

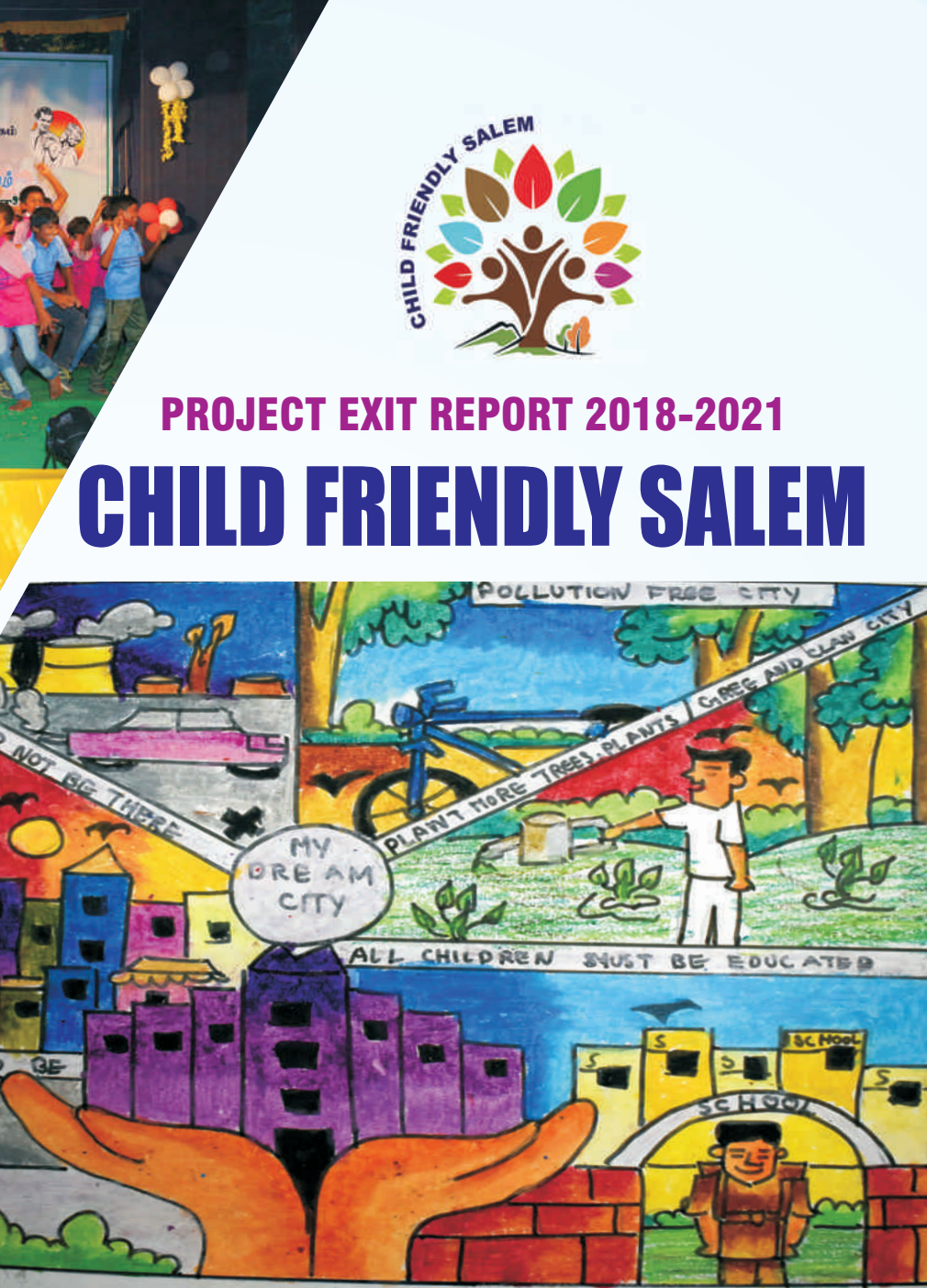
" It's not enough to love the children,  
it is necessary that they are aware that they are loved"

- St. John Bosco

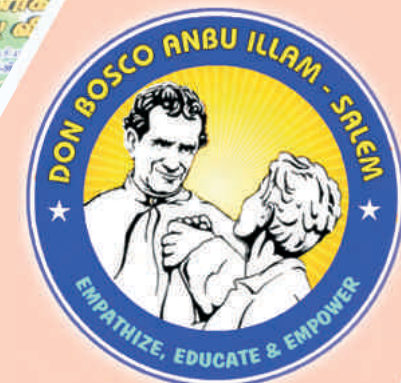
Every child has...  
...the right to be **respected**  
...the right to **dream**  
...the right to be loved and **cared** for  
...gifts that should be recognized and **valued**  
...the right to achieve their God-Given **potential**  
...the need for **unconditional love**



**Let us Unite to Create Child Friendly Salem**



Creating a Child Friendly Environment where Child Rights are Ensured



**DONBOSCO ANBU ILLAM**

Office : 230, Brett's Road, Mulluvadi gate, Salem – 636007. Tamil Nadu – South India  
E-mail: anbuillamsalem@gmail.com | Website: www.dbaisalem.com | Ph: 0427- 2416631 | 94433 41663





சமூக பாதுகாப்புத்துறை

சலம் மாவட்ட குழந்தைகள் பாதுகாப்பு அலுவலகம்  
மற்றும தொன்போஸ்கோ அன்பு இல்லம்

இணைந்து நடத்துக



## PROJECT PROFILE

Name of the Project  
CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM (CFS)

Implementing Partner NGO  
THE SALEM DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM  
SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Funding Partners  
MISSEAN CARA –  
MISSION SUPPORT FROM IRELAND”  
KINDERMISSIONSWERK AND  
DON BOSCO MISSION BONN

Location of  
the Project Implemented  
SALEM, TAMILNADU, INDIA

Duration of the Project  
APRIL 2018 – JUNE 2021  
(THREE YEARS AND THREE MONTHS)







## Message from Director's Desk...

*"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment."*

*- Wess Stafford*

### Greetings...

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and deep regards to DB YaR -CFCI National team under the leadership of Fr. Tony Pellissery SDB, for their commitment, Guidance, monitoring and constant encouragement throughout the successful completion of the project.

We appreciate and express our sincere thanks to our core team members, who had been a backbone and steering committee in the implementation of the child friendly Salem initiatives.

We thank and acknowledge the support and collaboration of District Collector and District Administration of Salem, Commissioner of Corporation and various government and non-government stakeholders.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Children, Community members and prominent Civil Society Members, mentors, volunteers, who devoted their time, knowledge, and energy in the implementation of this project.

I take this opportunity to thank CFS team members for their dedication, commitment and love for the children in implementing and successfully completing the Child friendly Salem initiatives.

With the dream of transforming Salem city into a child-friendly city: Child-Friendly City was initiated in the year 2018. The final output foreseen was: "Children's coalitions, civil society groups and city administrations have collaboratively garnered support for and ownership of the vision and road map their Child Friendly City by the community, media, businesses, corporate houses and other stakeholders of the city, indicated by their assurance of participation and commitment of human and financial resources to the planned interventions."

The last three years project has helped in mobilizing children and civil society members on child rights. Building a good rapport with the top administrators, political leaders, and affluent personalities in the city. Created a base work on empowering children and civil society on child rights. Need to take more steps in mobilizing city administration and political leaders to promote child rights in planning. More platform to be facilitated to children to meet the city administration, to demand their rights.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact in our dream of Child Friendly Salem. The children were the most affected due to Corona as many of them have lost their parents and relatives and they have lost two precious years of schooling which has created a large gap in their learning capability. This has also led to lot of child right issues as many have stopped their education and many girls are given in early marriage. The Corona lock down dampened the efforts. But the CFS team made a great attempt to be in touch with the children through distribution of relief materials. Irrespective of all the hurdles of the lockdown, the CFS team have done their best in visualizing and actualizing the dream.

We propose to scale up the activities geographically to increase the number of beneficiaries, especially children and make them independent in raising their voices against violation of their rights. Build a strong civil society platform to take up this initiatives. This initiative should become people's movement to ensure "Best interest of children" and create child friendly society.

Rev. Dr. **M. Casimir Raj** SDB  
Director, Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem.

## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and sincerely thank "Missean cara – Mission Support from Ireland" Kindermissionswerk, Don Bosco Mission Bonn and Don Bosco Aid -Ireland for their financial support and guidance. We are grateful to Don Bosco Young at Risk Forum (DBYaR) for their expertise and providing necessary guidance concerning projects implementation. With their direction and advice, there was superior quality of outcomes in the project, and thus their support has been essential.

We express our gratitude toward INT province, past Directors of Don Bosco Anbu Illam and Directors of YaR Sector for their kind co-operation and encouragement which helped us in the completion of this project.

We thank and acknowledge the support and collaboration of District Collector and District Administration of Salem, Commissioner of Corporation, City Health officer, District Child protection officer, District social welfare officer, District Education officer, Project Director National Child labour Eradication project, ICDS, Childline, Child welfare committee, Police department, Education department, Core team members, Civil society platform members, NGOs, local community leaders in working wards, volunteers, CFS staffs and DBAI staff.

We thank the Salem Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society for the successful implementation and completion of the Child Friendly initiatives in Salem City Corporation.

We appreciate and express our sincere thanks to our Core Team members, who had been a backbone and steering committee in the implementation of the child friendly Salem initiatives.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Children, Community members and prominent Civil Society Members who devoted their time, knowledge, and energy in the implementation of this project.

**Thank you**  
**Child Frindly Salem Team**



**missean cara**  
Mission Support from Ireland



**DON BOSCO**  
**MISSION BONN**





# Abbreviations

- CCG** - Caring Community Group
- CFCI** - Child Friendly Cities Initiatives
- CFS** - Child Friendly Salem
- CS** - Civil Society Member
- CSO** - Civil Society Organization
- CSP** - Civil Society Platform
- CSN** - Child Safety Net
- CWC** - Child Welfare Committee
- DBAI** - Don Bosco Anbu Illam
- DB YaR** - Don Bosco Young at Risk
- DCPU** - District Child Protection Unit
- DCPO** - District Child Protection Officer
- DLSA** - District Legal service Authority
- DSWO** - District Social Welfare officer
- ICDS** - Integrated Child Development Scheme
- ICPS** - Integrated Child Protection Scheme
- NCLP** - National Child Labour Project
- POSCO** - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act.
- PHC** - Primary Health Centre
- VLPCP** - Village Level Child Protection Committee
- UNCRC** - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UNICEF** - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,



## CHILD RIGHTS

Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Friendly Cities Initiative builds on four key articles of the Convention.

### Non-discrimination (Article 2):

The rights of all children are respected, without discrimination of any kind irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

### Best interests of the child (Article 3):

The best interests of children are a primary consideration in decisions that may affect them with State Parties assuring the care and protection necessary for their wellbeing.

### The inherent right to life, survival and development (Article 6):

Children have the right to life, with States Parties committed to ensuring the maximum extent possible, their right to survival and healthy development.

### Respect for the views of the child (Article 12):

Children have the right to voice their opinions and have these be taken into account in decisions that affect them.





### Right to Survival:

- Right to be born
- Right to minimum standards of food, shelter and clothing
- Right to live with dignity
- Right to health care, to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay healthy

### Right to Protection:

- Right to be protected from all sorts of violence
- Right to be protected from neglect
- Right to be protected from physical and sexual abuse
- Right to be protected from dangerous drugs

### Right to Participation:

- Right to freedom of opinion
- Right to freedom of expression
- Right to freedom of association
- Right to information
- Right to participate in any decision making that involves him/her directly or indirectly

### Right to Development:

- Right to education
- Right to learn
- Right to relax and play
- Right to all forms of development – emotional, mental



## Content

1. Background of the Issues and need of the Project
2. Geographical profile of Salem
3. Implementing Agency
4. Significant strategies and activity adopted to Achieve the Goals of the project
5. Major Achievements of the Project
6. Qualitative report
  - a. Children
  - b. Civil Society
  - c. City Administration
  - d. Duty bearers / Service providers
7. Lessons learned & Challenges
8. Visibility and Scope of the Project.
9. Stakeholder Speaks
10. Photographs

### Towards SDG...





# 1. Background of the Issues and need of the Project

“Child Friendly City” is an evolving concept and there are very little efforts towards this in countries like India. This is a unique initiative attempted by a very few organisations in India and the process is at varying levels. Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (DB YaR Forum) with a strong presence in the field and with a network of over 90 institutions and organizations spread across 19 states and union territories of India, had launched “Child Friendly City Initiative in the cities of Chandigarh, Rajahmundry, Salem and Vadodara, in April 2018.

DB YaR Forum is committed to all-round development of children with the principle of best interests of children, reaching out through a various interventions and services, since 1972, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, “at-risk” young persons. Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem has been working for the rescue and rehabilitation of street children and child labourers in Salem district for the last 30 years. And this Child Friendly Salem has members from various walks of life such as Child Right NGOs, citizen’s clubs such as Rotary and Lions Clubs, people in business, trade, prominent citizens, NGOs involved in Human Rights, Advocates, and the Media.

The initiative is designed in such a way that the entire civil society, including children, parents, community members, city administration, committed individuals and organisations, is sensitised and enlightened to transform the city, to make it fit for children’s all-round development and realisation of all their rights enshrined in the UNCRC. The program seeks to bring children, adult citizens, and city administrations on a common platform where the best interests of children drive decision-making in planning, execution and monitoring of the city’s projects and activities that impact their lives. It seeks to make children as their first line of defence through creating space for their participation and with the support of community and civil society participation.

Children are the first victims of the poverty due to urbanization. Living condition in a slum involves a range of risks including violence, abuse, trafficking, sex slavery, child labour, conflict with law and a host of violations of even basic life, survival, and protection of rights. Inadequate nutrition, unhygienic living conditions and exposure to contaminated water led the children to a greater risk of disease and chronic health problems. India has 50% of the malnourished children among rest of the World. Primary school dropouts are 45% against those who are enrolled. Two out of three children are physically abused. Every year, 2.1 million children die before reaching the age of five. India also has the lowest child immunization rate in South Asia and the largest number of maternal deaths in the world. The sex ratio of girls to boys (under six) has deteriorated from 935 girls per 1000 boys (1991) to 905:1000 in 2011. From 2010 to 2011, there was 24% rise in crimes against children. It increased to 52.5% between 2012 and 2013. Such high crime rates against children imply that urban children are also in danger of becoming a part of organized crime rackets. It is lucrative for employers to employ child workers since it is a cheaper option and labour laws are poorly implemented. Huge numbers of urban children work in small and medium-scale hazardous

industries, service establishments, and informal businesses. Many children work as domestic helpers. The implications of all these for children are profound. Even if they are better served than their rural counterparts, urban children face higher odds, especially if they are poor, are girls or from marginalized communities such as Dalits, tribals, minorities and migrants from other states.

