

IMPACT2023

SPREAD LOVE EVERYWHERE YOU GO...



KAVERI KALA MANRAM

The great achievements of KKM - 2023



KKM - 'Every action has a definite outcome'

Achievement

Action	Baseline 2022	Impact - 2023
Our activities	603	993
Our journey with	37214 people	40822 people
1.1 Leprosy eradication	306 new cases.	310 New case / Discrimination rate reduces from 44% to 36% in KKM working districts.
1.2 Leprosy Association & capacity development	The capacity level of members of leprosy people association was 65%	The capacity level of members of leprosy people association increased as 72%
1.3 Mental well-being & safeguarding	The 44% level of wellbeing.	The level of wellbeing for the people KKM worked with, increased by 48%.
1.4 Health promotion training	210 people have got training out of 2258.	People who have got training Increased as 671 from 210.
2.1 Agriculture development	Monthly income 20,000/- from agriculture who are beneficiaries where KKM worked.	Monthly income increasing from 20,000/- to 31,000/- from agriculture who are beneficiaries where KKM worked.
2.2 Food for work	1202 acres cultivation	Cultivation increased as 1432 acres from 1202.
2.3 Tea plantation development	No involvement	6 families are involving in tea plantation.
2.4 Livestock development	Monthly income 8,000/- from livestock who are beneficiaries where KKM worked.	Monthly income increasing from 8000/- to 12,500/- from agriculture who are beneficiaries where KKM worked.
2.5 Creation care -Response climate change	28% people have got knowledge of climate change & adaptation in KKM working areas.	31% people have got knowledge of climate change & adaptation in KKM working areas.
2.6 Value added products	2 Products promoted from agriculture products sources.	No - Improvement
2.7 Pottery manufacturing	2 families involving in pottery manufacturing	No - Improvement but their income increased from 25,000 to 40,000.
3.1 Education empowerment	4 education empowerment projects completed in 2 Schools	16 education empowerment projects completed in 12 Schools
3.2 Educational scholarships	Average of 87% marks has been scored by 32 Students who received KKM education scholarship	Average of 89% marks has been scored by 32 Students who received KKM education scholarship
3.3 Water & Sanitation 3.4 Housing	48 projects completed & 36% knowledge has been got in water & sanitation hygienic practice.	79 projects completed & increasing 39% knowledge have been got in water & sanitation hygienic practice from 36%.
3.5 People Economy Forum		68 Women developed to be champions of the home economy development.
3.6 Traditional money saving promotion -SEEDDU	63 members involved in monthly savings.	76 members involved in monthly savings.
3.7 Menstrual hygienic promotion		180 women & men developed to be champions of menstrual hygiene promotion.
3.8 Research / Research training	1 completed	4 Researches completed
4.1 NADU/ Tree plantation for birthdays	1209 trees planted	2312 trees planted
4.2 Publications	3 book publications published	5 book publications published
4.3 Taste forums	27 taste forum completed	Increasing as 196th Taste forum
4.4 Country chicken exhibition		4 exhibitions have been held



Mrs. Shahana Inparasa
Deputy Director
Kaveri Kala Manram

Indeed, God has founded it & poured out in our heart and now we are obedient to this call.

∞∞ **We have completed 993 programs & have worked with 40822 beneficiaries. during this impact 2023 period.** ∞∞

I came to you through this Impact Newsletter - 2023 to share our Love & care, which we received from the people where we were working, among People who were affected by leprosy & poverty for the last 26 years. Kaveri Kala Manram exists, is purely God led and we are just the caretakers. This organization which was given to us is based on Isaiah 49: 16, since we are not the owners, indeed God has founded it & poured out in our heart and now we are obedient to this call.

We cannot run this mission unless; we ourselves do not have love for one another & show compassion upon others, to those who really need our support.

At the same time our aim is not just teaching people but to empower them with the abilities to have access to all the basic necessities of life enabling them to earn respect and dignity for themselves and their future generation. Kaveri Kala Manram believes, "Without environmental sustainability, economic stability and social cohesion cannot be achieved in transforming human lives". Kaveri Kala Manram works day and night to reach out to thousands of such lonely and so-called downtrodden People of our society specially people affected by leprosy backing them and giving them strength to be self-reliant and Right to Education, right to land

ownership, right to economic development, right to Health care & responsibility of the Creation Care are some of the basic rights & responsibilities which every individual of this world should be provided with, irrespective of their social status.

At the same time our aim is not just teaching people but to empower them with the abilities to have access to all the basic necessities of life enabling them to earn respect and dignity for themselves and their future generation. As the Deputy Director of Kaveri Kala Manram I strongly believe that it's our duty and responsibility to give back to the society in which we live, in return for the many things we avail from it in our day-to-day lives. Kaveri Kala Manram as an organization stems from this root belief. I and my team's quest to serve the destitute gives us the strength to work with full dedication, sincerity and honesty. We dream to see a brighter Sri Lanka with this little initiative of ours and know that our dreams will bear fruit soon as we are not alone. The backbone of Kaveri Kala Manram is its Partners, Volunteers, sponsors and all supporters and well-wishers who have helped Kaveri Kala Manram in many different ways in the last 26 years of our journey. Please go through this magazine & give your feedback. Thanks very much to you all.



Inside this IMPACT-2023



1. Health Promotion

- 1.1 Leprosy eradication
- 1.2 Leprosy Association & capacity development
- 1.3 Mental well-being & safeguarding
- 1.4 Health promotion training



2. Economy & buissness marketing development

- 2.1 Agriculture development
- 2.2 Food for work
- 2.3 Tea plantation development
- 2.4 Livestock development
- 2.5 Creation care -Response climate change
- 2.6 Value added products
- 2.7 Pottery manufacturing



3. Poverty reduction & community empowerment

- 3.1 Education empowerment
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- 3.3 Water & Sanitation
- 3.4 Housing
- 3.5 People Economy Forum
- 3.6 Traditional money saving promotion - SEEDDU
- 3.7 Menstrual hygienic promotion
- 3.8 Research training



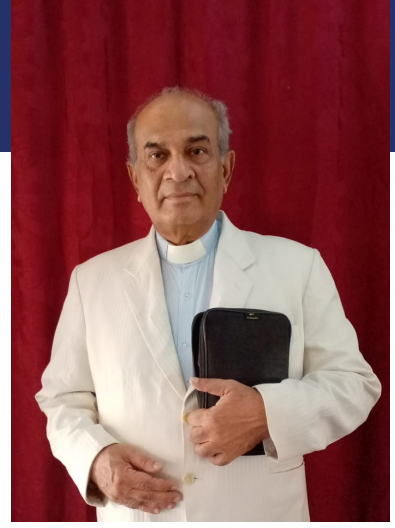
4. Art & literature

- 4.1 NADU
- 4.2 Publications
- 4.3 Taste forums
- 4.4 Country chicken exhibition
- 4.5 Art exhibitions



KKM Silver Jubilee

Pastor S. Santhanapillai
President of Kaveri Kala Manram



Warm greetings to all the Ladies and gentlemen as well as distinguished guests present over here! I would like to welcome all of you to our event and I hope you will enjoy being a part of it. Silver jubilee are the opportunities to recollect our year gone memories and to cherish them again.

Kaveri Kala Manram has now enter to 26th Year after silver Jubilee celebration now I am here to share sentiments of gratitude at the close of this jubilee celebration

Now our heart resonates with gratitude and it overflows in word thank you to God for his glorious guidance in our journey. Just as thank you seems too small to encompass the vibrations of our heart at this point in time, but could there be a bigger hearted one! So we bow our heads in gratitude to the almighty God and before each one of you who made this day a touch stone memory for us, the external grandeur of this day will slowly fade away but your thoughtfulness will be part of me forever.

25 years ago, our founder Rev Joshua & his team started on a journey set to change the future of Sri Lankan communities, and the world. Rev Joshua always mentioned that how he called by God from Church to the community for this special mission, Yes Poverty of the spiritual & poverty of physical both had forced the community to seek true liberation of lives of downtrodden people. The Key focused on that time has been taken by him to transform people affected by leprosy & needy communities in Jaffna district, but now we have seen much change in those members' communities across Sri Lanka during these 25 years.

God has brought a man with drama & a youth team to this mission. When Joshua established his mission, he had no one rupee money for this mission. He has only the skill of drama & a vision for a community which is given by God. But thousand children, youths, women, transformed their lives by this dedication & efforts. This is an act of grace of God.

"Perseverance, Patience and Commitment have been elemental to the success of Kaveri Kala Manram Today, this caravan of love, hope and services has turned 25, marking a significant milestone in a magnificent journey that started with nothing but a commitment to serve the community and the country."

It's a matter of great pride to see our Kaveri Kala Manram is growing, embracing good values of lives and achieving more than what we have ever thought of. There is a set of people whom I would want to thank on this auspicious day from the bottom of my heart. Especially our co-founders Dr Preman Jeyaratnam & Mrs Jenifer Smith, they are both wings of Rev Joshua to lead this organization & bring this high level. First of all, our present and ex- team members who have worked to help this organization to the zenith of success. I take pride in saying that we have the best and extraordinary KKM team members with equally high aspirations and dreams. They have worked against all the odds that occurred in these 25 years to make what seemed impossible, possible. Our KKM has become a shining example amongst the leading organizations in our country & World that has created a way of living with highest human values.

Greetings





KKM Goal & UN SDG – A Review

Rev. Fr. Benny SJ

At the Silver Jubilee celebration of KKM on the March, I made a guest speech on KKM’s philosophy, the purpose of its existence and its future direction as I see. Since I am a well-wisher of KKM and a longtime friend of its director father Joshua, I knew the organization for quite some years. unhesitatingly I can say that it is innovative and creative organization that branches out in many parts of Sri Lanka.

The organization celebrates people, approach the beneficiaries not as beneficiaries but as stakeholders. Above it counts the people as children of the vast universe. All human beings belong to this universe. The organization renews the communities by making effort to live on what they are convinced.

In that Silver Jubilee celebration, I mentioned that KKM will extend its service to different districts in future; will focus on environment concern making the marginalized people as Muthalalis through crops cultivation and business strategies and research. All these envisaged plans have been articulated in this newsletter.

It is inspiring that during the Jubilee year (2023), KKM has moved its activities align with United nation sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the many goals, KKM has chosen the following 6 actions that are very relevant to sir Lanka.

- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education...*
- Sustainable management of water and sanitation for all...*
- Healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages*
- Food security, improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture*

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full of productive employment environment and creation care

The actions drafted by KKM according to the above ON’s SDG are not new to them. Indeed, already they are implementing such activities. However, the SDGs have strengthened their perception in a concrete way.

For an example, under the theme ‘Education,’ KKM is entering into Plantation Community in uplifting the education status. Providing scholarship for the needy students, supporting quality preschool education also are part of the activities

I hope their long years’ experience on setting up wells to the rural famers will help them to introduce water management education as they have planned.

The leprosy eradicating mission which is main work of KKM, is setting into developing leprosy people organizations, promoting research on end leprosy transmission.

Under the food security theme, a number of activities have been planned such establishment of coconut plantation, livestock and hone garden development.

As the environment and creation care are the burning issues of today’s world, studies of climate change, awareness promotion on the said subject, native seed bank promotion and resilient crops are introduced.

As this News Letter ‘IMPACT’ brings out the success stories of the leprosy work and many other works, the new activities based on the SDGs too may bring a great impact on people and the organization.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



KKM Development Approach

Transforming Lives Beyond Barriers

In its dedicated 25-year mission to eradicate leprosy in Northern regions, Kaveri Kala Manram proudly marks its silver jubilee, a testament to unwavering commitment to health and the development of leprosy-affected individuals. Reflecting on our remarkable journey, we acknowledge that the fight against leprosy extends beyond medical interventions; it requires addressing the complicated web of social and economic barriers that ensnare the lives of those affected.

As our understanding deepened, it became evident that the vulnerable conditions of leprosy-affected individuals are often a consequence of societal stigma and related challenges. The initial stages of leprosy often force individuals into a cycle of migration, amplifying their vulnerability and trapping them in the throes of poverty. This financial struggle permeates every aspect of their lives, from accessing basic necessities to affording crucial medical care and education.

Over the past 25 years, our development approach has evolved to address the diverse needs of communities, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable impact. We assure that our projects and activities are environmentally friendly and support the sustainable developments as we adopted the key components of UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Quality Education: Our commitment to education extends beyond eradicating leprosy. Kaveri Kala Manram believes that education is the key for marginalized people. Our approach toward educational development involves providing education to children and even adults, making them lifelong learners. It is not just about providing books and pens but also traveling alongside them and helping them realize the beauty of education.

Clean Water and Sanitation: Clean water and sanitation are crucial for leprosy-affected people to fight against the disease and maintain good health. Our water and sanitation projects prioritize environmental friendliness. We ensure that zero trees are cut down during our development projects, and we consider the reduction of groundwater levels. Kaveri Kala Manram promotes community involvement in composting, using water from toilets and household waste, a practice we aim to expand in the coming years.

Good Health and Well-being: Across multiple working areas, our health-related initiatives focus on health promotion programs, increasing leprosy case detection, developing leprosy people's organizations in Sri Lanka, collaborative actions in finding hidden cases, and promoting research on ending leprosy transmission. Our sustainable goal in health and well-being is to prevent deformities by early detection, halting transmission, and ultimately eradicating leprosy.

