

ALEGALU

ISSUE 15



From the Director's Desk

Our Urgent Call to Action

Why is gender justice more critical today than ever before? Because achieving gender inclusion in our communities and families ensures that everyone—regardless of gender—enjoys equal opportunity, respect, and dignity. This is not just a goal; it's a necessity for sustainable social progress. The need to focus our efforts on gender justice has never been more

urgent. At the heart of our mission lies the goal of fostering gender inclusion within both community and family life.

KROSS is proud to lead initiatives that promote comprehensive sustainability for marginalized women, empowering them through leadership and active participation. Our interventions are designed not just to support economically, but to restore the innate dignity of life that every woman deserves. KROSS works directly with marginalized communities, ensuring that our programs are culturally sensitive and impactful. This hands-on approach leads to real, measurable change—not just temporary fixes.

By working closely with marginalized communities, we strive to create an environment where women can thrive, contribute meaningfully, and shape their own future. Together, we can build a more just and inclusive society where gender equality is not just an ideal, but a lived reality. Our E-Newsletter ALEGALU make the reader part of the impactful results by experiencing the real stories from the field.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Join KROSS today in our mission to create a just and inclusive society. Whether you want to volunteer, donate, or spread awareness, your involvement is vital.

Take action now:

- ☐ Visit our website to learn more.
- ☐ Share this message with your network. Together, we can turn gender justice from an ideal into a reality.

A seminar on Staying Compliant with Taxation and Regulatory Updates for NGOs

A seminar on “Staying Compliant with Taxation and Regulatory Updates for NGOs” was successfully conducted on February 28, 2025, in association with Accufile Tax Consultants Pvt. Ltd. The session provided valuable insights into the latest tax regulations and compliance requirements for NGOs, equipping attendees with the knowledge to navigate the evolving legal landscape. Participants engaged in interactive discussions and gained practical advice to ensure their organizations remain compliant with the ever-changing regulatory framework.



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Training of Trainers Workshop

The Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop organized by Caritas India was held from 19th to 21st March 2025 in New Delhi, with 42 participants from various organizations. The workshop focused on enhancing participants' skills in volunteer engagement, resource mobilization, hazard and climate change management, community leadership, safeguarding, and disability inclusion. It provided valuable insights and practical knowledge to strengthen volunteer programs and improve community development efforts.



Regional Level Lenten Campaign for Hunger and Disease

The Regional Level Lenten Campaign for Hunger and Disease was successfully launched at the Diocese of Mandya & at St. Alphonsa Church, Bengaluru on 02nd March 2025. The campaign aims to raise awareness and support for those suffering from hunger and disease in our community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community for their enthusiastic participation and support of Caritas' mission. Together, through this initiative, we can strengthen our efforts to uplift and empower the less fortunate in society.

MAANINI Anniversary & International Women's day Celebration



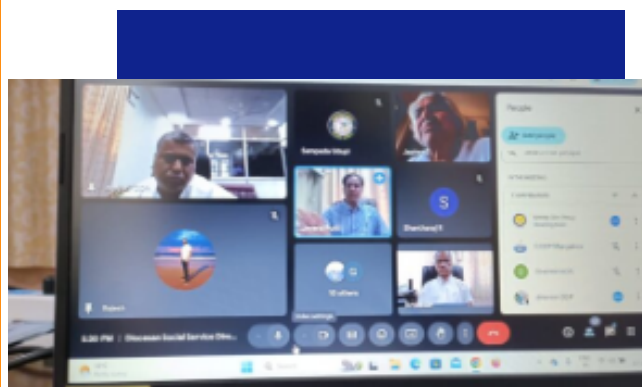
The MAANINI anniversary, along with International Women's Day, was celebrated with great enthusiasm on March 8, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church, Shivamogga. Around 1,200 women from various SHGs and federations across the state participated in this significant event. The celebrations began with an inspiring rally, where women marched by bike and on foot from CSI St. Thomas Church to Sacred Heart Church, Shivamogga. The program featured a prayer dance, the journey of MAANINI, the inauguration ceremony, and the oath-taking of the MAANINI members. Guests delivered inaugural speeches, and women achievers were honored for their remarkable contributions. The event concluded with a speech from the President of MAANINI and a vibrant cultural program showcasing performances from different federations. It was a powerful day honoring women's strength, unity, and achievements, marking both the anniversary of MAANINI and International Women's Day.