30+ million urban children do not have a childhood as committed to by the nation when it signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the bitter core of rights denials and violations are:

- The inequality of access to resources / infrastructure / services / opportunities
- Absence of agency capability with children for public action
- Refusal of both the state and civil society to recognize children as citizens with right to be heard and listened to
- Lack of civil society commitment to enabling child agency and justice of child rights
- Impunity with which children are abused and their rights violated
- Connivance, collusion, abetting, avoidance, and accountability failures of state actors.

Children’s problems get only peripheral and superficial political attention. On most occasions, this attention is a knee jerk response to tragedy. Everyday cases of child exploitation or neglect are rarely recognized as violations and registered as offences. State infrastructure and services for children and child friendly urban architecture are far from adequate. It is not surprising that cities have no internal drive and no external compulsion to evolve justiciable laws, doable policy formulations and non-discriminatory, accountable delivery systems.

A city is a political economy. Those who have power, corner for themselves most of what there is to get. However, in a democracy, informed public action does influence policies and resources in favour of those on the margins. Thus, from a political perspective, making a city child friendly is all about empowering children with “agency” so that they have visibility, voice, participation, and control over decisions which impact their lives, identity, diversity, security, and future. Those holding responsibilities are called upon to build the capabilities of children (information, knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, leadership, organizational platforms, linkages, and advocacy support) for this “rights driven” agency.

The initial and first phase of this program - spread over 36 months – envisions children’s groups, civil society members and city administrations collaboratively evolving and gathering support from all sections of society in these 4 cities for a vision and road map for a Child Friendly City, indicated by their assurance of participation and commitment of human and financial resources to the planned interventions. This is considered as a preparatory stage towards a Child Friendly City.



## Vision

“Best interests of children inform planning and management of cities”

## Mission

“Sustainable, rights based, civil society and child agency driven strategies that set cities on course to becoming increasingly child friendly evolved, adopted, implemented and monitored by city administrations, communities and children in 4 cities of India”.

### Objectives of the initiative:

1. Children have a platform to speak up for their rights, and make their voice heard against rights violations.

- Children make their voice heard for their rights and the rights of their peers.
- Children’s groups – child parliaments and child rights clubs have increased capacity to make their voices heard and to participate in decision making processes.

3. Civil Administration and Political Leaders ensure rights of children in planning and implementation, in their sphere of responsibility. There are two key result areas under this objective

- Key administrative and political leaders in city actively promote child rights in planning and implementing in own spheres.
- Mechanisms for listening to children are set in place by city administrations.

4. Government Departments, Service Providers, Duty Bearers ensure services to children as provided for by law, particularly in the areas of safety, Protection, Health and Education. There are seven expected results under this objective.

- Duty bearers, service providers in city trained in child rights issues and procedures, ensure services to children as provided by law.
- Police personnel sensitive to and caring towards children, especially those most vulnerable and those in conflict with law – indicated by sensitisation workshops for police and child friendly spaces in all police stations.
- Baseline data on key indicators of status of children’s rights prepared and made available in public domain Child.
- Safety Nets and Caring Community Groups developed in all sensitive locations in each city.
- Incidence of violence against children, child abuse, rights violations reduced in city by at least 15% in each city, by the end of Year 3
- Number of out of school children in city and school dropouts reduced at least by 15% in each city by end of Year 3
- Improved access to health care for all children, particularly for children of the more disadvantaged groups – indicated by the number of health camps conducted, especially in the poorer neighbourhoods.

2. Civil Society groups, community leaders, prominent personalities, clubs, educators, activists, professionals, businesses, media are actively involved for the cause of rights of children. Three key result areas are planned under this objective.

- Members of Civil society groups, NGO’s, prominent personalities, clubs, Educationists (Academicians), Activists, Professionals, Business, and Media are actively involved for the cause of rights of children.
- Civil Society Members, informed and committed to child rights, initiate interventions in favour of children’s rights and win space in media for child rights issues.
- Information readily available on progress of the city towards child friendliness – through website that maps child rights issues and progress in each ward of the cities, integrated into the official website of the cities.

## 2. Geographical profile of Salem

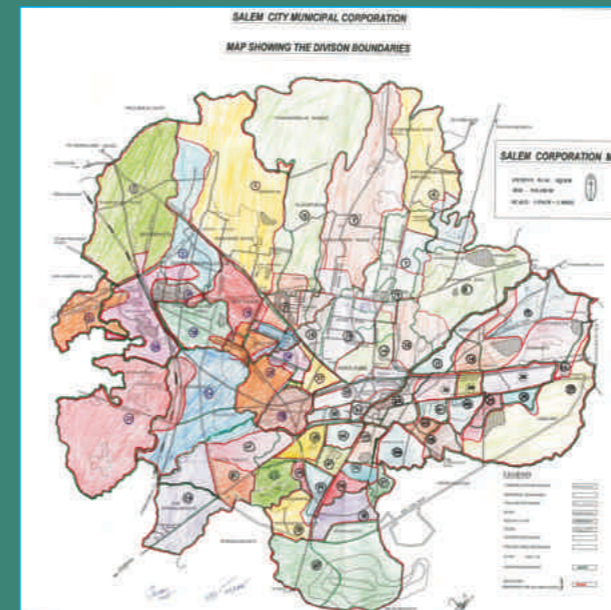
Salem is one among 15 city corporations in Tamil Nadu state and is fifth largest city in the state by population and covers 124 sq. kms. This city is divided into 60 wards. Salem City had a population of 829,267 during 2011 population census. Now the population is estimated to be over a million. According to 2011 census almost 22% of the city population were living in overcrowded 344 slums, spread only in 1.5% of the total area of the city. This shows the intensity of slum population who are living in most cramped, unhygienic locations of the city.

This living condition has damaging and adverse effects on the children of the slum dwellers. Most of the slum children are deprived of their rights as their parents do. Most of these slums are very old settlements and over 95% of the slum dwellers are Tamil people drawn as migrants into the city from within rural areas of Salem district and other districts of the State.

Salem city slum population as per 2011 Census is 180936 living in 46672 households. There are many other areas of lower middle class within the city apart from slums with high population density. Both slums and lower middle-class locations put together account for roughly

### Population of Salem city corporation

Demography of Salem	Numbers
Population (2011)	829276
Literacy rate %	84.4%
Population of children (2011) (0-18)	249237
Proportion of Children (%) (0-18)	30.06%
% of SC population	12.8%
Slum Population (2011)	180936
Proportion of Children in slums (%) (0-18)	30%
Proportion of slum children to total city children	22%
Child Sex Ratio	949
Number of Wards	60



60% of the population and children in the city. This living condition has damaging and adverse effects on the children of the slum dwellers. Most of the slum children are deprived of their rights as their parents do. Most of these slums are very old settlements and over 95% of the slum dwellers are Tamil people drawn as migrants into the city from within rural areas of Salem district and other districts of the State.

Salem city slum population as per 2011 Census is 180936 living in 46672 households. There are many other areas of lower middle class within the city apart from slums with high population density. Both slums and lower middle-class locations put together account for roughly 60% of the population and children in the city.



## Most vulnerable children in Salem City:

Children living in slums of Salem city are the most vulnerable children for whom the city is not friendly at all. Most of their rights are violated. They are deprived of hygienic living conditions, access to proper schooling and adequate protection. There is neglect of children by the community.

A Study undertaken during 2014(1)\*, "Slum Free City Action Plan Salem", highlighted the following characteristics of the slum population.

- More than 60% of the households live in kutcha houses without proper walls, roofs, and floors. Their dwellings are too cramped and measures around 100 sq. feet only.
- Overall, about 52 % of the slum population fall under below
- Poverty line (BPL) as per the survey conducted.
- It is seen that the number of households falling under the BPL are as high as 80 -90 % in ward nos. 18, 26,28,29,33,36,39,41,43, 44,46,47 and 54.
- 28% of population belonging to SC. Most of them work in informal low paid jobs
- There is considerable female headed households
- Children are neglected and they get into substance abuse and school attendance is low.
- Child labour is rampant
- Low literacy levels among children and parents.

There are many studies and assessments of conditions of children in urban areas are conducted by various agencies and notably by UNICEF. The studies show that the Children who live in urban zones often find themselves in a precarious situation. Due to extreme poverty, (as in the slums of Salem city), they can hardly satisfy fundamental needs such as nutrition, access to healthcare, education, and are often exposed to danger. Accidents and violence are also a part of their everyday lives.

Malnutrition is a common pathological condition among urban poor children. Its short- and long-term effects (such as late mental development, greater exposure to infectious diseases, and risk of chronic illness in adulthood) are extensive. Among the urban poor, malnutrition often results from poverty, frequently associated with the weak economic status of the family, the environment, difficult housing conditions, and insufficient access to food, clean water, and medical assistance. Studies of the urban setting demonstrate elevated levels of infant mortality rate that are principally caused by large concentrations of poverty and insufficient services that one finds in the savage urban settlements like the slums and shanty towns.

Though there are more educational institutions in the urban areas compared rural areas, many children of the urban poor are not in an enabling situation to be in school. Many of them drop out after primary level of education as they experience barriers in pursuing their school education up to secondary and further.

*A child without education,  
is like a bird without wings. - Tibetan proverb*

Urban centres experience an unprecedented growth due to a rise in the rural exodus. In a world that is more and more urbanized, violence has reached epidemic proportions due to various factors that come into play. As proper employment there is rare and there are many people who resort to secretive means of survival, sometimes even means of a criminal nature, the children are susceptible to violence in urban areas. There is lack of recreational activities that are open to children such as sports, arts that could capture children's attention in urban zones.

The growth of cities gives rise to several child protection issues. There was a 24% increase in crimes against children between 2010 and 2011 and a further 52.5% increase from 2012 to 2013 as per UNICEF report. The study found that 83.2% higher-than-average crime rate clearly means that children in the cities are not only victims to such violence but are in the danger of becoming a part of organised crime rackets, especially when faced with circumstances such as disruption in schooling, dysfunctional family, lack of parental care and exposure to substance abuse. Urban resilience and disaster management and extreme climatic conditions have a different impact on children than they have for adults and pose a serious threat to a child's survival and well-being.

In a country such as India, where it is lucrative for employers to employ child workers since it is cheap and labour laws are poorly implemented, the number of urban child workers is huge, though still less than that in rural areas. Small industrial workshops, small and medium-scale hazardous industries, service establishments, and informal sectors are the areas where child workers are concentrated. Many children work as domestic

helps, suffering abuse and exploitation at the hands of their employers, which is usually away from the public eye.

While such is the general conditions of children in urban areas, especially of poorer sections, most of the slum children and lower income groups remain vulnerable in cities like Salem. There are a significant number of children who drop out from schools and work. Due to broken families and neglect, there are many children who land up in Child Care Institutions. There are many special children who are differently abled face more hazardous barriers in their daily lives and for development and protection. Girl children are married at an early stage in their lives as that is seen as one way of protecting the girls in urban slums. Salem being one of the main railway junction connecting most other parts of the country, trafficking of children and run-away children land in this city.

### Issues of children identified in the project:

In the process of interacting with people, parents, children, civil society members and other institutions and based on Don Bosco Anbu Illam's long-standing work in the city, following issues of children are identified in Salem City.

- Poverty takes its toll on children's welfare due to unhygienic localities, congested living space in slums and no privacy for adolescent girls. Open defecation is practiced in still in many slums as the access to public toilets are limited and there is no space around the house for building toilets.
- Lack of open space for play activity and sports in most part of the city depriving children of their right to play and leisure. There is no walking lane on roadsides and no speed breaks at children crossings in important and heavy traffic points leading to accidents.

(1)\* Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2014, Slum Free City Action Plan Salem, <http://mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/35TNSCB-Salem-sfcp-min.pdf>



- Eve teasing is a one of the major problems in and around of educational institutions for girls and women. Lack of surveillance of police department to safeguard girls' safety and it prevents them to continue their education. Also, there is no proper and safe transport facilities for the girls children in both private and Government schools, as the private auto rickshaws are taking more children and no safety for their lives also they abuse the children over the period of time as they can assess the situations of the children and their background.
- Mosquitos and insects are a major problem in slums and the environmental issues are affecting the people live in the locality. These people are prone to get many diseases due to poor public hygiene and sanitation system. In addition, the stray dogs and dog bites are common problem for the slum community.
- Safe drinking potable water is another major issue which affects the health of children in the slum areas. The improper storm water drainage system creates a permanent challenge to the habitants during the monsoon and the open sewage canals are overflowed, and the cutter water engulfed the residents during heavy rain falls.
- The parental attention towards their children is another challenge to be with them and share their quality time with them is lacking and due to this the children are deviated to untoward habits. Influence of alcohol and drugs is threat to the children and their lives. The parental conflicts lead the children into mental disturbance and affects their happiness and health too.
- Many adolescent children especially boys take substance abuse, consuming tobacco due to peer group influence.
- Child labour is increasing due to dropouts from schools.
- Early marriage and sexual harassment create a great threat to the girl children.
- Gender inequality and domestic violence are common practice in the community.

With this backdrop, the Child Friendly City initiative was launched in Salem city during April 2018.

The first phase of the project for three years to prepare the base for transforming the city towards a child friendly city by involving various stakeholders including the duty bearers. The base line and preparatory work were initiated in selected 30 wards of Hasthampatti and Ammapet zones.

