



Jyothi Jeevapoorna Trust

ARCHANA WOMEN'S CENTRE

A trailblazer in the realm of women's empowerment



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Motto : FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL (JN:10:10)

Originally, an offshoot of the social development wing of the secular Institute -The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (OMMI] Jyothi Jeeva Poorna Trust - Archana Women's centre is today undoubtedly a proud achiever of women empowerment and gender equity-equality.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To aid the integrated development of women in our society.
- ▶ To impart skill development training in non -conventional trades for women.
- ▶ To enhance gender consciousness to ensure women's rights, security, well-being and sustainable development.
- ▶ To promote women-led community-based organizations and micro enterprises.
- ▶ To promote psycho-social competency of children, adolescents and mediate in problem-solving.
- ▶ To provide counselling centers for women, children and adolescent groups who seek redress in family grievances.





UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ Women empowerment through skill training - Masonry, Carpentry, Bamboo and Ferro-cement technology, Bricks Manufacturing.
- ▶ Gender Resource Centre - Counselling, Legal aid, Awareness Classes, NGO interventions, Rights and issue based activities, Campaigns.
- ▶ Child Resource Centre - Life skill education, Summer camps, Training classes, Vocational courses, counselling, children's club, Anti drug campaigning, Observing special days and celebrating its themes.
- ▶ Natural resource management - Conservation of water, Organic farming, farmers' collectives, Waste management, Rural housing, Sanitation, Potable water.
- ▶ Social training- Changing mindsets of women and men for a more equitable and gender sensitive approach, especially to advocate unconventional livelihood skills.





Beautician Course Inauguration



Beauty Clinic



Kitchen Cupboards



Garment Designing

IN-HOUSE UNITS

- ▶ Build Tech Carpentry Unit
- ▶ Build tech Brick unit
- ▶ Archana Kitchens and interiors
- ▶ Herbal beauty Clinic
- ▶ Garment Designing Unit
- ▶ Garment unit





WHY IS AWC A TRAILBLAZER...

Archana Women's Centre made a serious dent in the glass ceiling with their breakthrough University-certified courses in building technology and carpentry for women. AWC in association with Mahatma Gandhi University has churned out many women masons over the years skilled in carpentry, building and bamboo technology. The traditional community of masons is severely male-oriented. The construction industry itself employs women only as extra hands for manual labour. But all this has changed with AWC's intervention into making women aspirants masonry professionals through certified academic courses. Bamboo technology, although not an academic course yet, is an extremely popular choice of construction owing to its cost-effective, eco-friendly and time-saving nature. Here again, AWC became the first-ever institute to engage a team of women to build a training hall using chemically-treated bamboo poles under the careful supervision of a team of Dutch experts.

The initiation of women into the revolutionary skill of masonry first started in Thrissur under a Dutch-Danish led water and sanitation programme. The gross exploitation, wage and gender discrimination





prevalent in the construction industry against women 'helpers' led to the path breaking intervention of training them to become masons. The women masons trained under this sanitation scheme are skilled in constructing toilets, concrete blocks, Ferro-cement rainwater-harvesting tanks, and the laying of paving tiles and constructing house colonies under the government programmes. Together they are called the Jeevapoorna Women Mason's Society or JEEWOMS. The JEEWOMS run hollow block factories, paving tile unit, production of concrete door window frames, and a canteen in Thrissur district. The women mason's contribution to the sanitation programme was indeed remarkable. They constructed more than 15000 toilets in Thrissur district alone. Many women masons turned out to be trainers in the state run Total Sanitation programme.

The first fruit of their labour was the training centre at Peringavu, Thrissur. The 3000 sq ft three-storied building was constructed by the women masons with financial aid coming in from the district panchayat and Bilance, a Holland-based partner. They lent their expertise to the coastal areas of Alleppey and Kollam too, especially in giving a face-lift to the rudimentary sanitation systems followed for years by its population. The group formed in Allappad panchayat became the pioneers for reconstructing the Tsunami affected areas of Allappad panchayat. The





Jyothi Villa constructed by the women masons of Allappad is a standing monument of women's power!

