

# JYOTHI JEEVA POORNA TRUST ARCHANA WOMEN'S CENTRE



Annual Report 2016





Dear Partners & Friends:

I am glad to present before you the 10th Annual Report of Archana Women's Centre, Kottayam – the Kerala wing of Jyothi Jeevapoorna Trust. Since the year 2006 – the year that saw the birth and establishment of AWC as a unique outfit of passionately focused women to carve out a different mode of development and gender centric action, a lot of bold and path-breaking initiatives have been taken, experimented with, and subjected to the litmus test of social integration and relevance. A decade, in the history of any organization, cannot be considered to be a very significant or influential period of evolution; however it is sufficient enough to erudite indicators of social change, cultural shake, and a possible growth towards its professed goals of existence.

In this context, I think, it would amount to great injustice, if I fail to mention a little about the history of collaboration with BD Luxemburg and its nurturing impact on the birth, growth and development of AWC. The introduction of women to the skills of masonry and carpentry in the year 1989, on my initiative, was a historic event and a turning point. Everyone looked at this bold step of initiation of women to skilled construction labour with much awe and disbelief. I was then an officer in Socio Economic Units Kerala and as an activist working closely with women groups. I was moved by the plight of women in construction field as helpers, doing hard work, yet getting paid abysmally very low wages, and often being treated with contempt and neglect by the society. In the sanitation project that SEU was involved, I found my ground to bring about this revolutionary change by skilling the helper women to be skilled masons in the construction of thousands of two pit latrines, with great success.

The thinkers, development experts and researchers saw in this new venture a promising new horizon in women's movement for equality especially in employment vicissitudes. Long before the slogan of empowerment and self help swept the society, this intervention for changing traditional roles of women in a male dominated domain or male only work, was indeed unimaginable. Through the sanitation project under the SEU Kerala, the trained women masons found immediate employment avenues and started earning at par with men although they had to face a lot of obstacles and opposition from the conservative society in the beginning. These "Latrine Mistries" soon conquered many more fields of construction related activities such as production of hollow bricks, ferrocement products, pavement and decorative items, concrete doors and windows, construction of houses, apartments etc. They were also exposed to trainings in plumbing, carpentry, electrical works, water meter repairs etc. By the year 1995, a Society of trained women under the name and style of "JEEVAPOORNA WOMEN MASON SOCIETY" (means Fullness of Life) was established at Thrissur to bring all the women in construction sector under one umbrella: thanks to the generous help of personnel in Development Dept of Embassy of The Netherlands, and its Director Riet Turksma.



A Centre for the training of women could be got established at Pandikavu in Thrissur district in 70 cents of land the land given by Vilvettom Grama Panchayat and a timely support from the Dutch Development Agency- The Bilance. The role played by the District Panchayat was immense in establishing the training center and sustain the empowerment efforts through skill development, for many years.

It was this training centre, that could give basic training and motivation to several women from Thrissur and adjoining areas in the skills of masonry, carpentry etc., and give the pioneering initiative a shape and force of a social movement for equity. Ms. Denise Richard of BD Luxembourg had a chance visit to this centre, thanks to Rev. Fr. Antony Vallavanthara CMI of revered memory. Ms. Denise who harbours a very abiding commitment to women's issues and programmes, sensed the potentials of developing the new initiative into social movement for a more just and equitable social order. By April 2004, I returned to my native place of Kottayam, upon superannuation, and Denise supported and encouraged me to continue the process of working for women's rightful place in the society. Thus, in 2004 Archana women's Centre was born in Nalpathimala near Ettumanoor in a very humble manner. In 2006, AWC moved into a new building constructed by the trained women masons at Thellakom. In the year 2007, the first BD project was sanctioned and the unflinching support and partnership extended by them helped realize amazing results during the 10 years that followed. In this perspective, dear friends, AWC has had a checkered growth phase of a decade. Its founding mission, as you would recollect, was to pilot a fundamentally different, yet socially and economically very vital development strategy of gender centric and equity driven plan of action. We aimed at altering and challenging the patriarchal bias, and culturally engraved discrimination against a vital segment of population. I mean to say that the very purpose of AWC, and its existence is to fight all forms and types of gender discrimination, and to give leadership to a new social movement that would ultimately dismantle and remove the cultural, social, economic and psychological barriers to the realization of the true and full meaning of human rights, gender equity, and emancipating empowerment. I am glad to report to you friends, that despite being handicapped by a number of teething problems, we could, to a great extent hold on steadfastly to the founding objectives of the organization. And, as you would discover from the ensuing report on the activities of this Organisation, with which all of you have assiduously cultivated a very cordial relationship, our organization has been successful to sow, nurture and hoist a new

People have taken due note of it, the Government has opened up to its call, and a new beginning has been experienced. In the whole process of planning we advocated a policy of equity and empowerment, and bargained hard for the elimination of all structures that stifle the rights of equality, and justice in day to day life. In a society that has been governed by the patriarchal forces, a paradigm change, you would agree, becomes hardly visible over a short period. However AWC, and its dedicated team could make a beginning towards mainstreaming the marginalized and discriminated, and its impact and ripples keep reverberating across the social fabric, mutely and gently though.



### Mission Statement:-

AWC remains dedicated to the pursuit of its founding mission of charting a gender centric path of development, leading to true empowerment of all marginalized sections, specifically the women from economically depowered group.



### Strategical Vision:-

In a society ridden with a web of contradictory social impulses and pulls of caste, religion, politics etc, cutting open a different spectrum of development intervention entailed quite a laborious and patient social maneuvering. That is the prime reason, why we preferred the path of skills devolution, and capacitation of the poor as a long term strategic tool for realizing the objective of gender equity and parity in socio-economic situations of Kerala. From the very year of our embarking upon this mission, we have been making sincere efforts to identify the root causes of poverty, marginalization and the spread of inequities and abuse of human rights and strived to create a situation to change conditions of discrimination. Our Canvass of socio-economic development projects planned and implemented during this immediate past, carries invariably this stamp of innate empowerment and mainstreaming of the marginalised and poor women through skills training, mentoring of self-help socio-economic projects, a holistic social trainings for grassroots leadership, legal and resource support to the needy, unraveling a new, sustainable and eco-friendly development praxis.

As you might recollect this rights equality and justice based approach has been crafted out, after observing the situations prevalent in the rural Kerala communities of Thrissur, Alleppey, Kollam, and Kottayam during my own tenure of working with such assetless groups, during the period of 1988-2004. Our experiments with the oppressed and voiceless sections and our sincere efforts to lend an empowering support, has been evolved on the basis of inputs gathered from these encounters of the past. Basically, the whole exercise has been woven in to a struggle to build up confidence, mental power, real burning thirst for economic self-reliance and empowerment among the women, the marginalized and the voiceless poor. With this prologue, I would invite you to have a look at our activities for the period of 2016.

# 1. Management & Administration:-

Our organisation, generously looks forward to gain from the experiences and advises of elders, experts and peers. We have put in place a 3 tier personnel think tank to formulate, and decide upon the activities of AWC. This consists of:-

- 1. Board of Directors - 7 members
- 2. Advisory Board - 10 members
- 3. Staff consultancy Board - 15 members

Prior to making a formal decision, or policy shift, we make it a point to put through the process of multiple layers of consultation, with the staff core team, the advisory board and finally a formal decision is made by the board of directors in the form of resolution. Following are the members of the Board of Directors of AWC.



Ms. Thresiamma Mathew



Ms. Mercy Savariyaradimai



Ms. Little Flower Joseph



Ms. Theresa Kurien



Ms. Annie Joseph



Ms. Mary Joseph



Ms. Rosily Devasahayam

During the period under report, we could conduct 5 meetings of the Board of Directors, and 3 meetings of the Advisory Council. The staff team met for analyzing and planning every month and all important issues that came up for a decision have been screened, deliberated upon, and decided at this 3-tier level. Such an approach, has ensured that we get important inputs and feedback from different sources and in different ways. The Advisory Council has been constituted with the following members, who are experts and specialists in their own respective fields of ministry.

# Advisory Board Members

- 1. DR. RENU ABRAHAM VARUGHESE,**  
Gerontologist, US Nehru FullBright Scholar,  
School Of Health and Natural Science, Mercy College,  
Newyork, USA
- 2. DR. E.MOHAMMED RAFIQUE,**  
Managing Director,Champion Care Homes Pvt. Ltd. Ernakulam
- 3. DR. C.THOMAS ABRAHAM ,** HR Consultant and Trainer
- 4. DR. CHERIAN P KURIAN,**  
HOD, Dept Of Social work,Marian College,Kuttikanam.
- 5. DR. K.S.RAJANI VASUDEVAN,** Medical College, Kottayam
- 6. DR. IYPE VARGHESE,**  
HOD, Dept of Social Work,BCM College,Kottayam.
- 7. Mr. C.RAJEEVAN,** Reseacher/Investigator
- 8. Mr. BIJU MATHEW,** State Head,Helpage India

Our staff team now with a strength of 15 has been provided with opportunities in training and empowerment, so that they become capable of grappling with the constantly shifting scenarios, and are able to develop the necessary human resources needed for integrating into the technology driven work arena of current society. 17 Nos of different capacity cum motivation development trainings were organized and conducted for the personnel team. Our lead trainer has been Dr.C.Thomas Abraham – the Intl. trainer in human resources development.



## PROFILE OF PROJECTS BY AWC

As I have described in the prologue AWC has appropriated to itself, a unique goal of women empowerment based on human rights protection. Its different projects and activities profile, therefore, displays this primary objective in concept, plan, and execution. Our activities profile therefore can be broadly grouped into three distinct areas on social importance. These are:-

1. Women's Empowerment for Sustainable Development
2. Espousal & Protection of Basic Human Rights
3. Action for sustainable growth, development and well being of the poor and marginalized sections, especially women.

I would like to present here for your kind consideration, a concise and descriptive elucidation of the various projects under implementation.

### 1. Empowerment Programmes:-

The important tool of empowerment, specifically of the marginalized women, that we sought to employ was skill development, knowing that it is any skill & expertise that is going to add value to the labour of any person.

#### **Mason's Training for Women:-**

This has been a very pioneering, and path-breaking initiative, aimed at enabling the women to graduate themselves from the measly status of low-paid site helper to the fancied level of a well paid mason. During the past 10 years time, and even during the preparatory phase prior to 2006, we have been in this realm of training unskilled women. Lately the Government of Kerala, through its decentralised planning window Kudumbasree – came forward to award AWC 4 contract projects to impart training to 4 groups of women in basic masonry skills. AWC has had a well calibrated syllabus and system for conducting theoretical & practical trainings in masonry, and had a good amount of prior experience in this area. We could thus far impart masonry training to 750 women covering both theory, practicals, and on-site experiences. With some projects coming from Government sources for construction of low cost houses, toilets, water tanks etc. our groups of trainee masons could be provided with adequate on-site-experience and exposure.







Woman mason in construction has been a challenge, as well as an enigma to many. There has been stiff opposition to the new intervention on pretext of under quality, low output, and presumed superiority complexes. However with constant prodding, training for all stake holders, continuous awareness generation, we have been able to carve out a space for the neo mason women notwithstanding the numerous hurdles being encountered almost ceaselessly. The maso—carpe society formed with women masons and carpenters as primary members, is a production society of newly trained women masons. It could manifest caliber and capacity by building three modern houses of 1500 sq.ft, achieving a mile stone growth in the quest for parity with male professionals. This paved the way to enter into a joint venture with an established construction company viz M/s Camya Homes for building 10 villas in Palai area. The project is known as Jeevan Serene Project.

