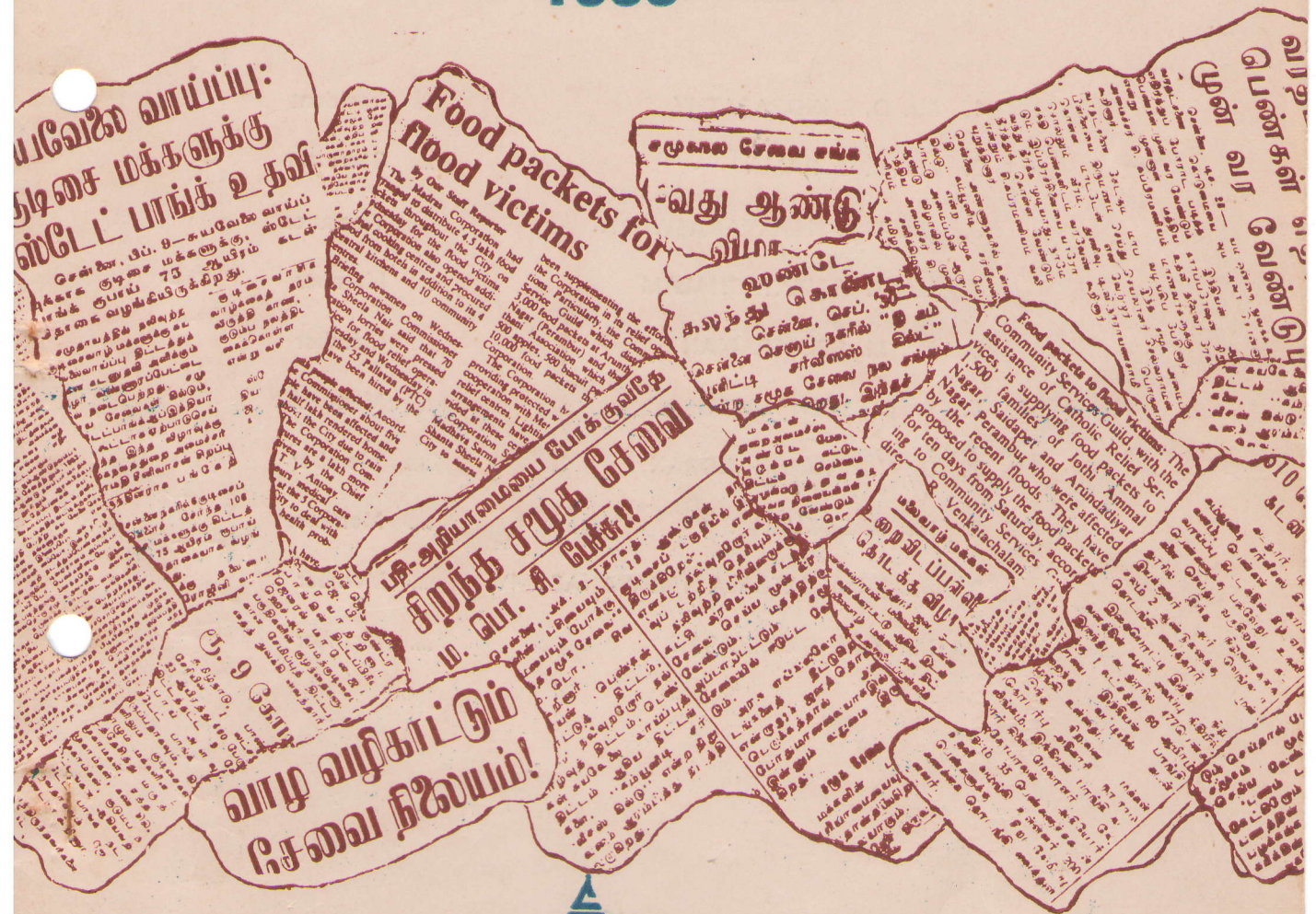


ANNUAL REPORT

1986



The Community Services Guild

20, C-BLOCK, 9th STREET

ANNA NAGAR EAST, MADRAS - 600 102 INDIA.

