

Annual Report

April 2021 – March 2022



Centre for Experiencing Socio Cultural Interaction

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Tamil Nadu

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1. ABOUT CESC

The Centre for Experiencing Socio Cultural Interaction (CESCI) is a concept developed by Ms. Maja Koene, and Shri. P. V. Rajagopal. It was established in the year 1994 as a resource and alternative education centre for social workers and social activists in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. The centre serves to bring together the concerned individuals and groups from Europe and India in an effort to build solidarity, friendship and to facilitate the local, national and global process of uplifting the oppressed and marginalised.

CESCI is a training and cultural centre where people, especially the European and other parts of the worlds meet to experience and exposure whereby they would understand the social problem and how the social action is being carried out by Ekta Parishad, in a peaceful eco-friendly environment and thus extend their participation.

The Centre's main purpose is to provide a place to the activists of the social movement - Ekta Parishad, where they can get training, reflect on their work and take rest from their harsh everyday life. Ekta Parishad is active in different rural states of India. Ekta Parishad consists of about 300 plus social activists, whose work reflects the Gandhian philosophy of nonviolence, honest conduct and maintaining one's integrity and independence.

Vision

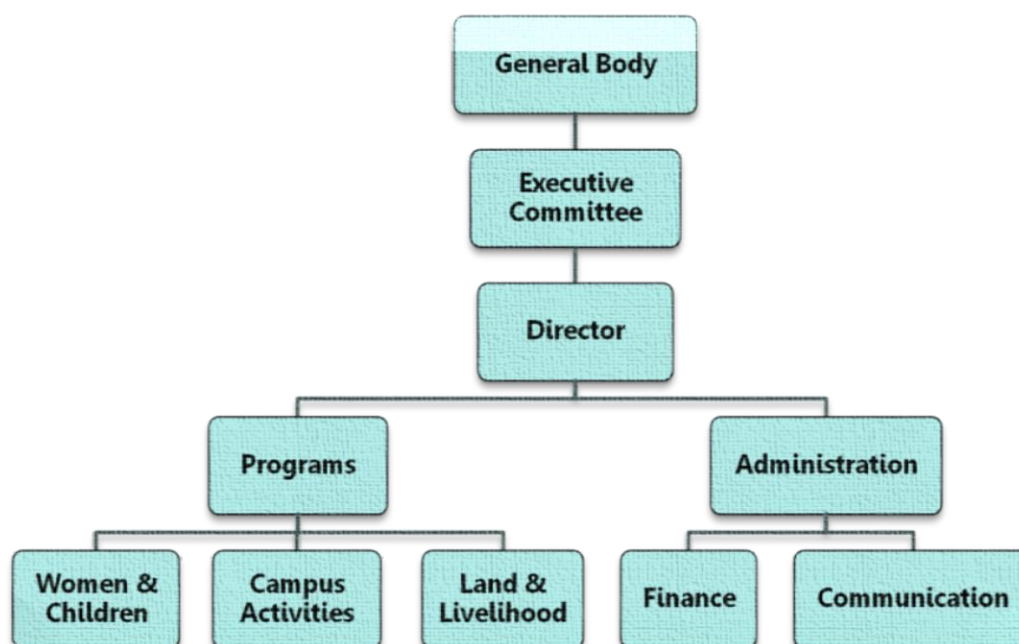
Lighthouse of energising nonviolent transformation towards a just, equitable, humane, sustainable and peaceful society.

Mission

- To support people in the **social change** process, to relieve oppression and to work to bring about **social justice**.
- To organise training, education, awareness and communication programs for **social activists**, NGOs and service institutions in order to bring about social change.
- To enhance the **quality of development projects** by equipping involved personnel with adequate knowledge, orientation, motivation and practical skills.
- To initiate development-oriented **dialogue** between persons from diverse cultures, religions and disciplines in and outside India.

- a) To network with like-minded institutions and organizations, **creating synergies** and common action programs.
- To provide a platform for interaction, exchange of ideas and promotion of the message of **non-violence and social transformation** according to Gandhian **principles**, among individuals from different walks of life.

