,950.00	
* Loan Repaid				776.00	
Closing balance:-					
Cash in Hand:-					
- FC a/c					
- Local a/c		7,469.00			
Cash at bank:-		2,480.00		9,949.00	
- FC a/c - Lakshmi Vilas Bank -53610					
- Local a/c - Lakshmi Vilas Bank-42981		16,79,828.21		18,55,899.61	
Programme Advance		1,76,071.40		1,36,168.00	
				44,21,747.37	

Place : Madurai
Date: 03.06.2016

Managing Trustee

Financial Trustee

Vide Report Annexed.

G. SELVAKUMAR
Chartered Accountant
Membership No.205569





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<https://www.facebook.com/childvoicedgl/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDn0HBtOOKkBWnk5HslgiiA>