

# ANNUAL REPORT



**2021-2022**

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## 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 ocean and coastal resources for their inhabitation as well as livelihood. The main focus of SNEHA is been working for the Fisher People and Coastal Communities especially Women and Children. SNEHA has promoted as Community Based Organisations for the vulnerable groups such as Children Panchayats, Women Federation, Adolescents and Youths Groups.

### VISION



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

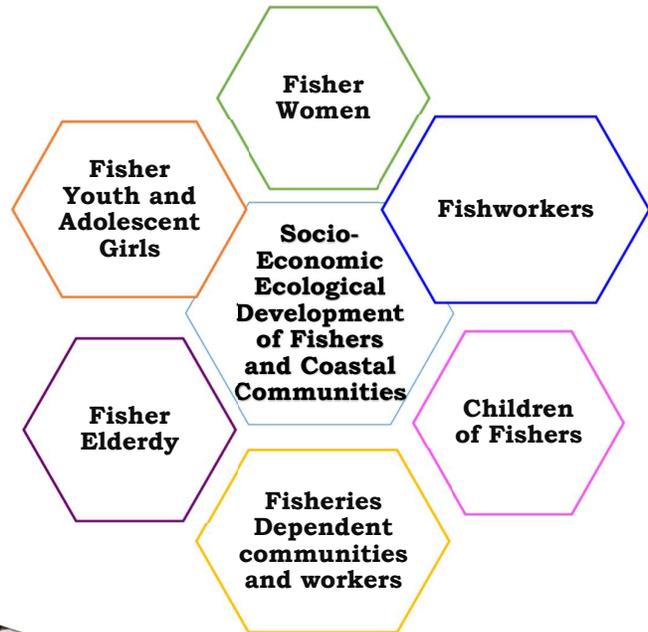
### MISSION

- ☞ 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

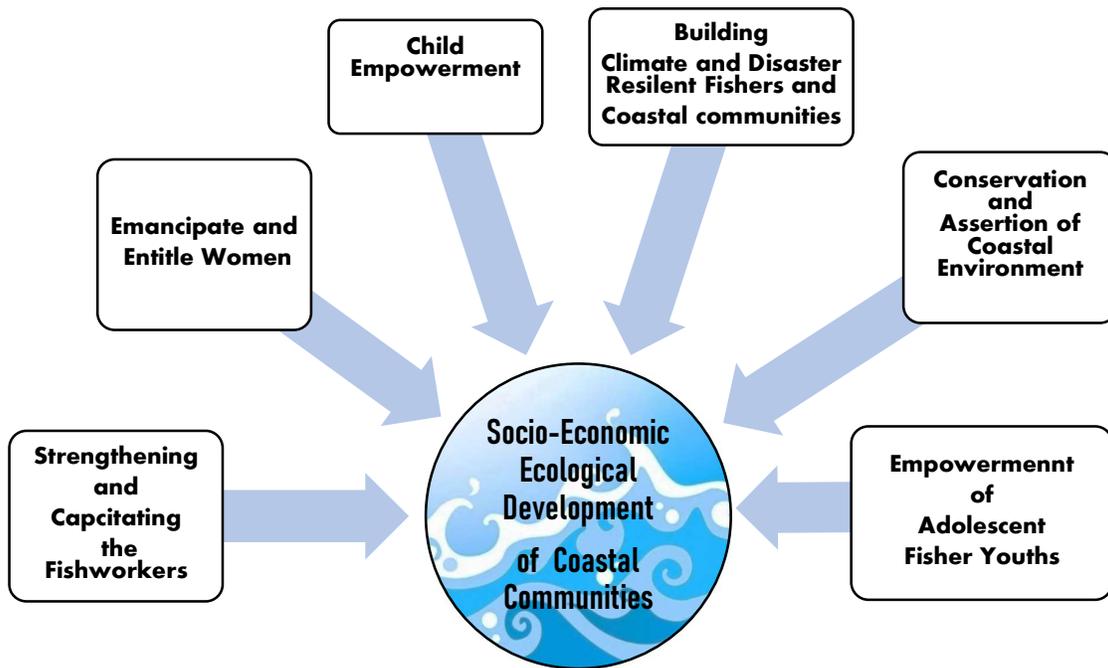
## STRATEGIES



## TARGET GROUPS



## INTERVENTIONS



# I. CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

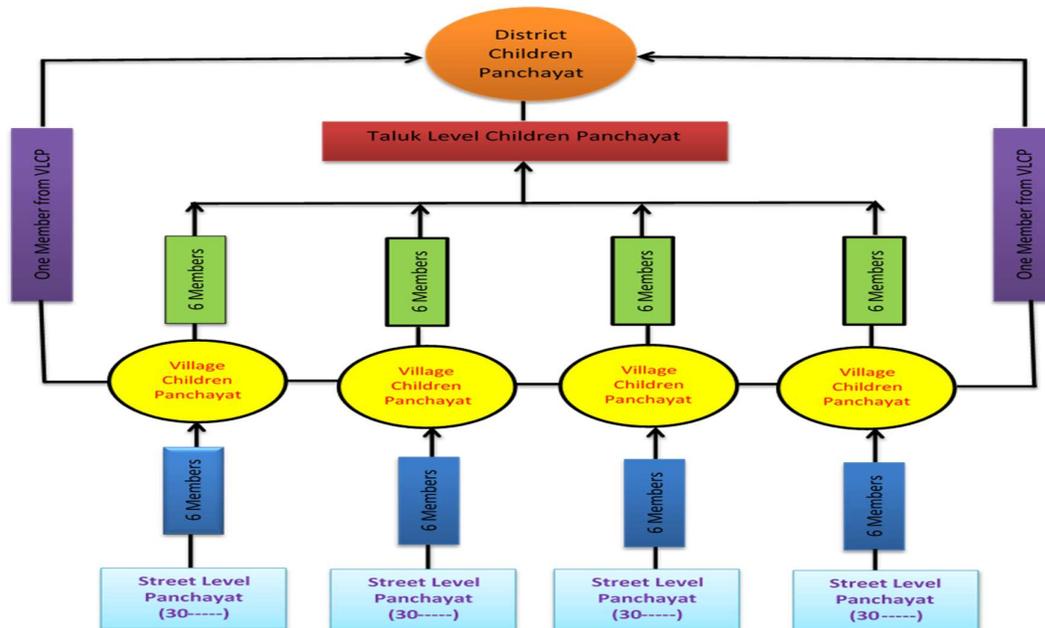
## i. Children Panchayats



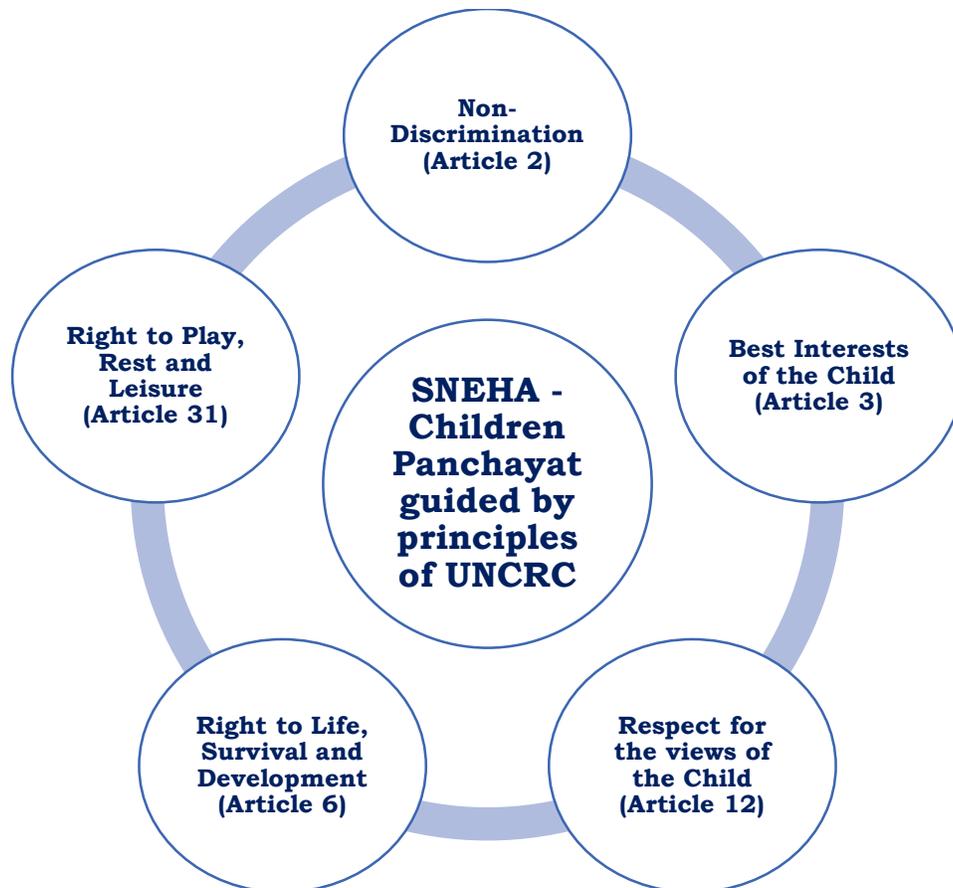
For the past 34 years, SNEHA has been engaged in Rights Based Development Initiatives among the marginalised vulnerable groups such as Women, Children and Fishers in coastal fishing villages in Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts of Tamil Nadu. Children are the one among vulnerable groups to be focused on future sustainable development of the communities.

India, as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC), is committed to ensure that all children enjoy their right to survival, development, protection and participation. The National Policy for Children (NPC) adopted by the Government of India on 26th April 2013 re-affirms the government's commitment to the realization of the rights of all children in the country and recognizes every person below the age of eighteen years as a child. The Policy recognizes the need for strengthening child rights governance and reiterates that the realization of the prescribed rights of children

SNEHA works towards securing and promoting the rights for the development of the children in the coastal village of Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts of Tamil Nadu. To create a conducive atmosphere for the healthy growth and development of children, 48 Children Panchayat has been formed in 42 villages with the core components of social development.



