



Year of Relentless Commitment















Our Inspiration



"Let there be no day in your life in which you did no good to others" St. Chavara

Our Insight



"....be pure at heart before God,and innocent in our dealings with the fellow beings,.."

Servant of God. Fr Canisius Thekkekara CMI





Dr. Fr. Davis Panakkal CMI Patron, KESS

KESS has come a long way since its inception way back in 1974. From community development and disaster management to chronic illness and pandemics, the organization is true to its namesake and inspiration-St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara's vision for the development and empowerment of the underprivileged, in a sustainable manner! I take this opportunity to congratulate the Directors and staff of KESS for continuing the unvaried solace that is synonymous with KESS, even during the COVID-19 and its after phase, when resources were scarce. Each year, there is a special intervention of KESS for the poor community, relentlessly undeterred to make their lives better by the day.

The way KESS has opened up many more possibilities for the youth through their KESS- YUVA project is tremendous. Poor youngsters who would have fallen for the tribulations of modern day atrocities are now secured with technical knowledge and life skills with excellent placements- enough foundation for a sustainable future, not only for themselves but also to better the economic conditions of their families. KESS has been collaborating and increasing its network with like-minded people and institutes to enhance life and living conditions of the vulnerable such as children, women, the chronically ill, the elderly etc. Education kit distribution, income generation and livelihood programmes, savings schemes for education, marriage, housing and elderly care, midday meal are all impressive care and support initiatives by KESS. I pray to God to continue blessing KESS in all its ventures and wish everyone at KESS especially the Executive Director Rev. Fr. Thomas Vazhakkala and his spirited team, many more years of blessed social interventions to the deserving brethren around us.





Mr. P.M. Thomas President, KESS

Since its inception in 1974, KESS has been actively involved in various social work activities in Kerala and beyond. Under the leadership of KESS, various disaster relief activities were undertaken throughout India from those days. For example, in the region of Latur in Maharashtra state, thousands of people lost everything they owned in the catastrophic earthquakes. KESS was the first relief organization to reach there and provide the essential resources to the poor and needy such as house construction, medical support provision, mobilization of food and clothes etc. Our priests, sisters and staff resided there for days to ensure these interventions were conducted with quality and care. This residential support was beneficial as they could provide various training methods for farming and other income generation ventures, alongside. In this same way, we have provided support to the disaster struck areas of Gujarat, Orissa and other states, whenever our help was required.

KESS forayed into providing selfless care and support to those whom no one cared about, such as the most stigmatized chronically ill – the HIV/AIDS affected. From the education of their children to the refurbishment of their dilapidated homes to enabling them with self sustainable livelihood means, KESS has helped empower them to be independent and happy members of the society along with community inclusion interventions. Presently, KESS is immersed in the upliftment and empowerment of poor youth through its YUVA project, where more than 400 youngsters are provided quality vocational education, skill training and job placement. May KESS continue to support the needy, the sick and the side-lined in the society and continue its exemplary servitude always.





Fr. Franco Chittilappilly CMI Moderator, KESS

It is with an intense desire to do something good for the poor and the marginalized that Kuriakose Elias Service Society was started by a group of hard working, creative and selfless people under the leadership of committed and spiritually motivated CMI Fathers. They were ready to put in their time and energy for the integral development of people who are far from the mainstream of the society. The spiritual heritage of St. Chavara was their strength and guiding force which enabled them to serve the weaker section of the society. During the 48 years of a long journey undertaken by KESS, so many ambitious projects have been executed, holding tight the principles put forward by the pioneers. Without losing the original spirit and enthusiasm but animated by renewed vision and mode of functioning, KESS keeps moving forward.

In this present context, effective planning and novel strategies are inevitable for the successful implementation of projects. KESS team is well aware of this fact and has always been keen on developing and sustaining the activities appropriately with organisational efficiency and professional competence.

KESS is a light house that helps to find the right direction for those who work among people who are in most need. I whole heartedly support the work done by KESS, great and small, locally and beyond, and pray for God's continued blessings on KESS so as to better the results with still more concrete and effective expressions of its noble mission in days to come.





