

# ANNUAL REPORT - 2018-2019



*Voices Raised*

*Views Shared*

*Rights Asserted*



**Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA)**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD**

**2018 has witnessed many remarkable interventions from SNEHA which were challenging but made a significant impact in the lives of marginalised women and men from the fishing community. With each passing year not only we are strengthening our roots at the grassroots but also are able to connect the issues at the grassroots with the mainstream with efficient policy and advocacy efforts.**

**2018 witnessed fruition of our efforts in terms of Coastal Zone Management Plan 2018, influencing positive changes in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2018, Interaction with the Parliamentarians at New Delhi, influencing positive decisions at the General Body of the National Fish workers Forum in Gujarat, liasoning in Drafting a Fisher Rights Act, National Consultation on Disaster Margins, representation of the issues of Indian fishing communities in the International Forums are a few of these decisive interventions.**

**At the grassroots, SNEHA strengthened its interventions among women, adolescent girls and children by increasing the number of total memberships in the collectives and in enhancing their awareness level on their rights and entitlements through effective conscientisation process.**

**The unexpected havoc created by ‘Cyclone Gaja’ disrupted the life and livelihood of the coastal community and this demanded the emergency response from SNEHA and we shifted our focus completely in the emergency response. The Pre-Disaster evacuations of the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) saved hundreds of lives who were sheltered in relief camps. However, the Cyclone Gaja landfall caused massive destruction across the Cauvery delta devastating the 11 districts. SNEHA supported the affected families by raising support in cash and kind and had set up community kitchens in 4 villages, provided milk for the children and dry ration kits were distributed to 1000 families. We are in process of raising more support to provide long-term rehabilitation support to the people.**

**As we embark our journey into the New Year we hope to see more lives being touched with the ideal of a progressive change that bring the marginalised sections a new hope and better lives!**

**Jesu Rathinam  
Director, SNEHA**

# *INDEX*

- ☞ Organisational Profile
- ☞ Vision and Mission
- ☞ Target Group and Interventions
- ☞ Approach and Strategy
- ☞ SNEHA TEAM
- ☞ Conservation of Coastal Land and Livelihood
- ☞ Collectivising and Empowering Women Fish Workers
  - ☛ Samuthra India Producer Company Ltd
  - ☛ Creating Rural Digital Entrepreneurs: Internet Saathi 2.0
- ☞ Building Disaster Resilient Communities
  - ☛ Disasters Response & Relief Work
  - ☛ Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation
  - ☛ National Consultation on Disaster Margins
- ☞ Rights of Youth and Adolescent Girls
- ☞ Child Rights and Child Line
- ☞ Sports for Development
- ☞ Success Stories for Way Forward
- ☞ Thanks to Media for their Extended Support



## ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA) incepted in 1984 and its work covers villages in coastal districts of Nagapattinam and Karaikal in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. SNEHA's work gained momentum in the last several years due to the changes in the macroeconomic policy in the fishing sector. SNEHA is facilitating the processes of empowerment through training, information dissemination, enabling participation in decision-making, creating awareness through literacy and involving in participatory researches to transcend the micro level issue to the macro level policy.

SNEHA has reached fisherfolks and other coastal dependent communities (including Dalits) who are dependent on coastal resources for their livelihood and fisheries allied activities. The main focus of SNEHA is been, Women and Children. SNEHA has also facilitated in the formation of Community Based Organisations such as Women Sangams, Self Help Groups, Taluk and District Level Federations were promoted for the empowerment of women.

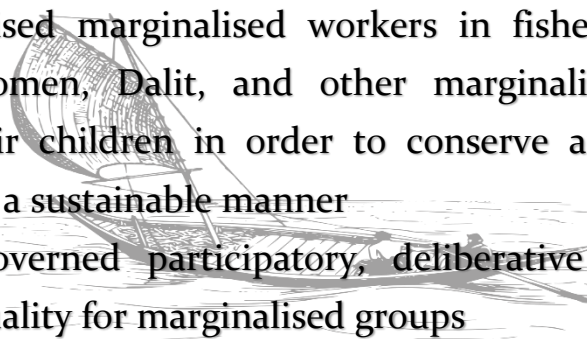
### VISION



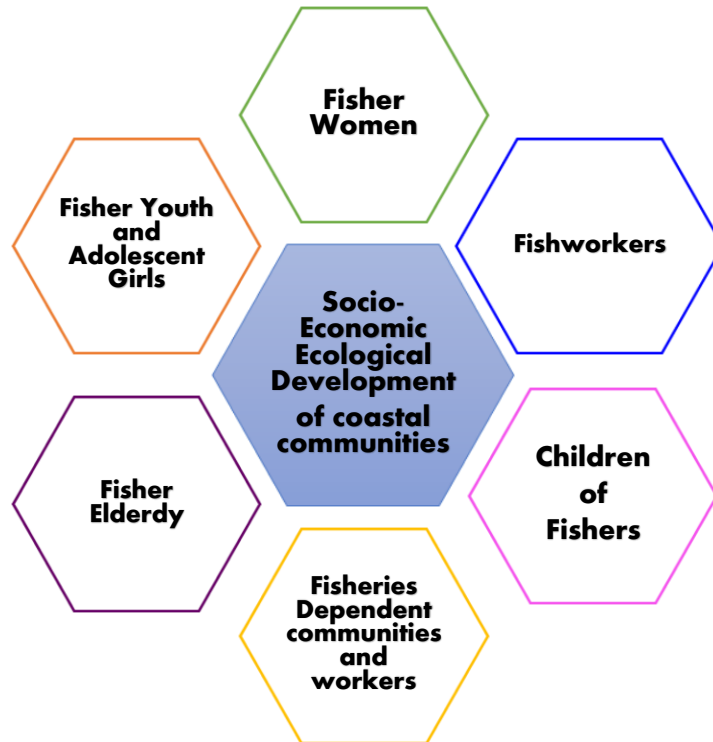
*“Creating a Just Society that is free of Caste, Class, Religion, Gender and Age-Based Discrimination and is Environmentally Sustainable”*

