

2019 - 2020



Annual Report



VISION : ASSIST envisions an inclusive, equitable and sustainable society.

MISSION : ASSIST as a synergy source facilitates the transformation in CHILDREN, YOUTH and WOMEN of the communities in our reach, by organizing people & resources as catalyst for socio-cultural & economic positive change and promoting a grid of like minded organizations to meet challenges and opportunities through lobby and advocacy.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase access to quality education and encourage enrolment in regular schools.

2. To provide skills to youth and add value by way of soft skills and preparedness to enhance employability.
3. Build resilience and promote gender equality by empowering women through Human Rights education and facilitating Entrepreneurship.
4. To build up and promote social dimension in the province according to FMA charism especially in networking, campaigning, lobbying and advocacy.
5. To pro-actively collaborate with FMA - NDF (National Development Forum) for greater visibility and effectiveness in the Social dimension at the national level.

6. To build a state-level network for priority people for focused intervention and to be recognized by the Government as partners in the development of the marginalized.
7. To create systems and mechanisms to mobilize resources through government, local, national, and international organizations to support developmental activities.
8. To generate greater visibility through process documentation, publication, website, and engaging in micro researches.



From Provincial

“All birds find shelter during a rain but eagle avoids rain by flying above the clouds”, this is a saying by Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. Everyone needs to have the possibility of getting introduced to various opportunities in life that they are enabled to fly above the clouds. The ability to dream and take a leap in life by the vulnerable is the touch stone to assess the quality of service rendered to the underprivileged. ASSIST, the Social Development Office of the Salesian Sisters Province of Our Lady of Snow, Tiruchirapalli has been engaged with children, youth and women, integrating, catalysing and transforming them into dignified persons. This

miracle of goodness was made possible by the daring Combo of Sisters and lay collaborators.

The year 2019-20 has been a rather eventful year for ASSIST; it has been a year with many rewarding moments as well as some challenges. The annual report covers these in detail. Pandemic had opened up opportunities to stand with the vulnerable and strengthen our networks to work in unison to rejuvenate hope when everything looked so grey. It is indeed heartening to see how NGOs and organisations like ASSIST have risen to the occasion in helping these communities during these trying times. COVID-19 has taught this meaningful lesson and has enhanced our love for nature and fellow human beings within our reach.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the team of ASSIST for the solid progress on many fronts, including building out strategic platform while establishing exciting new ones. I gratefully acknowledge the valuable presence of our children, youth and women for being part of our journey. Dear benefactors, friends and well-wishers, thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of ASSIST. We are looking forward to much more in 2021.

Let us not live in fear. Let us live in faith.

Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margret FMA

Provincial, Province of Our Lady of Snow,
Thiruchirapalli.



From Directress

Musing on the year 2019 - 2020, gives me immense joy to recollect the endurance exercised by our team in realising our motto, **“Integrate Catalyse Transform”** amidst the challenges cast by rapidly changing realities and the uncertain times of pandemic. It was indeed a humbling and beautiful journey.

Just knowing that we made someone's life a little better, made a little positive dent on how they look at their own worth and dignity, that our work reduced the burden of our target groups encourage us to venture into new avenues to make life meaningful for each other.

Putting together this annual report we also notice some interesting patterns like; **rights for education, skilling, improving access to quality education, infrastructure development, strengthening livelihood, income generation, sanitation, environment conservation and counselling services as our priorities.**

It has been one more year of learning from the grassroots, a series of innovations by spreading thin and deep. The seeds which we have sown in our communities have started to sprout and grow. We hope our values and our work continue to resonate with you and it prods you to get involved and join our course of action.

It gives me enormous joy to thank our Mother Provincial and her Councillors for their continuous support and guidance in our mission of empowering the marginalized. I express my gratitude to all our **collaborators, local, national and international donors for their support.** I would like to elucidate my appreciation to our staff for their self-effacing and dedicated efforts in serving the underprivileged.

I invite you to relish the journey made in partnership with our target groups towards integrated social transformation with hope and trust in this 'Annual Report'.



Children – Vidiyalin Vithuthukkal

ASSIST has been engaged in establishing a child friendly society that ensures easy access to the basic rights of protection, education, healthcare, participation and opportunities for a livelihood. We have been successful in designing and implementing innovative strategies like:

- Inculcating responsible child leadership through ***Neighbourhood children Parliament.***
- Regularizing and enhancing academic excellence through ***'Catalyst for Change Program'*** an initiative to preventive dropouts and make learning an engaging and fun filled activity for Government School students

through Evening Study Centres with special focus on 21st century skills through the periodic capacity building trainings for the staff to achieve the aim.

- ***Nutrition Distribution and monthly Mothers' meeting*** to ensure a healthy mind in a healthy body for wholesome growth in children.
- ***Child rights initiatives*** including formative sessions with focus on gender justice, for children, staff and parents, and animation for members of Child Protection committee combined with trainings on Child Protection Policy for strengthening ***child safety networks*** in the communities.

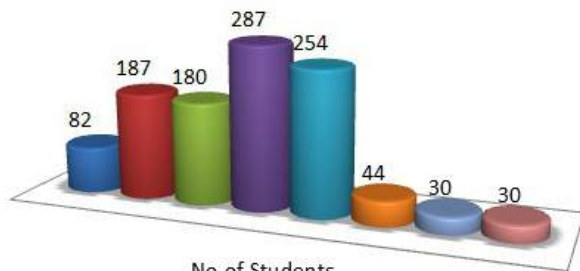
- ***Celebrations and outings*** were educative moments to understand cultural roots and strengthen bonds of unity.

Building resilience – Trainings for kids



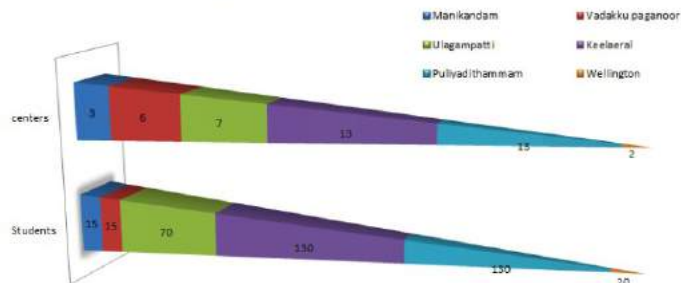
S.No.	List of training 2019-2020
1.	World Environment Day
2.	World Day against Child Labor
3.	Non Formal Education Coordinator Meeting
4.	NCP Formation at Manikandam
5.	NCP Formation at Ulagamampatti
6.	NCP Formation at Puliadithammam
7.	NCP Formation at Wellington
8.	STEM for School Students
9.	Media and Documentation training for NCP students
10.	Gramasaba Participation
11.	YettuThuvakkaVizha
12.	NCP Formation at Tripur
13.	Children's Day Celebration
14.	GVB For School Students At pallam, Nagarkovil
15.	Pongal Day at Manikandam
16.	Gramasaba Participation
17.	Child Rights For School Students at Trichy
18.	Evening Study Centre District Coordinator and Staff Meeting
19.	Cultural visit to thanjavur

■ Manikandam ■ Vadakku paganoor ■ Ulagampatti
 ■ Keelaeral ■ Puliyadithammam ■ Wellington
 ■ Ragunathapuram ■ Madurai-sirugeri

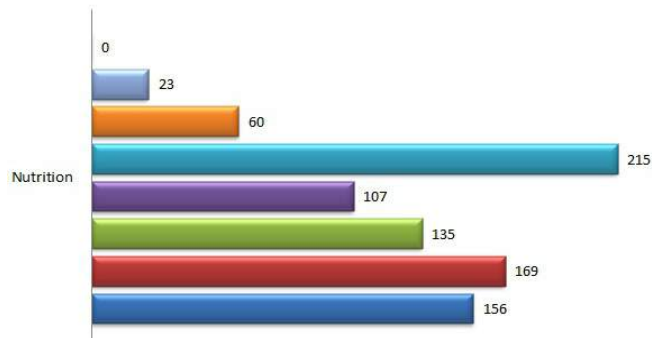


No.of Students

Evening study centers / Supplementary



■ Madurai-sirugeri ■ Ragunathapuram ■ Wellington ■ Puliyadithammam
 ■ Keelaeral ■ Ulagampatti ■ Vadakku paganoor ■ Manikandam



■ Manikandam ■ Vadakku paganoor ■ Ulagampatti
 ■ Keelaeral ■ Puliyadithammam ■ Wellington
 ■ Ragunathapuram ■ Madurai-sirugeri



Women – Viduthalaiyin Vizhudhugal

ASSIST's role in women empowerment is promotion of equal participation of women and men in decision-making, improve education and health status of women, enhance women's access to resources. Trainings programs and interventions were implemented to facilitate both genders to participate in the gender development interventions and initiatives with the aim of bringing balance in the gender relations and power equations. Gender development is a strategy adopted by ASSIST to empower the women more and ultimately to re-distribute power among women and men.

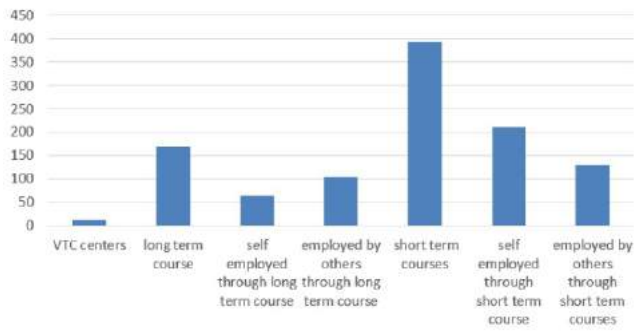
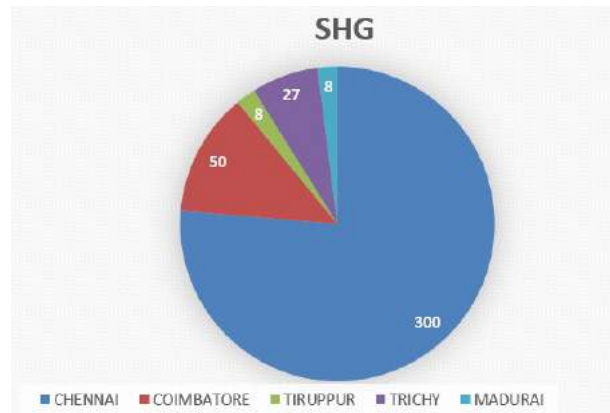
ASSIST had released a resource kit consisting of books which are compilation on psychology of women, Social Taboos and Successful lives of courageous women, videos, Street theatre scripts and posters to mitigate gender based violence.

ASSIST offers vocational training, Income Generation Programs and Livelihood training as means to ensure economic development which will in turn enable women to participate in household decision making. Inspired by an underlying ethic of compassion for their vulnerability and extreme marginalization ASSIST undertook the mission of providing psychosocial care during Pandemic to mitigate the stress caused by the impacts of lockdown.

Staffs are the inevitable partners in this mission of empowering women. ASSIST strives to build the capacities of Staff with periodic trainings and meetings inorder to design and implement quality interventions in the society.



S.No.	LIST OF ACTIVITY 2019-2020
1.	GBV awareness program at Tirupur.
2.	Animation on gender based violence at Vadakku Paganoor, Trichy.
3.	Animation on gender based violence Chennai.
4.	Importance on Legal awareness Holy Cross College.
5.	Women coordinators meet.
6.	Staff orientation program on gender based violence.
7.	Explore & Expose 2019.
8.	GBV kit release.
9.	Women's day celebration 2020.
10.	Psychosocial care for women during pandemic.



Youth – Vettriyan Vergal

In the present knowledge based economy, ASSIST utilizes every opportunity to engage with young population which is the greatest assets for a nation and is regarded as potential and actual investment for a country's development. Releasing the protagonist in the demographic dividend has been the driving focus of every intervention to build the young human resource. Addressing the wide disparity between urban youths and rural youths as to education, income, consumption, access to health care services, political participation leading to many political, socioeconomic problems like high rate of school dropouts, unemployment, early age addiction to

alcohol, tobacco consumption are the few to mention as revealed by the statistics and surveys are the priorities of ASSIST.

ASSIST is engaged in Skill development training, self-employment program and community development program to strengthen the resilience of youth. The following strategies were adapted to enhance the contribution of youth:

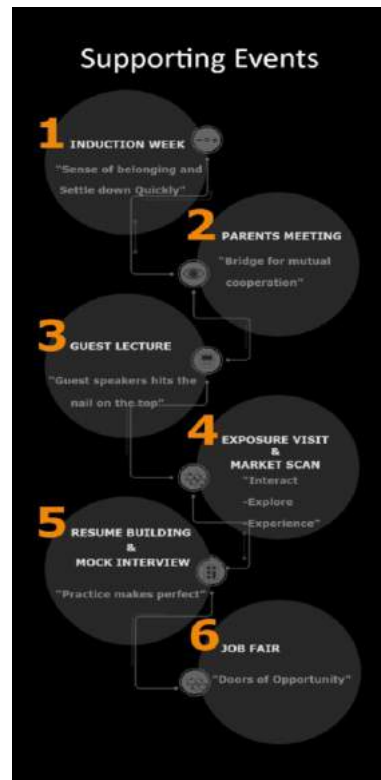
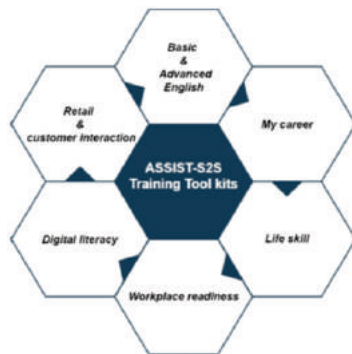
- ❖ ASSIST in partnership with Quest alliance has been providing platform for skilling and enhancing career building competency for rural and urban underprivileged youth.
- ❖ Placement services are provided for the students who complete the course. In

collaboration with the union office and private companies we identify job opportunities and keep the unplaced students informed about the trainings and openings available.

- ❖ Exposure visit to work spots & Guest Lectures enable the students to understand the market trend and the work place realities.
- ❖ Alumni Meet as a forum for exchanging ideas on academic, cultural and social issues aids in the tracking of their growth in career and facilitates their collaboration as our extended hands to reach out to the needy in the context.

- ❖ Orientation programs and personality development sessions were conducted for college students to enhance their capacities to shape their abilities to achieve their dreams as responsible citizens.
- ❖ Human rights education and gender education to instil in them the social consciousness and responsibility towards others.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

STEM

Kids were trained in dealing with Electrical and Electronics in daily life and with scratch coding sessions which enabled the kids to utilize Cretile's Explorer kit which acts and sensed like a human. The main aim of the program was to offer them a chance to know the possibilities to become Engineers in future.



Media and Documentation

On considering the importance of media and documentation kids were provided skills development training to prevent direct and indirect risks posed by the media. The main objective of the session was to train the children to become skilful in media and documentation. Kids were trained to understand the advantages of the media and the skills needed for documenting their activities and trainings. Kids learned to write short stories, poems and essays, they also prepared pamphlets to create visibility for the impacts created through the activities of children's parliament.



Gramasaba Participation

Gramasabha meeting is held every year to educate the children regarding the rights and how to obtain the basic rights through Grama Sabha. This year meeting was conducted on 2nd Oct where the evening class students participated with enthusiasm, they confidently said that they have the right to participate in the meeting and fight for their right. Students from 6 Districts participated in their area meeting and sustained their needs by submitting a petition.



Explore and Expose

The main objective of the event was to provide Voracious Awareness to the public dealing with gender based violence and to provide a platform for the students to express their skills; whereas the complications faced during Film Production, especially, short films' script making for street plays were discussed and the participants were given ample time to produce a sample on each topic.



Book Release

Have we ever analyzed whether our words and our clear explanation about something to others are apt or not or have we ever tried to cross check the source of information; and, silence would be the only answer. Hence we tried to bring out the answers based on the discussions about the concept related to women in the society and would like to register it.

“Who defines the concept about the women in the society, whether it is true and whom do they support”.

What would be the effect of the scientific world on these concepts. Nobody would have

discussed or even thought about these concepts but it plays a major role on the violence against women. We have compiled these two concepts based on the discussions. It is mandatory to carry out the discussions to ensure a society which is equal to everyone whereas even a ceremony was launched on Anti Sexual Violence documentary collection which was conducted on 8th November, 2019.



Women's day celebration

International Women's Day was celebrated in ASSIST on March 8th. The emphasis of the celebrations of respect, appreciation for Women's economic, political and social achievements and empowerment. The theme for the day's celebration "Let's Honour Women" focused on mobilizing momentum for the recently adopted 2030 Agenda which addresses key challenges of the 21st century, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.



SUCCESS STORY

Children

The members of the NCP were enlightened on the impacts of government exams for 5th standard and 8th standard students and they were guided to formulate a request to Chief Minister to stop the government exams for the same group of students. Children engaged in a local advocacy through signature campaign to gain the support of the parents, Self Help Group members and youth group. Later children participated in the Grama Sabha held in their respective panchayats and got a resolution passed to stop the exams. It was a moment of great joy and achievement when the

announcement came about the cancellation of the exams.

Women

SUDAROLI TAILORING GROUP

“ASSIST - Skill Development Scheme” initiated a group named “Sudaroli Tailoring Group” in 2018 with 20 women from Ambethkar Nagar. This area is mostly occupied by the migrants from different places. These 20 women from the Sudaroli group collected clothes from in and around their area and started to stitch. Unfortunately, the lockdown put an end to their income. When they came to know that TNRTP helps such groups by providing loan to help them during this

Pandemic situation, they approached them and applied for the “Subsidy Loan.” When the officials from TNRTP visited them; they understood their condition and sanctioned a loan of worth Rs. 1, 50,000 with subsidy, which helped the ladies to continue their work without any struggle. This was a great sigh of relief for them.

Youth

Malarselvi is a role model to all who carries the family's financial burden. As a D.ted graduate, she had been working as a nurse in DRT clinic for 6 years. She was married to Mr. Nagaraj who has been working as an Accountant. Both of them were earning to support their family. They have been working happily but not so long.

She lost her satisfaction where she was working. She felt stressful and was losing her hope. She was trying her best to overcome the situation, but time made her to relieve from the job. She had a tough time for 5 months without job. She had been trying to get a job but she couldn't. Meanwhile she came to know about the Skill to succeed program. Immediately she joined the course and improved her skills all over the course period.

Now she has been working in billing department of Medical shop. Now her job satisfaction has been restored. She enjoys the job that she does. She is very thankful to ASSIST and its Skill to Succeed program.

COVID 19 RELIEF WORK

Pandemic has introduced us into a new normalcy which is an advantage for a few in the society and a cause for concern to the society at large. Our target group consisting of the rural and urban poor who are daily wage labourers, lepers, gypsies, beggars and other vulnerable people have experienced the pain of the pandemic. We have been associated with these communities for the past 18 years. We have seen a gradual growth and transformation in their mentality, lifestyle and competencies. Now during this turbulent time we felt the need to support them and encourage them to live with hope. It was an opportunity to strengthen our

network with the local leaders, Police and Government Officials to make our reach valuable one.

ASSIST the Social Development Office of the Province along with the community of Divyadhanam and the Provincial House have succeeded in mobilizing funds and providing food supplies to families of our Evening study



centre students, Self-Employment Group members and those in need. We had supplied PPE to Medical persons, masks, sanitizers etc to common public. Awareness about the preventive measures was given through distribution of leaflets, posters, games and videos.



Date	No. of People	Place	Kind of assistance
15.03.2020	30	Leper Colony, Manikandam	Grocery
09.04.2020	117	Ambedhkarnagar	Grocery
10.04.2020	15	Housekeeping & Farm Laborers	Grocery
16.04.2020	43	QA Students	Financial Support
18.04.2020	116	Manikandam	Grocery
24.04.2020	95	Ambedhkarnagar	Grocery
30.04.2020	128	Gandhinagar	Grocery
19.05.2020	214	Ambedhkarnagar	Grocery
04.06.2020	20	Prevention to Doctors	Mask, Posters and PPE set
04.06.2020	200	Prevention to Social workers	Mask and Posters
30.06.2020	30	Prevention to hospital Sanitation workers	Mask and Posters



Gallery



*Evening study center / Supplementary
Supported by Misan cara*



Nutrition For Children, Pregnant Mothers and Lactating Mothers supported by Misan Cara

Gender base violence mitigation programme - Supported by Misesan Cara



SKILL to Succeed - Supported by QUEST ALLIANCE

OUR Publications



ASSIST

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