



Reg. No. I-750/98

**V O S A R D**

**(Voluntary Organization for Social Action and Rural Development)**  
**Administrative Office, Kumily P.O., Idukki District, Kerala – 685 509**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As we move towards VOSARD's 25th birthday, we looked back with pride at what we had been able to do in the last two decades and more. VOSARD has completed twenty three years of relentless efforts in bringing positive changes in the lives of marginalized sections in the society. The highlight of the year was undertaking two new projects - Kaval Plus CNCP and Kaval Plus Nirbhaya - to provide psycho-social care to the children in need of care & protection and survivors of child sexual abuse. Despite funding constraints, we have been able to maintain our existing services in most areas. This has not been easy and all members of the VOSARD family have to be appreciated for putting in that extra effort. With profound gratitude and immense joy of having carried out the entrusted mission to the best of our ability, I present the Annual Report of VOSARD for the year 2021-22.

### **MAJOR PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

Empowering and equipping the target families and communities has been one of the VOSARD's core programmes, with the goal of leading them towards holistic and sustainable development. Over 12,000 families from the target categories have been formed into 800 Self Help Groups, 33 Clusters and three Apex Federations . Apex Federations and Clusters are facilitated to coordinate the functions of SHGs. Men, women, differently abled, marginal farmers, senior residents, children, and youth are members of these Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The ongoing process of strengthening the people's organizations include: awareness raising, leadership training, skill training, livelihood promotion, microfinance, and taking up issues with the government.

#### **2. COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAMME**

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) started in 2002, with the help of Caritas India and the CBR Forum in Bangalore. Initially the programme started in six Panchayats and gradually extended to 18 Panchayats in Idukki District. More than 5,000 PwDs have been organized into Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) at the village, panchayat, district, and state levels, and to link them with PRIs, government schemes, financial institutions, and other organizations.

VOSARD has also taken the lead in forming a Local Level Committee (LLC) in Idukki district under the National Trust Act to provide Guardianship Certificates and the Niramaya Insurance Scheme. Major interventions during the reporting year are:

- ✓ Formation of new DPOs - 2
- ✓ Four leadership trainings for 80 DPO leaders
- ✓ Facilitated to conduct Special Gram Sabha in 14 Panchayats
- ✓ Observance of 'International Disability Day' in 8 districts
- ✓ Awareness on Niramaya Insurance to 690 persons
- ✓ Niramaya Insurance - 194
- ✓ Guardianship Certificates - 290

➤ **Strengthening of a state level network of DPOs:**

VOSARD took the initiative to establish a state level network of Disabled Persons Organizations (DDPOs) functioning in eight districts in Kerala. The state level network named as 'Kerala Confederation of Differently Abled' (KCDA). It is a registered body under the Society' Registration Act. 9,115 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are organized in 539 Village level DPOs, 94 Panchayat level DPOs and 8 District level DPOs and they are the members of KCDA. Major interventions of KCDA during the year 2021-22 are:

- ✓ Conducted quarterly meetings of the governing body of KCDA.
- ✓ Facilitated the KCDA leaders to attend four South India regional meeting and two national level meetings.
- ✓ Conducted 8 trainings on RPD Act for 150 participants
- ✓ Conducted trainings for the parents and teachers.
- ✓ COVID Relief support provided: Mobile phone-12, Food kits/sanitizer/medicine-311, Oxymeter/ vapourizer - 311
- ✓ Facilitated COVID vaccination - 7,022 PwDs

### **3. REHABILITATION OUTREACH SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

VOSARD collaborates with CHAI-LF to promote rehabilitation and an enabling environment for Idukki district children and youth with disabilities. In six grama panchayats in Idukki district, VOSARD began a Community Based Rehabilitation programme in 2002 to promote equitable opportunities and protect the rights of people with disabilities. In 2009, CHAI-LF formed a relationship with the organization, allowing it to expand its services to neighbouring Gram Panchayats.