SNEHA has envisioned developing future generation of children, who were empowered with elimination of fundamental social evils such as Caste, Religion and Discrimination and with eagerness for social change among the coastal communities. Between 10 to 14 years old of children were grouped with various children group (20-30 Children / group) and then groups were federated into *Children Panchayats (CP)*. It is guided by the following five overarching principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child UNCRC.



Child participation can be defined as opportunities that empower children to express their views and opinions freely regarding issues and matters that affect their wellbeing. A true child participation is a transformative process wherein the power shifts from adults to children and alleviates children from the status of being passive recipients to active stakeholders having power to influence decisions that have an implication on their wellbeing.

- ✚ The goal of Children Panchayat and the enablers are:
- ✚ Participation of children in local governance
- ✚ Carrying out periodic situation analysis from child lens

- ✚ Outreach activities by members of children Panchayat to understand issues and concerns of all children
- ✚ Integration of children's issues in GPDP
- ✚ Creation of an enabling environment through Village Level Child Protection Committee Creating an accountability mechanism at PRI level for ensuring equitable coverage of services and entitlements for children
- ✚ Capacity Building of PRIs on the concept and process of child participation in local governance Institutionalizing child participation through constituting Children Panchayats and organizing Bal Sabhas
- ✚ Development of appropriate resources of PRIs and children to meaningfully engage in the governance processes

The CPs also decision with numbers petitions to the respective departments, most of them were regarding the socioeconomic well-being of the children and maintenance of public infrastructures such as schools, street lights, and garbage collections and so on, the CPs follow-ups of the petitions resulted with fruitful success for the communities as well, as the children in large.



