LET'S CULTIVATE PEACE

CELEBRATING 30 Yrs. Service & Commitment

Pearl Jubilee Celebration

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

"Be the change
that you wish to see in the world"

CONTENTS

The Chairperson's Reflections…….... 3

Message of Judge Kurian Joseph, Supreme Court of India……..... 4

Message of Dr. Qamarunnisa Anwar Chairperson,
Kerala State Social Welfare Board…..... 5

Message of Ms. Margaret, Peace Connections ……..... 6

Annual Report……..... 7

Our Interventions……..... 8

Sakhi – Women's Centre

Shanthi Bhavan

Ujjawala

Nirbhaya

Dimensions of Development – Out Come of SPED III

Service Providing Centre

Training Institute

Live Lab

Other Activities……..…….....……. 24

Our Team……..……... 29

Reaching Out For Support…….. 30

Acknowledgments……..… 31

THE CHAIRPERSON'S RELECTIONS

It is obvious that the winds of change have swept over the socio-political and Cultural landscape of our country today. The impact of globalization, urbanization and the surge of new thought patterns ushered in by the electronic media are visible. However Cultural Academy for Peace continues its journey believing that there is still hope for a better future in spite of all the atrocities committed against women and children.

The collective efforts, of the Government, the Judiciary, the leaders of both Government and religious Groups, the Academicians, the Legal and Medical as well as the Civil Society groups all converge to instill courage and hope to build a brighter future for the survivors of Violence, especially for women and children. From its experience at the grass root level to the higher echelons of Authorities, Cultural Academy is convinced that there is a strong wave of positive change on the move.

The Government Policies and Schemes offer life-changing support to women and children Survivors, who seek safe and secure shelter, compensation , possibilities to further their development to become responsible citizens and thereby claim their right to a more dignified life. Many have gained self confidence being enabled to raise their voice to demand justice, and discover their potential to stand on their own feet. Cultural Academy's timely interventions and co-operation with the Government in running NIRBHAYA, UJWALA and State initiated projects have given rise to remarkable success stories.

During the Pearl Jubilee Celebrations, it was our privilege and joy to have eminent personalities including, Honorable Judge, Supreme Court of India - Shri. Kurian Joseph. On this occasion Honorable Judge, remarked that "Development is a new name for peace. Without women's participation development is not possible . Women can be the instruments of change and should be given first place in society". Our team takes this opportunity to thank them for their encouragement and support.

The Integrated Community development Project in Vypeen detailed in this report also highlights the dynamics of holistic development, the active participation of the Community and the transformation from a dormant to a vibrant mode. Thanks to the hard work input by our Staff Team and responsible animators from the Community itself. A special bouquet of thanks goes to SAFP Canada and India and CIDA for their partnership and co -operation that led to the successful completion of SPED Project at Vypeen.

Faith in collective efforts, **collaboration among women as well as men leaders** from the social and legal fields and building solidarity will certainly yield positive results . I wish to place on record gratitude to all our supporters, partners and our staff. At the end of the tunnel, there is a ray of hope as we stand together , think together, take steps together to utilize possibilities and opportunities to 'make a difference' and spread the message of peace and harmony. The driving force that leads us on is to reach the yet unreached.

Chairperson,
Ms.Beena Sebastian

Kurian Joseph
Judge
Supreme Court of India

6, Moti Lal Nehru Place
New Delhi-110011

Ph.: 011-23015873

MESSAGE

Glad to know that Cultural Academy for Peace is bringing out a Souvenir. I have known this Academy for long through its various activities for cultivating peace. Prominently, it is engaged in protecting and promoting the human rights, particularly of woman. Human rights are not conferred by any Constitution or any Statute; they are acquired by birth. Born on earth, male or female, everyone has certain inherent, inalienable and indispensable rights. To me, most important among them is the right to live with human dignity. Unfortunately, we have a male dominated society where people think that females have only a lesser degree of human rights and thus they are exploited in every possible way. Thanks to the brave support given by the committed group of women, which is the core strength of Cultural Academy for Peace, many such women, who have never known what is dignity of a human being, have come back to life and are able to lead a dignified life without in any way surrendering their human rights. Your training programmes sensitised and have certainly conscientized not only the victims but all the dutyholders and stakeholders. Nirbhaya, Sakhi, Interfaith Programme and Rehabilitation Units have been functioning quite successfully. The Sakhi taskforce and Integrated Village Development Programmes have helped many women to realise their worth and above all these programmes have given them great confidence to resist and fight against injustice. I congratulate you wholeheartedly for the wonderful works you have been doing for the least, the lost and the last. I wish you all the best and extend my continued support for all the noble ventures of the Cultural Academy for Peace.

[Kurian Joseph]

New Delhi;
December 20, 2016.

Dr. QAMARUNNISA ANWAR B. Sc., D.D.
CHAIRPERSON
Kerala State Social Welfare Board
Sasthamangalam P. O.
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 010

Mobile : 98 474 00 987
Phone (O) : 0471-2722258
Fax (O) : 0471-2310082
E-mail (O) : keralasswb@yahoo.co.in
Residence : AQNA House, Muthoor Road,
Tirur, Malappuram Dist. Pin-676 101
Phone (Resi) : 0494-2422343

Date 13.12.2016

My dear Sista Beena Sebastian,

I am extremely delighted to learn that Cultural Accademy for Peace is entering in the 4th Decade of its' Selfless Services to humanity especially to women and children. I extend my good wishes for the future projects in achieving its best with flying colours.

May God bless you

Yours faithfully,

MESSAGE

It is some years ago, that a group of Swiss people visited the Cultural Academy for Peace. We were impressed by this great work, Beena and her team is doing. Since then we have been visiting every year with a new group of people. Culture Academy for Peace, has implemented many projects, mainly in the Cochin Area.

Even though the distance from our country to India is far, we observe that we struggle with the same problems you encounter. Violence, oppression against women and children, alcoholism and issues related to drugs are more or less global. Sharing and exchanging our experiences in social work, focusing on freedom from violence, justice, and peace is interesting and encouraging. The difference is that social work in Switzerland and programs for all humanitarian problems are integrated and are well-regulated by the Government, communities and many private organizations

Everyone on this planet is unique and everyone has the right and potentiel for achievement of happiness and lasting fulfillment.

Our highest esteem goes to Beena Sebastian and her team, who does such an extensive, blessed work for the disadvantaged. With great courage, support and care, Cultural Academy For Peace priortizes human rights and help for self management, specifically women.

Through their work, many people in the villages and women's groups have flourished. All it takes are small steps. Thus, tiny incremental changes and improvements will create positive patterns.

May your faith, your love and courage give you strength to bear every bad situation, and to go on doing this noble work.

With highest respect and love.

Ms. Margarit Germann

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The journey of Cultural Academy for Peace has reached in a position to deliver scaled and lasting change in the life of Women and Children, exposed to all forms of violence and discrimination of our community, by deeply remaining rooted in values of inclusiveness, justice, active non-violence and reconciliation. It is because compassionate, experienced, committed people for 30 years have stepped forward giving themselves, their resources, and their time in order to change our world.

Besides providing food, shelter and services to victims of Domestic Violence, Abuse and Trafficking we help women and children to earn a source of living by training them in various fields of interest. Beyond humanitarian aid our focus was on lasting transformation in lives of communities across the state.

Our aim is to invest wisely in innovation thus building a movement to overcome violence against women and scale up through partnership. Cultural Academy for Peace endeavours in close association with other stakeholders, Government bodies etc. to strive for fundamental human rights, gender equality and respect for life.

The varied and diverse activities of Cultural Academy for Peace recorded here, legitimately tally with its objectives: -

- **SAKHI- Women's Centre**
- **SHANTHI BHAVAN**
- **UJJWALA Project**
- **NIRBHAYA Project**
- **Service Providing Centre (SPC)**
- **SPED-III Project**
- **Training Institute**
- **Live Lab**

SAKHI – WOMENS CENTRE

Emergency Drop-in Centre and Legal Cell

Women and Children, who seek release from oppression, physical or mental abuse, or any kind of violence, easily approach SAKHI for support, rehabilitation or repatriation since they hail from different parts of the country. SAKHI also functions as a Family Counselling and Reconciliation centre.

"SAKHI IS A FRIEND WHO SUPPORTS, MOTHER WHO NURTURES AND A SISITER WHO CONSOLES, EVERY WOMAN AND CHILD WHO COMES TO HER".

SAKHI-SHANTIBHAVAN

The Counsellors at SAKHI extend services to Police Women Cell, and attend cases referred from Family Courts, Panchayat, Legal Aid Cells, Human Rights Law Network, Protection Officers, Elected Representatives, NIRBHAYA Volunteers and other NGO s.

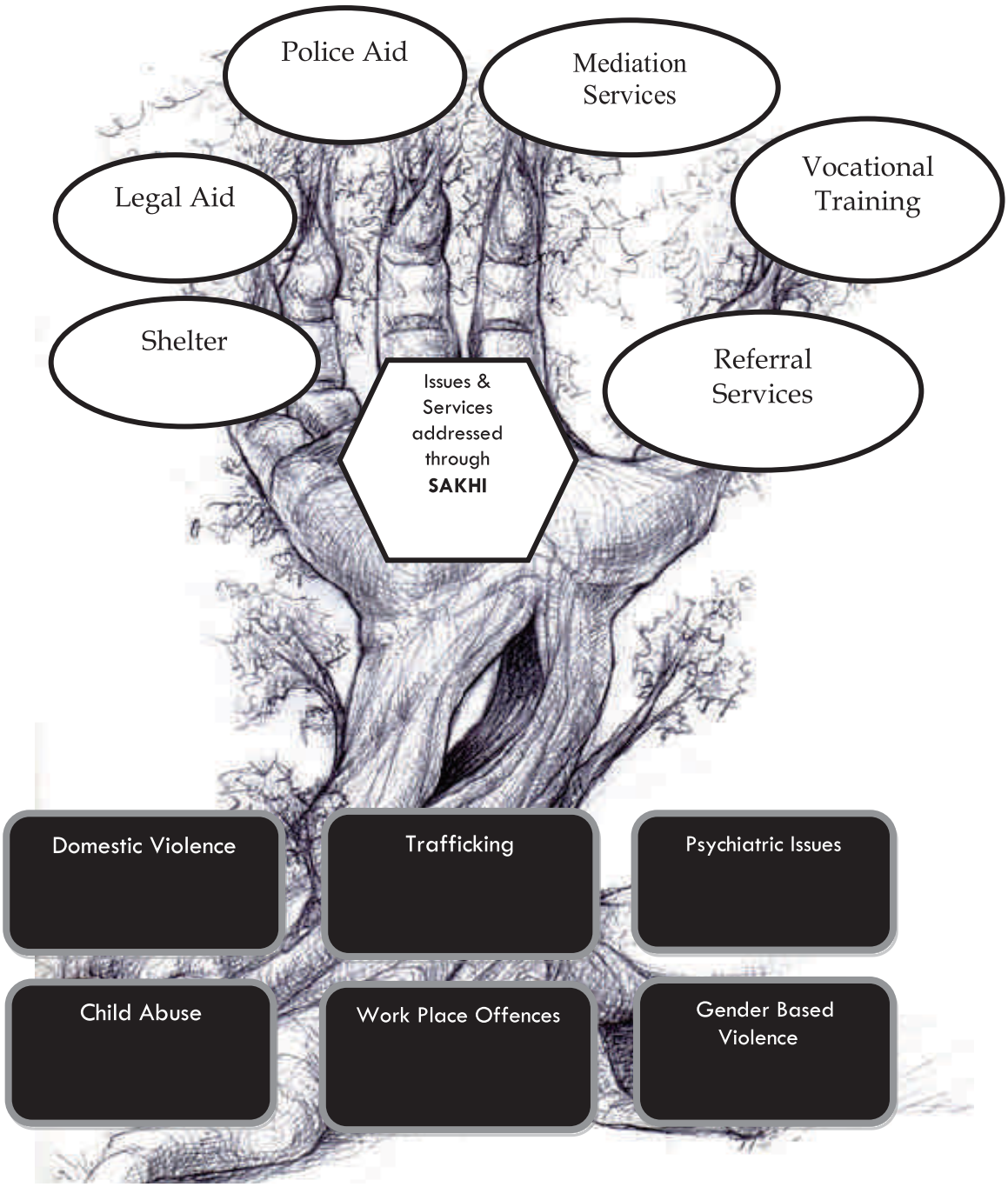
★ D.V: Domestic Violence

Telephonic Counselling Service

With great care, professional Counselling is provided to women and children, who are traumatized and victimized by violence. Emotional first aid enables them to cope with the immediate situation. The staff are at service on 0484-2385188 from 10 am to 5pm.