The interventions in Kottayam with the help of Bridderlech Deelen of Luxembourg began in a small scale in 2004 paved the road for a 10 years long partnership from 2006- 2016. The office building and the carpentry workshop of Thellakom, the hollow block factory, the carpentry training center and the master piece of women's artisanship-The Archana Architech [Office cum training center of Archana Women's Center] at Vettimukal are fruits of this partnership and proofs of women's capabilities in construction.



The Maso-Carpe Welfare Society, set up along the lines of Jeewoms in Kottayam is a self-help forum of trained masons and carpenters who construct residential houses and apartments and run units for production of carpentry goods, hollow bricks and Ferro –tanks etc. Aided by the special training in bamboo technology, this team has gone on to build villa projects in three different localities.



Between 2006 and 2016 around 750 women in 23 batches were successfully trained in all aspects of masonry under AWC. Out of this, 180 women were selected and identified by Kudumbasree units recognized by the State Government.

The training in Carpentry was initiated with the help of Peter Hoggenberk from the Netherlands and with the guidance and support of Captain. MPV. Shenoy and Mr. Ananath Narayan of SAMBHAV from Bangalore. Starting with the construction of the work-shed for carpentry using bamboo - a big stride in construction scenario, the trainees in carpentry began to sweep the heights of interior work skills. They are now master carpenters skilled at using all modern machineries in manufacturing furniture, kitchen cabinets, ward robes etc. ETC Netherlands, through Wout Straallman, aided these women carpenters to attain the level of excellence.

Both Jeewoms and Maso-Carpe Welfare Society are extremely active organizations even today, generating incomes to scores of households across Kerala through its women. These groups have challenged and changed the traditional practices in construction industry. They succeeded in establishing norms for equality in wages – "equal pay for equal jobs". They established their right for becoming skilled, employed and earn at par with men; they claimed their right to operate machines and equipments which were hither to the monopoly of men. The success stories of these women of JEEWOMS and Maso-carpe of Archana have been replicated through UNICEF, World Bank, Total Sanitation Mission and Kudumbasree.





OTHER COURSES

Site supervision course for young women

AWC ventured into a very challenging course for young girls who passed 12th grade, getting trained as site supervisors-a six months course on civil engineering, certified by National open School [central Government] 15 students graduated and were placed in jobs at Vettoor Constructions. With the help of Mr. Mauro Peppolino, a volunteer from Luxembourg, Six of these underwent electrician course and completed the wiring of two houses.

Beautician

Many batches of the Beautician Course were successfully completed over the years. The course was initiated by the reputed corporate giant Godrej and certified by them. Later they underwent coaching for the state government-certified Beautician examination. All the students passed and received certificate, a feather in their caps for sure. Godrej, pleased with the students' performance, helped set up a Herbal Beauty Clinic, at AWC. This is a boon to the graduates who can now intern at the premises before seeking employment elsewhere.





Paper Craft

Mrs Aero Lillian Olok, an Ugandan national, came to AWC for placement under an international course at KANTHARI. She taught the women to make decorative items out of paper and the Centre held many sessions on paper craft for schools and women's groups.

AWC has also conducted umpteen other short-term training sessions in jewellery-making, home-management, cooking and so on.

Organic Farming

The AWC's project in Organic Farming began as part of their Health and Wealth scheme which aimed at an integrated developmental program through which biogas plants and vermin compost pits, waste management tanks are promoted. Awareness classes on bio-fertilizers, vermin-compost, green-leaf manure, bio-pesticides are held at AWC. Farmers' clubs undergo extensive training in these aspects and the AWC supports them by giving grow bags, organic manure, pesticides, saplings and so on. Hundred families are provided with waste management tanks and organic vegetable cultivation. The scheme's benefit reached out to more than 1200 families. Model organic farm at the AWC and in Mannanam are the proof of its success.





Home management

Periodic sessions are conducted for home management under AWC for women and students. Some of these are supported by Nehru Yuva Kendra [Youth ministry]. Preparation of special and exotic items is demonstrated from locally available vegetables and fruits. Variety of cakes is taught to interested groups.