### MISSION

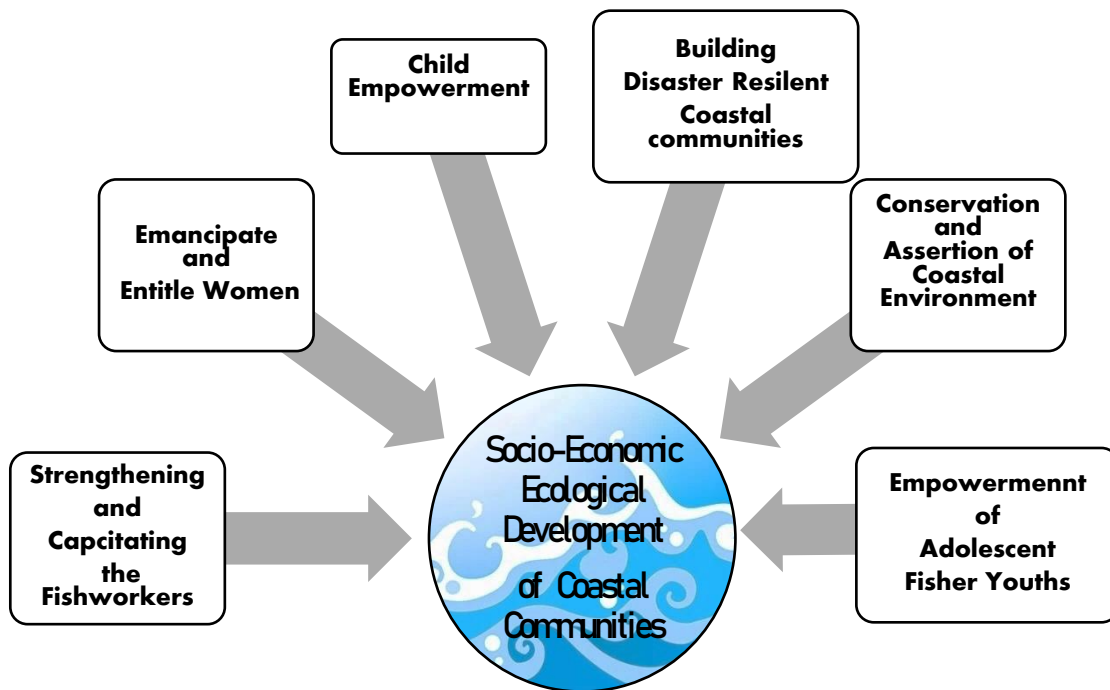
- ☞ To facilitate unorganised marginalised workers in fisheries and allied sectors especially Women, Dalit, and other marginalised vulnerable communities and their children in order to conserve and assert their livelihood resources in a sustainable manner
- ☞ To promote State governed participatory, deliberative and inclusive processes to affirm equality for marginalised groups



## TARGET GROUPS



## INTERVENTIONS



# SNEHA TEAM

## CORE TEAM

C.Jesu Rethinam, Director  
 S. Rajandran, Chief Co-Ordinator  
 V.Kumaravelu, Sector Head (Fisheries)  
 N. Dhana Lakshmi, Sector Head (Child Rights)  
 R. Devarajulu, Sector Head (Livelihood)  
 S. Prakash, Cluster Co-Ordinator  
 D. Jayabal, Cluster Co-Ordinator  
 V. Lakshmi, Cluster Co-Ordinator  
 B. Saroja, Cluster Co-Ordinator

## Administrative and Programme Support Team

R. Jayalakshmi, Office Associate  
 J. Sumathi, Accounts – Cashier  
 R. Venkatesh, Accounts Associate  
 N. Mohan, Admin Associate  
 S. Nagarajan, Saving & Credit Incharge  
 E. Vijayarani, Chief Accountant  
 M.Krishnaveni, System Associate  
 K. Manjula, Office Associate  
 J.Vinodhini, System Associate  
 K. Priyadarshini, System Associate

## YPI Team

P. Vanaja, Project Director  
 R. Indhuji, Trainer Coach  
 S.Saranya, Trainer Coach  
 B.Kalaivani, Project Co-ordinator  
 J. Sathia, CSC  
 K. Parimala, CSC  
 V. Manjamadha, CSC

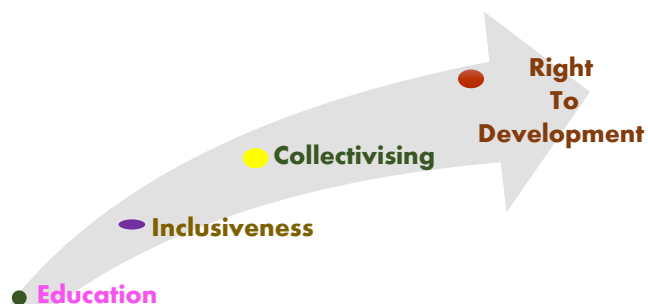
## CHILD LINE TEAM

B. Sharmile Jasmine Vimala, Co-ordinator  
 M.Akilandashwari, Team Member- CL  
 J.Ganeshamoorthi, Team Member- CL  
 N.Geetha, Team Member- CL  
 J.Pushphanathan, Team Member- CL  
 J.Mariyadoss, Team Member- CL  
 C.Jayakumar, Team Member- CL  
 N.Narmatha, Team Member- CL  
 R. Geetha, Counsellor – CL  
 R.Rajeshwari, Office Assistant - CL

## Community Field Organiser

M. Jayanthi  
 S. Valarmathi  
 R.Kamala,  
 N. Vijayakumari  
 Vijayarani  
 T. Kalaiyarasi  
 K.Murugeswari  
 P.Tamilselvi  
 V. Jayalakshmi  
 Sathiyavani