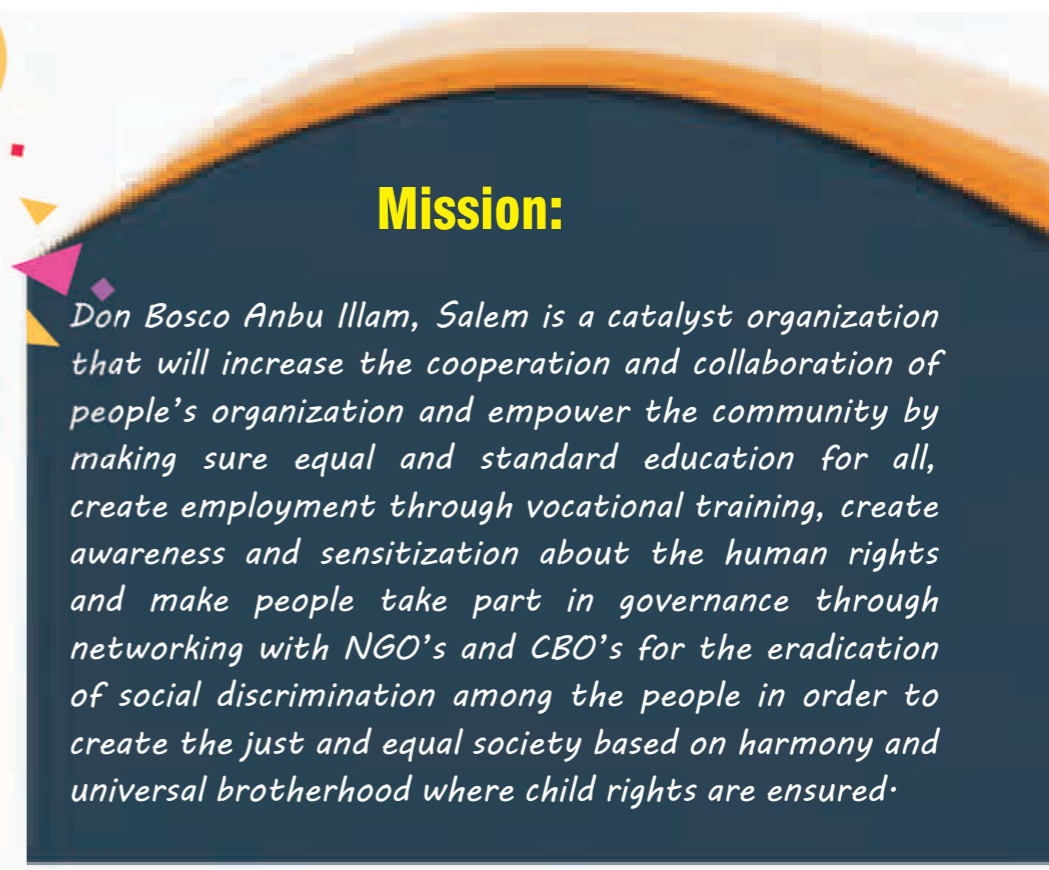
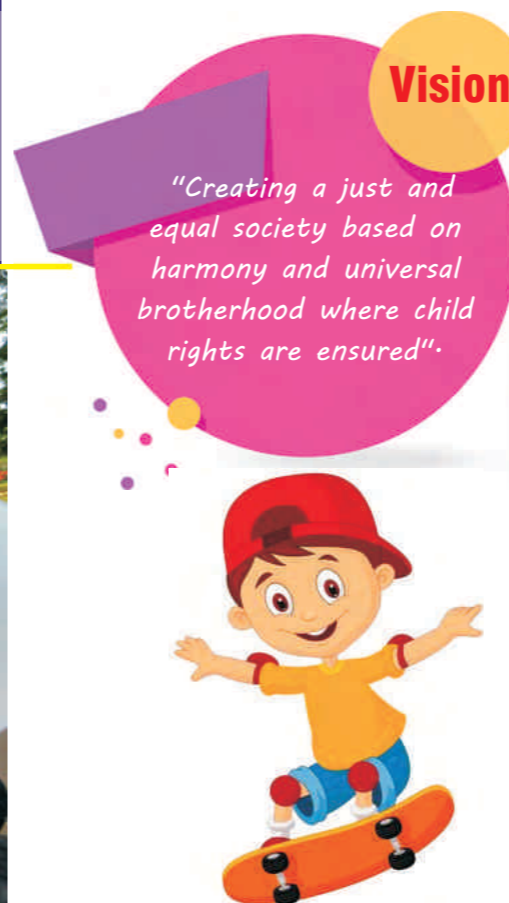


### 3. Implementing Organization

#### The Salem Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society

The Salem Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society is the non-profitable charitable organization which works for the integral development of the youth and children who are at risk. It was started in the year 1988 primarily to work for the street children, working children and for marginalized youth who were in need of care and protection and for their well being through rehabilitation. After having worked about twelve years with the marginalized people at the grass roots level, it was registered as an independent social service society on 27th September 2000, under Tamil Nadu Society Registration Act 1975. Anbu Illam shelter homes were registered under Juvenile Justice Act 2015. At present it is recognized by the district administration and by other non-profitable organization that serves for the youth at risk and as one of the leading child rights organizations in Salem district. There was growing awareness of the ever-increasing number of street children in the nooks and corners of Salem in the mid-1980s. Incredibly the plight of these children was not covered under any existing socio-political scheme or program. They were not even considered in the population census of the state of Tamil Nadu.

This alarming situation captured the attention of some students of philosophy, who have their academic centre at The Retreat, Yercaud, a hill station, 30 km away from Salem. Based on their discussions on how to cater to these street children during their weekend service schemes, the genesis of a marvellous rehabilitation program for the young at risk was set up and headed by Fr. Schlooz, Netherland (Pioneer of all Anbu Illam in Tamilnadu). The initial contact centres were at the New Bus Stand and at the Railway Junction. They were also working with the juveniles in the Government Observation Home.





To achieve this vision, the organization has an effective rehabilitation package such as Shelter home, Child line 1098, Reception Unit for Boys, Open Shelter for Street Children and Promotion of Child Rights, Drop-out Prevention, Vocational Training and Home link(MIS) for these vulnerable children namely, street and working children, missing and trafficked children, HIV/AIDS affected and infected children and Marginalized Youth which comprises of their Rescue, Restoration, Rehabilitation and Reformation (Family and Social reintegration).

**TARGET GROUP:**

- ✓ Children in slum communities
- ✓ Children living in poverty
- ✓ School Dropout
- ✓ Orphan Children
- ✓ Vulnerable Children
- ✓ Differently abled children
- ✓ Children in need of care and protection
- ✓ Children in conflict with Law



**FOOTFALL OF CFS INITIATIVES IN WARDS OF SALEM CITY**



**STAFF PATTERN**



**4. Significant strategies and activities adopted to achieve the goals of the project**

Sl.No	Objectives of the project	Strategies adopted	Activities carried out	Out comes	Impacts
1	Children have a platform to speak up for their rights, and make their voice heard against rights violations.	Creating coalitions of children to engage the administrative departments of their cities, demanding their rights so that the city promotes the best interests of the children. 1. Mobilization of children 2. Empowerment of children on child rights 3. Involvement of children in decision making.	1. Sensitization 2. Group Formation 3. Capacitation 4. Interventions led by the children	Children made their voices heard for their rights and their peers' rights	1203 children raised their voices through various interventions
2	Civil Society groups, community leaders, prominent personalities, clubs, educators, activists, professionals, businesses, media are actively involved for the cause of rights of children.	Civil society platforms provided knowledge/value leadership to the interventions in their cities. 1. Mobilization of CS members. 2. Capacity building on child rights. 3. Facilitate to undertake intervention for the cause of children. 4. Involve them in planning for the children.	1. Sensitization 2. Formation of Caring groups 3. Capacitation 4. Interventions for the cause of child rights	Civil society member are actively promoting and safeguarding child rights	221 Civil society members empowered and involved in the cause of child rights
3	Civil Administration and Political Leaders ensure rights of children in planning and implementation, in their sphere of responsibility.	Setting up Institutions and mechanisms by City Administrations for listening to children and for responding to their rights assertions	1. Sensitization 2. Promotion of child rights. 3. Interface meet with children	Key administrative and political leaders are actively promoting child rights	33 Key administrative and political leaders actively promoted child rights.
4	Government Departments, Service Providers, Duty Bearers ensure services to children as provided for by law, particularly in the areas of safety, Protection, Health and Education.	department personnel, service providers informed about child rights and meeting performance standards	1. Training of teachers/Anganwadi teachers 2. Training of service providers/ police personnel. 3. Conducting Medical camp. 4. Awareness and campaign on Drop out enrolment	Capacity Building of Service Providers/Duty Bearers to ensure services to children as provided for by law, particularly in the areas of safety, Protection, Health and Education.	496 service providers were trained on ensuring service to children provide by the law 81 service providers are meeting the performance standards 140 police personnel trained on child Rights 14 medical camps conducted from the camp children benefitted from the camp



## 5. Major Achievements of the Project



1203

Children made their voices heard

112

Children Group Formed

55

Children Groups active / Decision making

12

Child rights intervention Led by the children groups

19

Child right intervention were taken up by the civil society member to address child rights issues in their locality.

2434

Children mobilized through Children clubs

9519

Children Sensitized on child rights

924

Civil society members Sensitized on child rights.

221

CS members actively promoting child rights and involved for the cause of children.

14

Medical camps conducted and 832 children benefited

Dissemination of Children Election Manifesto 2021

140

Police personnel trained on child right

33

Civil Administration/ political leaders actively promoting Child rights.

496

Service providers/ duty bearers trained to ensure service to children provided by law.

## 6. Quantitative Report

### 6.a. Children

#### Objective - 1

Children have a platform to speak up for their rights, and make their voice heard against rights violations.

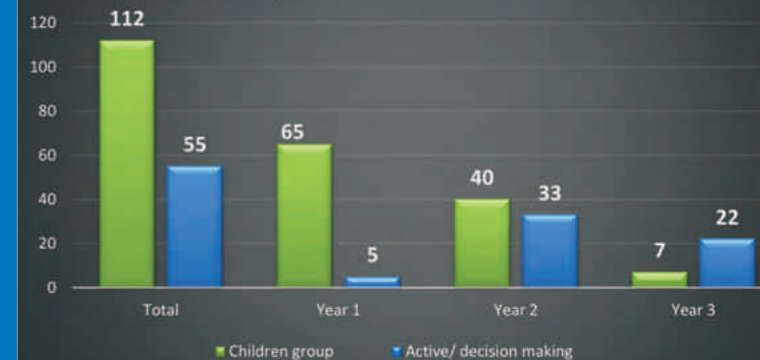
- Children make their voice heard for their rights and the rights of their peers.
- Children's groups – child parliaments and child rights clubs have increased capacity to make their voices heard and to participate in decision making processes.

Totally 112 children groups were formed, and 2434 children became members from schools and communities. The children group formation process began with identified, organised, and conducted sensitisation sessions for those children. Through these activities we were able to reach 9519 children from 2 zones.

The sessions with children, discussed on issues like child rights, the concept of child friendliness, Juvenile Justice (JJ) system, child marriage, child labour, Prevention of child sexual offences (POCSO) Act, identifying good touch – bad touch to prevent sexual abuse, health, environment, and cleanliness. Used different types of interactive methods like puppet and magic, shows, games, competitions and screened short films ("Komal") in the process to understand the rights and issues of the children. Conducted capacity building



Children groups formation and empowerment activities



sessions on leadership, teamwork, Environment, and career guidance for their higher education after Xstd.

The series of sensitisation and capacity programmes were made the children to aware of issues and rights for them and motivated them to act upon them. The impact of the programmes was remarkable as an example the sensitisation events at schools in coordination

with Child Line (24x7 Child Helpline) & Juvenile Aid Police Unit, were made a girl child to aware the role of Childline to stop child marriages of her classmates and herself. The Childline team and school administration took steps to prevent child marriages which were at initial stage itself. Children got aware about proper usages of electronic gadgets and mobile phones.







Children also got awareness about the service providers from different government departments and about their duty to protect their rights. Among the groups some children with leadership potentials have become change agents in reaching out to vulnerable children and taking up their issues with the authorities and resolving them.

In this process many early marriages for girls are prevented. Children have come out to play with their peer groups, avoiding the electronic gadgets. Wherever possible they tried to discuss and solve the minor local problems of children on their own. By sharing their ideas in their groups about sanitation, problems of girl children, safe drinking water, school dropout, health and hygiene issues faced by them they have started meeting the government officials demanding solution to their issues. They met the city commissioner and demanded a playground for their play and recreation. They have also met the City Health officer and Zonal Assistant Corporation Commissioner representing their issues and the Chairperson and members of the Child Welfare Committee and CHILDLINE.

Children were encouraged to participate in drawing competitions conducted to paint their perception about “My City – My Vision”, through that they expressed their opinions about what they want for a child friendly city. Children also participated in general awareness rally for the society on issues like Gender equality, Protection and Education. The rally was entitled “Girl Children for Girl Children” and the rally was held on National Girl Child Day observed on January 24th of every year.

An event to make children realise their right to leisure a district level gathering of 1500 children including the children from the city groups was organised where many fun games, groups games, singing, dancing, oration programme and so on were organised. The District Collector was made to preside over the gathering. District Child Protection officer, Juvenile justice Board members, Project officer, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), representatives from Rotary Club, NGOs, and educational institutions participated in this program.

The members of children’s groups became aware of the values of education and social responsibilities to their peers (especially vulnerable children).



UNCRC Article 12 : Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Groups learned about the role of the Child Welfare Committee. Members have become aware about contemporary issues like child sexual abuse, good touch and bad touch, the measures taken by the government and the police department to reduce harm done to children. Children and parents have learnt to participate and interact with City Health Officer and Asst. Commissioner of Salem Municipal Corporation about improvement of city health services. Children forum had 3 Interface meetings: one with Salem Corporation Commissioner Mr. Satheesh where children requested a playground for their recreational activities; second one with City Health officer & Zonal Asst. Corporation commissioner. Third one was where a Group of 41 children had interface meeting with Chairperson and Child Welfare Committee members and CHILDLINE. 4 children from a children parliament in ward no. 6 attended Village Level Child Protection committee meeting (VLCPC) held by the district administration.

- Children in the child rights club are aware about the child rights.
- Children conducted campaign (3 rallies) for the child rights and importance of girl child.
- Children achieved through their efforts to retrieve space for their sports and games activities at their locality as it was occupied by others for the different purpose. Now it is utilised for the children, and they engage their leisure activities.
- Children are acting as ambassadors to prevent the child marriage and child labour at their areas.
- Children have started identifying the issues affecting them in their family, schools, and communities.

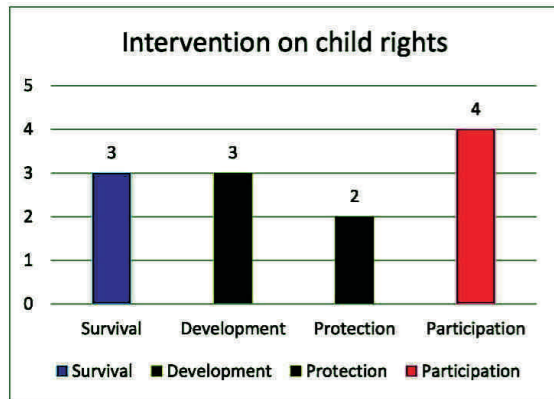
While children and 55 groups are actively participating, rest other groups are yet to develop and they are to be regularly mentored until they are fully matured to take independent initiatives.



