



DBSARC

Don Bosco Social Action and Research Centre

Don Bosco SIHARAM

Tiruvannamalai



*Jesus
Our Saviour,
Is Born*



Members of DBSARC wishing you
a Very Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year 2021



Dear Friends,

The year 2020 is all most coming to an end. Things have not been so positive as we imagined except thousands of COVID19 positive cases. Even the nature was not that favourable to us. The number of cyclones and kind of devastating effects of the rain has really shattered the lives of the people.

The so called leaders chosen for the people and by the people have proved to be anti social , anti poor and guardians of the corporates. The different Bills passed by the government has proved that the government is against the poor, marginalised and the minorities of this great nation. People have lost hope in god, religion People have lost hope in democracy or in politicians. They are oppressed in every way. There is a cry for liberty There is a cry for social justice There is a cry for democracy There is a cry for humanity.


I find a ray of hope in the lives of hundreds of men and women who raise their voices for the rights of the poor and the marginalised. It is God's will that DBSARC is joining hands with the like minded people in voicing for the voiceless. The DBSARC has taken so many efforts to bring social awareness through various activities. There is so much of life in DBSARC even during this pandemic, which is visible in so many initiatives.

I wish some day our people who are suffering would walk into their freedom. The oppressed innocents, the trodden poor, the cheated multitudes, the neglected, the exploited masses would feel that "The God is with us - which is Emmanuel"

*Wish you all a Happy Christmas and
Blessed New Year 2021.*

**Fr. Arokiya Doss, sdb.
Rector, Don Bosco SIHARAM**





I believe looking back this year all that happened, political turmoil, natural catastrophe and economic devastation, "it's a blessing in disguise." Time and again human being tries to claim omnipotence, and eventually harass hazards teaches lesson about our inadequacy of mastering over nature. It helped in great a way to understand, our arrival is to depart and meanwhile make our presence vital. I begin to understand this is what Jesus did by his incarnation. Coming of Jesus was good news to the simple ones and for people searching for TRUTH, at the same time it was bad news to the people in authority. The wisdom of God took flesh as messiah and dwelling among us. May this wisdom enlighten us in the coming year to read the signs of the time and to be good news to the poor and the marginalized. We are happy to send this news letter to say that DBSARC tries to unfold some of messianic secret in concrete way by empowering the powerless and advocating the voiceless. Thanks be to God, Provincial Council and Don Bosco SIHARAM community for their great support.

*Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and
New Year 2021.*

Fr. John Christopher, sdb
Director, **DBSARC**





Thurumbar Desk

As we prepare for Christmas 2020, the scene before us is the mule carrying the pregnant woman, suffering so much of discomfort and pain, and a man guiding the mule, walking the strenuous road to its destination. JOSEPH WITH MARY ON THE MULE!

This is exactly what is happening these days all over India, farmers on the streets towards Delhi, Human rights defenders across the nation, marching on the streets to free all those Human rights activists, unlawfully detained in prisons, farmers and people in Tamilnadu, protesting the illegal land acquisition of farm lands for roads (in the name of development), dalit Christians fighting against caste discrimination within the Indian Catholic Church, etc. Such events are happening across the globe, amidst the COVID19 pandemic situation.

As Mary suffered the birth pangs, the people fighting for Justice and equality are experiencing such birth pangs, as they walk the path to liberation. The road to liberation is pregnant with hardships, discomforts, pain, uncompromising courage and sacrifices. If we too suffer with the people such pain and hardships, we can then truly celebrate the baby who was born in Bethlehem 2020 years ago, to proclaim liberation and PEACE to all people of good will.

Let us continue to walk this journey. . . . the STAR gives us hope

Wishing everyone a meaningful Christmas
Fr.Arul Valan, sdb



CHANNEL PARTNERS MEET



As DBSARC has taken permanent shelter in SIHARAM Don Bosco, it initiated to bring together all agents (Religious and NGO's) who share similar charism for networking. Three congregations (Jesuits, Salesians, and Gonzaga) and NGO's (POPE and PCTC) signed up to work together and conduct a scientific study in northern part of Tamil Nadu comprising of 23 districts.