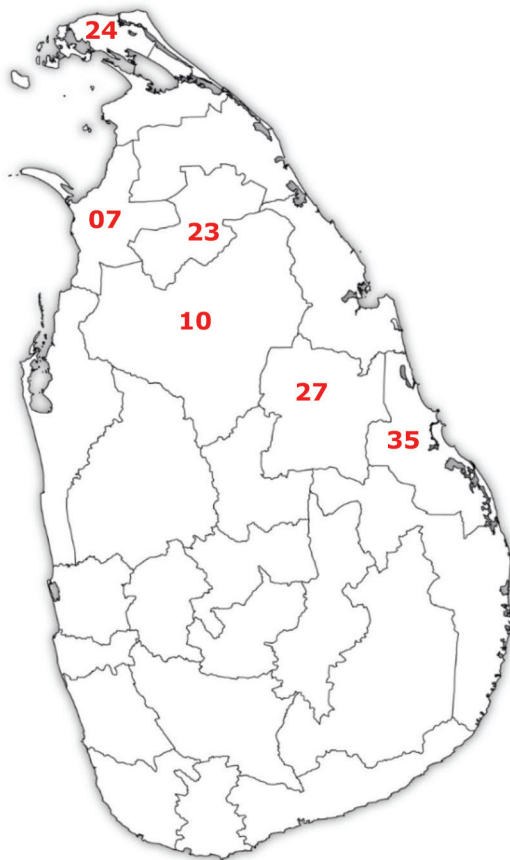
Zero Hunger: Sri Lanka is ranked 64th in the world hunger rate, indicating a severe economic crisis. Our livelihood and agricultural supports primarily aim to eradicate hunger. Our work on economic development and livelihood support focuses on abolishing hunger and poverty through sustainable agriculture and livelihood practices. We believe that focusing on climate-resilient crops, agricultural practices, seed conservation, and promoting traditional practices will bring sustainable success to the community, eliminating hunger.

Economic Growth: Investing in people is at our core. We build capacity, empower individuals for sustainable livelihoods, and foster economic growth. Livestock projects, value-added product development, and entrepreneurship initiatives actively contribute to creating small-scale work opportunities. We not only provide facilities for agriculture but also support understanding market dynamics, economic changes, and insights into the environment where people are involved. Beneficiaries of Kaveri Kala Manram become more sustainable farmers and entrepreneurs through our support.

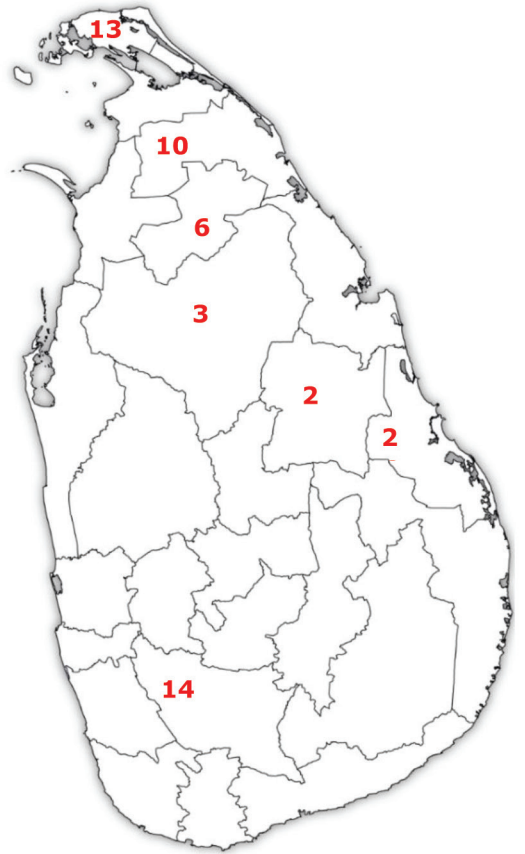
Climate Action: At Kaveri Kala Manram, we're committed to aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on climate action. Our programs integrate eco-friendly practices, promoting sustainability and mitigating environmental impact. Our green initiatives differ from typical activities. We encourage people to plant trees while celebrating the birthdays of Leprosy People's Association members. Our climate action is simple: we need to support nature to heal while giving a tree to leprosy-affected people who will use the tree as a resource for their families.

Kaveri Kala Manram's holistic approach transcends barriers, transforming lives, and contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future. As we celebrate our silver jubilee, we remain dedicated to our mission, embracing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and creating positive, lasting change in the lives of those affected by leprosy.

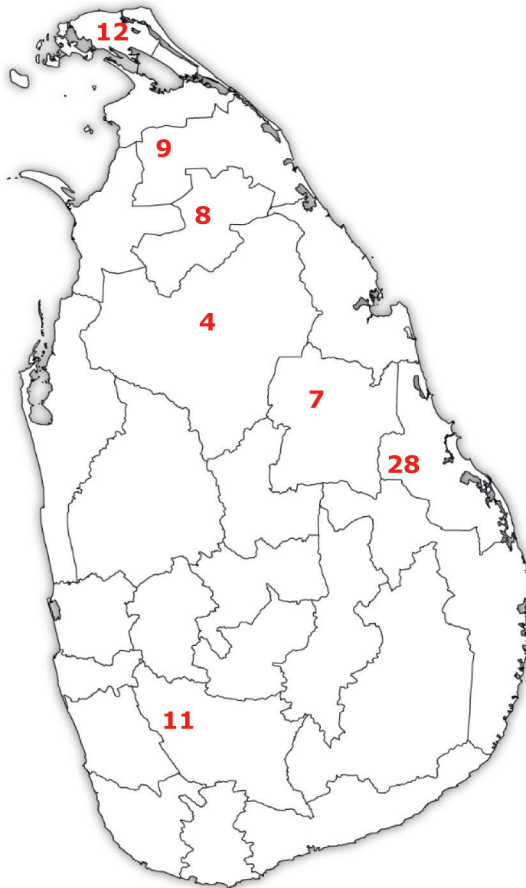
Total projects completed



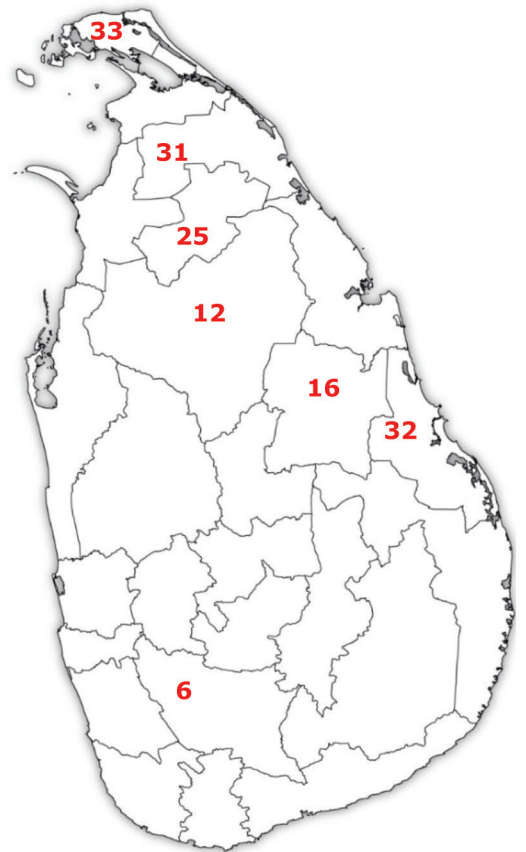
Health Mission



Education



Development Projects



Economy Development



KKM actions along with UN SDG

KKM -Theme	Action expected by UN	KKM action according to UN development goals & action.	Number of programs	Number of participants
1.Health Promotion	Aligns with SDG 3. Ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being for all at all ages.	1.1 Leprosy eradication	244	27,193
		1.2 Leprosy Association & capacity development	96	872
		1.3 Mental well-being & safeguarding	33	685
		1.4 Health promotion training	20	324
2.Economy & business marketing development	Aligns with SDG 8. Promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.	2.1 Agriculture development	35	1602
		2.2 Food for work	263	2252
	2.3 Tea plantation development	06	28	
	2.4 Livestock development	7	42	
	2.5 Creation care -Climate response	13	129	
	2.6 Value added products& business network	4	410	
	2.7 Pottery manufacturing	1	4	
3.Poverty reduction & community empowerment	Aligns with SDG 4. Ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all.	3.1 Education empowerment	50	558
		3.2 Educational scholarships	35	116
	Aligns with SDG 6. Ensures availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	3.3 Water & Sanitation	51	264
		3.4 Housing	7	35
		3.5 People Economy Forum	11	340
		3.6 Traditional money saving promotion - SEEDDU	2	25
		3.7 Menstrual hygiene promotion	18	180
4.Art & literature	Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.	4.1 NADU -Climate action response	38	984
	Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	4.2 Publications- Climate action response& peace & reconciliation.	5	286
		4.3 Taste forums – Food security	42	2290
		4.4 Country chicken exhibition -Food security	4	413
		4.5 Community wellbeing - Art exhibitions	8	1790
		TOTAL	993	40822



-Members of Leprosy Association with Director of Anti Leprosy Campaign

1. Health promotion

1.1 Leprosy eradication and community transformation

- **Projects completed - 244**
- **Total number of beneficiaries - 27,193**

KKM entering its 26th year Journey with mission of Leprosy with contextual leprosy work experience, mostly our approach in leprosy works not deal with disease centered mission rather than this mission focuses on People & Universal centered mission for transforming life of people & nature. 2023 began with hope of Sri Lanka's political & economic dream after the last two-year financial disaster. Hopefully, ray hope shines in our nation, but increasing poverty is creating a hopeless situation continually. But People affected by leprosy are shining stars amidst this darkness era in our community. Determination, hard work, commitment, self-esteem, self-sufficient attitude & behavior is now creating a new culture among the community. Now people are affected by leprosy being a seed of goodness in the community. During our reporting period, 72 persons affected by leprosy have shared their resilient economy self-sufficient experience in their community forum to strengthen the community to recover from these economic challenges. Our mission not for them, their life now mission for others. This is the impact of the TLMEW great mission.

According to Gospel John 1-5 And the light shined in the darkness. The brilliance of Christ's life and truth shine like a light into the darkness through people affected by leprosy. This word of God now proves how our mission not deal with only disease centered this people & universal centered.

Reduced vulnerability through improved agriculture and nutrition for people affected by leprosy within Jaffna, Batticaloa, Mannar and Vavuniya Districts.

Sri Lankan financial crisis increasing hopeless situation in communities with starvation, but KKM is being a sign of hope among community through it all mission, because KKM was preparing people affected by leprosy & general communities during last 15 years to live along with sustainable agriculture environment.

Therefore, there hasn't made a key barrier in our project activities in this situation, with grace of God & dedicated team support we have planned **276** activities under the three outcomes according to project outputs during reporting period. With God's guidance we have completed **299 programs** since January to June 2023 (06 months). The programs have been reached to total direct beneficiaries **966** with direct leprosy families **456**, physical & mental disability **27** & from general community **45**. Meanwhile directly & indirectly the all programs have been reached totally **24879** people in communities, such received knowledge of leprosy, to increase detection leprosy case & reduce stigma in North, North Central & Eastern province.

Cases were detected through contact survey program in Anuradhapura & Batticaloa districts from 117 new cases. People affected by leprosy 07families with 43 members of family received water & sanitation facilities under this project.

Most of the people affected by leprosy families were sharing water facilities with their neighbors. This water sharing opportunity is creating social inclusion & reducing social stigma in the community.

Impact of leprosy work in community - 01

I am Seneviratne, I am living in Polonnaruwa city area, I never heard or seen about leprosy or leprosy patients, The street plays on reflecting leprosy were demonstrated along the public market when I was there, bus terminals, hospitals and parks in Polonnaruwa was staged that drama after that program. Being the first demonstration of leprosy awareness play I was surprised at how leprosy people are treated by the community. Also, I have learned how we can easily detect leprosy. I have learned from local PHI that 6 people came forward and showed their skin during this event, then few people were identified with leprosy related symptoms and one of them was diagnosed with leprosy through that drama. I am very surprised that entertaining the public with street play and other events is another strategy to identify the symptoms of early detection of leprosy.



Impact of leprosy work in community - 02

The Batticaloa district Leprosy association work is carried out under the leadership of Mr. Mohammad. Mrs. Vasantha is the treasurer and secretary of the association. Under their guidance, members from different parts of the villages work together at least 6 to 7 events including meetings, house to house visits, and celebrations etc. Dedicated members involved in social welfare, Leprosy rehab. In 2023 and previous years the task of finding new patients



are competitive among members of the association.

So far seven patients were detected and diagnosed with Leprosy. **Mr. Shanmugam** and Mrs. Vasantha Kumari involved in special events. Mrs. Selvarani is involved with child related activities. Monthly report is submitted to Amarasinga Via the Director of the Leprosy Association Jaffna. Each month the monthly statements and accounts are recorded.

The Leprosy Association of Batticaloa district has been well-functioning for the last four months. Our members of the Association, have been very active in many community activities.

We as Leprosy Association members thank KKM and TLMEW for laying the foundation and guidance.

The Leprosy Association of Batticaloa district has been well-functioning for the last four months. Our members of the Association, have been very active in many community activities.

1. Celebrating each member's birthday, sharing our love with their families, and planting 60 coconut seedlings in their memory.
2. Working with the RDHS Office in house visits, giving awareness of leprosy to new members.
3. We are celebrating and conducting special events for Women's Day and the new year.
4. We are guiding and supporting our members in many aspects of their personal and essential needs.



Impact of leprosy work in community - 03

Ismail from Batticalo who was a member of the Leprosy Association of Batticalo district and who was initially suffering from Leprosy willingly came to the Association with an experience of his stigma and loneliness, travelling with all the other members, introduced himself in the public forum, as a dedicated member of the Association. He is a role model to the Association, today he is one of the great leading farmer, and a well-known Leprosy member who has self-confidence to give voice to the Leprosy affected community. He was honored in the 2023 National Leprosy conference. The perseverance of KKM, TLMEW and the Leprosy Association has been the driving force for Ismail's achievement and the Leprosy Association of Batticalo district.

