



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 2022-2023**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As we approach the momentous occasion of VOSARD's 25th anniversary, we take a moment to reflect with immense pride on the remarkable accomplishments we have achieved over the past two decades and beyond. Throughout these twenty-five years, VOSARD has remained steadfast in its commitment to effecting positive transformations in the lives of marginalized individuals in our operational area. This year has been marked by active engagement as VOSARD collaborated with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and funding partners. Together, we have endeavored to build resilient communities and mitigate the social and economic setbacks faced by people in society due to the pandemic. The year 2022-2023 was a period of encouragement, perseverance, and connection building. With deep gratitude and immense satisfaction in fulfilling our entrusted mission to the best of our abilities, I am honored to present the Annual Report of VOSARD for the year 2022-2023.

### **MAJOR PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES**

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

Empowering and equipping families and communities has always been at the core of VOSARD's programs, aiming to guide them towards comprehensive and sustainable development. To date, we have successfully formed 800 Self Help Groups, 33 Clusters, and four Apex Federations, encompassing more than 12,000 families from our target beneficiaries. These Apex Federations and Clusters play a crucial role in coordinating the functions of the SHGs. Further strengthening of these Community Based Organizations (CBOs) is an ongoing process that includes: awareness raising, leadership training, skill development, sustainable livelihoods, facilitating microfinance opportunities, and advocating for community issues at various levels. The formation of CBOs comprise a diverse range of members like: men, women, differently abled people, small & marginal farmers, daily wagers, senior citizens, children, and youth. These CBOs serve as a platform for collective action and collaboration, ensuring voices of all community members are heard and represented. Major activities conducted during the year for strengthening of people's organizations are:

- Formation of SHGs with the support of NABARD: 50 SHGs have been formed with the support and guidance of NABARD. Savings and credit system started in all the groups and bank accounts opened. Two of the SHGs have availed bank loan of Rs. 5 lakh each.
- Three training programs for 60 SHG leaders were conducted with the support of NABARD for effective functioning and management of Self Help Groups.
- A leadership cum motivation training for 62 SHG leaders/members was conducted with the support of NABARD at Kochera, Vandanmedu Panchayat.

- The year 2023 was declared as the **International Year of the Millet** by the United Nations. In order to observe the Millet Year NABARD and VOSARD jointly organized a one-day seminar cum exhibition at Kochera, Vandanmedu Panchayat on 17-03-2023 in which 163 people participated. As part of the seminar an exhibition of millets and its value-added products was arranged in the venue. Millet lunch was also served to the participants.

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

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was initiated in 2002 through the collaborative efforts of Caritas India and the CBR Forum in Bangalore. Initially implemented in six Panchayats, the program gradually expanded to encompass 18 Panchayats within the Idukki District. To date, over 5,000 PWDs have been effectively organized into Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) at the village, panchayat, district, and state levels. This strategic organization aims to establish vital connections between PWDs and various entities such as PRIs, government schemes, financial institutions, and other organizations.

Furthermore, VOSARD has taken a pioneering role in establishing a Local Level Committee (LLC) in Idukki district under the National Trust Act. This committee serves as a platform to provide Guardianship Certificates and facilitate access to the Niramaya Insurance Scheme. By actively engaging in these initiatives, VOSARD strives to empower and support individuals with disabilities, ensuring their inclusion and well-being within the community.

Major interventions during the reporting year are:

- ✓ District level Federations-8, Panchayat level Federations-94, Village level SHGs-539
- ✓ Food kits, sanitary kit , and medical kit distribution - 99
- ✓ Correction surgery -3
- ✓ Medical assessment camp -2
- ✓ State level seminar for the persons with intellectual Disabilities
- ✓ Aids and appliances distribution-65
- ✓ Electronic wheel chair -28
- ✓ Observance of 'International Disability Day' in 8 districts
- ✓ Awareness on Niramaya Insurance to 690 persons
- ✓ Niramaya Insurance - 194
- ✓ Guardianship Certificates - 290

### **➤ Development of a DPO-based state-wide networking initiative:**

VOSARD has taken a proactive approach in establishing a comprehensive network of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) at the state level, operating across eight districts in Kerala. This state-level network, known as the 'Kerala Confederation of Differently Abled' (KCDA), is a legally registered entity under the Society's Registration Act.

The KCDA has a total membership of 9,115 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) actively participating in 539 Village level DPOs, 94 Panchayat level DPOs, and 8 District level DPOs. These individuals have come together to form a united front within the KCDA, working towards the betterment of the differently abled community.

By establishing this network, VOSARD has created a platform for PWDs to voice their concerns, share experiences, and collaborate on initiatives that address the unique challenges they face. The KCDA serves as a vital resource, providing support, guidance, and advocacy for its members. Through the collective efforts of the KCDA, PWDs in Kerala are empowered to actively participate in decision-making processes that directly impact their lives. This network not only amplifies their voices but also fosters a sense of unity and solidarity among its members.

The KCDA's commitment to inclusivity and representation is evident in its diverse membership, which spans across various levels of governance. From the grassroots level of village DPOs to the district level, PWDs from all walks of life are given a platform to contribute and shape policies that promote their rights and well-being.

In conclusion, VOSARD's establishment of the KCDA has been instrumental in creating a robust network of Disabled Persons Organizations in Kerala. Through this state-level initiative, PWDs have found a collective voice, enabling them to actively participate in shaping a more inclusive and accessible society. The KCDA stands as a testament to the power of unity and collaboration, as it continues to champion the rights. Major interventions of KCDA during the year 2022-23 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.
- ✓ Conducted District Level Observing World Autism day at Kumily
- ✓ Observance of Global accessibility day
- ✓ Conducted of World Intellectual Disability day at state level
- ✓ Conducted OPD training at state level district level leaders
- ✓ Formation of a Women with Disability Forum
- ✓ Caretakers training conducted at three districts
- ✓ Conducted a state level NGO meeting at Idukki
- ✓ Planted 6,050 saplings with support of PWDs and public
- ✓ Distributed aids and appliances with support NGOs, KSHWC & PRIs in districts
- ✓ Conducted special Grama with the support of DPO leaders and Gram Panchyats

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

VOSARD has formed a strategic partnership with CHAI-LF to champion the cause of rehabilitation and foster an inclusive environment for children and youth with disabilities in the Idukki district. With the aim of ensuring equal opportunities and safeguarding the rights of individuals with disabilities, VOSARD took the initiative to launch a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program in six grama panchayats within the district back in 2002. This program was designed to empower and provide support to the disabled community.

Recognizing the profound impact and significance of VOSARD's work, CHAI-LF established a collaborative relationship with the organization in 2009. This partnership has enabled expansion of services to neighboring Gram Panchayats, thereby strengthening the collective efforts to create a more inclusive society for individuals with disabilities in the region.

The CBR Matrix - comprising Health, Education, Livelihood, Social, and Empowerment - serves as the foundation for VOSARD's comprehensive range of CBR services. Through these categories, the organization strives to address the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities and promote their overall well-being. During 2022-23 the project served 220 children with diverse disabilities with their education, surgery, medication, and assistive device distribution. Major interventions during the year are:

- ✓ Care takers training -93
- ✓ Livelihood support -12
- ✓ Formation of new SHGs-3
- ✓ Leadership training for DPO leaders - 80
- ✓ Support to Aids & appliances-12
- ✓ Support given for Correction surgery- 4.
- ✓ Support toilet modification for CWDS – 2
- ✓ Facilitated Special Gramasabha -14 panchayaths
- ✓ Inter-National day Disability observed -8
- ✓ Panchayaths revolving grant -5 VSHGs (5000x5)
- ✓ Special field level Physiotherapy support to CWS- 22
- ✓ Linage with Niramaya insurance - 365

#### **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 1,386 senior citizens are members of the 95 Elders Self Help Groups (ESHGs) and Seven Panchayat level Federations functioning in seven Panchayats in Idukki district. Major interventions made during the year are:

- ✓ New ESHGs formed - 14
- ✓ Capacity building of existing old 81 ESHGs and 7 Panchayat level Federations
- ✓ Leadership and caregivers trainings
- ✓ Medical camp – 205 participants
- ✓ Routine health check-ups: monitoring blood sugar and blood pressure
- ✓ 168 elders with health problems were linked with PHCs for medical treatment
- ✓ 13 health awareness programs - 414 participants
- ✓ 46 medical volunteers were trained for conducting routine health check-up
- ✓ Pakalveedu (Day care centre for senior citizens) established in 4 Panchayats
- ✓ Livelihood support - 32 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 & 2021	2022	Total
Formation of Women SHGs	41	9	50
Formation of Childrens Clubs	3	17	20
Annual gathering	6	9	15
Interface meeting	11	2	13
Trainings/ Awareness programs	95	77	172
Vocational training for unemployed youth	22	2	24
Psycho-social counselling services	264	196	460
Medical camp	2	4	6
Employment coaching (PSC)	16	8	24
IGP: Cow units	76	4	80
Goat units	115	24	139
Poultry units	27	8	35
Rabbit units	16	4	20
Construction of cow sheds	21	19	40
Construction of goat sheds	46	8	54
Tailoring units	21	7	28
Petty shops	19	6	25
Kitchen garden	136	56	192
Construction of Rainwater storage tanks	61	31	92
Biogas units	1	6	7
Psycho-social counselling services	116	148	264

## **6. FAMILY COUNSELING CENTRE**

The Family Counseling Centre was established in 2004 with the aim of offering preventive and rehabilitative services to women and families who have experienced atrocities and family maladjustments. Our primary focus is crisis intervention and systematic counseling, providing support to those in need. Additionally, we strive to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion on social issues that impact the status of women.

Our dedicated team of professionals is committed to assisting individuals and families in overcoming their difficulties and finding a path towards healing and growth.

At the Family Counseling Centre, we understand the importance of addressing the unique needs of each client. Our comprehensive approach combines empathy, expertise, and evidence-based practices to deliver personalized care. We believe in fostering a safe and nurturing environment where individuals can openly express their concerns and receive the guidance they require.

By providing preventive measures and rehabilitation services, we strive to break the cycle of violence and promote healthy family dynamics. Our goal is to empower women and families, equipping them with the necessary tools to navigate through challenging circumstances and build a brighter future.

We are proud to be a trusted resource within our community, offering a range of services that cater to the diverse needs of the beneficiaries. Whether you are seeking crisis intervention, professional counseling, or simply require a listening ear, the Family Counseling Centre is here to support you every step of the way.

The activities carried out during 2022-23 are:

- ✓ Awareness Programs
- ✓ Sub-committee Meeting
- ✓ No. of cases registered - 4611
- ✓ 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 established in 2008 with the support of Kerala State Social Welfare Board. Its primary objective is to offer free legal aid to women who have fallen victim to domestic violence, ensuring they receive the justice and relief they deserve under the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act-2005. With the invaluable support and guidance of the Kerala State Social Welfare Board, the SPC operates three days a week.

The SPC places great emphasis on protecting women from the atrocities they may face within their families. To achieve this, the centre adopts a multifaceted approach, focusing on empowering women through various means. These include conducting awareness classes, providing rehabilitation services, offering vocational training, extending medical assistance, and facilitating other referral services.

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

**CHILDLINE 1098:** This project falls under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Initiated in 2011, this project aims to provide essential assistance to children in distress. A Collaborative Centre located in Kattappana offers round-the-clock toll-free outreach services throughout the entire Idukki district. Additionally, VOSARD manages a Sub-Centre of Idukki Childline in Kumily. The CHILDLINE project focuses on extending support to children facing various forms of adversity, including street children, neglected and delinquent children, as well as those experiencing physical, mental, and emotional abuse. The key interventions of the CHILDLINE project encompass shelter, medical aid, repatriation, rescue operations, sponsorships, emotional support, and comprehensive child protection. A total of 877 cases (Collab –491 and Kumily Sub Centre – 386) were registered and need based support services provided during the year.

**Kaval Project - Care and protection of children in Conflict with Law (CCL):** KAVAL is an innovative program implemented by the Government of Kerala, designed to address the needs of children in conflict with the law. This multi-disciplinary inter-sectoral approach utilizes psychosocial interventions to ensure comprehensive care and support for these vulnerable individuals. The primary objective of this project is to minimize the risk of these children becoming involved in antisocial gangs and potentially causing harm to society. By providing holistic care through psychosocial interventions, our aim is to steer them away from unlawful activities and facilitate their reintegration as responsible and productive members of society.

