



NILGIRIS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (NDS)

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INDEX		
S.N	PARTICULARS	Page
1	About us	03
2	Vision and Mission	04
3	Target Area	04
4	Objective of the Organization	05
5	Community Based Organizations a. Social Welfare Societies b. People Organization at a Glance	05
6	Implementation of NABARD Project a. Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) on “Goat Rearing” for tribal women in Gudalur, Nilgiris District. b. NABARD SDP : Home Health Aide	06 06 08
7	Meetings and Seminars a. NDS Evaluation Meetings b. Leadership Training c. Awareness Seminar	09 09 09 09
8	Nilgiri Package Inauguration	10
9	Block Placement and Internship Training	11
10	Free Medical Camps	11
11	Celebration a. International Women’s day celebration b. Onam Celebration	12 12 12
12	Samrudha Kudumbam Phase II	12
	Conclusion	13

1. ABOUT US

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) is a registered catholic NGO with Reg.No.148/2008, working for the upliftment of the rural and marginalized people who are residing in the Nigiri district of Tamil Nadu in South India. It does undertake various social welfare programs 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 Gudalur 100 kms away from the diocesan headquarters and is in the state of Tamilnadu. The area of operation of the society is rural and marginalized poor people working in tea estates and backward women and children. The mission of the organization is socio-economic, educational and cultural advancement of poor people, marginalized and disadvantaged section in the society, who are working in the tea plantations in Nilgiris. We support to enable them to achieve their full potential through self-help promotion, entrepreneurship training and development interventions. The Bishop of the Diocese of Mananthavady is the patron of this society and Vicar General of the diocese is the president.



2. VISION AND MISSION

Vision: We affirm the worth and dignity of all, realizing their potential by doing quality human development regardless of their cast, creed, colour and economic status.

Mission : NDS share in the Catholic mission to reach out, by giving and sharing our personal and financial resources to serve people in need, act for peace and justice, protect mother earth, participate in nation building, in partnership with local and national Government, international institutions and structures as well as other organizations with solutions that permanently improve life of most vulnerable people in our society.

3. TARGET AREA



4. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

- To perform works of charity for those in need irrespective of consideration of caste, race community or creed.
- To engage in social service and developmental works aimed at improving the living conditions and general welfare of the people as well as poor indigenous people.
- 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 Organizations (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.
- 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.

5. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

a) SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETIES (SWS)

Social Welfare Societies (SWS) are democratically driven community organizations established by the people for the purpose of pooling the resources, gathering information, 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 behavior of poor people.

b) PEOPLES ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

Sl. No	Particulars	No's/Units
01	Social Welfare Societies (SWS)	12
02	Self Help Groups (SHGs)	285
03	Membership Families	2150
04	Total Savings	1.10 CRORE
05	Savings in Credit Union	95 LAKHS

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF NABARD PROJECTS

a. Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) on “Goat Rearing” for tribal women in Gudalur, Nilgiris District.

LEDP (Livelihood Enterprise and Development Programme) is a skill training for women that helps to engage women in economic activity which inturn can create jobs and wealth and would contribute to improve the position and condition of women in the society.As skill upgradation trainings alone have limited impact on livelihood creation among the SHG members, it was thought prudent to create sustainable livelihoods among SHG members and to attain optimum benefit out of skill upgradation and a new scheme titled Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) was launched in December 2015. It envisages conduct of livelihood promotion programs in clusters. There is provision for intensive training for skill building, refresher training, backward-forward linkages and handholding & escort supports. It also encompasses the complete value chain and offers end-to-end solution to the SHG members. It is to be implemented on a project basis covering 15 to 30 SHGs in a cluster of contiguous villages where from SHG members may be selected.



b. NABARD Skill Development Programme on Home Health Aide

The 67 days training of the first batch of 30 persons of the course "Home Health Aide" conducted by NDS with the grant assistance of NABARD was successfully completed on 04th May 2024. The HHA training classes were completed under the supervision of NDS Director Fr. Binoy K Sebastian and the leadership of the course's Chief Trainer, Jincy Joy. The classes were conducted by eminent persons on various topics related to geriatric and patient care. Apart from this, practical training was also imparted at Gudalur Government Hospital, Primary Health Centers and Old Age Homes.

15th Annual day celebration of NDS and Concluding Convocation of HHA Training was held on 10th May 2024 at NDS Auditorium, Gudalur. The celebration was presided over by Mar Alex Tharamamangalam, Auxiliary Bishop of Mananthavadi Diocese, NABARD Coimbatore DDM Shri. Tirumalai Rao was the special guest. Also, NABARD Regional Office Staff Shri. Suraj Kumar Prajapati, Mr. Ravi-Canara Bank Coimbatore, Gudalur Government Hospital Staff Nurse Shri. Kutiarasan, Nilgiris Regional Vicar Fr. Biju Ponparaikkal, and Dr.Kannan appreciated for those who have completed home health aid training. NDS Director Fr. Binoy K. Sebastian welcomed the gathering and NDS staff Mr. Jude Martin gave the vote of thanks.