### Training in Carpentry Skills:-

More than 115 women underwent training in carpentry and 15 of them could come to the expert level. They continue to work either in AWC, or in the workshops together with their husbands or in the local government projects of goat shelter construction. During the year under report, we had not planned any training as it was the consolidation year. Yet with the cooperation of Lioness Club of Kottayam, we could give a short training and tool kits to 20 women.



## Other Trainings:-

### a) Construction Supervisor's Training (2014-15):-

A group of 12 women, who had undergone a basic ITI certificate course were selected and given construction Supervisor's Training, lasting for six months; upon completion of the training, these women were able to get appointed at various construction companies as Supervisors of construction. This has also been a positive step towards putting suitable skills in the women's hands, so that they become enabled to compete confidently in the job markets that were almost closed against them.



### b) Construction Related, Trainings:-

Twenty groups of women had been given training in construction of low cost latrines, ferrocement structures including water tanks, goat pens, etc. These trainings included a basic training in the fundamentals of masonry construction technology.



The aim of all these trainings was to make the women specifically skilled in a technology that hitherto was inaccessible to them. It helped create an inner conviction within them that given a strong will and commitment to move ahead, no area of economic activity need be kept away or that women need to be feeble hearted due to lack of basic skills in employment.



### c) Training in Electrician and Plumbing skills:-

AWC trained 35 women and young ladies in the skills of plumbing and house wiring. 29 were sponsored by Kudumbasree, while 6 young women were directly trained by AWC. As part of their training they completed the wiring of 4 houses and their plumbing works.

### Training in Leadership Skills:-

One of the recent developments in the socio-political environment of Kerala, has been the opportunities thrown open for women for participating in decentralized governance (Panchayat) through reservations. However, the preparedness of the women who get elected to these bodies to take charge of reins of power, has been gross inadequate, not knowing where and how it can best be invested to generate people's welfare and development. AWC conducted specific leadership trainings for 4 groups of such elected representatives of the local bodies, so that they get a fair concept of the dynamics of democratic institutions and how best these can be converted to the good and advancement of human rights of the people.





The central theme of such trainings has been the need and importance of pre planning projects in a holistic way, taking account of the needs of gender justice, environment, and overall health and well being of local communities. The trainees were able to get acquainted with the skills in planning, public speaking, budgeting, group management, resources mobilization and gender budgeting. Such exposures provided the women leaders a platform for articulating ideas, and an opportunity to create a quest for planning for the community with a gender perspective. As the team was finishing their term in governance, AWC organized a gathering of women presidents of the panchayats in Kottayam to solicit their learning experiences as persons in positions of power. 75 presidents participated and their sharing was pointing to the core problem of working in a patriarchal society, where a female as head of the institution is still a difficult reality to swallow.

***Leadership training to different groups like Area Development Society (ADs), Anganwadi workers (Preschool teachers) and students.***

Every year a number of various types of leadership trainings are conducted for women and children. This year we could address more than 1500 adults and 700 students through various programmes.

**Training for Adolescents & Mothers in health life skills:-**



A major social issue which has been noticed by us has been the challenges faced by people living in a fast changing community environment. People of all ages, irrespective of gender or class seem to grope in the dark as to how to cope with the vortex of changes triggered both by the influx of technology and economic globalization. AWC and its team of social workers could design and implement a special training programme targeted at the adolescent boys and girls, and the housewives – The Happy Healthy Wealthy Project. The programme has been tailored with the ongoing ICDS project (Integrated Child Development) of the Government, by which it becomes possible to address a large group of mothers and children. This training and awareness generation programme has imparted skills, knowledge, and information on the multiple challenges being encountered by the present population, especially adolescents, and how best to craft a lifestyle clear of the inherent dangers of a tech driven society.



The programme touch upon various contemporary social issues such as health, water protection, waste management, environmental pollution & prevention, unhealthy food habits, substance and drug abuses, human rights, nutrition facts, etc. and encourage the young population as well as the mothers to acquire necessary skills and aptitude to build up a healthy, happy lifestyle and culture. The mothers highly appreciated the skills imparted to them to prepare healthy, tasty snacks and meals free of chemicals and forbidden colours, enticing their children to eat at home rather than in fast food centers. A group of 1350 women, and adolescents are covered by this HHW programme which is being implemented in Ettumanoor Panchayats through Anganwadis (child Development Centers). A group of 3 trained social workers are now engaged in piloting this community oriented programme, which is expected to get developed into a strong bulwark of AWC forays into the strangleholds of cultural and economic inhibitors. Already Kanakary Panchayat through the ICDS supervisor has expressed their desire to implement HHW project earmarking funds for the same.

### AWC Into Human & Gender Rights:-

The entire edifice of our social interventions is built upon the “Rights” perspective – both the human as well as gender rights. The right to democratic practices, right to freedom, right to livelihood, right to freedom, right to a healthy environment, right to safe and secure social life, right to equality, and the list goes perhaps endlessly. We have realized that no amount of socio-economic projects can make the human life really worth living, if these are not interwoven with the human rights issue and its ramifications. We have therefore accorded a very high priority to the protection of human rights and its inviolable place in society.



Street Theatre



Protest Meeting



Women's Day



Protest March

### Gender Resource Centre:-

A concrete step taken by AWC in this area has been the establishment of a Gender Resource Centre equipped with adequate literary and research materials designed to help augment the cause of human rights, especially of the traditionally discriminated segments. It is basically a resource pool empowered to provide a comprehensive overview of the rights situation in Kerala, and the circumstances of gender based violence and violations. A good collection of books and reference materials are available at the library established at the GRC, which is being distributed to colleges nearby and mothers groups besides those come regularly to the GRC.