In additions, the CPs villages actively participated in the Village Grama Sabha (Local Panchayat meeting) and registered with needs for the development of the village.

S.No	MAJOR FOLLOW UPS OF CHILDREN PANCHAYAT
1.	Maximum School enrolment using 25% reservation
2.	100% Open Defecation free villages
3.	Zero Drop out
4.	Child Marriage Free Gram Panchayat
5.	Child Labour Free Gram Panchayat
6.	Full Immunization
7.	Nature Friendly village by preserving coast & coast commons
8.	Availability of Sanitary Napkin for Adolescent girls
9.	Effective Implementation for Mid-Day Meal
10.	Child Birth Registration & Issuing of Birth Certificate
11.	Functional Village Level Child Protection Committee

## Highlights of Children Panchayat



- ❖ Online Survey and a study on Access to Online Education among children of Coastal Fishing Community during COVID- 19 Pandemic with an objective of the study is to understand the impact of COVID 19 on children’s education among the coastal fishing community and suggest policies for improving the situation.
- ❖ Observing World against Anti Human Trafficking in persons.
- ❖ Study on Status of Child Marriage along with Child Protection Society (SCPS): A study was conducted among 55 child marriage survivors in Nagapattinam district to understand the cause of child marriage, the influencers, mental distress undergone by the victims, need for training the officials to convert them as advocates for the cause for effective implementation of the laws and polices related to the same. Trainings were organized for the below stakeholders with the emerging needs of the children brought out during the case study analysis.
- ❖ Formulated Standard Operating Procedure to strengthen the coordination and support of allied departments during rescue and rehabilitation process.
- ❖ Observing Child Labour Day and celebrating children’s day.
- ❖ Orienting Ecological Balance and Climate Change among children.

## Outcomes of Children Panchayat

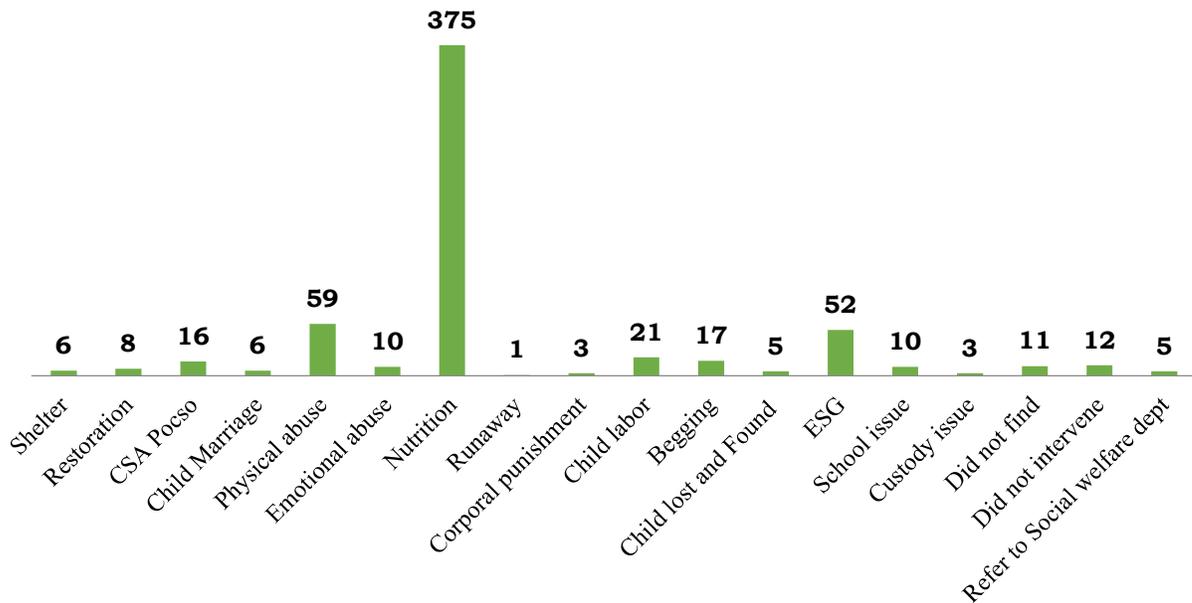
- ❖ Every child has access to quality essential services and entitlements, including social protection services<sup>8</sup>
- ❖ Every child lives in a safe, secure and clean environment
- ❖ Every child has their voice, needs and priorities heard and taken into consideration
- ❖ Every child has a fair chance in life
- ❖ Every child enjoys family life, play and leisure



## ii. CHILDLINE

CHILDLINE 1098 is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone and outreach service for children in need of aid and assistance. It provides an overview of the interventions by the CHILDLINE services during the period, the major issues intervened and activities undertaken to provide visibility to the service. It also provides information on the coordination activities with the different departments to enhance the protection aspects of children and helps to ensure that all services converge to protect the child in distress.

### CATEGORIZATION OF CHILDLINE CALLS



## Childline Outreach Programmes

### a. Special Drive

We Conducted two Begging raid Programme every month at Thirunallar and Karaikal Palli vasal on Saturday and Friday to minimize beggary in the religious places. 17 children found begging were rescued with the support of police department.

### b. Night Outreach: 24

We Conducted two Night Outreach Programme every month at Karaikal Beach, Park, Bus stand and Railway station to Protect Child from any abuses and Awareness to Public.

### c. Community Outreach: 12 Programmes

We have Conducted 12 Community Outreach Programme at vulnerable Places of karaikal from 6.00pm to 9.00pm to meet working people at Kottucherry-Kool kudtha Agraharam, Kasakudi medu , Meloduthurai, Manjavali and identified two cases.

**d. Public Awareness: 12 Programmes**

We Conducted 12 Public Awareness Programme at Ambagarathur, Pathra Kaliyamman temple to Create Awareness for Public. Identified and rescued 4 child labourers who were working in the petty shops near the temple.