CESCI STRUCTURE



Board of Directors	
Mr. S. C. Beher	President
Dr. G. Pankajam	Vice President
Mr. Rajagopal P.V.	Secretary
Mr. N. Muthu Velayutham	Joint Secretary
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Mr. Pramod P. K.	Member
Mr. Krishnan Subramaniam	Member
Dr. P.Uma	Member

2. CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Month	No of organizations	No of persons	No of Days
2021			
7 th November	Volunteers Meeting	17	1
14 th November	Children's Day Celebration	120	1
4 th – 5 th December	Planning Meeting for Rural Economic Development	32	2
5 th December	Volunteers' Meeting	17	1
10 th – 11 th December	Urban Team Meeting		2
2022			
2 nd January	Volunteers Meeting	17	1
14 th January	Pongal Celebration	56	1
26 th January	Independence Day Celebration	70	1
30 th January	Peace Club Meeting	34	1
6 th February	Volunteers Meeting	17	1
24 th – 27 th March	Youth Leadership Training	32	4
26 th March	Maja Koene Award	100	1
26 th March	Professor S Jeyaprakasam Memorial Speech & Professor S Jeyaprakasam Award Ceremony	100	1

Campus Activity: Due to the Covid19 restriction followed by numbers of other factors, the campus activities from other organisations. Yet, two organisations availed our services, they are: Rotary Club of Madurai South, and SACS Engineering College in the March 2022. 50 members from each programme participated. A total 100 participants.

3. FIELD ACTIVITIES

3.1. RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Since March 2020 the Covid-19 has been a challenge for humans in general. Particularly, the poor people, including widows, disabled and tribal communities are severely affected that live in remote area in the states of India. The impact was the health and well-being of millions but also caused huge loss of lives, livelihood, and productive assets. The distress in economies – job, wage, production and so on. In a situation as that CESC responded to the situation by:

1. Distributing food materials to the poor, widows, and disabled people in 8 states of India and reached **1856** families.
2. Medical care supports to the needy with essential medicines and other safety materials to **10850** people in 8 Indian states.
3. A total of **51** Covid Action Volunteers and their families were supported.

3.1.1. Food Material Pack

Sl.No.	State	Number of Beneficiaries/Families
1	Andhra Pradesh	200
2	Bihar	70
3	New Delhi	13
4	Kerala	580
5	Pondicherry	100
6	Tamil Nadu	193
7	Telangana	100
8	West Bengal	600
Total		1856

3.1.2. Medical Care Support

Sl.No.	State	Number of Beneficiaries/Families
1	Assam	700
2	Bihar	600
3	Chhattisgarh	2360
4	Jharkhand	1000
5	Manipur	1000
6	Odisha	3190
7	Pondicherry	1000
8	Tamil Nadu	1000
Total		10850

3.1.3. Covid Action Volunteers Support

Sl.No.	State	Number of Beneficiaries/Families
1	Andhra Pradesh	3
2	Bihar	2
3	Kerala	38
4	Madhya Pradesh	1
5	Maharashtra	4
6	Tamil Nadu	1
7	Telangana	1
8	West Bengal	1
Total		51



Relief Work in Telangana

Relief Work in Tamil Nadu



3.2. WOMEN BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1. Skill Trainings:

1) Soap Making: 30 women from poor families have been trained in soap making. This training was held at Gandhi Griham, Calicut, Kerala, from **14th March to 15th March 2022**. These trained women would collectively form a soap making unit and engage in economic activities.



2) Jack Fruit Products Preparation: This training was participated in by 29 women, and have been trained. This training was held at Gandhi Griham, Calicut, Kerala, from 21st March 22nd March 2022. Processing of raw Jackfruit for value addition by which these trained would engage in income generation as a women's collective micro level enterprises. It's a nonviolent economic activity.



3) Umbrella Making: Umbrella making training was held at Gandhi Graham, Calicut, Kerala from **30th March to 31st March 2022**. 20 women have been trained. It would fetch them either employment or they could collectively engage in income generation activity. They can even have their own brand of umbrella.