Advocacy to the leprosy people

In the work carried out through the North Sri Lanka Leprosy Association, it is very necessary to make recommendations in the present times. Recommendations are made to those suffering from leprosy as per their needs. Supporting with their basic essential needs, and anyone with numbness or any unusual symptoms on their feet should be immediately assessed and provided with proper footwear. Especially when a deformity patient walks without proper footwear which can lead to infection, ulcer and at high risk of losing their feet. KKM staff monitors and make sure for those who are protected are given a monthly allowance of Rs.5,000 by the Government.

Chinnapillai is an elderly lady living in our community, who has suffered from leprosy leg ulcer due to walking without footwear, is now very happy that the proper footwear has been provided to her and she is happily taking care of herself and able to lead and support her family.



Leprosy people transformed as Champions

The work done among the leprosy patients through Kaveri Kala Manram is significantly appreciated. Creating champions among the leprosy affected community, hosting leprosy related activities and programmes inspiring leprosy affected people to come forward to share their **no fear of leprosy** experiences, which is a powerful tool of identifying leprosy potential and new patients. If a leprosy affected person can share their courage experiences of overcoming leprosy, will inspire and motivate any one hiding any potential symptoms related leprosy will seek medical treatment immediately to prevent deformity.

Kanagarasa is one of our courageous role model leprosy champions in the community. Always relating his fearless spirit of leprosy, has inspired many patients in the community, guided and supported them for early medical treatment and prevented from deformity. Many champion members of People Forum for Change like Kanagarasa have been the leaders in the community working towards to zero Leprosy free country.





1.2 Leprosy People Association & Capacity development

Who We Are? A diagnosis of leprosy in a family can mean the loss of work, divorce or the end of marriage prospects, even for distant relatives. Therefore, those labeled as “having leprosy” are often sent away and denied a family role, in case the whole family is negatively affected. The entire (village) community considers that leprosy-affected people are a burden. Thus, leprosy stigma determines attitudes and actions that affect whole communities, not just the individual. It therefore breaks down the dignity, confidence and economic wellbeing of thousands in Sri Lanka, by damaging the aspirations and opportunities of those directly and indirectly affected by the disease.

Our Goals

Development of the People’s Forum for Change into an effective leprosy people’s organization supporting, empowering, and advocating for the rights of people affected by leprosy.

Our Objectives

1. Strengthened capacity of The People’s Forum for Change and the leprosy affected people who constitute its members.
2. Societal inclusion through addressing all forms of discrimination and stigma.
3. People’s forum for change dedicate to eradicates leprosy stigma and discrimination in Sri Lanka.

Stigma

Stigma is a social process characterized by labeling, stereotyping, exclusion, rejection, fear, blame, devaluation and dismissal. Stigma in leprosy results in denial of equity, social justice and human rights. It is one of the major barriers to early case finding and treatment, often resulting in social and economic dislocation. Women and children are threatened even more by stigma and discrimination necessitating a special focus on their situation.

Overcoming and eliminating stigma as individuals and as a society is a critical step to full integration and participation of persons affected by leprosy and their family members into the mainstream of the community. It is important for both the person affected by leprosy and the community to have positive examples and to create a new frame of reference that replaces outdated beliefs and traditions.

Progress in Stigma reduction

In the heartlands of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, and Anuradhapura, Kaveri Kala Manram has tirelessly worked since 2015 to reduce the deep-seated stigma surrounding leprosy. Our surveys reflect a remarkable journey, showcasing a consistent reduction in societal misconceptions.

District	2015	2016	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jaffna	38.89	29.89	20.93	20.75	20.64	18.18
Vavuniya	-	-	22.51	21.46	18.54	17.54
Batticaloa	-	-	39.44	35.22	32.09	24.72
Anurathpura	-	-	-	27.33	21.00	20.08

The numbers tell a story of triumph over prejudice. In Jaffna, stigma has plummeted from 38.89% in 2015 to a heartening 18.18% in 2022. Similarly, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, and Anuradhapura have witnessed significant declines, fostering a more accepting and understanding environment.

In the later stages of our work in Anuradhapura, we observed remarkable progress in reducing leprosy stigma. Starting from an initial awareness level, the district has seen a substantial reduction, from 27.33% in 2020 to an encouraging 20.08% in 2022. This positive trend underscores the effectiveness of our targeted interventions and community engagement efforts in fostering understanding and acceptance. The journey in Anuradhapura reaffirms our belief in the transformative power of education and compassion.



Capacity development

In a transformative initiative, our organization has empowered a community of 333 members affected by leprosy, named "Leprosy People Association". Through comprehensive capacity development training, 140 individuals underwent specialized programs that significantly enhanced their skills and performance. 80 members of those 140 were received specialized training and we did a meticulous assessment, combining targeted training and questionnaires, revealed remarkable progress in their abilities.

The impact extended beyond skill enhancement, fostering a newfound confidence and openness among participants. Previously reserved individuals with low self-esteem now freely share their experiences, actively addressing personal challenges. Notably, literacy levels increased as a direct result of the training, enabling many to read, write, and even sign their own names—a monumental shift for those overcoming the stigma associated with leprosy.

This positive transformation positions numerous members as potential resources, capable of sharing their inspiring stories with others facing social discrimination and self-stigma. By breaking down barriers, our efforts have empowered these individuals to recognize and leverage their abilities, fostering a more inclusive and understanding community. Through this initiative, we've not only changed lives but also illuminated the path toward greater self-awareness and societal acceptance.





1.3 Mental well-being & safeguarding

Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in. Mental health is a basic human right. And it is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development. Especially people who living with leprosy has a negative effect on mental health in Sri Lanka. According to our past experience physical symptoms and the pain they can cause, the limitations caused by disability and the prejudice that is so often experienced can impact in a negative way upon thoughts and feelings. The impact of the social stigma creating challenges, losing a job or being denied the opportunity for marriage can result in anxiety, or in feeling lonely or fearful about the future. Therefore, Kaveri Kala Manram take key attention to improve the inner wellbeing of persons affected by leprosy. In 2022-2023 in terms of well-being Kaveri Kala Manram has been very actively working with people affected by Leprosy for the last 26 years, providing compassionate love, care, counselling and supporting with individual emotional, psychological and social needs and taking care of their health and well-being.

Working with people affected by leprosy is a courage's task from social point of view facing challenges, such as fear of leprosy transmission and other risks in life. KKM has a very friendly team of staff, where staff can trust, reveal and overcome of managing their worries and problems for healthy well-being lifestyle.

The efforts of this journey are immense, the commitment and responsibility taken by staff to carry out their work successfully, hosting variety of interactive programmes in the leprosy community, motivating every one and connecting with others to help them feel close to people, and valued who they are and maintain a positive mental health and well - being.

After identifying a person with leprosy, guiding for treatment, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities, nutritious food packs, continuously monitoring their well-being. KKM staff conducting verities of workshops and training to the leprosy community by engaging everyone from children to adults and elderly inspiring and promoting their healthy lifestyle, giving meaning to look pass the disease and see the person. Reinforcing to break and ignore the stigma to live a normal life.

Moreover, we are living a fast-paced environment with constant feeling of being overwhelming stress, pressure, and burned-out anxiety lifestyle. Therefore, we need to take up our work agendas accordingly. KKM will take up number of action plans in collaboration with the experts on health and well-being, strengthen the well-being of the workplace and conduct workshops on the health and well-being of community level of churches, recreation centres, schools, tuition centres and other.

Our inner wellbeing objectives for 22-23

- 1- Encourage, at home, community and Churches levels, ongoing discussion amongst all members of the community about wellbeing and holistic care.
- 2- Invite groups of people affected by leprosy to share openly with their ideas about how their wellbeing could be improved.
- 3- Encourage KKM staff in all departments and areas of work to be aware of the benefits of supportive listening, and to make time in all their interactions for such listening.
- 4- Identify appropriate people affected by leprosy in each district and project to receive training in listening, so that they can offer "peer support."
- 5- Encourage, in all Kaveri Kala Manram activities and community work, what is already being done that has a specific focus on inner wellbeing

WE HAVE BIG PLANS TO GROW A WELL-BEING SOCIETY IN THE NEAR FUTURE



Safeguarding culture and commitment of Kaveri Kala Manram 2023

Safeguarding

We initially started our Safeguarding community just 4 years ago to support the positive Safeguarding culture that we all strive for and it was our vision to create a safe place for all to live.

Our key priority is to ensure we have strong Safeguarding policies and procedures in place and our duty of care is exercised, and everyone is entitled to live their lives free from harm, abuse and neglect (regardless of age, gender, religion or ethnicity). Achieving a remarkable Safeguarding culture is important and fostered by our organisation by promoting a culture of openness and understanding, and by creating a safe environment in which everyone is valued.

Our staff have worked diligently, especially with the Leprosy community in preventing and protecting them from harm, abuse and neglect, by ensuring they are able to recognise, respond and report any potential incidents or misconduct via an emergency communication line, which is available 24 hours a day.

Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic and multi-faith country, where many people in the community are unfamiliar with the terms of Safeguarding and we have translated the TLMEW Safeguarding guidelines and instructions into different languages to promote community understanding.

We have taken community-based Safeguarding to new levels in remote villages through interactive Safeguarding activities. For example, we have educated the community on how to protect their livestock from animal predators and focused on Safeguarding nature to promote a healthy livelihood.

We seek to understand and model best practice in global standards for Safeguarding. Our Safeguarding policies are reviewed regularly and approved by our Board of Committee members each year.

In 2023, we have taken a community-based approach in relation to Safeguarding, focusing on the community at large and we will continue this journey with dedication and respect.

Some of our key values include:

Empowering: Supporting and encouraging people to make their own decisions and informed consent, as well as building a relationship of freedom and trust to share their Safeguarding concerns.

Preventing: Ensuring safety is built into all activities and services, including the reduction and management of risk.

Respecting: In respecting the community's culture of freedom regarding gender, KKM has allocated a male and a female staff member to be present in all Safeguarding activities.

Protecting: Maintaining confidentiality to protect the dignity of the individuals concerned.

Accountability and Transparency: The creation of the culture environment in which staff, representatives, beneficiaries, children and vulnerable adults are valued, listened to and feel safe to raise their concerns. In addition, ensuring that any Safeguarding concerns are reported and dealt with immediately and appropriately.

Our activities on Safeguarding

1. As outlined in the Code of Conduct KKM upholds the value of justice and maintaining a high standard.
2. The Value and standards of Code of Conduct policies were reviewed and refreshed by all the KKM staff in the beginning of the year as a part of their working contract.
3. Maintaining a mandatory standard for new staff, visitors, representatives and any one on board to sign a Code of Conduct policies on arrival.
4. Placing a suggestion and reporting box in few churches and in our work, place regards to SG issues and concerns.
5. Encouraging the community to open up to freedom to share their problems anonymously or personally.
6. KKM ensures people safety comes first. Especially vulnerable adults, young kids, any one on board, staff and representatives.
7. Maintaining safe reporting and responding in a timely Appropriate manner.
8. Safe feedback and complaint's mechanism is in place and effective. As outlined in the risk assessment KKM strives to foster healthy workplace, create and maintain protective environments for vulnerable adults and children. Conduct risk assessment prior to the project.
9. As outlined in the risk assessment KKM strives to foster healthy workplace, create and maintain protective environments for vulnerable adults and children. Conduct risk assessment prior to the project.
10. In remote parts of Sri Lanka, we currently do not undertake fundraising activities due to the political landscape of the country and under resourcing of our KKM team.
11. Working with partners & suppliers' safety measures are in place and maintained.
12. KKM staff have the responsibility to safeguard children's vulnerable adults in all aspects of our work regardless of their role or position from harm and abuse with an understanding that all individuals have the right to be safe and respected with dignity.
13. Quarterly S.G. report will be presented to the board of Committee Members for approval By Nirosha representative of KKM.
14. In coming months Staff will be focusing on delivering awareness to the new beneficiaries and strengthen the importance of Code of Conduct.
15. Workshops relating to all SG concerns for Churches and specially, women's group in villages to their level of understanding have been listed in our next month's activity list.
16. Staff to recap Code of Conduct policies Quarterly.
17. The TLM Church SG Check list has been translated in Tamil to help the level of members understanding and been delivered to the responsible member.
18. Ongoing support and encourage beneficiaries for further improvement on complaints mechanism.
19. Ongoing training on Identifying likely hood risk and preventing harm and abuse to beneficiaries. Staff to review policies and assessments and update when necessary.
20. Continue workshops on awareness of safe use of images with any one on board from any organization to beneficiaries.
21. Quarterly mandatory staff meeting to discuss issues and talk through ideas and solutions.
22. Staff to revise and refresh the safely working with partners policies.
23. Quarterly S.G refreshing training for staff, updating if necessary.





1.4 Research training —

The Kaveri Kala Manram Research initiation was established to encourage local researchers through small scale funding opportunities. This initiation focuses on creating action to give solutions to current problems & helping the recognition of the importance of the current socio-economic circumstances, Health & Climate response –Creation care problems & creating solutions. The vision and mission of KKM emphasized that the research has a core element and priority area since it contributes for the Environment, Health, social and economic development of the region as well as the nation and also provides a status of quality of the high standard with action oriented among community.

