

ANUGRAHA SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

▪ Introduction

Marginalization and poverty of rural poor are multifaceted problems which invite call for a multidisciplinary approach to be addressed amicably. Due to economic slowdown and post COVID-19 situation further pushed down the rural poor in the social ladder. Unemployment and under employment are rampant in rural areas. These vulnerable families are seeking guidance and support to improve their life situation. They need constant training, facilitation and credit support to improve their life situation. Anugraha has been active in its operational area with diverse programmes for the benefit of its target people. We have been able to implement diverse programmes for the benefit of the marginalized families in our area. This year the prime thrust has given to expand the income base of the rural families by motivating them to involve in setting up their own micro-enterprises. Given below are the major activities of the organization for the year 2023-24.

▪ Self-Help Groups

Empowerment of women is critical not only for their own welfare but also for the development of the country. Empowering women through education, ideas, consciousness, mobilization and participatory approach can enable them to take their own decisions, to be self-reliant and self-confident. SHGs have been identified as a way to alleviate poverty and women empowerment. Women empowerment aims at realizing their identities, power and potentiality in all spheres of lives. But the real empowerment is possible only when a woman has higher access to economic resources, with confidence self motivation, strength and recognition in the family matters far more involvement through participation. Though this is a gradual and consistent process, women should build their mindset for taking additional efforts willingly for their overall development. SHGs have the potential to have an impact on women empowerment.

Self Help Group (SHG) is a process by which a small group of women with common objectives are facilitated to come together voluntarily to participate in the development

activities such as saving, credit and income generation to ensure economic independence. SHG phenomenon definitely brings group consciousness among women with a sense of belongingness and self confidence. In fact, what one cannot achieve as an individual, can accomplish as a member of group with sufficient understanding about her own rights, roles, privileges and responsibilities as a dignified member of society in par with man.

Anugraha Social Service Society is active in promoting Women Self-Help Groups in its operational area. Community Organizers are providing effective facilitation to the rural women in forming new Self-Help Groups and run it systematically. Close monitoring of the SHGs ensure that its group resources are utilized properly for their economic advancement. Periodic trainings are organized for the SHG leaders to impart appropriate skills and knowledge in group management. Groups are linked with government departments, banks and other financial institutions for availing schemes/credit for the integrated development of its members. Self-Help Groups are found very effective in promoting leadership among the rural women and motivate them to involve in social and community spheres. Further, the credit support provided by the Self-Help Groups has helped the rural women to start their own income earning activities.

▪ Sajeevam – Anti Drug Campaign



Substance abuse is an issue that plays a major social problem in society, the effect of using drugs in families and communities is destructive. The drug addiction affects the physical, psychological, economical and social domains of individuals. It does not only harm the addict but has far-reaching effects on family, friends, employers, and the society as a whole. Anugraha Social Service

Society is a partner agency in implementing the Sajeevam – Anti Drug Campaign in Kerala supported by Caritas India. Anugraha Social Service Society implemented this programme with active participation of different stake holders in its operational area. In order to be effective in our programme implementation we have organized trainings at different levels. Given below are the details.

Sl.No.	Programme	Participants	Venue	Date
01.	Orientation Programme for Seminararians and Religious	58	Darsana Auditorium	April 1, 2023

	Sisters			
02.	Orientation Programme for SHG Leaders	73	Upasana Pastoral Centre	June 26, 2023
03.	Interface Meeting with Directors of Various Departments	38	Bishops House	June 19, 2023
04.	Sajeevam Core Committee Meeting	18	Upasana pastoral Centre	June 24, 2023



The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year, to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a world free of drug abuse. As part of

the Sajeevam-Anti drug campaign we have organized Anti-drug day at Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Mylapra. The public rally was flagged off by Msgr.Varghese Mathew KalayilVadakkethil, Vicar General Diocese of Pathanamthitta. A Flash mob was conducted by SPC,



Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Mylapra, NSSS Unit of the school conducted a street play highlighting the problem of drug abuse. TTC students presented a thematic dance highlighting the effects of drug abuse. During the Rally a signature campaign was conducted from the



general public to endorse them to the anti-drug campaign. The public meeting on that day was inaugurated by Most.Rev.Dr. Samuel Mar Irenios, Bishop, The Diocese of Pathanamthitta. He appreciated the efforts of Anugraha Social Service Society in taking up the issue of drug abuse and for organizing different programmes to sensitize the general public about its menace. Mrs. Jimmy Light, Principal, Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Mr. Saji Varghese, headmaster, Sacred Heart High School, Mrs.Sherly Thomas, Principal, Sacred Heart TTI, Mylapra and Mr.Joshy K. Mathew, PTA President, Sr.Pavithra,SIC and Mr.Thomson John, Anugraha Social Service Society made necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the programme.

A hand book named “Arutheelahari” written by Adv.Paul Charly was distributed to the 100 parishes and associations of the diocese to study, discuss and prepare action plans to



eradicate drug abuse in their respective areas. This handbook was found very useful for the parishes to prepare area specific actions plans to fight against drug abuse. Director and staff of Anugraha Social Service Society attended a number of meetings and trainings organized by Caritas India as part of the Sajeevam-Anti Drug Campaign. These meetings/trainings have found

very useful for Anugraha in executing the anti-drug campaign in its operational area.

▪ Ashakiranam Cancer Care Campaign



Anugraha Social Service Society has been active in conducting different programmes for the benefit of the cancer affected persons in its operational area. Its primary intervention in this area is awareness generation at different levels about cancer. The Society organized a number of cancer awareness programmes at different levels for the benefit of the public. Awareness about junk food/fast food was organized

for the teenagers by organizing school health awareness programmes. Ashakiranam volunteers assisted the cancer patients to get specialized treatment from different cancer care institutions. Periodic visits to the cancer patients are done by the volunteers to know more about their health situation and to provide psycho-social support.

We have organized a hair donation camp in our area for the cancer patients on May 4, 2023. We have organized this in collaboration with Amala Medical College, Hospital, Thrissur. Youngsters happily donated their hair for this novel purpose. Anugraha Social Service Society received an appreciation certificate from Amala Medical College for arranging the hair donation camp. Mrs. StephySubash collected the award on behalf of





Anugraha. She also participated in the Ashakiranam south cluster review and planning meeting held at ADS, Alappuzha and presented the activities implemented by our organization.

World Cancer day was observed on February 12, 2024 at Mar Chrysostom, College Paranthal. Fr. Anish Pezhumkoottathil, Director of the college inaugurated the programme. Prof. Itty Varghese, Principal of the College presided over the function. Dr. Betsy A Jose, Assistant Professor Department of

Community Medicine, Pushpagiri Medical College, Thiruvalla conducted an awareness session for the college students. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society delivered a keynote address about Ashakiranam project. Sr. Pavithra and other staff of Anugraha



Social Service Society made necessary arrangements for the programme.

▪ Targeted Intervention – Suraksha Programme

Targeted intervention is a very significant component of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). These interventions provide an opportunity for comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention as well as care and support services to extremely marginalized High Risk Groups, such as Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs), Transgender (TGs), People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and also to bridge populations like Migrant workers and long distance Truckers. KSACS, in partnership with NGOs/CBOs, provide HIV prevention, care and support (to those who are infected) services to these groups in a very useful and friendly manner, that is, at a place and time most convenient to the community and they can easily access these services without any fear of stigma and discrimination.