3.2.2. Income Generation Activity

At two working villages of CESCO, Seegupatti and Vemparali villages involved in Country Chicken Poultry. Each group has 15 members. Altogether 30 members in the two groups. Each member has been given INR.2000 to buy chickens and grow them. A total of INR.60000/- is given. As a result, the grown country chicken would bring additional INR.2000/- income to each, thus they would have additional income for their living. Thus, the INR.60000/- would yield another INR.60000/-.



3.3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

3.3.1. Namma CESCO Children Learning Centres

'Namma CESCO,' meaning *our CESCO*, is a programme for children in the 13 villages surrounding the CESCO Campus. There are around 300 children attending regular classes in the evening. The centres are administered by volunteers trained to follow the principles of Gandhian virtues and impart them into the children during the regular course of their studies, besides assisting the children with their education. Moreover, each N-CLC is given 3 copies and the children start reading to understand Gandhiji. The children and volunteers involve themselves in the village development activities. Thus, these centres contribute to social changes in their own villages at least in a small way.

No.	Village	Volunteer	Education	Numbers of Children	
				Boys	Girls
1	Anna Nagar	M. Poun Fathima	B.Sc., B.Ed.	7	4
2	A. Pudupatti	V.M. Subathra	MBA	7	7
3	Chatrapatti	Sudha Maveeran	B.Sc.	7	9
4	Kadavur	R. Soundharya	B.A., B.Ed.	8	17
5	Kadavur – Colony	L. Jaya Priya	10+2	4	13
6	Manjapatti	Karthika	B.Sc.	10	10
7	Meenakshipuram	P.Kavitha	M.A.	10	10
8	Moonur	Pothum Ponnu	M.Sc.	5	7
9	Poolanpatti	R.Thilagavathy	B.E.	4	8
10	Seegupatti	M. Hari Priya	10+2	5	14
11	Thoppulam Patti	M. Kowsalya	B.A.	9	4
12	Thondaman Patti	S. Poongodi	B.E.	13	11
13	Vemparalli	Gayathri	B.A.	8	12
				97	120
Boys & Girls				217	



"If we wish to create a lasting peace we must begin with the children."
~Mahatma Gandhi~

3.1.2. Urban Children Learning Centres

Sl. No.	Location	Sl.No.	Location
1	Anbalagan Thalai	8	Mela Anuppanady
2	Anjugam Nagar	9	Melamadaï
3	Annai Sathya Nagar	10	Palpannai
4	Anuppanady	11	Panaiyur
5	Chintamani	12	Santhaipettai
6	Gomeshpalayam	13	Vandiyoor
7	Karuppapillai Enthai		

The Urban Children Learning Centres voluntarily took care of Mr Saravanan and Mr Siva, both teachers. Each centre has on average 20 children both boys and girls. They provide leadership to the peace clubs in the urban area. The centres are run by teacher-trained volunteers to educate the children from Urban slums. Thus, the centres are the place children from poor socio-economic backgrounds study and hone their skill beside discipline – the Gandhian way of life.



3.3.3. Nirav: An Educational Assistance Programme

‘Nirav’ meaning peace is an educational assistance programme by which 130 children from disadvantaged communities in Kerala were benefitted. CESC and Ekta Parishad had organised it. Children from following villages in Wayanad district are the recipients of the assistance: 1) Manathavady 2) Sultan Bathery 3) and Kalpetta. Leaders and activists of Ekta Parishad, local body members, teachers, lawyers, and prominent persons from all religious backgrounds graced the occasion.

3.3.4. Leadership Training on Nonviolence and Peace

1) Promotion of Nonviolence and Peace among youth: A Youth Leadership Training was organised from 31st January to 1st April 2022 at Bijouri, Madhya Pradesh. 40 young people participated from different parts of Madhya Pradesh State. They would promote nonviolence and peace in their own locality and work as agents of change.

2) An all-India level Youth Leadership Training has been organized in Madhya Pradesh. The programme was held at the venue of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, Morena, from 6th February to 8th February 2022. A total of 305 young people participated from 27 states of India. Dr P.V. Rajagopal led the sessions.

