

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR -2020-2021

**Good Shepherd convent
32, College Road
Chennai ... 600006
Tamil Nadu**

Educational Service

School Dropouts - Marian Home

Open Shelter for girls– Mottukkal

Roshni Nivas- Hostel for girls and women

Poor women and girls welfare programmes – Salem



Good Shepherd Convent



The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is an International Organization serving in 72 countries, following the ideals of our Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier for the past 175 years. She was a faith filled and courageous French nun, gifted with deep love for humanity, especially for the socially marginalized young girls and women of her time. 3000 sisters and thousands of Mission partners continue to make her ideals a living reality in our worldwide Mission of Formal and Non- Formal Education in diverse cultural background.

Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai was started in 1924 and was registered under Society Registration Act on June 27, 1959. The Society number is 55/1959. It was then amended and approved on February 11, 2009 by the Tamil Nadu Registrar of Societies. It is organized and managed by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to cater to the Educational, Medical, Social and other related needs of the poor people. The Society has two Units namely Chennai and Salem. The activities of the Society for the year 2020-2021 are as follows.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

The three sections of the School - **NURSERY, JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL** - while keeping their individual identity and run the daily activities independently, is officially a single Composite entity.

GOOD SHEPHERD MAT.HR.SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHENNAI - 6

REPORT OF ACTIVITES FOR STD. VI TO XII (2020-21)

Exploring opportunities in uncertain times

“The pandemic may come, the pandemic may go, but our courage and faith endure forever.”

April 2020 – March 2021: A year of disruption, a season of gripping fear and loss, a time of quarantine, a period of breakthroughs and new learnings. Yes indeed, for Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School, this has been an amazing journey, where the management stepped out into the unknown, dared to try new ways to ensure the mental and emotional well-being of the 1237 students, their families and even beyond. Here’s our story:

No sooner than the *lockdown* was announced in March 2020, the conventional teachers, who had never tried their hands at digital teaching, stepped into online

classes to keep in touch with the students who were in a state of not knowing the status of the Board Exams. This is how they kept in touch with the students, listening to their fears and woes and humbly learning from each other to use digital tools in teaching. Many a student was provided assistance by way of a gadget and even daily ration to ensure that the families didn't suffer. So, when the *lockdown* extended with no end in sight, all the students were comfortably on-boarded to attending online classes, celebrations, cultural events, spiritual retreats and competitions too!

“Do well all that you do!”

Every person counts: The school deemed it most important to tend to the physical, mental, emotional and physiological fitness of the students. Many seminars, counseling sessions, career advice and mental gyms were organized for students as well as their parents to provide support, ease their fears and create awareness about Covid-19. Leading psychiatrist, Dr. Kannan Gireesh, convened many sessions for the staff, students and parents, motivating them to practice the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, especially during the times of crisis and disruption. Spiritual retreats and camps were organized to ground the students in faith – the much-needed tool for the hour!

Celebrations shifted online: From Founders' Day to Republic Day, Ramzan to Christmas and Pongal, and every event was meticulously planned and celebrated online. The spirit of fun, curiosity and creativity was kept alive through innumerable competitions ranging from elocution to drawing, singing and dancing, quiz and debates.

A new wave: Responding to the students who were yearning to *speak in a safe space*, a platform called Good Shepherd Ideas worth Spreading (GSIWS) was launched in June 2020. This weekly jamming session, was the best gift for the students who were waiting to be listened to. This virtual platform gave children the opportunity to speak and be heard non-judgmentally, saved many a student from taking dire measures during these depressive times. This new wave opened the doors to invite other schools' students within and outside Chennai and even beyond borders! Here is a testimony of a student who voiced out and opened a plethora of opportunities for many others: *“I discovered my strengths and I helped others to discover theirs too. GSIWS has shaped my destiny.*

International Day of the Girl (IDG2020) - My Voice = Our Future: The avid students of Good Shepherd seized the opportunity to join hands with their peers across the globe in redesigning the future of adolescent girls, especially in light of Covid-19. With a series of events starting from October 1, 2020 till December 11 (World Human Rights Day), the students participated in panel discussions at the Asia-Pacific level, organised sensitization programs for fathers and brothers of the school students on the theme, connected with the girls in rural areas across India and Nepal and celebrated *Good Shepherd One Voice*.



