



Women's Collective Annual Report (2017 - 2018)

Introduction:

WC in its 24th year of inception, continued to focus on strengthening the marginalized communities particularly the women, children, daliths, adivasis, and religious minorities and enable them to participate in the process of their development as active members of civil society to establish constitutional rights and citizenship entitlements for themselves. WC work covers 1383 villages falling under 23 Parliament constituencies, 43 assembly constituency, 581 Village Panchayats, 72 taluks, 88 unions, 4 city Corporations and 16 districts. The Team consists of 69 volunteers at varied level, 29 coordinators, 54% Volunteers are daliths, 36% Single women, 1% Physically Challenged, 61% Hindu, 1% Muslims, 38% Christians, 3% men.

Women's Collective is an active women's institution whose goal is to serve, particularly the women of this land with multifarious plans and tasks for their benefit and upliftment. This is a registered organization under the Tamil Nadu Society's Registration Act of 1975 on the day of 15th September 2001 as a non-profit making Voluntary organization.

WC is registered under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975 on 15th of September, 2001 as a non- Profitable Voluntary organization. It has been registered under 12 A section of Income Tax and has Income Tax exemptions u/s 80G. The accounts are operated at Corporation Bank, Kellys branch, SB A/C 127800101003832 and at Bank of India Kolathur Branch from 2005 SB A/C 802710110000211. The annual auditing is done for the last six years by:

Manohar Chowdhry & Associates
3A, Myna Teppakulam First Street, East gate,
Madurai – 625 001
PH: 0452-2331173, 0452-2331271

WC had its Executive meeting in July, October 2017 & January, March 2018 and Annual General body in July, 2017. **The members were not paid any travel or sitting charge to attend the meeting in 2017-18.**

Women's Collective Executive Members 2017-2018:

Name	Name of the Father/ Husband	Occupation	Office held in the Association if any	Relationship with office bearers, if any	Address
Ms. Sheelu	Francis	Social Worker	President	Nil	7, Sixth street, Anjugam Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai-600099
Ms. Krishnaveni	Veeraswamy	House Wife	Vice President	Nil	1/12, Melkullakarai street, Arungkunam post, Maduranthagam, Kanchi
Ms. Ponnuthai	Sappani	Social Worker	Secretary	Nil	79, Shenbaga vinaygar Kovil Street, Vasudevanallur Tirunelveli
Ms. Josephine	Raja	Social Worker	Treasurer	Nil	3/A Villuvan Nagar, Polur Thiruvannamalai
Ms. Dillibai	Vittal Rangan	Social Worker	Jt. Secretary	Nil	1/26, Perumal koil street, Aathanur, Maadampakkam Post, Guduvancherry, Kanchi – 603202
Ms. Chithradevi	Ellumalai	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	5/175 North Forest Road, Periyakulam, Theni dist
Ms.Saral	Alphoen Raj	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	17/155, HMK Building, Kothagiri, Nilgris – 643217

Ms. M. Mary	Raja	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	29/13, Mariamman Koil street, Narasingapuram Post, Attur, Salem – 636108
Ms. Kamala	Arul	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	Gandipet, Ulunthai post, Sri Perambadur, Thituvallur – 602105
Ms. Arulselvi	Ganesan	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	6/467, Street. Marrys Colony, 3 rd Street, Tuticorin – 628002
Ms.Ranganayagi	Murugesan	Social Worker	Executive Mem	Nil	Old Ranjendiran Hospital 2 nd Floor, MG road, Palacode T.k., Dharmapuri – 636808.

Note: The above committee members are not related to each other

Geographical Profile:

S. No	Unit	Parl	Assemb	Dist	Corp	TK	Union	Municip	TS	Panch	Village
1	NWC	1	3	1		2	3	1	6	4	35
2	MMWC								1		7
3	KKWC	2	2	1		2	2		2	7	15
4	ALWC	1	1	1		1	1		1	7	12
5	VWC	1	2	1		2	2	1	3	13	45
6	TTWC	1	2	1	1	2	2			2	16
7	KPWC				1	2	2	1	1	15	15
8	CPWC	1	1	1		2	2			7	20
9	UPWC					1	1		2	5	13
10	PKWC	1	3	1		3	1	1	4	1	19
11	NTWC	1	1	1		2	2		1	12	22
12	NGWC	1	2	1		2	3			12	42
13	ATWC	1		1		3	3	2		9	29
14	CWC	1	4	1		4	6	1	1	13	13
15	PCWC	2	4	2		4	4		5	22	30
16	WWC					2	2	1		19	35
17	NMWC	1	2	1		2	2		2	15	40
18	NPWC	1	2			2	2	1	2	6	22
19	UWC	1	2	1		2	2			6	17
20	MTWC	1	1			1	2	1	1	12	15
21	WBWC	1	1	1		2	2	1		11	14
22	OWC	1	1			2	2			3	4
23	MWC 1	1	1	1		1	1	1	2	6	15
24	MWC 2	1					1			6	11
25	KDWC	1	2			2	2		2	1	16
26	KVWC	1					1			3	11
27	GWC	1	2	1		1	2		1	10	15
28	TKWC	1	2	1		1	1			14	22
29	SWC	1	2			2	4		1	19	37

TS- Township Volunteer Profile:

S.No	Unit	Staff	M	F	Caste				Religion			Marital Status			DA
					SC	MBC	BC	OC	H	C	M	Mar	UN	Singl	
1	NWC	4		4			4		1	3		3		1	1
2	MMWC	1		1			1			1				1	
3	KKWC	1		1	1					1				1	
4	ALWC	1		1			1			1		1			
5	VWC	5		5	3	1	1		4	1		2		3	
6	TTWC	1		1	1					1				1	
7	KPWC	1		1	1					1		1			
8	CPWC	2		2	2				2			2			
9	UPWC	1+1		2	1		1		2					2	
10	PKWC	4		4	2		2		3	1		1		3	
11	NTWC	2		2	1		1		2				1	1	
12	NGWC	4		4	3		1		2	2		2		2	
13	ATWC	3		3	2	1			2	1		3			
14	CWC	3+1		4	3		1		3	1		3		1	
15	PCWC	4		4		4			4			2		2	
16	WWC	2		2	1	1			2			1		1	
17	NMWC	1		1	1					1		1			
18	NPWC	1		1	1				1					1	
19	UWC	3		3	3				1	2		2		1	
20	MTWC	2		2		1	1		2			2			
21	WBWC	2		2	1		1		2			2			
22	OWC	1		1	1					1		1			
23	MWC 1	2		2			2		2			1		1	
24	MWC 2	1		1			1		1			1			
25	KDWC	2		2	1	1			1		1	1		1	
26	KVWC	1		1	1					1				1	
27	GWC	3+1	2	2	3	1			1	3		4			
28	TKWC	4	1	3	4					4		4			
29	SWC	3+1		4		2	2		4			2		2	

M- Male, F- Female, H- Hindu, C- Christian, M- Muslim, UN- Unmarried, DA –

Disabled.

STATE WOMEN CONFERENCE:

State Women Conference is an annual event, which is planned during the first half of every year. The 23rd conference was held at Kanyakumari district, the Southern part of Tamil Nadu State, from 30th to 31st July 2017. A topic of current affairs is generally decided as the main focus during the conferences, and the topic was “Be bold for change” this year. The Conference was held in “Vivekananda Kendra”, Kanyakumari. A Conference Committee was formed with neighboring district co-ordinators, who took the responsibility of arranging the venue, food, conference events including public meetings, a mass rally and the speakers for the events. 316 registered as participants and took part in the conference.





OUTCOME:

Last year we came across many natural disasters like heavy rainfall, flood, cyclone which caused lots of damages to the crops. In this regard, what kind of decisions can be taken to protect our hard work from such disasters, and in what measures Government is going to bring out steps to prevent the crops from such natural calamities.

STATE WOMEN FARMERS CONFERENCE:

Every year "Women Farmer's Conference" was conducted in North & South districts of Tamilnadu. This year too WC conducted the farmers conference in those 2 regions. In North, the 16th Women farmers conference was conducted in 'MSR Mahal' at Kanchipuram districts on 17th & 18th September-2017 and in South, the 17th women farmers conference was conducted in "Anugraha College" at Dindigul district on 28th & 29th of November-2017 in the title "Keen to save Traditional Seeds". Delicates from various fields attended the meeting and gave the speech. Around 300 farmers took part in these conferences. The conference is presided by the Co-ordinators of Women's Collective. Future plan given by Ms. Ranganayagi district co-ordinators of Dharmapuri, decision by

Ms. Mary Co-ordinator of Vellore District. In her speech, she urges to encourage the farmers who cultivate crops. In order to confirm safe food in all families we should bring in Kitchen gardening and terrace gardening. We should ban GM seeds in all districts. She also advises the public to consume millet food in their daily life, which is more strengthen than rice and wheat and also stress the farmers to cultivate millet crops in their farms. Vote of thanks delivered by Ms. J. Rani co-ordinator of Palacode Women's Collective.



