

# National Convention on Kalanjiam SHGs and their federations in building Community Swaraj by institutionalizing democratic process



## Madurai Symposium 2021

Madurai Symposium is a knowledge building and dissemination platform among the development partners from the grassroots development experience. 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Symposium focuses on – Advancing Development – Community Swaraj is scheduled during Oct 25-29, 2021. The conventions and workshops are being conducted both in virtual and in person mode.

## Convention

Kalanjiam Mutual Movement in collaboration with DHAN Kalanjiam Foundation (DKF) is organizing the **“National Convention on Kalanjiam SHGs and their federations in building Community Swaraj by institutionalizing democratic process”** on October 25, 2021. The convention will facilitate the sharing of best practices, experience on direct participatory democracy at Kalanjiam SHGs and representative democratic practices, systems, process and mechanism at cluster and federation and federation collective level in facilitating community Swaraj. DKF is the first subsidiary of DHAN Foundation, established in 2002 to upscale the Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme. The institution envisages stabilising the livelihoods of poor and empowering the women by providing access and control of microfinance through promoting Kalanjiam Self Help Groups and their federations. The institution promotes linkages between the people institutions and public & private mainstream development institutions. Kalanjiam Foundation operates in 14 states of the country with an outreach of over nine lakhs poor women as members organized into 50,000 groups and 201 federations as on March 2021. <http://www.dhan.org/themes/kf.php>

The SHG federation is a nested form of institution includes groups, Clusters, federation and federation collective act as platforms for practicing participatory and representative democracy to build strong demand system of the community to advocate their rights and needs in a dignified way through collective strength and voices. The real democracy provides space for equal participation, allocation of resources and uniform growth and development across the poor community. The real success of grassroots democracy is possible while community expresses their demand and needs with mainstream institutions

The multiple institutions promoted by Kalanjiam SHGs for addressing civic needs such as livelihood, education, health, housing, sanitation, and asset creation play a vital role in promoting community Swaraj. The systems such as bylaws, meetings, leadership rotation in group and their federation collective facilitates practice of democracy. The institutional events such as general body meetings, consultative seminars and meetings increase the community participation and set tone to express their voice with the stakeholders. This convention would facilitate deliberation on structure, system and process of Kalanjiam SHG-Federation and their collective in building community Swaraj through effective institutionalization of democratic practices in their federations.

### Objectives of convention

- To listen to the best practices on building Community Swaraj by People Institutions through Democratic practices
- To acknowledge the contributions of the development stakeholders and evolve road map for strengthening Community Swaraj in People Institutions

### Participants

Representatives of Kalanjiam Mutual Movement, Board of directors of the Kalanjiam federations, people functionaries and professionals from 12 states totaling to 350.

### Convention Schedule

- 12.00 p.m. Reflection and Lighting of lamp by KMM leaders
- 12.10 pm Introduction by the Participants
- 12.30 pm Welcome & introduction to the Convention
- 12.45 p.m. Lead paper presentation
- 01.00 p.m. Reflection on the lead paper and Lead points for sub group discussion
- 01.30 p.m. Lunch Break
- 02.15 p.m. Sub-group process (Language wise) and presentation
- 04.00 p.m. Synthesis of deliberations and concluding

**Date** : **October 25, 2021 (Monday)**

**Venue** : **Plaza, Central office, Dhan Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.  
(Both Direct & Virtual mode)**

**Event Coordinators** : **A.Ramesh, Programme leader & S.Sivanandan, Programme leader**

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