

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



Dear Vincentian Sisters and Brothers,

Special Prologue For The Year 2019 -20

Probably for the first time in the history of the NCI for the last 65 years, we are unable to meet physically for the 66th AGM due to the unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic. Even then in order to fulfil our responsibility- statutory and moral - we are avoiding the physical AGM and holding the meeting using electronic media.

Introduction

With profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father and with a sense of satisfaction of having carried out the responsibilities entrusted upon us, the present National Board is pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Society for the year 2019-20 along with the Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile before the Plenary session of the National Council of India being held via Video Conference.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and backwardness 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 . Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society was a French lawyer, author, and professor in the Sorbonne University. He was only 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. Sister Rosalie Rendu was beatified in November 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is present on all 5 continents, in 153 countries (each with its own Council). It has 800,000 active members and over one million volunteers forming a vast network of Charity around the world. The Society is an accredited UN NGO and has presence in New York, Geneva and in Paris

Society in 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 at 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 Registration Act and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

Structure of the Society

i. 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 7355 conferences as on 31-03-2020 as per the details submitted by the CCs

Types of Conferences	No. of Conferences
Junior	134
Youth	220
Women	1076
Gents	2567
Mixed	3358
Total	7355

ii. Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for co-ordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2020 there are 681 Area Councils.

iii. Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its control

iv. National Council

All the Central Councils in the geographic area of India are functioning under the supervision and control of National Council of India. There are 85 Central Councils in India as on 31.03.2020.

Active Members

There are 70101 active members in 7355 Conferences. 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	32	354	4019	36178
Tamil Nadu	20	145	1438	14699
A.P. & Telangana	08	68	661	5847
West	12	73	747	9398
North	06	17	221	1807
North East	07	24	269	2172
Total	85	681	7355	70101

The Church and SSVP

The SSVP is recognized by the Catholic Church as a pious Lay Organization and is also registered with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. On 13 November 1920 Pope Benedict XV signed a declaration "Vatican's Corrientes Decision" granting full autonomy to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This year we celebrate the centenary of this declaration.

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 Bishops concerned. At the conference level the parish priest is usually the Spiritual Advisor. So the SSVP is closely linked with the Church and the members take active role in all the activities of the Church.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019-20

1. Adoption, Visits and Assistance

The basic work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul 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 there are 49068 adopted families and our brothers and sisters have made 4197808 visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families, 3634266 other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc. In the report year 385933 individuals and 203472 families were given casual assistance; besides 51761 students were provided educational help by our Vincentian sisters & brothers.

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, USA, Canada, Italy and France. The twinning schemes help expansion of the society and also assist the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the beneficiaries.

Summarized statement of Overseas Twinning

Sl. No	Country	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	England & Wales	1496	1498	1499
2	Australia	1414	1428	1384
3	Scotland	285	287	289
4	Netherlands	17	17	17
5	USA	13	13	03
6	Canada	8	8	03
7	Italy	5	5	-
8	France	2	2	-
	Total	3240	3258	3195

As on 31st March 2020, total no. of conferences in India is 7355 out of which 3195 conferences have been twinned. This indicates that only 43% of conferences are twinned in India.

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 generously from foreign Vincentians. 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. Affluent conferences and councils in our country can help and assist weaker conferences.

At present the internal twinning programme is operated in the following levels.

A. Area Council Level

B. Central Council Level

C. National Council Level

Details of Internal twinning Paid During 2019-20

Sl No	Name of Donor Central Council	A		B		C		Total During the Year	
		WITH OTHER CC		WITHIN CC		WITHIN AC		No	Total Amt
		No	Total Amt	No	Total Amt	No	Total Amt		
1	Cochin			3	24000	7	72000	10	96000
2	Ernakulam	30	222000	5	60000	8	40000	43	322000
3	Kothamangalam	11	120000	11	132000			22	252000
4	Madrass			10	283816			10	283816
5	Palai	13	60000					0	60000
6	Palayamkottai			2	6000	4	16000	6	22000
7	Pathanamthitta	3	12000					3	12000
8	Thakkalai			30	120000			30	120000
9	Thiruvalla			6	33150			6	33150
10	Trivandrum (I)			38	107587	5	17659	43	125246
11	Tuticorin			10	40000			10	40000
	As per the previous year data (Reports not received)								
12	Goa	8	96000	11	132000	3	36000	22	264000
13	Idukki			2	6000	1	3000	3	9000
14	Kanjirappally	1	5000	13	62000			14	67000
15	Kottayam	13	52000			7	36000	20	88000
16	Mananthavady	2	16000					2	16000
17	Mangalore	1	10000	29	285000			30	295000
18	Pune			9	108000			9	108000
19	Tellicherry	4	28000			5	13800	9	41800
20	Thiruchirappally			28	112000			28	112000
21	Udupi			1	10000	1	12000	2	22000
22	Verapoly	10	40000	12	54000			22	94000
	Total	96	661000	220	1575553	41	246459	344	2483012

National Council is encouraging the Councils at various levels to increase the number of internal twinning to the needy conferences.

4. Scholarships

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

The following are the details of various types of scholarships offered during 2019-20

Sl. No	Scholarships	Renewals	New Scholarships	Total Amounts Released(Rs.)
1	HES & TVTS	-	2283000	2283000
4	Assist A Student Scholarships	-	-	-
5	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	-	1000000	1000000
	Total	-	3283000	3283000

5. Projects

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. 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, Medical Centers, Home for the differently abled etc.

During the year 2019-20, 78 applications were submitted to overseas councils and 145 were sanctioned including the pending ones .

The details are as given below

Sl. No.	Region	Projects applied	Projects sanctioned(including previous years's)	Amount Sanctioned (In Rupees)
1	Kerala	37	79	5305058
2	Tamil Nadu	16	2	139234
3	AP, West, North & North East	25	64	4154453
Total		78	145	9598745

6. Major projects of National Council of India

a. Jeevan Jyothi-Home for the Differently abled at Baripada, Odisha

JeevanJyothi, a Home for the Physically Challenged Women is a prominent project of the National Council of India located at Baripada in Odisha and within the periphery of Balasore CC. At present there are 40

inmates in the house within the age group 5 to 59 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 sisters to take care of them with the kind of impairment the inmates have. At present Sr. Salomi Adhikari DC is in charge of the house.

The inmates are also involved in preparation of Christmas cards and candles. 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. In the 63rd AGM a scheme named 'Adopt A Child of Jeevan Jyothi' was evolved. Many Central Councils, Vincentians and other benefactors are supporting this scheme with their special contribution.

Since its construction in the year 2000, no major repairs were ever undertaken. With the passage of time the building developed structural issues like leakage of roof and many other problems. So the National Council took up a major renovation programme as per the decision in the 2017 AGM. All the renovation works were completed by November 2019. National President & Secretary visited Jeevan Jyothi on completion of renovation. An amount of Rs.17,26,584/- was spent for the renovation work

b. Paul Memorial Home for Aged- Velankanni

This project is the contribution of a generous person Mr. Franciono Lorena of Italy in memory of his son Mr. Paul who passed away in an early age. The Central Council of Thanjavur has taken up the responsibilities to manage the Home on behalf of the National Council and is functioning well.

c. Home for the Aged , Kuzhuthurai, Tamil Nadu

This is a project of the National Council of India started in 2008 at Sahaya Nagar. The Home is managed by the Central Council of Kuzhuthurai on behalf of the National Council of India.

7. Projects Managed by CCs/ACs/Conferences

Sl.No.	Central Council	Projects
1	Ahmedabad	1.Home for Differently abled Girls, Anand
2	Bangalore	1.Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Centre 2. Jubilee Home – Old Age Home for women 3. St. Jerome's Home - Old Age Home for women 4. KGF – Old Age Home for Women 5. Our Lady of Fatima- Tailoring & Computer Centre 6. St. Antony's- Tailoring Centre
3	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
4	Bhubaneswar	Dr.A.Q.C. Van Ruiten Health Centre
5	Bombay	1.Shanti Bhavan Home for the Aged 2.EFANN AIDS Hospice/ Leprosy Home 3.Ozanam Community Kitchen, Mankhurd
6	Chandigarh	Ozanam Home for the Aged
7	Coimbatore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
8	Delhi	Ozanam Home for the Aged
9	Eluru	Ozanam Home for the Aged
10	Ernakulam	1. Vincent Nagar Housing project 2.Ozanam Bhavan, Home for the Aged(ladies) 3.Ozanam Care Centre

		4.Anjali Home ,Home for the Aged(ladies)
11	Goa	1.'Arc of Hope' Home for the Aged
		2.'Dr.AlfredAntao' Home for the Aged
		3.School for Special Children, Curtorim
		4.Day Care School for migrant Children
		5. Special School Differently Abled Children
		6. Bl. Ozanam Recovery Centre for Deaddiction
12	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Centre
13	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Centre
14	Kanjirappally	Ozanam Vidya Bhavan. Home for poor Children.
15	Kothamangalam	1.Ozanam Home, Thodupuzha – Shelter for patients & bystanders
		2.Ozanam Centre, Kothamangalam
16	Kottar	1.Ozanam Health Counseling Centre, Chungakadai
		2.Ozanam Home for the sick, Asaripallam
17	Madras	SSVP Mobile Medical Project
18	Manathavady	Ozanam Bhavan Home for the Aged
19	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
20	Neyyattinkara	Ozanam Bhavan -- Computer Centre
21	Palai	1.St. Mary's Home for the Destitute
		2..Bl.KunchachenMissioneryBhavan/Home for the Aged
22	Palayamkottai	1. St. Jude Tailoring Institute
		2.. Ozanam Computer Academy
		3: St. Vincent de Paul Technical Institute
23	Pune	1.Prem Niwas Home for the Aged, Modikhana
24	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Centre
25	Shillong	St. Vincent De Paul Health Centre, Lyngkhoi
26	Tellicherry	Vincentian Bhavan for Aged Couples
27	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged
28	Thucklay	Ozanam College, Computer & Typewriting Centre
29	Trichur	Vincentian Abhaya Kendram- Shelter for patients & bystanders
30	Trivandrum (L)	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan , Old Age Home
31	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged, Kailianpur
32	Verapoly	1.Vincentian Clinic
		2.Vincentian Institute of Commerce
33	Vasai	NUPC Project of Vasai Area Council North
34	Vijayawada	Boys Town Vijayawada

8. Extension and development activities

During the year 2 Central Councils i.e. Parassala & Mandya were established.

9. 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 2019-20 the National Council of India forwarded 146 applications for Aggregation & Institution and 102 Aggregations and Institutions were received from the International Council.

Region	Conferences	Area Councils	Central Councils
Andhra Pradesh	10	0	
Kerala	65	3	0
Tamil Nadu	11	0	0
West	9	3	1
North	0	0	0
North East	0	0	0
Total	95	6	1

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the present National Council of India could get 543 new aggregations and institutions so far. 77 applications are under process in the CGI office. As on 31-3-2020 there are 5776 Aggregated Conferences.

10. Spirituality & Formation

The National Council of India gives highest importance and priority for spirituality and formation of Vincentians all over the country. The National Council organized formation and training programmes in West, North East and Andhra & Telangana Regions. Such programmes were organized in the Tamil Nadu Region in the previous year. The National Council has already planned to organize such programmes in the remaining North and Kerala regions in the next year.

11. Canonization

There seems to be many signs of hope regarding cause for Ozanam's Canonization.

Let us pray to the LORD that Bl. Fredric is recognized as a Saint not for any glory but that his message can be rediscovered by everyone.

12. REACHOUT -SSVP Bulletin

'Reachout' is the mouthpiece of the National Council of India. 'Reachout' is spiritual, informative, educative and formative in its content and it reaches many countries all over the world. Now "Reachout" is also published in the website of the International Council. It is a great honour and proud moment for all Vincentians in India.

13. Youth

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has always been driven by "youthful spirit", whose essential features are described in the Rule as: "enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination". Young Vincentians have various types of gatherings to meet each other. Through social networks they continue to work, discuss and pray together after these gatherings. The involvement of young Vincentians in the SSVP has improved considerably over the years.

Following events at National level were conducted:

- a. International Youth Day Celebration

The day to celebrate the feast of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, Patron of SSVP Youth on July 4, 2019.

- b. Flood Relief Activities – Palakkad

The youth from Kerala and Tamil Nadu came together on 24th & 25th August 2019 to help the most affected area with landslides at Palakkyam, Palakkad Central Council.

- c. National Youth Committee Meeting

National Council of India had organized first National Youth Committee Meeting at Jeeva Jothi Ashram, Coimbatore on 29th Feb & 1st March, 2020.

d. SAGAR Project

The youth of various Central Councils took up a major project in Madhya Pradesh to help the people who do not have enough clothes and toiletries for basic hygiene. The youth members of Ernakulam CC sent around 20000kg of clothes to the diocese of Sagar and to some central councils in Odisha. Youth of Pune also participated in the Sagar project.

Many other programmes were also arranged with the support of the Regional Coordination Committees in different parts of the country.

14. 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 were arranged for women members at the CC and regional levels.

15. Special Medical Aid

The National Council of India released Rs. 8,00,000 to 30 Central Councils based on the requests received from them. The scheme will continue in 2020-21 also.

16. Kerala Flood Relief Activities

The National Council of India received an amount of Rs.59464770/- of which Rs.55831357/- was mainly from England & Wales and CGI. During 2018-19 we distributed Rs.25237340/- and Rs.32961180/- during this year. Both CGI and England & Wales made special campaign to raise funds for the flood victims.

17. COVID 19

The financial year 2019-20 was closed at the zenith of unparalleled disaster, the mankind has ever encountered. Vincentian activities in India were also affected to some extent. Even amidst this adverse situation many of our CCs could extend helping hands to those who have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic.

18. Internal Audit

SSVP is appreciated and admired throughout for their honesty, transparency and responsible stewardship. As its members, it is our sacred duty and responsibility to cherish and nurture this good reputation of our Society. Internal Audit is one of the essential things in this direction. The Internal Audit helps us to introspect ourselves and rectify where ever we have gone contrary to the society's polices and methods. Thus Internal Audit assists us to upkeep the spirit of the society. I am happy to inform you that the Internal Audit team of the National Council under the leadership of Bro. Sebastian Thomas is continuing the good work to support all the Vincentians in the proper maintenance of all accounts bringing about total transparency in all financial matters.

18. VINFAM

Vincentian family (VINFAM) is the common forum of all associations and congregations of priests, nuns and lay people who have St. Vincent De Paul as their patron Saint. Our role as a member in the VINFAM has been significant in the past years. Bro. Francis Victor is the official representative of SSVN National Council of India. Bro. Francis K J National Secretary participated in the AGM held at Vincentian Generalate Edappilly, Cochin on 22&23 February 2020

19. Statutes of the Society in different Indian languages

I am very happy to inform that the National Council was able to publish the Statutes of the Society in Marathi, Kannada, Gujarathi and Punjabi during this year. Publication of the Statutes in different languages will definitely help the members understand the Society in a better manner and will help the spread of the Society too. At present we have the Statutes printed in English, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, Kannada, Gujarathi and Punjabi.

20. Meetings

65th Annual General Body Meeting was held during 16, 17, & 18th August 2019 at NESTT, Muvattupuzha in the Kothamangalam CC

During the year four Managing Board meetings & two Managing Committee Meetings were conducted.

21. Office Building for HQ at Mumbai

As per the decision of the AGM 2019 our efforts to construct HQ Office building for NCI in the premise of EFANN at Trombay, Mumbai was progressing. In the meanwhile certain issues connected with the functioning of Bombay CC affected our programme. As a result no further progress could be made in this venture.

22. International Commitments

It is a matter of great pride for the Vincentians in India that Bro. T. Joseph Pandian is continuing as the Vice President General of our Society. Our National President Bro. Johnson Varghese is continuing as the International Territorial Vice President for Asia I. Bro. (Dr.) A. Francis and Bro. Leo Levin Pushparaj are serving as the Territorial Delegate, Formation and Training, Asia I and the Youth Coordinator for Asia I respectively.

23. Year of Clave

Following the exhortation by our President General Bro. Renato, year 2020 is being celebrated as the International year of Felix Clave, one of our co founders. December 8 2020 is the closing date of the international year of Clave.

24. Centenary of Autonomy

On 13 November 1920 Pope Benedict XV through "Vatican's Corrientes Decision" granted full autonomy to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The International Council has declared the year 2020 as "Centenary year of Autonomy"

25. PANASCO 9

PANASCO is a regional conference for SSVP in Asia and Oceania to meet, to discuss, to exchange views and to share experiences in various means and approaches in serving the poor and those in need. Delegates from the member countries meet every four years for the PANASCO Meet. PANASCO 9 was to be held in Hong Kong in November 2019. We made all arrangements and tickets were also booked for 7 delegates (4 representing CGI) to participate in the event. But due to the unexpected political unrest in Hong Kong the event was cancelled at the last moment.

26. Remembrance

Br. A P Belavendran President of Ooty CC was called to eternal bliss on 13/11/2019. The National Council remembers with gratitude the services rendered by Bro. A P Belavendran and all Vincentians called to eternal life. May their souls rest in peace

27. Acknowledgement

We take this opportunity to thank our National spiritual advisor Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Kunnel in a special way for his support and guidance. We also thank all our bishops in various dioceses for encouraging and helping our members. Our gratitude to the spiritual advisors at various levels for their timely advice. We are also indebted to our benefactors, well-wishers and supporters in and around the world for their generous contributions to the Society. We express our thankfulness to our overseas councils of England & Wales, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland, USA, Italy, Canada, and France for their generous assistance through various schemes which help us to carry on our activities in India.

Our Special thanks to Bro. Renato de Olivera our beloved President General for his love and special concern for the Vincentian activities in India. We also thank Bro. Joseph Pandian Vice President General for his support & encouragement.

We thank M/S Harish Hedge & Co. Chartered Accountants for auditing the accounts of the National Council of India.

We also thank M/S V.V. Thomas & Company, Thodupuzha, Chartered Accountants for Auditing the President's Secretariat Accounts without accepting any fees.

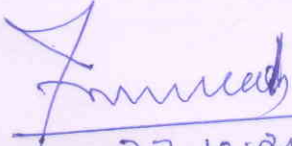
Our sincere thanks to the members of the Board, Managing Committee, General Body and various committees for their selfless support. We also thank the members of the staff at the headquarters and president's secretariat.

Let our Lord Jesus through the intercession of Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam lead us to be better Vincentians in the days to come.

Special Epilogue for the Annual Report 2019 -20

This is the 6th and the last Annual Report prepared and presented by me as the Secretary NCI under the guidance and leadership of Br. Johnson Varghese. My term as the secretary NCI was a quite exciting and inspiring experience in all aspects. I am very much thankful to God Almighty for giving me such a valuable tenure in my Vincentian life. Let me record here my heartfelt gratitude to Bro. Johnson Varghese and all Vincentians in India for helping me to fulfil this Vincentian Commitment in the best possible manner.

“I am now completely convinced that when one does a deed of charity one need not worry about where the money will come from: it will always come- Frederic Ozanam”


27.10.2020

Bro. K.J. Francis
National Secretary



Date: 27-10-2020