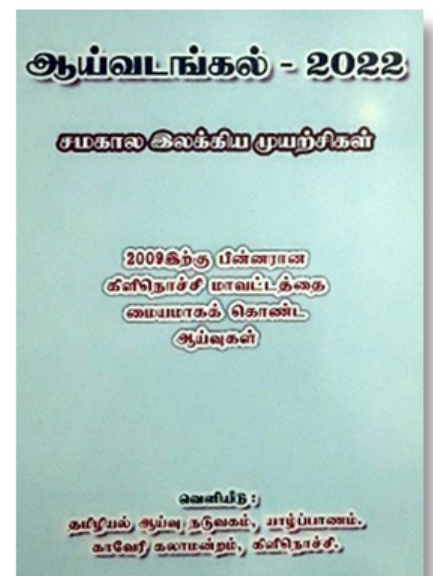
2022 & 2023 action oriented research promotion work & Research trainings

Research Initiation:

1. A participatory arts application of Playback theatre to transitional justice in Sri Lanka.
2. Can we neglect leprosy in Batticaloa district?
3. Leprosy case detection: an experience in Batticaloa district
4. Leprosy patients' relatives' attitude towards leprosy in Batticaloa district
5. Knowledge and associated factors among relatives of leprosy patients' in Batticaloa district.

Two research conferences were held in 2023 in Kilinochchi & Batticaloa:

1. Current Tamil literature in Vanni & community sustainable development
2. Importance of Leprosy research in Sri Lanka.





2. Economy & Business Marketing Development

2.1 Agriculture

- Completed projects -35
- Total number of beneficiaries -1602

KKM Sustainable economy development through agriculture empowerment & Food Security

Kaveri Kala Manram sees food security as an outcome of programs that integrate all of the sectors in which we work. We pursue food security as a crosscutting goal, dependent on healthy ecological systems in our Sri Lanka context, good governance, social empowerment, sound health, pro-poor market systems, and peace and stability. Food security emerges where these areas converge: when conditions allow people to consider their long-term interests in addition to their immediate needs when making choices about behaviors affecting their productivity and wellbeing. For example, pro-poor market systems can supply nutritious foods at affordable prices, but an additional focus on gender and empowerment can ensure

women are able to buy them. Similarly, effective governance of ecological systems can ensure the natural resource base promotes sustainable and reliable agricultural production. Significant progress toward food security is only possible when systems and local capacities interact in an optimal way to overcome myriad disrupting influences.

In order to strengthen the food security where KKM works in 2022 -2023 among people affected by leprosy through KKM Immediate food Security for Hunger Reduction through sustainable agriculture development which aims to improve the immediate food security of about 744 poor and vulnerable people adversely affected by leprosy & general disability families. Specially some villages selected affected by food shortage in Jaffna, Batticalola, Anurathapura, Ratnapura, Vauvuniya, Kilinochchi & Mannar districts.

Through this aim; save lives 744 vulnerable families of the people affected by leprosy & general disability & develop 744 small scale farming for self & community food protection in project areas.



Increasing Pearl Millet production in Jaffna

Kaveri Kala Manram has been involving in multiple agricultural activities through Food for work. One of the significant questions is how do we do these activities? We are using multiple activities and new methods in each project. Pearl Millet is a traditional food that is one of the foods belong to the Kurakkan crop family. Pearl millet contains much more rich nutrients that can increase the immunity in our body. By forgetting this traditional food, we are slowly moving into the fast-food culture.

During the economic crisis Kaveri Kala Manram provided 100 grams of pearl millet to the people in Jaffna district by giving them the necessary training to harvest it. With the direct observation of KKM one of our trained beneficiaries harvested more than 30kg pearl millet. Kaveri Kala Manram look at this huge success as the revolution in the traditional agriculture.

Another significant moment for KKM is that we were able to share the pearl millets seeds to more than 40 farmers across the northern region and expanded the cultivation of pear millet in 127 perch's land.

Due to this initiative, the demand for peal millet seeds is increasing today and we are providing training and opportunities to the farmers to improve new products by adopting competitive methods as a project effort to increase the production of pearl millet.

There are 10 participants in a group of three groups participating in competitions.



"It is a pleasure to participate enthusiastically and enthusiastically" said one of our beneficiaries. Through this project, the aim is to increase pearl millet production in 1000 areas in Jaffna district so that healthy food can reach our people. That's the truth We are also conducting events to honor the pearl millet producers to increase the production of bajra among the farmers. The farmer is truly admired, especially the farmers who set an example of the perishable agricultural activities and deserve to be respected and admired, spending the income from the production on the education of their children. These farmers do not need to spend more investment on pearl millet production.

Some of the benefits of seeding pearl millet doesn't need more water as compared to paddy and another agriculture. No fertilizers or chemical fertilizers are required. There is no need to pluck the grass. A crop species that can grow in harmony with nature on its own. The Yaalpaadi team is successfully implementing the project and expect people to become specialist in the production of pearl millet is one of our huge goals.

Agricultural success beyond education

I am Lokesh, a passionate farmer from Union Kulam Kilinochchi, I've chosen a different journey despite my academic success. Opting for entrepreneurship, I've become a source of inspiration in my community.

My involvement in various agricultural activities, such as peanuts and jumbo peanuts, has found favor in the Kilinochchi market. Venturing into passion fruit cultivation, I've secured partnerships with major juice companies.

What sets my farming apart is the commitment to sustainability. Thanks to KKM's support, I've embraced carbon-neutral agriculture and sustainable farming. Participating in their

workshops, I've learned to produce organic fertilizers and implement water conservation methods, transforming my farm into a thriving, eco-friendly space.

I'm proud to have crafted my own organic fertilizers using natural resources, witnessing the health and abundance of my crops. Grateful for KKM's ongoing support, I now share my eco-friendly farming knowledge with fellow farmers, motivating them to adopt sustainable practices.

KKM has played a crucial role in fostering a community of environmentally conscious and successful farmers, and for that, I extend my heartfelt thanks.





2.2 Food for work

- **Projects completed –263**
- **Total number of beneficiaries –2252**

I am Ismail living with my family in Batticaloa, even though I am a physically disable person, I love gardening and managing my own home garden. Gardening reduces stress and keeps me fit. It's a blessing to have water facility and land space around my home and supporting my family to live a basic healthy life. My commitment and dedication towards gardening made Kaveri Kala Manram giving me an opportunity to be a part of their Food for Work project. Giving me the awareness of the program me and training me on environmentally friendly gardening, strengthening, inspiring me to become a successful gardener and to take part in agricultural activities. During the economic crisis in our country mostly the vulnerable society and low-income earning families were deeply affected, mentally worrying the well-being of their future. Unable to buy the basic essentials, trying to adjust and accommodate the changes was a struggle; regardless I was determined to continued my gardening. Today my families have enough food and still have enough produce left to make an income. My dream and a promising approach are to be an agricultural entrepreneur and help my community. I am ever ready to train, encourage planting vegetables at home and sharing the vital health benefits with neighbors. I am thankful to KKM for all their dedicated time and support during the time of crisis.

I am Rahini living in Santhiveeli in Batticaloa with my husband and two children. Struggling to manage our life with daily income was hard enough. Facing the economic crisis, we were unable to buy our basic essentials and watching the significant impact in the well-being of lower income community was a threat and I was looking for any support and help to move forward. KKM walked into my life-giving positive hope and a valuable awareness of their project Food for Work. Providing emergency dry food packets for four months, encouraging and motivating us to do home gardening for a sustainable living. Training on ecofriendly gardening and the secrete of being a successful Gardner. Since then, my family became committed gardeners. Watching our plants grow and producing vegetables and fruits and harvesting was a joyful feeling of vitality and boosting our well-being. From earning an income of Rs 1500 a month before the crisis and today our monthly income has generated to Rs 5000. I share my garden ideas, inspiring the neighbors and the community even in small space around their home to grow vegetables for healthy living. On behalf of my family, I thank KKM for all their generous community support during the times of crisis and guiding us with the strategies of survival under any crisis.





2.3 Tea plantation

200 tea plantations by 2024

The most important of the activities of the Kaveri Kala Manram for the year 2024 is to aim at developing 200 new tea estates. Accordingly, this project is being implemented with the objective of selecting the children in each school and enhancing their family livelihood. In particular, the children are still in the Line houses and their parents who have bought **an acre** of land for themselves with the money they earned working in the estates. Our aim is to encourage them to grow export crops such as tea, coffee, and spices to become small scale entrepreneurs which will motivate, empower and transform the other people in the estate to buy land grow the export crops and become small plantation owners. By the end of 2024, nearly 200 families would have created their own estates on the land owned by themselves. Each member would have planted at least 1,500 tea plants and by the end of 2024, 30,000 tea plants would have been cultivated.

In order to improve the level of activities and education in the selected schools, Kaveri Kala Manram has introduced a number of volunteers during this year and initiated activities to carry forward the educational and development

activities of the schools from 2023 onwards. Accordingly, Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Mr. Sivantha, Mrs. Nalini, Mr. Thiruthanigainathan, and The Rotary Society of Kilinochchi town are in operation. In particular, their activities will carry out a number of activities in the year 2024 such as education, school development and livelihood enhancement of the children.

Initially we have started the project with 5 families by providing them 50 tea trees for each. Our aim is to make them entrepreneurs in their own land where they have been treated unfairly for long time. Here one of our beneficiaries sharing their story for the KKM newsletter.

I am Ramu Arulraj, residing with my family in the estate-line house numbered 26, located in Karapincha tea estate, Ratnapura. My foundational education was acquired at St. Joakim Tamil Maha Vidyalaya, Ratnapura. In 2015, I acquired a 1-hectare and 36-perch plot, investing approximately 14 million rupees. Despite initial challenges, I now own a piece of land dedicated to tea plantation. This property not only brings me joy but also serves as the foundation for a business to support my family. I am optimistic that my small-scale tea plantation venture will thrive and evolve into a larger enterprise in the future.





2.4 Livestock

- **Projects completed – 7**
- **Total number of beneficiaries – 42**

In the intricate dance of sustainable agriculture and community well-being, livestock emerge as steadfast partners, contributing not just as animals but as life-nurturing assets. At Kaveri Kala Manram, we recognize the profound impact that livestock can have on livelihoods and societal resilience. Livestock, whether in the form of poultry, cattle, or other animals, represents more than just agricultural commodities — they embody a source of nutrition, income, and empowerment. Through initiatives and training,

we empower communities to optimize their livestock resources, fostering a harmonious relationship between humans and animals that not only sustains lives but also strengthens the fabric of our shared future.

One of our beneficiaries Thayalini, a housewife from Visvamadu, Kilinochchi, transformed her life with KKM's livestock support. Starting with a handful of country chickens, she expanded her small venture with hens, cows, and other animals, significantly boosting her income. This newfound stability allows her to provide for her two children, ensuring their needs are met. Thayalini's success story showcases the transformative impact of livestock support, turning humble beginnings into a sustainable livelihood for her family.



2.5 Creation care & Climate Response

- **Projects completed – 13**
- **Total number of beneficiaries – 129**

Climate change has brought significant challenges to communities across the Sri Lanka and will only become more disruptive in the coming decades, adversely impacting human health, agriculture and food security, water supply, transportation, energy, ecosystems, and more. As weather patterns continue to change in Sri Lanka, vulnerable communities are the most affected in rural villages in Sri Lanka. For many who rely on their own food production to survive, even small changes in weather can have a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods amidst of Sri Lankan financial crisis.

Kaveri Kala Manram, through our climate action work, is committed to carrying forward climate change mitigation and adaptation activities across KKM's programs.

Kaveri Kala Manram brings a forward-thinking, proactive approach to climate action. Our work includes a range of adaptation and mitigation activities that empower Sri Lankan communities' ability to prepare for, recover from and adjust to the impacts of climate change without compromising long-term prospects. Our climate action work addresses the urgent, cross-cutting nature of climate change by combining innovative solutions with traditional knowledge to build resilient communities.

Kaveri Kala Manram partners with local communities, Churches, YMCA, public and private sector groups, universities, and others to mitigate and adapt to climate change by supporting communities as they.

The impacts of climate change are considered across all our programs, however, our unique approach to climate action specifically targets vulnerable groups, including women and children, by integrating climate adaptation in food production and disaster risk reduction to avoid costly losses due to extreme weather events. To mitigate the potential negative environmental impact of our development efforts, we are also increasingly adopting "green" approaches, including conservation agriculture to preserve and enrich soil, utilization of combined energy efficient stoves and tree planting initiatives to stem deforestation and exploring opportunities for carbon sequestration within our programs.

- **Diversify agricultural production and promote biodiversity preservation and food security**
- **Utilize principles of Holistic Management and Regenerative Agriculture**
- **Safeguard natural resources through communal management and efficient use through taste forum events.**
- **Build community-centered approaches to addressing unique vulnerabilities and mitigation opportunities**
- **Establishing natural seed banks in village level**



KKM Action - Impacts of Climate Change on Food & ensuring water Security.

Climate change can have a dramatic, negative effect on food security, water security, and livelihoods, leaving the world's poorest at risk — particularly women and children. The disruptions resulting from cyclical droughts and floods directly impact food production, changes in purchasing power, market flows, and community health. Changes in average temperatures, rainfall, and climate extremes threaten to negatively affect crop production and livestock health.

Smallholder farmers and pastoralists in KKM working areas are especially vulnerable as their traditional knowledge and production systems struggle to keep pace with rapidly changing climatic threats. These agriculture-based livelihood systems, which are already under pressure to provide adequate food for poor families in villages & urban areas too, face immediate risk of increased crop failure, new patterns of pest infestation, loss of biodiversity, and limited availability of seeds and planting materials adapted for new climate conditions. Their livestock productivity and mortality risk has increased due to inadequate access to water and reduced pasture and rangeland that supports grazing and healthy herds. These stressors make understanding and implementing environmentally friendly and nutritionally targeted agriculture practices even more important than ever before.