## Legal Protection & Support Cell (SPC):



It is a window of support created by AWC, with recognition from Social Welfare Department, specifically to extend legal counsel, support and grievance redressal to every affected person, specifically women, and adolescents, who are the most violated, and abused victims. Sister Regi Augustine MMS, with masters in social work and an accredited legal practitioner, is in charge of this programme along with a sociologist Ms. Alice Joseph. Several cases of domestic violence, abuses, and harassments have been handled and settled here. There are cases which had to be referred to the court for further action and victims placed in short stay homes.

## Women's Right Activities and Trainings:-



Rights education to students of Mangalam College



The GRC together with SPC organized a number of programmes for legal awareness gender sensitization, leadership, self defense etc. The participants included police officers, vigilant groups of panchayat, ICDS workers, School – College students, teachers, adolescent groups, women in short stay homes etc. Our workers were given training in self defense through Karate training raising their confidence, morale and capacity for self protection. We could influence and motivate college students to stage skits and flash mobs to highlight the issue of gender justice and how it is being violated every where at home, in schools, in public places and even in religious institutions.

Together with STREEVEDI (Women's forum) an activist group, AWC took lead to address atrocities against women, accompanied women and girls in distress, helped them file cases where needed, get police help, and create awareness among women's groups in many districts of Kerala, and net work with other like minded NGOs and individuals to sensitize the public on the instances of women right violations. Some of the cases that shook even the government were taken up by this net work and justice was sought for the victim by conducting protestation march, public meetings and making representation to the police and government eg. Suryanelli case of molesting and raping a teenage girl (minor) for over a month by men of ranks, Jisha murder, Saumya rape and murder in train, Nirbhaya rape and murder in bus in New Delhi etc. AWC also expresses solidarity with women fighting for the rights of women, for justice and for safe spaces like the long fight of Erome Sharmila from Manipur who fights against the military regime and its atrocities. One of our staff is the regional convener of Stree Vedi which is a net work of individual women activists and NGOs engaged in struggles for rights and equality.

### **Organic farming Initiatives and household waste management:-**

The whole state of Kerala is now involved in a movement for organic farming. AWC had taken up already this concept for safe food production years before, seeing the malignant effect of pesticides and residues of chemical inputs on food items that affected the health and well being of our women masons and carpenters as well as their children and the community. Many women were turning ill; becoming victims of cancer, kidney diseases, arthritis etc. It became a necessity therefore to address this issue from the basics and create awareness and models of producing toxin free food. From 2011 onwards AWC had started a house hold waste management project producing home based manure from kitchen based waste to be used for home gardening .







AWC took up a three pronged action programme viz. production of waste management tanks as a livelihood for few women in ferrocement technology; promoting such easy waste management systems in households around AWC (100 families) and organizing organic kitchen garden programme in these households. Awareness classes, distribution of seeds, training and regular monitoring were part of the programme. Models were created at AWC premises and at selected farmer's fields as part of this net working. Many training and practical sessions in organic farming were conducted at the centre by experts for the general public. Opportunities were given to interested farmers and women groups to visit large scale organic farms, to emulate proven practices and systems.





In 2016 AWC took on lease an acre and half of land for research, training & Production on a large scale, in organic farming and become a center for guidance and training to potential farmers. AWC staff Jayasree did a diploma course in Org. Farming from MG University and under the guidance of trainers from the college started off an extensive farming. Many items of seasonal vegetables, banana, fruit trees etc are planted and produces sold at organic outlets of Agricultural department.

The farm became the demonstration unit for students following Org. courses at MG University. The leased land was blessed with a few ponds too, which provided opportunity to start pisciculture. The farm is also a place for experimenting innovations for the agri- department as our staff would monitor meticulously the progress to derive optimum results.



## International Conference on Successful Ageing-

An international conference on “successful ageing – new horizons in gerontology” was a conference organized to find ways for forward looking strategy for AWC in its next phase of action. The conference was partnered by the famous Marian College of Kuttikanam through its MSW department. Paper presentations, key note address, thematic presentations and discussions etc were the marked features of the conference. 135 participants hailing from different parts of the country and abroad representing academicians, practitioners and researchers made the conference a great success. Dr. Renu Varghese, Professor in Gerontology at Mercy College USA - Nehru full bright scholar who did an yearlong study on the elder care in India lead the conference of 2 days held on 28-29 December 2016. The Vice Chancellor of M.G University Dr. Babu Sebastian graced the occasion by inaugurating the conference. Scholars from Canada, England and USA embellished the deliberations. Help Age India – the leading agency in elder care contributed greatly to the success of the conference by sharing their own experiences of the filed.





## Participation in International Conferences in USA and Luxembourg:

Director Ms. Thresiamma and Coordinator Mrs. Shaiby Kuruvilla participated in an International Institute for leadership for change conducted by Starting Bloc in Washington DC from October 27-31st. Around 93 fellows from 12 countries participated. It was a real mind blowing experience.



## Boston School of skill Training

With the help of Susan Moir, a Fulbright Scholar from USA who had visited us early this year, Thresiamma and Shaiby had the opportunity to visit and learn from the skill training provided by the Boston Union to men and women in masonry and carpentry. Their methods and modules are found to be very useful for us. We hope to have further tie ups with them in the future for improving our own training modules.



In Boston they had good exposure to different groups and university students who were in line with our approach for empowerment of women. The interactions gave a lot of insights and helped to develop international connections with groups of similar outlooks and aspirations. Susan Moir is a passionate union worker and is trying her level best to usher more women into the skills of masonry and carpentry.



