

Sari Connection

Volume **5**

Progress Report of Sari Recycle Project by PARCIC

Mar 20,
2016

From the North

<http://www.parcic.org>

Groups from Mullaitivu Joined Sari Connection!

The Sari Connection workforce has increased to 75 women with the addition of three new groups from Mullaitivu. These groups joined our project in June 2015 and come from the Maritimpeattu DS, an area severely affected by the war. The new members from Mullaitivu match the great enthusiasm of their counterparts from Jaffna, who have been working with us for three years. Their amazing hand-stitch skills have been put to good use with beautiful patch-work products which were recently added to our product line. Here are two stories of the women from Mullaitivu.

Selvam Thangaruby

I am 36 years old. I joined the sari project in May 2015. Before that, I did not know how to stitch properly. The 6 months of training provided by PARCIC boosted my confidence in sewing. I am now stitching skirts and table runners.

I lost my husband, as well as three of my siblings, during the war. I resettled from a camp to Kokkilai in 2010, and am currently living with my parents and 12 year-old son. I depended on my parents before joining this project, but now am able to get income through the sari project. I planned to spend this income for my son's study when I joined, and with the earnings I started to send my son to private classes. I want to learn more sewing techniques and become a tailor, so that I can earn more for my son. I am very happy to be a member of the sari project.

Karunakaran Punithavathi

I'm 52 years old. My husband left me five years ago. I do not have children and depended on my siblings for living expenses. After joining this project, I am able to support myself. Now I have confidence in my life.

I am stitching cushion covers, skirts and eco-bags. Through this project, I earn considerable income every month. Many women in my village are also getting income from this project. They are bringing in additional support to their family livelihood. This project supports us psychologically and financially, and helps rebuild our life, which has been affected by the war. As a woman, we do not have any other job opportunities in our village. Now we can earn at our home. This is a great opportunity. I wish we can get sustainable income from this project, and continue to be a part of it.



Ms. Thangaruby with her work



Ms. Punithavathi with her work

Attended Various Events for Sales

Sari Connection has had an eventful year in 2015! We launched our first recurring outlet with Good Market Colombo in July and took part in Good Market Galle in December. Good Market continues to be a great platform to take our products to new customers and raise awareness on our project and work in the North. Hats off to Dr. Amanda Kiessel from the Good Market and her team. We will be having our stall in Colombo Good Market in 2016. Please check events schedule on our Facebook page.



Stall at the Colombo Good Market



Celebrating GM Innovation Award with the Women

We wrapped up the year in style with Sari Connection winning the 'Innovation Award 2015' at the Good Market Vendor Celebrations - a remarkable achievement appreciating the hard work put in by the women as well as our staff from Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Colombo. We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate each and every individual that continue to support our project volunteering their time and resources.

New products are coming!

In October 2015 we introduced a new 'Beachwear Collection' range of that included dresses and cover-ups, followed by a pilot launch of a limited edition of children's dresses in December 2015. As with all our products, these two lines are also handcrafted by our women's groups using recycled saris. The feedback for both new ranges have been extremely positive. Look forward to more products in these styles in 2016!



Below is the list of companies/organizations extended their support through donation in 2015. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of them including other generous individual donors

Singer Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Association
Hill Country Women's Association
Hemas Hospital – Wattala
John Keells Holdings Head office
Union Assurance – Colombo 3
UNDP Colombo
Methodist College
Holy Family Convent – Jaffna
Chundukuli Girls' College
Sri Vigneswara Vidyalayam - Nallur

Products Available at

1. Colombo Saturday Good Market

Race Course, Col7

(Sari Connection has its stall irregularly. Check our schedule on FB.)

2. Thusare Talking Hands (Clothes & Bags)

No.103/12,Dharmapala Mawatha, Col7 (077 989 6183)

3. Barefoot in Galle Fort (Bags)

No.41, Pedlar Street, Galle Fort, Galle (091 222 6299)

4. Eské Cordova (Clothes)

No.218, Kaduwela Road, Battaramulla (011 588 2388)

Now we are on Facebook "Sari Connection"

<https://www.facebook.com/SariConnection>

PARCIC is a Japanese NGO working in Sri Lanka since April 2004 to support people in North and South. Please contact us or visit our website for more information.

Contact : Fumi Ito: fumi.ito@parcic.org / 0772462808

Natasha Yatawara : sariconnection@gmail.com / 0711918252

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