Gender Campaigns

In its run to empower women with skills, the AWC never forgot its primary responsibility to spread gender equality and women's rights. Sensitization programmes were held at every juncture to train the elected women representatives at the grassroot level in leadership, planning and egalitarian development. A state-wide gender campaign addressing the atrocities and conflicts against women and the girl child was also organized by reaching out to schools and colleges in the important districts of Kerala over a span of three months.



Every year Women's Day celebrations at the AWC are a well-executed affair with state-level campaigns on policy advocacy, social crimes,





Women Presidents of Local Self Government being Honoured by AWC

gender equality awareness workshops and other women's issues. Some are in the form of meetings, some as street theatre and drama. Perillatha Penkutty (Girl without a Name) was one such representation that had its intended impact on scores of school-girls and boys across the State. It was a sharp and poignant attack on our society that turns a blind eye towards the plight of its women.

Together with STREEVEDI, an activist group, AWC takes lead to address atrocities against women, accompanies women and girls in distress, help 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.

AWC set up a Gender Resource Center to address the growing threat against women and children in distress - a perennial problem of all women activists – the lack of support in times of need. This Centre provides counselling and legal aid for victims of domestic violence, discrimination and crime. It addresses any pertinent issue of women and organizes net working linkages. The gender library at the resource center and the public library at Thellakom have impressive collections of videos and books, which are being extensively used by local women, colleges and research students.



കിടങ്ങൂർ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്
കിടങ്ങൂർ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്-2013
 കിടങ്ങൂർ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് (പ്രസിഡന്റ്)
 ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ:- ശ്രീ.ബോണി ജാത്യ (ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് (പ്രസിഡന്റ്))
 ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ:- ശ്രീ.ജോൺസ് ജോസഫ് (എം.എൽ.എ)
 ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ:- ശ്രീമതി രാധാ വി.നായർ (ജില്ലാ പഞ്ചായത്ത് (പ്രസിഡന്റ്))
 ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ:- മിസ്സ് ത്രേസ്യാമ്മ ജാത്യ (ഡയറക്ടർ അർച്ചന വിഭാഗം സെന്റർ)
 ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ:- ഡി.വൈ.എസ്.പി. എൻ. (ഇന്റലിജൻസ് പോലീസ്-കോടയാം)
 മാർച്ച് 6-സെന്റർ മേരിസ് ഓഫീസ്-കിടങ്ങൂർ

Karatte Show by Women of AWC



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Under the GRC women trainees are given training in karate and self defence. The women trainees motivate other women by performing on International Women's Day celebrations and other occasions. The GRC encourages women to become more autonomous in movement from place to place by offering training in driving and helping the purchase of two wheelers.

The Service Providing Centre, under State Social Welfare department set up by the AWC to protect the victims of domestic violence, has done exemplary work through counselling and legal settlements. Hundreds of cases are registered at the SPC. Out of this many come under the Protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act 2005. Most cases are settled by the legal counsellor, while others are submitted to the court for trial.

Archana Taxies

This is the latest intervention under GRC - Training young women to be taxi drivers. Batches of 10 women each are trained by the Maruthi Udyog Company and placement is ensured first for the private residential sector. Later they acquire license as taxi drivers and start driving their taxies on road.

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EMPOWERING THE CHILD

Sure enough, the AWC has held training programs in schools to address:

- ▶ Alcohol and its side-effects and influence of media on children.
- ▶ Life-skills regarding health, sex, family, friends, finance and education of school children.
- ▶ Origami class
- ▶ Classes on Leadership and Gender rights

These sessions are held in collaboration with NGOs, schools and Anganwadis. Text-book education has its limits. Today's child needs to be socially aware and exposed to the varying demands of society and be trained in dealing with them.

These programs were not an isolated affair. Follow-up was done and many school children, who attended these sessions visit the Child Resource Centre even today to play games, borrow books from the library and so on.





AWC was also fortunate to join hands with a leading NGO- Sakhi and set up a new project "Scaling up Life Skill Education of Young People in Kerala towards its mainstreaming and Sustainability – 2013". The program aimed at creating genderawareness to the adolescent groups in different panchayats in Kottayam and Ernakulam districts.

The module included Personality Development: Self awareness; Knowing one's Body: and Communicative skills.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Cycling, campaigns, environmental studies, visit to police stations.

This project was completed in 10 panchayats of Kottayam and Ernakulam districts. And the AWC continued this project during the next year in Ettumanoor.

Summer camps are also organized for children selected from schools and neighbourhood groups jointly with CEVA Cochin. Apart from recreation, classes on child abuse, sexual harassment, child rights are held. Two of the best selected as leaders are given the opportunity to participate in the State-wise one-day camp at CEVA, Kochi.





Ullasaparavakal – [Happy Birds] the AWC’s brainchild for adolescent girls in summer - It is an activity-oriented camp to help young girls discover their talents and creativity. Paper craft, Jewellery making, Beautician course, Cookery, Photography, diet, Time management, Self-discipline, Gender studies, Child legal rights, Meditation and Yoga were some of the courses offered.



The CRC also has Teen’s Clubs which meet regularly and organize games, art classes, and attend lectures on sex education, career guidance, stress management, yoga and fitness. Balavedi (children aged below 15) is another group of young children which meet monthly and attend annual summer camps too.



AWC also launched a mass awareness drive to alert homemakers, mothers and working women about the emerging threat of lifestyle diseases. The programme was named ‘happy, Healthy, Wealthy project’. The awareness program had experts talking on consumerism addiction to digital entertainment and lack of interpersonal relationships.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND WATER CONSERVATION

Archana Women’s Centre is a pioneer movement in women’s empowerment with a deep-rooted commitment to preserve all that is free and natural in our world. And that leads us to conservation of water, air and earth. The AWC believes in all alternative and organic methods to conserve water, free air from pollution and earth from destruction.

Integrated Water Resource Management Programmes are a highlight of this centre. In every household, water is the responsibility of the woman. Be it in the deserts or the fertile plains, it has always been the woman’s responsibility to fetch, carry and ration water. The AWC’s water-conservation programmes keep this gender prospective in mind, and therefore, are rated as one of the most successful interventions in watershed development. It has built around 4000 water harvesting pits with the help of beneficiaries in Ettumanoor and Athirampuzha panchayats. It also organized a Jalasandesha Yatra (Message on Water Rally) across the state with representatives from 50 villages participating in it.





Ditto are its interventions into pro-environment and ecological welfare training programmes. Awareness classes on bio-non- degradable products, e- waste, waste management, recycling and excessive consumerism leading to poor lifestyle are held every year on special days.

EMPANELLED BY KUDUMBASREE

AWC's experience in the field of non traditional skills for women found approbation and recognition when it was empanelled as the agency for imparting mason training to Kudumbasree led groups in 2014. Since then AWC got a number of groups to train as masons, plumbers, electricians, low cost house builders, goat shelter makers, and participate in the Prime minister's pet project-"The Swach Bharath" by constructing toilets.

SOCIAL TRAINING

AWC takes pride in its highly effective and empowering approach to transform the timid, shy and absolutely dependent rural women to self confident, bold and enterprising workers , through its well defined social training. Without this it would have been impossible to bring about such revolutionary change in the mindset of these subjugated women. AWC believes that the success of its empowering intervention has as its base on this solid social training.





EVNETS OF IMPORTANCE

State level convention of women masons:

In 2012 a state level gathering of women masons was held at AWC to make the public become aware of the powerful group of skilled female workers in construction field, so that they can be mainstreamed .



Silver jubilee celebration of women mason's programme:

In 2015 hundreds of women masons, carpenters and other construction trade groups gathered at AWC to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the initiation of women in to construction sector as skilled labourers. The then chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the gathering of over 400 women workers from all over the state.



