

COMMUNITY OF CHANGANACHERRY

APOSTOLATE REPORT 2023

The Project of Adorers women's welfare at Changanacherry has the general objective; to build a just society, by educating the recipients (women and children) with the specific objective of preventing the children from entering in to prostitution and to maintain their integrated growth and development through motivating and facilitating them with moral, psychological formal and non-formal education. The ultimate intention is to reduce the number of victims of prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Socio-economic context:

Poverty, unemployment, unskilled, homelessness, domestic violence, seeking comfort, easy money making.

Corresponding Social phenomenon:

Prostitution based on homes, streets, hotels, lodges, bars, and house boats in tourist places.

In order to achieve these objectives, we have carried out the following activities:

- Contact/ Outreach Programme
- Net working with other NGOs and GOs
- Data collection.
- Visit to the families and soliciting areas,
- Interviews, Counselling,
- Financial support for education, health care, marriage, income generating business
- Providing food provisions, furniture and toiletries
- Providing materials for repair and maintenance of the houses and toilets
- Evaluation and follow up

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The community tries its best to remain faithful to Spirit's inspiration, in order to be witnesses of Christ in and through our Apostolate and in diverse ways. Our life is our mission (by witness), and our mission is our life (by action). Together, they both shape us and give us our identity and authenticity as Adorers.

The community strive to make the apostolate dynamic in its context of contact programmes with the women into prostitution. Through these women we reach out to their children and families. We visit them at their homes and other places where they gather. We listen to their life stories, help them to heal their wounds,

trying to make them to understand to give up this baneful life and to opt for an alternative life. They also contact us and visit us in times of needs and problems.

A crash course on Basic computer and Spoken English was conducted here during summer holidays and about 10 of them had benefited from it.

In case of a special need, we provide short stay facilities until they can be back to their place of stay.

We render financial help for education, marriage, medicine, provisions, repair of houses, furniture and some income generating business.

We gather them during festivals of Onam and Christmas.

We do have networking among our communities and with likeminded entities to promote and support the work to respond best to our mission in the church and society.

Home Visit



Counselling

As a follow up programme we listen to their problems and difficulties and counsel them as they come to our centre as well as we go to their families for visit. We motivate them to give up this baneful life, work hard to improve their situation so as to come up to the main stream society.



Skill training

We have motivated and given opportunity and encouragement to the young girls of the recipients to do tailoring and beautician courses organized by CHASS (Changanacherry Social Service Society)



Education

Children of our recipients were helped to get their admissions in the colleges, financial aid for school uniform , study materials, fees and conveyance.

Celebrations

They come together during festivals of Onam and Christmas. They are happy to

enjoy the day with games, cultural programmes, gifts and sumptuous meals. The kits with provisions which are given lessen their worry about giving food for the family for so many days.

We also join other like-minded entities for celebrations of Women's day on 8th March, Christmas and Onam festivals.



Net working with NGOs and GOs

The networking among our communities and with likeminded organizations will bring more openness towards mission. It enables sisters to favour collaboration with other congregations, Go's and NGOs. By opening ourselves to our locality, to the lay and religious institutions, to the likeminded groups who, like us, fight for the cause of women, we encounter persons with whom we share our values, resources and experiences. With them we programme and carry out the projects to empower women, widen the horizons and enrich mutually.

We collaborate with other NGOs and likeminded entities to carry out the mission. We work together for the case studies, process of regeneration and rehabilitation to bring them to the main stream society. Together we conduct certain programmes, share experiences and ideas to follow up to empower them.

We also conducted a study along with other few NGOs working in Kottayam District about the sex workers. It is found that around 1500 HIV Positive women come every month for the medical aid at the outsource centre of AIDS control society in the district. There are around 600 sex workers visit a centre of another NGO. In our local town bus stand there are about 60 sex workers who come and

go daily to meet their customers. The study also shows that the highest numbers of sex workers are found in Pathanamthitta District.

HIV infected patients	Sex workers in Kottayam Dist.	Sex workers at Changanacherry
1500	600	60



Follow up programmes



One girl is settled with marriage and family.



Financial help is given to make the toilet.



Financial help is given for Electricity connection to another family.



Visiting the recipients at their residences at government housing colonies.



Reaching out with food provisions, cleaning materials and toiletries.



provided tables and chairs for the students



A crash course on Basic computer and Spoken English was conducted here during summer holidays and seven of them had benefited from it.

We render financial help for education, marriage, medicine, provisions, repair of houses, furniture and some income generating business.



Visiting the home of our recipients and listening to their problems.



Financial help for
education

Challenges on the way...

The main challenge we face in the field is Change of modus operandi/scenario of the women in prostitution: A prostitute woman was easily identified earlier by their appearance, dressing, hairstyle, gestures, place and mode of operation. Since few years they look like any other women. They carry out the business like any other job or profession to earn money to meet their livelihood. They organize the business through mobile networks; they are picked up and dropped back by the customers. The public is aware of the reality and no more hidden agenda. The law and order system do not stop them too; which gives all the freedom for their smooth functioning without fearing chasing, arrest, imprisonment, bail and bribing. Their intention is easy way of earning money and a most comfortable

life. At this juncture, we need to be extra cautious while interacting with them. They tell at your face that they do not need your advice but money in spite of the fact that they like to share and be listened. They are very good at their heart but broken and wounded, society looks them down.

CONCLUSION:

The beauty of this noble mission of interaction with the recipients; the lost, least and the last is about recognizing the dignity of the women who survive disfigured by so much exploitation, oppression and suffering; to recognize their human dignity, to believe in them, in their possibilities, in their abilities, in their dreams and to unleash the enslaved freedom resulting in liberation.

The women of our mission, experts in suffering and fortitude, while sharing with us their experience, touch our sensitivity and teach us that only from the heart it is possible to judge without condemning. We enter into contact with their family environment, their work, with the mechanisms that provoke their situation. This enables sisters to understand them in a more effective manner that they are also our sisters created in His own image and likeness.

May St. María Michaela be our guiding light.