Fr.Thomas Vazhakkala CMI Secretary, KESS

The major aim of social work is social development of which family welfare and stability is fundamental. The first family welfare programs of KESS were in the form of constructing houses - which is one of the primary needs of mankind, initially thought to be enough basis for a family's core existence and progress. But evolving with time and the need of the hour, the realization of a sustainable home than the security of the four walls of a house prompted KESS to re-integrate various social development interventions such as income generation alternatives, empowerment of women and youth, eldercare, socio-legal support, child development etc. into holistic family welfare. These interventions were codified through institutional and developmental approaches, but more so through the heartfelt approach of mercy.

I am grateful to the active involvement of our Patron, Rev Dr. Davis Panakkal and the Board of Directors for their valuable inputs to better every intervention of KESS. I thank the KESS family members, staff, volunteers and associates without whom none of this would have been possible. I hope and pray that KESS will reach even greater horizons, building a prosperous and sustainable future for the marginalized and downtrodden, in the years to come.





Fr. Ginto Chirayath CMI
Principal,
KESS Vocational Training Institute

As a principal, it gives me immense pleasure to know that KESS with Divine blessing is completing its 48 years of its excellent and fruitful service to the children, youth, women and community at risk. The mission of our institution is, focusing on the integral growth of the marginalized children, youth and women by building resilience among them in upholding their rights, through which they live life in its fullness. We value relationships and connections with the community. We also encourage our youth to develop respectful relationships with their peers, teachers and the broader community. We continuously face challenges in life, but how we transform and deal with it will define us. At the outset, I would like to express my joy with you all as we have entered this new era. At this juncture, I invite you to remember our past with gratitude and stimulate our future developmental works.

On behalf of KESS, extend my sincere gratitude to our Patron, Secretary, Director Board members and dedicated staff. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the extreme hard work of our benefactors, well-wishers, advocate who are always there in every part of our holistic growth. Your partnership with our organization is of vital importance to us. Thank you once again for all the assistance and generosity towards our services.

May we continue to render our services like the Banyan tree with strong roots and stronger wings to conquer the world!!

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KURIAKOSE ELIAS SERVICE SOCIETY (KESS)

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Kuriakose Elias Service Society (KESS) is a registered, charitable society, under 80G, tirelessly and relentlessly traversing uneven paths aimed at empowerment, development and overall progress of the society. Since its inception in 1974 by the CMI Congregation and other socially committed members, in tune with the vision of St. Chavara, the founder and our inspiration, KESS has come a long way in promoting and developing social welfare through committed social research and social action. With the broader aim of creating and sustaining qualitative development especially amongst the underprivileged, the organization has been making visible and tangible waves in the lives of its beneficiaries who are victims of chronic illnesses like HIV and Cancer, targets of abuse and negligence, deprived of basic essentials like food, clothing and shelter. With its soothing branches spread all over the state and its readiness to reach any remote area in the country, KESS stands apart as an exemplary model of social work, striving to promote integrated and holistic development.

Vision

KESS is visualized as a growing resource canter, responsive to changes in the global scenario, promoting developmental initiatives among the deprived and the vulnerable, based on democratic values, human rights and humanitarianism

Mission

To realize the vision, KESS undertakes intensive community mobilization, empowering it through social conscientization, life skills and appropriate livelihood systems.

Objectives

- 1. To perform works of charity for those in need, *irrespective of caste*, *community*, *creed*, *race or sex*.
- 2. To strengthen the institution of family through *family–life education*, *counselling* and other support systems, thereby effectively arresting tendency towards disintegration.

- 3. To build the competency of people (HRD) through *education*, *awareness–generation* and *skill–training* so that they can mobilize and manage resources for self–advancement.
- 4. To develop, in partnership with the stakeholders, adequate *infrastructural facilities* such as housing, drinking water, electricity, path ways, community halls etc.
- 5. To focus on *health*—related matters and promote personal hygiene and environmental sanitation through health education, behavioural change communication (BCC) and immunization programs.
- 6. To establish *self-help groups* of men and women and engage them in creative activities so that they could enrich themselves with information, know-how and resources for improving their living conditions.
- 7. To address emerging issues in the agrarian sector such as low productivity, indebtedness, suicides, exploitation by traders etc. and promote modern, *eco friendly* farming practices, value additions to the produce and maximizing income through appropriate marketing strategies.
- 8. To intervene immediately in disaster—hit areas and undertake relief and *rehabilitation work* in a participatory manner.