Director's Meet



On April 3, 2025, a reflection session was held to evaluate the Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) with the Directors of Diocesan Social Service Organizations, all 14 partner organizations, and the President of KROSS. The session focused on reviewing the program's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, with key discussions highlighting the need for enhanced collaboration, sustainable impact, inclusive participation, and strengthened monitoring for the next phase. Corrective measures identified included resource mobilization, capacity development, cultural sensitivity training, and improved communication. The session successfully set common objectives and actionable steps to enhance the program's effectiveness moving forward.



Director's Online Meeting

The Director's meeting held on Monday, April 7th, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM focused on developing a concept proposal for submission to the CMDC to seek their support. All relevant stakeholders came prepared with preliminary ideas and background information, contributing effectively to the proposal development process. After thorough discussion, it was resolved to proceed with the development of initiatives with the backing of the CMDC.



WEP – Review Meeting

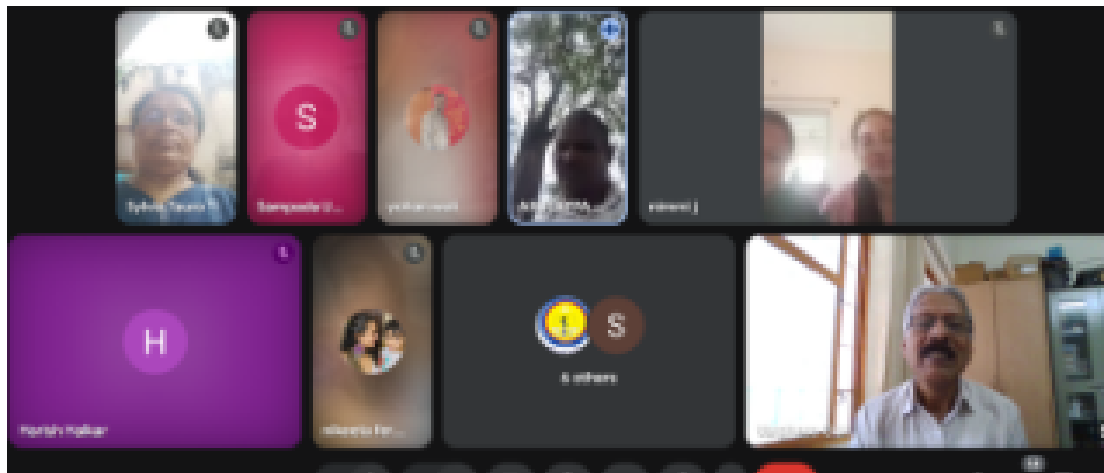
A 2-day WEP review meeting was held at KROSS, with 42 participants from 14 partner organizations on 8th & 9th April 2025. Each organization presented their quarterly reports, offering insights into their progress and challenges. An action plan was developed to address key issues and outline next steps for improving program implementation. Additionally, the Director of KROSS conducted a session on the feedback from the internal evaluation. The session highlighted strengths and areas for improvement, fostering a constructive discussion on actionable steps to enhance the organization's effectiveness moving forward.

Learning from the Grassroots: Exposure Visit to CNFE Vijayapura



On April 25, 2025, the KROSS team, accompanied by WEP coordinators from 14 partner organizations, undertook a field exposure visit to the Centre for Non-Formal Education (CNFE) in Vijayapura. The purpose of the visit was to understand and learn from the grassroots models implemented by the organization. The Centre's team welcomed the participants and provided an overview of their key areas of work, which include slum development, land rights, capacity building, support for construction workers, and rehabilitation and empowerment of devadasis. Their multifaceted approach to community development impressed the visiting team with its relevance and impact. To facilitate deeper learning, the participants were divided into small groups—two members in each—and taken to various field locations where CNFE operates. These field visits offered firsthand insights into the organization's intervention strategies and engagement with marginalized communities. The exposure visit proved to be an enriching experience, enabling the partner organizations to reflect on best practices and explore ways to adapt similar models in their respective contexts. KROSS extends its sincere gratitude to the Centre for Non-Formal Education, Vijayapura, for their warm hospitality and for sharing their inspiring work with openness and dedication.





Online Meeting for Point Persons on Safeguarding

An online meeting for Point Persons from various partner organizations was successfully conducted on 15th May 2025. The session focused on Safeguarding and its Standards, aiming to reinforce protection measures and best practices within the organizations.

A total of 13 Point Persons participated, engaging in discussions on the implementation of safeguarding policies, the importance of child protection, and upholding ethical standards across all projects and activities. Key insights were shared, along with practical strategies for effective monitoring and response mechanisms.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen safeguarding measures and ensure compliance with established standards, reflecting the collective dedication towards creating safer environments for vulnerable communities.

Training for WEP Project Proposal for Next Phase



A focused training session was conducted for the next phase of the Women Empowerment Programme (WEP) project proposal on 20th May 2025 at KROSS. Fourteen Coordinators and Animators, along with the respective DSSS Directors, actively participated in the workshop. The training aimed to equip the team with the necessary skills and guidelines for preparing comprehensive project proposals aligned with the program's objectives. Through collaborative discussions and group work, the participants developed draft materials and frameworks for the upcoming phase of the WEP project. This session not only strengthened the collective vision for women's empowerment but also fostered a shared commitment to impactful, community-based interventions in the next phase.

Interface and Prospective Collaboration Meeting with CMDC and DSSSSs



On April 3, 2025, a reflection session was held to evaluate the Women's Empowerment Program (WEP) with the Directors of Diocesan Social Service Organizations, all 14 partner organizations, and the President of KROSS. The session focused on reviewing the program's achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, with key discussions highlighting the need for enhanced collaboration, sustainable impact, inclusive participation, and strengthened monitoring for the next phase. Corrective measures identified included resource mobilization, capacity development, cultural sensitivity training, and improved communication. The session successfully set common objectives and actionable steps to enhance the program's effectiveness moving forward.



KROSS GB Meeting

The Governing Board meeting of KROSS was held on 03rd June 2025 at CODP, Mangalore. The meeting was attended by the Vice President of KROSS, the President, and other Governing Board members.

Program coordinators presented their quarterly reports, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and future plans. The board members actively participated in discussions, providing valuable suggestions to strengthen ongoing initiatives. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing the mission and goals of KROSS.

Workshop on Integral Ecology

Caritas India, in collaboration with KROSS and supported by Caritas Italiana, conducted a three-day dissemination workshop on Integral Ecology from May 22–24, 2025, at KROSS. The workshop brought together 22 participants from Karnataka and Kerala to deepen their understanding of environmental, social, and economic interconnectedness, with a special focus on empowering Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs). It marked the official launch of the Manual on Integral Ecology, a resource aligning Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* with grassroots realities. Led by Dr. Haridas, the sessions emphasized motivation, inclusion, ownership, and visibility in promoting sustainable ecological action. Participants engaged in group activities and brainstormed practical, locally driven fundraising ideas—such as recycling campaigns, festive sales, and community markets—underscoring the importance of community-led initiatives for lasting impact.

HEALTH DRINK FROM HERBS



Smt. Jayamma is an enterprising lady who is an active member of Navodaya SHG in Bhadravathi, as office bearer of the sangha she takes care of the sangha activities keeping her involved in everything related to the sangha.

Smt. Jayamma has inherited the knowledge of useful herbs from her elders and she wanted to make use of this knowledge in generating income for her family, she discussed with her family and also with the sangha members, finally Smt. Jayamma decided to prepare herbal kashaya (Decoction) out of a few herbs she knew of, but she had no money to invest on the income generating activity to begin with.

Smt. Jayamma after consulting the sangha members applied for small enterprise loan from SAMRUDI and got sanctioned Rs. 15000/-, also she availed a sum of Rs. 10000/- from sangha as internal loan, totally she invested Rs. 25000/- and purchased all necessary equipments such as Pounding, sieving, and the raw material for preparation of herbal kashaya. Smt. Jayamma began her enterprise in a small scale with one helper, preparing the kashaya powder and packed into 200 grams packets selling at a price of Rs. 75/- per packet.

Smt. Jayamma started selling her product locally and latter on in the nearby towns and cities, she prepares one batch in every three months and her cost of production is quite low hence she gets very good profit margin, in a month she is able to sell about Rs. 15000/- worth kashaya and earn up to Rs. 7000/- as profit.

Smt. Jayamma is able to repay the loan and planning to expand her business by increasing the quantity of production and supplying to the whole sellers in neighboring cities, she is happy with her family and expresses her gratitude to the sangha and SAMRUDI helping her in improving her financial status through self employment.