



NILGIRIS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (NDS)

CONSOLIDATED REPORT (2020 -2021)



1. ABOUT NILGIRIS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (NDS)

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) is a registered catholic NGO with Reg.No.148/208, working for the upliftment of the rural poor and Tamil political refugees and repartees from Sri Lanka 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 100kms away from the diocesan headquarters and is in the state of Tamilnadu. The area of operation of the society is poor repartees and refuges and backward women and children in many respect and the mission of the organization is socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of the war affected Sri Lankan Tamil repartees and refuges who are working in the tea plantations in Nilgiris, a large group, marginalized and disadvantaged section in the society. We help to enable them to achieve their full potential through self -help promotion, entrepreneurship training and

potential through self -help promotion, entrepreneurship training and development interventions. The Ordinary of the Diocese of Mananthavady is the patron of this society and Vicar General of the diocese is the president.

2. VISION OF THE ORGANISATION

Undertake charitable services to the public especially to the poor and downtrodden and to the rural people who are socio economically backward, for their overall development and well being, irrespective of consideration of caste, creed, religion, community or sex and without any profit motive.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

- To perform works of charity for those in need irrespective of consideration of race, caste, community or creed.
- To engage in social service and development works aimed at improving the living conditions and general welfare of the people as well as poor indigent persons of whatever occupations irrespective of race, community, caste, creed or sex.
- To engage in rural community development activities aimed at accelerating the overall development and progress of the people through education, awareness creation, trainings, people based participatory research and social action and thus helping the people to help themselves in their socio- economic and personal development.
- To promote thrift and savings among the people through formation and promotion of their Self Help Groups and to promote micro- finance activities aimed at the socio-economic development of the poor.
- To promote formation of 'Community Based Organisations- CBOs' to ensure peoples' participation in development activities.
- To engage community development activities aimed at the welfare of the farmers and farming communities with special focus on small and marginal farmers.

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- To promote and propagate eco-friendly and sustainable agriculture and organic farming and to generate awareness on the need and relevance of organic farming and conservation of nature and eco-systems.
- To capacitate and educate the people on sustainable agriculture technologies and eco-friendly life-style concepts.
- To engage in activities promoting the capacities of the people so as to enable them to be better partners and partakers in the development activities of both Government and Non -Governmental agencies.
- To mobilize peoples' action by all legitimate means against any or all social problems and issues that hamper human development.
- To undertake and implement various projects, programs, schemes of either Government or Non- Government agencies that are aimed at poverty reduction, social welfare, employment generation and economic advancement of the people.
- To do services of advocacy and lobbying and networking to promote peoples' welfare and to protect their civil rights; and to provide legal aid to the poor and needy people and to promote legal literacy awareness among the public.
- To promote and defend human rights and civil liberties of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.
- To organize seminars, training programs, workshops, symposia and such other relevant educational and learning programs to create awareness and to build capacities on different topics.
- To promote public health and sanitation and family welfare through promotion of alternative life-style, health-care, sustainable livelihoods and alternative learning.
- To promote the welfare of senior citizens and aged to establish and maintain or grant aid to homes for aged, orphanages or other such establishments for the relief and help to the poor, needy and destitute people, orphans, People Living with Disabilities, widows and aged persons.
- To support development and welfare of indigenous people through conservation and promotion of their values and culture, indigenous and traditional practices, economic support for sustainable development and through education and development of tribal children.

- To establish, organize and support community organizations like Self Help Groups, Credit Unions, Farm Clubs etc. and to promote micro finance, micro credit and micro enterprises through savings and thrift programmes and through bank-linkages in order to accelerate socio-economic development of the poor especially that of rural areas.

4. FOCUS AREAS/INTERVENTIONS

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) may be specially noted for its pioneering roles and coherent activities in an exclusive geographic contingent not acceded by any other NGO ever before and the multi-dimensional undertakings thereto, primarily dealing with agricultural development giving thrust to organic farming practices, natural resource enhancement, rural & alternative technology development, etc. Women's empowerment and integration in to the mainstream with equity is held in due importance with their organization as Self Help Groups (SHG) effectively participating in rural micro credit dynamics and micro enterprises / income generation activities propelled by it. Health also remains one of the main concerns of the NDS having revived and promoted a unique indigenous health management system sustained through natural and participatory process. Tribal constituting 15% of the area's population living isolated at the forest fringes in extreme conditions of deprivation and impoverishment, the Society has been running special programmes for this segment since its inception in 2008 with particular reference to their social mainstreaming through community organization, animation, children's education, skills orientation, basic infrastructure development, health and nutrition accessibility etc. To sum up, the different activities of NDS can be streamlined under the following broad sectors of development: 1) Community Organisation 2) Women empowerment 3) Sustainable Agriculture Development 4) Promotion Scientific Livestock Farming 5) Environment/Natural Resources Development & Management 6) Community Health 7) Family & Social welfare and 8) Welfare Activities.