Susan Moir USA with women masons

Susan Moir, the president of the trade union for women construction workers organized a conference in India at Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, where 15 women from USA came over to India to study the situation in India. They visited a few construction sites, the Crèches for baby care of women workers provided near sites in Mumbai and held discussions with experts at TISS. AWC was invited to share our success story of Women Builders. The video presentation by Thresiamma was received in great amazement. They said what they, an advanced country could not achieve till now, what we in Kerala has. Some of them made a visit to AWC to see our women workers and speak with them in person.

## Evaluation of AWC



Focus Group Discussion



Having completed 10 years of intervention in a nonconventional livelihood skills for women it was the right time for assessing the results of such bold and innovative and path breaking project where BD was cooperating with AWC in a partnership approach. Criteria were established and agencies were informed. Socio Economic Unit Foundation was selected for conducting the evaluation. The team was composed of an expert sociologist with several years of experience and three others with specific technical and gender skills.



Evaluators interview in elected members

## Recommendations

The time period required for changing mind set for new role taking needs patient and consistent interventions from the part of the project. This should be included in the project design itself. The experience of the Archana Women's Centre proved that is possible and investment in the social training worth it .To showcase and convince this to the policymakers and planners, evidence based research is needed.

A range of Advocacy products targeting different stakeholders is needed to influence policymakers.

Handholding support for long term sustainability of new skill development groups needed to be incorporated in projects so that AWC could provide effective support and initiate more proactive role.

Mobility and migration is inevitable in construction industry. But women are mostly migrating to overseas due to problems and lack of support of home due to the inbuilt traditional role of women as homemaker only. Creation of enabling environment through sensitizing the family and work contractors for Women friendly approach such as water and toilet facility ,boarding and transportation should be a part of the project.

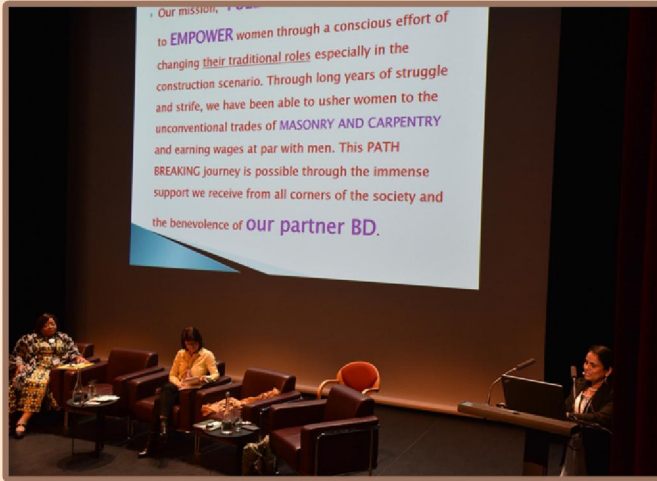
## Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bridderlech Deelen in Luxembourg

Having been invited to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of BD, Ms. Thresiamma Mathew and Mrs. Shaiby Kuruvilla travelled to Luxembourg in November 2016.





Denise Richard, the project – in charge for India and Mr. Patrick Godar, the director, BD gave a very warm welcome to them at the airport. The celebrations were from the 12th to 16th November. It was a very exciting experience for both. There were around 12 partners from other countries. The Eucharistic celebration itself was very colourful and relevant, making it unique through bringing in the country touch of each partner – truly an international eucharist.



Each day had something special: One day was set apart to visit some interesting places and projects in Luxembourg. On the 14th evening there was a special event for friends, well wishers and supporters of BD to get to know the partners and their special field of involvement to make the world a better place to live in. There was a Holy Mass specially celebrated with the Archbishop. There were meetings with the board of BD, the government officials and BD staff and partners. The main function was on 16th evening where the Grand Duchess was the Chief Guest. Ms. Thresiamma had the privilege of felicitating, on behalf of all the partners. There was a wine party that followed the public functions. In the name of Archana Women's Center, a memento was presented to BD.





On the occasion of the 50th year celebration BD decided to change its name as PARTAGE.LU for a better meaning to the name. The meetings with the government officials pointed to the fact the Luxembourg Government is not considering India as a country in need of help. Hence, our possibilities of getting their assistance through BD became very bleak. As a strategy for withdrawal, they promised to continue supporting us for 2 more years in a tapering way. But Denise was persuasive enough to grab some funds for women right activities for AWC. The demonetization declared by the Indian Government in the meantime and the crisis that followed was an unexpected blow. It caused enormous pressure on all our activities especially with regard to the training and works undertaken by the groups of women.

### Conclusion:-

After a quarter century of piloting some challenging and innovative programme for ensuring a better, just social order, the movement I was instrumental to kick off, has become a much spoken agenda of the states largest women empowerment programme – The Kudumbasree. The partial withdrawal of BD has posed a big challenge to AWC and new avenues of sustainable women empowerment programmes had to be searched out.

The new project we have signed with BD (partage.Lu) will take us deeper in to the struggles of women in the society at large as we are planning to adopt 20 new panchayats / municipalities for our right based interventions. This is a new approach with unpredictable challenges and naturally triggers doubts and fears in the minds of AWC staff. But with the encouragement and cooperation of BD through Denise Richard and moral support of all the well wishers and supporters, we are confident to continue our mission of **“making a difference”**. Thanks to BD and all our well wishers for all the immeasurable support rendered. May God bless each and all, and lead you to the FULLNESS OF LIFE!.