As part of NDS annual conference, annual report and special report of Home Health Aide Course were presented. Also, various artistic programs and reports were presented on the stage under the leadership of those who completed the training. Officers and members from NDS Vimalagiri, Dharmagiri, Bospara, Kayyuni and Kalpra units and family members of those who completed the training of Home Health Aide course also participated in the meeting. NDS staff members Fr. Anoop Varghese, Mr. Joshi, Sr. Siji CMC, Smt. Jincy Joy presided over the program.



6. MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

a. NDS Regional Evaluation Meetings

Nilgiris Development Societies Regional Evaluation meetings were conducted once in two months. NDS Staffs and representatives under the leadership of NDS Director Father Binoy K Sebastian assembled at NDS Office and presented the monthly unit reports and accounts.

b. Leadership Training Seminars

NDS Assistant Director F. Anup Varghese, Chief Trainer Jude Martin and Office Secretary Joshi organized leadership training seminars at Dharmagiri, Vimalagiri, Kunnaladi, Kalpra, Bospara, Manvayal and Bharatinagar Units on formation of self-help groups, Joint liability groups, activities of credit union, for unit-level office-bearers and members of the self-help groups.



c. Awareness Seminar

An awareness seminar on cancer and increasing lifestyle diseases was conducted at NDS Dharmagiri Unit and Kunnalady unit under the leadership of Doctor Christina, Pushpagiri Hospital, Gudalur. Such Seminars provide a platform to educate attendees about different types of cancer, risk factors, symptoms, and preventive measures. Increased knowledge empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



8. NILGIRI PACKAGE INAUGURATION

a. Pain and Palliative Care Unit and Ambulance Service

As part of the Golden Jubilee year of Catholic Diocese of Mananthavaady, the inauguration of Nilgiri Package, Pain and palliative care unit and ambulance service was inaugurated on March 16, 2024 at Amala Hospital, Pattavayal. Mar Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of Mananthavady done the inauguration and Flagoff the Ambulance Service.



b. Tharang Animation Services and Counselling Centre

A psychological Wellness and training centre was inaugurated at NDS office on March 18, 2024. The blessing of the office and inauguration was done by Father Paul, Vicar General of the diocese. NDS Director father Binoy K Sebastian, Nilgiri Regional Vicar Father Biju, NDS Assistant Director Father Anoop Varghes, Father Aneesh, Dharmagiri Vicar Father Biju, Counselling Psychologist Sruthi K Martin, NDS staffs and members were present in the inauguration ceremony.



9. BLOCK PLACEMENT AND INTERNSHIP TRAINING

NDS is Providing block placements and internship training opportunities for Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students is highly beneficial for their professional development and readiness for the field of social work. This year NDS assisted 15 students from different universities of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu in providing block placement and internship training. Block placements and internships offer students practical, real-world experience in social work settings. They can apply theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to actual practice, enhancing their skills and competence.



10. FREE MEDICAL CAMPS

NDS units organized free medical camps at Vimalagiri and Dharmagiri. Medical camps provided essential healthcare services, screenings, and consultations to individuals who may otherwise have limited access to medical facilities due to geographical, financial, or logistical constraints.



11. CELEBRATIONS

International Women's Day Celebration : Under the leadership of NDS, celebration of International Women's Day was arranged at unit level. Vimalagiri and Bospara units recognized and honored local women who have made significant contributions in various fields. Dharmagiri unit arranged an awareness seminar on women empowerment and gender equality. AT Bospara unit conducted discussions focused on gender equality, women's rights, and the importance of inclusive policies and practices.

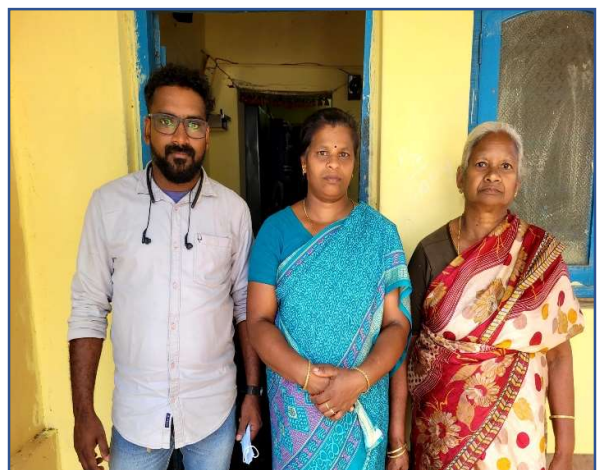
Onam Celebration. Onam is a vibrant and culturally significant festival celebrated primarily in the Indian state of Kerala. It holds deep cultural and traditional importance, marking the harvest season and commemorating the return of the mythical King Mahabali. NDS Dharmagiri, Vimalagiri, Bospara, Kayyuni, Kalpra unit members celebrated this festival with pookalam, tug of war competition and other games and activities.



12. SAMRUDHAKUDUMBAM PROJECT

a. Samrudhakudumbam Project Phate II

With the grant assistance of Wayanad Social Service Society, NDS has enrolled 25 families to this project, who are socially backward and economically weak and poor. The aim of this project is eradication of poverty through sustainable livelihood development and the overall strengthening of the families.



CONCLUSION

The Nilgiris Development Society (NDS) 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 16th year, the society is moving forward to achieve new heights with its new Training and administrative block in Athikarivayal 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 soon.



Binoy K Sebastian

Director

Nilgiris Development Society (NDS)