SL.NO.	STATE	PARTICI PANTS	SL.NO.	STATE	PARTICI PANTS
1	Andaman Nicobar	1	15	Maharashtra	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	1	16	Manipur	1
3	Assam	6	17	New Delhi	12
4	Bihar	4	18	Odisha	4
5	Chandigarh	2	19	Punjab	13
6	Chhattisgarh	6	20	Puducherry	1
7	Goa	3	21	Rajasthan	4
8	Gujarat	3	22	Tamil Nadu	9
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	23	Telangana	3
10	Haryana	4	24	Tripura	1
11	Jharkhand	1	25	Uttar Pradesh	15
12	Karnataka	16	26	Uttarakhand	5
13	Kerala	9	27	West Bengal	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	169			
	TOTAL(A)	226		TOTAL (B)	79
			A+B = 305		



3) In Telangana State, from **11th March to 13th March 2022**, 36 young men and 11 young women turned to the training where the Gandhian principles of nonviolence and peace was imparted on them. The 47 young people attended the training promised and were

determined to follow and practice the nonviolence method of living.

4) A two-day **Training on Nonviolence and Peace** organised for young activists in Andhra Pradesh on 19th March to 20th March 2022. It was held at Youth Hostel in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 35 young people enthusiastically participated.

5) A four-day **Training on Nonviolence and Peace for Youth** held at CESC Campus, Majagram, Madurai was organised on **24th March to 27th March 2022**. In this programme young people from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh actively participated.

SL.NO.	STATE	PARTICIPANTS
1	Andhra Pradesh	05
2	Karnataka	03
3	Kerala	12
4	Pondicherry	02
5	Tamil Nadu	10
	Total	32

I offer you peace;
I offer you love;
I offer you friendship.

I see your beauty;
I hear your need;
I feel your feelings.

My wisdom flows from
the highest source;
I salute the source in you.

Let us work together;
For unity and peace.

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

4. ACTIVITIES OF PEACE CLUBS



Peace Club is another initiative of CESC and Gandhi Museum. On 02.01.2022 it organised a **Dialogue on Village Development on the theme – climate change, village economy and government schemes.** The meeting was presided over by Mr K Nandarao and spoke that the nation's economy lies in the rural area.

The Peace Clubs take up the message of climate change and how it affects the rural economy. Furthermore, the Peace Club inculcate the good values in the mind and heart of children. It organises programmes on nonviolence and peace among school and colleges. Local body members of Manjampatti, president of Peace Clubs and other people from prominent from institutions participated and had a fruitful discussion on turning towards nonviolent economic activity which would be sustainable.



Theatre Performance CESC Children's Theatre Group introduced a new performance "Google Thatha", "Iyerka" (Nature) Volunteer Ravi and his wife Saundharya took initiative to bringing the new theatre group after the lock down and they had two performances during August and October 2021. Ravi is taking initiatives to organise cultural groups in different villages.

PEACE CLUBS Madurai are trying to introduce the idea of nonviolence to children in many schools in and around Madurai Mr. Saravanan, and Mr. Siva both schoolteachers are volunteering to achieve these initiatives. We started this process last year and identified some teachers who can take responsibilities. July 2021 one day training and planning workshop of Peace Club Madurai Jointly organised by CESC & Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai. This was held at Gandhi Museum; 30 Teacher Volunteers participated in this programme. Mr. Saravanan, and Mr. Natarajan, Institute of Gandhian Studies took lead role in this workshop.