Anugraha Social Service Society is a partner organization of KSACS in implementing TI project in KumaliPanchayathu. The project office was inaugurated at Vandiperiyar on August 7, 2023 by President, KumaliPanchayathu. Ward members, ASHA workers, Fr.VargheseChamakalayil, Project director, Mrs. Aparna, Project Manager, Ms. Praveena, councilor were present at the function. World AIDS Day was observed at GramaPanchayath Bus stand, Vandiperiyar with different programmes. The program started with a flash mob and a kit presented by students, department of social work, Marian College, Kuttikkanam. Mrs.Jasmine, JHI, Community Health Centre, Vandiperiyar welcomed all for the programme. Mrs.Usha, President VandiperiyarGramaPanchayath presided over the function. Mrs.Malathi, Block Panchayath President, Azhutha block inaugurated the World AIDS day observation. Red ribbon campaign was inaugurated by Mrs.Usha. Miss.Teena, manager suraksha project and Miss. Pournami ICTC counsellor conducted a short awareness session on HIV/AIDS for the general public. Panchayath ward members, personnel from health department, Anugraha staff and Marian College students were present at the function. The World AIDS Day observation was found very effective in creating awareness among the general public in an innovative manner.



World AIDS day 2023 was observed in Government Higher Secondary School, Amaravathi on December 1, 2023. Students took oath against HIV/AIDS and became members of Red ribbon club. In order to induce the interest of the students an AIDS day quiz programme was organized for the students and we have received good participation from the students. Anugraha



Social Service society has received active support from the school authorities and CHC, Vandiperiyar in organizing this programme. KSACS IEC van travelled through different junctions in our project area to propagate AIDS control activities. The IEC van acted as a mobile platform for disseminating critical information, distributing educational materials and engaging communities in discussions about the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment. As part of the World AIDS Day 2023 we have distributed IEC [Information Education and Communication] materials to the general public and Community Based Screening was done by Ms. Sonamol M.T, Counsellor, Anugraha Suraksha project and total 46 screenign were done.



Christmas Celebration of Anugraha Suraksha Project, Kumali was organized on December 12, 2023 at DIC office, Vandiperiyar. Project staff, government officials, PLHIV persons and general public attended the programme. Participants presented different cultural items at the function. Food kits were distributed to PLHIV

persons. HIV , VDRL and TB screening was done on that day for High Risk Group

persons by project counselors and lab technicians from ICTC. External Evaluation of the TI project was done by Osmania university team on behalf of KSACS and NACO from January 10 to 12, 2024. They have visited the project area, interacted with the stakeholders like police station, PRI institutions, Health departments and FGD with general public. They also had interaction with Anugraha Director and project staff about the project implementation. The external evaluation team expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the meritorious works done by Anugraha Social Service Society. Fr.Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society attended the external evaluation debriefing meeting held at Maura Rajathani Hotel, Trivandrum on February 5, 2024. External evaluation team briefed their findings and the gaps identified in the external evaluation. NACCO-KSACS and other agencies appreciated Anugraha Social Service Society for implementing the TI project successfully.

▪ Skills Training



Women play a vital role in the socio-economic transformation of the country. So the empowerment of women becomes necessary for the development of Nation. It is being increasingly realized that mobilizing women to take up entrepreneurial activities can ensure an economic change. Through entrepreneurship development; a woman can not only generate income for herself but also generate employment for other women in the locality. Tailoring is considered as a useful employment skills for the rural women to start self-employment units. It is a simple vocational skill which the village women can pick-up fast. Rural women can easily get sufficient sewing orders from their locality itself. Since the majority of the women in our area prefer

dressess stitched according to their taste. At present there is a dearth of skilled tailors in Anugraha's operational area.

We have organized a 30 days training in advanced sewing for 20 women under the GramyaVikasNidhi- NABSKIL from April 19 to May 26, 2023 at Upasana pastoral centre, Omalloor. We have identified the participants for the training from our target villages. Economic backwardness and keenness in involving sewing activity were the main criteria for beneficiary selection. The training programme was inaugurated by Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Director, Kerala Social Service Forum on April 19, 2023. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society presided over the function.



The instructor imparted the training from a lower level to induce the interest among the trainees. She had explained in detail about the advantages of tailoring activity and taught the nuance of sewing to the trainees. It was learning by doing training. Trainees were given different tasks to perform and the instructor guided the trainees in performing the tasks. This methodology helped them to pick-up the skills fast. The Concluding function of the training was held on May 26, 2023. Fr. Jacob Mavunkal, Director, KSSF presided over the function and distributed the certificates to the participants. Fr.Varghese Chamakalayil motivated the trainees to start their own tailoring units and assured support in getting credit to start their enterprises in sewing.



