



INTRODUCTION:

Kannur Association for Integrated Rural Organization and Support (KAIROS) is an NGO registered under the Societies' Registration Act XXI of 1860 in 1999. KAIROS is the official organ of the Diocese of Kannur for social development interventions. Since its inception, KAIROS has been focusing to create self esteem and self-reliance among its target groups, especially the Diocesan Dalits and fishermen, who are literally marginalized for centuries due to historical and political reasons. KAIROS involves in facilitating socio-economic development targeting the poor and needy irrespective of caste, creed and religion. The Governing Board is responsible for the policy decisions of the organization, while the Director, appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese, is responsible for the execution and administration of programs and projects. He has a team of qualified and dedicated social workers who are trained and experienced in mobilizing people, carrying out development activities in a result oriented manner with people's participation.

KAIROS' operational area covers two civil districts of northern Kerala and the organization is pledged for the up lift of Marginal Farmers, Tribal, Women, Children and Senior Citizens. We also conduct training and workshops and provide consultancy services to other NGOs, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Students, Researchers, Civil Society Organizations and other development agencies. We have formed and facilitated Peoples Organizations and in cooperation with them we implement several programmes like Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry development programmes, Entrepreneurship Development programmes, Gender Development programmes, Tribal Development programmes, Housing and Sanitation programmes, Family Development Program (FDP), Child Development (Balavadi and Inclusive children's parliament) programmes, KAIROS Education Support Scheme (KESS), Community Based Rehabilitation programmes, Research and Documentation, Human Resource Development programmes, Health Insurance programmes, etc.

We are happy to present our annual performance report for the year 2013 – 2014 with an intention to reach the people what has taken place in the field of Social and Economic development by the intervention of KAIROS during the last one year. We hope that the readers will get an opportunity to measure the achievement of the socio-economic development organ of the Diocese of Kannur.

Major Activities & Achievements

ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE RELATED PROGRAM

One of the major interventions of KAIROS is environment conservation and watershed management. Whatever may be the program, the programs are aiming at bringing about sustainable improvement in the utilization and regeneration of natural resources ensuring the sustainability. The activities range from *awareness generation* to *structural construction*. For example, awareness generation programs for consciousness building among the primary and secondary users of natural resources were conducted in all the six regions – Kannur, Payangadi, Thaliparamba, Iritty, Pilathara and Kanhangad. The number of participants in these programs was a clear indication of how people are interested in gaining knowing about the Natural Resource Management. Varakkad watershed in East Eleri Panchayat in Kasaragod District implemented by KAIROS in close association with CBOs (Watershed Groups), helped people to assure the water availability throughout the year through NRM programs.



The program focused on improving water availability and health & hygiene conditions of people in rural area. The implementation of the program was on an environmental protection basis, in which promotion of conservation of natural resources in a sustainable manner is emphasized. Awareness generation among the rural and sub-

urban people is central to this program. KAIROS promoted well recharging systems and vermi compost pits as demonstration units under NRM. Groups were ready to undertake construction measures to ensure safe drinking water by protecting their wells. The ongoing watershed programmes are;

No	Name of watershed	Gramapanchayath
1	Padappengad	Chapparappadavu
2	Kaipankuzhy	Naduvil
3	Kallodi	Alakkod
4	Umayamchal	Cherupuzha
5	Varakkad	West Eleri
6	Kammadam	West Eleri
7	Malamkadavu	East Eleri

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

General and subject specific awareness programs had always been instrumental for keeping the village groups alive and alert. 1200 families of the local SHGs functioning in the operational areas of KAIROS were subjected to training and awareness generation during the year. They involved in protests against Human Right Violations, Environmental pollution, NRM depletion and other similar issues which directly bring hazards to their lives and living habitats.



Besides this training, we trained 40 farmers in organic farming and vermi composting.

IEC Materials and a set of leaflets, stickers and posters have been printed and circulated among the SHGs and they supplied it to the community at large. Area specific programs considering the felt need of the CBOs in different Grama panchayats in all the six regions of the operational area were implemented by the respective Regional team functioning in each region.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME GENERATING PROGRAMMES

The first step was arranging training for the selected beneficiaries in income generating programs. This include specific scheme related trainings and Entrepreneurship Development Trainings. Such trainings are called Micro Entrepreneurship Development Programs (MEDP). This was conducted for 40



beneficiaries in Payangadi and 25 in Thaliparamba Region. The result was very interesting. Around 120 prospective women entrepreneurs have entered into new IGPs during the year in different sectors.

PROMOTIONAL MICRO FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMES

KAIROS has developed a revolving fund to help the people in need for starting Self Employment Schemes and other immediate livelihood needs. The scheme is known as Poultry Gram, where backyard poultry is being implemented. Though the loan component is mainly intended to promote sustainable livelihood, assistance were given to other purposes also which lessen the hazards of the poor families. Assistance was also availed from Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC), Caritas India and Save A Family Plan, Kolping India. Soft loans were availed to the beneficiaries belonging to the lower strata of the community and to those who have proved their talents in income generation programs, through their federations on a no loss – no profit basis.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The total number of families selected under the Family Support program is 269, among which 30% are non Christians. Besides supporting with monetary benefits through sponsorship programs, KAIROS takes care of the overall development of the adopted families. The activities to this end include, EDP Trainings, Progress Review meetings and General gathering of all the sponsored families. These activities not only bring them enjoyment, but also provide them opportunities for mutual sharing and cross learning. Monetary and moral support is being extended to the families for starting self employment income generation programs and to acquire life coping skills.

Case study of Molly Sebastian

Molly Sebastian's family was the most poor among the FDP families under Iritty region. The family was living in a hilly area of Kannur District. The family consists of Molly, her husband Sebastian and 3 children. At the time of selection, the family was in utter poverty. Their house was very old and in pathetic condition. They had no basic facilities like electricity,



latrine and drinking water. Molly was a rheumatic and asthmatic patient and not able to do hard work. Yet she was ready to do any work without minding the health condition. Sebastian was a wage laborer and was the only bread winner of the family. His income was not sufficient to meet all their expenses.

The family has gradually developed from this situation which occurred as a result of the intervention of the Panchayath Ward Member. Molly was a member of Paradise Self Help Group under KAIROS. In the year 2008, the SHG suggested this family for FDP program. The Village Development Council of Vellarivayal unit under Rev. Fr. Justin visited the family and recommended the family for the approval of the NGO. KAIROS team visited the family and selected the family for the SAFFP program. SAFFP approved the family and started getting assistance from 22 September 2009.

The family's greatest need was to construct a livable house. In the year 2011 she took fund from her account for the foundation work of the house. Molly and family belong to the Aralam Grama Panchayath. The Panchayath Ward member Mrs. Philomina participated in a Village Development Council meeting and informed about the "Aadu Gramam Project which will be implemented by the Panchayath. FDP animator Mrs. Bincy advised the family to apply for the project. In the year 2012-13



Molly applied for the project. Mrs. Philomina strongly recommended the family for the project. As a result, Rs 40,000/- was sanctioned with a subsidy component of Rs 10,000/-. Molly attended the training on goat rearing which was conducted as part of the project. She bought 7 goats using the project fund.

In the next year the number of goats increased to 15 and she earned about Rs. 70,000/- as profit from it. She used SAFFP fund for the construction of sheepfold and also for expansion of the IGP. Now she has some chickens also. Using the IGP profit along with SAFFP fund and local resources the family constructed a house with basic facilities such as electricity, latrine etc. She used SAFFP fund for the electrification of the new house. Molly's greatest dream was fulfilled, but the need of safe drinking water remained unfilled. So recently she took Rs. 7,500/- for the construction of a well. Now the family is living in the new house. Sebastian is doing rubber tapping. Their elder son Ebin passed 9th standard, daughters Rosemary passed 5th and Alfi passed 4th classes.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION

KAIROS' main concentration in the promotion of **Community Health** is Prevention of HIV/AIDS. As everyone knows, Kerala is becoming the fertile land of HIV/AIDS. This is something contradictory to the image of the state in the Health Situation. The real fact is that, we give priority to curative



attention rather than to preventive measures. HIV/AIDS care and support mitigate the effects of the pandemic on individuals, families, communities, and nations. HIV/AIDS prevention programs are being continued in Kannur and Kasaragod Districts – KAIROS' interventions are manifold. Starting from awareness generation and ending to providing care and support to the infected and affected, earmark some of the examples of our interventions in this sector. Some of the other activities in health promotion are: Nutritional Support Program for the PLWHAs, Promotion of Income Generation Programs, Educational support with Assistance from partner organization. Street Play and Observation of AIDS Day as a part of awareness generation

MICRO INSURANCE

Our collaboration with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), were of great help in covering 549 families under the health insurance program. The families those who have insured under the scheme have expressed their contentment towards the effort KAIROS had taken up in propagating the need of the insurance policy as well as life insurance. We have plans to increase the number of family coverage under the micro insurance programs.

KOLPING INDIA PROGRAMME

A special program named Kolping India, focusing on “Total Man and development of human personality” was established to help the poor who ascend the economic ladder shedding their dependence on others by increasing their credit worthiness through

small savings and group action. We cover 888 beneficiaries selected from among the poor sections of the society making them members of 62 individual groups. Our Payangadi Region tops with 11 groups and the next is Kannur Region with 5 groups. A total amount of Rs. 25,56,610/- has been allocated for the 137

beneficiaries. This assistance had been reported as one of the greatest help the families received from Kolping India Program of KAIROS.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

KAIROS implements three projects focusing at the educational development of the children in the operational districts. They are explained below:



INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT PROGRAM

Neighborhood based Children Parliament is a small group of children which include physically or mentally challenged. They come together for a dream of better and deeper democracy. The voice of all is important and the parliament comes to the street. Children from each



family in a neighborhood are organized into two separate children's neighborhood parliaments: one, a neighborhood parliament of junior children (of 6 to 11 years) and the other neighborhood parliaments of adolescents (of 12 to 18 years). They meet regularly and discuss their issues and problems such as social issues, child right violation, harms of HIV/AIDS etc. and keep written minutes. Each unit has its own Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers in charge of various portfolios.

Children from poor communities in the rural areas constitute one of the most disadvantaged sections of our society.

They live life of extreme poverty and discrimination coupled with deprivation and they get only very few opportunities for their development.



The Inclusive Children's Parliament (ICP), is an innovative child-friendly program for the underprivileged rural and urban children. KAIROS is organizing and conducting the program with an aim of a kind of integrated development among the children's in the operational districts. In the ongoing phase of the program we have 75 ICPs with 1140 school going children in the districts majority being the target communities of KAIROS.



These programs specifically have the objectives as follows:

- To improve the life coping of the children from the rural and urban communities
- To enable and capacitate the children to meet their survival needs
- To equip children with financial management skills
- To equip children with vocational & entrepreneurship skills
- To facilitate children's participation in decision making process
- To build partnerships to promote the survival and development of children.

CAREER GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

Lack of adequate and proper career guidance has found to be a major reason for many students to discontinue their education leaving behind their future in darkness and hopelessness. One remedy is, arrange career guidance courses at

regular intervals of their secondary and higher secondary periods. KAIROS has a prominent experience in career guidance and placement services. We guide the students to appropriate direction. Most of the students in our operational area reach up to Higher Secondary classes

from where they, due to lack of guidance and support in choosing the best career options, forced to drop out. In the case of those who complete their graduation (which is very rare) are uncertain about course to be chosen for higher education. It is because of the lack of opportunity & exposure to the various universities and the courses offered by them. Same is the case of choosing an employment or at least aiming at a profession. During the past 2 years we guided 134 students to different universities for their higher education. Among them 86 are girls and 48 boys. Twenty six students from the diocesan community have the opportunity to select appropriate course and join for the higher education in the last two years.



SENSITIZATION ON EDUCATION

This program is financially supported by CARITAS INDIA as a part of a project – Integrated Development through Empowerment & Action (IDEA). This program is being implemented in the Diocese for the last six years with an intention to increase the number of students from the Diocesan Community for higher education. An analysis have shown that one of the reasons for the poor educational level of the Diocesan Community is that the parents have no motivation and interest to send their children for higher education. As a result they want their children who complete the secondary or higher secondary, go for work to support their family. A policy level decision has been taken by the sub-committee of education, functioning in the Diocese to give proper awareness on the need of the education to the parents.

The program was much effective and a change of attitude among the parents towards their children is observed. Improvement in the educational level has been adopted as a policy matter and adequate space had been given for this component in the Village Development Perspective Plan (VDPP) of all the parishes in the Diocese. Education has been given first priority in the VDPP.

HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME

A special program was formulated titled “Mazhakkalam Varavaayi” (On the Arrival of the Monsoon) with a specific focus on waterborne diseases and its preventive measures. This program is intended to involve all community in ensuring health care and support during monsoon season. The program was a great success in terms of its community participation. 36 program covered 14 villages which include 922 families.



UNARVU (ANTI DRUGS SENSITIZATION) PROGRAMME

This is a program mainly designed for School children in the operational districts of KAIROS, Kannur and Kasargod. This program was implemented in close association with Excise, Health and Education Departments.

Awareness creation on drug abuse, alcoholism, use of panparag and associated materials was the main objective of the program. So far the program covered 51 schools in the operational districts, benefitting 7697 number of students. Formation of anti drug peer groups in majority of the schools is a success indicator of this program.



AXSHYA PROGRAMMES

In collaboration with Catholic Health Association of India, we are conducting project Axshya for the eradication of TB. First of all we give proper training to the selected volunteers and depute them to the Panchayaths of selected Blocks. These volunteers are conducting household surveys and identify the patients showing symptoms of TB for sputum examination to the nearest DMCs. During this year we have already surveyed 3600 houses and 54 suspected patients were directed to the authorized laboratories for sputum



examination. We have already conducted 76 TB awareness classes for Tribals, colony dwellers, Anganawady workers and helpers, ward health sanitation committee, auto rikshaw drivers, etc.

ONGOING PROGRAMMES

Programs planned and implemented for NRM and Jananidhi during the last reporting period is still continuing. The intended result is of long-term and is further awaited. We are also planning to have more areas to be covered under watershed management programs and more grama Panchayats under Jananidhi program.

KLM (Welfare programs for the labours in the unorganized Sector)

Majority of the people of the two districts (Kannur & Kasaragod) is daily wagers and traditional artisans. While the labourers in different sectors have their own organizations to take care of their interests, the people in the above said categories have no such backing of any kind of organizations. So, they are discriminated, have no way forward towards further development and sustenance. In a sense, they are in the unorganized sector. KAIROS wanted to do something meaningful in the case of this category of people and decided to organize and empower them to claim for their rights and privileges and make them competent enough with the organized sector. And the initiative is named as Kerala Labour Movement – in abbreviation KLM. KAIROS helped 202 members of KLM, to get enrolled in Kshemanidhi and 22 in Sruaksha Swavalamban programs of the government.

SWAPNAVEEDU - Dream House Project

The Dream Home is still continuing. The total coverage has been increased from 9 families in the previous to 20 families this year. Under the scheme KAIROS is intending to help 20 families more with a total amount of Rs. 10,00,000/-. The number of needy beneficiaries was increasing year after year and the additional burden of fund raising is taken up by KAIROS.

CONCLUSION

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon which focuses on the lack of participation of individuals or groups in society. We know that a civil society organization like KAIROS by itself cannot achieve poverty eradication. It must act in partnership with governments and other institutions but it must be one of the partners and not just a servant to carry out the designs of governments or corporations. We understand the need of expansion of the role of KAIROS in three specific areas related to poverty eradication: technical, financial, and political. We also understand that one of the essentials for eradicating poverty is the participation of those whose lives are affected by decisions and that this can only happen when there is an enabling environment designed to promote this participation. We are sure that we have the mechanisms and will power to make the people participated in all the development interventions of KAIROS.

We thankfully remember all our partners in our efforts in the poverty alleviation campaign and place on record our sincere gratitude for their assistance, support, guidance and directions in bringing about results and impacts among our target groups. We also are thankful to those groups and individuals who had associated with us in our endeavors in the socio-economic development interventions among the poor and marginalized. We should not forget about the dedicated staff of KAIROS without whose service any results or achievements happened. We hope that this report will be illustrating the activities and achievements of KAIROS for the last one year.

Rev. Dr. Jilson Panakkal
Director - KAIROS