# **GENESIS – THE PALAI SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY**

After the formation of the diocese of Pala in the year 1950, many social activities had done by the diocese to bring up the marginalized to the front. This period was the most challenge full time in which facilities were not at all available- education, health, sanitation etc were less. In this scenario our late beloved Bishop Mar Sebastian Vayalil put forward the idea of having a Social Work wing for the diocese. From that great farsightedness, a body had formed to evaluate and trace out the feasibility of the society. and the findings became positive and in the month of June, 1964 the plan of instituting the society was announced. Thus the official Social Service department (PSWS) of Palai diocese came in to being established on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1964.

PSWS is a secular voluntary organization which is registered under Travancore Cochin Literacy Scientific and Charitable Society's Act of 1955 constituted as a Charitable Organization. It is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and has Income Tax Exemption under 12 A.

The society in its inception onwards aims in Creation of a self reliant society, liberation of the poor and marginalized through the process of empowerment and to engage in social activities to improve the living condition and general welfare of the weaker sections in the society irrespective of caste, creed, community and sex. It promotes economic and social values by educating and helping the community. It tries its best to bring about effective services to improve the conditions of the weaker sections of the society by enabling several interventions in the area of community based organizations, integral health and hygiene, natural resource management, women empowerment, renewable energy management and so on.

With the help of governmental and non governmental agencies, it undertakes various sustainable development programs, ecological and environmental programs, awareness campaigns etc. The major beneficiaries of our concern are nearly twenty thousand which spreads over 3 districts of Kerala – (Kottayam, Idukki and Ernakulam). Throughout this span of years PSWS closely devoted in accomplishing the goals by highlighted its mission and vision. By bringing a comprehensive report of PSWS for the year 2018-19 which would give an orientation and brief information of the activities, programs and projects of PSWS. With extreme happiness and immense pleasure we are proudly presenting the annual report of PSWS for the year 2018-19.

Mission: "Liberation of the poor and marginalized through a process of empowerment"

# Vision: "Creation of a Self – Reliant Society Based on Human Values and Social Justice"

# **Objectives of the society**

- > To promote the formation and strengthening of community based organization.
- > To promote collectivism and voluntarism among target group.
- > To facilitate the sharing of information, resource and skills of development.
- > To promote social movements against exploitation.
- > To organize participatory learning, analysis and document its funding.
- > To facilitate the participation of women and marginalized in the development process.
- > To promote agricultural development.
- > To promote savings and credit programs.
- To popularize participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation system at various levels.
- To avail appropriate development schemes (Housing, sanitation, drinking water programs etc.) to the needy.

# Administrative System



**PSWS** involvement:

District	Block	Municipality	Villages	Grama
				Panchayat
3	13	3	45	46

# **Community Based Organization (CBO)**

CBO's are strength of the organization through which all the activities are channelized to the members of the society. To sustain the Community Development Program through the federation of Self Help Groups, to promote savings and credit programs and to facilitate the participation of women and marginalized in the process of development, we formulated and strengthened different people structures.

## Objectives

- ✤ To strengthen the existing SHG's for integrated development
- ✤ To enable the partners for sustainable development through economic progression
- To create a gender sensitive community through awareness programs, seminars and exhibitions
- ◆ To federate the existing SHG's at different levels and network with other agencies.

The activities of CBO are executed in a form of 5 tier system, the first is SHG, then SS, Zonal, Region and Centre Level.

#### Self Help Groups (SHG)

Self Help Groups have been playing a vital role in the socio-cultural and economic strengthening and in the economic enhancement in utilizations of the capacities of the people. It is evident that through SHG's many of them come together with a feeling of like-minded and develops leadership qualities and soft skills to face the challenges of the hour. Through SHG's we have encouraged thrift and credit operation, entrepreneurial; and skill development activities and have supported them to initiate income generation programmes and provided opportunities for productive investment. The SHG members run a number of micro enterprise initiatives very successfully, like tailoring units, bakery, catering units etc

Karshaka Dalam is another form of SHG in which the group aims to work in the field of agriculture. As the name indicates it is the form of farmers group. Each group consisted of 10-20 members.

#### Swasraya Sangham / Karshaka Dalam Federation (SS)

Swasraya Sangham / Karshaka Dalam Federation is the upper body of SHG/ Karshaka Dalam. In another way the collection of SHG groups or Karshaka Dalams which may comes under each parish of the diocese know as Swasraya Sangham or Karshakadhala Federation. It monitors and evaluates the activities of the groups every month. In the reporting year 141 Swasraya Sangham/ Karshaka Dalam Federations are actively being part of PSWS.