▪ World Environment Day

The Environment is one of the most important tools for our survival on planet Earth. The Environment nurtures us and helps us survive. The Environment is in danger because of the high levels of pollute

on All the major components of the Environment such as the hydrosphere, the atmosphere, the biosphere, all are trapped

with pollutants. The rising level of pollutants is destroying the normal Environmental conditions. The main purpose of the World Environment day is to spread awareness about the current conditions of the Environment. World Environment day was observed on June 5, 2023 at Upasana Pastoral Centre, Omalloor. SHG leaders, Parish leaders and Anugraha Staff members were present at the function. Msgr. Varghese Mathew Kalayilvadakkethil, vicar general, Diocese of Pathanamthitta inaugurated the programme. He highlighted the need for protecting our scarce natural resources and the active involvement of all in environment protection & promotion. He planted a fruit tree sapling in the campus and gave away useful tree saplings to the participants. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil director, Anugraha Social Service Society and Sr. Pavithra SIC made necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the programme.

▪ Diocesan Perspective Planning



Every successful Development organization should have a plan and knows where it is heading in the future. Setting a plan with goals, target dates, and a purpose should be finalized before embarking on any interventions. Taking the time on an ongoing basis to review the organization's past performance, and predicts its future performance, gives it a road map to follow. Caritas India and

Kerala Social Service Forum insisting Anugraha Social Service Society to redefine its

perspective plan to make it more relevant to the present context. A perspective building meeting was organized on June 6, 2023 at Anugraha Social Service Society in which the Director, key staff members, and representatives from different departments of the Diocese and CBO leaders were participated. The objective of the DPP was to define Anugraha's perspectives and implementing our sectoral and diocesan perspective plan, revisit and re-evaluate the key areas of interventions and to reframe strategy and perspective plans for targeted interventions in the development sector. Mr. Tony Sunny, Coordinator, KSSF facilitated at the planning meeting. He highlighted the need for DPP and how it will help the organization in addressing key issues in its target area. Anugraha is in the process of preparing the Diocesan Perspective Plan.

▪ Educational Scholarship Distribution



Present day youth has got more opportunities for employment if they are educated. Meeting the educational cost of higher education is out of the reach of rural households in our area. Economic backwardness is hindering

the gradual progress of many bright children in our area. Educational scholarship of Anugraha Social Service Society has helped 18 students to pursue their studies. Bright and needy children to receive scholarship assistance under this scheme were selected from our

centers with the active involvement of SHG leaders and parish leaders.



Msgr.Varghese Mathew, Kalayilvaddkethil, Vicar General, Diocese of Pathanamthitta distributed the scholarship support to the students on August 12, 2023. He encouraged the scholarship recipients to study well and strive hard to achieve their goal. Education is the only way for the poor to come up in life and become to contribute the development of the society. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society explained in detail about the scholarship scheme and motivated the students to become contributors to the scholarship in future once they are employed. Sr. Pavithra SIC, Project coordinator conducted a motivation session for the students. Christmas gathering of the students who are receiving financial assistance under VidyaJyothi was organized at Upasana Pastoral Centre on January 27, 2024. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society distributed the Christmas gifts along with study materials to the students.

▪ Honeybee Keeping Training



Honey Beekeeping offers a source



of income that is relatively low-cost to initiate and maintain, and it is honey accessible to small-scale farmers and marginalized communities. The sale of honey and hive Products not only provides direct revenue but also stimulates local economies through value chain development and market linkages. Furthermore, beekeeping can diversify income sources, reducing dependence on single crops and enhancing household resilience to economic shocks. Proximity of many target villages of Anugraha Social Service Society with the forest and plantations made it most suited economic activity for the villagers to start to earn extra income for their



families.
Taking into
this
consideration,
we have
organized
three
honeybee
keeping
trainings
during the

reporting period. Given below are the details of the trainings.

Sl.No.	Place	Date	No. of Participants	Resource Person
01.	ChittarNilackal	August 26,2023	53	Mr.Anoop
02.	Moolakkayam	September 29,2023	48	Mr.Anoop
03.	Omallee	October 13, 2023	46	Mr.Anoop

Topics like importance of honeybee keeping, how to start honeybee keeping, honeybee colonies, feeding during the lean season, and common sickness in honeybee, honey harvesting, processing, marketing and division of honeybee colonies. The resource person was able to explain everything clearly to the benefit of the participants. The interactive sessions were found very effective for the participants to clear their doubts regarding honeybee keeping. Anugraha Social Service Society promised credit and technical support in setting up their individual honeybee keeping units.

▪ Honey Processing Unit

The biggest problem faced by the honeybee keepers is that honey produced by them is now sold to the private honey processing units or to business people. These units pay fewer prices for the raw honey produced by the farmers especially during the honey season. Due to economic urgency they were forced to sell the honey they produced as soon as they harvest it. These businessmen are earning much income by processing and selling the honey. There is a growing demand for honey in the district and state level because of its therapeutic value. Consumers are ready to procure good quality honey at premium rates.

In this context Anugraha Social Service Society in collaboration with Kerala State Horticulture Mission established a honey processing unit at Thumpamon Mampilali. Necessary equipments and machineries to process honey were installed at the processing unit. The honey



processing unit was blessed by Most Rev.Dr. Samuel Mar Irenios, Bishop , The Diocese of Pathanamthitta on March 7, 2024.Mr.ChittayamGopakumar, Honorable deputy speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly inaugurated the honey processing unit. He



honoured Anugraha Social Service Society for establishing the honey processing unit and expressed the hope that it will benefit the honeybee keepers to get a reasonable price for the honey they produce.Mrs.RonySacharia, President, ThumpamonGramapanchayath presided over the function. Mrs. Resmi CR, Deputy Director, Horticulture Mission

explained about the scheme and Dr.kavya SR, Agriculture officer explained about the honey procurement and marketing strategies. Anugraha is in the process of procuring raw honey from the farmers and processing it in the unit and market it on a common brand.

▪ **Medical Assistance**

Medical treatment has become very expensive, especially treatment of chronic diseases like heart attack, cancer and kidney problem. If the head of the family is affected with sickness the whole family is affected by it. Families with meager family income are helpless when their family member is suffering from sickness which needs specialized & advanced treatment. These families need external financial support for the treatment of their family member. Anugraha Social Service Society was able to assist 125 persons with financial support for medical treatment. We have scrutinized each application form for assistance by visiting the families and collected relevant information from them. This has ensured that right and needy persons are assisted under this scheme. The medical assistance has found very useful for the economically poor patients to meet their medical expenses.

▪ **Assistance for Marriage**

Arranging marriage for daughters is a big burden for poor parents. They have to spend much amount for ornaments, food and other functions connected with marriage. Rural poor families who are leading a hand to mouth existence never succeeded in mobilizing money for the marriage of their children. It is sad to note that girls in the marriageable age are not getting partners because they are poor. Anugraha Social Service Society is much concerned about the sorry plight of the rural poor girls and has supported few families to arrange the marriage of their daughters. This year we have assisted 22 families to arrange the marriage of their children. The financial assistance we have provided under this scheme has helped them to arrange the marriage of their children. Anugraha Social Service Society is sensitizing the general public about the need for supporting the poor families in their area to arrange the marriage of their daughters.

▪ **House Maintenance**

Proper housing is a must for the development of a family. Housing provides them a sense of unity and security. This will help the family to function as a single unit and plan their future activities. A number of marginalized families in Anugraha's operational area are living in substandard or dilapidated houses, which needs urgent repair/maintenance. Low

income group families are not in a position to muster the amount needed to do the urgent maintenance of their damaged houses. Cost of building materials and labour are increased in manifold during the last one decade making it impossible for the rural poor to repair their damaged shelters.

As a service organization concerning the wellbeing of the poor and marginalized, Anugraha Social Service Society identified and assisted 13 families to do the maintenance of their houses. We have received many requests for financial assistance for house maintenance from the rural areas and we have done an extensive study of each application and then most deserving families were selected to receive the financial assistance under this scheme. Economic backwardness was the main criteria for the beneficiary selection. Families with number of school going children and disabled family members were given preference in the beneficiary selection. We have ensured that the beneficiaries utilized the support properly for the house maintenance and completed the repair work within the stipulated time.

▪ **Skills Training and Financial Support to HIV Patients**

The personal, financial and social burden inflicted by HIV/AIDS can overcome by the infected person by involving in some production activities or income earning activities. PLHIV are physically weak to engage in hard physical employment to earn income for his/her families. At the same time they need more money for food and medicines to boost their immunity. Further, involving in some creative income earning activity they can devote their time for this activity and free their mind from agony & frustration. We have imparted appropriate skills trainings to PLHIV persons in paper bag making, artificial ornaments making, Aari embroidery and cellphone repair. These employable skills imparted to them have helped them to start their own individual enterprises and to earn substantial income from it. We have assisted HIV persons with financial support to start income earning activities.

▪ **Migrant Development Programme**

Migration is one of the common trends in these days. People migrate from one place to another in search of employment and better living conditions. During the last one decade an influx of migrants from North Indian states to Kerala has been largely increased. Economically poor families from these north and north-eastern states have migrated to Kerala in search for employment. These migrants were successful in finding out employment in our area which helped them to earn a decent income. They also brought

their relatives and friends to work in our area by seeing the possibility. Many of these migrant laborers' brought their families and started dwelling in our areas.

Though they are earning a better income here in the new area/workplace, their social development is stagnated. They are alien to the culture, language and food habits of the area. It takes some time for them to integrate with the culture of the area. Many of these families are leading a struggled life and few are facing mental trauma. Anugraha Social Service Society in collaboration with Caritas India taken up a migrant development programme. Detailed information about the migrants living in our target villages are collected with support of our community organizers and ASHA workers. This has helped us to have a data bank about the migrant in our area and to plan different programmes for their wellbeing. We have organized 5 area-wise migrants meetings under this programme with the active involvement of the panchayathi Raj Institutions, health department and other service providers. Migrant families are motivated and assisted to enroll their children in the schools for their education. We have provided study materials and school bags to 50 children of the migrants during the school opening time. This has eased the burden of the parents in educating their children. Anugraha is constantly follow-up these migrants and network with different stake-holders to ensure a conducive atmosphere for the migrants in their work and dwelling place.

▪ **International Women's Day**

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. Achieving gender equality and women's well-being in all aspects of life is more crucial than ever if we want to create prosperous economies and a healthy environment. International Women's Day is a day dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of women around the world. It is a time to reflect on the progress that has been made in the fight for gender equality and to consider the challenges that still lie ahead.



Anugraha
Social
Service
Society in

association with Kerala Social Service Forum observed a state level International Women's Day in Wayanad Social Service Society, on March 4, 2024. Mar Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of Mananthavadi inaugurated the programme. He recalled the important role played by women in families & society and the need for providing an equitable chance for the women to involve in social and community spheres. Mrs. Annamma Chacko from Anugraha's operational area received the award under the head "successful women entrepreneur in the field of agriculture". She received the award from Mar Jose Porunnedom on that day.

▪ Caritas India National Assembly

The two-day national assembly of Caritas India was held at Palai from October 12-14, 2023. Directors of Diocesan Social Service Societies across India participated in the programme. The theme of the National Assembly was "Fraternity in Humanity". The



meeting was served as a platform for mutual learning and sharing, between diocesan Directors and Caritas partners, to strengthen the network of partnership. Inspired by Pope Francis' endorsement of fraternity as humanity's anchor of salvation, Caritas India seeks to promote a new order of peace and justice through the power of collective action. Grounded in the spirit of fraternal human development aims to uplift the marginalized and create a resilient, compassionate world. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director of Anugraha Service Society participated in the Caritas India's National Assembly.