UNCRC Article 13 Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.



## Interventions and activities led by the children on Child rights



### Right to Survival

#### INTERVENTION FOR TOILET FACILITY

**Issues identified:** The children group (Blade breakers) in ward 11 (Railway North Street) identified the issue of Open defecation due to lack of public toilet and individual toilet facility at home. They had planned to address the issues to city administration.

#### Intervention process:

- Conducted Base line study to understand availability of toilets at home and public toilets in their community.

- Survey done to 104 houses and identified that 70 % houses have no toilets, and they use the open space near railway track for the defecation. Analysed the possibility of space for the individual toilet. But the houses are built in way that there is no provision for the individual toilet facility.
- Final possibility was requesting for the public toilets. The children prepared and submitted the petition to Corporation Sanitary Inspector in an interface meeting.

**Impact:** Children made efforts to address the issue and it is in the hand of the corporation to take necessary steps to create toilet facility for the children.

#### INTERVENTION ON SANITATION :

**Issues identified:** The children groups (Sun, Moon, Star and Thendral children group) in ward 12 (court road colony) identified the issue of Open defecation due to lack of public toilets and individual toilet facility at home. They had planned to address the issues to city administration.



#### Intervention process:

Children planned the intervention and decided to submit the petition. In the following meeting 60 children together prepared a petition requesting for the public toilet facility and made attempt to submit it to corporation commissioner. But the attempts failed.

Duty bearers from the groups submitted the petition to the community leader for action.

**Impact:** Children identified the issues. Planned among themselves and sought the support of local leader to address the issues.

#### INTERFACE MEET WITH HEALTH OFFICER:

**Issues identified:** The Children group in Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Gandhi Mahan Street identified that children in their locality are afraid in accessing medical services in Primary health centre. Have the behaviour of seeing medical shops for small ailments.

#### Intervention Process:

- Children decided to break the fear by having interface meet and creating rapport with the medical officer, PHC medical team and learning about the medical services. To improve health seeking behaviour among themselves.



- On the event of National Doctors Day as a token of appreciation children prepared a greeting card appreciating the service of doctor to their community & children and gave to him. The children asked about the health schemes from Government and what are all the services provided for the children in the PHC. Doctor explained all the service provided for the children in the Primary health centre. And then finally children asked the doctor to visit their school, to give awareness on the health services available in Government PHC.

**Impact:** children reduced their fear by creating rapport with medical team and understanding medical schemes and service availability. Learned about health seeking behaviour

#### RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

##### Intervention on Drop out

**Issues Identified:** The children's groups (Cheguwara, Rojakootam) from Gandhi Mahan Street Government High Schools discussed about their peers being long absentee and dropped out of school, are involved in other wrong activity. They wanted to bring them back to school.

##### Intervention Process:

- The children group planned to identify the Dropout children in their locality through door-to-door data collection.
- The Children visited the houses and identified long absentee children - Udhaya with the support of the CFS, asked the parent why he was not going to school. Children convinced and motivated him by instructing about the importance of the education. **Please send him back to school, he wants to come with us.** His mother accepted the voice of the children. Children visited Murugasamy house and asked





his father to send him to school. He said his family was poor, but I will promise you that I will surely send him to school. Two days later Master Murugasamy was back to school with the children group members, and he was happy at the end.

**Impact:** Through the initiatives of children, 2 children put back to school for continuation of education. Children took responsibility of their peers by supporting them.

### INTERVENTION ON SCHOOL ENROLMENT CAMPAIGN:

**Issue Identified:** identifying the non-going school going children and enrolling them in schools for education. Delivering the importance of children education in community. Encouraging and motivating the community to give importance to children development through education.

### Intervention Process

- The children group in Government School planned in their meeting to create awareness about education in their community. Find the non-school going children, enrol them to school.
- The children with the support of School department, Anganwadi teachers, Civil society members and CFS undertook Intensified School enrolment campaign through rally in the community.
- Awareness cum re-enrolment of children in school campaign was led by the children. Children in the rally went on with the message on importance of education in and around the whole slum area. The children led the rally with chanting 'Slogan 'on importance of school going and knowledge gaining, and they issued the notice with the message on education.

**Impact:** children created awareness on importance of education to the community. At the end of the campaign within one week 7 children were re-enrolled in school and children started their school life with happiness.

*Work is for adults,  
play and education is for children*



### RIGHT TO PROTECTION

#### Intervention on Violence against children

**Issues Identified:** the children group in Balaji Nagar identified violence faced by the children in the community and school. Lack of awareness among children and community about protection of children.

#### Intervention Process

- The children Group in Balaji Nagar planned to address the by conducting intervention on violence against children. In the group meeting they decided to address the violence issues by creating awareness and having dialogue with the Childline.
- On 8.2.20 in Ayyasamy park of ward no 35, the children group with the support of CFS team organized an interface meeting with childline and corporation Officials to create awareness on child rights and to discuss the Child rights issues with Childline team.
- 80 children & 200 community members participated in the intervention. CFS team created awareness to rights of children. Ms. Nirmala, Childline coordinator explained

about the major issues of children in Salem like child marriage, child labour and child sexual abuse. She said that if anyone saw this kind of right violation it is their responsibility to stop it or can make a call to toll free number - 1098. It is a free number for the children those who are need of care and protection.

- Then 'Komal' movie was screened and through this awareness event was given how to safeguard the children from the child sexual abuse and what we should at that moment.
- Finally, the girl children in the children group had dialogue with the Childline officials about the violence happened for them and then Childline team assured them to take the necessary steps to sort out the issues as soon as possible.

**Impact:** The children became aware of the services available to protect them. Understood about vulnerability to violence against them. Children were able to address the issue to the concern departments.





## INTERVENTION ON CHILD LABOUR

**Issues Identified:** Due to Covid lock down the schools are shut down and the children are being left at home. The unorganized workers, street vendors, and self-employed small business communities have lost work, wages and livelihood income and struggling terrible hardships. Economically weaker families are supported by their children to meet their financial needs by engage in labour. Due to child labour their education is affected. If this situation continues and their rights will be denied and will lead to more child labour.



### Intervention Process:

- To address the issues and create awareness Abdulkalam and Hibiscus Children group planned to raise voice for the children. To protect them and to create child friendly environment conducted campaign on child labour in Ayyanthirumaligai.
- The children sensitized the people on child labour and got the signature of the people in support of child labour eradication.
- Children organized awareness programme for children and community on 30.12.20 to show impact of child labour through staging of skit on child labour, in which they staged how children are becoming child labourers and ways to stop child labour. To take necessity steps to prevent child labourer, children submitted the collected signatures, pledge against child labour to Mrs. Nirmala, Project Director, National Child Labour Project, and Salem.

**Impact:** Collected 197 signature from the community . Children took initiative to stop child labour in their location. Community members became aware of the issue of child labour. Submitted the consolidated report to project director, National child labour project.

## RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

### Intervention on participation and leisure

**Need:** Children groups (Semparuthi (Hibiscus), fire eagle, fire boys & girls and, Thanga Thamarai (golden lotus)) in school wanted to create awareness on traditional games in School. Give opportunity for all the children to take part in games – ensuring participation rights in school.

### Intervention Process:

- On 14.11.12 4 children’s groups organized the children’s day event on right to participation, development, and protection. The theme of the program was “Parambariya Villayattu” (Traditional game) based on Child Rights on protection and participation.
- It was a fun-filled day for children, many traditional games materials were displayed for the children, one of the famous traditional games ‘Paramapadham’ (Snake and ladder) was made in a huge size play board, where the children are made to get in to that huge size to play board. When the dice thrown by the team member children in the board to move from one box to other according to the number of the dice. In that play awareness on the protection and participation were also imparted to children.
- The whole day was allotted to children by the school administration.

**Impact:** 180 students and 12 teachers learned the traditional games. Learned the rights through games. Enjoyed right to participation and leisure.

### Intervention on child friendly school:

**Issues / need:** Children groups(Vennila, Vetri, Citizen, Good citizen and creators)in Mannarpalayam decided to bring their ideas, vision and wishes on child friendly school.

### Process

- The members from children group separately laid down their view and ideas on child friendly school.
- Each Children group separately together put down their ideas in common using chart and finalized their vision and ideas on child friendly school. Same procedure followed in all six children group.





- The leaders from the groups discussed the final out from each group and the ideas were put down in writing. The following ideas, wishes and needs arrived from the discussion....

#### Vision of Child Friendly School

- o School should have basic infrastructures/ Facilities like.
- o Toilet facility based on the no. of children studying.
- o Safe and protected shed for vehicle parking.
- o Clean and Healthy water
- o Playground with Green Environments
- o CCTV camera
- o Smart board for e learning
- o Accessible First Aid service
- o Zebra crossing and Safety service at the point of road cross
- o Clean environment
- o Services
- o Child friendly Teaching
- o Exposure visits and Tour
- o Extra-Curricular activities like –leaning music, karate, computer, and yoga
- They children group decided to give images to their ideas and planned and designed the concept of their friendly school in a poster design.

- The concept of child friendly school was submitted to Child line and Education department for implementation in school.

**Impact :** Children expressed their vision and view of child friendly school. Collective efforts to bring changes. Step to bring changes in the school environment

#### PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT:

**Issues Identified:** Children in ward nos. 7 &40 planned to create awareness to protect environment and to create awareness in the community about the importance of trees.

#### Intervention Process

Through door to door sensitization children created awareness on importance of tree plantation and protection in their locality. Children in took oath on protection of environment through planting of trees. Taking personal responsibility to nurture and protect trees. Children happily with joy planted the tree sapling near their houses.

**Impact:** Children taking responsibility to protect environment and trees.

## Success Stories

### TOGETHER WE STAND

Sonia had decided that she would not get married before she turned 18 years old. She had seen her sister as a victim of child marriage and did not want to have the same be repeated for her. She has been a part of the child rights club of Nanjampatty, Salem where she was a very active member. She also started looking out for incidents of child marriage, child labour, or any kind of malpractices against children happening around her.

One day she found out that her parents for her marriage with a distant relative. It was shocking to her, and she did not know how to stop the marriage process against her parent. But somehow, she wanted to stop the marriage. So, she sought the help from the children group members as she was a member in local children group. The members of children group approached her parents and explained about the demerits of child marriage and its legal complications. In addition, they explained the dream of their daughter to achieve in education. Finally, her parents was convinced and accepted her to continue education.



### WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

Darani, 15-year-old girl and an active leader of children group who lives at Shevapetcommunity in Salem Corporation. She used very vibrant and highly empowered girl to volunteer herself to organise, coordinate and identify also tried to sort it out with the support of community. She took efforts to bring changes and transformation the elders from traditional practices in the names of culture and customs.

Dharani came to know that her classmates were discussing secretly about one of their classmate marriage arrangements. Dharani realised that her classmate was being forced by her parents for her marriage. Dharani and her friends wanted to confront the classmate's family, but they feared the repercussions. Hence, Dharani was empowered leader in children group and aware about the ChildLine, but she was not able confirm that the arrangements of her classmate's marriage.

Dharani had discussed with members and mentors of children group about this issue. The discussion and guidance from children group she got motivated so, she took the issue to her school headmaster. The children group and school administration together stopped the arrangement of marriage successfully.

Dharani has determined to marry after achieving higher education and once attain at the right age. The child friendly Salem initiative had not only empowered the children and made them to act as a social change agent in their communities.





## GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

In slums the school dropouts are a threat to children obviously this was an issue at ward 44, kitchipalayam.

The children group members had identified the school drop number was more in their community. So, the children group members had discussed to prevent any further dropouts would be happened in their community. They organised and conducted a campaign on "Back to school". Through this campaign they wanted to create the importance of education and how the education change the lives of the children. The campaign was conducted with coordination and guidance of child line, schoolteachers, CFCI team, community care members and children group members.

The campaign was begun in the morning with survey to identify the drop out children by visit every house in the community. At the end of the survey, eight children were identified. The team counselled the parents and children about the importance of education. The importance of education was also shared with the



## BE THE CHANGE

A sensitization program was held in association with the Child Line & Juvenile Aid Police Unit in a private matriculation school, Salem. The documentary film 'Komal' was screened which discusses about child abuse, good touch, and bad touch.

The CFCI team was able to make the people aware about the social evils such as child labour, child marriage, child trafficking. They have also educated the people at large, on how to tackle such crisis situations. Leaders had observed a visible positive impact of the sensitisation program within two days after the event. The team received a call from Preethi a student from the school saying that her friend Malli got engaged and her Parents were preparing her marriage against her consent.

Malli was scared and helpless as it was against her interest, but she could not do anything against her parents. Although she took courage to convince her parents but all failed. So, based on the information from the school the CFS team assured Malli that her marriage would not be happened. CFS members took this issue to the school administration. Malli's parents were given counselling about the legal implications under child marriage prevention act and JJ act as punishable offence. Later the marriage arrangements were cancelled.

## EMPOWERED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Dhanalaxmi, a 16-year-old girl child studying in class 11, was an active member of the Saraswati Vidyalaya Tuition centre children's group in Shevapat, Salem. She was well empowered with child rights and issues the identification methods to address them.

One day she received a call from her niece Ms. Sandhya. The issue was that her parents were arranging a marriage for Ms. Sandhya. Dhanalaxmi, out of concern, called Sandhya's father and explained the implications post child marriage. She also said that she would complain to Child Line if the marriage took place. After persuasion, Sandhya's parents were able to understand the seriousness of the issue. As a result, Sandhya's marriage was cancelled, and she was sent back to the school.

One empowered child could make a difference, Ms. Sandhya would have been the victim of child marriage today. But fortunately, she was rescued and continuing education.

## CHILDREN GOING GREEN

N. Vineetha, a student from Lilly children group in Queen Mary School in (Gorimedu), said, that "Child Friendly Salem opened my eyes. I have come across a lot of awareness camps on environment. I was still not fully aware of the problems that the plastic can create. I was not serious at all. When Child Friendly Salem came to our school and spoke to us through puppet show about the environment, I realized how serious the issues were. I could feel that the earth is really in danger. As a child, I shall take all the steps that I can to protect the environment. I am strongly determined to keep my surrounding clean. I will try to work through separate composts and plant a few trees as well.