#### ZONE

Zone is the third tier in the system and the activities of each Swasraya Sangham / Karshaka Dalam Federations are monitored by zonal coordinators. The meetings are conducted every month. This year 17 zones are actively working for and with the PSWS. Those zones are Pala, Ramapuram, Cherpunkal, Kadanadu, Kuravilangadu, Muttuchira, Kothanalloor, Elanji, Kaduthuruthy, Aruvithura, Bharananganam, Poonjar, Teekoy, Pravithanam, Koottickal, Thudanganadu and Moolamattom.

## REGION

Region is the fourth tier which evaluates of all the activities that are carried out at zonal level. Region coordinator is the person who critically evaluates the activities of the zones and submits the reports to Central level which is the fifth tier. Presently there are four regions under the PSWS namely, Pala, Muttuchira, Aruvithura and Moolamattom.

## CENTRE

PSWS Centre includes the Director and the managing body who monitor all the activities by the SHGs. Through this system the centre can easily access all the status and activities of each and every groups and members involved. In the third week of every month meetings are conducted in the central level to evaluate their progress and monitor them.

Region	Total SS	Total SHG	Total Male SHG's	Total Female SHG's	Total Members
Palai	45	352	120	232	5518
Aruvithura	59	436	113	323	6897
Muttuchira	52	421	124	297	6568
Total	156	1209	357	852	18983

Health Awareness Campaigns

To improve the health status of the community, PSWS is organizing various medical camps in different targeted areas along with the support of Central Research Institute for Homeopathy, for the epidemic, communicable diseases and seasonal monsoon diseases such as dengue fever, viral fever, chickungunia, etc. PSWS take initiatives in organizing free medical camps and distributing homeo medicine. Many health awareness programs were arranged specially about life style diseases, balanced diet and promotion of healthy life style.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KRWSA – Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency is under the Water Resource Department Government of Kerala. Jalanidhi project aims at the quality of rural water supply and delivery of environmental sanitation services to achieve sustainability of investments by the support of World Bank. The KRWSA facilitates provision of rural water supply and sanitation at the local level by imparting knowledge and building up the capacity of communities, using NGOs and piloting community-led approaches. As a result, communities became empowered and are able to work with technicians to specify their own water and sanitation schemes and build them using mostly community contracting.

Throughout the years we had successfully accomplished the project in many panchayaths. Present reporting year, with immense pleasure we would like to say that projects in Bharananganam, Karoor, and Kozhuvanal panchayths are completed and began to provide supply.

Panchayath	Projects	Completed	House holds
Bharananganam	30	30	2140
Karoor	45	45	3623
Kozhuvanal	14	14	2230

## Bharananganam

Project at Bharananganam successfully finished this reporting year. It was a dream venture in which 26 water supply schemes and 4 rain water harvesting projects are included with 2140

families are the direct beneficiaries. All the projects are functioning well and running smoothly. The project helps to overcome the water scarcity there. As part of the ground water resource development project 8 check dams were constructed, 7 sanitation units are constructed as part of sanitation project and water purification systems also installed. Among the 30 projects 29 are exited. Overall an amount of eight crore thirty lakhs were spent for the project.

#### Karoor

The project at Karoor began in the year 2014. 45 drinking water projects including 39 water supply schemes and 6 rain water harvesting consisted of 3623 direct family beneficiaries. All the schemes are successfully completed. A check dam of Rs. 28 lakhs constructed according to the ground water resource development project. 5 sanitation units also constructed as part of the project. Around Nine crore rupees was spends for the project there.

#### Kozhuvanal

Project at Kozhuvanal began four years ago. Total 14 projects and every one achieve great success and well executed. Final auditing works are now in progress and a check dam also construction under process. An amount of Rs. Five Crore were spent for the project.

#### SAVE FAMILY PLAN – FAMILY DVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Family development Program (FDP) is the masterpiece effort of the Save A Family Plan for the development of the marginalized families in India. It was founded, by Msgr. Augustine Kandathil in the year1965. The Palai Social Welfare Society is one of the partner organizations of Save A Family Plan from 1989 onwards. The operational area of this project spreads over Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts of the Pala diocese. Through the FDP, about 2000 poor families became self supportive within these period of 30 years. The number of families benefited and improved their lives through the programme in the year 2018 was above 300.

The objective of the FDP is the all-round development of its partner families. For achieving this objective, the PSWS effectively conducted and implemented many programmes.

<u>FFT Meeting</u>: The FFT team including the DSSS Director, coordinator and the region animators gathered in first working day of every month for the planning and evaluation of the FDP programme for the effective implementation of the activities

## Entrepreneurial Development T. P & End user Pro.

The Entrepreneurial Development training session conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> November, at the Shalom Pastoral Centre. The training was for the newly activated beneficiaries of the Family development programme. The training was for the skill development and imparting new skill in the newly active beneficiaries and capacitated them to do income generation programmes. It provided new self employment opportunities and sustainable income generating sources to the partner families. The Programme was inaugurated by Sr. Anie Poriyath ASI of the PSWS and the session was handled by Joy Madickankal, Dantes Koonanaickel and Akash. Along with the training, an FDP awareness session was handled by the Regional Programme officer of SAFPI, Mr. Manojkumar.

## **<u>Regional Level Meetings</u>**

For the effective functioning of the FD Programme, the geographical area is divided in to three regions, Pala, Aruvithura and Muttuchira. The Regional meeting is conducted at the region level. The total number of RLM (regional level meeting) conducted in each region were three. The aim of these meetings is the socio, economic, cultural, and intellectual, personality development and empowerment of the partner families. The awareness classes conducted through the RLM were seasonal diseases, Live stock management and Social Security schemes.

Central Level Meetings: The CLMs are conducting in each centre twice in a year. The aim

of these meetings is the socio, economic, cultural, and intellectual, personality development and empowerment of the FDP families. The two subjects handled in the Central level Meeting during the particular year was " Waste management in the household and 'organic pesticides making '

<u>FAT Meeting: The</u> animator conducted two Family action Team's meeting in every centers. The FAT team consisted the parish priest and the SS executive.



<u>Monitaring and Evaluation visits from the SAFPI</u>. the Regional Programme Officer Ms Anu Sebastian from Save a Family Plan India visited the beneficiary families for the monitoring of the beneficiary families and for the verification of the beneficiary files. The RPO spent six days in the diocese for the purpose of monitoring, evaluation and for the verification of the beneficiary files. An interface meeting with the DSSS Director Fr. Mathew Pullukalayil and with the SAFP team was also held in the PSWS office in connection with the evaluation.

## **New Family Selection**

The total new families selected to the FDP programme in the year 2018-19 were 80 (Eighty). The selection is from the pre determined georaphical area according to the criteria and instructions from Save a Family Plan India. The applications for the new family selection is submitted to the FFT with the approval of the FAT team of the each parish. From the applications, the FFT selected the most deserved families according to the criteria -, took their family photos, prepared the applications and reports and send to the SAFP India Office by on online.

Purpose	Nos	Amount	
Cow ,Goat , pig	46	6,69,176	
(Livestock )			
House construction	85	9,97,941	
Land purchasing	2	35000	
Latrine	5	79500	
<b>Professional Education</b>	21	2,39,375	
Tailoring unit	44	3,93,000	
Poultry	25	2,49,000	
Small scale business	27	2,17,000	
Water, cooking Gas, connection	9	98,000	
Water, cooking Gas, connection	9	98,000	
Auto	1	68,755	
Total fund disbursed		31,93,747	

#### **Fund Utiluization**

# NABARD – National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Farmers Clubs and Farmers Producers Organization** 

We have promoted 18 Farmers clubs with approval of NABARD. Our farmers' producer organization based at Kanjiramattom and Parathanam, they have processed and sold out jackfruit and tapioca products in a profitable way. Karshaka Dala Federation also established production units based on agricultural inputs, such as coconut, turmeric, tapioca, coffee, jackfruit etc.

Evergreen Karshaka Dalam based at Moozhoor, Karshaka Dalam Federation also started value added production units likewise. Moozhoor farmers club is also in the process of establishing another value added production unit based on Tapioca only. They got technical knowledge and training from Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Trivandrum, with the support of Small Farmers Agro Business Consortium (SFAC), Trivandrum. Jaigiri farmers club is promoting organic farming, by which they could sell at a better price for their organic banana. Ernakulam Market. Farmers groups under karshaka bank project are also benefitting support and subsidy from the three tier panchayath system.