Peace Club
(Gandhi Memorial Museum & CESC)

Training for Teachers on POC SO Act 2012
(Sexual Violence and legal Provisions)

Welcome Address : Ms. S. Backialakshmi
Joint Secretary, Peace Club

Presidential Address : Mr. K. Nandha Rao
Secretary, Gandhi Memorial Museum

In the Presence of : Dr. K. Ramrajan Vice Principal, DIET

Introductory Address : Mr. K. Saravanan President, Peace Club

Felicitation : Mr. R. Natarajan, Gandhi Memorial Museum
Mr. N. Thirugnanam, ADPC, Sangra Shiksha
Mr. R. Siva, Kalakala Vagupparai


Key Note Address : Mr. R. Swaminathan, M.Sc, B.Ed, M.Phil,
Chief Education Officer, Madurai

Resource Person : Mr. G. Ganesan,
Child Rights Specialist

Vote of Thanks : Mr. Vinodkumar, CESC

Venue : Gandhi Memorial Museum
Date : 30.12.2021
Time : 10am - 1 pm

STOP
CHILD ABUSE



Training for Teachers on POC SO ACT, 2012: Protection of Children from Sexual Offence, Act, 2012. The aim of this training was to create awareness among the Teachers about the POC SO Act, in a situation, recently, numbers of sexual harassment meted against the children in the educational institution. The programme held

at Gandhi Museum, Madurai. On 30.12.2021. Around 40 teachers participated.

5. OTHER PROGRAMMES

Independence Day Celebration: On 15th August 2021, 150 children gathered to celebrate the India's Independence nearby Namma



CESCI Children Learning Centres. The volunteers and the staff at CESC have organised the event. The Sub Inspector of Police, Chathrapatti Station was the Chief Guest. He hoisted the national flag and felicitated the children to follow what father of the nation taught us for better human being.



The 152nd Birthday celebration of Mahatma Gandhi was observed as an All-Religious Prayer Meeting, at Gandhi Museum, Madurai. Children from both rural and urban area Peace Clubs and the leaders of Gandhi Museum and CESC participated mark the event meaningful.

Besides, there was 3 day '**padayatra**' was embarked by NSS students at various colleges as peace club members walked from CESC to Madurai.

Climate Justice: A 'Yatra' on Climate Justice was organised for 3 days from 14th October to 16th October 2021. The 'Yatra' began from CESC campus on






14th of October morning; it covered 100 locations where Namma CESC Children Learning Centres being run. The 'Yatra' travelled through 14 Urban slum CLCs, and schools, colleges, and hostels together 66 places. This programme was jointly organised by CESC and Gandhi Museum, The

American College, Rotary Club of Madurai South. CESC's 10 village volunteers, 40 NSS Students, and 10 teachers participated.

South India Coordination (CESC & Ekta Parishad): During the Covid19 lockdown, a series of webinar meetings were organised. It focused on 12 thematic areas, which address the issues need attention in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. In this context, Mr Inamul Hasan embarked an 8 day 'Pada Yatra' with a theme 'Let's Remember the Independence of Puducherry'. It pledged to restore the rights of oppressed –scheduled castes, tribals, fisherfolks, labours, minorities, and transgender the most vulnerable. Determined to follow the Babasaheb Ambedkar and Gandhiji's society-oriented ideals that bring liberation the society. During the 'Yatra' the young people enthusiastically discussed that what roles they can play in the society.

The 'Yatra' also held public meetings and it addressed the principles of Gandhiji and what Babasaheb wished for the people. And the 'Yatra' participated in a nonviolent agitation organised by Mr S. Thanaraj, demanding land and livelihood rights. Later, under the Forest Right Act, 21 families were given 'Pattas' to Kadar of Kallar-Teppakumedu to live and cultivate in the forest. Across Tamil Nadu so far 282 Adivasis received land 'Pattas'.

6. MAJA KOENE AWARD & PROFESSOR JEYAPRAKASAM AWARD

MAJA SOCIAL ACTIVIST AWARD	
	<i>Dr Punalur Somarajan is a well-known social activist in Kerala. He has been working poor and downtrodden. He is sheltering thousands of homeless, and elderly. Dr Somarajan is an inspiration to many people across the nation. Further, he is also educating the general public and the politicians on human tragedies.</i>
	<i>Ms Usha Vishwakarma, a martial art trainer hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. She has developed a strategy – nonviolence defence mechanism by which she has trained thousands of young girls and women who are often time have to face the sexual offender and self-defend. Her organisation 'RED BRIGADE' provides shelter to vulnerable women community suffering gender violence. The Red Brigadiers are empowered and gradually become leaders themselves.</i>
	<i>Ms Megha Sriram Dalton, a singer by profession, began to sing the songs of Mahatma Gandhi. Thus, she popularised Gandhian ideologies through her music. She introduced Gandhi to the Adivasis singing tribal songs with the sense of aesthetics. She, through her performance, has been an inspiration to large numbers of people across the country.</i>



Mr Shashikala is an Artist. His works are unique and popular in the Kannur district of Kerala. He uses his artistic skills to spread social messages and create awareness among the people. He dedicated himself to support the disadvantaged which shaped their life to some extent.



Kallakudi - Teppakulamadu Kadar Tribal Community, an Adivasi community through persistent and nonviolence agitation has been successful in ensuring their inherent rights to live in the forest, and they have received the land 'Pattas' in a reserved forest under FRA, 2016.




SOCIAL JOURNALIST AWARD

Mr S. Naresh, a young journalist, has integrated strategic communication through his documentary on the Kallarkudi Kadar tribes' struggle for land and livelihood in the Annamalai ranges. Naresh's sustained attention to the issues and the output has played a vital part in the policy makers' mind and the government issued the land 'Pattas' to 23 Adivasi families. Thus lit the light in the Adivasis' life.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

Mr Nitin Sonawane, an engineer turned social activist. To spread the message of Mahatma Gandhi's peace and nonviolence, he travelled 45 countries without a penny in his pocket, just by walking. It took five years to cover all 45 countries; he put complete trust in humanity. This young man become a great inspiration to thousands of young people across the nations, in the peacebuilding mission.

	<p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR S JEYAPRAKASAM AWARD FOR NONVIOLENCE, PEACE & HARMONEY</p> <p><i>Mr Satyanarayana Patnaik serves the people through his organisation ‘Seba Jagat’ meaning services to the world. He mobilised the Adivasi to struggle for their land and livelihood in Gandhian way –nonviolent social action. Wide variety of Seba Jagat’s initiatives has been recognised by the Odisha government for building local leaders from the community. Accordingly, it also became an advisor to health care, disaster relief, education and skill development.</i></p>
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7. WAY FORWARD

Towards Promoting Nonviolent Economy Network

The present economic practice is violently filled, leading to massive income inequalities, ecological degradation, climate crisis, social imbalance and cultural erosion. It is a crucial time that we need to address nonviolent economics. As Mahatma Gandhi had observed that economic practice in practice is hurting the moral well-being of individuals and the nation. For Gandhiji, not a single human should suffer for want of food and clothing. In this light, it warrants us to promote the nonviolent economic system.

In the southern parts of India, a series of experiments on organic and natural farming, traditional seed collection, traditional medicine, village industries, eco-architecture, water conservation, heritage arts and crafts and so on. However, these actions have limited recognition and support. Hence, a radical change towards nonviolent economy driven by Gandhian ideology needs greater attention. Actions that consist of:

- Promote Nonviolent Economy Network, a platform for multi sectoral actors and multiple stakeholders from 6 states of South India to organise, engage, lend solidarity and build support ecosystem.
- The institutional structure and mandate of the network should be dynamically derived from potential members with a bottom-up approach to ensure democratic values.

Bottom-up approach for network building

- Public discourse and educational activities to sensitise people especially youth.
- State level consultations for conceptualisation and building state wise chapters
- Regional level workshops for consolidating actions

Ahimsai Santhai

The **Ahimsai Santhai** will be a mega event in Madurai to be organised by the Nonviolent Economy Network members in the last week of September 2022. It will showcase a plethora of local and small-scale enterprise models and livelihood programmes and shall be a platform for the world to see a glimpse of Nonviolent Economy in south India.

- 250 + producer stalls
- Prominent social workers
- Alternate thinkers and Gandhian
- 10+ educational institutions
- 5+ cultural troops
- Consumers
- Students and youth

"The earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So, we have to handover to them at least it was handed over to us."

~ Mahatma Gandhi~