UNCRC Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.



UNCRC Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support, so that they can lead full and independent lives.



## CHILDREN MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Residents of Ward 12, Court Road Nagar, Salem have been living with foul stench and wading through drainage water, along with the rainwater accumulated on the road, for couple of months.

During one of the group meeting children from Star and Moon Children Group, discussed the issues prevailing in their locality. Mr Ramesh, the local leader and Mr. Jeyachandran, an influential person in the ward were also present for the meeting. Children expressed their concern about the broken drainage system.



Roshini, member of children group said “For the past two months we are forced to bear the smell of sewage because of the leak in the drainage line. There is also a lot of water spurting out of the line because of rains, but nobody did anything. It is very difficult to walk through this part of the road and there are not many options available as there is no footpath either. This has also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes”.

Mr. Ramesh, Local Leader gave assurance to the children that this issue will be taken into consideration, and he would do the needful. Within a week, he appointed two sanitation workers for cleaning the drain. He also approached the sanitary workers appointed in their area and conveyed that there has been a complete negligence in cleaning their locality because of which children and other residents are failing sick very often. After this incident, sanitary workers are regularly keeping a check on the drainage system of this area.

## COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF CHILDREN

Many children in India are deprived of the feeling of family and home. These children spend their entire life near bus station, railway station, markets, on footpaths and streets. UNICEF calls street children the most vulnerable group of children in India.

Definition of a street child by UNICEF “any girl or boy, for whom the street (in the widest sense of the world, including unoccupied dwellings, wasteland, etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults”.

Mr. Arvind, an active member of Child Friendly Salem and a Civil Society Member identified a 7-year-old boy, named Poovarsan, who was living on the streets of Gandhi Mahan (Ward 44). Poovarsan’s parents abandoned him when he was 4-year-old. Hence forth he started waste picking from waste bins in the streets for his survival. After knowing the child’s history Mr. Arvind, counselled the child and motivated him to join a school. Currently boy is placed in an educational centre in Salem. Child Friendly Salem team and members from children group supported and helped Poovarsan in getting accustomed with his school life.



### Poovarsan said:

“Earlier it was a miserable life. I used to live with Flies, stinks, cuts, wounds, and sickness which were a part of my everyday life. Now my life has improved so much since I met Mr. Aravind. I have also started reading and writing. I have learnt so much about health and hygiene and I have made many new friends”

## CHAMPION OF CHILD RIGHTS

India joined the world on 20th November to celebrate World Children’s Day, 30 years since the convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Child Parliamentarians and Child rights advocates from across the country joined Vice President Shri. M Venkaiah Naidu as Chief Guest, with Shri Om Birla, Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon’ble Minister of Communication, Information Technology, Law and Justice, joined by Smt. Vandana Chavan, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Convener, Parliamentarians’ Group for Children along with UNICEF.



Master Vikram, 17 years old, member of Don Bosco Anbu Illam Child parliament got an opportunity to represent Tamil Nadu at this event. Vikram along with other children shared his testimonies as defenders and champions of child rights and performed an original rap song advocating for child rights, composed for the occasion.

He expressed his voice on situation of schools in Tamil Nadu. His concern regarding no access to clean water and clean toilet in the schools. Necessity of School becoming child friendly.

## VOICE FOR THEIR PEER

“History will judge us by the differences we make in the everyday lives of children” Nelson Mandela.

Rajathi’s parents passed away in an accident when she was 6 years old. Since then, she has been living with her grandparents. She was often neglected and was forced to do all the household chores.

During the month of September, children who were a part of Power dx boys club in Nanjampatty slum, noticed this and took a resolution to make things better for Rajathi. The children called up the Childline – 1098 and informed about the ill treatment that was faced by her.

Within few days, ChildLine team intervened and helped Rajathi. The child helpline rescued her and placed her in a children’s home where she is living happily now.





### SMALL STEP FOR A GIANT LEAP

Subramani, 15-year boy from Ward No.40, Pachapatty, failed his X std, so he decided to discontinue his studies. He had lost his interest to reappear exam and complete X std. Subramani was participated a sensitization on education by children group at Pachapatty.

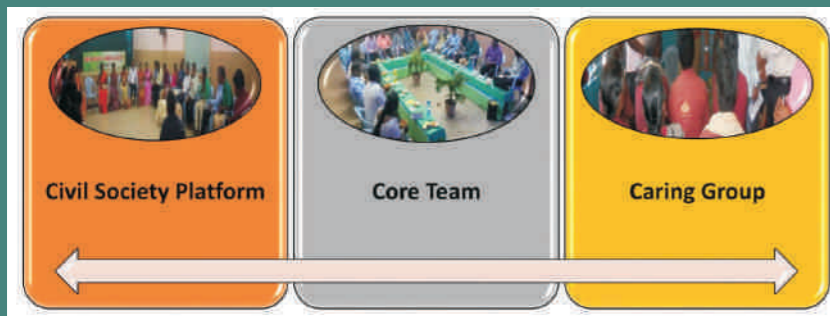
During the session he raised doubt about how he could continue his education. He was suggested to enrol in Drop – Out Centre at Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem. His parents also accepted him to enrol with Drop-out centre to continue his education.

After enrolled in drop-out centre he slowly gained confidence and picked up his studies also passed his failed subjects. Now he was admitted in regular school in the academic year of 2019.

## 6.b. Civil Society

### Objective 2 :

Civil Society groups, community leaders, prominent personalities, clubs, educators, activists, professionals, businesses, media are actively involved for the cause of rights of children.



### CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

Through approaching individuals who are important people in the city and through sensitisation programmes, the CFS team has sensitized 924 various civil society members. Of these, 469 members have committed to support the initiative but about 221 members have actively participated in different activities for representing the rights of children. Civil Society Platform consists of persons from Health, Education, Legal Profession, citizen’s clubs, academicians, businesses, media, social activists, and consultants. They were given orientation the CFCI and training on issues affecting children such as Trafficking of Women and Children, POCSO act, Juvenile Justice act, social engineering, environment issues, children’s issues and laws to protect children’s rights.

### CORE TEAM

Core team is a steering committee of child friendly Salem initiative. It consist of 14 members from the different background with their rich experience and professionals like doctors, lawyers, media persons, Rotary club, youth groups, businesspeople, social workers, activists. This team is involved in planning and discussing the issues and meets regularly to implement plan discussed in the meeting. They participate in most of the activities.



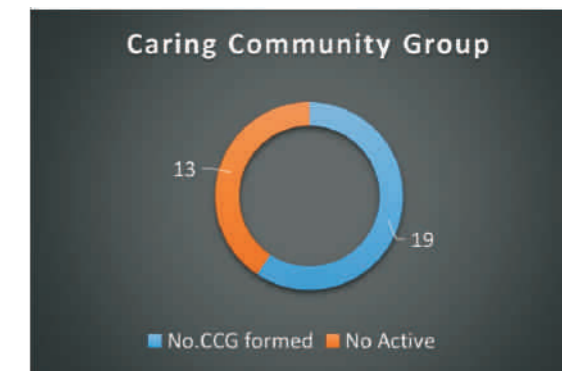
Civil society members were involved in different activities like they organised a vehicle campaign - vehicle filled with child rights displays to travel through the city to create awareness on child rights and distributed leaflets on child rights and issues to the public. Deputy Commissioner of the Salem City Corporation flagged off the IEC vehicle. Many other civil society members also participated. CSP members organised a puppet show to create awareness on avoiding plastic, creating a healthy environment, the ban on plastic use. 16 civil society members in coordination with



the district administration organized a large gathering with fun events based on “Right to leisure and right to protection” for children. 1500 children from 28 Child Care Institutions participated in the gathering. 100 civil society members and 200 volunteers made the day filled with fun and enjoyment for the children. The civil society groups raised Rs 350,000 for the “Right to Leisure, Right to Protection” event. With financial support from Rotary Club, Don Bosco Anbu Illam renovated a resource centre in Salem bus stand. The cost of the work was Rs 15000. This resource centre facilitates counselling services, recreational activities, and referral services to children at risk in the bus stand area. This centre is equipped with IEC materials on child rights.

### CARING COMMUNITY GROUP

Under the CFS, 19 caring group formed in 12 wards. The group in the new bus stand consists of representatives of shop owners, sanitary workers, police personnel , corporation supervisors. The CCG in Ward 42 and 44 consist of school headmistress, local police inspector, teachers, health staff, anganwadi teachers and parents. The CCG in ward consists of auto drivers, youth members and local leaders as well as another CSN with self-help women groups. The group in ward 7 & 10 consists of members from



community, shops, business people and youth. The group in ward 6 consists of self help women group. This group is formed in collaboration with civil society organization and local leaders. These groups are meant to be a safety net for children – keeping vigil on violations of child rights and report them for resolution as well as to work for prevention of harm to children.

For example, in Ward 42 the Caring Community Group discussed the issue of children dropping out of school. In the meeting held at ward 44 the assistant headmaster shared about long-term absentees to schools and made efforts to bring them back to school. They asked the support of CCG to bring the children back and to help them to complete their exams, sharing the list of such children with the CCG team members.

CCG members learned about child rights and activities and CFCI. The project is planning to conduct regular awareness exercises for people, at least once in a month. So far, awareness activities have been conducted in highly sensitive





areas like bus stand. The CSN in the new bus stand at Salem, supports in identifying and rescuing the unaccompanied children in bus stand area. This CCG also succeeded in identifying and rescuing 4



abandoned children. They also identified 8 children who are dropouts from school and enrolled 5 children back in school. This group is a good example of motivated CCG that started naturally caring for children who are encountered in the bus stand and surrounding areas.



## Civil Society Intervention for the Cause of children

### RIGHT TO SURVIVAL

#### YOUTH GROUP IN ACTION:

The youth group in Pachapatty slum had identified two issues in their slum. 1. Lack of open space for children for play activity and sanitation issues due to open sewages. The youth group decided to solve the issues by representing through written petitions to the corporation office and concern



officials. There was no proper response and action from the authorities, so, the youth group had cleaned the stagnated open sewages and maintain regular basis and prepared the empty space to convert as a playground to the children for their recreation and sport activities.

**Impact:** youth Group members are active in promoting and safeguarding rights of children.

#### INTERVENTION ON HEALTH & NUTRITIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN

Civil society group Ayyanthirumaligai identified issues affecting health of their community children due to children eating more junk foods and unhealthy foods purchased from the shops. so they decided and conducted intervention on Nutrition homemade food and healthy foods.

The CS members created door to door awareness on importance nutrition food for the children and avoiding junk foods. Conducted awareness meeting stressed on a point that all the children

must be given healthy and nutritious food so that they grow healthier and stronger. Organized homemade food exhibitions for the children and public on 26.01.21 for the purpose of showcasing the healthy homemade foods. The members and parents exhibited the home-made food and explained the methods and ingredient used in making healthy food for the children. Children are very much happy to taste the home-made food, tea, and snacks. Through the intervention they took steps to keep the children healthy and safe from infections.

**Impact:** Children became aware of importance of eating home-made healthy food. Consequences and side effects of eating junk foods.

#### MEGA SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN:

An unprecedented economic scenario has emerged due to continuous lockdown since March in the country. Crores of migrant workers, unorganized workers, street vendors, and self-employed small business communities have lost work, wages and livelihood income and struggling terrible hardships. As per the survey conducted by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy in April, we came to know that there have been 12.2 crores workers lost employment. Due to continuous lockdown for the past four months, these families are deprived of work and wage incomes, and they

are struggling to meet out the expenses relating to essential food commodities, medical care, payment of rent for houses, and other supplementary expenses. To cope with this situation, they are forced to opt for loans and usury at exorbitant interest rates. If this condition persists, there shall be an increase of hunger deaths. Also, the other impacts due to post-disaster the following issues would be intensified human trafficking, bonded labour practices, child marriages will be increased in large number, and women and children would be impacted first and foremost. In India also, for those families who have lost work and income, minimum for four months period, Rs 6000 cash assistance per month shall be directly provided.

During the months of August and September, 2020 a national level signature campaign for demanding direct cash assistance minimum Rs.6,000/- P.M to Covid affected families during the lock down was organised and conducted in coordination with Civil society Groups, Don Bosco Anbu Illam Freedom fund, Makkal Pathai, Marvel foundation, Nam karankal and Tamilnadu alliance.

**Impact:** 4000 signatures collected in Salem. Total of 2 lakhs signature collected from Salem and Namakkal send to the Prime Minister office to consider the demand and act.





**HELPING THE NEEDY PEOPLE BY COMMUNITY LEADERS:**

Families especially children affected due to covid Lock down in court road colony. Safeguarding children from Covid infection.

The CFS initiative have drawn many kind-hearted supporters and benefactors as civil society members. They contributed their best of resources to support child friendly Salem initiatives by cash, kind, and materials. During the Covid locked down the Don Bosco Anbu



Illam, CFS mobilised and distributed 100 bags of rice and grocery materials to the children and their families at court road colony in ward 12. They mobilized Rs.50,000/- worth of materials for their community. The leader and civil society members had conducted 4 awareness camps and 2 clean drive to protect their community children and people from corona infection. On 27.8.20 The Civil society Group in court road

colony had organized a health awareness programme for the children in their locality. Mr. Ramesh explained about covid and protecting children from Covid 19. Explained about the safety measures for the children during this pandemic, using mask, hand wash regularly, keep social distance and eat healthy food if any symptoms persist immediately meet doctor in Primary centre. **Impact:** Rs 50000 worth 100 bags of rice and grocery distributed to 100 families. Supporting children with safety kit and safeguarding their community children.

**INTERVENTION ON HEALTH OF THE CHILDREN DURING PANDEMIC:**

Protecting children from Covid infection On 05.09.20 Civil society Group Makkal pathai had organized Health awareness camp in Gandhi Mahan Street for the children. Dr. Vishnu Priya explained about safety precaution from COVID infection. She explained about use of mask, regular hand wash with sanitizer and maintaining social distance. They distributed medicine worth Rs. 5400. To children. The civil society Group distributed Kabasura kudineer to children and community in their locality to keep the children protected from COVID infection.

**Impact:** 100 children participated in the awareness programme. Children learned about the protection measures to keep them safe from covid infection.



UNCRC Article 30 : Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

**RIGHT TO PROTECTION**

**CAMPAIGN ON ANTI - CHILD LABOUR**

Civil society members in coordination with ChildLine, police department and open shelter organized campaigns on World Day against child labour at new bus stand, Old bus stand & Junction campaign against child labour was done to general public. CFS in coordination with Childline and Civil society members organized campaign in new bus stand. Mr. Nirmal officer in Salem corporation inaugurated the at old bus stand campaign.

