FORUM FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT FORWORD

ANNUAL REPORT of FORWORD for the year 2018-2019





At the Outset:

FORWORD standing for **Forum for Women's Rights and Development** has been involved in the struggles for social justice and human dignity of the grass-root level communities especially women and children, since its inception in 1992. Women being subjugated to different forms of violence, FORWORD is involved in developing women and making them economically independent, culturally liberated and socially empowered. Towards constructing a sustainable future world for all to live, FORWORD has taken children as the target group for the reconstruction of a just society.

Vision, where & with whom:

FORWORD works with the farfetched vision of 'Abundant Life' to the oppressed women, having strong belief that social justice and human rights are basic birth rights for every individual. These rights and values should be fostered in every individual's life and should be reconstructed in case of denial.

The activities of FORWORD are spread out in more than sixty underprivileged rural, coastal and urban areas in Kanchipuram, Chennai and Thiruvallur Districts.



Children, adolescent girls, young boys & girls and women are the primary communities. Men and the communities at large form the secondary working groups. Agricultural women, Tribals, coastal women, women in crisis, women working in unorganized sectors & women with domestic violence issues form the participating groups.

Names of the Programs implemented in the year 2018-2019

- 1. Asha Quality Education program.
- 2. 'Mangai' Women Empowerment program.
- 3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness to adolescent girls
- 4. Adult Literacy program.
- 5. ICC & POSH Act Awareness program.
- 6. FORWORD as a Resource Center.

Programs in Details:

1. Asha Quality Education program.

Aim:

Academic efficiency and attitude change of the 425 under privileged children.

Objectives

- ✓ Provide first generation school going children with remedial teaching and quality of Life Practices.
- ✓ Achieve 100% school enrollment of girl children and eliminate school dropout status
- ✓ Develop the positive potentiality of individual children
- ✓ Ensure nature loving, value based healthy, happy and rights ensured childhood to children.
- ✓ Facilitate and promote higher education among first generation students

Activities in Detail:

In this Reporting year 425 children were covered in the under mentioned 13 centers.

They were the first generation children from Dalit, Tribal, migrated and other backward communities.

Rural	Urban	Coastal
1.Mathur	11. Madambakkam	13. Puthunemlikuppam
2. Mullipakkam Puthu Colony	12. Pulikoradu	
3. Mullipakkam Pazhaya Colony		
4.Mullipakkam Periyar Nagar		
5.Thandarai		
6.Thandarai Pettai		
7.Thandarai Puthuchery		
8. Vilangadu		
9.Elapakkam		
10. Velamur		

The Details of Children in Standard Wise 2018-2019:

Gender	3rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std
Female	24	30	31	25	18	14	22	21	11	12
Male	20	36	27	23	28	20	21	19	6	17
Total	44	66	58	48	46	34	43	40	17	29

Total No. of. Students = 425

Daily Activities in the Center:

A regular school's class room atmosphere was created in all these centres and trained persons from the local areas were appointed to handle the evening classes. The classes were conducted from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Children were helped to do their home works, learn their daily lessons and prepared for facing their public examinations. All sorts of needed educational materials and stationery items were provided to the children. Happy learning atmosphere was ensured in these centres. Children were highly motivated to attend to these evening centres.

Two leaders – one girl and one boy were given the responsibility to be the leaders for one month in revolving method, with an aim to develop leadership qualities among these children. The leaders will assist the Educator in logistics and in maintaining the disciplined atmosphere of their respective centers. Snacks were provided to the children which helped them to concentrate more on learning without feeling tired. The health status of the children were monitored periodically with the help of Panchayat Nurses.