**THRESIAMMA MATHEW**  
Director  
Archana Womens Centre

## Annual Report - 2016 - A GLANCE THROUGH THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

SL. NO.	DESCRIPTION	TARGET	ACHIEVED
1	<p>Training in Organic Farming and make model farms</p> <p>Consultation meeting with Agricultural Officer, Ms. Sherly and some of the leading agriculturists to understand and expand our farming and to enhance our farming methods on the basis of their experience sharing. Took on lease one and half acre of land with 4 ponds for organic farming of vegetables, bananas, etc and fish culture. The incharge got trained in Org.Farming from M.G.University and is doing it systematically and scientifically. The farm has won a lot of appreciation from all over. Could sell a good produce of beans, and other vegetables. The initial expenses are high, but we are having a model for demonstration and training many groups. Registered groups of farmers are given guidance and materials. Net working was done with one farmer of outstanding performance, MR.Mathew. With our support he could cultivate organic lentils in a large scale winning an award for his successful production. Monthly meetings are called for assessing and evaluating the farming carried out in the neighbourhood households.</p>	2 farms	2
2	Labour welfare & Medical Insurance Expenses. Give 50 selected persons who are existing with Archana at least 5 years	50 persons	25 persons
3	<b>Study Tour &amp; Exposure visits</b>	2 nos	
	<b>Exposure visit by a church group of Kodumaloor</b>		10 nos
	A keen group of the church visited Archana Women's Centre to understand the activities and implement some of them in their groups too.		
	<b>Exposure visit from Edathua, ITI students</b>		
	35 students, their HOD and faculties made an exposure visit as part of an organisational visit. The exclusive trainings conducted by AWC was an enriching experience which the students shared during their evaluation		35
	<b>Exposure visit of senior officials from Azad Foundation</b>		
	Ms. Meenu Vadera & Mrs. Anitha Mathur, on behalf of the National seminar conducted by us and later by them, as part of the networking, visited AWC to understand our activities and to work out the possibility of introducing She taxi, here.		2
	<b>Exposure visit to PSSP, Palakkad and Munnar &amp; MAJICs EKM</b>		
	The staff made a study tour to Palakkad social service society. Good exposure to many activities - jackfruit processing, led bulb making, Mushroom cultivation, agri-nursery, animal husbandry, etc. Another tour was organised to Munnar with the workers and organisers of HHW project. MAJICs is an NGO of young MSW's working to make EKM an age friendly city together with Dr.Praveen Pai of Lake shore hospital. This was in preparation for our International seminar. Another visit to Travancore Foundation was done which is a luxury care home for the aged.		65
	<b>Visit of Mr. Partrick Godar &amp; Ms. Denise Richard</b>		
	From 20th to 23rd feb the Managing Director and Project Coordinator of BD visited to monitor and evaluate the project activities and to discuss the future of the project.		
	<b>Visit of Ms. Susan Moir from Boston</b>		
	Ms. Moir who is doing a research study on women working in construction industry selected Archana Women's Centre to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by the women masons.		
	<b>Visit of Dr. Renu of US Fullbright Scholar</b>		
	She is a Gerontologist and visited us to make the staff aware about Geriatric care and was very informative about the statistics of the elderly and a comparative study on the functioning of the oldage homes between Kerala and US.		12
III	<b>Resource Centre for Gender guidance &amp; Women Friendly Technology development</b>		
	Regional Participants 100 nos @ 3000 for 5 programmes	5 programme	14 programme
	<p><b>Entrepreneurial Development programme 1st phase.</b></p> <p>Archana Women's Centre in association with Sandeshone conducted entrepreneurial development programme Phase I in 14 panchayats(Ettumanoor, Parathodu, Kadanad, Koruthodu, Arpookara, Aayimanam, Pullickathodu, Erattupetta, Erumely, Vijayapuram, Kozhuvanal, Kidangoor, Akalakunnam, Trikoodithanam) of Kottayam district. The class includes motivational as well as several novel/innovative ideas (video presentation) to start up a business of one's own, with special focus on women.</p>	500	700

	<b>Entrepreneurial Development programme 1st phase.</b> Archana Women's Centre in association with Sandeshone conducted entrepreneurial development programme Phase I in 14 panchayats(Ettumanoor, Parathodu, Kadanad, Koruthodu, Arpookara, Aayimanam, Pullickathodu, Erattupetta, Erumely, Vijayapuram, Kozhuvanal, Kidangoor, Akalakunnam, Trikoodithanam) of Kottayam district. The class includes motivational as well as several novel/innovative ideas (video presentation) to start up a business of one's own, with special focus on women.	500	700
	<b>Entrepreneurial Development programme 2nd phase</b> Archana Women's Centre in association with Sandeshone conducted Entrepreneurial development programme Phase II in 4 venues (VICIB, AWC, Parathodu, Erattupetta) of Kottayam district. The participants who attended the first phase were contacted and those with the same entrepreneurial interests were contacted to attend the specific classes. Classes were given on Banana plantation, Poultry farming, Kada farming and Goat farming. A team of experts in the specific subject were the Resource person. We have associated with Sandeshone to provide the complete package which includes unit, food, medicines, feeds for 1 year all further service and necessary support, alongwith the option of providing loan facility too.		200
	<b>Entrepreneurial Development programme</b> As part of Happy Healthy Wealthy project, another entrepreneurial development programme was focused especially for the mothers attending it. This time we decided to give two days class on 20 home based products of soaps, detergents and cleaning lotions. The class was taken by an expert in this field, Mr. Varghese Paul from Chalakudy who has created a massive kingdom of business in the whole of Kerala.		250
	<b>National level participation</b> Visited Azad Foundation, Delhi for networking and dissemination of gender concepts and creation of opportunities for remunerative livelihood skills. Director and Project Coordinator attended the National workshop		2
	<b>Motivation &amp; Staff training</b> A new year, a new beginning, everyone was recharged by the motivational talk given by the Director, Ms. Thresiamma Mathew.		20
	<b>Staff meeting</b> The future after 2016 was brainstormed in this meeting. Several crucial subjects were discussed and innovative ideas came up from the staff's side		15
	<b>Staff training</b> The Management training programme organised by SKIP was attended by two of our staff-Ajie Prince & Jainamma Shibu. The two days training had special emphasis on how management can work effectively, in close coordination with the employees to achieve the organisational goal.		2
	<b>Staff training</b> The Mancatching training organised by MINDS, was attended by Jismi Jose & Angelin Thomas. The Resource team included George Karnackal, Tomy Cherian, K.Babu Nalakath, Benny Kurian, Jinse Parackal. It was an opportunity to fill in them the methods to influence & inspire self as well as others Ms. Amala and Alice attended one day Motivational Seminar Conducted by MSME		2
	Training Institute, Ernakulam - Monthly trg on one specific topic of importance- eg. Solid waste management, Women friendly panchayat, senior citizen's care and issues etc along with action plan preparation, reporting, and progress checking.--Special trg in cake making to 2 staff at Best Bakers Ernakulam; Organic farm diploma course for <b>TOT for EDP programme</b> Five of our staff were selected as Trainer for the EDP programme to be conducted by Archana Women's Centre, in association with Sandeshone. Two consultants from WDC- Mr. Praveen and Mr. Ajith Kumar were here to give TOT		4 5
	<b>Awareness Programme on Domestic Violence Act 2005, under SPC, assisted by Kerala State Social Welfare Board, Thiruvnanthapuram</b>		
	The class was given to Anganwadi workers at Kanattukundam, Kandachira, Ettumanoor		56
	class was given to Police of Kidangoor Police Station		11
	class was given to the Anganwadi workers of Kanattukundam, Peroor, Ettumanoor		60
	awareness class was given to ADS members		41
	awareness class was given to the anganwadi members of Athirampuzha panchayat		43
	awareness class was given to Anganwadi Helpers of Athirampuzha Grama Panchayath.		50
	awareness class was given to Anganwadi Helpers of Ettumanoor Municipality.		45