National Seminar 2015, 11-13 December

A national seminar on **Inclusive Development and Gender Equity with special focus on Women's skill Development and Entrepreneurship Programme for Sustainable and Equitable Development** was conducted by AWC at Casa Maria, Thellakom, to bring together agencies involved in non-traditional skills for women in India and to disseminate the ARCHANA MODEL EMPOWERMENT to all around. It was a very enriching and enabling experience.





International Conference -2016 December 27-28 on "SUCCESSFUL AGEING"

Archana Women's Centre, in its search for alternative models of senior care, organized a two-day International Conference in collaboration with the School of Social Work, Marian College, Kuttikkanam. The conference was aimed to examine the current status of senior citizens and discuss alternatives to help them live their lives enjoyably and with dignity. AWC was instrumental in creating a 'new social gerontology' with regard to our elders – "they need to be fully engaged in productive activities and interpersonal relations, in addition to healthcare."

Study Tours and Exposure Visits

AWC gives a lot of attention to provide good exposure to our staff and workers through the study tours and exposure visits it conducts. The trainees got many covetous chances to visit many important places like New Delhi, Agra, Mysore, Bangalore Chennai Munnar, Palakkad, etc and learn from the cultures, trades, interior designing, crafts, building technologies etc. They could also participate in many international and national exhibitions. AWC is also a place of interest for even international agencies. Boston school of vocational training regularly visits AWC to enkindle gender sensitivity and skills in their students. Trade union





workers from USA led by Susan Moir visits us and give us also opportunity to visit Boston mason and carpenter training Institute. National youth from NYK, schools of social work, technical training Institutes, NGOs and SHG groups are regular visitors to AWC.

Trainers and supporters to AWC

Peter Hoggenberk, Wout Straalman, and Melanie Stallen from the Netherlands; They offered mighty support to AWC's pioneering interventions in bringing women to the field of masonry and carpentry, providing professional and international standard of training and technical and financial support.

Col. M. P. V. Sheno and Ananth Narayan from SAMBAV Bangalore were powerful supporters to introduce AWC to modern technologies, machines and training modules and extend our exposure to international levels.





FOUNDER-DIRECTOR THE GENIUS BEHIND ARCHANA

Thresiamma Mathew, the founder-director, of Archana Women's Centre, is a reputed gender-specialist and member of the secular institute - The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (OMMI).

Her vision to promote gender justice and equality and her Motto "The fullness of Life for all" [Jn 10:10] is the very foundation of her brain-child, Archana Women's Center.

She has broken all traditional barriers of women's role in society. She helped storm the male bastions of construction industry, carpentry, brick-laying and ferro-cement tank manufacturing by making her women graduates equal partners in the same.

Thresiamma Mathew leads a simple, unselfish life dedicated to the cause of the common woman. At heart a social worker, she advocates the principles of social justice, human rights and she has a deep respect for diversities. She believes in change and is ready to take that first step towards it. A recipient of many awards, national and international, Thresiamma Mathew has had a brilliant run the last 25 years.





It is no exaggeration to say that the OMMI is her mentor, strength and inspiration. Founded by Fr L M Parent in 1952, it is a unique order under which its members are not distinguished by way of a uniform or a symbol. They adopt the costume of the society they live in. For, the OMMI believes in working *with* the poor, not *for* them. They are not addressed as 'Sisters' but as 'Miss' or 'Madam'. Its headquarters is in Canada, and its office in India is in Changanassery, Kerala. Here, it works under the aegis of the Jyothi Jeeva Poorna Trust based in Tamil Nadu.

'Thressiamma Miss' saw the abject poverty and destitution of women through the eye-opening sessions of OMMI's formation sessions. It moved her deeply. It was then that she decided to adopt a life dedicated to empowering women and paint their lives with new colours of progress.

It was not easy. And she never expected it to be. Drawing strength from the OMMI core values that nurtured and nourished her, Thressiamma Mathew has surmounted all odds and carved a niche in Kerala's women empowerment through Archana Women's Centre.