▪ National Workshop on Resource Mobilization

In the ever-changing financial landscape, non-governmental organizations [NGOs] find themselves constantly reassessing their fund raising capabilities. The need to adapt current strategies and explore new funding sources is particularly pressing for organizations that were once reliant on foreign grants.



Caritas India, recognizing the evolving landscape of resource mobilization, has

strategically embraced Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR] as a gateway to tap into partnership with companies sharing similar objectives, thereby ensuring a significant source of funding. In order to capacitate the Diocesan Social Service Societies in availing CSR funds, Caritas India organized a three-day workshop on legal compliance and resource mobilization in Karnataka Regional Organization for Social Service[KROSS] from February 27-29,2024.

Fr.Anil Crasta, the former director ORBIT, facilitated the sessions. He highlighted the need for self-introspection and the identification of gaps hindering successful social work operations. He emphasised the need for a legally sound organization from CSR perspective. He outlined parameters of organizational strength, including legal compliance, governance, human resources, information system management, accounting and finance, marketing, fundraising, MEAL framework, vision and leadership. The workshop was found very effective in capacitating the participants with appropriate knowledge about CSR funding and the need for effecting structural changes in the organization to make it capable of managing CSR funds. Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil, Director, Anugraha Social Service Society participated in the workshop.

▪ Internship for MSW Students

Internship is important for a trainee to pick up new skills and opportunities or else he/she may not receive otherwise. They gain technical knowledge about social work directly with professionals in that field. This allows the trainee to apply practical knowledge learned from a classroom setting to develop important soft skills, such as time management, organization adaptability, problem solving and team work. While classroom learning is important, internships allow one to apply what he/she learned in a practical setting. This helps the trainees to take up many tasks once they begin their career.

This year we have provided internship training to 10 M.S.W students from different colleges in our organization. We have given special attention to each trainee during the training period and different tasks are assigned to them during the training period. During the internship training period trainees are asked to organize community development programmes to interact with beneficiary communities and collecting secondary data for report writing. The institutional supervisor facilitated and guided the internship training of the M.S.W students. Trainees picked-up useful skills in social work

administration and community development from the internship training. Their service was useful for the organization in organizing different programmes.

▪ Conclusion

Anugraha Social Service Society has been able to sustain its development interventions for the socio-economic development of the marginalized families in its operational area. Self-Help Groups promoted by the organization are functioning efficiently and they have been transparent and methodical in managing their group resources. Sajeevam Anti drug Campaign and Ashakiranam Cancer Care Campaign are found very effective in addressing the present day issues in the society which has given a visibility to the organization in the general public. The thrust given to honeybee keeping and honey processing will surely help the rural households to earn additional income. The organization has obtained support from different departments of the governments in executing different programmes. Anugraha proposes to scale up its interventions in its Anti drug Campaign and Cancer Care campaign with the active support of different stake-holders. Further the organization is in the process of streamlining its interventions, in legal compliances to equip to approach for CSR funding.

I take this opportunity to thank Most Rev. Dr. Samuel Mar Irenious, Bishop the Diocese of Pathanamthitta for his paternal blessings and support. Msgr.Varghese Matthew Kalayilvaddkethilhas provided us an effective leadership as president of the organization. We remember with gratitude his support and encouragement in our development work. Governing Board members and General Body members of Anugraha Social Service Society showed keen interest in its activities and always supportive to conduct different programmes, we thank them all. Funding agencies both National and international provided us with much needed financial inputs for the successful conduct of different programmes. Staff of the organization deserves our appreciation and thanks for their committed work in carrying out different programmes of the organization during the work.

Reported by

Rev Fr. Varghese Chamakalayil
Director, Anugraha Social Service Society