PHOENIX'20, the inter school cultural event was hosted online, taking the theme of IDG2020 beyond the closed space. About 15 schools participated in the three-day event, which culminated on December 11, as a forum where the award winners came together to design concrete steps to respond to climate emergency and gender inequality.

Our proactive students participated in NGOCSW65 – an event of the UN on the status of women and girls. They hosted panel discussions on the *Impact of Covid-19 on the girl child* and other burning issues related to adolescent girls across the world.

Exams and Result: Due to the pandemic situation Government of Tamil Nadu Cancelled Exams for all classes and declared all the students passed.

JUNIOR SECTION

“Learning together even when we are apart.”

This particular quote was aptly suited for the unprecedented events that unfolded in the year 2020. No one had the slightest idea of what was happening around the world platform. But we as a school knew whatever the situation is, learning should not stop. So, the management, staff, students and parents all came together on this issue and everyone underwent training in different spheres to handle the transition smoothly. **Webinars, seminars and training programmes** were all enthusiastically attended.



The parents also had a seminar on the **Truths and Myths** of the pandemic to put their minds to rest over the dangers of Covid -19.



The teachers had specific training sessions on **Google Meet and Zoom**.



Prayer Service for Dr. Kamaraj was held as a virtual celebration. It was a different experience.

The **Rangoli and Speech Competitions** were also held on the virtual platform and each section conducted them exclusively and shared pictures on their what Sapp groups.



Prayer Service to honor St. Mary Euphrasia was celebrated by each class and a **QUIZ** was also conducted class wise.



The online classes gave more number of children a chance to take part in the programmes as we also had **Our Independence Day Celebrations** self-reliantly.



The 1st mega virtual event where students 1 to 5 came together was the **TEACHERS' DAY** celebrations. What a wonderful experience it was for all who were part of it!

The organizers where the first to note the change



as everything had to be got individually and put together as a whole. Parents became choir masters and choreographers. For the viewers it was like watching a programme on the television - CONTACTLESS entertainment!!!!

We had the PROVINCE level webinars. The first one was the **POSITION PAPER ON THE GIRL CHILD.**



A coming together of the province in celebrating the **IDG** was another awesome event that brought us close to all the other ministries of our CEIN Province.

We had the IDG Song, PLEDGE said before our classes each day. The celebration started on the First of October and went on till 10th December. Many competitions filled these days. Our Std. III student Allana won the Drawing Competition.



One memorable function that we had was the **DAD and DAUGHTERS day**. Here the dads were given a royal reception and they in turn made our girls feel like princesses.

Christmas is a Season of Rejoicing and of Reflection



This yet another celebration online but with a difference. We recorded the function



with a proper stage setting and the teachers played the character roles of the Nativity. **Pongalo Pongal** was meaningfully celebrated.

Exams were called ASSESSMENTS and conducted digitally on G form. Our students also were challenged competitively on the Inter-school platform and our Std. II student received a prize from none other than The Collector of Greater Chennai. Many other students won prizes at these competitions. A year that started with a lot of negative influences ended on a positive note. That's what education is all about. We thank God for all the good that happened during this year.



GOOD SHEPHERD NURSERY SECTION

The Good Shepherd Nursery section spreads its wings of early childhood education with 8 dedicated teaching staff, 8 non-teaching staff shepherded under the guidance of the sister in charge. Together we worked to give 307 children the roots to grow and wings to fly.

The year 2020-21 was the year of the new normal. The pandemic situation made us switch on knowledge imparting through online mode. It was challenging in reaching out to young minds but the children quickly adapted to the new teaching and learning methodology.

The online classes for the K.G section started on 2nd July 2020. Lessons on writing, number work, science, rhymes, singing, storytelling, reading and language skills were all taught through what's app audio and video recordings.

Celebrations like the Founders day on 31st July, Independence Day, Teachers' day, and children's day were held on virtual platform.

Children participated in various activities like singing, dancing, reciting rhymes fancy dress etc. They even drew and colored pretty birthday cakes for the birthday celebrations of our Foundress, Saint Mary Euphrasia.

The commencement of the International day of the girl child started on the 8th of October. Our children took part in the IDG theme song and also took part in various competitions held in connection with the International day the girl child.

Christmas programme was held in school for teachers. Greetings were sent to all children in their respective class groups.

Classes for the academic year were completed on 31st March 2021 and on the 1st of April U.K.G Children were promoted to Std. I.

The Academic year 2020-21 ended with a thanksgiving prayer conducted by the sister-in-charge through the virtual mode. All teaching and non-teaching staff took part in the prayer service where we thanked God for His protection and all the new learnings.

Marian Home /Tailoring Centre

This Tailoring Centre is a unit of the Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai.. It extends its services to girls from Mottukal who are in moral danger or with emotional and behavioral problems or are school dropouts. Also girls and women from nearby slums avail of these services. Since there was lockdown due to Corona virus from April, 2020, girls and women from the nearby slums could not come here. But the girls from Mottukal were trained in the Tailoring Section. They acquired skills in cutting and tailoring. This Centre gives these girls opportunities to learn a skill which will support them in future. Opportunities were provided to learn Tamil and English. From April, 2020 – March 2021, 27 girls were trained.

From August 2020 this Tailoring Centre is shifted to a new building.

Celebrations: Festivals like Ayuda Pooja, Deepavali and Christmas were celebrated meaningfully with appropriate prayer service and table celebrations.

Christmas: Our staff joined the Mottukal staff to share the joy with one another. They had a meal together.





Programmes:

Basic instructions are given in –

- Learning to pray

- Reading, writing and spoken English
- The girls acquire skills in cutting and tailoring
- The learn simple calculations and taking measurements
- Care of the place, material and things

We are ever grateful to God for giving us many opportunities to train the girls and for His protection over us. We thank our Good Shepherd community and our school for their support in helping these girls.

Mottukal - Open Shelter (Care and Protection):

During this year we admitted 96 children to Mottukal open shelter to provide care and protection. Children were referred through Child Welfare Committee (CWC) with order form, various Child Lines, Railway child line and Police stations. Most of the Children were run away cases from families, begging children, semi orphans, child Marriage cases, destitutes, physically and sexually abused children, school drop outs, love affair cases and children from broken families. These children were from different States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Bihar and Orissa. During this year we have succeeded in Home Placement of 81 Children through Child Welfare Committee (CWC). We did the follow up of these 81 Children, updated the progress of the children and their families and reported to the CWC and DCPO (District Child Protection Office). At present we have 19 Children in our Mottukal Open Shelter.

Staff Pattern:

At present we have 19 Staffs - Project Coordinator, Social Worker, Care Givers 2, Outreach workers-3, Counselor, cook and tuition teachers-10.

Certain meetings were held during the year:

- ❖ Monthly Review Staff Meeting:
- ❖ Monthly Review Meeting for Child Care Institute Project co Ordinator at Royapuram.



Department Visits to Mottukal Open Shelter:

During the year the Central, State and District level inspection, Child Welfare committee and from other Government Department visited the Child Care Institution Mottukal Open Shelter many times.

Functions and Celebrations:

Onam, Pongal, Children's Day and Teachers' Day Celebrations: The children had taken active participation and enjoyed coming together for functions, Celebrations and outings periodically which has built unity and increased the awareness levels on childhood.



Outreach Program:

Evening Coaching centers:

Due to the Covid – 19 we were not able to conduct the evening coaching classes. We the staff, Children and Parents of the Outreach Programme were grateful to Good Shepherd Matric Higher Secondary School Management and the Staff who had taken great effort to educate our children through online Classes, especially in English and Maths Subjects. 50 of them benefited from the coaching classes this academic year.

Get Together for Christmas Celebration- Senior Citizens:

The total participants were 110 **Senior Citizens** from our working areas. Christmas Celebration with Area Children, Staff and Mottukal Children. There were 15 staff and 110 Children for this program.



CONCLUSION:

Mottukal - Good Shepherd Convent has done our best to carry out the Vision and Mission of our institution in spite of the challenges faced because of Covid-19. The staff go ahead with the spirit of supporting the disadvantaged and deprived children, youth and women. We gratefully remember all our benefactors, friends and well-wishers.

Roshini Nivas

Roshini Nivas is a Hostel for Young Working Women and College Students. It is our objective to provide shelter, nutritious food and a conducive atmosphere through personal care, guidance and counseling. The main aim is to inculcate in them good values for life, provide better facilities and a safe environment where they can learn and become mature and contributing citizens of our county.

Because of the pandemic and since the colleges were functioning with on line classes, we did not have many admissions during this academic year. We had six new admissions and from the previous residents only eight had returned in the month of January 2021. Because of Covid-19 restrictions we did not have any programs during the year.