**e. Auto Awareness: 12**

12 Auto Awareness Programme at karaikal and Commune Villages. Maximum number of Drivers were covered CHILDLINE Awareness. 3 cases from Auto Driver Awareness and they are supporting CHILDLINE to ever rescue the children during night.

**f. Open House Programme: 09**

- ❖ 9 Open house Programme at Vulnerable pockets. Children raised issues in their community and resolve it by giving petition to concern authority. 12 petitions were submitted to Official and the issues been resolved within three month.
- ❖ Two Street Light Renovation from the area Narikarambai, Keezhamani -02
- ❖ Two Drainage issues Cleared from Thirunagar and Valliyammai nagar – 02
- ❖ Through DLSA 02 area people help to provide Patta

**g. Mass Awareness: 03**

We Conducted Mass Awareness Programme on Local Festivals, Mass Awareness on Republic Day at Karaikal – Karaikal Beach, Mass Awareness on Independence Day at Karaikal – Karaikal Beach, Mass Awareness on Masi Magam at Karaikal T.R.Pattinam Beach -02. On Masi Magam CHILDLINE Audio Announcement was made by the Programme hoist; this has reached the Mass gathering. Four children found begging were rescued.

**h. Special Awareness: 02**

International Girl Child Day Awareness conducted on Child Rights and Child Protection Legal Act, and Oath taken for Girl Child Protection.



## SE DOSTI WEEK PROGRAMME: 09

### Day 1: **Se Dosti Week Programme: DC “Anbu Kaditham “**

Stakeholders: Officials: VP, HM, Teachers: 135, Children: 4520

### Day 2: **Press Meet**

Stakeholders: District Collector - 01, Sub Collector -01, Press Reporters: 12

### Day 3: **Suraksha Bandhan Band Tying Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: District Collector - 01, Sub Collector -01, Deputy Collector -01, SSP-01, SP-02, Inspector-05, SWO-01, AD-02, CDPO-01, PO-02, DCPU-04, DJ-02, JM-01, Advocate - 05, Labor Officer-01, DD-01, CEO-01

### Day 4: **Se Dosti Sports Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: SI- 01, CCI –02

### Day 5: **Se Dosti Child Marriage Awareness Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: DD- 01, Doctor-01, Advocate-01, CDPO –01, Sneha Head-01, CL Staff-05, ANM, Asha worker-35

### Day 6: **Se Dosti Volunteer Raising Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: MSW HOD- Professor - 01, Advocate -01, DLSA-02, Bar Association Counselor-01, NYK,DLSA Staff, MSW Student ,Volunteer -45

### Day 7: **Se Dosti Tribal Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: AD Welfare AD -01, Inspector-01, SI- 01, Children – 50, Community - 40.

### Day 8: **Se Dosti Debate Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: DD -01, CEO -01, VP -01, Children – 250, Teachers - 15.

### Day 9: **Se Dosti Special Open House Programme**

Stakeholders: Officials: Inspector-01, SI- 01, Advocate -02, DLSA-02, Children – 50, Community - 45.

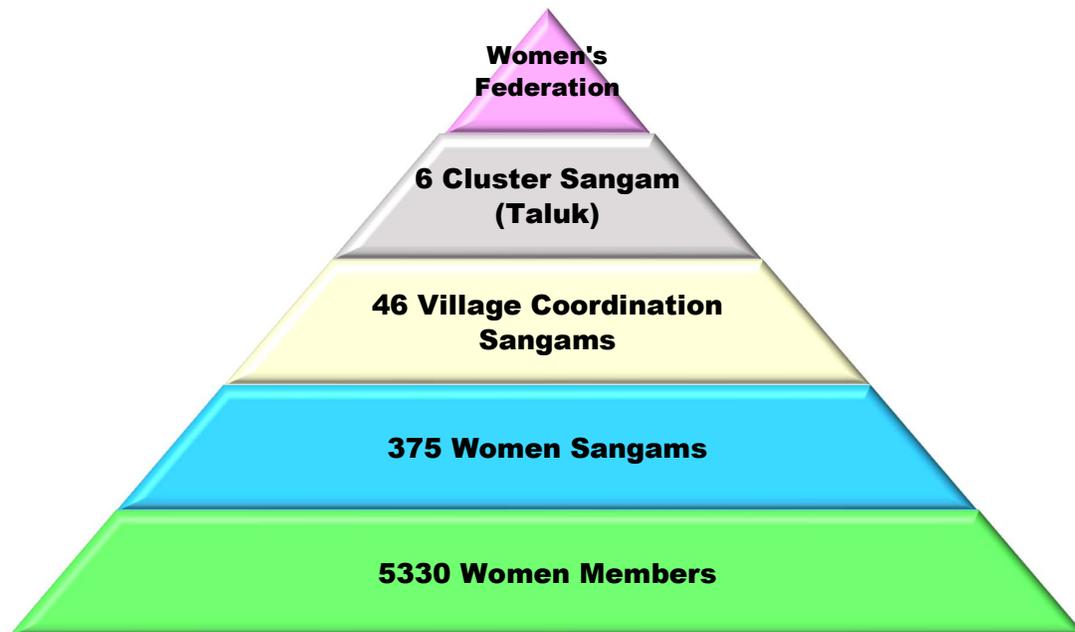
## Achievement of Childline

- ➔ CHILDLINE Mobile number has been telecasted in District Website, Local Channel and Newspapers during COVID Pandemic to support children on mental health issues during lock down, to address their fears and doubts and to provide counselling. Two cases were contacted and got the support.
- ➔ CHILDLINE regular programmes were telecasted in social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the same also linked in local TV channel and FM.
- ➔ Distributed 329 Nutritional Relief kit sponsored by SNEHA for children who were tested Covid positive. The District Sub Collector Mr. Adharsh and Mr. Baskaran inaugurated the programme. The DCPO, Mr.Sivakumar and Sneha Director Ms.Jesurethinam were participated.
- ➔ Childline 1098 and Covid 19 Awareness Visibility has been raised in All PHC, Collectorate, CWC, Immunization Office and Local Administration Office, Karaikal GH and Immunization Department for rehabilitation and Emergency support of COVID Positive Children and Parent. 23 Banner sponsored by Our CHILDLINE Team.