4.1. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

4.1.a.SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETIES (SWS)

Social Welfare Societies (SWS) are democratically driven community organization established by the people for the purpose of pooling the resources, gathering information and offering mutual support, services and care. SWS are also functioning as the federation of Self Help Groups. Social Welfare Societies (SWS) carry out various developmental activities in the area like income generation, Social development activities and village awareness program. Maintaining a strong and disciplined micro finance and credit system, it encourages to save the capacity and credit behaviour of resource poor people.

OBJECTIVES

- To build self-reliance among the people by mobilizing resources, capacity building, creating employment opportunities, increasing assets and ensuring economic security.
- To promote savings and micro finance
- To promote income generation programs
- To address issues on food security, nutrition, health and poverty
- To conserve medicinal plants and promote traditional knowledge
- To encourage human resource development and leadership
- To promote networking with other NGOs, financial institutions and Local Self – Government.
- To promote live-stock development
- To promote organic farming and kitchen garden.

PEOPLES ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

Sl. No	Details	Nos/Units
01	Social Welfare Societies (SWS)	10
02	Self Help Groups (SHGs)	241
03	Membership Families	1500
04	Total Savings	1.5 CRORE
05	Savings in Credit Union	90 LAKHS

4.1.b. SELF HELP GROUPS (SHG'S)

Nilgiris development society work for and with the resource poor and marginalized people and for this grass root level people's organization known as SHG's are organized in 11 villages namely Sreemadhurai, Dharmagiri, Vimalagiri, Ooty, Manvayal, Bospara, Bekky, Kunnalady, Pattavayal, Kayyunni, and Panamchira and initiatives have taken to start peoples organizations in few more villages. Both man and women have been formed in 170 SHG groups 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 32, 83,412.00 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 and diary activities. In the above mentioned villages, the SHG's are networked

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in to an organization called Social Welfare Society (SWS), through which they come together for group meetings, training programs on micro-finance and credit activities and on capacity development of members to undertake income generating activities and micro-enterprises.

DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY NDS THROUGH SWS &SHGs

NDS has been facilitating various development program through the Social Welfare Societies(SWS) for capacitating the leaders of Self Reliance groups and SWS. The Society had conducted central, regional and local level training programs which enabled and strengthened the leaders and their collective voluntary initiatives. Following are the summary of capacity building/training programs organised by NDS through SWS & SHGs

DETAILS OF INCOME GENERATING PROGRAMS RUN BY SWS &SHGS

SHG formation and strengthening	25
Accounts and Book keeping	36
Linkages of SHGs with Bank and credit linkages	80
Income generation activities and micro- enterprises for SHG's	30
Awareness program on Govt. schemes for the poor farmers and for women groups.	10
Leadership trainings.	22
Training on Organic farming	70
Awareness program on Organic Nilgiri project	60
Training in Mushroom cultivation	5
Training in Herbal medical preparations	3
Training in textile printing	4
Training in paper bag making	6
Training in soap and toilet cleaner making	12

4.1.c.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 30 lakhs rupees have been mobilized by 11 SWSs and the same amount is disbursed as loan among the members. It is very helpful in meeting the urgent and immediate credit needs of the members.

4.2. ORGANIC FARMING PROMOTION

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 biosphere. In 7 Panchayaths and 2 Municipalities we are having more than 1000 registered organic farmers and the number are still growing. Through organic agriculture NDS aims to promote sustainability of small and marginal farmers and their livelihoods, sustainable and eco-friendly life style and sustainable farms. With an integrated approach to the entire farming system and with focus on all aspects of production, processing and value addition and marketing, a new awareness and learning is being generated among the farming community, enabling them to avail the opportunities in the context of a global, market-economy even amidst persisting agricultural crisis. As the programme has not many parallels of its kind in Tamilnadu, the effort has been so much to create a good model of market led livelihood promotion for the farming community and of participatory Natural Resource Management especially of soil, water and bio-mass, as to bring large number of farmers under the "Organic" label.

