Bringing Light Into The Darkness
ABOUT US

Vision
Just and self-reliant society with highly resourceful people living in harmony and mutual help.

Mission
Ernakulam Social Service Society (ESSS) is committed to promote, support and sustain the socio-economic and developmental initiatives of the poor and the marginalized through social mobilization, empowerment and decentralization.

Mandate
Ernakulam Social Service Society (ESSS) came into existence on August 28, 1962 to cater the developmental concern of the poor and the marginalized population in the coastal belt of Ernakulum and Trichur districts. It is the initiative of the Archdiocese of Verapoly to do community organization and socio-economic programmes for the socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the area irrespective of caste, creed and religion. ESSS has been registered under the Travancore Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Regn. Act XIII of 1955 in 1962 (Reg. No. ER- 8/1962).
Developmental Objectives

Integral development by developing local knowledge base as appropriate and enthusing the community for self-propelled action.

Community based disaster preparedness and management equipping forums and task forces as appropriate and developing bio-physical shields to mitigate the disasters.

Promotion of functional community based organization (CBOs) at the villages for the developmental action.

Legal literacy and redressal services targeting specific women issues and in that regard collaborate with constitutional mechanisms and safeguards.

Entrepreneurial development and employment generation through locally viable and eco-friendly micro enterprises.

Infrastructure development addressing the gender and environmental concerns in order to ensure the physical and social well being of the poor.
Target Groups

Poor and Marginalized Women
Children from Rural Areas and Slums
Traditional Fishermen
Construction Workers and Other Unorganized Workmen.
Slum Population of Cochin City.
Differently Abled.
Senior Citizens
Women Self Help Groups

SHGs of women are formed as the neighborhood fraternity find place at the nucleus of the community. Weekly meeting, Collective learning, acquisition of skills, perspective building, activity planning, pooling of small thrift and transacting it as micro credit etc are the activities of SHGs.

Women Empowerment

Mythri Credit Union (Rural Women Banking)

ESSS covers 71 parishes with 157 Mythri units consisting of 30412 members. Trained volunteers visits the houses and collect their small savings & disburse the credit. Volunteers are instrumental to keep the members of the women banking active in the developmental framework through animation and training programmes.

Women are encouraged to contest in PRI elections.
Women take up varied social and community action programmes.
Women SHGs are linked to kudumbasree, PRIs, banks and other financial institutions.
928 SHG comprising of 16370 members are already in function and it federated into 78 regional units.

Thrust Areas

Women Self Help Groups

- Women are encouraged to contest in PRI elections.
- Women take up varied social and community action programmes.
- Women SHGs are linked to kudumbasree, PRIs, banks and other financial institutions.
- 928 SHG comprising of 16370 members are already in function and it federated into 78 regional units.
The department convenes regular Entrepreneurial Development Programme and skill training programmes for SHG women, thereby enabling them to begin with self employment. Apart from the micro credit mobilized at SHG level, matching credit from banks and subsidies from government agencies arranged. Technical and support services are provided to brand the product and market through Suvidha- A supermarket initiated by ESSS.

Ernakulam Social Service Society conducting in a certified course for aspiring Entrepreneurs in collaboration with Albertian Institute of Management.

Suvidha: Retail Chain

Suvidha is a retail marketing network jointly promoted by ESSS with the participation of Self Help Groups to bring the consumables to the public in an affordable price range. The products from micro-enterprises, promoted by ESSS are also marketed through Suvidha.
ESSS join hands with Kerala Labour Movement, an initiative of Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) in organizing Domestic Workers, Fisher Folk, Construction Workers, Tailors, and Migrant Workers in the jurisdiction of Archdiocese of Verapoly.

**Labour Fora Functional at ESSS**
- Kerala Domestic Workers Forum (KDWF)
- Swathanthra Nirmana Thozhilali Union (SNTU)
- Kerala Tailoring Workers Forum (KTWF)
- Kerala Migrant Workers Forum (KMWF)

**Empowerment of Domestic Workers and Migrant Workers**
supported by Italian Bishops Conference is one of the main projects running under Labour Development Programme of ESSS. Since a major chunk of the unorganized workers are domestic workers and migrants from other states, ESSS pays special attention to initiate special programmes for them.

**Key Thrust Areas**
- Capacity Building
- Animation
- Promotion of Social Security Schemes
- Networking
- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Skill Development
FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Save a Family Plan India Family Development Programme

It is a Save a Family Plan India funded sponsorship programme for the selected families for a continuous period of six years. By then the families are supposed to equip themselves with self-generative source of income suitably investing the monthly remittance from the sponsors. At present 298 families supported through this programme.

SNEHASPARSAM

Snehasparsham is a family sponsorship programme initiated with Golden Jubilee celebration of Ernakulam Social Service Society, to help the poorest of poor families. The selected beneficiary families will be assisted for a period of six years consecutively and an amount of Rs.1000/- will be given to the families every month.
COMMUNITY HEALTH

As part of preventive and curative interventions in the field of community health, ESSS join hands with various government and private hospitals, allied departments, like minded NGOs for conducting awareness generation programmes and specialized medical camps.

Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)

Major Activities

- Community Level Awareness Programme
- School Level Awareness Programme
- Sensitization Programme For PRI Members And Federation Leaders
- Health Volunteer Core.
- HIV/AIDS Awareness.
- Medical Camps.
- Health Mapping.