Health, Education, Livelihood, Social, and Empowerment are the five categories of the CBR Matrix in which the organization has been pushing CBR services. During 2020-21 the project served 227 children with diverse disabilities with their education, surgery, medication, and assistive device distribution. Major interventions during the year are:

- ✓ Three Caregivers training for 90 parents
- ✓ School enrolment - 5

- ✓ Livelihood support (Cow & Goat) - 9
- ✓ Aids & appliances - 12
- ✓ Correction surgery - 4
- ✓ Support for toilet modification - 2
- ✓ Home-based functional therapy - 22 children
- ✓ Facilitated 18 children to avail aids and appliance from BRC.

#### 4. CARE AND PROTECTION FOR SENIOR CITIZEN

Old age is a sensitive phase; elderly people need care and comfort to lead a healthy life without worries and anxiety. Lack of awareness regarding the changing behavioral patterns in elderly people at home leads to abuse of them by their kin. Elders desire a life with good health, dignity, economic independence and finally a peaceful death. They long for care, love and affection. Understanding their needs and concerns, will ensure their good health. Lending an emotional support to the elders keep them jovial, which is inevitably the ideal way to live a healthy life. Until recently, it was the obligation of the family to care for and safeguard the elderly. However, for many people, providing care and attention to elders is not possible due to work priorities.

With old age comes illnesses, diseases and disabilities and therefore financial and social security are essential. However, with the increasing trend of nuclear families and fewer children per parents, the care of older persons is becoming increasingly difficult. Loss of a social role and recognition, and non-availability of opportunities for creative and effective use of free time are also of great concern. A considerable portion of elderly population is affected by physical morbidities, economic and psychosocial problems. In this backdrop, VOSARD started a programme in 2013 with the support of Misereor, Germany to provide community based care and protection for elderly people. The project mainly focuses on improving the quality of life of the elderly, involving various stakeholders in development, and envisages the protection of the rights of the elderly through human-centered advocacy, awareness raising, access to health care and other government rights, and empowerment through community mobilization. Now, more than 1,200 senior citizens are members of the 75 Elders Self Help Groups (ESHGs) and six Panchayat level Federations functioning in six Panchayats in Idukki district. Major interventions made during the year are:

- ✓ New EHG formed - 9
- ✓ Capacity building of existing 66 old EHG and 5 Panchayat level Federations
- ✓ Leadership and caregivers trainings
- ✓ Medical camp - 56 participants
- ✓ Routine health check-ups: monitoring blood sugar and blood pressure
- ✓ 144 elders with health problems were linked with PHCs for medical treatment
- ✓ 93 walking sticks and 93 hearing aids and 450 COVID relief food kits supplied
- ✓ 10 health awareness programs - 365 participants
- ✓ 46 medical volunteers were trained for conducting routine health check-up
- ✓ Pakalveedu (Day care centre for senior citizens) established in 3 Panchayats
- ✓ Livelihood support - 22 beneficiaries
- ✓ Linkage with social security schemes and MNREGA

## 5. WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN KANCHIYAR

'Holistic improvement of livelihood of marginalized families' is a project supported by Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany. It is a 4-year programme started in 2019 with prime focus on women and child development of 800 marginalized families. The project area covers three Wards of Kanchiyar Panchayat and one Ward of Kattappana Municipality in Idukki district of Kerala. The project interventions has contributed for enhancing living standards of the target families. Achievements of the project are:

Activities	2019 & 2022	2021	Total
Formation of Women SHGs	41	9	50
Formation of Childrens Clubs	3	17	20
Annual gathering	1	4	5
Interface meeting	11	2	13
Training for promoting entrepreneurial skills	21	11	32
Vocational training for unemployed youth	15	7	22
Employment coaching (PSC)	10	6	16
IGP: Cow units	38	38	76
Goat units	86	29	115
Poultry units	-	27	27
Rabbit units	-	16	16
Construction of cow sheds	9	12	21
Construction of goat sheds	30	16	46
Tailoring units	10	11	21
Petty shops	5	14	19
Kitchen garden	85	51	136
Construction of Rainwater storage tanks	47	14	61
Biogas units	1	-	1
Training on health, hygiene and nutrition	29	15	44
Psycho-social counselling services	116	148	264
Supply of COVID Relief materials	3,487	851	4,338

## 6. FAMILY COUNSELING CENTRE

The Family Counselling Centre started its functioning in 2004 to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and families who are victims of atrocities and family mal-adjustments through crisis intervention and systematic counselling. The centre also create awareness and mobilize public opinion on social issues affecting status of women. The centre also provided support for clients via tele-counselling during the COVID lockdown period. The activities carried out during 2021-22 are:

- ✓ No. of cases registered - 334
- ✓ Services given: Individual counselling, family counselling, group counselling, career counselling, awareness raising among women & children.

## 7. SERVICE PROVIDING CENTRE

The Service Providing Centre (SPC) was started in 2008 in association with VOSARD Family Counselling Centre. A lady advocate is employed to provide free legal aid to the women victims of domestic violence and get them justice and relief under provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act-2005. The SPC is functioning three days in a week with the support and guidance of Kerala State Social Welfare Board. Protection of women from family atrocities is one of the major focus of Service Providing Centre. The centre focuses on empowering women by providing awareness classes, rehabilitation services, vocational training, medical assistance and other referral services. The Legal Counsellor also makes efforts to sensitize the community on legal literacy through regular awareness classes and outreach programmes. The SPC rendered following services during the reporting year:

- ✓ Legal Counselling
- ✓ Free Legal Aid for domestic violence victims
- ✓ Shelter Homes for Victims
- ✓ Medical Assistance
- ✓ Police Assistance
- ✓ Rehabilitation Services
- ✓ Referral Services
- ✓ Sensitizing the community on women rights, gender equality, etc.

## 8. CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**a) CHILDLINE 1098:** It is a project under Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India. The project started in 2011, provides need based help to the children in distress. A Collaborative centre at Kattappana is providing 24-hr toll free outreach services in the entire Idukki district. In addition, a Sub-Centre of Idukki Childline at Kumily is also managed by VOSARD. The CHILDLINE project provides assistance to children in distress; particularly street children, neglected and delinquent children and children facing physical, mental and sexual abuse. The main interventions of CHILDLINE project are: shelter, medical help, repatriation, rescue, sponsorships, emotional support and child protection at the large context. A total of 980 cases (Collab – 628 and Kumily Sub Centre – 352) were registered and need based support services provided during the year.

**b) Kaval Project - Care and protection of children in Conflict with Law (CCL):** KAVAL is an innovative program implemented by the Government of Kerala. It is a multi-disciplinary inter-sectoral approach through psycho-social interventions to ensure holistic care and support for the children in conflict with the law. The project aims to reduce the chances of the child being absorbed to antisocial gangs and causing potential harm to society. The project approach is to provide holistic care through psychosocial intervention to keep them away from unlawful activities and re-integrate them as responsible citizens of the society. Major interventions held during the year are:

- ✓ No. of children served under the project - 140
- ✓ House visits and psycho-social assessments
- ✓ Counselling - Individual and Family
- ✓ Vocational training support
- ✓ Life skills development training
- ✓ Psychiatric assistance/ guidance

**c) Kaval Plus - Community based rehabilitation of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (Nirbhaya):** Kaval Plus is an innovative program by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Kerala. The beneficiaries of the program are the Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (Nirbhaya). The project aims to provide psycho-social care and support towards rehabilitating and re-integrating them back to the society. The project started in 2021 and the following are the main activities held during the year 2021-22:

- ✓ No. of children under CNCP project - 25
- ✓ No. of children served under Nirbhaya project - 35
- ✓ Counselling sessions - individual and family
- ✓ House visits and follow up support
- ✓ Life skills training
- ✓ Financial support - 10
- ✓ Education support - 03
- ✓ Medical support - 04

**d) Chavara Jyothi Education Promotion (CJEP) Programme:** This programme was established in the year 2008 with the support of CMI St. Joseph Province and few local benefactors to support educational needs of rural poor children. Around 500 poor and bright students are financially supported every year. Besides, study materials are also arranged to the children with the support of local benefactors and agencies. Life skill development training, leadership training, cultural programmes, career guidance workshop, awareness raising programs, etc are also conducted for holistic development of the children. 52 children were supported with Rs. 3.43 lakh during the year.

**e) KELI Scholarship for professional studies:** In association with Rajagiri Outreach Service Society (ROSS), Kochi KELI scholarship is given to poor students for pursuing professional courses. ROSS channelized the financial support from KELI, Switzerland. 119 children have been supported so far with an amount of Rs. 2.05 lakh and 21 poor students were supported with Rs. 3 lakh during the year.

**f) CHRYSALIS Education and Health Care Project:** It is a joint venture of VOSARD with the IBS Software Private Limited (IBS). It has two streams, Education and Healthcare. The project was launched in 2020 to provide financial assistance to the children and youth

below 21 years of age, who are struggling with education or healthcare needs. 55 children/youth (Education-34, Health-10, Livelihood-11) were assisted during the year.

## **9. CANCER AWARENESS AND REDUCTION PROGRAM**

Reports say that the incidence and prevalence of cancer have increased over the years in Kerala. We could understand that in recent years the number of cancer patients is steadily increasing in Idukki district. Delay in detection, huge treatment cost, lacking a Cancer Centre nearby and lack of awareness contribute to high mortality rates due to Cancer in the district. Taking the situation seriously, VOSARD makes continuous attempts to sensitize the community about various aspects of prevention, early detection and management of the killer disease. We have also initiated advocacy campaigns for establishing a 'Early Cancer Detection Centre' in Idukki district.

## **10. AWARENESS RAISING ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

It is a matter of serious concern that use of alcohol, ganja and variety of tobacco products other narcotic or psychotropic substances are ever increasing among the youngsters. It should be seen as a social problem because often these social issues lead to increase in crimes, child abuses, suicides and psychological problems. In the recent years Idukki district has become a hub of illicit trafficking and more children and youth are being trapped into the social evil. In order to save the young generation from the clutches of drug mafia; VOSARD has been working to create public awareness to prevent usage and illicit trafficking of alcohol and drugs. In this direction awareness workshops are conducted in the self help groups, children's clubs, schools and community gatherings. Articles were published in the print media to educate the general population about the serious problems of substance abuse.

## **11. DISASTER MANAGEMNET**

The unexpected torrent rains lashed over the highranges of Idukki and Kottayam districts on 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 has caused huge landslides and floods. Kokkayar Panchayat of Idukki district and Koottickal Panchayat of Kottayam district are the worst affected area due to huge landslides. 22 persons died, many people missing and thousands of poor villagers were displaced to relief camps. Around 150 houses damaged in the floods and landslides. Humanitarian aid to the flood victims in the form of emergency relief kits, house repair and livelihood support were mobilized from different agencies/ individuals. It includes: House maintenance-18, Food kits (unit cost Rs. 1,000)-101 and Income generation activities-2.

## **12. COVID-19 RELIEF WORK**

The outbreak of Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) has adversely affected living condition of the entire population, especially the people from lower strata of the society. They suffered due to loss of livelihood, lack of food, health care facilities & other basic needs. Poor and marginalized families living in the rural villages are struggling hard under the



present situation. Disadvantaged people like: persons with disability, persons with prolonged illness, elderly people and widows are suffering a lot for want of daily food, medicine and other provisions. Condition of the daily workers & small/ marginal farmers is also worse. They cannot go for regular work due to COVID protocol restrictions and health problems. VOSARD could arrange emergency relief to poor families in association with Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany, Misereor, Germany and CMI Congregation, Germany. The assistance provided are: Food kits-850, Face masks- 833, Sanitizer-600, Medical assistance-125. In addition, COVID relief assistances were reached to the poor and need people in association with various other agencies like: CIF, IBS, local NGOs and benefactors.

### **13. MICRO CREDIT LOAN SCHEME**

Since last three years, VOSARD has been channelizing micro credit loan scheme of Kerala State Backward Community Development cooperation (KSBCDC) to minorities through Self Help Groups. During the year 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 33.5 lakh was granted from KSBCDC. The amount was distributed to 122 beneficiaries from thirteen SHGs for various income generation activities. This kind of soft loan helps to relieve the farmers from the clutches of the money lenders to some extent.