The campaign involved oath taking, tying of wrist band, and puppet show on child labour, distribution of notice on child labour. Mr. Dass Chairman, Child welfare committee inaugurated the campaign @ junction by tying the wrist band on the hands of children. In his message he emphasised the importance on joint effort to eradicate child labour in Salem.

**Impact:** 15000 people sensitized on impact of child labour. Shopkeepers became aware of importance of eradication of child labour.

**CAMPAIGN ON “NO TO CHILD MARRIAGE”:**

This campaign was conducted with the parents’ participation to make them aware and involve them for prevention of child marriage through signature campaign along with pledge taking with selfie pictures to capture the prevention of child marriage information. In the Month of August, 2019 Signature Campaign was held on 14.08.19 children and their parents signed the campaign of Saying no to child marriage. The children signed the pledge that they will say no to child marriage. Through selfie campaign on child marriage on 14.08.19 in ward no 31, children pledged to say no child marriage and the same pladge was shared to their family members, relatives and friends by sharing the selfie picture with child marriage information.

“Let it be as child - Created a short film on “No to child marriage”, To create an intense sensitisation information among the community and parents a Short film was produced by Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem. It was a 20-minute short film was produced as the story narrated by a girl child who wants to continue her education despite of, she was forced for her marriage by her parents and how she is able stop her marriage by contacting child help line 1098 and succeeded to continue her education was the concept of the short film.



UNCRC Article 31 : All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.





Also followed by the stake holders address and testimony of parent was part of the short film. Don Bosco Anbu Illam, YaR Forum, Child Friendly Salem initiative, Jayarani Matriculation Higher Secondary School and Jayarani Higher Secondary School were the collaborators in the effort. The short film was screened to the public, students, and parents at school premises.

**Impact:** The film was viewed by more than 6000 children and their family members. It was a great reach of Mass campaign.

**INTERVENTION ON GREEN ENVIRONMENT:**

Intervention to provide green environment and clean air, creation of small forest was done with planting of 1000 trees in a limited space. Creation of Mini Forest.

On 31.08.18 youth group Sevagan Trust joint hand with Salem Municipal Corporation in creating small forest in court road colony. Mr. Sadeesh Commissioner, Salem Municipal Corporation initiated the tree plantation. 1000 different kinds of saplings were planted in a limited space to create a small forest. 20 CS members, CFS team and 40 sanitary workers planted the trees. The Youth team has taken up responsibility of watering and maintain the tree till its growth.

**Impact:** creation of mini forest and ensuring green environment.

**INTERVENTION ON RIGHT TO RECREATION:**

The civil society members in Nanjampatty slum had taken steps to improve the situation of children from the prevailing issues which affected education and normal growth of the children.

Primarily, they identified the issue of lack of hygiene and health, so they organised and conducted awareness on cleanliness and safeguard the environment through proper disposal of the garbage in waste bins. Mr. Ravi and Mr. Robin and Mr. Hariharan took initiatives to address these issues to the officials of City Corporation and they succeeded by promoting campaign in social media. During the pandemic lock down the children spent with their peers and it influenced them, consuming the drugs. Through the support of CFS linked "Silambam" (Pole fight) for children self-defence.

Due to drunkards and gambling players occupying the playground caused unsafe to the girl children in the playground the children. The team took initiatives and given written complaint to the police station and finally they got success in that. Now regularly the police officials are roaming in the playground three times per day for the safety of the children in the nanjampatty slum.

**Impact:** Protected children and given opportunity to self-defence through learning of silambam (Pole fight). Now the children are updating their skill and enjoying their right to recreation especially girl children are coming frequently without any problem and fear from the peer.



UNCRC Article 32 : The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous, or that might harm their health or their education.

# Success Stories

**HELPING THE NEEDY BY THE CARING COMMUNITY GROUP:**

Nanjampatty the underprivileged slum in the Salem city, during this covid lockdown situation the children were affected by poverty and lack of food due to loss of jobs.

The youth group in collaboration with the rotary club distributed bread, milk ¼ litre. Daily the team walked home to home and distributed the relief material for the children under the age of 5 and for the young children. Due to the most difficult situation prevailing in the area, they have planned and done this great humanitarian act with whole heartily for the survival of the children and for the cause of the children in the area. They had contributed Rs. 63000/- worth food materials to children.

**SUPPORTING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION**

Members from Roja children's group from Court Road Colony, Salem identified two girls, Devi and Revathi who were school dropouts from class 8. Their families had financial restrictions because of which they were taken out of the school.

The members of the children's group approached a few civil society members to understand the ways of helping these two sisters. Taking the lead, Mr Gandhi, Mr Johnson & Mr Lawrence of the civil society arranged for help for the two girls.

The sisters were helped with cash payment for the fees for the school. They were also provided with books, bags and stationary items to help them in their classes.

The two sisters are currently attending school on a regular basis and wish to compete school to continue further higher education.



UNCRC Article 33 : The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.



## RIGHT TO PLAY : WE RISE

Children thrive in outdoor play spaces; it's a key factor to child's wellbeing and happiness. Without this space to 'escape' the effects on their physical and mental health can be damaging.

Najampaatty is a slum area where there are no open spaces for children to play. The only available ground near to the settlement is under the control of a government school management. The playground was polluted with garbage and was also a den to the drunkards.

Caring community group members of the area took the initiative to find a solution to this issue. They decided to contact the government school management and discuss the possible solution. With the support of Child friendly Salem team, caring community group members, civil society members and children groups cleaned the whole playground, removed unwanted shrubs, and cleaned the whole area. Caring community group members convinced the school management to renovate the gate which was broken and the walking trail of the park which was filled with debris. The school also took the responsibility of keeping the park clean and guarded for the safety of children. The caring community group submitted a proposal to sanitary inspector and the waste containers were cleaned by them every morning. They also met the Inspector of the Ammapet police station and requested to visit the playground daily as the ground was used by boozers in the evening, which caused public nuisance.



By this initiative led by the caring community group and the civil society members, with the help of children groups were able to fulfil the dream of the children in that area.

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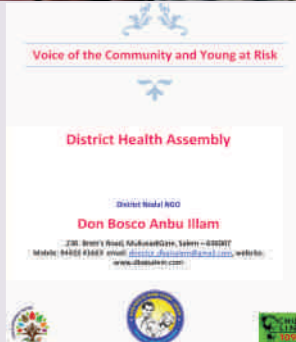
### OBSERVATION OF WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

On 12.06.20 observation of World Day against child Labour was organized in Don Bosco Anbu Illam Campus. Service providers, and Children participated in the awareness activity. The theme of World Day against Child Labour 2020 is 'COVID-19 - Protect children from child labour now, more than ever.' Let us unite to fight against child labour in Salem and create Child friendly atmosphere for the children. Civil society members took pledge in protection children from violence of child labour.



### District Health Assembly

Don Bosco Anbu Illam is selected as Nodal NGO in District Health Assembly. This purpose of the assembly is people active participation in the health system. On 24.02.2021 DBAI organized a focus group meeting to discuss the issues and needs of people on health. Representatives' from various civil society organization participated and expressed their opinion and voices on health system in Salem. Collective voice of the community and Young at Risk submitted in the District Health Assembly for action.



### Partnership

Don Bosco Anbu Illam signed MoU with Social Work department, bishop collage in the area of student internship, field work Research and publications .As Part Of The Empirical Research Initiatives The Students Of PG And Research Department Of Social Work In Collaboration With Don Bosco Anbu Illam Salem Took Up A Nutritional Status Assessment Survey At Court Road Colony, Nanjampatty, Kichipalayalayyam Slums & Sathyanagar Village In Salem District, Tamilnadu, India Between The Period Of 1st February And 5th February 2021. The District Rural Development Agency Of Salem Under The Guidance Of The District Collector Had Suggested That A Survey Be Done On The Prevailing Nutritional Status Of Children Below The Age Of 18 Years In Sample Areas Of Salem, With A Focus On Planned Intervention To Be Delivered To The Target Population As Per The Result Of The Survey, The Scientific Nature Of The Survey Enabling It To Be Generalised To The Other Homogenous Areas Of Salem. The Objective Of The Study Was To Identify High-Risk Groups And To Assess The Role Of Different Socio-Demographic Factors In Nutritional Status.





## 6.c. City Administration/Political Leaders in Child friendly Salem initiatives

### OBJECTIVE 3 :

Civil Administration and Political Leaders ensure rights of children in planning and implementation, in their sphere of responsibility. There are two key result areas under this objective

Sensitization programmes for District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Corporation Commissioner and officials, City Health Officer, and a couple of political leaders were conducted. Interactions with ward ex-Councillors were also done. 52 officials from various departments were sensitised, the majority of them have pledged their support and collaboration

#### The launch of Child Friendly Salem (CFS)

The launch of Child Friendly Salem (CFS) was done by the city corporation commissioner in the presence of DCPO, Probation Officer, Juvenile Justice Board member, Chair person of Child Welfare Committee. At the launch of CFS, the Corporation Commissioner personally assured children that the city administration would partner with the CFS. The involvement of the Commissioner in various activities like interaction with children, plastic free campaign, clean drive, has been very effective. This example has been a good model to follow by other officers and departments.



#### RIGHT TO LEISURE - DISTRICT LEVEL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION FOR CCI CHILDREN

With the Coordination of District Administration Don Bosco Anbu Illam organized a mega event on 25.11.18

Based on "Right to leisure" – gathering of children from Child Care Institution. CCI children to enjoy right to leisure event at the district level had been organised and conducted. The event was filled with 35 fun games, 5 group games, a separate stage to sing, dance, and freedom of speech. Puppet show on protection and safety of children. Children enjoyed the day with different activities. Participants were 1500 children from 28 homes at Salem district. (750 children from 14 homes in Salem city) District collector preside over the gathering. District Child Protection officer, Juvenile justice Board member,

Project officer ICDS - Integrated Child Development scheme and representatives from Rotary club, Ngos, Civil society group member, educational institution. The mega children's day event for children in childcare institutions has increased their involvement and participation in public programmes, all participants taking home a memento each and prizes and these have increased their self-confidence. They overcame the fear of meeting and interacting the city administration officials such as the District Collector and the DCPO. The event has also increased their happiness and Joy overcoming their academic routine.



#### JOINT EFFORT OF CITY CORPORATION AND CFS - KIDS ENTHRALLED AT AMMAPET PARK CHILDREN DAY EVENING

The Children's Day evening at the newly developed Ayyasamy park by Salem Corporation in Ammapet zone on Wednesday evening was a happy mix of fun games, songs, quiz, puppet and street plays. The occasion was also used to stress the importance of clean healthy environment. The event that extended beyond three hours was put together by the Civil Society members, Salem Corporation and coordinated by the Child Friendly Salem programme team.

The Children were entertained with a good number of games and cultural events. The children and parents who had gathered in large numbers were entertained with the traditional street play (Therukoothu). The play carried the clean city message. Action based programmes, songs and other entertaining features kept children and their parents engaged thoroughly. A puppet shows by civil society organization emphasized the need for society to uphold rights of children, particularly, right to living, participation, protection, and development.



City Health Officer, Dr. K.Parthiban, spoke to the children and their parents about the importance of hand washing and explained the methods of a clean wash. He spoke in detail the causes, precaution and prevention of dengue and swine flu. He explained about the way the virus spreads, symptoms of infection and the steps taken by the Corporation to prevent and treat the diseases. Ammapet Zone, Assistant Commissioner A.R.A. Jayaraj, also stressed the need for public to keep their environment free from pollution and better waste management. The programme included lively interactive sessions and quiz sessions. The children who responded with right answers were given prizes by the officials.

#### RALLY ON 26.06.19 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

The rally was inaugurated by the district collector. Corporation commissioner, commissioner of police, various department heads and students and civil society members participated in the rally. The rally was accompanied by the puppet show on drugs. In the afternoon the civil society jenny's trust organised an event for the school children. The children took oath against drugs.



#### JOINT ACTION TO CREATE AWARENESS ON WATER PRESERVATION.

02.08.19 civil society group Jenny's academy, Child friendly Salem in coordination with Salem municipal corporation organized water management campaign in Kottain Government Girls Hr. Sec.school. The campaign was inaugurated by Mr.Sadheesh, Commissioner, Salem municipal corporation. He released a poster on water management. In his address he said that it is the duty of everyone to save water. Children can make changes at home and in society. Save water. Awareness created with the support of puppet show.



Joint Effort Child friendly Salem Initiatives and district administration to create awareness on child marriage through release “IppadiyeVidungalen (Leave me as I am)”, a short film aimed at preventing child marriage. The release was done in the presence of Ms. Karthika Salem district social welfare officer, Mr. Ganesh moorthi Chief Education Officer, Mr. Selvam, District Child protection officer, Ms. Sumathi District Education officer.

### PARTICIPATION OF NCLP IN CHILDREN CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

On 30.12.20. Children staged a skit on child labour, in which they staged how children are becoming child labourers and ways to stop child labour to rescue them and submitted the collected signatures, pledge against child labour to Mrs. Nirmala, Project Director, National Child Labour Project.

### MASSIVE CHILD LABOUR RAID

In the Month of December National Child labour project in coordination with ChildLine, DCPU, Social Welfare Department, Police and Don Bosco Anbu Illam conducted various child labour drives and rescued 40 children. 24.12.20 conducted awareness programme for the parents of rescued children and community members on child labour. Explained about child rights and impact of child labour and asked the parents not to send their children to work. Encouraged them to continue the education of their children. The participants were 25 children and 40 community members. Mr. Kumbaraj Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ms. Uma Maheswari DCPO, Ms. Karthiga DSWO, Ms. Nirmala PD National child labour project, Mr. Dass, Chairperson, Child welfare committee.

### TASK FORCE

Tamilnadu Government as per the judgement of Supreme Court separate committee to be formed to take care of Children Orphaned by Covid. Tamilnadu Government passed a G.O. to form Task Force in all District. this committee included all govt. department and one representative from civil society organization.

In Salem Don Bosco Anbu Illam represents civil society organization in the Task Force to take care of Children orphaned / semi orphaned by covid.

## 6. d . GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT DUTY BEARERS/ SERVICE PROVIDERS

### Objective 4 :

Government Departments, Service Providers, Duty Bearers ensure services to children as provided for by law, particularly in the areas of safety, Protection, Health and Education.