## II. WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

### *i. Women Federations*

It is SNEHA's core belief that rights in the truest sense are seldom achieved through the individual, but through collective strength and mutual cooperation in coastal villages of Nagapattinam, Karaikal and Mayiladuthurai districts. Since its inception, SNEHA has always believed in the strength of women collectives in order to strongly articulate, demand for rights of women, children and indeed be the voice of the community as a whole for coastal wellbeing as well as for economic empowerment of women through collectives. The work of SNEHA has been operationalised through women organised in Sangams which are federated.



Each Sangam have savings through membership fees, which is used as revolving fund for loans. The Sangam conduct regular meetings to discuss on the economic development, new entrepreneurship initiatives, government schemes, loans and credit linkages and also to discuss public issues related to women, violence against women, needs of the village level, and children/ family issues. The issues which are not resolved at village level are escalated to the next level with the support of Taluk level and District level federation members.

The women sangams have led to lasting improvement on the economic and social spheres. The habit of savings has now been firmly established. Monthly savings per member has gone up to Rs.1000 per month in many groups. Some groups have cumulative savings of over 17 lakhs in 5 years. This has reduced the exposure of members to loan sharks and dependency on outsiders for credit needs.

## Highlights of the Program

- ✚ As soon as Women in Thirumulaivalasal heard that their Panchayat is looking to sell off a piece that was used for various women and children-based activities, they gathered on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and petitioned against any such sale. Their VCS representatives met various Panchayat leaders and ensured the land sale did not happen, and safeguarded the location for women and children of Thirumulaivalasal.
- ✚ After incidents of eve-teasing against school girls in the bus stop in Thoduvai village, the VCS met twice and discussed the issue with all the Panchayat members and demanded strong action. After this intervention, the Panchayat has ruled a fine of Rs.50,000 and strong punishments to anyone committing eve-teasing.
- ✚ In Vanavanmahadevi village of Kilvelur block, women sangam members found that 2 children, Kaviyan and Pradeep had dropped out of school. The VCS representatives got together and decided to meet the parents to enquire and persuade the parents. After this successful discussion, the two boys have now rejoined the school.
- ✚ In Vellapallam village, residents of one particular street were suffering due to lack of streetlights in their street. Members of Rojavanam women sangam got together and petitioned their Ward member in the elected local government body. Within a few days, all 3 streetlights in their street were replaced and fixed.
- ✚ In the village of Vizhundhumavadi, the main bridge was damaged in the aftermath of the horrific Gaja Cyclone in December 2018. Women of the village built a temporary earthen mud bridge by their bare hands. All the while, representatives of their VCS also continuously were petitioning government authorities for a permanent bridge. Finally, in October 2021, some officials arrived for a survey. 20 women from various sangams themselves cleaned all the debris, as well as fish waste that accumulated along the area. The bridge was finally sanctioned, and the immense role played by the women VCS was much appreciated in realising it.
- ✚ In the village of Kameswaram, World Fishers Day was commemorated on November 21, 2021 in a grand manner with the women VCS deciding to plant over 100 palm saplings along the coast. The VCS roped in over 30 fisher youth from the village to achieve this. Native species like Palm are known for sand binding as well as protecting the shallow aquifer that ensures sweet drinking water. The plan is to eventually plant over 1000 palm trees, along with over native seashore vegetation like Adupangodi, Gundumull, etc. These are all efforts to rejuvenate natural sand dunes on the shore. Sand dunes are a natural protection as well as build coastal resilience.

- ✚ In Nagapattinam cluster, one of the training sessions for women members included a screening of the 2021 Malayalam feature film, 'The Great Indian Kitchen'. This was an inspirational and moving film for many women which highlighted the extreme patriarchy, with the example of all household work, especially kitchen related work being hoisted on women, where men view their wives as free labour. It left a lasting impression on all the participants. A health discussion on women's rights ensued. In particular, members like Usha, Venmadhi from New Nambiyar Nagar have been able to discuss and get their husbands to help in domestic chores as well
- ✚ Over 30 women in Nambiyar Nagar attended the village assembly and sat opposite the panchayat leaders, on chairs sitting on an equal pedestal with them. They urged the panchayat leaders to support the cause of preventing child marriages in their village. The women stated they would organise meetings with adolescent girls and their mothers to raise awareness on this issue.
- ✚ VCS representatives from the villages of Pudupettai and Chandrapadi had been regularly highlighting the need for regularising and augmenting the electricity supply connections to their villages and had multiple discussions with Panchayat leaders as well as local body officials. Their efforts have finally paid fruit, as permanent electricity connections have finally been established in these 2 villages. Women members had taken the lead in this demand for their entire village.
- ✚ Due to the presence of a private school in the vicinity of Chandrapadi village, there was imminent danger of a drop in enrolment to the village government school, leading to drop in teacher allocation to the school. Situating this in the context of reduced public funding to free school education, and closure of government schools in many villages, VCS members in Chandrapadi realised this danger and ensured the attention of panchayat leaders. They have taken various actions to ensure the Chandrapadi village government school does not suffer, and have ensured that over 70% of the village's children continue to study in the local government school.
- ✚ In the village of Perumalpettai, an area close to the Balwadi as well as the main Fish Drying yard, was being frequented by young men for drinking, and they would throw the broken alcohol glass bottles. This was not only a social menace, but the glass pieces were also a physical hazard to both women and children. The VCS members of the village got together and not only complained to the Panchayat about this, but also led strikes in the village against this.