When she first started out with a group of women, people ridiculed her motives. She was focused on 'equal remuneration for all' and therefore, began to train women to become masons and carpenters through a





certificate course acknowledged by Mahatma Gandhi University. AWC was born and other interventions into social empowerment took root from there. Finally, when the masonry-certified women completed their training in the Ettumanur unit, they were given employment through the model-housing initiative started by AWC.



Today the AWC's building unit has established its name across the borders. Sure enough, Thresiamma Miss along with Radhika Prakash were invited to address and attend the 51st session of Division for Economics and Social Development at the United Nations and share their empowerment experiences advancing women's economic capabilities.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Women Entrepreneur by Hon. Minister for MSME, Shri Kalraj Mishra, 5th International Women Entrepreneur Summit, 2015, New Delhi.

- ▶ **Sthreshakti award**
by JCI for her contributions to women empowerment and her social work.
- ▶ **Eminent Personality award**
by the District Lioness Club.
- ▶ Prize for **Creativity in Rural Women's Life**
by Women's World summit Foundation, Geneva
- ▶ **Priyadarsini Award 2015**
by Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs.
- ▶ **Glory of India Award 2016**
by Global Achievers Foundation.
- ▶ **Women Super Achiever Award**
by international congress of FEMINA-2017





MEDIA COVERAGE

- ▶ Sindooram programme featured AWC on Surya Channel.
- ▶ T.V channels like Mazhavil Manorama, Surya, Asianet, Kairali, ACV, Goodness, Shalom, Sakhi, Media 1, Jeevan, Drisya and Doordarsan did documentaries on AWC in several occasions.
- ▶ All India Radio and BBC made broadcasts in the Middle East and Europe.



NEWS PAPERS

- ▶ Supplements and features were published by leading News papers like The Hindu, The New Indian Express, Deepika, Malayala Manorama, Kaumudi, Mathrubhoomi, Chandrika, Madhyamam, Deshabhimani, Mangalam, Emerging Kerala, etc.
- ▶ Several Magazines and books have also highlighted the revolutionary interventions of AWC in their articles.
- ▶ "Building Walls Of Confidence, Engendering Skills" are two books published on AWC and women masons.



NEW HORIZONS

Tomorrow's promise...

Archana Women's Centre is a trailblazer. The journey doesn't end here. Millions of women are yet to be saved. And there's hope for all.

Here are the testimonies of a few winners...



Radhika Prakash, 40, is a full-fledged mason today thanks to her five-year training at the AWC. She has built rainwater-harvest models, walls of the Thellakom and Vettimukal Centres and completed as part of the AWC team a multi-crore villa at Pattithanam. Her husband supports her work unconditionally now.



Valsala, 46, is a Ferro-cement worker who has done kitchen shelves, ferro-cement tanks, waste rings, ferro-cement slabs and cupboards. She too faced opposition from her spouse initially, but today she enjoys her family's complete support.





Omana Soman, 48, is a professional in bamboo-based construction worker, trained by a Dutch specialist. She makes sofas, chairs, beds and today earns full-time for her household.



Sindhu, 39, a TTC graduate and tailor, is a successful carpenter too. She makes all types of furniture required for a house.



Shanty Babu, 38, is an expert in manufacturing hollow bricks. A widow, she supports her family entirely through her earnings today.



നികവീദ്യമായി വനിതകൾ

അക്രമ വിരുദ്ധ സേനയ്ക്കാണ്. അതിൽ വനിതകൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷം മുതൽ എൻ.ടി.എസ്.യുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ വനിതകൾ പങ്കെടുത്തു. സേനയുടെ കർമ്മങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു. ഇതിൽ വനിതകൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു. ഇതിൽ വനിതകൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു.



ഇവർക്കായി വനിതകൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു. ഇതിൽ വനിതകൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു. ഇതിൽ വനിതകൾക്ക് വളരെ പങ്കുവെച്ചു.

Churning out masonry professionals

The course offered by Mahatma Gandhi University has more takers among women.

George Jacob



KOTTAYAM: Perhaps, for the first time in the country, the State will have masons with university certificates in masonry. The novel idea comes from Mahatma Gandhi University and is expected to go a long way in churning out masonry professionals.