KKM – Current activities on Creation Care

- 1 Conservation agriculture
- 2 Introduction of climate-adapted crops
- 3 Production of nutritionally dense vegetables and fruits
- 4 Improved production of poultry & goats, as well as livestock grazing systems

Some of our Activities - Climate Change on food and water security

1. Select Climate Resilient Crops and Identify climate smart agricultural practices
2. Livelihood -Diversification and ensuring new livelihood are climate resilient
3. Community-based disaster management training
4. Seed Bank development
5. Consider safeguarding in disaster or climate stress situation
6. Community awareness including religious leaders on climate change
7. Improve coordination between different stakeholders (climate, DRR, leprosy, etc.)
8. Consider safeguarding in disaster or climate stress situation





2.6 Value added product & Business Network —

Value-added products play a pivotal role in elevating communities by transforming raw materials into goods with enhanced worth. In the context of Kaveri Kala Manram and the places where we work, educate and create awareness to the people to produce value added products using their raw produces. We believe that the values added products can create many more market opportunities to the people and support economically to grow faster.

We support the people to try new ventures using the thing and plants and resource they get from their household and home garden we encourage the people to develop new ideas and sell them with the good price. Many of our beneficiaries are really working hard and smart to develop their own businesses. To become an entrepreneur. All they need is just a boot and a small amount of capital for starting the work.

There are hundreds of healthy leaves around Sri Lanka which are being unutilized for long time. More than the fruits and hybrid vegetables, the locally available leaves are more nutritious and healthier. Since there are considered to be the food of poor and become unfamiliar to the public. If taking the leafy vegetable as they are is the issue then we can turn them into a value-added product which can attract many people.

Our children are more attracted to the fast food and instant food culture. As our taste forum involves in promoting the traditional cuisine, and these types of value-added products are need to be promoted among the young people.





In rural villages, a wealth of creativity thrives among local artisans, producing remarkable products. However, limited access often hinders them from reaching wider markets. Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) addresses this through its transformative Business Network program, bridging the gap between village artisans and the market.

Lack of licenses has been a barrier for local manufacturers, hindering their products from reaching larger audiences. KKM resolves this by organizing exhibitions, providing a platform for local producers to showcase their talents. This not only creates visibility but also opens doors for these individuals to step into the spotlight.

KKM's support has led to a steady growth among these hidden talents. The primary goal is to unveil the potential of local producers, bringing their unique offerings to the public.

Excitement surrounds this initiative, with the public eagerly supporting the diverse array of products showcased by local entrepreneurs. Another objective is to connect these talents with established businesses, transforming them into contributors to the broader business landscape.

Success stories are emerging, with entrepreneurs obtaining licenses and expanding their businesses. What was once hidden in rural villages is now finding its way into the mainstream market.

As KKM continues to champion this cause, we anticipate a resurgence of great ideas and products concealed in local villages. This initiative is a catalyst for economic growth, empowerment, and the celebration of the rich skills embedded in our rural communities.



2.7 A success story beyond Agriculture

I am Mathusha, diagnosed with a terrible disease leprosy at the age of 11 years of age in 2019, living in a remote village in Chengaladi Batticaloa with my mother and my brother. My father abandoned my mother and us leaving nothing for survival, which was very emotional, distressful, cultural ashamed, and inadequate which was traumatizing. My mother was struggling to support us with a single parent income, where we were able to have one staple food for the day.

My mother and I noticed white patches on my face and arms and mistook for skin pigments. Gradually the patches were getting bigger and embarrassing. At this stage my school friends were making fun of me, bullying and abusing me.



When I was diagnosed with leprosy, no one knew I had it. I was on stronger treatment which I hated and neglected. I refused to go to school or mix with any of the neighbourhood children. I was very stubborn, anxious, frightened, and suffered in silence of losing my friends and my future. Not knowing the awareness of the terrible disease leprosy dragged me in to nightmare.

My mother consulted the local PHI and KKM team. They educating the awareness of leprosy, encouraged and inspired me to continue the medication, and their prayers and compassion made all the difference in my shattered life, learning to look pass the disease and see the person. The PHI educating a clear awareness of leprosy to the school children and the teachers and to break the barriers of stigma and discrimination among children. I was welcomed to school by all my friends, sharing my experiences of leprosy. I finished my grade 5 exam with flying colors scoring 90/. In most of the subjects.



I, Mathusha, will be chasing my dreams of becoming a Medical Doctor, help out the children affected by leprosy remaining invisible, forgotten and de humanized in my community.





Stadium construction

3. Poverty reduction & community empowerment

3.1 Education

Upcountry underserved schools (Rathnapura District)

KKM – Kurinji Malar Project

It is a well-known fact that the projects of Kaveri Kala Manram are being implemented in the North and East. This year, 10 schools have been selected in the hilly areas as a new programme. Accordingly, this programme has been coordinated and renamed as Kurinji Malar and Kaveri Kala Manram is taking up a project to enhance the development of these 10 schools and to enhance the academic knowledge of the children

Background of schools

The 10 schools notified of Rathnapura and Kegalle districts are located in the middle of the rubber estate and the tea estate. Introduced in Sri Lanka during the British period, Tamil people were brought from South India for work for cultivation of this plantation and they were given a stable in each of the hamlets and given jobs in place of it. In order to carry forward the educational process of our children, our Tamil educated activists have set up small sheds in every place and educated the children. Near these schools, there is a layam, a residence of plantation workers. Many academics have been produced who have carried on their education from the rhythm over the generations. It is noteworthy.

Educational development and school developments

In order to enhance the learning process of the children studying in these schools, learning materials and workshops were provided for the children in grades 5, 11 and 12 have been conducted to bring about a change in the results of the children. In particular, with a view to improving the modern technical knowledge of the children, 6 selected schools out of the 10 schools have been provided with skill classrooms and KKM has successfully accomplished the goal for this year with

following projects:

06 New Smart boards were installed with renovation and creating a safe learning classroom for 6 schools.

02 School Libraries,

01 Sports stadium,

02 clean drinking water and tanks for schools.

01 House for an underprivileged family.

O/L & A/L workshops and seminars were conducted to enhance the academic performance of the teachers. This year, Kaveri Kala Manram has also organized an initiative to develop tea estates with a view to improving the livelihood of the families of the children.

3.2 Educational scholarships

KKM's dedication to education is strong, marked by the initiation of several education-related projects this year. Additionally, we have steadfastly supported numerous schools, preschools, and higher education students in the past. Over the years, many recipients of our scholarship fund have successfully completed their primary and secondary education, becoming eligible to pursue higher studies at state universities. Notably, a significant number of state university students now benefit from our educational scholarships.

Our commitment extends beyond financial assistance; we provide students with essential resources such as cycles, proper clothing, and exercise books. This holistic approach ensures that students can focus on their education without the burden of practical challenges.

In the current year, we have launched several new education projects with the generous support of our donors. KKM firmly believes that education serves as the initial key to breaking the so-called stigma, poverty, and various economic barriers, ultimately transforming the lives of oppressed and marginalized communities.

Here is the story that exemplifies the impact of our educational initiatives. A higher education student pursuing Siddha Medicine at the University of Jaffna has benefited from KKM's support. This success story underscores the transformative power of education in overcoming challenges and empowering individuals from marginalized backgrounds.

As we continue our journey, KKM remains committed to fostering positive change through education, acknowledging it as a catalyst for breaking barriers and creating brighter futures for those in need.

I am Thuvashtha from Anandapuram, Kilinochchi. After years of burdensome hard work, I have been fortunate to secure a spot in the Siddha Medicine course at the University of Jaffna. Since January 3rd, 2022, I have been actively attending physical lectures at the university. The journey to the medicine faculty has been challenging, and I have dedicated significant effort to reach this milestone.

Coming from a family that lives below the poverty line, my father's limited income struggles to support the family's needs, including education, food, and other essentials. Recognizing the financial strain, I reached out for support through a scholarship. Thanks to the assistance

provided, I am progressing well in my education.

KKM firmly believes that alleviating the financial burden on higher education students positively impacts their academic performance and extracurricular activities. We understand the transformative power of education and stand ready to support students in need of financial assistance. In Thuvashtha's case, during the time when we received the letter from her, she has quoted as "Thank you to the Kaveri Kala Manram, I hope that your help will be a biggest strength to achieve my dreams", Yes Kaveri Kala Manram always supports the people to chase their dreams and fly high without any struggles like butterflies.





3.3 Water & Sanitation

- **Total Projects completed during the reporting period– 40**
- **Total number of beneficiaries - 208**

Kaveri Kala Manram, ensuring the availability of these essential resources is not merely a provision but a commitment to upliftment. In collaboration with local communities, governmental bodies, and stakeholders, we strive to establish robust water and sanitation initiatives. Beyond the taps and facilities, our goal is to create a foundation for healthier lives, fortified communities, and a future where no one is left behind.

I am Mathiyakala living with my family in Savukkadi Batticaloa, living in a temporary house. We couldn't afford the basic amenities, and using the forest bushes and fields for our nature calls. Which was a high risk of infection and we were losing our dignity, as my husband was working as a watchman for a private farm earning a bare income. I was diagnosed with Leprosy,

Our one and only child teenage daughter was living with her grandparents to save her dignity and health hygiene, due to the challenges of living without a toilet at home.

A visit from KKM, transformed our life, building a safety and clean toilet in our land. Today our daughter is back home and we are a happy family living together. We thank TLMEW and KKM for all their love and care.

I am Dibika, living with my family in Karadiyanaru, Batticaloa. We were living under extreme poverty, and my husband works as a casual labor worker. Living without water and toilet of our own at home.

Using neighbour's toilet and well is a huge struggle and challenge.

My husband was diagnosed with Leprosy and then my two kids and me was infected with Leprosy. We were rejected, discriminated and banned using neighbour's water and toilet. During these challenging times KKM visited us, giving promising hopes and bright future by constructing a safety clean toilet, and providing us water facility in our yard. Today we are all recovered from leprosy, living a happy, healthy and safe life because of the loving and caring support of TLMEW and KKM.

I am proud to see, nearly 15 families are using our fresh and safe water for survival, which is a blessing.





3.4 Housing

- **Projects – 7**
- **Total number of beneficiaries – 35**

The Housing Project stands as a testament to this commitment. More than bricks and mortar, it symbolizes the cornerstone of stability, dignity, and a brighter future for those who have faced the harsh realities of inadequate shelter. Through this initiative, we not only provide safe housing but aim to empower individuals to rebuild their lives. It's a project where every foundation laid is a step toward breaking the cycle of vulnerability, offering a sanctuary for self-discovery, resilience, and lasting change.

I am L. Prabha from Eheliyagoda estate, my family endured years without a proper shelter. We hailed from line houses and soon after the marriage we went as refuge near the bend of a main road. For a decade, we had to share all the happiness and sadness in the small hut. However, with the small ray of hope our life in the hut changed.

Since my daughter was able to get good grades in Scholarship exams the Principal of Eheliyagoda, recognizing our burden, informed

our situation to Kaveri Kala Manram. With determination, the estate manager provided a piece of land. Despite financial constraints a samaritan family generously honoring departed relatives. The Kaveri Kala Manram initiated the project, ensuring a brighter future for my family.

The new house, complete with a toilet and water facility, symbolizes not just shelter but an escape from vulnerability. Though the old house still stands, we now enjoy safety and ownership. No longer at the mercy of passing vehicles, we have a haven to call our own, a testament to resilience and the power of community support. I am L Prabha, and this is our story of triumph against adversity.





3.5 People Economy Forum

- **Projects completed - 11**
- **Total number of beneficiaries – 340**

In the midst of a consumer-driven era, the People Economy Forum emerges as a catalyst for change, poised to reshape mindsets and cultivate economic independence. At its core, this forum is driven by a profound mission: understanding and improving economic conditions by educating communities about the merits of mindful consumption.

The forum champions a departure from unnecessary purchases, striving to dismantle the prevalent 'buying culture.' Its focal point lies in promoting a conscious approach to spending, empowering individuals to navigate towards economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Adopting a grassroots strategy, the People Economy Forum, members engage in various community settings - be it religious institutions, streets, or local events. In these interactions, the forum not only imparts knowledge about economic and political structures but also unveils inspiring stories of resilience amid limited resources.

Critical to its mission is urging individuals to break free from dependency and seize control

of their destinies. Creating a network of empowered individuals across sectors like media, education, and government, the forum taps into these diverse resources to cultivate storytellers and local experts.

Success stories take center stage, spotlighted through mass media to showcase real triumphs over adversity.

The forum believes that these narratives will inspire active engagement in national-level economic issues, fostering a sense of responsibility and community involvement.

Additionally, the People Economy Forum underscores the significance of resource conservation. It strives to heighten community awareness regarding energy consumption, emphasizing responsible use of resources such as water and electricity. By promoting energy-saving practices, the forum aims to instill responsibility and curb unnecessary expenses.

In essence, the People Economy Forum transcends its role as a mere forum; it stands as a dynamic force for transformation. Its objective is clear—to mold individuals into economically independent, mindful consumers who actively participate in shaping their communities and nation.





3.6 Traditional money saving promotion - SEEDDU

SEEDDU is an event deeply intertwined with the lives of Tamils, aimed at boosting the economy. This practice has filled every corner, from rural villages to urban areas. People often use the amount of money they save for their economy, business and other development at their houses.

The SEEDDU is an event where group of people in both settings gather at predetermined locations to create chits with assigned numbers corresponding to the participants. After shuffling the chits, each individual takes a chit. Subsequently, individuals receive money in the following months based on the number assigned in the chits. For instance, if person A gets number two, he/she will receive the accumulated funds in the first month. However, even though someone gets a number at last he/she may be able try his luck on the next shuffle. With this model we may increase the participation of each member every month. Once the first person gets the amount collected during the previous month his/her name would be removed from the next shuffle. A crucial aspect of this system is that participants must

contribute monthly until the last person receives their money. Although widely practiced in the past, the SEEDDU system experienced a decline in the late 2009s due to the rise of banks and investment companies in the northern region. People, attracted to the banking system, overlooked the associated restrictions and high-interest rates. Consequently, the SEEDDU system dwindled, especially at the village level.