A) Academic Efficiency of Asha Children:

Pass Details: - Standard wise:

10th Standard - April 2019

Standard 10 th	Total No.of.	No.of. Students	
	Students Appeared	Passed	(%)
Girls	19	18	
Boys	15	14	94.11
Total	34	32	

11th Standard - April 2019

Standard 11th	No.of. Students	No.of. Students	
	Appeared	Passed	(%)
Girls	10	9	
Boys	7	7	94.11
Total	17	16	

12th Standard - April 2019

Standard 12 th	No.of Students Appeared	No.of. Students Passed	(%)
Girls	8	8	
Boys	14	13	95.45
Total	22	21	

Students above 60 % of marks in 10^{th} Standard - 10 nos Students above 60 % " 11^{th} Standard - 01 nos Students above 60 % " 12^{th} Standard - 02 nos

Achiever

V. Subha, daughter of poor illiterate parents namely Mr. Visuvasam and Mrs. Ellammal from Mathur asha center has come out as the **Third Topper** in 12th Standard with **467 /600** marks in her School namely – Government Higher Secondary School Sothupakkam. Subha has been attending asha classes since her third standard.

List of Asha Students in Higher Education 2018-2019

S.No	Name of the Student	Course	Name of the College
1	R. Kotteswari	B.E. ECE 4 th year	University College of
			Engineering - Tindivanam
2	D. Ranjith	B.A. History 1 st year	Dr. Ramadoss College of Arts
			and Science.
3	R. Sudhakar	B.A. History 1 st year	Dr. Ramadoss College of Arts
			and Science.
4	Stella Mary. A	B.E. CSE 4 th year	Madha Institute of Engg &
			Tech (Kundrathur)
5	Arokia Monisha. A	B.Com 1st year	Tagore College of Arts and
			Science (Chromepet)
6	S. Abirami	B.sc Chemistry 1st year	Quaid-E-Millath College For

			Women, Chennai
7	S. Jeevitha	Diploma in Nursing 1st	Nursing Institute in
		Year	Chengelpet
8	V. Suhashini	Diploma in Nursing 1st	Nursing Institute in
		Year	Chengelpet
9	A. Suganthi	B.Sc Micro Biology 1st	Vel's College of Science,
		year	Chennai
10	S. Kayalvizhi	B.Sc Physics 1st year	Sri Malolan Arts and Science
			College (Madhuranthagam)
11	V. Swetha	B.Sc Physics 1st year	Sri Malolan Arts and Science
			College (Madhuranthagam)
12	S. Loga Priya	B.A. English. Litt.2 nd	Sri Malolan Arts and Science
		year	College (Madhuranthagam)
13	G. Sowmiya	B.A. English Litt. 2 nd	Sri Malolan Arts and Science
		year	College (Madhuranthagam)
14	R. Abinesh	B.A. English Litt. 2 nd	Nandanam Arts and Science
		year	College (Chennai)
15	K. Suriya	B. A. History 3 rd year	Pachaiyappa College,
			Kanchipuram
16	C. Anitha	Diploma in Nursing 1st	Luqman Ajmal Paramedical
		year	Institute, Madhuranthagam
17	D. Monisha	Diploma in Nursing 1st	Luqman Ajmal Paramedical
		year	Institute, Madhuranthagam
18	K. Aravind	B.E. Mech 4th year	Tagore Engineering College
			(Rathinamangalam)

B) Attitude Change – Creation of Quality of Life among asha children:

Attitude change being the second major aim of this education program, children from day one were moulded with different programmes which can create good moral values and healthy inter-personal relationship within themselves and with the society at large.

★ Nature and Children:

All the first Saturdays were spent with the objective of inculcating the value of love for Nature among the children. In the year 2018-2019 three hundred and fifty (350) saplings were planted in different parts, in and around asha centers. Campaigns were taken by children to voice for pollution free and plastic free atmosphere. "It is a strange feeling to voice for pollution free atmosphere. We as children could educate our parents in keeping the atmosphere clean and to abstain from bad habits like drinking alcohol and involving in noisy quarrels," said **Gokul** in 9th Standard from **Elappakkam**. "I love the Neem tree, which I had planted. It is growing every day. I watch it growing. It gives me joy to see its fresh tender leaves," said a happy **Ajith Kumar** studying in 10th Standard from **Thandarai Pettai** asha center.

