

Society of St Vincent de Paul

National Council of India

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The vision of SSVP is to be a global catholic charity organization providing aid, development and hope to the poor and the marginalized.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society was a French lawyer, author, and professor in the Sorbonne. He was 20 years old when he founded the society. Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

The Society took the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul as its patrons under the influence of Sister Rosalie Rendu who guided Frederic and his companions in their approach towards those in need. She was beatified in November 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

The Society is an accredited UN NGO and has presence in New York, Geneva and UNESCO in Paris

National Council of India

The Society was first introduced in India by the French Missionaries at Pondicherry during the Year 1852-53 as a non-aggregated Conference. The Society was officially started in India in 1863 when some conferences in Bombay were aggregated and the Bombay Particular Council was instituted. Then onwards the Society continued to grow in India. On 09.11.1953 the Superior Council of India was established and instituted with the Council General International. The Superior Council of India was renamed as National Council of India on 06.08.1973. The National Council of India has its Headquarters in Mumbai and the present President's secretariat is at Thodupuzha, Kerala with the election of Bro. Johnson Varghese as the 13th National President of India w.e.f. 28th February 2015.

The National Council of India is registered under the Income Tax Act 1961 with exemption under Sec 80G, FCRA under the ministry of Home Affairs and Societies Regn. Act and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

Structure of the Society

Conferences

The basic unit of SSVP is the Conference functioning at the Parish level. In India we have conferences exclusively for men and women. There are also mixed conferences, youth conferences as well as junior conferences in India.

In India there are 7125 conferences as on 31-03-2015 as detailed below

Types of Conferences	No. of Conferences
Youth & Junior Conferences	401
Women Conferences	1052
Men & Mixed Conferences	5672
Total No. of Conferences	7125

Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for co-ordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2015 there are 643 Area Councils.

Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. There are 82 Central Councils in India as on 31.03.2015. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its control

Active Members

There are 65, 748 active Members in 7125 Conferences. We are happy to note that there is an increase of 2,223 numbers in the membership of the Society.

The details are as given below

Name of Region	No. of Central Councils	No. of Area Councils	No. of Conferences	No. of Active Members
Kerala	30	328	3923	33479
Tamil Nadu	19	140	1405	13699
A.P. &Telangana	09	66	657	5996
Western	11	67	686	8867
North	06	17	195	1509
North East	07	25	259	2198
Total	82	643	7125	65748

The Church and SSVP

The SSVP is recognized by the Catholic Church as a Pious Lay Organization and is registered with the Catholic Bishops' Conference as a Catholic Lay Organization. The Spiritual Advisor of the National Council is appointed by the CBCI on the recommendations of the National President. The Spiritual Advisors of the Central Councils are appointed by the respective Bishops. At the conference level the parish priest is usually the Spiritual Advisor. So the SSVP is closely linked with the Church and they take active role in all the activities of the Church.

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES - 2014-15

1. Aggregation and Institution

Aggregation of a Conference and Institution of a Council by the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a formal recognition of admission to the society of St. Vincent de Paul.

During the year 2014-15 The National Council of India has forwarded 158 applications for Aggregation and 24 applications for Institution in

two lots i.e. in August 2014 (44 aggregations and 17 institutions) and in February 2015(114 Aggregations & 7 Institutions)

The region wise breakup of applications forwarded is as given below

Region	Conferences	Area Councils	Central Councils
Andhra Pradesh	29	12	
Kerala	53	6	
Tamil Nadu	26	1	
West	23	1	
North	05		1 (Chandigarh)
North East	22	1	1(Krishnagar)
Total	158	21	2

2. Twinning Schemes

The twinning scheme was introduced in 1960 in a spirit of sharing both spiritually and financially. Conferences and Councils in developed countries are linked with developing countries through prayers, correspondence and financial assistance. The major twinning partners of India are England & Wales, Australia, Scotland, Netherlands and the USA. The twinning schemes help expansion of the society and also assist the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the beneficiaries. During the year 2015-16 we received Rs.5,97,02,522/- as twinning grant from different countries

Summarized statement of Overseas Twinning's

Sl. No	Country	2014	2015
1	England & wales	1527	1531
2	Australia	1419	1419
3	Scotland	311	303
4	Netherlands	33	33
5	USA	13	13
6	Canada	8	8
7	Italy	5	5
	Total	3313	3312

As on 31st March 2015, total no. of conferences in India is 7125 out of which 3312 conferences have been twinned. This indicates that only 47% of conferences in India are twinned.

3. Internal Twinning

Internal twinning programme was started in the year 2007 by the National Council of India. This is being continued effectively at all levels. During the past decades twinning grants were received from foreign Vincentians in a big way. But now we find a diminishing trend in the inflow of twinning grant from outside India. The time has come for us to look for resources from within so that affluent conferences and councils help and assist weaker conferences in our country.

At present the internal twinning programme operates in the following manner.

- a. Twinning within a Central Council
- b. Direct twinning from one Central Council to another.
- c. Twinning from one Central Council to another through National Council

Past experience has revealed that of the three modes of internal twinning, twinning from CC to CC through the national council was found to be the most effective and efficient one. The amount of internal twinning is Rs.4000/- per year spread over 4 quarters with Rs. 1000. each. During the year 2014-15 there were altogether 700 internal twinings under the above mentioned categories.

4. Educational Scholarships

The National Council of India helps the education of students belonging to the poor families in our country through various scholarships supported and sponsored by overseas councils. The main overseas sponsors are Australia, England & Wales, Netherlands and Scotland.

The following are the details of various types of scholarships offered during 2014-15.

Sl. No	Scholarship	Renewals	New scholarships	Total Amounts Released
1	Vidya Jyothi	-	1047	1047000
2	Technical Training Scholarships	351	328	1833300
3	Higher Education Scholarships	95	84	940000
4	Vocational Training Scholarships	-	135	182250
5	Assist a Student Scholarships	-	1582	3203550
	Total	446	3176	7206100

5. Projects

The Projects are integral part of the Twinning Scheme. The projects aim at eliminating the root cause of poverty through self help or group schemes in order to uplift the poor from their financial crisis and to restore the dignity and a sense of self respect of the poor in the society. The financial assistance for the implementation of projects are received from the respective overseas twinned Councils on the recommendations of the National Council of India.

Projects are either one time projects or revolving projects which generate income as well as employment. The Central Councils have successfully implemented many projects during the past years and there are many running projects such as AIDS Hospice, Old Age Homes, street boys' hostel, first aid and medical centers etc. All these projects get local support both financially and otherwise.

During the year 2014-15, 153 projects were sanctioned.

The details are as given below

Sl. No.	Region	Projects	Projects
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		applied	sanctioned
1	Kerala	86	21
2	Tamil Nadu	22	22
3	Andhra Pradesh	44	71(including previous ones)
4	Western	10	10
5	North	5	11(including previous ones)
6	North East	14	18 (including previous ones)
	Total	181	153

6. Major projects of National Council of India

- a. Jeevan Jyothi - Home for the Physically challenged, Baripada, Odisha
- b. Paul Memorial Computer Centre- Velankanni, Thanjavur

Other Projects

Sl.No.	Name of the Central Council	Name of the Major Projects
01	Bangalore	Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Centre
02	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
03	Bhubaneswar	Ozanam Ambulance Project
04	Bhubaneswar	Dr. A. Q. C. Van Ruiten Health Centre
05	Bombay	Shanti Bhavan Home for the Aged
06	Bombay	EFANN AIDS Hospice/ Leprosy Home
07	Chandigarh	Ozanam Home for the Aged
08	Coimbatore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
09	Delhi	Ozanam Home for the Aged
10	Eluru	Ozanam Home for the Aged
11	Goa	'Arc of Hope' Home for the Aged
12	Goa	'Dr. AlfredAntao' Home for the Aged
13	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Centre
14	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Centre
15	Kanjirappally	Ozanam Bhavan for School Children
16	Kothamangalam	Ozanam Home for the Aged
17	Kottar	Ozanam Health Care Centre
18	Manathavady	Ozanam Bhavan Home for the Aged Destitute

19	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
20	Palai	St. Mary's Home for the Destitute Poor
21	Palai	Bl. Kunchachen Missionary Bhavan/Home for the Aged
22	Palayamkottai	Ozanam Motor Driving School
23	Palayamkottai	Ozanam Computer Academy
24	Palayamkottai	St. Jude Tailoring Institute
25	Pune	Prem Niwas Home for the Aged
26	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Centre
27	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged
28	Thucklay	Computer & Typewriting Centre
29	Trivandrum	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan Home for T. B. Patients.
30	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged
31	Vijayawada	St. Vincent's Boy's town

a. Jeevan Jyothi - Home for the Physically Challenged at Baripada, Odisha

Jeevan Jyothi, a Home for the Physically Challenged Women is a prestigious project of the National Council of India located at Baripada in Odisha and within the periphery of Balasore CC. At present there are 27 inmates. Their age range from 6 to 45 years. Most of the inmates are either physically challenged or mentally retarded. The inmates are taken care of by the DC Sisters and it is a great challenge for them to take care of them with the kind of impairment they have. At present Sr. Salomi the Superior of the house is making every effort to take care of these inmates. Besides this, she is also looking into the possibility of increasing the number of inmates. Recently two children have been brought to the Home of which one is mentally retarded and the other is physically challenged.

Of the 27 inmates one has completed her ICSC course and has undergone technical training. She is presently employed in Bangalore in a Tailoring Centre and is earning a fairly reasonable monthly salary. Out of the threeschool going students two are in the Hostel. The inmates are also involved in preparation of Christmas cards and candles. Candle making is a new venture taken up by the Home. They are also involved in garden work and certain other odd jobs and as such none of them

remain idle. Those inmates, who have the capability of studying, will be taught at the Centre itself by the Sisters. The Home has a fruit and vegetable garden surrounding the building. There are a few cattle and poultry as well. The farm produce is utilized for the inmates and the excess produce is sold in the market in order to generate some income. The Christmas Cards made by the children are sent to England & Wales for sale and candles are sold during the festive seasons locally.

b. Paul Memorial Computer Centre - Velankanni

This project is the contribution of a generous person Mr. FRANCIONO LORENA of Italy in commemoration of his son Mr. Paul who passed away in an early age. It is intended to train the youth in computer studies and equip them for job opportunities. This project was commissioned in 2006. It was further extended as a tailoring institute and a small scale candle making center, so that young ladies can have an earning. At present proposals are there to convert it to an Industrial Training Institute for motor mechanic, welding, and electrician courses. The land and buildings are registered in the name of the National Council of India and the National Council President is the Chairman of the Managing Committee.

7. Jubiloan

The Jubiloan scheme is initiated and sponsored by The National Council of England & Wales in memory of the Great Jubilee 2000. The aim of the scheme is to make the poor and the downtrodden self sufficient and self reliant with proper income generating schemes. An amount of Rs.5000 is given to a beneficiary which he returns in easy installments from the income generated from the project which is then redistributed to the next beneficiary making the project a revolving one. Small scale activities like vending fish, running petty shops, vegetable cultivation etc. are undertaken by the beneficiaries in this scheme. During the year 2014-15, 37 new loans were distributed in 15 Central Councils. The total amount sponsored is Rs. 4300000/-

8. Extension and development activities

In 2014- 2015, 141 new Conferences and 8 new Area Councils were established.

9. Adoption and Visits

The basic work of the society is visit of the poor, sick and the needy and also distribution of relief to the deprived in their own environment. Through visits a 'person to person relationship' is built up in a spirit of love and friendship. No act of charity is alien to the Society. Personal involvement is the hallmark of charity practiced by the SSVP. In India our brothers and sisters have adopted 23,290 families and have made 11, 98,649 visits. The visits include visit to adopted families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc.

10. Reachout-SSVP Bulletin

REACHOUT is a news bulletin of the National Council of India. It has been attempting its best to be spiritual, informative, educative and formative. It is informative by publishing the various charitable works done by the Vincentians in India; educative by enlightening the members on various endeavors run by the National Council and Central Councils through guidelines, excerpts from the Manual, assistance for the formation of members

During the period of report REACHOUT had been published before the end of the quarter and circulated in time. Four issues namely April – June 2014, July to September 2014, October - December 2014 and January - March 2015 are published and circulated. 10,500 copies of every issue were published and distributed. 10500 copies include 74 copies to Overseas, 10 copies to Head Quarters, 5014 copies to Kerala region, 2358 copies to Tamil Nadu Region, 1746 copies to Western Region, 435 copies to AP region, 272 copies to Northern region, 215 copies to North East Region and 10 copies to the chief editor.

11. Youth

One of the main focus of the Society is to promote the active participation of youth and young adults in the growth, leadership and well-being of the Society. The National Council is promoting various

activities to attract more youth to the SSVP. The central councils are advised to give importance and involvement to the youth in the functioning of conferences. Seminars, competitions etc. are undertaken by various Central Councils to attract more youth in to the Society. As on 31.03.2015 there are 11,376 Youth & Junior Members as against 11496 as on 31.03.2014 in 407 Youth & Junior Conferences in the Society. It shows a slight decline in the no. of youth in SSVP

12. Women

The women members of SSVP are playing an important role in realizing the objectives of SSVP. At every level in the Society the women are in the forefront in matters where the men find it difficult to handle such as counseling and caring of widows, orphans, single mothers and victims of various types of abuse etc. Various seminars and meetings are arranged for women members at the CC and regional levels.

As on 31.03.2015 there are 19, 731 Lady Members and 1052 Ladies Conferences in the Society.

13. Meetings

Last Annual General Body Meeting was held on 12, 13, 14 September 2014 at Margao, Goa. During 2014-15, 3 Managing Board & Managing Committee Meetings were held at Gudalur, Goa and Ernakulam on 29 April 2014, 12 September 2014 and 27 February 2015 respectively.

14. Acknowledgement

We take this opportunity to thank all our bishops, our National Spiritual Advisor Rev. Msgr. M. Chinnappa, spiritual advisors at various levels for their support and guidance. We are also grateful to our benefactors, well-wishers and supporters for their generous contributions to the Society. We express our gratitude to our overseas councils of England & Wales, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland, USA, Italy, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and France for their generous assistance through various schemes which help us to sustain our activities in India.

Our Sincere thanks to the members of the Board, Managing Committee, General Body and various committees for their selfless support. We also thank the staff at the headquarters and president's secretariat.

As we commit ourselves faithfully and lovingly to His call, we are engaging ourselves in the service of the poor. Let our lord Jesus through the intercession of Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam lead us to be true Vincentians in the days to come.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us”- Psalm 67:1

Sd/-

Bro. Francis K.J.

National Secretary