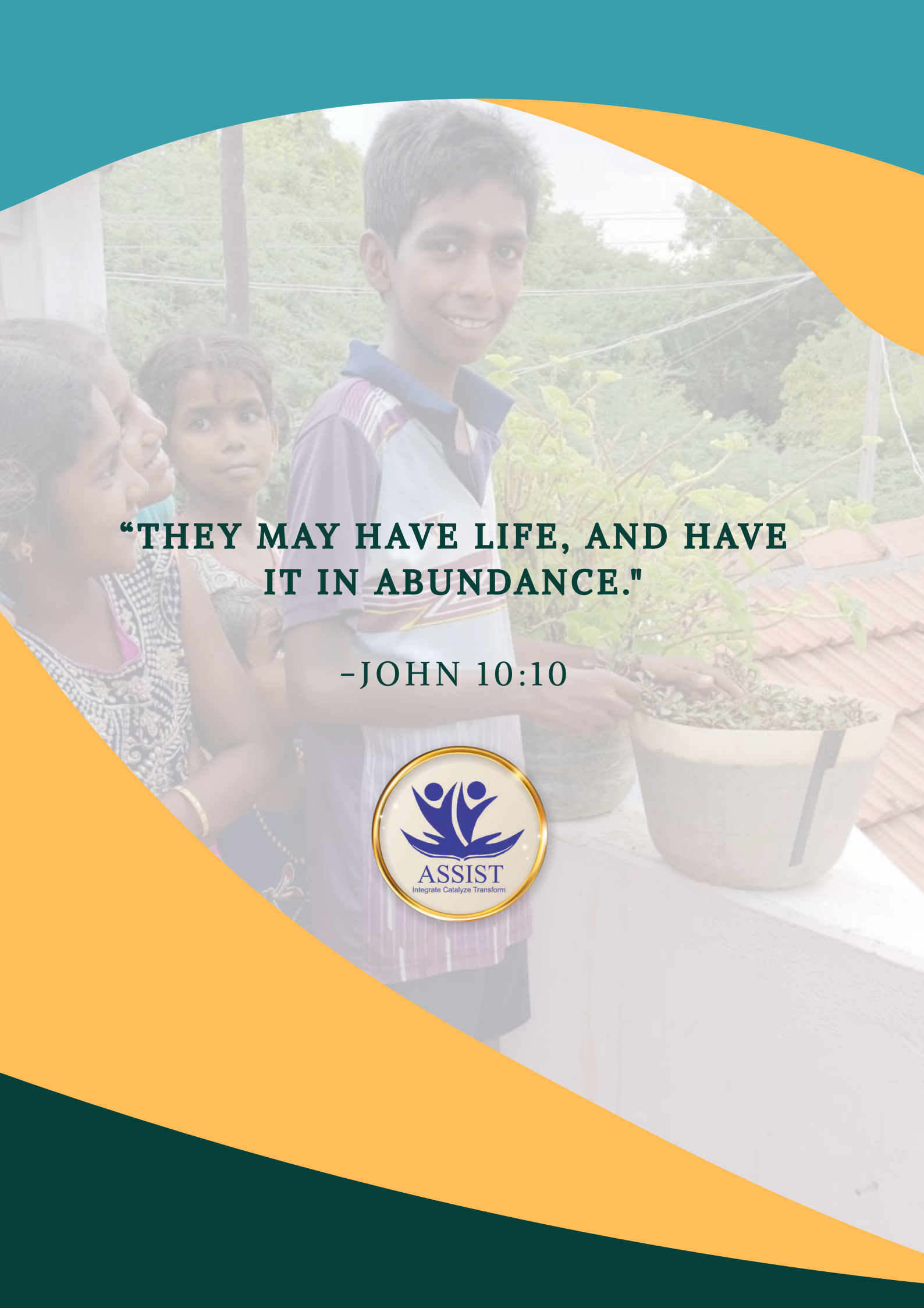
ASSIST

Annual Report

2025-2026

Empowering Communities. Building Futures.





“THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT IN ABUNDANCE."

-JOHN 10:10

ASSIST
Integrate Catalyze Transform

Contents

01	A Word from the Leader	4
02	A Word from the Director	5
03	Who We Are — Vision & Mission	6
04	Our Impact in Numbers	7
05	Our Work with Children — Thulir Programme	8–13
06	Our Work with Women — Viluthukal Programme	14–21
07	Our Work with Youth — Vergal Programme	22–26
08	Healthcare for Every Community	27
09	Our Interns — Our Extended Team	28
10	Milestones of the Year	29
11	Challenges We Faced and How We Responded	30
12	Smart Steps Forward	31
13	Looking Ahead	32
14	Our Team	33–34
15	Thank You	34
16	Our Partners	35



A WORD FROM THE LEADER

“They may have life, and have it in abundance.”
(John 10:10)

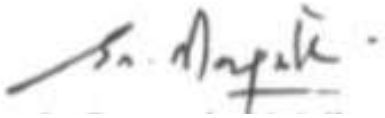
It gives me immense joy to witness the fruitful journey of ASSIST through this Annual Activity Report for the year 2025–2026. Guided by our Salesian charism to be a life-giving presence, ASSIST has remained steadfast in walking alongside the marginalized, bringing holistic growth, equity, and sustainable transformation to the communities we serve.

I deeply appreciate the impactful strides made over the past year across our province. From empowering children with foundational education, innovative STEM learning, and civic leadership, to equipping our youth with dignified career skills, and enabling women to lead through healthcare, micro-enterprises, and ecological stewardship, every initiative reflects our shared dedication to human dignity and community resilience.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi (Director), the dedicated staff, field animators, student interns, benefactors, and collaborating partners. It is your tireless commitment and collective synergy that translate our mission into tangible hope on the ground every day.

May Mary Help of Christians continue to guide and bless all your endeavours as you journey forward to integrate, catalyse, and transform lives.

Blessings and best wishes,



SR. MAJELLA FERNANDO
PROVINCIAL – PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF SNOW, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI



A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I present the ASSIST Annual Report for 2025–2026, reflecting a year of learning, resilience, partnership, and meaningful change. More than a record of programmes and achievements, this report represents the journeys of the children, women, youth, families, and communities we have had the privilege of walking alongside.

This year, ASSIST continued its commitment to the holistic development of marginalized and vulnerable communities through education, health, livelihoods, youth development, and environmental initiatives. Our work with children through Thulir and the Evening Study Centres created spaces for learning, creativity, leadership, and participation. Our women's programmes strengthened livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health, and confidence, while our youth initiatives equipped young people with skills, digital knowledge, and pathways towards employment.

We have also continued to strengthen community health, sustainable livelihoods, climate-smart practices, and collective action. These efforts remind us that meaningful development is built through solutions that respond to people's real needs and enable communities to become active participants in their own progress.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, Sisters, volunteers, interns, donors, partners, and, most importantly, the communities who continue to place their trust in us. Their courage and resilience remain our greatest inspiration.

As we look ahead, ASSIST remains committed to reaching more people, strengthening our programmes, creating greater opportunities for young people and women, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and using new partnerships and approaches to deepen our impact.

I sincerely thank everyone who has been part of this journey. Together, let us continue to empower communities, build futures, and create lasting change with hope, dignity, and compassion.

SR. AZARIS AROKIA MARY SELVI
DIRECTRESS

Who We Are

ASSIST works to uplift marginalized and vulnerable communities in rural Tamil Nadu through education, health, livelihood, and environmental programmes.

Our Vision

Empowering marginalized and vulnerable communities in rural Tamil Nadu through integrated, holistic development.

Our Mission

We work in education, health, livelihood, and environment so that:

- **Every child gets quality education** and safety.
- **Every woman gets dignity** and economic opportunity.
- **Every community** gets access to essential services and support.



Our Impact in Numbers



3,000+
Children

For education, learning support & leadership development



800+
Women

For livelihoods, entrepreneurship, health & nutrition



140+
Youth

For skills training, employability & STEM learning



50+
Farming & Agriculture Families

For sustainable farming, kitchen gardens & aquaculture



6,675+
SHG Members

Connected through our grassroots community network

Our Work WITH CHILDREN

Creating safe spaces, building curiosity, and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.

KEY IMPACT

Neighbourhood Children parliament

NCP
units – 31
Members – 490

Evening Study Center

63– Centers
63– Staff
09 – Coordinators
1540 – Children

STEM EDUCATION

Coordinator – 01
Staff – 20
Students – 1450

Every child we reach brings us closer to a future that is informed, inclusive, and inspired.



Children's Programme

Thulir

'Thulir' means 'to bloom' in Tamil.



Thulir is ASSIST's flagship programme for children in rural Tamil Nadu. It runs **30 evening study centers** across four districts, giving more than **1540 children** a safe place to learn, grow, and dream big.

What Children Get at Thulir

Academics

Help with school subjects (Maths, English, Tamil)

STEM Learning

Hands-on Science & Technology (STEM) learning

Health & Nutrition

Health checkups and nutrition guidance

Child Rights

Training on child rights through the Children's Parliament

Environment

Tree planting and nature activities

Life Skills

Life skills: communication, emotions, and safe internet use



Thulir

OUR STUDY CENTRE INITIATIVE

A holistic developement to our center children

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Evening study support and homework help to strengthen learning and school progress.



SILVA MEDITATION

Mindfulness practices that build concentration, calmness and self-awareness.



SPECIAL DAYS & AWARENESS

Activities and celebrations that help children understand the world around them.



KEECHUKAL MAGAZINE

A platform for children to write, draw, create and share their ideas.



CREATIVITY & EXPRESSION

Activities and competitions that help children discover and showcase their talents.



LIFE SKILLS & VALUES

Building confidence, teamwork, empathy, responsibility and social awareness.





Hello everyone. My name is Mohamed Anwar. I am studying in 8th standard. An evening tuition coaching center is run here for me through the Sister Convent Assist, and I have been attending it for about three or four years.

How this coaching center is useful to me is that, in addition to what is taught at school, they provide many activities here to help us develop our skills. These activities are very useful for our lives.

In addition, finishing the homework given at school quickly and doing the activities they provide makes us feel refreshed and energetic. I wish for this tuition center to develop even further. Thank you.

– Mohamed Anwar
Manikandam

Making a Real Difference

STEM LEARNING
Comes Alive

Teachers from **20+ centers** were trained in fun, hands-on ways to teach science and technology.
Now children get excited about subjects they once found difficult.



CHILDREN LEADING
the Way

Our children took part in the “Child Rights and Earth Advocates” programme. They are now speaking up in local Grama Sabha meetings for better schools and clean water.



GROWING
Green Habits

Over children received seeds and grow bags to start their own home gardens.



29 CENTRES HELD
Special Children's Day

events about rights and the environment.



Photo Gallery











Women's Programme

Viluthukal

'Viluthukal' means 'to flourish.'

Viluthukal helps women become independent and confident. The programme supports women with income opportunities, health care, farming skills, and leadership training — so they can make strong decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities.



Building Income
Building Confidence

200
Goats Distributed



200 goats were given to women from Scheduled Caste and marginalized families in Dindigul and Manikandam, along with training on animal care and health.

17
Women Trained in Natural Farming



17 women were trained in natural, chemical-free farming. 30+ families received vegetable saplings, and 13 families got fencing to protect their crops.

3
Fish Farming Families



3 families in Pallapatti started fish farming with training and fingerlings — adding new income and better nutrition at home.

21
Solar Panel Kits Installed



21 women received solar panel kits — lighting homes, helping children study at night, and cutting electricity costs.

Health & Collective Strength

250+

Mothers Supported with Nutrition & Health Care.

445

Active Self-Help Groups with 6,675+ members

Caring for Mothers

Pregnant and lactating mothers received nutritious food and health guidance. Telemedicine camps connected them with doctors, and nurses ran sessions on maternal and child health.

Women Supporting Women

Active Self-Help Groups (SHGs) work together on organic food, turmeric processing, and handicrafts. SHG members also speak up in Grama Sabha meetings for better facilities in their villages.







“I am Saroja from Ulagampatti . We were given two goats, which we sold and used the money to buy three goats. They have been growing well and have become a great support to our family. Whenever there is an emergency or we need money for something important, we can sell a goat and use it. If we need any other help, we can approach the sisters, and they are always willing to support us. Thank you for your valuable help and support.”

– Saroja
Ulagampaati Dindugul

Turning Skills into Businesses

“Kuruntham & ARCEE’s Women’s Social Enterprise



160+

Women Trained in Entrepreneurship.

Women are supported in preparing • packaging • marketing • selling traditional herbal products, creating pathways for income and economic independence. With FSSAI certification, Kuruntham is growing as a formal, women-led enterprise.

FROM RURAL FARMS → CITY MARKETS

Kuruntham products are reaching College stalls , Chennai schools and churches, promoting healthier lifestyles among children, youth and urban communities.











KURUNTHAM



ARCEE



fssai CERTIFIED



“ASSIST taught us how to make pens, and they also taught us how to sell them. This small opportunity has made a big difference in our lives. We are now able to earn some income and support our families better.
We are very thankful to ASSIST for teaching us this skill and giving us the confidence to try something new. What we learned may seem simple, but for us, it has opened a new way to earn, grow, and hope for a better future.”

– Shilpa
Devrayaneri, Narikuravar Colony

Standing Up for Dignity



International Women's Day (March 2026) was marked with events at police stations, public spaces, and community centres honouring women's contributions and spreading messages of equality and respect.

> Every woman deserves dignity and equal opportunity.

Photo Gallery



















Youth Programme

Vergal

'Vergal' means ' to take roots.'

Vergal prepares young people for jobs and self-employment through skill training, digital learning, and confidence-building — run through the Don Bosco Tech (DB Tech) initiative.



Skills for Real Jobs



IT Customer Care Executive Training

Young people learned business communication, customer service, and technical support — with mock interviews and a visit to Cognizant Technology Solutions, where 30 trainees saw a real corporate workplace and learned about AI and career paths.

30 Trainees Visited Cognizant

Digital Mitra Programme

Trainees learned web design, social media, and digital marketing skills becoming digital entrepreneurs and role models in their communities. 120+ students joined this programme.

120+ Students Enrolled







"I am D. Kirubha from Perambalur, a graduate in Computer Science. Through the Learning to Earning Programme, I joined the IT Customer Care Executive training at Don Bosco Tech Society. The training improved my communication, technical, customer-handling, and professional skills and increased my confidence. I am happy to share that I have been placed as a Customer Service Associate at HRH Next with a monthly salary of ₹16,000. I sincerely thank Don Bosco Tech Society and Accenture for their valuable training, guidance, and placement support."

– Kirubha
Perambalur

Reaching Every Village



50+

Villages Reached Through Outreach.

Mobilization campaigns reached **50+ villages**, connecting with youth in schools, colleges, and community spaces about skill training and job opportunities.

Guest experts shared knowledge on **women's legal rights, digital safety**, and **job-readiness** — including resume building, LinkedIn branding, and mock interviews — giving youth real confidence to face the job market.

1. Community Outreach



2. Skill Training



3. Career Readiness

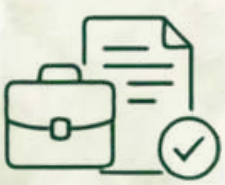


Photo Gallery



















Healthcare for Every Community

82 community members received free health checkups through telemedicine camps held in Yagappudaiyanpatti and Manikandam, supported by Dr. N. Mareswaran, Consultant Diabetologist.

Ongoing awareness sessions covered mobile addiction, child safety, gender-based violence, and staying healthy during heatwaves and monsoons.

1130 +

Community Members Reached telemedicine outreach

- **Mobile Addiction**
- **Child Safety**
- **Women's Safety**
- **Seasonal Health**



Our Interns

Our Extended Team



Throughout the year, students and interns from **Bishop College, Holy Cross College, Mercy Mission Fellowship** and **Azim Premji University** supported ASSIST across programmes and operations.

THEIR CONTRIBUTION

Surveys & Research

Nutritional assessments, community surveys and field data collection.



Programme Support

Supporting the planning, implementation and smooth execution of programmes.



Documentation & Reports

Assisting with reports, data organisation and programme documentation.



Operations

Supporting day-to-day organisational activities and coordination.



Field Engagement

Working alongside our teams and communities to understand needs and strengthen interventions.



Milestones of the Year



Safeguarding policy training for 50+ staff and 140 sisters



Children's Parliaments active in all 30 study centers



SHE ECO project reached 200 Furthest behind women



New partnerships with academic institutions, companies, and government departments



Keechukal Magazine
A platform for children to write, draw, create and share their ideas.



Kuruntham organic millet products, made by rural women, were sold at various markets and is expanding

People • Partnerships • Lasting Change

Challenges We Faced And How We Responded

Youth Migration to Cities	We are expanding skill options and connecting youth to urban job markets to improve job placement.
Climate Change	We introduced climate-smart farming, animal healthcare, and different income sources to help families adapt.
Building Trust in New Communities	We built trust through honest conversations, community success stories, and consistent follow-up visits.
Staff Capacity	We ran regular training and mentoring so our team can keep delivering quality support.

Smart Steps Forward



Evidence-Based Planning

Community research (PRA) in 4 villages helped us plan better programmes based on real needs.



Better Markets

Organic products are now listed on the Nam Santhai platform, giving women producers direct access to buyers.



Working Together

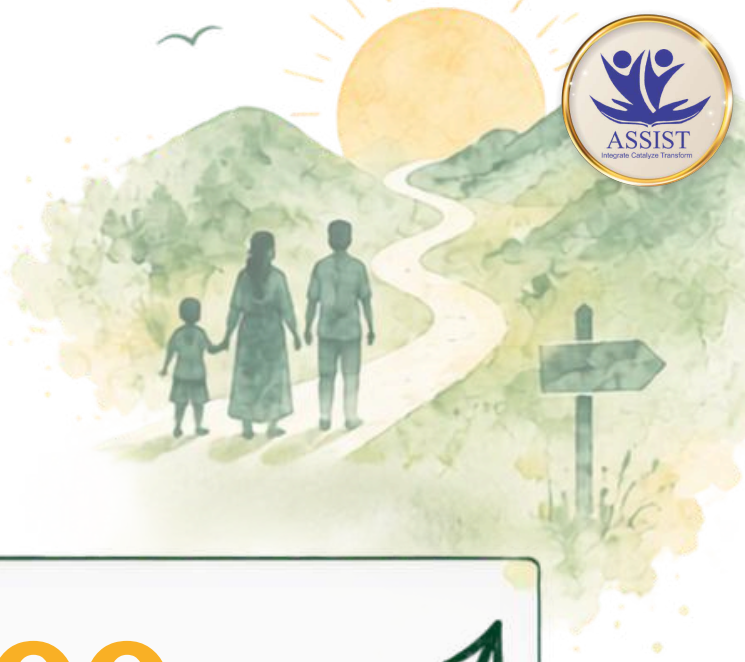
Partnership with Illuminators support children with learning difficulties.



Growing Leaders

College interns from Bishop Heber and Holy Cross gained hands-on experience — becoming future changemakers.

Looking Ahead



In the coming year, ASSIST will:

12,000
New People to Be Reached.

1. Connect our children, women, and youth programmes more closely for stronger family impact
2. Reach 5,000+ new people across Tamil Nadu
3. Expand climate-smart farming and solar energy
4. Use digital tools to serve communities better
5. Build stronger job connections for trained youth
6. Use community data to push for better public policies
7. Build long-term financial sustainability



SR. JOSEPH PRETTENCIA

Assistant Director



SENTHIL RAJA A

Finance & Accounts Officer



AJAY WILLIAMS JP

Programme Strategist



YOVASH B

Field Outreach Lead



ANTONY CHARLIN X

Stem Education Co-ordinator



JAYAKANTHAN B

Women's Project Co-ordinator



KEERTHANA P

Administration & Operations Assistant



SETHUPATHI L

evening study centre Co-ordinator



NAGALAKSHMI V

Women's Group Facilitator



LEEMA ROSE G

Women's Livelihood Facilitator



VIJAYARANI B

Women's Group Facilitator



MANICKAVALLI B

Women's Group Facilitator



SABARI GIRI
Skill Developement Trainer



AROKIA ROMORIA SHEEBA
Centre Co-ordinator



SATHYA SHEELA
Digital Mitra Trainer



BALA MURUGAN
Field Officer

Thank You

To our donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and the communities who welcomed us — thank you for making this year possible.

Together, we bloom. Together, we flourish. Together, we progress.

OUR PARTNERS

DIPUTACIÓN Đ ZARAGOZA

VIDES

VIDES Internazionale

FVGS Onlus

MISSIONI DONBOSCO

Don Bosco Tech
Skilling India

misean cara
Mission Support from Ireland

Azim Premji Foundation

MISIONES SALESIANAS

madreselva ONGD

mercy mission
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

DON BOSCO MONDO
JUGEND • HILFE • WELTWEIT

JUGEND EINE WELT

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