

ROLE OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract

The Non- Governmental Organizations response towards the empowerment of women in the Kanyakumari district. Motivation programs for the rural women were organized in different villages, to create critical understanding among the target group so that they could take up positive actions for their development. Palmyrah Workers Development Society worked for the socio-economic empowerment of the rural poor, destitute, and other vulnerable women. To achieve their interest in the power of people who lack it Women's Empowerment refers to strengthening women's position in the social, economic, and political power structure of society. As per the statistics available from the education department, the sex ratio of primary school students enrolled in 1956/1957 was 923 girls for 1000 boys in Kanyakumari district. A recent survey by the Education Commission found that nearly 65 parishes and 75 substations in the Diocese of Kottar did not have qualified and professional doctors, engineers, lawyers, and IAS and IPS officers. Kottar Social Service Society from its very inception, had taken upon itself the noble task of bringing success to different sections of people in District. Women, agricultural laborers, fishermen, and others became the target groups. The Self-Help Groups in Kulashekaram contributed greatly to bringing about social awareness among people. Several social reforms were initiated through their organizations, Diocesan schools, institutions, dispensaries, and social service centers which had made a significant contribution to the upliftment of the population particularly in Kulashekaram. The Social Awareness and Development Organization for Women (SAADOW) is another NGO functioning in Kanyakumari District. Its primary objective to enhance the economic status of Muslim women and its major objective to alleviate poverty by imparting additional skills to the women members, who were unemployed. This program was started in 2015 and aims to prevent transmission of HIV or AIDS from mother to child. The target for this program is 27,000 ANC's per year. Athencottasan Muthamizh Kazhagam identified 22,000 mothers and conducted blood checkups. Family Health Awareness Campaign was conducted from 14th to 28th November 2005 under the sponsorship of TANSACS-Chennai. FHA camps were conducted in 59 villages.

Key Words: Empowerment – development – women – children – training – capacity building – non-governmental organizations – government initiatives – programmes

Empowerment is the expansion of assets and capabilities of people to participate, negotiate, influence, control and to be accessible of social economic, political, educational, religious, and cultural institutions that affect their lives. The Government of India had ushered in the new millennium by declaring the year 2001 as 'Women's Empowerment Year' to focus on a vision 'where women are equal partners like men'.

Socio-Economic Development:

The NGO's response towards the empowerment of women in the Kanyakumari district. The political and socio-economic trends in the Kanyakumari District led to emergence a new order mostly grounded on the principles of freedom and fraternity. The twentieth century was remarkable for the progress achieved by women in all spheres of life.

Women Empowerment

In the development process, women's empowerment strategy has its role in achieving enhanced concentration on women's well-being which could transform their status from being mere passive recipients of benefits to active agents of change, which in turn can alter the lives of both women and men. Empowerment occurs within sociological, psychological, and economic spheres at various levels, such as individual, group, and community

Motivation Programs:

Motivation programs for the rural women were organized in different villages, to create critical understanding among the target group so that they could take up positive actions for their development. Microfinance dealt with women below the poverty line. If loans are routed through women, the benefits of loans could be spread wider among the household.

Palmyrah Workers Development Society:

Palmyrah Workers Development Society worked for the socio-economic empowerment of the rural poor, destitute, and other vulnerable women. The intervention of Palmyrah Workers Development Society included support for income generation and marketing etc. The primary health centers of the Government were helping to organize immunization camps.

Women Empowerment Programmes:

To achieve their interest in the power of people who lack it Women's Empowerment refers to strengthening women's position in the social, economic, and political power structure of society.

"Empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, a society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their value systems lead to the development of good family, good society and ultimately good nation".

Vocational Training for Women:

Some of the new industries such as electronics, simple engineering, and telecommunication provide in-service training to women with comparatively higher educational qualifications. International Fund for Agricultural Development fund for this project was become effective in January 1990 and closed on 31st December 1990.

Vocational Training Centres:

Based on this Vivekananda Kendra runs Vocational Training Center, (VKVTC) in various places in India, one is in Tamilnadu as part of the Rural Development program, One is at Pimpaladin Maharastra, another one is in Assam and four in Arunachal Pradesh which started in 1997 to train women to be economically self-reliant.

Women Education:

As per the statistics available from the education department, the sex ratio of primary school students enrolled in 1956-1957 was 923 girls for 1000 boys in Kanyakumari district. The ratio increased to 997 girls in 1987-1988 when Basic Christian Community was initiated. This shows that almost all girls enter school education **Employment Oriented Education:**

A recent survey by the Education Commission found that nearly 65 parishes and 75 substations in the Diocese of Kottar did not have qualified and professional doctors, engineers, lawyers, and IAS and IPS officers. These topics are meant to prepare the candidates for intensive coaching. Mulagumoodu Vicariate Career Guidance Centre provided free coaching in physical training and personal interviews for the post of police constables and sub-inspectors conducted by the Tamilnadu Uniform Services Recruitment Board.

Literacy Awareness Programme:

It was decided to implant in the minds of parents their responsibilities and the importance of education, besides making efforts to remove the fear of going to school from the minds of children. Once the solution was taken, everyone was establishing and running evening schools for the dropout children

from primary and middle school as one of the strategies to promote education and thereby reduce school dropouts in the long run.

Promotion of Self-Reliant and Self-Sustaining Peoples Federation:

Kottar Social Service Society from its very inception, had taken upon itself the noble task of bringing success to different sections of people in District. Women, agricultural laborers, fishermen, and others became the target groups. Kottar Social Service Society started major people's Associations for Women, Agricultural Laborers, and Fishermen which had functioned quite effectively.