Since the sister-in charge of the hostel was on transfer to Andhra Pradesh, we organized a small sendoff function for her and also welcomed the new sister to be in charge of the hostel. The girls thanked Sr.Udaya and honored sister with a bouquet and shawl. They also welcomed Sr.Jyothi in the same manner. Sr. superior thanked sister for her committed service to the residents of hostel for the past three years and also welcomed the new sister-in- charge.

We are grateful to the Almighty God for His protection and guidance on all the inmates of Roshini Nivas. We are grateful to Sr. Superior and Community for their support and co-operation during the year.

GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT, SALEM, TAMIL NADU -OUR PRESENCE IN SALEM:

The Good Shepherd Sisters came to Salem in the year 1999 at the invitation of the MSFS Fathers from Udayapatti Parish, to do social service. The first year our Sisters stayed in the MSFS father's house and shifted to a rented house in Masinayakanpatti on 18th June 2000. In the beginning the Sisters visited the nearby villages, took survey and studied the needs of the people and initiated Coaching Classes for children. Tailoring classes were started for school drop-outs and young women. Later with the help of our Community in Chennai, a property was bought at Nochipatti on 26th October 2002 and the foundation stone was laid for a new Convent building. It was completed in six months and was blessed by the Most Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem in the presence of our Provincial Superior Sr. Bridget Paily, on 29th May 2003.

Our Social Action Ministry is called VIKASINI, which means towards growth and development. At present we carry out our activities in 15 villages of Ayodhiyapattanam block, Salem District, with the help of Chennai Society and Chalice project. Our main service is to educate the children, eradicate Child Labour and Child marriage, empower women and children and promote alternative health care system.

VIKASINI PROGRAMME

Coaching classes:

Due to COVID-19 and the lockdown, the coaching classes for the children were not taken. Instead we brought awareness programme to educate the children to take safety measures against COVID-19, like wearing face mask, using sanitizer and maintaining social distance. The tuition teachers encouraged the children to attend the online classes. The children were able to do their assignments and submit to their respective teachers. We also conducted the drawing completion for our children based on how the COVID- 19 affect our daily life. The children were motivated to involve in extracurricular activities like drawing, painting, dancing etc.

Celebration

International day of the Girl child

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd organized the International Girl Child day. There was different competition like essay writing, drawing, skits based on the rights of the girl child. The gifts were distributed for the winners. The chief guest released the poster on Child safe guarding policy. The resource person Mrs. Jancy, MSW and SI Mr. DuraiSamy very vibrantly delivered a speech on “My Voice equal to our future”



The girl children from Salem have attended the State level and language wise International Girl child day celebration conducted by Good Shepherd Students from Chennai and Karjat through Zoom. The programme ended with colorful cultural event.

International women’s day

The women’s day was celebrated in Good shepherd convent Nochipatty. The women around 150 of them joyfully participated in the programme. Sr. Amali and Miss Nirmala MSW who were the resource persons, spoke about the importance of the women’s day celebration followed by a short cultural programme. Games were conducted and prizes were given to the winners.



Youth Training A Programme was conducted for the youth. The participants around 20 of them have attended the programme. Mr. Paul Thomas, MSW was the resource person. The topic covered were self-confidence, taking



responsibility for the life and involvement in the social activities.

He also spoke about the youth parliament. The youth group after the training programme continued with bike race to bring awareness to the people for 100% of vote.



Tailoring

The young girls and women 40 of them were trained in the tailoring section and received course completed certificate. They acquired skills in cutting, tailoring and embroidery for 3 months, It was a great opportunity to learn tailoring, which will support them in future to increase their family income and self-respect in the society and family. This year we shifted the tailoring center to Good Shepherd convent campus and running under Vikaasine.



Health /Alternative Medicine

Health care is provided through alternative medicine which will enable the people to reduce their expenses. They also learn home remedies for minor problems and prevention of many illnesses.



Sponsorship programme:

We, the Sisters at Salem are helping the underprivileged children/families from 15 villages through Chalice Sponsorship Program, funded by chalice Canada, supporting them in their Education, Health & Hygiene and Family Development. At present 223 Children are benefitting. The children are selected under the criteria of Orphan, Semi orphan, Poor, HIV affected/ infected.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our sisters at Chennai who have assisted us with finance to carry out our activities in fulfilling our mission successfully.

Conclusion : We are very grateful to God, our partners in mission, the parents of the school and many benefactors who supported us to fulfill our mission of education and empowerment of children, girls and women.

THANK YOU To one and All