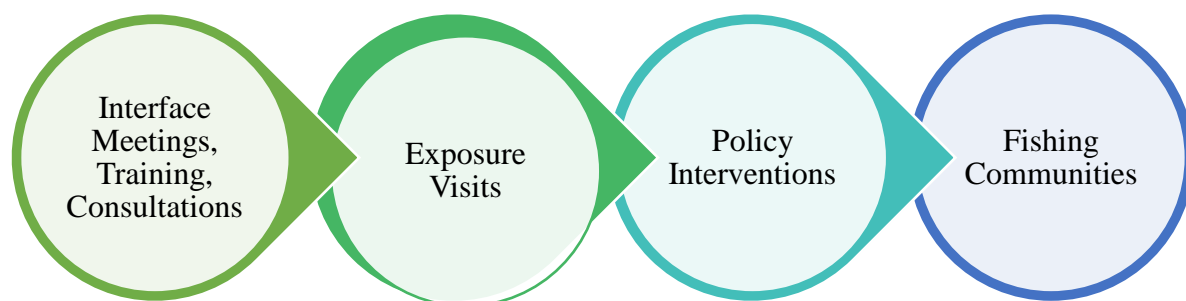
## APPROACH AND STRATEGY



We (SNEHA Team) affirm the core working principles adopted by our **Founder Mr. Christy**. His faith was that *Education* the prime tool to enhance the communities towards *Inclusive* participation without discrimination, which will gain *Collective* 'We' feeling and lead equality path for *Community Development*.

## 1. Conservation of Coastal Land and Livelihood

Since the beginning, SNEHA has been constantly working among the fishing communities especially Women, Men, and Youth to conserve the coastal resources and coastal commons of the communities. We organized several Interface Meetings, Training, Consultations and exposure visits between the fishers and the Government officials to sensitise the fishers and the Government officials to conserve the coastal ecology and common resources in Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts.



### GLIMPSE OF THE MEETINGS, TRAINING AND EXPOSURE VISITS

DATE	PROGRAMME	PARTICIPANTS	IMPACT
16-17, Jan	National Search and Rescue Exercise	Officials and Fisher Community	The community understood the process involved in the search and rescue and the cross-border policies and guidelines that need to be followed.
24jan	Training Sustainable Fishing	CG, Fisheries, Police officials Nagai and Karaikal Fisher Leaders	Fishing Community realized the impact of unsustainable fishing practice and how it will affect their livelihood adversely over a long period.
25-26jan	Youth Training on Preserving Traditional Rights and Coastal resources	Youth from Madurai, Sivagangai, Theni, Dindigul	The youth realised the threats for their common resources and took an oath to preserve them.
19-22Feb	Training on Panchayat Raj	Leaders from different Village Collectives	The participants realized their Citizen Rights and Entitlements and how an ideal Panchayat Raj system must function.
21 May	National Consultation on Coastal Zone Management Plan	Affiliated Unions of National Fish Workers Forum and Experts	The experts and the government officials were made aware of the real impact of the Plan on the coastal Community which eventually led to the review of the Plan.

### *Coastal Zone Management Plan 2018*

On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 the “Draft Revised Coastal Zone Management Plan” was uploaded to the website [www.environment.tn.nic.in](http://www.environment.tn.nic.in) by the Department of Environment, Government of Tamilnadu. Public comments and objections were sought over the next 45 days. SNEHA observed that the draft is not prepared in accordance with the CRZ Notification, 2011 and fall afoul of the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in OA 86/2014 and 141/2014. Hence letter was drafted and sent to the Department of Environment requesting to withdraw the above said documents within two days of receipt of this letter and return to the public only after a Draft CZMP is prepared in accordance with the law and the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Following this in April 2018, public hearings on the said CZMPs were organised by the TNPCB and in all districts the community gave their objections and suggestions.

## POLICY INTERVENTIONS

### *Consultation on CRZ Amendments 2018 held at ICSA, Chennai*

SNEHA as part of Coastal Action Network, went on a delegation to meet Parliamentarians and to bring their attention on pressing coastal issues on 25th July 2018 at New Delhi.

Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu assured the government's commitment towards the fisher people, Congress leader K.V. Thomas expressed his solidarity with the steps that NFF has taken in bringing the issue of CRZ to the forefront. BJP MP from Daman and Diu Lalubhai Patel wanted the government to sensitise the officials who prepared the notification about the implications of CRZ.

Shiv Sena MP Vinayak Raut wanted the government to ignore the Shailesh Naik Committee report. He pointed out that the notification should be supplied in various regional languages so that people are able to read this and understand the implications clearly. Narendra Sawaikar (Goa), Mohammed Salim (West Bengal), Pradeep Bhattacharya (West Bengal) and Rajendra Gavit (Maharashtra) were among the Parliamentarians who expressed solidarity with the fishing.

### *Contributions Draft Fisher Rights Act*

The National Consultation on the Need for a Comprehensive Legislation for Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Traditional Coastal and Marine Fisherfolk in India was organized by Coastal Action Network on 10th June 2017, with an objective to review and reflect on the Approach Paper drafted and circulated.

SNEHA coordinated in organizing the Consultation. Ms. Jesu Rethinam, Convenor of Coastal Action Network shared about the context and the need for evolving a Comprehensive legislation.