### **14. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME**

Agriculture promotion and sustainable development of farming community is one of the focus areas of VOSARD. To make the initiative effective and sustainable; the farmers were organized in to three tier system i.e., SHGs, Clusters and federations. The farmers' federation, 'V-Farm' is a registered body to supervise and monitor the functions of farmer's SHGs and Clusters functioning in Vandanmedu Panchayat. The small and marginal farmers are supported to undertake dairy farming, goat rearing, organic farming, cultivation of vegetables & other food crops, construction of rainwater harvesting units, biogas plants, etc. With support of Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany the programme was implemented in Vaandamedu Panchayat during 2006 to 2010 and the programme is still continuing by mobilizing a community fund. This year V-Farm could receive many innovative programs from the government. The main activities V-Farm during the year are:

- Dairy farming - 35
- Goat farming - 22
- Rainwater storage tank - 11
- Kitchen garden - 15
- Sanitary latrine - 09
- Training on organic farming - 260 farmers
- Organic manure worth Rs. 98,000/- to 158 farmers
- 40 liter urea @ Rs. 240/ ltr to 40 farmers
- Soil testing - 71
- Construction of Check Dam at Kuppakallu by Irrigation department. Cost-3 Cr.



## **15. WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

A watershed development project - supported by Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany - was implemented in Vathikudy Panchayat for enhancing capacities of small and marginal farmers by promoting soil & water conservation, sustainable farming practices and livelihood activities. Beneficiaries from 900 target families were organized into 60 farmers SHGs, three clusters and a federation. The federation named, Vathikudy Farmers Association (VFA) is a registered society that manages the functions of SHGs and clusters. VFA manages continuation of project activities by mobilizing a community fund. Major activities of VFA during the year are:

- Establishment of Kitchen Garden - 4
- Goat farming unit - 17
- Dairy farming unit - 32
- Rainwater storage tank - 10

## **16. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

We make efforts to transform the lives of youngsters to become productive and responsible citizens. We strive for eliminating alcoholism & drug addiction, equipping for employment, and to promote positive thinking. Support for higher education, career guidance, skill training, employment coaching, etc are part of our programs to promote their holistic development.

## **17. EXPOSURE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & NGOS**

VOSARD arranges block placement, internship and field work practice for students from different disciplines (BSW, MSW, BBA, LLB, MPH, B.Sc Agri, etc.) and universities. It helps them to see successful models of professional social work and replicate them in their respective areas. 28 students from various colleges/ universities visited the organization during 2021-22 to do field work/ internship as part of their course curriculum.

## **18. SAMEEKSHA – A CULTURAL FORUM AT KATTAPPANA**

VOSARD took the initiative to establish a cultural forum in 2017 and it was named as 'Sameeksha'. It is a think tank of eminent personalities from Kattappana Municipality to promote cordial relationships between different socio-religious groups and associations. Sameeksha upholds human values and works as a platform for creating public opinion in favour of maintaining peace and harmony in the society.

## **19. VOSARD AS A MOTHER NGO**

VOSARD visualizes a value-based society where the poor, children, women, persons with disabilities and other underprivileged people are empowered to bring about positive changes in their lives. So, the experience and successful models of community development created by VOSARD are shared with CBOs and other NGOs. Now, seven NGOs across Kerala are collaborating with VOSARD. They are given professional support and guidance to

replicate successful social work models in their areas, such as community based rehabilitation, three-tier system of People's Organizations and resource mobilization strategies.

## CONCLUSION

In 2021-22 VOSARD could reach out to a large number of target families, who were struggling in the COVID situation. It has become possible with the support of various national and international donor agencies, government departments, NGOs and local benefactors. I acknowledge with thanks the valuable contributions made by the funding agencies, stakeholders and well wishers.

Kumily  
15.10.2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jose Antony CMI', enclosed within a circular stamp.

Dr. Jose Antony CMI  
Secretary