KESS has been prominent in reaching out to the struggling, ailing people who seek help through its various projects and programmes. KESS aims at poverty eradication and socio-economic development supporting aspects of health, education, income generation, social security, legal aid, child development and women empowerment, to name a few. The organization stands today on the impact it has been able to make through various programmes in the past such as Thrissur Integrated Development Project 1989-'96, Grassroot Organization Project 1990-'92, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (P.M.R.Y) in 1993; Bhakshya Samrudhi 2009; Janasree BhimaYojana 2000; Trysem; Jalanidhi projects in Thekkumkara and Madakkathara and Nadathara Gramapanchayaths; Earn While Learn Scheme; Madathumpadi Community Irrigation Scheme, which benefitted 250 agricultural families to develop 200 acres of agricultural land and 3 K Puram housing project for 52 families. Apart from these, KESS has coordinated vocational training programmes to unemployed youth through various schemes of NABARD. Some of the timely interventions of the organization in other states include the Silvani Project [Madhya Pradesh] 1979 - '80, for the development of 70 villages; Searmau Project [Madhya Pradesh] 1989-'95, for the development of 40 villages; Pollachi Integrated Rural Development Project

1985-93, for the integrated development of the poor with emphasis on health education; and Apna Health Care Project [Maharashtra]. Disaster management and relief activities are also a prime concern of KESS. From the 1993 Latur to 2001 Gujarat earthquakes (where earthquake resistant houses were constructed), from 1999 Orissa's Super cyclone to Tamil Nadu's tsunami (Keezhmidalam Tsunami Rehabilitation Project), from the 2015 Chennai flood disaster (distributing food, water and clothing), the 2017 Ockhi cyclone disaster (construction of houses, higher education support etc.), to the state flood disasters in 2018 and '19, to the COVID -19 pandemic and its continuing post effects, KESS has been standing tall in supporting the needy at all times.

The three pronged approach of KESS includes certain programmes implemented directly, some undertaken by independent societies formed by the participants themselves under the patronage of KESS and others implemented by KESS where the follow up is entrusted to independent societies formed by/for the target group. KESS has always maintained good liaison with all departments of Central and State Governments and has undertaken programmes with their help and guidance.

NABARD, Tata-Trent Limited, Jos Alukkas, Hope Abides, Department of Industries, World Bank, Kerala State Social Welfare Board, Kerala Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA), Grama Panchayaths, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), CMI Generalate, CMI Devamatha Province, Kochouseph Chittilappilly Foundation (KCF), Joy Alukkas Foundation, Karl Kubel Stiftung (KKS) Germany, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Germany (BMZ), CEVA (Cyriac Elias Voluntary Association), Board of Directors of KESS and philanthropic organizations and individuals have supported us exceptionally in all our endeavours.

Governance of KESS

The organization is regulated by the members of the General Body and the Board of Directors. The General Body, consisting of more than 100 members from all walks of life. They meet annually to review the activities and provide support and suggestions for the betterment of the organization. The members of the Board of Directors are nominated and elected by the General Body once in three years. The Board of Directors meet four times annually and is responsible for the Articles of Association and the approval of the annual accounts. The Board consists of the President, Moderator, Secretary Cum Treasurer and six directors.

KESS Board of Directors

Patron : Rev. Dr Fr. Davis Panakkal CMI

President : Mr. P. M. Thomas

Moderator : Rev. Fr. Franco Chittilappilly CMI

Secretary cum Treasurer : Rev. Fr. Thomas Vazhakkala CMI

Directors : Rev. Fr. Paul Moses CMI

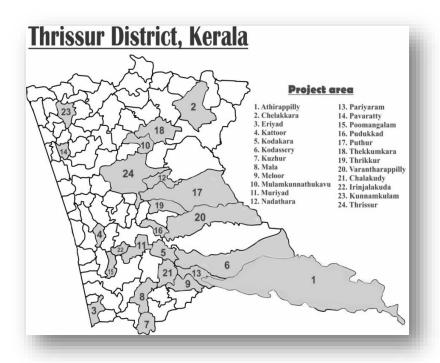
Directors : Mr. V. P. Joseph

Directors : Mr. Mathew George
Directors : Mr. John Kavalakkat
Directors : Rev. Sr. Lekha CMC
Directors : Dr. Elizabeth Kurian

KESS INTERVENTIONS

1. KESS FOR THE YOUTH

KESS initiated its youth empowerment project YUVA-Youth Upliftment and Value Addition project in the year 2019, with an objective to ensure employment for the youth through quality vocational training. The project was launched with the support of KKS/BMZ targeting youth from marginalized families in Thrissur and Palakkad Districts. KESS Vocational Training Institute (KESS-VTI) was established at Nadathara providing 6 months diploma courses which is affiliated to the STED council of India.



As a part of the project activities, 28 sensitization programmes organized reaching more than 1500 people within the project area. networking interventions such consultation as meetings with institutes and professional experts were done during this tenure. KESS was able to provide vocational

training to 358 youth till date which include 143 youth in Computer Accounting, 45 youth in Multimedia, 52 youth in Desktop Publishing (DTP), 56 youth in Hotel Management and 61 youth in Fashion Designing. In addition to academic training, KESS imparted 42 additional trainings on personality development, spoken English, competitive examination, interview and soft skills, along with exposure visits to relevant institutes and conducted various events to contribute towards their holistic wellbeing.



KESS has MOUs with 8 companies provide job placement and there are more than 20 institutes which are providing regular internship support to our students. A networking group called Vocational **Education Training** Associates (VETA) has been formed to support the project initiatives

sustainably which is further backed by a vibrant and committed Alumni Group of the KESS Vocational Training Institute. KESS is proud about the success of the project in terms of course results where 93% of the students have successfully cracked the examination, who were once drop-outs or marginalized due to various reasons and 43 % are placed in various institutes as their valuable employees in addition to 33% who are pursuing higher education with the inspiration and confidence they gained through our intervention.

KESS has always been in the forefront to advocate for women rights and with much pride; KESS-YUVA project has catered vocational training to 207 women as a part of its intervention. Along with vocational training, KESS is involved with the Excise department, in its campaign to combat narcotics through awareness programme and rehabilitation to the victims of drug abuse. It's not just the individual, the family and the community at large is indebted to the project intervention. KESS takes immense pleasure in bringing smiles among the marginalized youth who once had no idea about how life will take its course. KESS-YUVA is continuing its relentless efforts to empower the youth and reaching out to the oppressed and hopeless.

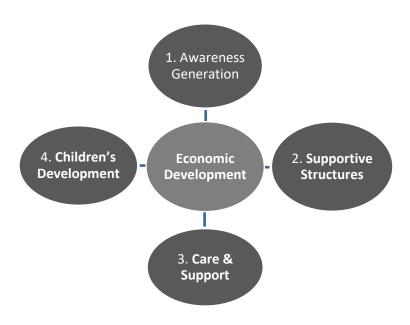
KESS-VTI Student Enrolment

Course	B1 2020	B2 2021	B3 2021	B4 2022	B5 2022	Total
Computer Accounting	20	55	17	22	29	143
Multimedia	8	10	8	9	11	46
Desktop Publishing (DTP)	8	19	9	7	9	52
Hotel Management	11	13	9	11	12	56
Fashion Designing	14	11	10	11	15	61
Total	61	108	53	60	76	358

2. SUPPORT TO THE CHRONICALLY ILL

For the poor suffering from COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Mental illness, TB, Kidney failure etc., KESS organized awareness sessions, nutritious food kit distribution, community participation and involvement of local volunteers to initiate and support and resource mobilization during this period.

KESS Intervention Model

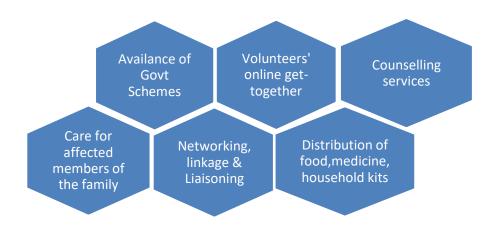


Online get-togethers of associates for the poor chronically ill consisting of patients and their families were conducted apart from the celebration of festivals and gift distribution. Availance of Govt. schemes and networking with their local representatives, care and support to the affected family members, counselling services, and treatment facilities such as free dialysis are all various programmes conducted for those infected and affected by these diseases.

Societies for Social Support (SSS) – KESS' support sustainability wing

The volunteers who worked alongside our support projects for the chronically ill at various districts in the state were formed into registered Societies to focus on the needy around them. In this way, each district has 4-5 Societies acting as extended arms of KESS. Applying this community participation principle of Social Work, KESS continues its support services along with these Societies.

Activities for the Chronically Ill



Post-COVID Interventions

KESS Community Kitchen:

The community kitchen as part of the KESS COVID Cell at KESS Centre, Nadathara served nearly 100 meals per day for a month to the COVID affected, with the help of priests, sisters, staff and neighbours.

Medical Kit distribution to Panchayats:

Distribution of medical kits which included pulse oxymeter, vaporiser, thermometer etc., was made to panchayat officials who would identify the most poor and needy affected families and arrange the rotation of those items which can be re used.

Collaborations for support:

KESS collaborated with likeminded organisations, governing bodies, congregations, medical, educational and other professional institutions to provide clinical and psychological aids to the COVID infected and affected by mobilizing food kits and other essential kits. COVID helpline and tele-counselling were conducted on shifts with hospital staff.

100% Vaccination provision for staff:

KESS ensured that its entire staff was vaccinated against the pandemic and took special care to mobilize medical care for those in need.

Timely mobilization of front line volunteers:

Understanding the need for extra hands in hospitals during the lockdown, KESS mobilized volunteers from all fields who were trained and willingly served in the front office and in direct contact with the COVID patients in PPE kits.

3. COMMUNITY WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

i. Bhavanamitra- Housing support

The housing support project helps the needy poor around the regional centres to acquire land if they are landless, construct new homes for the homeless or repair and maintain existing homes for those with dilapidated ones. Being a participatory project, it requires that the beneficiaries also share in the fundraising.

ii. Vadhumitra- Marriage support

The marriage support project is for the 16 and above aged daughters of the regional centres and Institute workers, for whom financial support is provided through a savings program, psychological and other resourceful support are mobilised for their health and overall well-being, so the families do not find it burdensome during the time of the marriage.

iii. Annadaana- food support

<u>Monthly:</u> Distribution of food is being conducted on monthly basis to the handicapped and helpless, unable to fend for themselves, identified around each regional centre.

<u>Daily:</u> On a daily basis, KESS is distributing midday meals to the street dwellers, especially those identified as frail and orphaned, and residing on the streets and roadsides around Thrissur city.

iv. Festal cheer with the poor

During the onam and Christmas season; the chronically ill, the handicapped, the elderly and poor families residing in their homes and other institutions were visited. Onasadya was served along with distribution of onam kits for onam whereas for X'mas, it was distribution of cakes. Gifts included nutritious food items, clothes, payasam etc. with the festal florals, attires and other decors to better their mental and physical good health and well-being.

v. Support to Autodrivers- our brethren at our doorsteps

KESS provided support to these friendly neighbourhood brothers and their families by distributing education kits, nutrition and provision kits, festal gifts and financial assistance to those in need. KESS has opened its doors and heeded the requests and prayers of these kind neighbours who have also helped us transport essentials at times of need.

vi. LIC Micro Bhachat-KESS' long term support for the needy

KESS as an agency of the Government's LIC Micro Bhachat scheme, continues helping the poor, helping them invest in small amounts but supporting their life for a long term basis. More than a hundred beneficiaries including the staff, workers, the various project beneficiaries of KESS, its regional centres and their related institutes are insured, ensuring a safe returns in the future.

vii. Prison Intervention

The KESS Secretary and Executive Director, Rev Fr. Thomas Vazhakkala's long standing tie up with the Jail Ministry threw open possibilities of support from the part of KESS during this term. Collaborating with the police officers and welfare officer of the Central Prisons at Viyyoor, KESS organized cultural programs for the inmates, hosted their talents and mobilised resources for festal celebrations of Onam and Christmas.

viii. Support to the disabled

KESS became the patron Society for the newly formed Dharasana Society, which enables disabled sports people. Project proposals, linkages, resource mobilization, administrative and personnel support are being provided as and when required.

ix. <u>Internship & Fieldwork</u>

KESS provided fieldwork practicum exposure and internship opportunity to more than 46 students undergoing Degree and PG courses in social work, sociology, law, agriculture etc. Observation visits and orientation sessions were held for many Colleges in and out of state through online and offline modes.

4. STUDENT WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

a. Schooling support

The pandemic closed schools but schooling continued online for those families who lived without a smartphone all this while. The poor students who never required funds for their schooling were in dire need of study gadgets, internet facilities and data packages; all of which increased the budget of the average family. The most needy students and families were identified

and according to the requirement, they were provided new and used smartphones, laptops, TVs and data package updates.

b. Higher Education support

Professional education and higher studies always weigh down the dreams and hopes of poor families, especially of those students with meritorious capabilities. Such students were identified and financial support was provided for their various fees for tuition, hostel, study materials and the like.

c. Kaaval Plus Project- a new beginning

KESS has been selected by the District Department of Women and Child Development as one of the 2 NGOs in Thrissur to implement this project which will provide care and support promoting non institutionalised rehabilitation to children in distress.

5. WOMEN WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

Service Providing Centre (SPC)

KESS continues to be active as a Service Providing Centre since its inception in November 2013. Currently under the District Women and Child Development Department of the Government, KESS SPC has been intervening vigorously for the protection of women against all violence, especially domestic. Awareness classes and legal intervention through the KESS' legal advisor as an SPC has helped reduce the intensity of ill treatment towards women.

Domestic violence was correctly termed, 'the shadow pandemic' during the last 2 years when COVID was at its peak. There were more reports of an increased rate of terror within the four walls of a house than the actual dreaded virus roaming outside. With jobs lost or wages cut, the mental state of the people took a toll as they had to spend days and months in lockdown, especially those with limited resources. Their despair and fear were transferred to their wives, children and other vulnerable in the family in different forms of abuse. This 'shadow pandemic' which shook the peace of many families found consolation and comfort in the supporting arms of KESS SPC.

KESS SPC 2021-'22						
Total cases registered		Other socio legal services	25			
Domestic Violence (DV) cases	46	DV cases backlog	13			
Types of DV:		Cases settled through SPC				
Physically abused	44	mediation only				
Sexually abused	26		20			
Verbally and emotionally abused	46					
Economically abused	44					
Cases referred for medical examination	2	DIRs were filed	13			
Cases who were given medical aid		Cases presented in Court	13			
Cases referred to a Clinical Psychologist	4	Cases from KESS SPC referred to KELSA / DELSA	16			
Remedies obtained through KESS SPC						
Protection order		Monetary relief	1			
Interim and exparte order	8					

The reason for domestic violence are more in homes with more alcoholic and substance abuse characteristics, extra marital relationships and due to the overuse and abuse through smartphone and social media when compared to reasons of dowry, mental illness or relatives' pressure.

KESS SPC has been actively taking awareness classes on PWDV- ACT 2015, reaching out to various categories of people in the society during this period. 43 such sessions were taken under KESS SPC in the online and offline modes. Some of the venues and number of participants are as follows.

Socio-Legal Awareness Sessions by KESS SPC					
Venue		No. of	Venue	No. of	
		Participants		Participants	
KESS, Thrissur		33	Pananchery Panchayath	25	
Sree Bodhanantha	LP	35	Cost Ford- Ayyanthole	40	
School- Koorkanchari		33		40	

Panchayath Community Hall- Kattur	35	Lemur Public School, Thriprayar	80
Zonal Office Thrissur Corporation- Ambadikulam	40	Dr. Vayala Vasudevan Pillai Smaraka Hall- Ayyanthole	30
Jagratha Samithi Office- Pattikkad	35	YWCA- Kunnankulam	20
KESS Vocational Training Institute, Mannuthy	45	Jagratha Samithi Office- Pattikkad	25
Kolathur- Chelakkara	30	KESS SPC- Thrissur	15
Devamatha Vanitha Service Society, Puthur	23	Block Panchayath Hall, Mullassery	75
Guruvayoor Town Hall	75	Block Panchayath Hall, Wadakkanchery	50
Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur	50	St. Thomas College- Thrissur	75
Block Panchayath Hall- Ollukara	50	Women Prison- Thrissur	60
Govt. H.S.S- Ayyanthole	60	Achutha Menon Smaraka Community Hall, Chazhoor	100
Govt. H.S.S, Pookunnam	100	Jubilee Mission Nursing College, Thrissur	100
Govt.H.S.S, Chenthrapinny	70	Amala Nursing College- Thrissur	50
S.N College, Nattika	70	Hotel Elite International, Thrissur	70
St. Aloysius H.S.S, Elthuruth	65	St. Thomas College - Thrissur	100
Malampuzha ITI	100	Amala Nursing College-Thrissur	100
Aries Polytechnic College-		Sree Kerala Varma College,	
Attapadi	90	Thrissur (Botany & Zoology)	70
		(Economics & Hindi)	85
Peramangalam	42	Puzhakal, ICDS	25

ICDS,	Chavakkad		
Additional	(Kadapuram	20	
Panchayath)		30	
(Guruvayur M	(unicipality)	40	

6. OBSERVATION DAYS

a. World No Tobacco Day

A webinar was conducted by KESS during the lockdown in May on this occassion. Taking the need to pluck the notorious habit from the current generation, the topic 'Smoking and Youth-What can you do to bring a change?' was discussed by Dr. Lisha P.V. (Pulmonary Med, Amala Hospital) attended online by over 100 students in Thrissur District.

b. World Social Work Day

Keeping the vulnerable and the marginalized together on the lines of the Day's theme: *Úbuntu: I am Because We Are*, KESS observed the day among the tribal colony of Thamaravellachal collaborating with their patron Pananchery Panchayat. The children community were gifted education and study materials on this occasion.

c. International Women's Day

KESS conducted 4 programs at different venues on this occasion. Awareness sessions on gender equality, laws for women, legal rights of women, anti-dowry were taken for the education communities of Amala Nursing College, Jubilee Nursing College, St Aloysius' School and St. Thomas' College. Along with the special program for the women's jail inmates; several camps, workshops and sessions were handled by KESS-SPC legal councillor throughout the district during the month of March for institutions of local governance, education, finance, police etc.

WOMEN'S DAY GIFT TO WOMEN'S JAIL: The KESS team visited the central prison for women on the occasion of international women's day, where KESS organized cultural programs collaborating with the Dept. Of Social Work, St Thomas' College as well as providing a venue for the prisoner's to perform their latent talents. A utility kit consisting of essential everyday items was handed over as a gift from the KESS team.

d. World Health Day

The beneficiaries of KESS who are chronically ill and their families were part of a get-together organized by KESS on this day in April. Nutritious food kits were distributed and an awareness session on the need to be healthy and hygienic was taken for the audience by the KESS team.

e. Human Rights Day

In December on this occasion, a seminar was conducted for the youth by KESS' legal advisor conducted at KESS Centre, Nadathara. The audience consisted of KESS VTI students and members of the local community.

f. Environment Day

KESS forever eco-friendly, observed this green day by honouring its farm workers for their service to better nature and everything in it, thereby uplifting KESS' ecosystem. They were made to plant saplings of various fruits dedicated to them.

g. Cancer Day

Breast cancer awareness was highlighted for this year at KESS as a session related to it was taken for all the women staff associated with the organization. The subject was selected due to its high prevalence in the women community.

MoUs for collaborative social work

KESS signed MoUs with institutes associated with education, health and social work, aimed at a collaborative and professional methodology of reaching out to the community needs with multidisciplinary skillsets and trained professionals. We are sure this network and teamwork would surely make greater waves. Jubilee Nursing College, Amala Nursing College, Christ College have teamed up this year with KESS under MoUs.

7. KESS' SISTER CONCERNS

a. FAWECOP

FAWECOP is a Society aimed for the welfare and upliftment of rural families dependent on agriculture and development of organic farming for sustainable livelihood. KESS coordinated

interventions to boost their livelihood options during this pandemic, providing support and mobilising materials needed for the same.

b. Women Employment Unit

Fr. Vynthala Vanitha Service Society (VVSS) is a stabilizer assembly unit at Nadathara which provides employment to poor women under the patronage of KESS. Almost 30 women work in these units, collaborated with V-Guard. KESS supports them to improvise infrastructure, coordinate return benefits, auditing and other aspects as required. The unit which is an all women administered Society, functions independently.

c. Jesus Arts Statue Works

The Statue making unit at Nadathara, functioning under KESS Centre, gives opportunity for skill enhancement in a unique profession. KESS has joined hands with them to provide a chance to train those interested and provide certificates.

d. <u>Inter Press Service</u>

This Paper Bag Production Unit at Puthur opens up a whole new world of possibilities being environment friendly with producing bio degradable bags, and providing employability to the poor in the neighbourhood. KESS connects with both these aspects, and supports them in this venture.

e. Carepro Health Care Solutions

KESS promoted the manufacturing and distribution of protective face masks through a tailoring unit at Padavarad. The unit is an employment providing one and a necessity to help people through the pandemic.

f. Dotz Audio

The Light and Sound unit at Padavarad provides income generation to the poor around them through the production of decorative chain LED bulbs. This is also a poverty eradicative activity that KESS promotes.

g. Udaya Karshaka Sangham

The paddy fields at Padavarad were given for lease to a group of farmers, experts in reviving this dying art of yielding rice grains from our own lands. This in turn gave them an income generative opportunity and a blessing to the land itself. KESS has a shares responsibility in taking care of its productivity and financial status.

h. Insight Counselling Centre

KESS linked with Insight located at Chettupuzha, which has their own expert professionals in cognitive behaviour, various psychotherapies and learning disability trainings. Various sessions, trainings and workshops were collaboratively conducted for the empowerment and development of children, youth and women.

i. Athma -My Mind, My Care

This unit of specialized psychotherapy experts functions within the walls of our Headquarters-KESS Bhavan. Marital, Dysfunctional, autistic, emotional, social etc. problems are being tackled professionally through sessions provided individually and groups. The unit functions as an extension to the services provided by KESS.

8. KESS FAMILY UPDATES

a. KESS Day

Commemorating the death anniversary of the inspiring Saint, KESS' namesake-St Chavara, KESS Day was observed in January, beginning with the Holy Mass by the 8 newly ordained priests of the Devamatha CMI congregation. The cultural programs of the staff added to the colour of the occasion.

b. The family called KESS team

The KESS family gets together for occasions like X'mas, Onam, birthday or feast celebrations, sharing in the unity and joy of being one big team for the good of the society. The regular meetings, evaluations and reviews of the activities and performances help the team to better itself professionally.

Blessed Silver Jubilee of Dear Executive Director

KESS family joyously celebrated the 25 years of its Secretary, Rev. Fr. Thomas Vazhakkala's 25th year of priesthood. All the staff jointly came together and showered blessings, felicitations and prayers for his continued service and leadership. Special cultural programs from each division of KESS was the highlight. KESS were this opportunity to wish the very best to our dear Executive Director, who has been a beacon of light; leading with serenity and spreading the warmth and kindness of the greatest inspiration to his vocation-Jesus Christ!

