	The regional meeting of SPC centres was conducted in Archana Women's Centre, Vettimukal.		18
	Violence against Women campaign : St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Kidangoor		600
	Counselling under SPC		93
	Under SPC, Domestic Violence cases attended		65
	Other cases handled		28
	<b>Library books</b>		
	To liven the Gender Resource library, we have started stocking library books in different Colleges, widows group, Orphanages helping to promote reading habits.		
	<b>Courses run by Archana Women's Centre</b>		
	A 30 days Goat shelter training was given to the kudumbashree members of Puthupally panchayat at Archana Women's Centre. Apart from the specific subject, which was an intensive training, they were given social training lessons, to develop and motivate their personality.		13
	Well Recharge pit construction training : Masonry (3 days)		30
	Maosnry Training for Kudumbasree person : Open Defecation Free Campaign (30 days)		27
V	<b>Policy Advocacy and Social campaign programme</b>	3 meetings	
	International Women's Day celebrated, jointly with Y's men club. The main highlight of the programme was the distribution of the tool kit to participants who were interested in Masonry & Carpentry. There was a workshop organised by Archana team to showcase their talents and to teach them the basics of these skills. Mr. P.Vijayakumar, Governor inaugurated the programme and Mrs. Leela Gopalakrishnan, President gave a motivational talk.		1 meeting of 50 persons
	BBC Radio conducted a shooting at Buildtech Production Unit, Vettimukal and Carpentry Unit, Thellakom		
	Anti Drugs day awareness programme was conducted by Archana Women's Centre in collaboration with Mangalam Engineering College.		300
	Urja Kiran - Energy Conservation Awareness Campaign (ECAC) was conducted at Trivandrum. Ms. Angelin and Mr. Ajin attended this meeting.		2
	Kottayam Pex - 2016 - Philatelic Exhibition- A special cover on AWC- OMMI was released on the occasion. This is a means of reaching AWC to all over India through postal cover.		100
	Community Camp : St.Joseph Training College of Education Mannanam (4 days programme), where our team of gender education held many sessions on personality, gender, rights based approach to issues in communities etc.		40
	Community Camp : Mangalam College of Education		35
	Energy Conservation Awareness Rally conducted by Archana Women's Centre.		23
VI	<b>Educational Awareness and Publicity programmes</b>		
	<b>Media Publicity</b>		
	Radio Media village shooting on AWC was done.		
	Goodness T.V and Drisya channel broad casted on AWC;		
	<b>Awards &amp; Recognition</b>		
	Glory of India Award by Global Achievers Foundation, Dehradun (Uttarakhand), was presented to Ms. Thresiamma Mathew, for her outstanding works, on June 10th. Outstanding woman leader award was given by CHASS on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee		
	<i>Gender Awareness &amp; Capacity Enhancement training</i>		
	Panchayat members	100 nos	65
	S.H.G Leaders	30 nos	75
	<b>Happy Healthy Wealthy Project</b>		1350
	The Mother's project continues, with awareness classes on life style diseases, healthy food recipies being taught to mothers with a focus on the health of the children.		
	ADS & CDS Members		200 nos