✚ The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was never being implemented for the residents of Chandrapadi village, since all the women were being denied the NREGA Job card. VCS members continuously followed up on their complaints to the Gram Sabha, and finally ensured that a first batch of 10 people have received their NREGA Job Card as of now.



Karaikal Annual Day



Stall at Nagai-30 exhibition



Thirumulaivasal Annual Day



Collector visit for TNRTP

New paperbags for weddings



### **III. FISHERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

Every year, the Fishers and other coastal communities are experiencing severe impacts of the Climate Crisis and Disasters, the SNEHA interlinks the current extreme Climate Change disorders and the frequent Disasters events, and envisioned Community-Based Action Project “*Building Climate and Disasters Resilient Marine Traditional Fishers and Coastal Communities towards securing and asserting their Marine and Coastal Spaces*” in order to work towards the asserting commons for the fishers and coastal communities in India with the support of SwedBio, Sweden. This is a unique Youth Centric Initiative of SNEHA to reach out from the grassroots to the global level. Recently, SNEHA created **Study Circle WhatsApp Group (CCWG)** consists of SNEHA Staffs, Researchers, Educationist, Fisher Youths and Volunteers in order to discourse on concepts, vocabulary and English Training, Reading and Writing, effective use of Information Technologies and also visibilising their works on online platforms social media and print media.

#### **Documenting Critical Vulnerable Coastal Ecosystems (CVCE)**

In context of Ecological Importance and Biodiversity, the several Ecological Sensitive Coastal Regions such as Gulfs, Salt Marshes, Lagoons, Coral Reefs, Islands, Swamps, Mangroves, and other Marine Ecological Sensitive areas, were declared as conservation/protected sites (Sites to be protected). These Ecological Sensitive Areas (ESA) are also known as *Critical Vulnerable Coastal Ecosystems (CVCE)* act as bio-shield or Eco-barriers in protecting coastal regions from disasters and other external shocks. The communities collectively secure these areas as their Sacred Ecology and also attached to the same with sociocultural and economic values. However, the rapid climatic disorders and extreme weather events challenges the ecological region in a great way, for example, bleaching rates of the coral reefs are high, submergence of islands due to sea-level rises, lagoons became unusable due to salinity increase and so on. Henceforth, nowadays these ecological sensitive areas have been made critically vulnerable to the core by both natural shocks and anthropogenic (manmade) activities.

On the other hand, these regions are also being targets of biodiversity<sup>1</sup> and ecological conservation programmes, so these regions are governed, monitored, and protected by several Polices, Laws and Institutional mechanisms by the State facilitated by the global environmental

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<sup>1</sup> Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially Target No. 11 (at least 10% of coastal and marine areas are conserved in networks of protected areas) and Target No.14 (ecosystems that provide water, health, livelihoods and well-being are restored and safeguarded).

networks like IUCN, and other conservation groups. The Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and Marine Bioreserves are regarded as one of the most potent conservation tools for protection of marine habitats and their resources. The conservation and environmental groups assume that that MPAs results in a significant increase in the biomass and densities of several species, so globally they lobby for increasing in number of MPAs in each State.

In this context, the SNEHA realised the necessitate to secure the CVCE areas considering the both climatic(natural) as well as human induced threats which affects the wellbeing of the everyday life of the fisher communities in large. SNEHA decided to intervene on the Gulfs of India i.e., **Gulf of Mannar (East Coast) and Gulf of Kutch and Khambhat (West Coast) as the CVCE site**. The preparatory Meeting with Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch/Khambhat Fishers Unions were conducted through online mode and further Interface Discussion Meeting held fisher support groups in respective states . It was decided to have larger Consultation with Field Visits to the families on CVCAs in Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu to explore the current status of CVCAs and then next year in the Gulf of Khambhat/ Kutch.

*i. National Consultation cum Field Visits* on "Exploring the on the CVCAs of India – Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Khambhat" from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was organised in Ramannathpuram , Tamil Nadu in East Coast of India collaborated to learn



the process of documentation using Fishers Community Participatory Approach and also grassroot Citizen Science GIS Models intertwined with Climate, Fisheries, Development and Environment related Policies, Laws, Plans and institutional mechanisms in securing and governing the CVCE in large.



As a part of the Consultation, the ground truthing visits of the Gulf of Mannar Islands and interface meeting with Forests officials were conducted. The outcome of the consultation was that fishers agreed to gathered the information about the forest lands and their boundaries in the gulf region, favisits to document the ground realities of fishers' voices, alliance building with

people working with Forest. The fishers shared-that consultation was more informative over

the ocean and coastal forests was first of its kind. The fishers decided to hold next national consultation in the Gulf of Kutch region.

## **ii. Fisher Youth Climate Centric Action Clubs (FYCCAC)**

The FYCCAC is the backbone of the project which empowers the Fisher Youths with grassroot resilient interventions working towards securing and asserting their Marine and Coastal Spaces from the impacts of climatic disorders and extreme disasters events.



The FYCCAC were executed in the Nagapattinam Region<sup>2</sup>, East coast of India. The Nagapattinam Region is one of the most disaster vulnerable regions of Tamil Nadu and also a disaster hotspot of India. Nagapattinam Region is located in Kaveri Delta region with 187 Kms coastal length in the East Coast (Bay of Bengal comprising) 40 fishing villages.

Nagapattinam Region is the worst affected district in the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 as well as subjected to Cyclones in monsoon period every year. So, the region is also being grounded for several Disaster Mitigation and Recovery projects, Climate Risk Reduction projects, Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration projects and Fishers Development and livelihood enhancement projects, but largely the region still remains the vulnerable spot. Henceforth, considering the disaster and climatic disorders vulnerability of region SNEHA formed FYCCAC in their target villages .

So far, 40 FYCCAC were formed and oriented with the ecological vulnerabilities of the region. They had collected Coastal Land Use Field Maps for 35 villages and digitised the same. Further, these Village Level Maps are assessed with Google Reference Satellite Maps and other relevant Coastal Land Use and Ecological Sensitive Region source maps for better understanding of the land use of their villages. Finally, the using the Citizen Science Participatory GIS methods, the FYCCAC are in the process of understanding the digitised superimposed village level maps and disseminate the maps with the communities.

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<sup>2</sup> comprises Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District of Puducherry)



The FYCCAC waved out with several youth centric initiatives such as *Coastal Walk*, *Coastal Ecological Talks*, *Fisher Traditional Knowledge Transfer*, and *Coastal Climate Resilient Trees Plantations* on the **World Fisheries Day 2021**. This initiative is first of kind, a unique new action intervention done by fishers' youths, it gathered the villager's

attention towards the towards the clubs as well as increased the youth participation in the club interventions.

In addition, FYCCAC planned for a ***Fisher Youth Exchange Exposure Programme*** with the Fishers Youth Forum in the Gulf of Mannar Region. This two-day programme collectivized the Fishers Youth as well as exchange their Marine and Coastal Ecological Knowledge. During the programme the youths were sensitised leadership skills and self-governance, collective learning, aspiring towards competitive exams, how read books, novels and usage on library, and also on fishers' commons, resource mapping and village development training and conservation. The reflection of the youth exchange programme was that fishes youths realised that they are somehow similar to the existing a life of Fish in the bowl, unknown about their Ocean life.



## ***Challenges and Achievements:***

### ***Challenges***

- From April 2021 to June 2021, the spike in COVID cases had induced severe Lockdown Restrictions which delayed the formation of Climate Youths Clubs initiatives and then step by step relaxations on June 2021 supported the team to activate the field actions.
- Initially, the technocratic Climate Change and disaster reports were being difficult to understand as well as conceptualise with fisher perspectives was more time-consuming activity for the grassroots teams.

### ***Achievements:***

#### **➤ Grassroots Level:**

The first of its kind, SNEHA had formed *Climate Centric Fisher Youth Clubs* in the fishing villages of Tamil Nadu. The Fisher Youths acts as First Responders to the Climate Disorders in their respective villages

## **IV. DISASTER & EMERGENCY SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS**

### **COVID 2021- Overview**

We, SNEHA has been working on Women and Child Rights as well as right to natural resources for coastal communities for over 35 years in Tamil Nadu, primarily based in Nagapattinam. We have a long experience with disaster related work – from relief to rehabilitation as well as recovery. We led disaster response efforts during the 2004 Tsunami as part of a consortium, NCRC, as well as several cyclone-related disasters in the region, the latest being Cyclone Gaja in 2018. As a strategy, SNEHA has always made it a point to identify critical links and work with the most marginalised communities, especially those who slip under the radar of conventional relief programmes in times of disasters.

In 2020, the global Pandemic SARS-Cov19 imposed for a National Lockdown which resulted a huge cry on lives and wellbeing of the marginalised unorganized communities in India. The Pandemic spread wider across the nation state, in which Tamil Nadu was one of the hotspots of the COVID. On 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019, Tamil Nadu had a total of 1323 positive cases in total, of which Nagapattinam district in particular had 45 positive cases. Over 60,000 houses in the district were also under quarantine or self-isolation ordered by the health officials. As a result, the marginalized fishing communities in Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Karaikal consists of 54 villages with over 25,000 households and for a population of over 1.2 lakh everyday wellbeing had been impacted to a larger extent. With the generous support and

collaboration with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, SNEHA supported 615 vulnerable coastal families who were affected by COVID'19 of whom, most of the beneficiaries are women headed families of Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

In 2021, the Pandemic Second Wave SARS-Cov19 and its multiple variants in India have wreaked havoc all over the country. Unlike the first wave in 2020, this second wave has seen increased infections and more severe attacks even in rural areas, apart from the major urban centres. As on 27th of June 2021, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai districts had a total of 37,802 positive cases, of which 632 were still active cases. There had been 511 deaths due to Covid19, and also 36,659 discharged and recovered patients. Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai districts were still under lockdown. However, with the rise in number of fungal and bacterial infections even in recovered patients, the post-COVID care became vitally important.

The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown had impacted children in more unique ways. Children, who are usually free and very outdoors had suddenly found themselves trapped within the confines of their homes. There are ground reports that this is giving rise to boredom, panic and also forms of childhood depression among children and adolescents. The threat of violence and abuse against children has also been heightened. Moreover, the third wave is a distinct possibility. However, there could still be local level waves due to local mutations. So, SNEHA intended to work towards coping up the COVID affected fishing families and children with Nutrition Kits in order overcome the upcoming pandemic as well as preventive healthy diet measures to fight the pandemic wave. In this backdrop, the SNEHA collaborated with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, to support the pandemic affected families, especially infected Children in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai Districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District of Pondicherry/UT.

### **COVID EMERGENCY NEED ASSESSMENT (CENA)**

SNEHA conducted a COVID Emergency Need Assessment (CENA) through the village panchayats facilitated by the SNEHA field staff. The Participatory Inclusive Approach was adopted to analyse the needs in the COVID affected villages. The CENA team came up with certain ground realities, the sheer number of deaths, social stigma, fear, loss of education, loss of livelihoods, had incurred a mental health crisis leading to several people feeling depressed. So, there is a grave need for counselling, and then providing Nutrient Kits as pandemic response interventions to the affected families of COVID in order to fight the ongoing and upcoming waves of COVID. The CENA Team recommend to focus on COVID Infected Children and Children who lost their Parents in COVID 19.

Based on CENA Team recommendation, a SNEHA Team decided facilitate the Infected Children<sup>3</sup> and Children who lost their Parents with *Nutrient Kit Packages* as immune booster (tool) to fight the ongoing and upcoming waves of COVID. Then, a list of Infected children and Children who lost their Parents in COVID 19 was prepared and tokens were distributed in advance to avoid duplication and chaos during the distribution of COVID-19 Emergency Support. The products were sourced through Samuthra India Producer Company, a CBO involved in training the members of MSMEs and supporting them in marketing.

