



The Retreat's
Issue 05, | No 8

Viewpoint

MAR - APR 2022

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE SEWING BENEFICIARIES @ KALAVASAL

The EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Programme) training started at 11 AM. Mr. Ramajeyam, the resource person has facilitated the training session. The participants were asked to introduce themselves – the name, family details, the current family income and their dream or the income they want to earn at the age of 50 years. Ms. Sangeetha, Area Coordinator co-facilitated the training session by writing the response of the participants on the black board. The participants were asked to do brainstorm and calculate with the expected income they want to earn at the age of 50 years and no. of sewing products they need to stitch to attain the goal. Based on the expected income the following calculation was done to make them understand the reality. The beneficiaries were informed that the quality, price, availability and consistency of the product are very important in marketing and selling the product to the customers.



They have learnt following topics in the training such as Idea Generation – Product identification, Market availability of the product. Opportunity Evaluation – Product need in the market, Market size for the product, Competitive product analysis & understand. Planning – Market penetration idea, Target customer identification, Method of selling. Growth – Sales and marketing ideas, Marketing avenues and Schemes – Government schemes for loan. The beneficiaries were informed about the government schemes available for the beneficiaries like MUDHRA and through MSME. As a case study, Sewing Trainer – Mrs. Nishanthini was asked to share her sewing journey since 2010. Then the trainees shared their feedback on EDP session. The participants have shared that they want to learn in detail about the government schemes and the procedure to approach, apply for loans.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION & PwC SEWING PROJECT BATCH 1 VALEDICTORY, BATCH 2 INAUGURATION @KALAVASAL

Women's Day celebration, PwC sewing project batch 1 valedictory and inauguration for batch 2 held on 8th March, 2022 at DB Vidivelli, Kalavasal, Virudhunagar district from 10 AM to 2 PM. There were around 40 beneficiaries of Batch 1 and batch 2 present for the meeting. The beneficiaries had different competitions like Rangoli, Mehendi, Cooking without fire in the morning. Mrs. Neha Kanchan, Programme Manager of DFT and Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS INDIA Foundation and Mr. Thirupathi, Manager of Textile Mill at Rajapalayam are the special invitees for the event. The sewing beneficiaries invited the guests in a special way. The event started with a prayer song dance performed by the daughter of sewing beneficiary Mrs. Malliga and Ms. Sangeetha, Area coordinator, welcomed the gathering and the guests. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, welcomed and introduced the guests to the beneficiaries and he has informed the gathering about the purpose of the meeting. Mrs. Neha Kanchan, Programme Manager, DFT has facilitated Fr. Bosco and Mr. Thirupathi. Ms. Sangeetha has given the programme update – the work done and achievement during the course of sewing training.



Sewing trainer Mrs. Nishanthini shared her experience to the gathering followed by the sewing beneficiaries Mrs. Anitha Christopher, Mrs. Vasuki, Mrs. Muthulakshmi, Mrs. Karpagavalli and Mrs. Parameshwari shared their experiences. Mrs. Malliga and Mrs. Megala performed group song Fr Bosco, Director of DB Vidivelli has motivated the women and informed them about the opportunities they could use in the sewing centre and in the upcoming trainings. Mrs. Neha Kanchan, Programme Manager of DFT has motivated the women by her speech and said she feels happy and proud to work for DFT where it works for the development of women. Mr. Thirupathi, Manager of Textile Mill at Rajapalayam has informed the beneficiaries about the job opportunities in the textile mill and explained them about the working hours, benefits and remuneration and he has asked the beneficiaries who are willing to join the duty to fill the forms at the end of the meeting.



