



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Annual Report

2011



Supported by

**Anahata Stiftung
Germany**

Implemented by

PRABHATH RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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Prabhath Rural Development Society (PRDS) continued its work for the socio-economic empowerment of women and children from disadvantaged backgrounds during the year 2021 also. The organization is grateful for the ongoing support from Anahata Stiftung of Germany for its "Women Support Centre" project. This support has been instrumental in implementing various activities for women and adolescent girls throughout the year.

ORGANIZING RANGOLI EVENT

To promote traditional values and community engagement, PRDS organized a series of rangoli competitions across three villages and one school. The events were announced by distributing 1,000 pamphlets and provided a platform for community leaders to share valuable information on health, hygiene, and tradition. The competitions successfully fostered a festive atmosphere and highlighted the organization's work in promoting ethical values.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

The Ladies Club was officially formed on February 19, 2011, to provide a platform for women to share experiences and collectively solve problems. PRDS held several meetings and training sessions focused on health, hygiene, personality development, life skills, and even cooking. Speakers at these events encouraged women to become self-sufficient, confident, and educated, and provided practical tips on topics from making a good first impression to using natural ingredients for beauty and health. The club members were also trained on how to prepare sweets and other recipes.

ONE-TIME INTERACTION (COUNSELING): Narasamma

PRDS provided counseling to Narasamma, a 35-year-old mother, to resolve a domestic conflict caused by her husband's alcoholism. The staff counseled the husband, Ramanjaneyulu, and warned him about the Domestic Violence Act. He agreed to gradually quit drinking and provide his wife with a monthly amount for household expenses and the children's education. Following the intervention, Narasamma reported that her family is now happy.

FORMATION OF SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS)

To empower Muslim women and improve their living standards, PRDS initiated a program to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The groups aim to foster unity, abolish poverty, and encourage economic growth through collective savings and teamwork. Currently, 50 women have formed five SHGs and have collectively saved Rs. 5,000 in a bank, where all members have their own accounts.

INTERVENTION AND AWARENESS ON EARLY MARRIAGE

In collaboration with local authorities, PRDS successfully intervened to prevent the illegal marriage of a 14-year-old girl named Swathi. The team explained that child marriage is a criminal offense and, with the help of the police, counseled the family. The parents ultimately agreed not to marry their daughter until she was an adult and had completed her education, ensuring her future was not compromised.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, 2011, PRDS celebrated Women's Day at a high school in Kothacheruvu, attended by international guests. Speakers emphasized the need for women to be educated and employed for true national and economic development. The event featured inspiring speeches from a student and other guests, and a cultural team performed songs to energize the crowd.

TAILORING CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION & COMPUTER CENTRE INAUGURATION

As part of the Women's Day celebrations, PRDS distributed certificates to graduates of the tailoring program and inaugurated a new computer center. The event marked the start of the third batch of tailoring classes and officially launched the computer training program.

AMBEDKAR JAYANTI CELEBRATION

On April 14, PRDS celebrated the birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, a prominent Indian leader and the chairman of the Indian Constitution's drafting committee. A rally and speeches were held to honor his work for the rights of the downtrodden and encourage attendees to follow his ideology of fighting against social evils and promoting harmony.

LEGAL AWARENESS CAMP

PRDS organized a legal awareness camp in Gunipalli to educate women on their rights and responsibilities. Speakers, including advocates and PRDS staff, provided guidance on various legal matters, such as women's rights and the importance of speaking up to solve problems.

TRAINING ON PREPARATION OF SANITARY NAPKINS

With support from the ICDS office, PRDS organized a three-day training program to teach women how to make sanitary napkins. The goal was to educate women on the health benefits of using pads and the risks of unhygienic cloth. A total of 100 participants, including Muslim women, tailoring students, and staff, learned three different methods of making the pads.

COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM – CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTION

A certificate distribution ceremony for the first batch of computer training students was held, marking the start of the second batch. Guests spoke on the importance of women's

empowerment and self-sufficiency, and students shared positive feedback, expressing gratitude for the free course they otherwise could not have afforded.

AWARENESS ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) ACT

PRDS held an awareness program on the Right to Information (RTI) Act to explain how citizens can use the act to obtain government information and documents like ration cards and voter IDs. Speakers explained that with the RTI Act, citizens have the right to get any information from government offices within a set time frame.

HEALTH CAMP

PRDS organized a one-day free medical camp in Kothakotha village that provided free medical tests and medicines to 273 people. The camp was a collaborative effort with medical professionals from a local hospital and helped address the health needs of the community.

SUPPORT FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY

PRDS provided assistance to disabled and elderly individuals to help them secure their government pensions. The organization's staff collected the necessary information and petitioned the Mandal Development Office (MDO) on their behalf, successfully helping 14 of 20 disabled members get their pensions reinstated.

STATE-LEVEL TRAINING FOR TRAINERS (TOT) on the Right to Education Act-2009

PRDS organizer Smt. Srivani attended a two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on the Right to Education Act-2009 in Tirupati. The program focused on human rights, child rights, the Free and Compulsory Education Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act, and was attended by 30 members from various organizations.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

PRDS participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which runs from November 25 to December 10, 2011. The campaign aimed to highlight the problem of violence against women and promote human rights. As part of the initiative, PRDS conducted a rally with 1,200 women and held a meeting at the Z.P. High School in Kothacheruvu on December 10th. The event featured speeches from guests and students on topics like human rights, child rights, the Juvenile Justice Act, and gender equality.

GENDER AWARENESS CAMP

PRDS organized a gender awareness camp in Bukkapatnam Mandal for the village's women and youth. The camp, attended by 60 people, focused on creating awareness of gender equality and the issues women face in their daily lives. The discussions covered topics such as the importance of women's education and health, dowry harassment, and the need for women to be self-sufficient. Through group activities and sessions, the camp successfully promoted an understanding of women's rights and how to address gender discrimination.

BHAJAN AND TAILORING EXHIBITION

On December 24, 2011, PRDS organized a Bhajan and Tailoring Exhibition at its office. The event showcased the work of the tailoring students, who displayed their beautifully stitched garments. It also featured spiritual songs (bhajans) that promoted a sense of devotion and unity. The tailoring students presented their work, including pillow covers and embroidered dresses, to guests and family members. Prizes were also awarded to the students who created the best designs.

DISTRIBUTION OF VEGETABLE SEEDS TO WOMEN

With support from Anahata Stiftung, PRDS distributed 100 packets of vegetable seeds to 100 women farmers from 15 villages. The seeds, which included beans, bottle gourds, and pumpkins, were given to help the women cultivate their own kitchen gardens and promote healthy living. The initiative proved to be a great success, with many women reporting they were now able to get fresh, pesticide-free vegetables for their families, save money, and even earn extra income by selling their produce.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION