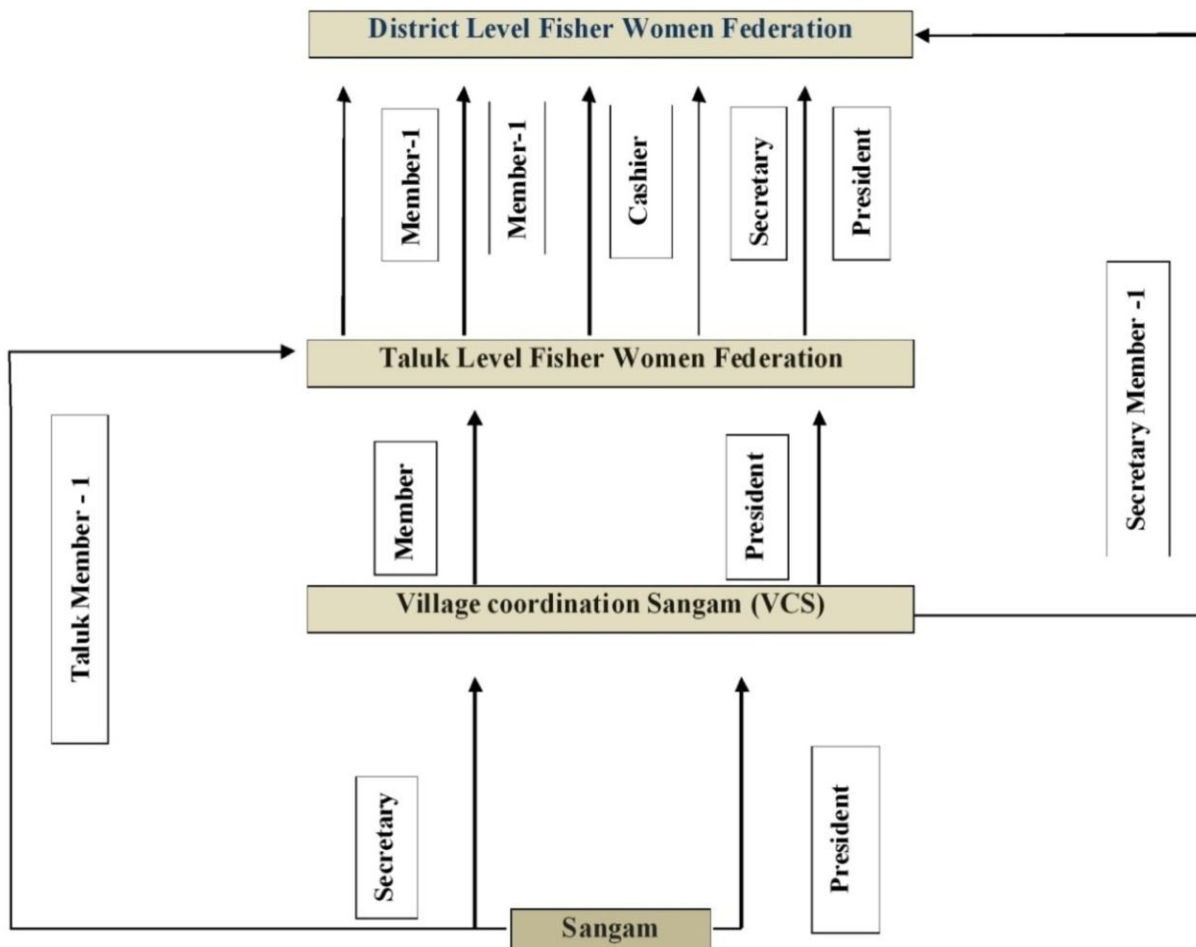
Sub Committee were formed after the consultation to follow up and evolve the draft policies the concerns to restore the traditional rights of fishing community over the commons and to secure their livelihood options were extensively discussed





## 2. COLLECTIVISING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN FISH WORKERS

SNEHA is working fisherwomen for socio-economic empowerment and to change the perspectives of the men and traditional institutions about women and their rights. The grassroots women collectivisation is the SNEHA's core strategy to overthrow gender discrimination and work towards asserting the rights of coastal communities through 'Sangams' constituted at different levels. The Village, Taluk and District Level Cluster Sangams were formed and the federated as the state level Women's Federation.



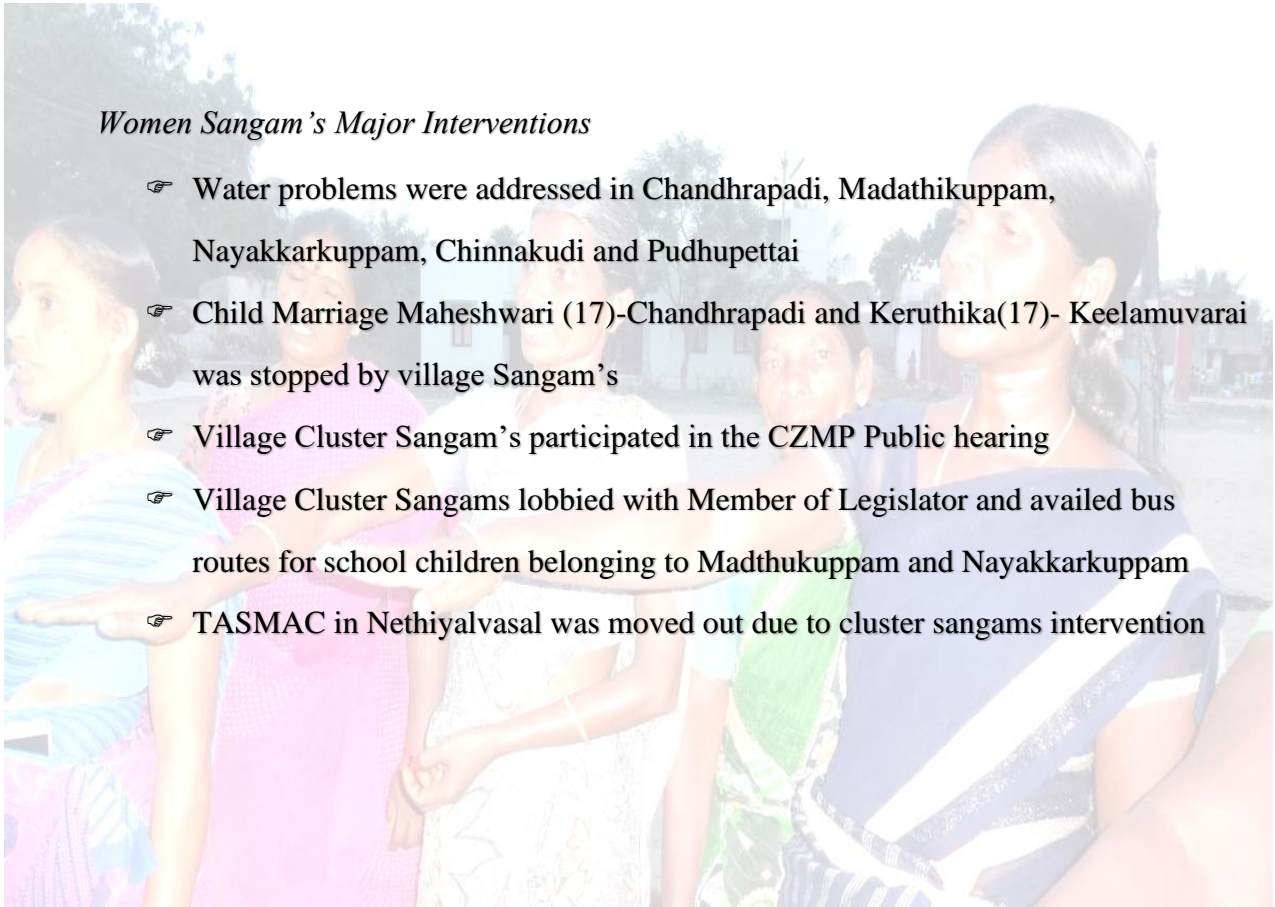
In this regard, SNEHA has actively involved at the grassroots organising women in collectives and sensitising them on gender, citizen rights, legal and social entitlements and holistic and sustainable development.

The Cluster Women Sangam work closely with the elected panchayat presidents. The Sangams sensitise the newly elected Women PRI members with regard to the panchayat administration. The Cluster Sangams actively participate in the grama sabhas and cater to the need of the villages. The Women Sangam's had achieved fruitful success such as road facilities, toilet facility in school, water facility, spray mosquito repellents, water tank in school, PHC, transport facility, drinking water facility, street light, hand pumps, Drainage facility, Anganwadi Building and so on.

Village Cluster Coordination		
CLUSTER	SANGAM	MEMBERS
Kilvelur	40	80
Nagapattinam	74	148
Karaikal	89	178
Tharangambadi	37	74
Sirkali	49	98
Kolidam	61	122

#### *Women Sangam's Major Interventions*

- ☞ Water problems were addressed in Chandhrapadi, Madathikuppam, Nayakkarkuppam, Chinnakudi and Pudhupettai
- ☞ Child Marriage Maheshwari (17)-Chandhrapadi and Keruthika(17)- Keelamuvarai was stopped by village Sangam's
- ☞ Village Cluster Sangam's participated in the CZMP Public hearing
- ☞ Village Cluster Sangams lobbied with Member of Legislator and availed bus routes for school children belonging to Madthukuppam and Nayakkarkuppam
- ☞ TASMALC in Nethiyalvasal was moved out due to cluster sangams intervention



## ❖ Samuthra India Producer Company Ltd

One of the unique interventions of SNEHA is the initiation of the Samuthra India Producer Company Ltd., which was set up towards ensuring economic empowerment of women in fisheries and allied fisheries. This community owned initiative is launched with an objective to strengthen the primary livelihood options for the women. This initiative also seeks to strengthen the food security at the local level and to ensure access and control for the women fish workers in the local market.



PRODUCTS SALES Details- January 2018 to December 2018				
Sl no	Cluster name	Own	Other	Total sales
1	Kilvelur	18251	8281	26532
2	Nagapattinam	59925	15425	75350
3	Karaikal	361103	191550	552653
4	Tharangambadi	71363	37200	108563
5	Sirkali	16839	455	17294
6	Kolidam	28268	4050	32318
7	Individual	374870	624169	999039
	<b>Total sales</b>	<b>930619</b>	<b>881130</b>	<b>1811749</b>

Cluster Wise Insurance Amount Received					
Cluster Name	Insured	Amount	Insured	Amount	Total Amount
	Men		Spouse		
<b>Kilvelur</b>	59	8850	32	4800	13650
<b>Nagapattinam</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Karaikal</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tharangambadi</b>	103	15450	84	12600	28050
<b>Sirkali</b>	289	43350	146	21900	65250
<b>Kollidam</b>	16	2400	15	2250	4650
<b>Total</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>70050</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>41550</b>	<b>111600</b>

## ❖ CREATING RURAL DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURS: INTERNET SAATHI 2.0



Google | TATA TRUSTS

### *Creating Livelihood, the Digital Way!*

SNEHA associated with Google and TATA to teach women sell fish online. Internet Saathi is a project that aimed at Digital Literacy to rural women. SNEHA implemented this project in 412 revenue villages in Nagapattinam district. 4120 rural women were reached through this programme. Many women showed interest and in some places, the Saathis faced challenges. Their credibility was questioned by the villages in a few villages. In some other villages, they were not allowed to teach the women. Yet the Saathis argued, convinced and taught the women.

## Google, Tata join hands to train women vendors to sell fish online



etting training to operate smartphones as part of Saathi initiative by private firms Google and Tata in Nagapattinam on Thursday | EXPRESS

**M MANIKANDAN** @Nagapattinam

WITH the world moving forward with digital innovations, the 'Saathi' initiative by Google and Tata will help women involved in the fishing industry to sell fish with the aid of smartphones. To this end, a two-day workshop to inculcate the use of smartphones among fisher folk in Nagapattinam district was held on Wednesday and Thursday.

Many women in rural areas do not have smartphones. To overcome this, the programme is aimed at educating women on the

need for such phones and teach them its various applications. In the first phase, 104 women attended the programme, led by a Google representative. "The women were shown various applications of the mobile phone like browsing, social networking and e-payment, among other practical uses," said Dhanalekshmi, supervisor of the programme.

S Rajendran, chief coordinator of SNEHA and organiser of the programme, said, "To provide fish vendors access to smartphones, we conducted this class. Most women selected for this pro-

gramme had never used a smartphone before. Google engineers and technical experts visited Nagapattinam and conducted this workshop. As the women have been trained now, they will help others in their localities. The aim of the programme is to reach out to 62,400 rural women in the district."

Swaminathan, a trainer, said, "Each of the 104 women will have to teach 700 women from across Nagapattinam, Vedaranyam, Thalaizhayuru, Keelaiyur, Keelvelur, Thirumarugal, Sembankoil, Mayiladuthurai,

Kuthalam, Sirkazhi and Kollidam blocks in the next six months. We have come up with a cost-effective and efficient method where we train women to teach others. We have provided two smartphones to each woman, who will keep one and use the other to teach digitally illiterate women in rural areas. The use of mobile phones will be monitored

by Google to keep track of the number of women who have received the training."

Bharathi, a fish vendor from Nambiyar Nagar, told *Express*, "This is the first time I am operating a smartphone. This workshop helped me with several apps on the phone. This has given me the belief in my ability to sell fish online in the coming days."

**“** Engineers and technical experts conducted the workshop. As they have been trained now, the women will help others in their localities. The aim is to reach out to 62,400 rural women in the district

S Rajendran, organiser of the programme and SNEHA's chief coordinator



### 3. BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Nagapattinan and Cuddalore coastal stretch are prone to coastal disasters such As Cyclones, Storms, Tsunami and so on. Every year, the coastal stretch will be subjected to a major landfall of the cyclone. So, the coastline counted as the most vulnerable coastal district with regard to cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. In this backdrop, the marginalised coastal communities are vulnerable and exposed to disasters. SNEHA adopted Disaster Risk Reduction strategies enhance the capacities of disasters in vulnerable coastal communities. SNEHA had envisioned several programmes to build resilience among coastal communities.

#### ❖ DISASTERS RESPONSE & RELIEF WORK

In 2018, Gaja Cyclone had major landfall in the coast of Nagapattinam resulting in a huge loss of livelihood and economic assets. Cyclone Gaja landfall caused massive destruction across the Cauvery delta devastating the 11 districts of Tamil Nadu. Even though the Government of Tamil Nadu had announced their relief measures, it cannot feed the entire affected populations of Gaja population. SNEHA's timely intervention on disaster response and sustain the coastal households in the aftermath of the cyclone. SNEHA raised local contribution from individuals and solidarity groups by creating a Blog and WhatsApp group.

##### *i. Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA)*

SNEHA conducted a PDNA through the village panchayats facilitated by the SNEHA field staff. The participatory inclusive approach was adopted to analyse the relief materials in need. Based on PDNA, list of relief materials was packed as a *Family Package*. Then, a list of vulnerable families was prepared and tokens were distributed in advance to avoid duplication and chaos during the distribution of relief. SNEHA ensured that every family with a Ration and School Kit.

S.NO	Village Name	Total Families	Male	Female	Children		Total Population
					Boys	Girls	
1	Seruthur	837	879	941	557	549	2926
2	Kameshwaram	279	340	369	207	117	1033
3	North Villuvai	40	53	52	20	23	148
4	South Villuvai	162	201	200	102	79	582
5	Vanavanmahadevi	390	309	387	387	296	1379
6	Vellapallam	415	503	501	335	328	1667
7	Pushavanam	231	323	310	100	99	832
<b>Total</b>		<b>2354</b>	<b>2608</b>	<b>2760</b>	<b>1708</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>8567</b>

## *ii. Community Kitchens*

SNEHA initiated the Community Kitchens in every village through their SHGs, Village Coordination Sangams, and other CBOs and support the kitchens with required supplies of Rice, Pulses, and Vegetables. The process of community kitchen itself will acts as a psychosocial remedy will disaster-affected communities especially women to overcome their trauma and also this will strongly bound the community collectiveness towards the disaster response or any other emergencies. On the other side, ensure equity and transparency in receiving relief measures and avoid excess gathering of relief materials by individuals.



The community kitchens proved extremely crucial as the first measure of emergency relief and nutrition for the affected villages. Most families did not have adequate stocks of food nor fuel, stoves to cook. Also, in the initial days, villages themselves preferred aid to community kitchens than to individual families as few families were in a position to store and use the rations being donated.

### iii. *Distribution of Family Relief Packages*

SNEHA provided individual relief family packages to the villagers to restore their normal life. The other core teams realised the same and shifted their response for the community to an individual by providing food packages. After a number of consultations, the disasters response team came up with contents of Family relief packages. The PDNA team identified 2354 families who were in need of family relief packages. These numbers were achieved after clear scrutinize of the families (who were obtained similar packages from their sponsors or other NGOs). The SNEHA PDNA team were clear that relief material should not be duplicated or not to be provided in excess. So, a door-to-door survey was done before provided the Family Relief Packages. This was achieved only because the volunteers and the staff of SNEHA were themselves affected by the cyclone and also aware of the pain of fundraising involved by the team.

<b>Contents-Family Relief Package</b>		
<b>S.No</b>	<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Rice	10 kgs
2	Turmeric Powder	50 gms
3	Dall	0.5 kg
4	Mustard	100 gms
5	Anise	100 gms
6	Cumin	100 gms
7	Fenugreek	100 gms
8	Pepper	50 gms
9	Asafoetida	25gm
10	Curry powder	0.5 kg
11	Oil	1 lit
12	Tea Powder	100 gms
13	Sugar	1 kg
14	Candle	10 nos.
15	Match box	10 nos.
16	Phenyl	20 ml
17	Milk	0.5 lit
18	Mosquito coil	1 no.
19	Packing cost in Rs.	15
20	Transport Cost in Rs.	25



Verification of Family Tokens whildistributions at



Distribution at Seruthur



Distribution at Vanavanmahadevi

#### *iv. Relief Inclusiveness-Reaching the Vulnerable*

SNEHA's prior disaster response experiences make ensure that vulnerable section will be addressed first, then the others.



Over 200 vulnerable families were identified, where the children in need of a School Bag, Notebooks and Stationaries to return to school. So, SNEHA provided a *School kits Package* consisting of school bag, notebook, geometry box, and pens to the deserving children of 200 families.

Not only Children, but SNEHA response team also gave extra attention to ensure all vulnerable sections like Widows, Single Women, Differently-Abled, Aged, and especially those without access to governmental services were well served under our programme.



SNEHA as a member of the Core Team for IAG Assessment involved in bringing out an Assessment Report of the Gaja Cyclone. Also, as part of Coastal Action Network sent an appeal demanding to '*Declare Cyclonic Storm Gaja as a 'Calamity of Severe Nature'*'. This appeal was also sent to Political Party leaders and media.

#### **❖ DISASTER PREPAREDNESS and MITIGATION**

##### *Community Beach Monitoring*

Sea level rise and unpredictability of extreme weather events necessitate that local communities play an active role in creating knowledge bases for appropriate action to reduce disaster risk and recreate a healthy coastline.

The Beach Profile Monitoring Programme was envisioned as a way to empower fishing communities with the data, skills and knowledge to observe and understand what is happening to their coastlines and be stakeholders in the process of building resilience to changes. The goal was to document and create locale specific evidence on shoreline dynamics in terms of erosion and accretion patterns of the beach.



Over the past two years, over 120 volunteers have been trained, and data continues to be collected in 8 locations at Cuddalore and Karaikal. As the programme becomes a part of the community, creates more leaders and offers them ownership and power over the data they collect, the way forward is to go beyond these methods and create a healthy coastline

We are continuously documenting the Shore line changes in selected control points for the second year. This documentation is essential at least for 5 years. This is Community Based Beach Profiling and Sand Grain Size Analysis-a Unique Community led Citizen Science Engagement. In 2017, the following suggestions were made by Dr Ramesh Ramachandran, Director, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management.



This year also we will continue to document the Shore line changes. We also have a plan to publish a report with the next two years of data.

#### ❖ NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON DISASTER MARGINS

##### *Fishers Life, Land and Livelihoods in Peril*

In the wake of coastal encroachment and climate change, it has become essential to wake up disaster preparedness and mitigation. The rigorous growth of modern nation-states with the coast and ocean-based economy-driven development has made the coastal habitats vulnerable to numerous natural and man-made hazards, as well as environmental degradation. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2014 report coastal habitats will be subjected to sea erosions and inundation, submergence of the small islands, redistribution in marine biodiversity, raise in water salinity and severe storm surges and cyclones. Highlighting all these factors, a National Consultation on Disaster was organised on 18th March 2019 with the active participation of SNEHA.

SNEHA has been actively organising Youth and Adolescent girls to assert and conserve the coastal commons and to promote awareness on their sexual and reproductive health rights specially among adolescent girls.



SNEHA is being engaged among adolescent girls specifically focusing on sexual and reproductive health. The groups among adolescent girls discuss varied issues. Girls are aware of various social issues in general and all actively participate in the group discussions without any inhibitions. Groups are periodically trained on the role of CBOs,

elections, violence against women, right to information, right to education, global warming, HIV, hormonal changes, the role of media, dowry system, suicide, female foeticide and infanticide and child sexual abuse and so on.

As expressed by the members of adolescent groups the drop-out rate is high mainly due to the distance and menace of eve teasing. As girls are dropped-out of studies they are also forced for early marriage. The lack of proper career guidance and the absence of any vocational courses make girls more susceptible to early marriage.

### *Some of the major interventions of 2018 are as follows*

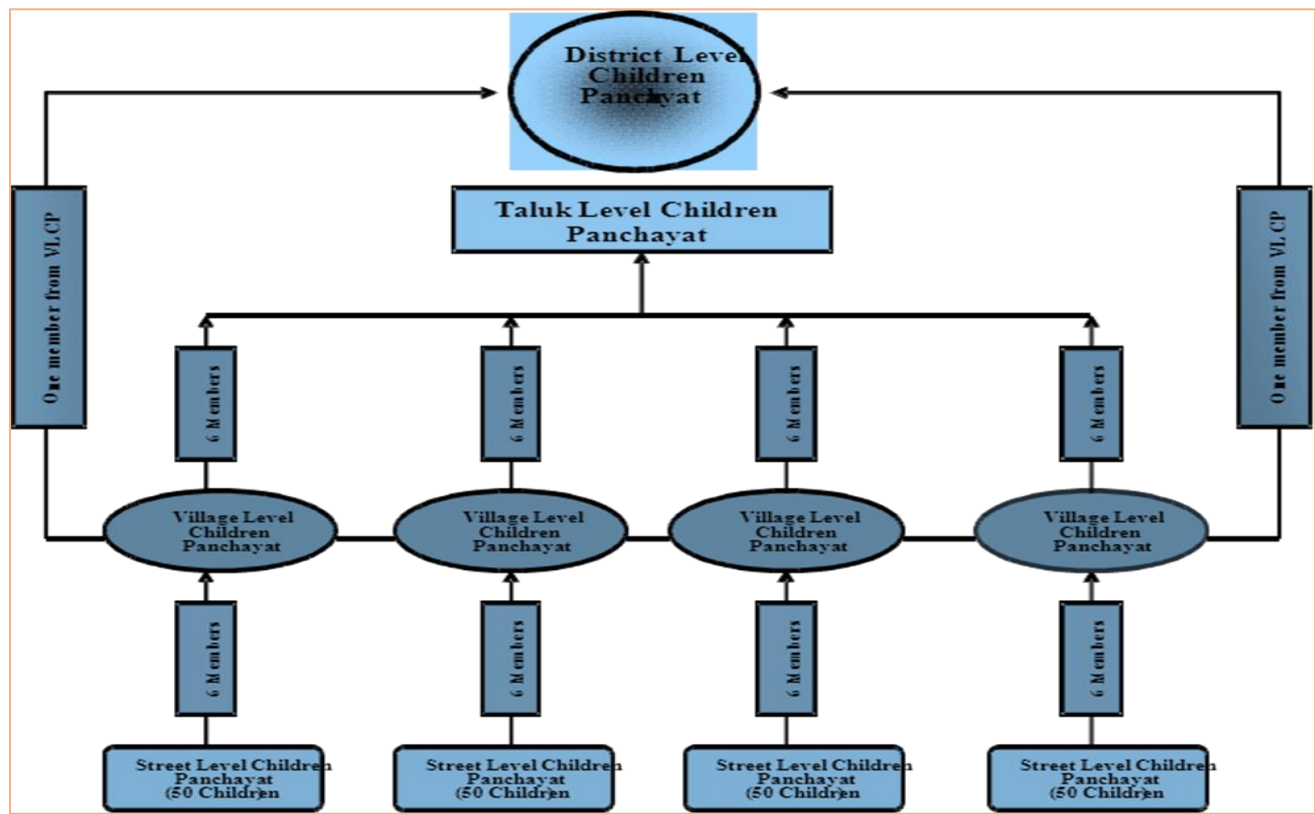
- ☞ Almost 70% of the members in the Adolescent Team have resolved and informed their parents they will only marry after 18 and are financially independent.
- ☞ Engagement was fixed for 2 girls who are in their 17 years. The adolescent Girls Group brought this to the attention of SNEHA team and the parents were counselled to postpone the ceremony until they are 18.
- ☞ To upskill the girls who have dropped out of college SNEHA organised classes for fashion designing and embroidery.
- ☞ Almost 98% of the members of Adolescent Girls Groups have started using sanitary napkins instead of cloths during their menstruation.
- ☞ 16 different programmes were organised in 16 areas behalf of 'End Child Marriage Campaign'.

## 5. Child Rights and Child Line

SNEHA collectivises children in groups at Cluster Level to provide them progressive orientation at a young age and provide after school support to ensure they never drop out from the school. SNEHA has 'Child Activity Centre' in every Panchayat and also operates the Child Line in Karaikal district to ensure the Child Labour and Child Abuse is addressed effectively with immediate action.



*Structure of Children's Panchayat*





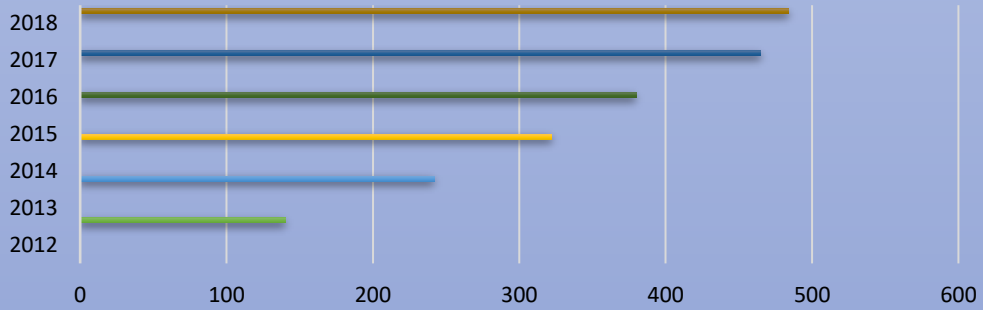
As a Custodian of Child Line in Karaikal, SNEHA responds to calls round the clock and organizes outreach and awareness programme. Also, address the issues and provides rescue and rehabilitation facilities for the child by coordinating with government and non- Government organizations. SNEHA has been successful in implementing the following programmes as part of the Child Line;

- ☞ Organized 8 Public Awareness programmes and reached out to 849 people.
- ☞ Monthly once an awareness programme to auto drivers was organized and reached out to 568 drivers through 10 such programmes.
- ☞ Awareness programmes were organised in the school and 57 Government Schools and 49 Private Schools were covered. In Total 2365 children participated.
- ☞ Awareness on Child Line was also raised during other meetings of SNEHA and other NGOs among SHGs, Youth and adolescent girls. In total this covered 3203 participants.
- ☞ A total number of cases receive are – 484 in which 230 were dealt with external support and 254 were dealt with in-house capacity.
- ☞ The nature of the cases that were handled by the Child Line is as the following. Child Marriage - 19, Child Labour – 28, Child Begging – 09, Child sexual abuse & harassment - 30, Child physical abuse – 99, Emotional abuse – 19, Corporal punishment – 39, Bad behaviors – 20, Domestic issues – 31, Love affair – 20, Behavioral changes – 53, Child in Depression – 31
- ☞ SNEHA – Child Line was Live on Karaikal Radio FM to speak on Child Abuse.
- ☞ KOMAL documentary (that creates awareness on child abuse) was taken to be telecasted as part of Primary School Academic Programme.
- ☞ Suggestion Boxes are kept in every school and all the feedbacks are considered seriously and dealt with immediate attention.

*Photo Glimpse of Child Line Awareness Campaigns, school programmes, Exposure visits, and public awareness campaigns*



**Sadly, it is on a rise!  
Increase in the number of cases dealt by Child Line**



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
■ Jan-Dec 18							484
■ Jan-Dec 17						465	
■ Jan-Dec 16					380		
■ Apr-Nov 15				322			
■ Apr - Mar 14			242				
■ Apr-Mar 13		140					



## *6.Sports for Development*

At the heart of the SNEHA's 'Young People's Initiative' (YPI) programme is the desire to change girls' opinions of themselves and their role in the world. By bolstering the girls' self-confidence, improving their knowledge of key health and social issues, and by offering them a safe place to learn, play and grow "YPI" is making the world of difference to the lives of girls.

YPI involves in Life Skill education with NAZ from 2016.

There were 10 sites each year. Every year we have 80 sessions in one site.

- ▶ Be Yourself
- ▶ Be empowered
- ▶ Be Healthy
- ▶ Be money savvy



### ***Our Achievements:***

- ▶ Two teams have participated in district level Tournaments and got third place
- ▶ Two teams have participated in State level Tournament and got third place and points for Quota for higher studies and job
- ▶ Our CSCs participated in district level tournaments and got third rank
- ▶ 95 peer leaders identified

## *Success Stories for Way Forward*

### *Refusing to be a Child Bride Kanaka continues chase her dream to be a teacher!*

In the month of October, on a Wednesday SNEHA Child Line received a call that a young girl is seen in the government bus stand alone in an emotionally distressed state. Our team rushed to the spot and rescued the young girl.

She said she is Kanaga, studying in 11<sup>th</sup> standards and her parents are forcefully getting her married without her wish, which would affect her studies. This made her to fight with the family, suffer physical abuse and run away from them.

We informed the parents and they were counselled, upon which they called off the marriage.

Kanaga says, “I want to study well and become a teacher and I will marry only after I start to earn as a teacher”

### *Alcoholism is a disturbance to Children Education!*

“My father is an alcoholic. I am unable to concentrate in my studies and deprived of sleep at night” says 12-year-old Gayathri, studying in 9<sup>th</sup> standard in Vizhunthamavadi village. Her mother is a fish vendor. The issue of alcoholism is a major issue amongst the fishing community and it is rampant in Vizhunthamavadi village of Nagapattinam District.

“I am a member of the Kalvi Kuzhu (education committee) in the Children’s Panchayat, initiated by SNEHA. In one of our monthly meetings we discussed this issue and shared with Women Federation members, they took the issue with the panchayat leaders and the local liquor shop was closed down.

We were surprised that men were showing solidarity to address issues of alcoholism. “I observe children are getting affected by the alcoholism, we should address this issue seriously.” says Moorthy (age 40), a leader of the village.

# Thanks to Media for their Extended Support



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