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THE COMMUNITY SERVICES GUILD

MADRAS - 600 102

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The Community Services Guild (CSG) was started in September 8, 1980, with the following Objectives: To work for the development of the needy and Weaker sections of the society, by uplifting their social & economic conditions and to work for the removal of injustices. Further to specially work for the betterment of the weaker and poor women and thus assist them in their social, educational and economic development.

Towards the realisation of these objectives, the CSG has started developmental programs in Madras Metropolis, in tribal and rural areas. They are:

Tribal Women Development Project, Kalrayan Hills: This was initiated during Oct. 1980 in a tribal area known as the Kalrayan Hills (in Salem District) to create awareness amongst tribal women about their existing conditions and help them to gain their rightful place in society. Towards realising the objective, four types of programs were evolved, which are: impart education to women, increase women's income, help in reducing the burden on women in fetching fuel, fodder & water and assist in health care.

Coverage: During this year, three more villages were added and thus the total coverage has been increased to 28 villages.

Literacy Program: Though it was planned to cover women above twenty years of age under this program, it was the young girls in the age group of 10 to 15 years who were attracted by this program. This was due to

the fact that women were busy since early morning till late night attending to house hold chores, attending on children and shouldering equal responsibility with men in agricultural activities. Despite these constraints still a third of the beneficiaries were women. Due to non-availability of instructors, this program



Literacy program reforming the Tribal Women

had to be curtailed to only 12 villages. From amongst those who attend, 78 were able to read, write and also do simple arithmetic; 42 were able to read and write and 5 could read small words.

This project is giving emphasis for children's education also. Due to the joint efforts of the CSG and the people, two residential schools, each covering a few villages, were sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Government during this year and both the schools are presently functioning with full strength and with good co-operation from the villagers.

Women's Group : Each of the 18 villages have their own women's groups known as '*Maathar Sangams*' and more than 90 per cent of the families are represented in them. These groups meet once a week either early in the mornings or late in the evenings. More than 60 per cent of them attend regularly.

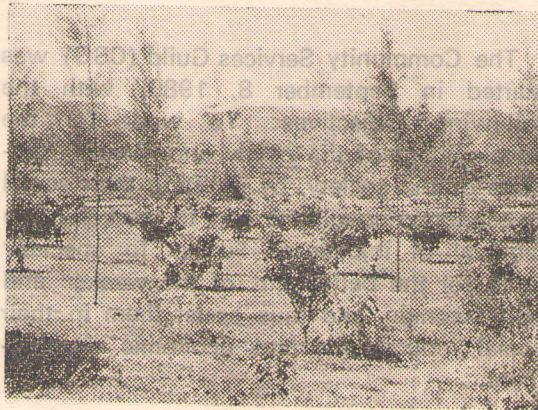
It is only in these group meetings, women discuss and decide on various programs for implementation. The Community Organisers help them out in their discussion by providing required information.

Increasing House - hold Income : This program was aimed to help women earn more and thus help not only to increase their house-hold income but also secure their empowerment in the long run. Under this program, traditional agriculture based programs as well as non-traditional programs were planned and implemented. The programs are presented below :

a) **Agriculture :** Under this program technical know - how, inputs and training were given to the farmers. About 200 farmers were benefitted through this. Improved varieties of seeds were supplied. In addition, the need for garbage pits was stressed and the people were thus helped in the production of organic manure. CSG's efforts in getting 27 oil-engines through IRDP (Massive) Program has helped the farmers to increase their cultivation to a great extent. In addition to growing the usual Paddy, Ragi, Cholan and the inter crops like black-gram, etc., they grew large quantities of vegetables too, particularly, tomatoes.

b) **Horticulture :** The CSG has availed the services of the Officials of the Giant Horticulture Orchard, Karumanthurai in teaching the farmers to raise

seedlings of fruit trees, disease control and proper maintenance. During 1986 also coconut seedlings numbering 1510 were distributed by the CSG directly to 222 families and 2700 mango and Gove grafts were distributed in collaboration with the State Government to 57 families.