### CAPACITY TRAINING

226 anganwadi teachers, 235 teachers and 35 CCI staffs were trained on child rights and issues of children. The teachers learned about the child rights, child issues, and ICPS systems in Salem. Child help Line, POCSO Act.

Capacity building of police officers on Child protection and related issues. 140 police officers from 18 police station, anti trafficking unit and women helpline attended the training. This training was conducted in coordination with Childline.



### INTERFACE MEETING WITH DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES

The children of Pachaikili, Allimalargal, Agayathamrai children’s group from Nanjampatty, proposed of being trained on a few legal matters. They wanted to know how to approach the concerned body to file complaint against abuse. Civil society members organized an interface meeting with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). The meeting was led by Mr Sakthivel (Secretary Sub - Judge), Mr Surendharan (Advocate), Mrs Punitha (Advocate) and Mr Raj Kumar (Labour Probation Officer) and Fr Santhanam (Director, Don Bosco Anbu Illam). The children were explained about the importance of the DLSA and functions that they have. The children were also told how to approach the DLSA when they would have issues to complain about. Children approached the sub judge without fear and in friendly manner to discuss their issues. The interface meet freed the fear of children in approaching legal services.



### CHILDREN ON THE MOVE ARE CHILDREN FIRST

“Every child you encounter is a divine appointment” Wess Stafford.

The countrywide lockdown imposed on March 24 to contain the spread of Covid-19 resulted in large-scale job losses in both the formal and informal sectors. Economic activities came to a standstill, triggering an exodus of migrant workers from employment hubs in urban India to their villages.

As borders of the region remained closed to contain COVID- 19, children on the move were left at greater risk of harm, caught between the homes they have fled and an uncertain future.

In August, Reception unit recognised 9 migrant children and helped them to get back to their families. Reception Unit is a home established under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 for the temporary care of children in need of care and protection. It is run by Don Bosco Anbu Illam Salem, under Social Defence Unit.

A total of nine migrant children from Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand were placed in reception unit for Care and protection. With the help of District Child welfare unit & Child welfare committee, reception unit was able to





get in touch with their families. Soon the Chhattisgarh District Protection Unit took four children along with them to their states and reunited them with their families. With constant effort of the Salem team, they were able to arrange a separate team and transportation facility to help rest of the children reach their home.

By prioritising *best interest of children* and with collaborative effort of stakeholders, enabled the migrant children to reunite with their families.

### RESCUED AS CHILD, UNITED WITH FAMILY AS A YOUTH

Meganathan and his brother were trafficked and forced to work in brick chamber under hazardous conditions. Apart from making bricks, they were also forced to maintain cattle and clean the cattle shed.

One day a woman who came to supervise the loading and unloading work, enquired about Meganath and his brother and asked if they were interested in studying. They showed an interest in going to school but were worried to leave the brickkiln. The lady made a complaint to Childline- 1098 and within few days the police and persons from Child Line, Salem came to the brick unit and rescued them. They were taken to the Don Bosco Anbu Illam home in Salem and were provided shelter. Since then, life in the boy's home changed their outlook and course of life. Meganathan and his brother, Sarathkumar started going to school. Meganath joined Industrial Training in Automobile mechanic trade after completing 10th std and his younger brother took up a job as a driver in Tirupur. Later, Meganathan started working at DBAI, Salem and with the help of one of his colleagues, Meganathan made a visit to his village in Dharmapuri. He was able to remember and trace his home. His mother broke down after seeing her son after so many years.

Rev. Dr. Casimir Raj. M, Director, Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem said *"reunion of Meganathan with his family shows the significance of Juvenile Justice Act"* emphasizing on children to be home bound except in extraordinary conditions. "In fact, the institution had been taking efforts continuously to trace his parents " said DBAI staff.

Now Meganathan wishes to find a job and support his family and settle down. When asked on how he felt leaving DBAI, he said, It was like being torn apart. It was also my home. But for the love and care from the DBAI I would not have become what I am today. I lost interest in studies after I left my family, but I regained it after coming here. I was encouraged to study and was given all the support. I am leaving DBAI now as a person of good discipline and morals". Short term and Long Term impacts of the project.



## 7. Lessons learnt and Challenges faced:

### CHILDREN

- Children learned about the child rights and ways to address their issues to concern departments. Children are empowered on decision making.
- Children started to talk about their issues in the public forum through various strategies like drawing, interventions, interface meeting with officials, speech, etc.
- Children started to take up small activities like clean drive, tree plantation, data collection regarding issues. Children are empowered to create rapport with the youth and the elders in the community for the social cause
- Children with the support of mentors they have started to take up intervention against the child rights violation e.g., intervention on child friendly school, intervention on playground, sanitation environment etc.
- Awareness on child rights need to reach all the children.

### COMMUNITY

- Community members started to realize the child rights and child rights violation.
- Community members started to identify the children's issues and taking basic steps to solve it.
- Community members raised there voices through intervention to solve the problem of dropout children and to get basic needs of children.
- Community members are joining hand for the cause of the children in their ward.
- Community members were started to talk with the concern officials through interface meeting e.g., Police, Govt. Department, School Teachers, etc.
- Inclusiveness of all kind of children were also demonstrated in the activities of civil society members. Civil society members have started to own up the initiative. Civil society groups in Court road colony, Nanjampatty, Kitchipalayam, Patchapatty, Shevapet, Mannarpalayam, Iyanthirumaligai, and ponnampet are actively involved for the cause of child rights.

### CITY ADMINISTRATION /GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL /SERVICE PROVIDERS

- All the Department directly related to child right, have adopted and started to talk about the concept of "child friendly". They are establishing the child friendly corner in their office e.g., collector office, police station, school etc.
- Child friendly Salem initiatives has created many platforms for the Government department officials to directly interact with the community people and act upon their problem and needs.
- Government official started to hear the direct voice of the children and the community about the child rights issues through child friendly Salem initiatives. They are also can measure how much the Government schemes benefited the needy people in the slum and the vulnerable pockets in the city.



- ✎ City administration started to act upon the data and the impact they are getting in the field collaboration with the child friendly Salem initiatives.
- ✎ Child friendly Salem initiatives collaborated and networked with the Government departments and reached out many children and community members regarding child rights, health, and safety and participation aspect.

## CHALLENGES

- Time consumption. Organizing everyone in one place is taking too much time. Capacity building of children and strengthening as group is taking more duration than expected.
- Lack of place for the meeting gathering in the slum communities
- Community members identify the issues of children in their locality. But when it comes to addressing the issues there is a hesitation from the people.
- Continuous efforts are made to involve the media for the rights of children, but their focus is not children.
- There is misunderstanding between the communities regarding the NGO setup, they are expecting the financial support from us. But child friendly Salem initiatives is right based movement so, it is hard to make the people understand the concept and a time-consuming event.
- More than 5 attempts were made to gather the members for the meeting. The non-availability of members due to change working time because of covid situation. The members have moved to work in different place for the earning of daily living. The poverty due lockdown has affected the livelihood of the caring group members.
- Assembling the civil society members in one place is tough and time-consuming process. They come for the meeting when they have completed all the work.
- There is also some resistance among some parents and groups within society to understand the concept of children as change agents
- The sudden outburst of the Covid Pandemic has put hindrance to the objectives and put back to beginning of the stage. The covid situation brought a huge gap in the follow up of the activity. The lockdown implemented for more for more than six months has slowed the progress of the project. The lockdown has put created unemployment and difficult situation for health well-being of children. The children in slum community were affected and left with struggle for the living.

## LIMITATIONS:

- Limited staff members and manpower to cover the larger population and field works.
- People expect immediate solution to their issues and expect the CFS team to address the issues instantly.
- Negligence of parental roll in protecting children.
- Due to covid lock down, interventions were not possible to conduct as per the planned schedule.

- Children lack interest for education and spending most of their time in play and television.
- There is some difficulty in getting the necessary permissions to enter schools and conduct sessions.
- People understand the importance of child protection and child rights. But forming as group to protect them requires more time. There is a reluctance from the people to take responsibility and lead the activities. Formation of group couldn't happen as planned. Required more continuous empowerment.
- We could achieve the expected numbers in formation of Care committee groups. We have sensitized the civil society members and community members on care & protection children. People stress the importance of care and protection but taking up the responsibility on there is taking time than expected. The formation of CCG taking time we have sensitized the formation will take in coming year.
- The capacity building of city administration, due to bureaucratic structure taking more time. Continuous efforts had been made but the understanding of the child friendly concept is different in them.

## POTENTIAL AREA TO WORK

- ✎ Need attention in creating child friendly spaces in the Government system.
- ✎ Strengthening the Government school system with child rights clubs.
- ✎ Strengthening the volunteer team in each ward and zonal level to raise their voice against the child rights violation
- ✎ Need Ward level and zonal level child protection committees with autonomy.
- ✎ Monitoring the growth and development of children by creating a sustainable linkage between primary health centre, Anganwadi centres and schools.
- ✎ Effective monitoring of nutrition development of the children
- ✎ To monitor the school dropouts, track and put them back to school.
- ✎ To prevent child marriage and malnourishment among adolescent girl children.
- ✎ Create linkages with the government system and children. Need attention in linking the welfare schemes for children in education and development.
- ✎ Create child friendly centre in each ward and zone
- ✎ Need more awareness campaign about the preventive system set in place in the city to all the community members
- ✎ Advocacy efforts with government to create standard operating procedures to prevention the children from all forms of abuses
- ✎ Challenges are more in advocating with the Government departments
- ✎ Need attention in addressing the mental development and issues of the adolescent children
- ✎ Need attention in ensuring the participation rights of the children from the community level to the city level planning
- ✎ Initiate an exclusive grievance day for the children at regional level and district level to submit their needs and issues to the Government Officials by representing themselves.
- ✎ Focused intervention on child marriage, dropout and substance abuse.



## 8. Visibility and Scope of the Project

Building a Child Friendly City is a long-term dream, where we see each child being nurtured with care and love by all the members of the community. With the vision of *“Best Interests of Children inform planning and management of cities”*, the outcome foreseen by this project phase was, *“Sustainable, rights based, civil society and child agency driven strategies that set cities on course to becoming increasingly child friendly evolved, adopted, implemented and monitored by city administrations, communities and children in the city.”*

The final output foreseen was: *“Children’s coalitions, civil society groups and city administrations have collaboratively garnered support for and ownership of the vision and road map their Child Friendly City by the community, media, businesses, corporate houses and other stakeholders of the city, indicated by their assurance of participation and commitment of human and financial resources to the planned interventions.”*

The three years of the project have not been the easiest of all to achieve the aimed target. With the objectives to mobilising support from the civil society members, the journey has been far-reaching. While most of the objectives, as envisaged at the time for the project conception were achieved, the road has been laid in towards building a child friendly city. The last three years has helped in mobilizing children and civil society members on child rights. Building a good rapport with the top administrators, political leaders, and effluent personalities in the city. We could reach quite a few children through the activities under CFS, but we propose to scale up the activities geographically to increase the number of beneficiaries, especially children and make them independent in raising their voices against violation of their rights.

The project was gradually progressive in achieving the targets, but the sudden outburst of the Covid Pandemic has put hindrance to the objectives and put back to beginning of the stage. The covid-19 situation brought a huge gap in the follow up of the activity. The lock down implemented for more for more than a year has slowed the progress of the project. The lock down has created unemployment and difficult situation for health well-being of children. The children in slum community were affected and left with struggle for the living. The Expectation of community and children were in needs of material support rather than empowerment. After the lock down we had to start as new because of the gap. The Covid situation has reduced the learning opportunities of vulnerable children. The real problem is for those children in the economically weaker sections and socially marginalized. There is no learning opportunity for children due to irregular classes which will lead to ineffectiveness. Moreover, there are no interactive discussions happening between Students and teachers. The irregular classes will lead to widening gaps among the children’s learning ability and effective learning. In order to bridge this gap in learning ability among the children in urban slums, it is proposed to create bridged community resource centres at slums. These centres will encourage children to attend the regular classes and allow them to relax from their mental distress due to the Covid situation.



*“Be the change that you wish to see in the world”*

*- Mahatma Gandhi*

The initiative aims to increase equity of access to health, clean water and sanitation. Awareness and intervention will be carried out to increase the well-being of children in slums. Advocacy with regard to health measures will be done to effectively deliver health schemes for the children through Anganwadi centres and Primary Health centres.

### PROPOSED PLAN OF INTERVENTION

In the years to come, CFS aims to scale up its activities in the city with a greater focus on children led outcomes with participation of the civil society. The models adopted in working towards coalition with the changes as required with the major strategies...

- Intensified focus on Vulnerable ward through Community engagement:

Identifying the vulnerable wards to empower children on child rights. Creating Coalition of children, community member which will find the issues and needs of children and focus the area of interventions.

- Community Resource Centre

Community resource centre in the most vulnerable communities, will function as a child rights resource and network with Government department to access welfare schemes for the children and youth. Facilitate free legal service to children on legal issues. Create a coalition of children, Community, and administration. Empower children on rights and intensified focus on the Education of the children. Community Resource Centre will engage with the children and increase their educational learning opportunities till the normal life situation resumes in post Covid scenario. Vulnerable children will be supported through Community Resource Centres, which aim to enhance the quality of education and provide information on child rights. In addition, support will be given to enrol vulnerable children in formal or non-formal education institutions. We hope to establish the educational system where the learning would be the joyful experience to the children.

- Creating Platform to meet city administration : Facilitate interface meeting of children, civil society and administration to discuss issues and needs of children in the ward
- Facilitate Child Friendly environment in Schools and disseminate its model to all...
- Training Children and Key performers in Monitoring and Evaluation of child rights Indicators:





The children's groups, and key performers of the CFS initiatives would be trained in regular monitoring and evaluation of programme activities to assess growth and changes, if required. This will not only make the group independent on taking up tasks but also will give them the reigns of working towards building caring communities for the children.

- Advocacy for ward level child protection community : Advocacy to create ward level Child Protection Committee under which the committee identify and address the problems and issues of the children and bring about collaborative solutions to the issues / needs through regular planning and meetings.
- Knowledge management

Virtual platform for children and youth to raise their voices for the rights of children.

Virtual space for children - where children has safe access to e-materials on education, Government schemes and child rights - Making available the reports, status and other knowledge, information related to children.

The project will achieve the goal through key stakeholders – Children, Civil Society and Government Departments. Three years of CFS activities helped us to make a good rapport with government officials in Salem and it helped us to know about functioning of Government systems for delivery of rights to children.