Number of Counselling Sessions handled from April 2015 to March 2016.

Number of new cases	93
Follow up sessions	67
Total number of sessions	160


Police Aid
Mediation Services
Legal Aid
Vocational Training
Shelter
Referral Services
Issues & Services addressed through SAKHI
Domestic Violence
Trafficking
Psychiatric Issues
Child Abuse
Work Place Offences
Gender Based Violence

SHANTHIBHAVAN

Cultural Academy in a joint venture with the Corporation of Cochin solely manages Shanthi Bhavan - a safe and secure short stay Home for children and women in a distressed situation due to various kinds of domestic violence, abuse and human trafficking, under the constant guidance and supervision of the Chairperson, Ms. Beena Sebastian. A wide range of activities and programs are provided to cater to their needs.

- Counselling and Occupational therapy
- Awareness classes
- Health Care programs.– Medical camp / Regular medical check up
- Spiritual Empowerment
- Entertainment Program i.e. recreational activities, outing and picnics.
- Celebrations of major festivals such as Onam, Christmas, days of national importance, birthdays etc.
- Opportunities to review and discuss their problems and needs through monthly in-house meetings.

Day out in the park

Outing with residents

Short film on –Significance of Education

*Resident's **new - born** child named ' Navamika' based on Hindu Tradition*

Visit of Singaporean Students

Crafts - Vocational Training

Our Tailoring Unit – Training Inmates

Colourful Onam Celebrations

Resident Children dancing with Rima Kallingal -Cine Artist

Legal Awareness Class for the resident children

Quarterly Meeting- Discuss and Update new strategies for the centre

Overview of the rehabilitation programme

Month	New Admissions	No: of Discharge	No: Residents Accommodated	No: Residents Accommodated In Last Month
April 2015	5	2	41	39
May	6	9	42	33
June	5	6	38	32
July	11	5	43	38
August	5	9	43	34
September	4	2	38	36
October	17	22	53	22
November	5	1	36	35
December	5	10	40	30
January2016	19	12	49	37
February	13	11	50	39
March	7	14	46	32

UJJWALA

Cultural Academy has continued to handle UJJWALA Project supported by the Central Govt. since 2012. It is a Comprehensive scheme for the Prevention of Trafficking, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of survivors of trafficking. The problem of the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is especially challenging due to its myriad complexities and variation. A study of the problem revealed that poverty, low status of women, lack of a protective environment is some of the causes for trafficking. Concentrating on Rescue, Protection, and Rehabilitation of survivors, Cultural Academy has developed its own strategies to help them to reintegrate. Under this project, we have resorted to the following:

- Counselling Services
- Empowerment through training and awareness classes
- Group activities and Occupational Therapy
- Spiritual and Moral Empowerment
- Follow – up services

Residents Engaged in Crafts Making

Crafts made by the Resident Children

Resident's interaction with Amrita college team

Handicrafts for sale

Residents Birthday Celebrations

I can do it…. Can you? "Kanaka"

Counselling Session"

"

NIRBHAYA SHELTER HOME

Cultural Academy for Peace with the support of Kerala State Social Justice Department has been running the Nirbhaya Project since May 2014. It functions as a shelter home at Vazhakkala, Kakkanad and Ernakulam district for the survivors of sexual violence and sex trafficking referred by Child Welfare Committee or the Court authorities. All the activities are geared to rehabilitation and reintegration of the adolescent girls. It is a home to 24 residents as on 30-03-2016.

The following services are provided: -

- Individual Counselling
- Group Therapy
- Medical Amenities
- Spiritual and Moral Empowerment
- Therapeutic Healing Programme
- Interactive Sessions
- Health Education
- Indoor and Outdoor Activities

MANAGING NIRBHAYA HOME

✓ In- House Staff Meeting: - The resident staff are responsible for the day to day affairs of the home ensuring safety, security and happiness of the residents. During Weekly staff meetings they share information and opinion on matters pertaining to the smooth functioning.

✓ Advisory Board: - The Advisory Board meeting organised every quarter evaluates functioning of the home and share their concerns and suggestions for improvements.

Success story from NIRBHAYA

Ann (Name Changed) 18 years old, reached Nirbhaya at the age of 16 after failing in her plus two exams as she was abused by her lover and cousin brother, when she eloped with her lover. As a result of the mother's complaint to the police she was produced before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and sent to Ernakulam Nirbhaya Shelter Home. Changes were found in her behavior through continuous Therapy and Counseling which even helped her clear the Plus Two Board Exams. Afterwards in keeping with her interest, she joined for Fashion Designing Course at Government Institute of Fashion Technology, Kalamassery and completed her course. Her Department faculty members are very proud of her creative works. She has now been shifted to Shanti Bhavan after the closure of the legal formalities.

Admission and Discharge Details

PERIOD	NEW ADMISSION	DISCHARGE
May-September 2015	9	5
September-December 2015	6	4
December2014-March 2015	5	2