In response to this decline, the Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) has revived the SEEDDU system to reintroduce savings into people’s lives.

Notably, in the Vavuniya district, this SEEDDU system is implemented to bring together families affected by leprosy. Through these SEEDDU meetings, KKM facilitates various activities, including agricultural initiatives, discussions on family economy, leprosy-related education, and efforts to identify new patients. The chit money obtained from SEEDDU is utilized to support agricultural and animal husbandry endeavors, contributing significantly to the improvement of people’s livelihoods.





3.7 GEMS

KKM 'Girls Empowered for Menstrual Hygiene Success' (GEMS)

- **Projects completed - 18**
- **Total number of beneficiaries – 180**

People with insufficient food and shelter have a weakened immune system, which reduces their ability to fight infections such as leprosy. Poor living conditions, including overcrowding and poor sanitation, can act as a breeding ground for leprosy and other diseases.

Therefore, KKM have developed GEMS culture together with the children, people affected by leprosy, families affected by leprosy & community through 25 housing 167 water projects & 48 toilets project in 2022 & 2023. It has been implemented by engaging girls' children as change agents to increase MHM knowledge and awareness and challenge period stigma. 'GEMS' aligns safeguarding, mental wellbeing and fulfilling reproductive health needs of the people by improving the acceptability, accessibility, and quality of menstrual hygiene services at home & community level. The project has used these approaches:

Creating an enabling environment: Designed to respect local cultural dynamics. Engage adolescent girls, families, and communities to create an enabling environment for implementation.

Demonstrational Service Delivery: Construct MHM-friendly and inclusive water and sanitation facilities in targeted homes.

Advocacy: Developing a model for replicating in community and scaling up throughout areas with inclusive WASH facilities at homes of persons affected by leprosy.

Developing Ownership: Designed together with local Children, and communities. Each group will play a key role in delivery of the proj-

ect activities that will develop partnership and create ownership for sustainability.

Developing MHM champions: Build a pool of young change agents to create awareness on menstrual hygiene management. The project will empower girls by using creative and locally acceptable methods and work to strengthen the 3 pillars of empowerment.

KKM building includes providing the girls with choice to practice their menstruation safely, create leadership and build capacity to engage in collective action at home. Construction of toilets, wells, hand washing stations will help them access these WASH services and safely manage their menstruation through. They also have good health, knowledge, and skills to continue the access to resources and influence others for the same.

They have acted as catalysts to change the institutional structure by addressing social norms and practices on period stigma through awareness and advocacy. These methods can also be used for awareness on other social and cultural stigma like child marriage. Empowered girls have become MHM ambassadors or champions. They will generate awareness within their families and communities.

Behavior change: 'GEMS' is focused on behavior change for safe menstruation of adolescent girls. However, sociocultural stigma means that such change is also required within family members, adolescent boys, teachers, and community leaders. The behavior change communication approach helps to increase knowledge and attitude of people, motivates and triggers people to adopt positive behaviors, has specific and efficient strategies and is more acceptable.



Safeguarding: KKM has a zero-tolerance policy towards any abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, girls, women, men, or any vulnerable people.

The project adheres to KKM's Safeguarding Policy with a designated Safeguarding Officer leading the organization.

All the staff are trained annually in safeguarding, organizational policy, and code of conduct. Individual consent will be taken while we collect any stories and photos from the schools and communities. The project inception meeting has established locally acceptable and adapted

feedback mechanisms with details of communication methods for reporting.

Developing an Innovation model: The project has been working with the interfaith forums in the areas. These groups include religious leaders, influencers, and community members (men and women). MHM champions girls and boys from schools together with trained facilitators will also be part of the group where menstruation has been discussed. This has been developing an inclusive platform within communities to start a conversation that deflects period stigma leading to discussion on health and dignity by managing menstruation.

KKM - ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION.

Safe drinking water, water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and wellbeing. Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health but contributes to livelihood, school attendance and dignity and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments.

Kaveri Kala Manram has been educating women and teenage girls to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene in villages. Training on the importance of hygiene, to save lives, effective hygiene to reduce sick days of productivity, protect women from the impact of various women-related diseases, and hand hygiene to fight against antibiotic resistance.

The key focus of KKM is to improve public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation for a sustainable healthy well-being lifestyle.





3.8 KKM Foreign trainings

Sending KKM staff and Health department staff to foreign trainers has brought much more outcomes since they receive more practical and theoretical knowledge from the world's best doctors for leprosy. We witnessed that many of the staff have learned lots of things after coming from the foreign training visit and serve our mission more practically using the knowledge gained there. Here is the beautiful experience of our staff who visited India to get training on leprosy case detection, EHF score and other leprosy related activities.

I am Thibagar, staff of KKM. During our visit to Naine, the renowned leprosy hospital in India, we immersed ourselves in a transformative experience that unfolded over two enlightening weeks. The hospital, hailed as the best and biggest in India, draws people seeking respite from leprosy, creating a haven of healing.

Our days were a blend of theoretical and practical sessions that delved into the intricacies of leprosy – how it spreads, its symptoms, and the various treatment modalities. Engaging discussions and hands-on learning became the cornerstone of our time there. Witnessing firsthand the struggles of patients with patches, deformities, and other challenges provided poignant lessons beyond any textbook.

The hospital's corridors echoed with the expertise of specialist doctors, a contrast to the scarcity we observed in Sri Lanka. In Naine, when a patient arrives with patches, a meticulous diagnostic process unfolds. If suspicion arises, senior testing ensues, leading to treatment initiation and, if necessary, biopsy.





The structural nuances of the hospital's design for deformity patients were apparent – accessible steps, wheelchairs, clutches, and comfortable beds creating an environment conducive to healing.

Encountering patients deeply affected by leprosy, devoid of sensation in certain body parts, unveiled the significance of physiotherapy in their treatment. We marveled at the craftsmanship involved in creating MCR and rubber shoes, a crucial component of patient care.

Understanding the hospital's outreach efforts was equally enlightening – from patient com-

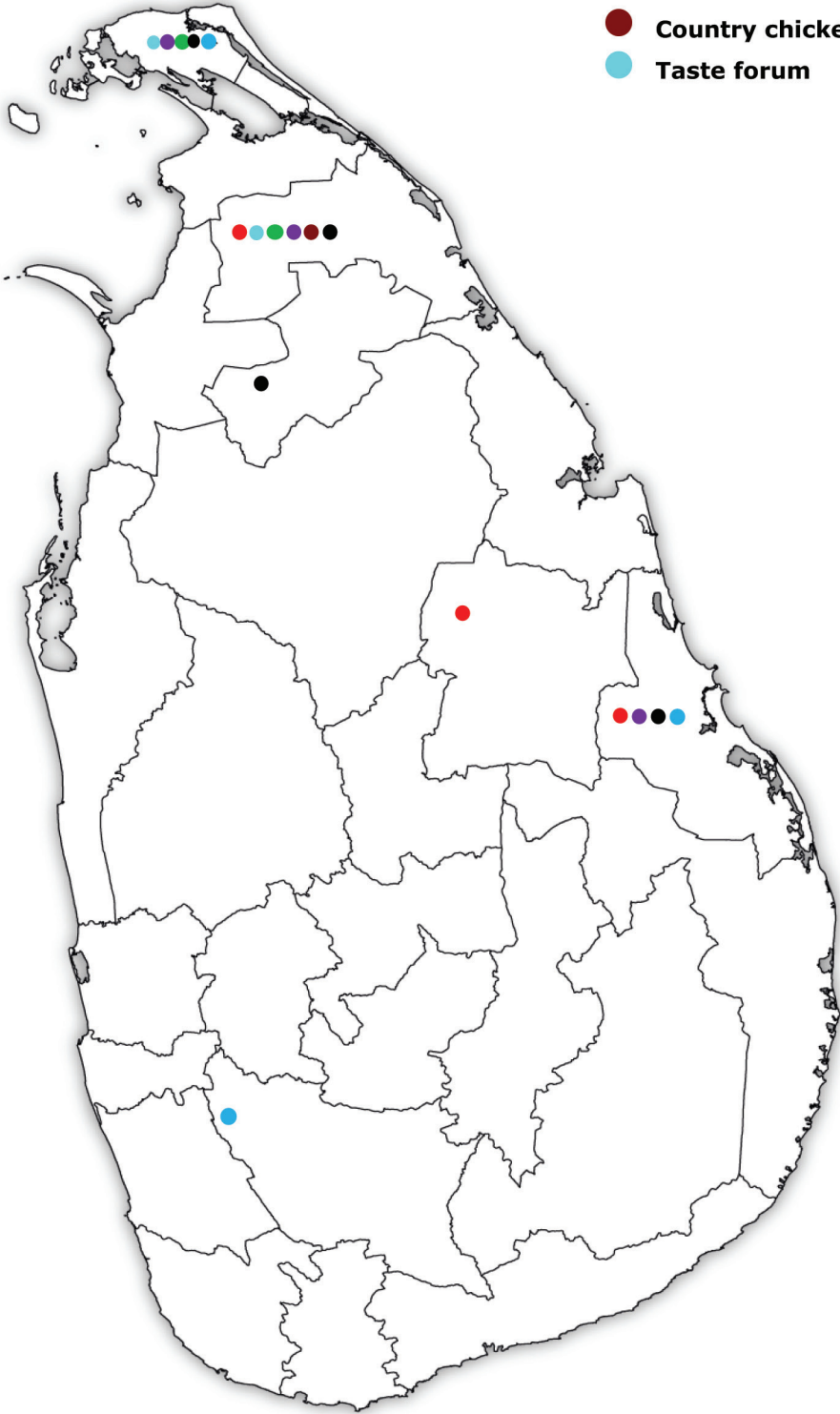
munication to the organization of mobile clinics, the commitment to reaching people with officials in tow was evident. Our exposure to the EHF score for assessing deformity levels was particularly eye-opening, especially in contrast to Sri Lanka's lack of standardized practices. Armed with this knowledge, we envisioned implementing positive changes upon our return.

The experience at Naine was not just an educational journey; it was a profound chapter in our lives. The people we met, the stories we heard, and the lessons we learned have left an indelible mark, shaping our perspective on leprosy and healthcare in ways we never anticipated.



Art & literature

- Nadu
- Drama performance
- Music Performance
- Book Launch
- Art exhibition
- Essay competition
- Country chicken exhibition
- Taste forum





4. Art & Literature

Kaveri Kala Manram – Cultural, Literature & Art mission development

18
Drama
Performance

Jaffna, Polonnaruwa,
Kilinochchi, Batticaloa
2349 participants

05
Book

Jaffna & Kilinochchi
234 Participants

190
Community
Taste Forum

Kilinochchi
2290 Participants

06
Essay
Competition

Jaffna, Batticaloa,
Rathnapura
1569 Participants

Over the past 26 years Kaveri Kala Manram has worked with artists and cultural institutions connecting with communities in meaningful ways to empowering community in sustainable approach. Throughout the Sri Lanka we have completed 258 programs & it's reached to 11530 people in 2022 - 2023, as writer & artists actively engaged in community relationships through art, cultural, literature action often facilitated by KKM mission impact, these all program has connected with arts centers, and places of worship, schools, universities and community centers. This artistic mission has been brought communities beauty and joy along with opportunities for reflection and growth.

08
Art
Exhibition

Jaffna, Batticaloa,
Kilinochchi
1790 Participants

04
Country chicken
Exhibition

Kilinochchi
413 Participants

03
Music Performance

Jaffna
289 Participants

38
NADU

Jaffna, Batticaloa,
Vavuniya, Kilinochchi
384 Participants

4.1 LPA Members' Birthdays Celebrations & NADU —

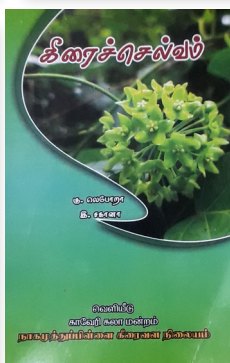
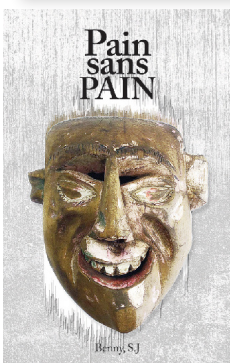


Celebrating the birthdays of the members in "People's Forum for Change" one of the initiatives taken by KKM and People's Forum for Change to make a positive impact on the leprosy affected people's lives. Since the leprosy affected people have gone through a lot of discriminations and stigma in by the society, they should be celebrated in order to transform their lives from the past. For each members' birthday we as a team celebrate their birthday and especially, we plant a coconut and we proudly named it as "NADU" which means planting a tree. We believe that the years they have survived will be remembered for long time like trees live on the earth. It gives a immeasurable pleasure to the leprosy people and to their families.

We as a team noticed that when we go for NADU celebration to the leprosy people's birthday all of sudden the whole family will be shocked and even the family members do not remember the birthday and it will be great to see how they are surprised.

When we celebrated Mr. Kanagarasa's birthday, member of People's Forum for Change, he shared that he feels his family bonding when he is with us. He also added that he is more than happy now. We as a change maker in the society believe that we can positively impact the people around us with the little celebration we do.

4.2 Book publications —



Publishing books has been a great tool of KKM to transform the world around us. Almost we have published 43 books which were written by local writers which sponsored by Kaveri Kala Manram. 05 books published in this year. We as a team believe in the process of transformation that books can create and the impact on the children will be high. It is not about writing books that are typically talking about the stories but about the pages where no one has never touched. Kaveri Kala Manram has already published many publications including 5 books and 5 more books of other.