Tamil Nadu Muslim Social Welfare Scheme:

In the wake of the recommendations made by the Sachar Commission report for the economic upliftment of poor Muslims, the state government has launched several schemes for their welfare. One such scheme launched by the Tamil Nadu government is a Muslims Women's Aid Society (MWAS). It was established in 2017 as a pilot project first in Chennai and after its success in the state capital, the government extended this scheme to all the districts of Tamil Nadu in 2018

- 2019.

Role of Basic Integral Development Societies:

To ensure the full participation and contribution of the people, Basic Integral Development Societies should be formed in all parishes and substations. Such people, and organizations, while getting enriched by the wisdom and experiences of people of lower strata, and which leads them to plan from below and to implement the programs.

Role of NGO and SHG in Women's Empowerment:

The Self-Help Groups in Kulashkaram contributed greatly to bringing about social awareness among people. Several social reforms were initiated through their organizations, Diocesan schools, institutions, dispensaries, and social service centers which had made a significant contribution to the upliftment of the population particularly in Kulashkaram.

Social Awareness and Development Organization for Women:

The Social Awareness and Development Organization for Women (SAADOW) is another NGO functioning in Kanyakumari District. Its primary objective is to enhance the economic status of Muslim women and its major objective is to alleviate poverty by imparting additional skills to the women members, who were unemployed. It provides opportunities for women to have training in tailoring, toy making, typewriting, and computer uses.

Women Awareness Programme:

Vivekananda Kendra at Nagercoil conducted a Seminar on Ideal Woman Sister Nivedita on International Women's Day, 8th March 2017 to the college students at Anbu Illam, Kanyakumari. Mrs. Aparnadidi inaugurated the seminar by lighting the lamp.

Objectives of the Programme:

- ✦ To give vendors legal status by amending, enacting, repealing, and implementing appropriate laws and providing legitimate hawking zones in urban development plans.
- ✦ To provide facilities for the appropriate use of identified space including the creation of hawking zones in the urban development plans.
- ✦ To make Street vendors a special component of the urban development /zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.
- ✦ To promote self-compliance amongst Street vendors
- ✦ To facilitate and promote social security (pension, insurance, etc.,) and access to avail credit for Street vendors through the promotion of SHGs or Co-operatives or Federations or Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), etc.

Activities of the AMK under this Programme:

The Survey covered all street vendors in the area and AMK staff conducted the survey. During this survey, we verified the residence - proof - documents of the vendors. ID cards were issued to all vendors surveyed and we maintained a database of vendors who were issued IDs. The City Street Vending

Plan CSVP was based on information on markets where sellers and buyers naturally congregate for the sale and purchase of the products and services.

Multi-Purpose Training Centres of AMK:

AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam has a training center in the office premises at Mondaikad. AMK provides training on health and personal hygiene to the private and government health service centers and hospitals, paramedical staff, village health nurses, Anganwadis, SHG members, youth volunteers, school and college students, and leaders of tribal groups.

Vocational Training for Unemployed Rural Poor Women

A tailor training unit was functioning from 1985 to 1995 to mitigate poverty through income generation. Each year 22 women were trained by this unit and a total of 242 rural women were trained during the 11 years. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam was happy to mention here for providing many of the trained women are now running their tailoring units and others are working in tailoring centers and earning decent salaries.

College Girl's Hostel and Counselling:

This program envisages providing counseling to Hostellers and College girls regarding the evils of drugs, spreading hosts of HIV or AIDS and its impacts on society, and counseling regarding moral and ethical issues. This program was started in 2004 and it is continuing. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam counselors pay two visits per month to the hostels and provide counseling services. Now there are 10 women's hostels under this programme.

PPTCT Programme

This program was started in 2015 and aims to prevent transmission of HIV or AIDS from mother to child. The target for this program is 27,000 ANC's per year. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam identified 22,000 mothers and conducted blood checkups. It identified eight HIVpositive cases and provided treatment and ensured safe deliveries.

Family Health Awareness Campaign

Family Health Awareness Campaign was conducted from 14th to 28th November 2005 under the sponsorship of TANSACS-Chennai. FHA camps were conducted in 59 villages.

Street Play Campaigns

This program was launched in the year 2005 to promote awareness among tribal along the Tamil Nadu, and Kerala border areas on de-addiction, protection of forest resources, and natural resources. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam covered 48 tribal habitations and eight street plays were conducted. This is an ongoing program of AMK.

AMK Free Clinic

AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam has been running a clinic through which we are providing round-the-clock treatment preferably to people who cannot afford private health providers. AMK provides them treatment for minor ailments and refers cases with serious problems to government hospitals. This free clinic has been functioning for past 12 years.

World Anti-Drug Day

World Anti-Drug Day has been observed by AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam since 1994. The District Collector inaugurates the program every year. The program will be conducted throughout the month. Elocution, essay, and drawing competitions would be organized for school and college students, and prizes distributed.

Emergency Ambulance Service

It is a Government Programme. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam has been providing ambulance service round the clock and helped to save the lives of accident victims by timely admitting them for emergency treatment in hospitals.

Patient Counselling Centre

This program is sponsored by the Tamil Nadu Health System Project, Government of Tamil Nadu was started in December 2016. AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam has a "May I

Help You” counseling center at Government Hospital, Karungal, Kanyakumari District.

Village Knowledge Centre

Through the Village Knowledge Centre AMK provides information to farmers regarding monsoon status, prices of various varieties of crops, prices of food grains, etc. Similarly, AMK provides information to fishermen regarding climatic conditions, areas for fish catch, etc. This program is being well utilized by farmers and fisher folk.

Women and Child Development:

AthencottasanMuthamizhKazhagam has been impaneled as a Training Organization under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to conduct training programs regarding Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the subsequent Rules framed and put to operations on 9th December 2013.

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