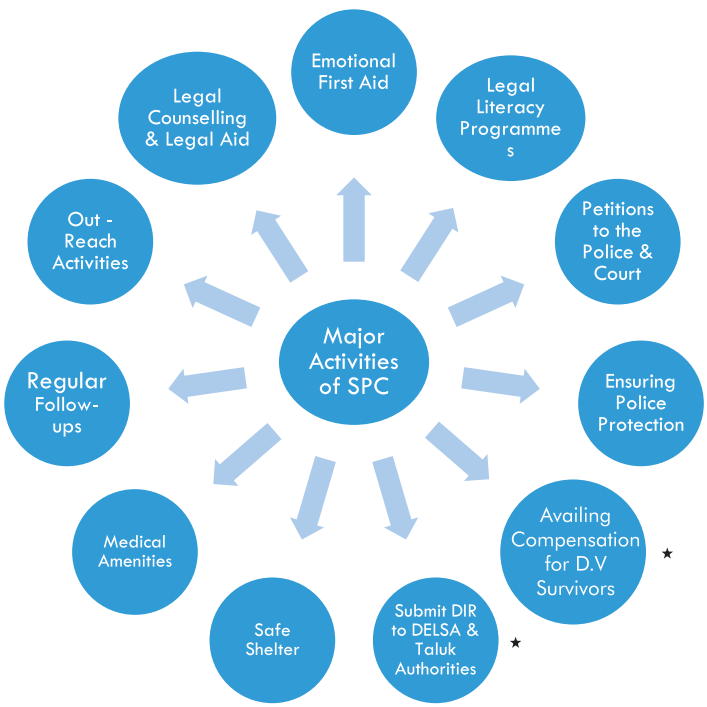
THE SERVICE PROVIDING CENTRE

Realizing the gravity of the present scenario, where varied forms of crime against women still exist, Cultural Academy has reinforced its commitment to provide support and empowerment to the distressed women and children, since 1984. The Service Providing Centre has the firm support of the Police department, Legal Counsellors, District Protection Officer etc.

The increase in cases reported also indicates an increased awareness in women regarding their Rights, the improvement in the confidence level of victims and knowledge about the existence of Institutions such as Mahila Courts, Family Courts, Counselling centres and NGOs working for women.

Study is conducted frequently on the current situation of violence against women and suggestions put forward are taken into consideration. The activities of the Service Providing Centre includes; the following

Major Activities undertaken by the Service Providing Centre



★DELSA : District Legal Services Authority
★DIR : Domestic Incident Report
★D.V : Domestic Violence

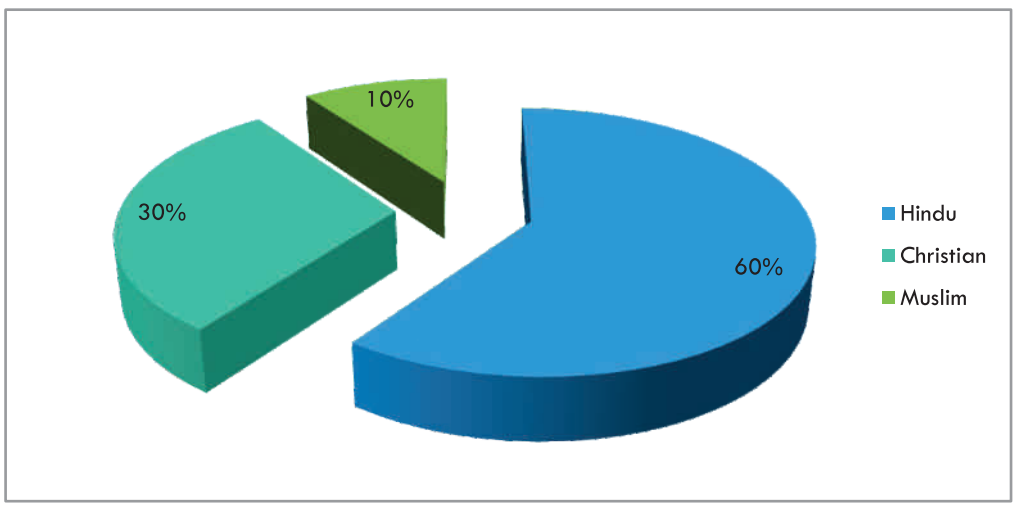
Sl. No	Date	Topic& Place	Target Groups	No. of participants
1	7/8/2015	Legal Awareness Class,Infant Jesus Hall,EKM	Men&Women	70
2	29/10/2015	Legal Awareness Class,EKM South Railway Station	Railway Protection Force (RPF)	30
3	26/11/15	Legal Awareness Class, Udaya colony, EKM	Women	36
4	23/12/2015	Legal Awareness Class, Govt. GHSS.EKM	Students(Girls&Boys)	116
5	13/02/2016	Awareness Class,Thrikkakkara&EKM Sub division of Police	Police	60
6	16/2/2016	Legal Awareness Class, Kadavanthra Police Station	Police	21
7	02/03/2016	Awareness Class,Mattancherry&EKM Sub division of Police	Police	55
8	10/03/2016	Awareness Class,Mattancherry&EKM Sub division of Police	Police	48
9	11/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	100
10	14/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	110
11	15/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	105

12	17/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	110
13	18/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	116
14	22/03/2016	Awareness Class for Police officials in every police station at EKM	Police	120

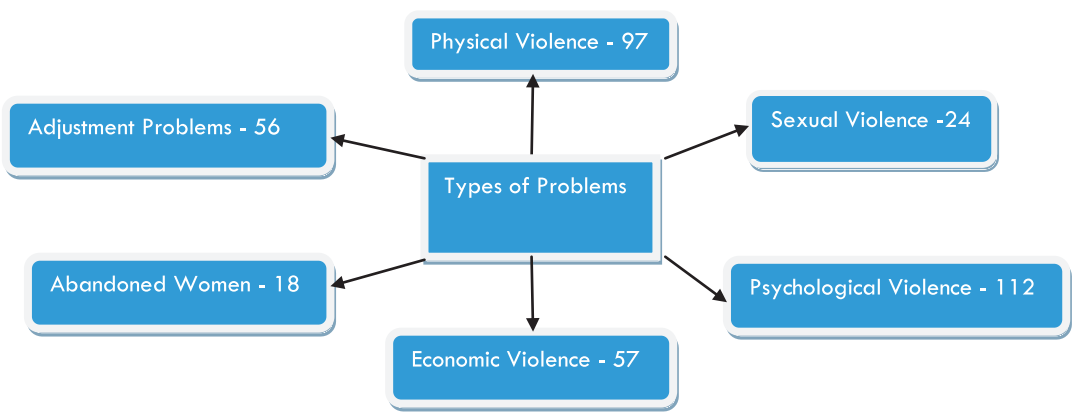
NO. OF COUNSELLING SESSIONS

DESCRIPTION	APRIL-MARCH
No. of Counselling sessions in emergency drop in centre (New case+ follow up)	316
No. of Counselling sessions in Short stay home (new cases + follow up)	614
Total No. of Sessions	885

NEW CASES BASED ON RELIGION



TYPES OF PROBLEMS



OUTCOME OF SPED III PROJECT

SPED III project (Sustainability through Village Integrated Development Program) 2011-2016, came to an end by covering 12 coastal wards of Elamkunapuzha Grama Panchayat of Vypeen Island. The Cultural Academy for Peace Team took it up as a challenge, which in turn was a significant learning process that enriched and encouraged the team to move forward.