Our aim is to bring the local writers and people who are interested in the literature and art. Many of the young writers have been highlighted by Kaveri Kala Manram. There are unsaid stories and life experiences hidden in the people with the support to write the book and publish them we can hear many good stories in the society. Most of our writers have the thirst for social justice. One of our interesting publication in this year is the story of Mr. Amarasinghe, "Pain sans pain", who is the President of Leprosy People Association. Kaveri Kala Manram needs more writers and authors to come forward and write for the society that has been hearing the typical stories for long time.

4.3 Taste Forums

In the vibrant tapestry of Kaveri Kala Manram, the Taste Forum stands as a beacon of change, weaving a healthier narrative for our communities. As we celebrate our 196th Taste Forum this year, the movement gains momentum, resonating across the island with 30 forums from January to December.

Amidst the whirlwind of fast-paced lives, Taste Forum emerges as a sanctuary, urging us to rediscover the nourishing treasures in our home gardens. Each gathering is a culinary journey, showcasing not just food but a way of life. Participants savor soulful soups and wholesome dishes crafted from leaves, fish, or chicken—simple, traditional, and low-cost.

The impact is profound. Taste Forum sparks a revolution in habits, as attendees embrace the bounty of their home gardens. The echoes of transformation are heard in testimonials where individuals proudly share their newfound focus on free, locally available leaves and vegetables. This positive metamorphosis is a testament to the Forum's role in steering lives toward a healthier, more mindful path.

In a world hurtling towards convenience, Taste Forum invites us to pause, appreciate, and savor the richness of our culinary heritage. Let's continue this journey together, one Taste Forum at a time, cultivating a community that embraces health, tradition, and sustainability.



4.4 Country chicken Exhibition & safeguarding awareness

The aim of the project is to spread awareness of safeguarding among the village level people. Kaveri Kala Manram has found a new way of educating people in a different way using the country chickens astools.

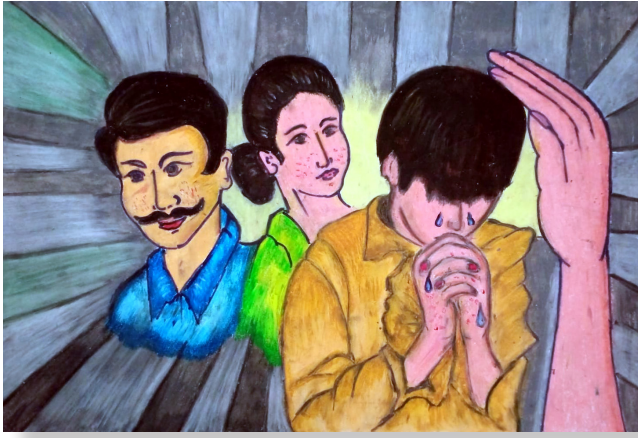
When we consider the people live in the villages, they use multiple different ways to protect them including building sheds, preparing fences, creating traps for the animals which try to hunt the chickens from dogs, foxes, eagles and curious Mongoose.

Like they protect the chickens from the animals, people also need to protect them from multiple threat from people. People will be danger to other people around them in sometimes. So that people need to know the ways to avoid and be protective from the threats from people.

As we know, in Sri Lankan context, only the organizations are mainly focusing the safeguarding techniques and strategies. However, KKM proudly took this great education to the village level people where this type of education will no longer available to the people.

In our plan for we would like to expand these safeguarding techniques through art and culture to the village level people.





4.5 Art Exhibitions —

The recent art exhibition, meticulously organized by the dedicated Yalpadi, Earni, and Vanampadi teams, served as a poignant platform for individuals affected by leprosy across districts like Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Vavuniya. The exhibition went beyond showcasing mere artworks; it was a profound narrative of resilience and transformation, illustrating how champions emerged from the shadows of leprosy. The collaborative efforts of the KKM organization played a pivotal role in this metamorphosis, providing comprehensive support in livelihood, education, and healthcare, effectively turning the participants into survivors.



The heart of the exhibition lay in the power of art as a medium for emotional expression. Each painting, picture, and art piece encapsulated the profound inner world of the patients, offering a visual testament to their journey and survival. These artistic expressions not only conveyed the personal narratives of overcoming leprosy but also served as a crucial tool in diminishing the transmission of stigma associated with the disease.



A recurring theme in the exhibited artworks was the transformative influence of water and agriculture on the lives of these individuals. The coconut tree, in particular, emerged as a powerful symbol, representing a paradigm shift in their perspectives. The depictions vividly illustrated how these elements altered the course of their existence, signaling hope and regeneration.

Beyond the confines of the exhibition hall, this initiative holds the promise of societal change. By enabling marginalized members to share their stories openly, the event shattered the barriers of silence and stigma. The power of storytelling through art emerged as an invaluable mechanism for communication, allowing these individuals to convey their experiences and struggles to a broader audience. As a result, the marginalized are not only becoming more assertive in sharing their narratives, but they are also actively contributing to the gradual dismantling of societal prejudices. In essence, this art exhibition has become a transformative force, fostering understanding, empathy, and a collective commitment to breaking down the walls of marginalization and stigmatization within society.



FOCUS - '23

Visiting Kaveri Kala Manram projects and celebrating

Dr. Preman Jeyaratnam's work and 80th birthday

We felt honored and excited returning to Jaffna and Kilinochchi, northern Sri Lanka to see the inspiring and impactful work projects of KKM and to mark Preman Jeyaratnam's birthday. The work of KKM includes Food for Work, cultivating smallholdings and the Community Farm - Hope Farm. We also saw harvests of both Tapioca and Pumpkins, heard about crop rotations, and new crops being sown to local needs. Each morning after breakfast we jumped in the minibus; and were delighted to meet the KKM team, when visiting these dynamic projects.

It was, of course not just a visit for project updates but also a celebration of the work and legacy of our father. To celebrate, KKM planted an 80-tree Coconut Grove in honor of his birthday. This Grove has been placed under the stewardship of the local pastor who has agreed to use the crop to help the local church, economy, and youth projects. Amongst the saplings we reflected on the success of KKM over the last 25 years and the growth that will take place in the coming 80 years.

We were also incredibly touched and humbled to see the lamp donated to Araly Church by KKM to celebrate Dad's birthday. Araly is such an important place for our family and to know

there is a part of KKM there means a lot to us. Plus seeing the bicycle that Preman used - still in working order - also bought a smile.

While there were moments that were serious and heartfelt, there was also a lot of fun to be had. After a thanksgiving service at Araly Church, the KKM team held a surprise party including cake, speeches, dance and musical performances, and a comedy sketch that probably reminded Dad of his association with KKM and Green Memorial Hospital. The work of KKM is amazing - just as inspiring is the love and support the team give and have for each other.

At the KKM Jaffna project office we saw an educational seminar taking place, and met people affected by Leprosy. This included meeting a man who lives with the deformities yet is now Leprosy-free. Ultimately this is why Preman and Reverend Joshua set up KKM - to change lives, culture, and communities. This was truly inspirational, as were all of the KKM projects. We send love and support to everyone involved with KKM.

- Pradeep and Caroline Jeyaratnam - Joyner
We would like to thank KKM for the warm welcome. We hope to see you again soon!



A beautiful travel experiences



My name is Emilie, I'm 18 and currently on a gap year before starting university. In October this year, I spent a month in Sri Lanka and was lucky enough to visit some of the KKM projects in Jaffna and Kilinochchi. Kaveri Kala Manram is a community-based organisation formed 25 years ago for the relief and rehabilitation of Leprosy affected people in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

We started off by visiting the new coconut grove in which 80 coconut trees were planted in honor of Dr. Preman Jeyaratnam's 80th Birthday and we witnessed the inauguration of the well that will provide water for the plantation. This grove will be taken care of by members of the community and of the church nearby. It is said that in five years, when the coconut trees will be fully grown and producing coconuts, the yields will represent a considerable source of income for the people involved. The long-term use of the grove has also been thought out, when the trees will stop producing 80 years from now, the plan is to sell them for wood and to continue using the land as a community space. I admired how this whole project was designed in a multi-purpose manner, to both honor KKM's co-founder and serve the community in many ways.



We then visited a spice wrapping company which is one of many thriving businesses supported by KKM. Our third visit in Kilinochchi was to Thiruvalluvar preschool where we were welcomed by an exhibition of the children's very impressive artwork and a demonstration of what the pupils are learning in both Tamil and English.

The next day we visited two different community farms on the tip of the Jaffna peninsula. The first was a few acres large growing pumpkins, long beans, onions amongst other things and run by dedicated members of the community. The second was smaller, it had one plot growing a rotation of different plants, tapioca had just been planted at the time. The produce coming from both farms either feeds the workers and their families or is sold locally, but is always handled with a 'self-sufficiency' mindset which is one of the many inspiring things about all of the KKM projects.



I was struck by how all the different projects are built around eco-conscious and ethical values. They also always have the goal of enhancing solidarity within the communities which as you can imagine with Sri Lanka's recent history has helped in more ways than one.

Increase leprosy expertise at all levels of the health sector



The reduction of prevalence and reduced focus on leprosy has additionally led to a skills shortage as older medical personnel with experience of the disease have retired or moved into new areas, while younger medical practitioners have limited exposure to leprosy and have limited knowledge about its treatment. As a result of this and decreased government funding, most doctors are unaware of the symptoms of leprosy and therefore are unable to diagnose it early on, leading to late detection, continued transmission, and disability.

In Sri Lanka leprosy disease trend of the last ten years (2012 – 2023). It can be seen that the new case detection over the years has shown a decreasing trend but fluctuations are seen and the decline is very slow. The proportion of MB and Child cases is showing an increasing trend from 2012 to 2023. Medical officers either in OPD or clinic settings are provided adequate training on diagnosis and treatment of leprosy and MDT was made available in selected healthcare institutions. Capacity development is needed in the health sector because of a lack of knowledge on leprosy including diagnosis, and management rehabilitation.

KKM –CAFÉ Intervention

Increased leprosy expertise within the government health system and partner organizations, to diagnose and treat leprosy and its complications.

- 1 - Increased leprosy expertise within ADT, KKM, and LPA
- 2 - Village PHIs, community midwives, and district-level PHIs (leprosy and others) trained, resourced, and engaged in achieving the triple zeros.
- 3 - Government medical staff (Dermatologists, Medical Officers, Epidemiologists, Counseling Officers, Ayurveda practitioners) have increased leprosy knowledge and skills
- 4 - New leprosy services introduced into the government health system (LPRF, mental health, RCS)

Because of the lack of knowledge in leprosy;

Transmission of leprosy

2091 new cases detected in project areas which we have received data from 2010 to 2019. There were 1660 cases in the year 2022 but the decline is very slow, which could also be due to inadequate active case-finding activities and late presentation of cases. In contrast, the child proportion is static and high (around 10-11%). There is an increase in the proportion of MB i.e. infectious cases from around 46% to 58%. All these data show that the transmission of leprosy is on, and extra efforts and measures are required to break the chain of transmission.

Late Case Detection:

Higher MB percentage (58%) and higher grade 2 disability (5.6%) indicate that active case transmission is prevalent and late presentation is the reason for identifying the patients with disability. One of the reasons for late presentation is that the patients who have been suspected of leprosy are not reporting to hospitals on time. Another reason for late case detection would be the nonavailability of resources for the diagnosis of leprosy at the peripheral level and almost all cases are diagnosed at the tertiary level hospital where a consultant dermatologist is available.

Misdiagnosis of Leprosy:

It is the view of stakeholders that inadequate capacity to diagnose leprosy at the field level is one of the reasons for misdiagnosis. More centers or satellite clinics need to be identified and strengthened at the periphery to increase the access of patients for confirmation of diagnosis, initiation of treatment, and follow up.

Follow up of cases during treatment:

Treatment of cases is initiated a hospital setting under the supervision of Consultant Dermatologists. This leads to inadequate follow up of cases under the direct supervision of dermatologists because the link between hospital and public health staff at the field level is inadequate.

Prevention of disability:

5.6% of disabilities among new cases indicate that the cases are not detected early and are somehow neglected. If the cases are not picked up early, or the awareness in the community is poor, the patients neglect themselves and end up with a disability. More MB cases (57%) indicate more possibility of reaction and neuritis leading to the development of disability, if not treated in time. It means early identification of reactions/neuritis by sensory test (ST) and voluntary muscle testing (VMT) should be in place before the start, during, and after the treatment is complete.

Management of disability during and after treatment:

From the literature and discussion with the stakeholders, it is clear that limited facilities are available for managing disabilities. Management of disabilities during and after treatment need extra attention. Provision of MCR footwear, self-care training, provision of aids, appliances, and provision of RCS services need to be strengthened and streamlined.

Recording and reporting need improvement:

The data recording is initiated at a dermatology clinic in the hospital and the data are entered into the system by PHI-LCs in relevant districts. There are no infrastructure facilities to enter the data online and the existing data management system need to be revised.

Awareness and stigma:

Stigma exists in the community indicated by the fact that the patients prefer to take treatment from a far-away hospital rather than visiting a nearby health centre. Invisible stigma is also noticed even among health care providers. Late presentation of cases (27%) can be attributed to either lack of awareness in the community prevailing stigma or both. It is clear from the discussion with stakeholders that communication is lacking at all levels i.e. with policymakers, with service providers, with patients, and with the community. Communication strategy need to be developed to target the above-mentioned groups.

In-adequate rehabilitation provided to people affected by leprosy:

In the case of persons affected by leprosy, rehabilitation could be physical, socio-economic and mental. For physical rehabilitation, there is no established centre for reconstructive surgery in the country. Rehabilitation centres are available, but there is no link for providing care to persons disabled due to leprosy. Self-care training to persons disabled due to leprosy is not given due attention. Staff is either not available or cannot impart training in self-care to people having disabilities due to leprosy. There is limited supply of aids and appliances to the affected people. Socio-economic rehabilitation of persons affected by leprosy is inadequately addressed. It is well established now that patients with leprosy have mental health issues and if not treated properly may go into depression and even commit suicide. Psychological support in the form of counselling at the time of diagnosis and afterwards is a priority.

In-adequate partnerships:

Poor involvement of persons affected by leprosy in leprosy control. It is clear from reviews, reports and consultations that persons affected by leprosy are less inclined and not involved in leprosy control activities. This could be due to lack of self-confidence, self-stigma, lack of motivation, lack of capacity or lack of awareness about their role in the program. 14 Persons affected are still not well organized, and they will need counselling, capacity building and motivation to participate.

Our methodologies and techniques. A pretest will be given to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices on leprosy. Lectures, group discussions, and Case scenarios will be used for the training. Group presentations will be included in the sessions to ensure the active participation of the participants. During the training, the epidemiology, clinical presentation and the strategies used to prevent leprosy and individual healthcare workers' role in the prevention of leprosy will be covered. A posttest will be given to evaluate the effectiveness of the training at the end of the training.



Treasurer Report

As we have entered the 26th year of our journey for the community transformation mission we are standing with gratitude with a joyful heart. As treasurer of Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM) I would like to personally thank all of the members of the Board of directors and staff who are working hard to help KKM succeed financially in 2023.

I always mentioned that "Financial fitness is not a pipe dream or a state of mind. It's a reality if you are willing to pursue it and embrace it." I think we demonstrated good practice in financial management, because our team efforts are much appreciated and needed at this time. Our financial good practice was confirmed by the independent international audit. We have obtained 295/300 points in International financial audit audited by James Pender TLMEW.

The income that supports the activities of the KKM comes from two major sources: program revenue received from donors for pacific projects and other programs income earn by project team as workshops training & drama, and a much smaller sum that we withdraw from our own endowment under the endowment spending policies adopted by the KKM executive committee. As you know KKM financial team is working towards its financial Vision & Mission.

To ensure the choice of KKM accounts that meets the charity's needs to balance best service & lowest cost. In keeping with our mission, Kaveri Kala Manram undergone major transformations over the last five years with both expansion and growth of community work. Included in these changes were developing financial guidelines with experience, and establishing financial security for our organization through a new financial guide development policy.

As the Treasurer for the KKM, and its partners and staff members, we have key responsibilities to demonstrate transparency and accountability: . Address finance-related concerns immediately and scrupulously. Report the financial status to the Board of Directors & partners on time Managing within our financial guidelines sticking to our safeguarding policies. We have made and will continue to make a lot of positive changes for KKM.

I appreciate the support of all of our partners. This is a people's organization and we know that it is very important for many to see it succeed. All financial reports can be found on Kaveri Kala Manram's website. Please visit our website to view our fully audited financial accounts.

Details	Numbers
Executive meetings	4
Finance board	4
Partner's Visit	Nine teams
Project evaluation	2
Board of director's project visit	2
KKM Impact news letter	1
KKM Project completion report	986
Finance audit report	4

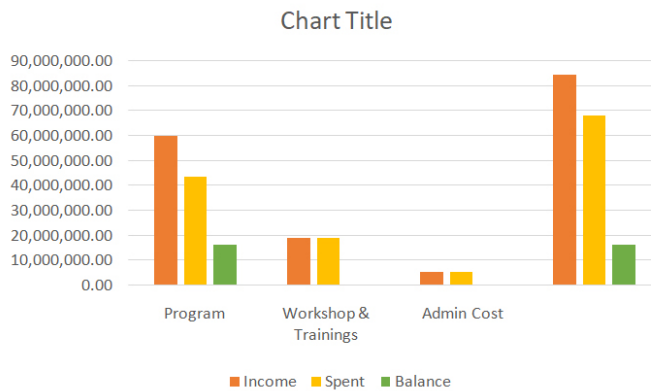


Chart 1: The amount of total funds and spent details in 2023/November

Details	Fund received	Spend	Balance in Bank
Program	61,157,315.29	44,846,825.23	16,310,490.06
Workshop and Training	19,210,252.00	19,196,020.63	14,231.37
Admin cost	5,545,382.49	5,518,171.21	27,211.28
TOTAL	85,912,949.78	69,561,017.07	16,351,932.71

General Receipts and Account 2023

Annalingam Associates
250, Brown Road,
Jaffna

Kaveri Kala Manram

No.118-3/3 W.A.DE.Silva Mawatha
Colombo-06
Srilanka
Tele/Fax :-0112-507550

General Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended

31st December 2023

Opening Balance

DICKM's Projects with its admin cost

Cash at Hattton National Bank C/A 157010002893	100,000.00
Cash at Hattton National Bank S/A 157020043293	82,082.59
Cash at Hattton National Bank C/A 146010005593	16,324.29
Cash at Hattton National Bank C/A 157010003193	13,789.71
Cash at Hattton National Bank S/A 157020056101	5,965.21
Cash at Hattton National Bank S/A 157010003032	40,000.00
Cash at Hattton National Bank S/A 157020059423	2,122.56
Sub Total (01)	<u>260,284.36</u>

2) Increased Detection of Leprosy cases & Rehabilitation of Leprosy communities

Cash at Hattton National Bank C/A 157010002653	100,000.00
Cash at Hattton National Bank S/A 157020041411	612,127.41
Cash in hand	2,364.20
Sub Total (02)	<u>714,491.61</u>

Total Opening Balance (Sub Total (1+2)) (A) 974,775.97

Receipts

<u>KKM's other Projects with its admin cost</u>	50,374,848.81	
Less: Leprosy Projects Health Awareness programs	25,074,252.00	25,300,596.81
Increased Detection of Leprosy cases & Rehabilitation of Leprosy Communities		22,560,325.00
Leprosy Association Projects (Empowering Peoples Forum for change		4,192,400.00
KKM-Café		22,563,852.00
American Education Development		10,321,000.00
Total Receipts -(B)		<u>84,938,173.81</u>
(A)+(B)		<u>85,912,949.78</u>



Amalingam Associates

250, Brown Road,
Jaffna

No.118-3/3 W.A.DE.Silva Mawatha
Colombo-06
Srilanka
Tele/Fax :-0112-507550

Payment

KKM's other Projects with its admin cost	39,481,488.25	
Less: Leprosy Projects Health Awareness programs	25,125,465.94	14,356,022.31
Increased Detection of Leprosy cases & Rehabilitation of Leprosy Communities		23,039,658.06
Leprosy Association Projects (Empowering Peoples Forum for change)		4,178,977.00
KKM-Café		17,982,616.00
American Education Development		10,003,743.70
Total Payment - @		<u>69,561,017.07</u>

Closing Balance

3) Cafe Project

Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 157010002893	100,000.00
Cash at Hattun National Bank S/A 157020043293	15,021,464.00
Sub Total (03)	<u>15,121,464.00</u>

4) Project and Admin Account

Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 146010005593	14,231.37
Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 157010003193	80,000.00
Cash at Hattun National Bank S/A 157020056101	27,211.28
Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 157010003032	100,000.00
Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 15702005423	82,199.39
Sub Total (04)	<u>303,642.04</u>

5) Leprosy Care Project

Cash at Hattun National Bank C/A 157010002653	100,000.00
Cash at Hattun National Bank S/A 157020041411	824,462.47
Cash in hand	2,364.20
Sub Total (05)	<u>926,826.67</u>

Total Opening Balance (Sub Total (3)+(5) -D) **16,351,932.71**

)+ (D) **85,912,949.78**

Project Manager

We have prepared the above general receipts and payments account for the year ended period 31st December 2023 from the books of account, information and explanations furnished to us and subject to our report of even date that are in accordance therewith
Jaffna

05.02.2024

Amalingam Associates
Chartered Accountants


CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Annual Outcomes

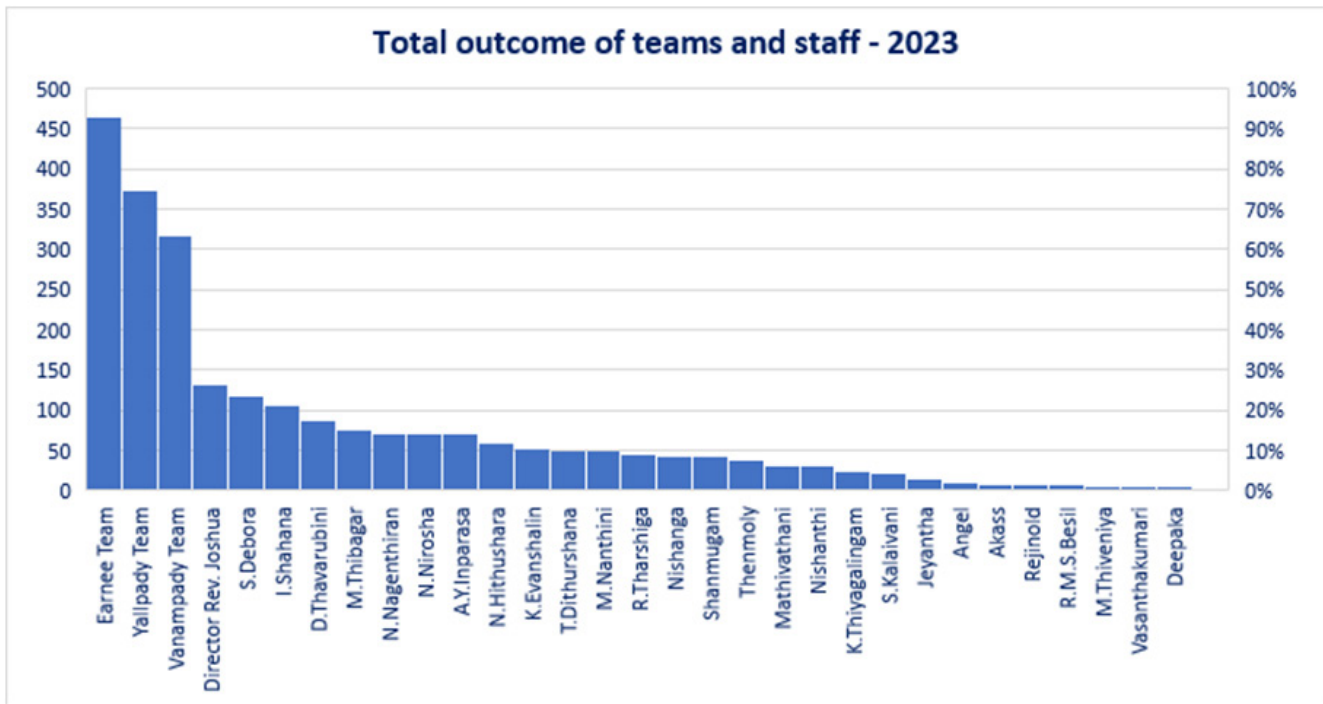


Chart 2: Total number outcomes completed by each team and each member of KKM in the last 11 months

Accountability & Outcome based activities

All the staff at Kaveri Kala Manram are committed to working on an outcome basis. The outcome comprises predetermined activities and planning for each staff member every month. For example, at the end of each month, Kaveri Kala Manram staff gather for the monthly review meeting, where each member plans and decides on outcomes to be completed throughout the entire month. KKM ensures that each task performed by our staff creates a meaningful impact.

In contrast to typical organizations in Sri Lanka, Kaveri Kala Manram has developed an organizational culture that places a high value on the outcomes of our work. The staff is consistently committed and dedicated to producing meaningful results in their work. We believe that activities without clear outcomes or influence are unnecessary for everyone involved, including the recipients of the action. Why should we invest resources without achieving a tangible impact or result? Our organizational culture is straightforward: we are all committed to being part of our mission.

The chart above illustrates the quantity of outcomes produced by each member of KKM. We have restructured our organization to become a better institution that prioritizes actions over mere words. Our daily routine involves updating our daily activity plan in the Viber group of our organization. This is the initial step we all take to achieve the outcomes set for each month. The outcomes for each team and individual within the organization are calculated throughout the year and assessed for impact at the year's end. Every member of KKM ensures accountability for their work, which is carried out with dedication and compassion. In KKM, the culture of emphasizing outcomes not only shapes better employees and staff but also aspires to create responsible citizens for the nation, individuals who will be accountable for the resources they receive from the government.

KKM believes that we have set an example for other organizations in our region, encouraging them to be accountable for their work.



Our Vision

Kaveri Kala Manram connect people around the world in the fight to end poverty. Working together, we invest in the lives of people affected by leprosy and people affected by poverty, build the healthy environments they need to thrive, and empower them to create lasting change in their own lives and communities.

Our values

We Respect - Our value is to be conscious that God has created all people in His image. As a response, we show respect to all.

We live the mission - We are a passionate team driven by purpose and deeply committed to our mission.

We are compassionate and inclusive - We listen to the experiences of those who face exclusion and marginalization, and we know that there is much more to do.

We Hope - The value of hope is confident expectation. It's a firm assurance in God.


We see potential in everyone - Everywhere - We believe each person has extraordinary skills and talents just waiting to be realized.

We believe human connections matter - We are all about relationships, collaboration, communication and teamwork.

We care Creation - We believe as bearers of God's image, all people have the responsibility and privilege of caring for God's creation.

Contact us

 No.566, Nagathampiran Road,
Anandapuram East, Kilinochchi.

 <https://www.kaverikalamanram.org>

 revjosh.suthakkm@gmail.com

 Kaveri Kala Manram Jaffna