***** Educators' Upgrading Meeting:

All the 13 Educators were invited to FORWORD center on all 2nd Saturdays where they were trained in knowledge-management and handling of asha Children. Social activists **Mr. Pandiyan and Mr. Mathew** conducted the upgrading trainings, through brain storming games, group discussions and Knowledge developing programs. "I joined FORWORD as an Educator of asha quality center in Mathur with my eight standard qualifications. I was very sorry for my inability to study further. But now I am happy to be called 'Teacher' by my asha students. I had upgraded my knowledge with the help of the monthly upgrading trainings. I thank asha for my personal development as well as my skill development. Today I am confident with appropriate teaching skills to handle asha classes. Now I am in my 11th year in conducting asha evening classes in Mathur, and had promoted around twenty students for their higher studies," said **Sivagami**, the Educator in **Mathur** asha education center with tears of joy in her eyes.

★ Social justice and Children:

During the 3rd Saturdays, asha children were trained to imbibe values of social justice and to practice it in their lives. Campaigns, rallies and demonstrations were used to teach the children. Campaign against sexual offences on girl children was the major campaign taken in the year 2018 – 2019 where 350 children participated and got benefitted. **Ambiga** from **Mullipakkam Puthu Colony** said "Asha School helped me to understand the meaning of the word social justice and social in-justice. I understand that it is in-justice to call & treat me as an outcast. Societal attitude should be changed. I will work towards building a just society in my future".

★ Personality Development:

On fourth Saturdays children were engaged in games, sports and other related activities with an aim to identify their individual talents and personality development. They drew, painted and expressed their creative ideas on different given topics. In addition to it, they played games like Chess, Carom-Board, Throw Ball etc. so that their physique will be kept healthy and sound. All the 425 children were engaged in some activity or other on fourth Saturdays. This had helped to develop their individual talents.

Rajesh, from Pulikoradu asha center made a small Vending machine and demonstrated its functioning. He also made a small fan and made it to rotate with the help of a battery. Rajesh is a poor motherless boy having an alcoholic father who is working in the quarry. He was in his 8th standard when he invented the Vending Machine.

Three students from **Mullipakkam** namely **Naveen Raj**, **Vasanth** and **Abishek** had talents in folk art – Parai and Thappattam and they were helped to develop their skill in this art. They had performed this art in many functions and were well appreciated.

Achievements in Extra Curricular activities of Asha Students:

D. Ranjith from Thandarai had the artistic talent in drawing and painting. **Pavithra** from Pulikoradu is talented in martial art Karate. **Ajith Kumar** from Thandarai Pettai won Trophy and Certificate for essay writing conducted by SVEEP Activities in the District level competition of Kanchipuram. He also was awarded with certificate for his Research work on Social Science. **Gopika** from Elappakkam asha center participated and was awarded with Certificate in District level Science Quiz Competition conducted by TamilNadu Science Forum. Likewise many of our children had the opportunity to bring out their hidden talents and to nurture them.

★ Parents Meetings:

In achieving our goal of bringing academic efficiency and attitude change among asha children, parents play the vital role. Parents were motivated to send their children to school regularly. In the year 2018-2019, monthly parents meetings were regularly conducted in all the 13 areas. "Parents meeting of asha for education has changed my attitude totally. It is asha which has opened my eyes. I decided to have my daughter namely Anitha and my son namely Sanjay to support me in my agricultural activities. We are landless agricultural labourers previously. I was never interested to send my children to school after primary education. It is FORWORD which has opened my eyes. But now I am proud to say that because of the intervention of FORWORD, my daughter and son got the opportunity to do their schooling. Today my daughter **Anitha** is doing her I year Higher study Nursing 1st Year in Luqman Ajmal Paramedical Institute, Madhuranthagam and my son is in 11th Standard They are regular students of asha school in our village said Shanthi", from Vilangadu.

★ Summer Camps:

During May of 2018, Summer Camps were conducted where 385 children participated. Mr. Pandiyan trained the children in different creative arts with paper and clay. Children made best of their time and learnt folk arts, singing and developed their talents in enacting skits, oratory and writing. Summer camps made the children to stay motivated and happy.

★ Excursion & learning by seeing activity:

250 grown up children were brought to different study cum relaxation areas. Children enjoyed as well as learnt about the lives of our National leaders about the history of our Nation and State. "It is privilege for me. I am lucky to have visited

National Art Museum, Marina Beach and the monuments of our National leaders. It is asha for education, which have given me this opportunity, which otherwise would not have happened in my childhood days" said a happy Sewag Chella from Mathur.

★ Joy of Giving Week 02 October to 8th October Activities by Asha children:

Joy of Visiting New Places:

October 2^{nd} to 10^{th} is observed as Joy of Giving week by social action groups with an aim to inculcate the value of giving to others.

FORWORD promoted asha children to involve in activities of giving as well as to enjoy the fruits of giving. On 4th October, the women of Mullipakkam asha center made asha children happy by using their resource in sending these children to enjoy the beauty of Marina Beach and to learn about the monuments of our National Leaders. 22 children had a great day when they could spend time-together & eat-together. Above all as Blessy XII Standard from Mullipakkam said, "I enjoyed the whole day. It is a rare day where as friends we could see new places and understood the working of Nature. I thank our community mothers for providing us the Joy of Visiting New Places".

Jov of Dining:

On 05.10.2019 asha children of Pulikoradu quarry area had the joy of dining together when they were served with Sandwiches with jam and butter by the community women. As a token of expressing their joy children drew greeting cards and presented and 30 women from the community belonging to the Self Help Groups participated in this activity of Joy of Dining. It was a thrilling experience for the children as well as to the community women.

Bhavani from Pulikoradu later said, "My aunt Muthammal was very happy to receive greetings card from me. She appreciated me over my talents in drawing. I am happy and joyful".

★ Celebration of Important Days:

Objective of celebrating important days is to educate the children in knowing about the history of that day, and their responsibility to keep it up in their lives. In this way asha children were motivated to celebrate the National Days namely Independence Day Teachers Day, Children's Day and Republic Day. Likewise children were motivated to understand the inner meanings of the festivals like Pongal, Diwali and Christmas. Through fancy dress, dancing, poems, skills enacting and other related performances, the children were taught the value of these celebrations. Ramya from Pulikoradu center says, "By dressing up and by speaking as Lakshmi Bai, I felt that I have become the great Lakshmi Bai herself. Her bravery had entered into me".

2. 'Mangai' Women Empowerment program:

In the year 2018-2019, FORWORD worked with above 2000 women from 30 Dalit, Tribal, Coastal and urban areas. Majority of these women are members of the Self Help Groups in their respective areas. They were helped in maintaining their Bank accounts, starting new groups, imparting skill trainings and promotion of saving scheme. 120 women were taught in household items making, masala products making and food processing methods. 15 counselling sessions were conducted where 320 women participated and got trained in dealing with their mental issues. To quote Uma from Mullipakkam "I am happy that I had participated in the counselling meeting in October, 2018. I am a deserted woman having two young girls. Economically I am put up in high stress. The cooly employment which I get is not enough for leading a decent and dignified life. On the other hand I am teased and tortured by my neighbours because I am a deserted woman. In this context, I attended to the programme. It was very consoling. The counseling given was so touching. I felt that I have become a new and changed woman with the ability to face the reality".

★ One Billion Women Rise :

On 14th February 2019, sixty two (62) rural women from Thandarai and Thandarai Puthuchery came together to form human chain and to show their solidarity to the global call for 'Women Rise'. Women shouted slogans for ensuring their right to violence-free life and gender equality. They voiced that Law makers and the Enforcing Authorities should safe guard their right to safe life through enactment of strict laws and mainly by observing strict implementation of the Law. Ordinary village women were transformed to extraordinary women to claim their rights with confidence and in a collective way.

★ International Women's Day:

Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March 2019 in Somangalam where seventy two (72) rural women participated. It was a joyful occasion for the women to involve in collective activities, cultural events and sharing of a big lunch. "While addressing the rural women on this important day, as a young Medical Doctor I am thankful to the various struggles that women had underwent globally to make this Day possible for me. I wish women all over the Globe enjoy gender equality, social justice and violence- free life", said Dr. Malini one of the resource person while address the women. A young advocate Nandini, Vijaya a social activist also addressed the women on this women's day. Vasantha a participant was over whelmed when she said, "I am thankful for this Women's Day. It gives me a lot of empowerments and inner strength to face any obstacles in my life and

establish my right to life. I thank FORWORD for making us celebrate this International Women's Day".