The society has many collection centers and a factory and processing unit called Bio-win Agro Research Centre in Waynad district in Kerala. The Society with the help 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 Coffe board respectively. For easy functioning and better result of the program, farmers are divided in to groups according to the Panchayaths.

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The certification is being done by LACON certification agency, accredited certification body under APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Products Export Development Authority), Govt. of India. The organic agriculture production under the ICS (Internal Control System) of NDS is in compliance with organic production methods as defined by Regulation (EEC) No 889/2008 and/or the National Organic Program of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Japan Agriculture standard (JAS), and National Program for Organic Production (NPOP), Govt. of India. Apart from the above mentioned organic certifications our farmers are also certified by Rainforest Alliance (RA) certification and Fair Trade certification from FLOCERT, Germany. All these certifications help our farmers to sell their products as premium products and they are getting a fair value.

The Nilgiri Development Society organizes programs for the small and marginal farmers including tribal by conducting awareness about organic farming, operating Internal Control Systems to provide international certificates to farmers, Procuring farmers' produces at high price, maximize value in products through processing and value addition and deliver products to international and domestic markets. Another highlight of the subject matter is that it is perceived as a participatory programme with major stake resting with the actual farming community. As far as Nilgiris is concerned, 90% of the farmers cultivating spices, coffee and tea are small & marginal farmers. 50 farm clubs of organic farmers have been formed and many more are anticipated during the period ahead. These village level organizations are purported to be part and parcel of decision making processes and in appropriating due share of the distributable income generated apart from the learning in organic farming systems, common procurement, farm cluster services, value added primary processing, micro credit dynamics, etc, inbuilt. Further it is on the agenda, to constitute a Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) by including representatives of the zone wise farm clubs for deciding on policy matters and be a pressure group on public policies which affects the interest of the farmers. The Organic Agriculture promotion program of NDS with the help of Biowin Agro Research for extending organic farming ensures the safety of the environment and availability of safe food has been grown as a model for the world.

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4.3. SAVE A FAMILY PROGRAM

In close collaboration with the social service centre of the Diocese of Mananthavady NDS is implementing Save A Family program to support very poor families in the region. This is a family sponsorship program to financially support very poor families. The families are selected for support from among the SHGs irrespective of cast or creed. During the period **21** families were supported in this project. The help has been provided to poor families to start supplementary income generation activities like goat-rearing, dairy farming, textile printing etc.

The EDP training had been provided to all **21** beneficiaries during the period. The training was a one day programme and had been conducted in two sessions in which one of the sessions was General orientation and the other was EDP training on Soap & Detergent making. The session influenced the newly selected beneficiaries on the need to have a small scale income generation. Many of the beneficiaries bought the materials and started a small scale soap making on their own. NDS had organised several gatherings in the parish and central level for the beneficiaries and the gatherings helped the beneficiaries to meet each other and share their difficulties and success stories. This helped them to have a hope to attain progress in their life. Along with the special training programs, classes about proper planning, letter writing and welfare schemes, motivational talks are also been arranged for the upliftment of the knowledge level of beneficiaries.



4.4. JEEVAS MEDICAL INSURANCE

Jeevas philanthropic medical insurance project is a part of humanitarian programs of Manathavady diocese undertaken by NDS and WSSS in association with Star Health Insurance Company. This policy intent to introduce amidst the people with low financial background for the whole family with low premium (3000/-). It aims to extent a supportive hand to the general populace having no health insurance of their family. The policy ensures to include six members from a family from the age limit of 5 months to 70 years and also pledge to provide the claim from the day of registration. The policy assures to credit the expenditure in the account of the policy holder arose during the hospital stay by remaining in the terms and conditions of the policy after submitting the bills and discharge details.

4.5. ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN

Awareness on the grievous effects of alcoholism and drug addiction was given to the public through a campaign conducted in two places namely Vimalagiri and Dharmagiri. Special campaign were arranged for school, children on these topics in order to enlighten them on these social evils.