The prizes were distributed by the special invitees and by the community members of DB Vidivelli to the beneficiaries. The prizes worth Rs. 2,000 sponsored by the partner SPS INDIA Foundation. Mrs. Anitha Christopher has given vote of thanks and Ms. Sangeetha, Area coordinator has given MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management) Awareness to the sewing beneficiaries. The Asani sample , single packets (2 packets each) were distributed to the beneficiaries. The event got over after taking the group picture and the beneficiaries had festive lunch. They were also given tea during the event.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2022 @ SPS INDIA FOUNDATION

SPS INDIA Foundation of the Retreat – Don Bosco has been involved in empowering the tribal women by initiating lots of developmental activities in the Shevaroyhills of Yercaud. It have initiated sustainable livelihood, trainings, projects and conducted awareness programmes to enlighten their lives. As part of the process of tribal women empowerment, SPS INDIA Foundation has organized a programme in view of international women's day celebration on 12th of March 2022.

On the day of celebration more than 200 women participated in the celebration. Fr. Arul Maran SDB, Rector of The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud, Mrs. Neela Kumar (Regional Project Co-coordinator, Yercaud) and Mrs. Sugantha (Manjakuttai Panchayat President) inaugurated the fete games for the tribal women. Br. Jerin gave a small introduction & explicated rules of the fete games and prizes.

All the women participated actively in the fun filled games and competitions. We had a separate prize stall full of women accessories to be distributed to winners of the fete games. Then, there was a mega cultural programme. Everyone viewed the Success stories of some women participants who are on the track of achieving greater things after the trainings given by SPS. During this special occasion, our chief guests Dr. Lakshmi Siddharthan (Director – TMS Eye Hospital, Salem) & Dr. V. Priyadharshini MBBS, Medical Officer Vazhavanthi UGPHC, Yercaud, were welcomed by Fr. Selvakumar (Project director of SPS INDIA Foundation). He also felicitated the chief guests with the special memento. We also honored Women Panchayat Presidents and Counselors of Yercaud namely Mrs. Sugantha (Manjakuttai Panchayat President), Mrs. Neela Kumar (Regional Project Coordinator, Yercaud), Mrs. Chinnavellai (Nagalur Councilor) and Mrs. Dhanalakshmi.





He also felicitated the chief guests with the special memento. We also honored Women Panchayat Presidents and Counselors of Yercaud namely Mrs. Sugantha (Manjakuttai Panchayat President), Mrs. Neela Kumar (Regional Project Coordinator, Yercaud), Mrs. Chinnavellai (Nagalur Councilor) and Mrs. Dhanalakshmi. Then the chief guests addressed the tribal women. During their speech, they highlighted the struggles and inequalities issues that are faced by the women and shared their achievements to motivate the tribal women.

In a special way, they stressed on the importance to be free, to do what one likes and to spend some time for each one. The day was special as many women enrolled themselves in the cultural events like, singing, dance, and speech to showcase their talents.

The chief guests distributed "Best Participant Award" for the project beneficiaries viz Mrs. Alphonsa, Violet Mary, Niyamala, Savitha Rani, Madhaneshwari, Manimegalai and Mr. Manoj for creating a beautiful, functional and proper organic kitchen garden successfully in their homes. The winners for the competitions – Rangoli, Mehendi, Speech and Cooking without fire were rewarded with prizes. Ms. Sangeetha, Retreat staff and Sujitha, HFH volunteer delivered the vote of thanks.

The chief guests and Fr. Selvakumar SDB distributed saplings to all the women who participated in this celebration to make the women to become eco-conscious and to grow and save trees. There was also a special Eye Camp for all the participants. It was offered by the TMS Eye hospital, Salem. The Whole day event came to an end with the meaning menstrual Hygiene management (MHM) awareness given by Ms. Sangeetha to all the women. All of them were happy for the opportunity given for them to know themselves and to grow in their lives. As part of women's day celebration SPS is on the mission to give MHM awareness to 2000 young tribal girls. It has already given awareness to 700 girls of the hill. Thus, SPS India Foundation honoured and will honour and celebrated the women.

SOLA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2022

The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud proudly celebrated and fondly remembered Fr. Sola (The Founder of The Retreat – Don Bosco) by conducting a football tournament on 19th & 20th March 2022. In this tournament, many youngsters from the villages of Yercaud participated to exhibit their talents. Twenty-seven teams participated in the tournament. The KFC (Kovilmedu) team showcased their full ability to secure the first prize and cash amount of 10000 Rupees.