Horticulture with social forestry : Making KALRAYAN HILLS Greener

Further during 1986, gap-filling of the seedling casualties for 1984-85 was also carried by donating 570 mango grafts to 57 families.

c) **Kitchen Garden :** The success in agriculture prompted them to cultivate a kitchen garden. This helped them to have better and tastier food. They were quick to realise the advantages of improving their health as well as getting extra money by selling excess. 228 families took to this program with CSG providing free seeds and the know-how. The credit goes to the field staff for their efforts in this program.

Dairy : This program is picking up inspite of certain difficulties. This is due to the installation of 350 litre cooler and addition of 18 milch animals to the already existing 55 animals.



White revolution towards prosperity

This together with the availability of expert guidance has installed confidence in the people. As a result, milk production is showing a steady increase. Tribals are now enthusiastic to procure more cows so that they can get more income. In order to enhance and improve the milk production, fat measuring apparatus was installed in a 'Milk Shed' on the land provided by the tribals. While 12 women could plant fodder grass in about 10 cents of land each, CSG has also purchased about 6 acres of Land, a part of which would be ear-marked for growing "fodder-grass" for those who do not have wet land for fodder cultivation.

Bee-Keeping : This does not require hard labour but success depends upon tactful handling of the bees and external factors like rain, strong winds, etc. The failure of this program at Kalrayan Hills may be attributed to failure of rains causing drought and the consequent absence of flowers. In spite of it 100 Kgs of honey was produced from 86 hives. It is expected that atleast 200 hives would be in working condition before the end of 1987, with the introduction of Horticulture and improved methods of Agriculture.

Sericulture : Due to the lack of "Know-how", this could not be developed as an income-generating industry till recently. But with the appointment of a specialist, sericulture is already beginning to show improvement. During 1986, 180 Kg of Cocoons were obtained bringing in an income of Rs. 6,000/-. With the training of women in modern methods and providing adequate facilities like a rearing shed, "Pit" system of mulberry cultivation in rain fed land, sericulture is expected to bring in adequate income to improve the living standards of Tribal Women.

Silk Spinning : As an auxiliary to Sericulture, processing of Waste Silk is being carried out. Young women are given training in the processing of waste silk and spin them to silk yarn. During 1986, 10 women were trained. Efforts are in progress to develop it as an income generating unit.

Handicraft : Training in Kora-grass mat-weaving has been identified as another feasible income generating activity. About 18 girls were trained in this and 10 are regularly working. During this year, 250 mats were produced. This program started under the TRYSEM Scheme, has been giving regular employment to young women. Now with



Silk Waste turned as productive gain

the addition of a "Pukka-Shed" and other facilities, the quality is expected to improve perceptibly during 1987.

Social Forestry : This program is expected to stop further soil erosion and also to some extent assist in getting back regular monsoons which have been failing for quite few years due to the ruthless uprooting of trees. However this program was mainly intended to help women by reducing the burden in finding fodder for the cattle, fire wood and needed timber for house construction. This program has already started yielding results with the plants planted by women during 1980-81. Under this scheme plants like subabul, silver oak, silk cotton, teak, bamboo, eucalyptus, casurina were being distributed along with the required initial manure and pesticide. The survival rate was found to be above 80 per cent.

Drinking Water : Efforts were being regularly taken to impress upon Government - Block Office & DRDA on the water problem in the hills. Due to our untiring efforts, most of the villages have been provided either with hand pumps or the wells being deepened.

