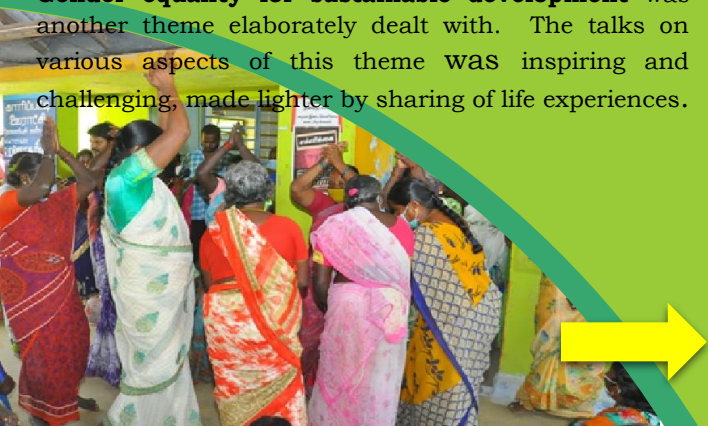


***Celebrating womanhood – a way forward to
empowering women***

As a grass-root, people-centred organisation, Good Shepherd Convent in Amaravathi (Andhra Pradesh, India) celebrated the IWD on **7th March in Krosuru and on 8th instant in Amaravathi**, some prominent personalities in the field of Social Work and some women who overcame many obstacles to become empowered and made their positive contribution in the society, were invited as guest speakers.

To begin with they watched the play: Vennila- a play on child marriage, enacted by Good Shepherd Partners in mission. The play was a prelude to the International Women's Day celebration which had given hints for brainstorming to the special invitees, speakers and participants of the day. The speakers gave vibrant and elaborate talks on different aspects of **the harmful effects of Child Marriage**. In conclusion the participants understood that harmful effects of child marriage extend well beyond the young woman to her children, family, and society as a whole. Ending child marriage and enabling girls with life skills, exercise their rights and to have the opportunity to develop all their abilities to reach their full potential and have a prosperous, healthy and full life, is the need of the hour.

Gender equality for sustainable development was another theme elaborately dealt with. The talks on various aspects of this theme WAS inspiring and challenging, made lighter by sharing of life experiences.



The International Women's Day was celebrated in a large scale across the Unit of Central East India/Nepal with the Theme of the year ***"Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"***. Through this event we were able to reach out to over 3000 women, youth and students. Varied activities were organized such as rallies, awareness sessions, orientation programs, drawing, candle light procession, sensitization on gender equality and important role of women in society through conversations and submitting of petitions.

In conclusion one could say that there is nothing higher than freedom; freedom to think good and do well, of course. Parents need to play an important role in molding the right personality among the children, especially among the girls. Hence it is a collective responsibility of all of us to promote a gender sensitive society. 'Together, everything is possible' was the mood of the participants at the end of this event.



For VENNILA, Nalangu ceremony
Nalangu is con



Good Shepherd Sisters, Garratola, 8th March'22

This day was organized by the Good Shepherd Sisters under the Economic Justice Project along with the women cooperative society. There were around two hundred participants including cooperative society members. The celebration focused on the role of the women in today's society. The theme of the International Women's Day flowed through out the program.

The celebration was marked by speech, songs and dance by women. The chief guests were CEO of Birsa block, Community leader of Good Shepherd Sisters Balaghat and other Government persons from Birsa block and Cooperative Board members.

The day's celebration began with the rally led by women around the villages with raising slogans. The speakers of the day highlighted the important role of the women in today's society and for better sustainable tomorrow, the different opportunities government is providing for the women through various schemes and how to avail these schemes also the importance of education for the children. One of the cooperative members spoke on the women empowerment. If women can think that they are better and strong, they can achieve anything in life she said. The women need to realize their strengths and march forward.

To mark this day in gratitude and encourage women to be transformers of tomorrow nine of the women were honoured for their dedication towards raising their small business to the next level.

Goa, 8th March'22

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Goa celebrated the International Women's Day on 13th March 2022 with 64 migrant women, working in the unorganized sector in Cuncolim, Salcete, Goa. The program began with lighting of the lamp to invoke the presence of God. Mrs. Rochella Solomon, the Chief guest of the day and the special invitees were welcomed by a group of women with a song and flower pots.

Sr. Monica Kujur, the Coordinator of the organization in her welcome address pointed out to the theme of International Women's Day 2022 "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow." She said that men and women are two wheels of the society and exhorted the women to take their rightful place in the society and to celebrate their womanhood.

The Chief Guest of the day in her keynote address emphasized that the role of women in the family and the society is remarkable. They play a special role in child upbringing. Among other points she encouraged the women to say no to practices and traditions which suppress women to restore God given rights and the rights enshrined by US to live a dignified life. Sr. Flora Fernandes urged the women to give due care to both girl and boy child equally and to stop discrimination between them.

It was the day set aside for the women to express themselves and to celebrate their womanhood. It was really heartwarming to see the women coming out to demonstrate their talents in the form of dances and songs on the spot.

For many migrant women it was the first celebration of International Women's Day and they were happy and grateful.

Mrs. Sunita Chawhan was honored by the Sisters for her courage to guide the Good Shepherd staff to new migrant populated areas and Mrs. Lalita Barla for her generosity and unconditional availability to respond to the distress needs of the migrants in Goa along with the sisters.

The program concluded with the national anthem. All the women and children present for the program were served snacks at the end of the celebration. All departed joyfully from the site.



Good Shepherd Sisters, Karjat, 13th March'22

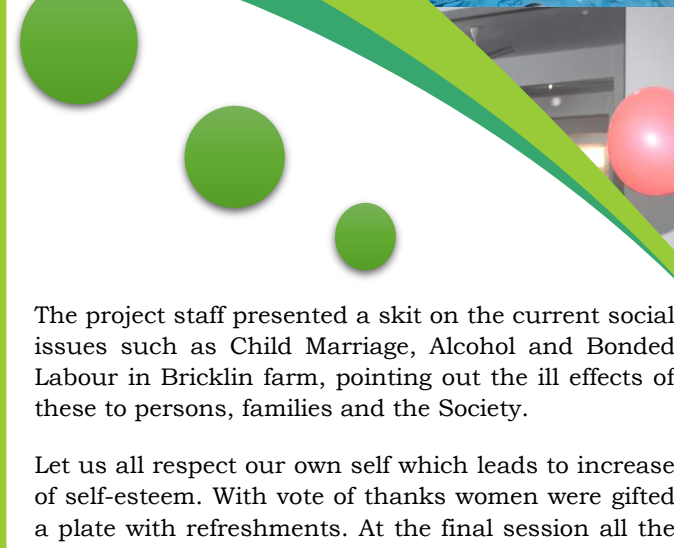
The international women's day was celebrated with 213 women from 12 villages, at Good Shepherd Convent Karjat, on 13th March 2022. The celebration began with a prayer song by the Social work staff. Thereafter the chief guests and sisters were welcomed with a plant. To signify God's presence, the Chief Guest, special invitees and women representative were invited to light the lamp

The Chief Guest for the programme, Mr. Raju Nemade, the President of Jilla Panchayat Samiti, appreciated the work carried on by the Organisation. He highlighted the important role of woman in the family, society and the whole world. He also promised support our women in promoting SHGs in Karjat Taluka. The special guest Mrs. Kadam, the High Court Advocate, promised legal assistance and expressed her readiness to train the women on legal matters.

The next speaker Mrs. Joyce, the retired teacher, encouraged the women by appreciating their performance and their self-confidence to face the crowd. She stressed the fact men and women are equals and gave her own example of working together.

Archdiocese Mr. Manish Bhalerao, Project Supervisor from Center for Social Work from of Mumbai, declared that he is for the promotion of Women's rights and all that sisters organise for their welfare.

Women from 7 villages had come decked with new sarees and ready to perform programme. It was a great day for them to celebrate womanhood. They all came dressed up gorgeously and courageously came forward to dance and sing. It was an opportunity to present the tribal cultural dance. They sang their songs and danced happily.



The project staff presented a skit on the current social issues such as Child Marriage, Alcohol and Bonded Labour in Bricklin farm, pointing out the ill effects of these to persons, families and the Society.

Let us all respect our own self which leads to increase of self-esteem. With vote of thanks women were gifted a plate with refreshments. At the final session all the women danced together to express that 'we are one and we remain united.'

Good Shepherd Convent Nagpur, 8th March'22

There were around 350 women from the locality, who participated in this celebration. The theme of this year flowed through the event. The Sisters in temporary profession set the tone for the event with the welcome dance. There were many guests to grace this occasion: Assistant Commissioner of labour department, the Municipal comparator of the area, the Parish Priest, MDO manger. Sister in charge of the domestic workers in Nagpur were among them.