Moreover, it was gratifying to note that during the course of 5 years, the project could lead the community towards progress and development through the specially designed activities under

a) The sector of economic growth

b) Food security

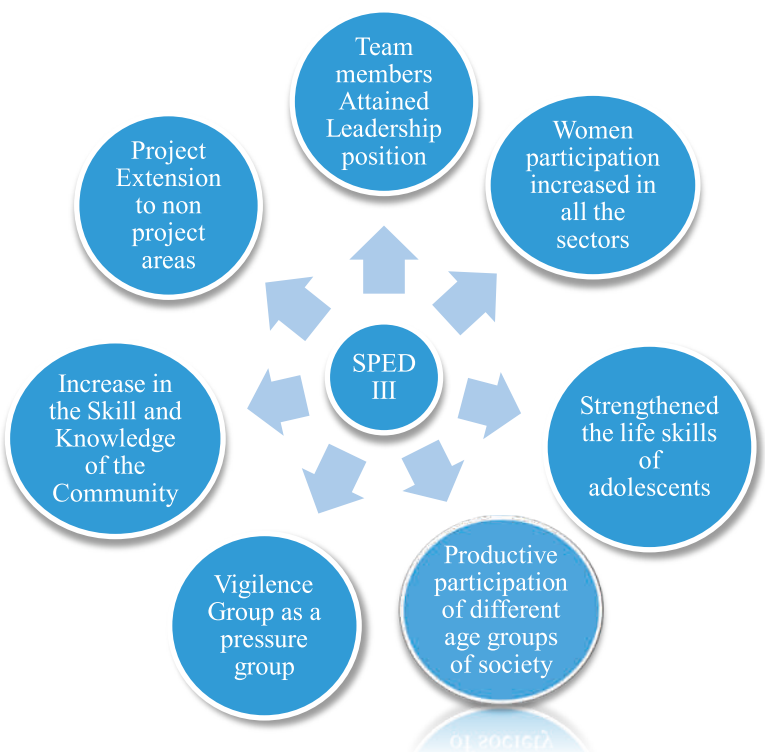
c) Promoting basic and primary education

d) Improving the health status of the community

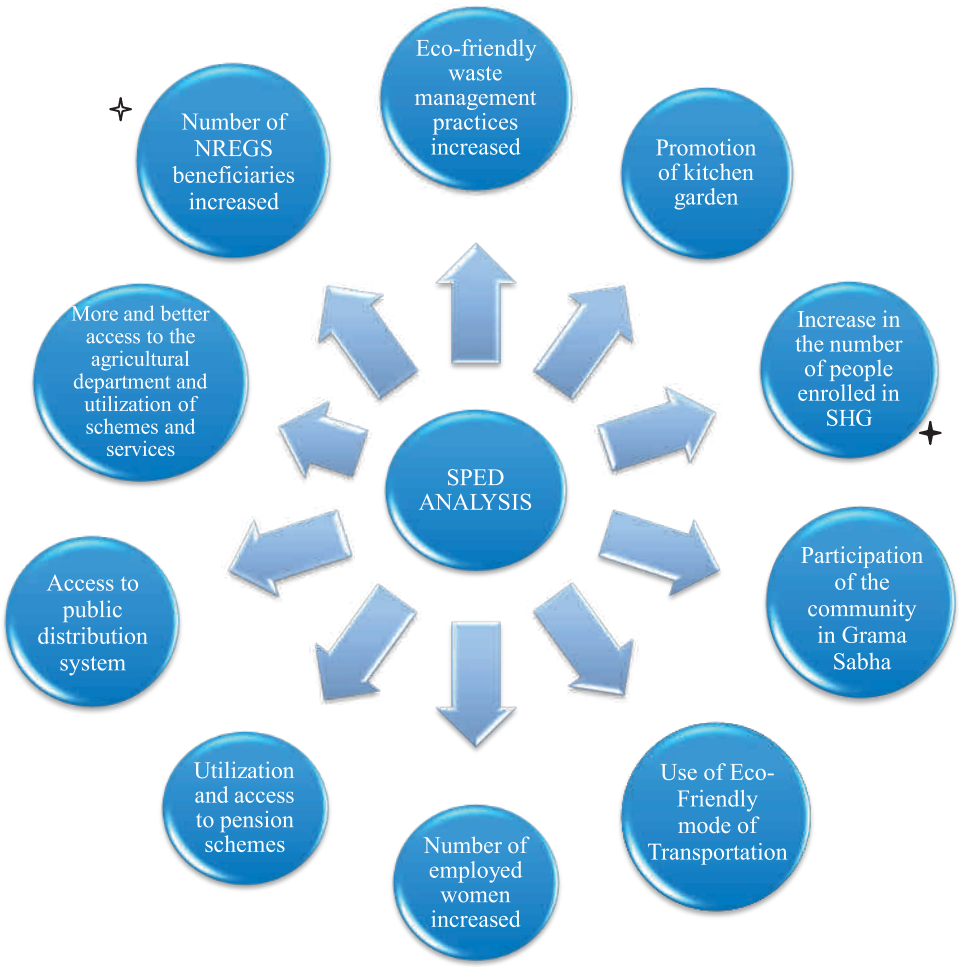
e) Gender mainstreaming

f) Environment consciousness building and good governance in the community.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT



CONSOLIDATED ANALYSIS



✦ NREGS – National Rural Employment Generation Scheme

✦ SHG – Self - Help Groups

The above consolidated analysis portrays the radical changes that followed since the project was implemented. Along with the collective efforts of SPED team, the timely guidance and partnership of our collaborators – SAFP(Save a Family Plan) Canada and India and CIDA (Canadian International Agency), we were able to achieve our forecasted target successfully.

FROM A VILLAGE GIRL TO TEAM LEADER

A young Lady from Vypeen Village made a great leap into self-discovery as she got involved in the village Integrated Development Program (2011-2016). Apparently unaware of her innate abilities, **BINDU.K.B** was too shy to meet people, yet within the span of 5 years she blossomed forth as the Team Leader of SPED IV (Sustainability through Participation Empowerment and Decentralization).

Here is her story as narrated to Ms: Rosie Martin:

It is with great joy I recall the 5 years spent with Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP), when in association with SAFP (Save a Family Plan) and CIDA (Canadian International Agency) the Development Program was successfully completed.

At the outset a systematic action plan to identify issues and to mobilize the human and natural resources at Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted. The Village Action Team (VAT) facilitated the field level communication and networking.

My experience with the village community taught me:-

a. Change in the mentality of the new young generation is bound to happen with the awareness classes, Training programs, Workshops to motivate them to improve their skills, realize the importance of values that seem to erode.

b. Changes observed in the perspectives and attitudes of the senior citizens were obvious as a result of our timely intervention and endeavours. These uplifted them from isolation to active participation in the life of the community.

c. Change in the community's outlook on life is effected being capacitated to seek opportunities for growth through collective effort and co-operation. SPED's activities enabled them to build a better rapport between the Community and the Government.

Personally, for me the whole project was a great enriching learning experience The Team Work, the communication skills and knowledge acquired, the exposure to similar groups' activities boosted my self-confidence. It gave the courage to face the public and speak at Panchayat Functions.

One tends to forget the hard work, occasional setbacks, the pain of negative response and challenges that demands more efforts. However what is achieved outweighs such thoughts.

I consider all this as a great achievement for which I remain extremely grateful to my expert mentor, Madam Beena Sebastian, the Chairperson of CAP, Ms. Vrinda Das, the co-ordinator of SPED III for her guidance. The support and Co-operation of Ms. Krishnendu Mani, the Co- coordinator and my Team members Preethy, Rajalakshi, Aruna along with Ms.Sudha.V. I would also like to express my indebtedness to SAFP Team members for their timely guidance.

In fact, to be part of the Project, that transformed an almost dormant community to a vibrant one winning the appreciation and support of Government and Local Authorities is to be considered a rare privilege. Let more hands join as they traverse the path to a holistic development.

TRAINING INSTITUTE

Cultural Academy continues to counter violence and injustice, never ceasing to explore means to increase its impact and reach. Social activists, civil society actors, volunteers in the social filed, Government Departments, students etc are given opportunities at the training sessions to enhance their skills in conflicts and learn techniques to build strategies for positive social change. Adequate skills in conflict management, negotiation and non-violent mediation, trains them for a better future.

Knowledge of current issues, new Government Schemes, Policies and Laws are upgraded through regular **In – House Training** and workshops are organized for our Team members Outreach Programs are conducted. The following table highlights a few programs:-

NO	PROGRAM	PLACE	TARGET GROUP	NO.OF PARTICIPANTS	DATE
1	Skill Training for Nirbhaya Volunteers	Central Police Station Head Quarters	Nirbhaya Volunteers	75	16-4-2015 17-4-2015
2	Training on Empowerment of Family for Social Awakening	Classy Hotel	Residents Apex Council of Kerala Members	150	13-06-2015
3	Training on DV Act & Marriage Act	St. Albert's College, Kacheripady	Women	80	04-07-2015
4	Training on Laws for women, Children& Rehabilitation of Survivors	South Railway Station Area Managers Building	RPF& Police Official	50	29-10-2015
5	Training on Laws for women & Children	KITCO	KITCO Officials	95	3-11-2015

6	Training on Laws for women & Children	Angamaly	Women Group of Different Districts	80	14-11-2015
7	Training on Laws for women & Children	Angamaly	SWISS Group	65	18-11-2015
8	Training on Laws for women & Children	Angamaly	Women Group of Different Districts	100	21-11-2015
9	Training on Laws for women & Children	Kalamassery	Kalamassery Ecumenical Women's Group	150	13-01-2015
10	Training on Laws for women & Children	Kovalam Thiruvananthapuram	District Child Protection Officer's	35	15-01-2016
11	Training On Sexual Harassment Of Women At Work Place Act	Ernakulam	KITCO Women Employees	55	19-01-2016
12	Training on Gender Awareness & Different Laws Related to Women	Traffic Police Office	Auto Drivers	50	13-02-2016
13	Training on Gender Awareness & Different Laws Related to Women	Traffic Police Office	Bus Drivers	50	16-02-2016
14	Training on Laws For Children	Thiruvananthapuram	Orphanages & Shelter Homes	80	03-02-2016 04-02-2016
15	Training for Police Officers	Ernakulam	Police	100	02-03-2016

LIVE LAB

Aspiring social activists especially students from various fields of learning approach Cultural Academy to make use of opportunities at our centre. The activities help to equip themselves with knowledge, practical experience in community development projects, supportive legal precedents and skills that strengthen their ability to activate the process of social change. Presentations, workshops on counselling and mediation, planning exercises, surveys, short films, networking with other NGOs, keep them active and mentally stimulated. Students and Academicians from various disciplines – namely Social Work, Political Science, Philosophy, Law, Economics, Psychology, Peace, conflict and gender studies converge at our centre.

ADDRESSING CURRENT ISSUES

Justice for Jisha Forum:-

Justice for Jisha Forum was initiated by Cultural Academy for Peace to demand fair hearing for Jisha, brutally raped and murdered on April 25, 2016. To protest against this gruesome incident the forum called for a State Level Observance of **'BLACK DAY'** on the 7th May 2016. Prominent Women Organisations, Social Activists, students and people from all walks of life (Men and Women) participated in the Rally, wearing black dress, by holding placards demanding to book the culprit and ensure maximum punishment, to stop rape and violence against women and children.

We expressed the solidarity with all the survivors of violence and rape and urged the Government to take urgent steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. Finally after a silent prayer for Jisha, we took a pledge against mounting incidents of atrocities against women and children in our state. Simultaneously candles were lit to symbolize the 'Shakti' (power) of Women united and determined to stand up for the safety, security and dignity of women. The Media coverage received was encouraging and the men who stood by us to support also ushered hope for a gender-just society.