Of the 10 persons who have passed the three-month certificate in building technology course, nine are women, though the profession is male-dominated.

Thresiamma Mathew, director, Archana Women's Centre, which runs this course, says, "Out of the 20 persons who had expressed their interest in joining the course, 11 registered. Ten of them have completed it successfully."

ANOTHER BARRIER FALLS: A woman apprentice at work in their livelihood from the traditional industry of screw-pine mat weaving and were from the Vakkom area. They used to earn Rs. 45 or less a day, she said. Some others were working in the construction industry as head-load workers. After teaching them the basic theory of masonry, they were sent to local construction sites for practical training. Their incomes have increased by more than 300 per cent.

"Most of them are earning Rs. 150 a day now," Ms. Mathew says. They have not been accepted as full-fledged masons at the work sites, but assist the male masons. K. Sabukutthan, Professor and Head of the Department of Adult Education of the university, says: "We have launched this project as part of the silver jubilee of the university." The department has certificate courses in such needed disciplines, including a six-month certificate programme in carpentry, conducted in association with the Archana Women's Centre. The other certificate courses are in dementia care, Yoga and meditation and counselling. Jos Chathukulam, who heads the Centre for Rural Management here, believes the certification will address both the practical and strategic gender needs in one go. The immediate effect will be a drastic improvement in their incomes. The traditional community of masons was male-

dominant, with women being confined to household chores. Even now, this gender inequality is evident. A man who starts the career as an assistant to a mason will have an opportunity to major into an independent mason. A female assistant will be confined to her job of head-load worker, taking cement and bricks to the mason. Certification of this kind will be an effective tool in the fight for gender equality, he said. In the initial stages, he fears, the women masons will be confined to softer jobs such as work using ferro-cement or on toilets being constructed as part of State-funded programmes. "To take this initiative forward, we need agencies and an army of empowered civil engineers who will repose faith in them," he said. With the male masons majoring to hard jobs offered by the construction boom in the country, a whole new vista will be opened to certified women masons by the vast rural market and the government-funded programmes. It is pointed out.

നിരതാ മേന്മയിലെത്തിക്കാൻ എം.ജി സർവകലാശാലയുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ്

കോഴയം എട്ടു വനിതാ മേന്മയിൽ ഏകദേശം 100000 രൂപയുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് പ്രോഗ്രാമിന് തുടക്കം കുറിച്ചു. ഇതിൽ 10 പേർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ഇതിൽ 9 പേർ വനിതകളാണ്. ഇതിൽ 8 പേർ പൂർണ്ണമായി പാസായി. ഇതിൽ 7 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 6 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 5 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 4 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 3 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 2 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 1 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി.

വനിതാ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുമായി വനിതാ മേന്മയിലിമാർ

കോഴയം എട്ടു വനിതാ മേന്മയിൽ ഏകദേശം 100000 രൂപയുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് പ്രോഗ്രാമിന് തുടക്കം കുറിച്ചു. ഇതിൽ 10 പേർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ഇതിൽ 9 പേർ വനിതകളാണ്. ഇതിൽ 8 പേർ പൂർണ്ണമായി പാസായി. ഇതിൽ 7 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 6 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 5 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 4 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 3 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 2 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 1 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി.



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ചാതുരപെട്ടിട്ട് ചാതുരതേക്കാൻ

കോഴയം എട്ടു വനിതാ മേന്മയിൽ ഏകദേശം 100000 രൂപയുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് പ്രോഗ്രാമിന് തുടക്കം കുറിച്ചു. ഇതിൽ 10 പേർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. ഇതിൽ 9 പേർ വനിതകളാണ്. ഇതിൽ 8 പേർ പൂർണ്ണമായി പാസായി. ഇതിൽ 7 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 6 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 5 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 4 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 3 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 2 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി. ഇതിൽ 1 പേർ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റ് നേടി.

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പട്ടയിട്ട കൈകൾക്ക് ഉജിയും വഴങ്ങും

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