

Reaching the Unreached



Let's hear what Kala has to say!

Ms. Kala is a resident of Kuruchi, a village that lies on the periphery of Coimbatore City. A proud owner of a neighbourhood grocery shop, she earns around Rs. 300/- amounting to less than 4 US\$ a day by selling small eats and vegetables.

"I know I am vulnerable as I am aged 60, old and with many risk factors converging in my life!

I lost my husband a few years ago.

I have a son.

His wife, children and I share a small house. This puts us at risk again.

In the midst of the pandemic we lived a hand to mouth existence.

In the past two years, we have lost much!

Even that hand to mouth existence is endangered by the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic.

Poverty is real for us. It is a lived experience.

My son is a daily wage earner.

The COVID 19 virus and the continuous lock downs have not only disrupted my son and my income but also pushed us into deep depression.

Many women in our neighborhood have passed away because of the COVID 19 infection, leaving small children behind. Fear was not just of the virus. It was also of death, isolation, the unknown nature of the virus and its rapid spread to all in the family.

When I was wondering what to do - Tamilarasi, the Team Leader of Community out-reach, sent word about a COVID 19 awareness session that she was organizing in Kuruchi. At first, I felt reluctant to go as I had a lot of work to undertake. But later, I changed my mind and decided to go when I learnt about the follow-up VFA Vaccine for All clinics. I had also heard that the COVID 19 vaccination gives protection.

On 12th May, 2022, the day I got vaccinated, I was also glad to learn that they had vaccinated 4999 people before me, and I was the 5000th one to be vaccinated.

Having taken both doses of the COVID 19 vaccine my family & I are safe and comfortable to continue our daily routines.

Luckily, with the information & help of ICPH & Shanti Ashram, my family and I could get fully vaccinated.

Now with the vaccination certificate, we are able to go to the market to buy and sell the products.

This has surely improved our livelihoods!"



Kuruchi has been one of ICPH & Shanti Ashram's service villages since 1986.

#VACCINE FOR ALL Rural India Initiative has been made possible by a generous grant from AMU

This initiative has covered 16 villages as of July 2022. It aims to cover an additional 14 villages in the next 6 months.

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