3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness to adolescent girls:

In the year 2018-2019, awareness programmes were taken up in an effective way as it the highest need of the hour. In a time when sexual abuse against adolescent girls and children are on the increase, it is very important that children and adolescent girls should be made aware of their sexual and reproductive rights. In addition to it, community women and men were also sensitized about the rights of adolescent girls to their health. 22 Government High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur and Chennai Districts were covered and above 3415 students were sensitized. The programs were taken on a monthly basis. 825 women and 350 men were sensitized about the reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and they were sensitized about the need to safe guard the human rights of adolescent girls.

To quote Ashwini studying in 9th standard in Government Higher Secondary School, Mannivakkam, "It is threatening to know about the sexual abuses carried on to adolescent girls. Through this programme, I understand that I have to be careful about the behaviour of my brothers, uncles, neighbours, boyfriends and even about my father".

Prema studying in 8th standard in Government Higher Secondary School, Perungalathur said, "I came to know about Self-Hygiene. This is very useful to me. I will do accordingly especially during my menstrual days".

Campaigns in partnership with other likeminded groups were taken where asha children voiced for the creation of a sexual-abuse-free life for them to live.

4. Adult Literacy program:

Since literacy is related to poverty in any society, the illiteracy level is still high, in our Indian society. Hence in the year 2018-2019, one hundred and fifty (150) illiterate persons, both male and female from Kanchipuram District were trained in reading, writing and in doing simple arithmetic. In addition to it, seventy five (75) potential women were trained in making different economic skills like house hold items making, organic food items making, water harvesting and in sapling cultivation.

The outcome was very good. Thirty five (35) women learnt the art of candle making, phenyle and soap powder making very well. They have converted their learnings into income generating source. These women make the products and sell them locally and thereby support in running of their families.

"I never thought that I can raise my income by selling my own product. I am happy over it. The washing powder brings me three times profit. I save the money and spend it

economically. In the absence of my husband, (since he is dead) this income is a great support to me, in meeting the expenses of my children and myself. I go to 100 days work in the day time and then I make washing powder. My mind also gets engaged. I am happy now, "says a self confident Indira from Gandhi nagar Adult Literacy center.

5. Internal Complaints Committee:

FORWORD is the recognized Women's Organization in the Internal Complaints Committee as per the Act "Sexual Harassment of women in the working place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. In the year 2018-2019, Shiamala Baby the Director of FORWORD participated and conducted motivation and legal awareness programmes in the following companies:

- > A.V. THOMAS LEATHER & ALLIED PRODUCTS PVT LTD
- > NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
- > ZEN LINEN INTERNATIONAL PVT LTD
- > SERGIO LEATHERS PVT LTD
- > TRITAN LEATHERS PVT LTD
- > ALINA PVT LTD
- > KHIM JEE HANS RAJ
- > NICHIAS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

6. FORWORD as a Resource Center

★ Study Visit of Students from the University of Florida:

On 30th of July 2018, 22 students from the University of Florida visited Thandarai village as part of their study and exposure visit programme. It was a learning process for both the overseas university students and our asha students. There were much interaction between asha students and the University students. Sharing of experiences and learning from individual students took place. Asha students conducted cultural programmes. The Higher education students of asha like E. Sridhar, (working now in Seoyan- E- Hwa Automotive Company in Sriperumbudhur as a Designing Trainer), Dhanachezhian, Kotteswari, Ettiyappan, Sridhar, Srinath, Banumathi and Kasthuri were among the students who shared their journey in asha for education. It was heart touching when they expressed their pre asha days' life and today's elevated and privileged social status.

The moments were very special.

★ Exposure Visit of Agape:

On 14th of November 2018, a Team of Volunteers from 'Agape Mission' Malaysia visited the working village of Madambakkam in Guduvanchery and Gandhi Nagar near Melathur. There was an interaction with the community members and children. Cultural activities were conducted by the children of the community as well as by the visitors of Agape. Children from Madambakkam village sang songs and danced beautifully. In the same way, the members of Agape Team sang and made the community happy. They had tea and snacks together and shared the beauty of existing together. In Periyar Nagar there was sharing of life experiences from different walks of life. It was a mutual learning time as well as mutual relaxation moments.

★ Orientation to BSW and MSW Students:

On 20th July 2018, forty (40) students from Madras Christian College, Tambaram doing their 1st year MSW (Master of Social Work) were given orientation training in FORWORD center. They were accompanied by their H.O.D. Dr. Mrs. Belinda. The Director of FORWORD talked on social analysis, social work, commitment, sensitivity and goal oriented activities and motivated the students to be the best social workers. On 22.01.2019 Sixty (60) students doing I BSW from Madras Christian College were given orientation training in FORWORD center. Professor Mr. Mohan accompanied the students.

★ Internship:

In the year 2018-2019, the following students had their Internship in FORWORD. They carried out their six months practical learning course in the working areas of FORWORD. The details about the students are:

S. No	Name of the Students	Name of the	Name of the College
		Course	
1.	D. Selina	I Year M.S.W	Madras Christian College
2.	K. Vinodhini	I Year M.S.W	Madras Christian College
3.	S. Mohanapriya	II Year	SOKA IKEDA College of Arts and
		Theology	Science for Women
4	Francis Gladwin	II Year	Sacred Heart Seminary
		Theology	
5	Paniadimai	II Year	Sacred Heart Seminary
		Theology	
6	M.A. Prameed	II Year	Sacred Heart Seminary
		Theology	
7	Arjuna Rao	II Year	Sacred Heart Seminary
		Theology	

Summing Up:

In this reporting year 2018-2019 FORWORD has reached tremendous heights in reaching out and transforming the lives of hundreds of children and women from the marginalized communities. To sum up, in the words of Keerthi:

"I am very happy to be part of asha for education classes in Pulikoradu, since my III standard. If it is not for this center, I would have been married off by my parents who are poor migrated quarry workers. I thank God for this center, which has given me a new life. I am proud to be the topper in 10th Standard in my School namely Valluvar Gurukulam Higher Secondary School in Tambaram. Now I am in 11th Standard and continue to be coached by asha center Keerthi an asha student from Pulikoradu".

Partners:

- ★ Asha for Education U-Florida Chapter
- **★** CWDR
- **★** SEVA BHARAT
- **★** IN-TRUST

PICTURE GALLERY of the year 2018-2019

1. Asha Quality Education program.

★ Study Activity:





★ Nature and Children:





***** Educators Upgrading Meeting:





★ Social justice and Children:





★ Personality Development:









Scholarship Supported – Stella

★ Parents Meetings:





★ Summer Camps:





★ Excursion & learning by seeing activity:



★ Joy of Giving Week 02 October to 8th October Activities by Asha children:<u>Visiting New Places:</u>





Joy of Dining:





★ Celebration of Important Days:





2. 'Mangai' Women Empowerment program:









Counseling to Women in Crisis

★ One Billion Women Rise :





★ International Women's Day:





3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness to adolescent girls:





4. Adult Literacy program:





5. <u>ICC – POSH ACT Awareness</u>:





6. FORWORD as a Resource Center

★ Study Visit of Students from the 'University of Florida':





★ Exposure Visit by 'Agape Mission':





★ Orientation to BSW and MSW Students:





B.S.W. II Year Students of Madras Christian College, Tambaram



M.S.W. 1st Year

★ Internship Activities:









K. Vinodhini & D. Selina M.S.W 1st Year MCC College

S. Mohanapriya M.S.W. 1st Year Soka Ikeda College for Women







Sacred Heart Seminary Theology II Year Students

Our Thanks to....

We take this opportunity to thank the honorable Board Members of FORWORD who, all through the year had been of great empowerment and support to us in the implementation of the programs. We thank the committed and efficient Staff Team of FORWORD whose tireless work had brought positive changes in the lives of hundreds of Individuals in this reporting year. We thank the participating children, women and the communities of our working areas whose cooperation was praiseworthy. We thank the well wishers and the friends of FORWORD. Above all our sincere thanks to the Donors for their kind backing and timely support. Thanks.

The Team of FORWORD