4.6. EDUCATION AID TO THE POOR

Education aid worth Rs.10000/- was given to economically poor children from remote areas. The children for selected for financial aid by the SHGs

4.7. PROJECT FOR ENSURING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE WOMEN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

This is a new project aimed at the advancement of women and children with disabilities in the Nilgiris. The project, funded by the Italian Bishops' Conference, includes a variety of trainings, distribution of equipment for the disabled, and a revolving fund for the purchase of cows as a revenue-generating program. The scheme also includes financial assistance to Nilgiri Development Society to set up its own training center. Financial assistance was provided for the purchase of cows for 100 persons included in

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the scheme. The training has been postponed in the wake of the Covid 19 expansion. The construction of the training center is also progressing very well.



4.8. NABARD DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER VISITED NDS

ABARD District Development Manager Shri. C. Thirumala Rao Visited Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) Office on 15.09.2020. NDS Director Fr. Binoy Kassamkuttiyil Welcomed him to the office. Official meeting was held with the NDS Director and the Office staffs. Fr. Binoy explained him the detailed report of the working process of WSSS, Biowin Agro Research-Mananthavady and Nilgiris Development Society (NDS). NABARD DDM Shri. C. Thirumala Rao inspected all the documents, files and records kept in the NDS office.



4.9. COVID - 19 RELIEF KIT DISTRIBUTION

Nilgiris Development Society in Collaboration with Sneha Charitable trust run by Cammillian Father and Buddhist TZU CHI Foundation, distributed 250 nos of Covid 19 Relief Kit in O'valley Panchayath of Nilgiris District on 20.09.2020. The kit was mostly distributed among the Sri Lankan Tamil Repartees and the tribal people seriously affected by the recent heavy rain and natural calamities. We extended our heartfelt thanks to Sneha Charitable trust, Bangalore.



4.10. TRIBAL SHG's FORMED UNDER NDS

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) is the social service wing of the Catholic Diocese of Mananthavady, working in the rural areas of Nilgiris district of tamilnadu. There are more than 200 Self Help Groups working under the coordination of NDS. Recently NDS has formed a tribal SHG named “Dhanya” at Machikolly in Devarshola Panchayath of Nilgiris District, which comes under NDS Bospara unit. The first tribal SHG meeting was held on 13.09.2020. SHG records and minutes books were distributed.



4.11 NABARD - MEDP TRAINING INAUGURATION

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) in association with NABARD has started its first project on MEDP Training on Paper and cloth Bag Making for Women at Arattupara Unit. The inaugurations ceremony was conducted on 03.02.2021 at 3.30 pm at Arattupara St. Mary's Parish training hall. NDS Director Fr. Binoy welcomed every one to the meeting. NABARD AGM Mr. C. Thirumala Rao inaugurated the ceremony by lighting the lamp. Mr. Sathyaraja, LDDM, Canara Bank and Mr. C Selvaraju, Director, CBRSETI, Ooty interacted with the trainees and NDS members of Arattupara unit. The training program is for 30 women SHG members for 15 days. NDS chief trainer Mr. Jude Martin, NDS Vice President Mr. Thoams Joseph, Secetary Mr. Shaji Joseph, Program Co Mr. Joshy and other executive members led the program.

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4.12 EDP Training on Soap Detergent Making

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) in association with CEI (Conferenza Episcopale Italiana) conducted EDP Training on Soap Detergent Making at NDS Kunnalady Unit. 30 Women participated in this training. The Training program was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Johny Kappyarumalayil, Director, NDS Kunnalady Unit. Animator Rev. Sr. Elizabeth MSMI led the training program. 16 Soap detergent making kits were provided by NDS. Kunnalady unit executive committee took the leadership of the program. NDS Regional Co-Ordinator Mr. Joshy T P participated in this training program.



5. 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, Department of Horticulture, Ooty has been major partners of NDS during the year. Also society is maintaining continuous collaboration and partnership with life Insurance Company for “Jeevas” insurance program, agriculture and animal husbandry department, education department, spices Board in Nilgiri conducting training and service to the people.

CONCLUSION

The Nilgiris Development Society continues its triumphant journey by shining a golden light of hope on the migrant farmers and marginalized people of the Nilgiris. During this period society could do many things in collaboration and support of various organizations and agencies, especially with the support of WSSS the official social work organization of the diocese. 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 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.

Binoy K Sebastian

Director

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS)