



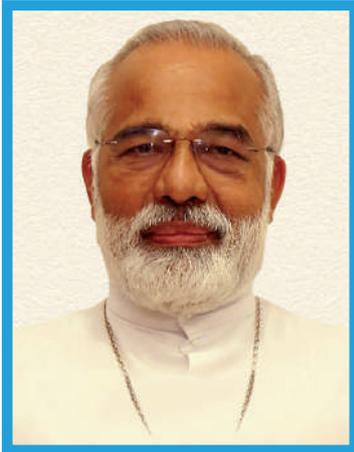
**KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023-24**

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# INSIDE





## Patron's Message

“

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute” Proverbs 31: 8

”

As we reflect on another remarkable year in the journey of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), we are filled with gratitude for the blessings and milestones achieved. Over the years, Kottayam Social Service Society has grown into a beacon of hope and transformation, guided by God's providence and the unwavering dedication of our leaders, staff, and volunteers.

Kottayam Social Service Society is dedicated in fostering happiness and well-being among the communities we serve. The words of Christ remind us of our calling: “For whoever would save

his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.” (Mark 8:35). Rooted in our values, KSSS continues to work with faith and compassion to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

In a world grappling with consumerism, economic disparity, natural calamities and social exclusion, KSSS remains steadfast in its mission to transcend barriers of caste, creed, and class. As an organ of the Church's mission of mercy, KSSS ensures that no individual is left behind in the pursuit of justice and dignity.

As we embark on another year of service, we look forwards to bringing greater consolations and happiness to a great number. I congratulate and extended my blessings to the entire KSSS team. Together, under the leadership of Fr. Sunil Perumanoor let each member aspire for greater heights in love, service and transformation, ensuring that no one is abandoned in our collective journey towards a just and compassionate society.

**Mar Mathew Moolakatt**  
Metropolitan Archbishop  
of Kottayam



# Director's Message

“ Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, Volunteers, and Well - Wishers. ”

Life is a journey of hope, fueled by love and transformed by compassion. It is with immense joy and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) for the year 2023-2024, a reflection of our collective journey and milestones achieved.

Over the past 59 years, Kottayam Social Service Society has remained firm in its commitment to uphold the dignity of individuals, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable. Through our transformative initiatives, we have fostered overall well-being of our member through various community development programmes, empowered individuals and communities by providing sustainable livelihood means, built confidence and skills through women empowerment programs. The launch of Tissue Making Unit at Agape Centre, Cherpunkal, has added on to KSSS's efforts in disability rehabilitation and vocational training demonstrates our commitment in uplifting Persons with Disabilities. Guided by compassion and social jus-

tice, we continue to transform lives and uplift communities.

A special highlight of this year has been the recognition received for KSSS Deafblind Rehabilitation Project. Two members from KSSS family have been honoured for their outstanding contributions in the field of deafblindness. Sr. Simi DCPB, Special Educator at KSSS and Mrs. Latha Philip Chacko, mother of a deafblind child, received the National Excellence Awards 2023-24 launched by Sense International India.

The 24th Agricultural Fest and Annual SHG Meet, was grand celebration that spanned over 8 days and we are thrilled to say it was a great success. The event brought together the community, showcased incredible talents of SHG members and highlighted the diverse range of agricultural innovations and products. As we enter the 25th year of Karshikamela, we reflect on the past success and look forward to make the upcoming year even more impactful, promoting sustainable agriculture and empowering rural development.

I would like to extend by deepest gratitude to all the funding agencies, donors, well wishers, Government of India and various benefactors from worldwide. Their timely and humanitarian support, offered selflessly while remaining attuned and vigilant to the needs of the time, has been invaluable. I am grateful for the ongoing support from our esteemed Patron for his extraordinary vision and guidance. I gratefully acknowledge the support and cooperation I receive from my dedicated staff members of KSSS office and field for their tireless efforts and commitment to our cause.

As we look forward to the next year, may our collective efforts of kindness, compassion and love continue to be instruments of hope and healing in the lives of those we touch. Together, let us strive to make a meaningful difference, one small step at a time.

**Fr. Sunil Perumanoor**  
Executive Secretary  
Kottayam Social Service Society

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**VERY REV. FR. MICHAEL VETTICKAT**  
**PRESIDENT**



**FR. SUNIL PERUMANOOR**  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**



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**TREASURER**



**MRS. ANCY PHILIP**  
**MEMBER**

# KSSS ORGCHART



# SILHOUETTE

**K**ottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) is a registered charitable organization (Reg. K-15/1964) under the Travancore - Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies' Registration Act XII of 1955. The organization was registered in the year 1964 by the Archdiocese for delivering its social ministry. The activities of KSSS are spread mainly in five districts of Kerala namely Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta covering 80 rural villages. The main focus of the organization is the empowerment and improvement in the quality of the poor and other vulnerable sections in society. It has now completed five decades of dedicated-services in the development sector and has a rich experience in facilitating capacity building, community health, promotion of grass-roots level organizations,

watershed development and other community level organizations for social change and transformation. More

than 56000 families are directly linked with the organization through its network of Community Based Organizations.





# Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS)

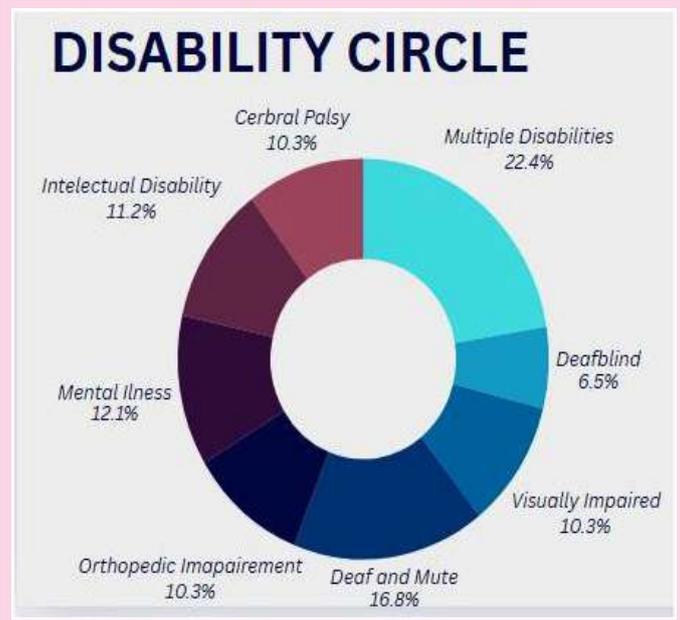
Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is an inclusive approach that integrates healthcare, education, vocational training, and livelihood opportunities to support children and youth with disabilities. It promotes rehabilitation, equal opportunities, and social inclusion as part of overall community development.

Since 1997, Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) has been implementing CBR programs, focusing on empowering differently-abled individuals through skill development

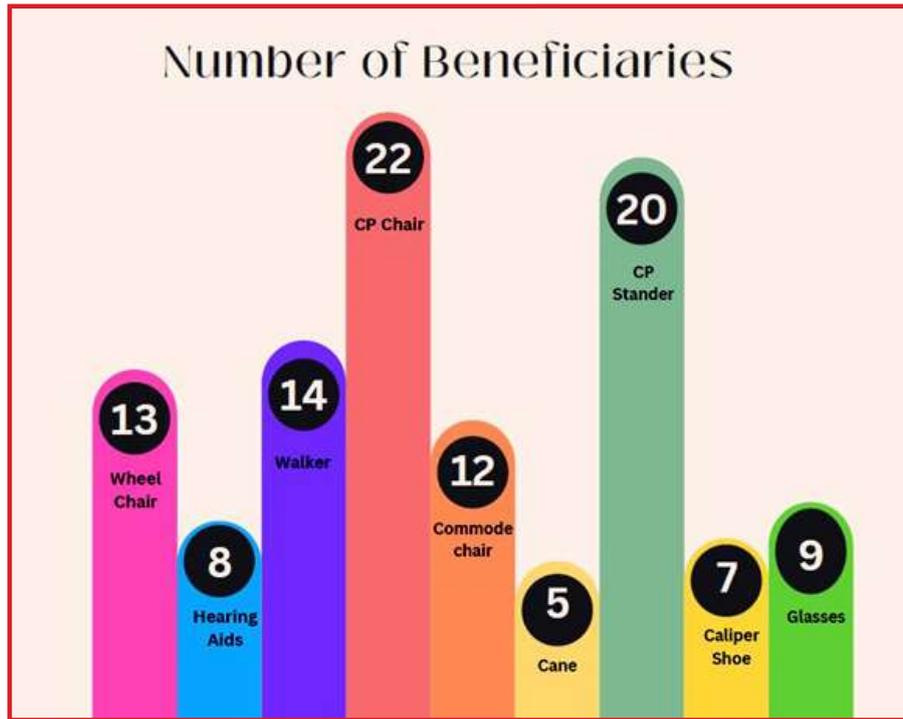
initiatives. With over 27 years of experience, KSSS is dedicated to fostering independence and inclusion for individuals with disabilities. Through its Social Outreach Services, the organization enhances the health and

well-being of people with physical and mental disabilities, creating a lasting positive impact.

KSSS actively engages with 78 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote community participation and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities. By offering structured interventions and awareness programs, KSSS continues its mission of building an inclusive society where everyone can lead a fulfilling life.



## Details of Assistive Devices Distributed



## Portrait of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Presented by Differently-Abled Artist

In a heartwarming display of talent and inclusivity, Ramesh Mohan, a member of KSSS Community Based Rehabilitation Programme for Differently Abled, from Vilooni village of Kottayam district who is a skilled artist with disability, presented a portrait of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan drawn by him during the Chief Minister's visit to Thellakom Chaithanya Pastoral Centre as part of the Kerala Government's Nava Kerala Mission, a comprehensive initiative aimed at the state's development.

Chief Minister was deeply moved by Ramesh's creative work and took a moment to appreciate him. He praised his



talent and KSSS for providing a platform for individuals with disabilities to showcase their ability and congratulated the team for working closely for individuals with disabilities, with an aim to create a more inclusive and supportive soci-

ety.

Ramesh Mohan's artistic contribution highlights the talents of differently-abled individuals and their active participation in community development initiatives.

## KSSS Navachaitanya Federation Meeting

The Navachaitanya Federation, comprising 8 executive members, serves as the advocacy group for KSSS' CBR programs. Monthly meetings are held to discuss policies, plan future actions, and promote the rights of people with disabilities. These meetings ensure that members are updated on initiatives and strategies to



improve care and services for differently-abled individuals. The Federation plays a crucial

role in advocating for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community.

## Neurology Medical Camp for the Differently-Abled

As part of the CBR programme, to provide comprehensive medical care for children with deaf-blindness neurology medical camps are organized in every three months at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, especially significant for children with neurological issues, including epilepsy and other associated medical conditions. The camp was led by Dr. Gracykutty Mathew, Neurologist.

During the camp, Dr. Gracykutty Mathew conducted detailed clinical assessments. Based on the evaluations, individualized medication plans were prescribed, focusing on the effective management of conditions such as epilepsy, which often exacerbate the challenges already posed by deafblindness.



This medical camp ensures timely intervention and continuous medical support for the children's overall development.

## Parents Network Meeting on Uplifting Differently-Abled Children at Agape Centre

KSSS organized a parents' meeting at the Agape Centre in Pala Cherpunkal to evaluate ongoing activities and training programs for differently-abled children. The meeting, presided over by Fr. Sherin Kurikkiletu (KSSS Assistant Secretary), provided a platform for parents to share feedback and discuss future plans for their children's

development. Program Officer Shaila Thomas, Agape Special School Principal Sr. Joycy SVM, and CBR staff member Ginny Jacob were also present. The meeting emphasized the importance of collaboration between parents and



the organization for the holistic development of the children.

## Sensitization Workshops for Social Workers on Deafblindness

KSSS conducted one-day workshops in collaborations with national and international organizations. These workshops highlighted KSSS social work practices, welfare pro-

grammes and sessions on CBR activities, 'Deafblindness' and inclusive practices of KSSS. Key sessions were led by Mrs Babitha T Jessil (KSSS Program Officer) and Sister Simi (Spe-

cial Educator), providing students with insights into social welfare activities and the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.



- Inter-University Centre for Disability Studies, MG University: The first study camp in August was attended by 40 students and inaugurated by Shri VN Vasavan, Hon'ble Minister for Ports and Cooperation.
- BCM College Social Work Department: The second camp in August was organized for the Social Work students from BCM College at Kottayam. 46 social workers attended the workshop.
- Social Work Department of Marian College Kuttikkanam. The third camp was organized

in October included 43 students and featured a field visit for practical exposure. Sessions focused on understanding the challenges faced by deafblind individuals and the necessary welfare measures.

Through interactive sessions, students gained a deeper understanding of social welfare programs and the role of collaborative efforts in promoting inclusivity and empowerment.



## Interface Meeting with Panchayats

“Inclusion is not a matter of political correctness. It is the key to growth.” –

An interface meeting was organized to sensitize the three tier panchayat officials about the needs and rights of differently-abled individuals, particularly those with deaf-blindness and multiple disabilities. The event, held at St. Stephen's Forane Church Hall, Uzhavoor, was attended by representatives from Village, Block and District Panchayats. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. T.S. Sarath (District Panchayat Member) and presided over



by Mrs. Sheela Joseph.

The meeting provided a platform for persons with disabilities and their families to share concerns, while the officials gain insights into their needs. The key issues discussed included Self employment/IGA projects and

availability of medicines in Primary health centre. The program also allowed local governing bodies to share existing schemes and plan better initiatives for differently abled individuals, ensuring their rights are protected.

## Karunyadooth Project - Distribution of Essential Medicines

The Karunyadooth Project, initiated by KSSS, focuses on providing essential medicines to differently-abled individuals. In 2023, medicines were distributed to 336 beneficiaries across multiple events held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The project was supported by local leaders, religious institutions, and volunteers, ensuring better healthcare access for marginalized communities. Distinguished personalities such as Mar Mathew Moolakkatt (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam Archdiocese), K. Radhakrishnan (MLA, Trivandrum), and Lovely George (Chairperson, Et-



tumanoor Municipality) graced the events. The initiative reinforced KSSS's commitment to serving marginalized communities. KSSS extends its gratitude to the Chicago Sacred Heart Congregation and the Catholic Forane Church for their valuable contributions. The Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) volunteers played an active role in organizing and distributing medicines

to those in need.

The Karunyadooth Project remains a vital initiative in the mission to enhance healthcare access for differently-abled individuals. With continuous support from stakeholders, KSSS aims to expand the reach and impact of this project in the coming years, ensuring a better quality of life for those in need.

## Christmas Celebrations at Agape Daycare Centre

The Agape Day-care Centre in Kumarakom hosted a Christmas party as part of KSSS's CBR initiative. The event, presided over by Fr. Mathew Kuzhuppillil, featured cultural performances by children and motivational speeches by Sister Gyaris and Mr. James Cherussery (President, Kumarakom Lions Club). The



celebration concluded with the distribution of Christmas cake, spreading joy among attendees. The program

aimed to promote holistic development and social inclusion for differently-abled individuals.

## Food Kits Distributed to Differently-Abled Children at Agape Day Care Centre



*"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."*

– **Mark Twain**

Kottayam Social Service Society distributed food kits to the economically backward, differently abled children of

KSSS Agape Day Care Centre, Kumarakom, in collaboration with Lion's Club, Kottayam. The distribution was inaugurated by Mr. James Cherushery (President, Lion's Club). The students of the Day Care Centre performed dance and

enjoyed singing. Mrs Aswathy Joy (Secretary, Lion's Club), Mrs. Mary Philip (KSSS Field Coordinator), Mrs Sherly Jose (CBR Staff) and the parents of the differently abled children were present during the occasion.

## Sustainable Livelihood Development Programme of persons with disabilities

The KSSS organization has implemented a robust suite of livelihood programs to help alleviate the economic burdens faced by families in the local community. These initiatives leverage readily available local resources and skills to empower adults with disabilities and generate sustainable incomes.

One key focus is establishing small petty shops, which provide a consistent revenue stream through the sale of essential goods and sundry items. Similarly, the organization assists with equipping families to engage in fishing, providing them with the

necessary tailoring machines. Complementing this, KSSS also promotes the rearing of poultry, cows and goats, enabling diversified livestock production that can be sold at local markets.

Through this multi-pronged approach, KSSS is steadfastly working to lift families out of economic hardship and empower them to build brighter, more financially secure futures.



## Down syndrome day celebration

On 20th March 2024, KSSS celebrated Down Syndrome Day with a rally, painting competition, and cultural performances. The event aimed to raise awareness about the rights and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome. Seventy-four children and their parents participated in the



rally, which started at Caritas Junction and concluded at Chaithanya. The celebration highlighted the importance

of advocacy and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome.

# CASE STUDY

Roshan Roy, a 20-year-old from Kumarakom, was born into a world of silence and fading light. With congenital deafblindness, only 25% of his vision

remains, and his hearing is nearly nonexistent. His world is one of shadows and vibrations, where love is felt more than heard. Raised by his father, a daily wage laborer, and his elder brother, Roshan grew up without the memory of his mother, who passed away when he was too young.

For Roshan, his father is everything. Despite his exhaustion, his father tirelessly



guided Roshan's hands over objects, teaching him their shapes and purposes. He sat beside Roshan every evening, ensuring his son never felt alone in his silent world. Yet, deep inside, he carried a gnawing fear: "What will happen to Roshan when I'm gone?"

At 20, Roshan's life took a turn when Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) diagnosed him with deafblindness. For years, Roshan had struggled to communicate, his words often lost

## Stepping into the Light

before they could reach anyone. School became unbearable, and he withdrew from the world. His father, torn between work and caregiving, relied on Roshan's elder brother, Arun, who sacrificed his education to support the family. Arun took up a job as a salesman, his dreams of college faded as he focused on his brother's survival.

Hope arrived in the form of a resource center for deafblind individuals, introduced by KSSS. Slowly, Roshan began to find his voice. His pronunciation improved, and he learned to identify currency notes up to Rs. 100—a small but significant step toward independence. When a tissue paper production unit was introduced at the center, Roshan found his purpose. After a month of training, he mastered counting, packaging, and even assisting with deliveries. His hard work earned him his first stipend of Rs. 2,000, a moment of immense pride for him and his family.

The day Roshan handed his earnings to his father, he said, "This is for you, Pappa." His father, tears streaming down his face, embraced him tightly, whispering, "You've done it, my son. You've done it."

Today, Roshan does more than work. He tidies his room, helps in the kitchen, and supports his father in ways he

never could before. His father, once burdened by worry, now speaks of Roshan with pride. "I no longer fear for his future. Because now, he has one."

Roshan's dream of opening a shop near his home, not just to support himself but to give his father rest and help his brother reclaim his education. His special educator believes that with continued training, Roshan will achieve the independence he craves. Roshan no longer hopes for independence—he fights for it, reaching for a future that once seemed impossible.

Roshan's story is a testament



to the transformative power of support and perseverance. Yet, it raises a poignant question: How many others like Roshan remain unseen, unheard, and forgotten? His journey is not just about survival—it's about reclaiming a life that was slipping away.

Because no child, no young man, no dream should ever be left behind in the shadows. With hope, help, and love, Roshan is stepping into the light.

## Observance of World Disability Day 2023



KSSS celebrated World Disability Day on 3rd December 2023 with a variety of programs. This day is observed as an occasion for encouraging the abilities of the differently-abled persons.

The celebration started with an awareness seminar followed by public function attended by eminent

persons and award distribution. Various cultural programs were performed by the children and their parents. The major aim of the programme was to emphasize on appreciating the abilities of the differently-abled rather than sympathizing on their shortcomings.

Unlike the conventional

way of limiting the celebrations within the differently abled community, the programme is planned in an integrated manner involving people from various sectors of society. This brings greater recognition for the rights of differently abled people and for changing the attitude towards rehabilitation of differently-abled.

### School Bags Distributed to Differently Abled Children

As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), school bags were distributed to differently-abled children in collaboration with Pizza Hut.

The distribution ceremony was inaugurated by Mar Mathew Moolakkattu, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom and Mr. Saji Thadathil, President of

the Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat, presided over the function.

The initiative aimed to encourage inclusive education, promote equal op-

portunities, and support the academic needs of children with disabilities from economically disadvantaged families.



## School Opening Day Celebration for Children with Disabilities

As part of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme, KSSS organized a vibrant School Opening Day celebration for Children with Disabilities, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thelakom on 12th June, 2023 marking a joyous beginning filled with fun and community spirit.

The staff and volunteers warmly welcomed the children with balloons and by applying sandalwood paste on their forehead as traditional blessing. The event was inaugurated by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan (Member of Parliament)



and presided over by Ms. Arya Rajan (Ettumanoor Block Panchayat President). Children showcased their talents through various cultural programs adding a delightful element to the event. Differently abled children from Agape Day Care Centre Kaipuzha and Kumar-

akom, Agape Bhavan and Good Samaritan Resource Centre Cherpunkal, along with their parents actively participated in the program. The day concluded with distribution of sweets, which added to the fun atmosphere and brought smiles to the children's face.

## Minnaminni Camp Held for Differently-Abled Children

A two-day camp was organised by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), as part of its community-based rehabilitation project which aimed at the comprehensive upliftment of differently-abled individuals.

The camp held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thelakom, was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem (Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese) with Smt. Lovely George (Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson) presiding over the



function and attended by special guest Mr. C. John (DySP Kottayam Narcotics Cell). Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary), Fr. Jeffin Ozhungalil (KSSS Assistant Secretary), also addressed the gathering. The camp featured a range of activities, including in-

teractive sessions, art programs, games and fun learning designed to engage and support the children. This initiative aligns with KSSS's commitment in empowering and supporting differently-abled individuals and their families.

## Conclusion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of KSSS Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme



The KSSS Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme concluded its Silver Jubilee celebrations, marking a significant milestone in its journey of empowering persons with disabilities. Initiated in 1997 under the leadership of KSSS, the programme has been working tirelessly to provide rehabilitation services, promote social inclusion, and enable individuals with disabilities to lead dignified lives.

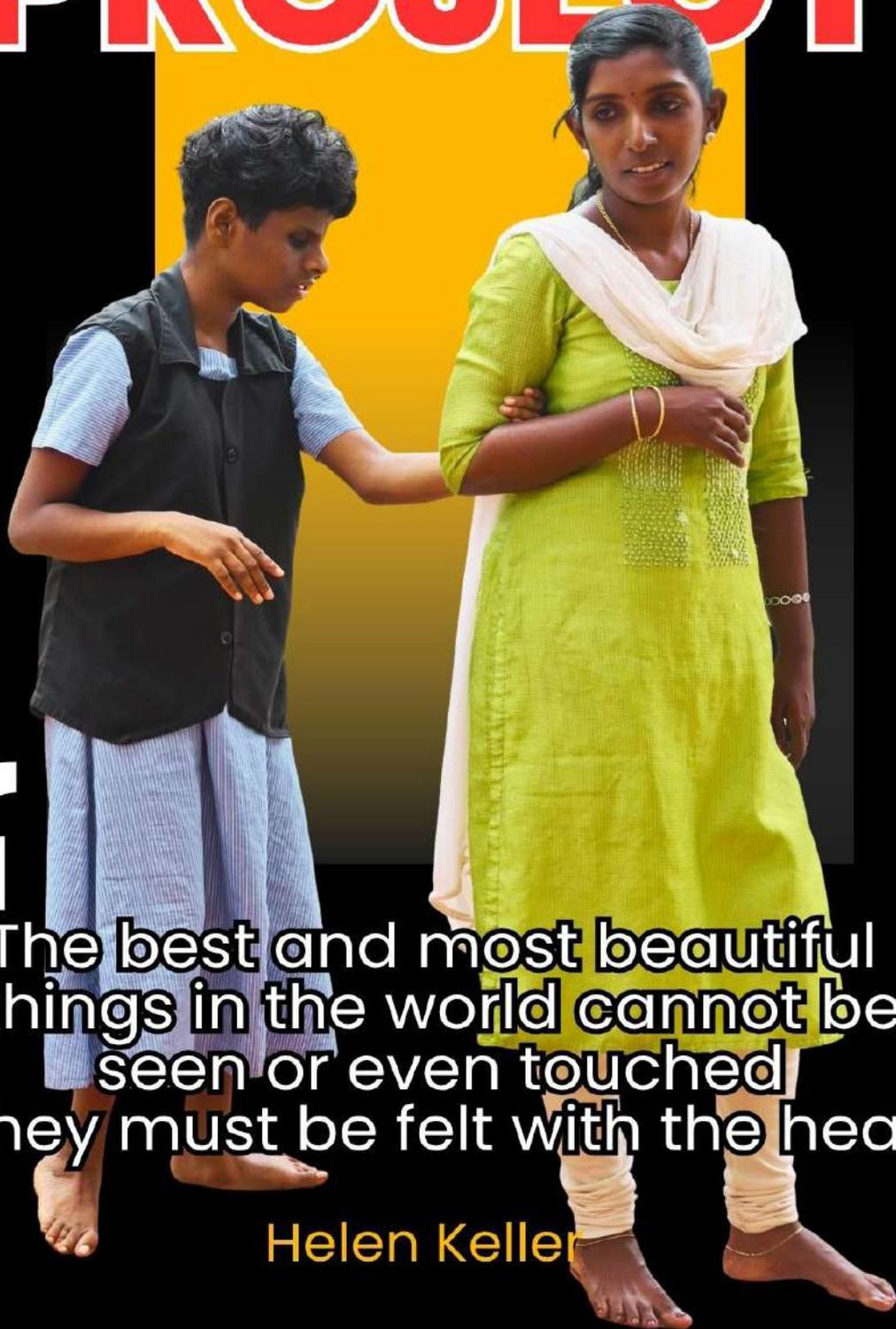
The ceremony was inaugurated by Shri V. N. Vasavan (Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Cooperation and Devaswoms) at the Mutholath Auditorium, Good Samaritan Resource Centre, Cherpunkal. Mar Mathew Moolakkatt (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam) presided over the event. Several other dignitar-

ies also graced the occasion. The Silver Jubilee celebrations witnessed the launch of two initiatives, including paper bag and tissue paper manufacturing units, aimed at providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities. These initiatives stand as a testament to the programme's commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive society. Shri Roshi Augustine (Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources) inaugurated these projects and also facilitated the distribution of assistive devices to 43 individuals with disabilities. During the ceremony, Rev. Fr. Abraham Mutholath, former Director of KSSS, who played a pivotal role in initiating the programme, along with CBR Federation Members who

significantly contributed to its growth, were felicitated for their tireless efforts and dedication to the cause. A special gathering for differently-abled individuals was also organized, featuring a face-to-face interaction session and a seminar led by Dr. Grace Lal, Family Counselor. The event further showcased vibrant cultural performances by differently-abled children, adding a celebratory spirit to the occasion. The Silver Jubilee celebrations served as a platform to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of the CBR Programme and to reaffirm the collective commitment to enhancing the lives of differently-abled individuals through community support, empowerment, and sustainable initiatives.



# KSSSS DEAFBLIND PROJECT



“

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

## State Level Network & Advocacy Meeting

Deafblindness is a severe disability and deafblind people face huge challenges due to the severity of their disability, but they don't have much access to the required support, and not much support exists.

State Network Meetings aimed to strengthen local networks by addressing grassroots needs and aligning efforts with existing government and organizational support systems. State Advocacy

Events are organized to ensure appropriate rehabilitation and develop innovative approaches to address the rehabilitation needs of people with deafblindness.

### State Advocacy Meeting:

K.S.S.S organized a State Level Advocacy Meeting on Deafblindness was held on 22nd June 2023 at Thiruvananthapuram in partnership with Malankara Social Service Society, in both physical and hybrid formats. Government officials - Mr. S H Panchapakesan (State Disability Commissioner), Mr. Subhash Kumar (Joint Director, State Social Justice), Mr. Manoj Kurian (State Project Coordinator, State Initiatives for Disabilities) and Mrs. Preety M Kumar (State Program Officer, Samagra Shiksha Kerala) were present. The primary objective of the meeting was to increase awareness and support for persons with deafblindness by helping stakeholders understand their unique needs and potential. The focus was on ensuring appropriate rehabilitation, encouraging convergence between state



initiatives and civil society efforts, and promoting inclusive environments for adults with deafblindness. Mr. Raju K of the KSSS Network presented prior action plans and identified areas needing further intervention.

During the interactive sessions, Mr. Panchapakesan acknowledged the lack of sufficient schemes for persons with multiple disabilities and discussed the challenges faced by the deafblind community, including issues with pensions, UDID certification, and safety concerns, especially for women. Other concerns raised were accessibility issues at Akshay centres, lack of awareness among panchayat officers. The meeting concluded with the formulation

of a collective action plan by Network members, focusing on advocacy, awareness, and inclusion. Mrs Shaila Thomas, KSSS Program Coordinator led the interactive session with the government officials. Both the state level events were, organized by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) with the support of Sense International India and funding from the Azim Premji Foundation.

Parents Network Members, Adult Deafblind Persons, Special Educators from Kottayam Social Service Society, Malankara Social Service Society and KSSS Navachathanya Members attended the both the meeting.

## State Network Meeting



The State Level Network Meeting on Deafblindness was held on 20th June 2023 at Chaithanya Pastoral Center, Kottayam, organized by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS). Attended by 65 participants including parents, adult deafblind persons, and staff from various districts, the meeting aimed to strengthen local networks by addressing grassroots needs and align-

ing efforts with existing government and organizational support systems. Key objectives included organizing par-

their needs and capacities in advocacy, sustainability, and management and developing a plan for growth. Input sessions were led by

representatives from Sense India and the importance of network development, the status of regional and national networks, and the role of local advocacy. Participants from KSSS,



ents and educators into local support groups, assessing

MSSS, and Shreyas engaged in open discussions and formulated an action plan to enhance their advocacy efforts.

The closing of the meeting was inaugurated by Geevarghese Mar Aphrem, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kottayam, and a welcome address by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary of KSSS.



## Helen Keller Memorial Day Celebration

Helen Keller Day was observed on 27th June, a day when the world remembers Helen Keller, an inspiring figure who overcame the dual disabilities of deafblindness. Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), in collaboration with Sense International India and the Azim Premji Foundation, organized a commemoration event as part of their welfare activities to observe the day. The Day was observed to create awareness about the importance of building a barrier free environment that ensures inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities, especially persons with deafblindness.



The memorial service, held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom., was inaugurated by Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA. Smt. Lovely George (Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson) presided over the function. Several distinguished speakers addressed the gathering and Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary), offered

the welcome note.

During the event, a motivational seminar on the need for building an inclusive society was led by Prof. Dr. Rosamma Sony. Thereafter children with deafblindness and other disabilities showcased their talents through art performances and cultural programs.

## KSSS Mother's Day Celebrations



It has always been seen that mothers struggle a lot to cope with raising a child with profound disability. To share in their joys and pains, KSSS celebrated the Mother's Day on May 8, under CBR programme for differently-abled. The program was inaugurat-

ed Gheevarghese Mar Aprem (Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop). The program started with fun activities followed by an inspiring class by Mrs. K.U. Marykutty (former chairperson of the Kottayam District Child Welfare Committee).

There was also an experience-sharing session. The most overwhelming moment was when the differently-abled children gifted roses to their mothers. There were 89 mothers from different villages of KSSS who participated in the occasion

## Social Awareness Study Camps on Deafblindness for Nursing Students

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a series of Social Awareness Study Camps for nursing students in collaboration with various nursing colleges. Conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, these programs aimed to educate students on social welfare issues, with a special focus on the challenges faced by Deafblind individuals and the support systems available for them.

A total of 120 nursing students were sensitized through three batches, with 40 participants in each batch. These sessions were held in partnership with Assisi



The events were inaugurated by Mrs. Lovely George (Etumanoor Municipal Chairperson) and Mr. Saji Thadathil (Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat President). Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary) presided over the functions.

The programs included interactive sessions, social awareness classes, and field visits to provide students with practical exposure to social ser-

persons and the importance of inclusive support systems.

The sessions were led by Sister Simi DCPB (Special Educator) and Mr. Sijo Thomas (KSSS Program Officer), who guided participants through discussions, awareness-building exercises, and musical performances to enhance engagement.

This initiative successfully sensitized nursing students in three batches, equipping



College of Nursing, Erumeli, Velankanni Matha College of Nursing; and Thiruhudaya College of Nursing, Poovanthuruth.

vice initiatives. The training focused on welfare activities for differently-abled individuals, particularly addressing the challenges of Deafblind

them with valuable knowledge and practical skills to support differently-abled individuals in their future professional roles.

## Training Program for Special Educators on 'Deafblindness'



As part of its ongoing welfare initiatives, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Kerala supported by Sense International India and Azim Premji Foundation, organized a one day training program aimed at the holistic upliftment and mainstreaming of individuals with Deafblind disabilities. The event was held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom.

Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson Lovely George inaugurated the program, while Kottayam District Panchayat Member Dr. Rosamma Soni presided over the function. Distinguished guests, including Ettumanoor Block Panchayat Member James Kurian, KSSS Assistant Secretary Fr. Sherin Kurikkiletu, and Program Officer Shaila Thomas, addressed the gathering.

The training sessions were

led by expert special educators, including Sr. Simi DCPB, Sr. Joicy SVM and Mrs. Preethy Prathapan. The study camp focused on various crucial topics, such as the challenges faced by individuals with Deafblind



disabilities, rights protection, and welfare programs designed for their inclusion and empowerment. Special educators from across Kottayam district actively participated in the program, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of strategies to support the Deafblind community effectively. The training program ended with eval-

uation meeting which was also attended by Mr. Binu Abraham, District Program Officer, Samagra Shiksha Kerala, Kottayam.

This training program contributes to equip the government systems appropri-

ately support children and adults with deafblindness and make required adaptations to get education in inclusive setup. This initiative underscores fostering an inclusive society where persons with deafblindness and other disabilities receive the necessary support and opportunities for a better quality of life.

## National Award for KSSS Staff Members for Excellence in Rehabilitation of Disabled Individuals

A staff member and a mother from KSSS Deafblind Program have been honoured with prestigious national awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of deafblindness.

Sr. Simi DCPB, Special Educator at KSSS and Mrs. Latha Philip Chacko, mother of a deafblind child Sam Chacko Philip, were selected for the Excellence Awards 2023-24 instituted by Sense International India. These awards were launched at the national level across 28 partner organizations to recognize exceptional efforts in the rehabilitation of persons with



deafblindness and multiple disabilities.

Mrs. Latha Philip Chacko received the Best Role Model Mother Award, a token of appreciation for her un-

wavering commitment and dedication in supporting her child in holistic development and promoting disability inclusion. Sr. Simi DCPB was awarded the Best Special Educator Award at the national level for her tireless efforts and exemplary service in empowering and transforming the lives of children with deafblindness through specialized interventions.

These recognitions highlight the impactful work of KSSS in advancing inclusive development and providing holistic support to the disabled community

## KSSS host One-Day Workshop for Anganwadi Teachers

A one-day workshop was organized as part of the Deafblind Rehabilitation Project for Anganwadi teachers of Kottayam at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre. The event aimed to raise awareness and improve the understanding of the challenges faced by persons with deafblindness and the need to provide specialized need based training to mainstream them in society as well as improve their quality of life. The program was inaugurated by

Dr. Rosamma Sony, District Panchayat Member, Kottayam. The event was presided over by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary of the Kottayam Social Service Society. The study camp was led by Program Officer Shaila Thomas, along with Special Educators Sr. Simi DCPB and

Sr. Joicy SVM. The sessions covered various important topics, to understand concept of deafblindness and ensure their rehabilitation. The event provided a platform for Anganwadi teachers to gain knowledge and skills necessary for supporting Deafblind individuals in the community.



## Capacity Building Training for CBR staff members

A specialized rehabilitation training program was organized for staff members as part of the Deafblind Rehabilitation Program with the aim to build capacity of the staff members and equip them with knowledge to enhance their skills and provide improved integrated services for deafblind persons. This initiative aims to promote the overall upliftment of persons with deafblindness.

The training is being implemented across Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam

districts. The program was led by Program Officer Shaila Thomas, along with Special Educators Sr. Simi DCPB, Sr. Joicy S.V.M., Ms. Preeti Prathapan and Ms. Mary Philip. 20 staff participated in the capacity building pro-

gramme.

This training initiative is a significant step towards improving the quality of life and independence of individuals with disabilities, ensuring they receive the support and education they deserve.



## Outing and Exposure Visit for children with Deafblindness

The deafblind children and their parents embarked on a delightful outing to the Vaikom Park in Kottayam. Upon arrival, the children's faces lit up with excitement as they explored the vibrant playground.

Nearby, the children squealed with delight as they dipped their hands into the cool, refreshing water, reveling in the tactile exploration of this natural element. Through these activities, the deafblind children not only engaged in physical exercise but also cultivated crucial socialization skills, learning to navigate their surroundings and interact with their peers in a safe, supportive environment. The relaxed and content expressions on their faces spoke volumes, conveying the pro-

found sense of happiness and well-being they felt during this picnic.

Apart from the park visit, the children also watched a movie in the theater. The journey itself was a source of wonder, as the children's hands traced the textures and shapes of their surroundings, absorbing the sensations of travel.

Beyond the immediate pleasure, the physical activities of the picnic such as walking, playing games, and immersing in nature—also promoted the children's physical fitness, coordination, and overall mobility, empowering them to navigate their world with greater independence and confidence.



## Launching of Tissue Making Unit



Providing meaningful employment opportunities for youngsters with deafblindness is of paramount importance, as it empowers them to achieve self-sufficiency and significantly improve their overall quality of life. The primary aim of centre based vocational training program designed for youngsters with disabilities is to equip them with practical, market-relevant skills that increase their employability and enable them to secure gainful jobs.

As part of this initiative a tissue making unit is established in the Agape Centre at Cherpunkal. In the case of youngsters with deafblindness, centre based vocational training initiatives are proving to be especially beneficial, as they offer a nurturing

and customized learning environment. Youngsters with deafblindness often exhibit



heightened confidence and determination in facing the external job market when they receive vocational training. This, in turn, fosters a greater sense of self-reliance, as they become capable of securing positions in reputable firms and organizations.

Additionally, the vocational training process helps these

youngsters hone their interpersonal abilities, allowing them to navigate social and

professional settings with increased ease and comfort. By providing access to tailored vocational education and employment opportunities, society can empower youngsters with deafblindness to become self-sufficient, contributing members of their communities, ultimately enhancing their overall well-being and independence.

# CASE STUDY

“Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful garden.” This quote beautifully reflects the journey of little Rishav Renjith, a 3-year-old boy from the serene village of Kothanallur in

Kottayam district, Kerala. Born with vision problem and hearing problem, Rishav's early life was not as joyful and playful as it should have been. His condition affected multiple areas of development and had significant delays in speech, vision problems, poor motor coordination and an inability to maintain body balance. At a stage when most children learn to walk, talk, and play, Rishav was completely bedridden, unable to achieve even the basic developmental milestones appropriate for his age.

For his family, these early years were emotionally draining. The joy of welcoming a child slowly gave way to anxiety, uncertainty, and helplessness. Watching their child struggle even to sit up or respond visually was heartbreaking. The emotional toll was heavy, as every day felt like a battle without a roadmap. Amid these dark clouds, the Special Educator from Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) became a beacon of hope for the family.

Through its rehabilitation programme, KSSS reached out to Rishav's family and offered both emotional support and professional guidance. The first and most crucial step was counseling, which helped the parents cope with the emotional trauma and prepared them for the journey ahead. This emotional support helped them slowly shift from despair to determination. KSSS then introduced Rishav to a series

of specialized therapies, carefully designed to meet his developmental needs. He was enrolled in the centre with a structured intervention program that included physiotherapy to strengthen his muscles and improve body balance, speech therapy to address language delays, vision training to improve visual tracking and perception, cognitive and sensory therapy to develop awareness and engagement, and fine motor training to enhance hand-eye coordina-



tion and the ability to perform small tasks. These therapies were not one-time interventions they were part of a continuous, intensive process that combined professional expertise with family involvement. The impact of the training became evident gradually. His family saw changes that once seemed impossible. The once non-responsive child started showing signs of engagement, he began to maintain eye contact, a milestone that brought immense joy and relief to his family. His vision improved, and he started recognizing familiar faces. Gradually, he began to sit without support, maintain body balance, and his hand coordination also improved he could now hold objects and engage with toys, showing in-

terest in his surroundings. Most remarkably, his speech started to develop, he began calling his parents 'Amma' and 'Appa' a moment of immense joy and emotional relief for his parents.

Each of these improvements, though seemingly small to an outsider, was monumental for

Rishav and his family. They marked the beginning of a life filled with possibility. His parents could now dream of a day when Rishav would run, speak freely, and play with other children. What once felt like a life of isolation has now transformed into one of hope and inclusion.

In addition to intensive therapy sessions, KSSS extended its support by providing medical assistance, nutritional supplements to improve Rishav's overall well-being. He also benefits from the social security scheme, ensuring his basic needs are met. Rishav received a specialized CP chair to help him sit upright and improve his posture. This not only supported his physical development but also gave him a sense of inclusion and stability, allowing him to participate more actively in his environment.

Rishav's journey is far from over, but today, he is on a path of progress and potential. The impact of early intervention on Rishav's life cannot be overstated. It has not only improved his abilities but also given his family a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Their gratitude runs deep for the therapies, the counseling, and most importantly, for restoring their hope. Rishav's transformation would not have been possible without the support of KSSS. Rishav's progress is not just medical but it is a symbol of what is possible when commitment meets care and when the right support reaches at the right time.

# SKILLS



## Entrepreneurship & Skill Development

### Empowering Women through Beautician Training: A Path to Self-Sufficiency

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a comprehensive beautician training program aimed at empowering women by providing them with the skills needed for self-sufficiency and secondary income generation through self-employment. This initiative reflects KSSS's commitment to enhancing the livelihood of economically disadvantaged women by equipping them with vocational training opportunities.

The program was conducted at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, and was inaugurated by Mrs. Alice Joseph (Vice President, Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat) and Dr. Rosamma Sony (Kottayam District Panchayat Member).

A total of 58 participants, comprising 28 and 30 members from two batches of KSSS self-help groups, took part in the training. The sessions covered



a wide range of beauty and personal care techniques, including threading, bleaching, facials, makeup application, dress styling, pedicure, and oil massage. Ms. Leena Binu and Ms. Mini Johnson led the skill training program, offering hands-on guidance, personalized coaching and valuable insights to help participants master each technique effectively.

This initiative of KSSS has

provided participants with practical skills and contributed transformative potential of skill development in fostering financial independence and boosting self-confidence among women. KSSS continues to champion vocational training as a tool for empowerment and economic growth of financially backward rural women within the community.

## Cookery Class for SHG Members

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organised a culinary training workshop aimed at promoting vocational skill development of women SHG members in the field of cooking. This initiative was specifically designed to provide practical training and opportunities for designated women from KSSS self-help groups, empowering them with valuable culinary skills.

The training program was inaugurated and presided over by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary). Under the expert guidance of the trainer, Mrs. Leena Binu, taught the participants to prepare a variety of dishes,



including Chilli Bajji, Potato Bajji, Bonda, Tomato Sauce, and Egg Manchurian.

This program offered hands-on experience in preparing these dishes, with a focus on enhancing the participants' culinary knowledge and skills.

By providing such practical vocational training, KSSS aims to enable these women to explore income-generating opportunities in the food industry, thereby empowering them and contributing to their financial independence.

## DDUGKY-Yuva Kerala Courses Commence

Kottayam Social Service Society ensures job opportunities along with quality skill training for rural youth under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY project). The project is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Kerala Government Kudumbashree Mission. Yuva-Keralam is a placement linked Skill Training program funded by Govt. of Kerala also implemented through Kudumbasree Mission. The project aims to impart placement linked skill training to both urban and rural youth to make them economically independent.



One of the key outcomes of these initiative is the introduction of the Retail Sales Associate course. This comprehensive, training program is conducted at the Cherupunkal Good Samaritan Resource Centre and offers a well-rounded curriculum. Participants receive free

training and upon completing the course, the placement cell ensures job opportunities and successful placements. Through initiatives like this, the Yuva Keralam and DDUGKY projects are making significant strides among youth.

## Umbrella-Making Training Program Organized by KSSS

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organised an umbrella-making training program in Kottayam, aimed at providing self-employment opportunities and creating avenues for income.

The training session, held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by Mr. Saji Thadhtil (Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat President). Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary) and Dr. Rosamma Sony (Kottayam District Panchayat Member) were also present at the event.

The program was designed to equip participants with the skills to make umbrellas for personal use at an affordable cost while also offering them an opportunity to generate income through Mrs. Laila Philip and Mrs. Suja Reji (umbrella-making expert trainers) led the sessions, ensuring hands-



on learning for the attendees.

This initiative reflects KSSS's commitment in empowering individuals by providing skill-based training programs that enhance economic independence and self-sufficiency.

## Tailoring Training Program for Self-Employment Opportunities



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) has successfully conducted six tailoring training programs as part of its initiative to create primary income opportunities through self-employment. These training sessions were designed to enhance the skills of participants who already had a foundational knowledge of tailoring, equipping them with advanced techniques and scientific methods to improve their prospects for self-employment.

Each training program was specifically curated for women volunteer representatives selected from KSSS's self-help groups. Across all sessions, a total of 180 women participated, demonstrating the strong interest and commitment among women in the community to gain financial independence through tailoring.

Renowned expert and Trainer, Mini Johnson, led the sessions, ensuring that the participants received high-quality and professional training. The

program served as a stepping stone for many women to refine their tailoring skills, empowering them to start their own businesses and achieve financial stability. Many of these women have successfully launched their own tailoring enterprises, securing a sustainable source of income and contributing to their local economies.

The training sessions were inaugurated by notable dignitaries, including Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary of KSSS), and Mrs. Latha Thomas (Prominent Social Activist) advocating for women's empowerment. Their presence highlighted the significance of skill development initiatives and reinforced the commitment of KSSS toward economic upliftment through self-employment.

## KSSS Empowers Rural Women and Families through Sewing Machine Distribution

As part of its mission to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized multiple sewing machine distribution programs to support rural women and families. These initiatives aimed to provide beneficiaries with the tools needed for self-sustaining income generation and economic empowerment.

The distribution events were held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, and were inaugurated by Mar Mathew Moolakkattu, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam Archdiocese, in presence of Rev. Fr.



Abraham Mutholath, (Vicar of Chicago Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church), Shri Thomas Chazhikadan (Member of Parliament) and Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (Executive Secretary, KSSS).

Through these efforts, a total of 272 sewing machines were distributed to selected beneficiaries across three events. The machines, supplied by

Usha and Singer companies, serve as vital tools for recipients to establish small businesses and achieve financial independence.

These efforts by KSSS continue to uplift rural communities by fostering entrepreneurship and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities.

## One-Day Flower Arrangement Training



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) successfully organized a one-day flower arrangement and bouquet making training session as

part of its skill development programme. The training session led by trainer Rev Sr. Betsy SVM. The participants included Nuns from various

congregations and members of women's Self- Help Group.

The session provided hands-on training in various floral arrangement techniques, equipping participants with the skills needed to create aesthetically pleasing and meaningful decorations. The training aimed to enhance their expertise in floral artistry.

The initiative aligns with KSSS's mission to empower women and promoting self-sufficiency through various skill development programmes, contributing to the growth and development of individuals.

## Coconut Tree Climbing Training Organized by KSSS



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) successfully conducted two batches of coconut tree climbing training program, aimed at promoting coconut conservation activities and addressing the labour shortage in the coconut sector. The training was led by Trainer Mr. Benny K. Thomas at Chaithanya Pas-

toral Centre, Thellakom. The training program included demonstration using a coconut climbing machine to equip participants with essential skills. As part of the initiative, participants were provided with coconut climbing machines at a subsidized rate.

KSSS Executive Secretary Fr.

Sunil Perumanoor stated that the program aims to support coconut farmers and ensure the industry's sustainability by providing individuals with necessary skills and tools.

This training initiative reflects KSSS's commitment in supporting coconut farmers and ensuring the sustainability of the industry.



# Agricultural Development and Animal Husbandry

## Empowering Rural Communities through Mushroom Cultivation Training Program

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a comprehensive training program in collaboration with the Kumarakom Regional Agricultural Research Centre under Kerala Agricultural University. The initiative aimed to promote food security, self-employment, and secondary income opportunities among rural communities.

The training program, held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by Mrs. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson, and presided over by Mrs. Alice Joseph, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President-in-Charge. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive

Secretary and Mr. Sijo Thomas, KSSS Program Officer addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in enhancing economic

and practical sessions on mussel mushroom and milk mushroom cultivation, mushroom seed preparation, and mushroom bed construction.



opportunities.

Dr. M.K Dhanya, Associate Professor at the Kumarakom Regional Agricultural Research Centre, along with Mr. Sujin C.S (Lab Assistant), led the training sessions. The session featured theoretical class-

Through this initiative KSSS reaffirms its commitment to empowering individuals with sustainable agricultural skills, promoting self-employment and enhancing economic opportunities in rural communities.

## Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods through High-Tech Poultry Farming

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), as part of its income generation program, distributed high-tech poultry rearing units to 44 selected families in a program held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom.

The event was graced by Mar Mathew Moolakkattu, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, who inaugurated the program. Rev. Fr. Abraham Mutholath, Vicar of Chicago Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Forane Church, presided over the ceremony.



This support is expected to enhance the family's income generating capabilities and improve their overall livelihood. Through this program, KSSS continues to empower

rural communities by providing them with the tools and resources to achieve economic stability and self-reliance.

## Celebrating the Pillars of Agrarian Economy: Farmers' Day

The Kottayam Social Service Society celebrated Farmers Day, on 17th August, 2023. It is also celebrated as the Malayalam New Year, marking the start of the harvest season and new beginnings. KSSS honored the hardworking farmers of its Self Help Groups who are the backbone of the agrarian economy.

The event was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph, MLA, in the presence of Geevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese. He emphasized the importance of multi-cropping systems and crop insurance for agricultural growth. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary

and Mr. Saji Thadathil, Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat President, also addressed the

ta, and Ernakulam districts. The celebration included the distribution of fruit tree



gathering, highlighting the importance of farming and sustainable agricultural practices.

The event was observed by the KSSS's Self Help Group Farmers from Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthit-

seedlings to farmers. By celebrating Farmer's Day, KSSS acknowledges the crucial role farmers play in sustaining the agrarian economy and strives to continue providing them with the necessary support and resources.

## Agriculture Promotion Scheme for Farmer Groups – Loan Distribution

Under the Agriculture Promotion Scheme, the Kottayam Social Service Society conducted a loan distribution program for farmer groups. The event held at Chaithanya Pastoral



Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by Mr. Saji Thadathil, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President, and presided over by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson. KSSS Program Officer Mr. Sijo

Thomas and Field Coordinators Ms. Bessy Jose and

ductivity and improve farming practices, ultimately

Ms. Mercy Stephen also addressed the gathering.

A total of Rupees 5, 50,000 was distributed as loans to 11 farmer groups from Kottayam and Idukki districts. This financial support aims to enhance agricultural pro-

benefiting the farming community. By providing necessary financial aid, KSSS aims to improve the livelihoods of farmers and contribute to the overall development of agriculture sector.

## Financial Assistance Distributed Under Agricultural Promotion Scheme

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) provided financial assistance to farmer group representatives of Kaipuzha region as part of its Agricultural Promotion Scheme. The event held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was organized in collaboration with LACIM organization.

Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson, Smt. Lovely George, inaugurated the financial assistance distribution ceremony, while Kottayam Municipal Chairperson, Smt.

Bincy Sebastian, presided over the function. KSSS Executive Secretary Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, and Field Coordinator Ms. Bessy Jose, also addressed the gathering.

Through this initiative, KSSS continues to provide essential financial support to farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and enhancing productivity in the region.



## Training on Tissue Culture of Banana Seedlings and Ornamental Plants

Under the leadership of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), a one-day training program on tissue culture for banana seedlings and the promotion of ornamental plants was organized in collaboration with the Kumarakom Regional Agricultural Research Centre under Kerala Agricultural University. The training, conducted at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, aimed to equip women self-help group members with



addressed the gathering.

Other distinguished speakers at the event were Dr. E.K.

Assistant Professor at Kumarakom Krishi Vigyan Kendra), and Dr. Sini Thomas K. (Assistant Professor at R.A.R.S.). Selected women from KSSS self-help groups actively participated in the program, gaining valuable insights into tissue culture techniques and plant propagation methods.

By adopting the tissue culture technology they can achieve mass production of disease free high quality plants, improved yields and year round production, ultimately contributing to their economic empowerment and sustainable development.



scientific knowledge and practical skills in plant tissue culture.

The program was inaugurated by Smt. Sherly Zacharias (Deputy Director of the Horticulture Mission Kottayam District) and Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary) presided over the function. Dr. Sheeba Rebecca Issac, (Associate Director of the Kumarakom Regional Agricultural Research Centre) and Dr. Sini Thomas (Assistant Professor at R.A.R.S) also

Radha Krishnan, Professor at Mahatma Gandhi University's School of Bioscience, and Dr. C. Arunan, Principal Scientist from the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment Department.

The training sessions were led by Dr. Manuel Alex (As-



# Natural Resource Management Programmes



## KSSS Celebrates World Environment Day, Honoring Exemplary Environmentalists



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) marked World Environment Day, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, by honoring outstanding environmentalists for their contributions to environmental conservation.

Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, honored and presented an award to Mr. Jojo

George Attel, Ward Member of Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat for receiving the prestigious Vanamitra Award 2022-2023 from the Kerala Forest Department.

Additionally, KSSS recognized and felicitated 8 model environmentalists selected from each region of KSSS for their outstanding contribution to environmental protection.

During the event, all the participants took an environmental pledge, headed by Dr. Elizabeth Alexander, Head of the Social Work Department, KE College, Mannanam, emphasizing our commitment to sustainable practice. Fruit saplings were distributed to the participant's encouraging the growth of green spaces within the community.

## Model Solar Power Plant Begins Operations at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) has taken a significant step towards promoting energy conservation with the inauguration of 40-kilowatt solar power plant at Chaithanya Pastoral Center, Thellakom. As the world shifts towards renewable energy sources, this initiative underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting eco-friendly practices.

Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, officially inaugurated the solar power plant



in the presence of prominent dignitaries, including Archdiocesan Auxiliary Bishops Mar Joseph Pandarasseril and Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Rev. Fr. Michael Vettickat (Kottayam Archdiocese Vicar General), Fr. Sunil Peruma-

noor (KSSS Executive Secretary).

This solar power plant marks a significant milestone in KSSS's journey towards sustainable energy and environmental stewardship.

## Kottayam Social Service Society celebrates International Water day

To commemorate International Water Day on March 22, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a celebration at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was inaugurated by, Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson, and presided over by Dr. Rosamma Sony, Kottayam District Panchayat Member. Key note addresses by Fr. Sherin Kurikkilattu, (KSSS Assistant Secretary) and Mr. Sijo Thomas (KSSS Program Officer) highlighted the significance of water conservation.

An awareness seminar on Wa-



ter Conservation was led by Mrs. Sherly Zacharias, Deputy Director of Horticulture Mission Kottayam District, which provided in depth insights on importance of sustainable water management. Participants, including members of KSSS Self Help Groups, took a water conservation pledge, underscoring their commit-

ment to preserving this vital resource.

This event successfully raised awareness about the need for protecting our water resources at all levels of society and encouraged individuals to take active steps towards a more sustainable future.

## Energy Conservation Awareness Program Organized by KSSS



As part of its commitment in building a sustainable and environmentally conscious society, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized two impactful Energy Conservation Awareness Programs in collaboration with the Energy Management Center Kerala, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, focusing on the importance of responsible energy use at both household and community level. These initiatives aimed to promote responsible energy use at household and community levels, empowering individuals to contribute to a more sustainable future.

The first program held in August 2023 for KSSS Women's Self-Help Group members, was inaugurated by Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam along with Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan (MLA)

who presided over the event. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, welcomed the gathering.

The second program held in September 2023 for village level volunteers, was inaugurated by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan (Member of the Parliament), who encouraged all individuals to become pro-



tectors of energy and natural resources, emphasizing the need to use energy wisely. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary and Fr. Jeffin Ozhungalil, KSSS Assistant Secretary also addressed the gathering.

Both programs featured a seminar on "Efficient Energy Conservation Methods" which was led by Mr. Jose Philip, a resource person from the Energy Management Center Kerala, who provided practical insights into improving energy efficiency in daily life. To further promote awareness, energy-saving leaflets were distributed among the

participants.

These awareness sessions reflect KSSS's ongoing efforts to equip communities with the knowledge and motivation to embrace energy conservation, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility for a better tomorrow.



# CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

KSSS started its civil society organizations in 1964. It was in 1994 that the first SHG was formed under KSSS. Since then the Self Help Groups have come a long way. Today the strength of the SHG members stands

at 2964. It is ever growing. The civil society organizations have acted as a catalyst for social change and development among the SHG members. KSSS through its SHGS organize training individuals. and awareness pro-

grams by means of which the members become aware of their strengths and weaknesses and thereby emerge as enlightened and empowered

## Details of CSOs of KSSS

| Sl. No. | Group                     | No. of SHGs | Total Members |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1.      | Women SHG                 | 1956        | 49264         |
| 2.      | Farmers Club              | 14          | 386           |
| 3.      | Male SHG                  | 34          | 2186          |
| 4.      | Senior Citizen            | 44          | 1988          |
| 5.      | Smart                     | 32          | 1710          |
| 6.      | Navomi (Widows)           | 52          | 1820          |
| 7.      | CBR for Differently-Abled | 74          | 2526          |
| 8.      | Youth                     | 23          | 564           |
|         | <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>2229</b> | <b>59880</b>  |

## KSSS Organizes Loan Fair to Promote Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship



As a significant step towards promoting Self-Employment & Entrepreneurship the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) conducted four Loan Distribution events at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The initiative aimed to provide financial support to individuals and families to help them establish and expand their small businesses. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and beneficiaries during all four events.

Shri V.N. Vasavan (Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Cooperation, and Devaswoms) inaugurated the first and second event. Mar Mathew Mool-

akkatt, (Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam), graced the second event. Smt. Lovely George, (Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson), inaugurated the third event and Mr. T.C. Roy, (Kottayam Municipal Councilor), inaugurated the fourth event.

Over the course of four events a total of Rupees Twenty-Two Lakh Fifty Thousand was distributed to 90 beneficiaries. These loans were provided to support various self-employ-

ment ventures, including cow and goat rearing, poultry farming, tailoring, confectionery units, collective farming, and box stores.

The fairs served as a crucial platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to secure financial assistance and take their first step toward sustainable livelihoods. These efforts ultimately have positive impact on local economy and contribute to overall well-being of the community.



## Leadership Training for Self-Help Group Federation Members

A one-day leadership training programme was successfully conducted for selected office bearers of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS). The training was held at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, and was designed to enhance the leadership capabilities of federation members and empower them to contribute more effectively to community development initiatives.

The session was led by Adv. Sr. Reggie Augustine, a distinguished trainer with expertise in leadership and legal awareness. She delivered a comprehensive session focusing on key leadership qualities such as decision-making, communication, accountability, and team-building. The session

was facilitated with various group activities and discussions throughout the day by Ms. Bessy Jose and Ms. Mercy Stephen, KSSS Field Coordinators.

Participants included federation members from various



strengthen their federations. Emphasis was placed on collaborative leadership, conflict resolution, financial management, and the role of individuals in promoting sustainable community development. The training not only enriched

SHGs associated with KSSS. The training provided them with a platform to share experiences, build networks and develop strategies to

the participants with new perspectives and skills but also reinforced the vital role of SHGs in driving positive change at the grassroots level.

## Comprehensive Development through Self-Help Groups: Action Plan Formulation meeting.

With the aim for Integral Development of people and their community, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a series of strategic meetings at the Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, with a focus on strengthening and revitalizing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across various regions under its guidance. These meetings, which brought together SHG office bearers and members aimed to promote comprehensive development through planning, capacity building, and awareness generation.

Self Help Groups are grass-

roots platforms that play a vital role in empowering marginalized communities. The meetings included interactive training sessions, group discussions, and action plan development, focusing on improving SHG activities and increasing community participation. The outcomes included region-specific strategies to enhance the effectiveness,



sustainability, and community impact of SHGs.

These initiatives reaffirm KSSS's commitment to empowering communities through grassroots participation and fostering sustainable community development in their operational areas.

## Meeting and Awareness Program for Senior Citizen Self-Help Groups



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized a meeting and awareness session for Senior Citizen Self-Help Groups members. The program aimed to empower elderly members with knowledge, skills, and an opportunity for social engagement.

The event held at Chaith-

anya Pastoral Centre, was inaugurated by Shri. Jose Joseph Ambalaku- lam, Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat President and presided over by Rev Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Executive Director of the Kerala So- cial Service Forum (KSSF). Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, Executive Secretary of KSSS, and Mr. Sijo Thom-

as, Program Officer, also addressed the gathering at the inaugural event high- lighting the significance of empowering senior citizens

through collective initia- tives.

An awareness seminar led by Mr. Sajo Joy, Resource Person from KSSF, and Ms. Mercy Stephen, Field Co- ordinator at KSSS, provid- ed valuable insights and Knowledge. The event also included an exposure visit to Chaithanya Park, the Agricultural Museum, Health Fitness Centre, and Agricultural Nurs- ery, offering participants a comprehensive under- standing of community re- sources. The event served as a meaningful platform for knowledge-sharing and engagement.





# Community Health Programme

## Nourishing Traditions: Karkidaka Kanjikoottu Distribution



The Kottayam Social Service Society has been distributing Karkidaka Kanjikoottu kits to the Self-Help Group members across five districts in Kerala namely Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Ernakulam. The distribution event was inaugurated by, Fr. Sunil Perumanoor KSSS Executive Secretary, reflecting the organization's commitment to en-

hancing the well-being of SHG members, particularly during the monsoon season.

Karkidaka Kanjikoottu is a traditional Ayurvedic mix consumed during the Karkidaka Month, which is believed to aid digestion, boost immunity and to reduce chronic ailments. By providing access to this natural remedy, KSSS is empowering SHG members

to maintain their physical and mental health, reflecting the organization's commitment to enhancing the overall well-being of individuals and communities.

This practice, which KSSS has been following for past years, is testament to its dedication to fostering holistic health and wellness, ultimately contributing to building stronger and more resilient communities.

## Community Eye Testing Camp Organized

Under the leadership of the Kottayam Social Service Society, the Kripa Sauhradave-di Purusha Swashraya Sanghamam, in collaboration with Little Flower Hospital, Angamaly organized a community Eye Testing Camp in Arunoottimangalam village.

The camp was inaugurated by Adv. Mons Joseph (MLA), with Fr. Sunil Perumanoor KSSS Executive Secretary, delivering a welcome address. Key dignitaries present at the

inaugural event include Rev. Fr. James Ponganayil, Vicar, St. Joseph Church, Arunoottimangalam, Smt. Marykuty Luca, Ward Member, and



Mr. Joy Mundakkaparampil, Mr. George Plakatel, and Mr. Joy Kannikulam, Representatives of the Men's Self-Help

Group also addressed the gathering.

The camp provided free cataract surgery was provided at Little Flower Hospital for those diagnosed with cataracts, ensuring comprehensive care for the community. The event was successfully coordinated by members of Kripa Sauhradave-di Purusha Swashraya Sanghamam, demonstrating their commitment to community welfare and healthcare.

## World Cancer Day Observation and Financial Assistance Distribution

**“Cancer is a word, not a sentence.” – John Diamond**



On World Cancer Day on February 4, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) marked the occasion with a Financial Assistance Distribution Program at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was inaugurated by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA, and presided over by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairper-

son. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, addressed the gathering highlighting the importance of Cancer Awareness and the impact of Ashakiranam Programme.

A Cancer Awareness Seminar was led by Dr. Rosamma Sony, Kottayam District Panchayat Member, focusing on early detection and

prevention of cancer. As part of the Ashakiranam Programme, implemented in collaboration with Caritas India, KSSS provided financial assistance to 65 individuals diagnosed with cancer addressing their need and offering support.

Volunteers from Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam actively participated in the event. The program successfully raised awareness about cancer prevention while extending much-needed medical support to those battling cancer.

## Medical Kits Distributed to Migrant Workers

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” – Anne Frank

The Kottayam Social Service Society, in collaboration with Caritas India, distributed medical kits as part of the welfare activities for migrant workers. The ceremony was inaugurated by Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam Archdiocese, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was presided over by Mr. Saji Thadathil, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President. The welcome note was given by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary. Medical kits were distributed

to approximately 300 migrant workers employed in various

to maintain their health and continue working without



institutions, industrial units, and construction sites across Kottayam district.

By providing medical kits, KSSS seeks to ensure that migrant workers have access to essential healthcare, enabling

interruption. The ultimate goal of this effort is to empower migrant workers to lead healthy and productive lives, contributing to the development of their communities and the nation at large.

## Observance of World Tobacco Day

*The best way to stop smoking is to just stop—no ifs, ands, or butts.” – Edith Zittler*

In observance of World Tobacco Day on May 31, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized an Anti-Tobacco Day and Awareness Program at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom. The event was conducted in collaboration with Little Lourdes College of Nursing, Kidangoor as part of the Sajeevam Anti-Drug Campaign, an initiative led by KSSS to promote a tobacco-free society.

The awareness program was

delivered insightful addresses



inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson and presided over by Mr. Saji Thadathil, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President. Key speakers at the event included Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, Fr. Jeffin Ozhungalil, KSSS Assistant Secretary, and Mr. James Kurian, Ettumanoor Block Panchayat Vice President, who

to the gathering.

Students and faculty members from Little Lourdes College of Nursing actively participated in the program, reinforcing the importance of raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and advocating for a healthier, drug-free community.

## KSSS Provides Health Insurance Coverage for Migrant Workers

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), in collaboration with Caritas India, the Social Service Arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, has launched a health insurance scheme for migrant workers, providing coverage of up to rupees 1 Lakh. This initiative, part of post COVID welfare efforts, aims to ensure access to quality healthcare for migratory workers access to quality healthcare for migratory workers.

The insurance policy distribution ceremony was officiated by Gheevarghese Mar



ated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop, at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre Thellakom with Mr. Saji Thadathil, Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President, presiding over the event.

The program builds on KSSS's existing initiative, include medical camps, awareness programs, and the distribution of medical kits to support the health and well-being of migrant workers.

## Monsoon Awareness Program and Sanitation Kit Distribution for Volunteers



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) provided volunteers with sanitation kits and held an awareness event called "Mazhakuda" as part of rainy season preparation efforts.

The event held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by Shri VN

Vasavan (Hon'ble Minister for Ports and Cooperation and Minister for Devaswoms), in the presence Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, who presided over the function. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor (KSSS Executive Secretary), in his welcome

address highlighted the purpose and significance of the awareness program.

The awareness session was led by Ms. Dhanya K. Gopi (Junior Health Inspector) from Athirampuzha Primary Health Centre, who provided crucial information on monsoon-related disease symptoms and prevention strategies. As part of the initiative, sanitation kits were distributed to the volunteers of the Kaduthuruthy and Chunkom regions to help maintain hygiene and prevent the spread of diseases during the rainy season.

## Spreading Awareness, Promoting Hygiene

A health awareness program and distribution of hygiene kits were conducted for village-level volunteers under the leadership of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Member of Legislative Assembly, along with Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam Archdiocese. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, addressed the gathering with a warm welcome note.

Health awareness sessions, emphasizing its preven-



were led by Ms. Sheenamol Mathew, Health Inspector of Athirampuzha Primary Health Centre and Ms. Dhanya K. Gopi, Junior Health Inspector. The session educated attendee's about monsoon-related diseases and non-communicable diseases.

tion measures. Hygiene kits were distributed to the volunteers to promote community health and hygiene, reflecting KSSS's commitment to community well-being through health awareness and support initiatives.

## Mazhakuda: Health screening and Awareness Campaign.

"Prevention is better than cure." – Desiderius Erasmus Under the leadership of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), a monsoon disease awareness campaign along with various health screenings was organized in collaboration with Caritas College of Nursing.

The awareness campaign was inaugurated by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan (Member of Parliament) at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. Under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Eliza, specialist from Caritas Hospital's Community Medicine

Department, a medical camp was conducted providing multiple health screenings and tests. The initiative

Members of KSSS Self-Help Groups actively participated in the initiative. This event reflects KSSS's ongoing com-



aimed to educate the public on monsoon diseases, preventive measures, and treatment methods.

mitment to promoting community health and overall well-being.

## Anti-Drug Sensitization Program for Volunteers

On June 9, 2023 in observance of International Anti-Drug Day, Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized an Anti-Drug Day and awareness program for volunteers. The event was conducted as part of the 'Sajeevam Anti-Drug Campaign', a joint initiative by Caritas India, KCBC, and the Kerala Social Service Forum, implemented under the leadership of KSSS.

The program was inaugurated by Mr C. John, Kottayam Narcotics DYSP. The event was presided over by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop.

Mr. M.S. Gopakumar, Kottayam Narcotics Legal Cell Sub-Inspector, led the



awareness session, educating participants on the risks of drug abuse and prevention strategies. Village-level volunteers of KSSS actively participated in the program.

As part of its ongoing anti-drug campaign, KSSS aims to establish a dedicated task force to spearhead

anti-drug initiatives. This involves raising awareness among school and college students, youth, social workers, teachers, parents, and representatives of various organizations, fostering a collective effort in the fight against drug abuse.





# Human Resource & Institutional Development

## Earth Day Celebration

The Kottayam Social Service Society's Earth Day celebration was a significant step towards promoting environmental conservation and sustainability. The event that took place at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, brought together community leaders, officials, and representatives of various Self-Help Groups to commemorate the occasion.

Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, inaugurated the celebration, while Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan, Member of Parliament presided over the

event emphasizing the importance of collective action to protect our planet. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, extended a warm welcome to the gathering.

A session was led by Dr. Ajit K, Assistant Professor at the

agricultural practices and environmental conservation.

The event showcased the commitment of KSSS Self-Help Groups to environmental causes and encouraged collective action to promote sustainability and protect our planet. By



Kumarakom Regional Agricultural Research Station. He provided thought-provoking perspectives into sustainable

raising awareness and promoting sustainable practice KSSS is contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

## Legal Awareness Seminar Organized for Sannyasini Community



A legal awareness seminar for representatives of the Sannyasini community under the Archdiocese was organized by Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS). The seminar, focused on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The seminar held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by Mr. C. John (DySP Kottayam Narcotics)

and Mr. Saji Thadathil (Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President) presided over the function.

The seminar led by Sister Adv. Jyothis P. Thomas, a former Child Welfare Committee member, focused on raising awareness about the POCSO Act, violence against children, and legal protection mechanisms.

Representatives from various

monastic communities, including the Visitation Congregation, St. Joseph Congregation, Caritas Secular Institute, and the Little Daughters of St. John Gilbert, participated in the program. By understanding these legal provisions and child protection measures individuals and communities can work together to prevent child abuse and ensure protection for all children.

## K.S.S.S Celebrated International Day for the Elderly

**“Age is not about growing older, it’s about growing wiser, richer in experience, and more beautiful in spirit.”**

The International Day for the Elderly is observed globally to honor, appreciate and care for older adults. To celebrate this day, KSSS hosted a special program for senior citizens, which saw the participation of 822 elders. The event aimed to empower these seniors, ensuring they remained active and valued members of their community while maintaining their dignity and overall well-being. The celebration was filled with exciting and fun activities. Participants performed beautiful stage programmes. Their active participation made the event both lively and signifi-



cant. The program started with a very informative and motivational session led by Fr. Kurian Thadathil, State Director KCSL. Representatives from KSSS Self Help Groups for Elderly Persons participated in the celebrations.

The program held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister Shri V. N Vasavan, Minister for Ports, Cooperation

and Devasom and was presided over by Smt. Alice Joseph, Vice President of Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat.

Every year, KSSS observes Senior Citizens Day to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of elderly towards their families and society. This occasion serves as a reminder to appreciate the experience, wisdom and love that senior citizens bring to our life.

## 59th Foundation Day of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS)

The 59th Foundation Day of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) was celebrated on 14th September, 2023. The day began with a flag hoisting ceremony at the KSSS headquarters, Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary.

The celebration was followed by a gathering and meeting of KSSS's Village-Level Volunteers, Animators and Federation Office Bearers, which was inaugurated by Shri. Thomas Chazhikadan, Member of Parliament. The event presided over by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Archdiocese, during which Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary,

addressed the gathering emphasizing the organization's dedication to empower the marginalized community and to serve the society at large.

Founded on September 14, 1964, by the great visionary Mar Thomas Tharayil, Kottayam Social Service Society has expanded its outreach, spearheading comprehensive development activities through Self-Help Groups in five districts of Central Kerala- Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta,



and Ernakulam. Over the years, KSSS has made significant contributions to social and community development and this milestone celebration marked another chapter in this journey of service.

### KSSS Central Level Federation Meeting

Under the leadership of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), a meeting was organized for the officers of the Swasrayasanga Federation, which operates across five districts. The event was led by Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, along with the participation of KSSS Program Officer Mr. Sijo Thomas, Field Coordinators Ms. Bessy Jose, Ms. Mercy Stephen, and Mr. Thomas Kottodam, President of the KSSS Navachaitanya Disabled Federation.

Volunteers and regional coordinators from the KSSS

Swasrayasanga Federation, including central-level office

tives such as the Chaithanya Agricultural Fair and Swas-



bearers from the Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam districts, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, various schemes for upcoming initia-

rayasangha Mahotsava were discussed. These events are central to the federation's ongoing efforts to promote community engagement and development.

## Kutti Koottam Training Camp Organized by Kottayam Social Service Society



The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized one day training camp for students from classes 5, 6, and 7, known as the 'Kutti Koottam'. The training held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom and was inaugurated by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson and presided over by Dr. Rosamma Sony, Kottayam District Panchayat Member.

KSSS Program Officer, Mr. Sijo Thomas, and Field Coordinator,

Ms. Bessy Jose, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of skill development and creativity among young minds. The training program featured a session on life skills, craft workshops and flower-making using waste materials, led by Trainer Ms. Leelamma Kurian.

The camp also included an exposure visit to Chaithanya Children's Park, the Agricultural Museum, the Health Fitness Center, and the Agricultural

Nursery providing a holistic learning experience. Various art programs and competitions added a creative dimension to the event, making it an enriching experience for the young minds.

The event was organized by KSSS Kaipuzha and Kaduthuruthy regions, making it a memorable and enriching experience for the young participants.

## Annual General Body Meeting of Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS)

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) was successfully organized. The meeting was presided over by the Kottayam Archdiocese Vicar General and KSSS President, Rev. Fr. Michael Vettickat. In connection with the meeting, Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary delivered a presentation on the organizations achievements and engaged in a brainstorming session regarding the future initiatives.



The gathering served as a valuable platform for KSSS members to engage in discussions, contributing to decision-making

and strategizing for its continued growth and service to the community.

## Felicitation Ceremony for 10th and 12th Standard Students

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), hosted a felicitation ceremony at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom, to recognize and reward the outstanding academic achievements of students who secured A + in the SSLC and Plus Two examinations.

The event was inaugurated by Shri V. N. Vasavan, Hon'ble Minister of Ports and Cooperation and Minister for Devaswoms, and presided over by



Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary and Mr. Sijo Thomas, Program Officer, addressed the gathering, congratulating the students on their remarkable success.

Children of KSSS Self-Help Groups members were honored for their success. The ceremony served as a platform to acknowledge the children's hard work, dedication and inspiring them to continue striving for excellence.

## Smart Sangamam: A Meeting for the Overall Development of Children

A meeting was organized for the children of the Smart Group, which operates under the leadership of the Kottayam Social Service Society, with the aim of promoting the overall development of children studying in classes 5, 6, and 7.

The event held at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Kerala Social Service Forum Executive Director and Mr. Jose Joseph Ambalakulam, the Athirampuzha Gram Panchayat President, presided over the function. During which Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, and Mr. Sijo Thomas, Program Officer also addressed



the gathering.

A seminar on Life Skills was led by Mr. Sajo Joy, a resource person from the Kerala Social Service Forum. Additionally, a fun and interactive workshop on craft and flower making using waste materials, was conducted by Trainer Mr. Shaibi Thomas, which encouraged

creativity and resourcefulness among young participants.

The children also had the opportunity to explore various attractions at the centre, including Chaithanya Park, the Agricultural Museum, Health Fitness Center, and Agricultural Nursery.

# FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## Under SAVE A FAMILY PLAN



Family is the first institution we ever know, the primary circle of care and guidance that shapes our character and teaches us to share, love and stand together through challenges. From the moment a child is born, their family molds their understanding of the world – physically, emotionally and morally.

In Kottayam Social Service

Society, the Save A Family Plan (Canadian-based International Organization) Project was initiated in 1983. The Family Development Program is the core program of Save A Family Plan, it aims to help families meet basic needs, as well as promoting self-reliance and sustainability. Up to now, this Programme has benefited almost 2600 households in Kottayam Social Service Society. 90% of the families are women headed. After enrolling families in the Programme, they can use the financial sup-

port from Save A Family plan to develop sustainable small business initiatives. The families are utilizing the fund for infrastructure development, small business initiatives, purchase of goods, children's education, and medical treatment. They use the money to start various small business initiatives such as grocery store, tailoring, fish vending business, poultry farming, goat rearing, cow rearing etc. Now, under the Family Development Programme, Kottayam Social Service Society has providing support to 250 families. By the end of the six-year period, the families had undergone a significant economic and financial transition.

## Family Day Celebration and Annual Gathering Meeting of Partners

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) marked International Family Day on May 15, with a celebration and an annual meeting of part-

ner families at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, (Kottayam Archdiocese Auxil-

iary Bishop), while Mr. Saji Tadathil (Athirampuzha Grama Panchayat President), presided over the event.

A seminar on Parenting and Child Development was led by Dr. Rosamma Soni, was a highlight of the celebration. The program brought together around 190 families, providing a platform for them to interact and strength the organizations bond. The event reflects KSSS's commitment to supporting families and promoting family well-being.



## Family Development Program: Beneficiary Meeting and Action Plan Formulation

Under the leadership of the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS), a beneficiary meeting and action plan formulation for the Family Development Programme was conducted at Chaithanya, Thelakom. The event was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop, while Dr. Rosamma Soni, Kottayam District Panchayat Member presided over the event.

Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS



Executive Secretary extended a warm welcome to all attendees during the meeting, highlighting the objectives of the programme, which aim to support families in their journey towards growth and development. The Save A Family

Plan Program Coordinator, Nithyamol Babu, led the formulation of the action plan.

The Family Development Programme (Kudumbashakti-karana Paddhathi), implemented by KSSS, prioritizes infrastructure development, education, health, food security, self-employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development. The meeting aimed to strengthen these focuses areas and enhance the effectiveness of the initiative.

## Review and Yearly Planning Meeting: Save a Family Plan

In October 2023, KSSS conducted a comprehensive review of the Save A Family Plan, followed by discussions and planning for future initiatives. The Family Development Programme implemented by KSSS in collaboration with Save A Family Plan, provides financial assistance to families in need, focusing on infrastructure development, education, health, food security, self-employment and skill development.



The holistic approach aims to strengthen and empower families, promoting self-reliance and overall well-being. Through the review meeting, the team assessed the pro-

gress, identified areas to improve and planned for future growth and impact, ensuring the program's continued effectiveness in supporting families.

**“Empowerment is not about giving people power it is about creating an environment where people can find their own power”**

Susha Mol enrolled in Family Development Programme on 2018. She has two children named Parvathy and Harigovind. Nine years back her husband died in an accident. After her husband's death she has the responsibility to take care of the family. At the time, they had a lot of debts and loans. After his death, it became her duty to repay off all these debts. She also had to bear the educational expenses of her children. In these circumstances, her relatives mobilized some amount for their daily living, but that was not a permanent solution. During that difficult situation, she was selected in Family Development Programme.

Susha Mol did livestock farming like poultry farming. She earned profit from that initiative. Through these earnings Susha meets the educational and daily expenses of her family. But unfortunately, her family affected by Covid-19. She could not take care of her livestock farming on time. During that difficult situation, chickens began to dead. She lost all her hope and was mentally stressed due to financial problems.

At that time, one of her talents came out. She had com-



**SUSHA MOL**

pleted a one-month tailoring course before getting married. With the financial support of the Family Development Programme, she bought a motorized tailoring machine with a sewing tool kit. At first, she started stitching dresses for her neighbours and relatives. They loved her stitching very much and they became confident for her to give materials for stitching. She had been running the small business very successfully. The income helped the family to repay their debts and to manage the family expenses. Her children could continue their higher education and this also improved their living standards.

During the time of Covid-19 pandemic situation, she is stitching surgical mask, cloth masks for shops. Also, she is

stitching cloth bags and nighties for wholesale shops. There is a good demand for these cloth bags and masks in shops. Now she is also making hygienic materials like liquid soap, lotions, etc. Thus, now she is getting an alternative good income from the marketing of masks and hygienic materials.

She learnt new patterns in stitching and also learnt to stitch cloth bags. Now she can finish stitching works within one hour, early she has taken more time for finish her stitching work. She is very happy to become a part of the Society for fighting against Covid-19 by stitching masks. She is highly satisfied and very much happy with her life. Also, she gained self-confidence and she had the courage to face anything. There is change in quality of her living. She had developed Leadership quality, boldness in speaking and she got respect from others. Increase confidence level and dedication in her work. She is well with handling crisis situation. Now she is strong-willed to take up risks and discover more of her skills. Susha became able to lead a prosperous life ahead.

# EVENTS

## International Women's Day: Empowering Women, Celebrating strength



*"The future depends on what you do today." – Mahatma Gandhi*

International Women's day, is a global celebration held annually on March 8, to recognize the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Moreover, it's a day to honor women's contributions, raise awareness about gender equality and advocate for women's right.

The Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) marked International Women's Day with a vibrant celebration, honoring the resilience and contribution of women. Over 500 representatives from women's Self-Help Groups from five districts attended the event.

The event was formally inaugurated by Kottayam District Collector, V. Vigneswari (IAS) and Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam presided over

the ceremony. The event was graced by the presence of several dignitaries, including local government officials, clergy and community leaders. During the inauguration ceremony, Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary, addressed the gathering by emphasizing the organization's dedication in empowering women and promoting overall community development.

Two remarkable women Special Educator Sister Simi DCPB, a National Award winner for the Rehabilitation of the Deafblind, and Ms. Latha Philip Chacko, the recipient of the prestigious Mother Model Award, were felicitated for their outstanding achievements during the event.

The celebration included a variety of engaging activities,

like earthen pot water balancing competition and a scooter slow race prompting fun and togetherness. Psychologist and Family Counselor, Dr. Grace Lal conducted an interactive session, in which she shared valuable insights, emphasizing the importance of self-empowerment.

The event showcased the strength and resilience of women, highlighting KSSS's firm dedication in supporting and uplifting women to reach their full potential, driving a positive change. By bringing together women from diverse backgrounds, the celebration fostered a sense of solidarity and empowerment, inspiring continued growth and progress.

## Social Work Day Celebrations

The Kottayam Social Service Society, proudly organized World Social Work Day celebration in three regions: Kaipuzha, Edackat and Uzhavoor. Under the leadership of KSSS, village level volunteers organized and facilitated the event, which brought together community members to emphasize the importance of Social Workers. The celebration of Uzhavoor region



was held at Ave Maria Sadan while Kaipuzha and Edackat

The event featured various activities aimed to raise awareness about the contributions of Social Workers and highlighted the positive impact of community services in fostering resilience and well-being among marginalized groups. By recognizing the vital role of Volunteers and Social Workers, KSSS reinforced its determination to social welfare and community development

regions jointly celebrated the day at Gandhi Nagar Providence Home.

## Observance of International Widow's Day and Navomi Sangamam

### Empowering Widows, Enriching Communities:

Widows often face significant social and cultural challenges. International Widow's Day is observed to raise awareness about these issues and promote support for widow's rights and empowerment. On June 23, Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) observed Widows Day, with a special gathering and Navomi Sangamam at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event brought together representatives of Navomi Groups which is Self-Help Group formed to support widows and their families.

The day was inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop and presided over by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson. Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Ex-



ecutive Secretary and Fr. Jeffin Ozhungalil, KSSS Assistant Secretary addressed the gathering.

As part of the event, a seminar was conducted which was led by Prof. Dr. Rosamma Sony, Kottayam District Panchayat Member, focusing on the challenges faced by widows and the role of Navomi Groups in empowering them. Additionally, a document outlining the activities of the Navomi Groups was created.

Representatives of Navomi Groups from Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam districts actively participated in the celebrations, making it a meaningful and impactful gathering. The event served as a platform for widow's to connect with one another and share their experiences, which ultimately helped to create a supportive and inclusive environment, allowing them to feel seen, heard and valued.

## World Social Justice Day

Social Justice is essential for creating a fair and equitable society. World Social Justice Day is celebrated to promote equality, human rights and social justice for all. KSSS marked World Social Justice Day on February 20, with a celebration at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The event was officially inaugurated by Gheevarghese Mar Aprem, Kottayam Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop and presided over by Smt. Lovely George, Ettumanoor Municipal Chairperson.

Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, KSSS Executive Secretary and Mr. Sijo Thomas, KSSS Program Officer also addressed the gathering during the inaugu-



ral event. Social Activist, Adv. Sister Reji Augustine led an interactive session on Community Empowerment, focusing on strategies for promoting collective action and development.

The celebration saw active participation from KSSS Self-

Help Group's members. The event served a powerful reminder to promote fairness and human rights globally, which aligns with KSSS's vision of establishing a just society where all enjoy equality, fraternity, peace and happiness.

## Kottayam Social Service Society Media Awards 2023



As part of the 24th Chaithanya Agriculture Fest and Swasrayasanga Mahotsava held in November 2023, the Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS) organized the prestigious KSSS Media Awards ceremony at Chaithanya Pastoral Centre, Thellakom. The awards recognized outstanding media workers in various categories, including News

Reporting, Photography and Videography. The winners received a cash prize of 10,001 rupees and a memento.

The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Shri V.N. Vasavan, Minister for Ports, Cooperation, and Devaswoms and Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam, felicitated the winners with the awards.

*Award winners were as follows:*

### **News Reporting:**

KG Ranjith, (Malayalam Manorama) and Reji Joseph, (Deepika)

### **Photography Category:**

Anoop Tom, (Deepika)

### **Videography Category:**

ACV News, Kottayam

### **Special Awards in the Audio Category:**

Akashvani Thiruvananthapuram & Radio Media Village 908 FM

The event honored the hard work and dedication of journalist and media professionals, acknowledging their significant contributions to the field of media and journalism.

# CHAITHANYA AGRICULTURAL FEST



The 24th Chaithanya Agricultural Fest and Annual SHG Meet of KSSS was one of the festival's most vibrant and popular segments, was unveiled on November 19 with the inauguration of Crop Exhibition Pavilion and Chaithanya Food Fest. It is organized in joint collaboration with the State Agricultural Department from 20th to 26th November, 2023.

The major highlights of the 24th Agricultural Fest were Educational Seminars, Quiz Programs, Crop Exhibitions, Government Department Exhibition Stalls, Agricultural Competitions, Cultural Programs, Megha shows, over 200 Exhibition-cum-sales Stalls, Exhibition of Ancient Exhibits, Medical Exhibition and Camps, Featuring Asia's Biggest Buffalo Kings, Traditional Food Stalls, Amusement Park, Exhibition and Sale of Exotic varieties of Plants, Animals and Birds, Best Crop Exhibit Competition, Sale and Display of Seeds and Saplings, Pet Show, Public Meetings, State Level Award Function Inauguration of Social Development Programs of KSSS and presence of

prominent personalities in the Socio- Political Religious realms enriched the six days of the Mela. The Fest served as a dynamic platform for showcasing a diverse range of agricultural innovations and products. It was a space where farmers, producers, artisans, and entrepreneurs could come together to display their work and engage with visitors.

The Karshikamela was more than just an exhibition; it was a celebration of Kerala's agrarian achievements and a platform for fostering new ideas and collaborations in farming, sustainability, and community development. The event bridged the gap between traditional farming wisdom and modern agricultural practices, providing a comprehensive look at how innovation and tradition can coexist harmoniously.



## November 19 – Crop Festival Day



The Agricultural Fest began with great enthusiasm as farmers and members of Self Help Groups associated with KSSS and successfully inaugurated the Agricultural Crop exhibition Pavilion and Chaithanya Food Fest as part of the 24th Chaithanya Agricultural Fest and Annual SHG Meet. The exhibition showcased a variety of unique and special farm



products from their own villages. Among the highlights were unusually large tapioca, elephant foot

yam, long bananas, and rare fruits, all cultivated through their own sustainable farming efforts. The stalls in the exhibition were creatively arranged in diverse patterns; reflect in community's agricultural pride. Shri. Thomas Chazikadan, MP and Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA jointly inaugurated the event. The event was graced by several esteemed guests. Farmer representatives and KSSS staff members were also present, underscoring the community's enthusiasm for the fest. The accompanying Chaithanya Food Fest featured an array of Local Foods, Chinese, Arabic and Thalassery dishes, celebrating the rich culinary heritage of the region.

## November 20 – Sargasangama Day



Dedicated to inclusivity, Sargasangama Day was inaugurated by Shri. V. D. Satheesan, (Hon'ble Opposition Leader of Kerala), who delivered a stirring address on dismantling societal barriers for differently-abled individuals, and the event was presided over by Mar Mathew Moolakkatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kottayam. The day began with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Rev Fr. Michael Vettickat, Vicar General of Kottayam Archdiocese in the presence of Fr. Sunil Perumanoor, (KSSS Executive Secretary) and SHG group representatives. Differently-abled children and their parents including children with

deafblindness from the different centre's and SHG groups showcased their talents by performing colorful cultural programmes and through a Kalaripayattu demonstration and a musical recital. Stage programs highlighted agricultural innovations by differently-abled farmers, including a hydroponic farming exhibit. programmes and through a Kalaripayattu demonstration and a musical recital. Stage programs highlighted agricultural innovations by differently-abled farmers, including a hydroponic farming exhibit.

## November 21 – Food Security Day

Adv. Sebastian Kulathunkal MLA, inaugurated the day, stressing the importance of food sovereignty and government initiatives like the Subhiksha Keralam project. Mar George Madathikandathil, Bishop of Kothamangalam Diocese, presided over the function. The Edackat Region enthralled audiences with Margamkali and Kolkali dances, accompanied by traditional percussion. Exhibitions displayed drought-resistant crops like Pokkali rice and vertical farming models. The Agricultural Quiz Competition saw farmer-student teams competing on topics like pest management, with team A Jyothi winning first prize. Stalls served fusion dishes like jackfruit biriyani and tapioca brownies. The day concluded with the Best Organic Farming Initiative Award presented to Mr. Suresh Kumar, a farmer from Meenachil, for his natural farming model.

## November 22 – Environment-Friendly Day

The day began with a public meeting which was inaugurated by Mar Joseph Perumthottam, (Metropolitan Archbishop of Changanassery), and was presided over by Mar. Jose Pulikkal, (Bishop of Kanjirapally Diocese and Chairman of the KCBC JPD Commission). The day featured a pivotal seminar by Dr. V.R. Haridas (Caritas India) on “Climate Change and Agriculture: Pathways to Adaptation.” Dr. V.R. Haridas emphasized drought-resistant millets like ragi and carbon-neutral practices such as agro-forestry, urging farmers to adopt micro-irrigation. The Kidangoor Region performed



Avani-Thiruvathirakali, a monsoon-themed dance, while the Coconut Leaf Weaving Competition saw artisans crafting intricate baskets and mats. Awards included the Best Crop Exhibit Award to Mr. Rajeev P. Nair for preserving Navara rice and the State-Level Dairy Farmer Award to Ms. Rashmi Vathur for integrating biogas with dairy farming. The evening drama "Jeevitham Sakshi" by Pala Communications depicted a farmer's struggle against land degradation, leaving the audience reflective.

**November 23 - Naipunya Day**

Focusing on skill development and mental health, the day featured a seminar on "Mental Health Challenges in Agrarian Communities" led by Dr. Tony Thomas, a clinical psychologist. He addressed stressors like debt cycles and climate anxiety, advocating for village-level counseling networks. The Uzhavoor Region presented Kummi and Parichamuttu Kali dances, while the Mega Animal Exhibition showcased Hyderabad Betel goats and Brahma chickens. Nursing students from Kottayam Medical College won the Cinematic Dance Competition with a performance blending Theyyam and hip-hop. The Crop Diversity Award honored Mrs. Latha Menon for conserving rare mango varieties, while the Young Farmer Award went to Anoop T. R. for his aquaponics startup.

**November 24 - Social Equality & Skill Development Day**

The day was inaugurated by Shri. Mani C Kappan, MLA. The Chungam Region mesmerized audiences with Lasya Melam, a graceful folk dance, while the Dehusking Coconut Competition saw veteran farmer Mrs. Radhamani S. win for her speed and precision. The KSSS Social Excellence Award was conferred to Sarathi P.U. Thomas



for rehabilitating over 500 differently-abled individuals through the Kottayam Navjeevan Trust. Media awards honored journalists KG Ranjith (Malayalam Manorama) and Anoop Tom (Deepika News) for investigative reports on farmer suicides. The Cultural Night featured a Kathakali-Tap dance fusion by TV artist Riya Mukherjee and a symphony by Basilius College students.





**November 25 - SHG Get-Together Day**

His Excellency . Most Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Bishop of Mavelikara, inaugurated the day, lauding SHGs for transforming rural economy. Smt. Sherly Zacharias, Deputy Director of Horticulture Kottayam, led a seminar on “Microfinance and Women’s Empowerment,” sharing success stories like the Kudumbashree collective’s organic spice exports. The Malankara Region dazzled with Duff Muttu and ChavittuNadakam performances. Quirky competitions like the Tapioca Snail Race and Coconut Olympics—where farmers balanced coconuts on poles—drew laughter and cheers.



November 26 marked the grand finale of the festival. The event began with an emotional tribute to the farmers, whose hard work and dedication were at the heart of the festival. The ceremony featured an Enchanting Snake Show by Mr. Vava Suresh, a renowned snake expert, which captivated the audience with a display of Kerala’s rich wildlife. The valedictory ceremony, led by Dr. N. Jayaraj, Government Chief Whip, concluded with the Jeevakarunya Lucky Draw awarding farming tools to 50 winners.

**November 26 - Farmers Get-Together Day & Concluding Ceremony**

Over eight days, the festival wove together Kerala’s agricultural legacy, ecological wisdom and social harmony, leaving participants inspired to forge a sustainable and inclusive future. From the vibrant stalls of the Karshikamela to the heartfelt stories of awardees, the 24th Chaithanya Agri Fest stood as a testament to the resilience and unity of Kerala’s rural communities. The closing ceremony on



# KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.3.2024

| Opening Balance as on 01.04.2023 | Liabilites   | Additions/<br>Deductions | Closing balance as on 31.03.2024 |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2,48,02,866.79                   | <b>Capital Account</b>                                     |                          |                                  |
|                                  | Add- Excess of income over expenditure                     | 6543338.79               | 3,13,46,205.58                   |
| 11,38,41,819.00                  | Corpus donation received                                   |                          | 11,38,41,819.00                  |
| 50,000.00                        | Staff welfare fund   |                          | 50,000.00                        |
| 1,73,32,680.00                   | Jeevakaruniya Nidhi Fund                                   | 669628                   | 1,80,02,308.00                   |
| 1,75,000.00                      | Karshaka Award fund  |                          | 1,75,000.00                      |
|                                  | <b>Current Liabilites</b>                                  |                          |                                  |
| 71,61,525.91                     | Project Money Pending Utilization( FC )                    | 1542642.01               | 87,04,167.92                     |
| 36,11,099.00                     | Loans,Advances,Expenses payables                           | -3685                    | 36,07,414.00                     |
| 67,88,262.00                     | Loan from KSBCDC for Micro Credit to Backward and Minority | -4391612                 | 23,96,650.00                     |
| <b>17,37,63,252.70</b>           | <b>Total</b>   |                          | <b>17,81,23,564.50</b>           |
|                                  |  |                          |                                  |
| Opening Balance as on 01.04.2023 | ASSETS   | Additions/<br>Deductions | Closing balance as on 31.03.2024 |
| 10,84,14,723.00                  | <b>Fixed Assets</b>  | -693828                  | 10,77,20,895.00                  |
|                                  | <b>Current Assets</b>                                      |                          |                                  |
| 77,800.00                        | Deposits for services                                      |                          | 77,800.00                        |
| 88,62,200.00                     | Loans & Advances Given                                     | 139891                   | 90,02,091.00                     |
| 52,34,193.00                     | Micro Credit Loans to SHGS                                 | -3437150                 | 17,97,043.00                     |
| 1,60,206.00                      | Income tax TDS refundable                                  | 183034                   | 3,43,240.00                      |
| 4,67,960.00                      | Advance -Granny Granded Scheme                             |                          | 4,67,960.00                      |
| 1,18,000.00                      | Income Tax Appeal deposit                                  |                          | 1,18,000.00                      |
| 22,51,667.00                     | Housing Scheme -Excess Expenditure                         |                          | 22,51,667.00                     |
| 12,19,247.93                     | Advance to Agape Center Cherpunkal                         | 66086                    |                                  |
|                                  | Less Excess Of Expenditure                                 | -313268.5                | 9,72,065.43                      |
| 1,22,51,316.00                   | Advance to SRC -Cherpunkal                                 | 6589313                  |                                  |
|                                  | Add:Excess of Income                                       | -1062523.82              | 1,77,78,105.18                   |
| 2,53,438.00                      | Advance -Suppliers , Individuals and Staff                 | 112617.3                 | 3,66,055.30                      |
|                                  | <b>Cash &amp; Bank Balance</b>                             |                          |                                  |
| 2,96,61,308.00                   | Fixed Deposit  |                          | 3,30,14,418.00                   |
| 47,41,489.77                     | Bank A/c   |                          | 41,51,886.59                     |
| 49,704.00                        | Cash   |                          | 62,338.00                        |
| <b>17,37,63,252.70</b>           | <b>Total</b>   |                          | <b>17,81,23,564.50</b>           |

# KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY INCOME & EXP FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024

| Particulars  | Income                | Expense               |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Project Donations &amp; Exp</b>                                 |                       |                       |
| Awareness and Exhibition Programme                                 | 8,27,000.00           | 11,31,764.00          |
| LSCIM Income Generation Programme                                  | 10,885.00             | 9,570.00              |
| Donation for Education & Medical Aid Fund                          | 88,00,000.00          | 5,50,000.00           |
| Donation for Soico Eco.Deve.of Marginalized Families               | 25,48,715.00          | 9,40,000.00           |
| Donation for Medical support for CBR Children                      |                       | 4,67,731.00           |
| Tailoring Programme-Livelihood Prog. For Widows                    | 8,78,600.00           | 10,76,634.00          |
| Tailoring Training Programme Grant                                 | 1,61,903.00           |                       |
| Donation Received for Community Based Rehabilitation programme     | 20,947.00             | 55,628.00             |
| KSWWB service project Grant  | 33,625.00             | 5,000.00              |
| Grant Received for Jananidhi Project                               | 7,24,696.00           |                       |
| Donation For Welfare & Aged  | 48,458.00             | 51,070.00             |
| Energy Management Centre Training                                  |                       | 4,500.00              |
| Donation for Capacity build & livelihood Women with Disabilities   | 20,58,906.00          | 25,79,545.00          |
| Donation Received for Building Construction                        | 22,70,000.00          |                       |
| Donation for Deaf and Blind  | 1,40,261.00           | 1,50,705.00           |
| Housing aid programme  | 10,26,996.00          | 17,60,000.00          |
| Deaf & blind project(Sense International)                          | 9,27,450.00           | 22,14,406.00          |
| Holistic development of DB Children(Kindermission Mission Project) | 28,05,251.00          | 38,21,656.00          |
| Donation for Income Gen.Aid Prog.for Women with Disabilities       | 13,41,461.00          | 15,54,497.00          |
| Income Generation Programme-Workshop running                       | 6,14,300.00           | 6,71,868.00           |
| Donation for General Charitable Activities                         | 62,06,350.53          |                       |
| Yuvakeralam project Expenses                                       |                       | 7,33,515.00           |
| Other Social & Rural Development Programmes                        |                       | 5,78,665.00           |
| Administrative Income & Expense                                    | 21,44,129.00          | 50,51,899.41          |
| DDUGKY Project expense   |                       | 7,19,507.00           |
| Excess Income/Expenditure of Departments:-                         |                       |                       |
| Samaritan Resorce Center -Cherpunkal                               |                       | 10,62,523.82          |
| Agape Bhaven -Cherpunkal   |                       | 3,13,268.50           |
| FC Project money to be utilized transfer to balance sheet          |                       | 15,42,642.01          |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure                                  |                       | 65,43,338.79          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,35,89,933.53</b> | <b>3,35,89,933.53</b> |





# A Heartfelt Thanksgiving Message to Our Dear Stakeholders



“

**Alone we can do so little:  
together we can do so much.**

**- Helen Keller.**

”

As we reflect on this remarkable year, our heart overflows with gratitude for the support and cooperation we have received. This year has been a testament to the power of teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision. We are deeply humbled by the unwavering assistance of well-wishers and all those who have stood by us in this mission. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funding partners, stakeholders, and dedicated office and field staff, whose cooperation and support has enabled the successful implementation of quality and time-bound services. Your commitment has been in-

valuable in enhancing lives and fostering sustainable development. Through these collective efforts we have been able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many individuals and families.

As we conclude this year and step into the new year of service, we reflect on the journey that has brought us to this moment. Let us all move forward with confidence and remain dedicated to our mission of providing more effective programmes, strengthening community outreach, and ensuring long-term sustainability in all our projects.

Above all, we thank God

Almighty for His constant love and care. We humbly request to continue prayers and wholehearted cooperation for all KSSS's endeavors. Together, let us reach out to those in need, finding true fulfillment in serving others.

Thanking all once again, may we continue to work towards achieving our vision of a brighter, more just, and peaceful society.

**Fr. Jeffin Ozhungalil**  
Assistant Secretary,  
Kottayam Social Service  
Society

# KOTTAYAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (KSSS)

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