ANIMATION FOR DOMESTIC STAFF

An effort was taken to showcase the positive vibrations and greater contributions of the domestic staff in order to retain them for longer period. It was an eye opener for them to know their level of knowledge, skill and attitude. This animation made them feel so happy for being part of Salesian family.





POWER – DBSARC

POWER – (Promotion Of Women Empowerment and Rights) a beautiful project arrived at the signs of the time to promote women who are marginalized to stand for their right and engage in entrepreneurial activities. Thanks to Economer Fr. Edwin Vasanth SDB, and Fr. Alphonse SDB, SURABI Director for their great efforts to achieve this end.



POWER – TLM

POWER – (Promotion Of Women Empowerment and Rights) through skills training and economic support in Agro based activities. Four underprivileged villages were chosen, 30 women of each village to be benefited and improve welfare of their families. Total women beneficiaries are 120. Three capacity workshops have been conducted namely Workshop I - Group dynamics, Leadership skill and Conflict management. Workshop II – Finance management, accounting and banking methods. Workshop III – Credit sources, Procedures and document skill to avail credit.



ANIMATION TO NIGHT SCHOOL TEACHERS.

BEST – (Bosco Evening School and Tuition) meeting was conducted and orientation programme was given. Participants have shown greater shown their commitment towards students learning amidst pandemic situation. A clear picture was given to them, how to handle students with love and care and how teachers should play significant role in front students.



PROTEST FOR FR. STAN SJ

Catholics in India can't ignore the injustice done to 83-year-old Jesuit priest, Fr. Stan Swamy SJ. He was arrested by the Indian government on false charges of terrorism. Fr. Swamy has dedicated his life accompanying the poor and marginalized in India, especially the Indigenous Adivasi community. His arrest is part of a broad crackdown on human rights defenders in India that has incarcerated 16 activists. DBSARC along with Tiruvannamalai People Forum, Religious, Social Activists and with political parties organized protest against the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ.



NETWORKING WITH NGO'S OF TIRUVANNAMALAI.

PCTC – (People's Craft Training Center) is a non-profit organization formed in the year 1991 and is registered Trust. PCTC is working with the deprived people / people with disabilities / women and children and towards collective self-reliance and total development of people through community participation. Mr. Xavier Mariadas, the Managing Trustee joins DBSARC for SEPP, Planning Commission Member and DBSARC Social Action Planning Committee Member. Thanks for PCTC's greater collaboration.



NETWORKING WITH JESUITS REFUGE SERVICE (JRS).

Training offered to Night School Teachers run by Jesuits Refuge Service.



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVES

Vermicomposting is an initiative taken so as to create a successful model for 90 women who are covered under POWER project. Easiest models promoted to women groups to train them for kitchen gardening. This will be a great source of income for them by using kitchen wastages. It is the process of cultivating earthworms in order to convert organic waste into fertilizer which will be very useful for farming and gardening.





Kadaknath Chicken Breed pilot study was done at Rudras Breed, Jolarpettai, Tirupattur. Main objective is to show all women who are in POWER project as one of the successful models which is high demand in India for its excellent medicinal values. Especially these birds bear greater medicinal value in homeopathy and useful in treating a particular nervous disorder. Kadaknath is one of the rarest poultry breeds of India which is native to Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh (MP), India. DBSARC trying to create an entrepreneurial model to train women for their economic sustainability.



To feed livestock, rural women need feed that is cheaper and nutritious to animals. To achieve this DBSARC created a model of growing Azolla. It was started to prove all 90 women as simplest model which can be a valuable protein supplement for many species, poultry, pigs and fish. It is an aquatic fern consisting of a short, branched, floating stem, bearing roots which hang down in the water. Azolla can be fed to livestock either in a fresh or dried form.



TVM – PEOPLE FORUM

DBSARC made an initiative of bringing together all Christians under the title “Tiruvannamalai People Forum” (TPF). It is the fruit and series of meetings, where the forum has been formed; its vision, mission and operating structure have been set. It has achieved two milestones in short time. One conducted protest against the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ and another is ecumenical Christmas celebration, TPF has great plan to raise political consciousness among Christians in view of general election.