Various cultural events by young professed sisters, the domestic helps from different areas, two groups of women who brought their instruments attracted the audience and guests with dance, skits, music and self-awakening songs. They proved that women are capable of many things if given an opportunity.

The invited guests motivated the women by their inspiring talks affirmed the importance of women in every walk of life (in the family, society, country and in the world). Women are irreplaceable. They need to be loved, respected, honoured and encouraged. The women were encouraged to avail of the various schemes offered by the government for the domestic helps through the labour department.



For VENNILA, Nalangu ceremony
Nalangu is con



Good Shepherd Sisters, Pallavaram, 13th March'22

International Women's Day celebration was organised to create awareness and sensitization on the theme of the year to help women to be transformers of tomorrow.

Sub Inspector of police and Project coordinator of Montfort social action Pallavaram, Chennai were the Guests of the day, who thrust upon women's contribution in making their family sustainable, healthy and life giving. We had 50 women who took active participation in the event through games, songs, raising of slogans and dance.

Women were also encouraged to join the small savings groups and support one another through the groups, in unity they can rise their voice towards gender equality, violence against women and children and for a dignified life in the society.

The women felt empowered and motivated as they returned home. Women who won in the games were awarded with prizes



Good Shepherd Sisters, Nepal 8th March'22

Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) of the Good Shepherd Sisters organized unique programmes to mark the IWD celebration in 3 different districts (Kaski, Rupandhei and in Kathmandu) of Nepal. About 600 members participated (women, students and youth).

Anti-Human trafficking project team organized a workshop on the rights of women and protection against Gender-Based Violence. Women need to break the boundaries that hinder their growth. This event enforced stakeholders and duty bearers to uphold the rights of women.

Child protection Home organized drawing competition to affirm the importance of being a girl and the opportunity to study in the growth-promoting environment. The children designed a colourful wall magazine spreading the awareness of the day. Which depicted about cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women globally.

The awareness on prevention was held at Amar Jyothi School. Sensitization session on the rights of women and ways to prevent human trafficking was conducted in the community. On the eve of the women's day celebration a candlelight procession took place to light up the lives of vulnerable and marginalized women and to uphold the dignity of women who are daily wage earners.

The Kathmandu team joined the rally organized by "Human Rights Defenders Network" to promote dignified labour for women and respect all category of labour. Slogans like "women's rights are human rights", Stop violence against women and uphold the dignity of women" were used in the rally.

Orientation on the "Working Women's Rights" and ways to ensure decent working condition of youth in the entertainment sector, was held for 20 project youths. A week-long campaign on social Media was promoted with the message of "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" Mounting of the "Photo frame" in the public where the women's day rally was carried out, it was creative and unique. It had a ripple effect in spreading the theme of the year.



Good Shepherd Sisters, Salem 8th March'22

Celebrating Cultural, Political, and Socio-Economic Achievements of Women, 212 men and women participated with the theme for the year. The impact of the event enabled women to raise their voice for the needs of their community through submitting a petition to the Panchayat President.

The program was organized by Good Shepherd Sisters and Partners-in-Mission, in Salem district in coordination with the Officials of Karipatti Village Panchayat. The Chief Guest and guests of honor extensively highlighted many important points on: Sanitation a prerequisite for healthy and dignified life, education of girl children a Key for Women Empowerment, Break the Impunity, Silence, Stigma and Shame Surrounding Violence on Women, Women are proving their Mettle in all fields, Women are mentally strong and fearless, Building Peace through Creation of Resilient Groups & Communities, and Collective voice of women matters. The Salient points of the talks were: "The United Nations explains that 'gender equality' is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. That is why in the Sustainable Development Goal 5, this has been stressed and it says that the member countries must strive to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by the year 2030.



Gender Equality is a way forward to women empowerment because it is focusing on issues faced by women across generations, with girls and young women. Gender equality can be achieved only through multipronged approaches and participation and involvement of all sects of people. *Gender Equality at Home, Gender Equality at Work Site and Gender Equality in Political Arena.*

No doubt, as conscious human beings, we want to achieve a peaceful life which can be achieved only through gender equality; let us therefore respect each other and the lost paradise will become ours."



Women come together to celebrate the International Women's Day on the theme



the Worksite Facilitator spoke about