### **COVID-19 Emergency Support Interventions**

The CENA Team rapid survey data and the data obtained from the Health Department supported SNEHA to identify the list of children to be provided with Nutrient packages. As of May 2021, 1780, Children Infected with COVID 19 in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai Districts and 200 children in Karaikal District of Pondicherry were identified. The field volunteers verified the list of children and their families in order to ensure that support reaches the needy children as well as to ensure not even (one) needy child missed from the list.



The *Nutrient Kit Packages* consists of Nutrition Powder, Dates, Nuts, Fruits, Cereals and Rice. The cost per kit was estimated as Rs.1532/- per kit. Due to reduced cost of fruits, we were able to provide more items for Rs.1507/- itself and hence the number of beneficiaries were increased to 1027. The distribution of Nutrient Kits was done in coordination with the District Child Protection Unit in Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Karaikal Districts.

S.NO	PRODUCTS	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
1	Honey	0.25	350	175
2	Dates	1	140	140
3	Channa	0.5	92	46
4	Fried Dhal	0.5	110	55
5	Green gram	0.5	110	55
6	Nutrition powder	1	200	200
7	Fruits (Orange + Mosambi)	2	150	150
8	Dry Grapes	0.2	330	66
9	Rice	10	45	450
10	Tea Powder	0.15	65	65
11	Cashew	0.1	750	75
10	Packing bag	1	30	30
	<b>Cost /Kit</b>			<b>1507</b>

*We facilitated the Emergency support to 927 COVID Infected Children and 100 Children who lost their Parents in COVID 19 in the coastal districts of Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal of Pudhucherry*

<sup>3</sup> CORONA ACTIVE CASES (BELOW 18 Yrs)

**CHIDREN FACILITATED WITH NUTRITION KIT**

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Block Name</b>	<b>Infected Children</b>	<b>Children who lost their Parents in COVID 19</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Nagapattinam</b>	Nagai Union & Municipality	158	22	180
	Kilvelur	48	10	58
	Keezhaiyur	29	3	32
	Thalanayaru	13	9	22
	Vedaranyam	20	8	28
	Thirumarugal	41	4	45
<b>Mayiladuthurai</b>	Mayiladuthurai Union & Municipality	129	22	151
	Kuthalam	37	4	41
	Kollidam	20	7	27
	Sirkali	74	7	81
	Sembanarkoil	2	4	6
	Tharangmabadi Town Panchayat	4	0	4
<b>Karaikal</b>	Neravy	21	0	21
	Thirunallur	78	0	78
	Nedungadu	45	0	45
	Kottucherry	35	0	35
	Karaikal Municipality	151	0	151
	T.R. Pattinam	22	0	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>927</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1027</b>

***Emergency Support Challenges - Reaching the Remote***

*Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai Districts remained in Lockdown during the distribution of the emergency support. We found it very difficult to shortlist the children as the entire community was affected in COVID 19. Hence, few leaders did not extend their fullest cooperation*

## **VOICES OF CHILDREN OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

### ***Sebastian, Age 16, South Veli, Thaemangalam Panchayat, Nagapattinam District***

I am studying 12<sup>th</sup> standard. My father's name is Daniel Raj, aged 43. He works as a mason. My mother's name is Dhanabakkiyam, she is an agriculture laborer. I have two younger sisters, the elder one was studying 10<sup>th</sup> standard and the younger one was studying 8<sup>th</sup> standard. We belong to Scheduled Caste. I fell ill during May 2021, went to hospital, tested positive with COVID-19. I was admitted in hospital, only after recovery I came back to home. Later SNEHA organization from Nagapattinam called us for giving us health supplements. My sister Isbarath Mary went there and got it for us. In that package, Orange, Mosambi, Honey, Dates, Health mix powder, roasted gram, chick peas, grapes, cashews, green gram with 10 Kg rice was there. All these provisions were of good quality and we are using it.

### ***Nethra, 11<sup>th</sup> Std, Kadambara Valkai, Aziyur Uratchi, Kizvelur, Nagapattinam District***

I am Rajamanikkam, aged 72. I have a son and two daughters. Elder daughter was married in the local area, her husband was a drunkard and he died due to heavy drinking. My daughter also died due to depression. Now I am taking care of their two girl children. I belong to the Most Backward Caste. Younger one Nethra was studying 11<sup>th</sup> standard. She was affected by corona. After treatment she recovered. During this time we received the help from SNEHA organization. It was a big help during the difficult time. It was very useful. We utilized everything. I thank you very much for understanding our need and helping us.

### ***Kirthika, 11<sup>th</sup> Std, Prathaparamapuram Panchayat, Nagapattinam District***

I am Niveditha, I completed my Bachelor's degree in computer engineering. My father Pakkiriswamy was a carpenter. My mother Kavitha, 38yrs was a house wife. I have 3 sisters, Yogapriya, studying B.Sc II year, Kirthika studying 11<sup>th</sup> standard and Sangeetha, studying VII standard. We all depend on our father's income. Recently by Union Government's Housing scheme, we got some funds and constructing our home.

In the meantime, my sister Kirthika was tested positive with Covid-19. My father was not well but we are not aware that he was affected with Covid-19. Only when my sister went to hospital, we were aware that they are affected with Covid-19. After treatment she got recovered. We got some provisions from SNEHA organization. All are of good quality and quantity. Dates, Honey, the health mix provided was very good, still tempting to eat more. We get 35kg rice from government ration. We use it for our daily meals. Buying rice more than this is very difficult, so we adjust with this 35kg government rice. The 10Kg rice provided by SNEHA was of good quality and was very useful.

# WAVES OF HOPE