ESSS join hands with Catholic health association of India(CHAI) in implementing Revised National tuberculosis control programme(RNTCP). Promotion of multidrug resistant(MDR) and awareness building are the major components of the programme.
MICRO INSURANCE

Micro insurance programmes are specifically designed and implemented for the protection of low income families with a wider vision, social safety net for all. ESSS primarily focuses on General insurance (Universal Health Insurance, Personal Accident Policy and House Holders Policy) and life insurance schemes like Jeevan Madhur and Aam Aadmi Beema Yojana.

ASAKIRANAM CANCER CARE PROJECT

Project aims to create a self reliant community which able to take preventive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of cancer disease. ESSS joints hands with Carithas India with the goal/aim providing seamless network of high quality, comprehensive support services ranging from psychosocial support to information, resources, education and financial assistance.

PALLIATIVE CARE PROJECT

ESSS initiated palliative care unit, aiming at providing better accessibility of palliative care system to the common people .It also offering social, emotional support for home based palliative care to the needy under the operational area of ESSS.
ESSS Kuttikkoottams (Children’s Nature Club) are aimed at nurturing the innate talents of children by providing opportunities for their development. At present 241 Kuttikkoottams are working under ESSS

**Thrust areas**

- 😊 Scholastic Development
- 😊 Personality Development
- 😊 Career Development
- 😊 Socio-emotional Development
- 😊 Child Parliament Promotion
- 😊 Sponsorship Programme For Children.
COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR)

Hope & Help
Hope and help programme was launched in 1986, to help the differently abled to start some income generation programme and thereby lead a normal life.
- So far ESSS supported 1493 beneficiaries under this programme and 32 self help groups were formed.
- These groups would provide counselling services, physical and therapeutic rectification and medical care.

Sayamprabha
Occasional gathering of the elderly at the village level which make way to their physical and mental upkeep through recreational and cultural exposures, prayer and meditation, health checkups, counselling services and legal aid.

Astitva Elders Self Help Groups
Help age india supported project to ensure rural elderly men and women in Vypin areas are able to access age appropriate services as a right to active, healthy and dignified life.

Social Mainstreaming Of Spinsters
Project aims at the social mainstreaming of aloof women through group formation, awareness programmes, legal aid services etc... It is supported by Kerala Social Service Society (KSSF). Currently ESSS have 14 groups consisting of 93 members.
Build a House Plan (BAHP)

BAHP is a community linked special housing scheme developed by ESSS for the extremely underprivileged section who does not find way to any loan financed housing schemes. The funds are mobilized locally through the SHGs and mythri. Every SHG member contributes a fixed amount monthly towards this scheme.

Housing Project

There are many houses remaining incomplete since long due to budgetary deficit. The people being very poor are unable to complete the heir houses by using their own efforts. The project is running with the support of Selavip, S.America. The general objectives of the project are:

- To help the poorest of the poor to complete their houses remaining pending since long.
- To uplift them from the existing poor situation
- To provide safe habitation
SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION, EMPOWERMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION (SPED)

The project aiming at improving the quality of life of poor and marginalized communities in rural villages through people centered planning and initiatives. It is implemented in three Panchayats Kadamakkudy, Cheranelloor and Mulavaukad with the support of Save a Family Plan India. Major issues addressed through the Programme are Gender, Sustainable Livelihood, Strengthening of CBOs, Food Security, Health, Sanitation, and Waste Management.
TSUNAMI INTERVENTIONS

The earthquake which occurred on December 26, 2004 triggered a series of devastating tsunamis along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian ocean. The entire Vyppin shore including Edavanakkadu, Elamkunnapuzha, puthuvyppu, Njarakkal and Nayarambalam, which comes under the jurisdiction of the ESSS witnessed massive destruction and Many houses were damaged fully and partially. 2700 families were shifted to the 12 relief camps opened in the jurisdiction of Ernakulam social service society.

Immediate Relief By ESSS

- ESSS supplied food and mat to five-relief camps. 3668 special kits with food, clothing, and household utensils etc were distributed to the affected families.
- Sixteen medical camps were opened from which 1850 people got benefited.
- Psychological counseling was arranged to help them get rid of the panic anxiety.
- Play therapy and tour programmes were conducted
- Sports items were distributed to the children and five libraries were also started in relief camps for them
- The mud and derbies deposited by the tsunami was cleaned by the women squad organized under the leadership of self help groups of ESSS.
- ESSS rehabilitated 117 families in association with the government and the assistance of caritas India. 85 group houses and 32 individual houses with a drawing room, 2 bed rooms, kitchen and a toilet was constructed for the same. All the houses are insured.
Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)

Equipping the communities in the Tsunami hit areas of Vypeen to prepare and to take adequate measures to mitigate and manage the recurring natural hazards and disasters by developing human institutions and preparing task forces. Major components of the programme:

- Preparation of Disaster Management Plan through Participatory Learning & Action.
- Formation & Strengthening of Disaster Management Committees & Task Forces.
- Establishing Linkages with Government, PRIs and other Line Departments.
- Entrepreneurial Development Programme.
- Children’s Development.
- Water and Sanitation Programme.
- Construction of 440 rainwater-harvesting tanks along with the tsunami rehabilitation works became a relief for the islanders.
FUNDING AGENCIES

Caritas India
Rehaswiss-Switzerland
Selavip-Chile
Vorarlberg-Austria
St Giles Charity-England
Mission India International
CHAI-KERALA
Italian Bishops Conference(CEI)
ALRA-Austria
Save a Family Plan India
KSSF-Kottayam
Kindermissionswerk-Germany
Ganam Hotel-Ernakulam
Raskob Foundation-USA
Helpage India
Mr. Emberhad Knapp-Germany

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