OUTCOME:

Nearly around 300 women farmers participated in both the conference together and gained knowledge to save the traditional seeds, natural fertilizers etc., people even took an oath to save seeds



for future cultivation, so as to protect their family from hybrid vegetables, and even not to encourage their children to eat junk foods.

SEED FESTIVAL:

Now-a-days “**Traditional Seeds**” has almost disappeared and we are pushed to such a state in which, we have to buy the seeds compulsorily from the Government or from some firms or companies. To remove this unfavourable condition, seed festivals are organised in the villages. Seeds are collected from their own region those seeds are exhibited in the seed festival.





This festival's main motive is to give awareness about the Traditional Seeds. There is need, to save indigenous variety of seeds which are on the brink of extinction as they were facing stiff competition from hybrid variety of seeds. The traditional seeds also yield crops that have high nutrition content. Moreover, the traditional seeds need less irrigation and fertilizer as compared to the hybrid variety of seeds.



OUTCOME:

This festival is to create awareness among people to know about the traditional seeds and traditional foods. Many people are willing to gain knowledge about healthy food and they welcome it. The feedback from these consumers result in positive way which is guaranteed for healthy life.

COLLECTIVE FARMS:

Almost all the villages in India, there are about 20-30% of women who remain single, either as widows or abandoned by their families and society, who individually shoulder the burden of caring children and elders in their families. These women are either landless or have very small pieces of fragmented rain fed lands. Owing to lack of resources to invest on their own land and lack of capacities to manage their farms, these women end up doing low skilled tasks in agriculture and cattle rearing, mostly as wage labourers. As the focus of collective farming is primarily on meeting family food needs, right now, they are not marketing their produce. The produce from the collective farming provides food for their own family. The collective farming members find it difficult to get land for lease and even if they get, the owners demand the land back within a year, so the members request the district collector to allot the government unused land for collective farming. The collective farming must have the maximum of 10 members



The group should decide on the size of land to be farmed under collective farming and lease the land for three years. One third of the crop yield should be shared with the land owner. The members should agree to grow local food crops of daily use such as grains, vegetables, greens, pulses and oil seeds. The group should maintain a bank account, records and registers bringing transparency in accounting.

OUTCOME:

Landless woman farmers are being saved through collective farming, they join as a group and cultivate crops in a particular person's land, through this they even protect their family from starvation. This collective farming help them to run their family and even to be stable in their work as farmers.

PARAMBARIYA CANTEEN:

Women's Collective has started "**Parambariya Millet**" canteen for the purpose of creating awareness among students to bring in the merits of millet food, so we started the canteen at Donbosco school premises. Here we are providing variety of foods and snacks items, which are prepared by using millets. We are procuring millets from our women farmers from various parts of Tamil Nadu.



OUTCOME:

WC's main motive is to make people live a healthy life by bringing millet food. To reach people, in one way WC have started a canteen at school in concern about the health of future generation. Students like to eat millet food daily at school canteen.

BIMA YOJANA:

Janashree Bima Yojana is a special scheme for women SHG members. It helps provide insurance coverage to women SHG members. In addition, a scholarship of Rs.300/-per quater per child for the education of two children from 9th to 12th standard is also provided under the Shiksha sahyog yojana. In the event of death other than accident an amount of Rs. 30,000/- is payable. If death occurs due to an accident, and amount of Rs. 75,000/- is payable. Permanent partial disability, due to an accident, an amount of Rs. 37,500/-payable. So Women's Collective joined as an agent in 2010. Nearly 120 members under the schemes.

OUTCOME:

Many people were gained by this scheme, Women's Collective helped the students of various districts for their education and to achieve their dream come true by providing scolarship through this schemes.

KALANJIYAM SEED EXCHANGE MELA:

Tamil Nadu Women's Collective Organized a Programme on "**Natural Seed Festival**" dated 15 Nov 2016 at **Vasuthevanallur**, Starting with traditional cultural activities. The natural seeds has been collected from nine different villages namely Arulatchi, Arulatchi Indra nagar, Sanganaperi, Pacherry, Eamanpatti, Ayyapuram, Sangupuram, T.Ramanathapuram, and Vellanaikottai to Mankavalam and Kottampatti through bullock carts with traditional folk dance and holding banners throughout the ralley.

Ms. Ponnuthai made an effort by requesting the Government to provide various allowances for the Welfare of the female farmers for which she formed a Female Farmers Union.





Mr. Muruganatham the special speaker wanted all the female farmers to bring out the traditional way of cultivating crops because, present food habits has lead to various health hazards like lung disorders, diabetes and cancer etc. Therefore, back to our initial way of cultivation to consume organic foods.

Ms. Amutha, the head of Women Farmers Society delivered the vote of thanks. Finally, an awareness song has been sung by the women farmers society delivering the meaning “**Moodikidantha kathavugal**”, and there comes the end of “**Traditional Seed Festival**” with cherishing moments.

OUTCOME:

In this meeting people who took part were encouraged and the woman farmers who attended the meeting realises that they are the only source to bring back the traditional way of cultivation who can withstand in this field till the end. To prevent them and their family from the deadly diseases which is presently spreading throughout the world. So they decided to plant traditional seeds which is provided for them to live a healthy life.

KITCHEN GARDENING AND TERRACE GARDENING:

To create an awareness among children by bringing parambariya seeds inside, to avoid defects of seedless brinjal and other hybrid vegetables. Intake of such food habits which leads to various health hazards like lung disorders, diabetes and cancer etc. Kitchen gardening and terrace gardening came into existence by bringing it to the knowledge of Children panchayat and school children by making them to plant at home and at School premises.



OUTCOME:

Students came to know about the hybrid seeds, so to avoid these kind of vegetables which causes diseases like cancer, diabetes etc, and are concerned about their health, they started to plant vegetables and millets of traditional seeds. They are encouraged to plant kitchen gardening at home and are eager to watch these plants grow and water them daily.

PARTNER'S EXCHANGE VISIT :

Partners Exchange meet in September 2017, a group of 11 women farmers from Women's Collective under the leadership of Ranganayagi a Co-ordinator, went for an visit to Zaheerabad. Where they experienced a new way of cultivating multi crop millet, were in a small amount of land nearly twenty four to twenty five types of millet is been cultivated. This the farmers who went for the visit got motivated and were very much impressed by the way of cultivation. As a result even they started growing multi crop millet in their field after the exchange visit and sharing of experience.



OUTCOME:

As a result to this visit, our women farmers got motivated, and they started planting multi crop cultivation in their own land for about 18 acres, which brought a very good result and made their heart filled with happiness.

BIO SAND WATER FILTER :

Bio Sand Water Filter is a low cost drinking water filter which removes 99% of the virus, ameiba, patha fans and worms from the contaminated water. It is chemical free, no need for electricity easy to handle, works for more than 30 years without repairs, more over it is made of traditional method of filtering. It removes iron, metal salt calcium and even some arsenic minerals. This is an American technology. It was invented by David Manes a Canadian College Professor.





OUTCOME:

It has helped the HIV patients to live long, it removes tooth stain and so on, due to these outcomes from other countries made our people to go with traditional way of filtering and started preparing to use it. As a result of this filtering method one of our partner said while cooking rice used to be in yellow colour with normal water, but now after using the filtered water the colour of rice is white. This water filter brings big changes in their daily use.

FARMERS CAMPAIGN:

Nearly 20 of our Women farmers took part in farmers campaign that took place in Delhi.





Conclusion:

We hereby conclude that focus was on food safety and security at the household level, and capacity building, awareness creation and group building at the community level. The decision of focusing on children as future leaders and to develop right values during their childhoods is gaining momentum in all the units. We assure that food grains are available without poison in our working areas. Farmers are using only natural manures in their fields and cultivate millet grains in huge quantity. Younger generation are in the process of changing their food habit and consuming more of millet foods in their daily life. More and more women farmers are shifting to millet cultivation. The women are increasingly purchasing land in their own name even if it is only 2-3 cents. More and more women are giving land instead of jewels as property share to girls.

WC member's active participation in networks has strengthened the women farmers and empowered them. WC member is the joint secretary of the All India Kisan Coordination Committee, Active member of the National Millet Sisters movement, Tamil Nadu committee member of the Millet Network of India, Part of the National Women farmers Network "MAKKAM", Committee member of the National alliance of women and so on and so forth.