RURAL INITIATIVES OF STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) 
AT THIRUPACHUR, TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA 

COMMON SERVICE CENTRE (C.S.C) at SMCEPC, 
Thirupachur, Thiruvallur District

“Common Service Centers (CSC’s) will be set up to create right Governance and service delivery ecosystem at the Panchayat”.

The 1990’s was the decade of the Information Revolution. India too formulated the National e Governance Plan (NeGP), whereby it harnessed Information Communication Technology (ICT) to bring benefits to its citizens by ensuring timely and hassle-free delivery of services.

In the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (D.E.I.T.Y.) proposed to strengthen and extend the existing core infrastructure projects.

The core infrastructure including fibre optic based connectivity will be leveraged and additional 1,50,000 Common Service Centers (CSC’s) will be set up to create right Governance and service delivery ecosystem at the Panchayat.

It is in this context that Stella Maris College (Autonomous) wanted to set up a C.S.C. at S.M.C.E.P.C, in Thirupachur village, Thiruvallur District. Mr. Vinod Kuriakose, State Head Operations, visited S.M.C. and S.M.C.E.P.C. in early March 2015.

Information Communication Technology (I.C.T.) has been the focus of Dr. K. Sundari in S.M.C.N.C’s activities. Hence when an opportunity arose in meeting the C.E.O. of C.S.C and the State Head Operations of the C.S.C. eGovernance Services at M.S.S.R.F, Dr. K. Sundari invited Mr. Kuriakose to S.M.C and S.M.C.E.P.C., which he did on March 3 & 4, 2015. It was suggested that a proposal be given. Dr K. Sundari prepared the proposal and submitted to Delhi Office.

In April 2015, S.M.C heard that they were shortlisted. Several visits by Mr. Kuriakose and team enabled us to understand the full range of services that can be offered to the citizens through I.C.T. Telemedicine (through Apollo Hospitals and skill development (maybe through Siemens) and other experts offered expert advice.

Meetings with the staff of S.M.C.E.P.C. by Mr. Vinod Kuriakose and Mr. Kamalesh in July & August 2015 helped prepare the groundwork for setting up a separate room in a detached building near the entrance for the C.S.C.

Through the social worker Mr. Thukka Raman, local youth were informed of the availability of job openings in the C.S.C. About 20 youth came in August 2015 for the initial screening and practical exam.

The shortlisted 6 candidates were called for a whole day training program on two days in September 2015 and Mr. Bhasker and Mr. Kamalesh, Trainers from C.S.C and two
Candidates: Mr. Dinesh (B.E in EEE) and Ms. Jeslin (M.Com, M.Phil, B.Ed) were selected as operators for the C.S.C at S.M.C.E.P.C

The C.S.C at S.M.C.E.P.C was inaugurated on October 3, 2015 by the Provincial Sr. Leena D’Souza fmm, and blessed by Fr. Victor Ramesh, Parish Priest at Thiruvallur, in the midst of invited villagers, Stella Maris College sisters, staff, students and sisters from Santhome and Holy Angels convent.

Sr Jasintha Quadras, fmm, Principal joyously welcomed the gathering and said that the C.S.C will be able to help villagers access: about 14 Business to Consumer services, 9 Government to Citizen Services and about 5 Skill Development and Educational Services.

Mr. Vinod Kuriakose in his inaugural address illustrated with examples about the great social and economic transformations the C.S.C had already brought about in newly opened C.S.C’s throughout India.

Mr. V.S. Ramana, G.M, C.S.R & C.S.T.I of L&T Constructions, in his special address spoke about the new emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility (C.S.R.) and the laws enacted to make corporates more involved in the development of the community.

Ms. R. Jayashree, District Project Officer, I.C.D.S outlined the low cost nutrition and other schemes promoted by the government to raise the health profile of the population, especially its women and children.

Ms. R. Jayashree, was happy to announce that she would depute Anganwadi workers in batches of 20, to the 20 hour training of Level I in Computer Basics, with an online exam at the end of the course through the National Digital Literacy Mission (N.D.L.M) in the newly opened C.S.C at S.M.C.E.P.C

Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy spoke about five people who inspired her to prepare the proposal for introducing I.C.T in the villages and they were: (1) Blessed Mary of the Passion, for her love and dedication to the community; (2) Sr. Juliet Irene, for her first village adoption in S.M.C; (3) Dr. Varghese Kurien, the founder of AMUL for his pioneering efforts in bring women into milk co-operatives; (4) Dr. P.K. Sundaram, who taught that in Buddhism, compassion (karuna) towards all beings is the basis of development in the whole universe and (5) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, for his concept of P.U.R.A – Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas, thus motivating every sector: corporate, education, N.G.O. & government to work for development in villages.

Provincial Sr. Leena D’Souza fmm, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the C.S.C at S.M.C.E.P.C. This is the only C.S.C given to a non-governmental and educational institution.

All the services: 14 Business to Consumer Services, 9 Government to Citizen Services and 5 Skill Development and Educational Services were commissioned.

The first AADHAR card was also issued to Fr. Victor Ramesh in the C.S.C at S.M.C.E.P.C.
Sr. Susan Matheikal, fmm, Village Level Entrepreneur (V.L.E.) of the C.S.C in S.M.C.E.P.C thanked everyone for their support and participation in setting up the C.S.C.

Everyone participated in the lunch and congratulated the management on this new rural enterprise.

- **Sr. Susan Matheikal, fmm,**
  Village Level Entrepreneur (V.L.E.) of C.S.C. at S.M.C.E.P.C

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**Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy**

Director, Stella Maris Centre for Networking & Communications (SMCNC)

& Coordinator : CSC and N.D.L.M Programs at Thirupachur Village

CSC will be able to help villagers access about 14 Business to Consumer services, 9 Government to Citizen Services and about 5 Skill Development and Educational Services

Mr. Vinod Kuriakose, lights the kuthivillaku

Sr. Leena D’ Souza, fmm, Provincial cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the C.S.C

Fr. Victor Ramesh, Parish Priest Thiruvallur blesses the offices of C.S.C
All services to the village communities in Thirupachur being activated while sisters and invited speakers watch

The first AADHAR card printed at C.S.C handed over to Fr. Victor Ramesh

Mr. Vinod Kuriakose, State Head Operations, Deptment of Electronics and Information Technology delivered the inaugural address

Mr. V.S. Ramana, G.M, C.S.R & CSTI of L & T Constructions gave the special address

Ms. R. Jayashree, District Project Officer outlined the I.C.D.S projects in the State

Dr Sundari Krishnamurthy, Coordinator of CSC talks of the inspiration of people who worked outstandingly for the development of villages