Strong civil society platform will be an essential part of this project. Civil society platform will advocate for the child right activities and take take initiatives to protect the children in their locality. This committee will act as child watch forum. Will create awareness, capacity building and protect children. They will identify the issues and needs of children and submit the report to the city administration. Strong tie-up with government departments especially departments which working for the development of children – CWC, Child Line, DCPU, JJB, ICDS, will help to achieve the goal of the project. The important stakeholders of the project will be Municipal Commissioner, District Collector, City Police Commissioner, Medical & Health Officer, PHC, Child Labour Commissioner, Ward Officers, Ward Councillors, ICDS – Supervisors, ICDS – CDPO Officer, Women & Child Welfare Officers, and NCLP etc. We will ensure the active involvement of stakeholders in each activity, intervention, event, workshop, and interface meeting.

Children, Community members, civil society members and political administrators are the key strengths of the CFS initiative. Through collaborated and strategized efforts, scaling up of the CFS initiatives throughout Salem city would ensure that the extension of the city limit. Address the inclusive of growing needs of the children and the development encompasses the development of the children in which they can thrive and live the childhood that they deserve!

Sustainability of the project would be ensured through the implementation of ward level Child Protection Committee under which the Ward Officer and Ward Councillor would address the problems and issues of the children's groups and bring about collaborative solutions to the issues through monthly meetings. School level child protection committee to address the issues of children in schools. Child friendly Salem initiatives will become people's movement to ensure best interest of children.

## 9. Stakeholders Speak

### Children

- R. Mahalakshmi** : "I learned that all children are right holders".
- R. Salomon** : "I learned that every child has to enjoy their rights and to get respect".
- Ramesh** : "I thought that only girls are facing the sexual abuse but, today I came to know that the boy child are also victims. So, I will be careful.
- A.Kalidass** : (8th standard): "To till date I refuse and never play with some poor children in the next street. But today, I learned that all children are having equal rights and especially in taking participation, Now, I realise I was wrong. Hereafter I won't neglect anybody, willingly accept and join any children likes to play with me".
- M. Aswitha** : (8th Standard): "Today, i learned what is Safe touch and unsafe touch. Also, I learned what to do in those situations. I shall not keep any secrets from my parents and teachers."
- S.Dharshini** : (10 yrs) : " I liked the puppet show, the story of Rani was so true to our locality, girl children were denied to schooling once they attain puberty, with in short period they are given in marriage, I personally learned dropped out of school is wrong it will bring only bad. Education for girls is must that only will bring happy in future, thank you".
- Boopathi** : " I learned about Child Friendly Salem, also I learned about child rights, I learned about child line, and other systems for the children protection, I will do my best and stand for children protection. I will tell my family, friends and neighbours to stop child marriage, child labour and child abuse. "
- Shivani** : "Today, I am so happy for attending this meeting, I will come regularly and will attend this meeting, I like the name of our children team 'ALAGU CHELLANGAL'. I will bring my friends next time".
- Monika** : "I was so happy today, I draw picture of a children going to school, and education for children and particularly for the girl children is to be must.
- Jeevitha** : " I learned that every children are child rights holders, I was happy when I was told that children like me are having space in the society to listen to our sayings, I draw a picture a clean environment for the children good health."
- S.Dharshini** : " I learned four basic child rights: Right to live, develop, protect and participate".
- A.DineshKarthick** : (14 Yrs) : "It was new experience for me to write down the issues against children, I was thinking about my living place many children are not having good clothes, no sufficient food and clean drinking water, I think somebody have to act on it to solve the problems of children, Child Friendly Salem encourages me to think and act upon it, myself and my friends will act more in our children group and will strive to eliminate some of the issues in my living place, Thank you."
- M.Vasunthra** : (14 Yrs): " I am happy for to share the issues of my area children suffering. Many boys are teasing girls and calling by nick names and abusing, there should be some awareness given to those attacking girls, I hope Child Friendly Salem would do that".

### Civil Society Members

- Ms.S. Helen Malliga**: "I am a social worker for more than eight years, came across lot of children in my past experience. But, here in CFS I found a proper channelized procedure of bringing both ends of civil society and the city administration together for the betterment of Children. I am happy to be a small part of this great work."
- Ms.A. SakilaBanu** : "So, happy to see CFS working with all sectors of the society and also inclusively working among the children, I want to be a good mentor to my children group.."
- Ms.Sumithra** : It is so happy in participating this team to help the children in danger. I am proud to be in the CFS team as a protector of children. I learned about various systems existing in the government to help the children. Hereafter I will utilise the services. Very soon I will come up with lot of plans after discussing with the experts of out locality and will involve in saving children from all kinds of discriminations".
- Ms.Kuppammal** : "Though I am a leader of a SELF HELP GROUP, I hear for the first time there are systems actively functions for the children safety, as a team we will give our support to Child Friendly Salem".





CFS .is an excellent concept and need of the hour in today's fast moving technological world ..WHEN everyone is talking about making our city as a smart City ..everyone was worried about how best the public will be benefited... forgetting about the children

who are the foundation stones in which future world is built upon..so stronger and better the foundation better will be the building and infrastructure...so we can't just ignore the foundations that's our Children...CFS is trying to identify the basic needs of the children ( for their body,mind,soul) and being with them , developing them in all dimensions...and take their issues and needs to the GOVT...and see that those needs are fulfilled maximum...Let's have strong foundation by taking care of our children Today.. so that we will have a strong nation tomorrow

Rtn. **A. James**, Core Team Member  
District Chairman. Rotary International RID 2982,



Child friendly Salem initiative has created a considerable amount of impacts in the lives of the children who are unprivileged for acquiring their right. The CFS has established many hopes to upscale the Empowerment in children in Salem City. As an empowered child could identify his/her issues which are constraint his/her normal growth and development as a child with rights. Able to understand the situation and challenges also over come from the prevailing that and how to go forward to achieve a positive outlook in his/her life and enjoying his/her childhood without any disparity. CFS has opened many avenues to enhance child friendly approach to step up the city administration to relook of their plan to implement it in every way to build the city with children included in every aspect.

Mr. **A. Gnanasekaran**, Core Team Member

Child Friend Salem Initiative prioritizes the well-being of children, makes significant contributions to the mental and physical development of children, and as a key team member I take great pleasure in promoting child rights. Facilitating the materialization and material assistance of this corona epidemic situation



**Dr. D. Thirunavukarasu**, Core Team Member  
Asst. Professor of Microbiology  
Govt. M. K. Medical Collage, Salem

Child Friend Salem Initiative prioritizes the best interest of children in Salem, empowering children to raise their voices on their rights and needs. Reaching out children with different strategies like puppet show, magic, games and drawing



Ms. **N. Nirmala Devi**  
Coordinator – Childline, Salem

activities. Facilitating children to address their issues in community. Creating awareness on child rights and issues in the community. People and government system started speaking about child friendly environment. I am happy to be part of this initiative and move forward in creating changes at large. Together we will move forward in best interest of children.

**Mr. C. Mohan Raj**  
Social Activist – Core team member



Court road colony, Maravanery is living place of sanitation workers, painters and daily labourers. The CFS initiatives team mobilized children from homes, creating awareness through games, cultural activities empowering them with child rights, environment, cleanliness, health, protection

of girl children from abuse and education. During this covid pandemic lockdown they supported the children with grocery, educational materials and safety kits. I appreciate and thank the service of CFS team for empowering the economically underprivileged children on knowledge and health.

**Mr. K. Ramesh**  
Social Activist & Community Leader  
Court Road Colony, Salem

**Service Providers**



Unsecured children in community are equal to desert.....  
**Mr. A. Xavier**, Former Chair person  
Child Welfare Committee, Salem



Child friendly Salem initiative started with three pillars namely children, civil society and city administration. to reach these pillars the duration is three years. in these three years to reach children we have taken many initiatives and many good things have

happened . In nanjampatty we could see the larges changes due to children group. In same way efforts made to reach the government official but covid pandemic has slowed the process. But this initiatives has brought many changes specially civil society members taking up activities like cleaning ground, arranging silambam classes for the children and addressing the children issues by submitting petitions to Government official etc. if continued would have brought many changes in the community. These three years passed as trial period, but the initiatives has brought changes in the community, reached out many children and supported with covid relief materials. if this three years of duration extended for more period would bring many changes in the Salem.

**Ms. N. Nirmala Devi**  
Coordinator – Childline, Salem

The collage features several key elements:
 

- Top Left:** A poster titled 'குழந்தை நேய சேலம்' (Child Friendly Salem) with a rainbow and children.
- Top Center:** A circular diagram showing 'Child Rights' with icons for survival, protection, development, and participation.
- Top Right:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with the text 'குழந்தைகளின் உரிமைகள்' (Rights of Children).
- Middle Left:** A poster titled 'குழந்தை நேய சேலம்' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' (Right to Survival) and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை' (Right to Protection).
- Middle Center:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை'.
- Middle Right:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை'.
- Bottom Left:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை'.
- Bottom Center:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை'.
- Bottom Right:** A poster for 'CHILD FRIENDLY SALEM' with 'வாழும் உரிமை' and 'பாதுகாப்பு உரிமை'.





## Children Vision of Salem City



## Safeguard Children from Violence





# Child Friendly Salem Team in Action...



Children's Day celebration

Joint Venture of City Administration & Civil society Groups for the Children

Training of Civil society Groups

Children Activity

Interface meeting with CNO chair person

Vehicle Campaign on Child Rights

Training of Duty Bearers (Police & Anganwadi Teachers)

Children Parliament & Children Forum

Caring Community Groups (CCG)

# Children in Action



# CFS in Social Media



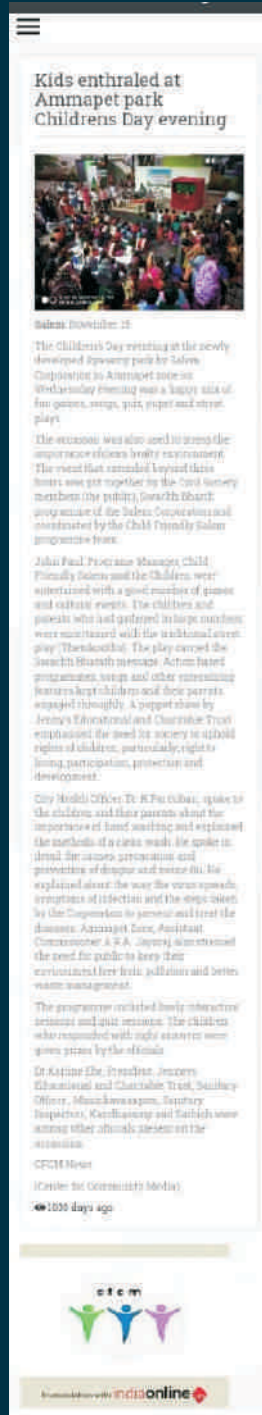
**குழந்தைகளுக்கு தோர்தல் வாக்குறுதி: மாதிரி அறிக்கை வெளியீடு**

சேலம், மார்ச் 25 - சேலம், தொன்போல் கோ அன்பு இலக் திட்ட இயக்குனர் சேலியா, குழந்தைகள் நேய சேலம் அமைப்பின் வழிகாட்டு குழு உறுப்பினர் மோகனராஜ், அரசு மோகன் குமார்க்கும் மருத்துவ கல்லூரி உதவி பேராசிரியர் திருநாவுக்கரசு ஆகியோர், நேற்று, நிருபர் களிடம் கூறியதாவது: குழந்தைகளை ஒட்டு இல்லம் எனப்படும், அவர்கள் நலன் குறித்த வாக்குறுதியை, அரசியல் கட்சிகள் வெளியீடு தீர்மானம். இதை நெரிப்படுத்தும் குழந்தைகளுக்கு மாதிரி தோர்தல் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. இதில், இலவச அட்டைய கல்வி வசது வரம்பை, 18 வரை உயர்ந்தல்; பள்ளிகளில் குழிப் பிட வசதி, கூல்தர குழந்தை, லிளையாட்டு மைதானம், 'சிசிடி' கோபுர, பாதுகாப்பு அட்டமைப்புகள், பொது ஆசன யாகள் நியமிக்க வேண்டும். பொது பொருட்கள் கிடைக்காது, அவற்றை ஈற்றி பவர்களை கரும் தண்டனைக் குள்ளாக்க வேண்டும். பொது பழக்கத்திற்கு அடிமையான குழந்தைகளை கண்டறிந்து, மறுவாழ்வு அளிக்கும் திட்டத்தை செயல்படுத்த வேண்டும். ஊட்டச்சத்து குறைபாடு உள்ள குழந்தைகளை கண்டறிந்து, தனிப்பட்ட பாதுகாப்பு திட்டம் உருவாக்க வேண்டும். வட்டார, மாவட்ட அளவில் குழந்தைகளுக்கு சிறப்பு மனு நீதி நாட்களை உருவாக்க வேண்டும். மதுவிலக்கை உள்படுத்தி உள்நாட்டு உற்பத்திகளை அடங்கியுள்ளன. இவ்வாறு அவர்கள் கூறினார்.

**After respite in infanticide, Salem District now tops in child marriage**

SALEM: Child marriages in Salem District have increased significantly after a respite in infanticide cases. The district is now tops in child marriage, according to a report by the District Child Protection Officer. The report states that the number of child marriages has increased from 10 in 2017 to 25 in 2018. The officer also mentioned that the number of infanticide cases has decreased from 15 in 2017 to 5 in 2018. The officer said that the increase in child marriages is due to the lack of awareness about the legal consequences of child marriage. He also mentioned that the number of child marriages has increased in all the taluqs of the district. The officer said that the government should take steps to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide awareness about the legal consequences of child marriage to the people. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the girls who are victims of child marriage. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the parents who are victims of child marriage. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the community organizations that are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the NGOs that are working to reduce the number of child marriages. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the police officers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the judges who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the lawyers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the social workers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the health workers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the teachers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the students who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the parents who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. The officer also mentioned that the government should provide support to the children who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the community organizations that are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the NGOs that are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the police officers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the judges who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the lawyers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the social workers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the health workers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the teachers who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the students who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the parents who are working to reduce the number of child marriages. He also mentioned that the government should provide support to the children who are working to reduce the number of child marriages.





*Heartfelt thanks to children, Community Members, Local Leaders, Volunteers, Civil Society Members, Civil Society Organization, City Administration and Service Providers, to devoted their time, Knowledge and energy in the implementation of this project.*



Received Award from Salem Corporation for the best social work in health, sanitation, and covid pandemic