The team Illayadeepam (Longlipet) won the second year and the cash amount of 8000 Rupees. The third prize was secured by KFC-B (Kovilmedu) with a cash amount of 6,000 rupees. The SFC (Pelathur) team secured fourth prize of 4,000, along with a trophy.

It was an enriching experience for all the youngsters who participated in the tournament. The tournament was organized by The Retreat – Don Bosco community with the help of our generous benefactors. The tournament was organized under the able guidance of Fr. Arul Maran SDB, The rector of the Salesian Community.



DFT PRESIDENT MS. MEGHA DESAI'S VISIT TO SPS INDIA FOUNDATION, THE RETREAT – DON BOSCO, YERCAUD

The Desai Foundation President Ms. Megha Desai and Desai Foundation Trust CSR Grant Manager Mr. Manoj Panda have visited the partner SPS INDIA Foundation on 9th April, 2022. This meeting was arranged to meet the volunteers and to know the progress of the project and to get direct interaction with the Partner SPS INDIA Foundation. The Community Facilitator Heads (CFH), Community Facilitators (CF) and Data Support (DS) Staff were present for the meeting. The Nagalur zone volunteers have given traditional welcome to the guests. Fr. Selvakumar SDB, Project Director of SPS INDIA Foundation has given a welcome speech, introduced the guests to the gathering and also he has felicitated the guests along with Fr. John Wilson SDB, Dean of Studies of Jnanodaya Salesian College. The Women Community facilitators from all the zones have performed welcome song and with Tamil traditional Dance – Gummipattu. Ms. Sangeetha, Area Coordinator has given brief update, work done and achievements of the past 6 months of Heroes of Humanity project. She has also informed the volunteers about the work planned for the next one year period. The Manjakutti and other women CF have performed Kolattam dance (Dhandiya).



The Volunteers have shared their experiences and the challenges and difficulties they have faced during the field visit. After the sharing of the volunteers, Ms. Megha Desai – President of Desai Foundation has addressed the gathering. She has appreciated the work done by the heroes in spite of the challenges. She has also asked them to document all the impact stories, feedback and responses they receive from the community for the work they have done. Mr. Manoj Panda – CSR Grant Manager of Desai Foundation Trust has motivated and appreciated the volunteers for the hard work they have been doing in all these months. CF Akila from Yercaud Zone has given vote of thanks. Group picture was taken with all the heroes, Desai Foundation and SPS INDIA Foundation team and the volunteers got dispersed after the tea break.

Meeting with the Partner SPS INDIA Foundation Team

After the break, DFT President – Ms. Megha Desai and CSR Grant Manager – Mr. Manoj Panda had meeting with the partner SPS INDIA Foundation. In this meeting Fr. Selvakumar- Project Director of SPS INDIA Foundation, Fr. Micheal – Vice Rector and Principal, Fr. John Wilson – Dean of Studies and Fr. Abraham -Administrator and Ms. Sangeetha – Area Coordinator were present. Ms. Sangeetha has presented about the Heroes For Humanity Project and Sewing Skill Project update with the impact numbers and the success stories. She has also presented about the previous projects of SPS INDIA Foundation. Fr. Selvakumar SDB has briefed about the journey, work and the current projects of SPS INDIA Foundation. After the presentation Ms. Megha Desai has interacted and discussed with the SPS team.

ALERT BEING COVID FRONTLINE WARRIOR AWARD



SPS INDIA FOUNDATION of The Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud was honoured with the ALERT BEING COVID FRONTLINE WARRIOR AWARD by ALERT BEING NGO for the work carried out during COVID19 Second wave. Kudos to all the volunteers (Medical Team, Youth Volunteers of Yercaud, Different Religious Congregation and Well Wishers) for this wonderful service to the people of Yercaud. Special thanks to all the volunteers who were part of this mission. Let's continue to serve the people.

