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NILGIRIS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019

INTRODUCTION

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) is a registered catholic NGO under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975, with Reg.No.148/208, working for the upliftment of the rural poor and Tamil political refugees and repartees from Sri lank who are residing in the Nilgiris district in Tamilnadu in South India. It does undertake various social welfare programmes for the rural women and children and youth, working in the Tea Estates in the Nilgiris District. The functioning of the society began in 2008 under the direct patronage of the Bishop of Mananthavady Diocese. This society is the social service wing of the Catholic Diocese of Mananthavady operating in the Nilgiris district of Tamilnadu in South India.

The society is situated in Gudallur. The area of operation of the society is poor repartees and refuges small scale farmers and backward and children in many respect. The mission of the organization is socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of the marginalized and disadvantaged section in the society. We help to enable them to achieve their full potential through self -help promotion, entrepreneurship training, organic farming and development interventions. During the year 2019. NDS undertook **different activities** in order to realize these aims and objectives and a brief description of them are given below.

1. Promotion of Self Help Groups (SHG's)

Nilgiris development society work for and with the poor and marginalized people. For this, grass root level people's organization known as SHG's are organized in 34 villages namely Sreemadhurai, Dharmagiri, Vimalagiri, Ooty, Manvayal, Bospara, Bekky, Kunnalady, Pattavayal, Kayyunni, Panamchira and Gudallur 1 and 2 villages Nadukani and few villages in Devala. Initiatives have taken to start people's organizations in few more villages. Besides the 170 SHGs we had already, another 150 Tamil SHG groups are formed in Gudalluer and Panthallur Taluks. Through the SHG's people are trained and supported to get involved in the micro finance program of small savings and soft-loans operated by each SHG. During the year a total amount of 35, 13,520.00 have been mobilized by the different SHG's and have been disbursed as loan among the group members. Every group have been credit linked with banks, thus helping the groups to get loans for agriculture small scale industries and diary activities

2. Credit Union

Credit union is a micro financing program functioning under SWS in villages. A member can avail loan as per the volume of his/ her saving or with guarantee of another member in this program. More than 35 lakhs rupees have been mobilized by 11 SWSs and the same amount is disbursed as loan among the members. Besides the credit union savings, a good number of SHGs are successfully carrying out the “Chitty” of different types of amounts. It is very helpful in meeting the urgent and immediate credit needs of the members.

3. Training Programs

Capacities building of the people, S especially the members of the SHG’s through training programs have been a prime concern of the society during the year.

The trainings given are:

- SHG formation and strengthening
- Accounts and Book keeping
- Linkages of SHGs with Bank and credit linkages
- Income generation activities and micro- enterprises for SHG’s
- Awareness program on Govt. schemes for the marginal and small scale farmers and for women groups.
- Leadership trainings and Evaluation meetings
- Training on Organic farming
- Awareness program on Organic Nilgiri project
- Training on herbal and traditional medicine preparation

Apart from these, special training were conducted for the group on topics like mushroom cultivation, textile printing, paper bag making, Tea leaf bag making, soap and toilet cleaner making ect. Completing the training program 14 groups has started small enterprises.

4. Organic Farmers Group.

In order to achieve the goal of ‘Organic Nilgiris’ and ‘Save Nilgiris’ projects introduced by the Government of Tamilnadu, we are earnestly working with the farmers in the Nilgiris region. In 7 Panchayaths and 2 Municipalities we are having more than 1453 registered organic farmers and the number is still growing. The Society under the guidance of Biowin Agro research Centre, gives certification for the farmers group and Organic certified products are collected from farmers in higher margins from the market rate. Also we provide field based inspection and certified organic manure for the registered farmers in a subsidy base. Farmers are registered in government schemes so that they may get aids from Tamil Nadu Horticulture department, Tea

board and Coffee board respectively. For easy functioning and better result of the program, farmers are divided into groups according to the Panchayaths.

5. Dairy programs

NDS has implemented a dairy program with the support of revolving funds. In different SWSs members are made available with subsidy and interest-free loans for purchasing milky cows in this year. It is done in view of supporting poor and marginalized farmers to earn additional income and creating job opportunities.

6. Collaboration with NGOs

NDS being a charitable and rural development organization has always been trying to collaborate with government and non-government organizations for rural development activities. Waynad Social Service Society (WSSS) and Bio Win Agro Research Centre, and SREYAS has been major partners of NDS during the year. Also, the society is maintaining continuous collaboration and partnership with Star Health Life Insurance Company for "Jeevas" insurance program.

7. Collaboration with the Tamilnadu Government

A close contact with the Department of Horticulture, Tea Board of India, Ooty Coffee Board, Gudalur, Spices Board in Nilgiri, State Bank of India, NABARD, NDS conducting training and service to the people. We also make interventions in the area of land issues in Gudalur - Panthallur taluk. A NABARD project for FPO formation in Gudalur and Panthalloor area is on its way for implementation.

8. Future Expectations and upcoming projects

Having completed the 11 years of existence of the society, we are very thankful to the Lord and the diocesan authorities for helping us to accomplish the dream of an independent office for NDS at Gudalur. This will help us to move forward with new ideas and possibilities. We are in our way very close to the government agencies in Tamilnadu for making use of the project possibilities for the Nilgiris Region.

a. Project submitted to Italian Bishops conference is almost at its completion. NDS is waiting for a favorable reply. The project proposal mainly aims at the upliftment of the **Poor Women Living with Disabilities (PWLWD's) & Development of Children with Disabilities in The Nilgiris District of Tamilnadu.** This project may help more than 150 women, children and families in many respects.

b. NABARD project for the formation of Farmers Producer Organization is in its final stage of processing.

Conclusion

This year NDS completes 11 years after its formal registration in 2008. During this period society could do many things in collaboration and support of various organizations and agencies. We specially thank and appreciate the support of WSSS and Biowin the official social work organization of the diocese for giving us the parental care in many ways. When we enter in to the 12th year, the society is moving forward to achieve new heights with its new Training and administrative block in Adhikarivayal in Gudalur town. Certain formalities have to be completed in order to undertake projects and programs in collaboration and support of national and international agencies. We hope to complete it within few months' time. Placing on record its appreciation and gratitude to all members, governing body members, staff and well-wishers. The society has to do a lot in completing its objectives and aim and reaching out to its targeted population fully.

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