



**kolping**  
INDIA  
*Connects*



Quarterly News Letter

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### FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR DESK

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kolping India.

Happy to present you our Quarterly e-News Letter under the brand "Kolping Connects". This new version of Kolping India e-news letter reaches you, carrying information on important activities, programs, events, inspiring and life changing stories of Kolping works among Kolping community in India.

In the words of Bl. Adolph Kolping,

**"What is too difficult for individuals and what they often fail to achieve becomes feasible without much effort when joined forces supporting and strengthening each other pursue their goals".**

Kolping Connects is one of the initiative of Kolping India which would best serve to connect with the International Kolping Community and like minded individuals and organisations to bind us in solidarity and action to address the challenges of present times.

Regards,

Dr. Maria Soosai

### RE-READING 'KOLPING' WAY OF USHERING SOCIAL CHANGE



In order to stay relevant and meaningful, it is imperative for an organisation to periodically review its fundamentals in light of the changing milieu. Kolping India had stimulated deliberations by collectively re-reading organisation's philosophy and guiding principles in the form of workshop with its key stakeholders. The workshops were aimed at reaffirming that Kolping India's operations are well aligned and stays true to its founding values, ethics, non-negotiable practices.

Dr. Mariasoosai, National Director along with Mr. Ronald Sabastian, Program Manager and Ms. Sola, Documentation Officer facilitated workshops held at Poondy and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu and Cochin in Kerala, involving District Level Kolping Federation (DLKF) members and personnel associated with Kolping activities.

The days proceedings started with an invitation to answer what seemingly a simple question. What 'Kolping' means to them? The response generated from the brainstorming session was listed, categorized and further deliberated to collectively evolve a statement that best defines Kolping.



## RE-READING 'KOLPING' WAY OF USHERING SOCIAL CHANGE .....



The characteristics of Kolping and its attributes to community's Social, Economic, Cultural and Spiritual well-being through its two different but complementing domains i) Kolping National Membership Association and ii) Kolping India was discussed.

Later, the participants were oriented on development projects of Kolping India and role the Federation members is expected to play in implementing projects in their respective regions.

The participants shared successful case studies from their regions where Kolping Federation played a pivotal role in addressing the problem.

The deliberations helped all the concerned stakeholders to refresh their heart and mind to



renew their commitment to work for social cause taking Bl. Adolph Kolping as a model.

Fr. Maria Soosai, National Director assured the participants of organising similar interactions with Federation members in the future.





## REBUILDING LIVES & LIVELIHOOD POST PANDEMIC INITIATIVES



As the deadly Covid pandemic showed signs of receding after severely crippling the lives and livelihood for over a year, the challenge before Kolping India was the livelihood reconstruction. After meeting the basic necessities and immediate needs of the target people through emergency relief works under 'Kolping Cares', the next intervention that naturally flows after relief was the livelihood reconstruction.

A rapid analysis by Kolping India through its collaborating partner organisations had revealed that the small economic activities initiated by Kolping members over the years had suffered huge set back due to Covid pandemic and the lockdown induced by it. Kolping India through its Collaborating Partners had invited project proposals from Kolping members. The proposals received from members were reviewed and site visit wherever required was done. totally 144 individual entrepreneurs and 27 collective economic enterprises that were in dearth need of external or additional support to revive the economic activities was financially supported by Kolping India and the Collaborating Partner Organisations regularly monitor and extend the needed hand holding support for the project beneficiaries to sustain the economic activities.





Ms. Sunitha, Ms.Sreekala and Ms.Jaspin Shiney of Annai Nagar Kolping Family from Kuzhithurai were desperate to resume their individual business that came to a standstill during the Covid Lockdown. Among several members who attended skill training in production of snacks, savoury and beverages organised by Kuzhithurai Integral Development Society (KIDS) - a partner organisation of Kolping India, the three members separately started producing Bottled Badam Milk which was sold to the shops in the local market.

Post the Covid pandemic, the three decided to work as a team to produce more products for the market. Having established trust of supplying quality product, the market was in favour of the accepting new products from the three members. However the quantity of supplies

when the members operate individually could not match with the demand for the product. The members decided to work jointly to increase the quantity and to add new food items. The training came handy for the three members to add Pori Urundai - sweet balls made up of puffed rice, Cotton Candies and Pop Corns.

The financial support from Kolping India and guidance from KIDS helped the members to establish an integrated production area where the products are prepared jointly by the three members. Thus the smart move by the three members helped not just to resume their stalled livelihood but to diversify the business in response to the opportunities present in the market.



Other COVID Livelihood Projects Supported





## INTERNATIONAL GUESTS TO KOLPING INDIA PROJECTS

Kolping members at Oragadam village in Chengalpattu and Narikuravar Community in Chennai were overwhelmed to have Ms. Gaby Kuipers, State President - Kolping Land Oldenburg visiting them. Kolping India has been regularly supporting these marginalised communities and particularly at times of natural disasters.

### Oragadam

Two Kolping Family Associations are functioning in Oragadam village at Chengalpattu since 2016. Chengalpattu Rural Development Society (CRDS), the collaborating partner organisation of Kolping India has been facilitating development intervention among the Irular tribal community at Oragadam. The members shared the progress they experienced in life after forming and functioning as a Kolping Family. The members were excited to show the goats they bought under Kolping India's Covid Livelihood Reconstruction Project.

### Pallavaram

A walk through along cramped lanes of Narikuravar's habitat at Pallavaram exposed their poor living conditions and their way of life in the bustling Chennai city. Although it was an impromptu visit, the community members extended a warm reception and were excited to showcase the products and handicraft items they produce or sell at public places to the guests. They thanked Kolping India for remembering and supporting them at times of difficulty.

### Sharing Aspiration, Dreams and Hopes

Ms. Katharina Nickoleit and Mr. Christian Nush had focused interactions with the Kolping members at Kumbakkonam and Chengalpattu Kolping Regions. The guests from Germany visited Kolping India supported project beneficiaries and learnt from them their life experiences and growth stories.





## KOLPING RESOURCE CENTRE

*Gears up for an Opening Ceremony in June 2023*

The construction of Kolping Resource Centre at Kilambi, Kancheepuram is nearing its scheduled completion in May 2023.



### TRUSTEES REVIEWS THE CONSTRUCTION SITE



Kolping India National Board of Trustees visited the under-construction Kolping Resource Centre at Kancheepuram on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Dr. Maria Soosai, National Director explained the planned facilities and services that Kolping Resource Centre intend to offer when completed during a walk through around the premises.

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