FARMERS PROTEST

DBSARC Team study, plan and conscientize young minds to agitate with the farmers against ruling government policies destroy farmers. In solidarity with farmers DBSARC went for protest near Don Bosco SIHARAM as protesting in common is violation against government of India. It was to appeal to government withdrawing policies which are framed against farmers and in favor of Corporate.



DBSARC – TLM

TLM Corona Relief

DBSARC & TLM extended its relief services to neighborhood and Thurumbar in Kanji and Kadaladi regions. DBSARC planned to engage neighborhood women selected from women headed family and offered cash for work. They were also given groceries and relief materials.



New Sangam at Kanchi-Kadaladi

A new Thurumbar sangam was formed at Kanchi-Kadaladi, between the months of September and October 2020, which unites about 40, dispersed Thurumbar families living in 9 villages around Kanchi. So far two meetings were held on 19.09.20 and 27.10.20 at St. Anthony's HS School campus, Kanchi. Frs. Solomon, Valan and Christopher participated in the meetings and got to know the families and motivated them to work together as a sangam. Village visits were also done the fathers and the staff recruited from among these families, namely Mr. Arul doss. People decided to have monthly meeting. Self-employment trainings are also given to the women of these families through the POWER project.



COVID19 AWARENESS IN THE VILLAGES BY TLM

The families at Thurumbar Nagar, Semmanandal, Sellancheri and nearly 16 other villages in Villupuram and Cuddalore districts were given awareness on COVID and the precaution people need to take to counter the virus. Fr. Valan and Sr. Alphonse together with the Thurumbar staff camped at the villages and created awareness and distributed homeopathy medicines with the help of Dr. Amalraj.



FIGHT FOR A CEMETERY

Uchimalaikuppam near Tiruvannamalai is home to 8 Catholic Thurumbar families. But these families have no cemetery as the previous burial place has been illegally occupied by other Hindu families. Ms. Anthoniammal (82), died on Deepavali day (14.11.20) and the families did not have a place to bury the dead. Fr. Valan visited the village and met the Panchayat President, and spoke to the VAO and Thasildhar. The villagers, all of them Hindu SCs, would not allow the Thurumbars to bury the dead body in the common burial ground of the village. The Panchayat President had directed the Thurumbars to bury the old lady, in the lake catchment area, which is illegal. Even after much pressure, nothing could be done. The Thurumbar families, fearing a backlash after the burial, humbly submitted and buried the dead in the lake catchment area, which was later flooded during the cyclone and rains in November. The Catholic families of Uchimalaikuppam are without a proper cemetery for nearly 25 years. Further action needs to be taken in this regard.

SPECIAL CAMP FOR THURUMBAR CHILDREN AT GINGEE- 30.10.20 & 01.11.20

The Thurumbar children 95% of whom are studying in government schools had no access to online classes and their studies were seriously affected during the covid19 lockdown. Hence a special camp was organized for them at Gingee where 64 children (30 & 34 respaly) from 24 villages took part. Fr. Solomon animated the children assisted by Fr. Valan, staff Anbu, Matharasu, Boobalan and Aruldoss.



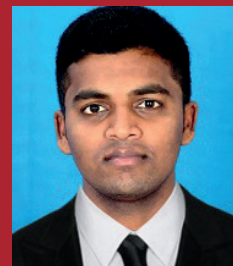
PROTEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FR. STAN SWAMY AND OTHERS

The members of TLM took part in the protests held at Polur, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai and other places, pressing for the release of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ, a social activist, arrested under UAPA by the NIA.



TO CONCLUDE,

As General Coordinator and past pupil of Don Bosco feeling great to be part of the mission of DBSARC. Though we are facing many hurdles due to prevailing situation, DBSARC made tremendous initiatives in planning and networking to implement the vision of DBSARC. The great challenge ahead of us is to conscientize young minds to raise social conscience and DBSARC will make every effort to achieve this end in 2021. Wishing you a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2021.



Thanks
Mr. Nelsn
General Coordinator

DBSARC



MERRY CHRISTMAS

& HAPPY NEW YEAR



Don Bosco Social Action and Research Centre
Don Bosco SIHARAM
Tiruvannamalai