One Day Workshop on

'Gender Equity for Social Safety with Emphasis on Masculinity'

As Cultural Academy commemorates Pearl Jubilee this year, it took a decisive step to focus on the role of men in promoting Gender Equality to prevent the mounting violence against Women.

It contends that men in partnership with women can definitely play a significant role in ending violence against women. Hence a One Day

workshop on **"Gender Equity for Social Safety with emphasis on Masculinity"** was organized at Shanti Bhavan, Ernakulam.

Dr. Susheela Mathew at the session

Ms Beena Sebastian, the Chairperson briefing the audience on the activities of Cultural Academy, in her welcome address remarked that Men can prevent violence against women by not personally engaging in violence, by intervening against the violence of other men, and by addressing the root causes of violence.

Dr Susheela Mathew, the International Trainer, expert on 'Gender and Conflict Management' conducted the workshop. Eminent persons from all sectors like Police, Social Justice Department, Teachers, Retired professionals, Businessmen, NGO's, Clubs, and NCC Students were present. They shared their views and Dr Suseela clarified their doubts giving clear definitions.

Further, Dr. Susheela enumerated the benefits of Gender Equity and how organizations gain by committing to achieving equity.

During the afternoon session Dr Suseela dwelt on **10 life skills by WHO (World Health Organization.**

The day ended with a question and answer session and feedback from the participants. In fact, it was a day that inspired them to continue in their commitment to create and sustain Gender equality, planning on local level participatory action which will help to eliminate bias and stereotypes ensuring safety.

JOINING HANDS WITH COLLABORATORS

Cultural Academy's priority, to eliminate Violence against Women (VAW), gives the impetus to network with partners in the field. Joining hands with the host, The British Deputy High Commission, the National Partner, New Delhi based Lawyers Collective and Kerala based Human Rights Law network (HRLN), Cultural Academy accepted the invitation to arrange for the Inauguration of a series of "LEARNING AND SHARING WORKSHOPS" at St Teresa's College auditorium on the 5th December 2015.

On this significant occasion **Ms. Beena Sebastian**, the Chairperson, Cultural Academy for Peace introduced the speakers and traced Kerala's present socio – political background. Dr. **Sajimol Augustine**, the Principal welcomed the audience. The talks , on the global and national Context by **Adv. Indira Jaising,** Founder Lawyers Collective ,New Delhi, the Kerala context by **Adv, Sandhya Raju,** Director HRLN, and the UK Government perspective by **Mr. Rudy Fernandez**, gave an over-all view of the present scenario of Violence.

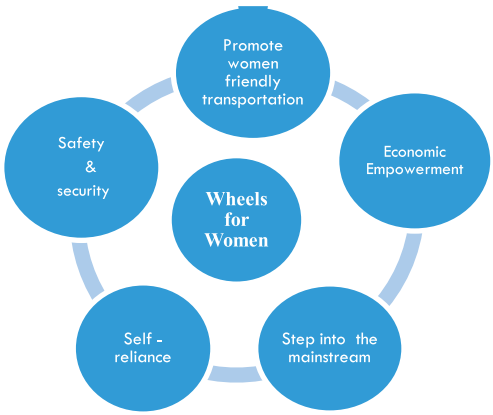
The **Hon. Justice Kurian Joseph**, Judge Supreme Court of India, underlined the need for speedier and improved access to justice for Women Survivors of violence. Kerala Women's Commission and Kudumbashree's initiatives to prevent and handle VAW were enumerated by **Dr Lissy Jose** and **Ms Tania Thomas** respectively.

This event also witnessed the release of the Malayalam version of two UK supported Booklets for VAW practitioners and survivors in Kerala. **Dr. Sr. Vinitha**, the director of St Teresa's College gave the vote of thanks.

Finally the need for a common platform not only for stakeholders but duty holders was emphasized. Equality, liberty and dignity are sacred Rights that cannot be denied. Civic Society has to realize that all are responsible for what is done and not done. All agreed to enhance the existing longstanding efforts of State Agencies and to strive to make a positive and humane difference.

WHEELS FOR WOMEN

Wheels for women an innovative project of Cultural Academy for Peace looks forward for ***'Economic Sustainability of Women through Auto-Taxi Program'.*** Ms. Kathleen Mulligan and Mr. David Studwell, an energetic and dynamic couple from US, partner with us to initiate this program. Cultural Academy for Peace functions as the nodal Agency.



TARGET GROUP

- **Women**, with particular focus on **Residents of ShanthiBhavan and Nirbhaya.**
- **Women Survivors from other project areas** of Cultural Academy for Peace looking for job opportunities and thus to support the family.
- **Driving License holders who belong to Below Poverty Line Category** in our project area.

PRESENT STATUS

Presently we have identified the 2 most appropriate recipients for our projects and gave them training. They cleared their learner's license test and have attended the main license test.

THE JUBILANT DAY

Cultural Academy for Peace celebrated its **PEARL JUBILEE**, on 9th April 2016 at Ashirbhavan, Ernakulam. The Residents of Nirbhaya Home as well as Shanthi Bhavan took active part in our celebration.

This Day helped us realize the impact of 30 years of our "commitment and service "to women and children especially those in crisis situation. A large number of Social activists, professionals, secular and religious groups, Government representatives, our network Partners, project beneficiaries and the local community were present which was an indicator of the acceptance of Cultural Academy's mission.

Honorable Judge of Supreme Court of India Shri. Kurian Joseph stressed that "Women are capable to become instruments of change and should come together voicing their convictions and their rights, claiming their legitimate space in society".

The highlight of the day was the candle lighting ceremony. One candle lit from the traditional lamp was passed on to the Audience lighting the candles they held. Thus all the burning candles symbolized Women's SHAKTHI (Power) and that light was an expression of our solidarity with numerous NIRBHAYA's who still struggle for justice and a dignified life. The same Light symbolizes HOPE for changes to be ushered into our society leading to the woman-man partnership which leads to a gender just society.

OUR TEAM

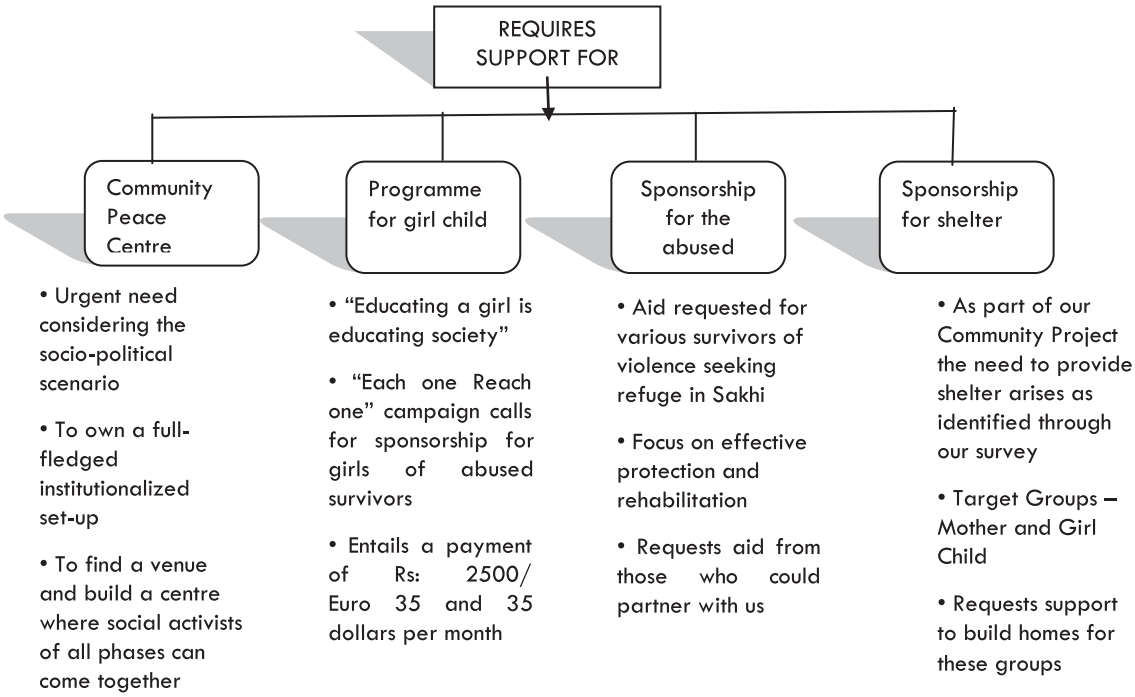
Teamwork in organizational settings is an important aspect of creating a well-oiled machine to get tasks and projects done to reach the organization's goals and objectives. At Cultural Academy for Peace, we share our journey with a group of committed, bright, empathetic women who at all times strive towards excellence.

With limited resources we provide quality services to the disadvantaged group within the local community. Our charismatic and dynamic leader and Chairperson, Mrs. Beena Sebastian, inspires and motivates the staff. We also have the adequate support of Ms. Rosie Martin and Mrs. Moureen Cheriyan who genuinely share our needs and concerns. We consider ourselves fortunate to work with such a dynamic group.

Cultural Academy for Peace Team Members with Rima Kallingal

REACHING OUT FOR SUPPORT

On its course of development Cultural Academy for Peace realises that many generous hands, associates and partnership will go a long way to fulfil its mission. The following diagrammatic representation explains our requirements in brief.



Your contribution may be sent **in favour of "Cultural Academy for Peace",**

1 With Syndicate Bank, Banerji Road Branch, Ernakulam 682018, Kerala.

2 **Outside Contributions –**

With Federal Bank, MG Road Branch, Ernakulam, 682011, Kerala, India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The on-going projects, programs and initiatives of CAP move towards its success, only as a result of the continuous support and encouragement received from our Partners, Sponsors, Well-wishers, and Volunteers. We place on record our heartfelt gratitude to:

- Mar Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam - Angamaly
- Our Hon. Ministers:
  1. Shri. M.K.Muneer
     Former Minister for Panchayat and Social Justice
  2. Shri. K. Babu
     Former Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Excise
- Members of the Legislative Assembly:
  1. Shri. Hibi Eden
  2. Shri. S Sharma
- Eldhose Kunnappilly, Former District Panchayat President, Ernakulam
- Elamkunapuzha Grama Panchayat President, Vice President and Members
- District Collector, Shri. M. G. Rajamanickam IAS as on March 2016
- Honourable Supreme Court Judge Mr. Kurian Joseph
- Justice Usha K. K and Justice K. Sukumaran
- Hon. Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council Members of the Corporation of Cochin
- The Central and State Government officials.
- Save A Family Plan, Canada and India. (SAFP)

1. Ms. Lois Côté - President - SAFP CANADA
2. Mrs. Lesley Tordoff - Executive Director - SAFP CANADA
3. Rev. Marshel Melappelly - Executive Director - SAFP INDIA

- Canadian International Agency (CIDA)
- Ms. Heidi and Mr. Muzaffer Mermer
- Cultural Connections led by Deanne Brown, U.S.A;
- Peace pilgrimage group led by Margrit Germann, Switzerland and Schwester Myriam, Germany.
- Partners supporting "Wheels for Women" Project - Kathleen & David Mulligan
- Kerala State Social Welfare Board - Chairman Smt. Qamarunissa Anwar

- Kerala State Social Justice Department.
- Kerala State Legal Service Authority (KELSA)
- POLICE Department - Commissioner of Police, Ernakulam District.
- Kerala Jana Maithri Police
- Women Police Cell and Stations
- Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Ernakulam
- YWCA Ernakulam
- K.A. Mathew Foundation, Ernakulam
- UST Global
- Live' N Style - Ms. Sobha Mohandas
- St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam
- Active supporters - Mr. Thomas Joseph & Mrs. Anu Thomas, Ms. Nisha Chandy, Ms. Rabecca Philip & Mr. Philip George Thomas, Ms. Manju Nelson, Mr. Mathew A Kunnamkeril.
- Social Activists
- Board Members:

  Cultural Academy for Peace

  Service Providing Centre (Prevention of Women from Domestic Violence Act), Advisory Board

  Shanthi Bhavan Advisory Board

  Nirbhaya Advisory Board Members

  Vypeen SPED III Project Advisory Board
- All the members and friends of Cultural Academy for Peace

LET'S CULTIVATE PEACE

Cultural Academy for Peace

Door No. 41/1964, First Floor, Piyolli Road, Ernakulam North, Cochin-682018.
Tel: 0484 2369433; Email:culturalacademy@gmail.com