Awareness class was given on "Cancer". The venue was Bharanaganam Arippara Govt. L.P.School. Sr. Rose Vypana took the session. Another session on "Parenting" was handled by Sr. Regy Augustine		60
The validictory function of Happy healthy Wealthy project conducted and the certificates were given to the participants.		750
<b>Teen's Club members</b>	800 nos.	
<b>Personality Development training for 150 Teenage girls</b>	<b>150</b>	
<b>30 teenage studentsx1 programme (5 days)x 5 years @ 1000/student</b>		
The teenage students who participated in the summer camp were given Personality development class		52
Class on Personality development was given to the students of St. Paul's Girls school, Vettimukal. Sr. Lily from Wayanad took the session, which was very effective.		60
<b>Life Skill Education for 150 Teenage students</b>		
	<b>150</b>	
Class on Gender, organised by the MSW students of KE College, Mannanam, in association with Archana Women's Centre was conducted		14
a Kila[ Kerala Institute of local administration] conducted a two day training programme on BalaSouhratha Panchayath[ Child friendly PT], Ms. Alice and Ms. Amala participated in this training.		
<b>Counselling</b>		
St. Paul's Girls School and Govt. VHSS Ettumanoor, counselling was given through out the year.		118
Bharangyanam panchayat in support with the Kudumbashree members		49
<b>Social Interventions</b>		
The staff of Archana Women's Centre participated in the rally-a protestation against the brutal rape & murder of Jisha. Several priests, women activists, students, NGOs were present		57
<b>Leadership</b>		
Class for the summer campers were given		20
<b>Summer Camp</b>		
<b>Ullasaparavakal</b>		
A 10 days Value Based Skill development summer camp was conducted for teenage girls. The organisers were Ms. Amala Jose and Ms. Alice Joseph. The classes included Art & Craft, Leadership, Personality development, nutrition & health, beautician, cookery etc.		20
<b>Safe Children Safe India</b>		
A week long summer camp for the teenage students. The name given for the camp was "Sparkling Stars 2016". Classes taken included yoga & meditation, class on Child abuse, child rights & duties, Health & life style diseases, organic farming. This camp was conducted in association with CEVA, Kochi		33
<b>Residential camp for the children of Kudumbashree members</b>		
The officials of Social Justice Board were the Resource persons of the two days camp at Archana Women's Centre. Though it was a vacation time the children showed all enthusiasm to attend the activity based camp which was informative and at the same time relaxing too.		40
Developmental activities for 100 children in Balavedi especially children of trainees	100 children	15
<b>Important day activities</b>		
<b>World Environment day celebrated</b> : This day was celebrated on 8th June at NSS Hall, Punnathura, in association with KE College, Mannanam. The participants were the neighbourhood organic growers, common masses, students, faculties, staff and workers of AWC. Saplings were distributed to all the participants. The event was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Benny Thottananiyil (Principal, K.E. College, Mannanam). The presidential address was given by Ms. Thresiamma Mathew, Director-AWC. A skit with a good moral was enacted by the students of KE College and a theme song was also sung. The keynote address given by Mr. Binoy Jose emphasize on the fact that we should protect the nature with all its beauty.		80
<b>International Yoga day</b> was celebrated on 15th June at St. Paul's girls School, Vettimukal. NYK and AWC jointly organised the programme and 97 students availed the benefit of the day. Mr. Sunil was the resource person, who gave a rejuvenating class to the whole team. There was a practical session too.		97
<b>Medical camp organised by MSW students</b>		

	BVM college MSW students organised a medical camp on life style diseases especially BP & Sugar. A very effective and valuable class on the life style diseases was taken.		40
	<b>Mentors to Future Makers camp</b>		
	Our staff Alice Joseph, Amala Jose & Jismi Jose got an opportunity to learn more and assist the team of MINDS, at Casa Maria. A wholesome, energising residential camp for the children brought out the gifted talents of each participants.		92
	<b>Participation in the exhibition and Mime competition, organised by ARISE</b>		
	Arise, an NGO organised an exhibition and MIME, at Mammen Mappila Hall, Kottayam of which Archana Women's Centre was a part. We had a team who participated in the MIME competition.		
	EVALUATION AND MONITORING- Final evaluation of the 10 yrs project was done by Socio Economic Unit Foundation. An evaluation report is prepared and printed. They pointed out that the achievements in skill development of women were remarkable. But sustaining all these is a big challenge for an NGO. The time period of 10 yrs for such a strong intervention striking at the roof of patriarchy is too short		
	International trg in USA- Starting Bloc- attended by Shaiby and Director		
	Golden Jubilee Celebrations of BD attended by Shaiby and Director. It was a beautiful experience of oneness, community in diversity, joy and pride of partnership with BD, celebration of transforming influence in different countries and the concern and missionary zeal of Luxembourgish people. It was a great occasion for meeting with other partners from different countries and learn from their challenging works for development, even risking their lives. The whole celebration carried the uniqueness of B.D- simplicity, dignity, unity, collaboration, joy and togetherness.		
	They visited Boston school of training in masonry and carpentry with the help of Dr. Susan Moir, a trade women leader in Boston and a full Bright scholar for India. They had the opportunity to meet with many eminent women in construction sector and make presentations in universities and participate in conferences related to Construction.		
	<b>INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUCCESSFUL AGEING</b>		
	After many consultation meetings and deliberations, it was decided to host the International seminar at Marian college Kuttikanam in collaboration with the MSW dept of Marian. It was held on the 27,28 Of December. There were resource persons and participants from International institutions of repute. National and regional level participations were also ensured. Representatives from Helpage India, homes for aged of various categories, senior citizen's forums, geriatric care centers, colleges, researchers and NGOs participated. Research students had opportunity to present papers. 135 participants contributed to make it a success.		
	<b>BED ROC STUDY ON ELDER CARE</b>		
	A study was conducted by Bedroc society on elderly care; AWC was chosen as an agency for implementing the study. Focus group discussions, surveys and meetings were conducted as part of it. It was a good preparation for our International seminar.		
	Ms. Thresiamma was invited to participate in the international seminar on Trades women in USA and India held at Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai. There were 15 US participants and 25 Indians. The whole group was awe bounded when Thresiamma presented the video on the work done by AWC's women in construction. Two of the participants made it a point to visit us and see for themselves and came to AWC and spent a day with our workers. They were highly impressed.		



## ARCHANA WOMEN'S CENTRE

Ettumanoor P.O., Kottayam, Kerala - 686631 , Ph: 0481-2533694, Mob: 9447351806  
e-mail: [archanajjpt@gmail.com](mailto:archanajjpt@gmail.com) | web: [www.archanawomencentre.com](http://www.archanawomencentre.com)