## **E – SHAKTHI – DIGITIZATION OF SELF HELP GROUPS**

E-Shakthi is one of the projects of NABARD with partner NGO's in tune with the Digital Bank Mission. This project aims at digitization of all the SHG accounts to bring SHG members under the fold of financial inclusion thereby helping them to access wider range of financial services together with increasing the bankers' comfort in credit appraisal and linkage by way of:

- Integrating SHG members with the national Financial Inclusion agenda
- Improving the quality of interface between SHG members and Bankers for efficient and hassle free delivery of banking services by using the available technology
- Facilitate convergence of delivery system with SHGs using Aadhar linked identity

The need of digitization of SHGs has been felt for quite some time due to patchy and delay in maintenance of books of accounts. Transparent and proper maintenance of records of SHGs will facilitate in nurturing and strengthening of SHGs. It is also felt that digital empowerment will help in bringing SHGs on a common web based e-platform by making

book keeping easy for low literacy clients. This will help in promoting national agenda of Financial Inclusion and pave the way of credibility of SHG data which can later be used by Credit Bureaus to reduce the issues related to multiple financing by banks.

Information of all the SHGs and their members are uploaded onto the website. The transactions are updated through applications on android Mobile/Tablet. Data authenticity is ensured through SMS alerts to members and sample audits. MIS reports on groups are generated and progress is tracked on a real time basis. Overall, the whole ecosystem was designed to address the complex issues related to patchy financial records of SHGs.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES

We strongly encourage the SHG members to become part of the social security schemes offered by the central government. The major scheme is the medi-claim benefits for the common people by simply applying or connecting with the bank accounts they have. Also take insurance for their cultivation, livestock, house etc. in view of unexpected calamities and crop failures.

#### **AGRIMA OPEN MARKET:**

Agrima Open Market is the farmers market in which the farmers can sell and buy their valuable products in higher rates more than in the normal market. Due to the severe price reduction of farm products and exploitation of intermediaries in the agricultural marketing sector, a comprehensive marketing strategy is planned by the Agrima Karshaka Sangham, with the help of Karshaka Dalams, Karshaka Dalam Federation and Farmer leaders. Organic products are directly collected from farmers and are marketed in our open market to attain premium price and healthy vegetables. This open market helps the farmers to sell their agricultural products in a profitable way and indirectly it helps the people to promote a healthy life style too. It operates weekly twice, ie, on every Monday and Thursday from 8 am onwards and successfully completes second year. New governing board members were elected during the annual gathering.

#### **CLEAN PALA**

It is a new initiative in collaboration with some retired bureaucrats, who are deeply in concerned with eco friendly activities. A campaign was organized for clean Pala, say no to plastic. Attempts have taken to give awareness at other public for the damage occur in the lives of the people in the society at large.

#### **FLOOD RELIEF**

Last year as like every parts in Kerala, was heavy downpour for the months of July and August, there is no let up in rain related sufferings as the flood water is there something missing in various areas, especially low laying western regions and hilly areas that are very prone to landslide. The two rivers that traverse the area are the Meenachil River and the Muvattupuzha River. Majority of the people who resides here depends upon these rivers to nurture their crop production. However, these life-giving natural water conduits can also become disastrous whenever water overflows due to the heavy rainfall. This overflowing causes erosion along river banks, destroying agricultural areas, disruption of houses and other structures nearer to it.

The most affected two floods at Pala were the most severe in the nearest century. The district of kottayam is safe far as other districts like Idukki, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta etc. But the life of the common people became tough. Many of them lost their houses, agricultural lands, valuable documents even the life too. By coping with the reality better, PSWS supported by providing emergency services effectively. Several relief camps were opened and essential helps provided as soon as possible. 36 camps were operated in our diocesan area. Around 12,000 people belongs to 4200 families were part of these relief camps for many days. 650 members of PSWS was active part in voluntary services. Rapid action force team was formed, collection points was opened for receiving and supplying food items, dress materials and sanitary items. Supplying of the same was done favorably as far as the needs are concerned. Along by supplying within the diocese, needs were much and enquiries from many parts of other districts was raised. Thus by analyzing the situation the services extended to much more wider and at last it was done to 36 different places or camps in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts. It is the time we the

PSWS team would like to thank for all the service providers. Also necessary cleaning services are provided in some parts of the high flood affected areas.

#### "ATHIJEEVAN" Flood Recovery Project

Caritas India extended their valuable support in the right time. Essential support was provided twice in the time of flood and after for the rebuilding. In the first phase emergency food support was conducted at Ayamkudy and Perumthuruth parts of Kaduthuruthy panchayath. Essential food materials supplied according to the need.

The Second phase is the project for rebuilding, maintenance of damaged houses, repairing toilets, provides with livelihood support in manner of Goat and Chickens and kitchen garden. The target area comes under mainly in the most affected villages of Teekoy, Arakkulam and Elappally. Repairing of damaged water sources also included, The project officially launched in the month of March 2019 and is in progress now.

#### 'HOUSE FOR THE HOUSELESS'- SMCA KUWAIT AND PSWS

The project is implemented within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Pala by collaborating with Syro Malabar Cultural Association (SMCA) Kuwait. PSWS will monitors the project and ensure the proper construction of the houses as per the plan and estimate within the allotted time span. SMCA Kuwait will arrange for the transfer of the sponsorship amount to the bank account specified for the project or the beneficiary against receipt of each beneficiary's file. With the help of SMCA Kuwait 25 families benefitted through this project. In the reporting year15 families live happily in their new houses and rest 10 are under progress and will complete soon.

## CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (LF) PROJECT

The Liliane Foundation is a Dutch NGO that was created in 1980 as a special fund for children and young people with disabilities in developing countries. In co operation with local partner organizations, the foundation aims at social inclusion promoting community based rehabilitation strategies or services. The support that the Foundation provides focuses

on individual development including areas of health, education, livelihood and social activities. It caters to the needs of the disabled children.

The Palai social Welfare Society (PSWS) is getting support from Lillian Fonds, Netherland from 2013 onwards. CHAI (Catholic Health Association of India) Secunderabad is the Indian authorized agency of LF. This reporting year we could assist 72 children across the operational area with an amount of Rs 4,00,103/-.

#### We Ring the Bell Campaign

The main message of the campaign will be: **all children welcome in school!** Focusing on four 'A's **Accessibility, Acceptance, Availability and Adaptation** as preconditions for every child to go to school. The campaign is to include children with disabilities to educational system and this campaign will complement the government's flagship programme – Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), to achieve its goal of education for all and "Right to education" (RTE) Act in 2009. In our diocese we spread the message in some schools at Pala. The program was highly attractive and accepted by the students.

#### Asakiranam Cancer Care Campaign

Asakiranam Cancer Care Campaign by Caritas India started on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in the diocese by PSWS. After the official launching of the campaign, Diocese started various programs for the campaign. Cancer detection camps and awareness classes have been conducted across the diocese in the last reporting year. An accommodation facility has been arranged in collaboration with Santhwanana Rehabilitation Centre, for the patients who undergo treatment at RCC Trivandrum. Asakiranam now has a positive impact or effect in the diocese. It showers light to the suffering and the marginalized people who don't have awareness regarding the reasons and causes of cancer.

It includes other activities like hair donation programs making wigs with the donated hair and are for the affected patients underwent treatment. Totally 8 hair donation programs had conducted last year and 85 individuals including males had donated their hair. In case of medical assistance large number of patients got support and an amount of Rs. 6,78,720/- could donate for the victims.

In the form of making awareness against this harmful issue, different methods are used. Street plays, doll drama etc had practiced and executed. Also encouraged the production of organic vegetables and it may come in practice by supplying around one half lakhs of vegetable saplings. Family farming has been encouraged and competitions also held. After the consumption of enough vegetables the excess got marketed through the Open Market. Also production of organic rice is also done by SHG groups and is also marketed through Agrima. In all the major activities of Asakiranam program carried out by the 20 core team members and they passed the light to 635 volunteers who are the real carriers of the project in the diocese.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> The World Ccancer Day was observed. As part of the awareness creation a flash mob were conducted at Pala and Ramapuram by collaborating with Social Work Staff and Students at Mar Augusthinose College, Ramapuram. The public meeting presided over by Fr. Mathew Pullukalayil and inaugurated by Mucipal chairperson of palai, Smt. Biji Jojo. 'Hair for hope' brand ambassador Smt. Nisha Jose delivered the message for the day.

#### Hybrid Vegetable Saplings Distribution

Considering the climatic changes, through scientific approaches, better production and distribution of vegetable saplings were enabled. Along with this organic manure also were distributed. For promoting organic way of cultivation and healthy life style all the member of SHG families have kitchen gardens. And to encourage them we have conducted competion for the best kitchen garden. We have organized twice such distribution during this reporting year.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCES

#### Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC)

Micro Credit Loan by Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation was the most effective financial support in the reporting year. An amount of Rs. One Crore six lakhs had disbursed among 85 self help groups in the diocese. Apart from the group 420 individual beneficiaries directly benefitted through this project. Each individual will receive an amount to begin an income generative activity. Majority of them are doing agriculture activities like

plaintain farm, tapioca, ginger, cattle farm, goat farm etc. PSWS extremely thankful to the board of directors, KSBCDC and the Kottayam office authorities for their support. PSWS got appreciation from them for the regular repayment of the loan.

#### DEEP

The programme DEEP (Development through Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Participation) aims at the economic support for the poor widows below the age of 50. From 2011 onwards PSWS is executing this programme with the support of SAFP (Save a Family Plan) PSWS arranged many training programmes, awareness generation programmes and interest less loans of Rs 10,000 for five years and also promoted initiation of IGPs.

So far 68 beneficiaries come under this programme and got benefitted. Through this programme they could face their situation courageously and move forward with self-confidence and self esteem by not being a burden to the families. Added to this they could become a contributing member to the family. This program equipped many widows to be live independently with self esteem.

This project is supported by Manos Unidas which aims the development of women in the proposed area. The beneficiaries of the program are poor widows who are SHG members of PSWS. We provided EDP training to them and provided revolving loan for starting income generation programs according to their ability. The women in the area got engaged through the formation of SHG's and thus 282 IGPs had been started.

#### **Support for Widows**

This year Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF) is giving priority for the social mainstreaming of widows in our operational area. The orientation programs and skill training for widows had conducted at forum level and after selected three widows are selected to start Pollution Free Poultry Farming. KSSF provided Cluster wise technical training in PFPF for the selected beneficiaries and an animator from each DSSS.

Also forum is provided another support for widows as part of the flood relief program. 15 widows are selected from the flood affected area and provide them necessary training and an amount of Rs.13, 000/- are given to each for starting income generation program either

poultry or goat farm. In both of the project Kerala Social Service Forum provided assistance of Rs. 2, 50,000/- in last year.

#### **Interest less loan**

The society provides loans without any interest which aims to reduce economic burden of the community and reduce the role of money lenders in the community. The partners on behalf of the society are benefactors who provided loan without interest.

## **Ghaja Cyclone Relief Fund**

Ghaja - the harmful natural disaster that severely affected Tamil Nadu. As per the relief activities organized under the leadership of KCBC and JPD Commission, PSWS also became part of the program by donating collected amount from SHG's and Karshaka Dalams. It is a moral venture in sympathizing with the affected victims.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

## Zonal level celebrations

Different days and its importance were observed and commemorated in zonal level especially environment day, Earth Day, Women's Day, Farmers Day, day of the differently abled, Onam, Christmas etc. Each celebration has its own importance and it results in building up human relations, tolerance and encourages religious and cultural relations too. Every year the zone level activities will be unique and the activities for the year come to an end by celebrating women's day and zonal anniversary together. Each and every zone celebrates their anniversary every year in the month of March.

## **Annual Day Celebrations:**

The 54<sup>th</sup> annual day celebration of the Palai Social Welfare Society (PSWS) was on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the Bishops House. The meeting was presided over by our patron His Excellency Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, diocese of Palai. Former minister Sri. K.M Mani MLA was the chief guest of the day. The day enriched with the esteemed presence of chief guests and cultural programs by the members of self-help groups across the diocese who are the major beneficiaries of the society. Prizes were distributed for the best performing self help groups and Karshaka Dalam Federations. Along with homeo medicine distribution as part of immunization program also launched.

## TRAINING PROGRAMS

PSWS provide many training programs for better income generative activities for the members of Self Help Groups. Trainings provided in variety of areas like soap and soap powder making, Lotion and hand wash making, tailoring, doll and toy making, ornaments and jewelry making etc.

In the area of agriculture mushroom cultivation, apiculture, organic farming, animal husbandry programs like Fish Farming, rabbit rearing, poultry, cattle farm etc. experts from the respective fields are deputed for the training.

# **BLOCK PLACEMENTS:**

Students from different colleges are practiced their profession in social work as part of their curriculum. Mar Augusthinose College Ramapuram, Marian College Kuttikkanam, Santhigiri college Vazhithala, Christ University Bangalore, BVM College Cherpunkal, K.E College Mannanam etc were participating their students for placements.

# **Publications**

Vikasana Sarith is the official news bulletin of the society which is published monthly. It is a platform for the society to communicate to its members the news, views and information. In the same way it offers place for the central, zonal and group level members to express their views, activities and information. Thus each and every activities of the society in central, zonal and group level are noticed and reported through this. The highlight of the bulletin is, it observed the special days of the month.

# Heartfelt Regards to Our partners.