Through KAVAL, we strive to create a nurturing environment that fosters personal growth and development, while simultaneously addressing the underlying issues that may have contributed to their involvement in criminal activities. By offering a range of services and support, we aim to empower these children to make positive choices and lead fulfilling lives.

Our team of dedicated professionals, including psychologists, social workers, and legal experts, work collaboratively to provide individualized care plans tailored to the unique needs of each child. We recognize the importance of addressing not only their immediate needs but also the long-term factors that may have influenced their behavior.

Furthermore, KAVAL emphasizes the importance of community involvement and engagement. We actively seek partnerships with local organizations, schools, and families to create a network of support that extends beyond the duration of the program. By fostering a sense of belonging and connection, we aim to strengthen the child's social support system and increase their chances of successful reintegration. Major interventions held during the year are:

- ✓ No. of children served under the project - 92
- ✓ House visits and psycho-social assessments
- ✓ Counselling - Individual and Family

- ✓ Vocational training support
- ✓ Life skills development training
- ✓ Psychiatric assistance/ guidance

**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 2022-23:

- ✓ No. of children under CNCP category - 44
- ✓ No. of children served under CSA (Nirbhaya)- 89
- ✓ Counselling sessions - individual and family
- ✓ House visits and follow up support
- ✓ Life skills training
- ✓ Group Work Session
- ✓ Parent Management Training
- ✓ Financial support - 11
- ✓ Education support - 06
- ✓ Medical support – 08
- ✓ Aswasanithi financial assistance-9

**Chavara Jyothi Education Promotion (CJEP) Programme:** This program was established in 2008 with the generous support of CMI St. Joseph Province and several local benefactors, all with the aim of providing educational assistance to underprivileged children in rural areas. Each year, approximately 500 financially disadvantaged yet academically talented students receive financial support through this initiative. Additionally, study materials are provided to these children through the kind contributions of local benefactors and agencies.

In order to foster the holistic development of these children, various activities are organized. Life skill development training, leadership training, cultural programs, career guidance workshops, and awareness-raising programs are conducted to equip them with essential skills and knowledge.

This program not only addresses the educational needs of these children but also strives to empower them to become well-rounded individuals. Through the combined efforts of CMI St. Joseph Province, local benefactors, and agencies, we are able to make a significant impact on the lives of these deserving children. 321 children were supported with Rs. 21.88 lakh during the year.

**KELI Scholarship for professional studies:** In collaboration with the Rajagiri Outreach Service Society (ROSS), the Kochi KELI scholarship is awarded to underprivileged students seeking to pursue professional courses. ROSS effectively channels the financial support provided by KELI, Switzerland. 140 children have been supported so far with an amount of Rs. 2305000/- and 21 poor students were supported with Rs. 3 lakh during the year.



**CHRYSLIS Education and Health Care Project:** VOSARD has partnered with IBS Software Private Limited (IBS) to establish a collaborative initiative. This joint venture encompasses two distinct streams: Education and Healthcare. Launched in 2020, the project aims to extend financial support to children and young individuals under the age of 21 who face challenges in accessing education or healthcare services.

Our partnership with IBS Software Private Limited (IBS) has given rise to a remarkable endeavor known as VOSARD. This joint venture encompasses two pivotal streams: Education and Healthcare. Launched in 2020, our mission is to provide crucial financial assistance to children and youth below the age of 21 who encounter obstacles in accessing essential education or healthcare services. 53 children/ youth (Education-36, Health-7, Livelihood-10) were assisted during the year.

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

It is a matter of grave concern that the use of alcohol, ganja, and various tobacco products, as well as other narcotic or psychotropic substances, is steadily increasing among young individuals. This issue should be regarded as a pressing social problem, as it often leads to a surge in criminal activities, child abuse cases, suicides, and psychological disorders. In recent years, Idukki district has unfortunately transformed into a hub for illicit trafficking, ensnaring more children and youth in this social evil.

To rescue the younger generation from the clutches of drug mafias, VOSARD has been diligently working to raise public awareness and prevent the usage and illicit trafficking of alcohol and drugs. Our organization conducts awareness workshops in self-help groups, children's clubs, schools, and community gatherings, aiming to enlighten individuals about the severe consequences of substance abuse. Additionally, we have published articles in print media to educate the general population about the gravity of this issue.

In our relentless pursuit to combat this menace, we strive to foster a professional and engaging environment that encourages open dialogue and collaboration. By joining forces with various stakeholders, we aim to create a society that is well-informed and equipped to tackle the challenges posed by substance abuse.

## **12. MICRO CREDIT**

For the past three years, VOSARD has been facilitating the microcredit loan scheme of the Kerala State Backward Community Development Cooperation (KSBCDC) to empower minorities through Self-Help Groups. KSBCDC loan amounting Rs. 9 lakh was distributed to 349 beneficiaries at subsidy rate 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.

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

Agricultural promotion and the sustainable development of farming communities are key areas of focus for VOSARD. In order to ensure the effectiveness and longevity of our initiatives, we have implemented a three-tier system, consisting of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Clusters, and

Federations, to organize and support farmers. The farmers' federation, known as 'V-Farm,' is a registered body responsible for overseeing and monitoring the activities of the SHGs and Clusters operating within the Vandanmedu Panchayat. Through this structure, we aim to empower small and marginal farmers by providing them with the necessary resources and guidance to engage in various agricultural practices. Our support extends to diverse areas such as dairy farming, goat rearing, organic farming, cultivation of vegetables and other food crops, as well as the construction of rainwater harvesting units and biogas plants. By diversifying their agricultural activities, farmers can enhance their income and contribute to the overall sustainability of their communities.

With support of Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany the programme was implemented in Vandamedu 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

#### **14. WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

A watershed development project - supported by Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany - was implemented in Vathikudy Panchayat during 2014 to 2019 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

#### **15. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

We are dedicated to empowering young individuals to become productive and responsible citizens. Our primary objectives include eradicating alcoholism and drug addiction, providing essential employment skills, and fostering a positive mindset. Our comprehensive programs encompass various initiatives such as supporting higher education, offering career guidance, providing skill training, and delivering employment coaching. Through these efforts, we aim to facilitate the holistic development of the youth we serve.

## **16. DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

The unexpected torrent rains lashed over the highranges of Idukki and Kottayam districts in 2021 had caused huge landslides and floods. Kokkayar Panchayat of Idukki district and Koottickal Panchayat of Kottayam district were the worst affected area due to huge landslides. Around 150 houses damaged in the floods and landslides. VOSARD could repair/ renovate 21 damaged houses with the support of Christ University, Bangalore.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic 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. Disadvantaged people like: persons with disability, persons with prolonged illness, elderly people and widows were suffering a lot for want of daily food, medicine and other provisions. VOSARD could arrange emergency relief to around 500 poor families in association with various agencies.

## **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 help them to see successful models of professional social work and replicate them in their respective areas. 197 students from various colleges/ universities visited the organization during 2022-23 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 envisions a society that values and empowers the underprivileged, including the poor, children, women, persons with disabilities, and others, enabling them to bring about positive transformations in their lives. To achieve this, VOSARD shares its wealth of experience and successful community development models with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Currently, VOSARD is collaborating with seven NGOs throughout Kerala, providing them with professional support and guidance. These partnerships aim to replicate successful social work models in their respective areas. Notable examples include community-based rehabilitation, the implementation of a three-tier system of People's Organizations, and the adoption of resource mobilization strategies. By fostering these collaborations, VOSARD strives to create a more equitable and inclusive society, where marginalized individuals and communities can thrive. Through the dissemination of effective practices and the provision of ongoing assistance,

VOSARD and its partner NGOs are working together to bring about sustainable change and uplift those in need.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the fiscal year 2022-23, VOSARD is dedicated to expanding its assistance to a substantial number of individuals in dire need. This ambitious undertaking has been made achievable thanks to the generous backing of national and international donor agencies, government departments, NGOs, and local benefactors. Their steadfast support has played a crucial role in empowering us to provide aid to those facing hardships in these challenging times. Their unwavering commitment to our cause serves as a driving force, fueling our determination to address the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals and communities.

The upcoming fiscal year holds great promise for VOSARD as we strive to extend our reach and impact. With the continued support of our esteemed partners, we are confident in our ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who require assistance the most. As we embark on this journey, we remain steadfast in our dedication to transparency, accountability, and efficiency. We understand the responsibility that comes with the resources entrusted to us, and we pledge to utilize them judiciously to maximize their impact.

Kumily  
20.10.2023

Dr. Jose Antony CMI  
Secretary