Medicare : With the help of a trained nurse, about 6 to 7 patients are given medical aid every day. A nominal sum is charged for

dispensing medicines to them. Efforts are in progress to establish an eight bedded Medicare Extension Centre with a qualified doctor and other accessories to give full medical care and health education to the Tribals. Along with health education by the field staff, nutrition demonstration at regular intervals are also being carried out in all the villages.

Slum Welfare Project : Madras

The Community Services Guild (CSG) started its second project in November 1981 to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers of the adopted slums in Madras City. This project was aimed at improving approximately 4000 families in six adopted slum areas out of which four are tenemental areas - Fishermen Colony, East Cemetery Road, Sathiyavanimuthu Nagar and Gowthampuram and two are hutment areas - Aunthathiyar Nagar and Jothiammal Nagar. To achieve its objectives of multifarious development and self-reliance amongst the population of the adopted areas, the CSG formulated various programs such as health and environmental sanitation, education, training and economic upliftment.

Within the span of five years, this project covered almost all the targetted 4000 families. Women, girls and youths were grouped into

separate clubs, through whom the programs were implemented in the areas. Previous experience enabled the staff to give their attention to young children too. It was felt that the involvement of this section of the society was imminent. Therefore, Junior Clubs (for the age groups of 10 to 15) were started in 4 areas - except Gowthamapuram & Fishermen colony, during this year in order to prepare them as good citizens by providing them with good, healthy recreation and education.

These clubs - other than Junior clubs - meet once in a week to discuss the current problems of their areas like drainage, improper sanitary conditions, unhealthy environment, lack of street lights, inadequate water supply, children's education, poverty and mass illiteracy and decide about the future course of action to improve the conditions. The discussions and decisions are made in the presence of the field staff of the CSG, who render their help and assist in finding a practical solution to the problems they face.

Health and Environmental Sanitation

The Community Organisers play a vital role in imparting knowledge on sanitation and cleanliness to women during house visits and club meetings. To keep a healthy environment, regular cleaning campaigns are conducted once in all the tenement areas. This project has faced some setbacks because of the complex nature of the people and the non-cooperative attitude of the Government Officials concerned. However the members of the clubs presented petitions and complaints to the officials of the local bodies and Minister concerned whenever required. Their continuous efforts brought in perceptible success. The visit of the Minister for Local Administration to Arunthathiyar Nagar helped in widening the drainage, the reconstruction of public conveniences, black-topping of the roads and renovation of the hitherto abandoned street lights.

Initially Health Program was started with mobile clinics in all the six areas. The existence of government hospitals and clinics in the nearby areas of the three slums made the attendance of patients very poor. Hence the program was discontinued in those areas. Now three areas are provided with regular clinics. During this year 10725 patients were treated for various ailments. The children and pregnant women were covered under immunization program. Apart from the treatment members were made aware of preventive and curative medical care, natal care, worm infection, sterilization, etc., through regular lectures, slide programs and film shows.

Education and Training : Education is the back-bone of development. It is provided in various ways - Night schools for school going children/ tutorial classes for people who failed in Tenth standard and non-formal education for girls and women. Night school was found to be very useful and was a success. Presently the night schools are run with an average strength of 30 children. It has certainly improved the study habits of



Catching them young

children. Tutorial classes were started with a view to help the people who have failed in class ten. Non-formal education is being conducted in all the adopted areas with an average of 30 women.

CSG's observation showed that the major reason for the backwardness of the people was lack of adequate education for the youth and want of specialised skill among the grown ups. So it was felt that training should form an integral part of the developmental project. Therefore various training programs were planned and executed.

In order to improve social awareness amongst club members especially women and youth, two types of trainings were conducted - i.e., Ideal Home Training and Leadership training. In the training, subjects on co-operation, family welfare, various welfare measures that were available for poor women, savings, family budgeting, population education, etc., were covered. So far 425 women and youth have undergone such training.

Apart from these trainings, vocational trainings were also given. So far 150 girls were trained in various trades. The improved trend in the manufacture of export garments around the city prompted CSG to start sewing training in the adopted areas. Young men also expressed a desire to learn tailoring. So this was started in East Cemetery Road and Jothiammal Nagar with a strength of 16 young men.

Seven youths of East Cemetery Road attended typewriting classes; five of them passed the Lower Grade Examination in English, securing first class. CSG planned to sponsor them for the Higher Grade Examination also. Further, youth are being regularly sponsored by CSG for training to various Organisation like Shramik Vidya-peeth, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, SISI, Prototype, etc. The trainings include Radio & TV Mechanism, Electrical, Electronics, ANM, Dark Room Assistantship, etc. So far 75 youth got training. In collaboration with Shramik Vidyapeeth, CSG had conducted training programme such as soap

making, phenyle and cleaning powder making, fruit juice and jam making for women in all the areas.

Economic program : It was felt that unless people become economically independent any program formulated for the development of the Community will not succeed. Hence with a view to help the self-employed women of the adopted slums. CSG availed the facilities offered by the Nationalised Banks. The self-employed women were identified by the staff and were recommended for the disbursement of DIR loans. 510 women have availed this facility. The loans have released the women from the clutches of the money lenders.

Though success was achieved, the politicization of DIR loan made CSG to think about collective activities in lieu of individual enterprises. A beginning has been made at Arunthathiyar Nagar.

Ten women were grouped after a great deal of deliberation and motivation for the collective action in the manufacture of chap-pals. Accordingly five women availed DIR loans amounting to Rs. 13,500 and commen-



Helping to walk a long way

ced the production from 22nd Aug.' 86. Since the women were not skilled enough, CSG came forward to employ a trainee,

person to impart the necessary training for the manufacture of chappals. Now they have obtained the necessary skill. The products are mainly marketed at Office complexes and at Women's Colleges.

The long cherished plan of the CSG in making the adopted areas self-reliant became true with registration of 'Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam' (பெண்கள் பன்னோக்கு இயக்கம்) by the womens group of Arunthathiar Nagar which came into existence during Nov, '86. Thus this area started functioning independently with little guidance and assistance from the CSG. The programs conducted by the CSG shall be continued by the 'Pengal Pannokku Iyakkam' (PPI). The required fund for the period of Jan. '87 to March '87 will be given by the CSG fully, and then after the PPI shall gradually shoulder the responsibility by raising its own required funds. Following the foot steps of Arunthathiar Nagar, two more areas, viz. East Cemetery Road and Gowthamapuram are expected to get themselves registered as independent organisations shortly.

Rural Women Development Projects, Salem & Cuddalore; This project was initially started in Salem (during Nov. 1982) and then in Cuddalore (during Oct. 1983). This program was started after a great deal of deliberation to cover initially the small self-employed women in semi-urban and rural areas. The immediate needs of the people were ascertained prior to its initiation. During 1986, totally 16 villages were brought under this scheme.

In both the places, the women were extremely poor and needed monetary help. They were unable to even buy small articles to "buy and sell" because that also needed capital, however small it was. Further they were under great tension because they were heavily charged with interest by money lenders. Therefore, the CSG, very strongly felt that it should step in to help the women

become economically independent and thus get out of the clutches of the money lenders.

In Salem as well as in Cuddalore. Women's Clubs (*Maathar Sangams*) of the self-employed women were established. The members are entitled to get loans from Nationalised Banks at DIR which is only 4



Vegetable Vending : Keeps the family away from total starvation

per cent. The project staff of the CSG help the members to get these loans. They also help these women to set up small business like vegetable vending, petty shops, and so on. The project staff discuss with the women individually and collectively, find out their needs, capabilities and aptitude prior to setting up their business. This has resulted in almost cent per cent success. The women are able to do business, earn enough to have atleast two square meals a day for the family and also, repay their loans.

The *Maathar Sangam* meetings are conducted fortnightly. At these meetings various problems are discussed in the presence of the field staff. The Market trends, the business prospects, personal problems, their children's education, Children's marriages, difficulties at home, repayment of loans and problems of general interest like sanitation, street lighting, sewage

II. CUDDALORE :

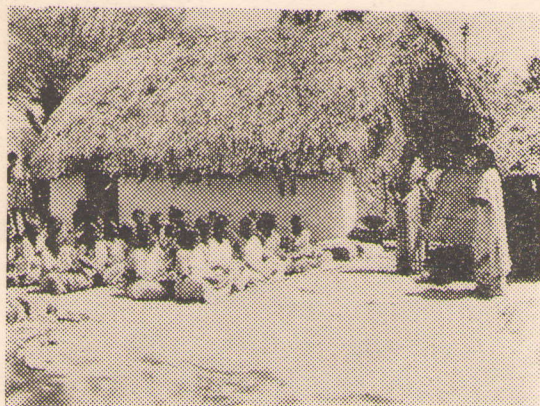
During 1984 - DIR loans were given to 129 persons - Amounting to Rs. 26,800.

During 1985 - DIR loans were given to 366 persons - Amounting to 91,150.

During 1986 - DIR loans were given to 355 persons - Amounting to Rs. 1,66,350

About 70 per cent of these loans were repaid during 1986.

In these two places, namely Salem and Cuddalore, the initial success has had a tremendous impact on the women. They have become emboldened to enter into new ventures, particularly to improve their children's education.



Gaining knowledge in a non-formal way.

During 1987 the CSG intends to strengthen the functional literacy program for women. Further it is planned to provide vocational training to women for their self-employment and strengthen the group consciousness by intensifying the program.

Research and Training Department : It is but essential that any program has to be assessed at regular intervals to facilitate the

agency in gauging the success or otherwise for continuing or restructuring its various programs accordingly. Also documenting certain experiences of the agency on its different experimentations and programs would very much help not only the agency but also others who wish to take up such like programs.

Basing on the assessment, various training programs need to be carried out both for the people with whom the agency is working and also for the staff who carry out these programs. This training could be for identification of various developmental programs for the people, for acquiring supervisory and managerial skills, for effective communication and so on.

Hence after understanding the basic importance of these, the Research and Training Department was started by the CSG to carry out participatory research, documentation, various training programs and prepare communication aids. This department assists not only CSG but also other non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) who are in need of such like assistance. This department conducts various trainings to suit different programs/staff, prepare communication low cost aids such as flash cards, puppetry, slides, flannel-graph etc.

Net-Working Among women NGOs :

Seeing the great need for collective action and importance of joint efforts, the CSG has initiated the grouping of various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working with women in different Districts. This was initiated essentially, to avoid duplication of working within the same area by more than one organisation, to help the NGOs in sharing their experiences at regular intervals, towards better co-operation and collaboration, to collectively plan action programs for women NGO's activities to the poor and gain

recognition between with the people and Government to secure consultative status with Government on all social welfare measures aimed at women development and also to help the needy organisations by arranging contacts with Governmental and Non-Governmental funding Organisations.

With this aim, the CSG has conducted a Workshop during April 1986 in Kanyakumari and the Follow-Up Committee was formed having representatives from various districts, which started meeting once in 3 months. As per the decision of the Follow-Up Committee, a training was organised for women NGOs for 8 days on 'Identification and Management of Women Income Generating Activities'.

The Follow-Up Committee has decided that this net-working shall not be 'formalised' until various women NGOs who form this net-work know each other well.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF CSG.

The growth and development of an Organisation is gauged by its planning. CSG plans to work in Chingleput district - in Poondi Black - with aid from Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and Wasteland Development Board. Also CSG has plans for further improvement of the existing projects with more participation and support of the Community and the Government.



Research and Training Department : It is but essential that any program has to be assessed at regular intervals to facilitate the women NGO's activities to the poor and gain

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